



THE BHAWANIPUR
EDUCATION SOCIETY COLLEGE

INKSPIRE

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An initiative by the
Department of Commerce (Morning)

CONTEMPORARY COLLAGE



Faculty Focus

Student Showcase

Guest Spot

Mind Games



THE BHAWANIPUR
EDUCATION SOCIETY
COLLEGE

INKSPIRE

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Shri Miraj D. Shah

Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body

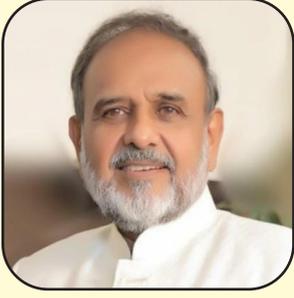
It is with great honour and a deep sense of pride that we present the inaugural edition of Inkspire, the official magazine of the Department of Commerce (Morning), The Bhawanipur Education Society College. This endeavour signifies a meaningful stride in our institution's enduring pursuit of academic distinction and cultural enrichment. In an age where communication is instantaneous yet often fleeting, the permanence of the printed word and the curated thought it represents hold a special place.

The theme of this inaugural issue, Contemporary Collage, is both timely and thought provoking. It reflects the complex, layered, and often paradoxical nature of the world we inhabit today. We live in an era marked by rapid technological advancement, shifting cultural paradigms, and evolving notions of identity and community. In such a landscape, the idea of a 'collage' becomes a powerful metaphor, one that acknowledges fragmentation while celebrating synthesis; one that embraces diversity while seeking coherence.

Contained within these pages are contributions that span genres and perspectives. I commend the editorial team for their diligence and vision in bringing this initiative to fruition. Their commitment to nurturing student voices and curating content that reflects both intellectual depth and creative flair has been instrumental in shaping this inaugural issue.

To all contributors: your courage to share your work, your willingness to be vulnerable, and your passion for your craft are deeply appreciated. You are the lifeblood of this publication, and your voices are what make Inkspire truly meaningful.

To the readers: may this magazine serve as a catalyst for conversation, and a reminder of the extraordinary potential that resides within each member of our college community. May it inspire, or shall we say, 'Inkspire'!



Prof. Dilip Shah

Rector & Dean of Student Affairs

This publication marks a significant milestone in our collective journey of nurturing inquiry, creativity, and intellectual expression within our academic community.

Inkspire is more than a magazine; it is a platform where ideas converge, where young minds explore, articulate, and challenge perspectives. In an age defined by information and rapid change, the ability to think critically and express oneself with clarity becomes an essential skill. This magazine aspires to cultivate that spirit — inviting contributions that reflect curiosity, passion, and the courage to question.

We congratulate the editorial team, faculty mentors, and student contributors whose dedication has given shape to this maiden edition. Their collaborative effort embodies the ethos of our institution — learning that extends beyond classrooms and finds life in thoughtful dialogue and creative imagination.

As you turn these pages, we hope you discover inspiration, insight, and the vibrant academic energy that defines our college. May Inkspire continue to grow as a testament to our commitment to excellence in education and holistic development.

“सा वदिया या वमिक्तये।”

True knowledge is that which liberates.



Prof. Minakshi Chaturvedi

Vice Principal

Department of Commerce (Morning)

It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction to present the first issue of Inkspire, the biannual magazine of the Commerce (Morning) Department. This publication marks the beginning of a meaningful initiative aimed at encouraging academic expression, nurturing creative thought, and highlighting the diverse talents of our students.

The Commerce (Morning) Department has always upheld a tradition of academic excellence, professional growth, and value-based learning. Inkspire embodies these ideals. The articles, essays, analyses, and creative pieces featured in this issue reveal the intellectual engagement and enthusiasm with which our students approach both their academic pursuits and the world around them. Their contributions demonstrate not only knowledge but also insight, curiosity, and originality.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the editorial team, faculty reviewers and all contributors whose dedicated efforts have brought this magazine to life. Their teamwork, perseverance, and commitment to quality have ensured that Inkspire emerges as a meaningful and commendable platform.

As we celebrate the release of this inaugural issue, I encourage our students to continue exploring, questioning, creating, and contributing. May Inkspire grow with each edition, inspiring many more voices and strengthening the academic spirit of the Commerce (Morning) Department.

I convey my best wishes to the entire team and look forward to witnessing the continued success of this endeavour.



The Architect of Ambitions : An Exclusive with

Harshvardhan Neotia

Interview by *Prof. Nazneen Alam*
Faculty, Bhawanipur Education Society College
 With special thanks to *Prof. Sankha Acharya*

A Padma Shri recipient, an entrepreneur, a connoisseur of the arts, an enthusiast of Indian heritage — Harshvardhan Neotia is the Chairman of Ambuja Neotia Group, which operates across the realms of Real Estate, Hospitality, Healthcare and Education. An alumnus of La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata, St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata, and Harvard Business School, USA, he is a pioneer in India’s social housing sector for which he was conferred with Padma Shri in 1999. He has also been bestowed with Banga Bibhushan, the highest civilian honour from the Government of West Bengal. He is a recipient of the YPO Legacy of Honour Award and has been conferred the D.Litt. (Honoris Causa) by Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, as well as by Assam Royal Global University. Additionally, he has been awarded the ‘Honorary Life Fellowship’ by the All-India Management Association (AIMA). An active member, he is also a Past President of both FICCI and AIMA. He serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Chairperson of the National Institute of Technology Mizoram, and a Council Member of the National Culture Fund, Government of India. He has formerly been on the board of IIM Kolkata, IIT Kharagpur, and a member of The Court of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Q: Who have been your greatest mentors or inspirations?

Harshvardhan Neotia : I have been fortunate to grow up in a family where art, literature, and business were all deeply valued. My uncles, parents and grandparents shaped my sense of aesthetics, responsibility and enterprise. Outside of family, I have drawn inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi for his simplicity, Swami Vivekananda for his sense of purpose, and Rabindranath Tagore for his belief in the transformative power of culture. Among architects, B.V. Doshi and Charles Correa left an indelible mark on how I view space and community.

Q: Who do you turn to for honest feedback or guidance?

Harshvardhan Neotia : My immediate family — my wife, children, and close relatives — have always been my sounding board. Their perspectives keep me grounded and honest. I also value the counsel of a few trusted colleagues and friends who are not afraid to tell me what I may not like to hear.

Q: What was the core vision behind the founding of the Ambuja Neotia Group?

Harshvardhan Neotia : The Ambuja Neotia Group began with a very simple but powerful conviction — that development must elevate the quality of life, not merely alter the skyline. When we started more than two decades ago in Kolkata, our mission was to create homes that were more than four walls: living,

breathing neighbourhoods that nurture relationships, honour local ecology and reflect the cultural fabric of their surroundings. In essence, we see our role as spreading happiness and transforming spaces — creating environments where people don’t just reside, but truly belong.

Q: In your view, what sets Ambuja Neotia apart from other real estate and hospitality players?

Harshvardhan Neotia : We’ve tried to go beyond the transactional view of building. Whether it’s a housing project, a hotel or a township, we focus on how people will live, gather, and experience those spaces. Integrating art, landscape and culture into our projects gives them a sense of belonging rather than just a sense of novelty.



Q: What values do you emphasize most in your organisational culture?

Harshvardhan Neotia : Integrity, empathy, and humility. I like to think of our organisation as a family, where mutual respect and trust matter as much as performance. We also encourage curiosity and openness, because creativity grows in an atmosphere where people feel safe to experiment.

Q: You have been associated with cultural institutions and art forums. How important is art and culture to your identity as an entrepreneur?

Harshvardhan Neotia : For me, entrepreneurship is not separate from culture. I grew up surrounded by music, literature and gardens, so it's natural for me to see art as an essential ingredient in life. Art brings soul to a space. Through initiatives like Gulab Bari, Jnana Pravaha in Varanasi, and our own projects, I try to honour that inheritance and pass it on to others.

Q: Looking back, is there a decision you would make differently?

Harshvardhan Neotia : I think every decision, even the ones that didn't go as planned, taught me something valuable. If I could change anything, perhaps it would be to have more patience in certain ventures — sometimes ideas take longer to mature than we imagine.

“

Sometimes ideas take longer to mature than we imagine.

”

Q: How do you stay grounded amidst success?

Harshvardhan Neotia : My family keeps me grounded. So does travel, reading and time spent in nature. Success is transient, but relationships and values endure. Remembering that is very humbling.

Q: What was one of your most daring business decisions?

Harshvardhan Neotia : Launching Udayan, Kolkata's first large-scale social housing project, was certainly one. It was an untested idea at the time — creating a tiered, mixed-income community — but it became a model project. Entering hospitality was another, because it required a very different mindset from real estate. The first City Centre in Salt Lake was another project that broke the trend of the square-box model and created something outstanding as well as very close to people's hearts.

Q: What have been the most important lessons in leadership that you have learned?

Harshvardhan Neotia : That leadership is about listening more than speaking, about enabling rather than directing. You can build systems and projects, but you have to nurture people. And you must never lose sight of empathy in decision-making.

Q: Do you believe business leaders today have a responsibility to drive social change?

“

I have drawn inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi for his simplicity, Swami Vivekananda for his sense of purpose, and Rabindranath Tagore for his belief in the transformative power of culture.

”

Harshvardhan Neotia : Absolutely. We are not isolated from society; we are part of it. Businesses have the resources, the reach and the influence to make a positive difference. Whether it is in sustainability, culture, or inclusion, every step matters.

Q: If you could give one piece of advice to the next generation of entrepreneurs, what would it be?

Harshvardhan Neotia : Stay curious and stay rooted. Pursue excellence, but also honour your context — your people, your culture, your environment. Success built on empathy and authenticity may take longer, but it lasts.



Breaking Moulds : Shabana Azmi on Cinema, Society, and Self

Interview by *Sunanda Roy*, Semester 5

With special thanks to

Prof. Champa Srinivasan

Shabana Azmi is a veteran Indian actress, social activist, and feminist icon renowned for her versatile roles in parallel cinema, her commitment to social causes, and her enduring influence on Indian theatre and film. Immersed in the arts from a young age, she began acting in school and later co-founded the Hindi Natya Manch at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. She graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) with a gold medal for acting.

She has acted in over 160 films, spanning critically acclaimed art-house productions as well as popular commercial cinema. Off-screen, Shabana Azmi is a committed social activist and former Rajya Sabha member. Azmi has received numerous accolades, including five National Film Awards for Best Actress, multiple Filmfare Awards, international recognitions, and the Padma Bhushan for her contributions to Indian cinema and society. She continues to act, advocate, and influence both cinema and social discourse, balancing a career that seamlessly intertwines art and activism.

Q: Thank you so much for joining me today, Shabana ji. It's an honour to have this conversation with you.

Shabana Azmi : Thank you for having me. I'm delighted to be here.

Q: You've had a remarkable journey in Indian cinema and theatre. Looking back, what would you say shaped you the most as an artist?

Shabana Azmi : I think it was the environment I grew up in. With my father, Kaifi Azmi, being a poet and activist, and my mother deeply involved in theatre, I was constantly surrounded by discussions on society, justice, art, and empathy. That shaped my understanding of what storytelling can do. Acting, for me, has always been about reflecting truth.

Q : You are one of the strongest pillars of India's parallel cinema movement. Did you consciously choose socially relevant roles, or did they choose you?

Shabana Azmi : (Laughs softly) A bit of both. When I began, the country was witnessing a new wave of filmmakers who wanted to break formulae and explore realism. I was instinctively drawn to those scripts — Ankur, Arth, Paar — because they dealt with issues I cared about. I felt these characters gave me a chance to speak for women who didn't have a voice.

Q : Your performances often portray women with immense strength and complexity. How do you prepare for such complex and multifaceted roles?

Shabana Azmi : I believe that every character, no matter how ordinary,

has an inner world. I do a lot of homework — observing, reading, listening to real women with similar stories. But equally important is surrendering to the script. If an actor listens carefully, the character begins to speak to you. And that's when magic happens.

Q: You've excelled in both theatre and cinema. Do you approach them differently?

Shabana Azmi : Technically, yes. Theatre demands discipline and stamina. You perform from beginning to end without breaks, and the audience's energy affects you instantly. Cinema is more intimate; the camera catches every small detail. But emotionally, the core is the same—honesty. If you're honest, the medium doesn't matter.



Q : Besides acting, your social work—especially in the area of housing rights and women’s empowerment—is widely admired. What drives that commitment?

Shabana Azmi : My parents taught me that privilege comes with responsibility. Art gives you visibility, and I believe in using that visibility to create awareness. When I see inequality, it disturbs me deeply. Whether it’s slum rehabilitation, education, or gender rights, I feel compelled to contribute in whatever capacity I can.

Q: In recent years, Indian cinema and OTT platforms have evolved tremendously. How do you view this change?

Shabana Azmi : I think it’s wonderful. Storytelling is becoming more diverse, and actors — especially women — are securing more substantial roles at all ages. Younger filmmakers are bold and experimental. OTT has democratised content; audiences now reward authenticity over stereotypes. It’s a very exciting time.

Q: You’ve worked with actors across generations. What do you enjoy most about collaborating with younger talent?

Shabana Azmi : Their fearlessness. Today’s actors are extremely prepared, exposed to global cinema, and committed to craft. And I learn from them! Acting is a lifelong process of learning—you never “arrive.” Working with younger talent keeps me fresh and curious.

Q: After such an illustrious career, what continues to inspire you?

Shabana Azmi : People. Human stories. Every time I encounter a new story—someone’s triumph, struggle, or small moment of courage — I feel inspired. Ultimately, I’m a student of life, and life never stops teaching.

Q: Lastly, what advice would you give to young artists who look up to you?

Shabana Azmi : Take your craft seriously, but don’t take yourself too seriously. Stay disciplined, stay curious, read widely, and observe people. And most importantly, don’t chase fame — chase excellence. Fame will follow if it must.





Plot Twists and Philosophies : An Interview with Amish Tripathi

Interview by *Suanda Roy*, Semester 5
Videography by *Prakriti Sharma*, Semester 2

With special thanks to

Prof. Champa Srinivasan

Amish Tripathi is a best-selling Indian author and former diplomat known for writing mythological and historical fiction that reinterprets ancient epics for a modern audience. His books, which portray divine figures as relatable human beings facing complex moral dilemmas, have sold over 8 million copies and been translated into numerous languages.

On 10th November, The Bhawanipur Education Society College had the wonderful opportunity to host international bestselling author Amish Tripathi for the launch of his latest novel, The Chola Tigers. Our students, under the guidance of Prof. Champa Srinivasan, engaged in an insightful interaction with the author, interviewing him on the blending of mythology with modernism, his creative process, and much more.

Q: Good evening, sir. I shall take permission before interviewing you. Will you permit us to take the interview?

Amish Tripathi : If I say no, are you going to stop? (Laughs) Carry on.

Q: Okay. So, I would like to ask the first question. Your female characters like Sita and Minakshi are often portrayed as strong, independent warriors. What inspired this modern feminist take on figures traditionally seen as demure or subservient?

Amish Tripathi : It appears modern to you because many of our ancient stories have not been taught to your generation. It's not your fault. The fault is actually of my generation and the generation prior, who have not decolonised our education system. Because you would see that actually in ancient India, we had women warriors, we had women

sages, the equivalents of prophets and messiahs, whose hymns are there in our ancient scriptures, in the Rigveda, for example. These role models have not been taught. So, this is why my interpretations appear new and modern. Actually, it is true to India's ancient culture, my interpretation.

Q: So, you want to bring those characters and highlight their role in our...

Amish Tripathi : It's just that we have forgotten the powerful women of ancient India. I'm just trying to remind people of that. And I'll say once again, Indian feminism was not the Western model of feminism, where fighting for women's rights ended up meaning hating men. Or fighting for transgender rights ended up meaning hating women, right? They very often swing from one extreme to the other. That wasn't the

Indian way. Fighting for one person's rights doesn't mean you have to start hating someone else.

Q: Okay, the next question. The Somnath desecration is still an emotional subject. Were you concerned that blending fiction with such a sensitive history might spark political or religious debates?

Amish Tripathi : The book has been out for some two months now. It's been number one on most bestseller charts. HarperCollins has gone into reprints already. You won't have read any controversy on it. I'm telling you; it's about the attitude with which you write, rather than the subject that you're writing on.

I don't aim to create controversy. I don't aim to create divisions. I speak of unity, wanting Indians to come together to fight a foreign invader. That's what's referenced in, that's

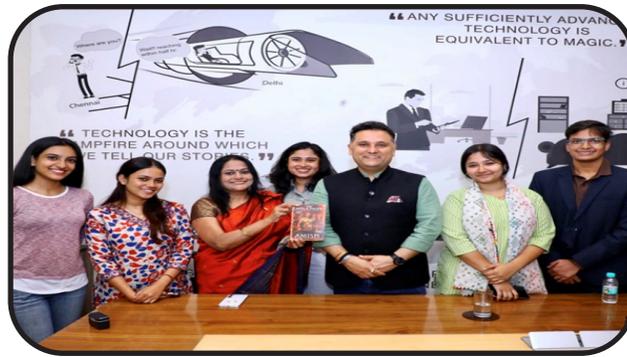


what's kind of showcased in my book, which is why perhaps there's no controversy.

Q: Thank you, sir. And the last question I would like to ask is that you have spoken about the narrative idea. Narrative truth versus factual truth in myths. Could you elaborate on this distinction and its relevance to your novels?

Amish Tripathi : Look, you cannot make up facts. Facts are facts. Okay? Some people ignore some facts and oftentimes new facts emerge, right? What is narrative? Narrative is how you link up those facts, right? To have a story which makes sense to you.

Because how humans absorb things is not with a list of facts. It's a story. So, the same set of facts of the last thousand years that invaders came, first the Turks, Persians, Arabs, then the Europeans, they came and the Indians lost many battles. This is a true set of facts, right? The narrative taught to us is that Indians were weak or cowardly and were repeatedly losing battles. Same set of facts. I have a different narrative that these invaders went to various other parts of the world as well. They wiped out all those cultures, most of those cultures. Like Zoroastrian Persia, various others. But India is still standing after a thousand years. We are still alive. So, the same set of facts, my narrative is that it's not that our ancestors were cowardly or weak. In fact, our ancestors mounted the greatest resistance in human history. They were the only ones who kept fighting and fighting and fighting



and fighting. Same set of facts. Two different narratives. I prefer this narrative. Because in my opinion, this is the true narrative. We are not descendants of weak and cowardly people. We are descendants of the toughest among the ancient people. Same set of facts, right? But two different narratives.

Q: Sir, last thing, any inspiring advice you would like to give to our youths? Because in this generation of AI, the book reading culture is gradually fading away. So...

Amish Tripathi : (Laughs) Arey, luckily, at least my books are still selling.

Q: We see that people are scrolling reels rather than reading books or anything.

Amish Tripathi : I think one of the things that I would advise, and I don't know if it's inspirational or not, but, I mean, I'm not aiming to inspire. I'm just telling you the way I see things. That this is perhaps the best time to be born an Indian in the last many centuries. India is rising after centuries of decline. Till just the 1980s, you know, India's GDP was smaller than the gross sales turnover for a few American car companies. We were that poor. Till just the mid-

2000s, Pakistan's per capita GDP was higher than India's. Okay? Our lowest point economically in human history was actually not the British Raj. We kept declining after 1947 because of socialism. Our lowest point was actually the 1980s. The turnaround that's happened post-1991 is dramatic. What a fantastic time to be born an Indian. Today, we are the fourth-largest economy on Earth. We just defeated... crossed our former colonial master, the UK, right? We are growing, we are more powerful.

Such a fantastic time to be born an Indian. You guys will benefit from this great rise. In fact, you guys will make the rise happen. I don't know if that inspires you, but I find it damn inspiring.



Scan the **QR code** to watch this interview on our YouTube channel!



Dr. Ashish K. Bhattacharyya :
Bridging the Gap Between Industry and Academia

Interview by

Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Banerjee

Guest Faculty, Bhawanipur Education Society College

Dr. Asish K Bhattacharyya has been a Distinguished Professor at Shiv Nadar University (Institution of Eminence) since January 2021. His expertise spans corporate financial reporting, management accounting, and corporate governance. With an impressive 53 years of work experience, Prof. Bhattacharyya has spent 20 years in leadership roles in large companies and 33 years in academia. His academic journey includes professorships at prestigious institutions such as IIM Calcutta, SPJIMR Mumbai, and IICA (Manesar, Gurugram). He has also held the position of Technical Director at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). He has served as the Director at both IMI Kolkata and IMT Ghaziabad. A Fellow of the ICAI, A Fellow of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and an Associate of the CIMA (U.K.), Prof. Bhattacharyya earned his D.Phil. degree from Allahabad University. He has authored 14 books and a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Q: What are some key turning points in your educational journey?

AsishKBhattacharyya :I have always aspired to join academia. However, due to financial constraints, I was unable to invest the time needed to complete a PhD at a university. After finishing my Chartered Accountancy course, I entered the industry and worked in large companies for 20 years. During this period, I coached CA students, taught in CA and ICMA chapters, and delivered lectures at the Allahabad University. Simultaneously, I completed my PhD from Allahabad University.

After two decades in the industry, at the age of 43, I transitioned to academia and joined SPJIMR (Mumbai) as a Full Professor. Joining SPJIMR was a turning point in my career. My intense desire to join academia gave me the courage

to leave a lucrative senior position in a multinational company and sacrifice pay and perks to pursue my passion. Of course, I could achieve my goals, thanks to the unwavering support of my wife and son.

Q: Were there any mentors who significantly influenced your career path?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : Yes, I have been fortunate to have mentors at every stage of my life. While working in different companies, I was mentored by two of my bosses. When I joined SPJIMR, Dr. Manesh Srikant, the Dean at the time, guided me and prepared me for academia. During that period, I frequently visited IIM Ahmedabad to learn from professors there. They were incredibly generous with their guidance. I consider all of them my mentors. 😊

Q: You have worked at institutions

like IIM Calcutta, IMT Ghaziabad and now Shiv Nadar University. What makes each academic environment unique?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : Throughout my extensive 33-year academic career, I have had the privilege of working at various B-Schools, each with its unique focus and strengths.

When I joined SPJIMR, it was in its formative years. At that time, the number of B-Schools and available seats were quite limited. SPJIMR distinguished itself by emphasising on life lessons alongside academic learning. At that time, it started Gita Shibir (Gita camp for students to listen to and learn the teachings of Gita, once every week) and social projects as a component of the programme. Many courses were taught by industry practitioners, which brought a practical orientation to the curriculum.



