



School of Planning
and Architecture,
Bhopal

NEWS LETTER

July 2023 - December 2023

Independence Day Celebration

- Khyati Tomar

The grand celebration of India's 77th Independence Day was hosted at the new academic block with great pomp and show. The event began with the unfurling of the national flag and singing of the National Anthem, led by Prof. Vikram Kohli and Prof. Anupama Bharti. The crowd was motivated by the inspiring words of Director Prof. (Dr.) Kailasa Rao M, setting the tone for a cultural extravaganza hosted by Ms. Sanmayi Andaluri and Ms. Khyati Tomar.

The celebration was attended by students, faculty, and staff members, all dressed in vibrant shades of saffron, white, and green. The audience was enthralled by classical dance performances, which showcased the diverse cultural heritage of India. Soul-stirring renditions of patriotic songs filled the air, evoking a sense of pride and patriotism; the tributes paid to freedom fighters and soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country left everyone moved and inspired. The karaoke performance by Prof. Sandeep Sankat was a surprise hit, with everyone joining in to sing along. A flash mob was the perfect finale to the event, with students coming together to showcase their talent and enthusiasm. The celebration was a testament to the rich cultural diversity and unity of India, and left everyone feeling proud and grateful to be a part of such a great nation.



“Soul-stirring renditions of patriotic songs filled the air, evoking a sense of pride and patriotism”

Spectacular Showdown: Highlights from Sports Week

- Khyati Tomar

The Sports Week at SPA, Bhopal, showcased remarkable sportsmanship from August 24 to 29, organized by the dedicated sports committee. Kicking off with an exhilarating Marathon, Sarthak, Vishnu, Gourav, Priya, Samriddhi, and Soumya emerged as champions. Basketball witnessed fierce competition on Tuesday, with Suvan, Shreyans, Rutuparn, Adhya, and Sakshi leading their respective teams to victory. Wednesday's Volleyball match between Faculty/Staff and female students displayed commendable teamwork. Chess masters Vasudev Gaur and Prof. Sandeep Sankat exhibited strategic brilliance on Thursday. The Football face-off on Friday and the Valorant Tournament showcased intense competition and gaming prowess. The weekend featured MR & MS.FIT competitions, Tug of War battles, and a vibrant conclusion with Aerobics, Zumba, and an Outsource vs. Housekeeping



showdown. Throughout, the sports committee and faculty sports coordinators played integral roles, fostering camaraderie within the SPA community.

The event's inauguration ceremony, marked by a solemn pledge, and the felicitation ceremony added a touch of pride and honor to this celebration of athleticism. The Sports Week not only celebrated achievements but also strengthened the bonds of unity at SPA, Bhopal.



Hindi Pakhwada

- Sachi Goel

Hindi Pakhwada is an annual celebration observed from September 14th to 28th (or September 1st to 14th) in all offices, undertakings, enterprises, and institutions of the Government of India. September 14th is designated as Hindi Day, and various Hindi programs are organized during Hindi Pakhwada to promote awareness about Hindi as an Official Language.

In line with this, the institute celebrated Hindi Pakhwada from September 4, 2023, to September 21, 2023. The inaugural ceremony took place in the institute's auditorium on September 4th, where faculty members, officers, staff, and students gathered at 4:00 PM. Dr. Surendra Bihari Goswami, Executive Minister and Director of Madhya Pradesh Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti,

graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest. Several competitions were conducted from September 5 to September 8, starting at 4:00 PM each day. These included an 'Essay Writing' competition on September 5, an 'Office Note/Hindi Drafting' competition on September 6, and a 'Self-written Hindi Poem Recitation' competition on September 8. Additionally, a 'Ghazal/Bhajan' competition took place on September 11, 2023. The closing ceremony of 'Hindi Pakhwada-2023' was held on September 22, 2023, at 3:50 PM in the new academic building of the institute. The event concluded with the distribution of prizes to the winners of the respective competitions held during the celebration.



Jai Shree Krishna!

