The breeze has settled, in terms of the fest at least, but we're still around. The brief [or so we'd like to think] period of slumber may have led you to believe otherwise, but the last part of the Breeze '14 Special Edition is finally here.

The last day of Breeze '14 was probably also the most action packed, with some of bigger crowd pleasers lined up back to back. We bring you a recap of what went down, as well as an the consolidated report of the sports events and the results of the Breeze survey.

Crescendo

Although interrupted by Raghuram and RJ Amit’s ‘rascal’ hours which for some souls, were not considered interruption enough and for the rest were considered ‘rascal’ enough, Crescendo was one of those events whose fragrance stood out among the rest in the Breeze pot-pourri.

Vinith Johnson, the head of Snuphoria, the university music society, was quite strict while mentioning the fact that Crescendo: Battle of Bands was a semi-professional band hunt, not just a space where different college bands come to SNU, play and grab the twenty grand prize money. The aim of the music society was to try and reach out to as many different bands in Delhi as possible.

Open for about a month, the first step of the selection process included registrations and profile check. Around 18th of the month, the registrations were closed and out of the twenty entries, six were selected. Quite a commendable diversity in the genre existed among the twenty entries – metal, rock and roll, and blues. Amateurs were not absent either. Vinith confirmed (with much diligence, I assure you) that the final process of shortlisting was tough.

On Day 3 of the fest, five bands ended up performing at Crescendo. First up on the stage was Chronic Legion, a death metal and experimental band who performed three songs. Next up, Ilhaam, an Urdu rock and roll band. Personally, their songs touched my heart. Tera Hi Karam and Ghar Se Nikalte Hi, were although not completely original but a crowd pleaser for sure. The next band, Nazhorn, of the death music genre, had quite an attitude although their music did not fail to match up to it soon. The lead singer of this band was quite a head-banger, very much like the guitarists of Chronic Legion. While listening to the songs I got a quick insight into the theatrics of good hard metal performance; they were in abundance of course – from air-whirlpooling one's long hair to extreme voice modulations throughout the course of the performance.

After an hour and a half of Raghu and RJ Amit on stage for the Rascals event, the Battle of the Bands resumed. Red Shorts, a funk and blues music band filled the audience and the stage with a good load of vibrant and young blues beat energy. Extremely chilled out in their approach, this band had kept their audience on toes. The last band up on the stage was Stereonoid, a piously metal band. Their performance was accompanied by the different stage theatrics of the lead singer which were quite a crowd puller.

The bands were judged on some basic criteria – stage presence, originality, professionalism, crowd pleasing quotient and the overall, in Vinith’s word, “feel-good effect”. It was Red Shorts who won the battle and twenty thousand rupees prize money.
Dumtkshri, a fusion of Dumb Charades and Antakshri, is an event in which a team first has to guess a word given to one team member, and then sing a song starting with that word as one does in regular Antakshri. Words in both Hindi and English were given, leading to an interesting mix of songs. Given the quirky nature and high audience entertainment factor of the event, the turnout was very high. Eight teams of between four to eight participants competed. Each team brough a high level of energy and enthusiasm to the stage and proved to be a great source of entertainment.

There was a point at which things got a little too compétetive, with teams accusing each other of cheating, but this was settled quickly by the organizers and the event concluded on a high note.

Vices&Wises

It was a pleasant surprise for the organizers of Vices & Wises, the event conducted by Iqtesadaiyaat-the Economics club of SNU, when a large crowd turned up for the preliminary round of the event. Vices & Wises was the event through which Iqtesadaiyaat was launched formally at SNU. The game required people to think strategically and keep the competition guessing as to what their next move would be. It was a combination of an application of the basics of game theory and a little bit of psychology. Teams were given a particular situation and were given time to choose a strategy. Once they had made their decision, the situation would change and again they would have to make a similar decision, for which pre-determined points would be awarded. The team that cumulatively won the most number of points would win the game.

Out of the four teams that made it to the final, members from only two teams had prior knowledge of game theory. However, surprisingly a team that did not have prior knowledge of game theory won. According to the main organizer Ishan Banerjee, “Only the teams that did at least a little bit of calculation stood a chance of winning. The entire game did not depend on lucky guesses as it may seem so.” He also added that the participants also rated the game highly through a specially designed feedback form.

Ishan, who was assisted by Shaifin Shabir and Shruti Venkatesh, said that he received full support from the organizing committee of Breeze 2014. All in all, he felt that the launch of the club was successful as participants wanted Iqtesadaiyaat to host similar events throughout the course of the academic year.