At IIM Calcutta, the emphasis was on academic excellence and teaching quality. Faculty members were committed to continually improving the teaching-learning experience, driven by intense peer pressure and the high expectations of students who were not afraid to ask challenging questions. I understand that today, equal importance is given to publishing papers (by faculty) and teaching.

At Shiv Nadar University, an Institution of Excellence, the focus is on grooming students through both teaching and encouraging extracurricular activities. Students are encouraged to participate in sports and clubs. The university has excellent sports facilities. The university aims to instill an entrepreneurial spirit in its students with various courses like Venture Lab. It recruits faculty with outstanding academic backgrounds to enhance its research track record. A unique feature of the B-School is that students must earn specified credits by completing courses in other schools, such as Social Science and Humanities (including media and fine arts).

Q: You have held many prestigious academic and administrative positions. Which role do you feel is the most interesting? Which role challenged you the most and why?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : I have held senior leadership roles in prominent companies and esteemed business schools, including positions such as Dean at IIM Calcutta, Director at IMT Ghaziabad, and Director at IMI Kolkata. My administrative responsibilities have always intrigued me, as they provided opportunities to

engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. These interactions have been incredibly enriching, offering valuable learning experiences. I have consistently navigated challenges with ease, thanks to my ability to make swift decisions and my unwavering commitment to the three principles of good governance: equity, accountability, and transparency. I was also committed to respecting human dignity.

Q: As an expert in corporate governance and accounting, what trends do you see shaping these fields in the next decade?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : Corporate governance is poised for significant transformation over the next 10 to 15 years. Rapid technological advancements, shifts in the geopolitical landscape and demographics, the frequent emergence of new business models and innovative products, and the strengthening of the ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) movement will all contribute to this change. These factors will likely widen the knowledge gap between CEOs and boards (independent directors), rendering boards less capable of effectively monitoring CEOs. Consequently, the traditional monitoring board may evolve into an advisory board, if not legally, then in practice. The CEO will behave more like a steward (and not an agent) and will expect support from the board.

Furthermore, the value created by companies will be distributed to the owners of the factors of production, such as employees and contractors, based on principles of equity and

inclusivity rather than their bargaining power. While shareholder primacy will remain enshrined in law, and shareholders will continue to hold voting power, boards will shift their focus from creating shareholder value to generating social value, all while ensuring a reasonable return for shareholders.

In the realm of accounting, the recognition and measurement of intangible and digital assets will undergo significant changes within the next 10 to 15 years. Assets that are currently not recognised on the balance sheet will be included. Beyond this, no major changes are anticipated.

Q: You have published extensively on topics like sustainability reporting, governance and integrated thinking. What drives your interest in these areas?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : During my time at IIMC, I was inducted into the boards of several listed companies. To perform effectively as a director, I delved into the principles of corporate governance, which sparked my interest in the field. This passion led me to establish the Centre for Corporate Governance at IIMC, where I served as the head for seven years. Upon moving to Delhi, I joined the Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and founded the School of Corporate Governance and Public Policy. These experiences have significantly deepened my commitment to corporate governance. Additionally, I recognise the close relationship between corporate governance, sustainability reporting, and integrated thinking. Therefore, I developed an interest in those subjects.

Q: How do you balance academic theory with real-world business challenges in your research and teaching?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : Balancing between academic theory and real-world business challenges is not necessarily required. In business management, theory and practice reinforce each other. Theories are developed by observing and analysing management practices globally, and managers adopt these theories in practice. There might be a time lag between the emergence of a theory and its practical application. Business management theories draw extensively from social science theories, which are developed by analysing social customs, business history, human behaviour, and more. Organisational behaviour, for instance, draws from research in psychology, the scientific study of how the brain and mind work. Consequently, experiments with new theories gradually lead to their application in practice. Students learn more effectively through experiential learning. Therefore, case study discussions, live projects, and internships are essential components of the pedagogy used by instructors in business schools.

Q: What books, thinkers, or philosophers have most influenced your life and work?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : When it comes to business management, I am greatly influenced by the books of Peter Drucker. In terms of life lessons, the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and the wisdom of Kabir's dohas (couplets) have had a profound impact on me. I also find inspiration in the songs (which

express philosophical thoughts) of Rabindranath Tagore. Additionally, the stories of Munshi Prem Chand and the writings of Ismat Chughtai have significantly shaped my thinking. This is what I can recall, but many others have also influenced my thoughts. My teachers in school and college, as well as my family members, have played a significant role in my personality development. I used to read biographies of great people.

Q: What legacy do you hope to leave behind in the academic and business communities?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : No one and no one's principles and thoughts are immortal. Therefore, I never think of leaving behind a legacy. I expect that my students working in the corporate sector, academic sector, or any other sector will adhere to the governance principles of equity, accountability, and transparency. They will prioritise the institution's interests over their personal interests whenever a conflict arises. They will develop relationships with others outside the transactional relationship, without a thought of 'give and take'. I have followed these principles throughout my life. Above all, everyone should develop the habit of learning from interactions with others, irrespective of their social stature.

Q: What advice would you give to students who aspire to pursue a career in academia or corporate leadership?

Asish K Bhattacharyya : Students must be committed to learning and enhancing their teachers' teaching experiences by asking challenging questions. They should exhibit patience and perseverance to

benefit from classroom instruction. Even if a student learns just one new thing in class, attending will be worthwhile for that student. Students should also learn from their peers and strive to understand the broader context of the business environment. Those aspiring to join the corporate world should be innovative and insightful (rather than merely street smart), possess the ability to listen to others, articulate their thoughts and views clearly, and think quickly. They should develop emotional intelligence and strive to achieve high EQ.

A message from Dr. Bhattacharyya :

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bhawanipur Education Society College, one of Kolkata's most esteemed commerce institutions, on the launch of your bi-annual departmental magazine, Inkspire. This wonderful initiative is a testament to your commitment to spreading knowledge and fostering intellectual growth among students and the broader community. Inkspire will undoubtedly serve as an excellent platform for students and faculty to publish articles across various genres and articulate their views on contemporary issues. I am confident that the magazine will reflect the high educational standards of the college and significantly influence the thoughts of all, especially Gen Z. Your dedication to providing such opportunities for expression and learning is truly commendable. I look forward to seeing the positive impact Inkspire will have on the academic and cultural landscape of the college and beyond. Congratulations once again on this remarkable achievement!





New labour Codes : Paradigm shift in India's employment regulation

By *CS Arpan Sengupta*, with special thanks to
CS (Dr.) Mohit Shaw

CS Arpan Sengupta is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and Member of the ICSI Institute of Social Auditors (ICSI – ISA). CS Arpan Sengupta is Proprietor of M/s. Arpan Sengupta & Co., Company Secretaries. He has worked in diverse fields and institutions, including Corporate Law, Corporate Governance, Legal Compliance, Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Impact Assessment, Labour Law, SEBI, RBI, NCLT, POSH, D&I and MSMEs. He is a faculty and corporate trainer for Corporate Law, CSR, ESG and Social Impact Assessment at various institutions; he has presented and published various papers. He is also a regular speaker at ICSI, ICAI, ICMAI and various other corporate forums.

The **Paradigm Shift** lies in moving away from a fragmented, complex, and colonial-era regulatory system to a unified, modern, and compliance-driven framework that balances **Ease of Doing Business** with **enhanced worker welfare**.

For decades, India's labour law landscape was a complex web of 29 central laws and numerous state legislations. For businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, navigating this labyrinth was a daunting task, often leading to unintentional non-compliance, costly litigation, and a heavy administrative burden.

The new Labour Codes, a landmark reform, aim to change this. By consolidating 29 central laws into four comprehensive codes, the government seeks to create a more transparent, accountable, and business-friendly ecosystem. The primary goal of this consolidation is to **simplify regulatory compliance**, provide clarity in definitions, and

modernize the legal framework governing wages, social security, industrial relations, and working conditions.

The Paradigm Shift : Modernising Regulation

The 29 existing central labour laws have been merged and rationalised into the following four Codes:

1. The Code on Wages, 2019 (Consolidating 4 laws) - Consolidates laws relating to payment of wages, bonus, and equal remuneration.

2. The Code on Social Security, 2020 (Consolidating 9 laws) - Governs trade unions, industrial disputes, layoffs, retrenchment, and closure of establishments.

3. The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (Consolidating 3 laws) - Unifies laws concerning provident fund, employee insurance, gratuity, maternity benefits, and pension. Crucially, it also extends social security to gig and platform workers for the first time.

4. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSHC) Code, 2020 (Consolidating 13 laws) - Combines laws related to working conditions (hours of work, leave), health, and safety of workers in various establishments.

How Compliance is Simplified

The move from 29 laws to 4 Codes simplifies the compliance process for employers in several key areas:

1. Unified Compliance Framework

- **One Registration, One Return:** The Codes introduce a system of **single registration, single license**, and one **unified annual return** for an establishment. This drastically reduces the administrative burden and costs previously associated with filing multiple documents under various laws.

- **Uniform Definition of 'Wages':** A key change is the introduction of a single, uniform definition of **'Wages'** across all four Codes. This eliminates ambiguities and

inconsistencies that existed under the previous laws, simplifying the calculation of statutory payments like Provident Fund (PF), Gratuity, Bonus, and ESI contributions.

2. Decriminalisation and Facilitation

• Decriminalisation of Offences :

The new Codes replace imprisonment with monetary penalties (fines) for many first-time or minor technical/procedural violations. This shifts the focus from a punitive ‘Inspector Raj’ system to a more compliance-oriented framework.

• Inspector-cum-Facilitator :

The traditional role of a punitive ‘Inspector’ has been replaced with an ‘Inspector-cum-Facilitator’. This new role focuses on providing guidance, advice, and compliance support to employers, rather than just enforcement.

• Improvement Notice : For many contraventions, the law mandates an ‘Improvement Notice’ be issued first, giving the establishment time to rectify the issue before prosecution is initiated.

3. Ease of Doing Business (EODB)

• Digital Records : The Codes encourage the use of electronic record-keeping, registrations, and returns, streamlining processes and enhancing transparency.

• Reduced Overlap : By consolidating laws, the Codes eliminate overlapping provisions, contradictory rules, and multiple jurisdictions, leading to a clearer and more predictable legal environment for businesses operating across multiple states.

Key Benefits and Impact :

In addition to simplification, the Codes also bring significant changes to workers’ rights:

Category	Key Reform
Wages	Statutory right to Universal Minimum Wages and Floor Wage for all employees in both organised and unorganised sectors.
Social Security	Extension of social security benefits (PF, ESI, Gratuity) to new categories of workers, including gig and platform workers and fixed-term employees.
Gratuity	Fixed-term employees become eligible for gratuity after just one year of service, instead of the previous five-year requirement.
Working Conditions	Provisions for annual free health check-ups for workers above 45 years of age and permitting women to work night shifts with adequate safety and consent.
Formalisation	Mandatory issuance of appointment letters to all employees to formalize employment and prevent exploitation.

Worker-Centric Improvements :

• Social Security Expansion : Gig workers, platform workers, and those in the unorganised sector now get coverage.

• Gender Equality : Equal pay provisions and permission for women to work night shifts with safety measures.

• Health & Safety : Mandatory annual health check-ups for employees above 40, plus stronger workplace safety standards.

• Faster Gratuity : Eligibility after just one year of service, instead of five.

Challenges & Trade-Offs :

• State-Level Implementation : While the central codes are in place, states must finalise their rules. This could delay uniform enforcement.

• Transition Costs : Businesses need to update HR systems, payroll, and compliance processes to align with the new framework.

• Adaptation for SMEs : Smaller firms may initially struggle with digital compliance requirements.

The Road Ahead :

While the codes have been passed by Parliament, the final rules are still being notified by various state governments. The transition will require businesses to re-examine their policies, restructure their payroll systems, and train their HR and legal teams.

However, the direction is clear. The move from 29 laws to 4 codes is a paradigm shift designed to replace confusion with clarity, and administrative burden with efficiency. For businesses, it promises a much simpler path to compliance, allowing them to focus more on growth and less on navigating legal complexities. For workers, it offers the promise of universal social security and greater protection in a modernising economy.



UNICORN DREAMS, STARTUP REALITIES : A GUIDE FOR COMMERCE STUDENTS

By CS Khusbu Agrawal, with special thanks to CS (Dr.) Mohit Shaw



Khusbu Agrawal is a Practicing CS and Registered Valuer. She is also the proprietor of Khusbu & Co.

The Startup Buzz

When someone says ‘startup’, what pops into your head?

Sleepless nights, crazy ideas, hoodie-clad founders, billion-dollar unicorns? The truth is, startups are not just about coding apps in a garage, they are about solving real problems in smarter, faster ways.

Here is the exciting part: commerce students have a significant role to play in this revolution.

Why Tech Alone is not Enough :

Yes, engineers build applications. However, who figures out...

...How to price them?

...Who the right customers are?

...How to raise money and keep investors happy?

...What the law, taxes, and compliance demand?

This is where commerce brains come into play. Finance, marketing, accounting, and operations—these are the invisible engines behind every successful startup.

Can you imagine Zomato without its revenue models?

Can Byju’s sustain itself without

financial structuring?

Can Flipkart survive without supply chain planning?

Every startup runs and thrives on proper financial planning, budgeting and recruiting the right people. All commerce students learn in their college journey. Principles of Management is the core of any business.

The Unicorn Craze :

A unicorn is a startup valued at over \$1 billion. Sounds fancy, right? India already has 100+ unicorns in fintech, edtech, e-commerce, logistics, and beyond.

However, here is the real deal : it is not just the unicorns that matter. For

every unicorn, there are hundreds of upcoming startups that are hiring interns, managers, and thinkers. That is where opportunities for commerce students truly explode.

Choosing Different Career Paths, Beyond the Obvious :

Commerce graduates often stick to the “safe” tracks — CA, CMA, MBA. There is nothing wrong with that, I must say. However, beyond these courses lies a different world where even college dropouts excel. Startups open up alternative, high-growth careers for a visionary person :

- **When you join a startup :** You multitask and learn 5 roles in 1 job. Growth is fast, and exposure is very diversified.

- **As a Venture Capital & Private Equity :** You can evaluate business models, spot trends, and fund the next unicorn.

- **When you Start Your Own Venture :** It does not need to be the next Paytm. Even a small online store or consultancy teaches real entrepreneurship.

The Entrepreneurial Mindset :

Entrepreneurship is not just about founding. It's about thinking like an owner, wherever you work. It means:

- Always being curious about the possible solution to a problem and asking yourself, "how can this be done better?"
- Taking initiative to make things right instead of waiting for directions.
- Dealing with risks and uncertainty.

Startups love this mindset. It is what separates leaders from followers.

How You Can Get Started — Even as a Student :

1. Startup Internships : Even small roles give unmatched exposure.

2. E-Cells & Incubators : Great places to test ideas and meet like-minded peers.

3. Skill Up : Basics of Excel, digital marketing, financial modelling = startup superpowers.

4. Mini Ventures : Thrift stores on Instagram, finance blogs, side hustles. Every attempt builds your muscle.

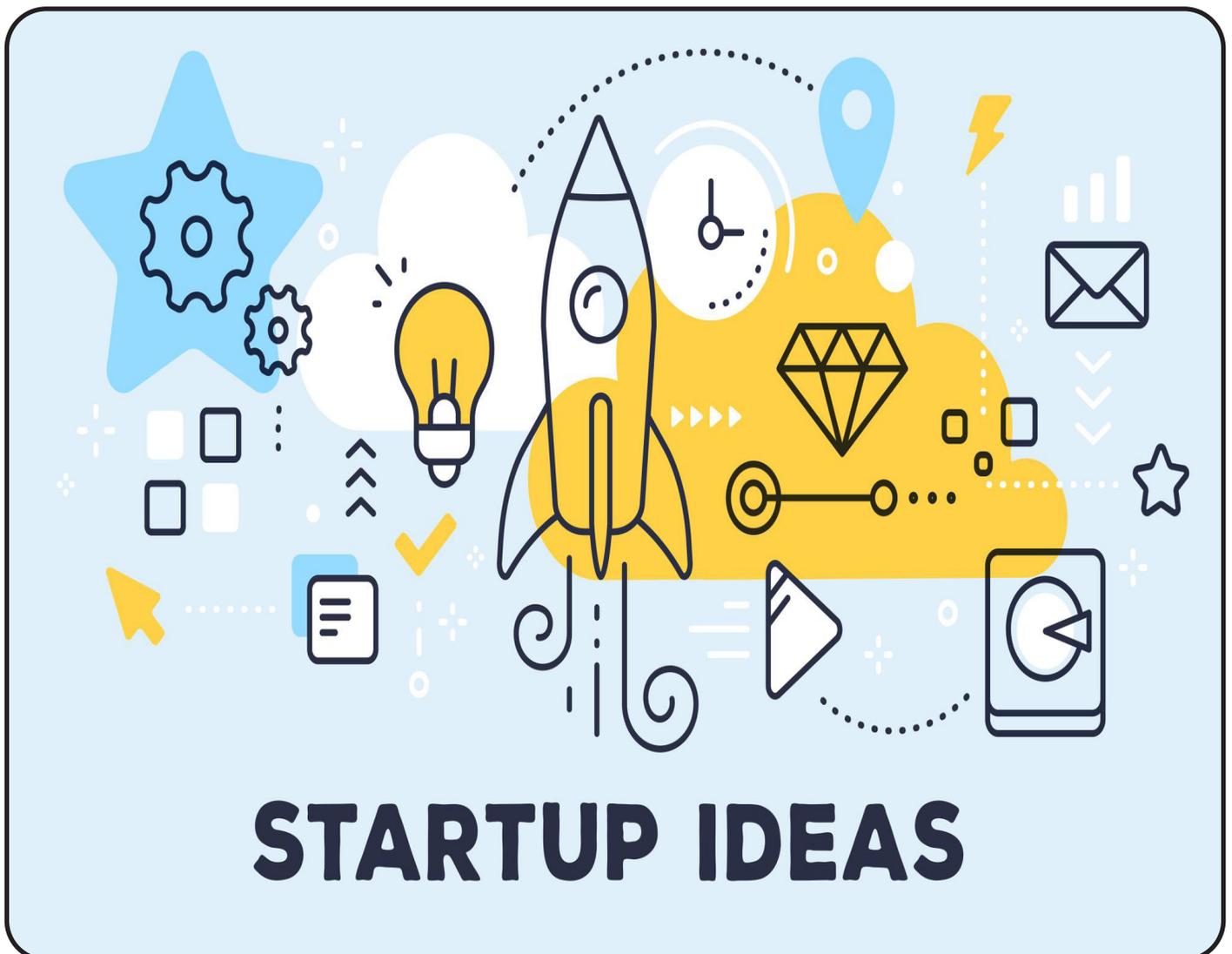
Why Commerce Students Should Not Feel Left out

Let's be honest, sometimes it feels like engineers own the startup scene. But no business runs on code alone. Money, strategy, compliance, and customers — these are our domains.

Next time someone says startups are for techies, just smile and say:

"Cool. But who is going to manage their money?"

Commerce isn't just about ledgers and balance sheets. It is about building, scaling, and owning ideas. The startup wave is here. The question is: **are you ready to ride it?**



BEYOND THE ALGORITHM : YOUR BRAIN – STILL AI'S ULTIMATE UPGRADE**DR. PROMITA MUKHERJEE****ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, NEW ALIPORE COLLEGE**

We all remember when we thought learning to code or Photoshop would guarantee a brilliant career, right? Fast forward to now, and we have a new wizard in town: Artificial Intelligence. And now the skills that were supposed to deliver prosperity feel... well, automatable. AI can now outwrite code warriors, dream up dazzling scenes and even cook up techie marketing plans in less time than you can say 'digital revolution'.

Makes you wonder, "What's left for us mere mortals?" If a computer can design, write, and publish an equally captivating article in minutes, then are we really that intelligent ourselves? Absolutely not. In fact, in this next-level AI-saturated world, your human intelligence isn't just key; it's positively critical. It's the secret sauce, the maestro of the digital orchestra, the special something that brings algorithms to life.

Here is the cold, hard truth: A.I. does not understand. It processes, predicts, and generates. Real knowledge, informed judgment, moral reasoning and true innovation? Those are still in your bright, squishy human brain. And let's face it: in a world where routine is the domain of AI, there's no place for mediocrity anymore. You can't just learn by doing, not if you don't understand the why behind the what. Without a deep core of understanding, you are just pressing buttons while the AI leads itself.

The Algorithm Whisperers : Why Maths and Stats Are Your New Superpower

AI can code and build applications. Amazing! However, when that code goes off the rails or produces something you were not expecting, you are left to interpret it. You are debugging and optimising and, quite often, entirely reimagining the output of the AI for a human need. This is when subjects like statistics and mathematics become your best friends. Knowing statistical distributions lets you identify biases in the AI-generated data.

Understanding algorithms enables you to debug things too. It is the process of separating signal from noise, of making sense of a lot of digital gibberish and discovering which probabilities underlie an artificial intelligence's 'choices'. You cannot just 'learn by doing' for the fundamentals; you have to know them. It is really your ability to interpret, analyse, and make sound decisions on AI-generated output that makes you valuable. Mediocrity, in this case, is not being able to also read the AI's mind and making yourself obsolete.

The Architect of Tomorrow : Economics, Finance, and True Strategy

AI can process market data with ease, identify trends or even execute sophisticated regression models, so it forecasts futures in the blink of an eye. But it absolutely cannot design the business-wide policies and strategic paradigms that can make use of this data in earnest. This is where being a finance/economics whiz comes in handy. AI can inform you that sales are down, but it can't articulate why, or clearly map out the right response — say, launching a new ad campaign or revamping your supply chain. That's the job of the economist: To interpret AI's raw output, to communicate it clearly, to design actionable policies and — crucially — to point out where the AI model may be in error. This judgment, this instinctual grasp of market and financial dynamics, is a skill that AI cannot replace.

The Unseen Hand : Understanding Preferences and Crafting Experience

AI can whip up showstopping graphics for a product unveiling in seconds. And here's the big question: which design really cuts through with the target audience, reflects brand values and speaks to the human soul? This takes more than an algorithm — it needs human psychology, cultural subtlety and aesthetic judgment. AI can make a flyer, but how it's laid out and the visual choices need to come from understanding who that audience is, what imagery or colours will actually capture them. This is a judgment that depends on a deep understanding of the social sciences.

Sociology is useful for understanding group behaviour and cultural norms. History explains both symbols and narratives. Political science tells us about popular behaviour, and cultural studies decode the small customs of villages. But unless there's deep human understanding behind it, AI art is just pretty pixels — and your position becomes easily replaceable.

