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# FACULTY OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

WHERE IDEAS IGNITE IMPACT

# FLAMES

2025-26

## STUDENT MAGAZINE

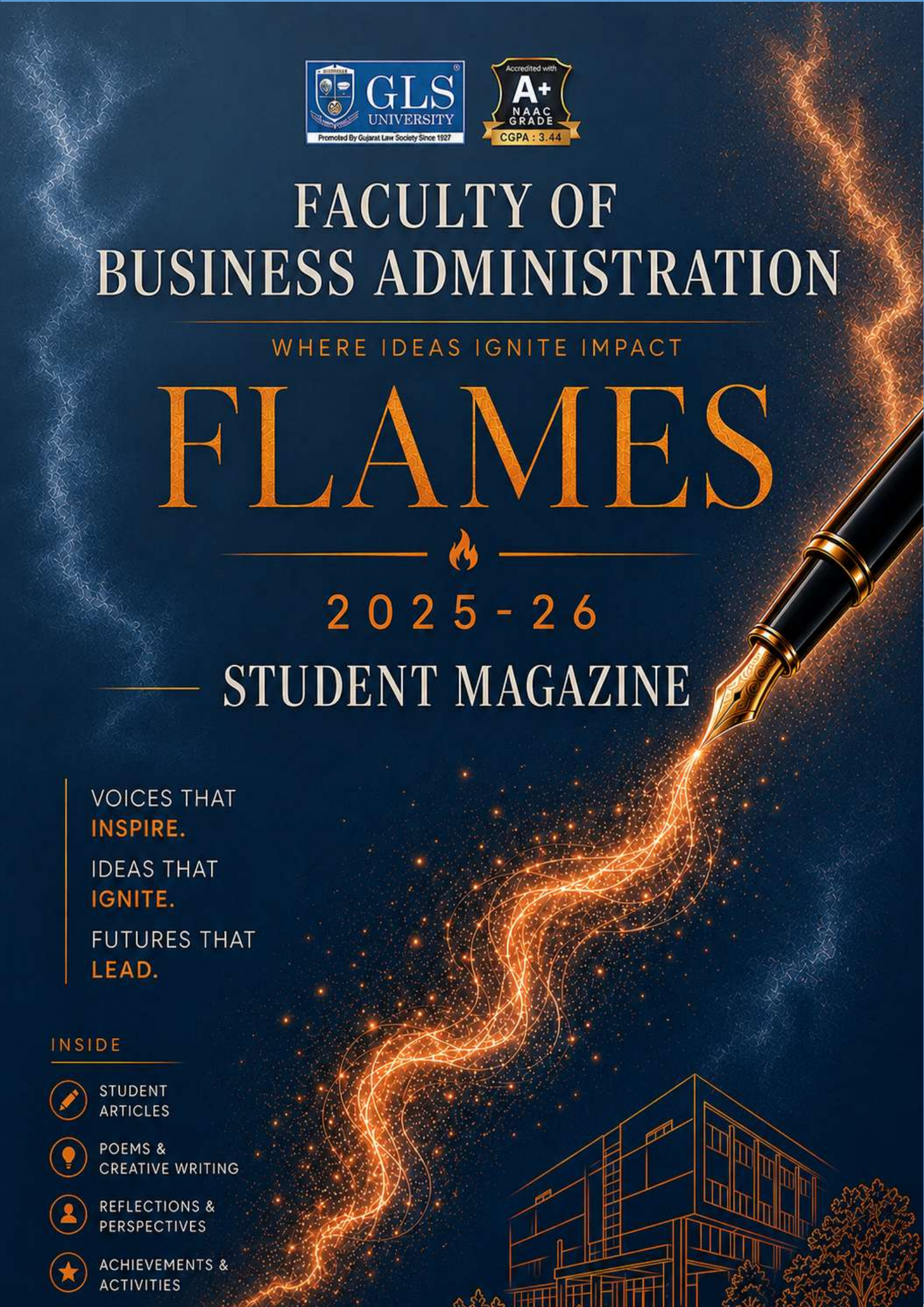
VOICES THAT **INSPIRE.**

IDEAS THAT **IGNITE.**

FUTURES THAT **LEAD.**

INSIDE

- STUDENT ARTICLES
- POEMS & CREATIVE WRITING
- REFLECTIONS & PERSPECTIVES
- ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES



# *FACULTY OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (FOBA)*

# *FLAMES*

## *An Annual Students' Magazine (2025-26)*

**Vision:** To be an active participant in the development of globally competitive India by creating future business leaders

**Mission:** To provide technologically advanced learning environment which encourages development of professional competencies in students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## *From Director's Desk…*



FLAMES is the students' collective expression of thoughts, feelings, and experiences through poetry, articles, reflections, and personal stories. The wide range of emotions and experiences is rooted in our perspectives on the issues affecting young people today, whether it's mental health, technology, the environment, or the ever-changing social dynamics around us. The articles, much like the university's forward-thinking approach, comment on the current situation while also looking to the future, critiquing and questioning the developments that will shape our world.

Reading FLAMES will give you insight into the student experience and a unique perspective. The majority of the content is original and balanced. The reflections and reviews are relevant to what the students observed or experienced, and the short stories are original renditions of lived experiences. There is an observant and articulate student body here, and I am glad to see them take the chance to write about what they have learned. Please take a few minutes to look through this edition of FLAMES and enjoy the variety of voices, ideas, and stories that represent the learning that takes place at our university, in the classroom, and beyond.

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# Activities and Accolades

# Activities

Faculty of Business Administration is a vibrant and pulsating community. We organize various fun-based and educational events for the holistic and experiential development of our students. A glimpse of the events that were organized during 2025-26 is:

## Orientation



This year's **Orientation** aimed to ignite new learning and thinking among students. The events began with the Dean's Address on 8th July 2025 and included in-class activities and visits to places around Ahmedabad, such as Indrodra Park and the Botanical Garden, as well as a showcase of the legendary heritage walk around the city. It also featured interactions with the alumni through the Legends Lounge Programme.

## Samvaad



As part of the ongoing orientation program for the newly inducted BBA students, GLS University's Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) recently hosted a thought-provoking guest session under the banner of **Samvaad-Communication Conclave.** The opening session featured a dynamic and thought-provoking talk by Mr. Biswaroop Padhi, Mr. Shyam Parekh, Mr. Vatsal Shah, and RJ Megha.

## HR Symposium 3.0




Faculty of Business Administration organized **HR Symposium 3.0 – Human Resource Management Rooted in Indian Ethos: A Path to Inclusive Workplaces** on 4th August 2025. Mr. G. P. Rao graced the event. The event also hosted Talent Scout, Anuboothi, Recruitment Battle, and HR Auction. The symposium aimed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations, equipping students with the necessary skills and insights to thrive in today's dynamic work environment.

## Anvesh



FOBA organized **Anvesh 2025**, a three-day event from 4th August to 6th August, 2025. Five popular domains featured at Anvesh: Management, Literature, Fine Arts, Sports, and Culture. Each category forms a cornerstone of this remarkable event, providing students with the opportunity to showcase their talent, compete passionately, and realize their potential.

## Rang Mishran



Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA), GLS University, successfully organized **Rang Mishran, an Intercollegiate Fine Arts Competition**, from 20th to 22nd August 2025 at the GLS Campus, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad. The three-day event brought together students from various institutions, offering them a platform to showcase their artistic skills, creativity, and imagination.

## Connect to Conserve




Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA), GLS University, proudly hosted its annual environmental communication event, **Connect: Converse to Conserve,** on **4th September 2025** at the FOBA Auditorium**.** The highlight of the event was the keynote address by Mr. Shani Pandya, Founder of Imagine Power Tree, a path-breaking solar-energy startup known for its innovative approach to renewable energy. His talk on "Youth Communication & Climate Action: From Awareness to Advocacy" was a thought-provoking and inspiring session that resonated deeply with the audience.

## Eco Fest 3.0



**EcoFest 3.0** was celebrated on 19th September 2025 with remarkable enthusiasm and dedication, uniting students, faculty, and distinguished speakers under the inspiring theme "Emerging Bharat: Leading the World." The inaugural session set the tone for the fest with a keynote address by Dr. D. J. Pandian, Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of the New Development Bank.

## Praxis 2025

**Praxis 2025**, organised by the Faculty of Business Administration, GLS University, on 23rd December 2025, was an academic exhibition that brought together students, faculty and visitors to experience discipline-wise stalls showcasing innovative models, posters and interactive activities.



# Fun Week



The **Fun Week 2025**, organized by Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) at GLS University, was a spectacular four-day celebration that successfully blended academic tradition with vibrant student life. It was organized from 26th December 2025 to 30th December, 2025.



# Brand Blast Bazaar 2.0

**Brand Blast Bazaar 2.0** was successfully organized by the Marketing Department of Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) at GLS University on 2nd and 3rd February 2026, with the primary objective of fostering experiential learning in marketing. The event comprised five distinct competitions—Idea Fusion Fair cum Exhibition, Pitch Masters, Marketing Hackathon, Ad Mad, and Ad Analysis—each strategically designed to enhance students' applied understanding of the marketing mix.





# IMAGE 2026




**IMAGE 2026: Blueprints & Breakthrough: Crafting Strategies & Creating Impact** is a national-level annual management fest organized by Faculty of Business Administration, GLS University. It was held on 23rd and 24th January 2026 at FOBA Building, GLS University. IMAGE 2026 comprised eight different management events, providing participants with exposure to real-world business scenarios and competitive decision-making environments. The event was graced by the presence of Ms. Smita Prakash, Chief Editor and Deputy CEO of Asian News International and Mr. Rajneesh Bhansal, Joint President and Head of Supply Chain at AWL Agri Business Limited.



# Accolades

The ever-enthusiastic student community at FOBA leaves no stone unturned when it comes to participation and winning in intercollege events held at colleges and universities across Ahmedabad and Gujarat. The singular motto of our students is: “We participate to win”. In 2025-26, the illustrious accolades won by our students are:

## Anvesha 2.0 National Quiz Competition



Students of the Faculty of Business Administration participated in the Anvesha 2.0 National Quiz Competition held on 18 July 2025. **Mayuresh Thawani** (TYBBA Regular) and **Majirana Ashish Sardarbhai** (TYBBA Regular) secured the second place. The students received a cash prize of ₹6,000 in recognition of their achievement.

## HLCC MUN 2025




The Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) is delighted to share that students had the opportunity to participate in HLCC MUN 2025 – Gujarat’s largest and longest-running Model United Nations Conference which was conducted from 29 to 31 August 2025. **GLS University** FOBA won the **Special Mention Award** in the event. The following students won awards in the event**: Mr. Neel Ramani ,Mr. Yashraj Sharma, Mr. Veer Patel ,Mr. Vaishvik Salasiya, Ms. Anica Thakur,Ms. Jenny Chadani and Mr. Varun Fithani.**

## Explorer 2025



The Faculty of Commerce, GLS University, under its student body Explorer, organized an exciting and intellectually stimulating event titled “Conquer the World”, from 5 September 2025 to 7 September, 2025. **Mr. Veer Patel** and **Mr. Manan Goyal** won the first prize in the ‘Pitch Paradox’ event. **Mr. Daksh Patel** won the first prize in the ‘Who did it Better’ event and **Mr. Rushi Patel** won the first prize in the ‘Fin Exchange’ Event.

## Spark Fest



Students of FOBA, GLS University, showcased exceptional talent at Spark Fest, a vibrant two-day management fest organized by FOPA on 9 to 10 December 2025, at GLS Campus, Ahmedabad. This event, themed "Unleash The Spark Within," featured competitive events like Mind-Quest Business Quiz, Pitch Perfect Shark Tank-style pitching, Brand Wars, Hot-Seat Role-Play, and Ad-Craft advertisement challenge, promoting creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial skills. FOBA participants excelled prominently. **Manan Goyal** and **Avika Shah**'s team secured First Prize in Pitch Perfect; **Veer Patel** claimed First Prize in Brand Wars. Second Prizes went to **Mayuresh Thawani** and **Ashish Majirana**'s team in Mind Quest, as well as **Khyati Milak** and **Mayuresh Thawani**'s team in Brand Wars. **Khyati Milak** also earned Third Prize in Pitch Perfect.

## Atharv-IIM Indore




Students from Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA), GLS University, demonstrated outstanding academic, leadership, and creative excellence at Atharv, a prestigious inter-collegiate event organized by IIM Indore held between 31 October 2025 to 30 November 2025. In E-Conjecture (The Economics and Public Policy Competition), **Parita Chettiyar**, **Khushi Jain**, **Yashraj Sharma**, and **Hatim Khandwala** secured the Second Prize. The Chaitanya Leadership Competition saw **Manan Goyal**, **Manan Agarwal**, and **Aditi Vyas** clinched the Third Prize. Meanwhile, in Vignette (The Film Making Competition), **Darshan Popat**, **Jash Siddhapara**, **Aayushi Nanda**, **Sneha Sundrani, Anica Thakur**, **Mahek Sharma**, **Keval Kachhot**, **Kartik Chavda**, and **Vansh Joshi** earned the second Prize.

## T. J. Rana Trophy, Inter College Open Book Examination

Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) recently witnessed enthusiastic participation in the Open Book Examination, an initiative designed to test students' analytical skills and their ability to synthesize information under pressure. It was held on 27 January 2026. A standout performance was delivered by **Ms. Shreni Vinit Mutta**, who secured the **First Prize** for her exceptional performance and precision.



## Advent Management Fest



Students from Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA), GLS University, demonstrated exceptional talent and competitive spirit at ADVENT, a premier Management Fest organized by the MBA Cultural Committee of K.S. School of Business Management and Information Technology. The event was held on 20 January and 21 January, 2026. The FOBA delegation achieved remarkable success, securing top positions across multiple high-pressure categories. Most notably, the duo of **Daksh Patel** and **Rushi Patel** delivered a powerhouse performance, clinching the First Prize in the technical challenge "Decode the Code." Their winning streak continued into the financial arena, where they joined teammates **Harshita Hariramani** and **Priya Kourani** to secure the Second Prize in "Bid Boss," a competition designed to test auction strategies and resource management.

## Mediostav 2026




FOBA, GLS University students showcased exceptional talent and creativity at Mediostav 2026, an inter-college media festival organized by the National Institute of Mass Communication and Journalism (NIMCJ), Gujarat University. The event was held on 7 February 2026 at the SPM (Shyama Prasad Mukherjee) Auditorium, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. The students of FOBA, GLS University brought great pride to their institution by winning a total of seven First Prizes in different categories. The winners included **Shatakshi Trivedi**, who secured first place in Content Writing, **Rushil Shah** for Meme Making, **Taher Makada** for Graphic Designing, **Krishn Mistry** for Cartooning, **Mahimn Panchal** for Slogan Writing, and **Varun Fithani** for Debate. Additionally, the team comprising **Saumya Soni**, **Vaishvik Salasiya**, and **Trisha Patel** won first prize in the Ad Mad competition, showcasing remarkable teamwork and creativity.

## Shri I. M. Nanavati Sports 2025–26



Faculty of Business Administration achieved remarkable success by securing multiple Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals across various events during the event. The strong performance in team sports such as Football and Basketball, along with excellence in athletics and badminton, reflects the Faculty's emphasis on holistic student development.

## Mosaic 2026




Mosaic 2026, an inter-college festival, was held on 11, 12 and 13 February 2026. Students from the Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) at GLS University delivered an impressive performance across various competitive categories. In the sports arena, the team of **Modi Vaibhav**, **Mashru Priyansh**, and **Om Prajapati** secured a brilliant First Position in Gully Cricket, while another FOBA team consisting of **Vador Shiva Nitin**, **Aryan Shah**, and **Prince Gajra** followed closely with the second Position. The intellectual and creative prowess of the students was equally evident, with **Hith Shah**, **Akshee Dave**, and **Bhavyaa Lad** clinching the first Position in the Bollywood Quiz. In the Debate competition, the duo of **Vedant Jhagadiawala** and **Kahaan Babariya** earned the second Position, and **Divy Makwana** secured the second Position in the Free Fire gaming event. Furthermore, FOBA students showcased their artistic talents by winning the third position in three different categories: **Bhakti Kangad** in Poster Presentation; **Vedanshi Cha**niyara, **Shatakshi H. Trivedi**, and **Rushil Shah** in AD Mad; and the team of **Kansara Priyanshi Bhargavkumar**, **Daksh Thakker**, and **Yug Patel** in Reel Making.

## Adani Business Plan Competition




Students from Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) at GLS University showcased remarkable entrepreneurial spirit and strategic thinking at the Business Plan Competition organized by the Adani University – Faculty of Management Sciences which was held on 7th February 2026 at the Adani University campus in Ahmedabad. Representing GLS University, **Manan Goyal** from FY C Hons secured the fourth position overall. For this impressive achievement in a national-level competition, he was also awarded a cash prize of ₹10,000 along with exclusive goodies.

## Pratibimb 2026



The students of Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) at GLS University demonstrated exceptional talent and competitive spirit at Pratibimb 2026, the annual fest organized by the School of Management, PDEU on 13th and 14th February 2026. **Nishi Jain** achieved a distinguished First Prize in the Western Dance competition, while **Dev Patel** secured Second Prize in the high-stakes Data Escape Room analytics challenge. Furthermore, the university's analytical and creative prowess was highlighted by **Harsheet Singhvi**, who earned Third Prize in the Corporate Forensics Challenge, and **Parita Chettiyar**, who claimed Third Prize in the Ad Mad creative advertising battle.

## Perspective Ritcher 2026



Students from the Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA), GLS University, actively participated in Perspective Ritchter , the flagship management and cultural festival organized by the Institute of Management, Nirma University from 13 to 15 March, 2026. In Mark-E-Nova, **Varun Fithani** secured the first position, while **Dhriti Shah** achieved first place in House of Decisions. In the dance competition Footloose, **Nyasa Goswami** secured first position, highlighting strong artistic talent. The Black Box event witnessed an outstanding performance by **Mayuresh Thawani** and his team, who secured first position. Further achievements include a second position by **Mayuresh Thawani** in House of Decisions. In Magnitude-F and Startup in 1 Million, teams comprising of **Manan Goyal**, **Manan Agrawal**, and **Avika Shah** secured second positions.

# Section 1

# Poems

# The Quiet Storm

*Aakansha Javiya*



She carries a storm inside her,
soft as a sigh, loud as thunder.
One moment, she laughs freely,
the next, she is silent,
holding questions no one hears.

Her heart feels everything too deeply—
a smile lifts her,
a careless word can break her.
She learns that tears are not a
weakness,
But emotions ask to be felt.

She looks into the mirror,
wondering who she is becoming,
measuring herself against expectations
and dreams still unclear.
She wants love, understanding,
and a place where she belongs.
She pushes away, then hopes someone stays,
her silence speaking louder than words.
She is not broken or lost— she is
becoming.
A teenage girl is a quiet storm,
learning slowly,
how to dance in her own rain.

# एक नया सफर

*Urvee Jain*



ये सफर सिर्फ शहर बदलने का नहीं था
ये सफर था - खुद से मिलने का
12वीं के बाद जिंदगी ने
एक नया मोड़ लिया
किताबों से निकल कर मेने
सपनों का सहर चुनना

नए शहर का मैप फोन था
पर जिंदगी का रूट नहीं
सब कुछ नया लग रहा था
पर पीछे मुड़ने की अनुमति नहीं
पीजी का कमरा - छोटा सा
पर ख्वाबों का किराया ज्यादा था
वाहा चुपके से रोने की जगह भी थी
या खुद से वादे करने का वक्त भी था

माँ के हाथ का खाना
अब यादों में रह गया
पीजी का वो सिंपल सा खाना
रोज़ नया सबक दे गया

कभी अकेलापन छाया
कभी खुद पर शक हुआ
पर हर बार गिरने के बाद
ख़ुद का हौसला सफ़र में

माँ का "ठीक से रहना"
अब फोन आया माई बंद हो गया
पापा का भरोसा
मेरी ताकत बन गया

कुछ दोस्त पल भर के लिए मिले
पर यादों में रहने लगे
कुछ दोस्त सिर्फ रस्ते द
मंजिल का हिसा नहीं बना
लाइब्रेरी में देर रात तक व्याख्यान देने वाली चाय
नोट्स से ज्यादा लाइफ पढ़ने लगी
डिग्री के साथ-साथ
माई खुद को भी लिखने लगी

ये सफर आसान नहीं था
पर ज़रूरी था
जो मैं कल थी आज वो नहीं हु
क्योंकि ये सफर मेरी कहानी थी

ये सफर सिर्फ शहर बदलने का नहीं था
ये सफर था - खुद से मिलने क

# एक तरफा

*Vidhi Raval*



काफ़ी कुछ बदल जाता है,

काफ़ी कुछ बिगड़ जाता है।

जानते थे,

मगर अनजान थे

उसकी हर बातों से...

हम वाकिफ थे।

कहानियों में लिखा है,

सच्चा प्यार अधूरा रह जाता है...

की कहानियों में लिखा है,

सच्चा प्यार अधूरा रह जाता है,

मेरी कहानी में लिखा है,

सच्चा प्यार एक तरफा रह जाता है...एक तरफा रह जाता है।

मिलकर भी ग़म रहता है,

क्यों मिले,

न मिलने पर वो रोता है,

क्यों न मिले?

पहली दफा जब वो रास्ते पे मिले,

इतने सारे मुसाफिरओ में वो हमसफर कैसे बन गए?

वो अनजान रास्ते पे,

न जाने कितने वादे रह गए..कितने वादे रह गए।इतने साल साथ रह कर,

तुम मेरे न हो पाए,

कसमें झूठे खा कर,

तुम उसे निभा तक नहीं पाए?

कितनी शिद्दत से चाहे मैने,

उतनी शिद्दत से किसी और को तुमने?

खेर,

एक तरफा जो था मेरा!

हम तो अभी भी खड़े,

वही

अनजान रास्तों पे,

किसी हमसदर के मुसाफिर बनके....

# तुम बस एक ख़्वाब हो

*Zahra Mustansir Bekhushi*



तुम बस एक ख़्वाब हो
तुम बस एक ख़्वाब हो।
एक ख़्वाब जो कभी पूरा नहीं हो सका।
वह ख़्वाब जिसे हर वक़्त मैंने अपनी आँखों में रखा।
तुम नसीब में नहीं, पर यादों में हो।

तुम मेरे साथ नहीं, पर मेरी किताबों में हो।
तुम्हारी वो हसीन आँखें और वो प्यारी-सी मुस्कान
आज भी याद हैं।
तुम तो चले गए,
पर वो सारी यादें पास हैं।

मुड़कर एक बार देखते तुम,
मैं तुम्हें वहीं नज़र आती।
एक बार ठहरने को कहते तुम,
मैं हमेशा के लिए तुम्हारी हो जाती।
अब उन सारी यादों के सहारे जीना सीख रही हूँ।
ख़ुद को बस यही समझा रही हूँ
कि तुम बस एक ख़्वाब हो...

