



STUDENTS' GYMKHANA IIT KANPUR



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2016



ASHUTOSH RANKA

Contesting for the post of

**PRESIDENT STUDENTS'
GYMKHANA**

PROPOSED BY :

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To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.

VISION

IIT Kanpur is a venerable institute which offers endless opportunities to every individual for unprecedented experiences of life. Students' Gymkhana of IITK is a unique blend of sports, technology, culture and media that has been providing the students with unparalleled life experiences.

However, as someone has rightly said, 'Change is the only constant in the world'. To survive, to continuously improve, to achieve perfection, one needs to change. The same applies for our Gymkhana. We need to introspect ourselves and work towards improving the existing structure. And for this, I believe Change is the need of the hour.

Let us carry the baton of Change, for a better us, for a better IITK!

MISSION

Students' Gymkhana is an imperative part of every student at IITK and plays a crucial role in the overall development of individuals. However, with the gradual passage of time, a lot of things in the campus need to be analysed and restructured to improve their efficacies. As President, Students' Gymkhana, I will focus more on analysing and refurbishing the existing things apart from proposing the new ones.

Academics:

Under-graduate TAs:

- A good number of undergraduate students gain a fair knowledge of the courses and the lab works they are involved in. Allowing them to assist their junior batches would be highly beneficial for the students and would also give them a fair insight about the teaching career.
- This idea has already been successfully implemented in the courses of the CSE department. As the President, Students' Gymkhana, I would push for more departments to join the suite in which the TAs are appointed from the undergraduate batches.

Implementation of the Remedial Program:

- In recent years, it has been observed that due to the various administrative changes introduced in JEE, IIT Kanpur admits a number of students who are not yet prepared for the academic curriculum offered by the institute. A large chunk of such students end up landing in AP/Warning/Termination. The remedial program involves organizing a basic diagnostic test in Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science, in addition to the EDT being already conducted. Based on the results, the students can be advised to take up a slow paced program and then gradually cope with the rest of the batch.
- Such test was conducted for the first time for Y14 by Students' Welfare Cell. With the results showing fair match with the students who ended up being in AP/Warning/Termination. This system will be made more robust, professional apart from scaling up before formal adoption.
- As the President, Students' Gymkhana, I will ensure implementation of the program for the batch of Y16. This I believe would tremendously help in reducing the number of deficient students in the campus.

Minors in HSS:

- Diversification is of utmost importance in today's degree inflated world and Minors help us to expand our skill area. A significant number of students have expressed their wish for availability of minors in various departments of HSS. However, as of now the minors are available only in Linguistics and English Literature. The scope of the minors needs to be widened for the benefit of the students.
- With the growing need of specialisations in certain departments, I would propose availability of more diverse minors to the students. Also, I will ensure that the concept of Retrospective minors is extended to all the departments.

Professors of Practice:

- Professors of Practice are primarily the subject experts who are appointed because of skills and expertise acquired in non-academic careers. They are principally engaged in teaching and are not expected to be significantly involved in research activities.
- Such appointments would enhance the quality of teaching as the contracts of these employees would be extended based on the feedback received from the students in the respective course. It would also help the professors focus on their research work. The idea has been successfully implemented in IIM Indore and various other foreign universities. I will propose implementation of this unique system in IITK.

Inter-disciplinary UGPs:

- Currently, the students are required to take undergraduate projects in their respective departments only, depriving them the opportunity to explore other departments
- I will strongly promote the proposal of allowing at least the UGPs with the OE alternatives to be taken in other departments.

Summer Registration:

- From the academic year 2015, summer registration was made compulsory for the PG students, with the students required to register for at least 1 unit and a maximum of 2 units.
- However, the students are required to pay the fees for two units, irrespective of the number of units they opt for. As President, Students' Gymkhana, I would propose strong implementation of unit-dependent-fees for the summer registration

Funding for conferences and publications:

- Due to the financial constraints the institute is currently dealing with, the funding for various conferences and publications has been stopped.
- I will try to convince the Alumni Association to arrange for the funding of such conferences and publications as monetary incentives so that no one is deprived the opportunity to showcase their talent. I will also propose formation of a corpus fund for the same

Allowing Semester drops on Academic grounds:

- Many a times, summer period is insufficient to gain significant research experience. A large number of foreign institutes offer six months internships to students. However, currently the institute allows semester drops only on medical grounds.
- To promote such internships, I will push for allowing semester drops for academic exchanges. I believe that this will be a good step in the direction of a research oriented IITK.

