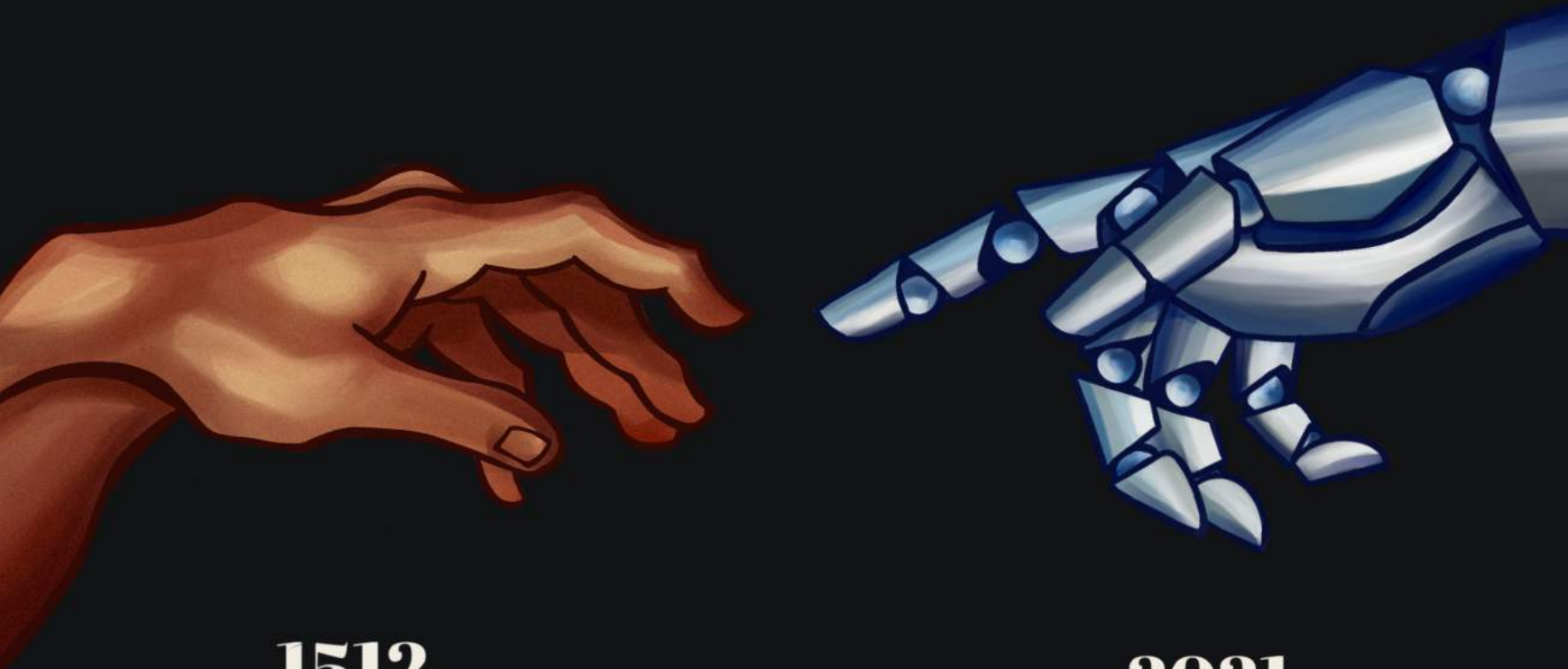


The Blend



1512

2021

May - June 2021



ABOUT US

TheBlend is Karnavati University's very first and very own student-run magazine, managed by the KU-SGC Editorial Board. As the name suggests, this magazine's purpose is to display the different ideas, interests, and experiences that 'blend' together, to form our rich university culture. It is intended to be a safe space where the vision of various students of our university's constituent colleges meet and amalgamate in the form of written expression and art. In order to document and display an array of interesting opinions and notions about diverse topics involving public interest, law and society, design and campus culture, we at Karnavati University, through TheBlend, aspire to give individuals a platform and an opportunity to voice their opinions, hence making an impact in society through forms of creative and written expression.

MEET THE EDITORS



Aaditi Rohilla , Editor In Chief



Aditi Kawdikar , Editor



Atharva Mali, Design Editor

EDITORS' NOTE

Hello Readers! This issue is special as it marks the debut of our first design editor, Atharva Mali of the magazine. It greatly pleases us to welcome our new readers to the community, and to the veteran readers, thank you for the love and support you have given the team through this journey. The world moves at an ever-increasing speed and the only way to keep is to evolve and change ourselves to the beat. This issue is an ode to the metamorphosis we all go through in order to bloom into better versions of ourselves.