# फ़र्क तो है...

*Rajvi Pandey*



फ़र्क तो है…
बचपन में जो "राजा बेटा" था,
आज वही घर का "निकम्मा" कहलाया है।

फ़र्क तो है…
जो बच्चा कभी आगे बढ़ने के सपने देखता था,
आज उन्हीं सपनों से दूर भागना चाहता है।

फ़र्क तो है…
जो कभी सबसे जीतने की चाह में था,
आज खुद से ही हार चुका है।

फ़र्क तो है…
जब रोता था तो सब उसे चुप करवा देते थे,
आज सिर्फ़ एक लफ़्ज़ के पीछे छिप गया है—
"अरे, वो लड़का है… लड़के थोड़ी ना रोते हैं।"

फ़र्क तो है…
जिसने कभी सबका प्यार देखा,
आज उसी प्यार के लिए पल-पल तरस रहा है।

फ़र्क तो है…
जिसने खुद से कुछ बनने का सपना देखा था,
आज उसके सपने चुरा लिए गए हैं—
बेवजह, बेआवाज़।

फ़र्क तो है…
लड़का है, तो हर ज़िम्मेदारी उसी की हो?
ये ज़रूरी तो नहीं…

फ़र्क बस इतना है—
फ़र्क लड़के और लड़की में नहीं,
फ़र्क है लोगों की सोच में, उनकी आँखों में,
जो छोटी-सी पहचान को गहरी लकीरों में बाँट देते हैं।

वो बच्चा, जो कभी खुल के हँसता था,
आज अपनी हँसी के पीछे दर्द छुपा कर बैठा है।
फ़र्क है…
सोच में फ़र्क है।

इंसान तो सब भगवान ने बनाए,
पर जब इंसान खुद ही इंसानियत भूल जाए,
तो भगवान से क्या शिकायत?

गलती किसी के लड़का या लड़की होने में नहीं,
गलती तो उस समाज की है—
जो अपनी बात को "सच" बनाने के लिए,
किसी भी हद तक चले जाते हैं।

फ़र्क तो है…
बहुत फ़र्क है।

# भरता हुआ मन

*Zahra Mustansir Bekhushi*



रोज़ खुद से छुप-छुप के बातें करता हूँ,

जो कहना था दुनिया से, खुद में ही भरता हूँ।

मुस्कान ओढ़ के दर्द छुपा लेता हूँ,

और रात को डायरी में सब लिख देता हूँ।

हर ख्वाहिश को "बाद में" कह कर टाल दिया,

हर आँसू को "ठीक हूँ" कह कर संभाल लिया।

लोग पूछते हैं, "सब ठीक है ना?"

मैं "हाँ" तो कहता हूँ, पर खुद से ही नज़रें चुरा लेता हूँ।

कभी लगता है ये डायरी ही मेरा असली ठिकाना है,

बाकी जो दुनिया है, वो तो बस एक बहाना है।

बातों का बोझ लिए कब तक यूँ ही चलूँगा?

मुझे तो बस अब खुद से ही रिश्ता निभाना है।

शायद जीना सिर्फ साँस लेने का नाम नहीं,

शायद महसूस करना भी ज़रूरी है कहीं।

जो दर्द है उसे बहने देना सीखना होगा,

वरना भरा हुआ मन कभी हल्का नहीं होगा।

# Of Pain and Painted Stories



*Rajvi Pandey*

Sunsets are the sweetest farewell
Mornings the harshest hello.
Each sunrise arrives, heavy
with the ache of old sorrow—
the quiet sting of absence,

The silent press of loneliness.
But sunsets…
They are poetry painted across the sky—
graceful golden, and endlessly tender they whisper softly:
Even the darkest days bow out in beauty.

Sunrises testify to pains persistence,
Yet sunsets promise that even heartache holds
A flicker of healing—delicate, but true.
I Hold no anger toward either
Both are masterpieces in their own right—
one reveals life's rawest truths,
The other cradles us in the arms of hope.

## Soft Boundaries, Strong Peace



*Moksha Jain*

Happiness found me in simple things—
Easy laughs, calm walks,
Comfortable silence with my own heart,
And music during late-night talks.

Positivity is not pretending,
That everything is always bright,
It's choosing hope with open eyes,
And resting when it's time to fight.

I don't compete or chase shadows,
I attract what's meant to align,
A peaceful mind, a steady heart,
And moments that feel truly mine.

So if I seem calm, unchanged,
It's not that life forgot to test,
It's that I chose a softer strength,
And learned that peace is success.

# पापा...

*Sristhi Kothari*



वो सिर्फ़ पापा नहीं, वो मेरी दुनिया हैं,
सबसे प्यारे, सबसे दुलारे,
मेरे पापा जो हैं दुनिया से कहीं ज़्यादा प्यारे।

जिनकी एक हँसी,
मेरी मुस्कान है,
और जिनका एक दर्द,
मेरा तूफ़ान है।
**वो सिर्फ़ पापा नहीं...**

एक चीज़ माँगूं,
तो हज़ार देते हैं,
रोज़ देते हैं,
हर तकलीफ़ को भुलाकर,
जो मुझे सिर्फ़ प्यार देते हैं।
**वो सिर्फ़ पापा नहीं...**

उनके जैसा ना कोई,
इंसान है इस जगत में,
मेरे पापा मेरे लिए भगवान हैं इस जगत में।
इससे महंगा तोहफ़ा नहीं चाहिए मुझे,

जिनके हँसने से मेरा दिन शुरू होता,
उन जैसा इस दुनिया में कोई नहीं।
सबको हँसाने वाले,
सबको मनाने वाले,
खुद के दर्द को छुपाने वाले,
और सबके दर्द को मिटाने वाले।
**वो सिर्फ़ पापा नहीं...**

बस हर जन्म में ऐसे पापा
चाहिए मुझे।
**वो सिर्फ़ पापा नहीं...**

मैं रूठूं तो मनाते हैं,
मैं रोऊं तो हँसाते हैं,
मेरी एक चुप्पी को पहचानने वाले,
मेरे पापा मेरे लिए इस दुनिया को जीने लायक
बनाते हैं।
**वो सिर्फ़ पापा नहीं...**

वो सिर्फ़ पापा ही नहीं,
मेरे दोस्त बनकर मुझे हँसाते हैं,
मेरे जिन्न बनकर मेरी हर विश पूरी करते हैं,
मेरे शुभचिंतक बनकर मुझे आज़ादी देते हैं,
मेरी तरफ आई हर मुसीबत वो ख़त्म कर देते हैं।
**वो सिर्फ़ पापा नहीं...**

जिनके बिना मेरा जीना, जीना नहीं,
जिनके बिना मेरा दिन नहीं,

वो जो मेरी चुप्पी समझ जाते हैं,
वो जो मेरी हर ख्वाहिश पूरी कर जाते हैं,
वो जिनसे दुनिया शुरू होती है मेरी,
और वो जिन पर दुनिया खत्म होती है मेरी।

**वो सिर्फ़ पापा नहीं... वो मेरी दुनिया हैं।**

# ગઝલ

*Mahimn Panchal*



ઊંઘમાંથી દુઃખ જગાવે છે મને.
બદનસીબે હોશ આવે છે મને.

શીખવ્યું 'તુ જેમને મેં દેખતા,
આજ એ આંખો બતાવે છે મને.

દિનચર્યા એકસરખી થઇ જતાં,
એકસરખા સ્વપ્ન આવે છે મને.

શું જુલમ છે! કે હવે ઠુંઠો સમય,
આંગળી ઉપર નચાવે છે મને.

એટલે નારાજગી ટકતી નથી,
ક્યાં કદી કોઇ મનાવે છે મને?

રૂપ છે ભગવાનનું એ કારણે,
આંખ બાળકની ડરાવે છે મને.

જે કશું મંગાવો, બે મંગાવજો!
આપને ભાવે એ ભાવે છે મને.

છોડમાં પાણીની જોઈને ઉણપ,
બાળપણની યાદ આવે છે મને.



## Happiness

*Tamanna Chandnani*

Happiness comes now and then,

We cannot be sure just when.

But when its there, enjoy each hour.

Because happiness has such power.

Joy to you it will bring,

Even make someone else sing.

What peace of mind happiness can show,

Making you and others glow.

Nurture it make it last,

Forget the trouble of the past.

Never fear that it will go, For it could always grow.

And then tomorrow there it will be,

For happiness can set you free.

# तुम कहाँ?



*Riddhi Deora*

ये आँखें ढूँढ रही थीं तुम्हें,
जब उस सुबह तुम दिखीं नहीं,
दिखा तो सिर्फ़ ख़ामोशी से घिरा आँगन
और खाली आसमान।

खुद से हज़ारों सवाल,
और तुमसे जवाब—
मुझे सिर्फ़ सन्नाटा मिला,
जैसे चाँद से रूठी रात
और तारों को नया नज़ारा मिला।

उस दिन वो सारे मुरझाए फूल
न जाने क्यों तुम्हारी यादें ताज़ा कर रहे थे।
तुम्हारी रेशम की साड़ी और मंगलसूत्र सब
तुम पर तो था, मगर तुम जैसा क्यों नहीं सज रहा
था?

आज क्यों तुम्हारी सुनहरी चमक
मेरे बेरंग मन को नहीं भर पा रही?
क्यों इतने सवालों का जवाब
सिर्फ़ तुम्हारी ख़ामोशी है?

तुम्हें यूँ सजा देख
कभी समय सा कुछ मुझमें ठहर जाता था,
अब मानो ऐसी घड़ी आ गई हो
जहाँ मैं ठहर गया हूँ,
बस समय सा कुछ चल रहा है।

क्यों ये शाम की दोपहर
सब तेरे नाम ले गई,
अब सिर्फ़ मुझमें
तेरे पायल की छनक रह गई।

# Teacher

*Tamanna Chandnani*



New place, new people, new atmosphere,
I was so scared that tears filled my eyes.
New friends to make, new subjects to learn,
It was as if life had taken a new turn.

But finally, all of us got a teacher.
Who teaches us
That life starts at the end of your comfort zone,
He is the one who moulds a diamond out of a stone.

Life is not a bed of roses,
But we are taught to pull away the thorns.

A teacher is the one
Through whom we achieve our victories.

There is love hidden behind that anger,
There is care hidden behind that rage,
Because our success is something,
For which he always prays.

A teacher taught you to read,
to write a person to whom we should always be obliged.
My teacher is someone who taught me lessons of life,

He told me that there was no victory without strife.

# Women

*Siddhi Patel*



The word itself is so powerful....
But she can also be....
She is strongest,
But she can also be weak.
She has a beautiful smile,
But she can smile with her flaws.
And can work without pause.

She is 30,
But she can also be purdy.
She doesn't need anyone..
But sometimes she does,
To support her in failure
And she will become their all time saviour.

She can be a queen or may be a queen,
But she can also be a normal perfect woman,
And a superhuman.

## Silent strengths



*Faldu Dikhsa*

We wake each day wearing borrowed courage,
stitched from yesterday's losses and small hopes.
Life rarely shouts its lessons; it whispers them
through unpaid bills,
silent phones, and tired smiles.
Some run fast to reach dreams,
others walk slow to survive,
but both are brave in ways
the world forgets to count.
We learn that success is not always rising high,
sometimes it is simply not falling apart.
People carry storms inside
and still offer shelter to others.
In the end, life is not about winning or losing

# दूरी? ... सिर्फ रास्ते में।

# याद? ... हर पल।



*Samriddhi Jain*

हर छोटी-सी बात में आपकी याद आ जाती है।
हर बार जब किसी पापा को अपनी बेटी के साथ देखती हूँ,
तो आपकी याद आ जाती है।
हर बार जब किसी मम्मी को अपनी बेटी को
अपने हाथों से खाना खिलाते देखती हूँ,
तो आपकी याद आ जाती है।
हर बार जब किसी भाई को
अपनी बहन के साथ कुत्ते-बिल्ली की तरह लड़ते देखती हूँ,
तो आपकी याद आ जाती है।
हर बार किसी परिवार को देखकर
आपकी याद आ जाती है।
हर बार किसी घर की चीज़ देखकर
आपकी याद आ जाती है।
हर बार कोई ऐसा सामान देखकर
जिसे दिलाने के लिए आपसे ज़िद किया करती थी,
आपकी याद आ जाती है।
हर बार जब थोड़ा-सा भी मन उदास होता है,
तो आपकी याद आ जाती है।

हर बार किसी कोने में बैठकर
अच्छी यादों का कोई पल याद करती हूँ,
तो आपकी याद आ जाती है।
हर बार घर सूना लगता है,
तो आपकी याद आ जाती है।
लेकिन एक बात समझ नहीं आती—
जब हमें अच्छा महसूस नहीं होता,
तो आपको हमारी याद कैसे आ जाती है...
शायद ये बस parents thing है।
हर बार कॉल नहीं कर पाती,
मुझे पता है...
लेकिन मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत याद कर रही हूँ।
आपकी याद आ जाती है...
हर पल।

# I Wasn’t Late, I Was Loading...



*Devam Trivedi*

Everyone around me seemed ahead-

winning, achieving, moving fast.

I wasn't. And for a long time,

I believed that meant I was losing.
While they chased numbers,
I was chasing bars.

Late nights with a pen, no stage, no claps-
Just a room full of dreams and doubts
fighting in the dark.
But struggle has its own language.

It doesn't shout; it teaches quietly.

Failures didn't stop me-they shaped my sound.
Delays didn't break me-they tuned my hunger.

"Har rukāvat ne mujhe chalna sikhāyā,
Har andhera mera hausla ban kar aayā."

They said, rap sirf shauk hai,
I said, yeh meri saans hai.

Every rejection sharpened my voice,
Every silence taught me how to speak
louder in verses.

I realised I wasn't behind in life, I was being built differently.
While the world counted results,
I was counting sleepless nights, rewritten hooks, and faith.
Strength in my tone, patience in my flow, clarity in my words.

Today, I don't rush to prove myself.
I let the mic talk when the time feels right.
Because some stories don't drop early,
They drop classic.

I wasn't late.
I was loading.

# The Unanswered Heart



*Priyanshu Pandya*

Lost the fight and her heart
The love we shared had been torn apart
Cant forget the time we spent
What could i have done to prevent
Mistakes were made, though never forgiven
Letters still written, now criven
Deserted and in despair standing am i
Still waiting for her to hear my cry
Time flew and we forget
How we broke, how we met
Yet my heart still asks with pain
Will she ever come back again?

The depth of her eyes
I was lost in her eyes so deep
that i forgot the way to her heart
And now her heart drifted far apart

I stood there, waiting, alone and lost
I did love her, but at what cost?
Desolate and vain lies my soul
Her warmth, her adore, did i just loose it all?
Every night i reminisce those embraces
Now all thats left is tears and traces.

## Wings of Pride - my parents



*Archi Rana*

My parents gave me wings in life,
They held my dreams through storm and strife.
They lit a lamp of faith so bright,
And showed me pathways filled with light.

From birth until my learning years,
They stood beside through hopes and fears.
With love they led me to GLS gates,
Shaping my future, designing my fate.

The flowers of my hard work bloom,
A Gold Medal lights up the room.
Fewer bunks and efforts true,
Their eyes now shine with pride so true.

You are my strength, my guiding light,
Your blessings make my future bright.
Each step I take, I'll think of you,
Forever proud in all I do.

# आसान नहीं होता...



*Animesh Jain*

मालूम है
आसान नहीं होता…

एक मकान से अपनापन आने के बाद
उस घर को छोड़ना आसान नहीं होता…

अपने शहर को छोड़ कर अनजान शहर में
दुबारा मकान को घर बोल पाना
आसान नहीं होता…

दोस्त, घर, यार, शहर से दूर जाना…
लगता है कि दोस्ती दूरी से मापी नहीं जाती,
उल्टा दोस्ती और भी गहरी हो जाती है,
लेकिन उस के लिए दूर रहने का
दर्द भी सहना पड़ता है,
आसान नहीं होता…

दोस्तों से दूर रहना आसान नहीं होता…
आसान नहीं होता…

मालूम है।

# Section 2

# Articles

# 18 and Already Running Out of Time

*Yashvi Mehta*



Turning 18 is weird. Everyone expects it to feel special, like something changes overnight. But for me, it mostly felt heavy. Somewhere between birthday wishes and congratulations, a strange pressure settles in—the feeling that time is already slipping away. Like, suddenly time started moving faster, and I was supposed to keep up.

Before 18, there was always this excuse that we're still kids. Still learning. Still allowed to be confused. After 18, that excuse disappears; suddenly, life feels like a race. People don't say it directly, but you can feel it. You're supposed to know what you're doing now. Or at least act like you do.

> *It just feels that way because everything is new and uncertain, and maybe that's okay. Maybe growing up was never supposed to feel easy.*

Questions start coming from everywhere. What are you studying? What's your plan? What do you want to become? Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years? - and the worst part is not the questions — it's not having clear answers. It makes you feel like you're late to something everyone else already signed up for. Confusion starts to feel like failure.

Social media doesn't help either. You see people your age doing things that look impressive: internships, achievements, goals, and confidence. Even when you know they're only showing the good parts, the comparison still hurts; it messes with your head. It creates the illusion that everyone else is ahead, and we are late to our own lives. You start thinking maybe everyone else figured life out early, and you missed something important.

That's when this feeling hits- "like you're already running out of time" . Not because life is actually ending, or because time is actually limited at 18, but because we've been taught to treat life like a checklist, everything feels rushed. Hustle culture makes it worse. There's always this pressure to do more, to use every minute "productively." Rest feels guilty. Taking your time feels like wasting it. Uncertainty feels unacceptable.

The truth is, most of us are just pretending. We're trying things out, making mistakes, changing our minds. Nobody really knows what they're doing at 18. Or at 25. Or even at 40. But admitting that feels scary, so we don't. Most people are learning as they go, making mistakes, changing directions, and starting over more times than they admit. Confidence is often just practice, not certainty.

There's also this quiet sadness that comes with growing up. Childhood doesn't end dramatically. It just slowly fades. Responsibilities replace comfort, and expectations replace patience. We are 're expected to be strong and mature even when you still feel unsure inside.

Maybe 18 isn't about having answers. Maybe it's just about starting to ask better questions.

Maybe feeling lost is not a problem, but a sign that you're actually thinking. Feeling lost doesn't mean we're failing. It means we're exploring. Taking time doesn't mean we're wasting it. It means we're learning. Life is not something to be solved quickly—it's something to be lived slowly.

So no, we're not running out of time at 18. We are just standing at the start of it, unsure, hopeful, and unfinished.

# Air India Flight 171: The Day Hope Fell from the Sky

*Khushi Tejani*



There are journeys that carry more than luggage — they carry years of longing, carefully nursed dreams, and the quiet trembling of a new beginning. For the 242 souls aboard Air India Flight 171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that departed Ahmedabad International Airport at approximately 1:39 PM bound for London Gatwick, this was exactly such a journey.

Among the 230 passengers and 12 crew members were stories as varied and vivid as life itself: a man reuniting with his family after years apart; a young woman travelling to meet the person she loved; others embarking on futures they had spent lifetimes building toward. The aircraft lifted into the afternoon sky carrying not just people, but possibility.

*Flight 171 departed with hope. The hope did not perish with it. It lives on in every family that found the courage to remember, and in every life that was quietly, permanently changed by what happened on that afternoon in Ahmedabad.*

It never reached its destination.

Minutes after takeoff, Flight 171 came down over the BJ Medical College Boys' Hostel — a place of ordinary, unhurried life. Students and resident doctors were in the middle of their afternoon meals, their conversations and plans as unremarkable and precious as any other day. None of them could have anticipated what was about to arrive from the sky.

The impact was catastrophic. The wreckage tore through the hostel, claiming lives both in the air and on the ground. Black smoke rose in thick columns above

the Ahmedabad skyline, carrying with it ash and the weight of unimaginable loss. Within minutes, thousands of people gathered at the perimeter — relatives, bystanders, and the simply stunned — many of them clutching their phones, desperately praying that a son, a daughter, a parent, or a grandparent had somehow been spared.

Multiple fatalities and severe injuries were reported among passengers, crew members, and individuals on the ground. The scale of destruction left rescue teams working in grim silence beneath a sky darkened by smoke.

The tragedy claimed lives that carried their own weight of meaning. Former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani, who had devoted decades of his life to public service, was among those killed. He had boarded the flight in a moment of pure personal joy — travelling to London to be reunited with his son, his heart full of the kind of happiness that has nothing to do with politics or power. He did not arrive.

His loss, like the loss of every passenger, every crew member, and every person in that hostel, was irreplaceable.

Within the hour, hospitals across Ahmedabad were placed on emergency alert. Emergency wards filled rapidly with

survivors suffering from severe burns, fractures, internal injuries, and the raw, disorienting trauma of sudden loss. Counsellors and crisis response teams were deployed inside hospitals to support both the injured and the families gathering desperately for news.

The cause of the crash is believed to involve a possible mechanical failure, potentially compounded by adverse weather conditions. The tragedy has prompted urgent calls for strengthened aviation safety protocols, stricter aircraft maintenance standards, and full accountability from the airline and relevant regulatory authorities.

As the chaos gradually gave way to the exhausting work of recovery, families waited in corridors and car parks, clinging to hope. Identities were confirmed through DNA testing — a slow, clinical process that forced people to confront what they already feared in their hearts. Some received the news that their loved one had survived. Many more did not.

One man walked out of the wreckage shaken,broken in body, but alive. His survival was both a miracle and a reminder of how fine the line between life and death had been on that afternoon.

In the days that followed, amid the grief and the unanswered questions, something else began to surface. Stories of last-minute acts of courage, of strangers shielding strangers, of rescuers who ran toward the wreckage without hesitation. These stories did not diminish the sorrow — nothing could — but they bore witness to a resilience that refuses to be buried even under the heaviest ash.

A memorial has since been established near the crash site. It stands not only as a monument to those who were lost, but as a testament to the strength of the human spirit — its capacity to absorb devastation, to grieve honestly, and to endure.

# Is India a Cricket-Centric Nation?

*Nishikha Shah*



In India, sport is more than just entertainment—it is emotion, identity, and sometimes even religion. At the center of this sporting universe stands cricket. From crowded gullies to prime-time television debates, cricket dominates conversations, sponsorships, and national pride. But does this obsession mean India is only a cricket-centric nation? Or do other sports receive equal respect and recognition? There is no denying that cricket enjoys unparalleled popularity in India. The Indian Premier League (IPL) attracts massive investments, global viewership, and celebrity ownership. Cricketers are household names, brand ambassadors, and national icons. Even a bilateral series can overshadow achievements in other sports. India's sports landscape operates as a dual economy. In 2021, cricket alone accounted for an overwhelming 88% of national spending on sports revenue, leaving minimal resources for the rest.

*The future of Indian sport depends on one crucial shift: expanding our pride beyond a single game and embracing the full spectrum of athletic achievement.*

This disparity creates a vicious cycle: limited funding means poor infrastructure and fewer opportunities, which in turn leads to less media coverage and minimal corporate sponsorship outside of cricket.

Indian football is currently in a state of paralysis. The 2025-26 Indian Super League (ISL) season remains indefinitely suspended, leaving hundreds of players and staff in a “humanitarian, sporting and economic crisis.” The All India Football Federation (AIFF) failed to renew its commercial agreement and a subsequent tender attracted no bidders, leaving the league without an operator. In an unprecedented move in January 2026, top national team players, including legends like Sunil Chhetri, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, and Sandesh Jhingan, released a joint video plea urging FIFA to intervene and "save Indian football" from "permanent paralysis". This instability pushes young players to reconsider their careers, as the professional pathway is fraught with financial insecurity and a lack of competitive matches.

Hockey, India’s national sport, tells a similar story. Once a dominant force that won multiple Olympic gold medals, Indian hockey suffered decades of neglect. However, recent years have shown a revival. The Indian men’s team won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, ending a 41-year medal drought. Despite this historic achievement, the celebration was short-lived.

Media attention quickly shifted back to cricket, raising an important question: why do achievements in other sports fade so quickly from public memory? Indian athletes in sports like athletics, badminton, wrestling, boxing, and

weightlifting have consistently made the nation proud.

