

Lucknow is talking about 'Varchasva' these days – the annual cultural & sports fest of IIML & a celebration of the institute's 25th anniversary, from 2nd to 4th October. The first two days of Varchasva were a big dipper ride of fun & unnerving excitement while the third and the final day of the fest today was really the icing on the cake.

The first day of the fest saw a plethora of cultural and sports events viz. *Kavi Sammelan*, Stage Play, Debate, JAM, Individual talent show, Cricket, Football, Table Tennis, Lawn Tennis etc. The events were a roller coaster ride of fun and unnerving excitement as top schools like IIM Indore, XLRI & NITIE besides the home team, battled it out for the top position.

In a nutshell, the three day extravaganza at IIML was a showcase of spectacular talent and an amazing spirit of sportsmanship by the students from across the country which came to IIML to make the vent a grand success. Varchasva had something for everyone – be it a sports lover, or a music fanatic or a dance freak, a quiz wizard or simply a fun loving mortal. Needless to say, everyone had a rocking time and as promised by the students of IIML, Varchasva did indeed managed to raise hell and how!

The detailed write up on the various cultural and sports events follow on the following pages.

Cultural

Day 1

'SamVaad' - the Debate Competition saw participation from IIM Lucknow, XLRI, LBSIM Delhi, BBD Lucknow, IET & Jaipuria Lucknow. After a one and half hour heated discussion on the topic "Indian managers are global but Indian businesses are not", IIM Lucknow and BBD Lucknow emerged as the finalists. The final round won by BBD Lucknow. The JAM session saw participation of students from XLRI, IET, BBD Lucknow & Jaipuria Lucknow. The event was won by the impeccable jammer of IIM Lucknow - Hansraj Mishra.

The event "Individual Talent Show" was an exhibit of remarkable talents of the students, as 13 participants from XLRI, LBSIM Delhi, BBD Lucknow, IET Lucknow & Jaipuria Lucknow displayed varied talents ranging from singing, dancing, playing mouth organ to something as unique as martial arts display using Nunchuks. IIM Lucknow and XLRI won the honours here as well with 1st position in this event going to Diwakar from XLRI and Swapnil Thakre of IIM Lucknow. The 2nd position was bagged by Abhaya Brahma of IIM Lucknow and the 3rd position went to Agrima Tripathi of IET.

The stage play saw participation of 5 teams which put up some brilliant plays based on sensitive themes like child abuse, female emancipation and Hindu-Muslim unity. The first position was bagged by BBD Lucknow followed by IIM Lucknow on the 2nd position. The award for best actor went to Nishant Shekhar from IIM Lucknow.

However, the biggest draw of the day was the first *Jashn Nite* of Varchasva, *Mehfil – The Kavi Sammelan*. The evening in IIM Lucknow became all the more colourful as the event saw some remarkable performances from veteran poets like the Surendra Sharma – the King of "Hasya Kavitas", the awe-inspiring Kumar Vishwas and the legendary Urdu poet Munawwar Rana. Audiences experienced mood swings from laughter to thought provocation and from satire to romance, during 2 and half hours of spellbinding display. The event was a fitting finale to the exhilarating first day of Varchasva'09.

Day 2

'Nukkad Natak' started the 2nd day with a fusillade of scintillating performances by IIM Lucknow, XLRI, LBSIM, Jaipuria college, BBD Lucknow, IT Lucknow & IET Lucknow. The street plays were based on contemporary issues like the farmer's suicide, page-3 culture & the growth of regionalism in our country. The first position was bagged by IET Lucknow, followed by LBSIM coming a close second.

In the quiz competition 60 participants started the competition at the prelims stage with finally 6 teams making it to the finals. In the end two teams, both from the IIM Lucknow (Mohammed Ali & Uday Sinha and Nirad Inamdar & Vipin Nair) emerged as joint winner and won applause for their impressive knowledge and cognizance of facts.

“Step Up!” - The Group Dance Competition saw a slew of breathtaking performances put up by the students from IIM Lucknow, XLRI, LBSIM, BBDIM, IT Lucknow & IET Lucknow. Finally the home team left its imprints on the shores of victory with a truly remarkable performance. XLRI performed their heart out but had to be satisfied with Runners up position only. The innovative use of ‘floormat’ given as a prop in the final round seemed to have tilted the balance of home team.

Cult fusion remained yet another hit event of the day. The event saw performances by STEX (STudent EXchange program) students who won hearts of audience by enchanting them with their performance on Bollywood numbers, Kajra Re being the show stealer. The audience were left dumbstruck as they witnessed a foreign student doing an Aishwarya Rai with amazing grace and confidence.

The second *Jashn nite* of Varchasva, ‘gLam & gLitz - the rampwalk’, ended day 2 of Varchasva on a high. The event had two rounds where the first one showcased latest trends in fashion while the second was based on Ethnic wear. The parade was a confluence of style, beauty, and glamour where the haute couture met the beauty and the brains on India’s most intellectual ramp. DCAC (Delhi College of Arts and Commerce) walked away with the trophy in this event.

Day 3

There were other cultural events too like the *Antakshari*, where again the home team ‘*Dus Numbri*’, bagged the prize. The revelation from this event was that the knowledge that these management kids have of bollywood is no lesser than their knowledge of business brands and fundas.

In “*Blitzkrieg*”, the much awaited rock band competition, a series of mind blowing performances by Narsee Monjee Mumbai, LBS Delhi & of course the home team enthralled the audiences. The performances not just mesmerized the crowds but hypnotized them as well esp. when “*Disaster Area*”, the IIML rock band performed the all time favourite rock numbers of the crowd. But all hell broke loose when Faridkot, the jury for the event, performed in front of the crowd after the competition on their melodic numbers.

Sports

Day1

Day 1 saw a range of sports competitions. In cricket, the hosts defeated NITIE & IIM Indore got past a spirited XLRI challenge with just 5 balls to spare! IIM Lucknow reigned supreme in football as well with a victory over XLRI. In Lawn Tennis (men’s) XLRI & IIM Lucknow defeated NITIE. Other events included Chess, Volleyball and Basket Ball. The home team is certainly leading at this stage in most of the sports closely followed by XLRI. However, the former also had to fight against a very vocal XLRI contingent which gave them a run for their money when it came to cheering for the teams!

Day2

Day2 began with a row of sporting events. In football IIM Lucknow defeated IIM Indore and emerged as clear winners in this sport by winning all their matches in the tournament. XLRI went on to win badminton and table tennis where it defeated IIM Lucknow & IIM Indore respectively. In cricket, XLRI steamrolled NITIE in shortest match of the tournament so far. In volleyball, basketball and pool IIM Lucknow led the pack while XLRI led in lawn tennis and chess currently.

Day3

In sports, the picture is clear now and IIML has won in every sport (men's category), hands down. In cricket as well as football, IIML & IIMI played a nail biting final match and in both the games, the home team emerged victorious. In all other sports, like badminton, volleyball, table tennis, basket ball & even chess, the trophy went to IIML. However in women's category it was XLRI which bagged all the trophies. Nonetheless, XLRI did give IIML a run for its money when it came to cheering their respective teams.