CORE MEMBERS



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DESIGN

Myntra Logo Conspiracy

The Ever-changing Face Of Art

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MYNTRA LOGO CONSPIRACY

**WE DON'T SEE THE WORLD AS IT IS,
WE SEE IT AS WE ARE**
- ANAIS NIN

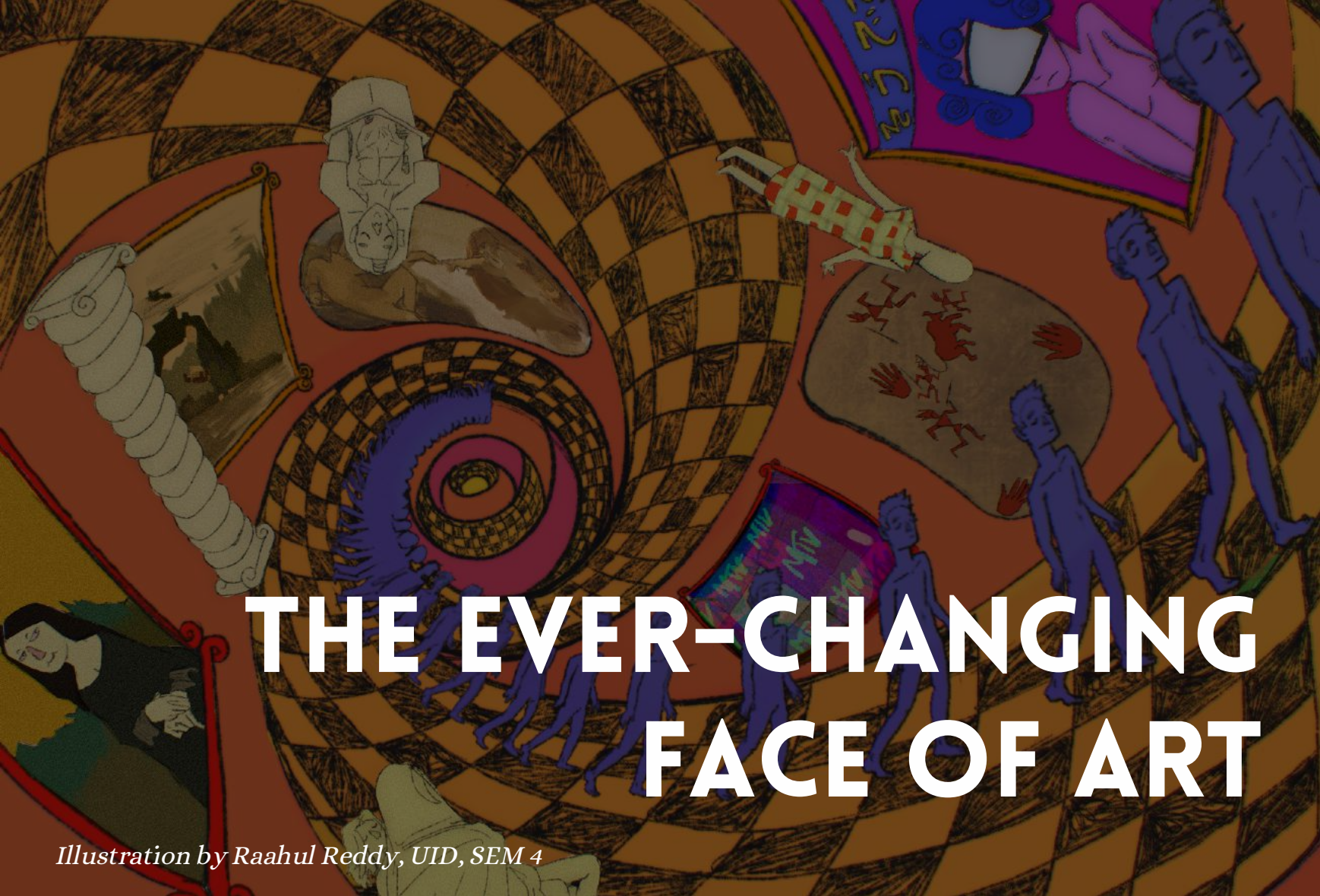
In December 2020, Naaz Patel, an activist and founder of an NGO named Avesta Foundation filed a complaint against the Myntra logo with the Mumbai Cyber Police Station. The complaint claimed that the logo resembled a naked woman and was thus “offensive & derogatory to women.” The complainant demanded that the company either change its logo or face legal action. The e-commerce giant agreed to this change & revealed their new logo early in 2021.

The incident was heavily talked about; some agreed with Patel while most thought of it as absurd and criticized the same. Personally, I think it was a case of unnecessary over-analysis. Although once seen, it became very hard to unsee the naked woman with every glance at the Myntra logo. This initiated a plethora of memes on social media mocking the incident, which also involved a similar analysis of other popular logos like Gmail, McDonalds and Airbnb among others.

Amazon went through something similar. In January 2021 they had updated their phone application icon. It was made to resemble a packaging box with blue tape and their signature smiling arrow. However, people felt it resembled Adolf Hitler’s characteristic toothbrush mustache. This resulted in Amazon tweaking its logo to break this resemblance. The new application icon looks like someone has folded open a piece of stuck tape from the corner.

These controversies depict how things have changed over time. Fifty years ago, almost no one would have voiced their opinion about noticing something similar companies may not have responded so quickly about such concerns. People now have become more aware, sensitive, and vocal about their actions and surroundings. This is definitely a big step in the right direction. Slowly and steadily, things are changing; as they very much should.

- Bhavika Garg, UID, SEM 4



THE EVER-CHANGING FACE OF ART

Illustration by Raahul Reddy, UID, SEM 4

Art follows the same linear progression of evolution as science and technology- from cave paintings dating back to the prehistoric era, extravagant ceilings of the Sistine chapel, Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup Cans, MTV logos of the '90s, to Assassin's Creed and Watch Dogs. Art with time has only gotten more enigmatic by pushing our opinions, understanding, and imagination and uncovering surfaces of knowledge that break the preexisting rules of art & design.

Throughout the lengthy run of human history, art has changed, evolved, redefined, and adapted based on how society moved around it. Movements & revolutions portrayed by Picasso to the advanced technology giving birth to new and creative mediums; art has been changing.

These changes have taken place within less than a decade. Scientists use the same road to creation, by studying the materials, society, culture, heritage, religion, history, and finally transforming that knowledge into art.

This practice dates back to the 17th century with Leonardo da Vinci and his study on colour theory around the time of the invention of the microscope and telescope, the invention of photography which then instigated moving pictures of Walt Disney. But, the largest contribution to the growth and redefining of art in innovative and often odd ways is technology. These changes have taken place within less than a decade. Scientists use the same road to creation, by studying the materials, society, culture, heritage, religion, history, and finally transforming that knowledge into art.

The term 'New Media Art' had started being used around the 1980s. This term encompasses a rather broad spectrum of art. It is usually defined as a genre that encompasses artwork created with new media technologies, including digital art, computer graphics, computer animation, virtual art, internet art, interactive art, video games, computer robotics, 3D printing, and art biotechnology. The innovation of the camera obscura and printing press have heavily contributed to this movement. The medium to this minute is being explored and studied.

New media art still has to be more theoretically and conceptually developed. This medium has attracted several young artists, opening up doors for more exploration and space for growth. With the unprecedented development in technology, it's hard to determine the limits of this medium, but the future looks bright so far. The popularity of this medium is constantly increasing.

Art is ubiquitous and forever evolving, therefore what the future holds is hard to determine, however in the words of a wise man "Isn't the point of art, less about what people put into it, and more about what people get out of it."

- Mahek Rastogi, UID, SEM 4



COLOURS OF PRIDE

Colors are vital in the LGBTQ community. The original flag was designed by Gilbert Baker in 1978 for San Francisco's Gay Freedom Celebration. In the original flag; pink stood for sexuality, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony, and violet for the soul.

SUPPORT OR CAPITALISATION?

With the month of June, comes a flash of vivid rainbow colors. Several brands launch special pride collections. Such initiatives by brands do help create awareness about the LGBTQ community, but do they really support the community? Some brands claim to donate a part of their Pride sales revenue to LGBTQ charities, what about other brands? Do these brands really support the LGBTQ community or do they capitalize on Pride Month?