- Khyati Tomar

SPA Bhopal, resonated with divine joy through 5 to 7th September as Janmashtami unfolded its spiritual charm. The ceremonial breaking of the Dahi Handi marked the playful spirit of Lord Krishna's childhood, uniting students in festive camaraderie. The event also featured vibrant decorations, devotional tunes, a treasure hunt, and a lively matka painting competition, capturing the essence of Krishna's mischievous nature. A special feast showcased a variety of delectable dishes, fostering community unity.



Gratitude In Design

- Sachi Goel



॥ गुरु ब्रह्मा गुरु वशिष्णु, गुरु देवो महेश्वरा गुरु साक्षात् परब्रह्म, तस्मै शरी गुरुवे नमः॥

In the course of life, teachers are those architects who not only lay a strong foundation but also shape us in the best design possible.

In order to show gratitude and respect to the teachers and faculty of SPAB, an event was organised in the New Academic Block in 1st Year Architecture Studio on September 5, 2023.

The event started with a skit, organised by SPArsh (Drama Club), exemplifying how teachers affect the course of our life. Professors were then encouraged to enlighten the students with their enriching life experiences and unforgettable memories as students. A drawing competition was also organised. The faculty was provided with A4 size blank sheets and were given a handful of themes.

The event concluded with students giving small A5 size handmade notebooks to teachers, as a token of respect. The front page of the notebooks had caricatures of teachers which were hand-drawn by the students.

Election Triumph: New Council Introduced

- Urjashi Bose

Students' Council elections were conducted at School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, on 15th September, 2023. The Student Council represents students and organises various college as well as community welfare activities. They help share student ideas, interests and concerns with the school wide community.

Orchestrated by the meticulous Election Committee and the Office of the Dean SA, the elections flagged off with the Open House on 12th September where nominees gave a five-minute speech to argue for their positions and their aspirations regarding the posts. This was followed by a question-answer round by the

students so that they could bring forth their expectations from the new council. 21 students ran for the different institute posts which included the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sports, and Cultural Coordinators, along with 17 students for the different Hostel Posts. This was followed by 3 days of relentless campaigning by the nominees which ended with an online voting on 15th September, 2023, at 3:00 pm. 17 students were elected. All the elected students were conferred designation badges and sashes in the Investiture ceremony on 22nd September, 2023.



Ganpati Bappa Morya

- Khyati Tomar

The mesmerising five-day Ganesh Chaturthi celebration at SPA, Bhopal, from 19th September, was marked by cultural splendour and festive fervour. Commencing with 'Aarambha', the grand arrival of Lord Ganesh, the campus resonated with joy and spiritual unity. 'Paramparagat' brought forth thrilling games and heartfelt prayers, while 'Gana-Naad' dazzled with dance and music. 'Anand-Nagri' enchanted all with food stalls, tattoos, and captivating photographs. The grand finale, 'Anant-Utsav', featured an authentic Maharashtrian feast and an emotional visarjan by the lake. The event, marked by enthusiasm and devotion, created lasting memories for the students, fostering a sense of togetherness.



Arrpo – Irro! Irro! Irro!

- Khyati Tomar



Immersed in Onam festivities on September 16, 2023, radiating cultural vibrancy, SPA Bhopal, celebrated Onam. The inaugural ceremony, graced by Director Dr. Kailasa Rao and Dean Dr. Rachna Khare, commenced with a traditional lamp, lighting and resonant Chenda music. A captivating Pookalam, adorned the BH1 foyer, showcasing intricate floral artistry of the students. The iconic 6000+ cup installation depicting Kummati's eyes graced BH-1's badminton court. The feast, orchestrated in a collaborative effort by external chefs and students, featured a sumptuous Sadhya. Reimagining traditional Kerala attire, and spirited games added to the festivities.

75 Shades of Heritage

- Urjashi Bose

In a mesmerising convergence of academia, artistry, and cultural fervour, the “75 Shades of Heritage” conference unfolded over three captivating days at the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, commencing on September 29, 2023. The event, meticulously orchestrated by the dedicated postgraduate students of the Conservation department, led by Prof. Kailasa Rao, Prof. Vishakha Kawathekar, Prof. Ramesh Bhole, and Ar. Apoorva Pillay, not only unveiled over 100 research papers but also featured a breathtaking exhibition, commemorating 75 years of India’s Independence.