The Authentic Voice : Language, Lies, and the Human Touch

AI can churn out prose that sounds like it was written by a lit giant. But there's one catch: the digital universe is teeming with AI checkers engineered to separate the robot-penned from the human-stylus. And though AI apes how we write, it struggles to capture the authenticity and a true voice that makes human writing resonate.

This is why proficiency in language is not just about grammar but it is about the art of talking! It's about a nuanced understanding of rhetoric, narrative and emotional intelligence. You have to master the subtle patterns of AI-generated text — not just to avoid detection but to transcend it, to imbue your work with actual insight and human empathy. That you can use language with an edge and music in your prose is going to rise above that babble of the algorithm.

The True Thinker : Intellectual Superiority, Not Just Information

AI does the 'manual work' of the brain — such as coding, writing and designing. But the actual thinking, the difficult intellectual heavy lifting, is still your job. In this AI-assisted world, being the smartest is not just a bonus; it's a survival trait. And while AI can churn through data in milliseconds, real intellect — cogent reasoning, creative problem-solving and dynamic learning — is a human resource. You need to question AI output, find its biases and ultimately make it better. Your brain, the 'prompt engineer' par excellence when it comes to designing the future. But mediocrity has no home here, because if you're not really thinking, AI will just outperform your 'doing'.

Sharpen Your Sword : Intelligence, Your Ultimate Weapon :

In this new, bold world, the power of intelligence is all that matters. It's not memorising facts (AI has us beat there) but the application of knowledge and the connection of ideas, critical thinking, solving novel problems and innovating beyond algorithms. This is not a static gift, it is a talent exercised by wide reading across all the core subjects such as economics and finance, mathematics, statistics, languages and social science — but of course also about their utilisation in decision-making. These are the foundational disciplines that help you create the mental framework to ask good questions, see AI's weaknesses and guide technology toward actually valuable ends. So, embrace learning with gusto. Dive deep into core subjects. Once everything can be automated, your human intelligence — armed with curiosity and critical thought — will still serve as the irreplaceable engine of progress. Turn your brain into your greatest asset and you won't just survive the future: you can joyously invent it.



A Spatial Temporal Analysis of Migration in India

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Migration is defined as the movement of persons from their home state to another state and country for various reasons. Today, an estimated 314.5 million persons are multiple reasons in a country other than their country of birth. Some reasons for migration contribute to the growth and development in their countries and destination, while countries of origin greatly benefit from their remittances and the skills acquired during their migration experience. Yet, the migration process implies complex challenges in terms of governance of migrant workers, female migrants and other migrant protection, migration and development linkages and international cooperation. In India, the migration is mostly influenced by social structure and patterns of development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into focus the age-old problem of the vulnerability of the migrant population worldwide. The topic is the analysis of interstate migration, internal migration, causes of migration, and migration at the megacity level. The details of the hardship of migrant workers in the COVID-19 situation and the major issues of migration have been discussed. The pandemic led to the loss of employment, starvation and reverse migration. The responses of the central and state governments and non-governmental organisations could not prevent the death of migrant workers due to starvation, exhaustion, accidents and inaccessibility. Because internal migration provides better employment opportunities, to provide better working and living conditions, decent wages, favourable terms and conditions of work, security, and a safety net in the destination areas for the migration population.

In the present-day contest, Migration during lockdown is very significant and influences matter as a whole. According to India, West Bengal, as well as Kolkata, is one of the main roots or sources of various types of migration. Kolkata is the capital of West Bengal and it has an overall connection to all other districts of West Bengal. Many observations, various data and sufficient, relevant information led me to choose this site and which really helped/convincing me to complete the study. West Bengal is situated on the eastern side, India.

Latitude and Longitude of West Bengal are 23°00'N and 87°00'E. According 2001 census, West Bengal is the fourth most populous state in India. The state is bounded by Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal. The capital of the state is Kolkata. In this state, different cultures and heritages are observed. People of different religions live in West Bengal. Large no of Hindus and Muslims are observed here. Hindus are 70.54% and Muslims are 27.01% and others are as per the 2001 census. Others are included, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Sikh and tribal communities.

The Government of India confirmed India's first case of coronavirus disease 2019 on 30 th January 2020 of Kerala, when a university student from Wuhan travelled back to the State. As the number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases closed 500, the Prime Minister on 19th March, asked all citizens to observe 'Janata Curfew' on Sunday, 22nd March.

At the end of the curfew, the Prime Minister. stated 'Janata Curfew' is just the beginning of a long battle against COVID-19. Following this, while addressing the nation second time on 24th March, he announced the nationwide lockdown from midnight of the day for a period of 21 days and in this way it would continue.

Migration is one of the worst impacts of the lockdown. With the closing of factories, workplaces and study places shut down, millions of Migrants had to deal with the loss of income, food shortage and certainty about their future. Although they were stuck in their workplaces and could not come back to their home. Migrants, especially short-term migrant workers, the most vulnerable section of the workforce, had to face starvation.

The absence of income and food and the threat of the virus, forced the majority of the migrants to walk long distances to their native places. Adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines and maintaining social distancing had not been responsible in most cases of this exodus because the migrants travelled together in a truck or van as they wanted to go back to their own villages rather than struggle in the city. They had to face many hardships and hindrances at interstate borders. Many migrant workers died because of exhaustion and accidents during the process of reverse migration. Arrangements were made by the government to provide shelter and food to these migrants. Later, special trains such as the 'Shramik Special' were started to provide transport facilities to the migrants.

It is needless to mention here that the COVID-19 situation had a devastating impact on different sectors and in different regions of the economy. Some industry-specific and region-specific surveys have been conducted to capture the impact.

The government has undertaken several measures to facilitate the return of migrant workers to their homes. One of these measures is migrant workers' return registration. This scheme intends to count the number of daily labourers and migrant workers who got stuck in other states. The scheme also tries to provide them with 14 days of quarantine facilities and arrangements after they reach their hometowns. State governments have also launched their portals and accumulated the data of daily labourers and migrant workers so that they can be shifted to their hometowns easily.

However, in many cases, the measures taken by the government could not produce the expected outcomes, as many of the migrants had been compelled to leave the cities because of their lack of income to sustain themselves and fear of the disease. It has also been observed in many states that the exodus of people resulted in negative externalities on other uninfected people.

'A Doll's House'



As a child, I was very fond of dolls. Ma knew it well. She not only brought me many pretty dolls but also gifted me with accessories for my special doll family. My nine daughters and the one pampered son meant the world to me.

The eldest of them was named after my sister. She wore a pretty red frock and her hair was golden brown. Then there were Cinderella, Goldilocks, Padmini, Tuntuni, Kaushalya, Minnie, Alice and of course Sarashi, my favourite child.

If I remember it right Sarashi, the fashionable one of all my dolls, had a different name until Sunday, my parents took me along to watch the Soumitro-Tanuja starrer, Tin Bhuboner Paare. I was barely six years old then and could hardly understand any dialogue of the film, but got fascinated by pretty Sarashi, played by gorgeous Tanuja and never could exactly come to terms with the fact that she was being scolded so much by her parents and her elder brother. Her fault in the plot of the movie was that she had chosen the wrong man. I was then too young to know that such follies are hardly forgiven in this world.

The only boy child in my doll family had the privilege of having two names, Debdulal, the official name and Saheb, the pet one, in a true



Prof. Champa Srinivasan

*Faculty, The Bhawanipur
Education Society College*

Bengali style. It was my Thakuma, I think, who started calling him Saheb. I wanted to call him Debdulal and nothing else, as I was simply fascinated by the Akashbani newsreader, with whom I was acquainted only through his voice and in my imagination, he looked exactly like my Saheb.

My doll family could not prosper and flourish as they did without the support of my parents of course. Ma would get clothes stitched for her grandkids by the local tailor during every Durga Pujo, and I would pester her to knit woollens for them during the Christmas break. The usual place for the dolls to sleep was one corner of my grandmother's

huge four-poster bed, but as my family started getting bigger and my Thakuma older, she needed more space and rest, both, so Baba ordered and bought me a small cot from the carpenters, where nine sisters and their only brother had to sleep almost over one another. A tiny almirah for them and also a small dressing table stand with a mirror fixed on it, followed.

Celebrating dolls' birthdays was one of my favourite games, and a couple of times after returning home from wedding ceremonies, I had also married them off. I would invite the neighbourhood kids without my parents' knowledge in the afternoon and make the maids fry coin-sized luchis and potato fritters for my guests. A couple of times, I did tear off Ma's sarees to drape the doll bride, I admit. My happiest day was when Ma came home from work with a netted red veil and gifted it to me, saying that it was for my next doll bride.

I was their mother and teacher too in my happy doll family, and I loved teaching them how to sing and dance as much as I did, feeding them or dressing them up. All my dolls knew to sing 'Abide with me; fast falls the eventide', the hymn song of my kindergarten days. They also knew to dance with Tagore's 'Kharobayu

boi beghe' and 'Megher kole rowd hesheche', two of my childhood favourite songs. The two maids who lived with us and my grandmother were forced day after day to abandon their favourite afternoon siesta and be the audience of all the musical programmes, where it was I, who would actually sing and dance, on behalf of my protégés.

My domestic life with my dolls was filled up with nothing but bliss until I had to join a bigger school, which kept me away from home for the whole afternoon. Homework and preparations for daily class tests kept me busy in the evenings too, and slowly, I started neglecting my children. I would still play with them only during the weekends, but somehow that old charm was gone, and no more new clothes were stitched for them; their birthdays were not celebrated. The dolls mostly remained sleeping all day, getting dirtier and discoloured.

Then, after a few months or was it a couple of years, I don't remember it well, one day I came home to see that my dolls' furniture had been dismantled. I howled and cried. The maids consoled. "The room needed to be cleaned", they said, "that cot and the almirah were unnecessarily occupying a huge space."

I could not wait for my parents to come back home. I believed that they would again put everything back in place. In the evening, when they saw my tear-laden face and heard from the maids that I had not eaten my lunch, they were surprised.

"You have to do well in class, study more. You do not have time for putulkhela any more, why hold on to the clutter", Ma apologetically explained.

"And why should you cry so much and not eat? It was a Khela Ghor (doll's house) after all", my father sounded surprisingly firm.

I was hurt. I did not cry again, just kept quiet. Little did I know that day that every phase in this life comes with an expiry date, and each of these phases is nothing but a putulkhela for us.





SOLARPUNK :

Imagining Green Futures through Fiction and Innovation



If the future looked like a lush garden city, run on clean energy and creativity, wouldn't you want to live there? Welcome to the world of Solarpunk, where art, activism, architecture, and fiction come together to imagine—and build—a planet in harmony with nature. This isn't your typical sci-fi dystopia; it's a hopeful blueprint, and it's growing right now.

What is Solarpunk?

In an age overshadowed by climate change, rising pollution, and global uncertainty, a new cultural and literary movement has emerged, offering a refreshing alternative to dystopian despair. This movement is called Solarpunk. Solarpunk is both a genre of speculative fiction and a cultural philosophy. It imagines a world where humans live in harmony with the environment, relying on renewable energy, sustainable technology, and community-based living. Unlike the dark, technology-dominated worlds of cyberpunk, Solarpunk imagines a future powered by renewable energy and guided by principles of sustainability, equity, and hope.

At its core, Solarpunk is not just a literary genre but also a philosophy of living. It envisions cities covered in greenery, powered by solar panels and wind turbines, with



Prof. Moumita Dutta

Faculty, The Bhawanipur Education Society College

communities that value cooperation over exploitation. Stories within this genre combine science fiction with real-world ecological and social solutions, showing how human creativity and technology can coexist with the planet's well-being.

Solarpunk writings like *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers have directly sparked and inspired real-life sustainable projects and community movements by providing hopeful visions of technology and nature working together, rather than at odds. Chambers' novella, set in a gentle future where humans have retreated from over-industrialisation

and coexist harmoniously in green enclaves, showcases everyday renewable technology, pedal-powered vehicles, green roofs, tea rituals, and cob houses. These atmospheric details have become creative touchstones for urban planners, architects, and grassroots groups aiming to rethink cities and neighbourhoods.

The Solarpunk anthologies *Glass and Gardens: Solarpunk Summers* and *Glass and Gardens: Solarpunk Winters*, by Sarena Ulibarri, envision solar-powered skyscrapers clad in gardens and glass that optimise passive heating and lighting, inspiring architects and urban planners to design buildings with living walls, solar glass panels, and rooftop farms that combat heat and increase food production in cities.

Winter-focused stories explore ecosystem protection in harsh climates, such as safeguarding the Arctic species and preserving ecosystems under glass domes, which have inspired climate refuges, bio-domes, and resilient infrastructure projects in extreme environments.

Although Solarpunk began as a creative genre, it has already begun to influence the real world. Eco-villages, community farming projects, urban vertical gardens, and

renewable energy initiatives reflect the very principles that Solarpunk envisions. Around the globe, young innovators, activists, and environmentalists are taking inspiration from these ideas to design more sustainable futures. Think 'vertical forests', neighbourhood solar grids, and community composting — all originally dreamt up in stories and now appearing in city plans.

Some of the Green Dreams, Real Projects are :

Imagine skyscrapers wrapped in trees! Milan's Bosco Verticale is a 'vertical forest' with over hundred plant species growing up its high-rise façade — absorbing CO₂, buffering heat, and making city living healthier.

Jewel Changi Airport, Singapore

A waterfall thunders beneath a glass dome surrounded by gardens. This landmark blends futuristic design and nature, delighting millions of travellers while reminding us that public spaces can be both breathtaking and sustainable.

The Origin by 360 Life, Hyderabad

The vertical forest project in Hyderabad is called The Origin, a residential development in the Hi-Tech City featuring extensive vertical gardens and more than 1,000 trees integrated into the structure to promote sustainable living and biodiversity. Although the project aimed to be India's first, construction was put on hold in late August 2025 by the Telangana high court.

Suzlon One Earth, Pune

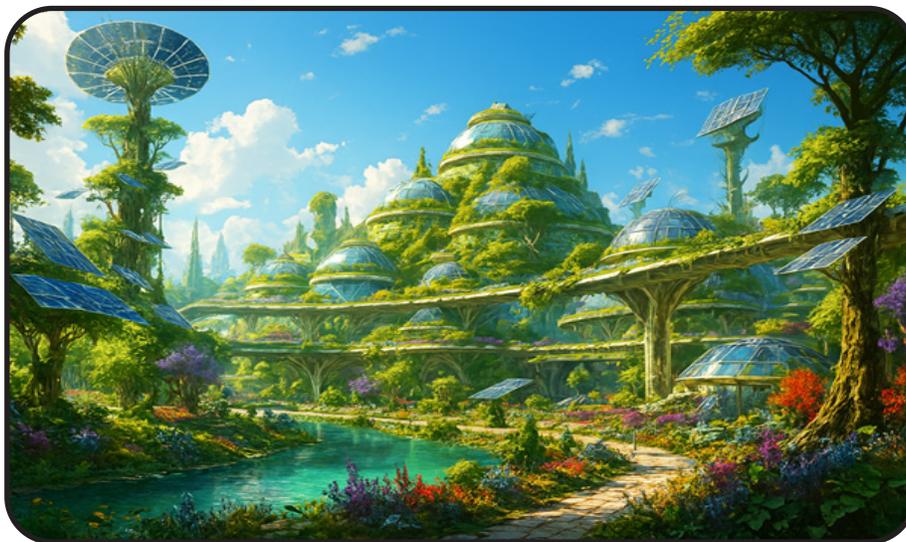
Suzlon Energy Limited, a world-leading wind energy company based in Pune, set out to create the greenest office in India. True to its motto, 'Powering a Greener Tomorrow', the project, made exclusive use of non-toxic and recycled materials, reflecting a deep commitment to sustainability in both design and practice.

The Bhawanipur Education Society College, Kolkata

In fact, our college has embraced 'Solarpunk' principles in its very architecture. The vertical garden located behind the canteen stands as a beautiful example of this vision, blending sustainability with aesthetics. It not only enhances the environment but also reflects the hope-driven future that Solarpunk imagines.

Solarpunk fosters a sense of hope. At a time when conversations about the future is dominated by fear — be it climate catastrophe or technological collapse — Solarpunk dares to ask: What if we succeed? What if we build a just, green, and thriving world? This optimism inspires readers, innovators, and activists to rethink their roles in shaping tomorrow.

In conclusion, Solarpunk is both a vision and a movement. Through its stories and ideas, it challenges us to believe in a sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful future. By blending fiction with innovation, Solarpunk reminds us that the future is not just something we inherit — it is something we can design.



A vibrant, eco-utopian, Solarpunk cityscape

'We have the tools and the talent. All we need now is the will', is how the Solarpunk manifesto reads.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN INDIA :

Evolution, Impact and Future Directions

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India has undergone a significant transformation over the past decade, shifting from traditional philanthropy to a structured, legislated approach that places companies at the centre of national development. With the introduction of Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, India became the first country to mandate CSR spending for qualifying companies. This shift sparked a new era of corporate citizenship — one where businesses are expected not only to generate profits but also to contribute meaningfully to the social and environmental landscape around them.

In this study, we explore how CSR in India works, what companies are actually doing on the ground, how spending patterns have evolved and what the future holds for this ambitious experiment in legislated responsibility.

1. India's CSR Moment : From Giving Back to Building Forward :

CSR in India has matured from goodwill to structured governance. Under the Companies Act, firms crossing thresholds for net worth, turnover, or profits must spend at least 2% of their average net earnings on eligible social impact projects. Whether it's improving



Dr. Kaushik Banerjee

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schools, supporting healthcare, cleaning water bodies, or promoting sports, CSR has become a national tool for inclusive growth.

Companies must form a CSR Committee, create a CSR policy and report progress annually. This has brought unprecedented transparency and accountability to corporate giving.

2. Where the Money Goes : Education, Health and Beyond :

CSR spending has grown steadily since 2014, crossing tens of thousands of crores cumulatively. And yet, the spending is far from

evenly distributed. A few states - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi - receive a bulk of funding, the main reason being that Companies tend to invest in areas where they operate.

Meanwhile, less industrialized regions continue to receive smaller shares, raising questions about equity and inclusiveness. Below is a visual representation of CSR spending across key Indian states. CSR allocations clustering in industrially developed states in India Sector-wise, education and healthcare dominate India's CSR map. These areas provide high visibility and measurable outcomes, making them popular choices. Environmental sustainability, rural development and livelihood generation are also on the rise, especially as climate resilience and sustainability take centre stage globally.

3. Big Players - Big Responsibilities :

India's top CSR contributors invest across a wide spectrum of initiatives:

- HDFC Bank focuses on rural development, education, and financial literacy.
- Reliance Industries invest heavily in healthcare, digital literacy and rural transformation.
- TCS leads in digital education and technology-driven community programs.



Microfinance in West Bengal

Across West Bengal's heartlands, microfinance is rewriting the script of rural life. What began as small credit initiatives now fuels women-led enterprises, education, and economic independence. These are not just borrowers — they are dreamers, risk-takers, and entrepreneurs stitching together a stronger, more self-reliant Bengal.

Microfinance in West Bengal is not just a financial program; it is a force that intertwines tales of determination, hope, and struggle across thousands of households. As the rhythm of rural life adapts to changing times, small financial interventions have quietly but steadily transformed lives, especially in the hands of women who now shape their destinies with the agency long denied them.

West Bengal stands among the top five Indian states for microfinancing, with millions of active borrowers and a thriving network of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and micro-enterprises. At the end of FY 2024-25, India's microfinance sector maintained an active client base of 8.28 crore and a loan outstanding of ₹ 3,81,225 crore, with West Bengal showing resilience in portfolio size despite downturns elsewhere. More than 91% of these loans go directly into income-generating activities, making the system a crucial



Dr. Uzma Khan

Assistant Professor, The Bhawanipur Education Society College

support for families — bricklayers, agricultural workers, and artisans — seeking a platform for self-reliance instead of subsistence.

Each number in Bengal's microfinance tapestry reflects a deeply personal struggle. An artisan once faced a broken loom and fading prospects, her livelihood hanging by a thread. A timely ₹ 30,000 loan from a microfinance institution changed everything — it allowed her to repair the loom, buy raw materials, and take on larger orders. With renewed purpose, she began earning a steady income while preserving the delicate art of Jamdani saree weaving.

Her success inspired other women in her neighbourhood to follow her path, turning one act of courage into a wave of community empowerment. In a village of West Bengal, a mother faced a similar crossroads. She too secured a ₹ 30,000 microfinance loan, initially to cover urgent medical expenses. As her fears eased, she saw an opportunity waiting in her own hands. With the remaining funds, she purchased handloom equipment and started a small saree-making unit at home. Her husband soon joined her, and their household income rose from sporadic daily wages to ₹ 4,000 a week. Today, their children attend school, and their revived craft sustains both income and pride. Elsewhere, a handloom unit owner nearly lost her business during the pandemic lockdown, but an emergency microloan helped her keep the workshop alive through uncertainty. By adapting to challenges and continuing production, she stabilised her family's income and proved how microfinance can sustain not just livelihoods but dreams — offering resilience and dignity even at the edge of adversity.

Each of these stories is more than financial; behind every loan stand anxiety and aspiration. Borrowers face pressure to repay, must manage weekly collections, and sometimes

juggle multiple loans, making their achievements all the more remarkable. Despite greater scrutiny and new rules ensuring responsible lending, families continue to trust microfinance as their lifeline.

While Bengal's microfinance story is filled with visions of progress, it is not without its shadows. Loan delinquencies surged by 163% between 2024 and 2025 nationwide, as income uncertainties and multiple loan exposures strained repayment abilities for many. West Bengal, however, bucked these national trends in some respects, reporting a modest quarterly rise in microfinance portfolios when other key states saw a downturn. But anxiety endures: the emotional impact on borrowers shouldering multiple debts often tempers hope with worry, especially where multi-lender relationships are high — over 22% of Bengal borrowers holding four or more active loans.

The heart of Bengal's microfinance movement beats strongest among its women: 97% of MFI borrowers nationwide are women, a pattern observed keenly in West Bengal. These financial interventions empower local women to lead cooperatives, revive traditional crafts, and build savings groups that model financial discipline and social solidarity. Nowhere is the impact more profound than among self-help groups, whose outreach has grown steadily, connecting nearly 85 lakh SHGs and touching over 17 crore households on a national scale.