Research and Development:

Research and Academics Cell:

- Aimed at promoting research and academics in the campus, this cell will work towards providing proper platforms for the students to take up careers in research
- It will work in collaboration with the Office of International Relations for research internships. Majority of the MOUs signed with the universities currently are redundant for the students. The main focus would be to ensure that the current collaborations are corrected to be actually available for the students
- Apart from this, the cell will also focus on increasing the number of programs available to the students. I would look into the opportunity of collaboration with foreign embassies which would work as a great source of information dissemination for the students.
- I will propose that UGSAC and PGSAC dissolve and their work be actively taken up by R&A cell. The DUGCs and DPGCs will all be made a part of this cell. Apart from this, I would also propose dissolution of STAIR, as I feel that the body has not been functional since long time.

Student Technical and Academic Research Convention:

- After a successful research convention in 2014, this year Presidential Council is organizing STARC for the entire students' community. STARC is a great platform for the students to showcase their research work. Unspoken, it would be a great step towards increasing UG-PG and student-faculty interaction
- As the President, Students' Gymkhana, I like to extend this convention to PAN IIT level. The idea is to encourage research among all the IITs of the country and as the leading institute of this country, STARC will help greatly improve the image of IIT Kanpur

Prabandhan:

- An annual event organised by the IME department every year, Prabandhan is a great platform which promotes the managerial work in the campus. It sees participation from the leading business schools of the country including various IIMs
- As the President, Students' Gymkhana, I will work towards making Prabandhan a grand event and will ensure that the UGs are also made a part of this as it is a great platform for students planning to take careers in the field of management

Career:

Intra-Campus Mentorship Program (ICaMP):

- A lot of students from the graduating batch who have been placed in their penultimate semesters will mentor the upcoming placement batch. In a similar

fashion, students in their 5th and penultimate semester who have already received internships can guide their junior batch about various career aspects.

- ICaMP is a crucial step in the direction of achieving self-dependence in providing students with a good career guidance. I also aim to increase the mentorship to PAN IIT level, a platform where all the students in all the IITs will actively guide each other for their careers.

Department Placement Coordinators:

- The scene of core placements and core internships is currently not up to the mark in the campus. A major reason for this is the ineffective functioning of DPCs.
- I would ensure that the DPCs are held accountable for their tenure by coordinating with SPO and ensuring that they prepare a comprehensive pre-term report of their target companies, the same which would be made public.

Career Development Cell (CDC):

- In order to facilitate personality and inter-personal skill development of students, a Career Development Cell (CDC) has already been constituted. The cell, along with placements will also focus on providing proper career guidance to the students of different batches- first year to final year and PGs
- As the President, I would ensure proper implementation of the motives of this cell and will incorporate the students of MBA for focussing on soft skill development of the students

Entrepreneurship

Implementation of the Student Entrepreneurship Policy:

- Policy legalising student entrepreneurship on campus was passed in Students' Senate. A comprehensive Student Entrepreneurship Policy is currently being developed by the institute
- I will ensure that the guidelines of the policy are entrepreneurship encouraging and will pursue for quick implementation of the same
- Apart from this, I will propose formation of an advisory committee comprising of the expert alums who have been pursuing StartUps after passing out

Organizing Seminars for the campus Startups during STARC:

- Starting from this year, the campus StartUps will be given a platform to present their work in front of the campus junta to give them a chance to showcase their idea

Basic courses in Entrepreneurship:

- Professors of IME department have agreed to take on basic courses on Entrepreneurship. I would, therefore propose introduction of basic courses in Entrepreneurship which could later be extended to minor in Entrepreneurship

Deferred Placement Program (DPP):

- In today's world being influenced by StartUps, DPP provides the student entrepreneurs with an opportunity to skip the placements in their final year and come back at some later stage for the placements
- The plan was proposed in the first meeting of Students' Placement Committee, but could not be implemented due to the lack of resources. I, as a member of SPC, will strongly push for the implementation of this program taking into account the opinions and expertise of OPCs

Automation

With the advent of technology, the institute is currently undergoing complete automation. A part of it is focussed on Students' Gymkhana. Gymkhana automation will reduce the paper work the students are currently loaded with and will save a lot of time. The current

Gymkhana automation focusses on the following

- Online Booking of VH and allied facilities like the Lecture Hall Complex
- Subscription mailing list
- Dues collection
- Ticket booking
- Mobile App

I will actively pursue the proposal of Automation during my tenure. Additionally, I plan to extend the automation in the following directions:

- Making a centralised dues portal where all the institute dues could be paid from a single window
- Complete automation of the registration process, allowing the students to complete their registration sitting in front of their laptops.

