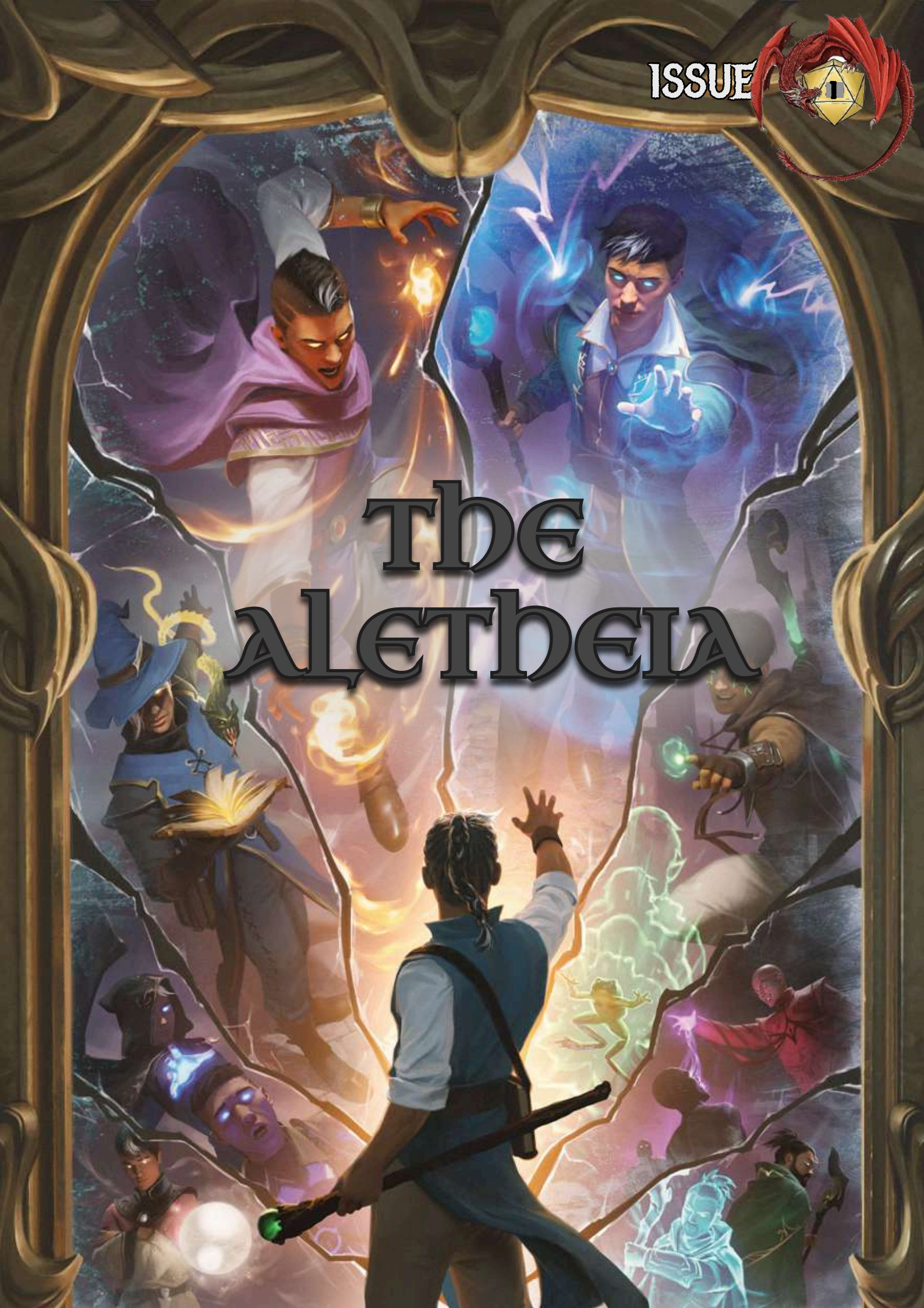


ISSUE



The Aletheia



Editorial

Hi there, hello. It's a me, John BEP. This is my second attempt at writing an editorial since my first one got drowned in expletives. You see, I was quite riled up and dead inside, as oxymoronic as that may sound. Any bit of joy and whimsy I may have had left me as soon as I saw two dogs roughhouse our tent to shreds.