The major event of IMPRINTS started at around two o’clock, around an hour behind schedule. Although fourteen colleges had registered for the Street Play, only two colleges competed finally including our own IMPRINTS team. Despite the small number of teams, both the performances were excellent and kept the crowd interested. Both of the teams focused on the depiction of some social problems prevalent in India today.

‘Begger Mafia’ was the first play, talking about the underground begging ring which is currently working in most cities in the country. People without any other means of livelihood are recruited as beggars, handed babies to increase earning and sent out onto the street to earn money for their employers.

The next play, ‘Incredible India’, portrayed the supression of women in our society as well as the mass suicides of farmers due to heavy debt. This play shed light on two primary modes of exploitation in todays world - economic and gender-based.

This event ended with a grand appreciation from the crowd. Our IMPRINTS team won this event, which was just an additional plus point.
Think a Drink

Think a Drink, organized by the Culinary Club, had people testing their creativity and palates. Contestants were given a wide array of ingredients and the ones who matched the best won. The contest was judged by Dr. Priyanka Shukla, the Hostel Warden. The winning team comprised Rakshit Jain and Mayank Gupta, 2nd year students at SNU.

FACTion Roundup

FACTion, SNU’s Quizzing Society had quite a successful stint in Breeze 2014. They hosted two quizzes, Conspiracy Theories & Urban Myths Quiz; and Breeze Main Quiz aka FACTion Quiz. Both the quizzes saw large amounts of enthusiastic participation and can easily be labelled as successes.

Deewang Bhamidipati, the Sovietnik of FACTion (that’s FACTion’s Vice President for all practical purposes) was quite pleased with the overall performance during Breeze. However, he said that during the fest he realised that the FACTion Bratva (that’s the core committee of FACTion) had been underestimating the quizzing level at SNU. They had been working under the assumption that though there were some good and even brilliant quizzers, but still, as a whole the quizzing level wasn’t that great. So expect harder quizzes next time!

He also said that there weren’t any negatives as such but there could be some improvement in the structuring of a few rounds of the quizzes to make them more engaging. Other than that he was pretty happy with the way everything turned out. And, seeing the fabulous response that FACTion gets, we don’t think otherwise either.
SNU Rascals, the much awaited ‘Roadies of SNU’ event, was a short, entertaining affair that is better witnessed than read about.

Raghu Ram, of Roadies fame, acted as the host for the evening, guiding the participants through various tasks. Contrary to his mildly terrifying screen persona, Raghu was very affable and generally encouraged the contestants in the tasks, the basic theme of which was “Entertain Me”. The tasks ranged from the expected - singing, dancing and mimicking - to the outstanding - an excellent impromptu theatrical performance by one of the students.

Raghu was open to questions from the participants and the audience, most of which centered around why he was so bellicose on camera, Roadies experiences, and his contrasting persona here. As Raghu put it, “I do things because I can!”.

The contest, which was mostly forgotten in face of the interaction, wrapped up with Naina Ann Bob and Shahzad VS taking first place. The audience was so impressed by the musical talents of one of the participants that Raghu performed a duet with her, pictured above.

The Team

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<th>Meghna</th>
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In Conversation With

Vinith Johnson, President, SNUphoria

Vinith Johnson, the head of SNUphoria, the Music Society of Shiv Nadar University narrated his experiences of enriching the music quotient of the festival. I quickly wore the SNU newspaper hat and started asking him questions. ‘What was your experience of organizing SNUphoria events for Breeze’14? Any troubles faced? Unexpected stuff?’ Flowing through channels of “off the record” and “on the record”, the answers flew in and I penned them down.

With a pallid expression on his face he said, ‘It lacked in publicity and marketing.’ To further explain the ‘it’, he continued that there was good publicity for Breeze, but event or club-wise publicity could have been done better. The music society was supposed to have five events. The first three events took place but the last two were scraped off, simply because there were no registrations from other colleges and universities. Also, for the Solo Competitions, most of the participants were from SNU.

Vinith recounted that organizing and managing events were more chilled out than he thought, things were spaced out, not too tough to manage and included much less running around. However, the Crescendo crisis was quite a big one and the team had tough time managing it; the crisis was that of judges, or rather, the lack of them. The university did not allow them to bring judges from outside the university and this created problems in an event where judging was a crucial element.

In the end, he added that SNUphoria yearned for an internal university figure, like a professional adviser to push forward things for the society both internally and externally; this could evade the problems which the society faced during Breeze and generally faces throughout the year.

For Vinith Johnson, the experience of organizing for Breeze’14, with all its crests and troughs, was an incredible one. SNUphoria is a society which has come a long way and has established itself as a major element of the cultural closet of Shiv Nadar University, and still has quite a long way to go. These efforts of the society and the talents which it hone throughout the year had found its reflection in the fest.

