

EXCELSIOR

2021



Maulana Azad
National Institute of Technology



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Editors' Letter

For a long time now, I have deferred writing this letter; antithetical to the person within, who keeps telling her team to respect deadlines. The idea of accepting it as my final work for the board has made me run counter against my better judgment. But today when my fellow JC sent his draft to me, I knew it was past the deadline. A flock of birds flies overhead and I begin to write.

Excelsior'21 is a transition. From the shadows of the dim amateur who strives to maintain equilibrium in life to a leader who endeavors to maintain equity so her team feels that sense of belonging even in a virtual atmosphere. From recruiting strangers to calling them family, from clueless video meets to rigorous content creation, from inaudible voices and blurry faces to candid memories, from next to impossible to right in the face of possible.

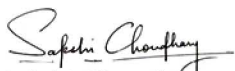
This edition provides a unique vision to the reader; there will be congestions and fevers. There will be years of stagnation and decades of intense activity. There will be moments of delirium. There will be bleak days of war and bright periods of peace. There will be retrogression and advance, but the retrogression will only seem. In reality, the world will move on slowly but steadily towards the new golden age, towards the new normal. But we need not be discouraged if a few storms intervene. When the happy days of sound sense and scientific reconstruction shall dawn, the human race shall move with quickened pace towards the light. But at the same time, one must no longer try to 'squeeze the cosmos in a test tube'. It cannot be done. These facts will become apparent to the readers as they advance into these pages.

I ought not to move ahead without acknowledging my gratitude to our Patrons, Dr. K. K. Dhote and Dr. Deepak Kumar for being our guiding stars. My fellow JC, thanks for being the best companion, crybaby, and cheerleader I could have asked for. To my team, these kids are miles away yet the closest to my heart. Your efforts and innovative ideas have driven me to outdo myself. I hope it reflects on these pages. Many thanks to my friends, alumni and partner for encouraging me to settle with nothing but best.

This magazine and I progressed together. I learnt to revolt against my fears to make those who counted on me feel proud. For worries and anxieties follow everyone to the grave, seldom does one ever get away from them. The thing but few people ever do is to find a way to deal with a change uninvited. This constant connection could be the very reason I face such difficulty moving forward. I feel stagnant but can't be the folly of hindrance in the pathway of its next edition that Excelsior'21 has laid, nevertheless. At this point, as I find my new normal, I wish for the readers to find theirs. I rest my quill here.

I'll just sit here for a while; watching the flock of birds sink into the golden Sun. It's the beginning of the dawn. It's the beginning of the transition. It's the beginning of the "New Normal".

You and I? We shall meet again when phoenix brings your letter; O Weary Traveller.


Sakshi Choudhary
Joint Chief Editor

As Lao Tzu said, *"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."*; my journey of this 120ish page magazine began three years ago with two simple letters. EB.

With every previous launch that I was involved in, I felt that it was my best work to date and the most effort that I had put in. However, now, I believe that this edition is a culmination of my best efforts, ideas, and aspirations. It might be because this was my final magazine. But it might also be due to all the hardships it has endured behind the scenes. For a team that has only seen each other behind blurry screens, creating a magazine while being far from each other is a Herculean task. Ideation, creation, and release, all online, seem like a sheer impossibility. But this pandemic made such unbelievable scenarios a reality.

Excelsior '21 is like a beacon in our new normal. Its contents and the very nature of the work that went into putting together its contents are a symbol for me that even in uncertain times where everything seems lost and you feel cut off from the ones you can call your own, your bonds can persist and grow stronger and accomplish beautiful things and memories.

One cannot move forward without acknowledging the support of those behind them. I express my gratitude to our patrons, Dr. Deepak Kumar and Dr. K. K. Dhote, for their support and guidance. My fellow JC, thank you for being my companion on this journey. And to my team, you guys are the best and, without your efforts, support or creativity, this journey would have died out as just another dream. A special shoutout to my alumni, friends, and family for offering me a hand when I felt that I'd drown. For only from the support of many could something so precious be born.

This magazine is my final work as a member of EB and a student of MANIT. My eyes grow blurry, my hands become stiff, my feet feel reluctant to move as it is time to hand over the mantle to the next generation and move on forward. For although I know that this will always be a part of me, I feel oddly upset to leave this warmth and familiarity of what I call home and move onto the unknown of tomorrow. Is it wrong of me to wish that I had a bit more time left?

Arigato and sayonara. Until we meet again.



Siddharth Pandalai
Joint Chief Editor

Excelsior '21

Jodie Foster once said, *"Normal is not something to aspire to, it's something to get away from."*

Excelsior '21 is not just another magazine for us. It's a turning point in our lives and holds a sacred place in our hearts.

We started this journey with a mere interest in the craft. We had no idea what a rollercoaster it would be. Each path we took, presented a new view, a new landscape. Throughout our road trip, we encountered unique individuals, learning from them and moving onto the next location. By traversing this medley of towns and people, we created new landscapes to paint our changing perceptions onto with every passing year.

This year with Excelsior '21, we paint the message of a New Normal. With some of us bound by the scenario of this new normal and some of us moving on beyond, we paint a picture of transition. The colorless cover of our magazine depicts how the color has been leached from our lives. But upon traversing through its colorful contents, we learn that no matter how devoid life seems, there is always a silver lining to look forward to and people to lean on, who bring color into our lives. We experienced that first hand, having worked remotely with our team all year long. The grey of our thoughts was filled by the color of their support.

It is our pleasure that this was the team with whom we reached the end of our journey. Kudos to our Editors, fellow Designers, and Artists, who made this dream possible and helped us achieve our vision. Major thanks to our alumni, friends, and family for supporting us through it all.

And now we must depart. For a brand new horizon is calling us to paint a new message onto it. But the messages we painted here will always hold a special meaning in our hearts. One that neither time nor life will ever be able to erase. For now that we have achieved our New Normal, we do not wish to let it go again.



K. Shrikaran
Chief Designer



Ritesh Kumar
Chief Artist

Patrons' Message



DIRECTOR, MANIT

Dr. N.S. Raghuwanshi

It is a matter of great pride and joy that the annual college magazine Excelsior'21 is ready for publication. The magazine stands as the voice representing the ethos of the students of MANIT. The magazine has a rich history and heritage attached to it and carries with it the weight of responsibility to uphold that history, while also keeping in touch with the changing times.

The magazine chronicles the progress of the institute throughout the academic year despite the unprecedented times impeding the process. The magazine is a clear reflection of the talent of the institute's students not in just the technical fields, but creative endeavors as well.

I congratulate the Editorial Board and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



**FACULTY COORDINATOR,
EDITORIAL BOARD**

Dr. K. K. Dhote

As the Institute magazine is a reflection of the previous academic year, it is only natural that we take into cognizance the events of the past year and go digital with Excelsior'21. The annual magazine this year is the digital form of MANIT's public consciousness, an expression of its students and a representation of our true spirit. With the difficulties presented in the recent past, I wish we learn from them and let go of them, as that is the only way forward.



**FACULTY CO-COORDINATOR,
EDITORIAL BOARD**

Dr. Deepak Kumar

It is indeed a happy moment for me to know that Excelsior'21 is ready for release. The magazine prominently speaks of the hard work and enthusiasm of the Editorial Board and provides an excellent opportunity through various genres of writing. It has established itself as a platform for students to express themselves creatively. The magazine is a sound reassurance that budding engineers are excelling not only in the technical domain but also in the creative fields. I appreciate the efforts and hard work of the students in bringing out this magazine. I hope that the magazine "Excelsior" is widely read and cherished, and that it will continue to inspire others.

Contents

Excelsior '21

From The Desk

Director's Interview	08
Dean's Interview	11
College News	12
Society News	14
Achiever's Blog	22

Boundaries

Cover Prologue	24
Prologue	25
The Perplexing	26
Magic Bullet	
Fitness Freak	29
टेक नो सर्च	32
MANIT Placement	34
League	
2020 के अधमरे ग्राफ़	36
Epilogue	38

Rebel

Prologue	39
Fitwick	40
The Loopdown	44
अंतिम अभिलाषा	47
कलियुग का रैप	48
The Resistance	50
Epilogue	52

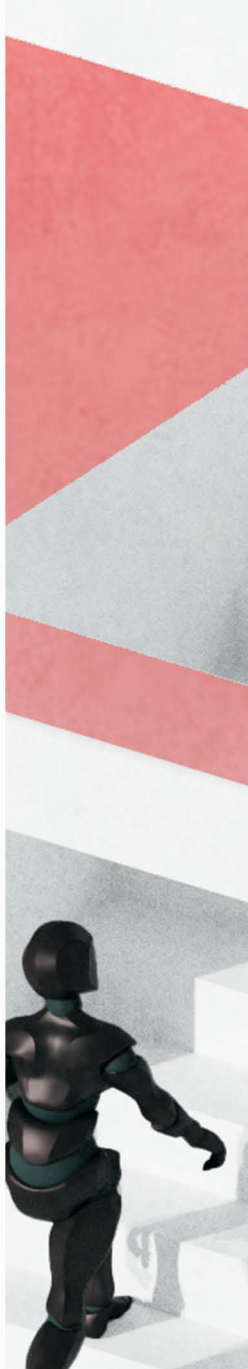
Exploration



Speak Through



Career



Final Year Tribute



Prologue	53
Quaran-Teen	54
Kung Fu Shifu	57
Meeting In	60
General	
मास्क का साक्षात्कार	62
मैनिट में का बा	64
सोच-समझ-सुझाव	66
कहीं ठहराव तो कहीं	67
अवसर	
Epilogue	68
Cover Epilogue	69

Description	71
Survey 2021	72
Campaign	76
Polls	77
General Articles	78
Alumni Articles	83
General Art	85

Description	87
Interview #1 -	88
Rudrapriya Yadav	
Interview #2 -	91
Kritika Kharbanda	
Freedom With	95
Freelance	
Beginner's Guide	99
To Product	
Management	
Placement Stats	103

Description	106
MANIT Oscars	108
Photo Collage	110
EB Profiles	118
Notes	126
Career@EB	128

Director's Interview



Q. What has been the biggest challenge for MANIT during the pandemic? Has this derailed the institute from its vision of becoming one of the best in the country?

We were successful in managing the situation competently during the first wave, however, we sadly lost a few of our colleagues during the second wave which is an irreparable loss for the institute. We have been launching initiatives to improve the academic research & development sector for the past year and a half, but our vision to excel and maintain student activities within the institute got derailed due to the shift online. As soon as the institute reopens, we are prepared to introduce a bunch of new activities for the student's all-around development.

Q. Given the uncertainty about reopening colleges in the upcoming semester, what do you think should be the go-to strategy? Is it feasible to opt for a hybrid model of education with both online and offline components?

Earlier, before March, we were hoping that the pandemic would subside shortly and planned to start calling students back in a phased manner but unfortunately, the second wave struck during mid-march which daunted us with much more severity, so we had to re-think our strategy to call the students back. One thing is for certain that once students are allowed to return, we will ensure that everybody is fully vaccinated and that the vaccination certificates would be mandatory for students as well as staff members to be able to re-join the college physically.

Are there any tentative dates about the Institute re-opening?

By the end of June, we'll get a clear picture about re-opening the institute, the declining rate of cases in India is reassuring and many spaces have started re-opening which is also a positive sign. We acknowledge that academic life is incomplete without the experience of being physically present here on campus whether it be the freshmen batch that is yet to explore the college or the final year batch preparing for their placements, both are equally important. We'll start calling students back in a phased manner rather than in groups to avoid any major problems faced during the whole process and adequately adopt measures for a smooth transition.

Q. What message would you like to share with the freshmen who are yet to visit the campus for the first time?

The message is clear; even though these are uncertain times, do not lose hope, stay safe and there is a definite chance that you will be coming to the campus in the coming months, once the vaccination drive has been completed. You should never let the fatigue of isolation affect your mental health in the slightest. Take time to maintain your health by practicing meditation regularly along with ample physical exercises. Spend your leisure hours indulging in your hobbies and keep in touch with your friends on social media platforms. And finally, make sure to do something out of your routine to not fall into a loop.

Many clubs/societies in our college are already helping them in this by providing them an outlet for their mental health, which has been affected by the pandemic

Regarding mental health, Yoga and Pranayam practices will help students in coping with the toll taken on their mental health by the unfortunate situation. Online meet-ups and healthy group discussions on topics relating to the college, environment, or any issue they find worthwhile would help immensely as well.

The pandemic has opened plenty of opportunities for research and development through group discussions. Students can take up problems like the supply-demand of oxygen and medicines to come up with solutions that could lead to successful start-ups and entrepreneurship opportunities. There are several issues one can think about and develop cost-effective solutions for; I would want to see everyone take proactive initiatives towards solving such issues.

Q. The National Education Policy (NEP) has been discussed in great depth for some time now. One of the main issues which prevent students from getting equal access is the barrier of language and mother tongue. How is the college preparing to overcome this hurdle?

We have had lots of discussions on the implementation of the NEP, specifically to overcome the language barrier. We have revised our curricula to match NEP 2020

by introducing the option for students to work on the major and minor options. We are now providing the opportunity to choose the electives in different disciplines as well. We have also surveyed the faculties and freshmen about their inclination towards attending classes in other languages. As the institute is located in a Hindi-speaking area, if a sufficient amount of students are interested then we can opt for hybrid teaching, with a mixture of Hindi and English so the students are more comfortable in learning in their mother tongue. One batch may start from the next year onwards.

Q. Do you think it is feasible to segregate students into different career tracks such as Research, Core Placements, IT, GATE, MBA etc. After their first or second year based on their inclination? Can specific training and guidance from the institute increase their chances of success?

The engineering program is an avenue for students to grasp the basics/fundamentals of their core subject and we already offer electives for the students to choose from according to their inclinations. However, it is not in the best interest of the students or the institute to segregate them into separate career tracks. The students have to decide that of their own volition based on their interests in the four years of college. We can have more flexibility in the curricula to cater to their interests in the early stage; for example, if a student is interested in IT, they can take additional courses in that domain.

Q. What is the motivation behind expanding and improving the sports infrastructure of the institute? Will those be accessible to everyone or will be seeing a similar trial-based system like we presently have?

One of the motivations behind improving the sports infrastructure is that it has been observed that most of the students spend their days whiling away time in their rooms online on social media platforms. A young person should frequently visit the grounds to stay physically active and should do other activities rather than just surfing the web and chatting. We are introducing sports and yoga as a compulsory subject in the First Year. A new basketball court, tennis court, refurbishing of badminton courts, net practice area, and pool tables are added to the existing sports infrastructure. A trial-based system will only be called upon for the selection of teams representing the institute in competitions.

Q. The present norms of internship for final year students pose many administrative challenges for both the students as well as the institute. Can we expect to see changes in the same now that several companies are opting for a 6-month internship + Full time offer for prospective employees?

This is not true. In the last 2-3 years, we have made several changes in the placements policies, we are now allowing almost all the students who get selected for the six months internship in the 8th semester, they can also take the courses offered by NPTEL. So I am not aware of the difficulties they are facing but the

changes have been made to be flexible to ensure they get ample opportunities.

Even if a company accepts a student, there are criteria from the institute

If I remember correctly we have removed those criteria a year ago.

Q. The Rolta Incubation Centre has become active again after quite some time. What are your aspirations from the same?

As a premier engineering institute, students reach here after facing a very competitive examination but if we look at our progressivity towards start-ups and entrepreneurship, the results are very poor. So far we were not able to do much in the Rolta Incubation Centre like being able to ensure that the students from their first year or second year could get involved in some kind of innovative projects. We would encourage faculty members and their students to carry out their projects and if their innovative ideas become successful, they can launch their own start-up.

Q. The student council could not be formed last year because of unavailability of students in the campus. Can alternative arrangements be made for conducting elections online if the current situation persists?

Conducting an online election may lead to controversies which we can't indulge in. As soon as the campus reopens, we will conduct the elections and elect the student representatives.

Q. What opportunities does the recent MoU with ISRO bring for MANIT? Can we expect to see more such collaborations in the future?

The idea behind the ISRO collaboration is that ISRO has set research proposals with the faculties for the development of a product. Some students and faculty members believe we can solve their problems and can help develop the product which can be used by ISRO or by some other industries. It will generate plenty of opportunities for the students to take part in the process of developing the product under the guidance of our faculty. After development, they may even get to patent it. So this collaboration brings opportunities to the students in MANIT as well as other institutes located in central India.

Q. How do you think MANIT has performed during the COVID-19 pandemic?

MANIT has performed more than satisfactorily; I say this as we were able to conduct our academic activities such as the course completion according to the proposed schedule, smooth conduction of examinations, and result generation all on time without any hiccups. I would like to extend my gratitude to my staff, faculties, and students for this success in such unprecedented times.

Dean Interview



Dr. P. K. Agarwal

Dean Planning & Development

Q. The institute has undergone a massive upgrade in infrastructure in the past couple of years. What do you think have been the positive reinforcements of the same in the life of students?

Students are the prime stakeholders in the education system. Vibrant campus life is essential for high-quality teaching-learning process. Towards this end, MANIT Bhopal has undergone a massive upgrade in infrastructure under the dynamic leadership of our Director and developed new departmental blocks, construction and renovation of hostels, computing facilities, strengthening of sports facilities etc. I think that good physical infrastructure and appropriate resources conducive to learning will provide plenty of opportunities for students for participation in academics, sports, and cultural activities. These facilities will provide a safe and stimulating learning environment and every student in the campus will feel welcomed and cared for.

Q. There have always been discussions about road safety and long-distance commute in MANIT because of the huge campus. Do you think there are any steps which can be taken to address these concerns?

Sign boards, marking and street lighting etc. are being installed/planned on our campus to enhance road safety. We all are always worried about the safety of our residents and particularly students. Considering the large students movement in our huge campus, I suggest the following:

- Construction of well protected and safe pedestrian facilities from various hostels to different parts of the campus.

- Operation of environment friendly vehicles i.e E-Rickshaw etc.

- Discouraging motor bikes and motivating students to use Bicycle

- Planning of a Bus Service from campus to key locations in the city.

- Quality medical facilities for all students in the campus

Q. Are there any upcoming proposals/projects which directly impact the students?

Yes, MANIT is committed to the holistic development of students and create strong internal systems for supporting diverse student in academic and social domains. I am confident that various upcoming projects in the campus will provide meaningful opportunities for all students for social engagement, quality residential facilities and on-campus support,

etc. to attain the goal of high-quality teaching-learning process at MANIT. Some of the important upcoming projects includes lecture hall complex, construction of 600 seater girls hostel, renovation of boys hostels, mega mess, married research scholar accommodation, increasing sports facilities etc. Various buildings and facilities are being made wheelchair-accessible and disabled-friendly.

College News

AUGUST 2020

74th INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

MANIT Bhopal celebrated the 74th Independence Day online with a limited physical gathering. The ceremony was physically attended by the Director, Deans, HODs, and other administrative staff of the Institute, while other members witnessed the celebration through an online virtual medium, live-streamed on the Institute's official social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. Addressing the virtual gathering, Dr. N. S. Raghuwanshi, Director, MANIT Bhopal, said, "This pandemic crisis has put forth new opportunities and possibilities in front of us, and we should take advantage of those opportunities to minimize our weaknesses and come out stronger than others." Emphasizing the Vision Document of NEP 2020, he stressed upon various achievements of the Institute, highlighting various initiatives and steps taken by the Institute to take forward the online

modes of teaching, the renovation of hostels and labs, the curriculum revision, the successful awareness programs of entrepreneurship, etc. Though the celebration was low-key on the 74th Independence Day due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the spirit of the nation stood high.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of MANIT Bhopal organized a five-day online workshop on "Self-Reliant India with New Vision in Post-COVID World" from 15th-19th August 2020. The workshop aimed to enlighten and encourage participants to become 'Self-Reliant, in the Post COVID World', and to help them improve their skill set. The workshop had eminent speakers from various fields and included various activities such as expert talks on Self-Reliant India & NEP 2020, a Quiz Competition, an Essay Writing Competition, etc.

SEPTEMBER 2020

61st FOUNDATION DAY



MANIT Bhopal celebrated the 61st Foundation Day and Valedictory Function of Diamond Jubilee Year on 4th September 2020. Faculty, students, staff, and alumni from across the globe were present in online/offline mode to commemorate this milestone.

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) Cell of MANIT Bhopal has been awarded the perennial grant of Rs.1.75 lakh for effective delivery of UBA mandate under a National Level Competition among all the participating Institutions of UBA. The UBA Delhi and CSIR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to implement the people-friendly technology intervention in the adopted villages by the participating institutions in the country. In the first stage, MANIT Bhopal has selected three rural technology Interventions in the adopted villages. These are (1) Garlic Paste manufacturing small unit (2) Technology for Agriculture waste (wheat bran, sugarcane bagasse) based biodegradable plates, cups, and cutleries, and (3) Dehumidified dryer for food and Agro products with the help of CSIR.





OCTOBER 2020

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK (VAW) 2020

In pursuit of the vision of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the Government of India, MANIT Bhopal observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 27th October to 2nd November 2020. The Institute, as mandated by the commission, devised a few strategies to encourage all the stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of, and the fight against corruption and also to raise awareness. Various activities like Essay Competition, Poster Competition, Slogan Writing Competition, Expert Talks, Panel Discussions, Quiz, etc. were held during the week to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in academic and social life. It was held under the guidance of the Chief Vigilance Officer Prof. P. K. Jain.

which also include 11 gold medals, 11 silver medals, and 50 Ph.D. degrees. Adhya Sharma, a student of Computer Science and Engineering, received the prestigious President of India gold medal at the Convocation for her extraordinary academic performance. Students and parents from across the globe participated in the Convocation.

FIT INDIA FREEDOM RUN



The Fit India Movement which promotes a path of fitness and wellness saw participation by the faculty and staff of MANIT Bhopal. Dr. N. S. Raghuwanshi, Director MANIT, also joined the movement. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, students could not participate in the event.

DECEMBER 2020

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Online Orientation for B.Tech. First-Year students were organized on 2nd and 3rd December 2020 to welcome and familiarize them with MANIT curricula and its education system. Dr. N. S. Raghuwanshi, Director, MANIT Bhopal gave the welcome address to the new entrants and motivated them to do well in their academic careers. Dr. N. D. Mittal, Dean Academics, and Dr. J. L. Bhagoria, Dean SW also addressed the students to orient them to the world of science and technology and wished them great success. Other senior professors and Institute authorities of Hostel, Medical, Sports, Digital initiatives, and Training and Placement also addressed the students. Dr. Ravi Dwivedi coordinated and presented the rainbow of cultural activities. The program also included motivational talks by internationally acclaimed educationists, alumni talks, departmental presentations, etc. The program ended with a beautiful film series on Bhopal Darshan.

NOVEMBER 2020

17th CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The 17th Convocation of the Institute was held on 7th November 2020 in a virtual reality mode. Shri Rajiv Verma, the renowned Indian actor, was the chief guest of the convocation. Prof. Bhim Singh, Chairman, Board of Governors, Dr. N. S. Raghuwanshi, Director MANIT, deans, and heads of various departments were also present. Total 1415 students received degrees



Society News

Aarooha

E-mail: aarooha.youthorg@gmail.com

Instagram: aarooha.youthorg

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/aarohayouthorg>



Goal - The primary beneficiaries of our organization are under-privileged children of the society who lack access to basic amenities of educational infrastructure and a robust moral support system. We want to help these children achieve their dreams and, in this process, become considerate and caring human beings. We uplift as many kids as we can and help them find their place in mainstream society. Right to education is a fundamental right and Aarooha is trying very hard to ensure that no child is left bereft of this entitlement.

Events -
अ सेअः
AAsha
AAKAR
Seminars

Pandemic - The pandemic had been hard for us at first but Aarooha quickly adapted and we got back on our feet with online solutions for every problem. We successfully conducted the events online. Amid the pandemic, our previous structure of physically tutoring children was rendered obsolete and an improvement in the system was required. The existing 1V1C (1 Volunteer and 1 Child) program was now made online, where one volunteer to one child interaction was made possible online. All this was possible because of the volunteers who worked together to build this structure online despite all the problems faced due to lack of resources, devices, internet connectivity and worked with every child patiently solving their every problem and kept their studies going.

Ae Se Aenak

E-mail: aeseaenak06@gmail.com

Instagram: aeseaenak

Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/aeseaenak>



Goal - Ae Se Aenak aims to unveil the truth of unspoken shadows and works for the goal of making the nation a better place for people putting forth our ideas and research-based truth. We are the official Street Play Society of MANIT, working to make the world better, one person at a time.

Events -
15th August
Annual Production, 26th January
Annual Production, Performance in Maffick and Tooryanaad, Swang.

Pandemic —Nukkad or street plays find their very essence in live performances where people can realize and relate to ground realities. However, due to the pandemic that was not possible. The utilization of the age of IGTV, Youtube, and FB has changed the format altogether and helped us reach a larger mass. People share their stories watching the content provided by us which further assists us to understand and learn if our message is delivered accurately. It was no cakewalk to adapt this habitat for a Street Play Society, but with the zeal shown by team members, efforts, and audience's support we were able to deliver the best knowledge we could.

Azad-1

E-mail: systems2azad@gmail.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/azad1.manit>



Goal - Development of a Nano-Satellite for observation of the Solar Spectrum.

Events -
Recruitments

Pandemic - Engineering a satellite is a collaborative effort in itself and a lot of work gets restricted if you can communicate only through zoom calls. We have tried to remedy this and continue working accordingly to the best of our efforts.

Debating Society MANIT

E-mail: debsoc.nitb@gmail.com

Facebook page: The Debating Society, NIT Bhopal



Goal - Debsoc is the sole Society of the Institute created with the vision of promoting the culture of debating inside the campus and representing MANIT in several national tournaments held throughout the year. Debsoc firmly believes that all individuals are unique and have great potential to bring about a change in society and the first step starts with letting your voice be heard!

Events -
Presently we do not organize any events but given the huge demand for in-house debating sessions, we will soon be bringing out brand new events from the next academic year.

Pandemic - The sport of debating is one where people need to face each other off literally and stand firm on their ground. Representing the Institute in several tournaments while visiting some of the best campuses was also a highlight for all members of Debsoc. Unfortunately, this year the scenario has changed a bit. But we are still going strong on various virtual platforms like Mixldea, Discord, etc., and have participated in almost half a dozen tournaments. All of our practice sessions have also been virtual but we hope that we can soon return to practice at our home ground in CCOAT.

Drishtant

E-mail: drishtant.nit.bhopal@gmail.com

Instagram: drishtant_nitb

Website: drishtantnitbhopal.wordpress.com



Goal - It is the oldest Literary Society of MANIT, that provides a forum for creative, passionate, and expressive individuals to improve themselves. Founded in 1996, we endeavor to provide an arena for those who battle with communication skills.

Events -
Illuminati,
Ripple,
Online Event
(Stalkathon)

Pandemic - The online academic year had us set out to create a better standing in the virtual world. The Drishtant Team faced quite a lot of challenges which included a complete rework of our annual events to fit the online criteria, increased workload for our designers and video editors, and less interaction with our team. One of the biggest issues was the induction of new members into the Society. Online meetings, interviews, and discussions were not as engaging, which overall made the team bonding more difficult. Throughout the year, our initial attempts were riddled with complications, which were resolved with every task we completed.

Editorial Board MANIT

Email: editorialboard.nitb@gmail.com

Instagram: editorialboard.nitb

Facebook: Editorial Board, MANIT Bhopal

Blog: edboardmanit.wordpress.com



Goal - Editorial Board is the oldest student organization in MANIT primarily tasked with the creation of the annual Institute magazine, Excelsior. The creation of Excelsior itself is a dynamic and multi-faceted process that has helped EB become an all-inclusive space where everyone gets to express, learn and share everything they have to offer and become the best version of themselves. Perhaps the only student body where the entire Institute contributes to its success, directly or indirectly.

Events - Annual Photoshoot for Final Year students, Survey for Freshmen and Junior students, Speak Through Excelsior

Pandemic - The virtual setting hit us hard in the sense that we were unable to publish a physical copy of the magazine. Apart from that, EB has not only grown but is thriving in this virtual setting. We've learned a lot in these past few months and now aim to ensure that our voices reach everyone, regardless of the medium of communication. The pristine bond amidst all the members of the club remains unshaken with virtual farewells and treats all along the way. In these times of introspection, we've also realized that there is a lot of responsibility on our shoulders to positively impact everyone in MANIT and work towards their betterment. We'll not shy away from that, and you'll see us working in that direction very soon.

Entrepreneurship - Development Cell

Contact: <https://linktr.ee/edcellmanit>



Goal - To create an innovation-driven start-up culture in the college, to educate students about the business world, and to have more startups from MANIT.

Events - ESummit, One event each during Maffick and Techno-search, Workshops/-Competitions

Pandemic - The Society work did not stop once the college went online, though it was extremely difficult to work virtually with the team to organize events, and technical issues interrupted events, we organized two events and have organized our flagship event online.

IEEE MANIT Student Branch

Facebook: IEEE MANIT

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/ieeenitb/about/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ieeenitb/about/)

Instagram: ieee_manit

Email: ieee.manitbranch@gmail.com



Goal - The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest professional association inspires a global community through its highly cited publications, conferences, technical standards, and professional and educational activities. The IEEE MANIT Student Branch endeavors to promote awareness among students on the opportunities that exist in the field of CSE, ECE, and EE.

Events - SCEECs, SRAJAN, SAMWAD, AARAMBH

Pandemic - IEEE MANIT Student Branch aims at providing interactive platforms for students to bridge the lacuna between technical skills and the professional world. This is achieved through organizing various events all-round the year with well-defined objectives. As there was no scope for offline events, most of the events were conducted in an online mode on various interactive platforms.

Intellect Browsers' Consortium

Email: ibcmanit12@gmail.com

Instagram: ibc_manit

Blog: cognizanttrances.wordpress.com



Goal - To provide budding literary and management enthusiasts a stage to hone their skills through multiple events organized year-round.

Events - Model United Nations, Azure'21, Market Guru, Marketing/Management Workshop (Crescita).

Pandemic - Due to the pandemic, the events of our Society were shifted to online platforms. We incorporated a new event, 'Crescita', as an online marketing and management workshop this year to benefit the participants in the best way possible. With the efforts of the team, we continue to serve our objective irrespective of the circumstances to the best of our capabilities.

ISTE SC MANIT

Email: istescmanit@gmail.com

Instagram: istemant <https://instagram.com/istemanit>

Website: <http://www.istemanit.in/>



Goal - Indian Society for Technical Education is a National level non-profit Society that assists and contributes to the development of skilled professional technocrats. Started in 2003, it has been actively making attempts towards the professional and technical education of the students at MANIT and beyond.

Events - Version β
Chimera
CODATHON
Megatreopuz
Anubhuti

Pandemic - Many events either had to be rescheduled, canceled, or conducted differently to fit into the new normal. ISTE also faced a lot of issues due to the arrival of COVID-19. For the conclave Version β and Chimera, the events had to be conducted online. This came with its advantages and disadvantages. On the bright side, we got an opportunity to reach colleges all over India, thus increasing the reach of our event. We faced issues with sponsorships since businesses were not in a good shape. All in all, the pandemic was a hard hitter to the fun but the enthusiasm of ISTE SC MANIT was strong enough to go toe to toe with it.

PIXEL

Email: pixel.manit@gmail.com

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pixel.manit/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pixel.manit/>



Goal - To promote and teach photography and art in the college. PIXEL aims to support budding and expert photographers by providing them with skills and a platform.

Events - KODA-CHROME, Photo Walks, and Workshops.

Pandemic - Moved from offline workshops and photo walks to online interactions with artists and photography competitions. Aimed to reach a wider and more diverse audience through online portals.

PURGE MANIT

Email: purge.nitb@gmail.com Instagram: (its_purge_manit) Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PURGE-706870132752576/			Pandemic - As the academic year went online, our team didn't label it as an obstacle to our activities. The team wisely acknowledged the situation and acted accordingly. The only way was to connect to students using social platforms. Our event Ecofest was conducted for a week-long period from 2-8 June and was celebrated as Environment week. Important facts were shared and environmental issues-solutions were discussed during the week. In addition to our scheduled events, the team conducted an additional event "Envirothon" for students during October. To sum it up, it was all a new experience with new challenges but it went smoothly with the help of smart ideas and the dedication of our team.
	Goal - Being the only Environmental Society of MANIT, it is our foremost responsibility to incline the young and enthusiastic minds towards the well-being of our environment. We aim to spread awareness about current environmental challenges like climate change, global warming, etc. And to promote cleanliness as well as afforestation among the general people to achieve a healthy environment for the nation. Our basic slogan is "Clean Campus, Green Campus."	Events - Major project (Gandhi Udhyan), Blizzard, Ecofest, Swachh Pakhwada	

Quizzers' Club MANIT

Email: quizzersclubmanit@gmail.com			Pandemic - For all of its past years, Quizzers' Club MANIT has been organizing all of its events in person, so conducting the online renditions of the events was a bit of a challenge but the team didn't compromise at any front and conducted two events, Abhigyan '21 with magnificent participation from institutions all over central India and Vihaan '21 with the participation of 300+ of our juniors. If there are cons to conduct an event online, then there are pros too. Conducting events online definitely increased our reach.
	Goal - To inculcate curiosity and sharpen the zeal for quizzing in students across various domains both on and off the campus. Act as a platform to stimulate the young minds and channel the interest of the students in all the spheres of life. Make quizzing more interactive, entertaining, and exciting by experimenting with a colossal of formats without compromising the quality. Expand general awareness and hone the skill of drawing rational inferences. Act as a bridge between academic and extra-curricular affairs. Establish a quizzing forum in and around Bhopal.	Events - VIHAAN QUIZZOTICA MANTHAN ABHIGYAAN	

राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति

ईमेल: tooryanaad@gmail.com

इंस्टाग्राम: tooryanaad

फ़ेसबुक: तूर्यनाद



Goal - समिति का उद्देश्य राजभाषा हिन्दी व भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रचार-प्रसार द्वारा देशवासियों में राष्ट्रगौरव एवं आत्मगौरव की भावना का विकास करना है।

Events -
तूर्यनाद,
विवेकोत्सव,
स्वदेशी दिवाली,
आह्वान, हिंदी
कार्यशाला,
मातृभाषा दिवस

Pandemic - कोरोना महामारी के चलते इस वर्ष समिति द्वारा करवाए जाने वाले सभी कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन ऑनलाइन किया गया। समिति द्वारा सर्वप्रथम जुलाई माह में वार्षिक चयन प्रक्रिया 'आह्वान' का ऑनलाइन आयोजन किया गया। सभी कार्य ऑनलाइन होने से समिति के सदस्यों एवं प्रतिभागियों में समन्वय की थोड़ी परेशानी रही किंतु आयोजन सफलतापूर्वक संपन्न हुआ। इसके बाद सितम्बर माह में समिति द्वारा हिंदी महोत्सव तूर्यनाद का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें कुछ कार्यक्रम जैसे नुक्कड़ नाटक, परिधानिका आदि जिनका ऑनलाइन आयोजन सम्भव नहीं था, इनके स्थान पर ऑनलाइन मंच का हरसंभव उपयोग करते हुए नयी प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया। इंटरनेट की असुविधा होते हुए भी प्रतिभागियों ने जिस लगन के साथ कार्यक्रमों में भाग लिया है, यह समिति के लिए उपलब्धि है। जहाँ इंटरनेट द्वारा संचार मुख्य बाधा रही वहीं इंटरनेट के माध्यम से प्रचार-प्रसार में उतना ही लाभ हुआ समिति के सदस्यों की मेहनत एवं प्रतिभागियों के उत्साह से सभी कार्यक्रम सफल रहे।

Robotics Club MANIT

E-mail: roboclubmanit@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/roboticsclubmanit>



Goal - We are a Society at MANIT that strives to stimulate interest in robotics among the students of the Institute by providing them a platform to build their robots and participate in robotics contests organized throughout the country.

Events -
RoboDash
Circuitry
Participation in
ABU Robocon
and TechFest
IITB

Pandemic - The club makes bots to represent the college in various Robotics Competitions, held locally and globally. It requires a huge amount of guidance and hands-on experience. The online year has affected everyone's routine to a great extent, the circumstances around everyone made it difficult for the group work to be done. The help and guidance that would have been possible living in the hostels, always within reach, would have worked better and have had more impact. The online system has made pitching ideas or solutions difficult, with no hands-on work experience and no discussion over ideas. Because of this, the result is not as it would have been under normal circumstances.

Roobaroo, The Cultural Society of NIT, Bhopal

Email: roobaroonitb@gmail.com

Instagram: roobaroonitb

Facebook: Roobaroo, NIT Bhopal



Goal - To encourage the organization and promotion of cultural activities among students. We give students at MANIT a platform to explore and showcase their creative abilities, both offline and online. Members vigorously conduct events as well as participate in competitions across India.

Events - GIG-A-NIGHT, Abilità Artistica, Republic Day, Independence Day, and many such events

Pandemic - The pandemic has changed things in ways we could never imagine. Not only were we challenged with working remotely and taking ground events online, but fun activities, personal growth, and building connections also took a hit. The initial months were filled with uncertainty and stress. However, we soon started embracing the changes and started exploring different ways to express our creative abilities.

ROTARACT CLUB MANIT

Email: rcm2020coreteam@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rotaract.manit.7>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/_rotaract_club_manit_/



Goal -The purpose of Rotaract is to provide an opportunity for young men and women to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development, to address the physical and social needs of their communities, and to promote better relations between all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service.

Events - Water to Wings, Orientation Programme, Career Counselling, NGO Visit; Collection Drive, Distribution Drive, Warrior Combat, Crime Alley and Divertido

Pandemic - Many of the events of the RCM were affected during the pandemic due to the online Academic Year, especially Blood Donation Drive and Rahul Nagar Classes. Also, events like distribution, collection drives, and NGO visits require physical presence. Still, we managed to coordinate with the students at Rahul Nagar to continue the study through online mode.

SAE MANIT

Email: manit.ebaja@gmail.com

Facebook: SAE MANIT

Instagram: parabellum_racing , adreno.racing



Goal - We aim to develop technical and practical skills in student members about the latest automobiles by providing them workstations to fabricate a refined vehicle.

Events - Auto Show in Technosearch, Go Automotive workshop, Design Competition

Pandemic - This year the racing events were held virtually. Online support material (Research papers, reference books, etc.) was provided and virtual design competitions were held. Personal guidance for individual projects in various subsystems was given by seniors of respective departments.

THINK INDIA MANIT Chapter

E-mail: manitthinkindia@gmail.com

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thinkindia.manit?igshid=zsi061aguc3e>

Website: <https://www.thinkindiaorg.in/>



Goal - A PAN India initiative to bring together the best talents and to infuse in them a 'Nation First' attitude, aimed at developing the nationalistic spirit and inspiring young India to be of service to the society. We at Think India have felt the need to bind the students with an Indian nationalistic string to harness this part of our national treasure in furthering our aim of national reconstruction.

Events -
Abhyudaya,
Opinion Drive,
Outspoken

Pandemic - Think India Manit continued and managed its activities online this year. We took this as an opportunity to increase interface and interaction at other levels. Various new initiatives were taken to grow as a society like NIT Orientation Program 2020, Outspoken - An Article Series with eye-opening articles was released by the New Team selected online. The team also performed an online survey to show how this online academic year had affected students, parents, teachers from every stream. Hence, with the Nation First Attitude, Think India Manit saw this as an opportunity to grow and expand with fresh ideas in a "new normal" way.

VISION

Email: teamvisionnitb@gmail.com

Facebook: Vision, MANIT BHOPAL

Instagram: vision.nitb



Goal - We organize informative workshops, seminars, and annual events to pass on knowledge related to various engineering branches.

Events -
NOESIS,
ROBOFIFA, LAST
STAND, various
Workshops.

Pandemic - Vision has been hit hard by the pandemic. Every year we conducted our flagship workshops to impart critical technical skills to students in domains like electronic components and cad modeling. We've tried holding some of them online but it's not the same. We were unable to conduct any of our events such as RoboFIFA, Last Stand, and Hardware Hackathon, which provided students the opportunity to learn and enjoy at the same time.