Neeraj Chopra's Olympic gold in javelin throw, PV Sindhu's badminton achievements, and medal wins in wrestling and boxing show India's growing sporting diversity. n late 2025, India's record-setting archery team, which won six gold medals at the Asian R3 Championship, was stranded at the airport and forced to spend the night in a local hotel on their return journey due to airline and administrative delays. Indian wrestling continues to grapple with governance issues and a pervasive doping problem. According to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) 2024 report, India topped the global list for doping violations for the third straight year, with athletics, weightlifting, and wrestling being the primary offenders.

Yet, these athletes often receive recognition only during major international events. Once the spotlight fades, so does the support. Unlike cricket, these sports lack strong domestic leagues, regular media coverage, and long-term sponsorships.

The landscape is changing slowly. Government initiatives, such as Khelo India, the expansion of sports infrastructure, and the emergence of professional leagues in football, kabaddi, and badminton, signal progress.

Digital platforms have further broken the monopoly of prime-time cricket, giving space to athletes and sports that were once pushed to the margins.Yet, real transformation will not be measured by policies or platforms alone—it will be measured by public mindset.

A sporting nation is built not just by medals, but by recognition, respect, and sustained enthusiasm for all who represent the country. India does not lack talent; it lacks equitable attention.

Only then can India truly call itself a sporting nation. The question, therefore, is not whether India is cricket-centric—but whether Indians are ready to broaden their definition of sporting pride.

# The Psychology of Money for Students: Why we Make poor decisions?

*Urmil Patel*

Money is often seen as a matter of numbers—how much we earn or how much we spend. But in real life, money decisions are mostly emotional. This is especially true for students. Many of us make poor financial choices not because we are careless, but because we do not understand how our mindset influences our decisions.

*Managing money is not just about earning more—it is about thinking better.*

One of the main reasons students struggle with money is peer pressure. College life is full of comparisons. We notice what our friends buy, where they go, and how they spend their money. Even when we do not really need something, we feel pressure to spend just to fit in. Instead of thinking about our budget, we often worry about how we look in front of others.

Another important reason is our habit of instant gratification. As students, we prefer enjoying the present rather than planning for the future. Spending money on food deliveries, shopping, or entertainment gives quick happiness. Saving money does not feel exciting because the results are not immediate. Because of this, many students ignore saving and spend without thinking about long-term consequences.

Fear also plays a big role in money-related decisions. Terms like saving, investing, or insurance often sound complicated and risky. Since these topics are rarely taught in school or college, students feel confused and scared to learn about them. Students do nothing with their money or depend completely on others to manage it for them.

Another major issue is that money is rarely discussed openly. In our education system, we are taught many academic subjects, but money management is almost completely ignored. Even at home, money is sometimes treated as a sensitive topic.

Because of this, students often learn about money only after making mistakes such as overspending or getting into debt.

Making poor financial decisions does not mean students are irresponsible. Most of the time, we are simply unaware of how emotions like fear, comparison, and the need for instant happiness affect our choices. If students understand the psychology behind their financial behavior, they can make smarter decisions, reduce stress, and build a more secure future.

# The Evolution of Friendship in College life

*Dhruvi Shah*



College friendship starts with excitement, curiosity and instant bonding. In the first few days, everyone takes to everyone. Friendships form quickly over shared benches, orientation days, canteen trips and exchanging our Instagram IDs. It feels effortless, like these people were always meant to be part of your life.

Every friend is friend-kept forever. Group photos, birthday celebrations, late-night study sessions, and festivals/ make everything feel intense and unforgettable. You don't just make friends, you make memories.

Now in 2nd semester the tone subtly shifts. The initial rush settles and friendship enters the "reality check "era. Some bonds stay, some disappear. Many people disappear from your life. True people stay till the end. The group may exist, but cracks start to appear in the friendship, not because it is dying , but because honesty is arriving . This semester teaches you that everyone who laughs with you is growing with you. Its semester where friendship stop being accidental and starts being understood.

*Friendship grows into stages. The first semester gives excitement; the second semester gives understanding. Both are meaningful in shaping how students define connection, loyalty and belonging.*

After the second semester comes circle refinement stage. By the third semester, most students instinctively gravitate towards people who bring emotions safety, consistency and mutual respect. Conversation change from surface-level introductions to layered confessions, academic stress talks, relationship theories, family dilemmas and career panic sessions.

The bond evolves from phase to phase. The group becomes smaller, but loyal and smarter. Then begins the professor perspective phase, where even faculty can relate. Professors often mention that their college friends are still their strongest support system decades later.

This phase highlights shared truth – friendships formed in educational spaces are shaped by shared struggle, shared growth and shared transformation. Both students and professors know this feeling – the real friends are one who stay even after semester changes seating arrangements.

# AI Ate My Homework: The Fine Line Between 'Smart Work' and Short Cuts

*Jigar Pandya*



It was 11:30 PM on a Tuesday. I was sitting at a café near Law Garden, surrounded by the usual pre-submission chaos. The air smelled of burnt coffee and desperation. At the table next to me, a group of students weren't frantically typing out their marketing analysis.

Instead, they were staring at a single screen, watching a cursor blink.

"Bro, tell it to sound less like a robot and more like a BBA student who didn't sleep last night," one of them commanded.

*The AI wrote my homework, and it arguably did a better job than I could have done after three Red Bulls.*

It made me pause. We've moved past the classic "dog ate my homework" excuse. In 2026, the reality is far more complex. As students of the Faculty of Business Administration, we pride ourselves on being ahead of the curve. But as tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini become our default "study buddies," we need to have an uncomfortable conversation. Are we using these tools to become smarter, or are we just training ourselves to be obsolete?

Let's be honest—we are the only generation that says "Please" to a robot, just in case they take over the world someday. We love efficiency. When a tool offers to write code for a practical or draft a moot court speech in seconds, it feels like the ultimate life hack.

But there is a thin line between using AI as a tool and using it as a crutch. I recently saw a student submit an assignment that included the phrase: "As an AI language model, I cannot have personal opinions." He hadn't even read what he copied! When we outsource the writing process, we skip the critical thinking process—the messy, frustrating struggle of organizing thoughts that actually builds neural pathways.

# Smoking: Is it the "The new common."?

*Nehal Kripalani*



Ever wondered how you'll feel at 40 if you start today? Not everything that feels right is correct. India is one of the world's largest economies and holds the distinction of being the most populous country. But "the youth", "the future" of the country is moving in the completely wrong direction.

The social image of smoking as "cool", the influence from movies and ads has a high effect on the youth, not only this peer pressure hold a significant weight in this. Starts from one person, and soon the whole group is engaged. "Just once", oh come on, don't be stupid, "try it once", it has a lot of influence.

"Vapes are flavoured, not at all harmful"; phrases like these encourage youngsters to engage more in such activities.

People have normalized smoking to such an extent that cigarettes don't feel dangerous anymore at all. Those awareness ads before movies that show how families are destroyed due to lung cancer caused by smoking do not affect growing teenagers. What feels cool at 18 slowly destroys you. Smoking has tremendous health hazards like early ageing, lung cancer, and whatnot. Just once, "I don't smoke often", is just a cover to hide the reality. Once you start, there is no going back.

Even some educated working professionals engage themselves in such activities, and they think that just because they are aware, it is not wrong to do this. Vapes and cigarettes are so accessible that even 15-year-olds use vapes and think it is cool.

*People often think it is a way to escape stress, anxiety, and problems, but it is an open invitation to a stressful life.*

Now, the important question that comes into the picture is how to stop? Simply saying this is wrong and this shouldn't be done is not at all effective. People simply think you are lecturing them. Rather than this making people realise what they are doing to themselves, making them understand the effects of these in the long run might help.

As Nelson Mandela said, it always seems impossible until it is done. How will you understand if you don't even try? Nobody can force you to quit, you have to do this yourself, not because someone warned you, but because someone warned you but because you wanted to.

# Because I Am a Girl

*Angel Jain*



The number of times I have wished I were born a boy is more than the number of new people I have met in my life. That single thought reflects the depth of injustice a girl faces—not because she is incapable, but simply because she is a girl.

Gender discrimination is rarely loud; it is quiet, casual, and deeply normalized. It appears in everyday conversations and social reactions. Why is it considered shocking when parents have only daughters? Why do people say, "Oh, you don't have a boy?" as if something is missing? No one ever asks the same question about not having a girl. This is because society treats boys as assets and girls as liabilities something that will eventually "leave" after marriage.

From a young age, girls are reminded that their presence in their own homes is temporary. They are told they will leave their parents one day, as if their bond, love, and responsibility are weaker or conditional. A girl grows up feeling like she belongs everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

A girl also grows up learning to adjust. She adjusts her dreams, her ambitions, and her expectations. Why can't I decide my future freely? Why are my opportunities limited even before I begin? Why are my goals questioned while a boy's goals are encouraged? Freedom, for a girl, is never assumed it must always be justified.

Simple acts come with unnecessary restrictions. Why can't I travel alone? Why must I always have someone with me? Instead of teaching society to respect girls, girls are taught to restrict themselves. Safety becomes a responsibility placed on women rather than a duty shared by society.

> *Equality will not begin when girls are protected more, but when they are trusted more. The day society stops raising girls to survive and starts raising them to live, the wish to be born a boy will finally disappear.*

Even spaces meant to empower young women reflect inequality. Why can't I leave my hostel after 8:30 p.m., while boys roam freely till midnight? These rules are often called protection, but they feel more like control. Freedom should not be decided by gender.

Perhaps the most personal injustice is the pressure of marriage. Why am I told that I must get married by twenty-four, as if my life has an expiry date? Is my life truly mine, or does it belong to society's timelines and expectations?

Every question leads to the same answer because I am a girl. But a girl is not a burden, not a liability, and not a responsibility to be passed on. She is a human being with dreams, choices, and the right to decide her own life. I do not wish to be a boy; I wish to be free as a girl.

# Air Pollution in India's Capital – The Case of Delhi's Air Quality

*Raj Lakhaniya*



The issue of air pollution in Delhi has once again become a matter of grave concern as the city moves through the peak winter season. Every year, winter brings with it a visible blanket of smog, reduced visibility, and a sharp rise in respiratory illnesses. The Air Quality Index (AQI), which serves as a key indicator of pollution levels, has repeatedly remained in the "very poor" category across many monitoring stations. Such readings signal that the air is unhealthy not only for vulnerable groups but also for otherwise healthy individuals.

*Addressing the crisis demands not only emergency responses during winter but sustained commitment throughout the year.*

As observed in early January, Delhi's AQI crossed the 300 marks, firmly placing it in the "Very Poor" category. Although there were brief phases of improvement caused by favourable wind movements, they were temporary and insufficient to offer meaningful relief. Environmental experts explain that winter meteorology plays a major role in worsening the situation. Low wind speed prevents pollutants from dispersing, while a phenomenon known as temperature inversion traps polluted air close to the ground. Heavy fog further mixes with particulate matter, intensifying smog formation and making breathing conditions even more difficult.

Even when the citywide average AQI falls marginally, many localities continue to report dangerous readings between 300 and 350. At this level, people may experience irritation in the eyes and throat, coughing, and shortness of breath. For children, senior citizens, and individuals suffering from asthma, bronchitis, or heart problems, the risks become far more severe. Hospitals often report an increase in emergency visits during such periods, highlighting the direct link between environmental degradation and public health.

This winter's pollution has drawn heightened public attention because citizens are increasingly aware of the long-term consequences. While some days have been cleaner compared to previous years, these short breaks cannot offset the cumulative exposure residents face. Continuous inhalation of polluted air over months and years can reduce lung capacity, trigger chronic diseases, and

even shorten life expectancy. Therefore, the focus is shifting from temporary relief to sustainable and long-term solutions.

Authorities attempt to respond dynamically through graded action plans. Measures may include restrictions on construction activities, regulation of industrial operations, advisories for schools, and limits on vehicle usage. Work-from-home recommendations are sometimes issued to reduce traffic emissions. Despite these interventions, improvements are often slow because pollution in Delhi arises from multiple sources, both within and outside the city.

Vehicular emissions remain one of the biggest contributors, given the enormous number of cars, buses, and two-wheelers on the roads every day. Dust from construction sites and poorly maintained roads adds large quantities of particulate matter into the air. Industrial pollution from nearby regions and seasonal agricultural stubble burning in neighbouring states further compound the crisis. When these emissions combine with unfavourable weather, pollutants accumulate rapidly, leading to persistent smog episodes.

Another challenge lies in enforcement and behavioural change. While policies may exist on paper, their effectiveness depends on strict implementation and public cooperation. Illegal waste burning, non-compliance at construction sites, and overuse of private vehicles weaken the impact of official measures. At the same time, citizens often feel frustrated, believing individual efforts are too small compared to the magnitude of the problem.

Health advisories during high AQI days emphasize reducing outdoor activities, wearing protective masks, using air purifiers indoors, and staying hydrated. Schools sometimes modify schedules or suspend outdoor sports. However, such precautions are defensive strategies; they protect individuals temporarily but do not eliminate the root causes of pollution.

Experts argue that Delhi requires a multi-layered approach. Expanding public transport, promoting electric mobility, improving waste management, and ensuring greener urban planning can gradually reduce emissions. Regional coordination between states is equally crucial because air pollution does not recognize administrative boundaries. Long-term monitoring, scientific research, and community participation must support policy initiatives to create lasting change.

In conclusion, the current AQI trends in Delhi reflect the deep complexity of urban air pollution. Though occasional

improvements provide brief optimism, the overall situation continues to pose serious risks to millions of residents. The persistence of high pollution levels underlines structural weaknesses in transport systems, industrial regulation, and environmental governance. Only through coordinated action, technological innovation, and active public involvement can Delhi hope to secure cleaner and healthier air for future generations.

# Finding My Voice in the Noise of Doubt

*Rani Mandot*



Somewhere between dreaming big and fearing failure, I am learning who I am becoming. This phase of my life is not loud, not clear, and not confident all the time—it is quiet, confusing, and full of questions I don't yet have answers to.

I want to stand on a stage with confidence. I imagine myself speaking freely, expressing my thoughts without fear. But the moment that imagination turns into reality, self-doubt takes control. What if I speak something wrong? What if my pronunciation is incorrect? What if people judge me because I am not very good at English? The fear becomes stronger than my voice.

> *"One day, my voice will be steady—not because fear disappeared, but because I refused to let it silence me."*

I have thoughts. I have ideas. I prepare points in my mind. But when it is time to speak or present, my mind goes blank. Even after knowing what to say, I fail to say it. I participate in competitions, I push myself to take chances, but when the moment of presentation comes, fear takes over. It feels painful to know what to say, yet not be able to say it.

Still, I want to try everything.

I want to become self-reliant. I don't want to depend on my parents for everything. Not because they don't support me, but because I want to prove that their sacrifices were worth it.

I want to earn, to stand on my own feet, to show them that I can handle life on my own. I want to make them proud—not with words, but with my actions. Most of all, want freedom—the freedom that comes from financial independence, the freedom to make my own choices.

Along with fear and self-doubt, confusion walks beside me. Soon, I will choose a specialization, a direction that may shape my future.

And this decision scares me. Not because I lack interest, but because I have interest in many things. I am the kind of person who develops interest once I start learning something. This makes choosing even harder. What if I choose the wrong path? What if I regret it later?

Maybe I am not confident yet. Maybe my English is not perfect. Maybe I take one step forward and two steps backward. But I am learning. I am growing. And I believe that courage is not the absence of fear, but the decision to try despite it.

# Living Together Yet Feeling Lonely

*Mishikha Bhandari*



We live in an era where human beings have never been closer yet never felt more distant. Cities are bursting, homes are crowded, and digital platforms are always there to connect people. Still, loneliness has become one of the most common emotions of modern society. This contradiction defines the paradox we live in today: *living together, yet feeling alone*. Modern society thrives on interaction and networking but often lacks connection. we share classrooms, workplaces, public spaces..but rarely share emotions, thoughts, or silence. Conversations have become rushed, reduced to greetings and surface-level exchanges. People live side by side, but remains emotionally disconnected. In today's world, being alone is no longer about physical absence It is about emotional distance. A person can sit among friends, attend gatherings, and still feel disconnected. This loneliness is subtle but heavy, the kind that stays with you without being noticed by others, but is profoundly felt by the person experiencing it.

One of the strongest contributors to this growing isolation is technology. Social media, while designed to connect us, It often creates a false sense of belonging. It supports expectation by showcasing lives filled with celebration, productivity, and happiness. But behind these digital world lies a different reality. Many individuals scroll through screens not out of curiosity, but out of loneliness hoping to feel seen, understood, or less alone. Ironically, the pressure to appear socially fulfilled often prevents people from admitting their loneliness. In a society that celebrates independence and emotional strength, feeling lonely is often mistaken for weakness. People learn to suppress their emotions, convincing themselves that they must handle everything alone. Loneliness also grows from the fear of being misunderstood. Many individuals hesitate to express their true feelings, believing that others will not understand or will judge them. Conversations remain superficial, focused on achievements, updates, and appearances. The deeper emotions fears, doubts, and insecurities remain unspoken. When emotions are left unshared, loneliness becomes the closest friend.

> *Lonely life in modern society is often routine-driven. Days are filled with responsibilities, schedules, and distractions.*

People remain occupied, yet emotionally unfulfilled. Silence becomes uncomfortable, and being alone with one's thoughts is something overwhelming. As a result, individuals seek constant stimulation .... scrolling, streaming, or staying busy not for enjoyment, but to avoid confronting their loneliness. What makes this form of loneliness more painful is that it is hardly seen. People assume that those who are socially active are emotionally fulfilled. In

reality, loneliness does not discriminate. It affects the popular, the successful, and the surrounded just as hard as it affects the isolated. The difference lies only in how well it is hidden. However, loneliness is not merely a personal failure; it is a societal condition. A society that prioritizes productivity over presence, comparison over compassion is bound to crate emotionally distant individuals. When emotional expression is discouraged, loneliness becomes normalized.

# Dopamine Detox: Reclaim Focus from Digital Chaos

*Muskan M. Shaikh*



"They say ignorance is bliss, but have you tried 'notification-off-ness'? It's the new wellness trend that doesn't require green matcha or 5 AM yoga—just the revolutionary act of... putting your phone down."

Imagine your brain has a reward button controlled by dopamine. Every time you get a like on Instagram, views on YouTube, or beat a game level, your brain releases dopamine and you feel a burst of happiness. Sounds great, right? However, when you get too many of these tiny rewards too quickly, your brain gets lazy. It starts craving only quick, easy pleasure and loses interest in things that take effort like studying, exercising, or having real conversations.

*A dopamine detox helps you remember who should be in charge, you or the algorithm.*

One proposed approach is called a dopamine detox ,which allows your brain to reset by providing a break from instant rewards. However, you cannot really detox since your brain constantly produces dopamine. In actuality, it is a clever reset that eliminates transient distractions to form better habits.

The first generation with unlimited digital access, born from 1995 onward, was also the first to face crippling levels of anxiety. Adults spend an average of 11 hours daily consuming media, leading to anxiety, stress, and burnout. Our attention spans have decreased from 12 seconds in 2000 to just 8 seconds today, shorter than a goldfish. It takes your brain 23 minutes to completely return to your original task after checking your phone. Late night scrolling disrupts your sleep hormones, resulting in poor mood, poor grades, and poor sleep.

You do not need to become a digital hermit. Start small. Try the morning phone free hour. Wake up and be human for 60 minutes before checking anything. When studying, keep your phone in another room. Delete social media apps from your phone but allow 30 minutes of laptop time if needed. Eat one meal daily without screens. When the scrolling urge hits, do 10 pushups, drink water, or step outside for two minutes. Use airplane mode overnight.

Pick up something hands on like sketching, guitar, yoga, or walks without earbuds. Being comfortable with silence is weirdly liberating. Pick one or two habits that feel doable, stick with them for a week, then add another. Small changes compound into big results.

Digital minimalism is pro intentionality. Your phone is a great tool but a terrible master. Instead of trying to miss out on everything, you are protecting the significant things that give life meaning.

# More Than a Financial Loss

*Khushi Jain*



In commerce class, you learn that loss is a phrase used in finance, such as a red number or an unbalanced column. Clean, quantifiable, and fixable. However, life has never been so orderly.

In its purest form, loss is one of the most expansive terms in the human lexicon. It encompasses feelings, chances, connections, and unfulfilled dreams. It exists in the instant you learn that someone else has the position you desired, the grade you strived for, or the position in someone else's life that you believed was yours. It's not a number. It is a sensation that settles and remains below the chest.

*The story doesn't end with loss. It turns out to be someplace close to the middle in the majority of lives worth analysing.*

And for many of us, particularly those of us who grew up in the era of perpetual visibility, there is a particular, draining form of loss that follows us everywhere: the feeling of perpetually coming in second. Not significantly. Not because I didn't try. simply due to the harsh math of one person finishing ahead of you. the role of head girl. the top spot in the class. the initial option. Always, nearly, but never quite.

Carrying this is not an easy task. Repeatedly coming in second has the power to change your perception of yourself. It begins to feel like a pattern, like proof of something basic and unchanging about who you are, rather than the product of specific instances. This is the point at which comparison subtly causes the most harm—not in the individual loss, but rather in the cumulative narrative those losses appear to tell.

The current generation has an unusually close understanding of this specific suffering. Gen Z has mostly inherited the notion that self-worth is something you demonstrate externally—through outcomes, rankings, or being selected first—having grown up in a world designed around measurements and visibility. In some awkward manner, being second means being less. In addition to being so prevalent, this standard is incredibly unfair.

However, this is the point at which the argument needs to be stated succinctly and objectively: not every result is within human control, and not every defeat is a verdict. The difference between what you can control, like your effort, attitude, and consistency, and what you just cannot control, like everything else, is vital and frequently disregarded. One of the most silent causes of needless agony is confusing the two. Even if you do everything correctly, you won't succeed. That isn't unfair. That is simply the honest nature of living in a world with other people who are also making an effort.

More than confidence, perspective is what comparison steals. It reduces the size of the frame until only the space between you and another person is visible. It makes the

destination everything and the journey invisible. Additionally, a person who lives just for vacations will spend the majority of their life feeling unfulfilled because there are always more destinations to achieve.

The more difficult and valuable belief—the one worth defending—is that rejection can occasionally be a redirection. Not all the time. Not neatly. However, it occurs frequently enough to warrant serious consideration.

The relationship that made a different decision, the chance that didn't materialize, or the position that went to someone else—these aren't always doors closing on something you deserved. Sometimes they are just the world reconfiguring itself in ways that are too big to read at this time.

When considered honestly, loss is not a conclusion. It is information. Redirection is what it is. It is the section of the narrative that takes place prior to the logical part. In the moment of loss, that is truly cold consolation, but if you let it to, it eventually turns into something more beneficial.

Therefore, the suggestion is to evaluate yourself more on the caliber of your appearance rather than on results that are outside your complete control. It was a genuine attempt. It truly needed courage to give it a shot. Regardless of where you ended up, those belong to you.

If something that appeared ideal yet didn't work out, it's possible that what's coming will need more space than what you were clinging to.

That isn't a loss.

Space is that.

# The Vanishing Shield: Ancient Guard vs. Modern Greed.

*Dhruv Choksi*



Whenever I read about the increase in temperatures in our area or the heavy dust coating our windows, I am reminded of one of our silent guardians, the Aravali Hills. These not only span Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi, but they are not merely old rocks. They are the oldest in India, and to us, they are the sole reason between a habitable land and a desert wasteland.

We must cease treating the aravalis as scenery for road trips; rather, they should be treated as our Ecological Life Support System. The hills fulfil three urgent requirements for us. To begin with, they will serve as the Great Green Wall, literally preventing the Thar Desert from engulfing fertile regions of Northern India. Second, they provide a major recharge area for water. Those fractured rocks allow rainwater to be absorbed into the ground; otherwise, the groundwater level would drop to zero. Last, they are the lungs of our cities, filtering the increasingly poisonous air we inhale.

