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City college fests get bigger, innovative

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IT-Madras' annual cultural fest, Saarang, is still a month away, but Supreet Hegde, the cultural secretary of the college, is already on his toes getting things ready for the cultural extravaganza (January 7 to 11). "There is a lot of work involved — from forming committees and inviting bands to ticket sales. In fact, the work for this edition started soon after the last one ended," says Supreet. The same enthusiasm is felt and witnessed in every city college when it comes to cultural fests.

BIG ACTS THIS YEAR

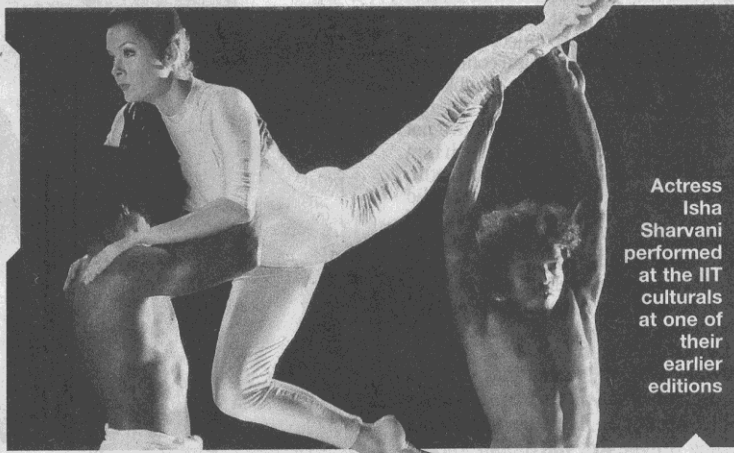
According to Supreet, the 41st edition of Saarang this year is expected to have some really big names for some of their shows. "It includes rock show by the Australian band Karnivool, world culture shows from seven different countries, light-music night by Sunidhi Chauhan. While dancer-actress Shobana and Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam will perform for their classical night, the EDM night will be headlined by Nucleya."

The rock show at the Madras



Johan Sathiyadas

Christian College (MCC) every year is equally known for featuring some of the best rock bands in India. "We are yet to finalize the band for this year's show. Last year, we brought down Pentagram. So, we are looking for a band that is equally good or better for this year's (36th edition) Deepwoods. We are in talks with a band from Kerala called Thaikkudam Bridge. They recently played at the Museum Theatre in Chennai and the response was superb," informs Roshan Samuel, literary and



Actress Isha Sharvani performed at the IIT cultural at one of their earlier editions

debating convener of the college.

HUGE TURNOUT EVERY YEAR

Taking about the turnout, Anchana Bobachan, cultural secretary of Stella Maris, which saw their cultural Aquilae happening recently, says, "The turnout was really good and saw many participants for several competitions."

Women's Christian College's (WCC) inter-collegiate cultural,

ADDING NEW ELEMENTS

Loyola College's fest, Ovations, that concluded recently, saw new events being incorporated in the itinerary. "We made a few changes. We included a laser show and a fashion show for the first time," says Adarsh Ravi, member of the students' union. The college is also gearing up for their next fest, Ignite, which is an inter-college dance festival.

Mahasvetha Murali, student prime minister of MOP Vaishnav College, says, "We had Terribly Tiny Tales, which is an event where a word is given and you have to form a really short story of less than 150 words around it. We also had Cinematic Dance, where students had to replicate a cinema song. Both these events had a great response." Anchana adds, "For Aquilae, we had a few new competitions like Spoof It Up, Make Up and Hairstyle and Funk My Ride, which attracted a lot of participation."

POPULAR FACES & BIG BUCKS

Colleges don't mind spending money for their fests. Saarang's budget this year is approximately ₹1.5 crore, and Loyola spent some 16 lakhs. But the presence of celebs justifies all this and more. Adarsh says, "This year's fest saw a host of celebrities like Vishal, Jiiva, Sanchita Shetty, Aishwarya Rajesh, Simha and Karthik Raja. Usually, we make sure we bring in big names for the entertainment quotient." Mahasvetha adds, "We had Gautham Menon and upcoming actor Amitash Pradhan, who came in as our chief guest."

which will happen on February 13 and 14, is also expecting a huge turnout. Vriti Bajaj, assistant cultural secretary WCC, says, "Festive is known for its dance contest and fashion show and this year also, we are expecting maximum contestants for both." Ethiraj College for Women is not far behind. Nivedha Ramanathan, the cultural secretary of the college, says, "Our inter-college cultural fest, scheduled for Feb 2015, Srishti, sees around 10,000 participants usually."