Zenith - The Programming Club of MANIT

E-mail: zenithclub.manit@gmail.com

Linkedin: linkedin.com/company/zenith-the-programming-club-of-manit

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/zenithMANIT>



Goal - Zenith is an educational initiative taken by the Final and Pre-Final Year students of MANIT to promote the coding culture in the Institute and help the students so that they can perform well in their Internship/Placement tests and interviews.

Events -
ZFTs (Zenith's
Fortnightly Coding
Tests), Weekly
Classes on DSA,
Alumni Talks,
Seminars (Web/App
Dev and ML).

Pandemic - We conducted regular classroom sessions on the campus, which due to the pandemic, were conducted on online platforms such as MS Teams, Google Meet. All the decisions and event planning were also done online. Initially, we were restricted by the classroom size but after taking things online, we saw our audience jump from 160 to almost 300 active members, which has been helpful in the growth of our fairly young initiative.

Achievers' Blog

TRANSFORMING THREAT INTO OPPORTUNITY

Third Year Planning and Architecture students, Aditi Parihar, Atmagya Raj, Jayant Singh, Nilendu Dingal, Sanjukta Kumar, Satvik Jain, Shruti Patnaik, Swapnil Mishra and Yashita Singh used the time provided by Lockdown to author a book titled, 'Our First Experience with Transportation Planning' and published their book on Kindle. The proceedings earned from the book were contributed to the PM Cares Fund for COVID relief.

RFRF MOBILE BASED CLOUD VIDEO CONFERENCING COMPETITION

Calgo, a cost-effective and platform-independent video conferencing app developed by Shashank Prakash (Final Year, Mechanical Engineering) and Mitali Bansal (2020 Graduate, Electrical Engineering) won the 2nd Prize in the RFRF competition jointly held by RFRF Foundation and IIT Ropar.

STARTUP GAINS RECOGNITION

Bugsmirror, a research-based IT firm registered by Aman Pandey (Final Year, Mechanical Engineering) in Jan 2021, aims to help giant corporations like Google, Apple, etc. in enhancing

the security of their products by designing a set of algorithms that identify security bugs at a precise and more rapid rate. It has been recognized as one of the '20 Most Promising Startups to look for in 2021' by Business Connect India.

OCES 2020

Ankit Yadav (2020 Graduate, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering) has been selected as Scientist B in the OCES 2020 scheme of DRDO. Only 6 students have been selected all over India for the MME stream and he secured his place in that list.

CIMS 2020

Varanjot Singh (Third Year, Mechanical Engineering) has received the Best Paper Award in the International Conference on Industrial and Manufacturing Systems (CIMS 2020) held from 9th to 11th October 2020 in Jalandhar, Punjab. The title of his research was "Extruder Design in Pellets Operated 3D Printers: A Review".

AFTEMME 2020

Ayush Srivastav (Third Year, Mechanical Engineering) participated in the Undergraduate Presentation Skill Contest (UPSC) on December 12th 2020, at the 8th International Conference on Advancements and

Futuristic Trends in Mechanical and Materials Engineering (AFTEMME 2020) organized by the Society of Mechanical and Materials Engineering (SOMME). He was awarded the 2nd Position with a cash prize of Rs. 31,000 for his extraordinary presentation and communication skills.

JURASSIC CAMP HOUSE

Nipun Khapekar and Albert Simon Philip (Fourth Year, Architecture and Planning), were awarded the 'Honorable Mentions Award' for their entry that made it into the Top 20 segment in Jurassic Camp House, an online competition organized by Archasm.

MAPATHON CHAMPIONS

A team of Third Year students; Abhinandan Kumar, Dikshansh Suryawanshi, Nipun Chouhan (Materials and Metallurgical Engineering) and Saurav Chaini (Mechanical Engineering), participated in a Mapathon organized by ISRO, AICTE and IITB. The team received a Champions Certificate for making it into the Top 25, among the 1000+ participants for their creative vaccine distribution map.

TOY TECH HACKATHON

Aditya Niranjana Mishra and two others (Second Year Computer Science and Engineering) won 3rd Place in a Toy Tech Hackathon, that was organized by India Toy Fair 2021 and inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi.

ICMN 2020

Ayushi Katariya (Department of Physics), has received the Best Paper Presentation Award in the International Conference on Multinational Nanomaterials (ICMN 2020) held from 28th to 30th December 2020. The conference was organized by the Department of Physics, Manipal University, Jaipur. The title of Ms Katariya's paper was "Review on Two-Dimensional Organic Semiconductor for Thin Film Transistor Application."

AYF 2020

Minesh Agrawal (Final Year, Computer Science and Engineering) secured 3rd Place among the participants of the Amity Mega Mind Quiz held during the Amity Youth Forum

Online (AYF 2020).

RTF ARCHITECTURAL VISUALIZATION COMPETITION 2020

Aditya Gupta (Fourth Year, Architecture and Planning), secured 1st Place globally for the Interiors Category in the Architectural Visualization Competition 2020 held by Rethinking The Future (RTF).

IEEE BUDDING INNOVATORS PROPOSAL WRITING COMPETITION

Akshata Gangrade, Suruchi Kushwaha and Uttara Athale (Final Year, Final Year, Computer Science and Engineering), won the 1st Position in the IEEE Budding Innovators Proposal Writing Competition organized by IEEE Bombay Section SIGHT in collaboration with Bombay Section SAC from 20th to 21st February 2021. The winning team was awarded a Letter of Recommendations and a cash prize and will be given an opportunity to present their proposal for funding to IEEE SIGHT.

GATE 2021 Achievements

Final Year Materials and Metallurgical Engineering students, Shubham Nagar and Ashutosh Kumar, secured AIR 97

and AIR 109 respectively for the MT Paper in GATE 2021.

Final Year Mechanical Engineering Students, Mihir Gokhale and Varun Singh Bhadauria, secured AIR 100 and AIR 243 respectively in GATE 2021.

Final Year Electronics and Communications Engineering student, Dhriti Deep, secured AIR 161 in GATE 2021

IJMPERD 2020 and 34th IEC.

Jaya Kaithwas, Muskan, Parul Dengre and Sakshi Choudhary (Final Year, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering), won the best paper award at futuristic trends in Materials, Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering (FTMME 2020) jointly organized by the department of Mechanical Engineering, NIT Raipur, and VEC Lakhanpur. The title of their paper was "Synthesis and characterization of alumina coating on steel for high-temperature oxidation and wear applications" The paper has been published in the International Journal of Mechanical and Production Engineering Research and Development (IJMPERD). The team has also been recognized for its work in the field of surface coatings and published another paper titled "Corrosion and wear resistance of sol-gel alumina coated steel in hydropower plants" in the 34th Indian Engineering Congress held by the Institution of Engineers (India).

Cover Prologue

Once upon a time, there was a bright young world. A chaotic world that had been filled with numerous people, who had countless interlinked stories and problems. It wasn't a fair world or even an easy one. But it was what it was. The only choice its inhabitants had, was to live through it and try to make it a bit better than how they found it. That was the normal of their existence.

And then, one day, everything changed. A mysterious event, "coldly" shook the foundations of their world and upturned all those interlinked stories, like a falling row of dominos. And that normality they'd become accustomed to vanished from the plains of their existence, never to be seen or defined again.

It has been centuries now, since those days of the old. All we have of those times are unverified stories; conflicting ones too. The world nowadays is neither bright nor young. Its people are not so numerous, their stories hardly linking. Normality did not exist because no one knew what was normal anymore.

That is why I was surprised when you approached me, young one. For I doubted there was anyone left, with an ear for stories and the will for clarity. Worry not, for I, Mr. Talesman, will help you find the "normal" you seek.

Once upon a time, there were three adventurous and curious travelers. Each of them was unlike the other and had their unique woes and questions that needed resolution. And set out they did, to the yonder lands. To seek stories of those who had lived those queries that they wished to fulfill. But before I start on about them and their journeys, follow me, young one. For sometimes, we need to see the end to make sense of the beginning.

Here lies the grave of....

To visit the grave of Mr. Compliant - Go to Page 25

To visit the grave of Mr. Rebel - Go to Page 39

To visit the grave of Mr. Explorer - Go to Page 53

Prologue

Here lies the grave of Mr. Compliant. He had his way; the way was staring at an abyss. And the abyss engulfed him, for a single way can never be a mighty way. There is something strange about the babble of a pliant guy. For although the stories appear to be happy on the face, they betray his credence. "Everything needs to take place in a certain way!" he had triumphantly concluded. And things worked out

Boundaries



for him in the beginning; the conclusion was right, that is what he believed. But how do I know so much about him, you ask? He used to tell me his stories, stories that would puzzle me. For although they appeared shallow like a puddle, they had the depths of an ocean. A literal interpretation of the Darwinian saying. A tale of mathematical graphs. A Premier League of Placements. A Potion Master in the 21st Century. A unique twist on a

fest in a faraway land. So bizarre was his set-ups and fascinating his story-telling, that one would wonder where did his road go wrong?

A triumphant conclusion, I wrote earlier, though it was everything but that. The right conclusion, I wrote earlier, but it was merely expedient. So, here we go again, what were his tales?

The Perplexing Magic Bullet

Mr. MANIT, an industrious salesman, dealt in MANIT's campus culture in the form of health supplements. In every new batch, he saw a mass of potential customers. His customers were content and that made him happy. However, underneath his relaxed demeanour, there was concern. What was he hiding? Embark on the journey to reminisce our long-forgotten campus culture in these dire times.

In the 650 acres of land stood a relatively trivial-looking shop that has repeatedly manifested its importance through the satisfaction of its customers. The establishment was old and dilapidated but its needs were barely attended because that establishment believed it had a bigger purpose- to attend to the needs of its customers. The shop faced the main thoroughfare and had witnessed every single visitor of campus. From the shop, peeked a pale face that was meticulously noticing the hullabaloo, owing to the annual student orientation. His expression changed from typical composure to a child-like fascination. Soon, his eyes had a mysterious gleam. The time had finally come.

Mr. MANIT was an eminent person on the campus. An exemplar of a salesman, he had a flair for swiftly establishing a strong connection with a prospect with thorough persuasion and communication.

His customers, namely students, formed a god-like appraisal of him. He was remarkably approachable but never divulged any information about himself. In fact, he shrouded himself in an iota of mystery that people realized yet choose to ignore.





This man, however, only had one object of pride- the health supplements that he dealt in. The supplements catered to distinct needs. For instance, the **Proxy Tonic** could be administered if a person was in dire need to increase one's productivity in the home and hostel or casually wished to take a day off. A more valiant person who was also looking for a joint venture could get hold of **GT Capsules** for their rescue. **Jugaad Powder** was crafted for the ones who wished to maintain a frugal and flexible lifestyle. Mr. MANIT would frequently brag about the products being scientifically made, organic and vegan. Sometimes with curious awe, he looked at the exhibits as if they were handmade by God.

A few days after the orientation, the first-year students lingered around the shop with reluctance and doubt. However, Mr. MANIT lured the soft-minded youth with peculiar warmth and hospitality. He assured them that they had come to the right place. Soon, the prime dosage of **Funda Tonic** was administered in their systems. Freshmen were particularly vulnerable to redundant audacity and recklessness. To keep such an outlook in check, immunization in form of **Funda Tonic** became necessary. This tonic prevented the spread of rash school of thought and kept the freshmen sensible in their behaviour and choices. Other supplements functioned only when an ample amount of **Funda Tonic** was present in the bloodstream. So, booster doses were administered every time a freshman visited to buy any supplement. The sophomore, third and final year students were thoroughly exposed to this tonic in their first year hence, re-exposure was rarely necessary.

Everyone started communicating their needs while Mr. MANIT listened to them intently. One of the students politely declined the **GT Capsules** while the rest were willing to purchase them. His peers scorned at him upon hearing this.

Mr. MANIT's expression turned cold. With a stern air, he retorted, "One must not forget the first Funda of MANIT."

The student stammered as words failed him. Realizing his mistake, he relapsed into silence. Mr. MANIT caught a glimpse of the freshmen as they swallowed the pills in unison. A vile smirk involuntarily worked its way across his face and into his eyes. His work was done.

The freshmen were seen habitually frequenting the shop. Soon, their demands had a peculiar lucidity and bluntness to them. They knew their needs very well. At times, Mr. MANIT could fulfil their demands by simply decoding their mannerisms. On seeing a group of seniors approaching the shop, their enthusiasm faded and they looked downwards. The seniors verbalised their needs to the shopkeeper –

The Placement Energy Bar!

The desire of mass, this revolutionary product gave the essential boost in self-confidence and other soft skills like leadership, effective communication, teamwork and many more. This product was only offered to final year students. It was a rare occasion that any product was out of stock, however, when customers were denied a product, Mr. MANIT had to put up with their severe mood changes and sometimes violence. With a composed air, he tolerated the fury. At times, his everlasting cool temperament seemed abnormal.

Chaos and vehemence were also prevalent before the End Term Exams when Mr. MANIT would conduct the most awaited End of Semester sale. Along with heavy discounts on the existing supplements, he would release the biggest lucky draw of the college. A few fortunate groups stood a chance to win the rare **College Trip Supplements** in form of sweetened chewable gummies that exuded nothing but richness and luxury. Holiday destinations included Goa, Manali, Pondicherry and a road trip from Chandigarh to Leh- Ladakh. The word 'lucky draw' might foster an idea that the event was luck-based, however, that was far from the truth. The chance of winning was solely based on the shared enthusiasm and aspiration of the group. Owing to their tender age, the lucky draw was not open to the first years.

It might appear that there was nothing in store for the first-year students, considering the enormous number of restrictions. However, one of the best-sellers were deliberately crafted for the freshmen- the **Treat Tablets**. These tablets were religiously exploited by the freshmen to extract a treat from the seniors and peers.

In relation to peers, these tablets often failed to provide remarkable results. Either the user would receive a cold shoulder from the potential sponsor or on the luckiest days, be treated at Sanchi, AMUL or Nescafe.

Nevertheless, it was immensely powerful when it came to the seniors. Wait, there is a catch! When using this tablet to extract a treat from a senior, a freshman was also supposed to have high levels of Funda tonic in their system. Preferably, both the supplements should be administered simultaneously to get the most splendid treats.

When high dosage of **Funda Tonic** was too restraining, the freshmen could take a different route to treats- the **MANIT Barter System**. The freshmen would sell their services in form of assignment favours to Mr. MANIT, who in turn, would sell these favours to seniors and procure sumptuous treats. These treats would be sold to the freshmen in return for the services.

A shift in priorities and a more candid expression of impulses are all attributes of college life. However, one must also be able to distinguish a rare gratification from perpetual overindulgence.

Everybody wanted a limitless supply of their euphoria. Since its establishment, Mr. MANIT had been the pride, joy and unspoken saviour of MANITians. But the harsh truth was that he had been tamed by changing times. He realised it and that troubled him. With every new batch came more pupils with an innate resistance to the Funda tonic that, in turn, hindered the functioning of other supplements. Besides, failure rates of **Treat Tablets** and **Proxy Capsules** were soaring each year. The odds were clearly stacked up against him but Mr. MANIT would not succumb to them. Being the man he was, he had a few things concealed up his sleeve to combat the remorselessness of time.

COMPLIANCE

FITNESS FREAK



Every society has some values on which it is based. For example, today's society is largely based on the values of materialism and individual achievement. While we feel at ease with these values, it is only on observing them from a distance that we start to find some faults in them. Here is a story of one such society, which was based on the superiority of physical strength.

It was the dawn of yet another chilly Shoulderday. That's Wednesday for the uninitiated. But we are in a different MANIT. Our Protagonist, Bicep Chand woke up at 5 am, like most people did in this changed college. He freshened up, ate his pre-workout, and headed towards the gym on his bike.

The "gym culture" had pervaded deeply into Manit. One was expected to be fit in order to be accepted in this set up. The fitter you were, the better connections you made; fitness was a guarantee for a great college life. From the famous phrase "survival of the fittest", the word "fittest" was unfortunately taken in its literal sense.

Upon reaching his gym, Bicep Chand parked his bike and went inside. People right from first year to the final year were present in the gym, doing their weight lifting. Cries such as the legendary "Light weight, buddy!" (yes, Ronnie's fans are everywhere), motivational quotes like "More plates, More dates" and "Harder than last time" (that's what she said) were everywhere.

After finishing his workout, Bicep Chand headed back to his hostel. He took a bath, got ready for college, and headed towards the mess. Breakfast consisted of eggs, oats, bananas and sprouts. Eating bread, poha, idli or paratha was for the "unfit"; such things were unheard of in this college.

It was an ordinary college day, nothing special happened here which could be of any interest to the reader. Bicep Chand took out his phone and started editing the photo which he took of himself in the gym. After all, if you don't upload your half naked pictures on social media sites, do you even have the right to call yourself a gym goer?

"Boys have their own make-up", he said to himself. And it was true: take your photo in a bright room, just after the workout so that you still have the "pump" and you can easily look more muscular than you are. This is the exact counterpart of the makeup which girls do to look better.

On his way back to the room, our protagonist saw yet another tub of protein being delivered by the courier agent.

Bicep Chand asked his friend Trap Lal, "Whey proteins are "whey" too expensive; don't you think?", to which Trap Lal answered:

"Every time you are buying one of those tubs, you are paying "influencers" whom they bought for their advertisement. You are paying them for their Instagram and YouTube ads. You are paying the models with fake sweats in those ads. You are paying for the lap dances of their CEO. You are paying for the hush money for the lawsuit when performance enhancing drugs were found in it and a professional athlete tested positive. You pay, pay and pay dozens of people. All these things don't give you any value, but you end up paying for them. You become a payer, pal"

The first thing which Bicep Chand saw upon returning to his room that day was not a pleasant one. "Submit Kinetics assignment on Leg-day" was a note sticking on his wall. It would require a decent amount of time, but it was well within his reach. So, he dozed off for an afternoon nap.

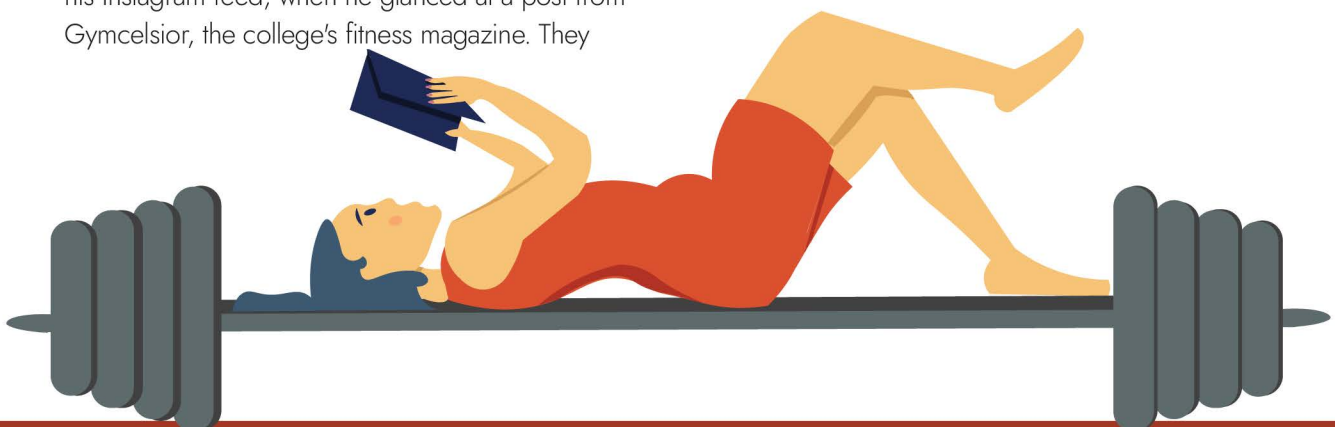
He got up that evening at 7 pm. He started surfing his Instagram feed, when he glanced at a post from Gymcelsior, the college's fitness magazine. They

were accepting articles from the students, and Bicep Chand had always wanted to write one. Putting his assignment on hold, he began to collect some information for his piece.

All this research took its time; it was 8 pm now, and he went to the mess. Satisfied that he had hit his daily protein requirement of 96 gm, he finally got down to do his assignment. It was 9 pm now, there was still a considerable amount of time left. This was an ideal time to talk to his girlfriend, he thought to himself, and the next hour and a half went rather peacefully for him. The reader might be tempted to label the writer a little sexist at this point. After all, throughout this article, there is no mention of women's workout routine. The joke, my dear reader, is on you then. Even though girls have two x chromosomes, it does not change the fact that the same workout routines are applicable to them as well.

“ The ignorance on the part of the readers to this general fact may reveal their own unconscious sexism, you never know! ”

It was 10:30 pm, and suddenly, he got a call from Pecs Ram, a third-year senior. As he reached out and saw him sitting on his bike, the only thing he could see in his hands were the MANIT famous assignment papers. "Seriously, today?", he cursed his fate. "I have to submit this assignment tomorrow", Pecs Ram said, "I will take it from you in the morning. Goodnight!"





“ We never realize change is here until it hits us with a shovel. ”

Without asking any questions, Bicep Chand took the assignment and went back to his room. What would have been a peaceful night was suddenly looking to be an all-nighter, two assignments at hand and just 10 hours to go before he had to hit the gym again.

Suddenly, an idea struck him. He had no other option than to use the GPL: “Greater Push-ups Limit”. It was simple, just pick up a guy and challenge him to a push up challenge. The one who lost had to do the work of the one who had won. See, I told you, being fit wasn’t just an option here, it was a matter of survival! And so, Bicep Chand went to the room of Abs Pal, and challenged him to a GPL. Easily winning the challenge by a margin of five push-ups, Bicep Chand gave him the senior’s assignment.

“Regardless of what she says, abs aren’t everything my friend. Work on your strength”, he said rather condescendingly to Abs Pal.

“What a pleasant college to be in!”, he exclaimed, as he went back to his room. This called for a celebration, he thought. He ordered a chocolate protein pastry from Presscafe, and spent the night calmly doing his assignment. All’s well that curls well!

So, what did you feel about such an environment? If given a chance, would you like to live in it?

टेक नो सर्च

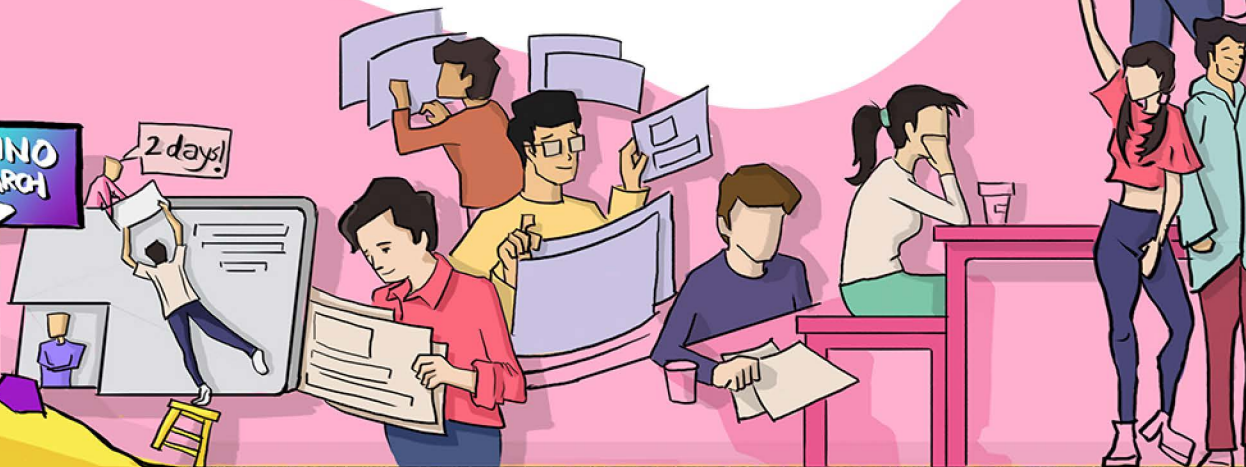
किसी भी वस्तु के प्रति प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की आशा भिन्न होती है। वह इस बात पर निर्भर करती है कि उस व्यक्ति को उस वस्तु की क्या और कितनी आवश्यकता है। आइए जानते हैं कि हमारे संस्थान का तकनीकी उत्सव टेक्नो सर्च, विभिन्न आयु वर्गों की आशाओं पर किस प्रकार खरा उतरता है।

मैनिट एक पंचांग की तरह है। समझ गए या समझाऊँ? जिस तरह पंचांग में निरंतर कभी त्योहारों की बूँदाबांदी तो कभी भारी बरसात होती ही रहती है, उसी प्रकार यहाँ भी छात्र सप्ताह के उत्सव से लेकर परीक्षा के श्राद्ध तक की पूरी तैयारी है। अब भैया हम तो ठहरे निरे सकारात्मक! परीक्षा के श्राद्ध की बात काहे करें? त्योहारों की बात चले और टेक्नो सर्च का व्याख्यान ना किया जाए तो समझ लो रामायण पढ़ ली और रामचंद्र के अते-पते नहीं हैं! जैसे त्योहारों में त्योहार दीवाली, उसी तरह तकनीकी उत्सवों में उत्सव है अपना 'तकनीकी टेक्नो'! जिसे मध्य भारत का सबसे बड़ा तकनीकी उत्सव भी कहा गया है (प्रमोशनल पोस्टर्स में)! क्यों ना इस त्योहार पर थोड़ी चर्चा हो जाए।

प्राचीन काल या कहूँ कि 1300 ईसवी में त्योहार शुरू हो जाते थे एक-एक बरस पहले यों कहना कि आज त्योहार बीता और अगले बरस की तैयारियाँ शुरू, अतिशयोक्ति जनक नहीं होगा। इसी प्रकार प्राचीन मैनिट (यहीं कुछ एक-दो साल पहले) में कभी टेक्नो का उपक्रम महीनों पहले शुरू हो जाया करता था, साथ ही हफ्ते भर की छुट्टी, पर स्पीड के इस जमाने में त्योहार वीडियो कॉल पर ही हो जाते हैं, फिर हमारा टेक्नो तो तब भी 2 दिन चलता है। दया है 75% की सारी। वैसे भी सबको त्योहारों से कहाँ वास्ता होता है, नास्तिक भी होते हैं। उसी प्रकार 'बेफ़िक्रे भी होना भी ज़रूरी है' के सिद्धांत को मानने वाले नाउत्साही तो वैसे ही मोह माया के परे हैं।

ये तो निकल पड़ते हैं श्रवण कुमार बनने को अपने-अपने घरों की ओर, पर जैसा कि हमने कहा "हम तो ठहरे निरे सकारात्मक" हम बात करते हैं आस्तिकों की, और इनमें सबसे बड़े आस्तिक होते हैं हमारे प्रथम वर्ष के नन्हे-मुन्ने! इनका टेक्नो तो पोस्टर्स के स्टेटस डालने से ही शुरू हो जाता है, जिसमें वे गर्व से मध्य भारत के आने वाले सबसे बड़े तकनीकी मेले के बारे में शायद श्रीलंका द्वीप को बता रहे होते हैं।

जिस प्रकार त्योहारों पर पांडित्य का शौक रखने वाले कुछ नवउत्साही होते हैं, उसी प्रकार इनमें भी कुछ ही महानुभव, जिन्हें हम आप की भाषा में यहाँ टॉपर्स कहा जाता है, ये उम्मीद रखते हैं कि तकनीक जैसा कुछ देखने को मिलेगा और उनकी ये उम्मीद भी कोई कम पूरी नहीं की जाती जब शुरुआत होती है सुप्रा की भव्य कार प्रदर्शनी से, जो उन्होंने आत्मनिर्भर भारत के अंतर्गत बिना किसी फंड के खुद के जेब में छेद करके बनाई होती है। इन्हें देखकर मुझे त्योहार में मजबूर मिट्टी के दिये बेचने वालों की याद आ जाती है। **बस टाटा, बाय, खतम!** अगर इससे ज़्यादा आप किसी तकनीक की उम्मीद करते हैं अपने तकनीकी टेक्नो में तो आप बेहतर नास्तिक हो जाइए और घर की ओर प्रस्थान कर 'दो दिवसीय लंबे अवकाश' का आनंद उठाइए।





इसी रैली के साथ उड़ जाता है टॉपर्स की उम्मीद का पंछी। बाकी बचे हुए सज्जनों को वैसे भी कोई मतलब नहीं, उन्हें तो बस कुछ पल मिल जाते हैं जिसमें वे रोजमर्रा की फ़ंडे युक्त ज़िन्दगी से निजात पा सकें। लड़कियों को कुर्ते, और हमारे वीर बहादुर लड़कों को बेल्ट और तनी हुई पैट्स के साथ फ़िक्शनलेस चेहरों से छुटकारा दिलाने में प्रोनाइट्स ही तो एक आस है, जो कुछ करे ना करे उनकी पेट्टी में बंद कपड़ों को मैनिट दर्शन जरूर करा देती है।

ख़ैर लौटते हैं अपने त्योहार की ओर। किसी भी उत्सव को मनाने की बच्चों में अपनी-अपनी श्रद्धा होती है उसी प्रकार यहाँ भी कुछ लोग रैली के बाद निकल पड़ते हैं नींद देवी के दर्शनों की ओर उनका त्योहार अब रात्रि में ही फिर शुरू होगा बाकी बचे हुए चल पड़ते हैं तकनीकी टेक्नो के अगले पड़ाव पर जहाँ आपको अलग-अलग सोसायटीज़ के बारे में पता चलेगा, चलिए ना भी पता चले तो चक्रव्यूह के दौरान मैनिट के अनदेखे कोनों के बारे में जरूर पता चलेगा। जनाब एक घंटे के अंतराल में तो पूरा मैनिट दर्शन हो जाता है इससे ज़्यादा तो मेट्रो रेल में भी नहीं देख पाते आप। और क्या तकनीक चाहिए अब? हर सोसाइटी के सामने खड़े होते हैं सोसाइटी के सौदागर, जो डिफॉल्ट तरीके से द्वितीय या तृतीय वर्ष के नवयुवक होते हैं, जिनका त्योहार को लेकर मकसद होता है अपना ठप्पा जमाना एवम् मन्नत पूरी होने का इंतज़ार करना। बच्चे तो नादान होते हैं, छोटी-छोटी खुशियों में खुश हो जाते हैं मगर घर के बड़ों को पता होता है,

कि सारी ज़िम्मेदारी अब उनके कांधे पर है, वैसे ही इन्हें लगता है कि अब ये ही कर्ता - धर्ता हैं सबके। ये ममतामयी जीवात्माएं प्रथम वर्ष की कलियों को वैसे ही देखती हैं जैसे कोई भूखा शेर शिकार को, कि अब उनकी मन्नत पूरी होगी और टेक्नो भगवान इस त्योहार उनकी खाली झोली भी भरेगा।

किसी तरह तकनीकी टेक्नो का दिन तो कट जाता है, मगर अब बारी आती है रात की। जगराते में आपको मिलते हैं न्यूनतम दाम के कलाकार, जो, हो सकता है आने वाले समय में मुफ्त में ही जगराता कर दें क्योंकि भगवान का काम और गरीबों की सेवा, यह सब तो पुण्य का काम है। पैसा तो हाथ का मैल है वैसे भी, आखिरकार कुछ साथ रहेगा तो गरीबों की दुआएं।

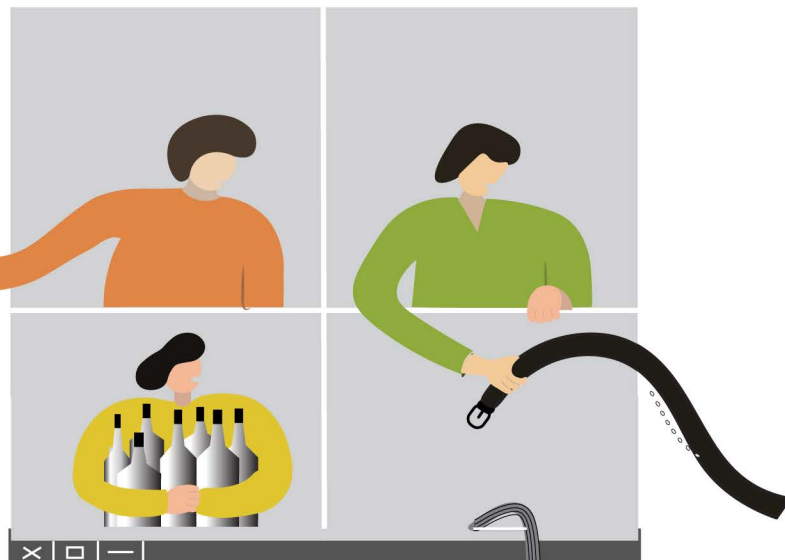
पुण्य की बात करते हैं तो मुझे अंतिम वर्ष की याद आ जाती है ये वे बुजुर्ग हैं जो आज की युवा एवम् भावी युवा पीढ़ी, अर्थात् प्रथम एवम् द्वितीय वर्ष की दयनीय हालत पर अफ़सोस करते नज़र आते हैं। यह 75% जैसी अनेक बीमारियों से ग्रसित है एवम् चाह कर भी कुछ नहीं कर सकते। कुछ कर सकते हैं तो बस 'हमारे ज़माने में' के तकियाकलाम से हमारी बची-कुची खुशियों के शामियाने में आग लगा सकते हैं, साथ ही विधि-विधान से त्योहार मनाना सिखा सकते हैं क्योंकि कहीं न कहीं इन्हें भी पता है कि अब कुछ नहीं हो सकता।

अतः इस तकनीक से छलक रहे टेक्नो में हर आयु वर्ग के लोग हैं, जो भिन्न हैं, मगर एक चीज़ जो इन्हें समान करके बांधे रखती है वह है, वह है त्योहार का उत्साह, एवम् सारे सामाजिक मीडिया मंचों पर नियमित रूप से हैशटैग टेक्नो 2k20 के साथ बिछी हुई तस्वीरों की रंगोली। क्या हो गया अगर सबसे बड़ा व्यंग्य यही है कि बैकग्राउंड में मैनिट की बिल्डिंग के साथ कैप्शन डला है 'एंजॉयिंग विद फ्रेंड्स'। यहाँ आकर आप भी 'टेक नो' सर्च तो कर ही सकते हैं। है तो आखिर मध्य भारत का सबसे बड़ा तकनीकी फेस्ट जैसा कि पोस्टर्स पर लिखा होता है, हाँ जी मध्य भारत का सबसे बड़ा तकनीकी फेस्ट! समझ गए या समझाऊँ?



MANIT PLACEMENT LEAGUE

महामारी के दौर में लॉकडाउन के वे 21 दिन, पूर्ण रूप से निराशा का आलम पसरा हुआ था, और तभी हुआ MPL का आगाज़, आइए जानिए वर्षों से चलते आ रहे इस अद्भुत खेल की संपूर्ण गाथा और MPL-2020 के कुशल समापन की संपूर्ण तस्वीर।



MPL अर्थात MANIT PLACEMENT LEAGUE गत वर्षों से मैनिट में चलती आ रही अच्युत परंपरा की भाँति है। देश भर से MANIT आए जाने माने खिलाड़ी हर वर्ष इस प्रतियोगिता का बेसब्री से इंतज़ार करते हैं। प्रत्येक वर्ष नव कौशल उत्साह एवं साहस से पूर्ण खिलाड़ी इस अद्भुत खेल के प्रतिभागी बनते हैं। नियमों का जत्था सूचना पट्ट पर घोषणा पत्र के साथ ही प्रस्तुत होता है। यूँ तो प्रतिवर्ष नियम स्थाई से ही होते हैं परंतु फिर भी स्थिति अनुसार वातावरण अनुसार बदलाव समय की माँग है। इस अनोखे खेल का सबसे बड़ा नियम तो यही है कि एक मैच के बाद आप MPL नहीं खेल सकते। इंटरनेशनल मैच के लिए आपको कोई रोक टोक नहीं है। इसीलिए MPL समिति की भूमिका सबसे महत्वपूर्ण है और इस पर प्रश्न उठाने का अर्थ है मैच से पहले ही बाहर का रास्ता।



टीम का गठन JEE टॉफी से होता है। स्कोरकार्ड में ऊँचे पर्सेंटाइल वाले विद्यार्थी की बोली COMPUTER SUPER ENGINEERS यानी CSE में लगाई जाती है। उसी प्रकार नौजवान हठीले युवक ROYAL MECHANICAL टीम में नीलाम होते हैं। टीम भावना का सुदृढ़ होना भी तभी अहम है जब खेल के प्रति निष्ठा महत्वपूर्ण हो और यह तो अभियांत्रिकी को चुनते वक्त ही जेहन में होता है कि सबसे अच्छा पैकेज जिस टीम का हो मैं उसका हिस्सा बनूँ और इसी के साथ उस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने का दृढ़ संकल्प स्वतः ही टीम भावना भी विकसित कर देता है।



कप्तान की भूमिका इस खेल में एक राजदूत जैसी है। प्रत्येक मैच से पहले टीम को सूचित करना उसके लिए भिन्न-भिन्न भाँति के मैच लेकर आना जिससे उसकी टीम का प्रत्येक खिलाड़ी अवसरवादी महसूस कर सके। यह कप्तान की टीम के प्रति निष्ठा का बेहतरीन उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है।



सेमेस्टर ऑनलाइन होने से जहाँ एक ओर सब में मायूसी का माहौल था और सभी को शक था कि MPL होगा भी या नहीं, MPL वहाँ संजीवनी बूटी के रूप में प्रकट हुआ। गत वर्षों के MPL मनोरंजन की आंशिक कल्पना करते हुए मैनिट प्रशासन ने इसमें रिस्क का तड़का लगाया और MPL 2020 की घोषणा कर दी।



यूँ तो पूरा लीग जितना रोमांच होने की कल्पना की थी, उससे कई गुना अधिक ही था परंतु फिर भी MPL का अभिन्न अंग कहे जाने वाले दर्शकों की खासा कमी को महसूस किया जा सकता था, क्योंकि कला को केवल कलाकार प्रसिद्ध नहीं बनाता, उसे बेहतर बनाते हैं प्रोत्साहित करने वाले दर्शक। हर साल जहाँ किसी खिलाड़ी के प्लेसमेंट पर GPL के जूतों से मैनिट पोर्च प्रांगण गूँज जाता था, जहाँ ढोल ताशे बस एक इशारे भर के मोहताज होते थे, बाइकों की गुँजान करती वो रैलियाँ, वहाँ इस साल सिर्फ व्हाट्सएप स्टोरी से ही संतुष्ट होना पड़ा।



वीर बहादुर लौंडे कौन? जी हाँ मैं वीर बहादुर, स्वागत करता हूँ आप सभी का मैनिट पोर्च स्टूडियो से जहाँ हम और आप मिलकर चर्चा करेंगे MPL के संपूर्ण आगाज़ पर और इसी के साथ उन तमाम पहलुओं पर जिन्होंने बनाया MPL 2020 को इतना खास। शो के दौरान आप हमारे आधिकारिक ट्विटर हैंडल पर हमारे साथ जुड़ सकते हैं, क्योंकि ट्विटर पर ट्रेंडिंग होने में समय नहीं लगता ये बात कोरोना ने ही सिखाई है। तो चलिए देखते हैं MPL हायलाइट्स !