West Bengal's microfinance sector faces unique hurdles: rising debt burdens, greater regulatory scrutiny,

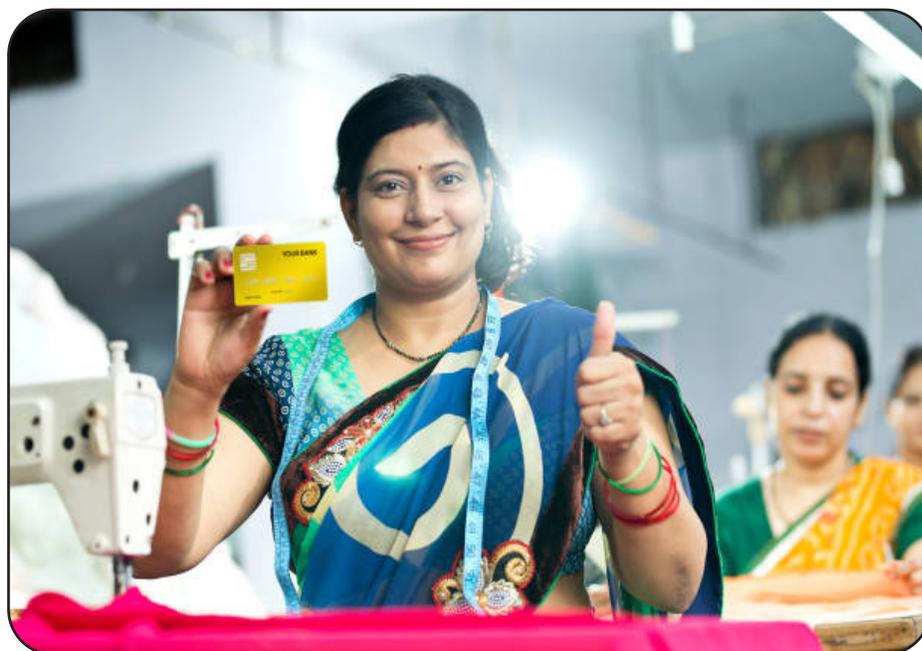
and the emotional toll of uncertainty on borrowers. Guardrails introduced by the Reserve Bank of India and self-regulatory organisations in recent years have aimed to counter overleveraging, shaping a more stable future for both microfinance institutions and their clients.

Even amidst industry churn, microfinance remains a cornerstone of social uplift, encouraging entrepreneurship, funding education, and empowering the most marginalised actors in rural economies. West Bengal remains a bright spot in India's microfinance landscape, with a modest recent rise in portfolio size, even as nationwide figures contract. Regulatory scrutiny is driving institutions to adopt quality-focused lending and better collection practices, making the system more resilient and ethical. Active client bases thrive, and innovations in training and skill development are expanding the impact, encouraging borrowers to become entrepreneurs rather than mere survivors.

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The heart of Bengal's microfinance movement beats strongest among its women: 97% of MFI borrowers nationwide are women, a pattern observed keenly in West Bengal.

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Lessons in Leadership :

Women Entrepreneurs in Our Faculty



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To teach is to plant ideas. To build a business is to grow it. Let us take a peek into the Commerce Morning staffroom for a conversation with our women entrepreneurs!

Prof. Nazneen Alam

Faculty, The Bharwanipur Education Society College

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In a world where knowledge fuels innovation, some educators are not just teaching about change; they're creating it. At the intersection of academia and entrepreneurship, several women professors from our department are breaking traditional moulds, transforming their theoretical expertise into impactful ventures. Balancing lectures with leadership and classrooms with companies, these inspiring women prove that entrepreneurship is not a step away from education, but an extension of it. Let us explore the journeys of the professor-entrepreneurs of our very own BESC family.

What motivates them? What challenges them? And how can we all learn from the powerful example they set for the next generation of thinkers and doers?



Prof. Moumita Dutta

Prof. Moumita Dutta, Co-founder and Director,

Cha Culture India Ventures Pvt. Ltd.

Q: How do you measure the impact of your work — both in the classroom and in the market?

As the director of Cha Culture India Ventures Pvt. Ltd and as a professor in college, my work straddles two worlds, entrepreneurship and education. I believe both are guided by the same principle: creating positive change in people's lives. At Cha Culture, impact is not just about revenue or outlet expansion. With 29 cafés across Bengal, our focus is on health, taste, and lifestyle transformation. I measure impact through regular customer feedback and loyalty. Seeing customers shift from fried and oily foods to healthier alternatives validates our mission. As a professor, my classroom is another space where every day I learn and seek transformation, student engagement and active discussion. Students' feedback also helps me evolve.

Q: What are the most valuable lessons you have learned juggling these two paths?

My day begins at 5 a.m. and often stretches till 10 p.m., as I juggle the two worlds of entrepreneurship and academia. Each day brings with it new challenges, fresh learnings, moments of success, and at times, setbacks too. But what this journey has truly taught me is that when you push yourself — and push hard — you begin to realise the immense potential that lies within you. Balancing both professions has shown me that growth happens at the edge of comfort, and that perseverance unlocks strengths you never knew you had.



Prof. Vanita Sharma

Prof. Vanita Sharma, Co-founder and CFO, Two Pi Aar.

Q: What inspired you to pursue entrepreneurship alongside your academic career?

My inspiration stemmed from two key factors. First, I come from a family deeply rooted in business, where entrepreneurship has always been a way of life. This background naturally instilled in me the drive to create and manage something of my own. Second, as an academic, I felt a strong desire to translate theoretical knowledge into practical application. Entrepreneurship provided me with the perfect platform to bridge this gap, where I could carry forward a legacy of business acumen while also bringing academic insights to life in real-world contexts.

Q: What advice would you give to young women looking to pursue careers in both academics and business?

My advice would be: don't let the fear of "doing too much" hold you back. Women often juggle multiple responsibilities, and that ability can become your strength in managing both academics and business. Build a strong support system, stay disciplined, and most importantly, trust your vision. Challenges will come, but if you see academia as your foundation and entrepreneurship as your playground, the two will complement each other beautifully.



Prof. Urvi Shukla

Prof. Urvi Shukla, Proprietor, AND EDUCATION

Q: Were there any early experiences that shaped your interest in starting your own business?

Yes, my early experiences as a student leader and later as an educator shaped my entrepreneurial journey. While leading academic and cultural initiatives, I realised the power of structured guidance, mentorship, and innovative teaching methods in transforming young minds. In my initial career journey as a school teacher at Ashok Hall Girls' Higher Secondary School, I recognised the gaps between students and their dream

careers. It was during that time that I upskilled myself as an International Certified Career Coach from NCDA (National Career Development Association) followed by becoming a trained Certified Career Service Provider. Thus, with the thought of providing the "Best Fit Career for Each", I started my entrepreneurial journey to empower students in their holistic development. These experiences inspired me to establish my own venture to extend learning beyond traditional classrooms. Today I am a lecturer at The Bhawanipur Education Society College and that has added a feather in my cap, continuing my journey as an academician and an entrepreneur.

Q: What gap or problem does your venture address, and how did you identify it?

The biggest gap I observed was the lack of awareness and personalised educational support that bridges academic knowledge with real-world skills. Many students excel in theory but struggle with practical applications, confidence, and career readiness. Through years of teaching and mentoring, I identified a need to build 'AND EDUCATION' as a platform to provide curated learning experiences, psychometric assessment, career planning, admission and application for India and Overseas, skill development, and mentorship. Thus, ensuring that learners are not only academically competent but also future-ready.





Prof. Ipsita Chatterjee

Prof. Ipsita Chatterjee, Operational Head, M/S Dibakar Chatterjee

Q: Have your roles as an entrepreneur and a professor influenced each other in unexpected ways?

The interaction between my academic and entrepreneurial roles is ever-changing and multifaceted. Entrepreneurs who also teach can vouch that their business experience brings practical relevance to academic content. Teaching, in turn, prompts entrepreneurs to reflect on foundational ideas, stay intellectually curious, and remain attentive to emerging trends. Teaching gives a sense of control and expertise over subject matter. However, entrepreneurs need to gain control over all odds, and that too under trying circumstances. Both roles come with their own set of challenges and require a deep sense of responsibility.

Q: What are you most proud of in your dual journey as a scholar and entrepreneur?

Scholars have their moments of pride embedded in the success of those they teach. Entrepreneurs lead, learn, as well as empower others to take paths less travelled. Both roles have made me patient and indulgent while dealing with students as well as employees. As an entrepreneur, I feel pride when I see the employees develop a growth mindset. I have experienced growing consistency and discipline as an individual while dealing with both roles.



Prof. Sakshi Shaw

Prof. Sakshi Shaw, Additional Director, Popski Land Pvt Ltd.

Q: How has your academic expertise helped shape your business strategy?

Being a teacher of marketing, I used to come across multiple business ideas in the classroom during class discussions. While explaining sponsorship and SWOT analysis to students, it occurred to me: why not apply this in real life? Thus, academic know-how helped me a lot with whatever I have done as an entrepreneur in the last year.

Q: How do you approach leadership in your company compared to how you mentor students or lead academic projects?

As a leader in the company, I like to include every employee in all discussions, so that we can get multiple ideas and solutions. In the classroom as well, I try to do the same. If a student can help another with understanding a concept or performing a part of a project, I always appreciate and encourage teamwork.



Prof. Swapna Saha

Prof. Swapna Saha, Joint Licensee, Khalashitola Liquor Shop

Q: What came first for you — the professor or the entrepreneur role?

The role of professor came first. After my husband's demise, I became the co-partner of the shop.

Q: Have you encountered any unique challenges as a woman in both academics and entrepreneurship?

Yes, I have encountered unique challenges in both professions. I started my career as a professor when I was around 38 years old, so my challenge was to prove myself. I updated my knowledge attending classes with young students for my professional degree. As a co-partner in my shop, I handled customers during the COVID period.



Prof. Forum Shah

Prof. Forum Shah, Business Strategist and Operational Head, Paras Traders.

Q: How did you balance the demands of running a business with your responsibilities as a student pursuing postgraduation in Economics?

After graduating in Economics, I joined my father's pharmaceutical business. Working in this space as a woman brought its own challenges, but over time, I became the face of the business. My learning came from everywhere: the stockroom, supplier calls, and conversations with doctors. Alongside, I pursued my Master's, often studying between dispatches. Balancing entrepreneurship with academia was rooted in my

undergraduate years at BESC, where I learned to multitask: topping in Economics while anchoring events, promoting Gujarati literature, and publishing poetry. To students balancing multiple paths: business builds instinct; education builds structure. Balance is not about doing everything at once; it is about being prepared to act when it matters.

Q: How has your business influenced your academic research and teaching pursuits?

What started as a hands-on role in operations soon exposed me to larger questions: why are life-saving medicines unaffordable for many? What explains erratic pricing? Why do policy gaps persist? Slowly, the business became my first classroom in healthcare economics. The more I studied, the more my academic interests aligned with my lived experiences. I didn't need case studies; I had my own. The turning point came when the business had to pause due to an unforeseen crisis and it pushed me to reorient. Qualifying the UGC-NET JRF gave me structure. Health Economics emerged not just as an interest, but as a natural direction. Now, as a professor and researcher, that background shapes how I think and engage. When students struggle with abstract concepts, I bring in real-world examples to help them. My unique perspective helps me make complex ideas more relatable in the classroom. Business sharpened my instincts; academia helped me articulate them. And somewhere between the two, I found clarity, not just about my career, but about the kind of questions I want to ask, teach, and explore.

These women entrepreneurs from our staffroom embody the perfect blend of innovation, leadership, and mentorship. Their dual roles demonstrate how academic expertise can inform entrepreneurial success, while entrepreneurial practice enriches teaching and research. This synergy contributes to a more dynamic model of leadership in both academia and industry.

THE LIGHTNESS OF ABSENCE



Prof. Sankha Acharya

*Faculty, The Bhawanipur
Education Society College*

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*The heaviness
dissolves, and
her loss becomes
lightness - a sky too
vast to hold, and
therefore impossible
to put down.*

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A wound does not heal; it clots. The platelets rush in, sealing the blood as if conspiring with life against death. But a scar is only a reminder that nothing ever returns to its former state. Continuity, yes — but continuity fractured.

Grief obeys the same chemistry. When my sister died, it was not a subtraction, as though one figure had vanished from the stage. It was a rupture. She was not only my younger sister - she was my friend, my confidante, my partner in crime. Her absence now is not the silence of one voice, but the silencing of an entire chorus. It bleeds into everything.

The everyday will now become raw: a reflex to share a joke that will have no destination, a memory that will arrive without anyone left to receive it.

At first, the weight of that gap was unbearable. It pressed on my chest like a boulder. But then something strange happened. The grief, too vast to contain, transformed. A loss so heavy that it became light. What should have pinned me to the ground instead suspended me in mid-air, as if the laws of gravity had been annulled. I was no longer carrying grief; I was floating inside it.

This is the paradox: she is gone, and yet she surrounds me. Her absence is not localised, not a single point of pain, but an atmosphere that fills the whole of life. I breathe it; I live within it. And because it is everywhere, it does not crush — it suspends.

Nietzsche once spoke of eternal return, the unbearable repetition of everything. My grief is the opposite: the unbearable non-return of my sister - the singular event that cannot be repeated, and therefore stretches into infinity.

We call this heaviness. But heaviness is only the first act. In the second, the heaviness dissolves, and her loss becomes lightness - a sky too vast to hold, and therefore impossible to put down.



Beyond Chalk and Blackboard :

Artificial Intelligence in the Next Era of Education



AI as a Driver of Personalised Learning :

One of the most promising aspects of AI in academia is its ability to support personalised learning. In conventional classrooms, teachers often face the challenge of addressing students with vastly different levels of understanding and learning styles. Large class sizes and limited time frequently make it impossible to give every student individualized attention.

AI-powered systems, however, can bridge this gap. Adaptive learning platforms use algorithms to monitor how a student interacts with course material, where they make mistakes, and what pace works best for them. Based on this analysis, the system can deliver customised lessons, practice exercises, or even suggest supplementary resources. A student struggling with mathematics, for example, may receive additional problem sets with step-by-step explanations, while a faster learner can move on to more complex concepts without being held back.

This shift promises not only efficiency but inclusivity. Students with learning disabilities, language barriers, or non-traditional educational backgrounds stand to benefit from tailored approaches that respect their pace and style of



Prof. Souvik Mazumder

*Faculty, The Bhawanipur
Education Society College*

learning. Such personalisation has the potential to reduce dropout rates and increase academic confidence, making education more accessible to diverse populations.

Redefining the Teacher's Role :

The arrival of AI does not signal the end of teachers. Instead, it represents a redefinition of their responsibilities. Teachers have long carried dual roles: transmitters of knowledge and nurturers of human development. With AI taking over repetitive and administrative tasks, educators may increasingly focus on higher-level goals such as

mentoring, cultivating curiosity, and fostering critical thinking.

Routine tasks such as grading multiple-choice exams, recording attendance, or answering frequently asked questions can be delegated to AI systems. This frees educators to spend more time engaging in discussion, encouraging creativity, and building problem-solving skills. In this sense, the teacher of the future may resemble more of a facilitator or coach rather than a lecturer.

However, this model requires investment in teacher training. Educators must learn how to integrate AI tools into their teaching strategies without losing the essential human dimension of education. Professional development programmes will need to emphasize digital literacy, ethical awareness, and the ability to evaluate and interpret AI outputs.

AI in Academic Research :

AI's impact extends beyond teaching and learning; it is also revolutionising research. The vast amounts of data generated in fields such as genomics, astronomy, climate science, and social behaviour require analytical capacities far beyond human abilities. Machine-learning algorithms capable of detecting patterns in massive datasets are helping researchers generate new



hypotheses, confirm theories, and accelerate discoveries.

For instance, AI has been used in medical research to predict disease outbreaks, model protein structures, and identify potential drug candidates. In the social sciences, AI tools analyse large-scale survey data, social-media trends, and economic indicators to generate insights that would otherwise take years to uncover. In the humanities, digital archives equipped with AI-driven search engines enable historians and linguists to examine centuries of documents in a fraction of the time.

Nevertheless, the role of researchers remains indispensable. AI can assist in processing and analysing data, but it cannot replace the human capacity for forming research questions, interpreting findings within broader contexts, and making ethical judgements about the implications of knowledge. Academic inquiry will continue to require the creative and critical faculties of human researchers, with AI serving as a powerful collaborator rather than a replacement.

Ethical and Equity Concerns :

As AI integrates more deeply into academia, ethical concerns become increasingly pressing. A major issue is algorithmic bias. AI systems learn from existing data, which may reflect historical inequalities, stereotypes, or cultural biases. If not carefully monitored, these biases can influence grading systems, admissions decisions, or even academic hiring practices. For example, an AI tool evaluating student essays might unintentionally

penalize non-native English speakers, reinforcing linguistic inequalities.

Another concern is equity of access. Wealthier institutions with advanced infrastructure are likely to benefit from cutting-edge AI tools, while underfunded schools may struggle to keep up. This risks widening the educational gap between privileged and marginalized communities. Governments and educational organizations must work to ensure that AI adoption does not create a two-tier system where only certain groups enjoy its benefits.

Data privacy also emerges as a critical concern. AI-driven platforms often collect large amounts of personal data about students — from performance analytics to behavioural patterns. Without strict safeguards, this information could be misused, sold, or exploited. Academic institutions must therefore develop clear policies regarding data ownership, transparency, and consent.

The Student Experience in the Age of AI :

From the perspective of students, AI promises both opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, automated grading systems provide faster feedback, helping learners correct mistakes and improve performance in real time. Career-counselling tools powered by AI may analyse a student’s strengths, weaknesses, and interests to recommend suitable professions or academic pathways.

AI-driven mental-health support is another area of growth. Chatbots

and virtual counsellors are being developed to offer guidance on stress management, academic planning, and emotional well-being. While these tools cannot replace human therapists, they may help reduce barriers to seeking help by offering accessible, stigma-free support around the clock.

Immersive technologies such as virtual and augmented reality, often powered by AI, can also create engaging learning environments. A biology student could explore the human circulatory system in 3D, while a history student might “visit” ancient civilisations through VR simulations. Such experiences make abstract concepts more tangible and practical, potentially increasing student engagement and retention.

Global Implications of AI in Academia :

AI’s influence is not confined to individual institutions; it has global consequences. Online platforms and AI-enabled translation tools allow learners from different parts of the world to access lectures, research, and resources from prestigious universities. A student in a remote region of Africa or Asia might attend classes delivered by leading professors in the United States or Europe, breaking down barriers of geography and privilege.

This democratisation of knowledge has the potential to reduce global inequalities in education. However, it also raises concerns about cultural homogenisation. If educational content is dominated by material from a few powerful regions or languages, local traditions and perspectives may

be overshadowed. A balanced approach is needed, one that incorporates diverse voices while leveraging the global reach of AI.

Preparing Institutions for the Future :

For AI to have a sustainable impact on academia, institutions must prepare thoughtfully. This means creating policies that define the scope of AI use in classrooms, research, and administration. Ethical guidelines must be established to prevent misuse, while transparency in AI systems should be emphasized to build trust among students and staff.

Governments and educational authorities must also invest in infrastructure, ensuring that schools and universities across socioeconomic backgrounds have access to AI technologies. Without such measures, the digital divide could become even more pronounced.

Curricula must also evolve. AI literacy should become a fundamental component of education, equipping students not only to use AI tools but also to critically evaluate their limitations. Skills such as questioning data sources, identifying algorithmic bias, and interpreting AI-generated outputs will be essential in the academic future.

The Human Dimension in an AI-Driven Academy :

Despite its power, AI cannot replace the human dimension of academia. Education is not merely about transmitting information; it is about nurturing ethical citizens, fostering empathy, and cultivating imagination.

While AI excels at analysing data and providing efficiency, it cannot replicate the moral reasoning, cultural sensitivity, and creativity that humans bring to learning.

The challenge for the future, therefore, is not whether AI will replace humans in academia, but how humans and AI can collaborate effectively. Rather than resisting AI, educators and researchers must embrace it as a partner that enhances, rather than diminishes, the human pursuit of knowledge.

Conclusion :

The academic future shaped by artificial intelligence is complex and multifaceted. On one hand, AI offers personalization, efficiency, global connectivity, and accelerated research. On the other, it presents ethical dilemmas, equity challenges, and risks of over-reliance on technology.

If guided responsibly, AI could create a more inclusive, innovative, and dynamic academic environment where learning is personalised, teachers are empowered, research is accelerated, and students are better supported. But realizing this vision requires careful planning, ethical vigilance, and a firm commitment to ensuring that technology serves human values rather than the other way around.

The story of academia in the coming decades will not be written by machines alone. It will be a narrative of collaboration in which human curiosity and creativity, supported by intelligent technologies, shape the future of education.

“
AI offers personalization, efficiency, global connectivity, and accelerated research. On the other, it presents ethical dilemmas, equity challenges, and risks of over-reliance on technology.
”





GROUP THEATRE : PASSION OR PROFESSION ?



Introduction :

Group theatre has historically stood as one of the most dynamic and intellectually stimulating forms of performance art. Unlike mainstream commercial theatre, which often chases spectacle and box-office returns, group theatre emerged as a counter-movement rooted in collaboration, voluntarism, and cultural consciousness.

Beginning in the early twentieth century and gaining particular momentum in Bengal, India, it was envisioned as a collective endeavour with strong ideological foundations. Over time, however, survival pressures began to reshape its practice. Escalating costs, shifting audience expectations, and the rise of competing media compelled many theatre groups to adopt commercially oriented strategies. While this shift allowed them to survive in a changing cultural environment, it also sparked debate over whether group theatre could retain its original spirit under market pressures.

Origins and Core Ideals :

The term 'group theatre' itself highlights its cooperative nature. Conceived in opposition to celebrity-driven, profit-focused productions, it sought to strip theatre of glamour and redirect attention toward social realities. In India, this vision was



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embodied by the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) in the 1940s, which used performance as a tool to address colonial repression, inequality, and poverty. Later, stalwarts like Sombhu Mitra's Bohurupee and playwrights such as Badal Sircar reinforced the movement's commitment to realism, experimentation, and social critique.

Its guiding principles were clear:

Roles were distributed without privileging stardom.

Performances explored urgent issues — poverty, exploitation, corruption, and injustice.

Productions relied on minimal resources, prioritizing acting and ideas over lavish sets.

Theatre was viewed as a moral and cultural responsibility, not an industry.

Despite meagre financial backing, group theatre thrived for decades, driven largely by voluntary participation and passion.