*The effects of such greed are already knocking on our doors. We are experiencing unprecedented heat waves, a nightmare decline in water levels, and a loss of biodiversity that cannot be recovered.*

As I did further research on this, though, I found a dark truth behind it that we do not learn in our ordinary textbooks. It is people's greed that is tearing down our shield. The first threat is illegal mining. Following an insatiable need for construction materials such as sand and stone to build the increasing urban jungles, entire parts of the Aravalis are literally being washed off the map

The real issue to me concerns the Nexus of this destruction. It is an open secret that a powerful mix of local Land Mafias and influential ministers drives such looting. Environmental safety is only a secondary issue when it comes to millions of rupees. The mafia makes a fortune by clearing the hills of nearly all vegetation, and some in power look the other way, preferring transient income and kickbacks at the expense of the long-term survival of our ecosystem. It goes against the very people whom they are supposed to protect.

This struggle over the Aravalis has taken the place of hills in the courtrooms. The most consistent protector of this range has been recognized as the Supreme Court of India. The Court has passed some landmark decisions over the years, including one that said the hills are the riches of the nation and should not be ravaged in the name of profit. Protection at the Court has been put on very stringent terms, yet enforcement remains a major challenge It crosses my mind that the way the so-called standards for what constitutes a forest are so easily twisted is highly disturbing. The government frequently attempts to declassify forest land by altering revenue records and legal definitions. When a hill ceases to be a

forest, according to the law, it is the bait of developers and mining companies. This is a very dangerous loophole in the law that lets the mafia keep working under the banner of legality. It is like murdering a mountain with a pen on a piece of paper.

We destroy a hill, and not only a view, but we also destroy a natural air conditioner, a water filter, and a protector.

We are the students who will bear this damage as a generation. We cannot be introverted in terms of the environment We should put our government under scrutiny and intensify the war against the mafia-politician nexus. The Supreme Court can pass laws, and our role as citizens is to apply the pressure to enforce them.

In my opinion, it is time we put an end to the commercialization of our natural resources. The Aravallis have been there for millions of years and now guard this land. I hope that this is not the generation that would allow them to fall. And let us save the banner under which we have always been safe.

# Human Resources: Shaping the Workforce of Tomorrow

*Foram Desai*



The future of work is shaped by how we prepare people today.

As the quote rightly said HR not only works for training the employees but also makes sure that they are capable of making right decisions which results in smooth functioning of the firm. In an era defined by rapid technological change, globalization, and evolving workplace expectations, Human Resources (HR) has emerged as a strategic pillar of organizational success. Today HR plays a critical role in shaping culture, driving performance, and enabling sustainable growth.

*Human Resources (HR) has evolved significantly from its traditional role of handling administrative and personnel-related tasks to shaping organizational culture, employee engagement, and long-term success.*

One of the primary responsibilities of HR is talent management. This includes recruitment, selection, training, and development of employees. By attracting individuals with the right skills and attitudes, organizations can build a competent and motivated workforce. Training and development further enhance employees' capabilities, enabling them to adapt to technological advancements and changing job requirements.

HR also plays a crucial role in performance management. Modern performance systems emphasize continuous feedback, goal alignment, and skill enhancement. In Effective performance management, HR ensures that individual contributions align with organizational objectives while encouraging personal and professional growth.

Another important aspect of HR is employee well-being and workplace culture. A positive work environment and open communication channels contribute to higher job satisfaction and reduces employee turnover. HR professionals actively promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring fairness and respect in the workplace.

With the increasing use of digital tools and analytics, HR has become more data-driven. People analytics helps organizations make informed decisions related to workforce planning, productivity, and employee engagement. At the same time, the growing focus on mental health and work-life balance highlights HR's responsibility toward holistic employee development.

Thus, Human Resources is no longer limited to managing people—it is about empowering them. As organizations continue to evolve, HR will remain crucial to build skilled, adaptable, and future-ready workforces which will be capable of fulfilling future requirements of the workplaces.

# Ladakh: Current Affairs

*Mann Chandarana*



Ladakh is a special place in India and it became a Union Territory in the year 2019. The location of Ladakh is really important. The culture of Ladakh is also very important and the environment of Ladakh is another thing that makes it special.

Ladakh has been in the news a lot lately because of things like people making political demands, issues with the border, new development projects and worries about the environment of Ladakh.

The people of Ladakh are really worried about something now. They want the Indian government to protect them in the constitution. People who live in Ladakh want to be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The people of Ladakh want to keep their land, culture, language and jobs safe.

*Current affairs related to Ladakh show the people's hope for a secure, sustainable and inclusive future. The decisions taken today will shape Ladakh's future for many years to come.*

The people of Ladakh have been talking to the government and they have also been protesting. The people of Ladakh want the area to develop but they do not want this to happen if it means they will lose what makes them who they are and it hurts the environment of Ladakh.

Infrastructure development is a big deal. Roads and tunnels are being built to make it easier for people to get around. The Zojila Tunnel and the highways that connect Leh, Manali and Srinagar are important projects. These projects will make it possible for people to travel all year round. Infrastructure development like the Zojila Tunnel and these highways help the people and they also make the country safer. Now that we have roads, people can get to schools, hospitals and markets more easily. Infrastructure development is good for the people and it is also good for the country's security.

Ladakh is an important place because of the problems between India and China. The region is near the Line of Actual Control. This is why the government has put soldiers there and made the roads and other things near the border better. India and China are talking to each other to keep Ladakh safe and quiet. Ladakh is still a big deal for India and China because of the border issues.

Environmental issues in Ladakh are really serious. Climate change is causing a lot of trouble by melting glaciers and creating water shortages. There have been bad flash floods and cloudbursts in Ladakh in the last few years.

The government is trying to figure out what to do about these issues in Ladakh. They want to make sure that Ladakh develops in a way that is good for the environment. They are encouraging the use of renewable energy in Ladakh. They like solar and wind power because they are

clean and do not hurt the environment of Ladakh.

Tourism is really important for Ladakh's economy. Lots of people go to Ladakh every year to visit. When too many tourists go there, it creates problems like trash, water shortage and pollution. So the people in charge are trying to get tourists to be more careful and promote eco-tourism. They also want people to visit in the winter so that people who live in Ladakh can have jobs all year round.

The government is doing things to make life better for people. Services have improved and there are better schools and hospitals. There are doctors that people can talk to using phones or computers through telemedicine and mobile medical units reach people who live far away. The government is also trying to keep the culture and languages of Ladakh safe so people can enjoy what makes Ladakh special.

The youth of Ladakh are really worried about finding jobs. People in Ladakh want jobs to be reserved for locals. To help with this, programs are being run that teach skills and support traditional crafts like weaving and handicrafts. These programs are helping the youth of Ladakh get job opportunities.

The main goal of these programs is to make the economy of Ladakh strong and able to support itself. A strong local economy will help the people of Ladakh become self-reliant.

In conclusion, Ladakh faces many challenges and opportunities. Development, environmental protection and cultural preservation must go together.

# Prayer, Miracles, and the Human Mind: Understanding What Prayer Truly Influences

Mahi Patel



Across cultures and throughout human history, prayer has been a deeply rooted and widely practiced human activity. From ancient rituals to modern personal reflection, people have turned to prayer during moments of joy, crisis, illness, and uncertainty. While prayer is most often understood as a religious act, its role extends beyond faith alone. It also functions as a powerful tool for managing thoughts, emotions, and stress, offering individuals a sense of calm, meaning, and connection.

*Whether approached through religion, psychology, or science, prayer continues to serve as a meaningful human practice—one that helps people face suffering, uncertainty, and hope with greater clarity and emotional stability.*

In recent decades, scientific research has examined prayer more closely, particularly intercessory prayer, which involves praying for the well-being of others. Controlled studies in medical and clinical settings have explored whether such prayers can lead to measurable physical healing. Overall, findings show that intercessory prayer has not consistently produced clear or repeatable physical health benefits under controlled conditions. These results have led researchers to caution against viewing prayer as a substitute for medical treatment.

However, focusing only on physical outcomes provides an incomplete picture.

A growing body of research suggests that personal prayer and spiritual practices are often linked to better emotional regulation, improved coping skills, and stronger social support. People who engage in prayer frequently report feeling more hopeful, resilient, and emotionally balanced during difficult periods. These psychological and social effects, while less dramatic than physical cures, can significantly influence overall well-being and quality of life.

Neuroscience has further contributed to understanding how prayer affects human experience. Brain imaging studies of prayer and meditation reveal recognizable patterns of activity in areas associated with attention, self-awareness, and emotional control.

These findings suggest that focused belief and intentional reflection can shape how individuals process stress, fear, and uncertainty. Rather than pointing to supernatural proof, neuroscience helps explain how prayer can produce real, lived changes in perception and emotional state. Miracles remain one of the most debated aspects of prayer. Reports of sudden or unexplained healings appear across many religious traditions and cultures.

Such cases often attract careful medical review and philosophical discussion.

While science may document recovery or remission, it cannot always explain why certain outcomes occur.

This gap between explanation and experience leaves room for faith, interpretation, and personal belief, while also demanding intellectual humility.

Taken together, research suggests that prayer's greatest influence may not lie in altering natural laws, but in shaping inner strength, resilience, and understanding.

# Marketing in Today's World: More Than Just Selling

*Anjali Ezhava*



Every industry is undergoing a quiet revolution that has nothing to do with new technology or geopolitical changes, but rather with how companies communicate with their customers. Once written off as the glamorous but ultimately shallow cousin of "real" business functions like finance or operations, marketing has subtly emerged as the most important field in contemporary business. I think it's time we gave that full recognition.

Fundamentally, marketing has never been just about selling. That is arguably the most damaging and enduring misconception about the field. Understanding human behavior—what people need, fear, and want—and then creating goods, messages, and experiences that authentically address those realities are key components of true marketing. A company will always lose to a mediocre product that is brilliantly marketed if it develops a brilliant product but fails to convey its value to the right people at the right time. That isn't cynicism. That is the market operating as it ought to.

*Your actions and words must be consistent. Brand trust dies in the space between the two.*

The emergence of digital platforms is without a doubt the biggest change in marketing over the past 20 years. In ways that were truly unthinkable thirty years ago, social media, search engines, influencer ecosystems, short-form video, and tailored advertising have completely erased the gap between brands and consumers. A brand can be built overnight with just one viral post. Years of reputation-building can be destroyed in a matter of days by an honest negative review.

This means, in my opinion, that companies can no longer afford to treat marketing as a department that packages finished goods at the end of the production line. Every step of the process, from product conception to customer service, needs to incorporate marketing. Today's consumer is not a passive one. They talk back. They exchange. They make comparisons. They want to be taken seriously. Companies that recognize this flourish, while those that continue to send out one-way messages are gradually losing their relevance.

Here, data has taken the place of money. Even small businesses now have access to tools that were previously only available to multinational corporations, such as the capacity to analyze customer behavior, track engagement patterns, measure sentiment, and respond almost instantly. However, I would contend that data is useless without true human insight. Today's successful businesses are those that combine analytical rigor with genuine storytelling, not those with the most data.

Effective marketing, in my opinion, truly helps consumers—a point that is often overlooked in cynical critiques of the industry. When done sensibly and morally, it helps people discover products they would not have otherwise found, learn about innovations that can improve their lives, and make better purchasing decisions. Marketing is a teaching tool at its best.

There is some truth to the counterargument that marketing tricks consumers into purchasing unnecessary items. False urgency, deceptive promises, and predatory advertising are serious issues that require careful regulatory examination.

However, these are ethical failings rather than marketing faults. The solution is to hold marketing to a higher level rather than to downplay its importance.

Brands that strive for short-term manipulation are regularly outperformed by those that develop true trust with their viewers. When given sufficient time and transparency, the market tends to penalize dishonesty.

The increasing expectation that businesses stand for more than just profit is perhaps the most intriguing development in modern marketing.

Younger consumers in particular, but not entirely, want to purchase products from companies that align with their values.

For activist consumers, social justice, mental health awareness, and environmental responsibility are no longer specialized issues. These are common expectations.

Audiences are beginning to see through the folly of some corporations seeing this as a branding exercise. Businesses that view purpose-driven marketing as a core operational concept rather than a campaign tactic will be at the forefront of the next ten years.

Marketing will continue to change as AI-generated content, hyper-personalization, immersive commerce, and other tools continue to transform the relationship between consumers and brands.

However, the fundamental reality remains unchanged: marketing is, at its best, the art of creating sincere connections on a large scale. It serves as a link between what a company provides and what the real requirements of the world are.

Furthermore, I believe that no other role in a contemporary organization is more accountable for maintaining that relationship.

# The Silent Struggle: Mental Health Challenges Faced by College Students

*Preetraj Singh*



College life is often seen as a happy and exciting time. Students make new friends, learn new things and become more independent. However, many college students face mental health problems that are not always visible. Stress, anxiety and sadness are common, but many students do not talk about them.

One major reason for mental health problems is academic pressure. Students face exams, assignments and deadlines. They feel pressure to get good marks and meet expectations. When they cannot meet these expectations, they feel stressed and disappointed.

*Academic pressure, fear of the future, social media and loneliness affect students silently.*

Another reason is worry about the future. College students often think about their career plans. Many students are not sure what they want to do in life, which causes confusion and anxiety.

Social media also affects mental health. Students see posts showing happy lives and success. They start comparing their lives with others. This can make them feel unhappy and less confident, especially if they are already struggling.

Many students also feel lonely, especially those who live away from home. Being in a new place, making new friends and adjusting to college life can make students feel alone.

Another serious issue is the lack of awareness about mental health. Many students believe mental health problems are a sign of weakness. Because of this stigma, they hide their feelings and avoid asking for help, which can make the problem worse.

To improve mental health, support is very important. Colleges should provide counseling services and create awareness about mental health. Students should be encouraged to talk openly about their feelings. With the right support, students can lead healthier and more balanced lives.

Mental health challenges among college students are serious and should not be ignored. It is important for colleges to provide proper support and for students to seek help without fear or shame. Taking care of mental health is as important as physical health.

# My Love for Cricket

*Harsheet Singhvi*



For millions of boys and girls, cricket is not just a game it is a dream, passion, and endless imagination. From narrow streets to open grounds, from plastic bats to professional kits, cricket becomes a companion that grows with every boy. It is played not only with the hands, but with the heart and mind.

Cricket is not just a sport for me it is an emotion, a passion, and a way of life. From the sound of the bat hitting the ball to the roar of the crowd, everything about cricket excites me. I love cricket because it teaches discipline, teamwork, patience, and confidence.

Over the years, my love for the game has grown stronger, especially because of two legendary cricketers Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni.

Virat Kohli is my biggest inspiration. His aggressive attitude, passion for the game, and never-give-up spirit make him a true champion. Kohli's dedication to fitness and consistency shows how hard work leads to success.

Whether he is chasing a big target or leading the team under pressure, his confidence motivates millions of fans like me.

I admire how he plays with his heart on the field and always gives his best for the country. MS Dhoni, on the other hand, represents calmness and wisdom.

He is known as "Captain Cool" for a reason. Dhoni's leadership skills, sharp decision-making, and ability to stay calm in tense situations are truly remarkable.

Under his captaincy, India achieved historic victories, including the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup. His humility and simplicity off the field make him even more special.

*Cricket connects people, spreads happiness, and brings the nation together*

What makes cricket beautiful is that players like Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni show two different yet equally powerful approaches to success, one with aggression and energy, the other with patience and silence.

Both have taught me important life lessons: believe in yourself, stay focused, and respect the game. Whenever I watch cricket, I feel proud to be a fan of this wonderful sport. **.** Because of legends like Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni, my love for cricket will always remain strong.

Cricket is not just a game, it's a passion for me.

# Nervous? Is AI Coming for Your Job?

*Rushi Raiyani*



Is AI really coming for our jobs? Many of us carry that quiet anxiety — scanning headlines, wondering if our role might be next. But before we give in to the fear, it's worth asking: is this actually happening, or are we assuming the worst?

The truth is, this kind of fear is nothing new. Every major technological shift in history has triggered the same collective dread. In the early 1960s through the 1980s, computers began replacing typists, switchboard operators, and clerical workers.

*The choice, as always, is whether to resist the change or grow with it. Adapting is always better than criticizing.*

People genuinely believed technology was the enemy — it was cheaper, faster, and more efficient than human labor. Then came the 1980s and 90s, when personal computers and office software swept through workplaces, and another wave of jobs disappeared. Once again, technology was cast as the villain.

But here's what the data actually shows. When computers automated data processing in the 1960s–80s, roughly 400,000 clerical jobs were lost in the U.S. Yet by 1990, the Bureau of Labor Statistics recorded over 1.2 million new jobs in computer and data processing services alone — jobs that simply didn't exist before.

A similar story unfolded in the 1990s, when word processors and spreadsheets wiped out around 712,000 typist and office machine operator roles, while computer systems design grew into a 1.5 million-job industry by the end of the decade.

Today, the World Economic Forum estimates that AI and automation could displace around 85 million jobs globally by 2025 — but the same organization projects the creation of 69 million new jobs by 2027.

The pattern is consistent: disruption is real, but so is creation. The jobs that vanish are replaced — and then some. So why does the fear persist? Partly because the disruption is immediate and visible, while the new opportunities take time to materialize.

Bulk layoffs make headlines; emerging roles take years to take shape. And yes, those who refuse to adapt do lose out. That part of the fear is legitimate.

The key is to stop treating AI as a threat and start treating it as a tool. Using AI in your daily work — to reduce time spent on repetitive tasks, improve the quality of your output, and sharpen your efficiency — is no longer optional.

It's the same shift that happened when office workers adopted email, spreadsheets, and search engines. Nobody fears those tools today because they became part of the workflow.

For those willing to go further, entirely new career paths are opening up: AI Engineers, AI Ethics and Compliance Officers, AI Product Managers, and AI Content Strategists are just a few roles that barely existed a decade ago. History has shown us time and again that technology doesn't end work — it reshapes it. Every era of automation has ultimately created more opportunities than it closed.

# Why Do We Fall, Sir?

*Niley Patel*



"Why do we fall, sir? So that we can learn to pick ourselves up."

This one line from the Batman series has touched people across generations because it speaks a truth we all experience. It is not just a dialogue from a movie. It is a reflection of

real life. Falling is something every human being goes through. We fall in our studies, in our confidence, in our plans, and sometimes even in our belief in ourselves. What truly matters is not the fall itself, but what we choose to do after it.

Life is never a straight road. As students, we are taught to dream big, work hard, and succeed. But no one really prepares us for failure. Exams do not always go as expected.

> *Every successful person has failed more times than we can imagine. The difference is not talent or luck. The difference is persistence.*

Results do not always reflect our effort. We see others moving ahead while we feel stuck. In those moments, it feels unfair. We ask ourselves why we are trying when nothing seems to work. Falling hurts, especially when we give our best and still fall short.

But falling does not mean we are incapable. It means we dared to try. It means we stepped forward instead of standing still. No one who has ever achieved something meaningful did it without falling along the way. Behind every success story are countless moments of doubt, fear, and failure that people rarely talk about.

Falling teaches us lessons that success never can. Success makes us comfortable, but failure makes us aware. When we fall,

we learn patience. We learn that growth takes time. Welearn discipline because effort matters more than talent. We learn resilience because life does not stop testing us after one failure. These lessons stay with us forever.

Think about a student who fails an exam. At first, it feels like the end of the world. There is disappointment, embarrassment, and fear of judgment. But over time, that failure teaches something important. It teaches better planning. It teaches consistency. It teaches the importance of understanding rather than memorizing. That one fall can become the reason for future success.

The problem is not falling. The problem is staying down. Many people give up after one failure. They begin to believe that success is only meant for others. They compare themselves with friends, classmates, or people on social media and feel left behind. Slowly, they stop trying. But giving up guarantees only one thing: that things will never change.

They chose to rise again even when it was difficult. They accepted failure as a part of the journey, not the end of it.

This also reminds us that pain has a purpose. Life does not knock us down to break us.

It knocks us down to prepare us. Struggles shape our mindset. Challenges reveal our

strength. Difficult moments teach us who we really are. When everything is easy, we do not grow. Growth begins where comfort ends.

Sometimes, falling also teaches humility. It reminds us that we are human. It helps us understand others who are struggling.

It builds empathy and kindness. A person who has fallen knows how it feels and is more likely to help someone else rise.

In today's world, failure is often feared. People want instant success and quick results.

Social media shows only achievements, never struggles. This creates pressure and unrealisticexpectations. But real life is different. Real growth is slow, painful, and often invisible. This quote reminds us that falling is normal and necessary.

Each time we rise after falling, we become stronger. Not physically, but mentally. We gain confidence that no success can give. We learn to trust ourselves. We realize that even if we fall again, we know how to stand back up. That realization itself is power.

In the end, falling does not define who we are. Our response does. Do we let failure silence us, or do we let it shape us? Do we give up, or do we try again with more wisdom? Just like Batman rose from fear to become a symbol of hope, we too can rise above our struggles.

So the next time life pushes you down, remember this line. Take a moment. Breathe. Learn from the fall. Then stand up again. Because sometimes, we fall not to fail, but to learn how strong we truly are.

# Passion Is Built, Not Found

*Nytik Jain*




Every student hears encouraging advice. Additionally, it is dangerously incomplete for the majority of individuals.

Thousands of students leave classrooms, graduation ceremonies, and family dinners each year with the same well-intentioned quote stuck in their heads: "Just follow your passion, and everything will fall into place." It sounds motivating. It is empowering. It sounds easy as well.

The unsettling reality is that, for the majority of people, this guidance is insufficient, impractical, and occasionally even harmful.

Psychological research repeatedly indicates that passion is created rather than found. Seldom do people start off as experts in their passions. Rather, they begin with curiosity, a dim, ephemeral interest. They get better, become competent, and then start to truly appreciate something. Instead of growing ahead of skill, passion rises in proportion to it.

*Concentrate on developing solid, transferable talents that the world will value rather than waiting for clarity to come to you on its own.*

We are brainwashed to believe that passion is a mysterious quality that lies deep inside our personalities and is simply waiting to be discovered. The concept is that your life suddenly has meaning when you wake up one morning and discover what you love.

Reality doesn't work like that.

Give it some serious thought. Few people are passionate about something they struggle with. Confidence is a result of skill. Sincere interest is produced by confidence.And long-term curiosity eventually turns into passion. The order is reallyimportant.
What I'm willing to get good at is more important than what I'm passionate about.

When well-known businesspeople, artists, or athletes remark, "I just followed my passion," we respect and nod in agreement. Seldom do we pause to consider: what about everyone who attempted the same course and was unsuccessful?

We celebrate the winners while ignoring the quiet majority who did not make it, which is the issue of survivorship bias. We witness the performer packing arenas. We don't see the thousands of people who chased the same ambition for ten years, burned out, and then started afresh at thirty-five with nothing but debt and disappointment.

Rent is not paid by passion alone. Discipline, plan, market demand, and skill do. Ignorantly pursuing your passion without knowing the financial realities of your industry can result in financial strain, annoyance, and a certain kind of self-doubt that arises from holding yourself responsible for something that was actually the result of inadequate planning.

In and of itself, passion is perfectly OK. The issue arises when desire is viewed as a comprehensive strategy, as though love alone is proof that a long-term profession is possible.

Three requirements must be met for a passion to become a source of income: you must be truly skilled at it; there must be a true need for it in the world; and you must be able to provide consistent value over time, not only on your best days. If you take away any one of these, passion is still just a pastime. That's okay; you don't have to make money off of everything you enjoy. However, it needs to be properly understood.