लॉकडाउन के दौरान आने वाले MPL को भाँपते हुए

लगातार खिलाड़ियों की CODE-GYM जॉइन करने वाली खबरों ने जहाँ कुछ खेमों की नींद उड़ाई हुई तो वहीं दूसरी ओर दर्शकों में उत्साह बढ़ता हुआ भी दिखाई दे रहा था। दोस्तों CSE के प्रति रुझान का एक कारण यह भी है कि यहाँ चाहे आप बॉलर हों, बैट्समैन हो, कीपर हो, या चाहे एक्स्ट्रा में ही क्यों न हो, आपको प्लेसमेंट मिल ही जाता है। जहाँ एक ओर COMPUTER SUPER ENGINEERS यानी CSE की आक्रामक पारी तो वहीं ELECTRONICS CHALLENGERS BHOPAL यानि ECB डिफेंडिंग मोड में जबरदस्त प्रदर्शन करते दिखे। दोनों ही टीमों नवकौशल को मौका प्रदान करती दिखीं, जो टीम स्पर्धा का बेहतरीन उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है।

-  मैच भले ही शुरुआती दौर में CSE के पाले में जाता दिख रहा था परंतु ECB के भरोसेमंद बॉलर्स ने एक ही प्लेसमेंट में 2 विकेट चटकाते हुए मैच का रुख ही बदल दिया। CSE और ECB शुरुआती कुछ मैचों में बेहतरीन प्रदर्शन के साथ ही तालिका में अव्वल बनी हुई थीं। प्रत्येक मैच बेहद रोमांचित था, और शुरुआती मैच तो इतने प्रभावी थे की तस्वीर लगभग साफ सी ही थी, की MPL 2020 का ताज किस टीम के सर होगा परंतु जैसे ही MPL अपने दूसरे पड़ाव में पहुंचा तो वहाँ इसका जोरों शोरों से इस्तकबाल करने METALLURGY INDIANS (MI) और DHURANDHARS of CIVIL(DC) मौजूद थे, जिसके बेहतरीन ऑलराउंडर ने न सिर्फ कोर मगर सॉफ्टवेयर, एनालिटिक्स, फाइनेंस हर प्लेसमेंट पर अपना कब्जा जमाया। इसी बात पर ठोको ताली।
-  पाजी शुरुआती दौर में जहाँ ELECTRICAL SUPERCHARGED के खिलाड़ी CSE के समक्ष डिस्चार्ज दिखाई दिए, वहीं दूसरे पड़ाव के दौरान मैच में वापसी करते हुए अंक तालिका में अपना स्थान पाती दिखी। यूँ तो CSE ने कई बाउंड्री पार कराई मगर ES के शानदार फील्डर्स ने सभी को कायल कर दिया।
-  चूंकि MPL के शुरुआती दौर में कई कोर कंपनीज़ ने अपना पल्ला झाड़ लिया था अतः भले ही निर्णय CHEMICOOOLS के पक्ष में न था परंतु यह प्रतिस्पर्धी खेलों की असल पहचान जैसा प्रतीत हुआ।
-  MPL के तीसरे चरण में ROYAL MECHANICAL और CSE के मध्य हुए मैचों में CSE के बॉलर्स का नई गेंद के साथ परीक्षण प्रशंसनीय था और वहीं RM की आक्रामक सोच सफल साबित होती दिखी। कोर पैकेज ट्रॉफीज़ पर तो मानो RM ने दो टूक कर दिया था कि हमारे स्टेडियम पर मजाल किसी की जो हमसे जीत कर दिखाए।
-  अब यूँ तो किसी खिलाड़ी के लिए रिटायर्ड होने का दुख बड़ा होता है मगर MPL नामक इस नायाब खेल की जितनी तारीफ की जाए कम है। यहाँ रिटायर्ड खिलाड़ी वह, जिसने मैच से पहले ही पैकेज जीतकर प्रदर्शन कर दिया हो। उसे PPO नामक ट्रॉफी से नवाजा जाता है। ये खिलाड़ी सिर्फ हाथ में पॉपकॉर्न लिए पूरे खेल का मज़ा लेते नज़र आते हैं और क्यों न करें।

दोस्तों, ये तो थी हाइलाइट्स की बात मगर MPL की सबसे अनोखी बात यही है की चाहे फैसला किसी भी टीम के हक में रहे, जीत तो सभी टीमों में से कई प्रतिभागियों की होती है। अगर किसी पुराने प्रतिभागी की जुबान में कहूँ तो, प्लेसमेंट की बधाइयाँ पाजी, ये लो हजारों गाली, बेल्ट की मार अभी है ताज़ी ताज़ी ओए ठोको ताली।

इसी के साथ मैं आपसे विदा लेता हूँ फिर मिलते हैं एक नए वर्ष में एक नए खेल के साक्षी बनने।
धन्यवाद! धन्यवाद! धन्यवाद!

2020 के अधमरे ग्राफ्स

नमस्कार मैनिटियन्स! आज आप सभी खोलेंगे किताब 'मैनिट: एक ड्रीमलैंड' का 2020 एडिशन- 'मैनिट: एक मृगतृष्णा', चैप्टर '2020 के अधमरे ग्राफ्स', पृष्ठ क्रमांक 420। इसमें मैनिट में एंट्री पाने से लेकर पढ़ाई लिखाई कर आईएस वाई एस बनने तक की सभी इक्वेशंस तथा ग्राफ्स पूरी डिटेल एवं सटीक अनुक्रम में आपकी बेहतर समझ के लिए उपलब्ध हैं। तो खोलिये और सेल्फ स्टडी शुरू कीजिये।

जब एक विद्यार्थी बारहवीं में 75% इकट्ठा करके, उसमें JEE का जोड़ कर बराबर में मैनिट हासिल करता है, तब यह इक्वेशन, इक्वेशन ऑफ मैनिट कहलाती है। यह वेव नेचर की इक्वेशन एक मैराथॉन ही है, जिसमें सब अपनी अपनी गति से भाग रहे होते हैं। सारे वर्ष इस इक्वेशन में स्वप्न के वेरिएबल्स डाल देने के बाद नया वर्ष आता है। जब सभी वर्ष 2020 की गति पकड़ ही रहे होते हैं, तब न चाहते हुए भी एक गति अवरोधक आकर टपकता है, जिसे कोविड कहा जाता है। जब तक इसे सीरियसली लिया जाता है, तब तक यह इंसानी जीवन की गति घटा चुका होता है! इसकी खासियत है, कि इससे सिर्फ इंसानी जीवन रुकते हैं, बाकी प्राणियों पर इसका कोई असर नहीं है! इसके अन्तर्गत मोदी जी कुछ तूफानी करने की सोच लिए 'उस ही समय' पर आते हैं एवं 21 दिवसीय लॉकडाउन की घोषणा कर एकदम से वक्र बदल देते हैं, जज्बात बदल देते हैं, जिसके बाद सभी मैनिटियन्स अनिश्चितकाल तक अपने ही घरों में कैद हो जाते हैं। **इन मैनिटियन्स के वर्षानुसार कोरोना बनाम मैनिटियन प्रगति ग्राफ कुछ ऐसे होते हैं-**

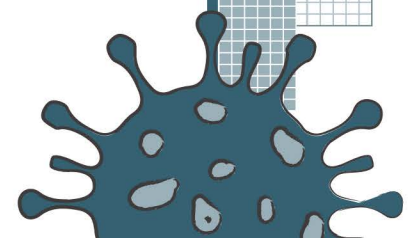
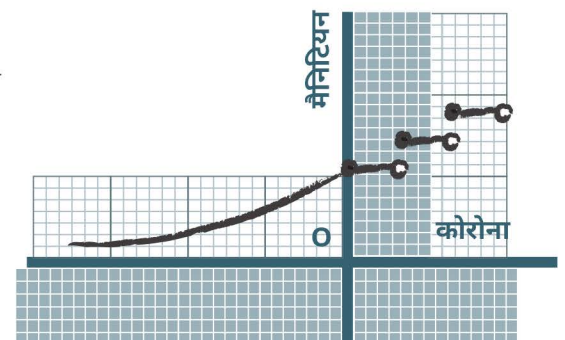
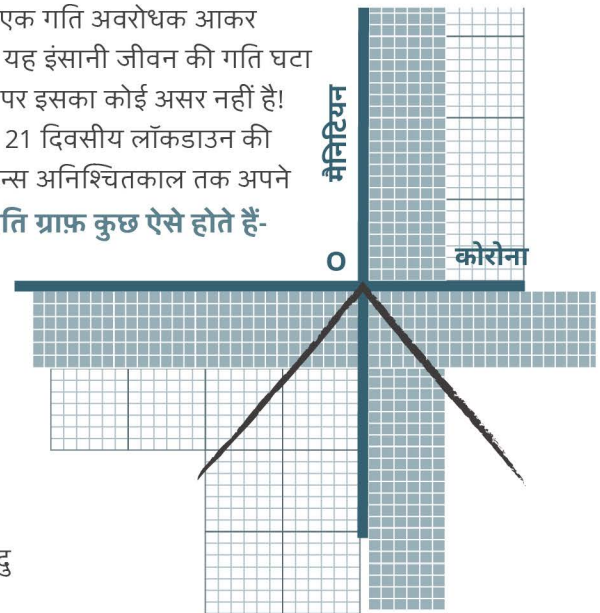
1. प्रथम वर्ष: मैनिटियन्स = - | कोरोना |

यह पिछले दो वर्षों से अपने हिस्से का 75% एवम JEE का जोड़ करने की बेजोड़ कोशिश करते हैं और अगर इनके दो सालों का कठिन परिश्रम मैनिट की इक्वेशन के रूप में सामने आता है, तब इनका ग्राफ इस प्रकार दिखाई पड़ता है-

- 1.1. कोरोना के साथ JEE की अनिश्चितता के कारण दोनों का मूल्य नेगेटिव में है, मगर स्लोप तब भी बढ़ रहा है, जिसे "उम्मीद" कहा जाता है।
- 1.2. $O=$ ओरिजिन, जहाँ इस इक्वेशन का मूल्य शून्य के बराबर हो जाता है। यही वह बिंदु है, जहाँ इन होने वाले प्रथम वर्षों ने JEE परीक्षा दी है।
- 1.3. ओरिजिन पर प्रथम वर्ष की इक्वेशन का मूल्य निर्धारित ना होने की वजह से यहाँ स्थिति डगमगाती हुई होती है। इसीलिए यहाँ इक्वेशन नॉन डिफरेंशियेबल होती है और इसे प्वाइंट ऑफ नॉन डिफरेंशियेबिलिटी कहा जाता है।
- 1.4. आमतौर पर इस बिंदु के बाद यह इक्वेशन गति पकड़ती है, मगर 2020 में यह इक्वेशन उसी गति से नीचे गिर रही है, अतः इसका स्लोप यहाँ नेगेटिव है।
- 1.5. यह नेगेटिव स्लोप धराशाई हुए फ्रेशर्स के सपने, स्टूडेंट ऑफ द ईयर जैसा जीवन, विभिन्न फ्रेस्ट और पिया मिलन जैसे को-ऑर्डिनेट्स को दर्शाता है।

2. सेकंड ईयर: मैनिटियन = $\begin{cases} e^{\text{कोरोना}} & \text{कोरोना} < 0 \\ [\text{कोरोना}] & \text{कोरोना} \geq 0 \end{cases}$

- 2.1. कोरोना की दस्तक से पहले अर्थात नेगेटिव कोरोना एक्सिस पर इनका पूरा जीवन शून्य की ओर से धीमी गति से पटरी पर आता है।
- 2.2. यह क्वाड्रेंट इनके प्रथम वर्ष को दर्शाता है, जब सुनना ही इनका एक मात्र मौलिक अधिकार होता है और दिनचर्या मुख्यतः समान सी, अतः यहाँ इसका स्लोप लगभग एक समान है।



2.3. इसके बाद इस इक्वेशन की वैल्यू बहुत ऊँचा जम्प लेने ही वाली थी , कि 2020 नामक डिसकन्टिन्यूटी इसे तोड़ देती है।

2.4. इसके आगे यह इक्वेशन टूट टूट कर आगे बढ़ती है और हर रुकावट पर एक अलग बिंदु है जिसके बाद इनका जीवन वापस शिथिल हो जाता है , जिसका पूरा मूल्य पहले वाली रुकावट में बराबर ही होता है।

2.5. हर रुकावट पर एक डिसकन्टिन्यूटी इसे नॉन डिफरेंशियेबल भी बना देती है।

2.6. इन रुकावटों के कॉर्डिनेट्स कुछ इस प्रकार हैं-

- (JEE आगे बढ़ना, सर कहलाने का सुख दूर)
- (ऑनलाइन परीक्षा, ब्रांच अपग्रेडेशन में चुनौतियाँ)
- (कॉलेज अनिश्चितकाल तक बंद होना, सोसाइटी चुनने का सपना धरासाईं)

3. तृतीय वर्ष: मैनिटियन = $-\ln| - \text{कोरोना} |$

"लेने वाला जब भी लेता, लेता कह कर।"

इनकी इक्वेशन में बस संगीत की कमी है। अगर उपर्युक्त पंक्तियाँ इनके लिए पेश की जाए तो अतिशयोक्ति नहीं होगी। इनका ग्राफ़ बाकी जटिल से हटकर बिल्कुल ही सरल होता है। इनकी इक्वेशन पिछले दो सालों से सारी संख्याओं को पीछे छोड़कर आखिरकार अपनी मैक्सिमा पर पहुँचती ही है कि 2020 के आते ही मिनिमा के ठिकाने नहीं दिखते। इनका आसमान से टपका पाताल में अटका ग्राफ़ कुछ यूँ दिखता है-

3.1. कोरोना के बढ़ने के साथ एक्सपोनेंशियल यह गिरता है, जो साथ ही गिरती आशाओं के बिंदुओं को जोड़ता हुआ आगे बढ़ता है जो निम्नलिखित हैं -

- आगे के जीवन के लिए प्लेसमेंट अथवा उच्च शिक्षा पर शोध का महत्वपूर्ण बिंदु
- कोचिंग सुविधा का अभाव।
- बॉस और मैम की विलंबित की हुई सारी दावतें ।
- दो साल की कड़ी मेहनत के फ़लस्वरूप मिलने वाली गदियाँ।

3.2. सर से बॉस की तरफ़ पहुँचती लिमिट नॉट डिफ़ाइंड ही रह जाती है।

3.3. इस आसान से ग्राफ़ की खासियत है , कि यह कोरोना एक्सिस के सम्बन्ध में मिरर्ड होता है, जो हालातों के उल्टा होने पर इनकी उल्टी ज़िन्दगी को दर्शाता है।

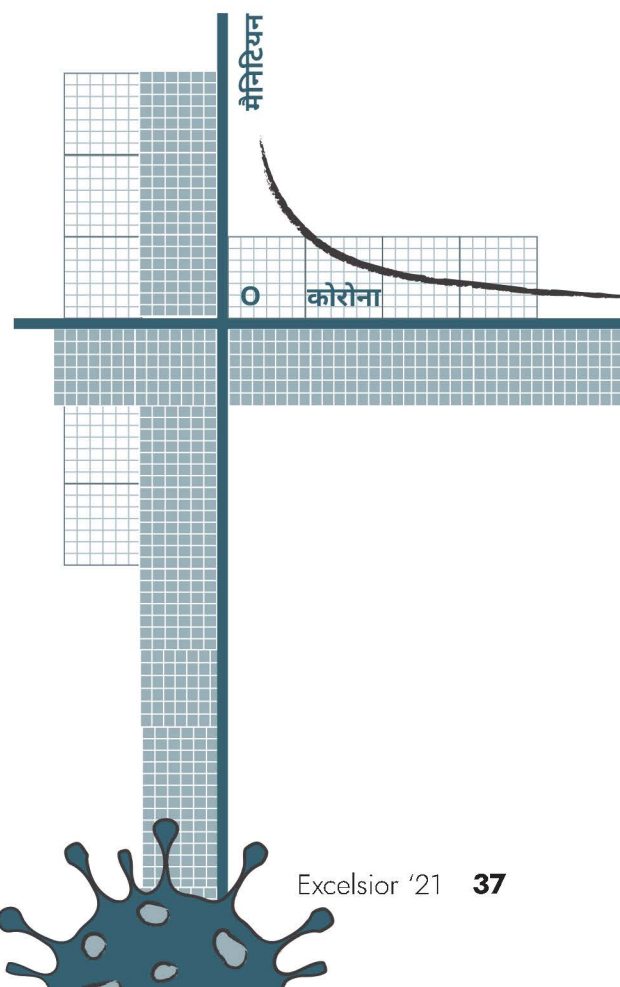
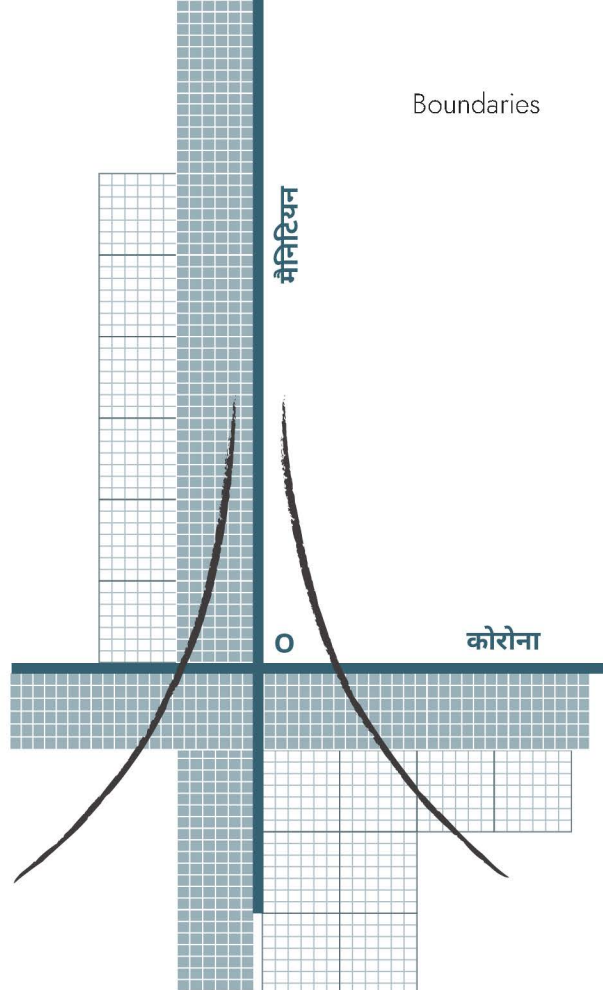
4. अन्तिम वर्ष: (मैनिटियन).(कोरोना) = 1 , कोरोना ≥ 0

यह अति दयनीय ग्राफ़ है। यह भी तृतीय वर्षीय ग्राफ़ की तरह असंख्य से शुरू होकर नीचे की ओर गिरता है, मगर बड़ा अंतर यह है , कि यह ना तो शून्य तक पहुँचता है ना ही उससे बहुत दूर होता है। इसका चित्रण इस प्रकार है

4.1. असंख्य की ओर जाती हुई मैक्सिमा ये दर्शाती है, कि इस साल यही राजा यही प्रजा होते

4.2. असंख्य से तेज़ी से गिरती हुई स्लोप सारे सपनों के कोऑर्डिनेट समेटे हुए हैं । जैसे

- (कोरोना की दस्तक, मनचाहा प्लेसमेंट दूभर)
- (कोरोना का विस्तार, अंतिम वर्ष डायरी के पन्ने कोरे)
- (कोरोनाकाल, अंतिम वर्ष के अंतिम फेस्ट, कार्यक्रम छूटना)
- (वैक्सीन का आगमन, मगर कॉलेज का न खुलना)



Epilogue

Here comes a cliched line. We meet the same people, go to the same classes, listen to the same old music. This is what keeps the world going. Most of the time, comfort is a good thing. You do not want everything to keep changing every single time, do you? Popular media is filled with stories of change, revolution, and heroic efforts. Those things have a place, but our day-to-day life also has a place. It is in the chase of glory that we forget one single fact. Glorious moments are glorious because, because? They are rare! They occur once in a year or so. Aspiring wings, we neglect our feet. Shouldn't they be on the ground for a majority of the time? Haven't great thinkers cautioned us to the pitfalls of over dreaminess? Haven't they been telling us to keep in touch with "nature"? Is respecting boundaries about being meek? Or is it being honest about our limitations? And so, Mr. Compliant did have a point.

Boundaries are important.

Should we question our boundaries? What if Bicep Chand had, for some reason, never been able to become strong? Was that MANIT based on a false assumption that everyone can compete with everyone else; all that is required is hard work? Didn't Mr. MANIT wield too much power? What if he didn't like a particular person? He certainly could make his or her college life miserable. What if the rules by which MPL was played were disadvantageous for the players in some fundamental way? Wasn't the irony in the term "Techno-Search" visible? Do the dead-graphs reveal something which we ought to ponder upon?

Are there times when change is no longer optional? When the boundaries become too constrictive? Legend has it that the entity Mr. Rebel wrestled with similar questions. Let me take you to his grave.

Prologue

Here lies the grave of Mr. Rebel. Realization of his existence had morphed his vision, allowing him to see the cage he was entrapped in. The invisible walls he was ignorant of cast a dark shadow around him. This epiphany before him withered his pre-formed perceptions. He had bared enough, conforming to the biased impressions of handling chaos called normality. Being pinned as an anarchist was none of his concern

Rebel



anymore. His resolution to break through it all was absolute, evident by his blazing eyes and the tales he sang. Stories ranging from a seeker of revenge stirring up everything in his path, to a lad's agony being cemented in time. Through a clash of the modern age and the Titan born out of it, to the dilemmas of change and struggles for acceptance, and the rituals of saying goodbyes.

"Alive is he who packs the strength to correct his own path." He stood with his fists clenched tight, ready to charge. "And correction demands tearing down undue obstacles." I remember asking the unflinching silhouette walking down the path of turbulence, "What would the results be of this... rebellion?"
"A foundation rebuilt."

Fit Wick

Insurrection

Very few among us can channelize our inner monsters. When the surroundings get too restrictive, such individuals can tear down the whole structure. As they say: "When you stab the devil in the back, the aftermath isn't vengeance. It is justice."

It was a Sunday afternoon, and Fit Wick was sitting quietly in his room. It was one of those few instances when he was feeling positive enough to do something, and so he decided to go towards the Upper Lake. He got ready, took his bike out, and stopped at Amul to grab a bottle of Coke.

As he was paying his bill, Iosef saw him. Wick's bike had always been famous in MANIT. Iosef was heading for his regular Sunday outing, and he thought it wouldn't hurt if he took the best bike of the college. When he asked Wick for the same, he politely refused.

Iosef was one of those annoying and entitled brats who existed in every college. When upon repeated requests, Wick denied giving him his bike, his temper got the better of him. He, along with his five friends, beat Wick up and forcibly took his bike.

Ordinarily, people in our college would not take such events seriously. Such an event would be a talk of the town for a couple of days before everything went back to how it was. Little did they know, things would never remain the same.

Iosef's entitlement didn't come out of nowhere. His tech dad, Mango, was the most popular guy in the college. He was in the upper echelons of quite a few clubs. His group of friends was also spread throughout the various mess

and student committees. He had himself been involved in countless such incidents. But even he knew that Iosef had crossed the line this time. He called Iosef to his room. As soon as he arrived, Mango punched him fiercely.

"Why Boss, what did I do?", Iosef cried in pain.

"Tu aamchi waat lavlii" (You have gotten us into big trouble!)

"I closed the deal with the sponsors; nothing went wrong!"

"I am not talking about the sponsors!"

"Oh. Is it about that bike? So what if I took a freaking bike!"

"It's not what you did, Iosef, that angers me. It's whom you did it to."

"Who is that guy? A freaking nobody!", Iosef tried to defend himself.

"You have broken the fundaes by hitting a senior, Iosef...", Mango paused for a moment.

With a heavy heart, he continued: "Not only that, that freaking nobody...is Fit Wick. He once used to work with us. We used to call him Baba Yaga."

"A Boogeyman?", Iosef intervened.

"Well, Wick exactly wasn't a Boogeyman. He was the one whom you sent to put in place the freaking Boogeyman. I once saw him beating three members of a mess committee to a pulp with a spoon, a freaking spoon! He is a man of focus, commitment, and sheer will, something you know very little about."

focus, commitment, and sheer will, something you know very little about."

"If Wick is so badass, why did he leave everything?"

"Over a girl, of course. But before leaving, we all asked him to do an impossible task. Have you heard about how a bike ban was almost put into place? It was Wick who led us all and made sure that that never happened. And now, when he was quietly living his life, you, a junior, hit him and snatched his bike."

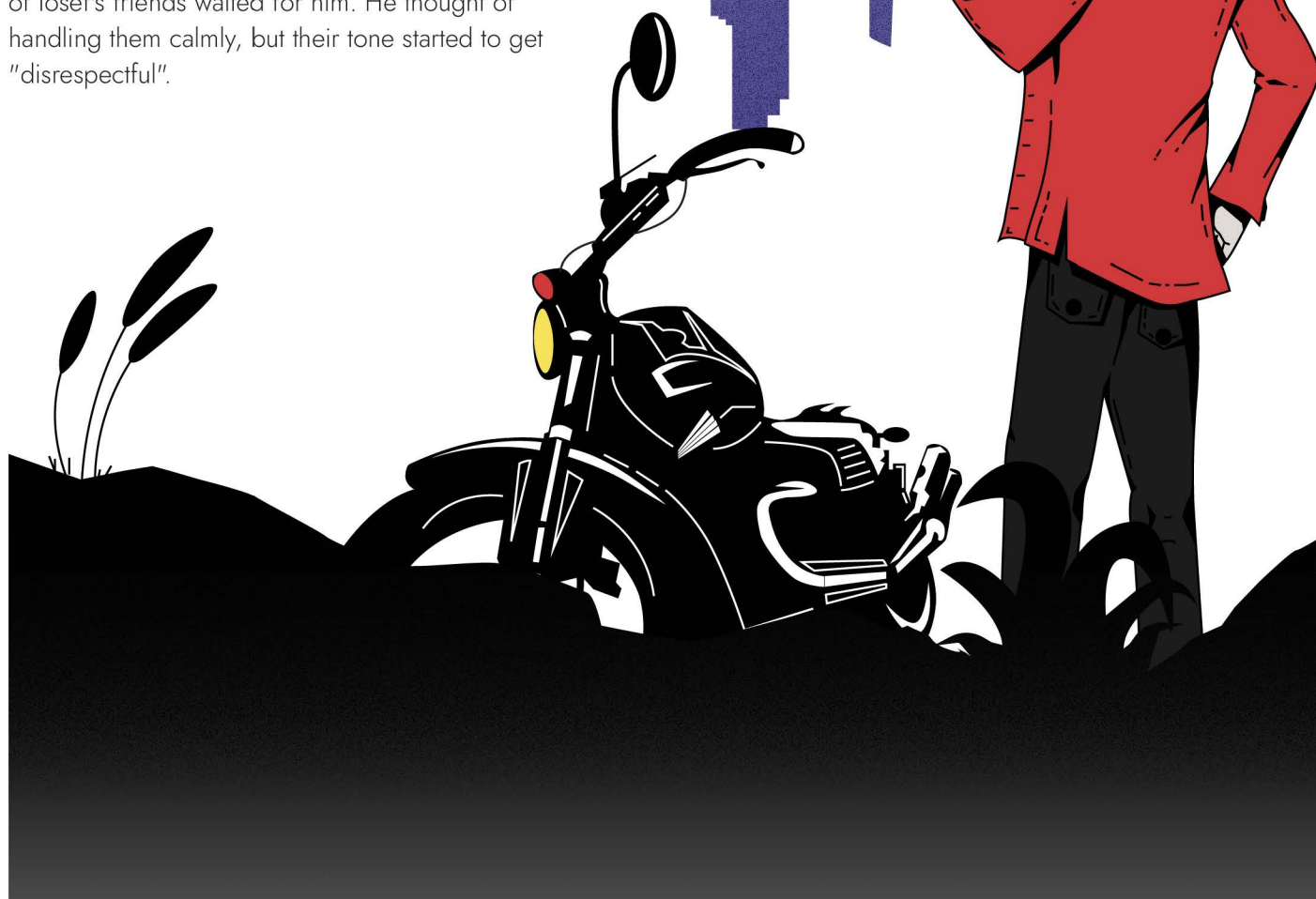
"I will put everything in place Boss!"

"Did you hear a single word which I said? Was that description not enough? He is the Boogeymen's Boogeyman. He. Is. Fit Wick."

"Boss mi he karu shakto!" (I can put this in place!)

"Oh no, my boy! Wick will come for you. And you will do nothing because you can do nothing. So get out of my sight!"

Fit Wick was returning to his room after having his dinner. He found his room's door to be open, and 12 of Iosef's friends waited for him. He thought of handling them calmly, but their tone started to get "disrespectful".



Rebel

Before they could understand anything, Wick started his "work". In a matter of two minutes, every single one of those 12 was lying on the ground, badly injured. He then collected some coins from each individual, the coins totaling about 76. Just then, he heard a knock on his door. It was the warden.

"Good evening, Wick!"

"Good evening, sir! Noise complaint?"

"Yeah. Noise complaint."

He saw the individuals lying inside.

"You working again?"

"Just sorting some stuff."

"Alright then, Wick, I am sending the staff for some cleaning up. Good night Wick."

"Good night, sir."

The next day, Wick went towards the canteen near SAC. He approached the gentleman at the counter.

"Good morning sir! Can I get the balance sheets of every club and mess committee in which Mango is in?"

"That will be 20 coins, sir", replied the man in a crisp voice.

"Thank you, Mr. Wick", he said as Fit Wick handed him the coins.

"And as always, it's good to have you back!"

Wick wanted to analyze these sheets so that he could find the discrepancies in the accounts of the committees in which Mango was in. If the general public found out about them, things could get really bad for Mango.

As soon as he put those out, it became the talk of the town. For the next week, all that anyone would talk about was the widespread corruption that Mango indulged in. However, there were no signs of anger or any authority taking any action.

Meanwhile, Mango and Iosef had completely disappeared from public life. Wick got the information that one of their closest aides, Sharad, was working out in the gym at that moment. As Wick entered the gym, he calmly said, "Talk-time." It was a code, and everyone immediately left the gym. He signaled to Sharad, who by this point had already got the hint.

"Do you know where Iosef is?"

"No sir," Sharad replied, trembling heavily.

"Do you know where Mango is?"

"No, sir."

"Do you know anything worth knowing?", Wick asked, getting a little impatient.

Sharad really did not know anything, as no one could withstand a twenty-minute "interrogation" from Wick. Quite a few dumbbells were "used", and the whole scene had to be cleaned up. Wick dialed a number saved "Clean-up", and spoke, "Reservation for a person at Club Riviera". In a few minutes, an old man named Chandu arrived.

"Hey, Wick! Good to see you! Are we back in the game now?"

"Sorry Chandu, but no. I am on my own now."

"That's a shame, Wick! You were really made for this. Anyhow, let me take a look. How long did you "talk" to him, Wick? This place is in a complete mess! It will take a while cleaning this dungeon! I hope the talk was successful, or else he got a "treatment" for nothing!"

So, as things stood, there was no public outrage over Mango's corruption, nor could Fit Wick physically get hold of him. He finally had to contact something way more powerful.

Iran in 1953 had witnessed something very weird. A small minority had managed to overthrow a democratically elected government, which had massive support, with a very unpopular monarchy.

Political scientists all over the world were baffled; how could this ever happen? How did public opinion change without any provocation?

As it turns out, the CIA, working together with Iran's secret service, was behind all this. The moral? Secret services can change public opinion very quickly. It was time that Wick contacted MANIT's Secret service: the MBI.

Made up of both pass-out students and current ones, the MBI was currently operating from the new library. It was one of the reasons behind the delay in the library's opening, they couldn't let it open until they could find a new headquarters!

Mango knew that this would be Wick's final attempt at getting him in trouble. He summoned Iosef. "Bring in men. We need to go to the library." "How many?" asked Iosef. "How many do you have?", came in the reply.

As Wick entered the building, he was greeted by a small group of 47 men. Everyone was standing tall, except for Mango, who was sitting quietly in a chair at the other end. He knew Wick better than anyone else, and he knew no amount of men or sticks could do Wick any harm.

One by one, Fit Wick took them down. It was surreal; how could a mortal being be so lethal? As he reached Iosef, he dragged him out towards his (Wick's) bike.

"You wanted my bike, right? Here you have it."

Bang! And he smashed Iosef's head against the bike's handle.

"Take the handle, or else, how will you drive it?"

Thadddd! He smashed Iosef's leg against the shifter.

"Come on! Show me how to change the gears!"

Clank! There went the mirror. "Iosef, didn't anyone teach you to look for the vehicles which come from behind?"

Iosef was beaten beyond recognition. Our clean-up guy had arrived by this moment.

With all the obstacles aside, Wick went in and negotiated with the MBI. They were ready, and in exchange, Wick had to do a task, to which he agreed reluctantly. And boy did it work.

The MBI was successful in changing public opinion. There was a massive campaign urging more accountability from the various clubs and mess committees.

The authorities too, reacted more harshly than they should have had, which made Wick wonder. Did they have anything to hide?

Thanks to Fit Wick, there were some changes in MANIT. The mess food got way better, with every penny being properly utilized. The clubs started functioning efficiently and with more zeal. The culture of working in short bursts of time, or only before some major event was slowly starting to change.

After about a month, Fit Wick paid a visit to the JCs of the Editorial Board.

"Good evening Mr. Wick", both the JC's wished him while blushing, being in awe of his personality.

"People think I did what I did because I wanted to 'clean the system'. But if the system is to be cleaned, you too have to be held accountable! For a long time, you guys have been refraining from publishing articles that would have targeted certain groups of people."

"We do write articles calling out the harmful practices going on in our college, sir."

"Well, then start doing it more explicitly! Consequences are something with which we all have to deal. Create an environment in which indulging in corruption of any kind is heavily frowned upon. Words are as mighty as brute physical force, and you have words on your side! It is because of people like you that people's conscience will awaken."

"We will take note of that, Mr. Wick."

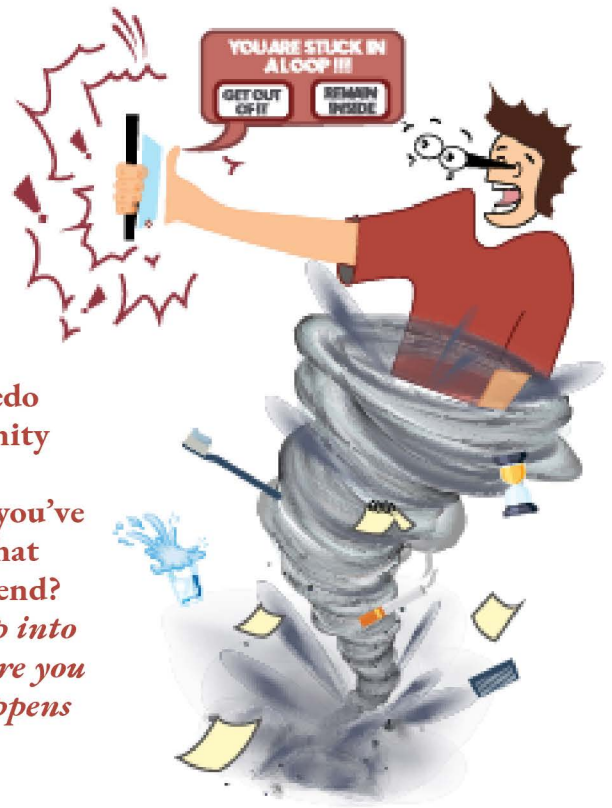
"Yes. You better do. Otherwise, I will have to 'deal' with you guys too!"

"Sir, may I ask you one question? Is it true that the MBI gave you an impossible task?"

Fit Wick's face turned pale. "Ahhh... the Task..." was all that he could utter.

THE ∞ PDOWN

Ever had a crappy week and wondered if you could redo the entire thing all over again? What if that opportunity was handed to you through some mysterious cosmic intervention? How would you spend the chance that you've been given? And what would you do if that "Redo" that you've been given keeps on looping, never seeming to end? For there is a saying, *"Time is a loop that you can loop into any time you want. But don't expect time to stop where you do. Because change is a continuous process, and it happens whether you want it to or not."*



389th March 2020- Wednesday: Week 52

The loop always restarts on a Wednesday. This is its 52nd iteration. I woke up to the aggravating tune of "Tunak Tunak" and once again cursed myself from 51 loops ago for setting this as my alarm. It's common knowledge that a good song will either die as your favorite or live long enough to be hated as your alarm.

The other reason why I despise this song now is that it serves as a reminder to me that I have failed yet again to break free from the loop. Every 31st night, I go to sleep, changing my alarm to the soothing melody of "Tadow", with the hope that I get to see the morning of April 1st. Alas, the Tunak Tunak playing right now is a sure sign that I'm still stuck in my Groundhog Week.

I am disturbed from my self-deprecating reverie by Arjun's loud, insistent banging on my door and his futile tirade to wake me up.

"Karthik, wake up bro. It's almost 9 now. We have just enough time to grab breakfast and just be 15 mins late for UNIX. Any later and Sir is going to lock us out. Both of us are already short on attendance. I also heard that today's breakfast is something good, WAKE UP YOU [redacted]".

Although he means well, since I've been through this cycle countless times, only I realize the futility of everything he has stated.

"Arju, it's already 9. I'm not in the mood to spend 20 mins for some pathetic pieces of rock idli. And no matter what we do, we'll anyway be kicked out of class when we reach there, considering the mad mood Ramwaal is in today. Heed my advice and just chuck this class and study for today's AI test."

"Wait, how'd you know it was idli today? It is supposed to be a new menu today. Wait, What test? We don't have any scheduled for today. Karthik WAKE UP whatcha blabbering about."

Ugh, I'm done having this same conversation every 25th. There is no legal way to convince them about the numerous iterations of the surprise AI test I have been through or about the idli that chipped off Akashat's tooth. While they would be in awe of my prophetic powers, the next week is just going to reset them back to their square one of ignorance. So instead of explaining everything to him about my excellent sense of foresight, I chose the easy path by flipping him the finger and giving him a few choice words that presented him the opportunity to return them back to me with interest and leave me to my room in peace. Ah, what a blessed friendship we share!

Oh, where are my manners? I probably need to give y'all a summary so that you can sympathize with my pain. I'm Karthik Dubey, blah blah, CSE 3rd Year, etc etc,

stuck in this godforsaken Palm Springs-style loop, except it's for an entire week, yada yada, between the days of March 25th-March 31st, since the past 52 loops. Now that we're done with the premise, shall we move on?

Now that both Arjun and my blissful sleep have abandoned me, I consider how to spend the rest of today. If I time it right, I could go to Mata for some chai sutta and reach in time for the surprise test. I personally couldn't care less about the test since my score will be erased by next week. However, the look of surprise and panic on the faces of my classmates never fails to be hilarious. There were also these 2 answers that I haven't been able to clear in all my attempts, so maybe today might be my lucky day.

Maybe I should skip the lab in the 2nd half and relax at Sheetal Das. I wonder what Sheetal Das is like on a Wednesday.

397th March 2020- Thursday: Week 53

Monotony is defined as tedious repetition and routine.

Ever realized how there are sequences to your daily routine? A subconscious pattern that you follow the moment you're awake? Moving around on auto-pilot while getting things done — brushing, bathing, sipping that chai, and then some breakfast. There is that specific part of the day for your daily binge-fest, the same spot you always choose to relax in, the same tune you hum while you do some chores. After a while, when you try to think back upon a particular day, it feels like they have all melded together and are indistinguishable. That is monotony.

I have perpetual Déjà vu due to the loop that I am stuck in. It took me a while to realize that I had been stuck in this loop. Even now, I'd be unable to answer questions about anything particular I did from a few loop weeks back. It almost feels like I've been confined to a single place for months without any means of escape, albeit in a broader sense. I wonder how others would cope in such a situation.

406th March 2020- Friday: Week 54

Now some of you might be wondering, is this guy immortal? Like Tom Cruise from Edge of Tomorrow, who's stuck in this triggered-by-death loop to save Earth from some aliens. Just cool sci-fi stuff.

Honestly, I haven't given it much thought. I use this linear flow of the loop to keep track of the duration of my mental incarceration. I have no wish to keep reliving Wednesday morning and find out how far my hatred for Tunak Tunak can go. Moreover, no matter how bad this situation is, why take the risk of an untimely demise? Unlike Happy Death Day, I have no guarantee about the status of death in the loop, so it's not like I wish to find out that I'm wrong. How in the world will I explain this trauma to my therapist?

Kids, even if you feel like killing yourself for attending that same old boring lecture countless times (Friday 3rd class x54 for me), just don't. Have a cup of chai at Mata instead. Assured feel-good vibes.

415th March 2020- Saturday: Week 55

I really wish I could travel. While ideally, a week is enough to travel to certain places, especially if you don't need to worry about a return ticket, even such an escape isn't open to me. Turns out that the creator of my loop has also added travel restrictions to my list of woes. Traveling a certain distance away from college, be it reaching the airport or crossing the borders by train, causes me to blackout and awaken right at the start of the loop again. Do you think I willingly confined myself here all this while? RIP all them Kasol and Goa plans.

