

ECHO

ILEAD

VOLUME 1 | 2018-2019

FIRST EDITION

**WALL OF
FRAMES**

VERSES:

**BLITHE
IN THE
SIGHT**

VOICES:

ZODIAC

MEETS

FASHION

CANVAS

ABOUT

iLEAD – The Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development is a UGC approved world class institute promoted by PS & Srijan Group – the two top Real Estate Groups of Eastern India with more than 300 successful Real Estate Projects and 3000 + employees. Rated as the 4th Best Media School in the country by KPMG, adjudged College of The Year in t2 Festopolis 2017 and the Best Co Curricular Activity College at Gurukul Awards 2017, iLEAD, is affiliated to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, the biggest university of the West Bengal, India. It also has collaborations with 16+ international universities including the Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development, USA.

iLEAD offers degree courses in media, management, design and other professional studies both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. iLEAD is offering undergraduate programs in Real Estate Management, Interior Design, Animation, Multimedia and Graphics Designing, Entrepreneurship, Data Analytics, Film and Television Production, Fashion Design and Management, Culinary Science, Gaming and Mobile Application. The post graduate programs include Data Science, Media Science, Film and Television Production, Human Computing and Artificial Intelligence and Fashion Management. These courses are designed to make students industry ready to cater to the growing demand of skilled professionals in the respective sectors.

PREFACE

It gives me great pleasure to write the introduction of this year's edition of the college magazine ECHO, which is dedicated to all the students of this college.



I would like to express my sincere thanks to the editorial team of this magazine who worked hard and managed to collect the material for this edition. Especially, I would like to extend my warm thanks to all the enthusiastic students who came with such wonderful articles for the first edition of their very own college magazine.

This Magazine serves as a Book of Memories for the students of this college. It carries Photographs, Doodle Art, Articles, Poetry and Messages from the students of various departments enjoying their stay in this college. And last but not least the narrative pages consisting of articles on various segments deserve critical appreciation.

I wish this initiative all the best and I hope the popularity and participation grows with time.

Pragya Chopra

**Director
iLEAD Institute**

EDITOR'S DESK

We are extremely delighted to publish the first edition of our college magazine 'ECHO' 2018-19 (Vol-I). Ilead has motivated its students to explore their interest other than studies. This great initiative had been taken up by Mr Biswadeep Bhattacharyya along with Ankita Ghosh, Barsha Roy, Survi Agarwal and Udayan Mitra, four Masters students from the Media Science departments in order to showcase the innumerable talents that is out there, unidentified.



Every educational organization has its own annual student's publication. 'ECHO' provides the required limelight to the deserving students and help Ilead learn about the incredible literary and creative endowments of its own students. The magazine has sections dedicated to various genres like poetry, articles, photographs and art work. We hope that in the upcoming years the following batches can find the enthusiasm and mutual cooperation to flourish with consequent editions.



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VERSES

Another Pray



We pretend to be happy.

We pretend everything is fine.

We pretend we're not stuck.

We pretend we move on like a truck.

We pretend to be perfect.

We pretend to be strong.

We pretend to be heartless.

We pretend nothing's wrong.

Why do we wear the unwanted masks and carry on with the gloom?

We water the pretentiousness so much that we forget we are here to

bloom.

Why does it has to be the other way and we are forced to remain quite?

We fear being vocal and ignore the soul knowing it is right.

We say there's no option but do we really try?

We accept to go with the flow then hide and cry?

What if we take time and heal things our way?

Is it too shameful to be our truest self and not become another pray?

Neha Bhowmick (BMS 6)

An Ideal Girl

An ideal girl, grasping a shimmer
of light.

Hoping to fight against the dark-
ness, which crawls into her bed
each night.

She is frazzled, her mind is beat.
The abating idea of sleep offers
her no retreat.

There is nothing she can do.
Nothing for herself, nor for you.

Nothing she can do without the
shimmer of light
The one whose hope keeps her
protected and secure
every single night.

But as a reader, you might not
have realized this yet
But the darkness that her soul
adopts
and the shimmer of light, repre-
sents an ongoing battle of the lit-
tle thoughts
inside her head.

The darkness are her doubts and

fears

and the shimmer of light is what
tells her what she prolongs to
hear.

And what she prolongs to hear, is
that she is worth more than her
needs
to the people that are near.

She needs to hear she is beautiful.
Because she can't look into the
mirror
and accept herself truly.
She only sees the fat and hair
that is unruly.

And what she really can't see is
that
she is astounding and attractive to
both you and me.

And in the end, all she prolongs to
hear,
is that she is more than enough
for what she can be,
and has nothing to fear.

Saikat Dey (BMS 4)

हम वह कायर नहीं

हम वह कायर नहीं यलगार से डर जाएंगे,
तुमने समझा के हम तलवार से डर जाएंगे।
अनेक हमलावरों को चुटकियों में फेक दें,
तुमने क्या समझा के एक वार से डर जाएंगे।

हमने खुद अपने लहू से ही तो सींचा है वतन,
तुमने समझा हम कुछ हतयारो से दर जाएंगे।
सभी ज़ख्म का हिसाब लेगा वोह मत भूल,
हम अपने शहीदों के प्यार से बच जाएंगे।

हम जब ज़बान चलाए तोह तलवार चुप रहे,
तुमने सोचा हम फटकार से दर जाएंगे।
पत्थर चलाने वालो बंद करो यह खेल,
तुमने क्या समझा हम दो-चार से दर जाएंगे।

ज़बिा अंसारी (BMS 2)

A Dream

I saw my dreams and my goals,
Of achievements and success.

I saw my shining future,
Through battles and wars,
Of disappointments and failure.

I saw smiling faces of those,
Who believed in me

I saw survival
Of happiness and good times.

I saw strength
In revolution and rebellion.

I saw misery,
Underneath peace and humanity.

And prominent of all,
I saw glory and magnificence
In this world and hereafter

Tasveer Fatma (BBA 2)

Blithe In The Sight



I was walking through the sand,
Playing with my curls, I took a vision around,
The view was magnificent and it seemed a magic land,
I kept gazing at it till it made me spellbound.

And this is why I love the sea shore,
The bountiful nature has made it a galore,
The emerging waves symbolises its profound power,
I heard the raging noise it makes while it hits the tower.

The giant coconut trees were an icing to the scenic beauty,

I saw the fisherman far off, fighting against the wave, struggling to perform their duty,
Apart from all the hustle and bustle on the city side,
I found the place so calm and quiet.

The symphony of the waves says a 1000 things,
Which is unexplored by the human beings,
Far, endless and wide is what I want my happiness to be,
And this is why I love visiting the sea.

Ankita Ghosh (MSC 4)

I Wonder How Different Life Would Have Been

I wonder how different life would
have been
If you wouldn't have left.
Would it all be simple?
Would it all make sense?
Would it all give me the happiness
that I deserve?