In addition to encouraging you to pursue your passion, modern culture demands that you love your profession every single day. If you don't, it's assumed that there's a problem with you or your choice of profession.

For young individuals who are still figuring things out, this expectation puts needless, burdensome strain on them. There is no job that is constantly intriguing. Even the most well-known physicians, business owners, pilots, and artists struggle with everyday activities that deplete their souls, monotony, and administrative tedium. They just realize that appreciating your profession entails finding meaning in the journey's long-term arc rather than relishing every instant of it.

Stability and skill development are considerably more important in the early stages of a profession than seeking everyday emotional stimulation. The gradual accumulation of competence through practice is what ultimately turns routine job into something that seems truly meaningful.

You have leverage when you have skills. You have security when you have money. You have real options thanks to security. You can discover what really excites you by making real choices, not just theoretical ones. Contrary to what most career advice suggests, this is the order that truly works.

They found something they could not bear to leave behind. If you give it enough time, mastery has a way of quietly and consistently generating passion for the craft.

This perspective on work is not pessimistic. It is sincere and, in the end, more optimistic. It implies that anyone who is prepared to put in consistent work can achieve passion; it is not a unique talent given to a select few.

Instead than waiting for a spark, try a wide range of various fields. Consider passion as something that must be developed by work rather than something that can only be discovered via self-reflection. And before making choices only on the basis of inspiration or passion, have an honest understanding of the market.

# The art of showing up

*Kasak Agarwal*



There is a quiet language that no one teaches us but it still echoes in the hearts of young children, the hearts of people trying to seek refuge in the form of words. It is spoken in the form of footsteps that arrive at the right time, the hand that reaches out at the right time. It is, the art of showing up.

People may think it doesn't matter, but it matters. It matters to a child trying to speak in a room full of crowd, trying to search for safety, that one feeling they anticipate the most in the form of a familiar face.

His hands shake, his voice trembles but all his heart really searches for is the reassurance, the nod, the quiet"yes you've got this" from the people who matter the most for him, his parents. And when he finds them, his shoulders relax, his voice becomes stronger, his smile becomes real.

*Showing up is not always about physical presence, it's also about emotional availability.*

The child feels worthy enough of love and attention. The child learns, "I matter enough for someone to pause their world, to take a look into mine." This small act makes them believe in themselves.

A child may forget the words spoken after a competition, but he never forgets the feeling that had wrapped around his heart like a cozy blanket in that moment of chaos.

A child does not measure love in logic. A child measures love in moments, in glances, in who stayed and who didn't.

But when the chair in the audience stays empty for way too long, it leaves a deep mark. A silent question arises in the child's heart, "Am I not good enough?" "Is my talent not good enough to be seen?"

These small acts quietly grow inside a child. It makes their fear of not being enough feel real. Parents may be busy in their "adult world" but all a child really cares about is who came and who didn't.

Many adults carry these invisible wounds. They smile, they function. But within, a younger version still wonders, why weren't they clapped for, why their tears always went unnoticed. This is the power of presence, it can build a person strong, or leave wounds that time cannot easily heal.

The willingness to sit with someone, to listen to them while they vent their heart out, without making them feel like their feelings are wrong or invalid. Many people grow up in homes where emotions are dismissed, "stop crying", "you're overreacting", "be strong".

Over time, they learn to live with the pain. They're the people who smile widely in public and breakdown in private. They later grow into adults who struggle to let out their feelings, because no one ever

made their raw emotions feel safe enough to be seen.

Some of the bravest acts of love happen in silence. Sitting beside a grieving friend, being there for someone when they feel anxious, staying when emotions get uncomfortable. These moments are not glamorous, but are instead, sacred. They whisper, “your pain does not frighten me, your darkness does not drive me away, I am here, right beside you.”

There are people alive today because someone chose to stay and listen. Because someone answered the phone. Because someone said, “I’m here,” and meant it. The difference between silence and survival can be as small as presence.

The beauty of showing up is that it grows as time goes by. A child who was supported becomes an adult who supports others. They turn into a safe place for friends, partners and eventually their own children. At that point, love stops being a mere feeling and becomes something that they practice everyday. And in this quiet way, love and presence shapes generations.

The parent in the audience. The friend at the hospital. The person who stayed on the phone at 2 a.m. The hand that didn’t let go.

We do not remember every word spoken to us, but we remember who stayed. And in a world always rushing away, choosing to stay might be the purest form of love one can give.

# The Rise of E-Commerce in India: Opportunities and Challenges

*Vaibhav Shah*



## Introduction

In recent years, India has undergone a digital transformation unlike any seen before. One of the biggest shifts has been in how people shop. Traditional shops and malls are no longer the only way consumers buy goods — e-commerce has grown rapidly to become a key part of India's economy. Affordable internet, widespread smartphones, digital payments systems like UPI, and supportive government policies have driven this growth.

*Today, online shopping is an everyday activity, not just in big cities, but increasingly in smaller towns too.*

## The Growth Story: Numbers That Show a Revolution

India's e-commerce market has grown massively over the last decade. The size of the industry was about USD 125.5 billion in 2024 and is expected to grow even more in the coming years. Analysts project it could reach USD 385 billion by 2032, growing at an annual rate of over 15% through the 2020s.

Other estimates suggest that by 2030 the total e-commerce market could hit USD 345 billion or more, driven by rising demand from smaller cities and new customers coming online.

E-commerce also makes up a rising share of India's total retail sales: around 8% in 2024 and on track to reach 14% by 2028.

The number of people shopping online is increasing rapidly too. India had about 300 million online shoppers in 2023, a number expected to climb past 500 million within the next decade.

These figures show that India is quickly becoming one of the largest and fastest-growing e-commerce markets in the world.

## Drivers of E-Commerce Growth

1. Smartphone & Internet Penetration

Smartphones are key to e-commerce growth in India. Around three-quarters of online shopping happens through mobile devices, making India a "mobile-first" e-commerce market.

More Indians now have access to the internet — with nearly 830 million users — making India the second-largest internet market globally.

2. Digital Payments Revolution

Digital payments have played a huge role. India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has become one of the most popular ways to pay online, handling nearly 17–20 billion transactions per month and making digital transactions faster and more secure.

In the first half of 2025, digital payments accounted for almost 99.8% of total transaction volume in India, reflecting the dominance of digital methods over cash.

3. Growing Middle Class and Consumer Demand

India's rising middle class with increasing disposable income is purchasing everything online — from electronics and fashion to groceries and personal care products. E-commerce makes price comparison, product variety, and doorstep delivery convenient for modern consumers.

4. Tier-2 & Tier-3 Cities Driving Growth

While metro cities were the first to adopt online shopping, most new growth is coming from smaller towns and cities where internet adoption is growing quickly. This expansion beyond big metros is a major reason analysts expect continued high growth in the sector.

**Opportunities Created by E-Commerce in India**

1. Big Market Potential

With projections exceeding USD 300 billion within the next 5–10 years, e-commerce represents a huge economic opportunity for both domestic and international companies.

2. Jobs and New Industries

E-commerce isn't just online orders — it's an ecosystem. Logistics, warehousing, app development, digital marketing, customer service, and analytics are all expanding rapidly, creating jobs and new career paths.

3. Support for Small Sellers

Platforms such as Flipkart, Amazon India and Meesho allow small businesses and individuals to sell nationwide without physical stores, dramatically expanding market access.

4. Digital Financial Inclusion

Online shopping pushes more people into digital payments, which makes banks and online financial services more accessible than ever. This has helped increase financial inclusion across India.

Despite rapid growth, India's e-commerce sector faces several significant challenges:

1. Logistics & Infrastructure

While delivery in big cities is fast, rural and remote areas still struggle with poor transportation and limited warehouse infrastructure. This makes "last-mile delivery" expensive and slow in many regions.

2. Competitive Pricing Pressure

Competition among online platforms is intense, with heavy discounts and free delivery offered to attract customers. While good for shoppers, this can reduce profits for sellers — especially smaller ones.

3. Cybersecurity & Trust Issues

Online fraud, payment scams, and data security concerns discourage some consumers from shopping online. As digital payments grow, protecting user data and building trust becomes even more important.

4. Regulatory Changes

E-commerce regulations and data protection laws continue to evolve, which can be complex for businesses to navigate and comply with.

**Future Trends in Indian E-Commerce**

1. Rapid Expansion into Rural Areas

As internet use grows, e-commerce will become more accessible outside the cities, increasing overall market size.

2. Quick Commerce Growth

Delivery-in-minutes services — known as "quick commerce" — are growing fast and accounted for two-thirds of online grocery orders in 2024.

3. Rise of D2C Brands

More brands are selling directly to consumers through their own online platforms, bypassing traditional retail channels and building stronger customer relationships.

4. AI & Improved Customer Experience

Artificial intelligence will increasingly customize shopping experiences, improve product recommendations, and make customer service smarter.

The rise of e-commerce in India is one of the most significant economic changes in the 21st century.

With rapid market growth projected over the next decade, e-commerce presents enormous opportunities for businesses, entrepreneurs, and consumers alike. However, success will depend on solving challenges in infrastructure, security, and competition.

If India continues on this path with better digital inclusion and innovation, e-commerce will not only transform retail — it will help modernize the entire economy and create opportunities across society.

# The Stage Offstage

*Meeza Vhora*



A place full of people who don't know what they are supposed to do but are still acting they have it all figured, while constantly battling with themselves, overthinking and what not, moreover with the prying attention from others? No, it's not an asylum or a research lab, if you thought differently. Its school, particularly high school. Filled with people who are seen sometimes as kids and sometimes as adults and always as 'Hormonal Teenagers'. The high schools in previous times, ideal, sophisticated and better than present as we are gaslighted into believing. Current times, a place where a constant question in everyone's mind is "HUH?!". Age doesn't matter for this question to pop in your mind occasionally regardless of your age, gender, or position when you are in high school. In this place whenever someone thinks that something is impossible to happen, it happens definitely. Let's look at an instance when this happened to her, shall we?

> Hosting meant spotlight, attention, power—it was an unspoken crown of sorts.

She was the newly elected Class Representative of Class 11-A, chosen by the votes of her peers—some she knew well, many she did not. The title suited her, though; she had always been the kind of student teachers praised in the staffroom, the example they held up in classrooms to inspire, or sometimes shame, others.

Around school, her name was familiar to most faces. Not popular—she never cared for that kind of attention—but known, respected. Still, in high school, the line between being well-known and being popular is a thin, often blurry one. And while she preferred to keep her distance from that game, high school politics has a way of pulling people in, whether they ask for it or not.

The first of January always marked the beginning of the most hectic month in the school year. The reason was simple: the annual function, set unfailingly for the very last evening of the month. From the school board to the principal, principal to teachers, and teachers to students, the current of pressure flowed downward—resting, as always, on the shoulders least prepared to bear it. Every year the notice boards filled up with lists—dance auditions, singing groups, drama rehearsals—yet none of it interested her. She passed them by without a second glance, as she always did. Stage lights, microphones, attention… none of that had ever been her world. Or so she liked to believe.

The day dragged on until, just as the last lecture ebbed away, the classroom door creaked open. Their teacher entered, brisk and unexpected, carrying news that shifted the room's rhythm instantly. "This year," the teacher began, "we want a new anchor for the annual function." Whispers spread like sparks in dry grass. Students sat straighter, eyes sharp with sudden curiosity. Try-outs would be held the very next day, each hopeful required

to bring a prepared speech, a glimpse of how they would command the stage. She listened without interest, or so she told herself.

# Better than Self-Harm

*Tisha Prajapati*



Life is weird circle of games and imperial vision. It takes you to the lowest and uplifts, it feels like coming out of a cocoon, spreading your wings high and fly, sounds very fiction! Yup it is, some have philosophy to live like a movie and them as main character while others do slave around.

I call it imperial vision as we always see our pain over others, we never acknowledge other's grief but say that they crib about, fact is so do you. Life gives chances to learn but if you don't yearn with time in accordance of growing with time what's the point of all hustles.

It does consist of problems, but problems itself stand for patience, resilience, optimism, breaks, lessons, embrace, motivation and sufficient. Overtime we realize it is important to accept life as it is and move on as past doesn't return and future is an unread story, the main we carry is just our present.

*Being resilient in life must be a primary rule to life, since it means the ability to recover from any difficulty, and humans has manufactured a psychology to focus on dark rather than the bright, but we need to change this and reflect the dark light.*

All efforts we put in, no one judge us over that but the failures we carry yet it's on us to perceive life with resilience. It's not just pressure of society but also existential crises, family problems, lack of personal space. The people who never learnt to say 'NO' suffer a lot since they favour everyone regardless of their requirements or compulsions. The famous quote of Einstein goes like,

"Everyone is genius but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." This proves how substantially we recognize people around us while everyone has unique values which the other individual doesn't carry.

When someone dies, we suddenly begin acknowledging their work and habits, as all the negatives vanish in their absence, this is done in respect to their interval presence then why wasn't it done in their presence.

The articulation under the name 'Better than Self Harm', produces a sense of relevance to how easier people find taking their lives than asking for help since victims don't want others to perceive a negative image about them.

The fear of judgements and not being accepted among society makes them victims of crime like suicide or self-harm. It takes a lot of courage to takes one's own life it is said but how easily people call them coward since they didn't face life and its hardships but do people think of how they were disputing against mental illnesses like depression.

Yet is life all about negatives, nope, there are brighter emotions to explore. It is easy

to acknowledge all bad things happening around us but do we appreciate any good happening around us, the basic tasks we entertain like the steps you fulfilled, good food you ate, the 8 hours sleep you had, the cat who always meows when you pass by it.

No, we don't because we are busy cribbing about the small bad things around us, overthinking the past which will never come back and the future which we have yet not read. We need to learn to look around us and make the list of control and uncontrollable actions, know what is under our control which we can change, while we should be fair to ourselves and accept the actions out of our will. Give short term pleasures like the ice-cream treats as a kid and little spendings on ourselves that give us joy. Don't be so blind in dark nights that the star even feels so far you ignore the moon.

Mental health has become a trend in the generation than a topic of concern. We failed to understand the importance of mental health illness and made it as a fancy apocalypse where the more one is suffering the cooler they are.

We are least concern of the ideology and importance it brings with tinier symptoms and physical impacts the actuality about a bad mental health as we are all about trends and following cultures more to be broad minded. Pardon, this stupidity doesn't make you look cool or smart but it show case the amount of awareness we need to seek.

Living in this generation seems like a generation gap in itself, where one is distant from themselves searching for the livelihood and other is busy judging and making fun of them. Yet there are positives surviving among them, life is providing more than asked in both under and over the table whilst everything is a game of perspective.

Here, we are busy introspecting people crying about their life we should self-introspection and develop mindfulness with resilience. Life is like a coin, it has two faces and both make it to have identity and value, similarly, the individuality of a person is signified by both grief as well as joy.

As said initially, problems itself stand for most optimist verdict, we are meant to take both in consideration, we are ungrateful for most of blissful things offered to us in our lifetime, yet we crib about the tears we spent on bad times of life. Life should have balance; the equilibrium is satisfied with acceptance toward both good and painful times. We read a lot of self-help books, but do we bring it into consideration in our lifetime, why not?

Because we don’t want to move on and accept life as it is. We have two acts in life controllable and uncontrollable; we mostly overthink about the uncontrollable parts rather than the controllable ones. For instance, a person wants to write a book, they cry about why the draft doesn't finish by the deadline but doesn't want to write in the given timeline.

Here, the book not completing itself is uncontrollable but him writing it is the controllable part. We ourselves are responsible for the act we do, and every act has its own consequences, which are supposed to be kept in regards while you act on the controllable part, than overthinking the consequence and blame it for our action to be not fulfilled.

In the close vicinity, the dark absorbs all bright, but a mirror shield can reflect bright light back in the room, rather than focusing on how we have got trauma, we must focus on how to accept it with resilience and make better choices in life after learning our lessons well.

Time is money they say, why to spend it in being all gloomy grey, rainbow can be better choice, hugging your younger self, bringing it some proud and making it happier is a good choice. Being resilient is a very primary habit human needs to bring to life, cribbing and judging won't bring any good to you until you choose to fight back and do justice to yourself. Painful life is seen by many, and we made competition out of it to lead with issues, while it's not about the negative as living in someone else's shoes is always tougher than living in one's own.

Society has its own norms, and it always makes you realize what we lack, yet we don't try to overcome it and be better, but we are busy listening them and focus on the lacking, does someone's articulated statement change your life? Nope, only you can so it is a better choice to focus on what we can control and not on verbal inconveniences people justify for you.

Keeping yourself motivated is a good sense of self-help, and a good form of charging one's own social energy. Here, i would like to conclude life is not only about the negative phases that we acknowledge but also the good phases which comes to appreciate your efforts, smallest gestures compliment your presence on this Earth, love yourself more than anyone will, just don't be blind in it for you to become Narcissistic.

# Trade Tariffs in the Modern Global Economy

*Aryan D Shah*



## Introduction

Tariffs are the taxes levied by governments upon the importation of goods and have long been instruments of economic policy. They are usually instituted to safeguard domestic industries, raise government revenue, or encourage particular behaviors on the part of trading partners. The more general effects of tariffs include protection for local producers, higher consumer prices, disruptions in global supply chains, and retaliatory actions by trading partners. In the highly integrated global economy of the 21st century, the impacts of tariffs reach well beyond national borders.

*Trade tariffs represent one of the most powerful yet double-edged economic tools.*

The recent resurgence of tariffs finds its roots in changes to United States trade policy starting in 2018 under President Donald Trump. The United States accused major trading partners, especially China, of unfair trade practices such as forced technology transfer, weak intellectual property protections, and excessive government subsidies. In response, the United States imposed tariffs on a wide range of Chinese goods, triggering a trade war that has reshaped global trade relations and increased economic uncertainty worldwide.

## Tariffs and Current Trade Policy

The U.S.-China trade conflict marked a decided turn toward protectionism. China responded by levying tariffs on U.S. exports, hitting politically sensitive industries like agriculture and manufacturing. In turn, the U.S. levied tariffs on other countries, including some traditional allies, which disrupted long-standing trade patterns. While some tariffs have since been lowered, the broader movement toward protectionist trade policies has not entirely retreated.

Tariffs were promoted as a way to reduce trade deficits and encourage domestic manufacturing. However, many economists argue that trade deficits are influenced more by macroeconomic factors such as savings, investment, and currency strength than by unfair trade practices. In practice, tariffs have increased the production costs of firms dependent on global supply chains and led to higher prices for consumers rather than a rapid return of manufacturing jobs to the United States.

## Tariffs, Currency and Inflation

Tariffs have a close linkage with currency dynamics, especially the US dollar. A strong dollar lowers the price of imports but hurts the competitiveness of exports, whereas a weak dollar does the reverse. While tariffs can have indirect effects on exchange rates, it is tough and perilous to deliberately weaken a currency. A depreciated dollar may elevate import prices and add to inflation, which decreases consumers' purchasing power.

The incidence of the tariff is uneven for emerging economies like India. While manufacturing sectors would be hit by disrupted supply chains, service-oriented industries like information technology are less directly affected. This underlines the fact that not all sectors suffer uniformly because of tariffs.

**Impact on Financial Markets and Recession Risk**

Trade tariffs make financial markets very unpredictable. Most periods of heightened trade tensions have been associated with stock market volatility as investors responded to increased costs, decreased corporate profitability, and decelerating world growth. Multinational corporations with international supply chains are very susceptible, as tariffs can directly raise their cost structures.

While tariffs alone cannot cause recessions, they can aggravate existing economic weaknesses. Higher interest rates, weaker investment, and lower consumer confidence can interact with trade restrictions to slow economic growth. Economists evaluate recession risk based on a variety of indicators, including employment growth, income gains, consumer spending, and industrial production. One of the most reliable warning signs is the yield curve, which has inverted before previous major slowdowns, reflecting expectations of slower growth.

**Disruption to Global Trade and Supply Chains**

Tariffs increase the price of imported products and almost always invoke retaliatory actions, which can lead to trade wars that ultimately decrease international volumes of trade. The U.S.–China trade war impacted not only the two countries but also countries enmeshed in their supply chains. Companies had to start rethinking supply chains, find alternative suppliers, or relocate production-all-costly and inefficient options.Global supply chains rest on comparative advantages and cost efficiencies. Tariffs always disrupt such systems, causing delays, shortages, and higher prices. Growing uncertainty deters long-term investment and diminishes overall global economic growth.

**Impact on Industries**

Industries with significant international inputs—such as electronics, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, aviation, and heavy machinery—have been particularly affected by tariffs. Higher input costs go toward reducing profitability and often translate into higher prices for consumers. SMEs are worse off since they lack the financial wherewithal to adjust supply chains in a short period of time.

While a few domestic industries may benefit temporarily from reduced foreign competition, long-term protection reduces incentives to innovate and improve efficiency. Over time, protected industries may become less competitive in global markets, undermining the original objective of the tariffs.

**Pressure on trade agreements and global institutions**

Growing use of tariffs has thus put immense pressure on the multilateral trading system. Institutions such as the WTO were set up to foster rules-based trade and to resolve disputes through cooperation. Unilateral tariff actions weaken these institutions and encourage countries to pursue bilateral or regional trade agreements instead.

This shift fragments global trade into competing blocs, raising complexity and

compliance costs for businesses. Smaller and developing economies are particularl

disadvantaged, as they lack the bargaining power to negotiate favorable trade terms and risk exclusion from major trade networks.

**Benefits and Costs of Tariffs**

Properly applied, tariffs can indeed protect infant industries, preserve jobs, enhance national security, and bring governments revenue—in the case of developing economies in particular. Tariffs can also act as negotiating tools that help to address unfair trade practices.

But the downsides are significant: tariffs raise consumer prices and cut purchasing power; they can also disrupt supply chains and invite retaliation. Over time, heavy reliance on tariffs threatens economic growth, undermines global cooperation, and widens inequality among nations.

While tariffs they can offer some degree of short-term protection and strategic leverage, their broader consequences—higher costs, market volatility, and trade fragmentation—commonly outweigh their potential benefits. The basis for sustainable growth in a deeply interdependent global economy is balanced trade policies, international cooperation, and strong global institutions. Tariffs will probably continue to be an element in the economic policy portfolio, but their application has to be judicious, transparent, and congruent with long-term economic stability, rather than short-term political objectives.

# Internet Opinions and Personal Taste

*Arsin Kukdajiwala*
*Shatakshi Trivedi*





Somewhere between scanning the screen and reacting to it, we've forgotten how to sit silently with our own thoughts. We don't experience things—a song, a movie, a book—before we are immediately enveloped in opinions about those very things. The internet does not require us to feel before telling us how to feel.

Internet opinions are loud and proud, backed by numbers, rankings, and trends. As such, they seem to turn any attempt at differing from them into foolishness. Any opinion repeated several times turns into a fact. In such a space, personal opinions slowly become unsure of themselves, tentative, and at most, quiet.

*Internet opinions will forever change, fluctuate, and disagree with themselves. What remains constant, however, is the gentle truth of the personal experience.*

Internet opinions has become a vital part of everyone's life, no doubt. From Instagram reels to Youtube reviews, and from twitter threads to comment sections, the internet constantly tells us as to what is "good" and what is not. Slowly and almost subconsciously, these opinions start influencing how our personal choices are shaped. Gradually, by putting trends and 'accepted things' over personal choices, Individuals often lose a part of themselves, their authenticity.

