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Headline	I- Rock comes to Pune

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Watch Swastika, Point Blank and other Rock bands fight it out at the I-Rock regional finals to be held today



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Independence Rock or I-Rock as it is popularly known is all set to rock Pune today. This is the 26th year of the festival, which has been a platform for many bands including Brute Force, Vertigo and Sceptre. Some of the leading Rock bands in the country have made their debut at this festival and have gone on to achieve great success. Indus Creed, Brahma, Zero, Pentagram, Gary Lawyer, Parikrama, Zero, Scribe, Demonic Resurrection and Agni are a few of them.

This year too, Rock lovers in Pune can expect a smashing

performance from bands like Swastika and Point Blanc.

Varun from Swastika says, "We are going to play our originals; Goddess, Maybe tomorrow, Windows and an instrumental track. We actually stopped going for competitions and concentrated on our gigs. The last competition we did was the Hard Rock Calling: London. So we are just going to I-Rock to enjoy ourselves and have a great time with the crowd." Arjun from Point Blanc adds, "We have grown up watching bands like Swastika. So, we expect stiff competition. We are hoping to have a good time and although we haven't really interacted with the other bands I'm sure they expect the same."

Pravin Bell one of the judges at I-Rock tells us about the cri-

teria he is going to judge the participants on. "Initially covers were big on the competition circuit but now originals seem to have garnered the attention of performers. I will be looking at the holistic picture. I want to see a typical character of the band," he says. When asked how competitive is it going to be he jokes, "Oh! They are out to get each other. They are powerful bands and they are young and energetic bands and the competition should be as energetic."

There is also a Wild Card Entry which closes on November 21 for MTS Red energy Independence Rock XXVI.

ON November 10, 7 pm onwards
AT Hard Rock Café,
Koregaon Park.

Publication	The Telegraph (t2)
Date	11 th November 2011
Headline	Best of the bangers

Teenage boys throng the entrance to The Park. Someplace Else fills up with Slipknot T-shirts and mohawks. Deep bass chords pound out from human-sized speakers, assaulting the unprepared eardrums of casual bystanders. Aside from a Tenacious D convention, this can only be the Calcutta leg of MTV & VH1 presents MTS Red Energy Independence Rock-XXVI, in association with t2.

Over Monday and Tuesday, eight bands battled for a spot in the grand finale of the nationwide hard rock and metal competition, which will also travel to Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Bangalore. The performances will be broadcast live from Mumbai by MTV and VH1 on November 26.

Day One saw PIT co-founders Chronic Xorn give a professional performance, as well as fellow regulars Jeepers Creepers and Turnkey. A confident and competent set from the Assam-based band Sunday Mourning upped the competitive stakes. Day Two kicked off with KrouShia, who warmed up the crowd with a convincing cover of Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*. Adding a more dulcet sound to the line-up was Mud Soda Spark, whose mellow-voiced lead singer and charismatic lead guitarist would not have sounded out of place in an American mid-West barn dance!

The second half was considerably more rowdy, pitchers of beer dispensed over the bar like Dionysian nectar to a bacchanal of rock-god wor-

BEST OF THE BANGERS



The Pip of the Fourth Mother trio — Dauni Laloo on bass, Ben Daniel Ryngksai on drums and Jason Manners on guitar and vocals — clinched it with their cover of a Pussycat Dolls track. Picture by Raibhehari Das

shippers. Shillong-based trio Pip of the Fourth Mother was the deceptively diminutive penultimate act. Describing themselves as "a cross between The Offspring and Guns N' Roses", their set was '90s punk rock with a fresh, modern and melodious twist.

Last up, we had Calcutta professionals Yonsample. Rowdy chanting turned into full-fledged moshing as the demonic screams of the lead singer blasted the speakers. In terms of crowd reaction, they were the clear headliners of the night.

Yet, as the judges explained, it was not just audience adulation they were looking for, but a combination of originality, stage presence, and outstanding vocal and musical abilities. For this, Pip of the Fourth Mother was awarded the slot in the grand finale.

"Some of the other bands gave great performances, but lacked freshness," explained judge Arka Das of Ganesh Talkies. Fellow judge Rahul Guha Roy of Cassini's Division concurred, "We were looking for an act that would take music forward." The judges also singled out Sunday Mourning, named runner-up for their solid, no-frills set of old-school rock and roll.

The winners were delighted with the chance to compete in the grand finale in Mumbai. "For the pride of Calcutta and all its rock fans, we will give it our best," they chorused.

Lara Choksey

Publication	The Bengal Post
Date	11 th November 2011
Headline	Head banging with the desi Metallica

Head banging with the *desi* Metallica

Monday evening at Someplace Else, The Park was witness to some of the best budding rock bands from Kolkata like Chronic Xorn, Turnkey, Sunday Mourning, Yonsample, Pip of the Fourth Mother, Mud Soda Spark and Jeepers Creepers competing against each other. The event was organised in association with MTS Red Energy. One of the oldest rock festivals of Kolkata that has been going on for 25 years, this festival was indeed a much needed platform for all the bands. Judges Rahul Guha Roy, guitarist and vocalist of Cassini's Division and Arka Das, drummer of Ganesh Talkies unanimously voted for Pip of the Fourth Mother, a band from Shillong who have been making some unusual noises in the rock music scenario for quite some time. Jason Manners, manager for Pip of the Fourth Mother says, "It is a fantastic platform for us to be a part of. We look forward to the finals that will be held at Mumbai."