

UTTARAYAN

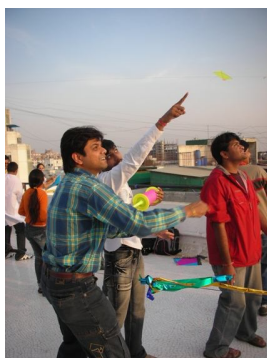
In Gujarat, January sees one of the biggest regional festivals called “*Uttarayan*”. It is celebrated over two days during “Makar Sankranti”. People fly kites on these two days and savor some regional delicacies like *Undhiyu* and *Jalebi*. Quite literally kites fill the sky and *Undhiyu* and *jalebi* fill the air. All the rooftops of low lying buildings, high rise buildings, tenements, bungalows and open field would be full of people wearing colorful dresses and flying kites. They are served with the delicacies from time to time along with umpteen rounds of *chai* and other snacks like *khakras*, *Ganthias* and all.

Although we thought, due to on going examinations not many students would turn up for this competition, we were proven wrong the moment registration opened for the competition. It was a virtual deluge. But due to space and time constraints, we had to keep the registrations at minimum. Students were chosen on a first-cum-first-served basis. Of course, some of the faculty members were given, if one has to say it correctly, ‘wild-card entries’.

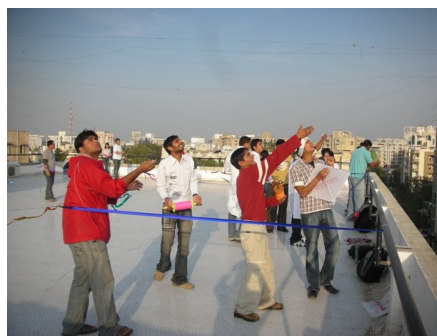
The best thing about the competition was that there were lots of colours all around, almost to reemphasize our theme of Amaze 2007...’Qualia...colours speak.’ Students brought in kites of different colours, patterns, and shapes. They also brought various types of manja (threads treated with a glue and powdered glass). The manja is very sharp and is used to cut other threads. As a matter of fact, a good quality manja can slit throats!

So, everybody was well-protected using gloves. There were rounds of chai and snacks to keep the mouths busy as well. All in all, it was great fun.

Snapshots of the event:



“Prof. Soumya Deb Hazra enjoying the festive”



“Students engrossed in flying kites”