Personal tastes were never meant to be justified or explained. Personal tastes are sometimes born without anyone noticing, driven by emotion, sentimentality, or association. Personal tastes are found within those things that only make sense to ourselves. In the current context, however, sharing a sense of personal taste privately feels insufficient unless coupled with public affirmation. Affirmation precedes personal acceptance.

Through social media, the process of forming preferences has undergone a significant transformation. We are no longer able to "experience" situations; instead, we "experience" our situations cautiously, already forming our own opinions based on what people have to say about a particular thing, before we are able to physically experience it. The moment to "experience" becomes more about "comparing" rather than "connecting."

This is a subtle, strong influence. We start to doubt our own enjoyment. We wonder if our "appreciation" is ultimately "valid" or if we missed something that everyone else saw.

Certainly, this does not mean that internet opinions carry no relevance to our lives. They allow us to discover new ideas and points of view. They provide us access to new conversations that might have never existed otherwise.

Especially in today's generation, to keep the pace, the internet is often times helpful to stay up to date with new coming trends

and current affairs. Discovery must, however, be the beginning and not the end. When opinions overshadow personal exploration, individuality loses meaning.

There is something fundamentally human about liking something for which there are no reasons, about doing something that feels right even if it is not the popular choice. Personal taste is a reminder that experiences are not for analysis, but for having. That meaning is personal before it is social.

Learning to stop, reflect, and ask ourselves what really speaks to us becomes an act of awareness in a world that continuously speaks on our behalf.

Perhaps the most important question is not whether something is good or bad, but if it stayed with us. And sometimes, that answer matters more than opinions online.

# Algorithms

Jay Dabhi



Algorithms of digital of the world. The New World, order they say, would completely take over the world by storm... Talk about order in Chaos!

Algorithms in the mainstream social media optimised everyday by researchers, psychologist and AI engineers to curate what you see, these people are"compensated" millions of dollars for their expertise... They have created an algorithm so powerful that it mirrors everything you are interested in or think about, it rewards engagement and content and information that strikes a debate or controversy. Speaking of which the year 2025's word was rage baiting. We can see this effect used by news agencies that cover only negative News or more of negative news in general because negative spreads fast. This has led to wide scale implementation of bots that upload AI generated content sometimes against countries and in this context India...

*It is noticed that algorithms are pushing range baiting content because of it's reach.*

There are wide scale campaigns that are running against India pushing sterotypes...
This leads to high scale repercussions that affect diplomatic ties of India. We can thus see an increase in cases of racism and hate crimes against Indians.

So, by following simple analogy: AI > Algorithm > AI copying content and patterns > basically leading to more AI slop because AI cracked the algorithm more efficiently than humans, we can derive this from an example:

I was inspired by Paresh Rawal's role in 'The Storyteller' where he was a Bengali who hated capitalism and smoke a joint while telling stories to a businessman who hired him to put him to sleep. The businessman was an insomniac and a con-artist who wrote the same narrated stories in his published book to impress this woman who was his love interest.

So just like this businessman copied and got fame, there are AI YouTube channels that blatantly copy other's content and optimising the reach because they cracked the algorithm. So algorithm rewards by increasing the 'reach' of such channels whereas the original people doesn't, this is where the unfair games are played.

Now, in the middle of all these during 2024-2025 the algorithm switched from AI slop to racism and destructive content, this coupled with the release of Sora AI, the most realistic and revolutionary AI video creation platform, led to AI channels boosting AI made videos of unhygienic street food.

This is where the bots are used, and no these don't get detected because there are labs in China that use thousands of used phones for posting such content these care called 'Bot farms'...
A lot of online argument are triggered and continued by these AI bot farms, so if

you're arguing online, think again because it could be a bot... They do these for boosting their reach and thus increasing their ad revenue...

I saw all these on reddit, where people were discussing the cause and effects of such farms and how profitable they are.

It's alarming that people abroad are avoiding Indian cuisine because of this vendetta political at large. What I can't conclude is whether META is directly involved in this campaign or is just avoiding the whole ordeal to book profits. Because at the end of the day people are doing it for money and the algorithm is owned by META and Google which is unbiased and focuses on views and user engagement for profit maximization.

# Section 4

# Reflections

# A Night of Music, Madness and memories: Sunidhi Chauhan Live

*Mukund Chavda*



I picked up these lounge tickets to watch Sunidhi because I figured it would be a nice way to have a break in the semester. Guess what? It happened to be one of the best choices I have ever made during the year. We were meticulously served and everything proceeded to go smoothly as soon as we entered, with the lounge appearing like a VIP dorm room and everyone feeling like something big was going to occur.

Then as we waited the buzz continued to grow louder. You could actually feel the hype in the air and everyone was talking about their favorite songs, phones were glowing and their eyes were stuck to the stage like the tight campus lineup before a big game.

And then boom. Sunidhi flew into the stage like a flying hero, and it seemed that time had halted. As soon as it was the light of her presence that fell upon them the entire place was filled with shouts of euphoria and applause. It was disorderly, noisy and quite honestly ideal.

She began with pure energy and at that juncture, the vibe was at its peak when Dilliwali Girlfriend came raging. It was a different experience when I was watching it live. The crowd became a huge desi party and the performance of Sunidhi was burning everything she was singing not merely but living. Her vitality simply passed through us, everybody was dancing, singing, and enjoying the moment.

The backup crew was second level as well. They were snug, synchronized and inflated to follow her beat to beat. They all occupied the stage together and made every song a visual jam that one could not ignore.

The other stand out was the manner in which she danced her outfits and on stage. She was completely fierce, bold, stylish, and powerful. Halfway through the set she changed faces as the freshman would change up the decor of her dorm and it seemed like a new semester of the night. Every outfit was fitting the mood of the track and added the excitement.

The lounge atmosphere made the situation even better. The perspective was snow-white, the music was nauseating, and we could sense the mad throng. It was exclusive and at the same time complete, a feel that we are accustomed to in exam week where you sit in a secluded area and still feel like part of the student body.The atmosphere continued to increase as the show came to a close. The magical one when fireworks were illuminating the sky and the music was cracking with a crescando was magic.

The audience was very enthusiastic, screaming lyrics, dancing, applauding, and essentially not letting the night go by. It was dramatic, touching and completely memorable.

Huge applause to the management, as well. Even the crowd control and lounge set up was on point that helped us concentrate on the music rather than get affected by any glitches.

At the finish, we had been swept out in the most pleasant manner. Voice run out of shouting, legs sore after all the dancing, phones with pictures on them but it was all the same.

# Where Creativity Met Campus Life: The Avid Art Club



*Krishna Patil*

College life is a beautiful blend of academics, friendships, and unforgettable experiences created through events and activities. Among all these, being a member of the Avid Art Club has been one of the most enriching parts of my college journey. the Art Club provided a creative balance to my professional studies and played a significant role in shaping my overall personality.

I joined the Avid Art Club in my first year, driven by my interest in creativity, imagination, drawing, and experimenting with colors, themes, and innovative concepts. From the very beginning, the club became a platform where I could express myself freely. It helped me develop not only my artistic skills but also important life skills such as teamwork, cooperation, and active participation in events, alongside my academic growth.

Every academic year, the Avid Art Club organized a wide range of creative and engaging activities. Last year, several hands-on workshops were conducted, including Lippan art, tie and dye, chocolate making, resin art, and acrylic painting. These workshops encouraged students to explore new art forms and enhanced creativity through practical learning experiences.

The club also played a vital role in college event decoration. During Orientation, the theme was Sports, and each classroom was beautifully decorated with a different sport such as football, baseball, tennis, hockey, and basketball. Creative notice boards and stair decorations designed like a Hot Wheels track added a fun and innovative touch, leaving a lasting impression on everyone.

One of the most prestigious events, IMAGE, a national-level management competition, required highly thoughtful and creative decoration. Last year's theme, "Beyond Algorithms: Humanizing Management and Strategy," and this year's theme, "Blueprints and Breakthroughs," inspired decorations focused on innovation, creativity, and meaningful visual storytelling.

In addition to these events, members of the Avid Art Club actively participated in Youth Fest competitions, including On-the-Spot Painting, Cartooning, Poster Making, Clay Modelling, Rangoli, nail art, mandala drawing, and best out of waste, providing a platform to showcase artistic talent at a competitive level

Apart from major events, the club regularly decorated notice boards and walls for festivals such as Makar Sankranti, Janmashtami, Independence Day, and Christmas, using drawings, crafts, and theme-based articles. One of my favorite projects was the Harry Potter–themed notice board, featuring potion bottles, talking wizard hats, magical wands, and house banners of Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw, and Hufflepuff. The club also explored digital

poster designing, and during the Diwali vacation, showcased students' creativity through a special Rangoli Story posted online.

As a third-year student, I actively participated in planning and executing these activities. I helped coordinate with team members, manage materials, and meet deadlines, which significantly improved my organizational and leadership skills. This experience allowed me to understand the practical application of management concepts such as planning, coordination, teamwork, and time management. Being a part of the Avid Art Club has contributed immensely to my personal and professional development I strongly recommend every student to join a club of their interest—it truly makes college life more meaningful, creative, and memorable.

# A Slice of Life: Reflections of Sunidhi Chauhan's Concert

*Avika Shah*



Ahmedabad enjoyed an amazing musical evening with a live concert by famous playback singer Sunidhi Chauhan. The concert was an unforgettable experience, drawing a large crowd of music lovers from all over the city. Known for her powerful voice and engaging stage presence, Sunidhi Chauhan gave a performance that went beyond all expectations and captivated the audience.

The event took place at a well-organized venue with great sound systems, lighting, and stage design. Right from the start, the atmosphere buzzed with excitement. When Sunidhi Chauhan stepped onto the stage, the crowd erupted in cheers and applause, setting the stage for a lively and joyful evening. Her confidence, charm, and connection with the audience were clear from the very first song.

Sunidhi Chauhan performed a variety of songs from her successful career, featuring upbeat dance numbers, romantic tunes, and soulful tracks. Each performance highlighted her vocal ability and emotional range. Popular Bollywood hits had the audience on their feet, singing and dancing along. Her talent for switching effortlessly between different genres showcased her skill and experience as a performer.

The concert was also enhanced by stunning visual effects and lively lighting that matched each song perfectly. The coordination between the music, lights, and visuals created a magical atmosphere that kept the audience engaged throughout the event. The live band that accompanied Sunidhi Chauhan added depth and energy to every performance.

One of the most memorable parts of the concert was Sunidhi Chauhan's interaction with the audience. She often spoke to the crowd, sharing her joy at performing in Ahmedabad and appreciating the warmth of the people. Her friendly and humble nature helped create a sense of connection, making the concert a shared celebration rather than just a show.

The crowd's response was overwhelming, with fans cheering, clapping, and waving their phone lights. The sense of joy and togetherness was evident as people from different age groups came together to celebrate music. Despite the large crowd, the event was well-managed, ensuring safety and comfort for everyone.

In conclusion, the Sunidhi Chauhan concert in Ahmedabad was a big success and a true celebration of live music. It provided an evening full of energy, emotion, and entertainment. The powerful performances, smooth arrangements, and vibrant crowd made it a memorable event that will be cherished for a long time. It was not just a concert, but an experience that highlighted the magic of music and its power to unite people.

# Book Review: The Ten-Day MBA by Steven Silbiger



*Akshee Dave*

The Ten-Day MBA by Steven Silbiger is written for people who are curious about business but don't necessarily want to spend two years in a formal MBA program. The book explains what students learn at top business schools in a simple as well as practical way, and for the mostly it delivers on the promise. It feels less like a textbook and more like a friendly guide to know how businesses actually work.

The book is separated into ten sections, each focusing on a core area of management such as accounting, finance, marketing, economics, organizational behavior, operations, strategy, ethics, and communication. He explains concepts using clear definitions and everyday examples.

Topics like reading financial statements, understanding customer needs, pricing decisions, leadership styles, and competitive strategy are explained in a way that is easy to follow, even for beginners. One of the strongest aspects of the book is its clarity.

The author breaks down complex ideas into simple language without making them feel oversimplified. The flow of the chapters helps readers to connect into different areas of business and understand how decisions in one department affect the whole organization. The examples from real companies also make the lessons more relatable and memorable. The book has its limits. It also cannot replace the classroom discussions, networking opportunities, and hands-on learning that come with a real MBA experience.

Overall, The Ten-Day MBA works best as an introduction to business thinking. It is especially useful for students considering an MBA, professionals from non-business backgrounds, or anyone who wants to understand the language of management. As a quick, readable overview, it succeeds in making core MBA concepts practical, approachable, and relevant. It also encourages readers to think more confidently about business decisions, communicate ideas clearly, and develop a balanced perspective that connects theory with everyday professional situations in the real world, especially during early career stages.

# An Insightful review of Too Good to be True by Prajakta Koli

*Zahra Bekhushi*



When Prajakta Koli, one of India's loved content creators said she was writing her first book, people who like "New Adult" books were really excited. We thought her book would be funny and something we could relate to like her videos and posts, on the internet.

When I finished reading Too Good to be True I had mixed feelings. The book is really sweet. It is also very predictable. I liked the sweetness of Good to be True but the way the story was told was not very surprising. Too Good to be True has a lot of heart. It does not have a lot of surprises.

The story is about Avani. She is a law student. Avani has to study a lot. She also works part-time at her friend's bookstore. This is something that a lot of students can understand. Avani meets Aman. Aman is good-looking and a successful businessman. The way Avani and Amans relationship starts is pretty common.

They are very different, from each other. Avani and Aman meet at the bookstore. They are both a little nervous. As time goes on Avani and Aman start too really like each other. They form a strong bond. Avani and Amans relationship is very charming.

The story changes direction when Amans family goes to Mussoorie to celebrate his parent's anniversary. This is where we meet Amans brother, Gagan. Gagan says some harsh things to Avani. He thinks Avani is with Aman because of his money. Gagan's words cause a lot of trouble, for Aman and Avani.

The main problem, with the novel is what happens after the argument. Aman gets angry easily especially when his brother says mean things. He ends up insulting Avani. This leads to a time where they do not talk to each other. We find out that Avani had a time when she was younger. Her parents got divorced and she lived a quiet life with her grandmother. The story does not use this to make Avani a stronger person.

When Aman shows up at her graduation and says sorry Avani forgives him away. To me this feels like a mistake because Avani does not get to grow as a person. The novel misses a chance to make Avani's character better. When the main character is studying to be a lawyer I think she should be able to handle situations. It seems like she is not strong enough. She forgives someone who said something about her very quickly. I think someone who is studying law like her should be able to stand up for herself. The main character studying law should be able to deal with people who're mean, to her.

The book is a romantic read that you can finish one time. It does not live up to all the talk about it. The book lacks surprises in the story and a strong female lead that people who read books now like. The story of the book is very easy to guess what will happen next. It is a good choice for people who are new to reading or for younger teenagers.

But the book is maybe too simple for people who have read a lot of books like the book do not have enough for the audience the book is too simple for the seasoned audience. The book is not good, for people who like to read books with a lot of surprises the book is a simple romantic read. I would give it a 3/5 it's a sweet story for a lazy afternoon, but it lacks the lasting impact I was hoping for from a creator as talented as Prajakta.

# Movie Review: Interstellar



*Vatsal Jani*

Interstellar is a science-fiction film directed by Christopher Nolan and released in 2014. The movie stars Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, and Michael Caine. Known for its ambitious storytelling and scientific depth, Interstellar is not just a space movie; it is also a deeply emotional story about humanity, time, and relationships.

The film is set in a future where Earth is slowly becoming inhabitable due to environmental problems and food shortages. To ensure the survival of the human race, a group of astronauts is sent on a dangerous mission through a wormhole in space to search for a new habitable planet.

The story mainly follows Cooper, a former NASA pilot, who must leave his family behind to take part in this mission. As the journey unfolds, the movie explores the challenges faced in space while also showing the emotional impact of separation and the passage of time. The plot is engaging, and it keeps the audience invested throughout without relying solely on constant action.

From a technical perspective, Interstellar is extremely impressive. The visual effects, especially the depiction of space, planets, and the black hole Gargantua, are stunning and feel realistic. The film also stands out for its sound design and background score by Hans Zimmer, which adds intensity and emotion to key scenes.

The use of silence in space combined with powerful music during important moments makes the viewing experience even more immersive. In terms of acting, Matthew McConaughey delivers a strong and emotional performance, especially in scenes involving his children. Anne Hathaway also performs well, adding depth to her character and the moral dilemmas faced during the mission.

Personally, I found Interstellar to be a thought-provoking and emotionally powerful film. One moment that stood out to me was how the movie showed the effects of time dilation, where a few hours in space equal several years on Earth. This concept was not only scientifically interesting but also emotionally heartbreaking, as it highlighted how much Cooper misses in his children's lives. The film made me think about the value of time, human connections, and the sacrifices people make for a greater cause. While the movie can feel complex at times, it rewards viewers who pay close attention. Also, another thing that made this movie great was Nolan's inclination towards fidelity. He planted 500 acres of corn to make it more lifelike. He also appointed Nobel prize winning astrophysicist Kip Thorne for accurately depicting the scientific aspects in the film.

In conclusion, Interstellar is a well-made film that successfully combines science, emotion, and storytelling. It may not be a typical fast-paced space adventure, but it offers a meaningful and memorable experience. I would strongly recommend this movie to students and anyone who enjoys science fiction films that make you think while also connecting emotionally.

# Review of Attack on Titan



*Meryl Robby*

Some anime series entertain you; this one makes you question your opinions about things, especially about freedom and morality.

Released in 2013, this is a dark fantasy anime that starts at a survival narrative and gradually transforms into a complex exploration of freedom, power and moral ambiguity.

The story is about a young boy who after witnessing his hometown's demise vows to eliminate all the titans from the face of the earth. (Titans are these unusually humongous human looking creatures that eat humans.) Alongside two of his friends he joins the military forces to protect humanity that is currently trapped within several walls to stay safe from the human eating titans. At first it seems like a simple survival story; humans vs monsters.

But as the series progresses, deeper mysteries about titans, the world and humanity itself begin to unfolds. On the other hand the boy's desire for freedom from the titans and exploring the world outside the walls grows stronger or rather.....extreme? The story slowly turns from survival to questioning about who the real enemy is.

This anime series is loved widely because it forces one to think deeper and makes one question their own perspectives and opinions. It shows the dark reality in a unique manner by forcing its viewers to think out of the box.

The narrative does not present a single side as completely wrong or right. It shows how fear and survival shape people's decisions. Characters which were once seen as bad are later given backstories making the conflict more complex. It challenges the concept of morality by characters that blur the line between a hero and a villain. The story also constantly reveals deeper layers. What seemed simple at the start becomes complex as early events gain new meaning. It shows the themes of freedom, revenge and sacrifice. The characters experience genuine internal conflict and the side characters also receive depth and meaningful arcs.

In addition to its storytelling, the animation also contributes greatly in the impact. In the early seasons of Attack on Titan the titan movement was shown jerky and unnatural which created unpredictability and discomfort, giving it a horror feel. During action scenes the animation is detailed and intense.

Bright blood and exaggerated facial expressions are shown. The background music enhances the emotional moments and keeps one engrossed in it. The world is chaotic, humanity is small and titans are terrifying monsters. When the story changes in the final season the animation changes accordingly.

In the final season the story shows political drama and conspiracy theories; at that time the animation is more stable so if feels like a calculated war planning rather than survival. The animation uses a darker colour palette to show the dark reality that is hidden from the world. The exaggerated facial expressions now tone down to subtle shifts to show internal conflicts.

Overall, Attack on Titan is not just an anime but a thought-provoking journey that challenges one's thinking. It keeps viewers guessing that "is there a right perspective to it or not.

# Movie Review: 12th Fail



*Deep Jain*

12th Fail is a very simple movie but it carries a powerful message about the true meaning of success and hard work. The film is directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and is based on the real-life story of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma. Instead of showing a glamorous or aesthetic success story, the movie focuses on struggle, failure, and determination. It presents a realistic journey that feels honest and deeply relatable, especially for students.

The story follows Manoj, a boy from a poor background who fails his 12th examination but refuses to give up on his dreams. The film shows his transformation from a small village boy into an IPS officer. His journey is filled with financial problems, self-doubt, and repeated failures, yet he continues to move forward with determination. One of the most inspiring scenes is when Manoj studies while working at an atta chakki. There is no proper environment for studying, only darkness and noise, but he still manages to study. This scene clearly shows that if someone truly wants to achieve something, difficulties cannot stop them.

What makes this movie special is the realistic way in which struggles are shown, making it easy for students to relate to the character. The performances in the film feel very natural, especially Vikrant Massey, who delivers an honest and emotional performance. The movie does not depend on heavy background music or over-dramatic scenes. Instead, it keeps everything simple and real, which makes the message even stronger.

The biggest message of 12th Fail is that failure is not the end of life. The film teaches us that consistency, honesty, and patience are more important than marks. It also highlights the importance of moral values and choosing the right path even when life becomes difficult. The movie clearly shows that hard work always pays off if a person does not give up.

As a student, this movie really motivated me to stay focused on my goals. After watching Manoj's journey, I realized that if a person with very limited resources can achieve such a big dream, then we have no excuse to stop trying. This movie inspires students to believe in themselves and continue working hard without making excuses.

# From Carats to Character: Our Journey into the Heart of Dholakia Empire



*Kourani Rishi*

Some journeys are measured in distance, while others are measured in transformation. The educational trip organized by GLS University was not merely an academic excursion — it was an experience that reshaped perspectives, ignited aspirations, and left an imprint far deeper than any classroom lecture ever could. it was a masterclass in vision, grit, spirit. From the high-tech corridors

of H.K. Diamonds in Surat to the serene, revolutionary landscape of Dudhala, we witnessed how one man's journey can reshape an entire ecosystem.

Savji Dholakia, the founder of Hari Krishna Exports and a Padma Shri awardee, is known for his, "I am the best" mindset, often summarized in five key motivational, self-belief, and success-driven phrases:"**I am the best" "God is always with me" "I can do it"**

Our journey began in Surat, the diamond hub of the world. At **H.K. Diamonds**, we stepped into a world where precision meets art. We explored the fascinating lifecycle of a diamond—from the raw, unpolished stone to the brilliant, multi-faceted gem

A highlight of the visit was exploring the burgeoning world of Lab-Grown Diamonds. We learned that while nature takes billions of years, science can now replicate that brilliance in weeks. Understanding the pricing dynamics—how cut, clarity , and carat weight dictate value—gave us a real-world

perspective on global luxury markets that no textbook could provide.

Diamonds, often admired for their beauty, revealed an entirely new story — one of discipline, expertise, and extraordinary attention to detail. We were introduced to the multiple stages of

diamond processing, from cutting and polishing to grading and valuation. Each step reflected a silent philosophy: excellence is never accidental.

The experience broadened our appreciation of value — teaching us that worth is defined not merely by appearance, but by refinement, rarity, and resilience.

**The Soul: Dudhala, Where Luxury Meets Roots**

If Surat was about the "head," our visit to **Savji Bhai's Dholakia** native village, **Dudhala (Amreli),** was about the "heart." To say the village "beat five-star hotels" is an understatement. it was the feeling of perfection, peace, and purpose that permeated the air.

Spread across a sprawling 500 acres, the estate felt like a sanctuary. We explored the Bird Sanctuary and the thriving wildlife, but the true marvel was the water conservation work. Savji Bhai's massive water pond projects are a testament to his commitment to the earth.

In a bold stand against environmental decay, the Amrtm water project uses strictly glass bottles— zero plastic. What moved us most was the focus on Women Empowerment. The factory is operated entirely by women, proving that local talent, when empowered with trust, can run world-class infrastructure

The architectural beauty of Het Ni Haveli was the perfect backdrop for our interaction with the man himself—Shri Savji Bhai Dholakia. Sitting with him alongside our respected professors, we didn't just hear a success story; we heard a saga of emotional resilience.