Pressures of Survival :

Over the years, it became increasingly difficult to sustain this idealistic model. Several forces contributed to the gradual commercial turn:

Financial Constraints – Rising rents, production costs, and the need to provide at least modest support for dedicated actors made ticketed shows and sponsorships necessary.

Changing Audience Expectations – Viewers began demanding sophisticated sound, lighting, and stagecraft, which required larger budgets.

Competition from Mass Media – The spread of cinema, television, and later digital platforms meant theatre had to reinvent itself to retain public attention.

Dependence on Sponsorship – Corporate funding eased financial strain but sometimes imposed restrictions on themes, discouraging overtly political or critical narratives.

Professionalisation – As theatre gradually became a career path rather than a voluntary pursuit, non-remunerative participation became less viable.

Advantages of Commercialisation :

Though often critiqued, commercialisation has also brought undeniable benefits:

Economic Security – Artists could earn livelihoods, reducing burnout and encouraging long-term commitment.

Enhanced Production Values – Larger budgets allowed creative use of lighting, sets, music, and technology, enriching the viewing experience.

Wider Reach – Marketing, digital promotion, and institutional collaborations expanded audiences beyond traditional circles.

Cultural Presence – Commercial models helped theatre maintain relevance in cities where film and television dominated entertainment.

Without some level of commercialisation, group theatre might have faded altogether.

Costs of Commercialisation :

On the flip side, dependence on the market has also reshaped group theatre in troubling ways:

Dilution of Ideological Focus – Politically charged, socially confrontational plays gave way to safer, more entertaining scripts designed to attract larger audiences.

Erosion of Collective Spirit – The original rejection of stardom weakened as celebrity culture re-entered theatre.

Restricted Accessibility – Higher ticket prices and elite patronage distanced theatre from working-class audiences — the very people it once sought to represent.

Decline in Experimentation – Radical forms such as street theatre, minimalist productions, and bold political commentaries were sidelined in favour of ‘market-safe’ options.

Thus, while commercialisation ensured continuity, it simultaneously altered the movement’s foundational character.

Contemporary Scenario : Between Idealism and the Market :

Today, group theatre exists in a blended form. On one hand, large-scale, well-funded productions dominate metropolitan venues; on the other, small collectives continue to experiment with grassroots performances, echoing Badal Sircar’s Third Theatre. Festivals like Bharat Rang Mahotsav and numerous regional gatherings showcase this coexistence, where experimental plays and professionally produced spectacles share the stage.

Digital platforms, online ticketing, and social media have also opened fresh opportunities for outreach, reducing dependency on corporate sponsorship while connecting with younger audiences.

The Path Forward : Finding Balance :

The challenge for group theatre is not whether to engage with commerce, but how much and in what manner. A total rejection of financial models risks collapse, while full surrender to the market undermines artistic integrity. The middle path lies in balance :

Cross-subsidisation – Using revenue from popular shows to support experimental productions.

Community-Based Models – Crowdfunding, neighbourhood performances, and community patronage can reduce reliance on corporate sponsors.

Educational Partnerships – Collaborations with schools and universities can sustain theatre’s role in fostering social awareness.

Integration with Digital Media – Online streaming and archival recordings provide new income sources while broadening reach.

Conscious Preservation of Ethos – Groups must actively safeguard the principles of collectivity, accessibility, and social critique.

Conclusion :

The commercialisation of group theatre is both a lifeline and a challenge. It has kept theatre alive, provided financial stability, and improved production quality, but it has also diluted its original ethos and narrowed its accessibility. What began as a resistance to market-driven entertainment now finds itself negotiating with the very forces it once opposed.

Yet adaptability has always been theatre’s strength. By striking a balance between financial viability and ideological fidelity, group theatre can continue as both an art form and a force for cultural critique. Commercialisation need not mean surrender — it can be reimagined as a tool to sustain the humanistic essence at the heart of theatre.



Mastering Self-Discipline : Practical Practices for Daily Life



Introduction :

“Discipline is the bridge between goals & accomplishment.” - Jim Rohn

Self-discipline is not just about saying ‘no’ to distractions — it is about saying ‘yes’ to your greater purpose. It is what keeps athletes training before dawn, writers typing long after inspiration fades, and entrepreneurs pushing forward through failure.

“He who delights in mindfulness and regards unmindfulness with fear is not liable to fall. He is in the proximity of Nibbāna.” - Dhammapada, Verse 32.

Mindfulness and discipline walk hand in hand towards enlightenment.

Whether you want to build a business, get fit, or grow intellectually, self-discipline is the engine that drives sustainable progress. But how do you actually develop it? Here are practical, real-world strategies you can start today.

1. Start with Clear Goals :

Without direction, discipline becomes a burden rather than a tool. Think of goals as your compass — they guide your actions and remind you why the effort matters.

When Tina decided to write her first novel, her vague goal of “write more” never got her far. Only after setting a specific goal, “Write 500 words



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every morning before work”, did her progress accelerate.

Practice Tips :

- Use the SMART framework: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound.
- Break down goals into bite-sized steps & track them on a weekly basis.
- Post your top 3 goals somewhere visible.

2. Build Daily Routines :

Our lives are shaped not by big decisions, but by the small ones we repeat daily. Discipline thrives in routines.

James Clear, author of Atomic Habits, emphasises that, “You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems.” A simple morning ritual — wake up, stretch, drink water, and plan your day — can set the tone for productivity.

Practice Tips :

- Anchor new habits to existing routines (e.g., after brushing teeth, meditate for 5 minutes).
- Start small — consistency matters more than intensity.
- Automate decisions (meal prep, outfit choices) to reduce decision fatigue.

3. Practice Delayed Gratification :

The ability to delay pleasure is one of the strongest indicators of long-term success.

The famous Marshmallow Test found that children who resisted eating one marshmallow in exchange for two later experienced better life outcomes. The lesson? Waiting pays off.

Practice Tips :

- Apply the 10-minute rule: Wait 10 minutes before indulging in a craving.
- Swap impulse rewards for earned ones. Finish a task, then enjoy your favourite show.

• Journal your temptations and how you respond — it builds awareness and control.

4. Manage Your Environment :

Willpower is limited. But you can make discipline easier by shaping your environment to support it.

Want to read more books? Keep one on your nightstand or install a reading app on your phone's home screen. Want to snack less? Keep junk food out of sight, or out of the house.

Practice Tips :

- Design your workspace for focus: minimal distractions, to-do list visible.
- Use browser blockers (e.g., Freedom, Cold Turkey) during work hours.
- Spend time with disciplined, growth-minded people, energy is contagious.

5. Use Accountability :

Knowing someone else is watching can be the push you need to follow through.

John struggled with his fitness goals — until he found a friend to go running with. Suddenly, skipping a workout wasn't just about letting himself down, but someone else, too.

Practice Tips :

- Share your weekly goals with a friend, coach, or mastermind group.
- Use digital tools like Habitica, StickK, or a Google Sheets habit tracker.
- Post progress updates on social media (if you're comfortable) for public accountability.

6. Embrace Discomfort :

Discipline isn't comfortable, but discomfort is a signal of growth, not failure.

Army officers are trained to become comfortable in discomfort. While most of us won't face combat-level stress, everyday discomfort — waking up early, having hard conversations, sticking to plans — builds the same muscle.

Practice Tips :

- Take a cold shower once a week.
- Choose the harder option once a day: stairs over elevator, focus over scrolling.
- Keep a "Discomfort Journal" where you record moments you pushed through and what you learned.

7. Review and Adjust Regularly :

Progress without reflection leads to burnout or misdirection. Self-discipline needs regular calibration.

Every Sunday, Lisa reviews her past week: what tasks she completed, what she procrastinated on, and what changes to make. It keeps her aligned with her long-term goals while staying flexible.

Practice Tips :

- Weekly review: What did I do well? Where did I slip? What can I adjust?
- Monthly goal check-ins—are you still on the right path?
- Don't fear restarting. Progress isn't linear, and resets are part of the process.

Conclusion :

Self-discipline isn't a switch you flip—it's a skill you train. The more consistently you practice, the easier it becomes. Start small, stay consistent, and remember: every disciplined action is a vote for the person you're becoming.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." – Will Durant (interpreting Aristotle).

"To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind." – Buddha.

Control of the mind is the foundation of personal and social well-being.



The Impact of K-Pop Culture on Indian Youth



Abstract :

The Korean Wave, or Hallyu, which includes K-pop music, K-dramas, Korean fashion, beauty standards, and other cultural exports, has significantly influenced youth culture worldwide. In India, the rise of K-pop has been particularly notable in how young people consume culture, perceive beauty, fashion, aspirations, social identity, and more. This paper examines both positive and negative effects of K-pop culture among Indian youth, outlines mechanisms through which influence occurs, and suggests areas for further research and policy considerations.



Introduction :

Over the past decade, K-pop and other elements of Korean popular culture have become extremely popular in India. Streaming platforms, social media, and greater globalization have made access to Korean music, dramas, and beauty/fashion content much easier. This has led to a wide engagement among Indian youth (roughly those aged 15-30), who are often the earliest adopters of cross-cultural trends.

This paper investigates :

1. What kinds of changes K-pop culture is bringing in terms of identity, behaviours, aesthetics, consumption patterns.



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2. What positive and negative outcomes are resulting.
3. How Indian youth mediate and adapt these influences.
4. What broader implications these may have.

Literature Review :

Some key findings from research so far :

A study “K-Wave in India: Its Impact on Indian Youth” reports that Indian youth influenced by Korean entertainment show changes in fashion choices, beauty routines, cultural consumption, and even education and career preferences.

Research on K-pop fandom & beauty trends among young urban women in Vadodara (Gujarat) found that while beauty ideals are somewhat influenced, there is no wholesale adoption; rather aspects like fashion, self-expression, challenging stereotypes, and developing personality are affected.

Another study “A Study of Cultural Impact of Hallyu (Korean Drama -Netflix) on Indian Viewers” noted an increase during the COVID-19 pandemic in the consumption of Korean dramas, with implications for tastes in storytelling, shift away from traditional soaps, preference for more nuanced narratives.

On the negative side, a comparative study found that exposure to Korean Wave correlates with higher scores on eating disorder risk among adolescents, possibly due to beauty norms.

Mechanisms of Influence :

How K-pop / Korean culture reaches and influences Indian youth :

1. Digital media & streaming platforms - YouTube, Netflix, OTT platforms, social media channels allow rapid access to songs, dramas, behind-the-scenes content. Viral challenges, dance covers spread quickly.

2. Fan culture / community engagement - Fan clubs, fan art, dance covers, fan meetups, online interaction with idol culture help youths feel connected. These communities often share values, aesthetics, language (e.g. adopting Korean words/slang).

3. Fashion and beauty industry - Many youths imitate K-pop idol styles, skincare routines (K-beauty), makeup, minimalism in styling, pastel aesthetics, etc. Companies and brands respond by stocking Korean beauty products in India, influencing local trends.

4. Language & cultural curiosity - Interest in learning Korean, using Korean in conversations, curiosity about Korean culture, food, lifestyle. Some consider higher education or travel to Korea.

Positive Impacts :

Broader cultural exposure and global awareness : Youth become more aware of different cultures, values, lifestyles; they are exposed to storytelling that diverges from local norms.

New forms of self-expression and creativity : Many take up dance classes, singing, fan art, video editing inspired by K-pop. Fashion, personal aesthetics become more experimental.

Community and belonging : Fandoms offer peer groups with shared interests, online communities that provide friendship, identity, emotional support.

Inspirational role models : Idols often present narratives of hard work, discipline, overcoming odds. These can motivate youth in their own academic or career pursuits.

Negative Effects / Concerns :

Body image and beauty standards: Korean idol aesthetics often emphasizeslimness,fairskin,flawless looks. This can create unrealistic expectations, dissatisfaction, or risk of eating disorders.

Cultural dissonance : Some traditional values may clash with ideals promoted in K-pop /Korean pop culture (e.g., gender expressions, relationship norms). Youth may feel straddled between local expectations and imported ideals.

Commercializationandconsumerism : The push to buy idol-merch, fashion items, skincare—sometimes as a way to emulate idols or belong to fandoms—may lead to excessive spending or financial pressure.

Potential over-reliance or escapism : As with many popular media, intense fan engagement can sometimes distractfromreal-worldresponsibilities (studies, social relations). Emotional dependency on fandom may also cause distress if idols are criticized or implicated in disputes.

Indian Youth - Specific Idiosyncrasies :

Some issues unique or especially relevant in the Indian context :

Diversity in access : Urban vs rural differences in internet bandwidth, exposure, disposable income for concerts/merchandise.

Caste, class, gender dynamics: For instance, young women may find more room to experiment with fashion under the radar in urban settings; young men may face stigma for liking certain styles.

Local adaptation : Youth often blend K-pop influences with local culture; fashion trends incorporate both. Sometimes fan content is localized (covers in regional languages, etc.).

Media industry response : Indian brands, media are capitalizing on Hallyu — Korean beauty lines, K-drama remakes, concerts, etc.



Discussion :

The impact of K-pop culture on Indian youth is multifaceted. While the positive outcomes—creativity, global awareness, self-expression—are substantial, the risks around body image, consumerism, cultural tension are real and need attention.

Indian youth don't just passively absorb K-pop culture; they adapt, select, reject parts based on their own value systems. This selective adoption means the impact is not monolithic.

Government, educators, media producers could play a role in mediating the impact (for example through media literacy, promoting healthy body images, encouraging local content that balances global influences).

Conclusion :

The Hallyu Wave, especially K-pop, is increasingly shaping the identities, lifestyles, and aspirations of Indian youth. It brings opportunities for new expressions, friendships, global engagement, but also poses challenges in terms of unrealistic beauty norms and consumer pressures. Future research should look at longitudinal effects (how these influences shape behaviour over years), differences across gender, class, region, and also strategies for maximizing benefits while minimizing harms.

Recommendations for Further Research :

1. Longitudinal studies to see how exposure over time affects mental health, self-esteem, life choices.

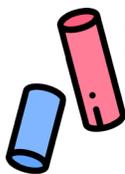
2. Comparative studies between rural and urban youth; different socio-economic backgrounds.

3. Interventions — media literacy programs in schools that help youth critically engage with idol imagery and marketing.

4. Regulation or guidelines in advertising/beauty/fashion industries to avoid promoting harmful/unrealistic beauty standards.

5. Support for local creative industries to produce culturally relevant content that merges global and local aesthetics.





Between Chalk and Cradle :

The Untold Journey of a Working Mother



Before motherhood, she was a young woman full of enthusiasm — ambitious, spirited, and determined to carve a meaningful place in her career. She carried within her that *jasba kuch kar dikhane ka* — the fire to achieve and contribute. After maternity leave, when she returned to her college duties, she wanted to continue with the same passion and spirit. But life had changed.

Her mornings began before sunrise. By 6:15 am, she was already at the college gates, stepping into lecture halls with a smile, ready to guide and inspire her students. By 10:30 am, when classes ended, her second and equally demanding role began, the role of a mother to a little boy waiting at home. Her nights were no longer restful. At midnight, bottles of milk had to be prepared, lullabies had to be sung, and a crying child had to be soothed.

By morning, she would often find herself exhausted, sometimes even forgetting she had not eaten breakfast, because the moment she returned home, her first thought was not herself but her baby. Each day unfolded with its own struggles. There were mornings when she simply could not make it to college, her body too exhausted to carry on after a sleepless night. On other days, vaccination appointments or sudden responsibilities clashed



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with her teaching schedule. And even though her college hours ended at 10:30 am, the work never did, because home awaited her, with endless tasks and a baby who needed her constant care.

Then, there were the voices of society: “You cannot manage both. Take a break. Step back, you can always return later.” Yet she refused to listen. She reminded herself, she once dreamed of this life, of shaping young minds while raising her own child, and she would not abandon that dream. Life tested her often. Some mornings, the maid did not arrive, forcing her to juggle both

work and household chores alone. Some evenings, she wanted nothing more than sleep, but her baby woke up again and again, demanding her comfort. Yet, every single morning, she gathered the courage to show up to her students, to her son, and to herself. There were moments of guilt — those quiet questions that crept in: “Why am I leaving my child? Shouldn’t I be with him?” And yet, there were other days when satisfaction took over, when she felt that everything was falling into place, that she was indeed managing both worlds in her own way. The hustle was real, the balance imperfect, but the determination unshaken. She often reminded herself that the hustle is temporary, but the dream is permanent.

This is not just her story. It is the story of countless working mothers who live this silent battle every day—caught between expectations at work and responsibilities at home. Their strength does not lie in doing everything perfectly, but in showing up despite the struggles. To all such mothers—remember, society may doubt you, but your persistence speaks louder than words. Sleepless nights, endless chores, and daily challenges don’t make you weaker. They make you unstoppable.





The Relevance of Literature Studies in Understanding Commerce



Introduction :

Commerce and literature are often perceived as belonging to two separate intellectual domains — the former rooted in trade, economics, business practices, and financial systems, while the latter concerns itself with creative expression, human emotions, cultural imagination, and aesthetic pursuits. Yet, a closer examination reveals that commerce and literature are deeply interwoven. Literature has always reflected economic realities, depicted mercantile lives, critiqued capitalist practices, and shaped human values that underpin business ethics. Similarly, the study of commerce is incomplete without understanding the cultural, ethical, and psychological dimensions of human interaction — domains where literature provides unparalleled insights.

This article argues that literature is not merely an ancillary pursuit for students of commerce but a vital tool for developing critical thinking, ethical judgment, cultural sensitivity, and a deeper appreciation of the social forces that govern trade and business. By analysing historical connections, literary representations of commerce, and interdisciplinary approaches, this study highlights the enduring relevance of literature in understanding the complexities of commerce.



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Historical Intersections between Literature and Commerce :

From the earliest stages of civilization, literature and commerce were interconnected. Ancient epics, folklore, and classical texts often contained references to trade, wealth, and the morality of economic transactions. For instance, Homer's *Odyssey* not only recounts adventures but also portrays commercial exchanges across the Mediterranean world. Similarly, Indian texts like the *Arthashastra* combine governance, trade policies, and moral discourse, underscoring that economic activity was never divorced from cultural narratives.

During the Renaissance, the expansion of global trade found vivid expression in drama and poetry. William Shakespeare, in plays such as *The Merchant of Venice*, interrogated themes of credit, debt, risk, and human values within mercantile systems. Later, the rise of the novel in the 18th and 19th centuries coincided with the growth of capitalism and industrialization. Writers such as Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell, and Leo Tolstoy highlighted the socio-economic struggles of their times, providing insights into class conflict, labour conditions, and ethical dilemmas of business practices.

Thus, literature has always been a mirror to commerce, offering interpretive frameworks that remain relevant even in today's globalized, technologically driven economy.

Literature as a Lens to Understand Human Dimensions of Commerce :

Commerce is not merely the exchange of goods and services; it is fundamentally about human relationships, trust, aspiration, and ambition. Literature excels at illuminating these dimensions:

• Ethics and Morality :

Business decisions often involve ethical choices. Literary studies sharpen the ability to recognize moral

complexities. For instance, *The Merchant of Venice* forces readers to grapple with questions of fairness, equity, and justice in commercial agreements. Similarly, modern works like Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* reveal the psychological toll of capitalist ambition and the ethical compromises that individuals make in pursuit of success.

• Cultural Sensitivity in Trade :

Commerce increasingly operates across cultural boundaries. Literature provides a gateway to understanding diverse traditions, values, and perspectives. Reading African, Asian, or Latin American literature can sensitize future business leaders to cultural nuances essential for effective international trade and negotiation.

• Psychological Insight :

Business involves negotiation, persuasion, and leadership—all of which depend on an understanding of human psychology. Literature, through character development and narrative complexity, trains readers to analyse motivations, desires, and fears. Novels like Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* or modern fiction such as Jhumpa Lahiri's works highlight the subtleties of human behaviour, enabling commerce students to anticipate and respond to the unpredictable nature of consumer and employee behaviour.

Literary Representations of Economic Systems :

Literature does not merely reflect commerce at an individual level but also interrogates broader economic systems.

• Capitalism and Industrialization :

Dickens's *Hard Times* critiques the dehumanization of industrial capitalism, offering timeless lessons about labour exploitation and the dangers of reducing human beings to mere "hands." Similarly, Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South* portrays the tensions between factory owners and workers, providing insight into industrial relations still relevant in discussions of corporate responsibility today.

• Globalization and Colonial Trade :

Literature of the colonial and postcolonial period reveals the entanglement of commerce with power. Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* exposes the brutal realities of imperial exploitation disguised as trade. Postcolonial writers like Chinua Achebe (*Things Fall Apart*) and Amitav Ghosh (*Sea of Poppies*) further explore how commerce, particularly in commodities such as ivory, opium, or cotton, shaped cultures, disrupted societies, and continues to leave legacies in the global economy.

• Consumerism and Modern Markets :

In the 20th and 21st centuries, literature frequently critiques consumer culture. Don DeLillo's *White Noise* explores the effects of advertising and consumer goods on identity and relationships. These texts help commerce students critically evaluate the psychological and cultural implications of marketing, branding, and consumption.

Literature as a Tool for Skill Development in Commerce Studies:

Beyond cultural critique, literature cultivates essential skills that are directly transferable to commerce:

• Critical Thinking and Analysis :

Interpreting texts requires careful attention to detail, recognition of ambiguity, and the ability to construct arguments—skills equally vital in financial analysis, business strategy, and policy evaluation.

• Communication Skills :

Literature develops vocabulary, style, and rhetorical effectiveness. In commerce, where reports, proposals, and presentations are routine, the ability to communicate persuasively is indispensable.

• Empathy and Leadership :

Good leadership depends on the capacity to understand others' experiences. Literature fosters empathy by allowing readers to inhabit diverse perspectives. This emotional intelligence enhances negotiation, conflict resolution, and teamwork in business settings.

• Creativity and Innovation :

Literature's imaginative scope inspires creativity. In business, innovation often requires "thinking outside the box." Exposure to metaphor, symbolism, and narrative experimentation enhances the capacity for innovative problem-solving.

Interdisciplinary Approaches: Literature in Business and Commerce Education :

Many universities today recognize the value of integrating humanities into business curricula. Courses in "Business and Literature," "Narratives of Capitalism," or "Literary Economics" explore the intersections between storytelling and financial systems.

• Case studies of novels are used to understand leadership dilemmas.



• Poetry and drama are analysed to refine communication skills.

• Literary criticism is applied to decode advertising narratives, branding, and consumer psychology.

For example, Harvard Business School has used plays like *Death of a Salesman* to discuss the human cost of unbridled ambition, while courses on globalization often include postcolonial novels to illustrate cultural dimensions of trade. Such interdisciplinary approaches prepare commerce graduates not only as efficient professionals but also as responsible global citizens.