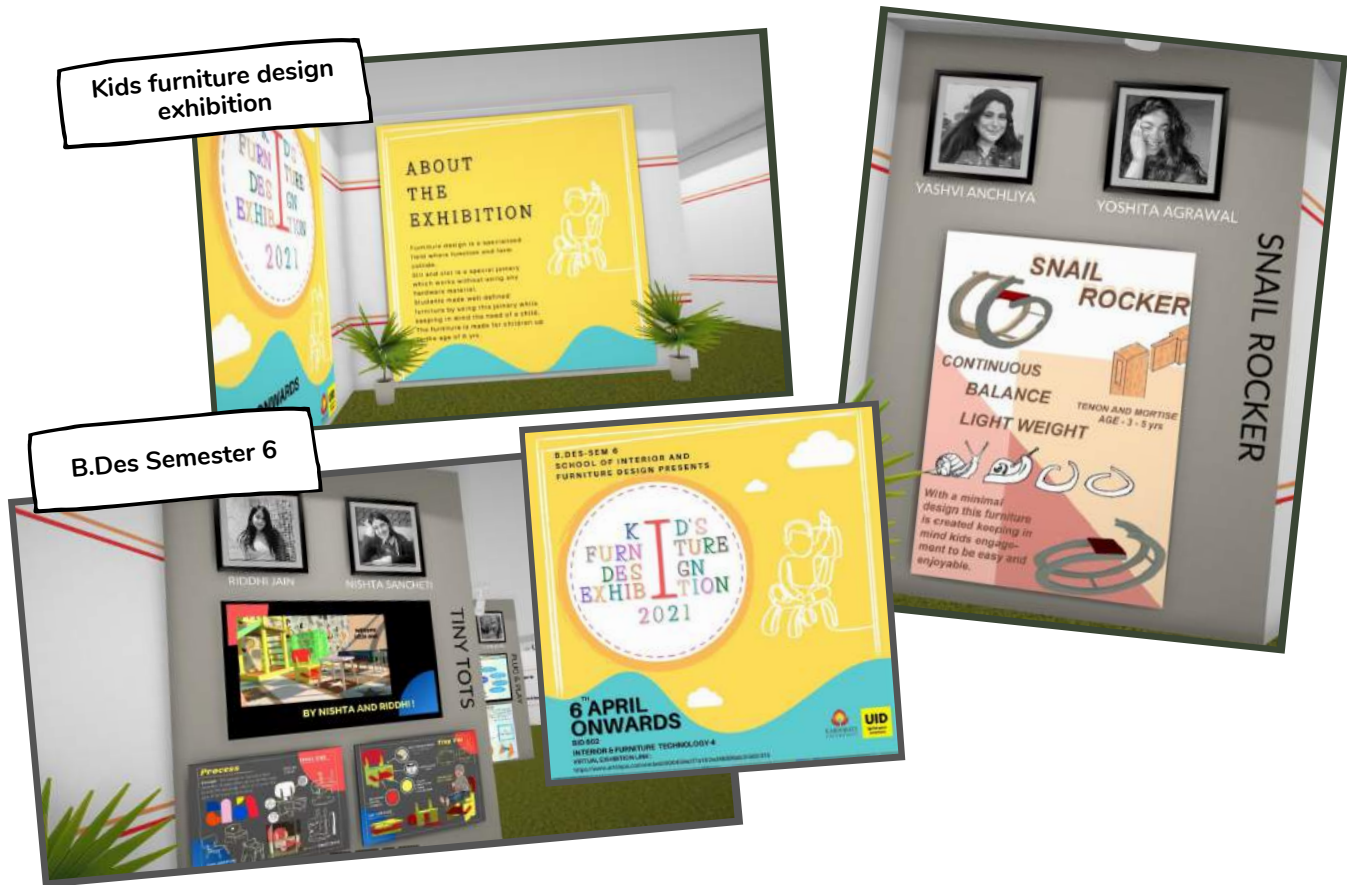
QUEER ARTISTS OF INDIA

The LGBTQ+ community of India has forever provided a platform and space for their artists, authors, poets, illustrators, and designers, to educate society about pertinent issues around homophobia, transphobia, and inclusion whilst they share their experiences, struggle, and stories with the world. Here are a few artists that voice their journey through art, culture, and sexuality - VEER MISRA, PRIYA DALI, PRIYANKA PAUL, JANINE SHROFF.



ACTIVITIES

Kids furniture exhibitions were ideated, guided, and encouraged by professors Kriti Malkani, Mira Patel, and Haresh K Sankaran from Interior and Furniture Technology. In these exhibitions, students have designed furniture for kids of age group 0-6 years



Bio-design exhibitions were ideated, guided, and encouraged by professors Kriti Malkani, Mira Patel, and Haresh K Sankaran from the department of Interior and Furniture Technology. In these exhibitions, students have designed a bio-design exhibition through 3d modeling, posters and displays.



LAW

Arbitration And Conciliation
(Amendment) Act 2019

Enhanced Powers of Delhi's Lt. Gov:
Was the Change Required ?

Activities

A close-up photograph of a document titled "Arbitration Agreement" in a large, bold, serif font. Below the title, there is a line of text that reads "1. This arbitration agreement is made between _____ residing at the address of _____". A wooden gavel with a gold band is resting on the document. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a desk.

Arbitration Agreement

ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION (AMENDMENT) ACT 2019

Arbitration is a method of alternative dispute resolution that has been around for a long-time. On July 15, 2019, The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Minister for Law and Justice. The purpose of this bill was to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Act comprises the provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration and defines the law for conducting conciliation proceedings.

On August 9, 2019, the President of India gave his assent for the amendments in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and the same has been published in the Official Gazette of India.

The good news is that a large number of companies have learned to use ADR effectively, and they have now shifted from litigation and started opting for ADR, those companies are reaping ADR's predicted benefits: lower costs, quicker dispute resolutions & outcomes that help in preserving & sometimes even improving the relationships.

Talking about the benefits, this method is flexible because Parties can set terms in their arbitration contract and can control how the process will work. It also includes creating rules regarding discovery, hearings, time limitations, and other matters. Additionally, parties can schedule hearings & deadlines to accommodate their needs.

According to statistics of the American Arbitration Association, on average, U.S. District Courts cases generally take 12-16 months longer to get to trial than cases using arbitration. Coming back to costs, less time spent to resolve a dispute means low costs for attorneys' fees. So, that cost will be saved.