I am quite fine now, however, as the voices my tired self has hallucinated have helped me calm down. "Hate leads to suffering" they say, quoting Yoda, seemingly not knowing that I was full of both. Like, do better guys, you're literally in my head.

I was supposed to go on a spiel defending my choice of dungeons and dragons as a theme for the sports fest, like maybe, hunting monsters is kinda athletic or something. But if I'm being honest it just boils down to "I like thing, let's do thing." So, let's do more thing, I guess. (Can you tell I'm sleep deprived)

Roll initiative

Team

Aditya Gawade, Chandrasnata Mohanty, Ishita Sethi, Kalyani Naik, Kedar Athrey, Keerthi Saripella, Kuhoo Sathe, Kunal Verma, Laavanya Datta, Laxman Patel, Moshajjar Hussain, Shreya Karnwal, Vamsi Addepalli

Abhirup Tapadar, Aditi Baral, Aditya, Anika Tyagi, Darsh Patel, Harivansh Mehta, Jayant Gupta, Latika Anand, Parasmay Acharya, Praneet Raj Lingamallu, Raafey Aziz, Saumya Goyal, Shireen Banerjee Kar, Soham Saxena, Tanmay Arora, Tanvi Gangakhedkar

Aditi Maheshwari, Ameya Agarwal, Dev Kumar, Dhairya Sharma, Jagannath Pisharody, Khushi Mehta, Khyati Singh, Mitali Kabra, Parth Ashwlayan, Prabhav Nikhil Purandare, Pragya Pranjal, Pratyush Kathuria, Pulak Bagaria, Raghav Halan, Shraddha Nair, Shreyansh Pandey, Shreyas Krishnan, Spandan Kulkarni, Suhrit Rochan Rao, Vihaan Goenka

ROLL INITIATIVE- INAUG

The thirty-ninth edition of BOSM kicked off with roughly half an hour of BST, beginning with a pre-movie that featured the CoSSAc, SUTT, SUMT, and SPD. The chief warden, Prof. Rajesh P. Mishra made a surprise end credit appearance where he advised students to abstain from smoking.

‘OMG, I want to kill myself’, was what the writer heard between bouts of ear splitting mic feedback. The Gurukul performance initially faced some audio issues (re: ear splitting mic feedback), but the setlist featuring “Bhaag Milkha Bhaag”, “Rock You like a Hurricane”, and “I’m Here, With You” invigorated the crowd and set the vibe. This was followed by an electrifying performance by the Dance Club, who were able to perform extremely well, despite the short time allocated for preparation. Their coordinated outfits and their fluid moves were a feast for the eyes. A couple of teaser videos depicting the BOSM app, N20, and the Bollywood Nite were later played by the SUMT.

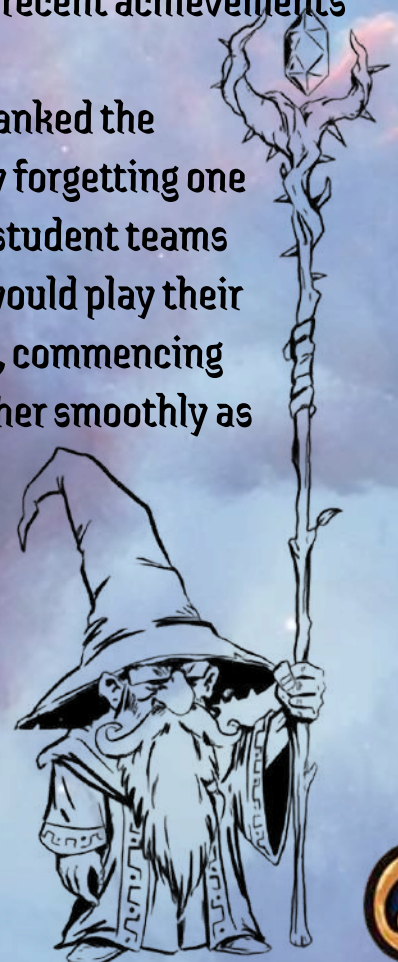
The crowd was welcomed to the inauguration, and the CoSSAc, the director, the guest of honour, and the chief guest were invited on stage. Two members of the CoSSAc were absent and two definitely-not CoSSAcns had to go upstage pretending to be them. The director, Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, was then called upon to address the audience, most of whom had left after the performance by the Dance Club. Regardless, the director welcomed the chief guest and the guest of honour, and gave his best wishes to the assembled crowd. This was followed by a speech by the guest of honour, Arun Khetan, who gave a brief address encouraging everyone to enjoy BOSM. The director and guest of honour then felicitated the chief guest with a shawl and a token of appreciation, after which the chief guest addressed the crowd.

