The result of months of preparation, planning and general insanity is finally here - the third edition of Breeze - the Tech, Cultural and Sports fest of Shiv Nadar University - kicks off today. We can say that we need no introduction but, since you probably scratched your head when you heard about a breeze in Dadri, Village Chithera, we'll help you out a bit.

Shiv Nadar University, founded in 2011, is rapidly moving towards its goal of becoming a safe haven for those minds who refuse to choose 'one stream' and find math as interesting as history. An important part of its rigorous admission criteria is the ability to survive UP roads, as you may have noticed while getting here. For those who do manage to reach the campus with all their bones correctly aligned, prizes await.

Well, kind of. Most of the 'prizes' are still a work-in-progress; with the steady hum of construction now an almost comforting element of daily life. Don't worry, though - if instant gratification is more your thing, Breeze '14 is pretty much the perfect time for you to experience SNU life.

The fest, one of our first efforts at establishing traditions that will outlast our stay at SNU, is a three day long pause of all that is normal and natural. No, there aren't flying pigs, but Breeze '14 has upped the ante in terms of performances and competitions and the level of enjoyability depends on your ability to be in multiple places at one time. There is a lot happening and wise choices will be the difference between crushing defeats and glorious rewards.

In the midst of all the madness we are, quite literally, your method. The special edition of the paper will provide you with a quick round up of all events that happened the previous day and particular events to watch out for in the coming days, as well as places to direct grumbling stomachs to. Feel free to write to us with your opinions about the fest at discover@snu.edu.in. Also, watch out for some online polls for SNU students.

Run with the Breeze!

[If the reference is lost on you, stop running and watch the promo video]
Decrypting Venues

A cheat sheet for figuring out what the heck D312 means

From the blissful first year, when all we had was sections A-E, to initially confusing alpha-numeric scheme of marking classrooms today, we’ve become adept at deciphering the actual physical locations; all those who aren’t, here’s how it goes:
1. The ginourmous A building is where everything is happening. Or nearby, anyway.
2. The wing near the entry gates is C, the other D.
3. The last two digits denote room number, the first, floor number. Hence, D011 is Room 11, ground floor.
4. SH001 - Ground floor.
5. SH002 - Second floor, D wing.

Still confused? Walk into any room - you’ll definitely find something of interest.

Tech Talks

Day 1 is light on tech events, but there’s a good amount for those who like tinker- ing and building.

Hydraulic Arm: Water for the win! Create a hydraulic arm with the greatest lift and stretch capacity to win. Although it’ll be a fun learning experience for freshers, don’t expect to win unless you have some good mechanics knowledge.

Venue: Intersection of C and D wing
Time: 14:00-17:00

Power System Design: Light up the virtual city given to you in the most power efficient way possible. Basic electrical components will be provided and a familiarity with the same is assumed. Hint: Ask a mathematician to tag along. Optimization skills will help here.

Venue: C205
Time: 13:00-15:00

Code Wars: Interestingly enough, not being offered by the Computer Science geeks. This version of Code Wars is the Electrical Edition. Even we’re not sure what that means yet, but if it’s anything like RoboWars, you want to be here to see some kickass action.

Venue: MatLab
Time: 11:00-15:00

For the Hungry Traveler

Something about Breeze which forces even the smelliest of the smelly, the laziest of the lazy and the sleepiest of the sleepy out of their dens is the sudden array of food on offer.

SNU doesn’t have much to offer yet in terms of local cuisine, discounting the one lone mess which feeds all of us. Even that, equipped with Rollmall, La Cucina and Speedy Chow (yeah, there’s regular food too) gets too boring for the gourmet. Breeze provides a welcome respite, with multiple stalls opening up for the duration of the fest.

All the stalls are located in the same place - the grounds outside the academic block, so no need to travel in search of different cuisines.

Stall Offerings

Lenin’s
The go-to guy for food, birthday party arrangements and KFC orders, Lenin’s food stall at the fest will offer kebabs, pav bhaji and anything he feels like rustling up on a particular day. Bonus: The guy is a treat to talk to, having travelled extensively over Europe before settling down in good ol’ Dadri.

Simply South
Standard South Indian fare at reasonable rates.

Staple Diets
Located near the hostels, the mess offers a full veg and non-veg thali at Rs. 42 and Rs. 65 respectively. There are also Italian, Chinese and Kathi Roll stalls operating during lunch(12-3) and dinner hours(8-10).

Most of the stalls are coming here for the first time, so we can’t offer you ratings yet but we’re pretty sure we’ll have tasted everything by the end of the day.

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Star Spangled Sponsors

A lot of people were awesome enough to contribute plenty of time and effort to Breeze ‘14, but these people took it a step further by contributing generously in terms of sponsorship money:

Gauri Punekar
S. Muthuswamy Senior
Shikha E. Joseph

The Breeze Core Committee would like to thank you for your hearts of gold and general awesomeness!