I wonder how different life would
have been
If you kept all you promises.
The ones you made at the crack
of the dawn.
The ones where you promised to
never leave me stranded, alone,
without you.

I wonder how different life would
have been
If u were there to share all my
sorrows and my joys.
My stupid secret's, fears and
dreams wouldn't have felt so for-
saken.

If you'd have been there to guide
me through all my problems maybe
I wouldn't have been where I am
today.
I wonder how different life would
have been.

If you'd have been there, listening
to my endless blabber, my insecuri-
ties, and my unfulfilled goals, to
which you would say, "I am there,
and we are going make it, to-
gether".

I wonder how different life would
have been.

But now I sit alone where the void
around, inundates me.
In the same room where you told
me you'd never leave me derelict.
I wonder how different life would
have been.

Bhagyesh Dalmia (BBA 2)

The Woman in Red Hijab

The Earth was singing sweetly,
And brightly smiled the air.
walking with gestures,
graceful was her flare.

The awful shadow of some concealed power,
floated through unseen among us.
Her two great eyes screne befall,
everyone was eager to know who the woman was after all.

Animosity, inconsideration& grievances fused as if one,
I looked into her eyes.

My poetry itself appeared to smile back at me,
such verses which was told one one.

A piece of cloth wrapped around her head,
so strong with her chin up.
As if so many women in the society
had no real ideas to express!

From Burberry to Pashmina she showed great variety,
but her fashion & ability became a question for the society.
It's hard to understand what small piece of fabric can say,
She was strong & unique in her own way.

It did more than just cover her hair,
Her red 'Hijab', became an emblem which was noble & fair
It gave her strength allowing her to show her bare.
She wore it like a crown on her on her head,
She was a woman, A woman in Red.

Zeya Ansari (BMS 2)

To Free A Broken Butterfly

"Look at me Amanda",
Lucas's voice smooth yet treacherous.

She tried to keep her calm,
while he raised his eyes to meet hers.

His eyes were evil,
yet dangerously beautiful.

She couldn't help,
but be lured into his little web.

A deranged routine,
she had learnt by heart.
Beginning with disgust to pain,
concluding with promises of never
hurting her again

"Forgive me", said Lucas,
he knew he had won once again.

She nodded,
and he walked off in satisfaction.

She felt lost and,
recollected the old times with her
husband.



The time where brutal words,
and threat did not exist.

She opened the glass window,
took off the gold ring.
The ring which denoted,
their never-ending love.

She stepped off the roof,
inviting darkness to overcome her.
She only hoped he would think of
her,
every time he would look up at the
stars above.

Survi Agarwal (MSC 4)

Farewell

I entered an unknown place a
decade ago,
Later which became my second
home though.
Trust me, my school and its
classes are
The best places I've ever been,
Though the teachers kept shouting
"It is the worst class I have ever
seen!"

Time passed and 'Ba Ba Black
Sheep' got replaced by Pitbull
We grew up somewhere between,
"The Merchant of Venice" and
"Arms and the Man".
We grew up carrying loads of
book to just a copy,
Plans of bunking the history
classes was almost like a hobby.

I still remember when we shifted
from pencil to pen,
I will never forget the exuberance
before the sports period started
Or the frustration, when our de-
sired sports equipment was not
granted.
What to say about our nervous-
ness, when we were asked to solve

a sum on the board,
Or that pandemonium, whenever
the teacher roared.
The time we spent on MS Paint in
the computer lab,
And as the teacher passed by,
how we hid the tab and did the
dab!

Finally the day came, with tears in
every eye,
It was the day of farewell, of bid-
ding goodbye.
So farewell hand cricket and the
pen fights, those project submis-
sion dates and the tireless nights.

When we started school, all we
did was nothing but cry,
And again on the farewell day,
there were tears in every eye!
We may have to separate physi-
cally, but not in the heart,
And these memories will always
be my life's favourite part.
I know, years later, a photo from
an old file
Will wet the eyes with tears and
curve the lip into a smile.

Chandni Jain (BBA 2)

WALL OF FRAMES



Zeya Ansari (BMS 2)



Sharli Das (BMS 2)



Mahima Barasia (BMS 2)



Anupam Deb Roy (BSc Animation)



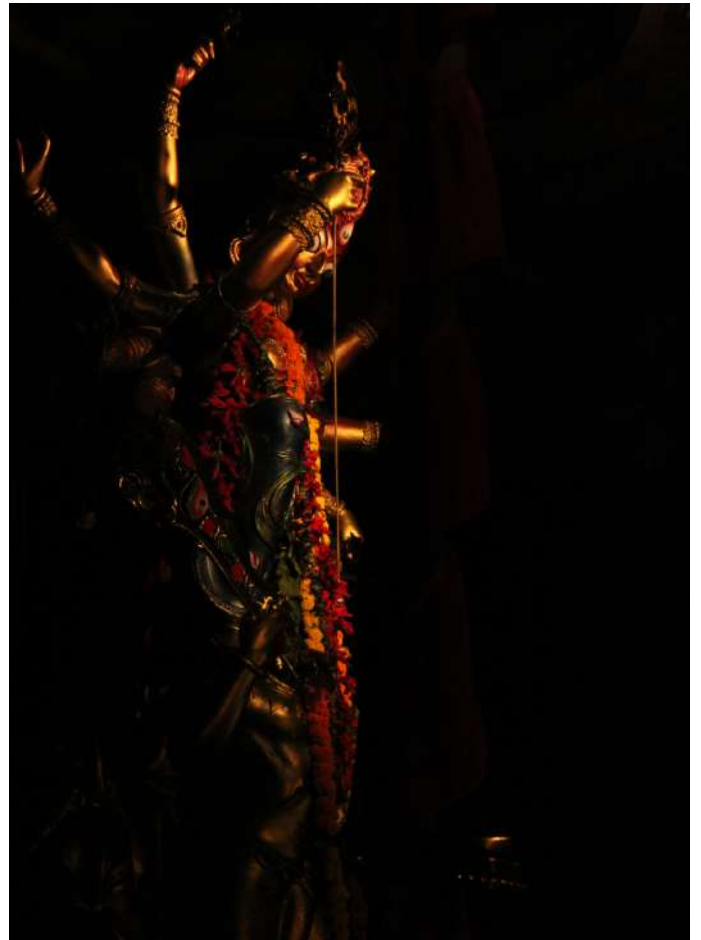
Om Ranga (BBA 2)