The rules around evidence and discovery are relaxed. Typically, there are limitations on the nature and scope of discovery and time limits on how long the process can take. Issues are handled through phone calls rather than multiple hearings, subpoenas, depositions, interrogatories, and the like which simplifies the process. And, the strict rules of evidence don't apply.

Also, Arbitration is private where only the designated parties are allowed & the proceedings are strictly confidential. Whereas, litigation is open to the public. This amendment seeks to reduce the intervention of courts in matters of arbitration to increase the effectiveness of the procedure in terms of time.

This instant & progressive legal regime will go a long way in encouraging more parties to resort to arbitration as the preferred mode of dispute resolution instead of litigation and is a huge step forward in restructuring the process of resolution of commercial disputes- help in making India a preferred spot for international Arbitration.

- Shaily Agrawal, UWSL, SEM 4



ENHANCED POWERS OF DELHI'S LT. GOV:

WAS THE CHANGE REQUIRED ?

JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD ONCE SAID THAT IN A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT, THE REAL POWER MUST SUBSIST IN THE ELECTED ARMS OF THE STATE.

In the middle of the second wave of Covid, the Centre has passed a new law that provides itself more powers than the elected govt. in Delhi. According to this new law, the govt. of Delhi now explicitly means Lt. Governor of Delhi who as prescribed belongs to the Centre. Now, the government of Delhi will have to seek the opinion of the Lt. Gov before taking any executive action.

The law has become a matter of controversy. Arvind Kejriwal called this an insult to the people of Delhi and the democratic system or structure. He also emphasized that the law takes away powers from the elected representatives or those who were voted & provides the powers to run Delhi to those who were defeated. Many people also believe that this is a dangerous move against India's Federal Structure.

In 2018, a Five Judge constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had held that while the Lt. Gov must be informed about the Delhi Cabinet decision, the concurrence is not necessary.

The bench, in three separate but concurring orders also said that the Lt. Governor of Delhi is not the governor of the state- rather he is an administrator, in a limited sense, working with just the designation of Lt. Gov. They also claimed that the elected government must keep in mind that Delhi is not a state.

We have seen that Delhi Government has time and again had disagreements with the Lt Gov and they had claimed that the Central Govt. through the Lt. Gov had been trying to rule Delhi. But now, the Lt. Governor is the real head. Previously pertaining to the issues of Public Order, Police, and Land- the Centre was controlling authority.

But now with this amendment into force, it has also allowed itself to have powers pertaining to health, education, agriculture, forest, and transport- any executive decision that the cabinet takes, prior approval of the Lt. Governor must be sought.

The statement of purpose also stated that this move will further promote harmonious relations between legislatures & the executive, and further define the responsibilities of the selected Lt. Gov and the elected government.

The Centre claims that this move will lead to more transparency and clarity in governance in the NCT of Delhi and enhance public accountability.

Under the law, the Lt. Governor has the power to defer any matter, over which there is disagreement with the elected government, to the president under Article 239AA(4).

The present elected government fears that it will lose its autonomy as it will be mandatory for it to route all its files through the Lt. Governor.

Also, the fear that their dream, that they have promised, to provide full statehood to Delhi, will probably not be fulfilled.

Taking all this into consideration, it can be said that whether this move may be good for the people of Delhi and development in Delhi or not, will be known in the long term. But it must be said that both, the Lt. Governor, and the elected government will have to work hand in hand and forget all political conflicts if they wish to serve the people of Delhi and work for development in all spheres.

- Aadit Sheth, UWSL, SEM 4



CONVERSION AND REORIENTATION THERAPY: AN INSIGHT



Conversion or Reorientation Therapy, also shamelessly called the 'Gay Cure Therapy' presumes that Homosexuality is a mental condition or behavior and aims at changing an individual's sexual identity from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual. In practice, it just restricts or suppresses an individual from showing homo or bisexual characteristics. To attain such suppression, the therapist employs various ghastly means such as hormones, aversion therapy, electric shock therapy, and religious treatments

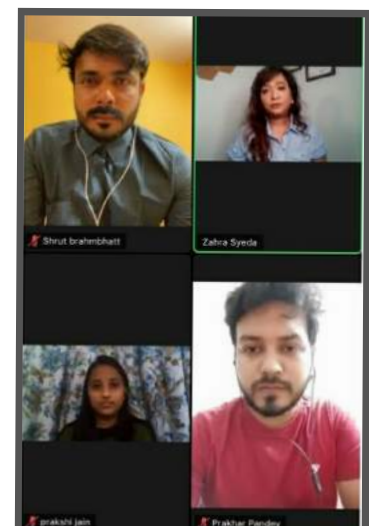
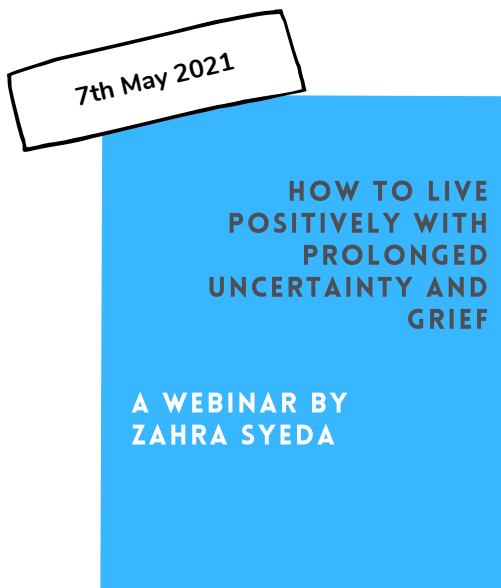
Practitioners across the globe oppose such techniques to be used as it is tragic for an individual's mental health. It is a blatant violation of an individual's fundamental Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21.

ACTIVITES

The session by Dr. Yogesh Pratap Singh explored the Fundamental Right to Equality and related provisions with regards to substantive equality. The webinar also covered issues such as inadequate representation of women and the LGBTQ community.



Zahra Syeda's perspective to a positive life is simple and crisp. She passed on her knowledge to students saying that one's attitude is critical to dealing with tough situations and confronting the unknown with confidence. This was a wave of encouragement for the students.



BUSINESS

GIG Economy

Human Vs AI

Activities



What Is the Gig Economy ?

The gig economy is a labor market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work instead of permanent jobs. Here companies are likely to hire independent contractors and freelancers. A gig economy undermines the traditional economy of full-time workers who tend to focus on their career development.