Critical Perspectives: Limitations and Challenge :

While advocating the relevance of literature in commerce studies, it is important to acknowledge challenges :

• Perceived Irrelevance :

Many commerce students see literature as distant from practical business concerns. Bridging this gap requires careful curriculum design that directly links literary study to business applications.

• Risk of Over-Interpretation :

There is a tendency to overextend literary metaphors into economic analysis. While literature offers insights, it should not replace empirical data or financial rigor but rather complement them.

• Global Business Demands :

The fast-paced, technology-driven business environment often prioritizes quantitative skills. Convincing stakeholders about the long-term benefits of literature

in commerce requires persistent advocacy and empirical evidence of its impact on leadership, ethics, and decision-making.

Contemporary Relevance: Literature in the Age of Digital Commerce

The digital era has not diminished literature’s relevance; rather, it has created new intersections.

• Storytelling in Marketing :

Brands today thrive on storytelling. From Apple to Nike, businesses use narratives to build emotional connections with consumers—a practice rooted in literary techniques.

• Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) :

Literature informs ethical reflection in CSR initiatives. Reading socially engaged texts sensitizes business leaders to the real-world consequences of corporate actions.

• Global Connectivity :

In a world of cross-cultural commerce, literature provides a window into diverse human experiences, helping companies navigate intercultural communication.

• Entrepreneurship and Creativity :

Start-ups often emerge from imaginative thinking, which literature nurtures. Understanding narrative structures can also help entrepreneurs pitch ideas compellingly to investors and clients.

Conclusion :

The relevance of literature in understanding commerce lies not in reducing it to a tool for business, but in recognizing that commerce itself is a human enterprise

inseparable from cultural, ethical, and psychological dimensions. Literature illuminates the moral complexities of trade, critiques economic systems, and refines the skills necessary for successful and responsible business practices.

Far from being a peripheral interest, literature provides commerce students with the empathy to understand human needs, the creativity to innovate, the communication skills to persuade, and the ethical compass to act responsibly. In an age where global commerce faces challenges of inequality, environmental degradation, and cultural conflict, literature remains indispensable for cultivating business leaders who are not only efficient but also humane.

Literature and commerce, though distinct in method, are united in purpose: both seek to understand and shape the human condition. Integrating literary studies into commerce education is therefore not a luxury but a necessity — an investment in the cultivation of well-rounded, reflective, and ethical leaders for the future of global economic development.

TERRORISM'S ECONOMIC TOLL :

A Damage Index Analysis of Global Trends and India's Persistent Vulnerability (1970-2019)

The term 'terrorism' was first used to characterize the 'Reign of Terror' during the French Revolution, originally referred to the opposition group's objective of opposing the government's drastic political measures. Acts of terrorism have frequently been employed to limit political potential. "Terrorism is the deliberate use, or threat, of extranormal violence to achieve a political aim through intimidation or fear directed at a mass audience," Enders and Sandler (1999). It is the use of violence to achieve political objectives through intimidation, often used by marginalized individuals or groups who lack access to traditional means of power. Terrorism also serves philosophical or religious motives and has certain unrealistic objectives. "Terrorism is a significant topic of social science inquiry since it mainly targets regular people rather than armies, criminals, or warlords" (Walzer, 1976). It targets ordinary people rather than military or government entities and is characterized by its asymmetrical nature.

Terrorism, the fear monstrosity has been scourging the earth for many millennia, but much of the world has grown obsessed with it since September 11, 2001. At the root of understanding, terrorism is not just force or violence but fear.



Prof. Swarnali Dey

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But everything that causes fear can't be called terrorism. To label something as terrorism or someone as terrorist we have to look at the historical context of actions and deeds. Whether an attacker is a terrorist or a freedom fighter depends on the perspective of that individual. The labels 'terrorists' and 'freedom fighters' may not necessarily refer to the same person since they represent two distinct facets of human nature—a means of resistance and a goal. Some insurgent groups are both terrorists and freedom fighters, while others are neither. Osama bin Laden claimed that those the US considers terrorists in the 9/11 attack were fighters in an ongoing conflict between the US and Israel. The massive terrorist attack of 26/11 in India has given the country a higher degree of importance on the ladder of terror prone countries.

Prior to 2012 there has been no study of the level of damage, terrorism had caused on different countries across the globe. Although Enders and Sandler have accumulated data from different data sources to understand the extensive impact of terror attacks on the economic and non-economic factors, but lacks explicit study to comprehend the effect on all the factors. Compiling the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) created the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), which assess the various facets of terrorism, including its geographic activity, attack techniques, and organizations engaged, as well as tracking its evolving trends over time. We focus on similar analysis to capture the aftermath of terrorism on economic and non-economic parameters by creating a Damage Index (DI). It focuses on four variables: a) Total number of attacks, b) Total number of injuries, c) Total number of fatalities and d) Property loss. Data from 1970 to 2019 has been taken from GTD and Penn World Table to study the intensity of damage across the countries. Five decades have been considered from 1970 to 2019, where focus has been made on the top 10 countries, experiencing the ill-effects of terrorism.



Country	1970-79	Country	1980-89	Country	1990-99	Country	2000-09	Country	2010-19
United Kingdom	2.14676	United Kingdom	2.25612	Colombia	1.846111	Iraq	2.05458	Iraq	2.558454
United States	1.4742	United States	2.234843	India	1.496286	India	1.4628	Afghanistan	2.149616
Italy	1.257793	Italy	1.814853	Algeria	1.351239	Colombia	0.93086	Pakistan	1.209013
Spain	1.092135	Spain	1.254861	Sri Lanka	0.912721	United States	0.892125	India	0.892771
Colombia	0.512041	Colombia	1.076637	Peru	0.846952	Algeria	0.796633	Nigeria	0.644099
Turkey	0.466659	Turkey	1.057755	United Kingdom	0.764545	Pakistan	0.71788	Philippines	0.642759
Israel	0.441744	Israel	0.806366	Turkey	0.618451	Sri Lanka	0.706594	Yemen	0.529165
France	0.436634	France	0.803198	Pakistan	0.555655	Afghanistan	0.649152	Somalia	0.478512
Argentina	0.411128	Argentina	0.794804	Angola	0.539143	Philippines	0.639466	Syria	0.438771
El Salvador	0.38406	El Salvador	0.782986	United States	0.471103	Nepal	0.382117	Thailand	0.336353

Table : DAMAGE INDEX

The Damage Index is constructed by taking the sum of the normalized values of all the four variables in all five decades. The table above shows that The USA and Colombia have encountered recurring impacts of terrorism where the extreme number of fatalities, injuries and property loss of 9/11 attack has given the former country a higher position in the Index. It is also observable that India has also experienced the wrath of terrorism to a huge extent. Occurring in every three decades from 1990 to 2019, it signifies that the country is prone to acuteness of this devastating affair.

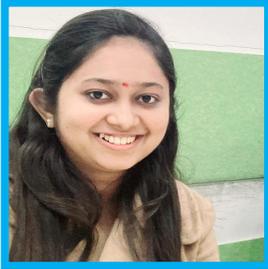
India is at risk of terrorism because of a complicated mix of historical, economic, religious, and geopolitical factors that have allowed extremist groups to grow in many areas. Since gaining independence in 1947, the country has had to deal with terrorism and insurgency. The first major event was in the northeast in 1980. Some people think that violence is a good approach to bring about change because of things like poverty, regional imbalance, significant religious extremism, and social and political injustice. The country's large population makes it weak. With over a billion people, even a 1% rise in

radicalization may lead to 12 million terrorists. The large number of people and different religions have led to Hindu-Muslim ethnic conflicts that have caused a lot of violence. India's crucial location and troubled borders make things quite difficult from a geopolitical point of view. Since it was formed, Pakistan has always had terrorist groups living there with the goal of disrupting India. China aids Pakistan with these actions. The Kashmir independence movement and border tensions with Pakistan are still major causes of terrorism in India. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are threats that force India to rethink its security and geopolitical strategy. The fact that terrorism is becoming more diverse and spreading across India makes the security situation even more difficult. The country faces many types of terrorism, including ethno-nationalist, religious, left-wing (Naxalism), and narco-terrorism. These types of terrorism affect areas from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to the Seven Sister States in the northeast to east-central and south-central India. The South Asian Terror Portal says that there have been some 180 terrorist groups active in or from India in the last 20 years. Many of these groups are part of transnational networks with

bases in countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan that are next door. Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Hyderabad, and Ahmadabad are some of the major cities that have been attacked routinely. The number of attacks has increased substantially; from 2012 to 2013, there were 70% more terrorist occurrences in India. India is particularly vulnerable because of economic factors. When the economy does poorly, it makes income inequality and poverty worse, which lowers the opportunity cost of terrorism and pushes poor people toward extremist activities. Economic desgrowth created owing to terrorism in 2004 was -0.91%, however it climbed substantially to -2.05% by 2013. The terrorism devastation magnitude rate was relatively modest at 1.5% in 2004 but climbed substantially to 17.35% by 2013, signifying far more destruction to the Indian economy.

Comprehensive resolution is extremely difficult because of this vicious cycle of terrorism feeding economic underperformance, which in turn lowers the opportunity cost of extremist activities and fuels further radicalization. It also creates social anxieties that sustain instability throughout terror-prone regions.

Birds Trolled on Humans



Prof. Forum Shah

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*Economist Bird trolled,
“Once, no one owned anything. Life was free and unmeasured.
But as humans multiplied and resources thinned,
they placed a price tag on everything.
They invented a system of owning—
often at the cost of a blissful life.”
Spiritual Bird trolled,
“We mastered the Art of Living;
humans mastered the Art of Earning.”
Altruist Bird trolled,
“How easily we lose our habitat.
The trees fall, and a building rises.
But can these ‘intellectual’ humans
ever let a building fall to plant a tree for us?”
To this, Spiritual Bird trolled,
“They are practical, attached to worldly objects.
Not ‘dumb’—at least in their own perception—like us.
They must constantly justify their system of owning
as the best.”
Destitute Bird trolled,
“They won’t even let us build a nest on their windowsills.
We have nothing, yet we give away valuable things freely.*

*But humans, who never feel satiated—
can they ever give us anything?”
Student Bird trolled,
“I think they have false definitions.
Those who seem poor are actually rich.”
To which Kolkata’s Kaak (Crow) trolled,
“Ka! Ka! (Yes, yes!)
The roadside humans eating daal-bhaat
offer us a portion.
But those living in tall buildings
rarely offer us anything.
The poor seem rich,
and the rich seem poor.”
All birds together trolled,
“Humans may be rich in their system of owning,
spending their lives mastering the Art of Earning.
But thank God—
we are truly rich in the natural system,
where we master the Art of Living.”
And in that moment, Kolkata’s Kaak trolled,
“Forum noted down our trolls.
Let’s see how the intellectuals troll us back.”*



MOVING FROM SCHOOL TO COLLEGE : MY JOURNEY AND EXPERIENCE

SOUNAVA DAS, SEMESTER 1



The transition from school to college is one of the most important phases in a student's life. After spending years in a familiar environment with known faces, strict routines and guided learning, stepping into college feels like entering a whole new world. My journey from school to college has been filled with excitement, challenges, and valuable lessons, and the past few months have already taught me so much.

From Familiarity to Independence

In school, life was structured : classes were fixed, teachers were strict yet supportive and most decisions were already made for us. In college, everything feels different. There is more freedom, more responsibility and more opportunities to explore. The shift from wearing a uniform every day to dressing freely symbolises this newfound independence.

Meeting New People

One of the best parts of college so far has been meeting people from different places, cultures,

and backgrounds. In just a couple of months I have made many new friends, shared experiences, and learnt from diverse people. Unlike school, where friendships often formed over years, college pushes you to open up quickly and connect with others.

Academic Experience

The teaching style is another major difference. Professors focus less on spoon-feeding and more on encouraging self-study and critical thinking. At first, it felt challenging, but slowly I realized this system helps us grow academically and personally. I have learned to take responsibility for my own learning and manage time better.

Co-Curricular Exposure

In this short time, I have also discovered how vibrant college life is outside the classroom. Events, clubs, and activities create chances to explore talents beyond academics. I participated in a few programmes, which not only boosted my confidence but also helped me realise the importance of balancing studies with extra curriculars.

Lessons Learned in Two Months

These two months have been like a crash course in adapting to change. I have learnt to be more independent, to manage time, to communicate with new people and to step out of my comfort zone. The fear and nervousness I carried on the first day of college have slowly transformed into excitement & curiosity for what lies ahead. Moving from school to college is not just an educational shift but a life changing experience. It teaches you to embrace freedom, accept challenges and grow as an individual. My journey has just started, but I have already gained a lot of experience in these two months and these memories will stay forever in my mind and heart.



FREEDOM, NOT APATHY : RETHINKING DETACHMENT

MAYUKH SHARMA, SEMESTER 1



When most people hear the word detachment, they imagine something cold-hearted, perhaps a sanyasi leaving home and abandoning family. In this worldview, detachment is an escape, rejection, or indifference. Yes, some renunciates do leave out of escapism, but true detachment, or vairagya, is something else entirely.

One who is truly detached is rarely seen as a 'good' person. Why? Because such a person speaks the truth without sugarcoating. Think of Jesus, he was stoned and put on the cross as he did not say what people wanted to hear; he said what was the truth, and that very truth often triggers discomfort.

To guide or help someone effectively, you cannot be swayed by your own emotions. Sympathy, when misplaced, can turn into something harmful. For instance, telling an addict, "It's okay, you're stressed,"

may sound kind, but deep down, both know it is harmful. Detachment allows for honesty without guilt of rejection or guilt of hurting the person in front, it frees you to say what is true, even if your words are rejected or you get a negative response.

Detachment does not mean disconnecting from family, friends, or the world. It means recognising that your thoughts, emotions, and desires are not who you are. True detachment is the ability to see these mental fluctuations as they are without being consumed by them.

The best way to cultivate detachment is to avoid identifying with such fluctuations. If someone acts kindly towards you, learn to see it as a simple gesture and not as a guarantee that they will continue to behave the same way or as proof that they like you. If you let expectation

take root, then the moment they stop, negative thoughts will flood in. *"They have changed. Maybe they hate me. Maybe they never liked me at all."* Had no expectation been allowed to take control of your thoughts, your vision would have remained clear.

As Rudolf Steiner put it *"To truly see, you must first wean yourself from tears."* These 'tears' are the expectations we weave around people. We do not realise that what we chase is not the person, but the feelings that arise within us.

Think of a friend offering you coffee. The first time, you feel pleased. Over time, your mind begins to cling to the pattern, expecting it daily. When the habit breaks, disappointment follows, and you may even judge them harshly. But nothing about the person truly changed. What changed was your expectation.



This mistake is not limited to relationships. When a post does not get enough likes, disappointment sets in. The truth is, you are not attached to Instagram or any platform; you are attached to the fleeting rush of validation. Many young people today feel they cannot survive without social media, but what they truly crave is the feeling these platforms provide, the dopamine hit when a post is liked and a follower appears or a new chat begins.

Endless scrolling, especially on reels, has also shrunk our attention spans. Silence has become unbearable. The moment we have nothing to do, our hands reach for the phone. Sitting quietly has become rare, replaced by the restless need to scroll and swipe. The damage this has caused to the mind is immense, yet it is rarely discussed seriously.

Why? Because the system profits when we mistake addiction for attachment and believe we cannot live without these platforms.

It is time to be self-critical and admit that many of us are addicted to platforms, to things, even to people, not because of what they are, but because of the expectations and feelings we build around them. Our limited way of thinking keeps us trapped. We judge quickly, speak harshly, and rarely pause to ask why someone behaves as they do.

The truth is, we are not the passing thoughts and feelings that rise and fall within us. If we mistake them for our identity, life becomes nothing but misery. This is why detachment is necessary. Without detachment, we cannot truly care for anyone. We remain caught in a cycle of projecting our expectations, *"If they make me feel good, they are good. If they do not, they are bad."* At first,

their kindness feels precious, but over time, it becomes expected, and when it stops, we pass negative judgments without a second thought.

This is what happens when we confuse our inner fluctuations for reality. Detachment breaks that cycle. It allows us to see clearly, love freely, and act truthfully, not from the grip of our desires, but from the clarity of who we really are. It frees us from the tyranny of our expectations and allows us to love without clinging, to help without enabling, and to speak the truth without fear. When you no longer mistake fleeting mental patterns for your true self, you stand unshaken. From that clarity, your words and actions no longer harm; they heal.



A Soul THAT Will NOT Bow

DIPIKA AGARWAL

*I crave a life unshackled, wide,
Where no one's judgment cuts inside.
A world to wander, vast, unknown,
A path to claim that feels my own.*

*These days feel heavy, dark, confined,
A cage constructed in my mind.
I'm weary of the endless race,
Of chasing shadows, losing grace.*

*I wish no longer to pursue,
But let the crowd come chasing too.
For once, to stand in my own flame,
Untouched by sorrow, free from blame.*

*Let storms come raging, let them roar,
I'll sail my soul to brighter shores.
A life unbound, my spirit's plea—
To live, to breathe, to finally be free.*



SOCHO... EK BETI KI AAKHRI LARAI

ROHIT JAIN



*Na jane kitni jaane bachai usne,
Na jaane, kitni jaane bachai usne
Par usse na koi bacha saka...*

*Imaandari se usne apna kartavya nibhaya,
Par usse insaaf na koi dila saka...*

*Izzat ko uski rajnitik mudda bana diya jayega,
Ek duje per ilzam laga k isse b daba dia jayega.*

*Zara socho uski,
Kaise pal pal woh tadapi hogi
Aakhri saans tak unn darindo se ladi hogi.*

*Jab todi uski ungliya, kaise woh chillayi hogi
Shareer se pahele uski aatma mari hogi.*

*Zara socho uss bhai ka, jisne rakhi ki taiyaariya karke rakhi hogi,
Uss pita ka socho jiski beti uske saamne yunhi mriti padi hogi.*

Socho har uss parivar ka jo in darindo k dar se apni beti ko nahi padhayenge...

Socho...

Har uss parivar ka jo in darindo ke dar se apni beti ko nhi padhayenge...

Betiyo ko toh hum sikhati hain izzat bachana...

Beto ko izzat karna kab sikhayenge?

Beto ko izzat karna kab sikhayenge?



THE UNFINISHED VOWS

AMATULLAH FERAZ HUSSAIN, SEMESTER 1

Ayaan and Meher had grown up on the same street, their childhoods woven together like pages from the same book. They had studied at the same school, shared lunch boxes, played in the same parks, and knew each other's secrets long before anyone else. For their classmates, they were inseparable, and in college, the teasing only grew louder.

"You two are practically made for each other," their friends would laugh. Ayaan would grin, Meher would roll her eyes, but somewhere between the banter and the blushes, they stopped denying what everyone else seemed so sure of. By the time their graduation caps were tossed in the air, they had already decided to give their friendship a new name — love.

The transition was easy, almost too easy. They already knew each other's favourite songs, comfort foods, dreams, and fears. The courtship felt like an extension of everything they had always shared. When they married two years later, both families celebrated as though the universe itself had been waiting for this union.

For a while, it was bliss. Their home was filled with laughter, familiar routines, and the comfort of companionship. As the years passed, a quiet distance began to creep in. The spark, the chemistry that held lovers together, seemed to fade before it had even properly begun.

Meher often found herself staring at Ayaan across the dinner table, not as a husband, but as the boy who once borrowed her notes and carried her schoolbag when it was too heavy. Ayaan, though loyal and kind, could not deny the hollow ache in his chest when he compared their marriage to the love stories he saw around him.

They were not unhappy, but neither were they truly happy. It was as if they were playing roles written for them by others — best friends turned lovers turned husband and wife.

One evening, after yet another silent dinner, Meher finally whispered, *"Do you ever feel like we mistook comfort for love?"*

Ayaan looked at her, his heart heavy. He did not want to hurt her, but he could not deny it anymore. *"Maybe... maybe we did."*

The words hung between them like a storm cloud.

Now, they stood at a crossroads. Their families adored their bond, believing it to be the perfect marriage. To leave each other would mean breaking not just their own hearts, but the hearts of everyone who had believed in them. Yet, to stay would mean living a life where love was always... just out of reach.

Should they honour the vows they made, even if it meant silencing their true desires? Or should they break free, risking everything for a chance at finding the love they had never known?

The answer lingered, unspoken, as the night grew darker.



कान्हा, प्रेम और प्रार्थना का मलिन

ABANTIKA NAYAK

तू इतना छलिया क्यों है रे कान्हा...
 क्यों तुझे इतना अच्छा लगता है सताना?
 तुझे यदि अपनी संगिनी न मिली—
 तो क्या अपना हर घाव जग को दिखलाएगा?
 दिल टूटने का दर्द कैसा होता है,
 क्या तू यह सबको सिखलाएगा?

तू अपना विषाद क्यों सबमें बाँटता है...
 क्या अब औरों का प्रेम भी अधूरा कहलाएगा?
 तुझ-से दीवाने, इश्क में तड़पते हजार मिलेंगे—
 क्या उनमें स्वयं को देखकर भी तुझे दया न आएगी?

तू इतना छलिया क्यों है रे कान्हा...
 क्यों राधा को देखना पड़ा तेरे हाथ में किसी और का हाथ?
 क्यों उसका हृदय जला?
 क्या नहीं किया उसने तेरे प्रेम में—
 फिर भी वह तुझ तक न पहुँच सकी।

उधर रुक्मिणी तो तेरी अर्धांगिनी बन गई—
 पर तेरा प्रथम प्रेम न बन सकी।
 जग गाता रहा राधे कृष्ण, राधे कृष्ण,
 और राधा क्षण-क्षण पिघलती रही... दग्ध होती रही।

उधर मीरा ने भी क्या कमी रखी?
 तेरा नाम जपती रही, तेरी माला पिरोती रही—
 पर उसे भी तू कहाँ मिला?

तू इतना छलिया क्यों है रे कान्हा...
 प्रेमिका के भाग में न सिन्दूर आया,
 पत्नी के भाग में न प्रथम चिट्ठी।
 अन्ततः हर स्त्री प्रेम में क्यों अधूरी रह जाती है?

क्यों है तू इतना छलिया, हे कान्हा?
 क्या तेरे अनंत चमत्कारों में

एक चमत्कार मेरे नाम का न हो सका?
 क्या मेरी लकीरों में उसके साथ का
 एक कण भी तू न लिख सका?