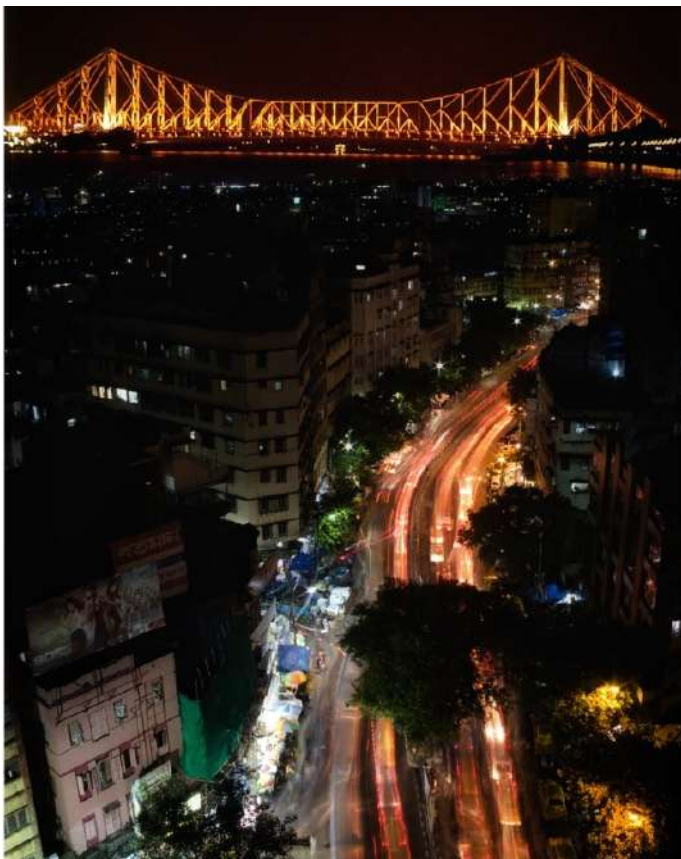
Sayan Chatterjee (BSc Animation)



Anupam Deb Roy (BSc Animation)



Prameela Karki (BSc Animation)



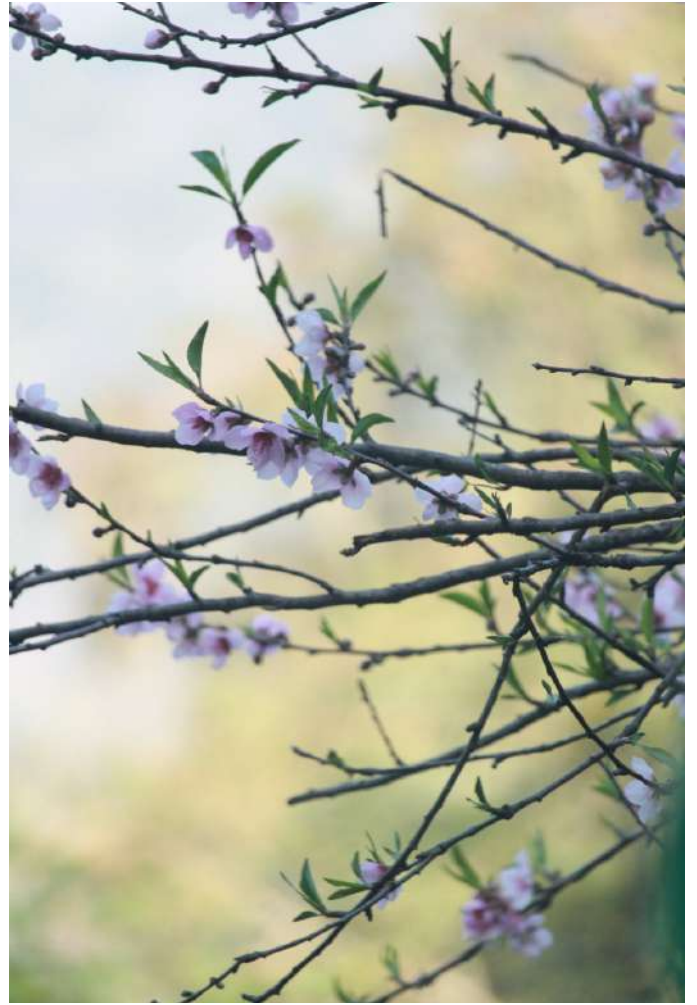
Zeya Ansari (BMS 2)



Mahima Barasia (BMS 2)



Zeya Ansari (BMS 2)



Prameela Karki (BSc Animation)



Prameela Karki (BSc Animation)



Sharli Das (BMS 2)

EVENTS

CONVOCAATION 2018



INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018



JEFFERSONS DEBATE 2018



TEACHER'S DAY 2018



SPOTLIGHT 2018



DIWALI 2018



HALLOWEEN 2018



ADRENALINE 2018



COLLEGE TRIP 2018



ALUMNI MEET 2019



MANAGEDIA 2019



FAREWELL 2019



VOICES

Balancing the Speed of Progress

The onset of a swift digital revolution has meant much more than a faster, more convenient life that has banking and shopping both at our fingertips. It has reduced the generation gap to one of five years at the max, making the 20 to 30 odd years in between parents and children, a matter of five generations.

The rift is stark, the differences real, the concern, great. Gen-z has their days (and nights) full, courtesy smart phones and handsets. Obligations and commitments such as academics, professional career, extra-curricular, family, friends, love-life, passions and more has life in a clutter. Thus balance remains the Holy Grail.

Technology may have made life faster, but the speed has opened up doors to new possibilities, which in turn has spiked up the level of responsibility. Along with the scientific advancement has come the influence of a global world. While the younger folks have readily adopted it, the elderly have chosen to stick to more traditional customs and lifestyles. This distinction due to external influence has directly af-

ected the upbringing of many, so much so that it has led to much conflict between the two groups; the Dumdum metro incident being a very recent and prominent one.

The reactions to the incident have led to much debate, with the two generations polarised according to their own staunch opinions.

With over 360 million ten to 25 year-olds, India has the world's largest youth population according to a latest UN report. As a community we have a discrete presence, but it also means we have certain responsibilities. Finding and maintaining the right balance between preserving the indigenous culture as well as adopting the global ones is a key role.

In such a social conundrum, we as a community need to ask ourselves how far we will go to prove a point. How far we are willing to push the boundaries of respect for others? Where is the midway point at which we must arrive?

Udayan Mitra (Msc 4)

No Strings Attached

Twinkle spent hours rippling around the bed, thinking about the atrocities life was showing her. She was pursuing arts at a college in Bareilly. Coming from a typical Marwari family, the stereotypical beliefs they hold protruded quintessentially. Twinkle's dream of becoming a travel blogger and exploring new and distant places wasn't a rosy way. She barely had been to places in Bareilly, travelling the world comes second. The internet enticed her to learn more about the budding professions whilst she choose blogging over anything else as she had the flair for writing.

Twinkle's father was sceptical about her daughter's independence and he wanted her to marry a man of his choice and settle down. Love marriage at her house wouldn't have been a small reason for a major heart attack to her father. Twinkle tried controlling her feelings according to her family norms, but she failed to remain oblivious to the very qualms of a teenage life and fell in love with a guy in her college. Rajat, was an extremely good looking yet humble guy who loved her equally. Yet he was no different in binding and restricting her in doing things she wanted to do. The same behaviour later re-

sulted in the birth of an acute obsession. Twinkle gasped for breath as she almost choked being a caged bird. She needed an accentuated flight towards her freedom, a flight of decisiveness, determination and serendipity.