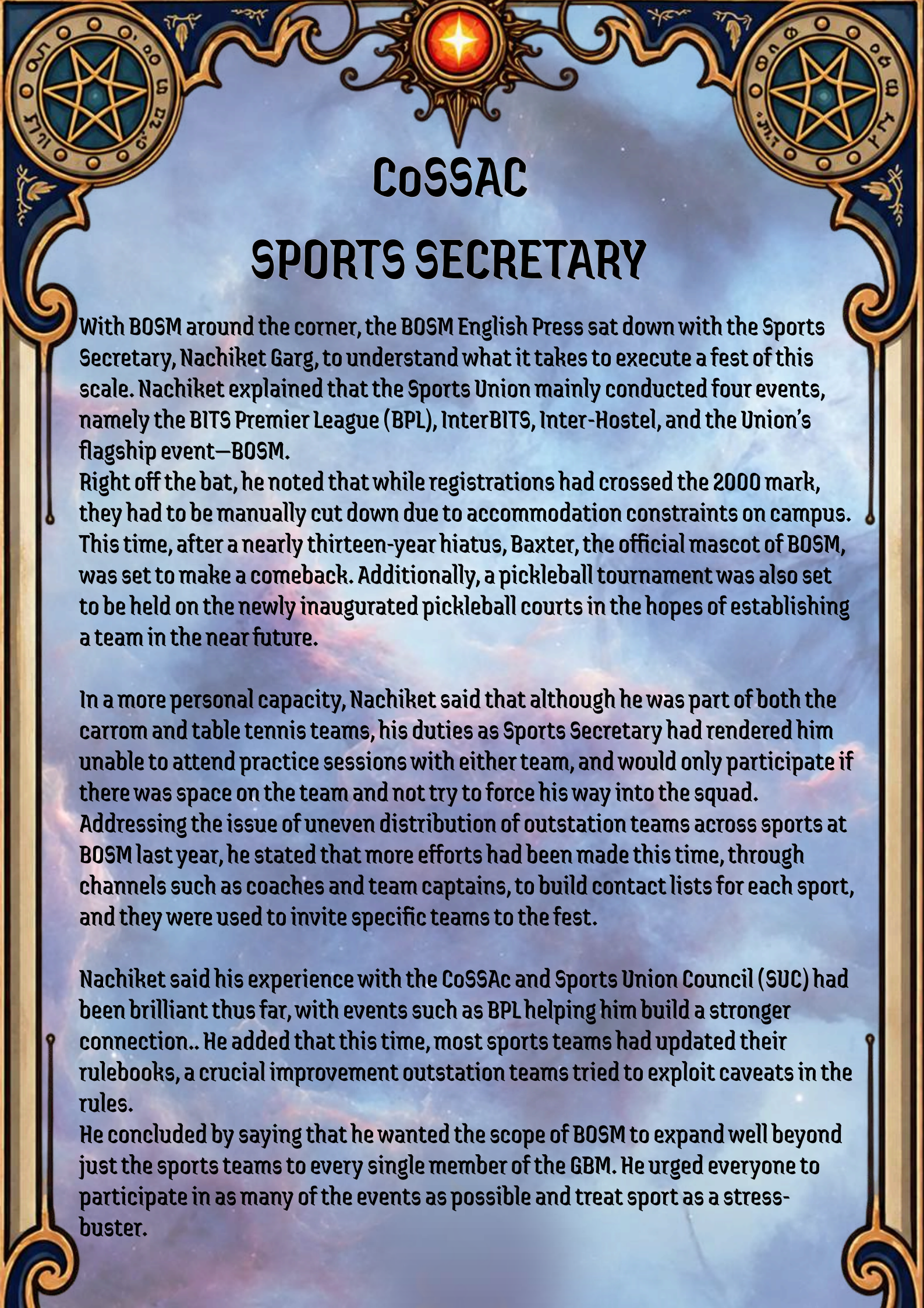




The chief guest, Manoj Kumar, is a celebrated Indian boxing champion and receiver of the prestigious Arjuna award. His impressive career includes a gold medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and bronze medals at the 2007 Asian Boxing Championships and the 2010 Asian Games, along with many other achievements. He began by thanking the organizing committee for his warm reception, and discussed the importance of practice in his achievements. He stated how he was proud to be an Indian, and how he rose from his humble beginnings to an individual that made a mark in Indian boxing. The CoSSAc then escorted the VIPs to GymG for the torch lighting ceremony in SUVs, leaving the rest of the audience to walk there.

As the rest of the GBM gathered at GymG for the torch lighting ceremony, the team players assembled for the 'march past'. The walk was led by the sports council followed by the teams in alphabetical order. Each team was led by the captain and as they passed the chief guest, a list of their recent achievements were announced to the crowd. A vote of thanks was then delivered by the sports secretary, Nachiket Garg, who thanked the 4dignitaries and the organizing committee, conveniently forgetting one organizing body from his speech. He gave his best to the student teams from colleges across the country and hoped everybody would play their best. Finally, CrAC lit the torch (or attempted to anyway), commencing the start of BOSM. The lighting of the BOSM logo went rather smoothly as compared to last year, when the chief guest was caught ablaze by 'ferocious fire'. Things went along without a hitch and the entire BITSian community was saved from potential disaster. The national anthem was played and Manoj Kumar concluded the eventful night with an enthusiastic shout of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'.





CoSSAC

SPORTS SECRETARY

With BOSM around the corner, the BOSM English Press sat down with the Sports Secretary, Nachiket Garg, to understand what it takes to execute a fest of this scale. Nachiket explained that the Sports Union mainly conducted four events, namely the BITS Premier League (BPL), InterBITS, Inter-Hostel, and the Union's flagship event—BOSM.

Right off the bat, he noted that while registrations had crossed the 2000 mark, they had to be manually cut down due to accommodation constraints on campus. This time, after a nearly thirteen-year hiatus, Baxter, the official mascot of BOSM, was set to make a comeback. Additionally, a pickleball tournament was also set to be held on the newly inaugurated pickleball courts in the hopes of establishing a team in the near future.

