



Students' Gymkhana IIT Kanpur



Presidential Council
2014-15

Mid-Term Report
(27th March 2014-6th November, 2014)

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President
Students' Gymkhana

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1. Prayas

Coordinators: Kapil Krishna Gupta, Monika Mahto, Rutvij Bhavsar

1.1. Events Conducted

- **Prayas Premier League**

Prayas premier league (PPL) is a cricket series organized in summers for the kids as well as the volunteers. Apart from teaching teamwork and help achieve goals, playing a sport makes one learn accountability, dedication and leadership. Hence it becomes important to organize such events. PPL 2014 was conducted with the same spirit from 21 May -31 May 2014. There were four teams comprising of the kids and the volunteers. PPL concluded successfully with 13 matches.



- **Hobby Classes**

Dance and painting classes were conducted in summers (May 2014-June 2014) in which they were taught sketching, water color painting and free style dance by some of the volunteers of Prayas.



- **English Classes**

Prayas also conducted English classes for the students in the summers (May 2014 – June 2014). The volunteers mainly focused on reading and speaking skills of the kids.

- **Rakshabandhan Celebration**

Rakshabandhan was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm on 11th of August in Prayas. Girls tied Rakhi on the wrist of boys. And as this was a festival, we had sweet distribution.



- **Participation in Junoon**

20 of the Prayas students performed a group dance in the event Junoon 2014 organized in the city. The event was held on 24th August, 2014. They were appreciated by the parents, faculty of IITK and all the audiences in the show.



- **Tree Plantation**

Tree plantation was organized in Prayas on 30th August, 2014 to inculcate the idea of preserving the nature among the kids. Around 40 saplings were planted in New SAC. The saplings were provided by the Nursery and the gardeners of the New SAC helped in the plantation.



- **Annual function**

Prayas organized the 13th Annual function on 28th September, 2014. The event witnessed a large number of audience. There was dance, drama , music and fine arts. The theme this year was “Eve teasing” and “Dreams and Risks”.



- **Diwali Celebration**

Diwali was celebrated in Prayas on 21st October 2014. The kids and the volunteers decorated the OAT with candles. They also made Rangoli. This event concluded with aarti and sweets distribution.



- **Appearance in Scholarship exams**

Class 9th and 10th students appeared in Atul Maheshwari Scholarship exam on 19th October, 2014 which was conducted by Amar Ujala in Kanpur city. Apart from this, some of the Class 11th students appeared in the KVPY examination conducted on 2nd November, 2014.

- **Health Session**

A health session for the kids and the parents was organized on 19th October, 2014. In this event, we had shown the parents a short video on balanced diet which was followed by the discussion of the food habits of the kids. We also collaborated with the Techkriti team for getting free dental checkup of the kids.

- **Spread Smiles**

Prayas and Alumni Contact Program have started a monetary donation drive for giving winter clothes to the kids of Prayas. The kids would be provided with inners and winter caps with this money. The event for the clothes donation is going to be organized on 14th November 2014,



1.2. New Initiatives

- **Computer classes**

Prayas has collaborated with some of enthusiastic bunch of students of the campus to organize computer classes for the kids of Classes 5-10. This classes are being conducted daily from 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm.

- **Experiments**

A lot of science experiments are conducted from time to time for the kids to get an opportunity to learn these things. These experiments are conducted on Sunday or in assembly of Prayas.

- **One-on-one mentoring**

One-on-one mentoring is provided to some of the students of Prayas who need special attention. Currently the number of students who are provided with this kind of mentoring are very few.

1.3. Expenditure

S. No.	Purpose	Amount
1.	Rakshabandhan	2168/-
2.	Junoon	2100/-
3.	PPL	1652/-
4.	Stationary	6064/-
5.	Annual function*	20,000/-
6.	Diwali**	3,600/-
	Total	35,584/-

*To be cleared by SSF

** To be cleared by Gymkhana funds

1.4. Future Plans

- **Udaan 2015**

This is the annual cultural event of Prayas which will be organized in the month of January 2015.

- **Picnic**

We will be organizing Picnic for the kids in the coming months.