As the hands in the clock took a couple of rounds and the dusk fell heavily, twinkle settled for something better. She got up the bed, opened her closet, took out her camera, put on her dress and got her initials ready. The clock struck twelve and the crass cacophony that greeted the New Year outside, broke the night's tranquillity. As the crowd cheerfully welcomed the New Year, Twinkle stood up, wiped her tears and smiled at her spirit of welcoming new aspirations and resolutions. She left the room without breaking the silence of the night but breaking the strings which has got two fine ends. The strings carried societal limitations and emotional values on either of its ends that always restricted her into choosing a life of her own choice.

Ankita Ghosh (MSc 4)

Cyber Age

Evolution is the process which involves gradual development of different living organisms.

Over the years humans have been evolved through various timelines. Orderly, Palaeolithic age - Stone Age - Iron Age - 20th century - Cyber Age. As we observe today, we notice how human contact and interaction has subsequently decreased.

The present era where humans survive can be termed as the Cyber age. The existence of virtual reality is common today but the absence of reality is also prominent. We live in a time where robots are asking if the user is robot or not. Internet was established on September 2, 1969 which marked the beginning of digital era. It was mainly introduced for the purpose of time saving, acquisition of knowledge and learning. But now is it fulfilling any of these mentioned activities? As the world gradually progressed, internet turned from a luxury to necessity.

The advancement of technology and ease of access has led the mass to being dependant on advanced technologies. Extreme usage of internet has led to addiction.

Cyber bullying is one ongoing issue faced by netizens all around the world. It results in the rise of inappropriate chats, illegal activities and virtual relationships. In 2012, a girl was bullied online by her seniors. A sensitive video of the girl along with her photographs were circulated all over social media. Financial crime, cyber terrorism, cyber warfare and drug trafficking are few prominent crimes prevalent today.

Besides creating various online problems, the cyber age has also given birth to various physical issues.

Blurred vision, body strain and muscle soreness are the most basic physical ailments caused due to increased digital exposure.

Many teenagers suffer from emotional trauma and anxiety due to the same.

The infamous 'Blue Whale Challenge' has cost many young lives. It was an addictive online game where the players were made to reveal their personal details and take up life threatening challenges.

Few years ago, the internet was an escape for the real world. However with advancement in growth and consumption of internet, it's the real world that has become an escape from the internet. Addiction to internet has led to increase in depression and social phobia among youngsters. The thirst to acquire maximum number of likes and comments in pictures have led to unhealthy competition and inferiority complex amidst the youth.

According to a research, it was observed that 7 out of 10 teenagers are victims of cyber bullying. The situation at hand is to figure out ways to deal with it. Firstly, one should avoid retaliating to unknown mails, messages and online abuse. Blocking and reporting are the key features of online platforms for user's security. Keeping strict privacy settings can tone down the amount of online risk. Kids spend an average of 44.5 hours per week online causing major concern among parents. Nowadays people are spending more time on LINE than on LIFE.

The Internet is becoming Times Square for the global village of tomorrow.

Harshita Choudhary (BMS 2)

A Pen is Mightier than a Sword

'A pen is mightier than a sword', but what if it ends up putting you in shackles instead?

I opted for Science in High School and simultaneously started preparing for engineering exams. Those two years had been one of the most tormenting periods till date. I had started hating subjects which once I enjoyed thoroughly.

It's not that I had anything against the subject; in fact Science by far has been one of the most beautiful subjects I have come across. It's just that "sometimes" instead of just teaching us 'how to bring the galvanometer to null point' we do expect to know that why in our planet,

we want to make the current flow zero. Sometimes I wonder- what was the whole point of memorising those infinite trigonometric equations (which by the way most of the qualified engineers have claimed not to have used in their careers till date).

The problem with our education system is that we are expected to mug up not just the formulas but also the practical uses of those theoretical formulas. All I hope is that maybe someday we, as a society succeed in educating our youth on 'HOW TO THINK' rather than 'WHAT TO THINK'.

Tanishka Jaiswal (BSc Animation)



When Zodiac Meets Fashion

“Do The Universe a Favour And Don't Hide Your Magic”

The word zodiac sends a spark and ecstasy down our spine. The thrill gets exhilarated further when zodiac meets fashion. Sun sign reveals a lot not just about one's personality but also the way they dress, talk and behave. Zodiac signs disclose certain mysterious and precise answers as to why one dresses the way they do irrespective of whether they read their horoscope or not. So, let us dive deeper into this splendid world of fashion and sun sign.

Aries (March 21- April 19)

Energetic and confident Aries loves to dress up in formals. Aries despise to wear gaudy and loud clothes. Sober and cool colours like blue and green complement them. They always settle for signature styles with a mishmash of freshness.

Taurus (April 20- May20) Pragmatic and vibrant Taurus look forward in creating a statement through their daily outfit. Taureans can turn

a boring jeans into a high street fashion. Colours that compliment them are earthy and nude shades.

Gemini (May 21- June 20)

Curious and gentle Gemini make heads turn through their style and fashion. The love to stand out in the crowd. They love to pick up eye-catching attires. Complimenting colours for affectionate Geminis' are fluorescent shades.

Cancer (June 21- July 22) Polished and poised cancer always love to gravitate towards asymmetrical patterns and cut. Cancerians loves to keep it clean and timeless. Colour that attracts them are orange, red, yellow, etc.

Leo (July 23- August 22) Confident Leo loves to keep it colourful and vibrant. They are always attracted to floral pattern and bright shades. Leo relies on their own instincts when it comes to fashion.

Virgo (August 23- September 22)

Loyal and kind Virgo gets attracted towards tailored silhouettes. Amalgamation of vintage and classics is what they opt for. They can also be called a casual-styles chameleon.

Libra (September 23- October 22)

Gracious and diplomatic Libras score 10/10 on fashion. They love to balance colours. Libras exude charm through their clothes and edgy fashion. They prefers to wear metallic trims and leather patterns.

Scorpio (October 23- November 21)

Mysterious and instinctive Scorpions are attracted to dark colours, mainly black. The take their enigmatic aura quality into style. Sophisticated but never prissy, Scorpions love to play with textures and materials.

Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)

Known for their idealistic nature, Sagittarius love to play it clean and crisp. They are structured when it comes to appar-

els. Colours for Sagittarians are silver and gold.

Capricorn (December 22- January 19)

Responsible and disciplined Capricorns always enjoy comfortable look. At the same time they can also aim for a rock and roll look. Colours for them are brown, olive, rust, etc.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Original and progressive Aquarians create their own style and identity. They love to experiment. Their wild and bold side attracts them to animal prints and bold colours.

Pieces (February 19- March 20)

Free spirited Pieces are a force to reckon. They prefer bohemian and subtle look. Their mood sometimes makes them opt for floral silks and soft colours. Pieces love to play with the colour palette.