In a more personal capacity, Nachiket said that although he was part of both the carrom and table tennis teams, his duties as Sports Secretary had rendered him unable to attend practice sessions with either team, and would only participate if there was space on the team and not try to force his way into the squad.

Addressing the issue of uneven distribution of outstation teams across sports at BOSM last year, he stated that more efforts had been made this time, through channels such as coaches and team captains, to build contact lists for each sport, and they were used to invite specific teams to the fest.

Nachiket said his experience with the CoSSAc and Sports Union Council (SUC) had been brilliant thus far, with events such as BPL helping him build a stronger connection.. He added that this time, most sports teams had updated their rulebooks, a crucial improvement outstation teams tried to exploit caveats in the rules.

He concluded by saying that he wanted the scope of BOSM to expand well beyond just the sports teams to every single member of the GBM. He urged everyone to participate in as many of the events as possible and treat sport as a stress-buster.



BOSM CONTROLS

The BOSM English Press sat down with Kalyani Naik, the CoSSAcn of the Department of Controls, BOSM, to discuss their preparations for the upcoming edition of BOSM.

Kalyani explained that her department was the backbone of organising the fest, and that their work included a lot of 'pre-fest work' like handling requisitions of various clubs and departments, organising the 'Audi Inaug' and 'GymG Inaug', and 'a bunch of other things'. Besides this, she added, the department was responsible for the scheduling of matches as well as non-sporting events, maintaining score sheets, procuring the medals and trophies to be distributed, and organising the valedictorian ceremony.

When asked about the challenges faced so far, Kalyani first went on a short rant against people not filling out requisition forms on time, and instead approaching her days later to ask for requisitions.

She then acknowledged the efforts of her juniors and Reval, the coordinator of the department, whom she then called her 'underboss'. She expressed her gladness at getting an opportunity to spend more time with the department in her final year of college. On a parting note, Kalyani urged the readers to go out and make new friends.