Student Dashboard:

Student Dashboard



Students' Gymkhana

Restructuring of Gymkhana

- Recently, there was introduction of new entities called Cells, starting from the restructuring of the Presidential Council. The currently proposed cells are Community Welfare cell, E-Cell and Research and Academics Cell. Of these, CWC and R&A Cell are new in their functioning and their motives.

Community Welfare Cell

- The cell will have following wings: Prayas, Vivekananda Samiti, Raktarpan, Prakriti (GE3 renamed), Unmukt and Pragati.

- **Pragati:**

Aligned with the vision of providing real time solutions to the society, Pragati will work on issues that we must address to enable, empower and embolden the nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance. It will take on projects in collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental forums

IMPRINT is the first of its kind MHRD supported Pan-IIT + IISc joint initiative to address the major science and engineering challenges by creating a roadmap to pursue engineering challenges.

Starting from specific RuTAG projects, Pragati will collaborate with IMPRINT to actively serve as the CSR of IITK. The projects would be semester long and would be worked upon jointly by the Pragati mentors and the students.

- **Unmukt:**

It is the gender and sexual diversity forum of IITK aimed to foster a climate of fairness and equality for all and work for eliminating the biases based on gender and sexual orientations. Unmukt will work on increasing gender sensitivity in the campus by organizing various awareness workshops, movie screenings, interaction sessions.

- **Prakriti:**

I plan to work upon several campus level issues related to energy consumption and waste management. Case studies on such topics have already been given to each pool as a part of Melange. I will ensure that these studies are taken up as pilot projects in coordination with Environmental Engineering department. In addition, I will also work upon collaborating with the Nature cell of IIT Kanpur. The main idea is to achieve a greener and cleaner campus.

- NGO chapter, one of the proposals in the previous president's manifesto could not come into force due to various constraints. CWC will actively work on collaborating with NGOs and various MNCs through their CSRs

Vox Populi

- Currently a club under the Films and Media Council, I propose that Vox Populi should be rechristened as an independent cell in the campus. This will help in preserving the spirit of independence of journalism.
- An official Gymkhana spokesperson will be appointed to directly address the issues raised by Vox Populi.

General Affairs:

- **Health Centre:**

The biggest issue currently faced by the campus junta is the malfunctioning of the Health Centre. I had already presented the issue in Students' Senate and later it was also presented in the HCUC meeting. A complaint management system was passed in the meeting.

As the President, implementing the system would be one of my biggest priority and I will ensure that the complaints are dealt with utmost seriousness. In case of regular complaints against a particular doctor, I will ensure that he/she is not allowed to practice within the campus

- **Electricity**

With the recent fee hike due to electricity charges, I will pursue installation of meter boards in each wing to ensure a more justified reading for each room. Also, I will pursue installation of solar panels across the campus and replacement of the Halogens with more energy efficient LEDs. The idea is to minimise the amount of electricity consumed and a more justified electricity bill.

- **Library**

Renovation of Library was planned to be completed in the summers of 2015. But it got delayed due to various reasons. It includes creation of sitting space in the library and extension of the current library. I will actively pursue the same during my tenure

- **Dog issue:**

A very rampant issue among the residents of the campus, this matter needs to be taken up on a priority basis. I will work in close coordination with the nature cell and try to figure out the best possible solution. People for Animals, a renowned NGO has willingly accepted to work with the institute authorities in solving this issue

- **Sponsorship in Students' Gymkhana**

Already passed in the Students' Senate, the agenda of allowing sponsorships in gymkhana is currently pending with DOSA. With gymkhana already suffering from financial problems, I will actively pursue this matter and will ensure that sponsorship is allowed on campus as soon as possible. I also plan to associate many of the Gymkhana entities with the CSRs of various companies

- **Women's Cell**

In recent times, there have been a lot of dissatisfaction among the students regarding the working of the Women's Cell. I, as the President Students' Gymkhana will take a strong stand against the misconduct of this cell and will ensure that every student is given appropriate opportunity to represent his/her case with all the legal requirements for the cell getting fulfilled. The student representatives in the Women's Cell would be chosen after a rigorous process and in consultation with all the relevant individuals

- **Cashless campus**

Already being worked upon within the President's Office, we have come up with various models solutions to this matter and a couple of companies have also been contacted regarding the same. As the President, I will ensure that this model is implemented quickly and covers all the shops and the canteens of the campus

- **Reading rooms**

During the tenure of 2012-13 Students' Senate, a proposal of establishing mini-libraries in one of any four adjacent halls was proposed and accepted by the Senate. I will ensure proper implementation of the same. Also, if the project remains successful, I will ensure the gradual upgradation of all the reading rooms, as decided during the Hall 2 reading room renovation.