“Fashion is the sky and the path towards it is Zodiac Sign.”

Survi Agarwal (MSc 4)

Biking and Holidaying around India

A motorcycle trip is the best way to feel and live real adventure. It is also the best way to explore any country. Valleys, deserts, forests and all kinds of terrains you can ride through them all. Riding a bike has benefits like no other. We bring you a list of places in India which are fantastic for road trips on bike. There are many motorcycle friendly routes that can be taken by anyone who can ride a bike.

Here are top three bike trips in India every biker absolutely must take **Chandigarh-Manali-Leh** :

It is known as one of the most adventurous biking routes in the world. The Chandigarh-Manali-Leh route is picturesque and breathtaking. Right till the village of Pang, the route is extremely tough and challenging for bike trips. The roads after Pang make it totally worth it.

Once you finally reach Leh, you can embark on other lovely bike trips such as to Pangong Lake, all of which have their own charms.

Some important tips for this trip:

- You can rent a bike from Manali
- You have to change your bike from Leh and rent a new one
- Rental of a bike is about rupees 800 to 1600 per day, which vary according to models
- You have to remember to carry sufficient amount of petrol for your bike

Siliguri-Darjeeling-Gangtok :

Sikkim and northern parts of West Bengal in India are relatively unexplored. So it is also a good

option for bike trips. The lush green hills and spectacular weather here make this region a delight for

nature lovers. From tea plantations to views of snow clad mountain peaks, you will find it all on this route

- You ride with your own bike on this trip if you are going from Kolkata or anywhere from

West Bengal

- You can also rent a bike from Siliguri - there are several tour operators who give their bikes on rent

- You need permits for to travel to Gangtok

Manali-spiti vally :

This trip is for those who think Ladakh is too clichéd. Spiti is a great option to explore it is as beautiful as Ladakh and is home to some of the most scenic and thrilling roads, from lakes to valleys and clear skies to gushing rivers. Spiti has everything which makes you feel very close to nature. You can visit its beautiful monasteries they are so mesmerizing that they make you want to stay forever.

- Rent of a bike in Manali will cost you around rupees 600 to 1500 per day

These are just three there are many others as beautiful and as thrilling, like Mumbai-Goa, Chennai-Mohabalipuram-Pondicherry, Shillong-Cherapunji etc, which you can explore.

Some travel agencies in India who arrange bike trips Adventure Nation, www.thrillophilia.com, Motorcycle Tour Company India, Royal Bike Riders. They provide you the best motorcycle adven

ture tours in India and the subcontinent. Royal Bike Riders, in particular, are managed very professionally by the young and dynamic team of experienced travel advisors and road captains.

You can follow them on facebook, insta, google+ etc.

Bikers are a breed of wanderers. It takes a lot of preparation, strength and stamina to embark on and complete road trip like these. Be sure to carry adequate supplies and take necessary safety precautions.

Aritri Naskar (MSc 4)

In The Dark

The silence of the evening was broken by the faint murmurs of a folk song being played to celebrate a wedding miles away. But as far as the eye could see, there was nothing but desolation. The villagers in the hills of the Northern India are few and far apart, and walking only a couple of kilometres can bring you from raucous chaos to deafening silence.

It was in search of this solitude that I had set out, flashlight in hand. Sitting on top of a hillock, I was enjoying the calm ambience when I heard some noise from the bushes behind. Alarmed, I stood up, out came a pretty maiden, holding a lamp. She was as alarmed to see me as I was to see her. She had a piece of paper in her hand with a picture of someone. Judging from her clothes, I could see that she was not from this place. "You should not be outside after dark. Don't you know the news?" she questioned hesitatingly. Maybe she found my lack of reply trustworthy, because she sat down and proceeded to tell me exactly what the news was.

There was apparently a serial killer on the loose, a young man dressed like a tourist. He would go to people's houses, ask for shelter, stay with them for a few days and then brutally murder them.

He was thought of an Urban legend by the people who came to visit but, the superstitious villagers thought him to be the devil incarnate.

But the thing is that we now have a picture of him. Some people from the village has seen him and drawn his face. That is why I

was so shocked to see you." Having a face which is extremely common, can be a bane as well as a boon, "I said in jest. She was from Mumbai and had come here for adventure and thrill.

I told her my story. How I was a lawyer who worked in Delhi and how I came here at every opportunity I got just for some peace. We sat there in comfortable silence. The moon a silvery glow around us, as if we were surrounded by a glowing fire place.

We joked about the murderer coming up from behind, and how we would catch him. She happened to look at my hands and all of a sudden got up with jerk.

She stumbled back towards the rock. Moonlight does make blood look white leaching away, rich beautiful, ruby red. "Weren't we joking about his name being Hannibal Letter? Well my dear his name is Sebastian Versace and I don't think I need to say that I am that 'ferocious man'. They always do get my nose wrong."

I had seen my victims scream and shout, fight back and beg for mercy. What I had never seen was them laughing. She threw back her head and laughed, the moonlight making her a harsh caricature. There was a loud bang all of a sudden and then a burst of pain. I looked down to see blood oozing out of me. She had shot me. As I lay down, gasping for breath, she looked down on me. She showed me another picture she said, "They always get my nose wrong too" with a chuckle, and then, everything went dark!

Tasveer Fatma (BBA 2)

Hum Saath Saath Hain

1990s. This thing called 'Bollywood' emerges as one of the most prominent facets of popular culture. Here, we find imbibed, the practice of grandparents, parents, bachelor children who get married, and even their children, all under one roof, living 'happily ever after'. This practice resonated throughout the nation. Hum Saath Saath Hain, afteral.

"A family is nothing but an earlier heaven", said Irish playwright, and critic George Bernard Shaw. According to Sociology, a family is a group of people affiliated to each other by a specific relationship. It is the most fundamental unit of social organization which we intimately identify with, and in every society, at every stage of development, some or the other sort of family exists. But it is only in India, that one may find the Hindu Joint Family system, an extended family arrangement consisting of many generations living under the same roof, eating food cooked at one hearth, participating in common worship and holding property in common with every person's share in it (or at least every adult male member's), all bound by a common relationship.

"This truly is a very different system of living, with people of different generations and different mindsets, but is like a roller-coaster ride in its own", says Richa Popat, a student from Kolkata pursuing her M.A., who has been a part of a Joint Family since her birth. Her family comprises not only of her sibling, parents, uncle and aunt, and grandparents, but also her great-grandmother, which is a very rare spectacle today. "Sometimes, you are extremely pampered, and at times, badly scolded. Yet, it is a unique experience every day; no less than a blessing" adds her twin brother Rajat, currently pursuing his MBA.