BOSM SPONZ

As preparations for BOSM neared their summit, the BOSM English Press sat down with Vishal Dhabali, CoSSAcn of the Department of Sponsorship and Marketing.

Vishal explained that BOSM Sponz was responsible for the acquisition of sponsors, followed by collaboration and marketing efforts. He added that the department was also invested in revenue generation during the fest by way of setting up and managing food stalls, while also handling merchandise. He stated that this BOSM would see sponsorships from companies like SBI, RedBull, EaseMyTrip, and MetaNova—estimating the total sponsorship value at upward of 20 lakh, although the exact number would only be known once the fest was complete.

While discussing the overcharging in food stalls, Vishal conceded that the prices were high, a consequence of the logistical expenses that companies bear as a result of coming to Pilani. Vishal also noted that it was not uncommon for a month to be spent in talks with companies, that eventually fall through due to changes in their plans. He also extensively described how the department had to adapt its pitches and the companies they reached out to, referring to how brands now value influencer marketing over physical marketing.

On a concluding note, he noted that this was the '26 batch's first fest and requested the GBM to 'come out of their rooms, have fun, talk to people, and make the most of it'.



PCr

The BOSM English Press sat down with DevTang Jain, the CoSSAcn for the Department of Publications and Correspondence (PCr).

Devang pointed out that PCr had 'a lot of work pre-fest' rather than during the fest itself. He explained that their preparatory work usually began in August, when the department reached out to colleges along with the brochure and details regarding the possible prize pool. He stated that outreach was conducted by calling up previous points of contact (PoCs)—who had previously attended the fest—as well as their juniors from an internal database of colleges, handling inquiries received through BOSM's Instagram page, and sending out emails.

On a final note, Devang described the lively environment in SAC with DC, Gurukul, Crac, SPD, Sponz, and RecNacc all working together in the days leading up to the fest. He encouraged general body members, especially the '26 Batch, to explore and experience the 'banger artist line-up' planned for BOSM.

RecNacc

The BOSM English Press sat down with Shantnu Sarda, the CoSSAcn of the Department of Reception and Accommodation (RecNacc), to get an insight into how the department works for BOSM.

Shantnu explained that the department's work for the fest could be split into three major parts. First was providing the outstation participants with accommodation and booking of VFast and hotel rooms off-campus for the Chief Guests and artists. Secondly, they also managed the club inventory and handled the tent setup. Thirdly, for BOSM, they handled the travel for all the major guests, artists, and participants. Another aspect of the fest the department contributed to was setting up decorations on campus in collaboration with SPD.

Talking about the challenges faced, Shantnu mentioned that a major one each year is the accommodation of female attendees. He elaborated that this was an especially major hurdle this year, due to the non-availability of accommodation after the demolition of SR Bhawan. On a parting note, Shantnu said that he wished to carry the BOSM legacy forward.



JSS

The BOSM English Press sat down with the Principal Signatories of the Sports Financial Committee ahead of BOSM 2026 to discuss the organisation and planning of the fest.

The signatories explained that the duties of the committee could be broadly classified into three baskets— electoral, financial, and constitutional. The electoral responsibilities involve the elections for the posts of the Hostel Sports Representatives, the Sports Secretary, and the interviews for the Joint Sports Secretaries. The financial ones oversee the budgeting and the finances of all the events listed under the Sports Union Constitution. They ensure the timely reimbursement and clearing of all bills, and the interpretation and amendment of the constitution.

The signatories shared that running up to the fest, they often had to face friction and disagreements with the various stakeholders due to differing views on what proportion of the budget should be allocated to them. They noted that during the days of the fest, they often had to run around on the ground and fix issues, such as a shortage of accommodation in the previous iteration of BOSM.

One signatory made a tongue-in-cheek remark, urging freshers to spend as much as they could, and concluded by saying that fests are an essential part of BITSian culture and that the student body should engage with them as much as they can.