I swear, once I get out of this loop, I will not waste anymore of my days. I'll travel to all those bucket list locations. Nothing is going to stop me. Not even this minor flu that's apparently causing some scare in Wuhan. What's the worst thing some common cold is going to do?

424th March 2020- Sunday: Week 56

I sipped my drink and sighed as I watched Amar weep over yet another rejection by his crush. Well, for him, it's his first rejection, but this is a scene that I have witnessed so many times now that the shock value just isn't there anymore. I know, I know, you guys are probably thinking that "This guy literally has a cheat code to redo stuff and get his homie placed. How could he seem unconcerned about all this?"

Well, don't you think that I haven't already exhausted every loop-pportunity to try and fix things? For context's sake, Amar and Sheetal are like Tim and Charlotte from the movie 'About Time.' No matter what the guy does, the lady is just not interested. Just make peace and move on buddy. I so wished I could knock some sense into his head.

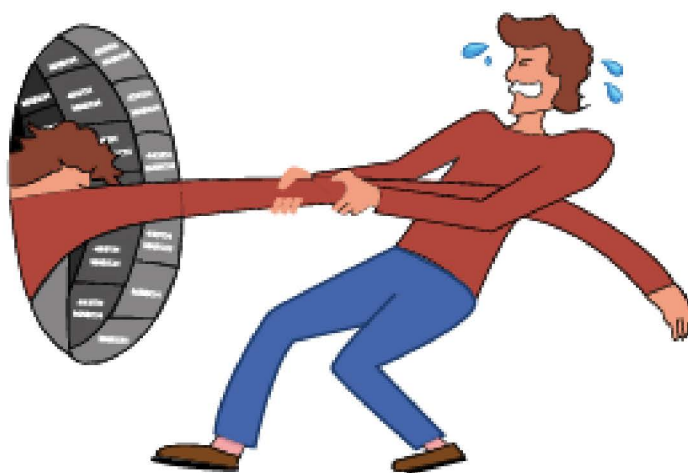
However, I hold my tongue and silently observe as Arjun and Vinayak console our friend and ply with him ample amounts of "liquid" to drown his sorrows. I'd lost my cool a few loops back after another one of my "foolproof" plans failed all over again. I might have gone a tad bit overboard in my inebriated state in trying to invalidate his hopes and efforts. Even if I have grown jaded from repeated exposure, it was still his first heartbreak. Goes to show you that we humans are poor empathizers, as we may have forgotten that something we've adjusted to might be something raw and new to someone else.

Ah damn, looks like he's about to hurl. Definitely do not want a repeat of that time when I was within distance of the splatter zone.

433rd March 2020- Monday: Week 57

Humans are creatures of habits, patterns, and routines. And it is the mental exhaustion caused by these routines that produces monotony. We humans eventually come to hate monotony. When we experience new things and encounter the unknown, that is when we are alive. And it's when we realize that we've fallen into the depths of the pattern that we have our crisis.

I've had plenty of time to address my situation I have been through a cycle of emotions -disbelief, perfectionism, rebellion, and now acceptance. I probably might not have my Groundhog Day-style redemption arc, trying to find that perfect sequence of events that'll free me from this loop. If this is what my new existence entails, then that's alright with me. I shall strive to create new experiences in the cycle



that I've been confined to. And this cycle will lead to my new normal.

442nd March 2020- Tuesday: Week 58

Out of habit, I set the alarm to "Tadow" before I laid down to sleep. While I have come to terms with my new normal, some habits still die hard. Ah well, at least I had another fruitful week. I lived the days of this week as I felt I should have lived them. Not bad and not perfect. Just going with the flow and trying to experience something new.

As I slowly slid into the Land of Dreams, for the first time I felt a surge of restlessness and excitement. I was looking forward to the new week and the things I could do with my time. It's with that sense of acceptance that I fell asleep...

~~**443rd March 2020- Wednesday: Week 59**~~ **1st April 2020- Wednesday: Week 0**

...and woke up to the melody of "Tadow."
What a plot twist, amirite? If my life were a meme, then my face would have had that astonished Pikachu expression right then. My initial confusion and investigation were followed by bewilderment in this abrupt turn of events, followed by the fear of the unknown. So much for achieving Nirvana. I was finally free. And utterly overwhelmed by the possibilities that this freedom represented.

Later that day

I was walking back from the mess when I heard the news from Arjun. Something about college holidays because of some beer brand becoming viral. Didn't make a lot of sense to me. Little did I realize that this new word that I would be introduced to soon would wind up changing everything.

Lockdown!!!

अंतिम अभिलाषा

साल 2020 ने पूरी दुनिया को निश्चित ही झकझोर कर रख दिया था। अगर मैनिट की बात करें तो समूचे विद्यार्थी समाज पर इसका प्रभाव पड़ा है मगर चतुर्थ वर्ष का दुःख वर्णन से परे है। एक ऐसा समय जब हर विद्यार्थी अपने जीवन के स्वर्णिम पलों को कैद कर लेना चाहता है और इतनी यादें बना लेना चाहता है कि जीवन भर के लिए पर्याप्त हो जाए। मगर इस बार अंतिम वर्ष को न तो फ़ाइनल ईयर डायरीज़ जैसे कैप्शन डालने का मौका मिला और ना फेयरवेल तक ही नसीब हुआ। निम्लिखित लेख अंतिम वर्ष के हर विद्यार्थी को समर्पित है जो उनकी हर अंतिम अभिलाषा का वर्णन करता है।

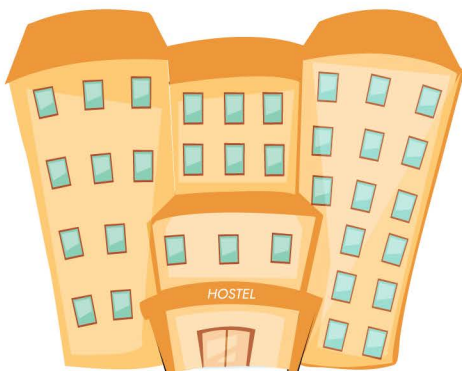
लॉकडाउन भी पार हुआ, कोरोना पर वैक्सीन से वार हुआ,
मैं भी अब कुछ कर जाऊँ, बस एक बार मैनिट हो आऊँ,
ऐसी अभिलाषा है।

शुरू एक सेमेस्टर हो, हम यारों का झुंड बने,
पढ़ाई-मस्ती साथ चले, और यादें पर्मानेंट बने।
बाइक की सवारी हो और माता के दरबार चलूँ,
पेड़ की बैठक छूटने पर, एक बार फिर हाथ मलूँ।
ऐसी अभिलाषा है।

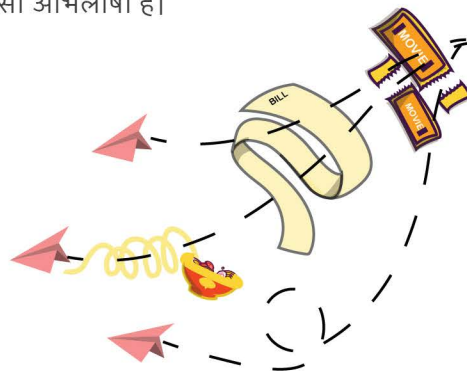
नेसकैफ़े की चाय मिले, मचान वाली शाम भी,
ऊबर ईट्स का खाना हो, मैस में शनिवार भी।
नुक्कड़ को ना भूलूँ मैं, देव अधिकारी का साथ मिले,
खाने पे घंटों चर्चा हो, हर बात में पार्टी माँगूँ मैं,
ऐसी अभिलाषा है।

सोसाइटीस की महाभारत हो, हेड बनने को खूब बाण चले
फ़ेस्ट की तैयारी खातिर, क्लास से सब भाग चलें,
GA के वो हसीन दिन, यूनिटी का प्यारा फ़ंडा हो,
सब कुछ वैसा हो जाए, बस अटेन्डेन्स का ना पंगा हो
ऐसी अभिलाषा है।

माइनर-मेजर ना लास्ट करूँ, गेट-जी.आर. ई. भी साथ करूँ,
कम्पनीज़ की भरमार रहे, मैं प्लेसमेंट की आस करूँ।
फ़ोटोशूट का भी दिन आए, लाल कोट कहीं उधार करूँ,
26 जनवरी पे अबकी, जलसे में जमके डांस करूँ
ऐसी अभिलाषा है।



DB City और कला भवन, फ़िर से हो आऊँ मैं
कभी-कभी जूनियर्स को पार्टी भी दे जाऊँ मैं,
PMC के गोल-गोल अब भी चक्कर खाऊँ मैं
रोज़-रोज़ नये प्यार में अब भी पड़ जाऊँ मैं,
ऐसी अभिलाषा है।



हॉस्टल को अपना घर कर लूँ, रूम रोज़ सजाऊँ मैं,
नये-नये नियम बना कर अपनी खिल्ली उड़वाऊँ मैं।
मैनिट वाला ही जिम हो अपना, फुटबॉल ग्राउंड भी साथ रहे,
फ़िर भी हॉस्टल वाली क्रिकेट, चले खूब आबाद रहे
ऐसी अभिलाषा है।

अरे! क्या भूलूँ क्या याद करूँ, क्या रखूँ क्या जाने दूँ,
ये सब केवल याद नहीं, खुद को कैसे समझाने दूँ।
तुम तो केवल एक नोटिस से, सब हथियाने आए हो,
पर एक झटके में कैसे, खुद को मैं छिन जाने दूँ।

रुको! अभी सामान हटा है मुझको भी हट जाने दो
हमे तुम मेहमान ना समझो, छत से तो घूम आने दो,
देखो सारी फ़ीस जमा है, बस रसीद समय का बाकी है,
पर इसका फ़ाइन ना लो तुम, अंतिम बैठक हो जाने दो।

थोड़ी जगह, दे दो कहीं, फ़िर यहीं रह जाऊँ मैं
चार साल तो पूरा हो, आगे का लक्ष्य बनाऊँ मैं,
कॉन्वो ना ही फेयरवेल को, यूँ तरस खाऊँ मैं,
कुछ और मुझमें मैनिट, ज़रा मैनिट का हो जाऊँ मैं।
ये अंतिम अभिलाषा है, हाँ, ऐसी अभिलाषा है।

कलियुग का RAP

आत्मनिरीक्षण

रैप बैटल: कोरोना बनाम कलियुग

महाराज कलियुग के विश्राम में विघ्न तब पड़ा जब यह बगैर शक्ल सूरत का प्राणी ताज धारण किए सीधा राजसभा में आ धमका और महाराज को युद्ध की चुनौती दे बैठा! मगर महाराज का उनके पूर्वजों सतयुग, त्रेतायुग और द्वापरयुग की तरह उसूलों की बात करना, तो अपनी शान के खिलाफ़ होगा। अतः युद्ध तो होगा मगर कलियुग के अंदाज़ में। इसी घोषणा के साथ आनन-फ़ानन में निष्पक्ष निर्णायक बुलाए गए, जिनका खुलासा आखिर में किया जाएगा क्योंकि कलियुग में कुछ सीधे मुँह बताया जाता है क्या? तो शुरू हो गई दोनों के बीच रैप-बैटल। क्योंकि इस युग में तो यही है न्यू नॉर्मल!

कलियुग - द खलबलीयुग :

"हाँ तो छोटे आजा तू मैदान में,
बट फर्स्ट थिंग फर्स्ट, बेटे आया कैसे जहान में?
यहीं खत्म कर दूँ किस्सा तेरा, कोई आदमी नहीं हैवान मैं!
पिघलता नहीं हूँ छोटे, सख्तों का शक्तिमान मैं!
ऐ चिरकुट! नंबर 8 इस माय बूट,
दुनिया का राजा तू? हा हा माय फुट,
नाक न नक्ष तेरा,
जहाँ जमाना चाहता है तू डेरा,
उन धरतीवासियों के बीच ऑलरेडी बहुत महान मैं!"

कोविड- वन मैंन आर्मी :

"यो! यो! यो!
मैं चिरकुट, विरकुट, छोटा लिलिपुट?
डूब जाए वो पार्ले बिस्कुट!
इनफ़ इस इनफ़! अब चल फुट,
दिस इज छोटा पैकेट बड़ा आउटपुट,
फ़ेमस अपुन फ़ॉम गूगल टू ऑरकुट,
पहले चरण पकड़ करता हूँ नमन, आफ़्टर ऑल तूने मुझे
दिया है जनम,

बहुत इज़्जत हो गयी, अब होगी टूथ टेलिंग...सनम तेरी कसम!
पकड़ा जो गला, तो तेरी जीवन मृत्यु का अपुन ही उपचारक है।
बापू बेटा तेरा ये सेहत के लिए काफ़ी हानिकारक है।
फ़िर तू पूछेगा सिली क्वेश्चन्स लाईक व्हाई कैट आई जस्ट ईट एंड
ड्रिंक माय वाइन,
और मैं २ गज दूर से बोलेगा, 'ओह "कम ऑन डैड यू आर इन"
क्वारंटाइन!"

तू कहता है धरतीवासियों के बीच महान मैं,
तो सुन बापू ये किस्सा है तब का, जब चीनपुर की सैर पर तूने खाए
थे नूडल्स हक्का,
और आफ़्टर पार्टी एक छींक मारी थी तूने चीनपुर के वुहान में।
उसके बाद चमगादड़, हवा न जाने कितनी थियरीज़ आयीं,
अस्तित्व को मेरे कोई मिटा न पाई।
पर कॉन्ट्रोवर्सी फैलाने का ये हुनर भी तो मैंने तुझसे ही लपेटा,
अब तो मानता है ना तू ही मेरा बाप, हूँ मैं ही तेरा बेटा,
रख डबल स्टैंडर्ड तेरे, ऑन कॉल हूँ सारे म्यूटेंट्स मेरे।
इट्स टू लेट! क्या मिल जाएगा बापू अब इस कैट फ़ाइट से,
है स्पीड अब तो तेज़ मेरी स्पीड ऑफ़ लाइट से।"

कलियुग - द खलबलीयुग :

“वैक्सीन आ गई है मुन्ना, बोरिया बिस्तर समेटो यहाँ धरो ना, नहीं फ़ैन फ़ॉलोइंग तेरी सब चिल्ला रहे कोरोना गो! गो कोरोना!
आर यू किडिंग मी!! एक क्लिक और खोल दिया तूने मौत का पोर्टल,
भूल गया छोटे,
अश्वत्थामा को छोड़कर आजतक कोई हुआ नहीं immortal,
स्वाइनफ़्लू, प्लेग, चेचक; तेरे जैसे कितने आए और कितने मेरे चले गए,
सारे तेरे भाई छोटे, मेरे इन्हीं हाथों पेले गए,
तो बेटे तुझमें ऐसी क्या है खास वो बात बता,
भविष्यवाणी कर रहा है तो ले मेरा हाथ बता,
कैसे दे दी तूने मुझे शह और मात बता,
जो बेटा है मेरा तो चल मेरी जात बता,
अरे काहे का बाप और काहे का बेटा,
तेरे जैसे कितने टप्पू लाल पैदा कर सकता है ये जेठा।”

कोविड- वन मैन आर्मी :

“पूजा करता है सबकी, पर तू किसी का भक्त नहीं है,
हर बुरी आदत पे पिघलता है, लड़का तू सख्त नहीं है,

नशे में भी सारे किए हैं, पर तेरी तरह लत नहीं है,
वर्ल्ड ट्रेवल पे बिज़ी हूँ यार, अभी मेरे पास वक्रत नहीं है।

पर मुझे अब तेरी बड़ी फ़िकर है,
तूने अब अपना पुल कर दिया ट्रिगर है,
तो सुन,
गिराया मार्केट में चाँदी-सोना, ध्यान सिर्फ़ अपुन पे होना,
देख ऑल द बाबू-शोना, बना रहे हैं डालगोना,
ओह ये! ओह ये!
गले का करके शिकार, ले लिया है सीधा दिमाग से रेवेंज,
आई मेड लेमन फेमस एंड मैनी मोर, लाइक आस्क मी चैलेंज।
दिए जलाते, फ़्लैश दिखाते, देख क्या माहौल बना दिया लिट!!
नील, नितिन या हो मुकेश, सब रहें हैं थाली पीट।
ग्लोबल-वॉर्मिंग बढ़ाई तूने बनने के चक्कर में कूल,
बैलेंस कर दिया मैंने सब, जस्ट थैंक मी ब्लडी फूल!!
जब मिट रही सारी स्पीशीज़ दैन बाय टू प्रिजर्व दिस? डीप
इनसाइड यू नो बापू यू हू डिजर्व दिस।
(महफ़िल में गहरा सन्नाटा)
इतना क्या फॉरवर्ड है, अपनी करनी का तो भरो ना,
मुझे मिटा के भी क्या मिटा पाओगे अपने दिमाग का कोरोना?
सीधी सीधी बात कहूँ लेट्स नॉट बी फॉर्मल,
नया युग है आया, कोरोना युग इस न्यू नॉर्मल।”

हक्का बक्का अपने अस्तित्व से सहमा कलियुग कुछ बोलता इससे पहले तीनों निर्णायक बोल उठे।

सतयुग - “हम जो भी कहेंगे सच कहेंगे सच के सिवा कुछ ना कहेंगे।”

त्रेतायुग - “रामचंद्र कह गए सिया से, ऐसा कोरोना युग आएगा, जानवर घूमेंगे शान से बाहर,
आदमी क्वारंटीन हो जाएगा।”

द्वापर युग - “जब- जब धरती पर मनुष्य ने प्रकृति को सताया है, तब तब प्रकृति ने अपना रक्षण स्वयं किया है!

इतना कहकर तीनों निर्णायक तो विलुप्त हो गए मगर हाथ मलता, खांसता हुआ,
मास्क धारण किया हुआ कलियुग यह स्वीकार कर चुका था, कि कहीं ना कहीं यह
नए युग का आरंभ था जिसे जाने-अनजाने में खुद उसने ही जन्म दिया था और
चाहे वह इस युग से कितना ही अपनी गद्दी बचा ले मगर यह युग अब सदा
सदा के लिए प्रारंभ हो चुका था। इस युग का नाम था कोरोनायुग।

कोरोनायुग

The Resistance

Humanity as we know it today, stands atop pillars of numerous revolutions and resistances which hold immense significance as constant reminders for people to be proactive when faced with any challenge. By second nature it accompanies all sorts of changes occurring around the observable universe without fail. Such resistances are unavoidable in a practical world where it can never be completely eradicated. Find here the chaotic complexities of change and resistance, and its significant effects on a seemingly insignificant human race.

I can't breathe", the slogan echoed throughout America as fervent Black Lives Matter protests broke out on the streets following the death of George Floyd to police brutality. The powerful slogan originated from a shockingly similar protest six years ago involving the unlawful killing of Eric Garner to the hands of a police officer. With the idea of defunding the police and bringing justice to the wrongdoers, it made perfect sense to participate in the pouring protests. Yet, the fight for justice seemed grim in the face of an overpowering institution such as the police force. Agitations from the protestors met with even heavier policing to maintain the peace, clearly failing to understand the irony of increasing the numbers of the very people directly accountable for the mess. To no one's surprise now the chants were not enough ammunition for the crowd to combat heavily armed forces resulting in riots breaking loose from the unrest. Further escalating the situation to the point of no return. As history was unfolding in front of the masses, another movement was brewing amidst all the seriousness, much tamer, but yet a cause for concern.

Due to the outbreak of the novel virus which caused countries worldwide to shut down completely, the movement criticized the compulsion of wearing masks outdoors at all times. At the time, this was merely an ignorant

claim against the greater good of humanity, a 'meme' so to speak. But it took a disturbing turn as the slogan "I can't breathe" got hijacked by these naysayers appropriating the crucial subject of racism and years of unwarranted violence, leaving a bitter taste among the BLM protesters. The cause began to gather traction as sceptics flooded all over the country, influencing the world to question the efficacy of a face mask. This issue contributed only in increasing the number of Covid-19 cases as hoards of ignorant folks defying pandemic regulations were frolicking about in packs like hyenas. Comparatively in our country, the people showcased their dissatisfaction towards the mask laws not through vocal protests but with a complete disregard of the situation. Where the essential piece of cloth was reduced to a mere object for show and tell when inquired by the authorities, much like a helmet. The staggeringly polarizing situations happened at the same time and were as complex as they come, yet they could be boiled down to two comprehensible criteria; change and the resistance.

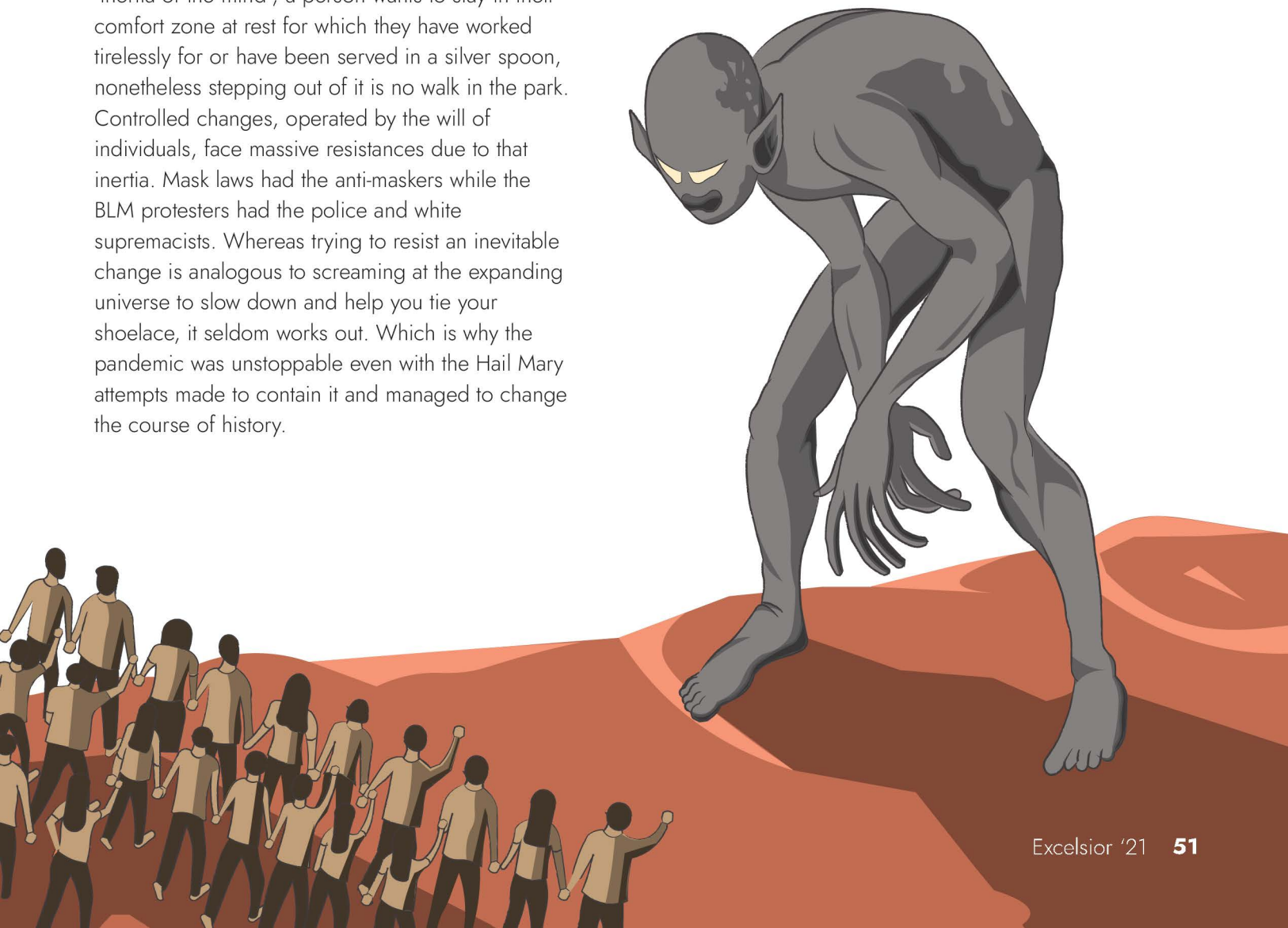
'Change is the only constant' as summed up by the Greek philosopher Heraclitus on his search for the meaning of life, he believed that change wasn't just a part of life but life itself. Change is ubiquitous, happening around us constantly; some go unnoticed



for days like hair growth and some get etched into our minds for years to come, something like the lockdown. The inevitable changes come packaged in varying styles of wrapping paper and boxes even though they all represent the same concept as Heraclitus and many other philosophers of their times stated. Accepting these 'gift boxes' is an obligation from the viewpoint of the universe (even if it is Pandora's Box: 2020 edition) and at its receiving end are us, the reluctant human species. While the changes we bring about ourselves are the controlled changes, not always in their execution but definitely in intent, which we deem necessary by attempting to challenge the status quo as seen with the BLM protests.

We desire change as much as we hate being inconvenienced by it. And stemming from that inconvenience is a certain degree of resistance, often perpetrated by a person's desire to maintain their superficial construct of stability. Think of it as 'inertia of the mind'; a person wants to stay in their comfort zone at rest for which they have worked tirelessly for or have been served in a silver spoon, nonetheless stepping out of it is no walk in the park. Controlled changes, operated by the will of individuals, face massive resistances due to that inertia. Mask laws had the anti-maskers while the BLM protesters had the police and white supremacists. Whereas trying to resist an inevitable change is analogous to screaming at the expanding universe to slow down and help you tie your shoelace, it seldom works out. Which is why the pandemic was unstoppable even with the Hail Mary attempts made to contain it and managed to change the course of history.

That brings up the question, why bother going against supposedly immovable forces, when the outcome seems to have already been set in stone? It is an innate tendency of ours to have these nihilistic doubts to accompany the radical thoughts that our brain comes up with. Yet as is evident from the course of time, the world is built upon various resistances and revolutions. Even though the chances are minuscule, the mind does not want to back down without a fight which at times has a domino effect on the like-minded peers all around rooting for the cause. Building up a coalition of individuals ready to fight for a common goal, yielding a miracle at the perfect convergence of resilience and the correct bunch of people. That helps encourage the outcry for justice against a whole community in the case of Police brutality, sparking a wave of rebellion against government-mandated oppressive rules and most importantly builds up resistance to avoid losing self-identity. In hopes of overturning the negatively impacting changes around the world, a resistance must always rise and fight back.



Epilogue

It is expedient to settle down and accept normality. Sure, day-to-day life is not to be looked down upon, and it can be made plentiful. However, isn't it "change" that assures progress and differentiates the living from the dead? And the choice to seek change must always be available to an individual. The moment it is denied is when Mr. Rebel comes into existence. Somewhere as we speak, he wreaks havoc on walls denying that choice.

If someone has wrongly taken everything from you, is revenge still unjustified? Or should we dismiss revolutions as being mere "revenge-o-lutions" by those who have nothing? Is resistance to change, evil or necessary? In a society that leaves no chance of exploitation untouched, who's to blame for the demons born out of it?

Clearing the path for those yet to come so they don't face the same turbulence is a noble cause in itself. However, we have a further problem. Once the walls crumble, there are an infinite set of paths to explore. The previous rules laid a set path with no conflict. Mr. Rebel tore those rules down. He now gazed at the horizon stretching to infinity. Freedom lay before him coupled with uncertainty.

What does someone do at such a stage? Legend has it that the entity Mr. Explorer wrestled with similar questions. Let me take you to his grave.

Prologue

Here lies the grave of Mr. Explorer, an agitating skeleton yet to rid their desire to be on the run at all times. Centuries have passed since this skeleton harbored the brawns and brains that never knew any bounds, which enabled Mr. Explorer to embark on epic journeys larger than life. When looked upon closely, the fantastic past of their exploration shines bright through the dark eroding visionless eye sockets. This mystical light happened to catch the eyes of the wordsmiths who possessed the fortitude to

Exploration



translate such vivid imagery into the written word. What birthed from their minds were the scripts of adventure, a guide to the life of the Explorer.

Springing forth a tale of where the wind leads a soul, of what the horizon offers from the highest of hills, of escaping the tight grips of a riptide, of a magnificent path hindered only by the ethos of the Explorer. While on the surface the story is one of success, diving deep into the eye of the storm gives a clear look at the turmoil of being an optimistic go-getter in the real world. A world

where the road less traveled leads a person into a dark alleyway that plots to mug them of their belongings. Such is the path of the Explorer; it seldom is a planned affair. Yet the Explorer moves, traversing the globe in a giant step, to boldly go where no one has gone before. Revel in the Explorer's glory through the series of tales laid before you, for it might ignite the traveler in you to take that giant leap of faith across the expanse of opportunities unbeknownst to the world.

QUARAN-TEEN

In a world desperate to find solace in the pandemic, is it radical to believe that the proposed peace is still far from reach? Will the next generation born in this chaos ever know the meaning of life we did? Or will they be lost in the temporary situations we adopted in quarantine, calling them “normal”?

17th July, 2038

To say, I felt “thrilled” clearing JEE and getting selected into a NIT, would be putting it too strongly. I was indifferent to it all. To me, it was still six hours of staring into a screen. My best bud from high school, Neeti, who ended up in MANIT too, felt otherwise. “Oh, think about it.” She tried convincing me through the screen, “Imagine all the new things we would get to learn, the new people we will meet...” but her words had no effect on me. College was just another meeting code, that’s all. But fate had sensed my indifference and had decided to act contrarily.

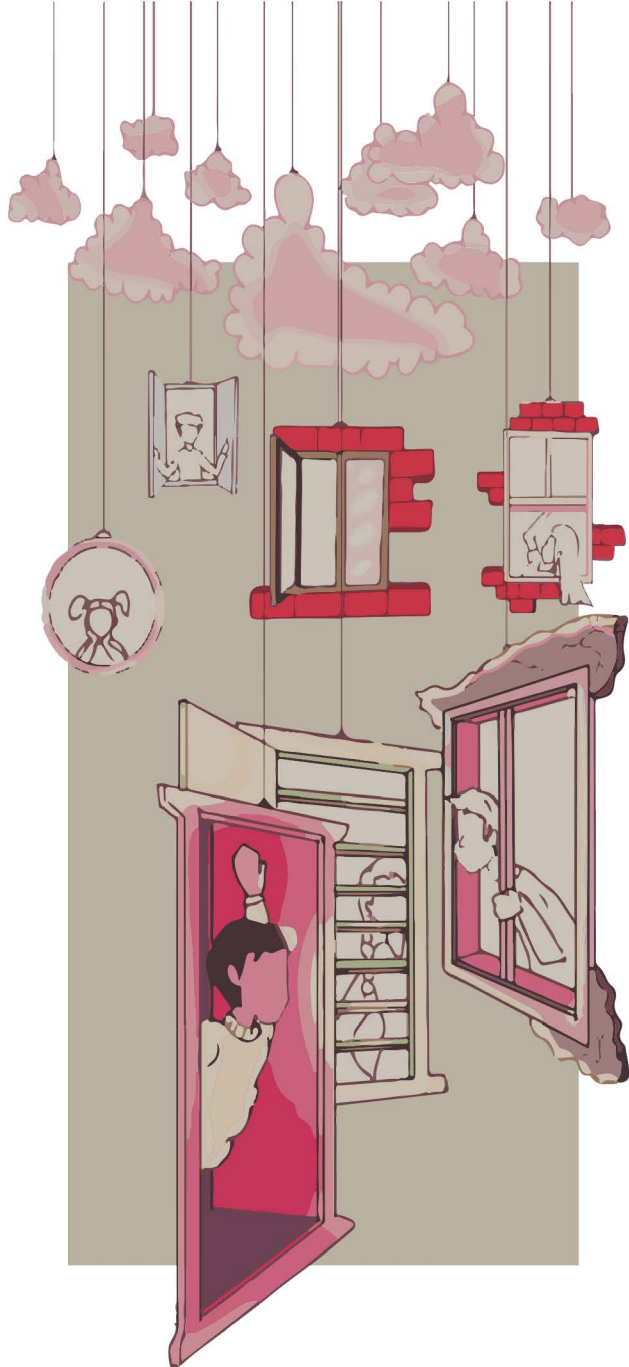
“We are pleased to announce that MANIT Bhopal will commence its session 2038-39 (for the odd semester of all UG and PG programs) from July 22nd, 2038 in OFFLINE MODE.”

Offline mode? How did they plan on teaching if everyone was offline? A barrage of questions flooded the narrow gates of my mind, but Neeti helped me decode the message. “You mean we would have to go

physically?” I asked with a sense of confusion. “Yes, like travelling and stuff.” It sounded so awkward, “Go physically”. But I should have expected this. Since the last lockdown, dubbed as the decade of solitude, came to an end with eradication of all nineteen forms of covid by the “one” vaccine in 2036. However, thinking that they would actually make us step out and force us to attend classes is absurd. While freshies didn’t know how to react, some parents, including mine, were ecstatic to hear the news. They made a trip to the old bazaar and brought home these antiquities named Tiffin box and School bag; medieval equipment to carry food and books respectively. “You don’t understand how lucky you are...” My mother emphasized. She went on and on about the time before normal, before 2020, the year I was born. How people gathered in huge numbers, and spent the majority of their time outdoors. It sounded outlandish and impractical.

Why would people leave their homes so often? Isn’t that against the definition of a home, where a person spends the majority of their lifetime...? “Things are finally getting back to normal!” my mother rejoiced on her way out my room. Normal. Was interaction only supposed to be physical? Is any other option a challenge to its definition? They cling to the old ways by placing the past on a pedestal, disregarding the present, my normal. Or is it that the right of judgment resides with only those who’ve seen both sides?





21st July, 2038

Travelling is a dreadful chore. The control of it all slipping out of my grasp as the world zoomed past my overwhelmed senses was probably the reason for my consternations. It was only after I stepped off the train, that I took a breath of respite. It was dark for a midday sky. Cool monsoon breeze ushered in heavy clouds above us. The smell of wet sand packed the air. Even the weather wouldn't let me catch a break. A half hour drive from the station brought us to Hostel No. 10, the freshmen residence. Imagining the possibilities of chaos involving a thousand residents, my anxiety shot through the roof.

I was allotted D-108, the door of which had to be pried open. I don't know why, but I found myself elated seeing four walls again. To be back in a controlled environment is what I longed for. But my celebrations

were short lived, as a guy wearing a VR headset barged in. It was then I noticed the number of beds in the room. Does it mean- Thud! I turned around to see my third roommate struggling to fit himself in through the door. Could this day get any more worse? Incoming video call. "Do y'all have to share rooms as well?" asked Neeti, while our phones tried adapting to MANIT's 2010s era wifi. "Look on the bright side. We can have crazy hostel parties like in those movies..." She teased in a playful way. From what she told, the conditions over at the girl's hostel were far worse. But none of that reflected on her face. "So how was your day?" She continued her bubbly chat regardless.

The three of us settled in separate corners, maintaining the maximum distance possible. We started off with introductions, obviously through a group chat. Sadhu, the guy in the always-on VR headset, was a C-whiz Series debater who couldn't handle an argument with anyone in the flesh. And Anand, the plus-sized architecture student, loved to draw open seas but had never seen one in actuality. In pursuit of gaining familiarity, none of us paid any heed to the percentage of batteries left on our devices. Cons of being an online extrovert.

Soon, it was time to head to the mess hall, to indulge in the bygone practices of public eating. After an official demonstrated the proper steps, the hesitant crowd followed suit, the queue stretching all the way to the gates. What a defective system. After standing around for an hour, we were finally graced with some food. As I proceeded to take a seat, I reached into my pocket only to find my phone dead. In the age of interplanetary travel and inheritance of conscience, it was finite batteries which had bested us. With no viable tools left to communicate; Anand, Sadhu and I were left with eating in silence. I couldn't make myself talk. I felt weak, defeated. Was this normal? The threshold for being able to chat directly wasn't yet crossed between us, hence the situation. What a sad sight it was.

22nd July, 2038

At dawn, I met my father for breakfast, in an area called mata. Dining at a restaurant was a first in years for me. Since the place was basically empty, it felt good. "This feels like a whole new level of confidence", I boomed. Glancing around the empty tables, he replied, "Or a new level of loneliness."

"The first day of college was upon me. I... was prepared, or so I thought. We were asked to report to this place called SAC for orientation. My roommates had already made their way over, so I jogged up the curved road through the main entrance, the walls of which were covered in graffiti. A scattered crowd headed in a particular direction and following them seemed like the best option. Maintaining a few feet of separation was encoded in our

Exploration

DNA and slight violation of that rule incited minor trepidations.

Incoming video call. Neeti asked me for my location, for she was lost in this maze of trees, buildings and barricades. "I'm standing beside a rusty brown robot," I informed her, "it's missing one hand." I realized it would be the first time we meet physically.

As the people walked across, I used my rear camera to take a glimpse at others. Everyone had their eyes fixed on phones too. Phew, I wasn't standing out. From her background, I could see Neeti was someplace close. Eventually, close enough that our microphones started interfering. I didn't want this to end like last night. I can do it, I assured myself. With hesitation, I ended the call and looked straight at her. High definition was my first thought. We stared at each other for a few moments, but no sound left my throat. I found myself at a loss of words before someone I could talk to for hours. She seemed to be in the same state, blank. We agreed to the unsaid and switched back to Video call. Our conversation continued but no word was ever mentioned about our 'freezy' stare down.

The SAC was another pre-normal era building. The seats, placed too closely, activated proximity alarms in many kids. Some vented their agitation on the group chat and rest accepted in silence. To us, confrontation was a skill only seen in movies.

It started with a welcome address, followed by various faculties sharing their experiences from the last offline batch, 2020. Their distant faces were out of reach from my camera's zooming capacity. Some moderators approached and asked us to turn off our phones and simply watch and interact with each other. But this was how I made contact. The crowd wasn't adjusted to looking at the world without a

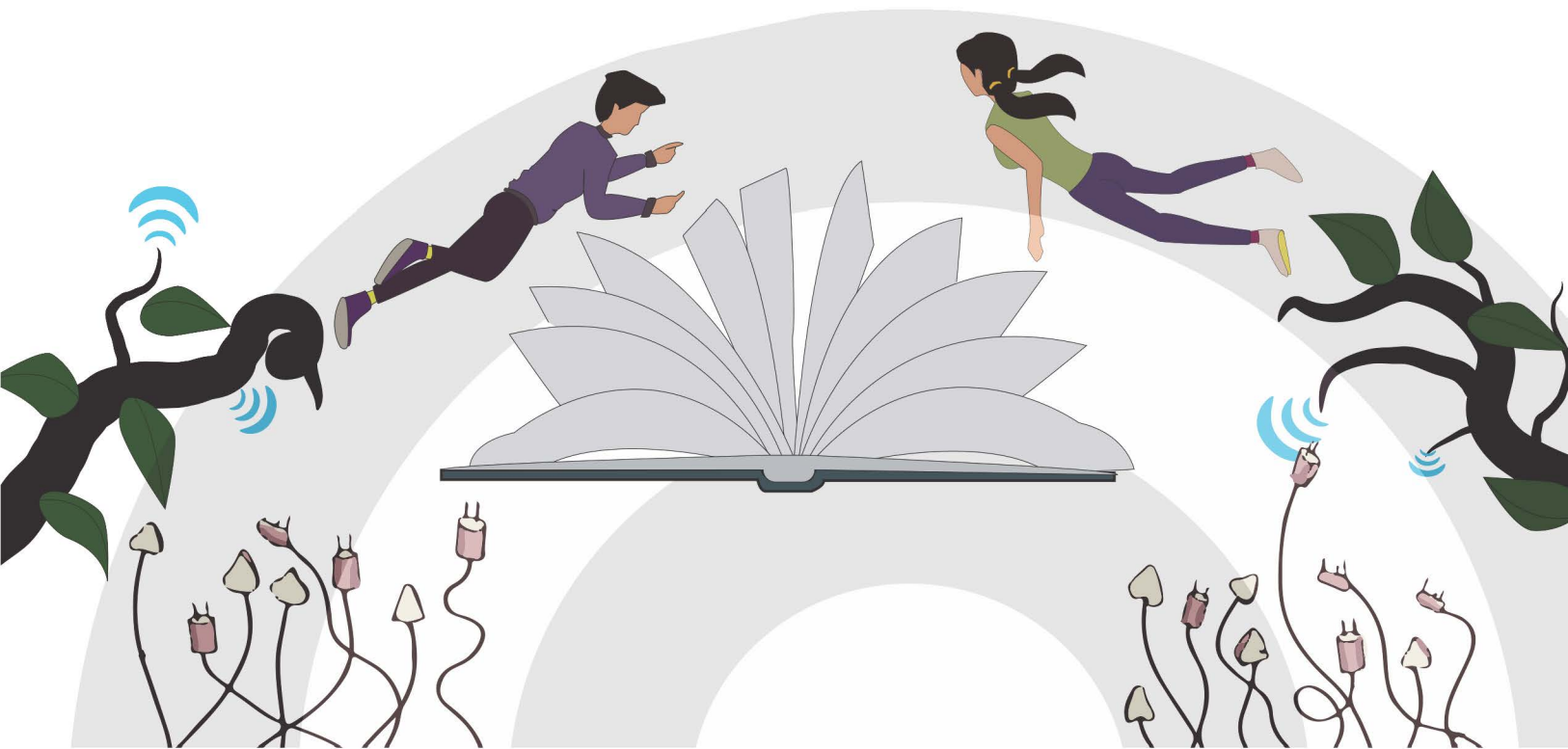
screen to filter it. Sadly, relaying this thought to them wasn't easy. It felt like an itch to revert back to the way it was supposed to be done, but the admins wouldn't let us. Next, we were taken to a complex called NTB, the place housing the historical classrooms, which appeared bland on first impression. Where were the screens, the headphones? It was just... benches and a podium. How were we to see the teacher without any screens?