The conference immersed participants in the diverse layers of India’s rich history, exploring seven categories that spanned cultural and sacred landscapes to the tangibility of the intangible. Scholars and experts engaged in animated discussions, providing a holistic perspective on the nation’s heritage. The accompanying exhibition was a visual odyssey through time, presenting meticulously crafted models of temples in Nagara, Dravida, and Karnataka Dravida (Vesara) architectural styles. A standout feature was the documentation of the Ashapuri site, near Bhojeshwar Temple in Bhojpur, and a captivating POP model of the Nilkanth Mahadev Temple in Udaipur village, Vidisha. Not confined to academia, the exhibition captivated children from various schools in the city, offering an engaging learning experience about Gavakshas

through models and activities. A hologram created by the team provided a stunning display of India’s heritage.

Ar. Vivek Pai graced the event as the guest of honour, and Dr. Nalini Thakur, the Chief Guest, underscored the significance of India’s golden heritage in a special address. The conference concluded with a vibrant ceremony, expressing gratitude, and paving the way for future editions. “75 Shades of Heritage” not only encapsulated India’s cultural diversity but also sounded a rallying call to safeguard and celebrate the nation’s rich heritage for generations to come.



Convocation: A Milestone

- Urjashi Bose

In a poignant ceremony that resonated with pride and achievement, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal held its 10th convocation on 28th October 2023 to honour and celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating batches of 2023 at the SPAB campus. A total of 241 graduates including, 80 undergraduates, 156 postgraduates and 5 PhD scholars received degrees.

Amid a backdrop of enthusiastic applause and cheers from family and friends, the graduates, wearing big smiles, crossed the stage to receive their well-earned degrees. The air buzzed with excitement as the students, who had embarked on this academic journey together, now stood at the threshold of a new chapter in their lives.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of esteemed chief guest Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Academic Head of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, whose insightful address imparted words of wisdom and inspiration to the graduates. Prof. (Dr.) Hakam Dan Charan, chairperson, board of governors presided over the convocation. Prof. Kailasa Rao M, director, SPAB presented the annual report highlighting the activities and the achievements for the academic year of 2022-2023.

The convocation featured an exhibition of selected academic works during the previous academic year (2022-23) across the various departments which was installed by the students.

As the ceremony concluded, it left an indelible mark on the hearts of all present. The Graduates now step into the world as alumni of SPAB, carrying with them the knowledge, skills, and memories forged during their academic journey. Congratulations to the graduates, and best wishes for their future endeavours!



National Unity Day Celebrations

- Priy Ranjan Yadav,

In 2014, the Government of India declared October 31st as National Unity Day to honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first home minister, renowned for unifying over 550 princely states into the Union of India. As part of the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' initiative, the Department of Higher Education organized 'Rastriya Ekta Diwas' to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary and celebrate India's cultural diversity.

The college marked this occasion on October 31st with a pledge-taking ceremony held in all classrooms at 4:30 PM, attended by the faculty. On November 1, 2023, a 'Run for Unity' was organized to pay homage to our brave freedom fighters. Commencing from the front of Boys Hostel 1, numerous students participated enthusiastically, contributing to the event's success. The spirited run brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds, reinforcing the significance of unity and commemorating the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Committing to the Nation

- Priy Ranjan Yadav

During Vigilance Awareness Week, spanning from October 30 to November 5, the campus witnessed a collective commitment to combat corruption. In a pivotal gathering at the New Academic Building Lobby, faculty, staff, and students came together to take the Integrity Pledge, emphasising values like probity, transparency, and principled leadership.

As part of the week's agenda, Shri Bharat Kumar Vyas, Additional Secretary of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, delivered a thought-provoking talk on November 1. The theme, "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation," echoed through the Hall. The address underscored the urgency of refraining from bribery, transparent task execution, and prompt reporting of corruption.