2. Vivekanand Samiti

Coordinators: Ashish Singla, Raghunandan B. Iyer, Koustuv Ray

2.1. Activities Undertaken:

- **Talk on Character Building by Swami Satyamayanada**

Strong character is the most valuable treasure that one can acquire, and utilize throughout one's life." Vivekananda Samiti, IIT Kanpur is organized a talk on "Steps to build strong Character" by Swami Satyamayanandaji Maharaj, a great scholarly monk from the Ramakrishna Order, who is currently serving as Secretary in Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Kanpur. The schedule of the talk was as follows:

Topic: STEPS TO BUILD STRONG CHARACTER

Speaker: Swami Satyamayananda

Day: Sunday, Aug 10, 2014

Time: 4:30 PM

Venue: L-13, Lecture Hall Complex

- **Talk on Mind Management and Who am I? by Swami Vimalananda**

Throughout our lives, we put lot of efforts to prepare our body though all the problems of life are faced by the mind. In the mind lie all the problems and its solutions. In the present world where illusions of competition are propagated, it is essential to prepare the mind to keep it strong. Finding it relevant to the problems of students, Vivekananda Samiti organised a talk on the topic "Mind Management and Who am I." The talk will dealt with mind related problems faced by students. The schedule of the talk was as follows:

Topic: Mind Management

Date: 26.09.2014 (Friday)

Time: 6.30 PM

Venue: L1, LHC

Informal Q&A session

Date: 27.09.2014 (Saturday)

Time: 10:30 AM

Venue: FB470

Lecture Topic: Mind Management and Who am I?
Date: 27.09.2014 (Saturday)
Time: 6.30 PM
Venue: L1, LHC

Lecture Topic: Mind Management
Date: 28.09.2014 (Sunday)
Time: 4 PM
Venue: L1, LHC

- **Lectures on Astronomy, Mathematics and Vedanta**

Talk 1: Modeling the Motion of Celestial objects
Date: 1st, November, 2014 (Saturday)
Time: 4 PM
Schedule: L2, LHC

Talk 2: A Beautiful blend of Poetry, Arithmetic and Geometry
Date: 1st, November, 2014 (Saturday)
Time: 5 PM
Schedule: L2, LHC

Talk 3: Self as the source of sublime happiness
Date: 2nd, November, 2014 (Saturday)
Time: 11 AM
Schedule: L2, LHC

- **Samkritam Classes (Weekly activity)**

Vivekananda Samiti in collaboration with Samskrita Bharati Kanpur organized weekly Samskrit classes and various levels of examinations. The examinations were scheduled as follows:

Date: 31st August, 2014 (Sunday)
Time: 3PM
Venue: FB470

- **General Health Camp at Lodhar Aug. 3, 2014**

A general health camp was organized by Vivekananda Samiti and Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Kanpur at Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya in Lodhar village, near IIT Kanpur. The doctors who rendered their service included Dr. Chandrani Luthra, Dr. Mohita Gulati, and Dr. R M Gupta. We examined over 320 students that included all the students of the school, students of Prayas, and some local residents. Free consultation and medicine were given to one and all. Most of the students suffered from malnutrition.

We felt blessed to get the opportunity to serve them, in whatever little way we could. We thank the school authorities, RKM hospital and its doctors, and all the volunteers who participated in this camp.

- **Eye Camp at Kurshauli Aug. 31, 2014**

An Eye camp was organized by Vivekananda Samiti and Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Kanpur at Purva Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Kurshauli village, near IIT Kanpur. There was an eye specialist Dr. Anju Mishra who rendered her service along with her own team. Almost 120 people were examined involving cases of poor eyesight and issue like cataract was identified for few of them. The free medicine and spectacles were provided according to the cases. We felt blessed to get the opportunity to serve them, in whatever little way we could. We thank the school authorities, RKM hospital and its doctor, and all the volunteers who participated in this camp.

- **Kanpur City Heritage Tour Aug. 24, 2014**

Kanpur city hosts some wonderful heritage sites, some of which are of the times of Ramayana and Mahabharata, and situated on the banks of Ganges. Vivekananda Samiti organized a city heritage tour in and around Kanpur city on Sunday, 24th Aug., 2014. The visited sites include Mahakaleshwar Temple, Khereshwar Temple, Ban Khandeshwar Temple, Valmiki Ashrama, Shudhanshu Maharaj Temple, PhoolBagh Ground, Tapeshwari Devi Temple, Jain Kaanch Temple, Dwarkadheesh Temple, Anandeshwar Temple, J K Temple. Almost 60 students participated in this heritage trip.