The outcome of a gig economy is pocket-friendly, more efficient services, such as Uber or Airbnb, for those willing to use them. People who aren't familiar with technological services such as the Internet may be sidelined by the benefits of the gig economy. Cities tend to have the most highly developed services & are the most entrenched in the gig economy. The cultural impact of the gig economy continues to change, for example, with the upsurge of COVID-19 in the last 2

months where the pandemic has had a large influence, people are now leaning toward the gig economy for survival.

Who is part of the gig economy ?

Companies, consumers, and gig workers & all make up the gig economy. The types of organizations that the gig economy may apply to range from technical positions to transportation positions. For example, some industries that include gig economy jobs are:

- IT
- Software development
- Project management
- Accounting and finance
- Education
- Construction
- Media and communications
- Freelance writing
- Arts and design
- Transportation
- Material moving

Perks of the gig economy

In a gig economy, businesses save their resources in terms of benefits, office space, and training. This leads to a contract with experts for specific projects who might be too high-priced to maintain staff. From the perspective of a freelancer, a gig economy can improve work-life balance over what is possible in most jobs. Ideally, the model is powered by independent workers selecting jobs that they're interested in, instead of which people are forced into a position where they are unable to attain employment. Here people pick up whatever temporary work they are able to do.

Challenges

- The gig economy is highly unregulated, therefore job security and benefits of workers are minimal. However, few argue that the gig economy in India with respect to workers not getting any social security, insurance, etc. is an extension of India's informal labor, which has been prevalent for a long time and has remained unregulated.
- With the tech companies coming in, there is data available, making it possible to enable job security.
- There is a need for highly skilled workers. Here less skilled or talented people would be side-lined.
- While companies routinely invest in training employees, gig-economy workers will have to be "Atmanirbhar" and they need to upgrade their skills on their own at their own cost.
- There are already many more potential online independent workers than jobs, and this demand-supply mismatch will only get worse over time, depressing wages.

What should be done?

To resolve these issues, the government should step in and implement radical changes in labour laws or implement tax rebates and concessions that can be passed on directly to drivers or delivery partners as health or insurance benefits. However, some experts say that this would directly affect the prices of service delivered to the end customer.

To manage the population of over 1.3 billion, and a majority of them are young. And at present India is facing a job crisis along with COVID19. So, relying on the "gig economy" is perhaps the only way to create employment for a large workforce. Therefore, It is important to hand-hold this sector and help it grow. We need policies and processes that give clarity to the way the sector should function.

- Abhinav Jha, UWSL, SEM 4

SRIDHAR VARADARAJ



Founder- Zago Life

Introduction- Sridhar is the openly gay founder of a superfood company called 'Zago Life'. Zago aims to provide ready-to-drink products of various flavors, in place of already existing protein and malt powders. The objective was to provide a product that is gluten-free, lactose-free, soy-free, and can also taste good; available off the rack, ready for consumption.

Challenges being an entrepreneur- He initially faced discrimination in society but as an openly gay owner and managing director of a business, one obviously faces less open discrimination. He is trying to build a very inclusive and diverse company; a progressive brand that is appreciated by customers for the values he stands for.

HUMAN vs Ai



WHY AI CAN NEVER REPLACE A GOOD EMPLOYEE?

We live in a world filled with technology that makes our lives easier every day. Drones deliver our packages, chatbots answer our questions online, and safety detection in vehicles helps keep us safe. However, this era of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics comes at a price: *large portions of the workforce are afraid they will lose their jobs because of advancing technology.* And while some positions do lend themselves to automation, not every role falls into this category. When it comes to positions that require problem-solving, leadership, and initiative, AI can never replace a valuable employee. Here are six ways these employees bring value to businesses in ways that AI simply can't.

1. Caring and Empathy

Today, robots can perform surgeries and therapy bots are also now available to people seeking mental health assistance. However, nothing can replace the caring and empathy that an actual person can extend. Caregivers, therapists, and doctors can show patients sincerity and empathy, which is something a machine can't do—and likely won't be able to emulate for several years.

2. Self-Starting

Employees who take initiative and proactively look for areas of improvement are invaluable to their employers. They develop processes and train others, so the company works more efficiently and effectively. And once they master a skill, they consistently look for ways to improve processes even further. Fired-up employees are proactive and highly valuable to businesses. AI may be good at processing commands and even identifying new trends or patterns, but it's not at a point where it can find and start new tasks without some sort of prompt.



3. Creative Thinking

The human brain can take input from various outside influences to develop new, creative ideas. We can be inspired through music, poetry, art or, photography, and then channel that inspiration to develop business or product ideas. Companies need that kind of innovation to thrive. Creative employees help their companies to think bigger & sometimes completely out of the box. It's in this atmosphere where new products are created, new ventures are discussed & big growth can happen. Creativity is one area where AI is still lacking. Machines can replicate media with greater accuracy in every subsequent iteration, but creating something new and unique is an ability humans still have a monopoly on.

4. Team Collaboration

Employees who work well with others can bring co-workers and multiple departments together to push the company toward a common goal. When employees feel that the workplace is collaborative, they are more engaged— a recent Gallup report found that teams with high employee engagement rates are 21% more profitable. While AI programs may be receptive to direct feedback inputs, they lack the sense of human camaraderie that engenders feelings of real collaboration. So though a company might be able to run some processes without human workers, it would be hard to artificially replicate the feeling of real teamwork (and the benefits that come with it).

**I VISUALIZE A TIME WHEN WE WILL BE
TO ROBOTS WHAT DOGS ARE TO
HUMANS, AND I'M ROOTING FOR
THE MACHINES**

- CLAUDE SHANNON

5. Role Adaptability

A good employee embraces change and adapts when it's necessary for the good of the business. When an employee takes on work outside the scope of their position and quickly adjusts to shifting goals and assignments, that's a huge benefit to employers, particularly in markets that change quickly & frequently. Machines, on the other hand, are programmed for specific roles. If an industry shift requires a quick pivot in a new direction, tech often has to be deliberately redirected (or replaced) to keep up.

6. Community Contribution

Today's businesses rely a lot on their communities—both local and online—to make money. Small businesses especially thrive in small local towns and their homegrown wealth exchanges. Employees contribute to the local economy, which creates local jobs, helps the environment & nurtures the community. Robotics, machine learning, and AI cannot do this. In fact, companies that automate jobs out of existence run the risk of alienating their communities, which can lead to difficulty sustaining supply and demand.