This collective effort not only raised awareness about the threats of corruption but also instilled a sense of responsibility and integrity within the community. As they united against corruption, the campus paved the way for a future marked by transparency, ethical conduct, and a commitment to the greater good.

Dusk Unveiled: A Halloween Extravaganza

- Vansh Gulati

On October 31, 2023, Halloween at SPA Bhopal underwent an enchanting transformation with a collaborative effort from Symphony, Litsock, Sparsh and Panache. The basketball circle turned into a haven for ghosts, witches, and fantasy characters, creating an otherworldly atmosphere embraced by the college community for a night of musical enchantment, an escape room adventure, a fashion walk, and spooky surprises. Costumes varied from ghosts and witches to anime characters, Disney favourites, and Marvel superheroes, adding vibrancy, especially among the freshers.

Symphony curated a memorable open mic session, blending rock and indie performances, featuring the revered Prof. Sandeep Sankat. Litsock not only contributed to the musical ambiance but also organised a thrilling escape room, intensifying the evening's excitement.

Panache showcased creativity with a fashion walk on campus, infusing glamour into the Halloween celebration. Food stalls offering delightful treats complemented the night's festivities.

Amidst the celebration, Sparsh took center stage with an improv spooky act addressing the sensitive issue of the impact of ragging on students' mental health. Sparsh's eerie yet humorous narrative captivated the audience, adding suspense and depth to the night's entertainment.

The collaborative efforts of Symphony, Litsock, and Panache set a benchmark for future Halloween events, blending entertainment with a socially conscious narrative. The event went beyond a typical Halloween celebration, fostering an inclusive and spirited atmosphere, leaving an indelible mark on the memories of attendees.



KALRAV 2024: Unveiling the Spectacle of Enchantment

- Khyati Tomar

In a spectacular initiation to campus life, SPA Bhopal, set the stage ablaze with 'Kalrav 2024'. Hosted on 7th November, 2023; it was an event tailor-made for the fresh faces stepping into the college journey. The theme, 'Fantasy Forest', added a touch of enchantment to the night, creating a vibrant atmosphere of excitement and connection.

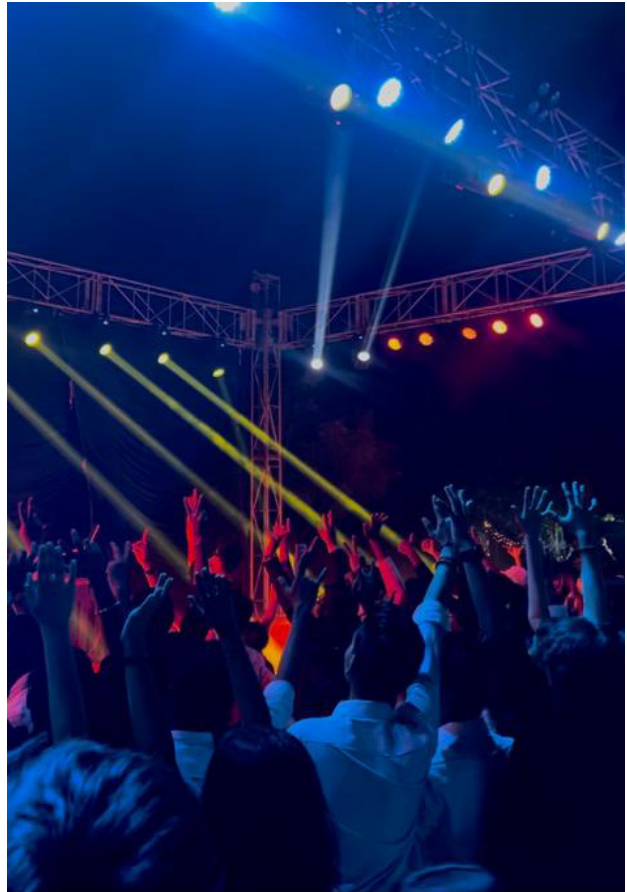
Amidst the magical setting of twinkling lights and whimsical decorations, the freshers dived into a night of diverse performances. From soulful melodies to energetic dance moves, the talents, were on full display, captivating the new students and fostering a sense of community.