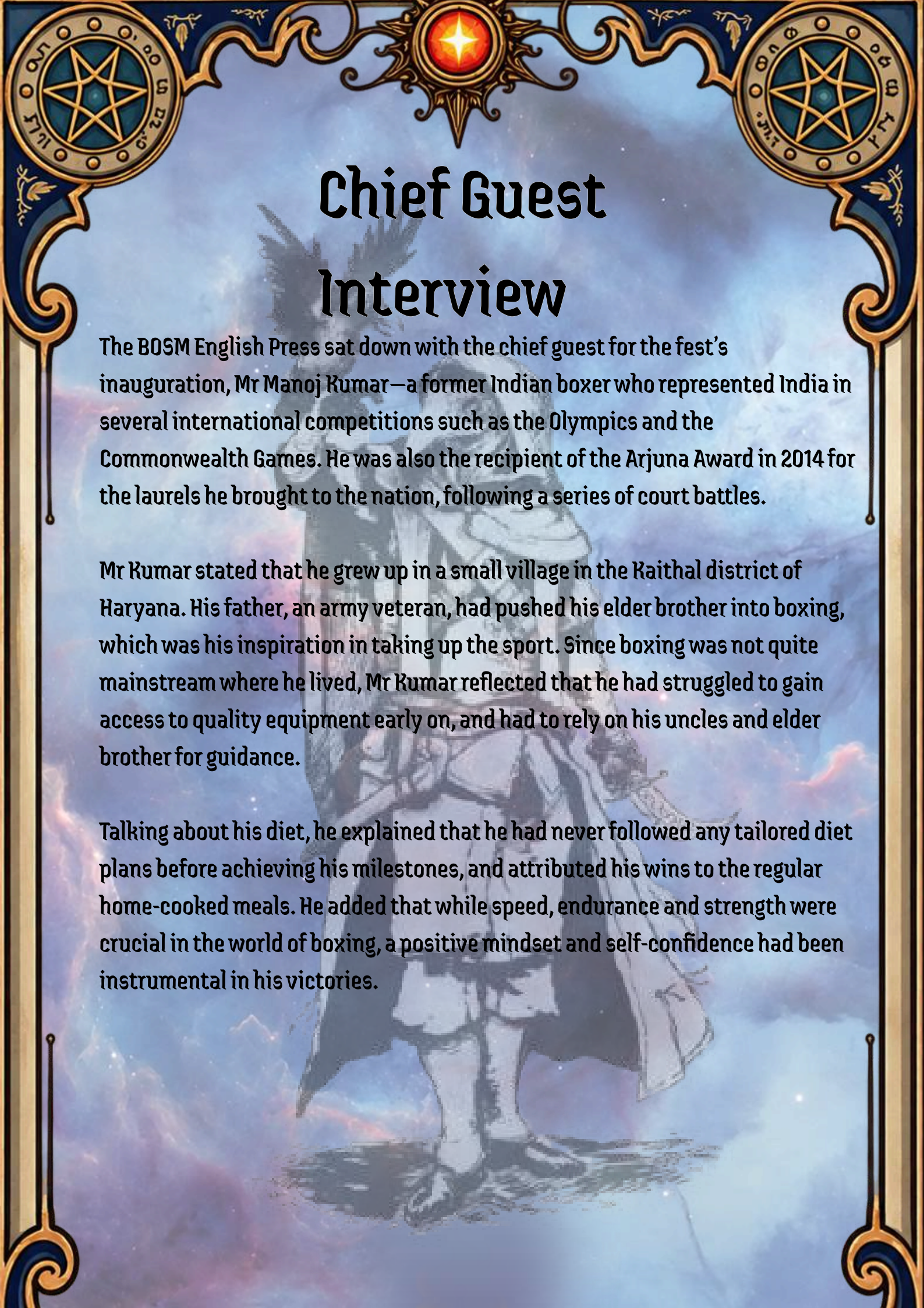
SFC

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Chief Guest Interview

The BOSM English Press sat down with the chief guest for the fest's inauguration, Mr Manoj Kumar—a former Indian boxer who represented India in several international competitions such as the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games. He was also the recipient of the Arjuna Award in 2014 for the laurels he brought to the nation, following a series of court battles.

Mr Kumar stated that he grew up in a small village in the Kaithal district of Haryana. His father, an army veteran, had pushed his elder brother into boxing, which was his inspiration in taking up the sport. Since boxing was not quite mainstream where he lived, Mr Kumar reflected that he had struggled to gain access to quality equipment early on, and had to rely on his uncles and elder brother for guidance.

Talking about his diet, he explained that he had never followed any tailored diet plans before achieving his milestones, and attributed his wins to the regular home-cooked meals. He added that while speed, endurance and strength were crucial in the world of boxing, a positive mindset and self-confidence had been instrumental in his victories.