- Kashish Parihar, UWSB, SEM 4



APPROACH BY THE CORPORATES

Despite the demonic British curse of Section 377 being repealed in 2009, to be reinstated in 2013, and being read down again in 2018, while several organizations felt paralyzed by the legal system all these years to demonstrate their support for the LGBTQ+ community through inclusive workplace policies, some organizations, a “minuscule minority”, stayed true to their value of inclusion and consistently supported their employees through all sort of reformed policies with no bias as they discovered the need on the very start, be it extending benefits to same-sex partners or even renewing their insurance and health benefits by supporting gender-affirming surgeries for their trans employees



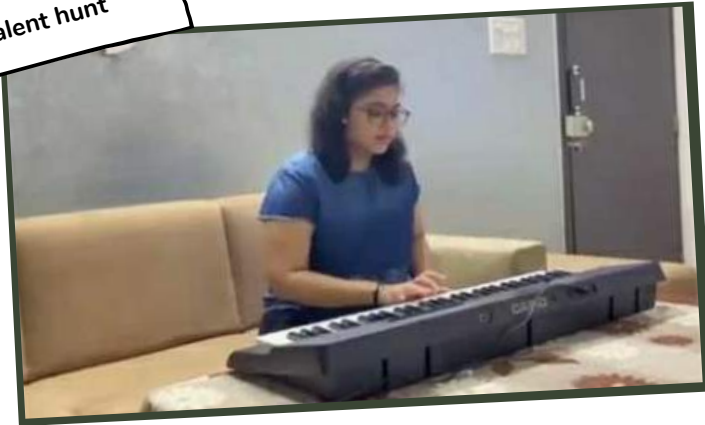
ACTIVITIES

UWSB offered the students a great platform to showcase creativity, skills, and talent in an online Talent Hunt show. This included dance and singing performances, poetry, swordplay, and more.

Aashka Raichand



Talent hunt



The Bollywood quiz was conducted to lift up the spirits of students. Ridham Bhatt, a renowned actress, and model who has worked in several Gujarati movies and drama was the Chief Guest. Her words of wisdom to the students were to follow their passion and be hopeful for good times. The Bollywood quiz was conducted in 3 rounds and hosted ample enjoyment among students.

Bollywood Quiz



Ridham Bhatt



LIBERAL ARTS

The Good, Bad, Worse Of Cancel Culture

Gender Fluidity : An Upcoming Trend

Activities



THE GOOD, BAD, WORSE OF CANCEL CULTURE

“THE FACT THAT INTELLIGENT, WELL-MEANING, YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO CALL WHITE BLACK IS A MATTER OF CONCERN”

Undoubtedly, ‘Cancel culture’ has been the buzzed-woke word in recent decades. It is always around the corner. In fact, it seems like the whole year 2020 was canceled. With calling out celebs & power positions culprits for their actions, canceling has become more than what appears. On the tip of the iceberg, it is the practice of withdrawing support for a public figure or organization as the consequence of controversial, objectionable, or offensive action.

When a crowd on social media platforms collectively object to any action, it calls for ‘canceling’ the person by pressuring the individual’s workplace to fire them, forcing brands to drop their association with the offending individual, using threats of boycott, or engaging in any other action that influences the individual’s reputation or finances.

As an activist tool, cancel culture has an entitlement to a sense of justice against those in power. This might sound similar, ‘canceling’ those who were accused during the #MeToo movement, or the waves of tweets and posts demanding canceling star kids in Bollywood recently. It does not seem malevolent. Things are fair and lovely at the surface, but a dip would reveal the backlash it faced.

The so-called controversial Tanishq ad of 2020 aggressively saw the mishap of canceled culture. The rightist Hindu community took it as an attack to the core of Hindutva by love jihad. Results: mob violence and force action on the company. The roast & threats to stand-up artists costing them their career are not new to India.

Where does it lead us? Simply putting, it brings us to the second part of cancel 'culture'. In the words of Joe Berkowitz:

"THE WORDS "CANCEL CULTURE" ARE TYPICALLY USED TO DESCRIBE A CLIMATE OF HYPERSENSITIVITY WHERE EVERYONE IS SCARED TO SAY ANYTHING..."

In a sense, the tendencies of such activist movement point to the venomous culture & environment it paves. Virtual platforms become a host to offense taken on any content in & out of context. The real-life complication and consequences it brings erodes away the reputation of individuals at the judgment of almost anyone.

The lack of disclosure and properly organized action in the movement costs a lot. As a concept when used efficiently and rightfully, cancel culture can do wonders, but one slight twist and it is going down south.

Secondly, as quoted above by Berkowitz, it creates a space where no one speaks openly. With the fear of being socially boycotted, people tend to set into the opinions mass follows. Ironically it opposes the core of 'cancel culture.' The power dynamics that now rest in hands of the masses or communities do decide ebb and flow for the moment.

Should we cancel 'cancel culture'?

As an agent to justice and change, a cancel culture is far more lethal if handled without care. The answer lies in adapting to better ways of regulating the cons of the movement rather than just amplifying the problem.

- Khushi Shrivastava, USLM, SEM 4





GENDER FLUIDITY: AN UPCOMING TREND

“Even if I wear a dress, I am still a boy,” says Dan Rebello, a 29-year-old Thane-based activist who came out as non-binary in 2017. How we express ourselves, basically how we pick each color of our characteristics & paint a beautiful picture of ourselves, depends on what colors this society expects us to pick, to fit, & appear as a part of the bigger picture of the society. “I want to reject all the expectations of representation that society has foisted upon us,” adds Rebello.

On this view, when it comes to the fair share of ‘gender expression,’ the corrective lens of society gets pretty blurred and then fails to acknowledge individuals beyond ‘He’ or ‘She.’ Moreover, as we dig deeper into the mine of gender expressions and diversity, we excavate a new trend of gender fluidity which is no less than gold for the people embodying it. Gender fluidity refers to change over time in a person’s gender identity (what do you identify as, a woman, a man, or another gender) and gender expression (how you paint your gender

via how you look or act) or both. As many transgender people scramble their way against hurdles and riddles of society, to achieve equal status as men and women, several others seem to feel congested and struggle to breathe in either of the two boxes of gender.

“Some days I feel like my gender could be like what I was assigned at birth, but there are some days when I feel the opposite way,” says Rowan Little, an 18-year-old high school senior in Kentucky who identifies as gender fluid and uses the pronoun ‘they.’ For some, gender fluidity is a lifelong ride, juggling between identities. For others, it is a ride of exploring diverse gender destinations, before landing on a more stable gender expression or identity. Gender fluidity also enlightens us that gender identity is rather a spectrum than just two boxes. Around 2009, Nick Teich, a 34-year-old transgender man, started the first summer camp in America for transgender youth.