The Hindu Joint Family derives its strength from religion, and is thus associated with various rituals and practices. All members of the family necessarily worship a common god, known as 'Kula devata/devi'. All members participate in common prayer and have similar faith and beliefs. This system of joint worship passes from generation to generation. The eldest bahu of the family, Hetal Popat marks, "In a nuclear

family, you can enjoy birthdays and festivals mostly with your friends, but not with the family. In a Joint family, each day seems like a celebration." All members of a joint family keep their earnings in a common fund out of which family expenses are met. The system is like a socialistic community in which every member stepping outside to work, earns according to his or her capacity and receives funds from the common pool of resources according to his or her needs. "I feel really lucky that my mother-in-law and sister-in-law take over the responsibilities of the household. They empower me to work and achieve my career goals. Had I been in a nuclear family, the possibility of the same would have been distant", says the younger bahu, Nishita Popat. No doubt disadvantages do accompany this system of living. Frequent quarrels, lack of privacy, the need to share your things with other family members and supreme authority of the eldest male member of the family might seem difficult to tackle, but it is a beautiful feeling to co-exist and learn traditional family values in such an environment. Mahendra H. Popat, the eldest male member of the family states, "In a joint family, all members put in their efforts to successfully complete any sort of work. People are free to go out as and when they wish. People living in smaller families have to think about the timings of the maid(s), closing windows, locking the doors properly and what not! This makes Joint Family system more convenient for people."

In spite of all dysfunctions, Joint Family System still continues to exist in the Indian Society, withstanding the challenges of time. Joint family preserves culture and customs. Traditions and skills are passed from generations to generations. In times of celebrations and despair, the members share their joys and sorrows equally. This is why, Nilesh Popat, the eldest son of the family concludes, "Agar mauka miley, toh Joint Family may reh kar dekho. Toh pata chalega." (If you get a chance, then do stay in a Joint Family. Only then will you understand.)

Mehul Agarwal (BMS 2015 - 2018)

Every Day is a War

'Hardship' often forms a major part of everybody's life. However, hardship has its own definition tailor-made for every individual.

Arun Kothari led a regular life in a three-storied building, with his joint family. He has been married for 4 years and the couple were expecting their second child. While the culture of joint family in India is still glorified and Mr. Kothari's life appeared to be smooth, it was only so, on the surface. Like every other evening, he was returning home from work. He got off the bus, lost into thinking of his aunt and her boisterous attitude showing off every expensive possession she had. Panic washed over him as he thought of his family. He was hopeless and reluctant to give his family a life of insufficiency. He failed to realize he was in the middle of the road. He was horrified as he saw a car mow him down.

Arun was in a crowded metro station when he suddenly heard the noise of explosives as mass shooting began. Even before he realized he saw a bullet fired in his direction. Arun was on a hospital stretcher. His entire family was present at the hospital. He felt special until he felt ashamed on learning how every member of the family had rushed to the hospital on getting the news of accident. He was fortunate. He had not received much injury. Moreover, he had his entire family standing with him in the time of need. No rifles, no men. He was safe.

At a tea stall outside the community park, where local residents in the morning came to work out, sat a "Sabha" of elderly men. The changed lifestyle, hometown talks, politics and national issues became the hot topic of discussion over a cup of tea. The headlines in the dailies served as the most debated topics. On one such day, an article in the daily triggered the conversation of cross-border firing, ceasefire violation and terrorism. The numbers in the daily stated that the ceasefire violations had been on steep rise since 2016. Earlier, the ceasefire violations ranged somewhere in between two 200 to 300, currently the numbers increased in 2016 to 449, which even doubled in 2017 and crossed the mark of 800 cases of CFVs. The temperature of discussion rose and fell over the empty cup of tea. Slowly and certainly the topics of discussion changed from passionate and patriotic talks to humorous legs-pulling. Their Sabha was always held with

mirth and harmony. There was hardly anything perilous in their personal life. They were safe.

Back at the border, Bikas Gurung and Praful Kalyan, with the entire battalion lived in the camp alongside the LOC in Naushera sector. The conditions had intensified along the border in last 3 years. One such night the battalion had gathered around the bonfire discussing the impact of the killing of Mujahiddin and Burhan Wali and the surgical strike, on the sellers of terror. It was a great stroke by the army in 2016 but these attacks had left the Bujahiddin's vengeful and desperate to cross the border. However, their attempts did not provide any let up to them.

The course of discussion shifted and Praful began singing a patriotic song. Bikas joined him. The two connected like two men bound by blood. They were true brothers like everybody else in the battalion. Harsh conditions of day and night spent together gave them the title of 'Family'.

Around 3:00 a.m. in the morning, the ceasefire broke. The Pakistani army initiated unprovoked and indiscriminate firing of mortars on routine Indian Army patrol seven hundred meters inside Indian territory in Naushera sector. It was in the battalion's routine to face these unalarmed attacks. But everyday was a new battle. Every battle was a war. The nation counted on them. They fought with valor and selflessness to prevent any further Mumbai 2008 terror attacks.

In the vicious exchange of fire, rifleman Bikas Gurung was grievously injured. No dream. Real gunshots and mortars. No fireworks. Only the thundering bolts of war which silenced life. Praful saw his brother being knocked down before his eyes. He was a brother, a family, and all he could do was keep fighting. Keep firing. He was helpless. A couple of minutes later, Vikas's body was escorted back to the camp by other comrades. Praful and the battalion did not shed a tear but a pool of blood of the enemies. The firing went on for around 2 hours. When Praful returned to the camp, he realized it was too late to hear any last words. He saluted. A brave heart, again, was martyred. But the country was safe.

'Hardship' is a defining word, tailor-made to every individual.

Neha Mishra (BMS 4)

What lies beyond the new dawn of pride?

On the morning of September 2018 the country woke up to a new dawn as the Supreme Court struck down Section 377 and embraced the LGBTQ+ community with pride. People witnessed an India wrapped in rainbow colours and engaged in a festival of liberty.

Today, we are all part of an age where the demand for equality is in the rise for every individual irrespective of their class, caste, gender and orientation. It is a matter of sheer delight that nearly 26 countries all around the world have legalized same-sex marriage. On the other hand it was very unfortunate that our own country have been criminalising LGBTQ+ activities under section 377 of the Indian Penal Code since time immemorial. Through continuous protests and constant activism and a sesquicentenary of struggle for freedom, the Supreme Court reconsidered decriminalisation of LGBTQ activities last year. As the five judge panel of the Supreme Court came up with a verdict and partially read down Section 377 invalidating the 150 year old law, the nation opened a new gateway for acceptance and freedom. "Section 377 is irrational, arbitrary and incomprehensible as it fetters the right to equality for LGBT community. LGBT community possesses same equality as other citizens. The right to privacy as part of right to life applies fully to the LGBT community" stated Chief Justice of India, Mr Dipak Mishra.

However, this particular episode is being considered as the initial step towards equality of an enormous journey that lies ahead. Advocate Anand Grover, who has worked extensively in the fight for freedom for the community, said, "Our goal is now to ensure same-sex couples and anyone falling on the LGBTQ+ spectrum have jobs, can adopt and live together." Despite the law being taken down what is yet to be completely changed is the notion and mind-set of the society that has failed to accept the LGBTQ community time and again. This has resulted in large number of closeting cases in the country in fear of strong discrimination and the lack of acceptance of homosexuality. But with the turn of an era and by stepping into a time where the idea of change is largely welcomed, now is the ideal moment to take up the responsibility of changing the age old stereotypes existing in the surroundings.