As we left the NTB, many would agree being physically a bit closer. But mentally? I wasn't sure anymore. The exhaustion from the imposed propinquity was visible. Their personal spaces had shrunk and so had mine. Not once did I see anyone talk, but it was hard to see idle fingers. Old habits die hard. The alternative "direct approach" doesn't seem natural, yet. But after learning about those from 2020, it makes me wonder about the other side, where our devices were an accessory rather than a necessity. This is a new normal, one we never knew.

Incoming video call. The thought of embracing the new normal made me hang-up Neeti's call. I didn't hold back my steps and went over to her. The same blank countenance covered her face as our eyes crossed. Her eyes twitched, waiting to break off from the gaze. "Don't worry," I pushed my phone down my pocket, switching it off; "We'll get the hang of it."

We side stepped from the line and headed towards this shack down the road, called Nescafe, I read about. Others saw us walking away, but conformity got the best of them. Neeti looked back. A sense of worry about the uncertainty made her wonder, "Is this normal?"

"I don't know, Neeti," I replied with a sigh, "I don't know."



KUNG FU SHIFU

Rise of the Afternoon Slumber



For outsiders, NTB looks like a regular if not deserted building, with long passages, deserted classrooms and not so maintained courtyards. But it is within these sacred walls that first year students begin their remarkable journey of becoming their true selves. The following article takes on this perspective from the eyes of Kung Fu Panda. Just like our freshers, Po is a newbie who doesn't necessarily understand the nuances of MANIT. Master Shifu embodies our Professors at MANIT who wants what is best for Po and in this process, sometimes loses his temper! There is a topper in the class in the form of Tigress, whom Po must befriend. Some wise friends like Mantis and some chill and dope people like the Snake. You could very much say that you are no different than Po! And right now, you are running late, really late for your class...

Master Shifu - Po what a pleasant surprise! I am amazed that you could make it on time today.

Po - Well you leave me no other choice Master. My dumplings are dear to me and I will not risk them anymore by turning up late.

Master Shifu - Alright then let's get started. So tell me my dear students. **What are your expectations in life?**

Mantis - Ooo I know! I want to become the greatest warrior in all of China and destroy Tai Lung's reign of terror. And maybe find true love and become a Master like you someday and...

Master Shifu - Yes yes Mantis. I think we get the idea. Tigress would you like to share what are your expectations from life?

Tigress - "Expectations!" That sounds like a big word to me Master. I mean I do have dreams I want to fulfil and quests which I want to conquer. But sometimes it feels more like a burden. **Seems like I am not good enough no matter what I do or how hard I try.** Meanwhile some of us just show up one day out of nowhere and get chosen as the Dragon Warrior!

Po - Why are you getting angry at me Tigress? Master Oogway is to blame, not me. And just so you know, being away from my papa is enough punishment already; so don't even get me started. Master just so you know, my expectations as a Dragon Warrior are that I get to eat whatever I want, whenever I want and no training on weekends if that is alright with you.

Master Shifu - (sighs) That's enough. So all of us will agree that expectations form an essential part of every conscious mind. Most of the time, our actions are based on realization of these goals that we set for ourselves. Maybe you want to conquer all of China, or become the next dragon warrior, or defeat Tai Lung or even discover the secret power of Chi...

Po - Master what is Chi? Some new kind of sauce I should try with my dumplings?

Master Shifu - No you fool! It is the vital life energy which flows through all living beings and harnessing it takes years if not decades of practice. Master Oogway was a pioneer in harnessing Chi and locking Kai in the spirit realm. Now look what you made me do! You gave away the entire plot of the third sequel. Anyway, coming back to the point, **we have these milestones we want to achieve and suddenly our entire life gets weighed down by our achievements and disappointments and not by the quality of life we live.** A person who spends their entire life chasing dreams can never truly find closure. Every new accomplishment brings around the zeal of doing something bigger and better.

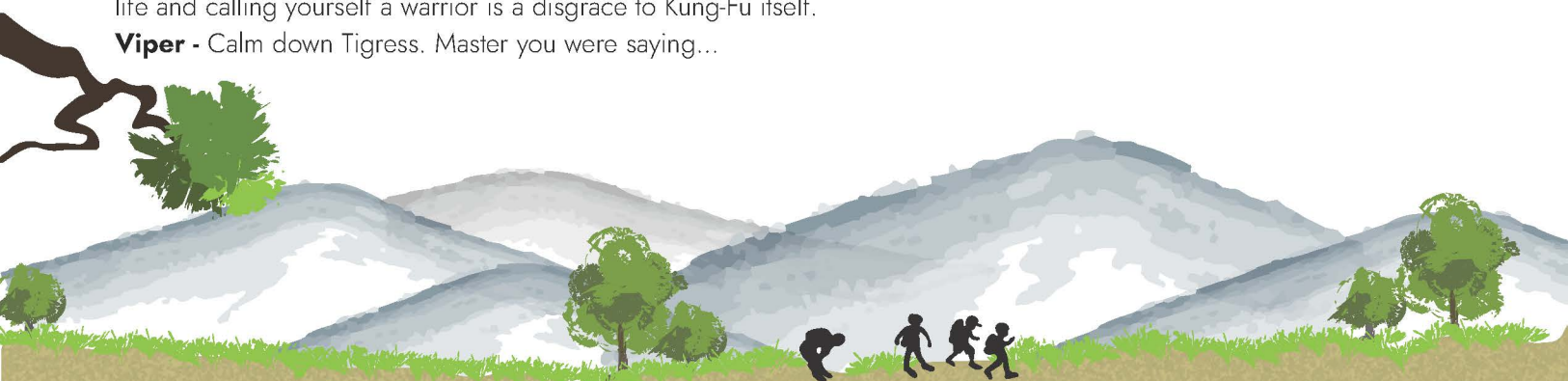
Po - Master, I think you are absolutely right. I think I have trained myself hard enough and you should give me the scroll now. I officially declare myself as the Dragon Warrior. Where is my noodle soup?

Master Shifu - I'm glad you brought that up Po. See, there is a fine line between striving for self improvement through constant efforts and being lost in the myriad maze of expectations. The former is always done with clear goals and feedback mechanisms so that you know where you stand and how long it will take to reach your destination. The latter is a blind rush towards an unknown destination which you'll never reach. From what I can tell, you are far from becoming a mediocre ninja let alone the greatest warrior of China.

Po - You underestimate me Master. I am happy with who I am and I feel like I have everything I wanted in life. People love me, I feel important and Tigress has a secret crush on me. What more can a Panda expect from their life.

Tigress - If you say it one more time, I'll paralyze you for the rest of eternity. You live a hedonistic life and calling yourself a warrior is a disgrace to Kung-Fu itself.

Viper - Calm down Tigress. Master you were saying...



Master Shifu - Yes Viper. Thank you for bringing some sanity in this cohort of erratic pupils. Maybe we are trying to approach this the wrong way. Let us shift our focus to a much simpler topic - Balance. Since times immemorial we have tried to uncover the secrets of the Yin-Yang and still there is a lot to be learnt. Ancient Masters knew that **creating a perfect balance** between “**What one wants**” and “**What one needs**” is the defining factor between a life well lived and a life gone by.

Mantis - Master what does balance have anything to do with expectations?

Master Shifu - Yes, yes, I was coming to that. Once you find balance in your life, you can finally be at peace. All your decisions are entirely your own. There is no role of chaos in it. You start realizing when you should hold on to things dear to you, and when it is the right time to let go. Reaching this state of mind is hard and I doubt if any one you will ever truly achieve it. Especially not with this attitude. Po are you still awake? Po? Po...

Po - Ah! That was a nice afternoon nap there. Sorry Master, you were saying?

Tigress - Master was talking about finding inner peace and channeling that into making everyday decisions about life and our actions at large.

Po - Oh I see. Then I certainly did not miss out on much. You see Tigress, pandas have it figured. They have the perfect balance between eating and sleeping. Ah! The eternal bliss!

Master Shifu - Ahem! Ahem!

Viper - But Master, why did you suddenly feel the need to talk about inner peace and semblance?

Master Shifu - I'm glad you asked that. The last year has been pretty rough for all of us. Forces of evil have risen from the dark. Things didn't go as anticipated and the clouds of uncertainty still linger around us. However, this is not the time to think about missed opportunities and things that could have been. Situations were tough for everyone and we tried to make the most out of it. The important thing is to take our time to **accept that the worst is over and prepare ourselves for what lies ahead**. And do so with a happy and content heart!

Tigress - I totally get your point Master. All this time, I blamed myself for things I couldn't do, even though I was growing everyday. As a true warrior, I'll strive to always take some time and appreciate the smaller things in life.

Po - In that case, would you care for a dumpling Tigress?



Meeting in “General”

[Join now](#)

Attention students! The meeting code for BKC-111 has been shared in your class groups. Join the meeting in general channel at the stipulated time (Or right before attendance). The diversity in students, resultant from Online classes must be studied in depth. So, whil- (Silence for a minute). HEY! WHO MUTED ME?

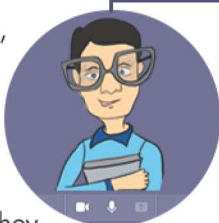
With trepidation, I entered the dark, ominous environment, a low-tone clatter echoing in the background. I was unable to see anyone, and neither could anyone else. Suddenly, a white image materialized before me, and without any warning, a deep voice began orating, “Good Morning Students. Am I audible to you? Can you all see the whiteboard?”

Online classes. Ugh. Anyone who attempts to hype it up fails miserably. After all, it's tough to find amusement staring at a screen for six hours straight (I dare you to drag Netflix into this. Binge fests are sacred).

“Modern problems require modern solutions!”

Yes, everyone seems to have come up with their own masterplans a.k.a. “Jugaad”, for overcoming this (VBLK? MACT! MACT!). Hence a variety of moves are played BTS (Behind The Screens). These wild methods and tactics have sprouted some... new types of students among us. And as concerned (and slightly idle) MANITians, we shall analyze their actions

The Poster-Child: Alert, obedient, punctual, and packing every other trait expected from a student attending online classes; you name it. They got everything to push your GPA off a cliff. It's irrelevant if classes are now online; they still manage to pull off the same annoying gimmicks as always. While a handful of them are the real-deal prodigies who mind their own, the rest hustle to catch the professor's eye, never missing a chance to call for extra classes, supplementary work, and reminding those forgotten assignments.



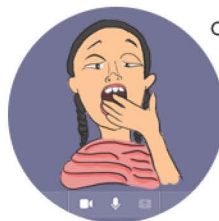
The Jukeboxes: Sometimes, when monotony becomes unbearable, all one needs is the refreshing breeze of music. The OGs who command the vibe at hostel parties do their job here as well. Their music tastes range from Heavy Metal to Classic Bhojpuri, and everything in between. The crowd on the verge of death inhales the air of life when “Jinne Mera Dil Luteya” blasts through the mundane room. People un-mute and commentate. It can't get any better than this. Sadly.



The Attendance-Seekers: Well, who isn't? Attendance, as evident by its weightage in the GPA now, plays a vital role. These folks, however, have got a workaround for everything. Joining at the last moment is second nature to them. They have uncovered some real “breakthroughs” in the fields of multiple devices, simultaneous logins, proxies (Oh, don't get me started on this, that is an article for another day). They might have spent more time researching for loopholes in Teams™ rather than attending classes. But in the end, they are generous to share their “knowledge” with the masses.



The Sleepy Heads: No one hates daylight more than them. These modern-day squinting vampires dress up in blanket capes. Previously residing in the shadows of the backbenches, as times have changed, so have they. Benches have morphed into beds while naps have transformed into a deep slumber. Despite the occasional interruption of switching between lectures, maintaining that 9 AM-3 PM sleep cycle has never been so easy. And as fo- Hey, wake up!



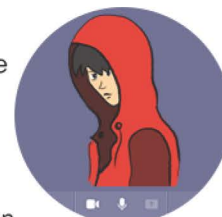

The Anarchist: Teams™ is a funny app.

It lets you kick out anyone from a meeting. As Uncle Ben said, "With great power comes great responsibility."

But these guys utilize their powers to mute and eject others from a meeting. Many of them do it for comic relief and some do it to teach a (sometimes well needed) lesson. Most people, mainly sleepyheads & attendance seekers, hate them, while some find them amusing (Until the bystanders become the victim, that is).

The Stranger: Some of your

classmates have diminished to mere thumbnails on a screen. If you didn't know them well enough before (*glances at freshmen and sophomores*), you might have even lesser chances to know them now. Lockdown makes it easier to be reclusive than ever before, causing a surge in the number of people one would deem as 'The stranger'. You don't see them. You don't hear them. Do they really exist?



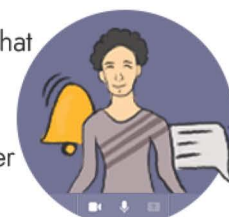
The Multitaskers: To some, the online class is the most auspicious moment to kindle the spirit of multi-tasking. Doesn't matter if they don't move an inch all day, utilizing every second of online classes holds utmost importance. May it be finishing that show they never liked, that video game they abandoned in fifth grade, or that painting they never even knew they had. Everything else but the class. Maybe the spirit of multitasking hates classes too. *Maybe.*



The Target: Avoid being the teacher's familiar. It's as simple as that. Still, some poor kids get tricked into it and some get no choice (CR weeps in a corner). But once trapped, these helpless victims need to stay alert at all times. Fear of getting called out anytime lingers over them. The professor doesn't quit chanting their name throughout the class and the target keeps supplying the 'yes sir/ma'am' invariably till the end of time (or the semester at least).


The Oblivious: Huh? Class? What

class? No one knows how they manage attendance, but ask them what's going on and they would never have the slightest idea. The last time they checked the website was probably at the time of admission. No wonder they didn't know about those minis or in legendary cases, mids. You might find them logged-in at 4 AM in the morning (that too in a class that ended days ago). Such dedication!



This is us, a culmination of varying degrees of each one of the above types. No one is stereotypically bound to one sub but shares parts from each one (No, no. Don't picture body parts sewed together). You could be a multitasker who is occasionally a jukebox; or The poster-child who is the hidden Anarchist (Ooh, that would be a deadly combination).

Well, whichever persona you chose to be, hope you made the most out of it. I think we should end our session here, you probably have other things to do. Just hold on while I download the attendance...

Meeting Ended
00:05:30

Leave



मास्क

का

साक्षात्कार

"मनुष्य को किसी चीज़ की कद्र तब तक ही होती है जब तक उसे उस चीज़ की ज़रूरत हो" उपर्युक्त कथन में दशार्थी गयी मनुष्य की महत्वाकांक्षी प्रवृत्ति का प्रमाण निम्नलिखित लेख स्पष्ट रूप से देता है, जिसमें श्रीमान मास्क जी अपनी आपबीती कहते हैं।

स रकार द्वारा वैक्सीन का ऐलान करते ही मानो मास्क की लोकप्रियता पर प्रश्नचिन्ह से लगने लगे हैं। एक वह दिन था, जब मास्क और सैनिटाइज़र आन-बान और शान के प्रतीक हुआ करते थे। वक्त का खेल तो देखिए जनाब आज वही अपने तिरस्कार के दिन देख रहे हैं। इसके उपरांत मास्क निर्माताओं का हाल किसी से छिपा नहीं है, तो आइए लिए चलते हैं आपको उनके पास जो सुनाएं अपनी कहानी खुद की जुबानी और कहेंगे दास्तां अपनी विलुप्त हो रही प्रजातियों की।

आपके मानसपटल पर आए उन सभी विचारों को और गहन करने के लिए प्रस्तुत हैं- हमारे संवाददाता जुगाड़ू जी द्वारा मास्क जी के साथ साक्षात्कार की ये खास पेशकश।

जुगाड़ू जी- मास्क की निरंतर पतन की ओर अग्रसर होती सामाजिक प्रतिष्ठा के मद्देनजर, उनसे अपेक्षित स्थिति में मिलना हमें असंभव लगने लगा था। जिस मुस्तेदी से विकसित देश आतंकवादी खोजते हैं या बेरोजगार अवसर टटोलते हैं उसी तन्मयता से हम भी अस्तित्वहीन होते हुए मास्क की खोज में थे। ज्यों ही कोई कटे-फटे मटमैले स्वयं से ईर्ष्या करते कतरन को देखते त्यों ही हमारे कैमरामैन कैमरा फोकस करने में क्षण भर की भी देरी नहीं करते और तपाक से हम भी पूछ बैठते "क्या आप ही हैं जन मसीहा मास्क जी?"

आखिर कठिन परिश्रम के उपरांत हमें मास्क जी के दर्शन प्राप्ति का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ। आईए अब विलंब न करते हुए सीधे हम साक्षात्कार शुरू करते हैं।

सवाल- इस अनुवांछित स्थिति में स्वयं को पाकर आप कैसा महसूस कर रहे हैं?

जवाब- एक ज़माना था जब मास्क का इंतजार 192 मुल्कों की जनता कर रही थी क्योंकि वैक्सीन को ढूँढना मुश्किल ही नहीं नामुमकिन सा था। मगर अब मेरे हालात उस सरकार जैसे हैं जिसका तख्तापलट हो गया हो। मैं कभी उन्हें सुरक्षा सिखाता तो कभी उनकी गर्दन पर लटके झूठी शान का प्रतीक बनता, और आज तो उससे भी बदतर स्थिति कचरे के ढेर में बदबूमान हो रहा हूँ। मैं तो कोरोना की लड़ाई में उगते सूरज की भाँति था और सुना था कि लोग उगते सूरज को सलाम करते हैं परंतु आज उनकी इस मूर्खता पर रुदन महसूस हो रहा है। मेरी स्थिति तो वृद्धाश्रम में अपनों की राह तकते बुजुर्गों सी हो गई है।

सवाल- आप अपने अच्छे दिनों के बारे में कुछ बताइए?

जवाब- चिकित्सा विभाग के पहचानकर्ता बने हुए तो सदियों गुजर गईं। कोरोना चक्रवात के आते ही हुई तबाही का असर हम पर भी हुआ और अचानक बन गए हम चाइना वासियों के रक्षा कवच।

यहाँ से शुरू हुआ दिलचस्प सफर जल्द ही विश्व भ्रमण में तब्दील हो गया। जितने समय में लोग एक देश नहीं घूम पाते मैंने पूरी दुनिया नाप दी। आह! वो दिन भी क्या दिन थे।

सवाल- मास्क जी आप हमें अपने इस्तेमाल का कोई आरोग्य शास्त्रीय तरीका बताइए।

जवाब- मास्क का उद्देश्य तभी पूरा हो जब नाक मुँह को ऐसे ढकें जैसे इसकी आट के बिना इनका वजूद ही नहीं। और खबरदार! जो अगर साबुन, पानी या सैनिटाइजर उपयोग के बिना मेरा विचार भी आया तो। जिस प्रकार तमाम नियम निर्देश इस श्रृंखला में बन गए हैं, मुझे विश्वास है, मेरे हक में भी एक आधा तो जरूर होगा।

सवाल- कोरोना काल में अचानक हुए आपके प्रजातीय विकास को लेकर आप क्या कहना चाहते हैं?

जवाब- हम कार्यकर्ताओं की उस झाड़ी के जैसे हैं, जो चुनाव आने पर दोगुनी तो वही परिणाम आने पर चौगुनी हो जाती है। इस वृद्धि के बाद तो हमें भी लगता है कि हम मौत को खदेड़ कर आमजन को फिर से जीवन दान देने में सक्षम हुए हैं। यह एहसास मन को प्रफुल्लित कर देता है।

सवाल- आप की एक प्रजाति यूज एंड थ्रो एवं KN95 जैसे अन्य में क्या अंतर है?

जवाब- अंतर वही है जो एक नवनियुक्त और रिटायर्ड अफसर में होता है। अनुभव भले ही रिटायर्ड में अधिक होता है परंतु परिस्थिति अनुसार उनका कार्यकाल निश्चित करना भी अनिवार्य होता है। वहीं दूसरी ओर नवनियुक्त कौशल तकनीकी ज्ञान में परिपक्व होते हुए समय की माँग को पूरा करते हैं और यही है KN95 मास्क। परंतु भूलिए नहीं जो रहेगा आम वह भी करेगा काम, क्योंकि रिटायरमेंट कार्य की सीमा हो सकती है बदलाव की नहीं।

सवाल- माना जाता है कि लोगों के चरित्र एवं भाव को छिपाने में आपने अहम भूमिका निभाई है इस पर आप क्या कहना चाहेंगे?

जवाब- इस पर तो मुझे वह पंक्तियाँ याद आ गईं
कुछ तो लोग कहेंगे, लोगों का काम है कहना।

छोड़ो चरित्र की बातें, यह तो है उनका गहना।।

जिस प्रकार चरित्र सौंदर्य मनुष्य के हाथ में होता है उसी प्रकार चरित्र प्रदर्शन भी मनुष्य के ही हाथ में होता है, इसीलिए मैं सिर्फ लोगों का मुँह छिपा सकता हूँ चरित्र नहीं। मन के भाव से तो मुझे बड़ा आश्चर्य होता है कि भला लोग हंसते हुए दुख की बात कैसे कर लेते हैं!

सवाल- हमारी एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार आपके अपशिष्ट निपटान से हमारे वातावरण को नुकसान पहुँच रहा है। इस पर आपकी विशेष टिप्पणी अति आवश्यक है।

ब्रेकिंग न्यूज "मास्क के कारण 66 हजार किलो टन अतिरिक्त दूषित कचरा होने का अनुमान"

जवाब- अभी कुछ ही पूर्व प्रश्नों में मैंने मास्क के उद्देश्य का स्पष्टीकरण दिया था। जैसे कि आप सभी जानते हैं मास्क के उत्पादन से लेकर निस्तारण तक की पूरी प्रक्रिया में आप लोगों की अहम भूमिका है तो भला वातावरण के बचाव की बागडोर आपकी पसंद और समय की माँग से जुदा कैसे हो सकती है।

और यह थी हमारी वार्ता जवाँ दिल की धड़कन के रक्षक मास्क जी से। दरअसल मास्क महोदय हवा के रुख के साथ पेड़ पर टँग गए हैं। कुछ अपरिहार्य कारणों से हमें यह वार्ता यही रोकनी पड़ रही है। कैमरा पर्सन वीर बहादुर के साथ संवाददाता जुगाड़।



मैनिट में का बा

प्रश्न है एक कि मैनिट को करना है परिभाषित, उत्तर तो होंगे अनेक पर क्यूँ हो इंटरनेट पर आश्रित। यदि मैनिट के वातावरण से पूर्ण रूप से अवगत होना चाहते हैं, तो सुनिए मैनिट की कहानी उनकी जुबानी जो है इसकी आन-बान-शान, उनके विद्यार्थीगण महान।

हैलो! भईया प्रणाम।

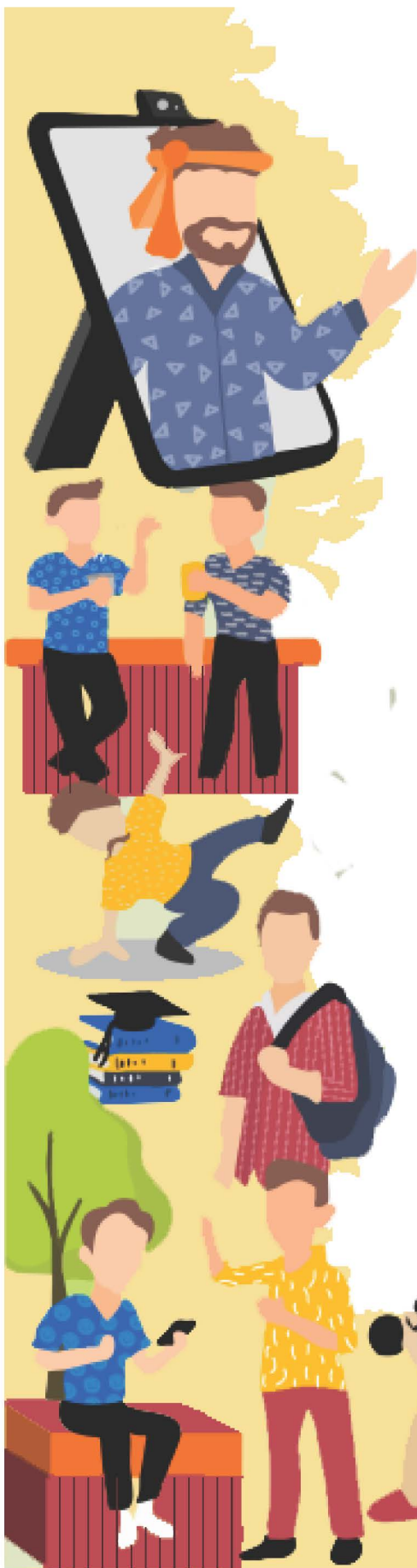
अरे! क्या जी भास्कर, क्या हाल है।

भईया, सब आप लोगों का आशीर्वाद है, कोरोना में कइसे-कइसे जेईई मेंस में हो गया है, और काउंसिलिंग में हमको भी मैनिट ही मिला है।

क्या.... बात कर रहे हो, बहुत-बहुत बधाई, ऐसे ही खूब आगे बढ़ते रहो।

भईया, अभी तो कोरोना के चलते घर से ही कॉलेज चलेगा, भोपाल तो हम नहीं जा पाएंगे। पर इंटरनेट पर बहुत उल्टा- सीधा रिव्यू है- कॉलेज और उहाँ की रैगिंग के बारे में। आप तो वोहीजा पढ़ रहे हैं, त हम सोचे आप से ही पता कर लें 'मैनिट में का - का है'।

अरे... यार क्या बात कर दिए तुम। तुम इंटरनेट के पीछे पड़ के फालतू का डाटा बर्बाद कर लिए, सीधे हमसे बतियाना चाहिए था। हम भी लगभग एक साल से घर से ही कॉलेज कर रहे हैं, पर तुम ई बात पूछ के हमार पिछले तीन साल का सब याद ताजा कर दिए। तुम तो 'बंबई में और बिहार में का बा' वाले अंदाज में पूछ दिए हो, तो सुनो वैसे ही बता रहें हैं....



लोग सीधे कह देला, इहाँ कभी ना आवे हो,
 पर मैनिट के हरेक ईंट, आपन इतिहास बतावे हो।
 भारत के शान हवे ई, और भोपाल के जान ह,
 MACT नाम बढ़हन, अब मैनिट कहावे हो।
 का बा का बा रट लगा के, केहु के मत भरमावअ हो,
 650 एकड़ के हरियाली, पहाड़िआ आके देखावअ हो।
 माता के दरबार इहाँ बा, बरगद बाबा के सिंहासन हो,
 यारी दोस्ती से बढ़हन, चले इहाँ, भाई के प्रशासन हो।
 रैगिंग-रैगिंग काहे हाला करेलअ, बिना बात के बात हो,
 कहीं अइसन सीनियर ना मिलिहिये, ई लो होला बड़ा सौगात हो।
 लड़िकाई में (टेक)बाप बने सब, हर हाल में साथ निभावे ला,
 यूनिटी में बांध के सबके, सब काम में जुगाड़ लगावे ला।
 मैनिट के इहे नीति बा, मैनिट अइसे ही चले हो,
 कहीं ई पीछे ना बा, वीर बहादुर बम बम बोले हो।
 NIRF औरी रैंकिंग के बात छोड़अ तू, का ईलो सबकुछ देखेला
 खाली रिसर्च के पीछे पड़के, प्लेसमेंट से मुँह मोड़ेला।
 हर परीक्षा में रैंक देखअ तू, मैनिट कहाँ पीछे बा,
 बिना समझे बस कहेला, ई मैनिट में का बा।

नया-नया हॉस्टल बने, नया-नया डिपार्टमेंट हो,
 नया-नया सड़क इहाँ, चमके नया (फैकल्टी) अपार्टमेंट हो,
 नया-नया के बात छोड़अ, कल्चर बड़ा पुरान इहाँ,
 अलुमिनी नेटवर्क देखल, बा खूब महान् इहाँ।
 शहर के बीचों-बीच बनल, हर एक चीज इहाँ मिलेला,
 परीक्षा के संकट में सब कोई, लगहे कोचिंग दौड़ेला।
 हर तरह के पढ़ाई इहाँ, लगभग सब ब्रांच बा,
 देश-विदेश के लोग इहाँ, रहत एक समान बा।
 केतना तोह के बात कहीं, हम का-का बताई हो,
 60 बरीश पुरान हवे ई, सबकुछ कहल ना जाई हो।
 काहें एतना परेशान हवअ, चुपचाप चली आवअ हो,
 एईजा बस इतिहास बनेला, आके हाथ बँटावअ हो।
 एक-एक दिन याद बनी, जिन्दगी साथे-साथ बनी,
 मैनिट खाली कॉलेज ना, ई तोहार जज्बात बनी।
 ई तोहार जज्बात बनी.....।



सोच समझ सुझाव

**सोच सोच के सोच को सोचो,
सोच एक गहन सोच है।
सोच सोच के भी सोच को जो न सोच सका,
सोचो वह कैसी सोच है!?**

उपरोक्त शब्दावली, प्रसिद्ध काव्य रचना 'सोच' की वे कुछ पंक्तियाँ हैं, जो क्षणभर के लिए 'सोच' के उन तमाम पहलुओं के भँवर में उन्मुक्त मन रूपी राहगीर को फँसाने हेतु प्रयासरत हैं। सोच के विभिन्न आयामों को व्यक्ति एकचित होकर ही अनुमानित कर सकता है, अन्यथा परिस्थितियों के अनुसार वह सोच को दरकिनार कर समाधान खोजने में व्यस्त रहता है। जब व्यक्ति किसी निश्चित वस्तु अथवा मनुष्य के प्रति सोच को निर्धारित कर, अन्य सभी वस्तुओं को उन्हीं मापदंडों पर आँकता है तो उसे आमजन 'नज़रिया' कहने लगते हैं। नज़रिये का निर्धारित होना सकारात्मक एवं नकारात्मक दोनों पहलुओं से समान संबंध रखता है परंतु जब सोच कई मायनों में निचले स्तर के मापदंडों में अव्वल आने लगे तब नज़रिया नकारात्मक होने लगता है। वहीं दूसरी ओर नज़रिये का वस्तु आधारित होना भी सभी मायनों में सकारात्मक नहीं है।

मैनिट के परिप्रेक्ष में तो नज़रिये को भी नज़रिये की आवश्यकता होती है, अन्यथा भटक जाइएगा जनाब। भटके को चाहिए सीनियर्स का सहारा, जिनके पद चिन्ह आपकी सोच रूपी डूबती नैया को आर या पार अवश्य ले जाएँगे, क्योंकि 'हम हैं तो क्या ग़म है'। इस घटनाक्रम के उपरांत भी यदि नज़रिये विषय में आप अभी भी एवरेज महसूस कर रहे हैं तो मैनिट में चलते फिरते सलाह केंद्र आप कहीं भी पा सकते हैं। नज़रिये की महत्ता व्यक्तित्व गठन में अत्यधिक है। समाज के दृष्टिकोण से व्यक्तित्व को परिभाषित करना ही छवि है। मैनिट में छव्यांकन या व्यक्तित्व निरीक्षण करना मानो अर्जुन का मीन को देखने भर तक का विलंब। यह कला मैनिट प्रवासियों को विरासत में मिली धरोहर ही तो है।

यह विभिन्न बिंदु 'सोच' पर सोच-विचार करने के लिए प्रेरणास्पद हैं। जिस समाज अथवा जिन मुख्य आधारों पर चर्चा थी, वही समाज मैनिट में भी उपस्थित है क्योंकि समाज की परिभाषा समूह एवं अन्य उपस्थित लोगों से होती है। तो भला मैनिट में वे सोच के आधार अलग कैसे हो सकते हैं? जहाँ एक ओर अत्यधिक उच्च स्तर की सोच को हास्य डायलॉग-बाजी के अलावा प्रयोग मैनिट में वर्जित है तो वहीं दूसरी ओर मध्यम से ज़रा सा नीचे आते ही वह वीभत्स रस का शिकार हो जाती है। इसीलिए किसी ने सच ही कहा है अति हर

चीज़ की बुरी!! परंतु मैनिट में इसी 'अति' का अनुमान लगाना भी स्वयं में एक कला है। 'अति' की पराकाष्ठा को पार करना जब मनुष्य मनोरंजन की उपाधि देने लगे तब समय है दृष्टिकोण परिवर्तन का इसीलिए आवश्यक है 'सोच-समझ'। बुजुर्गों की 'सोच-समझ' की नसीहत, स्वयं में परिपक्वता का एहसास कराने में सक्षम हैं। समझ एक ऐसा विषय है जहां व्यक्ति अव्वल आकर भी अनुत्तीर्ण है, क्योंकि यहां एवरेज आने पर 'ज्ञान' का आदान-प्रदान मुनाफे का सौदा है, वहीं इसमें अव्वल हो गए तो स्वयं के गुणों की काट 'अभिमान' को प्रवेश दे दीजिएगा। मैनिट में 'समझदार' को लात घुसो के सम्मान से नवाज़ा जाता है। तो क्या यहां 'समझदार' की परिभाषा भिन्न है? या यह भी स्थिति अनुसार परिवर्तनशील है? मैनिट में सालों साल चलते आ रहे नियमानुसार 'समझदार' के अर्थ दो प्रकार से हो सकते हैं, एक वह व्यक्ति जो प्रत्येक स्थिति में स्वयं का वर्चस्व सिद्ध करता रहे वहीं दूसरी ओर वह व्यक्ति जो स्थिति को भाँपकर दरकिनार हो जाए। इन मुद्दों के आधार पर एक और प्रश्न उत्पन्न होता है कि क्या मैनिट में 'समझदार' और 'समझ वालों' में भिन्नता है? प्रश्न की गंभीरता को समझते हुए मैनिट प्रवासियों ने इसे एक नई दिशा देने का निर्णय लिया, जिसके अनुसार स्थिति के अनुपात में बीच का रास्ता अर्थात् 'जुगाड़' सदैव उपलब्ध होता है। इसीलिए मैनिट की भाषा में 'जुगाड़ी है जो समझ वाला वही'। सोच एवं समझ का संबंध जैसे मीन एवं समुद्र का परंतु इसके उपरांत भी सोच का दायरा समझ से काफी अधिक है जिस प्रकार समुद्र का मीन से। इसी सामंजस्य को और सुदृढ़ता से स्थापित करने हेतु आवश्यक है-सुझाव। अर्थ है कि सोच एवं समझ की एकजुटता सुझाव के बिना अधूरी है। बिना सोच एवं समझ के सुझाव देने वाले देश के कोने कोने में व्याप्त हैं तो भला मैनिट इनसे कैसे अछूता रहे? इनके लिए बस एक ही कहावत पर्याप्त है 'सुनो सबकी करो अपनी'।

परंतु कई बार स्थिति ऐसी होती है कि या तो सोच समझ पर भारी होती है अथवा समझ सोच पर, तब उन मतभेदों को दूर करने के लिए ही सुझाव आवश्यक है। जीवन की अर्थात् मैनिट की प्रत्येक परिस्थिति का उचित निर्णय सोच-समझ-सुझाव के सामंजस्ययी समायोजन से ही संभव है।

कहीं ठहराव तो कहीं अवसर

इस सदी की सबसे बड़ी महामारी से जूझती दुनिया में मनुष्य की जिजीविषा ही है जो इस आपदा को अवसर में बदलने हेतु उसे प्रेरित करती है। विभिन्न प्रकार का समय हमारे लिए क्या लेकर आएगा ये हमारे नज़रिये पर निर्भर करता है। आइए कोरोना को लेकर हम भी अपना परिप्रेक्ष्य तलाशते हैं-

चीन से एक बीमारी के रूप में शुरू हो कर कोरोना ने जंगल की आग की संज्ञा को ही बदल दिया है। इस महामारी ने वैश्वीकरण और डिजिटलीकरण के बीच चल रहे वीडियो गेम में मानो पॉज का बटन दबा दिया। हम सबको तेज़ भागती दुनिया में ठहरने को संकेत किया। पहली बार सबने अपने शब्दकोश में 'लॉकडाउन' जैसे शब्दों को जगह दी। युद्धकाल में भी ना ठहरने वाली भारतीय रेल को भी विश्राम करना पड़ा। हमेशा छात्रों के ऊर्जा से ओजस्वित रहने वाला मैनिट का प्रांगण पतझड़ की भाँति वीरान हो गया। नयी-नयी बनी सड़कों पर एक से बढ़कर एक दौड़ने वाली गाड़ियाँ गायब हो गई, स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स होनहारों की राह देखने लगा, NTB ग्राउन्ड के चौकों और छक्कों का शोर थम गया, हॉस्टलस् वीरान हो गए, SAC अचानक शांत हो गया क्योंकि वीर बहादुर अपने घरों को जो कूच कर गए थे। उस एक नोटिस से मिड के टलने की खुशी तो थी पर एक अदृश्य डर और अफ़वाहों भरे माहौल में घर पहुँचने की हड़बड़ाहट भी। उसके बाद जो उथल-पुथल हुआ उसके क्या कहने।

मैनिट से विभिन्न तरीकों के जुड़कर अपना जीवन यापन करने वाले लोग चाहे मेस कर्मचारी हों, या कैन्टीन के लोग, धोबी भईया हों, या टिफ़िन वाले चाचा, बगल के ऑटोवाले से लेकर ऊबर और ओला वाले ड्राइवर, वो बबलू नाइट कैन्टीन वाले हों या फलवाले नसीर भईया सबके सामने रोज़ी-रोटी की डायन मुहँ फाड़ कर खड़ी हो गई। कोरोना के कारण मिड का टलना 'जय कोरोना' के तो नारे लगवा गया पर इसका हमें तनिक भी अंदाज़ा नहीं था की हमें जल्द ही 'गो कोरोना' के भी नारे लगाने पड़ेंगे। खुशी-खुशी होली पर तो सब घर जा रहे थे, पर क्या पता था अब दिवाली भी घर ही मनाएंगे। किसी ने ऑनलाइन सेमेस्टर की कल्पना भी नहीं की थी, सभी ऑनलाइन पढ़ाई का मतलब NPTEL और कोविंग्स के वीडियो लेक्चर ही जानते थे, ऊपर से रोज़ डेटा खत्म होने का दर्द अलग। डेटा तो ईंधन है अपना, उसके बिना दैनिक जीवन की गाड़ी चले भी तो चले कैसे। अधिकतम तो सारे पढ़ने के हथियार छात्रावास में ही छोड़ आए थे क्योंकि हम इंजीनियर्स की शुरु से ये मान्यता है कि 'घर कौन पढ़ता है! कुछ महानुभाव तो अपना सहचर 'लैपटॉप' भी छोड़ आए थे। सारा माइनर और मेजर का रिजल्ट्स रूम में ही रह गया। साथ ही ऑनलाइन जिंदगी चलाने के लिए कॉलेज के लैन की स्पीड को मिस करने की कसक अलग। प्लेसमेंट के लिए कमर कस चुके फाइनल ईयर को सुनहरे सपने के बीच में मानों किसी ने झकझोर के जगा दिया। सबको रोजमर्रा जिंदगी में कोरोना के कहर का दर्द सबसे ज़्यादा तो तब महसूस हुआ जब खींचतान के घर से डिग्री लेने और ऑनलाइन परीक्षाओं में अच्छे प्राप्तांकों के उम्मीदों पर पानी फेरते हुए परीक्षाफल में अपने नाम के आगे 'विदहेल्ड' मिला। टॉपर्स घरवालों को समझा के परेशान हो गए तो सीमा रेखा पर खड़े प्लेसमेंट ईलेवन में अपनी राह देख रहे लोगों के सपने टूटते नज़र आने लगे। जिंदगी मानों ठहर सी गयी थी। चारों तरफ एक अनजानी अनिश्चितता ने डेरा जमा लिया। पर क्या ये 'ठहराव' कुछ कहता था?