When he spoke of his journey—from a young boy with 12.5 rupees to a global diamond tycoon—the room was silent. His words weren't polished corporate jargon; they were raw, motivational truths. He answered our questions with a depth that challenged us to think beyond "placements" and"packages." He taught us that true wealth is measured by how much you do for environment During our interaction, one thought shared by Savji bhai Dholakia was

**“Success is not about how much you earn, but about how many lives you touch.”**

This trip was a reminder that while we are students of GLS University today, we must strive to be the "Savji Bhai Dholakia of tomorrow—visionaries who build businesses that serve humanity.

As we return to our classrooms at GLS, we carry with us the motivation of his words and the memory of Dudhala—a place where the water is pure, the bottles are glass, and the vision is crystal clear.

# Visit to Amrutam - Learning Sustainability and Women Empowerment

*Soha Fathema Chishty*



As students of GLS University, we got an opportunity to visit Amrutam during our trip to Dudhala on 14th February, 2026. This visit was not just an industrial exposure for us, but a meaningful learning experience about sustainability and women empowerment.

Amrutam is a water industry initiative started under the vision of the Dholakia Foundation. What makes it different from other water brands is its sustainable approach. Instead of using plastic bottles, Amrutam uses glass bottles. In today's time, when plastic pollution is increasing rapidly, this step towards replacing plastic with glass is truly appreciable. It shows that businesses can grow while still caring for the environment.

One of the most inspiring things we observed during our visit was that all the employees working in the unit were women. The organization has intentionally created employment opportunities only for women with the aim of empowering them.

It was wonderful to see women confidently managing operations and contributing to the industry. This initiative not only provides them financial independence but also boosts their self-confidence and social status.

This effort reflects the strong social values of Shri Savji Dholakia. His journey from being a diamond polisher to become an Indian Diamond Tycoon of a successful diamond Industry H&K Exports and then giving back to society is truly inspiring.He is also known as a “Diamond King “. Through projects like Amrutam, he has shown that real success lies in uplifting others and creating a positive impact on society.

As management students, this visit taught us that entrepreneurship is not only about earning profits but also about responsibility towards society and the environment. The experience at Amrutam will always remain special for us because it showed us how business and social work can go hand in hand.

# Movie Review - Guthlee Ladoo

Mohak Sharma



Guthlee Ladoo is an emotional film that communicates quietly but powerfully. It doesn't rely on loud slogans or manipulated feelings; instead, it allows silence, innocence, and daily cruelty to express its message. Through the eyes of a young Dalit boy named Guthlee, the film uncovers how caste discrimination slowly ruins childhoods in India.

Guthlee's biggest dream is painfully simple: to go to school, sit in a classroom, and learn. Yet, the film shows how even this basic right is taken from him. One of the most disturbing scenes occurs when Guthlee must sit outside the classroom, listening from a distance, as if his presence would "pollute" the knowledge being shared. There's no dramatic score — just the sound of kids reciting lessons and a boy longing to belong.

However, the most heartbreaking aspect of discrimination is not physical; it is psychological. The film captures this harshly with a poignant line that lingers long after the credits roll:"Maa ki ab Ladoo school jaa sakta hai kyuki aap bol rahe the na ki jaake mar jao aur kisi badi jaat ki kokh mein jaake paida hona, toh hum bhi mar jaaye kya?"

This line is devastating because it illustrates how deeply words can affect a child's mind. What adults say, whether casually or angrily, becomes a child's reality. Guthlee is not being dramatic; he genuinely seeks to grasp the logic behind a society that tells him his very existence is a mistake. The film challenges us by asking: if a child comes to believe that death is the only path to dignity, where have we failed as humans?

The bond between Guthlee and his mother adds emotional weight to the story. She wants to protect her son but feels trapped by fear, poverty, and years of oppression. Her silence often causes more pain than her words, as that silence also teaches children what they can or cannot dream.

What makes Guthlee Ladoo powerful is that it doesn't portray villains as monsters. Teachers, villagers, and elders seem ordinary, which emphasizes the point. The film reminds us that caste discrimination persists, not just because of a few bad individuals, but due to everyday acceptance.

In the end, Guthlee Ladoo does not provide easy answers. It leaves you feeling a lump in your throat and raises questions in your mind. It pushes you to reflect on your own words, your silences, and your place in shaping a child's world.

Guthlee Ladoo is not merely a film; it is a powerful reminder that children listen, children remember, and children carry our words for life. It is a must-watch for students, educators, parents, and anyone who believes society can still change.

# Movie Review: 100 Metres



*Siddh Shah*

As a big fan of Madhouses adaptation of the author's other work, Orb: On the Movements of the Earth, my expectations for this movie were high. Somehow, they were all shattered by the time I finished the movie.

The cinematography is amongst the best I've witnessed in the medium; the statement "these characters behave like real people" has never been more applicable to an anime. Conversations flew naturally as characters dynamically interacted with each other, sprinkled in with subtle character movements. During the race and training sequences, each runner had a slightly different running form, each character mounted into their blocks at the start of the race at slightly different ways and cadences, and each character had unique running shoes. This is all thanks to an unbelievable usage of rotoscoping technology placed on-top of stellar, hand drawn looking background art, a feature sorely missed in many modern anime. These kinds of things culminate in a very particular scene (you'll know it when you watch it) depicting the preparations a set of runners perform up until the moment before the race starts; the entire scene a single, jaw dropping shot in the likes of which have not been seen in any animated media I've consumed.

The cinematography could not be complemented better by the narrative told within it. The story centers around the athletic journeys of the sprinters Togashi and Komiya. The former is a natural athlete with an unheard-of proficiency for the 100 meter sprint, the latter a promising athlete with an undisciplined technique. The two bond over their shared passion for the sport but eventually go their separate ways.

Where the interesting themes of the narrative start to shine begin when the two begin high school. The philosophies the two runners develop to tackle the sport begin to flourish as they encounter success and tragedy as they compete. Komiya focuses on results, statistics, and performance, Togashi however, is purely driven from his success. Once Togashi begins to fail to perform, his mentality towards the sport drastically changes. This mentality towards self-betterment is examined thoroughly by the film; this is also when the movie began to feel personal. Togashi spends a fair amount of his future career "getting by", competing but not performing. Running to pass time, not to learn and improve.

The idea of putting so much time into something you love, only to end up going through the motions of what used to be why you shot out of bed in the mornings is a terribly disgusting, yet horribly relatable feeling. Countless sports, arts, hobbies, and interests of our youth tend to be forgotten or set aside as we age; much of this stems from hitting "the wall". That time you fail to attain in the 100-meter run, that drawing technique that seems to escape your abilities, that level of proficiency you just cannot seem to achieve when learning a new language. The wall presents Togashi's first feeling of true defeat, much like you and I. How Togashi overcame the wall will differ from how you and I might overcome the wall, but to do so requires reawakening the discipline, fascination, and love you had for this activity when you started, just like Togashi did. After all, his final race in the film finishes with

everyone smiling. Not because they won or lost, but because those 10 seconds were the most luscious 10 seconds they had tasted.

Watching Hyakueme made me realize that I haven't truly given my best effort at anything in my life—not even once. It felt like pure fate that my friends booked tickets for this movie. What began as a casual outing turned into one of the best anime movies I've ever watched.

After watching Hyakueme, I couldn't help but wonder: what if I had truly devoted myself to recovery? What if I had ever given my absolute best, like Togashi did? Maybe a miracle would have happened for me, too. Throughout my life, I've felt regret, but never reconciliation. Perhaps that's why I never tried my best at anything. It was easier to make excuses—to tell myself that I didn't fail, I just didn't try hard enough. But this film helped me realize something deeper: even if the results don't go your way, peace comes from knowing you gave everything you had.

Hyakueme reminded me that effort is not about winning or losing—it's about honesty with yourself.

# Section 5

# Short Stories

# Flash Fiction: Room 27B

*Shelin Sunil Macwan*



It started with a knock. Sharp, quiet. 3:07 AM.

Ravi sat up in his hostel bed, confused. His roommate was at home for Diwali. The knock came again — not at the main door, but from inside the room. The cupboard.

He laughed nervously. “Not funny, bro,” he muttered, switching on the light. Silence.

No one.

He walked to the cupboard. Locked. As always. But… something had changed.

The lock was hanging open.

His heart started racing. He hadn’t touched it since he moved in. Everyone said Room 27B was “weird” — lights flickering, whispers, even cold spots. But Ravi never believed in ghosts. Just bad wiring, he’d said.

He opened the cupboard slowly.

Empty. Just dust. And a small envelope lying flat.

No name. Just one line inside:

“You left the cupboard open.”

Ravi dropped the note. Blood drained from his face. He stepped back—

—and the cupboard door slammed shut behind him.

Lights went off.

Complete silence.

Until the knock came again.

From under the bed this time.

# What Was Not Written…

*Heta Desai*
*Riddhi Dhoot*





The director carried the book with him, though he already knew most of it by heart. He had read it once for the story, and then again for the silences. What stayed with him were not the events, but the absences, the things that had been lived through but never fully written down. It was those absences that led him to Hannah and Sanne. He met them separately, bringing the book with him each time, careful not to ask the same questions twice.

With Hannah, the words came sooner. Once the question was asked, the memories followed, as if they had been waiting for permission. When he meets her, he asks the question that has stayed with him since he closed the book. What were the gaps Anne didn't write about?

Hannah doesn't answer immediately. Her grip on the coffee mug tightens, not enough to spill, just enough to steady herself. Then she begins to speak. Not about fear. About arguments. Not the loud ones, those were rare, but the constant grinding kind. Quiet brawls over who spoke too loudly, who stood too close to the windows, who forgot to soften their steps after dark. They even argued about breathing, about breathing too loudly, about muffling it once the lights were out. Every sound became a risk. Every movement carried weight. They learned to live like the dead.

She pauses, then corrects herself softly. Not dead, but a survivor. She explains that survival meant learning how to disappear without vanishing completely. That everyone who lived through it carried someone inside them who stopped living back then. They became our own shadows.

The director listens without interrupting. When she finishes, he thanks her, deeply grateful for her honesty, and quietly bids her goodbye. Later, he meets Sanne.

He doesn't open the book right away. He has learned by now that not everyone begins at the same distance from memory. Some people arrive with their stories ready. Others carry them carefully, as if setting them down too quickly might break something.

"People still meet you through Anne's words," he says.

Sanne nods. There is no bitterness in it, only recognition. "They always will."

"And yet your life didn't stop there."

"No," she replies quietly. "It didn't." After a moment, she adds that some parts just never learned how to leave.

Only then does he rest his hand on the book. "When it went quiet back then," he says, "everyone remembers the silence." He lets the words settle before asking, "In that silence, what felt the most dangerous?"

Sanne's fingers tighten slightly. She does not look away. She says she was scared of herself. Of making a mistake. Of existing too much.

After a pause, she continues. "Anne wrote about hope. But she didn't write about the guilt of surviving. About feeling selfish for still breathing when others didn't." Her hands tremble, not enough to be seen, but enough that she folds them together to keep them still.

"Sometimes," she whispers, "she thinks they didn't hide from death. They hid from living."

The director closes the book slowly. He doesn't thank her right away. Some truths don't want gratitude. They want to be remembered.

# The Magellanic Clouds

*Parita Chettiyar*
*Tisha Prajapati*





The coast was empty the night they met.

The Southern Hemisphere sky stretched endless and unbroken, darker than anything the city ever allowed. Rohan had driven three hours chasing quiet more than stars, needing to look up without knowing what he was looking for.

Priya was already there.

She stood near the cliff edge, jacket pulled tight against the wind, eyes fixed on the lower reaches of sky where most people never thought to search. Rohan might have passed her in silence if she hadn't spoken first.

"Those aren't clouds."

He followed her gaze. Two faint smudges hovered above the horizon, soft and irregular, easy to dismiss as coastal mist. "What are they?"

The pleased edge to her smile suggested she'd been waiting for someone to ask. "The Magellanic Clouds. Large and Small. Companion galaxies to the Milky Way."

"We can see other galaxies?" The wonder in his voice was unguarded.

"Only from down here." She pointed, her hand steady in the dark. "The Large one burns brighter—see? And the Small one stays close, subtler but constant. They orbit each other. They've been traveling together for billions of years."

She spoke with the quiet authority of someone explaining something beloved, something memorized not from books but from countless nights of looking up.

Then, softer, almost shy: "I like to think they're a kind of
love story." Rohan turned to her. "A love story?"

"Yes. Together but not colliding. Moving through space side by side. Each one whole, but bound to the other." She paused. "That kind of love."

He didn't challenge it. Something in the idea settled into him like truth.

That night unfurled slowly, the way the best nights do—measured not in hours but in revelations. They talked about constellations, then loneliness, then the strange intimacy of being honest with a stranger. Before they left, they exchanged numbers, both pretending it was casual.

They started dating two weeks later.

For Priya, the Magellanic Clouds became sacred. She wove them into their story, spoke of them often, as if the universe had written a metaphor specifically for them to find.

"We're like that," she told him once, months in, tracing invisible arcs in the bedroom darkness. "Orbiting each other. Together, but still ourselves."

Rohan pulled her closer. "I like that."

He did. He liked believing their love had been predicted by something ancient and celestial, something that preceded them and would outlast them.

For two years, they built a life. They learned each other's silences. They fought and forgave. They made plans that assumed permanence. Their lives braided together so tightly that neither could imagine where one ended and the other began.

Then the ground shifted.

Opportunities arrived from opposite directions. Dreams that had once run parallel began to diverge.

Conversations grew careful, weighted with things neither could say. The love remained—fierce, genuine—but it no longer fit the shape of what was coming.

They ended it on a Tuesday.

No betrayal. No burning out. Just the slow, aching recognition that staying would require one of them to become smaller.

Rohan sent the last message at 2 AM: *"Some things don't end. They just stop being lived."*

Priya read it three times before crying, convinced the Magellanic Clouds had lied. If even something so cosmically aligned could fall apart, then nothing meant anything.

A decade passed.

They became strangers except in memory. Other people came and left, some lasting years, none quite fitting. Time reshaped them—new cities, new scars, new versions of themselves. Still, on clear southern nights, Priya caught herself searching the horizon, the way you probe a loose tooth, unable to resist.

Ten years later, the viewpoint had changed.

There was a sign now: *"Optimal viewing: Late autumn, after midnight."* A small parking area. A railing to keep people from the edge.

The night was empty again.

Rohan was there because a conference had brought him south and he'd remembered the coordinates. Priya was there because she'd finally stopped running from the place where it all began.

They recognized each other slowly, time having softened the sharp edges of familiarity into something gentler, more uncertain.

Neither spoke right away. The sky began to clear.

Low on the southern horizon, patient and inevitable, the Magellanic Clouds emerged. "They're still there," Priya said, her voice barely above the wind.

"They never left," Rohan replied. They stood together with a careful distance between them, and something loosened in Priya's chest. For the first time, she understood.

The Magellanic Clouds had never been about their relationship—not the way she'd believed. She'd mistaken them for a promise of forever, proof that love meant permanence. But the galaxies weren't lovers clinging desperately to each other, refusing to let go.

They were companions.

Independent. Complete. Bound by gravity, yes—but not by need, not by fear of being alone. They didn't orbit because they couldn't survive apart. They orbited because their paths had crossed and stayed crossed, because proximity was the natural consequence of how they moved through space.

The relationship had ended.

The bond had not.

Rohan looked at her, and his smile carried all the years between them—loss and growth and the strange grace of meeting someone you loved as a different person entirely.

Priya smiled back, equally changed, equally certain.

They didn't talk about trying again. The question didn't need asking.

When they walked away, they went separately, peacefully, each carrying something the other had given them that would never be returned because it had become part of who they were.

Above them, the Large Magellanic Cloud and the Small Magellanic Cloud continued their ancient journey across the southern sky.

Never about the relationship. Always about the bond.

She finally knew the difference. And in knowing, she was free.

# The Unheard Screams



*Dhruv Patel*

The modest house stood quietly, its courtyard bathed in the warm morning sun. Inside, the faint clatter of utensils echoed as Malti worked in the kitchen. Aarti sat in the courtyard, her eyes fixed on the pages of a book. Her heart swelled with ambition as she absorbed every word, determined to make something of herself.

From the kitchen, Malti called out, “Aarti, focus a little more. You're always lost in those books.”

Aarti glanced up with a smile. “Mom, I’m just working towards my dreams. Once I get a good job, we’ll all live comfortably. You’ll see.”

Sunil, Aarti’s younger brother, walked in, adjusting his college bag over his shoulder. “And don’t forget about me! I’m off to college too, sis. One day, we’ll both make it big.”

Aarti chuckled, “We’ll see about that. Dream big, but don’t forget to study, little brother.”

The three of them shared a light laugh, a momentary escape from the harsh realities of their simple lives. The atmosphere filled with hope and love, yet beneath it all, fate was setting the stage for a tragedy none of them could foresee.

At college, the corridors buzzed with students. Aarti stood with her friends, her laughter mingling with their light-hearted banter. She was vibrant, her simplicity standing out in a crowd that often valued appearances over substance.

Across the parking lot, a luxury car pulled up. Ravi, with his sunglasses perched arrogantly on his face, stepped out. He scanned the crowd, but his eyes fixated on Aarti.

“There’s something about her,” he muttered to himself. “That simplicity… I have to make her mine.”

Aarti continued talking to her friends, unaware of Ravi’s growing obsession. To her, he was just another rich, arrogant boy from college. But in Ravi’s mind, a plan was already forming—a plan that would soon change the course of her life forever.

The day had turned to night, and the streets were deserted. Aarti walked briskly, a small errand from home bringing her out at this late hour. She clutched her bag close, the silence of the night making her uneasy.

Out of nowhere, Ravi’s car appeared, its headlights piercing the darkness. He slowed down beside her, rolling down the window. “Aarti! What are you doing out so late?” His tone was too friendly, almost patronizing.

Aarti paused, startled. “I had some work. I’ll be home soon.” “Let me drop you off,”

Ravi insisted, stepping out of the car.

“No, thanks. I can manage,” Aarti responded, her voice calm but firm. Ravi’s expression darkened. “I insist.”

Before she could react, Ravi grabbed her wrist, pulling her towards him. Aarti’s pulse quickened with fear as she tried to wriggle free. “What are you doing? Let go of me!” she cried out, panic seeping into her voice.

Ravi smirked, his grip tightening. “You belong to me now. No one says no to me.”

Aarti’s screams pierced the silence of the night, but the world remained deaf to her plight. The stage of her life dimmed, and darkness swallowed her.

Morning broke, but the light brought no comfort to Aarti’s home. She sat on her bed, eyes swollen from crying, her spirit crushed. Her mother, Malti, sat beside her, her face a mask of grief. Sunil paced outside, his anger simmering beneath the surface.

Malti’s voice was a broken whisper. “What have they done to you, my child? How will we ever bear this?”

Sunil stormed into the room, his fists clenched. “I won’t let him get away with this! Ravi will pay for what he’s done.”

Aarti looked up, her voice barely audible. “Bhaiya… will anyone listen to us? Will we ever get justice?”

Malti broke into sobs, “Oh God, how will we restore her honor?”

Aarti wiped her tears, her voice firmer this time. “Maa, I don’t care about honor anymore. I want justice.”

Malti embraced her daughter, her tears soaking Aarti’s shoulder. “We’ll fight, my love. We have to believe in something… in someone.”

But deep inside, they all knew this fight was not going to be easy.

The police station buzzed with activity, but for Aarti and Sunil, time seemed to drag on. They had been sitting there for hours, waiting, pleading for someone to take their case seriously. Inspector Sharma sat across from them, his posture casual, almost dismissive “Sir, my sister… she was attacked. Why aren’t you writing the report?” Sunil’s voice trembled with frustration.

Inspector Sharma looked at them, his expression indifferent. “Look, these things are complicated. Filing a report will only bring shame to your family. Think about it. What will society say?”

Aarti, her eyes swollen from crying, whispered, “I don’t care what society says. I want justice.”

Sharma leaned forward, his tone cold. “Do you even know who you're up against? Ravi’s family has influence. It’s better for all of you to forget this.”

Sunil’s anger exploded. “We will not stay quiet! My sister will not be silenced.”

But as they left the station, a sinking feeling settled in their hearts. The road to justice was already littered with obstacles.

Ravi lounged in his luxurious living room, sipping on a drink. His lawyer, Sanjay, sat across from him, flipping through legal papers.

“So, what’s the situation?” Ravi asked, a smug grin on his face.

Sanjay smirked. “Nothing to worry about. The police are in our pocket, and the media will soon spin the story. This girl doesn’t stand a chance.”

Ravi leaned back, satisfied. “I told you, money can buy everything. Even justice.”

Sanjay chuckled. “Exactly. This is just another game, and we’ve already won.”

As the two laughed, the world outside was crumbling for Aarti and her family. But for men like Ravi and Sanjay, it was all just a power play— a game they were determined to win at any cost.

The courtroom was packed, its walls thick with tension. On one side sat Aarti, Sunil, and Malti, their faces etched with sorrow and exhaustion.

On the opposite side, Ravi stood tall and confident, his lawyer, Sanjay, wearing a smug smile. The air felt heavy, as if the very room could feel the weight of the injustice unfolding within.

Judge Sahab sat at the high desk, his stern gaze sweeping the room. He cleared his throat and looked toward Sanjay.

Sanjay stepped forward, his voice smooth and calculated. “My Lord, this entire case is nothing more than a web of lies. My client, Ravi, is being unfairly trapped by the accusations of Aarti. She is driven by selfish motives, and her allegations are nothing but falsehoods.”

The courtroom fell silent, every eye trained on the lawyer. The judge raised an eyebrow, his voice even. “Do you have any proof to support this claim?”

Sanjay smirked, the confidence in his posture unshakeable. “Yes, my lord. Aarti has presented no concrete evidence that links my client to the crime. These are merely her words, and as we know, words alone are insufficient in the eyes of the law.”

Aarti’s face twisted in anguish. Her hands clenched into fists, and she shot up from her seat, her voice trembling with anger. “This is a lie! I saw him… I felt him… he did this to me!” Tears streamed down her face as her voice cracked under the weight of her pain.

Judge Sahab banged his gavel, his tone stern. “Silence in the court! This is not the place for

emotional outbursts."

Sunil, unable to contain his rage, stood up, his voice raw with frustration. "Is this what justice looks like? Are our voices so small that no one will hear us, just because we are not rich?"

Judge Sahab's eyes flickered with a mix of sympathy and indifference. "The court runs on facts, not emotions, young man."

Sunil slumped back into his seat, defeated, as the trial continued. The gap between truth and justice had never felt wider Back at home, the atmosphere was heavy with grief. Aarti sat on the edge of her bed, her face pale and her eyes hollow. Malti, sitting beside her, clutched her hands tightly, her own heart breaking for her daughter. Sunil paced in the small living room, his mind racing with thoughts of what to do next.

The door creaked open, and Lakshmi, the NGO worker who had been supporting Aarti throughout her ordeal, walked in. Her presence was a quiet strength, but today even Lakshmi's usually hopeful demeanor seemed dulled by the weight of their collective despair.

Lakshmi sat down beside Aarti, gently placing a hand on her shoulder. "Aarti, I know what you're going through. But this fight isn't just yours. It's the fight of every girl who dares to stand up for justice."

Aarti looked up, her voice broken and filled with hopelessness. "Lakshmi Didi, I have nothing left to fight for. No one is listening to me—not even the court. I've lost everything."