The addition of a 360-degree camera heightened the experience, capturing candid moments that will serve as timeless souvenirs of their first college event. Laughter, shared stories, and the joy of newfound friendships echoed through the air, creating an ambiance of pure celebration.

As the night progressed, DJ Shafin, an invited guest, took the stage, turning the gathering into a lively dance floor. The beats resonated with the collective spirit of the freshers, marking the beginning of bonds that would extend well beyond the event.

Kalrav 2024 wasn't just an event; it was a warm embrace for the freshers, ensuring their introduction to campus life was nothing short

of magical. As they reveled in the festivities, forged connections, and embraced the vibrant community, the batch of 2023, has embarked on a journey filled with excitement, friendship, and countless memorable moments.



From Seminars to Sufi Serenades: A Day to Remember

Yokeshwari Ravichandran

From seminars to Sufi serenades - a day to remember! In an unforeseen turn of events, what was initially conceived as a brief seminar for World Town Planning Day evolved into a grand celebration of collaboration, inspiration, and empowerment at the college. Thanks to a fortuitous meeting with Mr. Akash Jha, the Y20 Secretary, the event garnered support and funding, transforming it into a Y20 initiative under the purview of G20, amplifying its impact. Distinguished guests such as Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, former director of NIUA, Mr. Pradeep Kapoor, ITPI Council Member, and Mr. N K Patel, President of ITPI, joined virtually, enriching the event with their invaluable insights. The seminar, initially slated for just an hour, expanded into a comprehensive exploration of critical issues in urban planning, facilitated by their esteemed guests.

A central theme emerged during the event — the intersection of climate change and disaster risk reduction, emphasizing the imperative of making sustainability a way of life. The discussion, both offline and online, proved to be a fruitful exchange of ideas, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Displaying the talent of the students, an exhibition featured the excellent projects by the Planning department. The event seamlessly transitioned from sheet exhibitions displaying studio works to a captivating photo exhibition

titled “The Urban Now.” This visual journey depicted the evolving landscape of urban spaces, capturing the essence of contemporary urban life. The grand finale of the celebration unfolded with a mesmerizing Sufi Night featuring soulful performances by Ayush, Jerry, and Shivani. Their enchanting melodies, coupled with an energetic atmosphere, captivated the audience, providing a perfect conclusion to an eventful day.

In closing, they aim to carry the spirit of this celebration forward, aspiring to create a lasting impact on the landscape of urban planning, sustainability, and community development. And, of course, the magical Sufi Night cannot be overlooked, as it added an enchanting touch to their celebration, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.



Knowledge Exchange Series

- Mrunal Bhavasar

SPA Bhopal conducts a 'Knowledge Exchange Series' every Thursday, starting from 3 August 2023 to 2 November 2023. The series was a designated event to promote the sharing of knowledge among faculty members and students of the college.

The series started with Prof. Dr. Ajay Khare, and followed by Prof. Dr. Kailasa Rao, Dr. Ajay Kumar Vinodia, Dr. Sonal Tiwari, Dr. Kakoli Saha, Dr. Mayank Dubey, Ar. Karna Sengupta, Ar. Kiranjith Sivavalsan and concluded with, Dr. Shanu Sharma for this semester.

The lectures were delivered on various topics within Planning, Architecture and Design. Some of the titles included 'Devil, lies in Details', 'Designing Collective Intelligence, Learnings from the Evolutionary Resilient Community', 'the louver house and boxofix', 'A chronicle of exploration of FORM', 'Training of Universal Accessibility Auditors', 'Reimagining our Built Heritage through Adaptive Reuse- Heritage Hotel Movement in India' and 'Roads, Resources and Experiences around it', etc.

This played a major role in sharing a wide range of synopsis on design and planning related concerns. The faculty members and students expressed gratitude towards the office of faculty welfare for this thoughtful effort and the faculty speakers for their contributions.