2.2. Expenditure:

Event	Date	Particulars	Cost
General Health Camp	03/08/2014	1. Medicine	17685
		2. Biscuits given to students	1750
		3. Pamphlet and banner	1450
		Total	20885

Eye Camp	31/08/2014	Pamphlet and banner	1250
Invited Talk	10/08/2014	Poster Printing	450
		Media Lab	1200
		Total	1650
Invited Series	Lecture 26/08/2014-28/08/2014	1. Initial Flight Fare	5291
		2. Fare for date change	6934
		3. Poster and certificate Printing	1650
		4. Media Lab	3600
		Total	17475
Invited Series	Lecture 01/11/2014-02/11/2014	1. Poster Printing	792
		2. Media Lab	3600
		Total	4392
TOTAL			45652

2.3. New Initiative

Vivekananda Samiti Library has started to function from 25th Oct. 2014.

3. GE3

3.1. Activities Conducted

- **Open House Session and Documentary Screening**

An open house was conducted in order to publicize and make aware the new campus residents about GE-3. In the open house a brief talk was conducted on the issues of global warming and climate change. Rest of the session involved informal discussions.

A documentary (Do the Math - 350.org) screening was also organized to gain more attention from the campus. Another documentary on People's Climate March was screened in the month of September.

- **Green Opus Phase I - Electricity wastage reduction**

Phase 1 of Green Opus is being conducted in the month of October- November. Electricity usage readings of the student living areas of hostel have been collected at the beginning of the period and will be collected at the end of the month.

- **Other Club Activities**

Club meetings are organized from time to time, to keep the group active.

Various projects are being pursued by the members. Work is ongoing in the following projects:

Waste segregation

Increasing energy efficiency of library

3.2. Plans:

GE-3 is planning to introduce events like tree-plantation drive inside the campus and "Adopt-a-Tree" kind of program. It is in talks with the relevant authorities for the same.

3.3. Notes/Suggestions:

No clear instructions or protocol exist for noting the electricity readings of halls. A document with detailed instructions is to be made and passed on so that there are no discrepancies in the readings noted every year.

3.4. Expenditure Details:

In the academic year 2014-15, so far, no money from Gymkhana fund or from SSF has been spent by GE-3.

4. Book Club

4.1. Activities Undertaken

- On 6th September, the book club organised a talk by Mr. Kartik Srivastava, an alumnus of our institute who had recently launched a book titled "Game of Chess". He gave a brief talk about his book and his experience as a writer, which was followed by an informal chat and a Q&A session.
- A poll was conducted in August to know the magazines that the campus junta would like to see in the Club. On the basis of the responses, we subscribed to nine magazines from different genres.
- According to the requests made by the members, 15 new books worth Rs. 4018/- were purchased.

4.2. New Initiatives

- **Cash free registration:** This semester we tried out a new money collection system. Now we don't collect any money during the registration and issuing of books. Instead, all slot fees and dues are collected at the end of the semester. This was done to reduce the hassle during opening of slots at the Club.
- **Book gems:** A new event is planned for the next semester. We shall invite people to write reviews or comments about the slightly lesser known books that they have read and found to be brilliant.

4.3. Expenditure

Books Purchased	4018/-
Magazine subscriptions	12126/-
Stationary/miscellaneous cost	200
Total	16344 /-

4.4. Possible Events and Future Plans

- **LitBuzz quiz:** A literary quizzing event shall be organized for the campus junta. Tentatively in February or March.
- **Online writing competition:** To be held in the upcoming semester break (December).
- A further set of 9 books has almost been finalized and will be ordered soon.

5. E-Cell

5.1. Campus Activities:

We conduct open house session on regular intervals. This semester we till now have conducted only one open house due to Summit Preparations but the next semester we are preparing to have atleast four open house sessions.

In these open house sessions all the campus entrepreneurs gather and discuss about their works and the facilities they are getting from the campus authorities and discuss about the rules in the campus.

We also conduct Google hangouts at regular sessions which can cover the lack of open house sessions and help us in maintaining the contacts with the campus entrepreneurs committee.

We are also conducting Startup- 101 Lecture series which will resume its working in the next Semester. In this series we are directing the campus junta through the pathway of making a startup happen and in a big way.

5.2. E-Summit:

We have successfully conducted this year's E Summit which was held from 22- 24 August. During the summit we held many talks, workshops and competitions. Especially the talk of the Advitya Sharma, IITB Alumni and Co-Founder of housing.com and that of Ashutosh, former Journalist and Political activist were a great success.

We held talk of many other known personalities also like Akshay Saxena, Co-Founder, Avanti Fellows, Aakif Merchant, Dasra and Anand Kumar, founder of Super-30 group. We also conducted the talk of Padma Shree Winner Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan.

We also conducted many workshops like IDEAS generation workshop which aims to introduce a few new concepts that the participants could Learn, Practice and finally implement too. Hence, the workshop hence takes an approach of introducing concepts, allowing participants to “munch over it” – and then pick out whatever they deem is relevant / workable for them as a practical path on their way to entrepreneurship.