In the course of his career, Mr Kumar had sustained a fractured thumb back in 2008, and was unable to receive proper medical care until his qualification for the Olympics in 2011. He expressed dissatisfaction with the sports facilities in India, emphasising that great talents were missing out on opportunities due to internal politics.

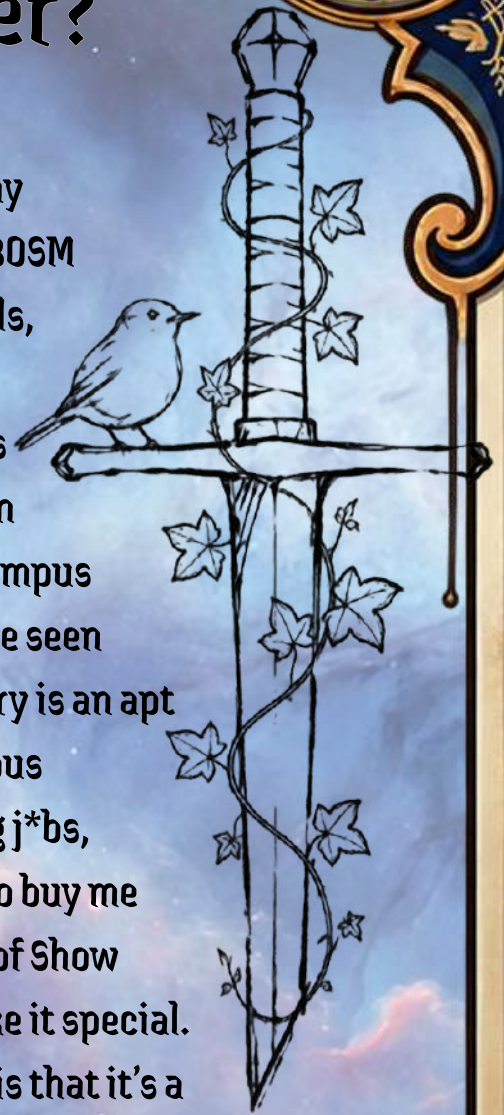
Mr Kumar considered his major victories to be the 2010 Commonwealth Games match victory against an accomplished boxer from England and a win against the world champion in the 2011 Asian Games. He recounted how he was also paired up with the world champion in the second round of the 2014 Asian Games, and had suffered a loss. He remarked that had this not been the case, he would have finished on the podium.

In his concluding remarks, he pointed out the impact of the opportunities he had lost out on, due to friction with the Boxing Federation of India, on his career. He advised the students of BITS to never give up hope in challenging situations, to stay strong, and to overcome any obstacles they might face.



BOSM..as a fresher?

BOSM? More like Bawesome, get it? Never mind. Unfunny jokes aside, BOSM 2026 has formally kicked off. While BOSM isn't exactly the biggest or brightest of college festivals, it is the first time in two months that I've been reminded of the existence of life outside these campus walls. By 'life' outside campus walls, I don't quite mean the visiting teams from other colleges. 'Life' outside campus walls, very obviously, means food stalls. From what I've seen so far, the prices aren't exactly a 'steal'. Daylight robbery is an apt description, but I'm sure there is no shortage of generous seniors who are doing decently well in life after getting j*bs, who, with the right amount of sycophancy, will agree to buy me food. To make everything better, of course, there's a Prof Show and N20, but it's not these highlights of BOSM that make it special. For a fresher (like myself), the best part about the fest is that it's a fest of a lot of 'firsts'. So, I'll rephrase my first sentence. There's my first Prof Show, my first N20, my first time spending a night with people from my favourite commitment on campus, in a makeshift tent or chilly FD-1 room. I can't go without mentioning heading off to GymG, and supporting my friends, wingies or even people I've never met before taking the field against 'outsties'. And the best part (or so I've been told)? Heading over to ANC and finding neatly folded issues of the BOSM English Press. I am sure that looking at them, I'm going to go "Wow! I sure do love the BEP. Boy would I love to join EPC someday!" Genuinely, what's not to like about BOSM, besides that one 8 AM lab staring menacingly at you after a good night of goofing around with your friends!



SPONSORS