"It is an incredibly joyous moment for the LGBTQIA community but an enormous journey for us lies ahead. Not only decriminalisation of same-sex act should be enforced by law but protection of the people of the community in public places by introducing anti-harassment laws should also be considered" says, Sanjay Mehta (name changed), speaking on public safety of the members of the community post the verdict, who identifies himself as gay and plans to come out to his family soon. One of the major courses of actions remains challenging the discriminatory practices and policies against the community that is still prevalent in the country which needs to be struck down in due course of time. Speaking about the fight for legalising same-sex marriage, the right to adoption for same-sex couples and the right of adult civil union and partnership, Anjan Joshi, member of SPACE (Society for People, Awareness, Care and Empowerment) said, "It is a start. We know we have a long way to go in terms of right to adoption, right to marriage but it is a very welcoming beginning."

Although decriminalisation of Section 377 concerns the LGBTQ+ community as a whole, the transgender community is still marginalised in a way. "This is a huge step forward, but there's a long battle ahead as we have to change social mindset against us. If society doesn't give transgenders jobs and education, and stigmatizes them for begging and sex work, how are they going to live? Who will support them?" asked Nayana Udupi, a transwoman working in a Bengaluru-based IT services community.

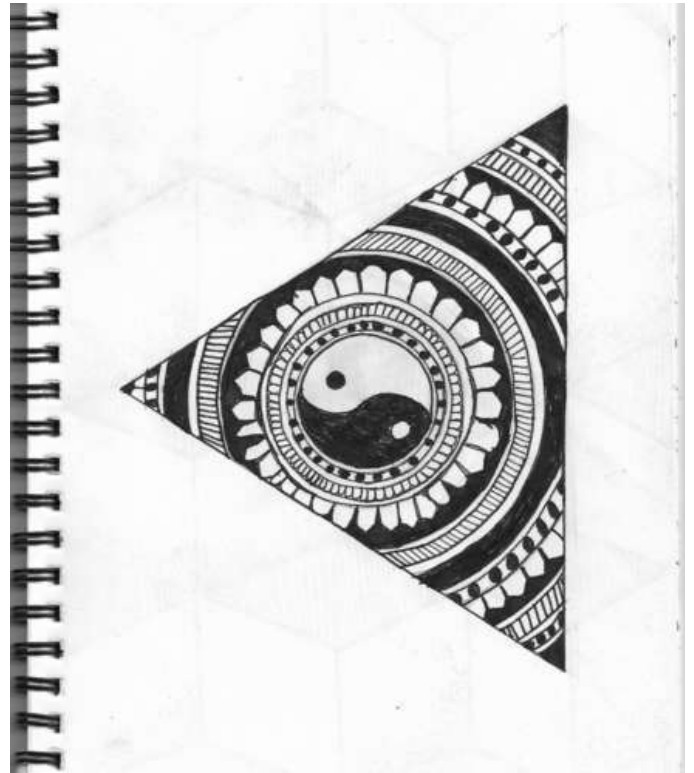
The main battle of the struggle of the LGBT Community has been won post the judgement but an array of many such victories lies ahead. Change in every sphere of the Indian society will definitely not be introduced overnight. But with proper time and the unceasing urge for equality, people of the community all over the country amidst the present celebrations hopes for a day where the world around is a safe space for everyone and there is a complete freedom self-expression for the community and acceptance and love for all.

Barsha Roy (MSc 4)

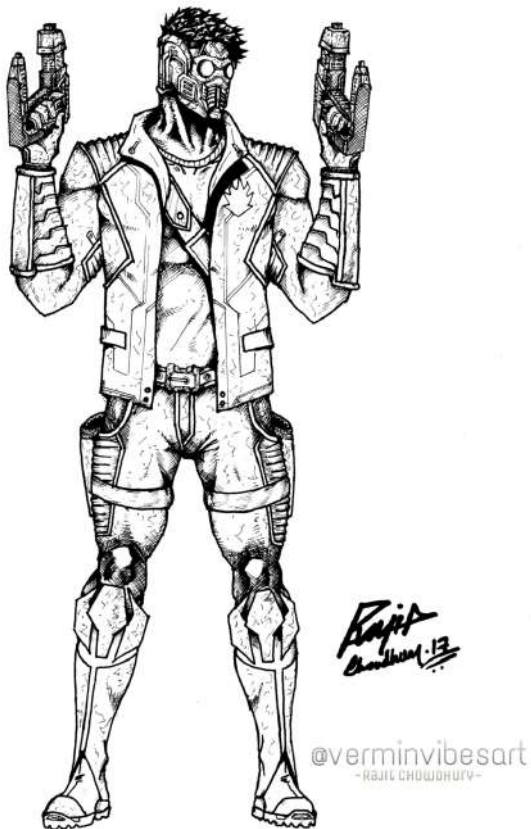
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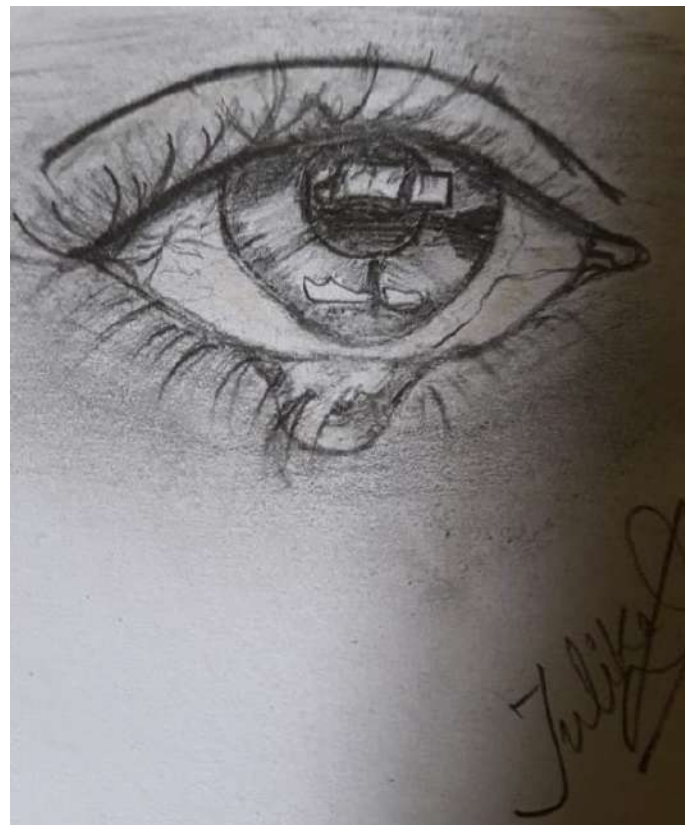
Anupam Deb Roy (BSC Animation)