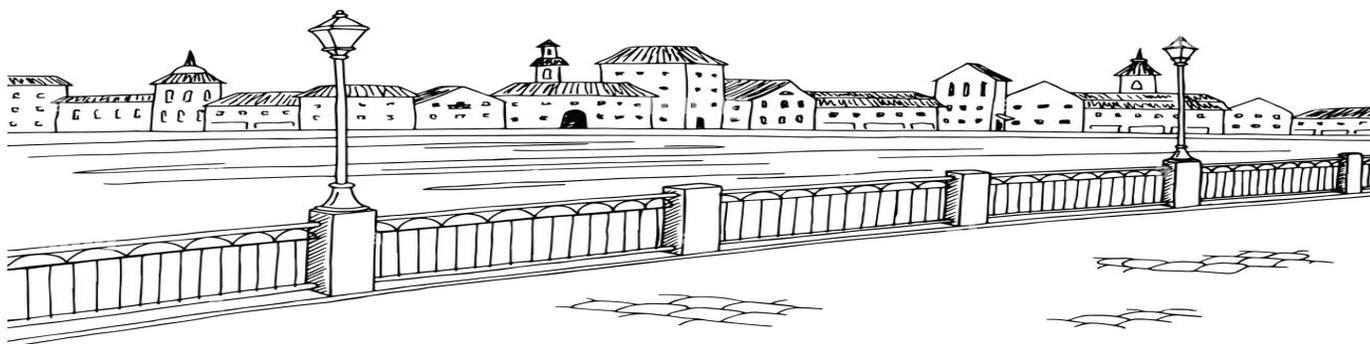
सारा जहाँ किसे चाहिए?
 मैंने तो बस एक व्यक्ति ही माँगा था।
 कब तक उसी को अपनी हर शेर में ढोते रहेंगे हम...
 बस एक अभिलाषा है—
 किसी दिन हम भी किसी की शायरी बनें...



WHISPERS OF THE RIVERSIDE

RITURAJ ROY, SEMESTER 5

*The world is loud, yet no one hears
The silent weight behind my tears.
I walk alone, with shoulders bent,
Carrying storms that won't relent.
But by the river's softened sound,
I find a stillness all around.
Upon my stone, I sit and breathe,
Let sorrow fall, let silence seethe.
The water flows, the breezes hum,
And though no answers ever come,
A quiet voice within the trees
Gives strength disguised as rustling leaves.
I speak no words, yet feel replied,
In shifting clouds and open skies.
And every time the world feels distant,
I'm heard again... by nature, patient.
For when no one listens, nature hears,
She holds my hopes, and calms my fears.*



LAW'S LAMP

RUDRA JOSHI, SEMESTER 2

*In India's diverse land, where cultures entwine,
A single thread binds us — the law's sacred shrine.
A beacon of justice, shining bright and bold,
Guiding citizens forward, the young and the old.*

*Like a lamp in darkness, it lights the way,
Protecting our rights, night and day.
From the Constitution's Preamble to the laws of the land,
It safeguards our freedoms, hand in hand.*



*With equality and justice, it stands tall and strong,
A shield against injustice, where all belong.
The law's lamp illuminates the path we must take,
To build a nation where all can partake.*

*So let us cherish this lamp of the law,
And uphold its principles, with reverence and awe.
Drawing strength from its wisdom, guidance from its light,
To build a brighter India, where all shine bright.*



*Chartered Accountants, with expertise so fine,
Help navigate tax laws and financial lines.
Ensuring compliance with precision and care,
They strengthen the economy with their skilled share.*

*Company Secretaries, with knowledge so vast,
Guide companies through laws and regulations that last.
Maintaining transparency and governance so fair,
They facilitate growth with their expert care.*

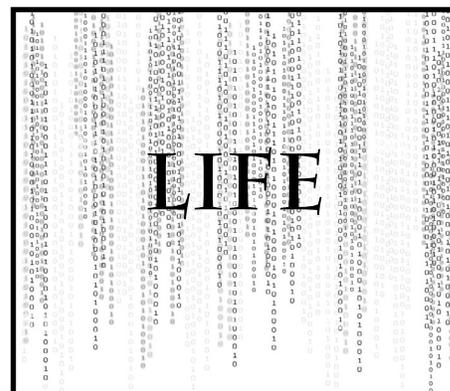
DECODING LIFE

SHAFIA SHAMIM, SEMESTER 1

Growing up, I used to be a massive overthinker, extremely sensitive, and even the slightest of things would hurt me for some reason. Now that I have understood the authenticity this life holds, it keeps my heart so much at peace. People ask me how I stay calm and positive in the chaotic environment wherein things do not look normal, people do not behave normally, that is basically because I am quite aware of some psychological facts which I was unaware of back then. I hope it helps you as well in accumulating a positive outlook towards life. The first thing I have learnt about life is that it never stops, be it for a person or a thing. It keeps on going and you can absolutely do nothing about the past once it passes by. The moment which holds the maximum power is NOW—the present moment. People might take it for granted or they might interpret that they have enough time to engage in certain things, but they know not that this might be the time they will regret in the future. I have understood the importance of the present moment and how it, step by step, helps us in climbing the ladder leading to our dreams. Another thing which follows the list is that some people might change, and some may never change. There is a very slight possibility of transformation of any person once they surpass the teenage period. It might hurt you when you do not get to see the changes you expected in your friend or any of your acquaintances.

Here as well, you can absolutely do nothing to make them change their mindset. The people who are meant to be a part of your life will always stay, even in the thunderstorms, but those who are not supposed to be there will leave you in pleasant weather as well. People thinking ill of you, disrespecting you, criticising you, and humiliating you vehemently don't deserve a place in your life. Their thinking ill of you has nothing to do with your actual character; it's their personality speaking, still insecure. The places where you feel unseen, unheard, unnoticed, please stop going to such places. It will only make you feel disappointed, bad about yourself, and you will only suppress yourself. You might not necessarily get appreciated everywhere you go. People's behaviour towards you should never make you stone-hearted. You should not let that softness inside of you disappear just because you went through the same. Never force anyone to be a part of your life, be it in friendship or a relationship. Forced relationships often compress self-respect, values and criticism of a person. Allow the person to go away from your life if they want to. I know it is hard, but it will be even harder if you make them stay for long, even though they were not interested. Moving further, whatever you want to pursue in your life, please go for it. Listen to your heart, apply your brain and leave no stone unturned. Just don't live for this society's validation,

which only accepts your looks, money and riches. If you are doing something out of your will, you might not earn like other fellows, but you will stay content and satisfied, and that is what we live this life for. For happiness and contentment. Never allow anyone to tell you to follow certain paths when you do not want to walk there. Live life all by yourself so that at the end of the day, you are left with zero regrets because you did whatever you wanted to. Lastly, anything that is written in your destiny will happen to you, will come to you in unexpected ways, at impossible moments, and anything which is not will never happen. Talking about getting jealous and insecure at other people's success and achievements, how can one do so? They were blessed with glorious fortune; let them live their life. Stay grateful always, even though you may not have what others have, alongside working on yourself, your personality, your academics and make that dream come true. There is nothing that cannot be done. All the best!



PERFECT ENDING — A MYTH

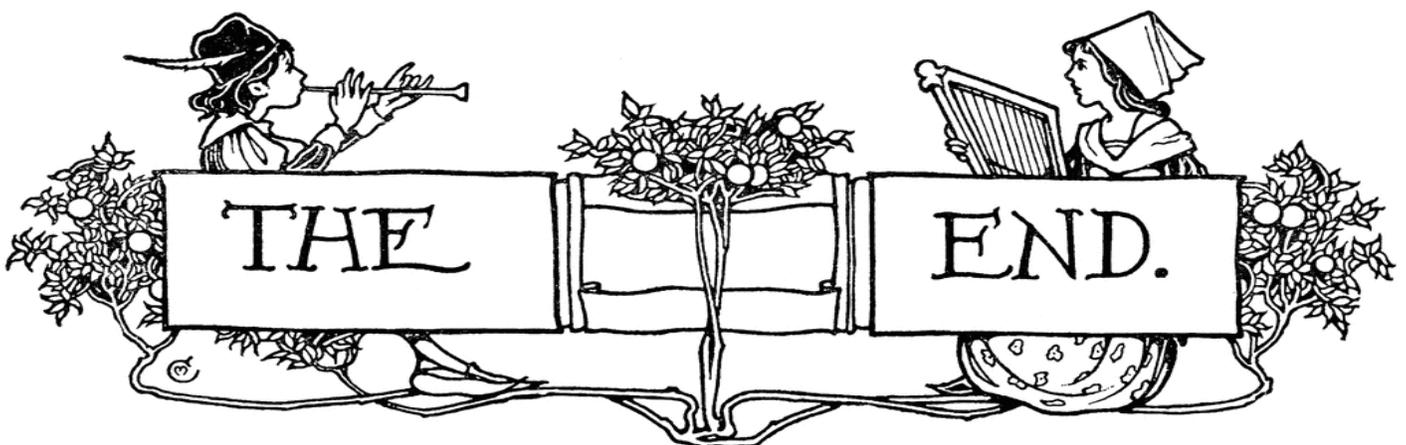
YASHI JAIN, SEMESTER 5

*A perfect ending, a myth we adore,
A notion that eludes, forevermore.
Not pass or fail, but giving our best,
The true measure of every quest.*

*Not about winning love's fleeting prize,
But the efforts we pour, the love that rises.
Not a fairy-tale marriage, blissful and bright,
But the journey's twists and turns, through day and night.*

*A happy ending, a subjective tale,
The right thing done, though it may not prevail.
For what's right isn't always what we desire,
But the path we choose, with heart and fire.*

*A perfect ending, a myth we tell,
To soothe our souls, to quell the hell.
A glorified dream, a comforting lie,
To make sense of life's uncertain sigh.*



SUNFLOWER

HORANG SOMAIYA, SEMESTER 1

*In the shadows of dark clouds,
Depressing meadows of healthy sprouts.
The sunflowers, like ochre yellow cloth,
Criticise the rain showers in self-loathe.*

*As the showers of dark clouds
And the missing sunlight brings them doubts,
Hope is out of sight.*

*But once the dark clouds set their way out,
Sunflowers stop their shout,
And get ready to scout.*

*Scout the location of light,
Looking for their hope,
Looking for the sun shining bright,
So in love they can elope.*

*Glowing sunflowers, looking at the sky.
No more rain showers, no more cries
Only moments of love.*

*To connect to the flow,
Sunflowers blooming in shrubs,
Adoring the sun's glow.*



THE RAIN-TOURAGE

BY KAMAL NARAYAN DAS, SEMESTER 5

*It was a long, gloomy day
 The Sun had gone away —
 Hidden among the clouds, it lay
 Dampening stillness on the way.
 I was working at my desk,
 A sudden crackle took my gaze,
 The rain has started, as they say,
 The smell of rain caught my stay.
 The thunder lightning was awestruck;
 So much that my brother woke up.
 The little one got teary-eyed,
 With fear, he hurried to my side.
 Then came the second thunder
 And that made the rain ponder.
 Like glowy greens, the cheeks would glow,
 My brother crying with the flow.
 I tried my best to stop the rain,
 But all my tricks go in vain.
 Suddenly, a tinker by the lane —
 It caught all our attention.
 We peeked through the window pane
 My brother asked, "What's on lane?"
 I said, "The Kanwar Tour's walking by
 Taking water pots, side by side."
 He asked,
 "Why do they take the pain
 What's the reason? What's the gain?"
 I said,*

*"Not all are there for the gain
 Some for love, which few attain
 The nature cries with the rain
 When she sees her children,
 After the scorching Summer goes by
 The Mother unites with the cry.
 To celebrate that with All Father,
 All the Kanwar Tour gather;
 They celebrate this all season
 With lots of love and lots of fun."
 Hearing this, my brother nodded
 "But one thing, do we celebrate?"
 I replied, "Not like Kanwar does."
 "Then how do we express our love?"
 "We love nature, so we pray."
 Without a clue, that I said,
 Various thoughts crossed by,
 Like the Kanwar passed by...*



PILLOW'S VISION

HAIQUA RASHID ANSARI, SEMESTER 2



*In whispers easy, the pillow calls,
To weary souls, in the moonlit halls.
Though with the hours of grief,
The dreams I will to live.*

*Where plain truths of the present life,
Gets buried inside with time.
Where there's no care about the point,
Gets one the peace of mind.*



*Where worries fade, and dreams embrace,
The dreams I get are harder to elucidate.
Where I picture the future we won't have,
Where I picture us together with no photographs.*

*Sometimes I give up on you,
Then I think what should I dream of, if not you?
My pillow's vision is enchanting and true,
Your mirage will remain forever anew.*



THE CITY THAT THOUGHT FIRST, EARNED LATER

BY BIPROJIT DAS, SEMESTER 5

Why Kolkata's true legacy is intellect, not income.

There was a time when Kolkata was not just another city on the map of India. It was the land of intellectuals, a place where ideas mattered more than money, and creativity weighed more than careers. Before it became famous for its universities and institutions, Kolkata was already a classroom in itself - a city alive with thought, debate and fearless imagination.

Think about it: Tagore writing verses that won a Nobel Prize, Satyajit Ray creating films that redefined world cinema, Jagadish Chandra Bose pioneering science without chasing patents, Swami Vivekananda carrying India's voice to the world, and Vidyasagar reshaping education with courage. They were not just achievers; they were dreamers

who proved that one city could influence the world. And they did not do it for wealth or glamour; they did it because they believed in something bigger.

Kolkata's legacy was built on this pure pursuit of excellence. Writers wrote because they had something to say, not something to sell. Scientists discovered because they wanted to open minds, not bank accounts. Artists created because their souls demanded it, not because the market did.

But today, that flame feels weaker. Yes, the city still has talent. Yes, the adda culture and literature festivals still exist. However, the thunder has faded. Now, we often measure success in salaries, not in impact. Many of our brightest leave for other cities or countries. Safe paths are chosen over bold experiments.

Somewhere along the way, the city that once challenged the world has grown quieter.

Yet, I refuse to believe the story is over. The roots are still here - in every debate on College Street, in every poem written in a quiet notebook, in every independent filmmaker who still dares to try. Kolkata does not need to look back with nostalgia; it needs to look forward with courage.

Because this city has already shown us once what happens when people think beyond wealth, and it can do it again. And maybe it is on us - the students, the dreamers, the restless minds, to light that flame once more.



LIFE TRAILS

SHREYA KACHHAP, SEMESTER 1

*All alone along a long way
Little souls out there.
Who strive to bear,
Every burden of fear,
Yet daring to take a new dare.
They try and fail but still hold tight,
When the coldness of the world bites.
The world is vast, yet humanity seems small.
People are often brutal, self-centred in all,
Life can be bright, yet often shrouded in night,
Some find solace in dim light, fearing the depths,
Unable to share light, but ready to stand by for laments.
There are not a few in number, but in thoughts,
Why not spread love instead of fear-fraught?
Why not embrace uniqueness, let each be,
Rather than judging existence, set them free?
Why race against thousands, when a slow pace can bring peace,
Where hearts cherish, and tranquility finds release.*



THE MYSTICAL DOOR

VARNICA GUPTA, SEMESTER 4

Snow fell softly on the town, muffling the sound of laughter and sleigh bells that echoed down the street. From her bedroom window, ten-year-old Sara watched other children walking hand in hand with their mothers on Christmas Eve, their cheeks red from the cold, their eyes full of joy.

She was lost in her own thoughts, staring out at a world that no longer felt like hers, when a gentle knock broke the silence. Her father quietly stepped into the room.

“Honey, will you go out with me to buy things for Christmas?” he asked, wearing a soft smile — one that hoped for a yes, even though he was not expecting one. Her father was grieving, too. He had lost his beloved wife to illness a few weeks ago, but what broke him even more was watching his daughter carry the same pain. He couldn’t take that sadness away from her, and the helplessness weighed on him deeply.

He had hoped to distract her, even for a little while.

“No... I don’t feel like going out,” Sara replied softly, still gazing out the window.

“Sara, you might feel better if you come with me. We could get ingredients to bake ginger cookies together, like Mum used to,” he said, gently trying to hide the pain of his recent loss.

Sara let out a quiet sigh. *“But Mum isn’t here with us anymore.”*

Her father’s heart sank at her words, and he knew better than to press her further.

“Okay, honey. But if you feel like it, you can go out and play for a while. I’ll be back in a couple of hours.”

He placed his hand on her head, caressing it gently before leaving the room, his face full of sorrow at not being able to ease her pain.

She sat by the window watching snowflakes drift by; the house felt awfully silent without her mother’s voice. After a while, she tiptoed out of her room to grab a glass of water. As she passed the hallway, her eyes drifted towards her mother’s bedroom. She had not stepped inside since the day she was gone.

Now, something pulled at her.

Drawn by a quiet longing, Sara slowly opened the door and stepped inside. The air smelled just like her mum — soft and familiar, like roses and warmth. She sat gently on the bed, letting the memories settle around her.

That is when something unusual caught her eye.

Outside the bedroom window, standing right in front of her house, was a door.

A wooden door, tall and strange, covered in green vines that twisted around its frame. A small blue lantern hung above the centre, casting a soft glow. In the centre of the door was a large, iron-made, ancient-looking doorknob shaped like a leaf; the door just stood there with snow falling all over it.

The door did not belong there. It almost felt like a portal — an opening to another world entirely. As the door appeared, Sara felt as if time had suddenly stopped; the world seemed silent and still.

She studied it carefully. That is when her eyes caught something hanging from the doorknob — a necklace with a snowflake-shaped charm. Her heart skipped a beat; it looked exactly like the one her mother used to wear, the one she thought was lost. Too familiar to be a coincidence.

Without a second thought, she grabbed her coat and stepped outside.

Cold breeze brushed her cheeks as she crossed the path and stood before the mystical door. It stood quietly, as if frozen in time, waiting just for her. She rose on her toes and reached out for the necklace.

The moment her fingers closed around it—

The door creaked open.

Sara stepped into a place that looked like a library — but it was nothing like any library she had ever seen. The room stretched far in every direction, filled with impossibly long shelves with ancient books stacked upon them. The room had a strange glow to it; purple vines curled around the shelves while some books floated in the air, their pages fluttering on their own, while others glowed softly with colours like gold, blue and orange as they sat on the shelves.



On one side of the room, a massive tree grew straight from the floor, its trunk carved into a winding staircase that spiralled upwards endlessly, vanishing into a ceiling that wasn't there. The library was filled with wordless music — melancholy and comforting all at once.

In the centre of the library stood a thick wooden table, on which a small globe glowed a faint purple. A few boxes and some books lay piled beside it. Beside the table stood a tall, cloaked figure. Her long, straight white hair shimmered like moonlight; her light blue robe glowed faintly, embroidered with what looked like stars. Her skin was pale, and she wore a pair of thin iron-rimmed glasses. She was reading a glowing silver letter, holding it carefully in both hands.

The figure moved her eyes from the letter towards Sara and spoke in

a rusty yet warm voice. *"Oh, dear. You're here. I've been waiting for you."* She tilted her head gently. *"You've lost something precious — that's why the door opened for you."*

Strangely, Sara was not afraid. The room somehow made her feel safe. She hesitated, then asked, *"Who are you? What is this place?"*

The figure released the letter, and it floated into the air, glowing softly as it joined others drifting high above them.

"This is a place where lost things come to rest. Some are forgotten; some are still trying to be remembered." Then her eyes, light purple and kind, flicked down to the necklace in Sara's hand.

"But not all things that are lost are gone..."

Sara clutched the necklace tightly, her fingers trembling just slightly. *"This isn't mine,"* she said softly. *"It's my mother's. She lost it... not me."*

The Guardian of Lost Things smiled gently. She stepped closer, and her star-stitched cloak glided across the floor silently.

"Oh, did she?" She paused beside Sara and looked down at the golden necklace in her tiny palm. The snowflake charm glowed faintly in the library's light, as if remembering something, too.

"Sometimes," the Guardian said, her eyes meeting Sara's, *"things get lost... only to be found by the right ones."*

As the Guardian touched the charm, soft sparkles drifted into the air.

"I miss my mum," Sara whispered, her voice trembling as tears welled in her eyes.

The Guardian offered a warm, knowing smile. *"Every visitor here is given a chance to glimpse one memory — something lost but never forgotten. Would you like to see one of your mother's?"*

Sara nodded without hesitation.

The Guardian turned and pointed towards a tall shelf. One book floated free, slowly gliding towards them. Her mother's name shimmered on the cover in golden carvings. The book opened on its own, and a memory rose from it like mist turning into a dream.

Sara saw her mother holding a newborn — herself wrapped in a pink blanket. Her father stood beside them with tears in his eyes and a wide smile on his face. Her mother gazed down at the baby Sara and whispered, *"I will always protect you, no matter what. You are my everything. Even if someday, I am not here, I will always find a way to watch over you."* She placed a small kiss on her daughter's cheek.



Sara's breath caught in her throat. Around her mother's neck was the very same necklace she now held in her hand.

As the memory faded into the soft light, the Guardian took the necklace from Sara's hand. She knelt carefully and clasped it around Sara's neck.

Holding her gaze, the Guardian spoke in a steady voice, *"Your mother loved you, Sara. She never left you. Just as this necklace found its way back to you, so has she."* She placed her hands gently on Sara's shoulders. *"She is always protecting you. But sometimes it makes her sad to see you hurting so deeply. She found her way to me and asked me to make sure you knew — she is still with you. Always. This necklace... is her final gift to you. Keep it safe."*

Sara, eyes glistening with tears, nodded with a sense of comfort she had not felt in a long time. *"Thank you so much,"* she whispered, and wrapped her arms around the Guardian in a tight, grateful hug.

The Guardian hugged her back and sprinkled stardust over Sara's shoulders. It felt warm, like sunshine and comfort.

As they pulled apart, the Guardian stood tall and said, *"Always remember — lost things find their way to me. And when they do, they are never truly lost again. They wait with me... until they are ready to be found by the right ones."*

With that, the light shifted around Sara. She blinked and found herself in front of her house. The snow was still falling, but the mystical door

was gone — and she knew the door would appear again when someone else needed it.

