

Report

In the 5th Senate meeting a FFC was formed to look into certain issues regarding Techkriti'15. The mandate of the committee was :

1. To look into registration process and point out all the discrepancies.
2. To look into the issue of refund of caution money and the implementation of the open-fest model.
3. To review the Finance report and point out discrepancies, if any.

The meeting was scheduled on Tuesday, 22nd Sept, the committee comprised of :

1. Chirag Jha, COFA Chairman
2. Sabhya Sachi Verma
3. Ashutosh Ranka
4. Vimal Kumar
5. Ishant Rao

They discussed issues listed below, followed by reasons cited and recommendations from the committee.

Issues -

1. No. of participants 1816+522
2. Open fest registration fee
3. Discrepancy in registration fee

Reasons cited -

1. Techkriti had for the first time introduced online payment system, they accepted that it was very new initiative for the participants and many were not aware of this. As per records some 1700+~30-40 registered for full-time through online portal the day before Techkriti started. Near about 150-200 registered for open fest, where the individual day for which they registered was mentioned on the registration slip.

They also mentioned that most of the people under open fest, ~95-97% registered for complete four days, since they came mostly to participate in workshops which span throughout all four days, and even some are organised on alternate days depending on the companies say on Friday and Sunday.

Day0 of Techkriti: They started getting calls from participants for refund, and as per their data less than 1800 have registered yet. They discussed it with Prof. Vimal Kumar and he suggested you raise the buffer count to 1850. They did so having a notion that they could accomodate upto 1900 participants without administrative trouble.

At the registration desk, six queues were made, five for regular participants and one for open fest. Since they were processing the refund and registration all together, they didn't keep track when they overshoot.

Apart from this some facts told by them, they literally shown the members way out if they didn't pay through DD or online. Also there were teams from southern states, and it was not at all possible to deny them registrations. In total(regular + open) they received 50-60 refund requests, and 35 successful refunds were done under condition that proper mail or details were sent during fest.

2. For the open fest registration fee, it was decided in the COFA(T) 2014-15 that $\text{INR.}200 + \Delta$ (caution money)/per day or $\text{INR.}800 + \Delta$ (caution money)/4 days to be the Registration fee. They didn't violate any rule here. But, since not all participants came for complete for 4-days, although in the finance report they have shown income $\text{INR.}800 * 522$. This was done believing the fact that mostly were here for entire fest. The data was stored on the server of a company which was the sponsor for Techkriti, so it's difficult to retrieve the data now. The maximum overshoot here could be assuming all 522 people came on single day, which amounts to $\text{INR.}22 * 200 = \text{INR.}4400$ or if we assume all 522 stayed here for 4-days, then it will be $\text{INR.}22 * 800 = \text{INR.}17600$.

They did mention the participants were scouted out if found without proper permission say if they didn't have permission for a particular day (under open fest) or they allegedly tried to stay with their friends. So considering the later case would be too pointless.

3. Minor discrepancy but this was sort out stating that 3.5% was the online processing charges. So the income was shown correct.

Recommendations-

1. The caps made decide the upper limit which in no case can be violated. They should have used waiting system which is generally used in different fests to avoid certain problems.
2. Proper refund policy should be formulated which was not done this time does allwing such havoc during fest.
3. They are suggested to formulate a better structure for the open-fest model. If they believe people come for entire fest then the purpose of individual day limit seems less meaningful or may be they should prepare a better spectrum of events/workshops.