हाँ, यहीं कि ठहराव नहीं चलते रहने का नाम ही जिंदगी है। इतिहास गवाह है लाख विपत्तियाँ आई हैं पर नाम उसी ने किया है जिसने आपदा को अवसर में बदला है। प्रथम पंक्ति में हमारे लिए सदैव खड़े स्वास्थकर्मी, सुरक्षा अधिकारी और प्रशासन के लोगों ने तो कोरोना से भिड़ने का एक भी अवसर नहीं छोड़ा, परंतु घरों में कैद हमलोगों को भी समाज को कुछ सकारात्मक देने का सुअवसर मिला है। यह अवसर है- एक व्यक्ति के तौर पर आत्मवलोकन की, परिवार के एक सदस्य के रूप में 'मकान' को 'घर' करने की और एक उभरते हुए अभियंता के तौर पर कुछ ऐसे नवाचार और स्टार्टअप्स को अंकुरित करने की, जो ऐसे समय हमारे कोरोना योद्धाओं के साथ कंधे से कंधा मिला के इस लड़ाई में सहयोग करें। संकट के इस काल में विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी की ताकत एवं महता को सबने महसूस किया। परंतु दैनिक जीवन में सामान्य बनती जा रही इस प्रौद्योगिकी ने ये समझने का भी सुनहरा मौका प्रदान किया कि इंजीनियरिंग जैसे पाठ्यक्रमों में पुरातन विषयों को बदलने की नितांत आवश्यकता है तथा प्रतिदिन बदलती दुनिया और उसके ज़रूरत के हिसाब से एप्स की भाँति नवीनीकरण अनिवार्य है। अगर इस अवसर का उपयोग हम अभियंता, समस्या समाधान जैसी चीज़ों की अवधारणा को पाठ्यक्रमों के साथ-साथ अपने दैनिक जीवन का भी हिस्सा बनाते हैं तो ऐसे कठिन समय में किसी समस्या समाधान हेतु संबंधित मंत्रालय या विभाग को 'टैलेंट हन्ट' जैसी चीज़ों में समय बर्बाद नहीं करना पड़ेगा और नवाचार तथा स्टार्टअप्स आम बात होगी। 'वर्क फ्रॉम होम' और 'घर से पढ़ाई' अब आम बात हो गयी है परन्तु इस परिस्थितियों ने अनेक ऐसी गैर परंपरागत नौकरियों और पात्रों को जन्म दिए हैं जिनकी कुछ वर्ष पहले किसी ने कल्पना भी नहीं की थी। ऑनलाइन मार्केटिंग और बाज़ार बढ़ने से कंटेंट डेवलपर, वेब डिज़ाइनर, फ्रीलांसिंग और इन्फ्लुएंसर्स तथा यूट्यूबर्स की तो बाढ़ ही आ गयी है साथ ही डाटा साइंटिस्ट, डाटा अनलिस्ट और ऑनलाइन अध्यापन की माँग में तेज़ी से इजाज़ा हुआ है। तो सोचना हमें है अगर हम इस अवसर को अपने कौशल विकास पर निवेश नहीं कर रहे तथा करियर के शुरुआती दौर में सपनों की ओर ले जाने वाली राहों को चुनने का जज़्बा न दिखा के इन मौकों को अपनी सफलता की सीढ़ी नहीं बना रहे हैं तो कहीं गलती तो नहीं कर रहे हम! वैसे सबसे बड़ी शिक्षक तो प्रकृति ही है और उसने भी इस आपदा को अवसर के रूप में लिया, कई जगहों से वातावरण साफ होने से हिमालय दिखने की खबरें आयीं, नदियाँ स्वतः ही साफ़ हो गयीं, मानवों के अतिक्रमण से परेशान पशु-पक्षियों को सड़कों पर धमा-चौकड़ी करते हुए पाया गया तथा सबसे महत्वपूर्ण मानव जाति को ये सन्देश दे गयी कि प्रकृति की जड़ों से जुड़ना कितना आवश्यक है। लाख बना लो 'मकान' शहर में पर बच्चों को 'घर' के आँगन की 'तुलसी' दिखाने गाँव ही आना होगा।

Epilogue

A wise man once said, "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring, will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." Mr. Explorer had explored the vast multiverse out there, sifting through its countless stories, only to come to the same inevitable conclusion that he tried so hard to deny. That what he had perceived as an infinite abyss of possibilities had an end. A boundary, so to speak.

From the doubtful freshman who received the validation he required to grow comfortable with his choice and eventually stop striving forward. To the tale where the Mask of Anonymity lost its strength. And the tale of the disciples of Kung Fu trying to achieve the inner peace that their Master had preached to them. Not to forget, the world line that was ruined by an innocuous virus and its twin tales. Where a tale in the past showed its denizens eventually tiring of their clinical, contactless way of living, dreaming of the way they'd get to interact beyond a digital screen again. And the tale from its future, where the hopes of the past finally get realized, albeit a bit too late for the generation of that time as they are too scared to venture beyond the comforts of their familiar screens.

All those tales presented a form of boundary to our Explorer, be it physical or mental. And when faced with the prospect of a Boundary, our Explorer found his strength waning and his will drowning. For the greatest scam in all realities, is that there is infinity for one to explore. The harsh truth is that every exploration eventually hits its boundary. And even if one bypasses that boundary, it is only a matter of time before one encounters another wall. And another one. Eventually, one has to accept the existence of constraints in their domain. And learn to settle and live within the shadows of the boundary of their tale. Mr. Explorer may have been an agitated soul but eventually, he too learned to stop chasing the horizon of possibilities and began to introspect the value of what he already possessed. After all, what use is the quest to see the places your hand can't reach, when you don't utilize the area that is within its achievable vicinity?

So how does one come to peace with the limits of their power and aspirations? When the boundary can be a sense of stability and comfort? Legend has it that the entity Mr. Constraint knew the secret to achieve that acceptance. Let me take you to his grave.

To visit the grave of Mr. Compliant - Go to Page 25



Cover Epilogue

"When our actions do not, our fears do make us traitors" – (Macbeth, Act IV Scene II)

And what is scarier than the thought of losing everything we have ever known to an ever-changing world. A world that holds our hands as an infant teaches us everything that we know and then takes it all back so that we can begin anew. The only question which then remains is whether we are brave enough to embrace this change and make it our new normal or succumb to our fears. Being a Talesman has never been easy. Every time I've tried to settle within the boundaries of norms, I've been exiled from them. For it is my burden to shatter these inhibitions within all of us at the dawn of every era.

Change brings destruction, violence, and even death. But it also brings hope for a better future. For it is at our lowest when we realize how high we truly fly. My child, I know you are sad. You feel like you've lost your entire world to this "new normal". But you should always remember that your world is what you perceive of it. Maybe you are not who you were when we first met. You were so naïve and confused. Now almost a generation later, you're a full-grown man. But for me, you'll always be a child. These eyes have seen desperation, chaos, and even suffering amidst people trying to hold on to things, fighting agents of change, and protecting their normal. Sometimes they succeeded, but only to lose in the long run. I wonder whether life would be easier; if one could just embrace and accept that time changes everything.



Enough of my blabbering. We've reached the point of convergence. The truth must be presented, regarding all that we have witnessed. Let me take you back to the graves of the fallen ones, one last time...

Upon picking some earth from one of the graves, the child realized that the graves were freshly dug. A single gush of wind knocked the tombstones down. "They're empty, aren't they?" the child asked, gazing at the graves, "The Compliant, the Rebel, and the Explorer. None of them met their ends. They returned, but who were they?" I couldn't help but bless a smile upon my worthy companion, who had followed through it all. As I shared the Mirror of Introspection with him, three reflections emerged, entailing no introduction. Yes, it was I, who dwelled within the boundaries, conforming to the rules of the world, the one who annihilated the walls, which stretched to the clouds blocking the sun, and the one who marched horizons, measuring infinity.

At each stage, I made myself believe that it was the only way to live. "Are these stages cyclic?" the child asked. The constant cycle of starting within the boundary, shattering the walls, and then exploring made me believe the same. But as I experienced more, I discerned the truth. Returning inside the boundaries is still possible, even for a rebel or an explorer, if they see it viable. Exploration is possible without rebellion or can cause further conflict. It was clear that what I had been looking at as phases of a process, were states of time and the transition between each, corresponding to a new normal. You've gone through these transitions just like I once did.

As we continued, the child turned to see another young traveler step in, who appeared to be in the same state of confusion as the child was when he stepped in.

Carry on, my fellow traveler. Share the wisdom you've learned. My time with you has come to an end. Now it shall be you, who continues the chain.

"But who am I to enlighten them?"

Don't you see? You're the Talesman now. The only "normal" that truly exists is what one considers to be their own. The cycle of life is ever confusing, and to apply a structure to it, is to restrict yourself to a future that someone else has ordained for you. Mix it up, shake free, settle or explore. I have waited all these years to find my successor. One who could perceive the truth like I did, and carry on the mantle and the message for 'them'.

"What do you mean? Who are we carrying the message for?"

My dear child. A Talesman exists to pass on their tales. And what use is a Tale, without a Reader to read them or a Listener to imbibe them?

So tell me, my dear Reader. What is your "New Normal"?

Prelude

Every great culture has always put the act of expression of an individual's opinions on the highest pedestal.

The price of not speaking up is always more than the consequences of doing so. We at EB realize this fundamental truth of human nature. Humans love sharing their opinions and viewpoints.

Keeping the above in mind, we have made a complete section titled "Speak Through Excelsior." Throughout the year, the students of MANIT have been giving their opinions on a wide gamut of topics, topics ranging from imaginary scenarios to the everyday difficulties of being a MANITian.

Numbers seldom lie. Hence surveys have always been a great way to gauge the popular opinion and mindset of the students. This year was no different. Right from the start of the pandemic, we all had questions on how everyone felt about it and their coping mechanisms. The survey will be of great help to anyone trying to find answers.

Freshers couldn't get a chance to experience the famed MANIT culture. Their aspirations, disappointments, and hopes have all been captured through the survey responses.

The questions and options have been prepared to easily spot the differences in the way both first-years and third-years approach things. The "generation gap" is, in reality, smaller than what people assume it to be!

Interlude

Instagram is probably the social media that MANITians use the most. Utilizing this fact, we carried a dedicated campaign of "MANIT Polls" at regular intervals throughout the year. These were much more on the "fun side" of things. Of course, what else do you expect from an app as aimless as Instagram!

Speak Through Excelsior



Many-a-times, people feel a surge of creativity. Be it writing a beautiful poem or completing a stunning artwork. The soul wants a medium for manifesting its talent. We publish such entries in the "General Articles & Artworks" section. These are entries from people amongst you, people who took the opportunity to stand out by expressing themselves.

Overall, the underlying motivation behind carrying out the above campaigns was the desire to give the students a non-judgmental space to communicate with the masses. For expressing oneself is in itself an adventure, an adventure that should never be missed.

Survey

This year is all about breaking barriers and embracing the new normal. So why not do the same with our survey? Welcome to the brand-new Annual Survey, where we don't do the talking, only our data does! So, follow along and figure out for yourself "What is it that MANIT truly needs?"

THE PANDEMIC

84%

Almost everyone (84%) feels that online convocations fail to provide a sense of satisfaction and closure

5%

Only 5% people feel that virtual hiring has improved their prospects of recruitment

24% Answer questions and take notes



11% Take a short nap with an alarm



9% Don't attend most of them



56% Multitask along with occasional involvement



Rule of 75

75% find **unity** among batchmates to be the most efficient way of studying online

What is the most efficient way of studying online?

Close to 75% freshmen desperately want the college to reopen

Over 75% students found attending online classes to be quiet stressful



Rule of 75

Coincidentally, 75% attendance is also mandatory in MANIT

How do you spend your time during online classes?

What are your opinions about online classes and reopening of colleges?

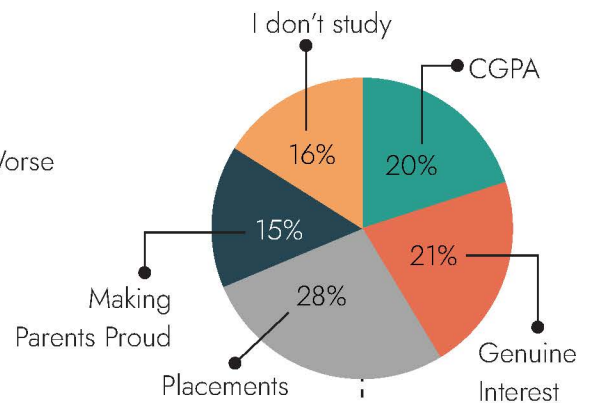
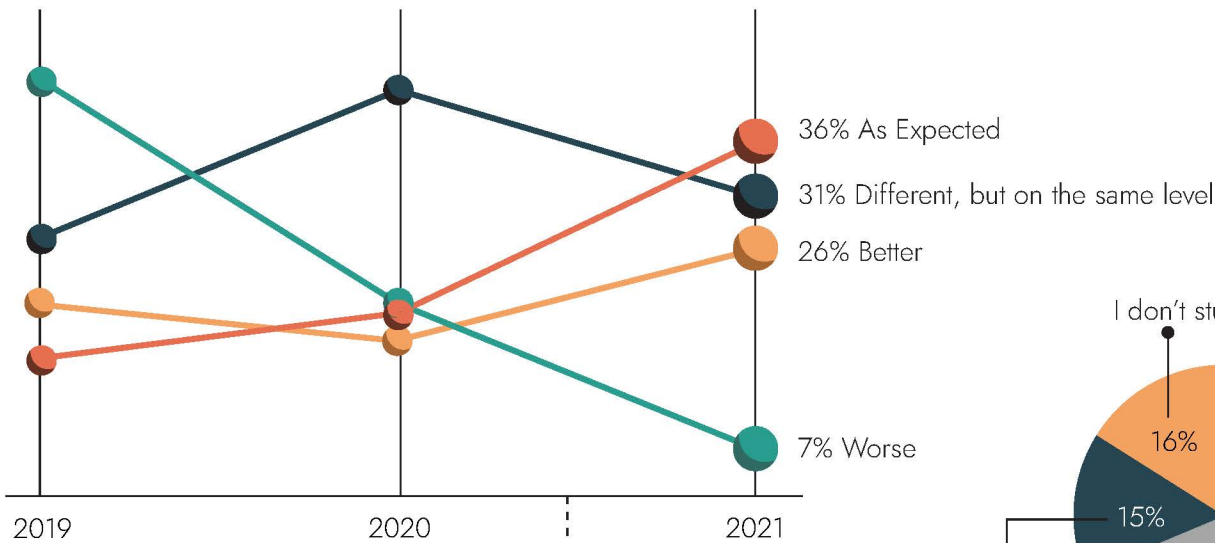
FRESHERS IN FOCUS

67%

67% students prioritized going on a trip with their friends and exploring Bhopal once they reach college for the first time

51%

Students feel that societies should recruit on the basis of skills required but also conduct frequent workshops for everyone to learn. This number grew from 45% in 2019 to clear majority this year.



Experience of interacting with batchmates virtually for the first time

MANIT: Expectation vs Reality

55% people either want to or are willing to change their branch



Irony

Do you wish to change your current branch and why did you choose it?

67% people enrolled in their current branch out of self inclination or because of opportunities associated with the branch

Academic Goals: Why do you study?

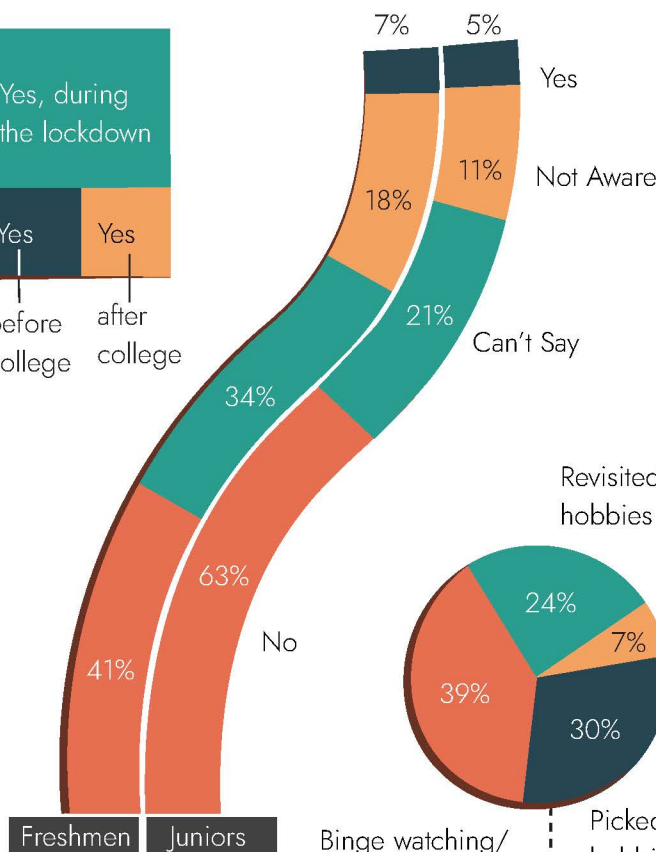
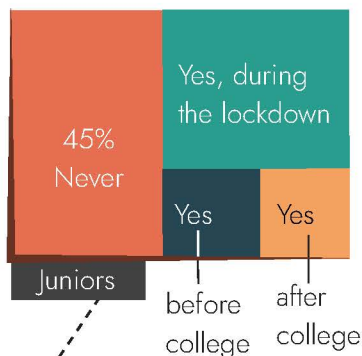
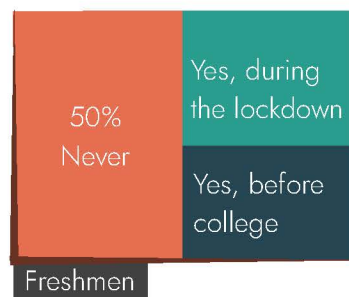
EB'S LOOK WITHIN

40%

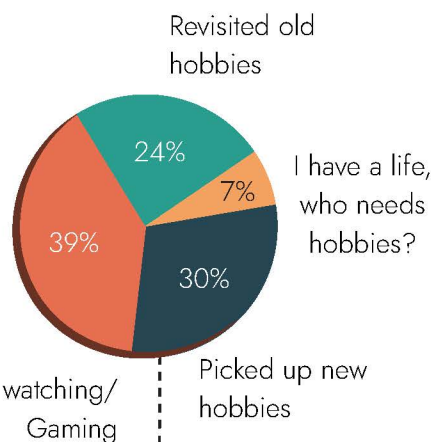
40% people relied on their friends and family for emotional support during the pandemic

57%

A big majority feels that relationships are completely acceptable in college. At the same time close to 30% people said that they would not prefer to be romantically involved with others



Most people have not broken their sobriety yet. We'll get an update on these numbers once students return back to campus



Have you ever been depressed?

Do you think homosexuality is wrong?

How did pandemic affect your hobbies?

Tick all the options that you indulge in frequently

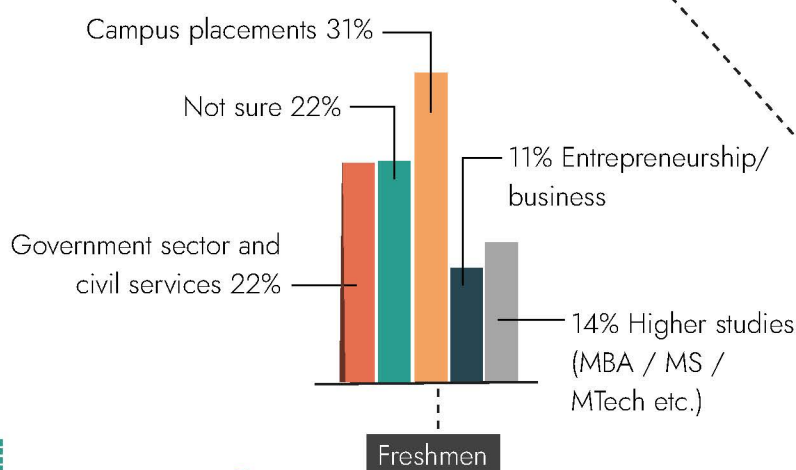
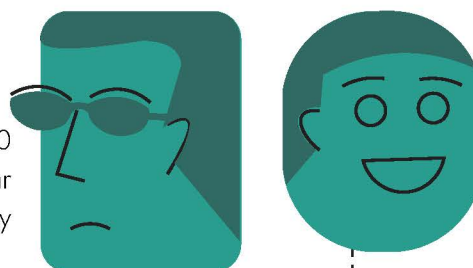
ACADS AND PLACEMENTS

70%

70% people do not attend any coaching classes.
Disclaimer: We imply no correlation between attending a coaching and cracking competitive exams

Over 950 freshmen enthusiastically filled in this year's survey.

We received 160 responses from third year students for the survey



51% people prioritize placements owing to the financial stability that comes along with them

56% people would choose a job which lies in line with their passion regardless the pay

Placement v/s Passion

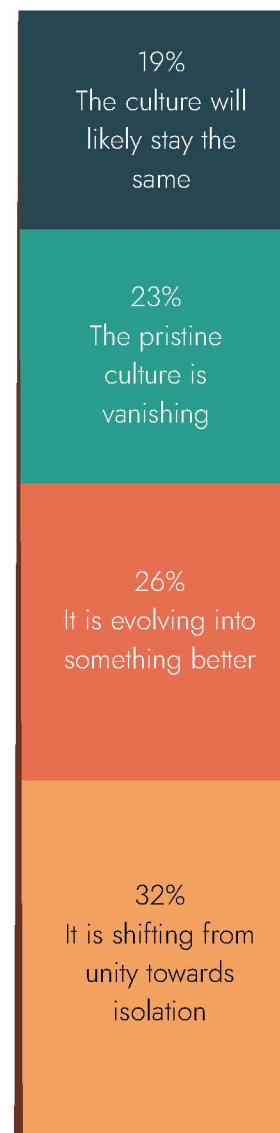
What are your career aspirations?

Survey respondents

MANIT CULTURE

43%

43% students feel that MANIT campus requires infrastructural upgrades

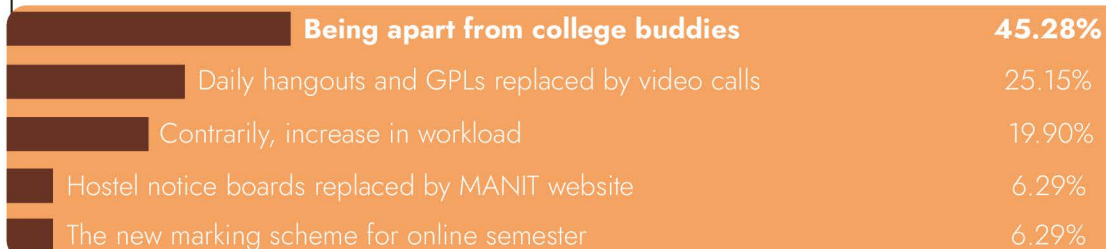


Where do you think MANIT culture is headed?

MANIT Polls

1

Which of the following new mandates, caused by the current situation, do you think is the most unfortunate?



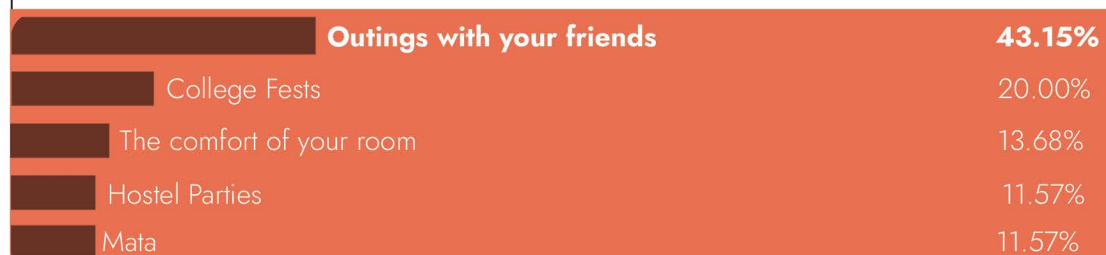
2

What opinion would the Bargad ka Ped hold regarding the culture and traditions followed in MANIT today?



3

What is something that you've missed the most about college life?

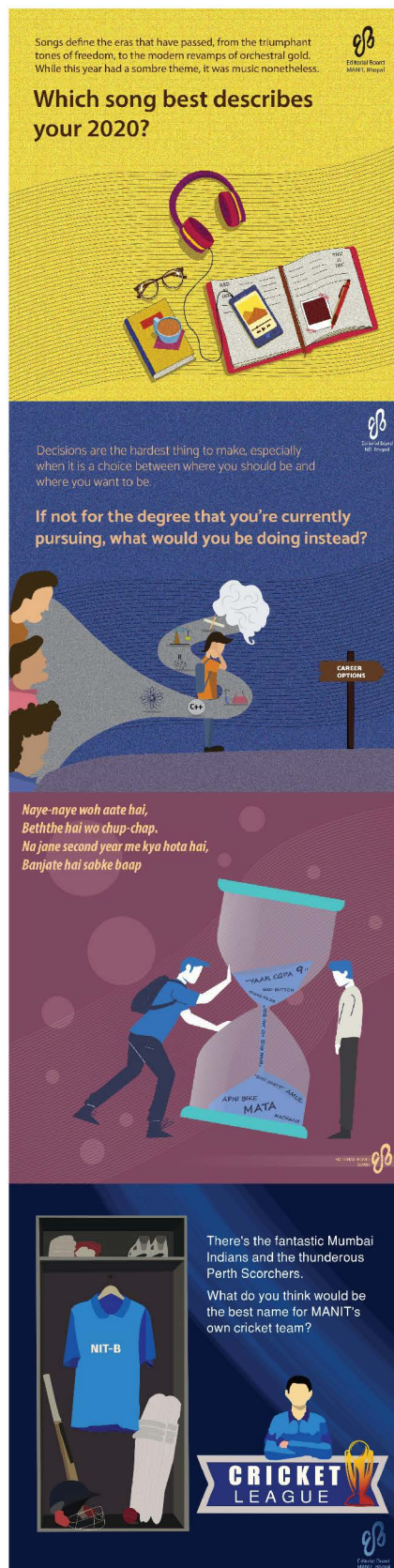


4

Which of the following traits do you bring to the table or are proud to identify with?



Campaign



Which song best describes your 2020?

- I Want To Break Free - Queen - **(eshaan_agrawal)**
 Everything I Wanted - Billie Eilish - **(amberagrwl)**
 Mai Zindagi ka Saath Nibhata Chala - Mohammad Rafi - **(a_leaf_yeah)**

If not for the degree you're currently pursuing, what would you be doing instead?

- A) I don't know - **(idkyoushriya)**
 B) I would live in my village instead of cities. And instead of this fast-paced society, these jee, competition things, I would love to live simply by working in our farms there. - **(adarshdgr8)**
 C) Not giving college students free existential crises! XD - **(amankashyap1)**

What causes the transition of the reserved first-year students into a completely different self?

- A) Juniors ki entry! - **(snklp1)**
 B) Samay ka parivartan - **(pratyaksha_07)**
 C) Access to PMC - **(darkpandawarrior)**

What do you think would be the best name for MANIT's own cricket team?

- A) MYSTERIOUS MANIT MASTERS!! - **(nasaha_rika_architects)**
 B) Veer Mata Warriors - **(meet_ritwik)**
 C) Maalbro Ped Riders - **(darkpandawarrior)**

General Articles

GENERATION GAP....!!!



Amrit Dalal
2nd Year, ECE

Oh, Generation Gap!!
Cancer to all mankind.
Lack of communication Between young and old Is what all I could find.

Differences in values and taste;
Revolutionary Changes are in the haste.
Church or Clubs? Excuses or Reasons?
Which is right and what's appropriate ?
It depends.

One finds to keep the balance daunting,
Other at times, feels haunting
Is it chronic and inevitable?
Resisting to share the epitome of bonding.

What is responsible? Why don't they trust me?
Arguments on acceptance, is it a form of Love, care or is it just belligerence!?
Or is it because Technology shook human's hands!



One day we heir ;
What was once theirs!!
Think I'll become a parent unlike mine I won't rule, I will be
More Accepting and Cool!

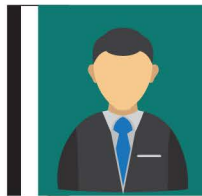
Then the destiny turns
And the day of realisation arrives.
Into the race of countless thoughts My mind drives.

Certain things are relatable
Why did that happen before?
Remembering parents, with a big smile Cherishing their
thoughts which I try to adore .

Insecurity, arguments seems
To be a form of love, tender and care.
A new derived and evolved relationship I start trying to
share.

Realising that at times
Why good is tear's train!!
Sour is required in between
To taste Sweet again and again!!!.

काफ़ी है



Neeraj
4th Year, MME

जीने को ज़िंदगी
कुछ ज़्यादा नहीं चाहिए,

बस कुछ पागलपन
एक ज़िद
थोड़ी सनक
छोटे-छोटे सपने
रातों की नींद
दिन का चैन
पाने की बेचैनी
जीवन की चाह
दिखाने की ललक
जताने की प्यास
काफ़ी है,



काफ़ी है
डगर पाने को
खुश होने को बेपरवाह
तोड़ने को, अँधेरे की दीवार
लाने को उम्मीदों का सूरज
दिखाने को अंदर का हुनर
काफ़ी है ।

काफ़ी है,
जीने को ज़िंदगी
काफ़ी है ..॥

YOU SEE!



Ayushi Tomar
1st Year, EE

You see a child crying when born
Asking for first breath,
Seeking the solace just gone.
You see a toddler learning to walk,
Falling down and back to crawl.



You see a tween caught in between,
Losing childhood, chalking up a teen.
A way too stressed over to fit in,
Crumpled emotions headed to the bin.
You see next an adolescent,
Tricky mood swings always a vent.
It's a raw clay to be mould,
Losing temper is a counterfeit to bold.
You see a grown-up, here's to young blood.
Ready to set the bar, engulf the skies,
Rolled up ambitions overtake the ride.
You see then maturity on its height,
A lot been incurred with might.
A big stack of duties buried in,
Alas steals you from within.
You see last is the second childishness,
Gee it's the greys ringing the bells.
It's the treasure you stockpiled,
The evidence you walked a long mile.

जीवन



Anshika
4th Year, ECE

आज..
जीवन पर कुछ कहता हूँ,
पर क्या???
यही कि..
जीवन बाँसुरी है
बाधाएं इसके छेद,
सीखने का धैर्य जिजीविषा है
यही इसका भेद....॥

इसे बजाना आ गया,
समझो चलाना आ गया।
हर फूँक को सजाने के बाद,
आनंद में जीवन बिताना आ गया।

सब्र की सवारी है साहब,
जो कभी गिरने नहीं देती,
ना ही किसी के कदमों में,
ना ही किसी की नज़रों में।

बशर्ते..
प्रेम की प्रेरणा हो,
और ज्ञान का मार्गदर्शन,
स्वागत की अभिलाषा हो,
और कुछ बदलने की ताकत....॥



मत ठहर तू



Nilesch Modi
3rd Year, MME

मत ठहर तू
समय के साथ ही चल तू

चेतना को कर के जागृत
प्रेरणा को संग लेकर,
विकारों से दूर चल तू
मत ठहर तू।



वो समय जो बीत चुका
अब ना वो कभी लौट रहा,
अब जो आगे आ रहा
तू उसे बस देख ज़रा,
इसी समय के साथ चल तू
मत ठहर तू।

बिना छोड़े अपनों का बंधन
ऊपर लिए पिता का साया,
माँ की ममता साथ रख तू
मत ठहर तू।

सफलता चूमेगी तेरे कदम
बस हौसला करता जा बुलंद,
अपनी कमियों को दूर कर तू
मत ठहर तू।
बस समय के साथ चल तू,
हाँ, यूँ ही हर बार चल तू।
मत ठहर तू। मत ठहर तू।

बंजारे



Shivansh Tamrakar
4th Year, CSE

दिनभर इन कमरों में बैठ के,
कई विचार लिये,
खामोशी से बस काम किया करते हैं,
पैसे कमाने के लिए, घर चलाने के लिए,
हर सोमवार से शनिवार, अपनी कला को नीलाम किया करते हैं।
कभी आओ तुम भी,
देखो कैसे ये कैटीन में गुमसुम मिला करते हैं,
अरे ये वहीं हैं जो कॉलेज में खुल के हँसा करते थे,
अब देखो आ के, केवल फॉर्मेलिटी किया करते हैं,
कहने को तो क्या नहीं है इनके पास,
पैसे, गाड़ी, मकान सभी हैं इनके पास,
पर माँ नहीं है, पास अपने सिरहाने सुलाने को,
बहन नहीं है झगड़ने को,
हर शाम ये बस यहीं सोचा करते हैं आखिर
कैसे बतायें, दिन कैसे बीता करते हैं।

ये बंजारे नहीं तो और क्या हैं,
बॉस के हुकूमों पर सिर झुकाने वाले,
दिनभर बस एक कमरे में दम घुटाने वाले,
और ज्यादा लालच के लिए शहर-शहर दर-ब-दर भटकने वाले,
ये बंजारे उन बंजारों से थोड़े से ही अलग हैं,
ये कंपनी दर कंपनी भटकते हैं CTC की खातिर,
वो गाँव-गाँव भटकते थे खेती की खातिर,
संघर्ष वो भी करते थे संघर्ष ये भी करते हैं,
बात इतनी सी अलग है कि वो घर वालों के पास हुआ करते थे,
और ये घर वालों से दूर रहा करते हैं।



हो आर्यपुत्र! तुम विचलित न होना।



Nikhil Dev Shrivastava
4th Year, ECE

वो बुलाएगी,
कुछ मीठा गुनगुनायेगी।
फिर अंगारे दिखाकर,
तुम पे धौंस जमायेगी।
स्वर की मिठास में,
तुम किंचित न खोना।
है आर्यपुत्र! तुम विचलित न होना।

वो बाबू-शोना चीखेगी,
तुम पल में पिघल जाओगे।
वो मगर के अश्रु दिखाएगी,
तुम सख्ती भूल जाओगे।
वो पल में यूँ रूठ जाएगी,
तुम अपना स्वाभिमान गंवावोगे।
राजा बनने की चाहत में,
अंत में पट्टा गले पे पाओगे।
नाट्य के मरुस्थल में,
तुम किंचित न खोना।
है आर्यपुत्र! तुम विचलित न होना।

उसकी जिह्वा की नोक पर,
मानवाधिकार तुम खोओगे।
वो पत्ते सी छोड़के जाएगी,
तुम दिन-दिन मन में रोओगे।

वो बादल सी उड़ जाएगी,
तुम बूंदों से गिर जाओगे।
जब याद हमारी आएगी,
हमको वहीं पर पाओगे।
अपने मित्रों पे भरोसा,
तुम किंचित न खोना।
है आर्यपुत्र! तुम विचलित न होना।

बेटियाँ



Ashutosh Kumar
4th Year, MME

जूनियर!.... क्या कर रही हो, अभी तक तैयार नहीं हुई.....। ये हैं मेरे पापा।
वैसे तो जिलाधिकारी हैं परंतु मेरी जिम्मेदारी ज्यादा अच्छे से निभाते हैं।
पूरी तन्मयता से। मैं अभी 10 वर्ष की हो गई हूँ और छठवीं में हूँ। पर अभी
भी मैं सारा काम इन्हीं से करवाती हूँ। एक 'बुआ' आती हैं दिन में, उनकी
सहायता के लिए जिन्हें वो 'दीदी' कहते हैं पर वो भी मेरे हर प्लान में मेरी
तरफ ही रहती हैं। वैसे तो टेंशन का खजाना है इनके पास, पर मैंने बोल
रखा है उसे, मेरे सामने मत प्रकट होना नहीं तो फोड़ डालूंगी नाम 'जूनियर'
है तो क्या हुआ काम बड़े-बड़े करने का दम है मेरे पास। थोड़ा भौकाल हो
गया पर सूट करता है मुझे।

एक दिन बैठे-बैठे एक बात सूझी, मेरा नाम जूनियर क्यों??? आप भी सोच
रहे होंगे, क्यों? ऐसे यह मेरा अंतिम नाम है। माफ कीजिएगा प्रथम नाम
नहीं बता सकती, प्राइवसी.....जरूरी है आजकल। मेरा क्या, मेरे गूगल
बाबा तो यहीं थे, पूछा उनसे। थोड़ी टेंशन में थे। जबरदस्ती मुस्कान लाकर
बोलते हैं..... क्या...?? थोड़ा तैश में आकर मैंने फिर दुहराया। पर इस बार
उनके चेहरे का रंग थोड़ा बदला, थोड़ा हाड़बड़ाये, नजरें इधर-उधर करते
हुए बोलते हैं "यह कैसा सवाल है? तुमको अचानक क्या हो गया? क्या
बकवास सवाल पूछ रही हो। इस समय मुझे काम है थोड़ा। काम करने दो।
दीदी..... ले जाइए इसे"। मैंने तो उनसे इस छोटे से सवाल पर इस प्रकार के
व्यवहार की तनिक भी उम्मीद नहीं की थी। मेरे अंदर की लक्ष्मीबाई तलवार
निकालने को आतुर होने लगी। खूब गुस्सा आया। पर बुआ ने बचा लिया
उनको। मैं कमरे में गई, पर आराम नहीं मिल रहा था। बेचैनी थी, ऐसे तो
कभी रिपकट नहीं करते थे?? कुछ तो गड़बड़ है.... दया.....।

मेरे अंदर का जासूस जागृत होने लगा। बस यहीं लगा कि इस गर्मी के
छुट्टी का होमवर्क मिल गया मुझे, छोड़ूंगी नहीं इसे, हर हाल में पूरा
करना है मुझे। मन ही मन यह ठान लिया। मेरी सीआईडी की टीम में
केवल मैं ही थी, बुआ को टीम में शामिल करने का मन नहीं हो रहा
था इस बार। पापा तो इस बार टारगेट ही थे, जिंदगी में पहली बार
दुश्मन की तरह प्रतीत हो रहे थे। पर मैं कम थी क्या 'मी ऑन मिशन'।
मिशन में 'नो हैलो नो हाय' रखो सब पे नज़र, मौके पे करो धार्य।
मिशन प्रारंभ हुआ। मैंने सब से छुपाकर एक मिशन बोर्ड बनाया।
जानकारियां कहाँ-कहाँ से मिल सकती हैं, पापा कुछ छुपा तो नहीं
रहे? अचानक ऐसे क्यों रिपकट किया? क्या सब कुछ ठीक है? यह
सब उनके काम का दबाव तो नहीं? काम में कुछ गड़बड़ तो नहीं या
यह सब केवल भ्रम है मेरा? मन में अनगिनत सवाल थे। एक तरफ यह
भी लग रहा था कि मैं कुछ ज्यादा ही सोच रही हूँ। पर मेरे बालमन में
अनेक जिज्ञासाएँ उठ रही थीं साथ ही अंदर का जासूस किसी स्कैम
या धांधली की ओर ले जा रहा था। पापा सारी मीटिंग्स ऑफिस या
बाहर ही करते, ऑफिस के एक दो लोगों को छोड़कर औरों का घर
आना मना था। मुझे अपना फोन भी नहीं छूने देते जल्दी।