Swachhhta Pakhwada

- Priy Ranjan Yadhav

Swachhhta Pakhwada is a 15-day initiative launched by the Government of India to address cleanliness issues and promote best practices. The program commenced in April 2016, coinciding with the third anniversary of the Swachh Bharat campaign. Derived from the words 'Swachhata,' meaning cleanliness, and 'Pakhwada,' denoting a 15-day period, the initiative aligns with the Swachh Bharat Mission's objectives, emphasizing cleanliness issues and practices. In line with this, the college organized four competitions—slogan writing, essay writing, poster making, and a best-of-waste competition, engaging participants in promoting cleanliness awareness.

Additionally, a cleanliness drive was conducted, in collaboration with the student council across hostels and academic blocks on September 27, 2023, at 4:00 PM. Starting from the BH2 hostel; students, faculty, and housekeeping staff actively participated in cleaning the areas around the basketball court and lakeside. Collection boxes for paper and old clothes were placed in academic blocks from September 29 to October 2, 2023.

To Stand Against Ragging and Drug Abuse

- Dwiti Singh

The students of School of Planning and Architecture Bhopal were privy to an insightful session by the TI of the local Police Station, on November 9, focusing on two critical issues prevalent in educational institutions: ragging and drug abuse.

The talk addressed the legal, ethical, and societal implications of ragging and substance abuse. It emphasised the zero-tolerance policy adopted by law enforcement agencies to instil a sense of responsibility and accountability among the student body. The discussion on ragging, delved into its psychological impact and the legal repercussions for the perpetrators. Through interactive dialogues, the TI conveyed the gravity of this offence, urging students to foster a culture of mutual respect and camaraderie instead.

The emphasis was on making informed choices, seeking help, and avoiding perils associated with both.

The event concluded with a call to action, urging students to be vigilant, report any instances of ragging or drug-related activities, and actively contribute to creating a safe and nurturing environment within the campus.

Dil-Wali Swachh Diwali

- Sachi Goel

In a heartwarming Diwali celebration on November 12, 2023, students created lasting memories for those in the hostel during the festive break. The hostel dazzled with clay diyas, flowers, and torans, complemented by vibrant rangolis. Sweets added to the festive atmosphere, while the collective joy of firecrackers outside BH1 foyer highlighted cultural harmony.

Simultaneously, the Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali Campaign aimed at a clean and eco-friendly Diwali. The initiative featured a Signature Drive urging commitment to a plastic-free Diwali. Participants shared their celebrations on social media with short video reels, fostering shared responsibility.

The celebration prioritized safety, ensuring no harm to people, local flora, fauna, or college property. This combined traditional festivity with environmental consciousness, creating a memorable, responsible Diwali for the campus community. As we reflect on the festivities, let's carry the spirit forward, striving for sustainable celebrations and fostering a sense of shared responsibility for our environment and community.



THE TEAM

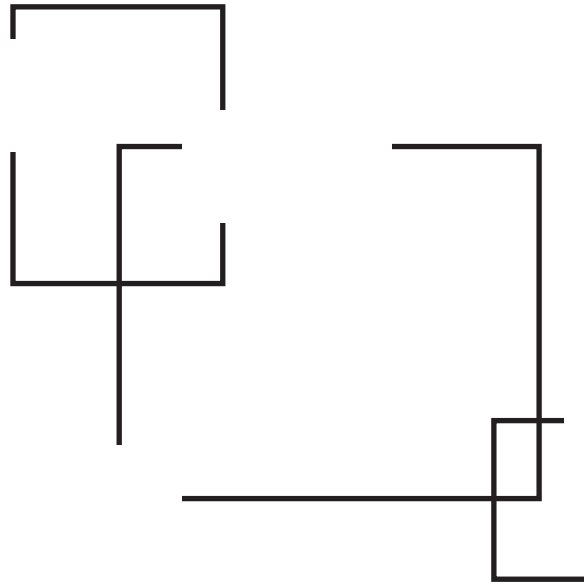
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College Newsletter

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