Aastha Agarwal (BMS 2)



Rajit Chowdhury (BSC Animation)



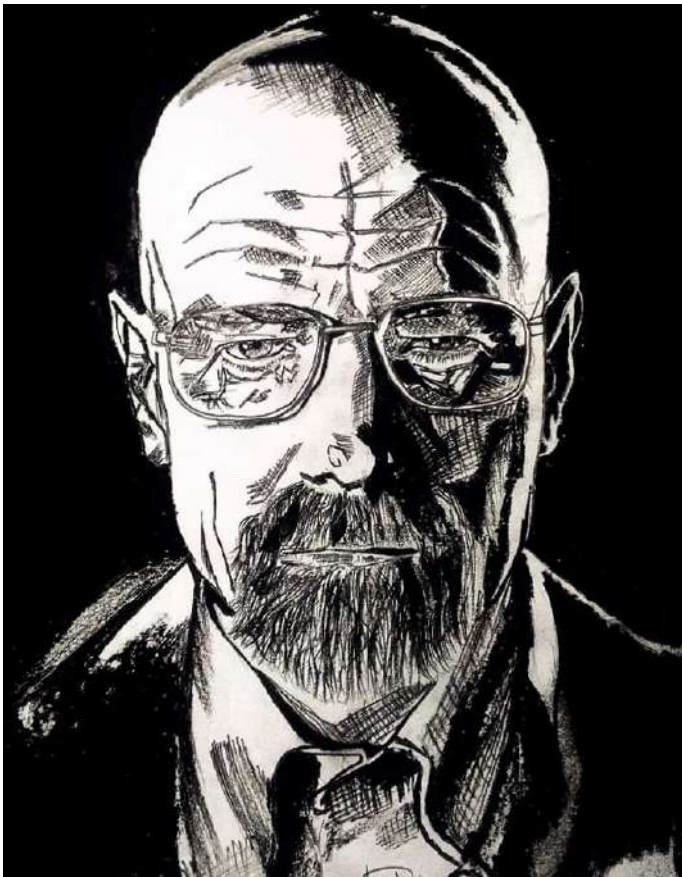
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Prakarsha Mitra (BMS 4)



Anupam Deb Roy (BSC Animation)



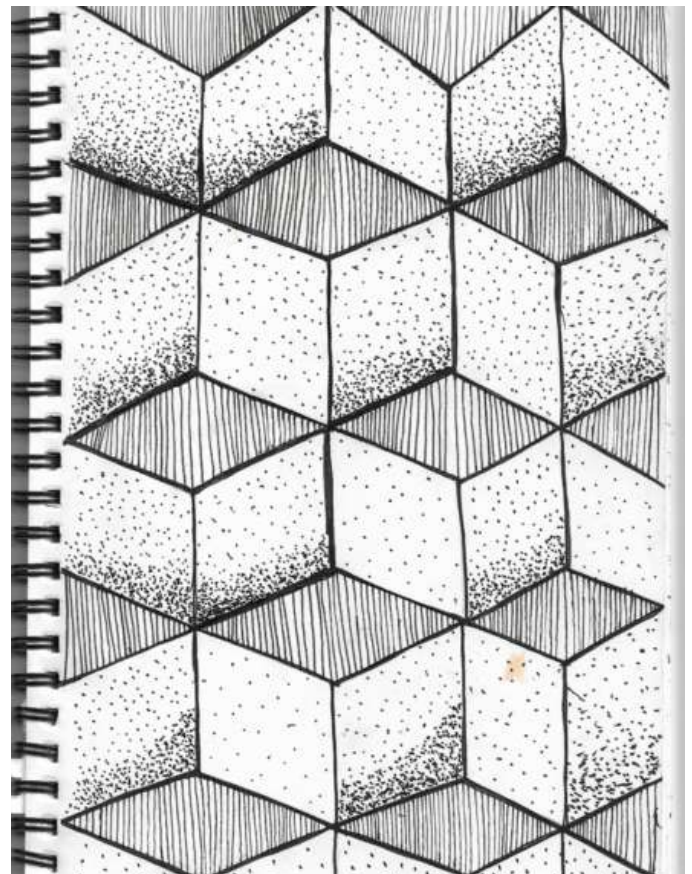
Anupam Deb Roy (BSC Animation)



Sana Nawaaz (BMS 6)



Sana Nawaaz (BMS 6)



Aastha Agarwal (BMS 2)



Ketan Shaw (BSC Animation)



Anupam Deb Roy (BSC Animation)



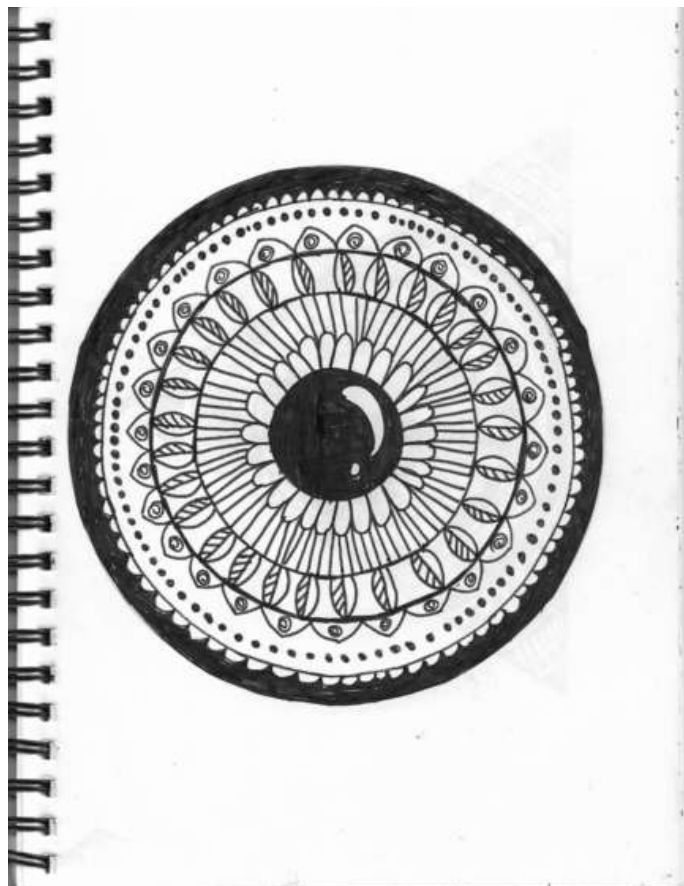
Zeya Ansari (BMS 2)



Zeya Ansari (BMS 2)



Ketan Shaw (BSC Animation)



Aastha Agarwal (BMS 2)



Aastha Agarwal (BMS 2)



Ketan Shaw (BSC Animation)

*Keep your feet on the ground,
and your thoughts at lofty heights*

~Peace Pilgrim