ये सारी चीजें मेरे दिमाग में घूम रही थीं और मैं छोटे-छोटे पॉइंट्स में बोर्ड पर अंकित करते जा रही थी। अचानक मुझे मां की याद आई। ऐसा लगा जैसे मुझे अपने मिशन का स्टार्टिंग पॉइंट मिल गया हो। मां..... वैसे तो इन्होंने कभी मुझे एक मां की कमी महसूस नहीं होने दी। कभी कभार उनके बारे में पूछती तो टाल देते, कहीं कोई फोटो भी नहीं देखा था उनका। याद है एक बार मेरे दोस्त के दबाव डालने पर मैंने ज़िद की थी तो उन्होंने वादा किया था कि मेरे 14वें जन्मदिन पर मिलाएंगे उनसे। फिर मैंने कभी कोशिश नहीं की। कहीं कोई झगड़ा रहा होगा क्यों फिर से उकेरा जाए वैसे भी मेरा क्या मेरे मम्मी और पापा दोनों तो यहीं थे। यह सोचते-सोचते लग रहा है मैं अपने लक्ष्य से भटक रही हूँ, पर इसको नोट कर लेती हूँ। ऐसे करते-करते मैं अपनी पीछे घटी कुछ घटनाओं को नोट करते गई। मेरा सीआईडी और हॉलीवुड फिल्म में देखना आज कुछ काम आ रहा था। इस होमवर्क में मजा भी आ रहा था, काश! स्कूलों में बच्चों को भी ऐसे ही दिलचस्प होमवर्क मिलते। खैर, इस सबके बावजूद भी मैं किसी निष्कर्ष पर नहीं पहुँच पा रही थी। लक्ष्य कहीं दूर नजर आ रहा था। स्रोतों में कहीं ना कहीं कमी जरूर थी, तभी मुझे लक्ष्य का मार्ग नहीं सूझ रहा था। इधर बीच में अपनी तरफ से किसी भी तरह से जाहिर नहीं होने दिया कि मैं ऐसा कुछ कर रही हूँ। बस पापा के व्यवहार का ढंग से अवलोकन करती ताकि कहीं कोई सुराग मिल जाए, ऐसा करते-करते कई दिन निकल गए।

एक दिन दोपहर का समय था। बुआ कीचन में व्यस्त थीं, और पापा अभी ऑफिस से आए नहीं थे। मेरे अंदर के जासूस के सक्रिय होने का यह सुनहरा मौका था। यह मुझे पापा के अलमारी के पास ले गया, जहाँ वे सारा कागज रखते थे। एक-एक को मैं ध्यान से देखने लगी, चीजें तो समझ नहीं आ रही थीं सब ऊपर से ही निकल रही थीं पर मुझे सुराग की तलाश थी। फाइलों के बंडल के बीच मुझे एक डायरी दिखी, उसे पलटा तो कुछ हवा लगा। ध्यान से पलटते-पलटते एक पेज पर लिखा मिला- 'मेरा पत्र जूनियर के नाम'। नाम देख कर कुछ दिलचस्पी बढ़ी, देखते हैं क्या कहना चाहते हैं सोचकर पढ़ने बैठ गई। "प्रिय जूनियर! आज तुमने अपनी मां के बारे में पूछा, मैंने कैसे भी टाल कर तुम्हें तुम्हारे 14वें जन्मदिन पर बताने का वादा किया है। शायद उस दिन भी ना बता पाऊँ इसलिए यह डायरी लिख रहा हूँ। यहीं तुम्हें दे दूंगा। क्या करूँ बात ही कुछ ऐसी है, तुम सारी चीजें अभी समझ नहीं पाओगी और समझ भी जाओ तो तुम्हारे बालमन पर बुरा असर पड़ेगा। सबको लगता है कि मेरा तलाक हो गया है तुम्हारी माँ से और तुम बार-बार अपनी माँ के बारे में जल्दी पूछना भी नहीं चाहती मुझसे ताकि मुझे दुःख ना हो।

तुम्हारी यही भावना एवं इतनी छोटी उम्र में ऐसी समझ देखकर मेरा सर फक्र से और ऊँचा उठ जाता है। मुझे विश्वास बना रहता है कि मैंने उस दिन बिल्कुल सही निर्णय लिया था। आज तुम्हें मैं एक बहुत बड़ी सच्चाई बताने जा रहा हूँ। तुम्हारी माँ के बारे में मैं कुछ जानता ही नहीं। तुम्हें मैंने अनाथालय से गोद लिया था। बस मुझे इतना पता है कि तुम्हारे जन्म के समय तुम्हारी माँ चल बसी थीं। हुआ ऐसा था कि बगल वाले जिला अस्पताल से तुम्हारी माँ और तुमसे संबंधित खबर छपी थी, एक इशतेहार के रूप में। तुम्हारे घरवालों की कोई खबर नहीं थी और माँ अब थीं नहीं। अस्पताल वालों ने बगल के अनाथालय को सौंप दिया और वो एक गोद लेने वालों के तलाश में थे। मुझे वो इशतेहार देखने के बाद रहा नहीं गया, दीदी को दिखाया और राय मांगी। वो तुरंत मान गई। फिर क्या था, मुझे मेरी बेटा मिल गयी - प्यारी जूनियर। यहाँ लाने के बाद तुम्हारी बुआ ने ही तुम्हें पाला है बहुत ही खूबसूरती से। तुम्हारे आने के बाद वो व्यस्त भी रहने लगीं और खूब खुश भी। मेरा मकान भी अब घर लगने लगा था। उन्होंने भी यह सब बात तुमसे छुपाए रखी। देखा जाए तो यह सब उन्हीं का आइडिया था। उनका मैं जीवन भर शुक्रगुजार रहूँगा, उनके बिना तो ये सब संभव ही ना था। मैं अपनी जिम्मेदारी निभा ही नहीं पाता।

रही मेरी बात तो मैंने शादी ही नहीं की। तुम्हारे जीवन में आने के बाद मैं संपूर्ण सा हो गया था, मुझे अब क्या ही चाहिए। मेरा परिवार मेरे साथ है क्योंकि तुम मेरे साथ हो। विश्वास रखो बेटा! जब तक मैं हूँ तुम्हें कोई दिक्कत नहीं आने दूँगा, जीवनभर। वहाँ से लाने के बाद मैंने तुम्हारा नाम मैंने अपने एक अत्यंत प्रिय मित्र के नाम पर रखा क्योंकि तुम्हारी मुस्कान उससे हु-ब-हु मिलती थी। देखना अपने बचपन की फोटो कभी। अरे! अब गुस्सा मत हो जाना, अब भी वैसे ही प्यारी मुस्कान है तुम्हारी। मेरे उस दोस्त से भी अच्छी।"

इतना पढ़ने के बाद तो मैं जैसे काटो तो खून ही नहीं। मैं रोना चाहती थी पर समझ नहीं आ रहा था खुशी से रोऊँ या दुःख में, भगवान ने मेरे लिए पापा के रूप में अवतार ले लिया था। मैं डायरी को जहाँ थी वहीं रख के किचन की तरफ दौड़ी, बुआ को पकड़ लिया, किस किया। वह कुछ समझ पाती, इससे पहले मैंने सारे भाव बदल कर अपनी परंपरागत मुस्कान बिखेर दी और खाने के बारे में पूछ कर धीरे से निकल लिया। आज पापा का इंतजार 14 वर्ष का वनवास लग रहा था। आज उनके प्रति मेरा आदर एवं प्रेम सातवें आसमान पर था। मन हो रहा था उनके कदमों में बैठ जाऊँ और बस बैठी रहूँ। पूजा ही शुरू कर दूँ इनकी। इस मिशन ने तो मेरे लिए जिंदगी की परिभाषा ही बदल दी और वो सुराग पहला और अंतिम सुराग साबित हुआ। स्कैम वाली बात पर हंसी भी आ रही थी और मिशन डायरेक्टर होने के नाते खुद को शाबाशी देने का भी मन हो रहा था। पर ये मिशन मैंने सबके लिए राज ही रखा।



धीरे-धीरे दिन बीतते गये। एक दिन पापा जब ऑफिस से लौटे तो घर का माहौल देखकर अवाक रह गए। सामने 'सीनियर' खड़ी थीं, उनकी अत्यंत प्यारी मित्र। उन्हें देखकर पापा की वो मुस्कान क्या बताऊँ, अद्वितीय। आज तक तो मैंने ऐसा चमकता चेहरा कभी देखा ही नहीं था उनका। फिर वो उनका धीरे से शर्माना, वाह! मजा ही आ गया। पापा कुछ समझ पाते और मैं कुछ कहती इससे पहले वहीं बोलने लगीं। कुछ दिन पहले मेरे ही नाम वाले अकाउंट का रिकवरेस्ट आया एफ. बी. पर। अपना ही नाम देखकर थोड़ी दिलचस्पी बढ़ी। कोई म्यूचुअल दोस्त ना होने पर भी मैंने एक्सेप्ट कर लिया। धीरे-धीरे बातचीत बढ़ी तो सारी बातें मालूम हुई। कैसे जूनियर का मिशन बना, कैसे तुम सो रहे थे और तुम्हारे सारे सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट खंगाले गए, फिर जूनियर ने तुमसे छुपाकर अपने अकाउंट्स बनाए। हमारे फोन नंबर भी एक्सचेंज हुए। अब हम बहुत अच्छे मित्र हैं। धीरे-धीरे तुम्हारी डायरी के बारे में भी पता चला। जूनियर रोज कुछ पढ़ती और उसमें आए लोगों के बारे मुझसे पूछती। ऐसा करते-करते एक दिन तुम्हारी डायरी में मेरा अध्याय खुल गया। तुमने ऐसी-ऐसी बातें लिखी थीं मेरे बारे में और मुझे कभी महसूस नहीं होने दिया। इतना प्रेम करते थे कभी बताया नहीं मुझे। ये सब जानने के बाद मेरी लाइफ तो लगभग रीवाइन्ड सी हो गयी, एक-एक बीता हुआ पल याद करके रोना आ रहा था। पहले बता दिया होता तो ये प्यारी जूनियर आज मेरी भी बेटा होती। गजब का सप्राइज दिया तुमने। पर अब तो सप्राइज देने की बारी हमारी थी, फिर क्या एक छोटा सा प्लान बना साथ ही जूनियर के मिशन का अल्टिमेट गोल भी और मैं यहाँ हूँ। पापा एकदम भावुक हो गए, लगभग रो रहे थे, उन्होंने मुझे गोद में उठा लिया और बस इतना ही पूछा "तुम कब इतनी 'बड़ी' हो गई, जूनियर! मेरे मुँह से अनायास ही निकल गया- पापा! बेटियाँ तो पैदा ही 'बड़ी' होती हैं।

मैनिट गान



विशाल परिसर इसका अनुपम ,कितना सुन्दर प्यारा है,
सारे जहाँ मैं सबसे न्यारा ,यह एक परिवार हमारा है,
नव निर्माण विश्व का करने, करता नित अनुसन्धान ये
प्रति पल बढ़ता

अभियांत्रिकी वास्तुकला शोध प्रबंधन योजना
सब कुछ हमको सिखलाता ये,जीने की सारी कला,
जय हो, जय हो, जय जय जय हो,करते हम आह्वान ये
प्रति पल बढ़ता

राजा भोज की नगरी में ये,बसा है सीना तान के
स्वर्ण जयंती मना रहा ये,आन बान और शान से,
इसकी शान के हम सेनानी,हम सबका अभिमान ये
प्रति पल बढ़ता



I've stared at countless ceilings. Some with nostalgia, others with regret.



Aman Kashyap
EXL Services Pvt. Ltd
Mechanical (Batch of 2020)

It's really wholesome, how we look up, when we are by ourselves, trying to think. I don't know if that happens with everyone, but it's general enough to deserve a mention. It's as if, we are seeking something greater than ourselves, something infinite, as we choose to dwell on our thoughts. Hoping that they might reach something beyond ourselves. A place that preserves memory.

Looking up at another ceiling, I now recall, how I have done this before. But it's all a little hazy now. What was I thinking ten years ago, when I was sitting by myself? I don't know. What will I think ten years later? The glimpse of an unknown ceiling flashes before me. And it excites me as much as it scares me. Another ceiling, another thought, another life. Will I forget about this feeling too? Maybe. But as long as this ceiling exists, so will my memory. Hazy, bittersweet and distant. Just like my countless selves that sat in the same place. Looking up, thinking, hoping.

I guess it's time to close my eyes now. I wonder if the ceiling will change as quickly as a wink. I am not sure anymore. But by the time I figure it out, it would've already. Staring back at me, asking almost teasingly,

"What's up?"



SHOWCASE

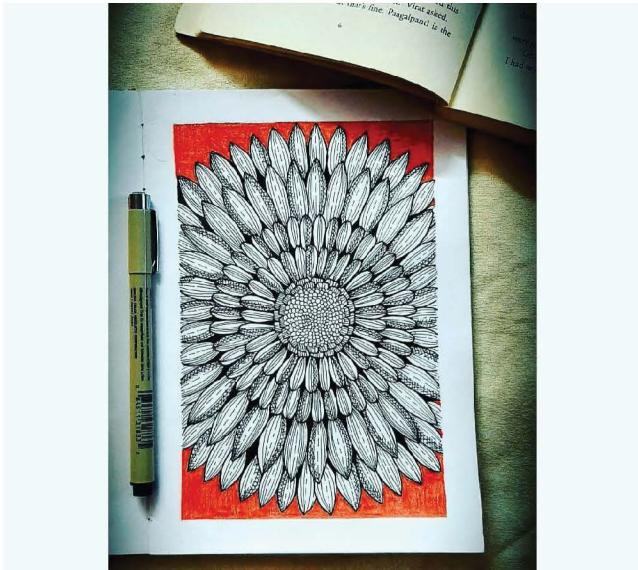
General Artwork



Shrasti agrawal
2nd Year, Architecture



Vernika Verma
2nd, Architecture



Shailja Babu
3rd Year, EE



Amreen Qureshi
1st Year, CHE



Prelude

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

Efforts convert ambitions into reality. The path forward will be filled with obstacles, but the thing to remember is that there always exists a hand to be held, a hand with the power to pull you up when you feel that life is pushing you down. Numerous career paths exist, but the advice from the very people who've been in your place is priceless.

So, what are your options? Seeking guidance from those who have gone through these struggles themselves is the best bet you can make to get out of this tangled web that has trapped you. And that's why you're here, right? You seek insight on stuff shrouded from the distant eye. Maybe to discover more viable routes to reaching your goal. To hear the words of those who have aced their fields.

Why struggle in ambiguous online forums and be plagued by unsure opinions when you have gilded resources of the highest caliber. Your seniors. Experience does matter, and an opportunity to gain that very knowledge is like getting the answers to a test a day before. Utilize this trove of experiences and proper field knowledge your senpais have amassed through all their years and provide yourself with a better jumpstart for your career.

A sound judgment doesn't require trial and error anymore. The better option is here. For that is the purpose of the Career Section.

Interlude

MANIT has the most diverse and eager to help Alumni network. Without any delay, they agree to share their opinions on the challenges they faced and their juniors might come to see in the future. Stepping into the spotlight this year, we have Kritika Kharbanda and Rudrapriya Yadav, two women who have made it big in their respective fields. Continue



Career

ahead to take a sneak peek inside their lives. Exploration of fields hidden in plain sight can open a new door to careers you might never have even heard of. The optimal match involves a mix of varied choices but coherent in terms of interest. We look at two such prospective career branches: Freelance and Product Management. Explore and enlighten yourself.

And finally, the one thing which guides hopes and ambitions itself. The stories of victories from the immediate past are the dream of inspiration for the future. The Placement Stats help identify the trends and help prepare for the particular goal one might have set for themselves. And who even skips placement stats anyway?

So, are you ready to kickstart your career?

ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Rudrapriya Yadav

VLCC Femina Miss India Madhya Pradesh, **Rudrapriya Yadav**, is a MANIT B. Plan graduate of the Batch of 2013-17. She works as a Research associate alongside pursuing her dream of working in the Modelling industry.

She took time out of her busy schedule to tell us about her journey.



Q1. When did you seriously start considering modelling as a career option?

It's been two years that I have been modelling, and after Miss India Madhya Pradesh, I was all into it. I never thought of opting for Modelling as a career option, as we all have parents preaching to us about having a solid career in conventional streams. But I always had an inclination towards fashion since college. So, when I finished my master's, I thought I could give it a try. But I am doing it all alongside my job as a research associate to keep my parents satisfied and my brain functioning. Besides, it's always good to have a backup.

Q2. What was the driving force behind your decision to choose this as a career? What particularly interests you to follow this stream?

I love being on stage; being in front of a camera makes me really happy. It allows me to express the inner diva that I usually cannot

show to people in regular life. I feel that everyone can become a model; we all have that diva within ourselves.

All you need is some confidence, and that's it.

Besides this, you get to travel and meet so many new people. Sometimes you end up meeting great personalities and you learn a lot throughout the whole process, which is really exciting. This profession never gets mundane, and you never mind putting in extra efforts to be the best.

Q3. Is there any specific criteria to meet, for an individual to participate in beauty pageants? Do you suggest the juniors who aspire to join this industry undergo grooming?

There are so many beauty pageants happening these days, and every pageant has its own specific criteria. That's a technical part. But first of all, you have to be very sure; if you want to get into it or not. It takes a lot to just crack into

the world, which requires channelling your energy through the right medium. There are ways to do it, but one of the easiest ways is to get grooming from the trusted people and associate yourself with them. They can actually help you to make an entry to pageantry or Modelling, for that matter.

Q4. There are schools providing Modelling training, particularly, so for an engineering student, what are the hardships to be faced in this industry compared to someone having a degree in this field?

You don't need any degree to be creative. There are multiple ways to showcase your talent. If it's really good and unique, people will approach you. It's you who decides your worth in here, not any degree.

The only difference is that the students from fashion institutions are always exposed to this environment.

But for students from engineering or any other stream, it is difficult to figure it out for once in the beginning.

Q5. Besides staying fit physically, how important is sound mental health when following your career path? What are your mantras for achieving the above?

Don't let anything get inside your head. Always find something to keep you busy and your mind at peace. Whatever makes you happy, just make sure you find time to do that. It is very very important to have strong willpower. Don't compare yourself to anyone, that's the only thing you need to know in this field.

People will come and try to mess up with your head but never underestimate yourself. You just have to give your best and leave the rest.

Q6. Your work requires a constant presence on social media from your side. Has it affected your life in any way? How does your lifestyle differ from other people?

Handling my social media is something I am struggling with right now. I am super bad at keeping it active. I think about posting content, but then I forget. So you can figure out how less I think about it. It has never negatively affected me because I somehow feel that the whole purpose of the internet and social media was to keep us connected and aware. That's all I seek out of it. The only thing which is important for us is to keep it updated because our work is all about social media.

As far as lifestyle is concerned, there's not much of a difference. We all are humans, so we do the same things as everybody else. Due to the fact that our work is all about being in front of the camera, we have to be very particular about our fitness, make sure we sleep well and take good care of our skin, body, etc. Well, I feel that everyone should do that because nothing is more important than health.

Q7. How do you manage to establish a parallel between your profession as a researcher in urban planning and your passion for Modelling?

That one has really been a task for me. But with time, I just got better at setting priorities, and people around me became more supportive. I prefer keeping my brain working, and Modelling is as important as the other job. When you really are passionate about something you will do everything to make it right.

I have spent six years of my life on education; I won't let it go like that. So, I had to make it work. I did nothing but just gave that little extra effort.

Q8. How did the pandemic affect you personally? Did things change in this industry as well?

I know that the pandemic has really affected so many lives. It disturbed me quite a lot to see all that was happening to our planet. The whole experience was difficult. But, being someone who always tries to stay positive, this pandemic gave me the exact break I was looking for.

Everything in my life happened very fast. Right after school, I got into college. After that, I did my masters, and right after my masters, I got a job. I was managing my Modelling alongside.

So, I finally got some time off for myself. I learned to play the guitar. I tried to cook and did so many things that I never got the chance to do. Also, I got some time to spend with my family. So overall, for me personally, the experience was not that bad.

And yes, in this industry, so many things changed after the pandemic. Earlier, Mumbai used to be the hub of the fashion world. But now, everything has come to Delhi. People are getting more work here than in "Bombay"; the dynamics have certainly changed.

Q9. Do you feel that people still put this field aside from mainstream career fields?

Yes! It's not our fault; I mean, this is what our elders have been inculcating in our brains. It is an inbuilt thought for the people of our generation. But I am sure it will get better in the future.

Even I for a very long time considered Modelling as a recreational thing alongside my job. But with time, I've come to a realization that this can be a solid career plan for anybody.

Q10. What are your career goals for the future?

Well! I never planned on getting into Modelling at first, but it's happening now. I might continue doing it for a while. But eventually, I want to do a Ph.D. and become a professor.

Q11. Would you like to give any message to your juniors who aspire to follow the same path as you?

Just a few very vital things, such as optimism and a belief in yourself. That begins by being very sure of what you are and what you want out of your life. If you know yourself, then nothing can stop you. We need more strong-headed and confident people here.

Always have a backup plan which is going to help you to keep your mental peace intact. Education is very very important, so finish your education first, and then go do whatever you want to do in life.

Last but not the least, just know that you are a diva and nobody can change a thing about it. Even boys can be divas, so I don't have anything different for them: p. But it's always good to stay grounded and respect people around you. If you do that, you will go a long way.

INTERVIEW

ALUMNI INTERVIEW

Kritika Kharbanda

A B.Arch graduate of the Batch of 2019, Kanpur born **Kritika Kharbanda** is a source of inspiration for those Architecture students who wish to break the mold and attain new heights in their field. She's travelled, explored, and worked in different countries and experienced their diverse cultures. Between juggling her work at Henning Larsen Architects as well as pursuing her Masters in Design Studies from Harvard, she's found time to interview with us and provide insight for those students.



Q1. Could you tell us something about your current position and your college life?

I have been working at Henning Larsen Architects (HLA) in Copenhagen since August 2019. I also joined Harvard GSD in August 2020 for pursuing a Master's degree. The last six months were pretty rough, balancing work and school, so now I am taking a sabbatical from school to gain more work experience.

My time at HLA has been super exciting, with a new project dictating even higher ambitions waiting around the corner. There is no question that HLA has a massive role in my progress — I have learnt so much! Finding that sweet spot for your personal and professional growth in a large office is tough, and I got lucky with it. I was faced with a bumpy start at the GSD, because of the unusual circumstances. The virtual school was a bitter-sweet experience. I hated it yet grew to love it towards the end.

I never met the students within my cohort, but we became close because of the group projects, slogging our asses off to meet deadlines. And oh, the time difference! I was in a group once (by chance) with a teammate in China and one in the US. That should sum up my experience. Apart from these hiccups, I am very excited to get back to it.

Q2. Can you give us a glimpse of your journey after MANIT?

After my thesis in the fourth semester, I did my mandated internship at Kengo Kuma & Associates (KKAA) in Tokyo, Japan, starting in December 2018. It was for three months only, so I returned to India in March 2019 and joined Morphogenesis in New Delhi as a Junior Architect. Meanwhile, I applied to other opportunities that brought me closer to the specialization I wanted to do as part of higher education. Luckily, I bagged an internship at HLA and joined the firm as a Sustainability Intern in August 2019, after graduating from MANIT.

After working (almost) triple shifts in both Tokyo and Delhi, Copenhagen's work culture came as a pleasant surprise. I had never had so much free time for myself! Though I had no plans to apply for graduate school right away, I decided to give it a shot in that academic year, simply because I had so much time at hand. I applied to a few schools and chose the best option I had in front of me. Giving my seat away at the GSD

Q3. When and how did you figure out what you wanted to do in life?

To be honest, I am still figuring it out! It's a dynamic process, right?

I first gained consciousness of the fact that architecture is not equivalent to iconicity during my internship at KKAA. My supervisor, Rue-san, was the coolest yet the most passionate architect I have met to date. He made me realize that there are two kinds of architects — the good and the great. The two adjectives seem close in meaning but are antonyms. The former is easy to attain. To become the latter, one needs to gain consciousness that there is so much more to architecture than imagination, perception, and emotions. Fangirling in Tokyo, I visited projects by my idols — Ando, Ito, Isozaki, and Tange's works leaving me flabbergasted.

After moving to Scandinavia, a new perspective came into my perception of architecture. I was still rooted in my architectural heart, but I gained consciousness of the Anthropocenic era we are already in now. I realized that as architects we can play a role in capsizing this great acceleration. I still acknowledge the works by my idols as visionary and unique.

However, today, architecture needs to serve a higher purpose. Discussions in the architecture communities within Scandinavia have always revolved around how the latest project is

sustainable, and not how iconic it is. (Although, exceptions are always there!) Being a part of such an environment made me acknowledge the direction I am moving in today.

Q4. You have had a golden track record, unlocking achievements one after the other. What drives you to out-do yourself?

I absolutely, truly, love what I do. I love designing — all aspects of it — from making a silly illustration that conveys the story to drafting even the smallest of details. It's my passion that probably blurs the line between work and play.

I believe that architecture is surprisingly versatile, giving me the flexibility and space to explore the deep ends of it. Unknown waters are often scary, but I realized that real growth starts only when you dare to aim out of your league. I sent out almost 50 applications for the first internship. This number dropped to 8 in the recent past. So, grabbing an opportunity, working for it, and aspiring for more has made me confident.

Q5. Getting in Harvard is a pretty big deal. Could you tell us how it all came together?

It's actually super interesting because Harvard was never my first choice! Truth be told, I really wanted to get into MIT but my chances were bleak from the start because of the lack of work experience.

To start with, I shortlisted around 6 schools based on the courses I found intriguing and started preparing my portfolio in mid-October (2019). Considering MIT as the goal, I followed their application requirements.

Gambling like a pro now, I took my GRE and IELTS test after a brief preparation stint. As the application dates neared, panic level started to rise because the SOP was the ultimate hurdle that I still had to pass. Or so I thought. Almost 15 days before the Harvard deadline, while skimming through their website, I came across the requirement that only TOEFL scores shall be considered, instead of IELTS — which was not

even in my equation! That night, I decided to not apply for Harvard and instead focus on the remaining ones. The next day though, I realized that my boyfriend had already looked up the next test which was in two days. With the help of a friend, he convinced me to take it. Having nothing to lose, I took the chance, appeared for the test and thank my stars to this day.

I was on a vacation in Prague on the last day of submission. I pressed the button on the morning of December 31 and shut my laptop for good. In mid-February, I got an email from Harvard asking to take another test for English proficiency, all thanks to my “superb” GRE and TOEFL scores.

That email made me hopeful – I was not even expecting anything prior to that. So, I took the test, sent in my scores and got the official congratulatory letter in early March.

Q6. What is your favorite thing about architecture?

The power and synergy associated with architecture is what makes me passionate about it. Architecture has the power to mould human perception, to shape societies, to define our outright way of living even!

When you look at a picture of any city, immediately an image forms in your mind of a kind of lifestyle. It's the scope of imagination and innovation working clandestinely that makes me love architecture. To explain through an example, I

was once working on a children's science museum. In the central courtyard, our team envisioned a climbing installation for children, moving from the underground gallery to the plaza. Here, to educate the visitors on the funneling effect, we designed a wind chimney, very cultural yet avant garde. The holistic ideation of technology with architecture was defined by the simple moment of a child feeling the cold winds at the zenith of the climbing structure.

Q7. What would be your advice to the budding architects?

To stop, breathe and think about what you really want to do. I see students settling for opportunities for the sake of doing something. To not do anything for a while is not the end of the world (I can use this too!) Also, more of a cliché, but don't be afraid of change. I've spent a decent amount of time in two contrastingly opposite cities, with cultures diverging wide as the ocean. I've also taken several chances, mostly in the form of a leap of faith, that made me realize my potential. So, I'd say that real growth comes from change, when you expand the boundaries of your comfort zone.

Q8. Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

Sarah Whiting, the Dean at Harvard GSD, once told me to **never plan beyond 2 years and to take that advice to grave**. You never can know what all can happen within 5 years. So, I don't really have a vision in place for 5 years!

Q9. That is surprisingly deep. So then, where do you see yourself in the next 2 years?

Touché. I might consider taking up a PhD position after completing my graduation. I want to stay at this sweet intersection where the profession meets research, which to me, is most rewarding.

Q10. What are some things you wish you knew 5 years ago?

The size of the monitor one uses is directly proportional to their productivity. I realized that in my final year of undergrad and there's no turning back now. Another tip on that: the number of monitors can also influence the productivity equation.

On a serious note, I realized most architects believe they are destined to become architects

if they can read some books, quote the glossy phrases and babble on about it. I wish to have broken away from this stereotypical portrayal of the architect superhero sooner. There is so much more to a good architect than this!

Q11. What are some life lessons you've learned from travelling through different countries?

The most important lesson I've learnt is that I've so much more to learn! Each new city is a new box of puzzle that unravels slowly and steadily. It's not always kind or beautiful. A life hack essential for survival was to learn to do anything and everything on my own. I also realized that people are pretty much similar everywhere — we all share the same fears. Making good friends along the way made that path easy and interesting.

Q12. In light of the covid situation, with travel bans being implemented in many countries, what are some areas that you think an architecture student should focus on to improve?

Read — as much as you can! I'd recommend architecture students to read through the project archives, the perspectives of artists and architects, of projects both built and unbuilt. It's through reading that imagination obtains the fuel. I'm not a good sketcher, but I do maintain a diary where I record interesting accounts or vent out my emotions through illustrations. This habit has helped me to maintain my sanity while being alone at home. Another piece of advice would be to learn software that boosts your CV — in whatever field seems intriguing to you.

Q13. You're hailed as a legend in the architecture department, tales of your accomplishments are still passed over at parties, what advice would you give to those that look up to you? If you were to warn them of mistakes you made, what would they be?

Let me start off by saying — I am no legend. I am merely passionate about learning and I always will be.

One solid piece of advice for takers is to follow your gut. It's usually right. There will be times when people will not be supportive of your decisions, but you know the best for yourself.

In the initial years of undergraduate school, I was fearful of upsetting my friends at the time. My worst nightmare was loneliness. So, I went out of my way to make sure that those people stayed in my life. I wish I knew that was the worst thing I'd been doing to myself. I realized it much later, probably around my final year. It was at that time when I 'upgraded' and found myself in a circle of friends who truly loved me and helped me grow. Though this helped me understand so much about myself, I wish I could rescind this, and save all those years in the first place if I could. I don't regret the past and look forward to what the future beholds!

FREEDOM WITH FREELANCE



What?

- a** A freelance job is where a person works for themselves, rather than a company. Freelancing can involve taking contracts from companies and organizations, but ultimately, it is self employment.
- b** **Freelancing can be done in any field. However, the three broad categories for freelance work are :**
 Writing
 Art, Design & Photography
 IT & Development
- c** Every field has their pros & cons, and freelancing is no different. It works for some people and doesn't work for others. Ultimately, it boils down to one's priorities, and the time at hand. However, with looming fear of unemployment and the poor placement scenario of core branches, one could try their hand out in freelancing.
- d** As a full time option, freelancing might not be for everyone. This is because, unlike traditional employment, freelance is something where the person has to set the structure for themselves. Also, when done full time, freelancing might be a bit intimidating and can take time to generate a considerable source of income. However, for college students, freelancing might just be perfect as a part time opportunity to generate some side income while providing a lot of experience.

Why?

a Freedom

- When you work for a company, the structure is provided for you. Things like work timings, setting deadlines, client meetings, closing deals, filing taxes, etc are decided and enforced by the employer. As a freelancer, however, you get to choose and decide everything.
- This gives you flexibility so you don't have to follow a strict routine.
- You get to decide how much your work is worth and you can personally negotiate that with the client. Indian clients are stubborn and want everything to be done as cheaply as possible. However, overseas clients are more understanding, and value the work enough to pay for it.

b Growth

- Unlike traditional employment, where only the relevant job skills are honed, freelancing can 'force' you to grow in a holistic fashion. Client communication, networking, problem solving, selling, business negotiation, and time management are some of the skills that you'll hone while freelancing.

c Money

- If done smartly, one can make a lot of money while freelancing. It depends on various factors, such as:

★ The industry that you choose to work

- In India alone, almost two-thirds of the small businesses do not have a website. This can be a huge advantage for finding web work, if the business owners can be convinced that they need a website. Bridging the communication gap here is key. Most business owners aren't quite tech savvy, so they won't be interested in knowing what programming languages and frameworks you know, they simply

want their problems solved. A promise of increased profits can turn the negotiation in your favour. Remember, the more value you can provide to the business, the more you can charge for your services. This is not limited to web/android work, there is freelance work available in any CS/IT field.

- Core branch students with an aptitude for their subjects can choose to tutor online, solve problems, clear doubts etc. There are several online services that pay for every problem that you solve. A quick google search is all that's needed.
- Have you got a creative flair? Do you write well? Or are you good at design and art? Or are you someone who knows how to sell? Think about something that excites you and at which you're good. Free online tutorials are available for almost everything. It can be tough to start out but persistent effort and patience is rewarding. After finishing the first few jobs, expand your network, and the testimonials from clients will be important in getting new clients.

★ The work you put in

- The ugly truth is that freelancing is hard and getting your first client is even harder. Getting into the market, trying to build a name for yourself, seeking to attract clients, as a college student with no experience, is a herculean task. Might as well roll up in a blanket and cry yourself to sleep. However, is it something impractical? Is it something where the effort that you put in, will eventually go to waste? I beg to differ. If your sole aim is to make it (\$\$\$) rain (which I admit, is a fine ambition and worth the hustle), let me give you glad tidings of disappointment. It's like launching your own startup, don't expect to make any profits for the first couple years.

Here, you're investing in yourself. When you put yourself out there, learning and applying what you learn to real world problems, you will eventually grow.

Where?

a Online

- There are many websites for freelance work, sign up for as many as you can. Fill up their forms, write a decent bio, add in your portfolio, and start looking for work. After getting over the hurdle of getting your first client, things get smoother. Keep your rates low in the starting, money making will come later. Right now your goal is to get good testimonials from clients, which will be key in getting new clients and will validate your skills. You can use them to negotiate your pricing in future.
- Use social media platforms to find work. Join the freelancing communities on Facebook and Telegram. LinkedIn, being a network of professionals, can also be used to reach out to potential clients.
- Lastly, if the above steps don't work out, you can always resort to the good ol' cold emailing method.

- The amount of time and effort you put in developing a particular skill is directly proportional to your growth and expertise. Freelancing is a skill like any other. To get good at it, you have to put in consistent efforts with the right approach.

b Offline

- If you can't find work online, do not despair. There's the whole offline market waiting for you to tap into. Yes, this is much harder and more time consuming, but you'll learn a lot. Managing this whilst being in college will be tough, but you can use weekends to scout your locality. Think about it, every social outing can be a potential client pitch for you. From restaurants, barber shops, wholesale shops to schools, clinics, small companies etc, you have a diverse potential clientele.
- If you've got any friends or family who work, you can ask them to get you some freelance work in that domain. Even if you don't get paid here, the testimonials will help your online portfolio.

When?

a In-College

- It is understandable that managing freelancing along with college work can be quite hectic and tiring. You have to prioritise and manage your time effectively.

b Vacations

- Vacations are a great time for getting into freelancing. You'll have lots of time on your hands and your local city with their diverse businesses at your disposal. Network, network, network!



How?

a Learn

- You need to have a skill before you can potentially monetise it. So learn something. Be it writing, designing, or developing, figure out what interests you and start learning. Youtube is your friend here. You can literally learn anything from youtube free of cost. All it takes is a bit of research.



b Build

- Next comes building your portfolio. Sure you may know a,b,and c. But a potential client will want to see what you're capable of. Therefore, you need to start doing projects and showcasing them all in one place. You can even build a wordpress website to use as a portfolio.

c Plan

- Having a plan set out will make things much easier and give quick results. Do not go head first into it with only vigor and enthusiasm. Instead, take a step back and think critically about the market, and the opportunities available. As a student, there will be limited time at hand to put in the work, so use it wisely. Taking the time to figure out a niche instead of grabbing whatever comes through the door, will result in better opportunities and the ratio of work put in vs money made will be much better.

d Reach

- One of the main factors that affect your success as a freelancer is your network. The more you grow your network, the more chances of better work you get. As your reputation grows, you can begin pricing your work as you like. A good word of mouth goes a long way.

e Grow

- The more you actively work as a freelancer, the more you'll notice that you're no longer a nervous amateur anymore, you're a working professional who can handle clients on his own. You understand business, negotiation, client communication, and many more things. Needless to say, your expertise in your work will definitely improve. If you decide to pursue freelancing full-time, you can start your own freelancing business agency. It will be tough and you'll have to stay disciplined, but you'll be your own boss, essentially. If at any point you decide to quit freelancing and get a job somewhere, your freelancing experience will put you miles ahead of other candidates. You can also use the vast network that you've built to help you get a full time job.

Beginner's guide to Product Management

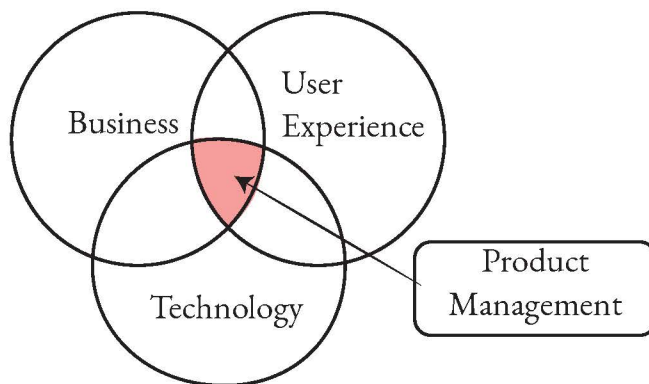
When it comes to choosing a career, people feel that they are bound by limited choices, especially engineering campuses like MANIT. You can either opt for a placement in your core branch, break a leg in the IT sector via coding, or go ahead with a general placement in

consultancy firms. But what if there was more to it than meets the eye? What if there was a brand new emerging job profile in India that can probably become the next big thing in the years to come? Welcome, Product Management!



1 Hold on! What exactly is this Product Management? Fancy name for salesmen? Will I be a manager?

Glad you asked. Basically, if you browse the internet, you'll find a variety of answers and all of them are correct. This is such a dynamic role, that it's hard to point a finger in one direction. Let us try to understand better with a chart.



A product manager's role includes but is not limited to:

- Creating roadmaps for development of the product.
- Deciding timelines for new features and updates to be rolled out.
- Coordinating between different teams to ensure work is being done as per the schedule.
- Coming up with new features and ideas.
- Prioritizing between tasks, evaluating trade-offs and coming to the conclusion of which feature/product should be built next.
- Conduct user research, evaluate metrics and make sense out of data.
- Align products with the company's goals and visions and test the success of products using various hypotheses.

And the list goes on and on. You see why there is no single answer. In fact the role itself varies from one company to another. Especially for beginners, there are only a couple of features in a product that they work with, before gaining experience and taking responsibility for the entire product.

2 Too much chit chat about Product. But what exactly is a Product?

Anything that can be used by a consumer is a product. It can either be a software or a hardware. Most tech companies hire product managers for managing their in-house applications, websites, interfaces etc. You might be familiar with the terminology of "Product Based Companies". The term product holds the same meaning here as well.

3 I hear the word manager in the job title. Don't I need an MBA to be a manager?

Wow you're clearly inquisitive. Actually it would make perfect sense for MBA grads to opt in for the role of a product manager. And as a matter of fact, they do so quite often. This is a very lucrative career and colleges like IIM Ahmedabad have dedicated clubs like the Prod-Man club for training and preparing aspiring product managers.

4 I hear tech and managing IT products. Does it mean I need to know how to code? Is this just a fancier variant of a Software Engineering role?

The answer to this question is bittersweet.

Coding experience is good to have, especially when you are going to be spending so much of your time, interacting and managing digital products.

That being said, coding, especially things like Data Structures, Algorithms and competitive programming are not necessarily the skills that companies are looking for in a product manager.

You could try to get your hands dirty by building a project in Web Development or Android since most products do revolve around these domains. But again, these are good to have and not necessary.

There are some technical tools which you need to familiarize yourself with. We'll talk about them a bit later.