“We have a growing number of kids who identify as genderqueer, nonbinary, gender variant. People put ‘demi girl,’ ‘genderless,’ ‘no gender,’ ‘all genders,’ ‘pangender,’” he says.

Gender fluidity, as a trend, has begun to trickle some positive alterations in the corporate world, to sensitize companies, to empower the LGBTQ+ workforce. Companies are consulted to practice simple steps such as including one’s preferred pronouns in email signatures and using Mx instead of Mr or Ms to address employees, which will gradually bring us a long way in evolution. The trend has also begun to extend its stems in the fashion industry as well. Antar Agni, a young Indian brand, which stands out for its androgynous and gender-fluid styles, is making its presence felt now more than ever.

Owing to the need of the people to be free, its wearability & ease are the biggest reason behind the success of gender-fluid fashion. Billy Porter, the American actor, has led the charge to bend the traditional norms in fashion and has introduced the ‘tuxedo gown’ as part of his signature style during events. At the 91st Academy Awards in 2019, Porter arrived in a black tuxedo gown designed by Christian Siriano and challenged the formal dress code for the Oscars.

Diversity is the seed that harvests the fruits of evolution and growth. As a fragment of this society, it’s our responsibility to embrace and empower each other’s diversity and selfhood such that we could sustain the beauty and uniqueness of this world.

- Vivek Luhana, USLM, SEM 4



LGBT WORKERS

Transgender, LGBT workers are subject to types of harassment in the workplace. 44% of LGB, 67% trans were fired from their workplace. Bathroom accessibility, being referred to by invalid pronouns lead to employee disengagement and avoidance.



ALLYSHIP

To practice better allyship and extend support to our queer friends beyond social media, one can attend pride parades, use gender-sensitive and inclusive language, acknowledge one’s cis privilege and create a safe zone for them.



ACTIVITES

The first year student of USLM, KU learnt to create podcasts. Mr. Param Tewar spoke about creating a platform and gave an understanding of the nuances of techniques of podcasting from writing a script to presenting a podcast.

Mr Param Tewar



Creating own podcasts - A mini workshop



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Future Is Mental Wellness

Old Yellow Photographs

THE FUTURE IS MENTAL WELLNESS



Stress. A word we hear so often that it has now become the norm of the generation. With so much advancement in science and technology, the world has developed so rapidly over the past couple of years. Along with all the sweets and delicacies, it also serves us bitter and stale meals. Despite so much prosperity around us, depression, anxiety, suicides, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, loneliness, and various other mental health issues have been skyrocketing.

The world has become a mad race, stress and mental health issues have become frequent spectators. The traditional ways of unriddling the puzzles don't work anymore. The mounting pill-piles on the bed stands have become a one-dimensional approach to mental well-being. Now here's the beauty of mankind, the moment we spot a loophole, we're all geared up to find alternatives and come up

with better ideas and solutions to fill the gaps. And that's exactly what this is about, the future of mental wellbeing.

With changing times come changing demands. New integrated mental wellness approaches have been adapted, where wellness destinations offer everything, from relaxation, hypnosis, psychotherapy to mental coaching. Meditation along with breathing exercises has started to become excessively mainstream. The wonders it works come as no surprise to us.

Sleep programs have started to hit the markets where sleep-inducing programs are designed to tackle the stress of daily life. Recently, 'Bibliotherapy' has also come into focus. It is a process of prescribing literature as therapy, to lower the rates of depression, anxiety and stress.

A wide range of mood-tracking apps has also been developed in recent times. These apps keep track of one's mood and give statistical reports on their overall mood. Think of it as a fit-bit but for your mind. There is also significant emphasis laid on the New-Age mental solutions. Mental coaching / psychotherapy through trippy sound baths to interweaving physical workouts & neuroplasticity.

Innovative programs and perspectives have been constantly evolving concerning mental wellness. Most of these approaches are very different from the approaches in the past.

It's no longer working things out with a psychotherapist & a bundle of medicines, it's about focusing on various other dimensions along with mental wellness. And this broad spectrum approach will be the future of mental well-being.

- Sri Sharanya Sateesh, UID, SEM 2



Illustration by Niharika Bedse, UID, SEM 2



Illustration by Manasi Lele, UID, SEM 2

“It’s all we are in the end anyway. Sometimes not even that. Sometimes there aren’t even bones to show for a life - just molecules shifting in the air - and a few memories locked up in your head, yellowed as old photographs”.

-The Twins

He poured his evening tea and sat by the window. As the dusk was settling in, emptiness followed. He finished his tea and saw that day’s newspaper on the side table. He picked it up, keeping his cup of tea on the table. The cup, almost empty as the last dregs of tea left behind.

Those hooded eyes, wrinkled hands, grey hair portray decades. Decades of joy, sorrow, content and all in all; experience. As the old man sat there reading the newspaper, page by page, line by line, he reflected back on his past. Maybe because the past is familiar. He was relaxed, but not on the inside. This crippling fear of unfamiliarity, uncertainty tormented him inside. As he opened the newspaper, his wrinkled hands touched the first page, pictures from a happy childhood came flashing. Then came the memory of his college days, his wedding, struggles to maintain financial stability. As happy as he was at the thought of spending his life with someone, the struggle of having it right and perfect ran in his mind. He spent all his later years earning for his family and himself. His better half, supporting him in every aspect of life brought him content and satisfaction. Her support meant a lot to him, his pillar who stood firm and strong for his children while he was away earning bread.

Pages of the newspaper passed by and he was approaching the end of it, the feeling of emptiness sunk in. He pondered upon the thought, what next? His children were doing exceptionally well in their respective lives, and he was happy for them. He pondered, what happened to the person who worked hard day and night to feed his family? He is just sitting there reading the newspaper, have the wrinkled hands become weak? It indeed was a huge setback for him when his wife died. His life revolved around her, his 'everything' had passed away. Loneliness hit him hard, so hard the voices inside his mind turned quiet. He was not ready to accept this drastic change that life hit him. It was the last page of the newspaper. Was there anything left to read, anything left to experience? He experienced all that there was to experience in the world, studied, got married, earned, had kids, raised them, made them independent, lost his partner. That's it? What happened?

Life did. Life threw experiences, he tackled. He aged, as life happened. He lost a loved one, as life happened.