The crowd, looking thoroughly amused.
The Report Card

Pre Breeze 3.5/5

The response before Breeze was largely positive, with the Promo Video, Posters and Star Performers receiving the highest votes. People were excited for the Themed Nights, but felt that the announcement should have been made well in advance. A lack of budgeting and organization in terms of scheduling and in-campus awareness was felt. Publicity of tech events also seemed to have been sidelined in favour of cultural events.

Events 2.8/5

The entertainment factor, with a 4.3/5, seemed to be the saving grace of events, which received criticism on all other counts. While the number of events and organization seemed good, outside participation wasn’t enough, which led to several last-minute cancellations and confusion. Prize money was another problem - the majority of people felt that the prizes, particularly in kind, weren’t adequate or even comparable to last time. There were also delays of over a month in actually getting the prizes after the fest. Judging was another ambiguous point - many people wrote in saying that external judges should have been allowed as some decisions felt biased.

Food 2.5/5

The number of food stalls was certainly a vast improvement from last time and no students were seen roaming around hungry because stocks were over. The quality of stalls was also on the plus side, with some popular fast food brands coming in along with local vendors and the regular campus offerings. All prices were on the high side, though, and received the worst votes in the survey. With no other options, students ended up spending a fair bit on food. In one student’s words - “I wouldn’t buy a donut for Rs.70 just because it walked its way to Dadri!” Negotiations could definitely have been better, but food was largely appreciated.

Themed Nights 4/5

A new and innovative idea, the Themed Nights were something everyone enjoyed. Some wished they had been given a little advance notice, but other than that it was great fun - “The ball dance was really superb. One hour wasn’t enough! Maybe next time timings could be extended.”

Star Performers 2.6/5

This was a fairly confusing poll. With Javed Ali, while the performance was very enjoyable, the feedback was that he wasn’t appropriate as the only performer in a fest - a little too soft for the audiences tastes, perhaps. Raghu Ram’s votes were mostly evenly divided across the spectrum, tilted a little towards the lower end, with some finding him brilliant and others not seeing the point of his presence at all. Generally, people felt that it would have been better to have something like the Delhi Drummers Circle from last year instead of spending a lot on these pronnoy rajput

Some Comments

“I appreciate the hard work put in by the students in the fest committee... can’t understand why so many refuse to co-operate to make our own fest a grand success.”

“It is impossible for a three year old college to have a large fest. The publicity team should have developed a long term plan so that next year onward more people turn up from outside colleges.”

“In Faction main quiz - too many questions on Sitcoms/TV series and on fictional characters.”

“It was a good experience for me. Campus was buzzing with activities. Got a chance to interact with a lot of people.”

“Ensure lesser clashes, else reduce number of events... Draw more crowd to technical events, like coding.”

“The fest was well organised... The prize money for certain events is a worrying thing though... I am of the opinion that lucrative prizes for events would make outside participation in those events all the more meaningful.”

“Breeze’12 was the best till date... The enthuis seems to be decreasing... Schedule Cultural, Sports, Technical, Literary events separately. Too much of everything becomes a Khichdi!”

Final Verdict 3.1/5
In the midst of Face Painting. Pictured above: Kirithigaa, Vaibhav
Winners: Alexya, Ashok & Shruti, Priyadarshini (Tie)

‘Contestants’ of Robo Wars facing off.
Winners: Pronnoy, Yatharth, Mayank & Ritika, HMRITM

Our in-house editing team hard at work.

Designers and models of Fashion Fiesta displaying their collection.
Winners: Chandni, Anmol, Aishwarya, Rhea & Anika

A contestant navigating his car over the ‘Survivor’ obstacle track
Winners: Sulaim Rizvi & Adarsh Kumar, NIET

A performance during Western Acoustxy
Winners: Jargit, MNIT (1st Place)
Donna David, Shurti Sharma, SNU (Tie - 2nd Place)

Acapella performance by SNUphoria’s Acappella group ‘No Strings Attached’
The Shiv Nadar University Sports Fest- Breeze’14 was a grand success, receiving active participation from the best of Delhi University and Delhi NCR. The level of sports witnessed at the fest was breathtaking, with players of national and even international standards. Shiba Maggon, an Indian national basketball player and currently the coach for the Indian Junior basketball team was invited as the chief guest. Eventually, Sharda University emerged as the overall champion.

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<td>Silver: GL Bajaj</td>
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<td>MVP: Addy (KMC)</td>
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<td>MVP: Sushrut K (SNU)</td>
<td>MVP: Sunder Rajan (SNU)</td>
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Clockwise From Top Left: Ms. Maggon interacting with Basketball players, Table Tennis Match, Chess in progress, Mens Badminton Match, Award Ceremony