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Of Clashes and Classes

This time Shiv Nadar University’s annual fest aims to be bigger and better than ever before with three days of techno-cultural and sports events. However, the extra day of fun and festivity was not added just like that. There is a story behind it!

Breeze 2014 is scheduled to take place over three days - Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There were no problems with Saturday and Sunday as largely no classes take place on these days. Friday, on the other hand, is a full-fledged working day. So when the schedule for Breeze was released and events were scheduled on all three days from morning till evening, it was assumed that there would be no classes on Friday. Logic dictates that a person cannot attend a class and participate in an event at the same time!

However, just a day before the fest, it was brought to the students’ notice that classes would not be cancelled. The event schedule was also changed as some event venues clashed with the rooms in which classes were to be held. The students did not take this new development well, nor were the faculty impressed by the event management. Before the revised event schedule was released some faculty members even wondered how classes and lectures would take place given that the venues were same.

A faculty member was quite vocal and stated, “If there is a fest going on, classes should be cancelled. There is no point in keeping classes since students would be busy participating in the various events and would not attend the classes.”

Another issue pointed out by faculty was the oddity of the opening ceremony happening after some of the events. One faculty member also compared the earlier editions of the fest and said that such confusion was not there in the earlier editions. In general the faculty members hoped for better coordination on all sides.

The Student Government clarified that they had communicated the need for a three day slot for Breeze ’14 to the Registrar’s Office well in advance. However, due to some communication gap, this request was not taken forward, nor were they given any further information. Since the problem came to light during later stages of preparation, their request to the President’s Office were rejected on the grounds of operational strain on the University as a whole due to rescheduling of classes at such short notice. More on that in our post-Breeze edition.

What’s done is done. There are regular classes today and the fest also starts today. So we can only advise you to walk the tightrope and perform a fine balancing act between attending classes and participating in events. If your attendance is on the lower side then you might think of ditching your plans to Study with the Breeze. But, if you do have a good stock of attendance then you might want to take the plunge and Rise with the Breeze!

Imprints - Dramatics Society Events

Imprints, the dramatics society, has a majority of its events planned on the first day itself. On spot registrations are allowed. We’d suggest that you at least watch some of these events, if not participate.

Venue (all): D302
Timing: 11:00 onwards

Tape Recorder: Turn into a human tape recorder by preparing and then ‘playing’ a 3-5 minute speech. Those who respond best to commands like ‘pause,’ ‘rewind,’ ‘slow’, win.

Dialoguebaazi: Fill the silence by imitating, as closely as possible, the original dialogues of a film played on mute. The best imitation wins.

Channel Surfing: This time, turn yourself into a TV set. Judges can surf channels as they please - the team which imitates the given channel best wins.

Ad MAD: Strong marketing skills will help in this classic competition where you need to sell a given product.
CUT! Take 2

After seeing a film, if the first thought that comes into your mind is, “Damn, I could have thought of a much better plot”, then this is the event for you. Given a movie clip, twist it, fix it and mix it to make a script worthy of the Oscars.

Venue: D103&D105
Time: 11:00-14:00
Get your own laptop! Probably no scribbling material provided.

The Opening Ceremony & Star Performance

The Opening Ceremony of Breeze '14 will take place from 5:00pm onwards on the main stage. The ceremony will be inaugurated by Dr. Amit Ray, Dean - Student Welfare & UG Studies at SNU. Some things to look out for - Classical dance fusion performance, SNU Acapella performance, a Western/Bollywood fusion dance. In addition to this, there is an entire set of Indian and Western Musical performances.

As opposed to the last two years, the Opening Ceremony is taking place in the evening, after some of the events have started. This was done mainly to avoid clashes with some classes scheduled during the afternoon.

From 9:00pm, students can enjoy the star performer Javed Ali, renowned singer, who'll be performing in multiple languages especially for the diverse audience.

Venue: D314 & D316
Time: 11:00 onwards

Longue Duree

The long duration Day 1 events, some of which spill over into other days.

Bridge Up: Fairly straightforward to understand, fairly tricky to implement. Given basic materials like sticks and straws, build a bridge which will withstand maximum load. The event gives you plenty of time for planning and implementation.

Venue: D314 & D316
Time: 11:00 onwards

Mazy: Navigate a real life maze. The size may lead to misconceptions about simplicity, but we've heard the organizers have some tricks up their sleeves.

Venue: Grounds
Time: 11:00 onwards

Paintball: If you need an explanation for this... Basically fire bullets of paint at your opponent. A bright way to awaken your more ferocious primal instincts.

Venue: Grounds
Time: 11:00 onwards

Treasure Hunt: An SNU only event, prelims for which have generated much hype over the past couple of days. The finals will probably be just as great.

Venue: All over the place
Time: 14:00 onwards

The Team
Meghna Joshi
Yashaswi Singh
K. Kirithigaa
Keerthana AK