We also concluded the NEN workshop with the session which provides a comprehensive sense of a set of tools which have increasingly become the got framework used by high potential startups, with examples of real-life case studies of successes such as PayPal and Fab and how they pivoted along the path to success. The speakers were Anand Vemuri and Apurva Agarwal.

We also conducted the Lets Venture workshop with the aim of learning Startup Funding Made Easy in association with Helion Ventures.

We also conducted competitions like Mind Your Business which gives exposure to the real scenario of a startup. It gives experience to the players in raising capital for their firm in a very competitive environment. As entrepreneurs would be trying to raise money to fulfill their objectives,

investors will be trying to maximize their profit and make more money. It would be very interesting and challenging for everyone to compete with one another and emerge as the best entrepreneur and investor.

Pitch Your Product was organized with an aim to provide the participants with an opportunity which can transform their innovation in the form of as simple and small scale an initiative as their summer project or any other such research works into actual entrepreneurial ideas. This event examines the ability of the participants to evaluate the market or the customer needs or their distribution strategy. Long story short, this event requires the participant to be a full-fledged entrepreneur in the theoretical sense.

Decrypt is the good old case study competition. It is all about reading the situation and taking decisions – sometimes obvious and sometimes tough. It is about solving problems that are critical to answer for an entrepreneur at some stage.

E-Cell & GDG IIT Kanpur hosted a Hackathon. Each team was required to form a team of 2-4 in Hackathon and was encouraged to work on a product idea that solves a problem.

5.3. PRIME'83:

Promoting Research, Innovation, Motivation and Entrepreneurship (PRIME83) is an initiative generously supported by the alumni of 83' batch. This programme aims to develop a culture of creative ideas with focus on technology within the students of IITK. The PRIME83 INNOVATION AWARD is E- Cell's flagship event launched to develop technological entrepreneurship in the campus.

This year also we are conducting prime smoothly. We have already selected top ten projects and are in the process of allocating them with the mentors which will help them through the remaining of the year for their projects.

5.4. Future Initiatives:

As a future Initiative we are planning to conduct the Namohackathon which is to be conducted by the PMO India. We will be organising the event in the Kanpur region.

We are in process of filling out the forms and we will soon be coming up with the dates of the Hackathon.

6. Student Welfare Cell

6.1. **Technical Background Survey:**

SWC organized a technical background survey for the incoming undergraduate students on the 27th of July during the Orientation Programme, where students were tested in the basics of Physics, Mathematics and their familiarity with using a computer.

6.2. **Poster Presentation Competition**

In collaboration with the Students' Placement Office the SWC organized a Poster Presentation Competition, which provided a unique opportunity to students who have done any quantifiable research in any field to showcase their work. The screening and judging was done by committees of professors. The final exhibit of posters were held in the Hall Of Fame, Outreach on the 30th and 31st of August.

6.3. **English Proficiency Programme:**

SWC in collaboration with Prof. Bhaskar Dasgupta started an English Proficiency Programme, which focused on learning English, the Programme did not take-off well and was later scrapped due to lack of response from the student community. A trial session was held on the 17th of August.

6.4. **Hall Visits**

The SWC visited all the undergraduate hostels, this was a 2-hour long session which elucidated the freshers about various academic rules and institute policies.

6.5. **Session with Professors**

The SWC in collaboration with the Counselling Service organized hall level mentoring sessions for all undergraduate students, in which professors were invited to come and interact with the freshers. These were organized in the 3rd week of August.

6.6. **Future plans:**

- Possible continuation of the English Proficiency Program.
- More wing visits in the future.
- Other sessions related to students academics (ESOs etc.)

7. Alumni Relations Cell

The Council recommends the closing of the Alumni Relations Cell. There have been no productive activities from the clubs' forum till now. Moreover, the responsibilities of the club are more or less the same as the Alumni Contact Programme and ACP is handling all those responsibilities efficiently on its own.

8. GLDC

The Council has two different suggestions regarding GLDC:

- The Club should be closed and the fund allocated to it should be distributed among the different councils specifically for lectures/talks.
- If the Club is not closed then a review of its responsibilities by the Students' Senate.

9. Council Suggestions

- The role of NGO based Hobby Groups and their place in the council should be discussed in the Students' Senate.
- The council needs a consolidated event in GC which will help all the clubs under its umbrella to spread their reach. This event can be a mixture of events and sessions that will help the clubs spread their message.