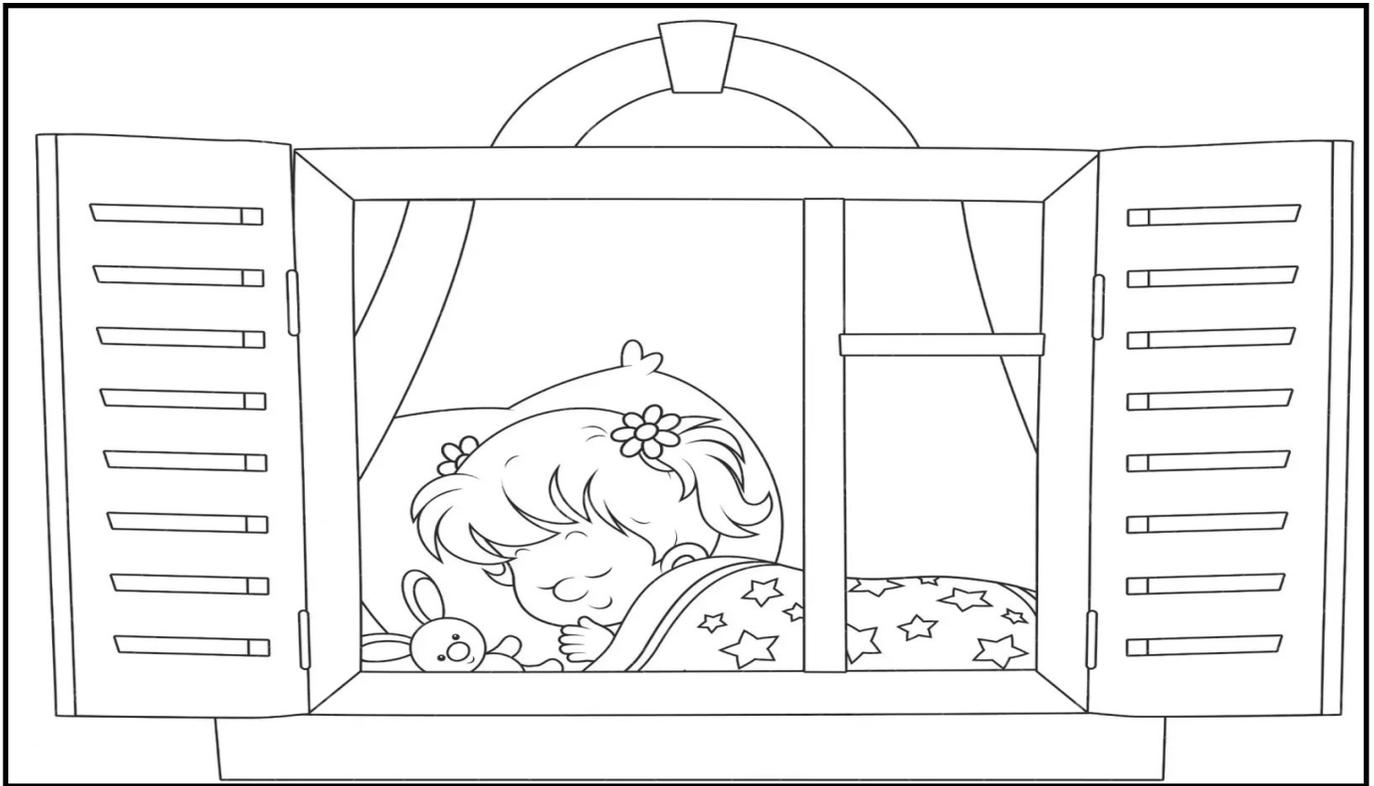
Her father called to her from behind with a bag of groceries in his hand. Sara ran towards him and hugged him.

"Let's bake cookies!" she said happily.

Her father nodded with a smile. Then he noticed the necklace on her neck and asked, *"Honey, this is your mum's necklace — the one she lost. Where did you find it?"*

Sara replied with a small smile, *"On her table."*

Her father sighed in relief. *"Good that you did. It was something your mother adored — just like she adored you."*



SUBCONSCIOUS DECEPTION

VARNICA GUPTA, SEMESTER 4

One snowy evening, I was sitting on the edge of a terrace, admiring the view of the city covered in white clouds. It was probably the end of November; some roofs were already decorated with Christmas lights, but the streets were unusually empty. The weather was cosy, a soft wind brushing my cheeks. I rubbed my hands together and let out a deep breath. My ears suddenly caught the sound of carols from a distance — muffled and unclear. There was something odd about that night; normally, such weather would make me feel at peace, but my heart was pounding more than usual, even though there was nothing in sight that made me feel uneasy.

I placed my hand on my chest and felt my heartbeat. A wave of anxiety washed over me, and I wished I could share the feeling, but there was no one there. I closed my eyes, and my mind began drifting through various thoughts. Why was I even on the terrace? All alone? Was there really no one by my side? Had I always been this lonely?

Suddenly, my thoughts were interrupted by a crinkling sound behind me. I turned to see where it came from, but there was nothing in sight.

I grabbed my blue muffler, which I had left beside me, wrapped it around my neck, and stood on the edge to look at the cold city one last time. I let out a warm sigh. As I turned to leave, I saw a black silhouette of a man standing on the

other side of the terrace. I was so startled by his sudden presence that I almost slipped off the edge, but somehow my body pulled itself back from falling. I couldn't see his face, but I could tell he was unusually tall. As I carefully stepped down from the edge, I asked, "Is there anything I can help you with?"

He didn't answer. He simply stood there in silence, as still as a statue.

In a split second, he appeared right in front of me — just inches away from my face. The strangest part of it all was that even at such close proximity, his face remained obscured.

The unnerving closeness made me so uncomfortable that my heart began throbbing loudly in my ears. He leaned near my ear and whispered, "Scared?" He paused for a moment and then continued, "Were you always this lonely? Or is it something new?" His words sent shivers down my spine, and despite the cold weather, my skin began to sweat.

Before I could even process what he said, he grabbed both my arms, shoved me to the ground, and pinned me there. He held my wrists so tightly that his nails almost dug into my skin. The pain was sharp, and tears began to roll down my face. I tried resisting his grip, but he was far too strong. I could feel a strange hatred radiating from him, though I had no idea why any of this was happening. I had never been so terrified of anyone in my life.

I wanted to scream for help, but my voice simply wouldn't come out — as if it had been stolen.

He then stood up and crushed my ankle in anger. All I could do was groan in immense pain. He began dragging me towards the edge of the terrace and, without hesitation, tossed me over. I suddenly found myself hanging from the roof — my blue muffler the only thing keeping me from falling. He held the other end of it.

I begged him with my eyes, pleading silently for my life. He understood every bit of my emotion. It began snowing, and I could barely keep my eyes open. At that moment, I felt certain it was the end. Memories of all my loved ones flooded my mind, and with the little strength I had left, I whispered, "Sorry."

The man replied, "But why? I don't think you did anything wrong." The atmosphere grew darker and eerier. Panic surged through my entire body.

He continued, "But now that you believe you've done something wrong, you deserve this. And you should go through it alone."

With those words, he let go of my muffler. My eyes widened in horror. Within seconds, I was falling—just like the snowflakes drifting from the sky. Shock consumed my body, and as I plummeted, I saw the black figure vanish into thin air. The moment my back hit the ground, there was a loud thud.



I opened my eyes and sat up in bed, my whole body trembling and drenched in sweat. It was a nightmare. Just a dream. That's why nothing made sense—it had no logic, because dreams and nightmares seldom do.

I rushed to the terrace and found my blue muffler lying on the edge. Did none of that really happen? Was it all just a deception of my mind? Or was my subconscious trying to tell me something?

I picked up my muffler and noticed a note beside it. It read:

“Stop blaming yourself for mistakes you never made, and love yourself a little more every day. Merry Christmas.”



THE VERDANT MEADOW'S GLEAM

SANKHA CHAKRABORTY

*In Dreamland, where the verdant meadows gleam,
A world of vibrant hues in endless light,
Royal mansions stand, like a splendid dream,
A realm where day and night share sweet delight.*

*A dreamy glow pervades this wondrous place,
As if the stars themselves had kissed the land,
In every corner, love's warm, soft embrace,
A realm of magic, where hearts understand.*

*With every step, I find a wonderland,
A realm where fairy tales take vibrant flight,
Where castles rise, their beauty ever grand,
In Dreamland's heart, my spirit finds its light.*

*Amongst the blooms and rivers, skies so blue,
This is the place where my heart truly belongs,
In dreamscape's arms, where fantasies come true,
I dance with echoes of enchanting songs.*

*Amidst this realm of fairy tales, I roam,
A realm where every heart's desire gleams,
In Dreamland's hug, my soul finds home,
Where dreams are real, and love's an endless stream.*

*For in this haven, where love's colours blend,
My heart finds home, a love that has no end.*



A SKY SO BRIGHT

SANKHA CHAKRABORTY

*Humans seek not grandeur, just a sky so bright,
Colours paint clouds in artful hues,
To craft and cherish, to admire each sight,
In the canvas of life, dreams they pursue.*

*Not much they ask, just mild weather's grace,
Wind that whispers secrets through their hair,
A guitar's embrace, notes that interlace,
Songs of joy and sorrow fill the air.*

*Among talkative trees, they long to lean,
Away from crowded paths where others roam,
Simple wishes sprout, each heartfelt dream,
As humans find their peaceful, quiet home.*

*A single soul to hold, a love to share,
Someone to understand and stand by,
Through laughter and tears, an eternal pair,
Love's flame to never falter, never die.*

*In this vast world, simplicity is their creed,
Green grass, marshmallows, ice cream delights,
A faithful friend, a book to truly read,
In life's small moments, their hearts take flight.*

*To sing, to laugh, to light candles in the storm,
With pencils, paper, and dreams, they give them
a form,
They seek companionship, love, and fresh air,
A journey hand in hand, life's truest norm.*

*Ice creams and coffee, friendships pure and
toffee
A book, a dog, some pencils and a pen,
With laughter, walks, and skies as their trophy
They crave life's simple joys, again and again.*

*These humans, in their journey, want no more,
A life well-lived, each little joy they store.*



DISCO AND DRAMA

RAHUL TEKRIWAL, SEMESTER 5

When I was in Class 8, my days followed a pattern familiar to many students: wake up early, attend school, return home, head out again to tuitions, and finally come home in the evening. One constant in this routine was my walk to tuition, during which I used to see two dogs. They were always together - laughing in their own silent way, playful and cheerful. I affectionately called them Disco and Drama.

Every day, I tried to carry a little piece of my tiffin with me, just enough to share with them. They accepted my offerings with eager tails and grateful warmth. They felt like friends — faithful, innocent, and free from the worries of the world.

But then, one rainy afternoon, Drama didn't show up. I found Disco alone under his usual shelter, eyes wet and head bowed. Concern washed over me. A nearby

shopkeeper whispered the news: a red, shiny car had struck Drama just days ago. From then on, Disco stopped eating, barely moving, mourning silently under the same shade where they used to play.

Whenever a red car passed by, Disco would erupt into furious barking, full of grief and shock — his eyes flashing with pain, anger, and the raw longing for justice. Watching him, I felt my heart ache. He wasn't just protecting himself but trying to challenge fate, fighting to keep his friend's memory alive.

At that moment, I realised how powerful friendships can be — even across species. Here was Disco, grieving a friend with whom he had shared simple joys and meals. His grief was not dramatic, it was honest and pure. In his own way, he taught me about loyalty, about the pain of loss, and the silent strength of mourning. He taught me that sometimes sadness looks like stubborn silence, and anger can be a trembling bark.

Watching Disco, I also learnt that healing isn't always graceful. Sometimes it's awkward, messy — like a heart trying to say goodbye. But there is courage in continuing to exist, to wait, to hope, even when joy seems impossible.



Over time, Disco still lived under that familiar shade. I continued to bring bits of food. Gradually, a spark of life returned to his eyes — not the same bright mischief as before, but a softer glow of remembrance and guarded hope. It was like witnessing a fragile light beginning to flicker again.



सिर्फ बेटी होना काफी नहीं है

ABHINANDITA GOND, SEMESTER 1



वैसे तो बिना माँगे बहुत चीजों की बारिश होती है मुझ पर

पर अपने मन का एक बूंद भी नहीं बरसता

उनकी उम्मीदों पर उतरो

तो लाड़ली बेटी

आज अपने हक की बात कर दी

तो "बेशर्म है तू"

उनके सपने जीने लगी,

तो कद ऊँचा हो जाता है

एक दफ़ा अपने सपनों के बारे में बात क्या कर लिया, सिर शर्म से झुक जाता है

लोग क्या कहेंगे, रिश्तेदार क्या कहेंगे

एक बाप इसे ज्यादा तवज्जु देता है

एक माँ उस बेटी का मुँह बंद करती है

जो सच्ची बात कर देती है

बेटा हो तो... "बता कर जाया कर" बेटी हो तो... "इजाज़त किसने दी"

उसने कितनी लड़की छोड़ी... सब छुपाते हैं

इसने कितने छोटे कपड़े पहने... सब बातें बनाते हैं

आज चुप कर घूमने चली जाऊँ,

कल को मेरे चरित्र पर सवाल हो जाता है,

आज लड़का शराब पीकर आए,

कल को ये बात छुपा लिया जाता है

एक लड़के को कोई कुछ बोल दे,

नवाब खाना पटक कर अकड़ दिखाते हैं

एक लड़की की जिंदगी में पूरा खानदान टोक जाता है,

उसने जवाब दिया तो माँ-बाप माफ़ी मंगवाकर मुँह बंद कराते हैं

फिर बात होती है आधुनिक समाज की,

एक लड़की की इज्जत की,

उसके अनुराग की,

इतना माँगे वो राजकुमारी

कि थोड़ी इज्जत हो जाए दुनिया वालों से उसके संसार की.



UNMOORED

MD. SAMIR, SEMESTER 1

*What do you seek, O Wanderer,
To have travelled far from home?
Is it rubies, pearls, or silver,
Or something worth much more?*

*Do you seek eternal freedom
From miseries, big and small,
To rule over a kingdom,
Or do you seek to have it all?*

*What do you really desire,
O traveller far from home?
Is it guidance that you seek
To find the lands unknown?*

*Some look for the warmth of love,
Some search for the shine of gold.
For some, the joy of youth it is,
And some, the wisdom of old.*

*What do you, O lost one,
Really look for?
Or do you simply run away
From something you abhor?*

*Is it the past that concerns you,
Or the future that's unsure?
Is it the present that you live in
That torments you even more?*

*Where do you go, O passerby,
Running so far from hope,
Leaving all that you had behind—
Your land, your love, your home?*

*Do you crave eternal slumber,
An abode every man hates,
A void absent of dreams,
Where the long sleep awaits?*



GOODBYE, MY FRIEND

VIRAAJ KOCHHAR, SEMESTER 1

*Maybe I was never lost
Maybe I was in despair
Something so detached that it can't tag along.*

*Yet in the hush of silence,
Where sorrow softly lay,
The echo of beauty kissed the ache then gently slipped away.*

*Au revoir mon ami
Perhaps it wasn't lost at all
Just something I chose not to keep.*

*Maybe I was never lost...
Just learning to move on.*

Goodbye



The timeless dialogue between wings and water, frozen in a single frame

Labbh Jalan, Semester 1



A fleeting choreography of wings above the deep, where survival and beauty intertwine

Labbh Jalan, Semester 1



Poster of the movie RRR

Drawings by Mohit Shaw, Semester 1



*Ram Lalla idol:
Where devotion
meets artistry — an
exquisite portrait of
the divine*

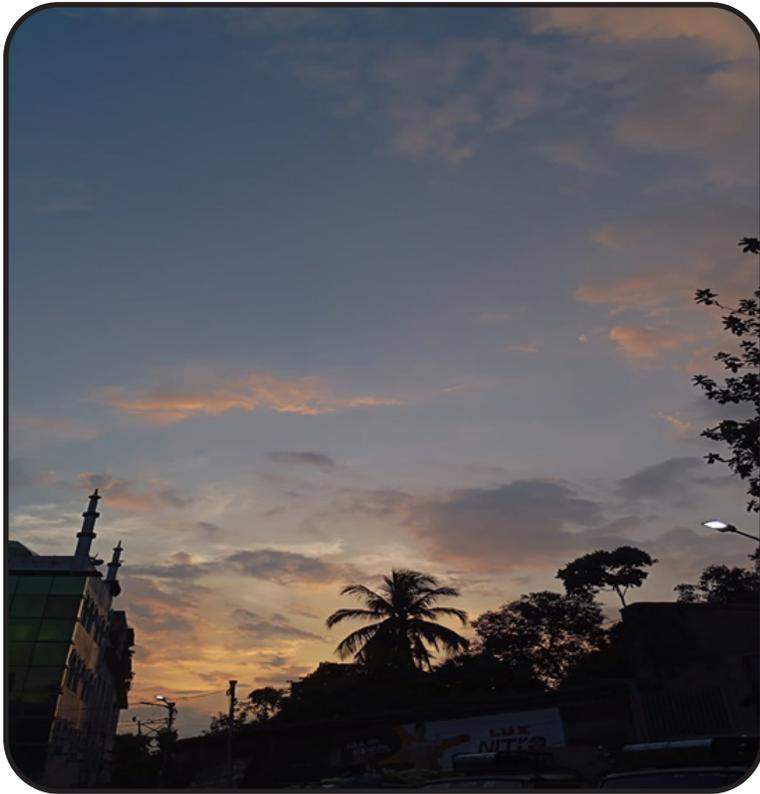


Vishwaroopam: India's first realistic portrayal of the 'Mahabharat'

This sketch is not just graphite on paper but a collage of time, patience, and devotion — where ancient epics meet a contemporary eye. Every stroke reflects hours of detail, showing how the timeless can live again in the present.

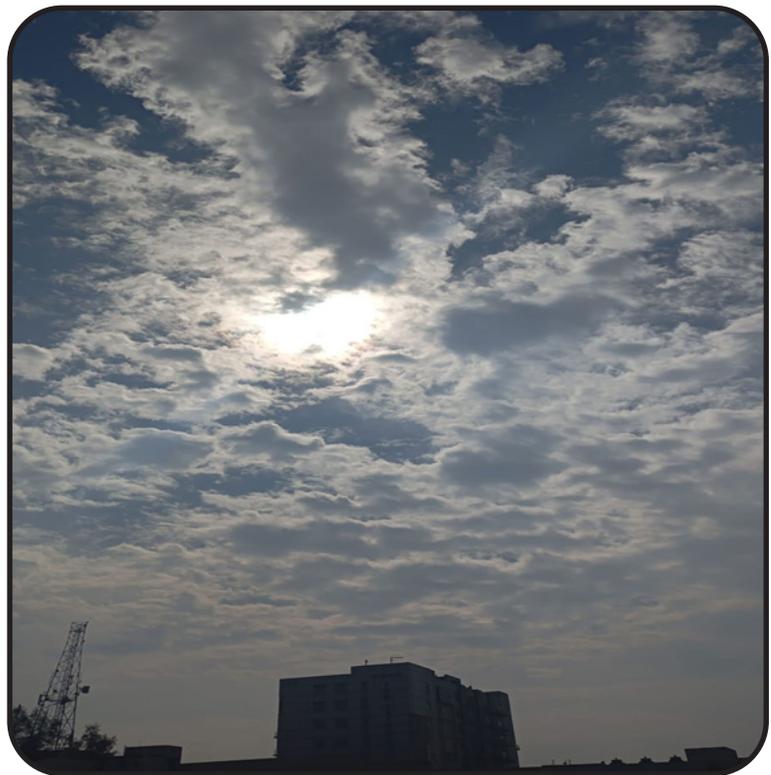
By: Pritiranjana Rout





*Clouds painting stories
above the chaos*

By: Aarushi Somani, Semester 3



*Caught between fading
light and rising hope*

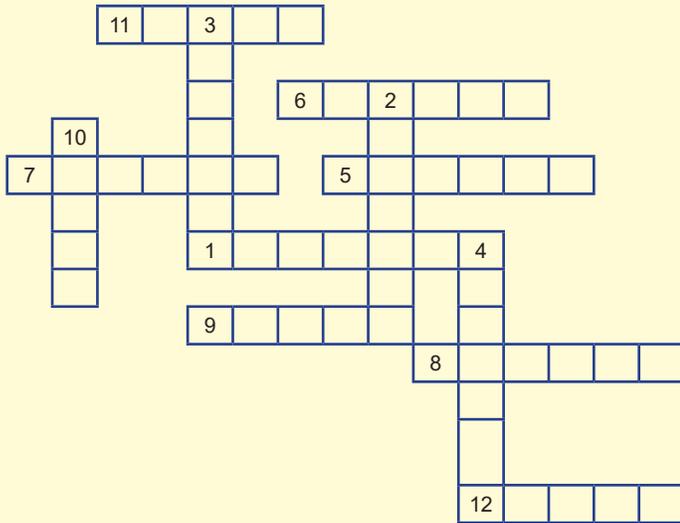


Leaf by leaf, drop by drop, the earth awakens

By Kartikeya Ashara, Semester 1



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across :

- 1. A technique of editing and piecing together segments (7)
- 5. A person engaged in an activity related to a creative medium (6)
- 6. A plan or drawing (6)
- 7. A pattern or image made of many small pieces (6)
- 8. The artist's unique perspective expressed in the work (6)
- 9. The pictures or photographs used as elements in a collage (5)
- 11. The type of materials being used (plural) (5)
- 12. The subject or idea behind the artwork (5)

Down :

- 2. The base material the collage is made on (7)
- 3. An early 20th-century art movement that heavily utilized collage techniques (7)
- 4. A public display of works of art (7)
- 10. The main point of visual interest in the composition (5)

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

P	O	Z	R	R	D	E	G	R	E	E	X	M	I	D
S	M	D	S	Q	A	D	W	S	Q	F	O	H	P	K
Z	J	W	P	R	M	Y	U	A	P	J	N	J	U	H
E	H	A	D	E	U	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	W	G
K	O	Q	Y	C	A	T	S	P	I	M	M	T	O	S
I	M	X	L	A	B	G	H	T	H	T	U	X	H	S
C	E	E	A	M	C	P	R	O	F	E	S	S	O	R
Z	W	K	T	P	A	Q	V	S	J	E	O	S	A	L
M	O	I	A	U	N	W	W	E	F	R	W	K	L	M
S	R	D	C	S	T	O	F	M	O	L	T	W	U	F
S	K	Z	Z	O	E	B	N	E	Y	Q	B	E	M	A
X	L	P	Z	G	E	L	P	S	I	P	J	K	N	X
B	S	M	A	U	N	Y	C	T	X	E	G	V	I	S
L	Z	H	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	Q	D	B
G	F	S	E	M	I	N	A	R	K	O	W	H	V	Q

FIND THESE WORDS :

- CAMPUS, DEGREE, CANTEEN,
 KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDS,
 PROFESSOR, HOMEWORK,
 ALUMNI, SEMESTER, SEMINAR





***Members of The Bhawanipur Education Society College,
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