5 **Wow that seems like some work. Before I even consider it, is the pay even worth it?**

You'd be mildly surprised to know that in a tech firm the salaries of Associate Product Managers (APMs) are comparable and sometimes even higher than those of a Software Development Engineer (SDE). For exact figures, you can always have a look at Glassdoor for individual companies.

6 **If this is such a hot and trendy domain, why haven't I heard about this before?**

Companies are very choosy when they recruit product managers. Even more so, when hiring undergraduates for the role of APM. The nature of the job is such by design that for almost every 10 software engineers, you have 1 product manager. Therefore, less number of job vacancies mean less people actually get to have a career in this field.

That being said, a boom of small and medium sized start-ups in the country has shifted the focus from developing new products offshore to developing them in house in India. Presently, many companies go to selected IITs and BITS for hiring product managers on campus.

Companies such as flipkart have an extensive 2 year APM program especially designed for aspiring PMs.

The job profile itself is very popular abroad, and you will certainly hear more about it in the years to come.

7 **That sounds disheartening. If no company visits the campus for this profile, how do I get in?**

That is not exactly true. This year itself, MANIT saw one company in the final year which came in for the role of Product Analyst, who would be promoted to full time product managers after a duration of 2 years. The salary offered was 12 LPA, so that is a good start.

For the third year students, a firm named Upraised came on campus which conducted a national level APM internship program and selected a few student(s) for the same.

Hopefully, in the years to come, we'll see more such roles for on campus placements.

8 **Is there a chance for me to apply off campus?**

Definitely! There are so many roles out there waiting for you to grab them. All you need is the right skill set and a little preparation to get shortlisted and ace those interviews.

9 **And what exactly would be the right skill set for this role?**

Here is a list of some resources that could help.

Try reading two books namely Cracking the PM Interview by Gayle McDowell and Decode and Conquer by Lewis C. Lin. These books are considered foundational and most PM candidates would swear by them. Reading them would give you an insight about the interview process, what to expect and in general broaden your perspective.

You should get into the habit of making product observations. Look around yourself, see all the things you use on a daily basis whether it's your laptop, a particular app, or even your bed. Think about why it is designed the way it is, what pain points does it address and what changes can you introduce. Such mindset will go a long way in building the intuitive product sense that organizations look out for.

You need to get in touch with other people who are also preparing or even are doing full time PM jobs. You can try Lewis Lin's PM Practice Slack group, StellarPillars etc.

Then there is also the question of practice. It takes time and effort to get better at the interviews. You could check out a website called Pramp which pairs you with random people having similar skill sets to help with interview prep. You can also check out the website Crafting Cases to get better at solving problems.

Finally, there are dedicated websites such as Upraised and The Product Folks which help people transition or break into a career in Product Management.

10 You were going to talk about technical skills. Did you forget?

Nope! Let's talk about some tools and platforms that you should be familiar with. Note, unlike coding experience which was good to have, these are almost a must for most companies.

MS Excel -

Yes. One of the most underrated softwares is actually super important especially for PMs and Data Analysts. And not just the general spreadsheet. You need to be good with excel commands, formulas, building dashboards and if possible VBA programming. It is advisable to take up an Udemy course or follow some reliable youtube playlist.

SQL

Structured Query Language or SQL is a super important database management language. It is often a part of DBMS. You can check out W3Schools for their amazing content on SQL. Or just bother your CSE friends. Whatever suits you! This again is a must have skill.

Data Visualization -

Data analysis is of little to no use if you can't present it in a form which is easily comprehensible to everyone. Excel does have some pretty neat visualization tools but it is good to have experience with specific tools such as Tableau or Power BI. They tend to give you an edge over other candidates.

Design -

Yup, you heard it right. Products should be beautiful and elegant. Therefore you should have some experience with how to build effective yet elegant products without getting into too much detail. Learn about terms such as breadboarding, wireframing and explore tools like Figma. Caution: Don't get too much into it! Leave some work for the actual UI/UX designers.

PRD

It stands for Product Requirements Document. It is beyond the scope of this article to talk much about PRDs as they are vast. But you can explore them on your own. Sometimes, having an awareness is all that it takes to get successful in an interview.

Now, all being said and everything left to be done, what are you waiting for! Grab the next Product Job and make us proud. Good luck!

PLACEMENT STATS 2020 21

Sl. No.	Date	Name of Company	Status	Civil	Elec	Mech	ECE	CSE	MME	Chem	Arch	B.Plan	UG	MBA	MCA	M.Tech	PG	PPO	UG +PG	TTL SLCN	Internship 1/2M	6/10M	PKG (LPA)
1	18-Aug	Amazon					1	3					0				0	4	4	4	0	15	28.75
2	20-Aug	Nutanix					0						0				0	0	0	4	0	0	32
3	21-Aug	Goldman Sachs						5					0				0	5	5	9	5	0	23
4	24-Aug	Deutsche Bank					4	10					8		2		2	7	16	25	9	0	19.63
5	25-Aug	Codenation		0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0		0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	31
6	26-Aug	Pharmany					0	1				1	1				0	0	1	26	0	0	11
7	27-Aug	Avalara					0	0					0				0	0	0	26	0	0	20
8	30-Aug	Oracle					1	5					6			0	0	0	6	32	0	0	13
9	31-Aug	Publicis Sapient					2	3					5				0	0	5	37	0	0	9
10	31-Aug	Axxela		0	0	0	2	0	0	0			2				0	0	2	39	0	0	11
11	31-Aug	ZS Associates			0		2	7					9				0	0	9	48	0	0	8.93
12	2-Sep	Sagezza					0	0					0		1	0	1	0	1	49	0	0	6.5
13	2-Sep	Paytm			1		1	0					2			0	0	0	2	51	0	1	9
14	3-Sep	JPMC					2	11					6				0	7	13	64	4	0	14
15	3-Sep	LT Infotech		4	7	13	11	5	3	12			55				0	0	55	119	0	0	8
16	7-Sep	Flipkart						3					0				0	3	3	122	2	1	26.57
17	8-Sep	Jivox					1	2					3				0	0	3	125	0	0	15
18	9-Sep	GEP						1					1				0	0	1	126	3	0	10
19	11-Sep	Biourja			0								0			0	0	0	0	126	0	0	3.5
20	12-Sep	Infoedge					3	6					9				0	0	9	135	0	0	12
21	12-Sep	Celigo					2	2					4				0	0	4	139	0	0	13
22	15-Sep	Incture			0	0	1	3					4		2		2	0	6	145	0	0	8
23	16-Sep	Zomato			0		1	2					3				0	0	3	148	0	0	19
24	18-Sep	American Express						0					0				0	0	0	148	0	4	13
25	18-Sep	Sciative Solutions						1					1			1	1	0	2	150	0	0	7.5
26	19-Sep	Samsung R&D Bangalore			1		4	2					6			0	0	0	6	156	6	0	13
27	20-Sep	Bajaj				2		1					3				0	0	3	159	2	0	9.5
28	29-Sep	John Deere						3					3				0	0	3	162	3	0	10
29	29-Sep	Mahindra Comviva			0	0	1	2					3		8		8	0	11	173	0	0	6.5
30	5-Oct	SRF								1			1				0	0	1	174	2	0	6

Prelude

These past four years (or 2.75 years, to be accurate) have been remarkable. Filled with highs and lows, with success and failures, and with friendship and love.

Every journey starts just the same, confused freshmen, trying to find their way in NTB, preparing for freshers, and walking in long lines back and forth. But the final result is so different and remarkable, it is nothing short of a miracle.

College is perhaps the only place where you lose yourself in a collective identity to find what truly lies within. It is about the chances you take, the rules you break, the people you meet, and the memories you make.

From your regular buddies at Mata to your annoying roommates, from your pesky lab partners to your secret crush, MANIT wouldn't be the same without any one of them. And more importantly, MANIT wouldn't be the same without you. These walls are only as hallowed as you make them (through graffiti or otherwise). In this next section, we have two very special segments, namely MANIT Oscars and our jugaad alternative to the Batch Photoshoot that we could never have. After all, are we MANITians if we cannot master the art of jugaad to achieve what we want?

Interlude

Fate has perhaps been the most unfair with the passing Batch of 2021. They didn't get to have the Final Year they deserved. After all, college is so much more than classes and placements. And even though it was no one's fault, the price had to

Final Year Tribute



be paid by the entire batch of seniors. They were even robbed of Farewells and batch photos that would have given them occasional jolts of nostalgia in the years to come. Nevertheless, before you bid goodbye to MANIT for one last time, we want you to

flip through these pages, relive those golden memories for one last time and maybe even use this as a reminder of everything that you cherished about college.

Here is our tribute to the Final Year Students of 2021.

MANIT OSCARS'21

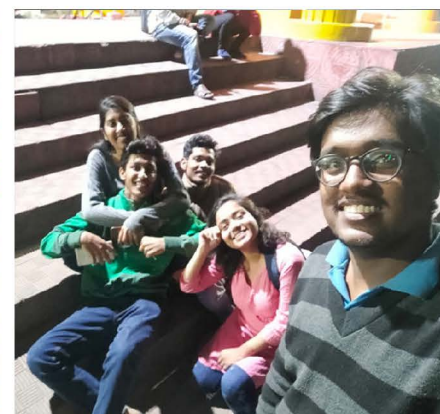
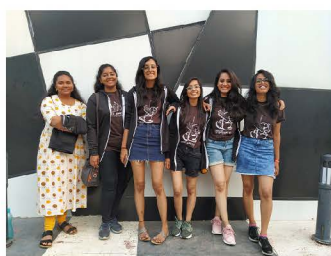
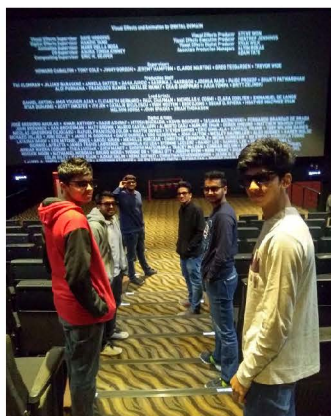


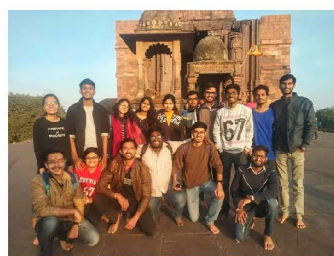
Mr. NSP	Ms. NSP	Most Eligible Bachelor	Most Eligible Bachelorette
Albin Abi Thomas Cibi Chakravarthy Divyansh Singh	Khyati Upadhyay Naincy Modi Suhani Dubey	Albert Simon Philip Tushar Jaiswal Vibhore Srivastava	Joanne Elizebeth Daniel Naincy Modi Paridhi Joshi
Couple Of The Batch	Sportsperson Of The Batch	Dealer Of The Batch	Always Senti
Aakar-Divyani Siddharth-Saumya Gaurav-Mansi	Aachman Gangrade Durga Majhi Uttara Athale	Ansh Satwani Durga Majhi Hitesh Jain	Divyansh Khare Rachita Dhummi Suryansh Gupta
Chimney Of The Batch	Sabka Dost	Neta Of The Batch	Dramebaaz/Nautanki
Aditya Roy Chowdhury Aniruddh Deshpande Devesh Shukla	Devesh Shukla Sakshi Choudhary Rachita Dhummi	Alefiya Stationwala Pushpendra Singh Rawat Prashant Gokhale	Sakshi Choudhary Sarva Jangid Sharpi Singh
Proxy Master	The Sarcastic Jerk	Gossip King/Queen	Tomboy Of The Batch
Aditya Roy Chowdhury Aachman Gangrade Nalin Gupta	Hitesh Jain Rahul Shukla Shivam Jharia	Alefiya Stationwala Pulkit Verma Sharpi Singh	Joanne Elizebeth Daniel Kanika Bishnoi Uttara Athale
Gym Freak	All Rounder	Always Busy	Tigdi Of The Batch
Divyansh Singh Sarva Jangid Vaibhav Mehrotra	Albert Simon Philip Hitesh Jain Vibhore Srivastava	Aditya Gupta Sakshi Choudhary Vibhore Srivastava	Eesha- Paridhi-Rachita Akshata- Disha- Suruchi Albin-Nalin-Siddharth
Topper Of The Batch	Always At PMC	Four Year Transformation	Dancer Of The Batch
Divyani Jain Hitesh Jain Shubham Pal	Aakar Garg Gagandeep Singh Gangesh Lodhi	Gangesh Lodhi Hitesh Jain Sarva Jangid	Albin Abi Thomas Ankit Kumar Rachita Dhummi

Movie Fanatic	Jai-Veeru	Mata Ka Bhakt	Foodie Of The Batch
Alefiya Stationwala Paridhi Joshi Siddharth Pandalai	Anugya-Suhani Aditya-Lucky Ankit-Ritesh	Ayushi Verma Avnish Agrawal Lucky Sakhare	Rishi Raj Pandey Sharpi Singh Tushar Jaiswal
Series Binger	Ambani Of The Batch	Coaching Jaana Hai	Fashion Icon
Amal Azeez Anand Kumar Siddharth Pandalai	Avnish Agrawal Risha Jain Yuktaa Tiwari	Mihir Gokhale Tanveer Sharma Vaishnavi Srivastava	Adarsh Guntuka Himani Joshi Swikriti Wankhede
Rejection Queen	No First Name	Tanki Of The Batch	Celebrity Of The Batch
Alefiya Stationwala Naincy Modi Suhani Dubey	Dangi Janna Pandalai	Avnish Agrawal Lucky Sakhare Siddharth Pandalai	Ansh Satwani Sarva Jangid Swikriti Wankhede
Society King/Queen	Orator Of The Batch	Angrez Of The Batch	Singer Of The Batch
Poorvi Tiwari Sakshi Choudhary Tushar Jaiswal	Jaya Kaithwas Mansi Kapoor Vibhore Srivastava	Harshita Bisht Jaya Kaithwas Joanne Elizebeth Daniel	Albert Simon Philip Rishay Nema Srishti
Acha Bacha	Artist Of The Batch	Traveller Of The Batch	Kumbhkaran Of The Batch
Aditya Narad Nalin Gupta Paridhi Joshi	Kaushal Yadav Ritesh Kumar Saumya Verma	Adarsh Guntuka Amisha Srivastava Risha Jain	Kavya Sri Busi Ritesh Kumar Suryansh Gupta
Sakht Launda	Photographer Of The Batch	Pawrryy Animal	Hyper-organised/OCD
Albin Abi Thomas Cibi Chakravarthy Jagdish Holge	Adarsh Guntuka Aditya Narad Siddharth Murty	Albin Abi Thomas Amisha Srivastava Siddharth Pandalai	Ashutosh Kumar Pradnya Talegaonkar Yukta Tiwari
Designer Of The Batch	Paani Bachao, Mat Nahao	Batch Of 2021	
K Shrikaran Rishi Raj Pandey Siddharth Murty	Aditya Roy Chowdhury Ritwik Mishra Viplove Kanaujia	Cheater Of The Batch College-Sick Vella Of The Batch	

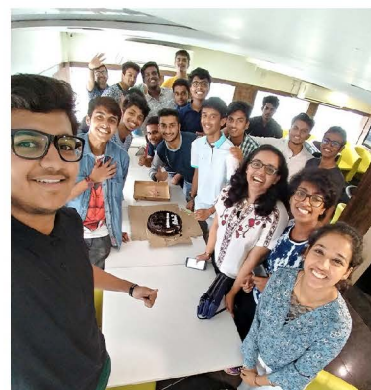




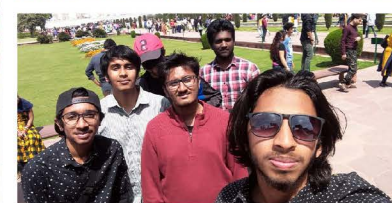












Siddharth Pandalai
Most FYC ever

Joint Chief Editor & Chief English Editor



Q: How's it going?

Hey man! I just finished tinkering with my almost final draft for the Epilogue. I admit it was long overdue but swear to God it will be grand. Why don't I post 10 stories straight in a row, anymore? Is corporate slavery the end to my means? Sigh. I remember there was a time when I was free, careless, and high. High like the mountains, flowing like a breeze. And life was great back when I used to hunt restaurants with my NRI squad. The following day you're no longer an NRI and you're missing Gulf food already. Next comes knocking the Final Year and responsibilities enter your life. First, you fight for placement and after grabbing one, you fight for your life. Sigh. And why am I supposed to find errors in my colleague's codes? Is work-life balance a myth? But fret not! This JC will hold the fort for as long as it takes. For a mother can't trust anybody with her child, yk. Except for the father, of course! Doesn't matter if y'all don't reply to my messages, don't turn in work at deadlines, etc etc. Yaar tumhare liye design teams se gaali bhi kha lunga but never abandon EB. BTW Sakshi tum GP Viva ke liye Certi banwa de yaar! ~「Pastes his write-up in a freshly error-checked code」~
“AAH! Sigh!”
(FYC- Final Year Crisis)

Sakshi Choudhary
Most SMD Ever

Joint Chief Editor & Chief Hindi Editor



Q: How does it feel to have such a sorted life?

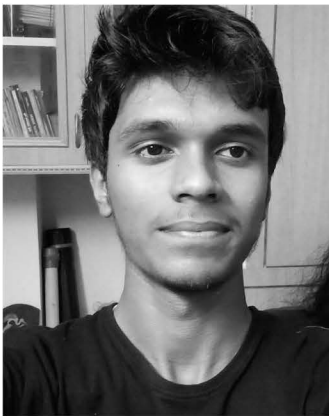
Sorted? Mai? Kuch bhi bol rahe ho yaar.
Tumhe pata hai, meri zindagi kitni buri hai. Ye saal kya puri life hi chot hui mere saath toh. Aenak mai bachchon ko nachwaane ka time aaya tha, yaha zindagi mujhe nachwa rahi hai. Achche marks? Yaar achche marks kaha yaar topper se kitne kam hai. Upar se meri faculty meri dushman hai. Jitna bhi likhu, khush nahi hote. Naukri mili? Yaar logo ko GS vagerah mai mil rahi hai, mujhe toh sirf yeh mili hai. Mai toh interview mazze mai di thi phir bhi mujhe le liya. Abhi se hi company se vishwas udd gaya mera. JC? Yaar yehi saal JC banke galat hua. Bachche toh kaam hi nahi kar rahe, koi sunta hi nahi. Treats dene ka mann tha unko par ye log lootne ka mauka nahi de rahe. Pandalai bhi gayab hi rehta hai, dukh hota hai yaar. Farewell bhi nahi hua do saal se. Sorted main nahi hu, tu hai sacchi. Bahot dard hota hai ye sab sochke. Maarr do mujhe koi.

~「Starts pep talk and lists 200 reasons why you should stay alive」~

(SMD- Sukh Mai Dukh)

K. Shrikaran
Most PWFES Ever

Chief Designer



Q: How did you feel when you read this article?

Hmm, ye idea toh kaafi interesting laga mujhe. Accha tha. But mujhe iska artwork ke baare abhi bhi confusion hai. Ek baar ek story ke jaise bata do. So that I can imagine the scene like a movie and the art shall flow through me.

Deadlines ki futility related kuch envision kar paa raha hoon thoda jo isse related hai. Actually, deadlines se yaad aaya, tum logon ne abhi tak kuch cheeze submit nahi kiya hai. Abhi sab thoda free baithe hai, socha kaam karte hai. Ruko ek list deta hoon jo pending hai. Thoda jaldi de sakte ho toh hum deadlines meet kar sakte hai.

Oh, about the EB logo. I don't think hum utna accha soch paa rhe hai. Could you explain it like a movie? XD

~「Presents a never ending list of tasks and crushes the lazy editors with guilt and dread」~

(PWFES: Patiently Waiting For Editor Submissions)

Ritesh Kumar
Most KKK ever

Chief Artist



Q: Where have you been?

Yo! Ab mai form me vapas aayega! Last year mujhe COVID (First Mutant) ho gaya tha. Uske baad toh mujhe ek din gaadi ne tokha. But tera bhai strong hai, bilkul theek tha, sirf haath, pair aur neck fracture hua bass. Phir uske recovery ke baad bas ek din bijili ne strike kiya, but aadha shock use hi lag gaya. Abhi mai COVID(Second Mutant) se fight kar rha hu.

But in beemariyon aur world travel me bhi mai itna nahi thaka jitna ki meri ordinary si life me thak jaata hu. Subah uthkar mere fans ko balcony se darshan and 50 autographs per day karna padta hai, fir US client ke paid artworks bhi hai. Yaar ithna mehnat karke sirf \$50000 de rahe hai, kithna kanjoos hai ye.

Fir teeno girlfriends ko bhi time dena padta hai na. Kaafi dino se pure din me sirf 23 hours 56 minutes 9 seconds hi jag pa rha hu .

Ah! Is chakkar me @ritzz_artz_ ka naya blender illustration to post karna to bhul hi gaya. But chinta na karo, abhi apun form mai aayega. Yo!

~「Maine bahot struggle kiya plays in the background」~

(KKK- Khatron Ke Khiladi)

Nipun M Khapekar
Most Life Lessons Ever

Senior Designer



Q: Will you be joining us for today's meeting?

Yeah, I remember. Speaking of meetings, I don't apologize for sleeping with my camera on during the last meeting, because it wasn't productive TBH.

People have got to learn that there is a relevant time for everything. I've learned this lesson from personal experience.

When I joined, I was a curious kid who would learn, respect deadlines, fear Aditi, do some shutter bugging, and appreciate his chicken treats. Growing up, I realized that the key to the aforementioned is money, discipline, and... career.

Now I design and religiously post my designs on my stories. I will shun all those who fail to behave during these... "behavioral hours". Also, you could have assigned that task more efficiently, like back in our time...

~「Gets lost in nostalgia」~

Alefiya Stationwala
Most Gossips Ever

Senior Designer



Q: Could you tell me about the status of your task?

Of course bro! The kids, you see, I remind them religiously of the incoming deadline and the outcome? If only we could cut 'em out of the treats!

Ahh treats! Gold was the days when we would go out for treats after every meeting and enjoy multiple ice creams. How the times have changed.

God bless Marvel, BTS and Taylor Swift, my sole saviors in this lockdown. That reminds me, WandaVision left me with some great theories. We should discuss them someday when you're not busy. I can even add you to my Insta Marvel fan club group.

Lately, I've been busy giving constructive criticism about the Govt. and its betrayal. That's why I have trust issues.

I haven't accepted a single proposal in my college life and I'm not going to now. Nipun and Ritesh can tell you better about "that" rejection story. That was a shocker for me as well. What happened was that...

~「Chatters for another hour」~

Nashit Khan
Most Confused Ever

Senior English Editor



Q: How do you feel about joining corporate life?

Eh! Will you be joining? I thought my dumbass might learn something while being a bonded labor there, but in reality, it seems you have to be ready to be double-crossed. I work; you pay me, that's how it ought to be.

But you gotta be politically correct all the time and a bit teda. By teda I mean, ki you're expected to be a bit crooked because everyone is. Feel me? And IDK if I'm comfortable being that guy. However, I have to fit somewhere ya?

This! Ugh. I legit don't find studying for it interesting. Which sucks. Makes you feel stagnant. F. Let's try something? Every week we'll update each other about the progress we make. How does that sound?

~「Forgets about it right away」~

Ashutosh Kumar
Most Sharminda ever

Senior Hindi Editor



Q: Congratulations on your outstanding GATE results, how do you...

Ab Sharminda mat karo, abhi to kuch nahi kiya hai. Bas vishwas banaye rakho ki mai isse kuchh upar aur ja sakta hu, aur mujhe jana hi padega warna mai MME ke itihās me bura udaharan banunga.

Mujhe is baat ka bahot khed hai ki apni vyast dincharya, jaise baccho ko padhana, kabootaro ko daana dalna, viva ke slots bnane me professors ki help karna aadi ki wajah se mai apna samay yaha acchi tarah nahi de paata. Magar apne articles ke saath speak through tak me entry dunga.

Abhi samay ki killat hai aur yaha network nahi mil paata magar koshish rahegi ki...

~「Gets disconnected from the VC」~

Ritwik Kumar
Most Pseudo-JC Ever

English Editor



Q:What would be your manifesto if you ever stood for an EB election?

Well, firstly, I don't need a manifesto. Why won't they make me one? Once I become JC, I will undertake a much-needed expansion for the legacy of EB.

There will be more recruits and I will ensure that they all sign a minimum bond for 2-years. We will have our own website with 25k+ followers. Our LinkedIn account will be revamped. I will also organize EB trips, which will be very structured so that not a second is wasted.

Also, I will ensure that every member walks at least 10k steps a day, for a healthy mind will produce sound ideas. BTW, I have organized a fun G-Meet tomorrow. Invitations have already been sent to everyone's emails. Please RSVP ASAP.

For now, I'm going to sleep as it's already late and I feel very tired if I sleep later than 8:45.

~「Ignores whatever you're saying to set his 5 a.m. alarm」~

Dipanshu Vatsa
Most Pun-crastination Ever

English Editor



Q:Would you rather never be able to go out during the day or never be able to go out during the night?

I would rather go out during twilight because it's neither day nor night at that moment. And it is so short-lived that I can avoid other people in general who'd only burden me with more tasks during any other time. I can use the surplus time to spend it with my waifu. Oni-chan is coming, don't be sad!

I'm sorry I wasn't able to make it to the early morning meeting at 9, as I was still asleep. I went to sleep as early as 10 p.m. last night so that I could be up today at 5:00 a.m and be ready on time for our meeting. Yes! I checked your Missed calls at 11:45. That time, I was deciding whether to cut my hair short or not, which I eventually didn't.

No, I didn't grow it long after any anime character, as I no longer enjoy anime. It's always the same narrative, and I watched it until it was worn out. Doesn't life have to be exciting?

Btw Sreehari, would you send me the paper we had to submit last week

~「Hums an anime tune 」~

Shantanu Choukikar
Most Go-To-Guy Ever

English Editor



Q: Do you agree with me?

I'm an engineer in a toxic relationship with engineering...Oh wait!
Of course, I do. You are entitled to your own opinion and I'm not in the position to challenge you until you're proven wrong. I enjoy holding enriching conversations, so if you ever wanna talk about anything, it'll be me who texts you first. I can overdose you with philosophy and memes until I've secretly converted your ideology to mine. I believe everyone should be quick texters like me and that deadlines have a meaning. BTW, allot a deadline to me otherwise I will keep pushing it away. Nahi Bhai, I'm partly an atheist. Learn the difference. What do you mean it sounds contradictory to be an atheist and read Mahabharata and Ramayana or living in Mumbai and hating Monsoon? I've cleared these misconceptions using Greek philosophy in my recent blog article. Other than that, I agree with you.
But again, what were we agreeing upon?

~「Drops another 30 Quora posts while maintaining his omnipresence on WhatsApp」~

Nikita Parashar

Most PPA Ever

Hindi Editor



Q: Dukk kya hai?

Kya dukh nahi hai. IPL aur end term saath me hote hai. 9+ maintain rakh paana kitna mushkil ho jaata hai. Kya ye dukh nahi hai?

Jab mai apna kaam samay par nahi kar paati hu tab mujhe kitna dukh hota hai.

Jab Hindi Editor ke interview dene wale log CV English me likhkar laate hai kya use dukh ki paribhasha nahi kaha jaa sakta?

Aapne current affairs ki magazine padhi? Almost sab toh maine predict kar hi liya tha.

Khair, aap log bhi ab jaa rhe hai. Mai akele kaise sab sambhalungi par thanks jo aapne mujhe confidence diya ki mai kar paungi. Ab mai aapko nirash nahi karungi dekhiyega aap.

~「Finds sukh」~
(PPA- Parampara, Pratishtha, Anushasan)

Jyoti Khatri

Most Twinkle Ever

Designer



Q: Will we still be friends, 10 years from now?

That's the most hilarious thing I've heard all day. Why wouldn't we? I will always remember you and won't let you forget me anytime soon. Haha.

You look so down today, I can always tell. Is it because today's your birthday and no one greeted you yet? Wait! Lemme spam the group and let everyone else know. Here, I have some fruit biscuits my mom made.

Due to COVID, we dressed up inside our home and had a photoshoot. Such little celebrations refresh you, don't you think?

Oh, didn't you want some help with your work? Call me anytime you're free and want to start. My sheets can wait but our time together is to be always cherished.

Oh shoot, it's almost time for my F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Reunion.
~「Rushes to meet some EDiots a hundred miles away」~

Poorva Kale

Most Offline Ever

Designer



Q: How can we reach out to you?

Well, you can always call me on my phone number, which by the way is not the same as my WhatsApp number.

TBH, I prefer to spend my time playing badminton rather than passing time with such distractions. It also helps me manage my temper which is often misunderstood, making me furious.

Also, this lockdown has not been able to let me achieve my wedding gate crash targets for this year, further adding to my woes.

Do you believe in Indore supremacy? Because I do! Indore one of the best best best...

Oh, my phone number? It's time for my evening badminton tournament. Just don't forget to text me on WhatsApp to get my phone number.

I'll surely text you back.

~「Never replies back again」~

Sreehari
Most Misinterpreted Ever

Artist



Q: It's good that you have started preparing for GATE this early. Usually, those in Architecture...

ECE! My branch is ECE. Being an artist doesn't necessarily mean I belong to Architecture. Why else would I be preparing for GATE?

My batchmates believe that I do not share notes with them because I am the class topper! Well, no! I don't share notes with them because I'm preparing for GATE.

Sometimes I feel like Rin Okumura from Ao No Exorcist, who's misunderstood as evil just because he was Satan's offspring. Although I agree, they have a valid reason for that but...excuse me! I have to prepare for GATE.

And oh! I'm sorry I couldn't join today's meeting. Remember when I told you that I was traveling? Well, I meant I was traveling from Telangana to Kerala to shift homes. We'll stay isolated for a couple of days while I prepare for GA...

~「Drowned by hen clucking noises」~

Medhaa Chaklanabish
Most Neko-Suki Ever

Artist



Q: What's your favourite movie of all time?

Hey Bhogobhan!!! Aami otishto hoye gechi yei proshno diye! Why is it so difficult for people to understand that there cannot be ONE favourite movie for a connoisseur of movies like me?

Yes, Nolan is a divine being and all his movies are obhutpurbo ebam poram masterpiece. But I feel that other classics deserve love too. Mulholland Drive and Eraserhead are toooo good and you will never NOT catch me drooling over Edward Norton movies. Go watch American History X and Primal Fear or don't even bother to converse with me and waste my time. Murkho.

Oh the artwork status? Yeah, it's almost ready, I was just going to work on it. Please don't push me on things that I'm about to do. Turnoff hota hai. Waise bhi EB, Architecture and competitions take so much of my time and I feel like I'm always working. Do you know how long it's been since I felt the sweet embrace of sleep?

~「Starts angry tirade in Bengali about her sleep schedule」~
(Neko-Suki : Japanese for Cat Lover)

Sankalp Mahajan
Most Sankalps Ever

English Editor



Q: Do you have any suggestions, Sanky?

Of course! I was waiting for you to give up. First re-explain your idea to me. Even though I've already rejected it and am preparing my next grand idea, I want to ensure the argument is democratic on paper.

I've changed my wallpaper thrice from Bhagwa to my dank meme collection before deciding to settle on the EB logo, to gain brownie points for my ideas. Bhai mujhe pata hai ki ye sab karne se kuch nahi hoga. Ideology ki baat hai vo. Supporting a certain group shows that you believe in their ideology. Like Doge.

I am so fond of it; I've single-handedly amassed a huge collection of its stickers. This reminds me of the moon emoji you guys use a lot. I don't understand its meaning and I will ban it in my final year. I've decided that no matter what, I won't waste this summer. Already sab log padh rhe hai and it's enough FOMO for me. Yaar 9+ kaafi logo ke hai, mai akela nahi hu. Aap sab pehle mera article review kar do, mai changes karunga ya nahi vo baad ki baat hai. Feedback toh do.

~「Starts spamming the group with more Doge stickers」~

Deepansh Gupta
Most Same-Drafts Ever

Hindi Editor



Q: Deepansh, kaam ho jaega na?

Haan, haan ab to ho jaega, koi doubt nahi hai.

Kya! Deadline nikal gayi? Sorry yaar! Maine kar to diya hai par laptop me sab pada hai. Urgent chahiye to try karta hu bhejne ka.

Mai aapko double kaam karke deta hu par next deadline par nahi. Uske ek din baad double proofread plus ek design aur do articles next year ke liye karke dunga. Sure. Pakka. Promise.

~「Presents the same draft next day」~

Mai kuch changes ka socha tha par sochte sochte mujhe ye doubt aaya ki....

~「Draft loop continues」~

Adviti Tuli
Most Trips Ever

Designer



Q: Haven't seen you for a while. What have you been

Ahhh, sorry about being unable to answer your text, was searching for suitable captions for my Manali waterfall pictures. Would you like to see them?

Here is me under the waterfall picture, near the waterfall picture, posing with the waterfall picture, and oh oh! The waterfall picture. Cute na? Of course, I'm dil se Bhopali and I've been to every eatery and bistro here.

Suggestions? I can't recall any good places for now. Don't go to Jehan Numa though. After visiting it 28 times, the food does become bland. You know the food in Manali was also good.

Talking about food, you should follow my bakery page. Did you know I was baking the other day and got this serious burn on my hand. Probably why I forgot to message you hehe.

Accha, what do you think of this caption, "Need no Bars, I'm High with my Yaars".

Did I tell you about Manali? Here are my "Enough for a lifetime" clicks, but why does Insta have 10 photos per post limit? Ugh!

~「Posts another Vacation Throwback」~

Raktim Mondol
Most Dank Memes Ever

Designer



Q: Hey man, are you down to trade some memes?

Sure, why not? I love exchanging memes. You can check out my WhatsApp stories; All my best content is showcased there. Don't call them dark, man. Most of them are inspired by gender equality. I'll break all the stereotypes. Hue hue!

What? No, I don't like Instagram. The memes over there are pathetic AF. Facebook is the place to go. Reddit even, sometimes.

BTW, I got high yesterday evening. I even put that on my story, so that people would have the opportunity to talk with me and benefit from my heightened level of consciousness.

I am throwing a party today as well; all of you are welcome to join me. I promise it will be the dankest time of your life.

The memories will be embarrassing, as are the memories of all parties worthy enough to be called parties.

~「Rolls something legally illegal」~

Smruthi Srivathsan
Most OP ever

Artist



Q: Wow! Did you make this all by yourself?

Dude, it's just a simple pen render that I made in 2 minutes while waiting for my Maggie to get ready.

What do you mean it looks so hyper-realistic? The edge lines are 3.9° 15' 50" off. I could have made something way better if I had another minute or so. This is flawed work. Here, use this as a paper napkin.

Anyways, just gimme a glimpse of your article and I'll take care of the rest. Stop calling me a pro, I'm just picky.

I might accompany you to a non-vegetarian restaurant as I am your friend, but I'll not even smell it. Nah! Veg food is more perfect and divine in my eyes. And these eyes only see perfection so guess who must be right?

Oh, you want me to suggest a title for my EB profile? I don't know, just don't give me something like 'Most OP ever', that would be overdoing it.

~「Starts doodling another Mona Lisa out of boredom」~

Pushpita Patel
Most Bollywood Ever

Artist



Q: Hey, thanks for your help the other..

Dosti ka ek usool hai madam — No sorry, No thank you.

Bade bade shehero me choti choti baatein to hoti hi rehti hain. Fir mujhe koi compliments ki zaroorat thodi na hai, kyunki mai apni favourite hu.

Maine ek baar kisi se help mangi thi lekin mujhe mili to bas tareekh pe tareekh, tareekh pe tareekh, tareekh pe tareekh. These chameleons around us make me wanna cry. Par maine bhi khudse keh diya "Pushpa, I hate tears re".

Tabse hi hamesha sabki help karti hu. Aaj bhale hi aapke pass bangla ho paisa ho par mere pass bada dil hai.

Aap convince hogaye ya mai aur bolu?

~「Yells *How's the Josh*」~

Excel 21
Most Online Ever

Your Magazine



Q: Are you real?

It might have been easier for my ancestors to answer this, for they were physical. They could be held, they could be touched, they could be cherished. I am just a string of zeros and ones; my existence is due to the sheer resolve of people who took it upon themselves to bring me to life. I started as a blank sheet. The cruel circumstances stood as boundaries, but the creators' love for expression made them rebel against those conditions. I was conceived after an intense session of passionate discussion. Through a rich diet of original views, ranging from perspectives to brilliant artworks and designs, I steadily grew. I never saw my creators, but I know that each one of them was a workhorse. Even in the gloomiest of nights, they never thought of aborting me. People say bonds formed online are not particularly strong, but I have helped some tough ones to be established. On the day of the delivery, I sensed worried chatter across the Gmeet, but as you can see, I came out just fine. Wouldn't you agree? Through all those boundaries, rebellions, and explorations, here I am, the New Normal!

~「Basks in the warmth of its creators' memories」~

Notes

Careers @ Editorial Board

Are you looking for a high paced environment which challenges your intellect on a daily basis (and especially towards the end of an academic year)? Are you looking for a medium to channel your creative pursuits and gain employable skills in college? Are you someone who made it to the last page (Seriously, why?) and wondered what it takes to create this mammoth piece of art we call Excelsior?

If the answer to all of these questions is yes, then look around no more. Editorial Board MANIT is the right place for you. We are looking for enthusiastic sophomores and juniors (Spoiler Alert - even Freshmen) to join our high growth team in the upcoming session of 2021-22.

Perks of working at EB:

Fun filled environment with massive learning opportunities.

- Free meal schemes in the form of loads of treats (currently not applicable on WFH).
- Inter-disciplinary exposure in Design, Literature, Data Analytics, Product Management, Web Development and more.
- High level of ownership and exciting work.
- Zero-Hierarchy Scheme (no Sir/Ma'am/Boss/Milord/Milady/Your Highness).
- Access to a vast Alumni Network.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Create and curate content for the magazine.
- Conduct and support activities on the campus. (If the campus ever opens, that is).
- Suggest new and innovative ways to increase reach and improve content.
- Manage and grow social handles of EB across various platforms. (It's simple really. Just like every individual, the more followers the Board has, the more important it thinks it is).
- Become a better version of yourself and (ideally) help others as well.

Minimum Qualifications:

- You are an Undergraduate student enrolled in MANIT.
- You are proficient in one or more of the desired traits (Design, Art, English/ Hindi language, Web Development, Party Planning).
- Have the zeal to stick with this organization for a minimum period of two years(Is this a bond? Maybe. Apply and find out).

Note - Editorial Board MANIT® is certified as an "Amazing Place to Work" for the years 1963-Present. Here are some thoroughly vetted third party reviews.

"EB cult status is not earned, it has to be found."

★★★★ - Every JC Ever

"I joined this organization 15 years ago and still continue to be a part of this eternal bond."

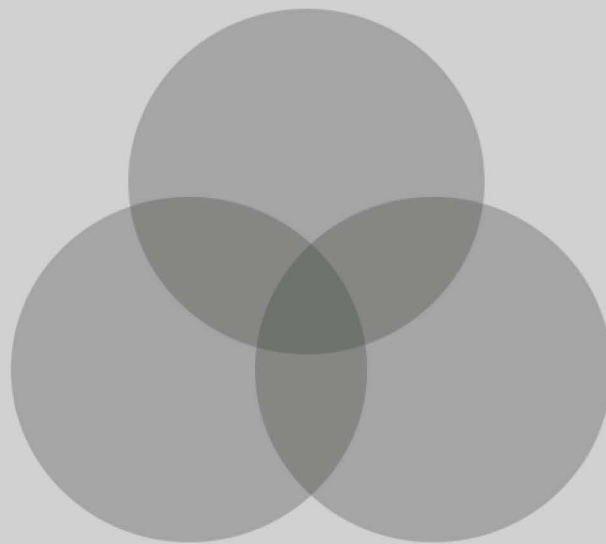
★★★★★ - Every EB Alum Ever

"I don't know much about them but I've heard their treats are amazing."

★★★★★ - Every Outsider Ever

"The work here is so much fun! Always feel like I can never get enough work! Go go Excelsior!"

★★★★ - Every EB Member Ever



Rethinking Horizons

"Your life is a story of transition. You
are always leaving one chapter
behind while moving on the next."

-Anonymous Traveller