Malti's voice trembled as she spoke. "What will we do now, Lakshmi? We've tried

everything, but there's no hope left for us."

Lakshmi's voice was firm, unwavering. "We don't have the right to give up, Malti. This isn't just about Aarti anymore. It's about every girl who has been silenced. We are with you, and we will continue this fight together."

Sunil, slumped in a corner, looked up, his face twisted with anguish. "But we're alone. It feels like everyone—every system, every person—has turned against us. How can we keep going?"

Lakshmi's eyes met his. "You are not alone, Sunil. We will raise our voices together, and we will not stop. Justice may seem distant now, but I promise you, one day, it will come."

Her words lingered in the air like a faint glimmer of light in their dark world.

The courtroom buzzed with anticipation as the judge prepared to deliver his verdict. Aarti, Sunil, and Malti sat in tense silence, their hopes hanging by a thread. On the other side, Ravi stood with his usual confidence, a smug smile playing on his lips. Sanjay, his lawyer, looked calm, already anticipating the outcome.

Judge Sahab adjusted his glasses and began reading from the papers before him. His voice was steady, each word cutting through the air like a blade. "In view of the evidence presented and the testimonies heard, this court finds the accused, Ravi, not guilty."

The words hung in the air for a moment, as if the entire room had stopped breathing. Then, like a wave crashing over them, the realization hit. Aarti's eyes widened in disbelief, her body trembling with shock.

"No!" she screamed, standing up from her seat. "This is wrong! This is not justice!" Tears streamed down her face as the reality of the situation hit her with full force.

Sunil, his face contorted with anger, shouted, "This is a mockery of justice! Does the voice of the poor mean nothing in this country?"

Ravi, unbothered by the chaos, stood up and adjusted his collar. He smirked, leaning slightly toward Aarti's direction. "You'll never understand how the world works. Money buys everything—even your so-called justice."

Aarti collapsed into her seat, her sobs filling the room. "No one can understand what I went through… No one can feel the truth I've lived. But is truth meaningless in this society?"

Neha, Aarti's friend, approached her quietly but said nothing. Her silence echoed the helplessness that had engulfed them all.

Lakshmi stood, her voice breaking through the noise. "Every day an Aarti loses, and every day a Ravi wins. But our fight isn't over. We will keep fighting, for as long as the cries for justice remain unheard."The courthouse steps were crowded with reporters, their microphones ready, their cameras focused. As soon as the verdict was announced, the media frenzy began.

One reporter stood before the camera, speaking in a serious tone. "Another high-profile case has come to an end. The court has acquitted Ravi, the man accused of rape by Aarti. The court found that there was not enough evidence to convict the accused. Aarti, the victim, is clearly devastated by this decision."

As Aarti and her family left the courthouse, a reporter ran toward them, microphone in hand. "Aarti ji, what do you have to say about the verdict? Do you feel that you've been denied justice?"

Aarti stopped, her eyes red and swollen from crying. Her voice, although shaky, held a quiet strength. "Justice? Here, justice is only for the rich. My truth was buried beneath their power and influence. But my fight isn't over. I won't stay silent."

The reporter turned back to the camera, her voice professional and composed. "As you heard, Aarti remains determined to continue her fight, despite the court's decision. It remains to be seen whether she will file an appeal."

As Ravi exited the court with Sanjay, the reporters swarmed him. "Ravi ji, you've been declared innocent. Do you have any comments on the verdict?"

Ravi grinned, flashing a victorious smile. "I always said I was innocent. The court has confirmed it today. Everything else was just baseless accusations."

The camera zoomed in as the reporter addressed the audience. “This case has once again raised the question: is justice truly blind in our system, or does it see wealth and power first? Many women like Aarti fight for their dignity every day, but the question remains—will their struggle ever end?”

As the reporters packed up their equipment, the truth of Aarti’s pain was lost amidst the flashing cameras and sensational headlines.

In the days following the verdict, Aarti’s house became a target of ridicule. The community, once supportive, now turned hostile. They whispered behind their backs, accusing Aarti of fabricating the story for attention.

In the marketplace, women turned their faces away as Malti walked by, and children pointed fingers at Sunil. The weight of public shame hung heavy on the family.

One evening, Aarti sat on her bed, staring blankly at the ceiling. Sunil entered, his voice breaking the silence. “Didi, I’m sorry. I couldn’t protect you.”

Aarti looked at him, her face pale and drained of emotion. “Bhaiya, this is not your fault. It’s the world that failed me. I don’t know how long I can keep living like this… I feel so trapped.”

Sunil knelt beside her, holding her hand. “We’ll get through this, Aarti. I promise you.”

But deep inside, both siblings knew the toll this ordeal was taking on their family.

The room was dark, the only light coming from the faint glow of a single bulb hanging from the ceiling. Aarti sat at her desk, a pen in hand, a blank piece of paper in front of her. Her mind raced, her heart heavy with despair. She had fought so hard, yet everywhere she turned, she was met with indifference, with cruelty.

She began to write, her hand trembling with every word.

*“Maa, Sunil… please forgive me.*

*I tried so hard to fight, but I can’t do it anymore. I thought the truth would win, but this world has left me alone. They say everyone gets justice, butmaybe that’s only in stories. Here, money and power are the only truths, and we have neither.*

*Ravi won, but I lost.*

*Sunil, I saw how hard you tried to keep me strong, but I can’t give you more pain. Your sister lost, bhaiya.*

*I don’t know if this world will ever change, but I can’t bear this anymore. I’m sorry. Maybe I’ll find peace somewhere else.*

*Yours, Aarti.”*

Tears stained the paper as she gently placed it on the table. She stood up, her movements slow, as if the weight of her decision was too heavy to bear. She tied a rope to the ceiling and looked around the room one last time, her tears flowing freely. The world outside was dark, but inside her, the darkness was deeper, more consuming.

Aarti took her final step, and the silence in the room was broken only by the soft creak of the rope.

The next morning, chaos engulfed Aarti's home. Reporters, cameramen, and onlookers crowded the small house, their voices loud and intrusive. Sunil and Malti sat in a corner, their grief too overwhelming for words. But the world outside had already moved on, treating Aarti's death not as a tragedy but as a spectacle.

One reporter stood before the camera, his voice clear and professional. "We are here at the home of Aarti, the young woman who tragically took her own life last night. This is the same girl who accused Ravi of rape. But now the question is: was Aarti hiding the truth? Was this all part of a bigger conspiracy?"

Behind him, another reporter was speaking into her microphone. "Sources suggest that Aarti may have had a personal relationship with Ravi. Was this a case of blackmail gone wrong? Our exclusive coverage will uncover the shocking truths behind this sensational case."The words reached Sunil's ears, and he could no longer stay silent. He stormed outside, tears streaming down his face, and snatched the microphone from a reporter. "Stop this! My sister is dead, and you're turning her death into a circus! She fought for justice, and you're making her look like a liar!"

The reporter, unphased, pulled the microphone back. "We're just reporting the facts. If your sister had been telling the truth, the court would have found evidence. We're simply doing our job."

Sunil's voice broke as he shouted. "There was no justice for her! You people are killing her all over again, spreading lies, turning her truth into entertainment!"

But the reporters were unfazed. They continued their coverage, their cameras still rolling, their voices still loud. Aarti's truth had been lost, her story now twisted and sensationalized for the sake of TRPs.

As the stage darkened, the echo of reporters' voices filled the room. Somewhere, amidst the noise and the chaos, Aarti's cries for justice were drowned out once more.

# Section 6

# Faculty Voices

## Beyond Borders: *How Malaysia Changed the Way Our Students See the World*



*Dr. Milan Patel*

While many programs take you to a physical location or "place", this International Immersion Program went an extra layer of depth to help us go within, see the world, and what is possible through our newly opened eyes. No doubt.

Our students were recently put through a more grueling program by being sent for internships at two of Malaysia's top universities, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology and Synergy University. It was not a boring experience for them, as they learned new concepts, inspired others to learn, and gained new knowledge and new cultural experiences.

Even after finishing up the classroom sessions, the real imagination was fuelled when the students went on the industry trips.

Students recently visited the cutting-edge AirAsia Headquarters in Malaysia, home to one of Asia's most innovative businesses. The group benefited from seeing firsthand how AirAsia has managed change, redefined the low-cost carrier model, and continued to expand into the digital and lifestyle ecosystems. The visit helped make abstract business concepts more concrete and reinforced the idea of innovation as a strategy that has enabled one of the world's most daring businesses to continue growing and flying millions of people to their destinations every year.

Our courses depart from the typical classroom instruction model and focus on dialogue, critical thinking, and the exploration of complex global perspectives. Students in a seminar format discussed hot-button topics such as the quick emergence of artificial intelligence in business and cross-cultural marketing strategies that require thoughtful research, creativity, and tact. In exploring potential entrepreneurial opportunities, students considered the future from the perspectives of the employee, the future inventor, and the future entrepreneur.

I was really impressed with the conversation taking place on Accessibility and the Future of HR.It was exciting for many students to see the rapid changes that are occurring in the workplace and how they will affect our future economy. We also had a great turnout of many of our International students and professors who helped bring a sense of relevance and timeliness to the various sessions.

During a visit to one of Malaysia's main news agencies, Bernama, the group of students was able to witness the skills and accountability of quality journalism in today's world and the high stakes the media faces in terms of credibility of reports. Students were able to gain a deeper understanding of how stories and narratives are presented to the public and the high stakes and accountability that journalists have in presenting an honest and truthful report

and the great responsibility they have in acting with integrity in their roles as gatekeepers of information.

Most exciting to me were the pitches made by the students on stage.It had been a few days since they learned a new method to apply, had interactive talks with successful entrepreneurs and adapted to the way of life of a new country. Then it was time to share the ideas they came up with with the world.

What came out was remarkable.

These weren't apprehensive, unsure students seeking approval.

They were very confident, able to articulate a clear and thoughtful set of ideas, and were truly passionate about their positions. They even showed an understanding of global dynamics and what this could mean for society - this was really one of the main goals of our two-week program!

Their quiet yet powerful presentation was a great reminder of one key point about immersive learning: not only do you learn information, but you also learn the courage to form an opinion, to support that opinion, and to defend that opinion through presentation.

While yes, the program was held in conference rooms for seminars, the kids were treated to an experience that went far beyond what a typical academic program could provide. They were learning doctors treating patients, with an appreciation of Malaysia's health-care system and gaining insight into its culture.

We spent the late afternoon at the base of the Petronas Twin Towers. An amazing feat of ambition and determination by the humans who conceived and built the highest structures in Kuala Lumpur.

We visited the Batu Caves, a short car ride from the city, where we experienced a living culture by climbing the 272 brightly coloured steps to a beautiful Hindu temple high above, surrounded by the sounds and energy of the jungle. Bright art and colours of many Hindu images adorn the area. We can see why Malaysia is considered one of the most fascinating countries in Southeast Asia, thanks to its diversity, history, and commitment to spirituality.

We spent the afternoon touring Putrajaya, a surprisingly peaceful yet intimidating area of the country, home to Malaysia's government buildings and some beautifully constructed canals and waterways. The lesson KL Immersive is a great metaphor for the next generation of Malaysia. They will grow up in a world where technology is not separate from creativity, and the resulting art will amaze and inspire our students in a stunning digital experience of light, motion, and interactivity, all combined to awe, inspire, and delight.

The International Immersion Program of The Immersion Foundation is based on the firm belief that the best education takes place outside a four-walled classroom. It takes place on an airplane at 35,000 feet, in the hallway of a busy local newspaper, at the foot of brightly coloured stairs or on the day a student stands up proudly in front of his or her peers and says: “This is my idea and here’s why it’s important to me.”

The kids are back and they brought more than just some awesome photos.



After returning to India, they realized the true potential of what had been experienced and enjoyed. They gained new confidence and the ability to compete and contribute on a global scale. They gained cross-cultural and cross-border friendships. They inspired each other and provided everyone else with lots of information about Malaysia. It was a life changing trip for the kids and gave them lots of fun memories.

I feel that the trip gave them a beautiful gift when you taught them to believe that the world is theirs. This is something that no amount of testing or crediting can give.

**Bio:** Dr. Milan Patel is a faculty member of Entrepreneurship at Faculty of Business Administration, GLS University.

# Profit with Purpose: Moral Values for Tomorrow's Business Leaders



*CA Dr. Mala Dani*

In today's world, success is often defined by packages, profits, and positions. For business students and young professionals, the dream is clear: a good job, a fast promotion, and financial independence. Yet, history and wisdom literature teach us a deeper lesson: profit alone does not create greatness; purpose does.

**The Bhagavad Gita** gives a timeless principle for every aspiring manager: **"Karmanye vadhikaraste, ma phaleshu kadachana"** (Chapter 2/ Verse 47) - meaning thereby- *"You have the right to work, but not to the fruits of work."* For business students, this means focusing on effort, skill, and integrity rather than shortcuts to wealth. When your actions are ethical and disciplined, success becomes a by-product, not an obsession.

**The Bible** poses a powerful question relevant even in corporate boardrooms: **"What shall it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul?"** (Mark 8:36).
Many business scandals began with brilliant minds but ended with ruined reputations. The lesson is simple: without character, competence becomes dangerous.

Indian business history offers living examples of "profit with purpose." Jamsetji Tata believed that industry should serve society. His vision continues today through the Tata Group's commitment to education, healthcare, and employee welfare. During national crises, Tata companies did not retreat from responsibility; they stepped forward. Trust built over decades cannot be purchased with advertising… it is earned through values.

As business students, this matters because we are future managers, entrepreneurs, and investors. One must decide whether a product is safe, whether numbers are honest, and whether workers are treated fairly. Every decision will test your moral compass. When faced with choices like inflating sales figures, hiding defects, or exploiting labour, your degree will not guide you… But your values will.

Swami Vivekananda's words inspire ambition with ethics: **"Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached."**

Swamiji also emphasised character as the foundation of success. A business career built solely on ambition is unstable; one built on integrity is enduring.

In business terms, greed may bring short-term profit, but it also brings long-term risk- legal trouble, brand damage, and loss of public trust.

Look at simple business realities. Customers return to brands they trust. Investors prefer companies with transparent governance. Employees stay loyal to leaders who respect them. Ethics, therefore, is not against business; it is smart business.

For today's youth studying management, finance, and entrepreneurship, the challenge is not just to become rich, but to become responsible. Leadership is not about controlling others; it is about serving society through innovation, fair practices, and sustainable growth.

Your classroom lessons will teach you how to calculate profit. Life will test whether you deserve it.

Let your ambition be high, but your honesty higher. Let your competition be tough, but your conscience tougher. When profit is guided by purpose, business becomes not merely a career choice, but a contribution to the nation and to humanity.

The business leaders of tomorrow sit in today's classrooms. May your balance sheets grow, and may your values grow even faster.

**Bio:** CA Dr. Mala Dani is a Chartered Accountant and teaches Finance and Accounting at Faculty of Business Administration, GLS University

# Where Silence Speaks: My Pilgrimage to Adi Kailash and Om Parvat

*Dr. Swati Modi*



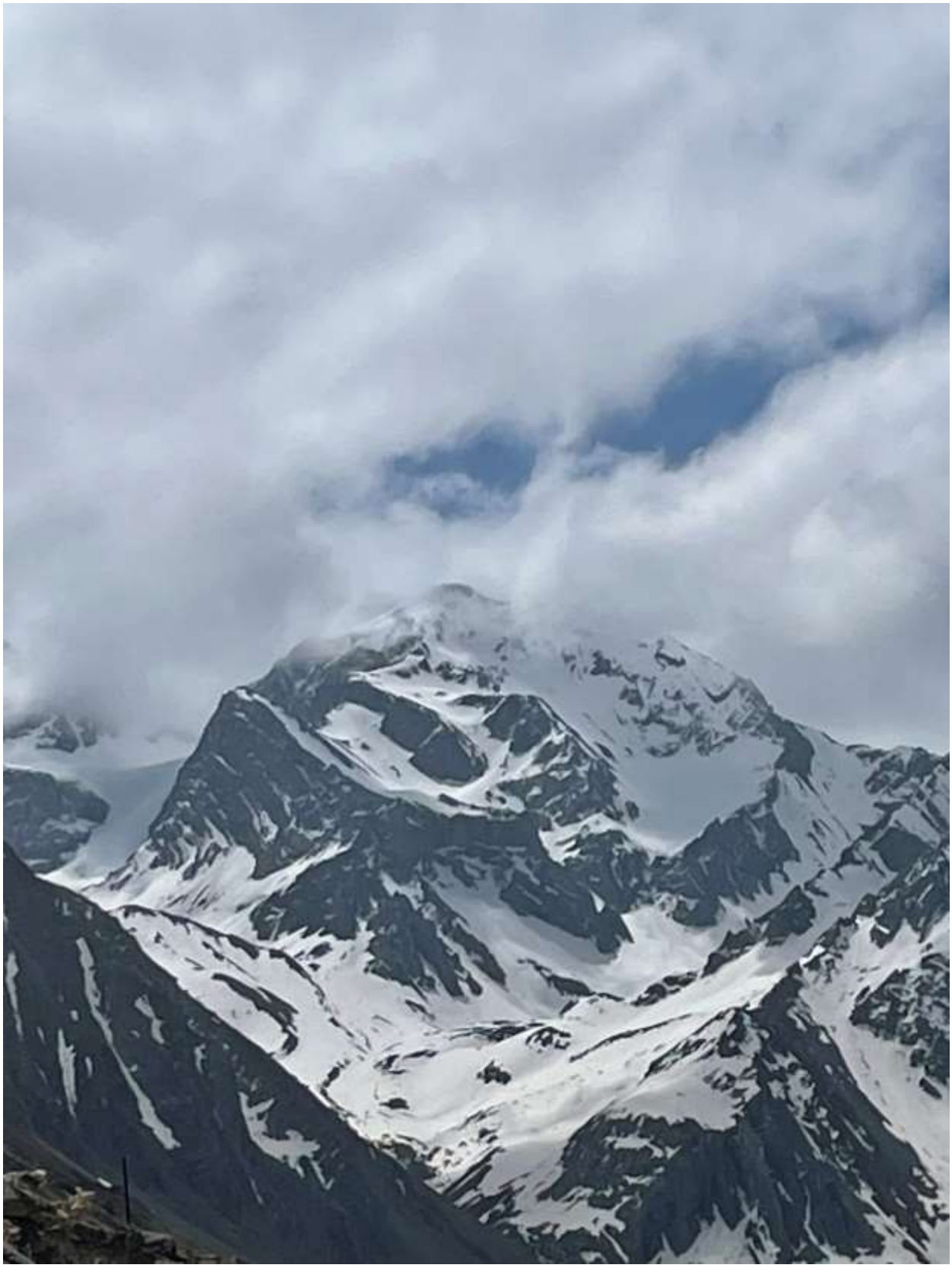
My journey to *Adi Kailash and Om Parvat* was never planned. My husband and I had set out to visit **Munsiyari**, with no agenda beyond soaking in the mountains and asking locals about nearby sights. It was during one of those casual conversations—over tea and curiosity—that someone suggested we consider traveling onward to *Adi Kailash and Om Parvat* with a group. The idea arrived quietly, almost unexpectedly, yet it lingered. What began as a routine holiday slowly transformed into something far deeper—a quiet conversation with the universe that unfolded breath by breath, step by step.

We were not prepared for what lay ahead. We had neither planned the journey nor gathered the usual details, yet when something feels like a calling from God, resistance quietly dissolves, and everything begins to fall into place. What could have taken days happened in moments—we obtained the necessary permits in barely half an hour. Almost before we could question it, we were ready to move, carried forward by a calm certainty that this journey was meant to happen.

As we moved deeper into the Kumaon Himalayas, **behind the wheel of my Tata Hexa**, the world we knew began to loosen its grip. The steady hum of the engine accompanied us as roads narrowed into winding mountain ribbons, signals faded into nothingness, and silence grew louder than sound. Snow-capped peaks stood like ancient guardians, watching patiently as I drove closer, turn by turn. The Hexa felt solid and reassuring on the rugged terrain—an unspoken companion that carried us forward with quiet confidence. The air grew thinner, sharper, and incredibly pure, as if each breath carried a blessing. With every mile I drove uphill, the noise inside me softened.

**Gunji**, a small yet vital Himalayan settlement, became my base for this sacred journey. Cradled at the confluence of the Kali and Kuthi Yankti rivers, Gunji felt less like a stopover and more like a threshold—where the material world quietly hands you over to the spiritual one. Stone houses clung to the slopes, prayer flags whispered mantras to the wind, and life moved at a pace dictated not by clocks but by daylight and weather. Nights in Gunji were deeply still, broken only by the murmur of the river and the distant rustle of the mountains. Sitting there, wrapped in silence and starlight, I sensed that the real pilgrimage had already begun.

From Gunji, the path to *Om Parvat* unfolded. The first glimpse stopped me in my tracks.





There it was—the sacred "ॐ" imprinted naturally in snow on the dark mountain face—no human hand, no design—just nature expressing divinity in its own language. I felt a strange stillness wash over me, the kind that makes you bow instinctively, not out of fear but out of reverence. Time seemed to pause. In that moment, faith was no longer something I believed in; it was something I saw.

The journey onward to *Adi Kailash*, often called *Chhota Kailash*, was equally humbling. The terrain grew more rugged and demanding, yet profoundly beautiful. Rivers cut through valleys like silver threads, glaciers shimmered in quiet insolence, and remote villages greeted me with warmth born of resilience and simplicity. Walking through this land, I understood why it is not meant to be rushed. Each step demanded presence. Each pause invited reflection.

When Adi Kailash finally revealed itself—majestic, serene, and deeply grounded—I felt an overwhelming sense of coming home to a place I had never been, yet somehow always belonged to. The mountain did not overwhelm; it embraced. Sitting there, surrounded by towering peaks and endless sky, my thoughts dissolved. Worries felt insignificant. Questions fell silent. All that remained was gratitude.

What touched me most was the simplicity of life throughout the journey—from Gunji to the highest points of the pilgrimage. People lived with little, yet carried immense inner richness. Their smiles, devotion, and quiet acceptance of nature's rhythm taught me lessons no book ever could. This journey stripped me down—not physically, but emotionally—removing layers of restlessness, ego, and expectation.

The Himalayas here are not just mountains; they are a living presence. Snow-clad peaks rise in quiet grandeur, wrapping the land in a sense of calm that settles deep within the soul. The gentle yet constant sound of the river flowing alongside the path feels like nature's own mantra—pure, rhythmic, and deeply soothing. Each step is accompanied by this music of water, echoing through the valleys and blending with the whisper of the cold mountain breeze, creating a silence that is never empty but profoundly alive.

Adding to the beauty of this sacred landscape is the unwavering cooperation and warmth of the Indian Army personnel stationed there. Amidst such remote and challenging terrain, their discipline, humility, and quiet kindness stand out. Their guidance, protection, and reassuring presence make the journey not only safe but deeply comforting. In these high Himalayas, devotion, nature, and service come together seamlessly—making the journey to Adi Kailash and Om Parvat as emotionally enriching as it is spiritually uplifting.

As I returned, passing once more through Gunji's calm embrace, I realized I was not the same person who had begun this pilgrimage. *Adi Kailash and Om Parvat* did not merely offer scenic beauty; they offered clarity. They reminded me that divinity is not always found in grand temples or elaborate rituals, but in silence, in surrender, and in nature's untouched grace.

This was not just a journey across mountains—it was a journey inward. One that will echo in my heart long after the roads fade and the peaks disappear.

**Bio:** Dr. Swati Modi is a faculty member of Finance at Faculty of Business Administration, GLS University.



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