- **Dynamic Messing**

Already being passed in principle, the matter is still stuck in COSHA due to various issues. I will take up the issue actively and pursue that the proposal is passed as soon as possible

- **Warden Selection**

Currently, a lot of halls have been facing issues with the wardens. The same issue was also addressed at various platforms. I will ensure that the Student HEC is given some say in the Warden selection, thereby improving interaction and overall functioning of the Hall Executive Committee

- **Centralised Mess purchasing committee**

A Central Mess Committee had been formed to keep an account of the rates of the various items charged by the vendors in the halls. They will also be keeping records of the establishment charges and the average BDMR of each hall. In coordination with this committee, I will ensure centralization of the mess quotations, i.e. the committee shall keep records of the rates charged by the vendors on various items. The idea is to ensure uniformity of rates and improvement in the quality of food served.

- **Girls' specific issues**

- Canteen**

There is a dire need of having a canteen catering to basic (breakfast, lunch and dinner) in the GHT. However, due to various constraints, currently there is no canteen functional there. I, as the Students' Representatives will work together with the Hall HEC to ensure that a make-shift canteen caters to these needs till the completion of GH2. Also, I will ensure that the past agenda of allowing girls in hall4 canteen till 2am is enforced.

- NRA Tower**

A rampant issue among the girls is the NRAT issue- a list of problems ranging from impaired geysers, seepage in the water pipes, lack of water coolers, vacations messing and a lot more. As the President, all the issues will be clubbed and presented to the DOSA sir and I will demand prompt action on all such issues. I will ensure that the portion of NRA given to girls comes directly under GHT/GH1 warden so that any problem at maintenance level too is solved promptly. If these problems continue to persist, I will ensure that the girls there are given alternate housing

5-pool structure

The 5 pool structure was implemented this year to encourage a separate culture for girls. Therefore, I will ensure that proper opinions of all the girls is considered before deciding the next year pool allocation to hold inclusive GCs.

- **Food Outlets and Students' Lounge**

Currently, there is a dire need to have a good quality canteen in the Academic area. With the DOAA canteen being renovated and new outlets being opened in the Students' Lounge, the problem will be solved to some extent. I will try to ensure that this work is done on a priority basis as I believe that it would greatly help the PG students who have to spend most of their time in labs

With various food outlets being opened in the campus including Dominos, Subway and various other confectionaries, I will work together with CEMMC to ensure that the food outlets serve the best quality food.

- **Constructions in the campus**

I, as President will strongly pursue the timely completion of Hall 12, Hall 13 and GH2 and will oppose any imbalanced addition in the campus population

- **Water quality checks**

A lot of complaints regarding the quality of water have been received from Hall 11 and other nearby hostels. Though the water quality test had been carried out previous semester, I will pursue active quality check-ups throughout my tenure and ensure that the issues are sorted out in the quickest possible time

Credentials and Achievements:

- Acting President, Students' Gymkhana (Oct'15, Dec'15)
- Head, Presidential Council (March'15- Present)
- Senator UG Y13 (2013, 2014, 2015)
- Senate Nominee to UGSAC
- Overall Coordinator, Bon Voyage'15 and Yearbook'15
- President's Nominee, Health Centre Users' Committee
- President's Nominee, RFID Tag committee
- Member, Institute Anti-Ragging Squad
- Active Member, Institute Dramatics Club
- Pool Captain, Mauryans (Takneek'14)
- Secretary, Radio Club 90.4 FM

Work Done

- Proposed Online booking for VH and Allied Facilities in the Students' Senate
- Proposed the Anime Hobby group Otaku in the Students' Senate
- Presented the Health Centre issue in the Senate and pushed for a complaint
- Ideated separation of PE-CPA courses and presented the same in the senate
 - Served in three institute level governing committees; initiated changing the election process for fairer elections
 - Assisted President, Students' Gymkhana in Gymkhana automation
 - Performed in 8 Street Plays and 3 Stage Plays as a part of the Institute Dramatics Club- 'Fursat Mandli'
 - Procured 3rd position in Techkriti'14 amongst 30 teams; Won the Overall Astronomy Championship, Takneek'13
 - Performed a street play in Kanpur city as a part of Udghosh'14 initiative to create awareness against child labor
 - Lead Actor of stage play 'Vasansi Jirani' (Summer Workshop) performed at Merchants' Chamber Theatre Kanpur, Antaragni'14



Your valuable suggestions are invited.

Thank You!



Ashutosh Ranka