The world is changing, adapting to new norms, technology. He had gone numb to adapt to the change. Life for him was majorly over. But the world was moving, he had to pull himself to accept and adapt to the new normal. The pandemic is the new normal for this generation. He was trying to adapt to the new normal for years. Was he getting hollow inside, as the uncertainty tormented him or these feelings were bottling up? He was so engrossed in his last years of life (which is human tendency) that he forgot about the time he is experiencing now, he didn't have a clue about the time he was approaching. Everything he has done, achieved, experienced, does it all boil down to this moment?

He definitely can pull himself together and adapt to the change, if he puts his mind to it. But he again wonders, will that be worth it? He keeps wondering and while at it, he keeps down the newspaper.

- Ishwari Raut, UID, SEM 2

ACCEPTANCE

Some battles need to be fought together. Accepting the LGBTQIA+ community's needs is very important to ensure equality. All the LGBTQ rights will mean nothing if we, as a society, can't accept people for who they are



LISTEN

A lot of support during the coming-out process is centred around listening. Give them time and let them express themselves and talk about their feelings.



CREATE A SAFE SPACE

When someone comes out to you it is because they consider you to be a safe and supportive person. Hence, it is important to provide a safe space, listen and validate their feelings.



LIFESTYLE

Emergence Of Minimalistic Fashion

Instant Gratification and Social Media



EMERGENCE OF MINIMILISTIC FASHION

With the human lives epidemically endangered, the despondency of an alternate habitual condition brings into consideration minimalism as a rejuvenated form of lifestyle. With certain restrictions a pursuit of sophistication imbibes within simplicity, consuming what was previously quintessential makes less perception as a whole. The views of embracing only a few essentials satisfy vision & taste with quite about nothing extra or a non-necessity.

With that being said the burden at hand brings us to a stakeholder analysis that suggests the embrace of minimalism as a lifestyle. As mention that trends can fade away well, however, a well-catered and mindful idea seems to support through times of distress.

The mention of Minimalism being the statement of lifestyle would mean living with the things you really need. The removal of what distracts us from living with intentionality and freedom.



The circumstance of eradication of irresponsible consumption and obnoxious materialism would ensure critically endangered aspects of the vivid difference between the question of basic needs and wants. The experimentation of the old and the avoidance of the new can also be proved a detrimental aspect for the sake of the despondency of materialism as a whole. The fundamental idea of shopping as an indulgence is an opinion that can be warded off when the idea of the pandemic arises.

With the advent of the second wave, however, perhaps even a tsunami the question at hand lies in the method of acceptance of minimalism as a form of a rather sedentary lifestyle, however, the acceptance of the form of lifestyle as a manner of sophistication draws out the famous quotation of 'Sic Parvis Magna' - Small steps lead to great beginnings.

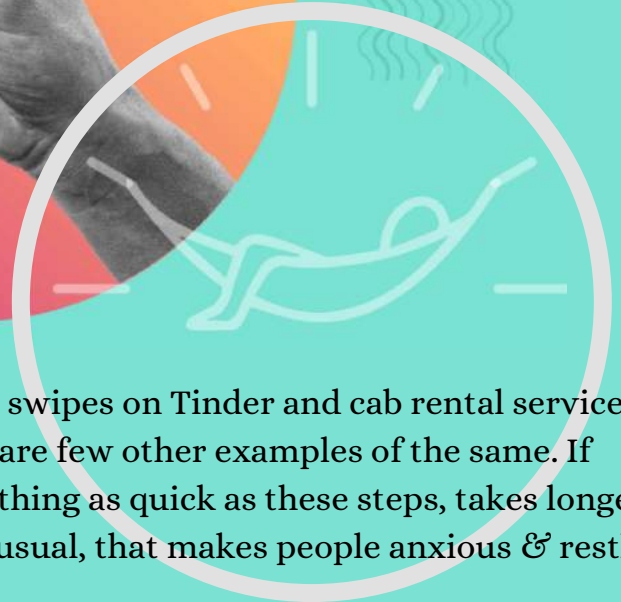


Consumers are prioritizing comfort over style, forgoing buying trendy clothes for basic apparel in neutral colors and comfortable fabrics. Followers of the minimalist lifestyle visualize whom they want to be, and tailor their consumption accordingly. The pandemic has also hit the economy. Economic conditions, in the past, have tended to foster a minimalist aesthetic in fashion as designers look to create clothes that are versatile, functional, and have a lot of mileage. Minimalist fashions tend to prioritize function; they appear simple and can register style without a direct extravagance.

The pandemic could either speed up or prolong the typical fashion cycle, tossing up between maximalist and minimalist aesthetics.

- Neha Naskar, UID, SEM 2

INSTANT GRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA



“THE OBSESSION WITH INSTANT GRATIFICATION BLINDS US FROM OUR LONG-TERM POTENTIAL.”

- MICHAEL DOOLEY

The Internet came into existence less than three decades ago, but the impact it has had on everyone's attention span is something to think about. It is a massive resource in today's day and age. From a piece of news to getting food delivered to your doorstep, everything is just a few clicks away. Most applications are quite user-friendly as well, which makes everything way easier for people.

Even though technology unquestionably has made our lives almost hassle-free, it has also led to technological overdependence by humans, which isn't a good sign. Excessive use of the internet can never be helpful. It has led to many now relying on instant gratification.

Instant gratification refers to seeking pleasure or any type of fulfillment instantaneously, without any delay. Such validation and need for fulfillment can range from bookmarking websites, hitting the snooze button and sleeping through your alarm, and even indulging in a quick snack.

Right swipes on Tinder and cab rental services on Uber are few other examples of the same. If something as quick as these steps, takes longer than usual, that makes people anxious & restless.

A test was conducted years ago, known as the marshmallow experiment was a study done at Stanford University, Children were asked to choose between a pretzel or a marshmallow. Children who waited the full 15 minutes were allowed to eat their favored treat. Those who didn't wait the 15 minutes were allowed to have only their non-favored treat. This experiment was conducted to understand instant gratification & delayed gratification better. Here the experiment signifies patience, having control over our impulses and growth. It was later found that children who waited, tended to have better life outcomes as compared to those who didn't.

Without a doubt, this is something great about technology as it makes everything so much easier & quicker but some things are better off as they originally are and the way they always have been.

- Stuti Bhatia, USLM, SEM 4

GAMING

Diving Into A Virtual Future

Eat, Sleep, Survive, Repeat



DIVING INTO A VIRTUAL FUTURE

Ever since the late 20th century, virtual reality has become a growing trend across various communities. It's made its way into all walks of life, from training programmes and tourism to healthcare and retail. But the area where it's held with utmost glory is the entertainment industry. Movies can not only be watched but also actually lived in. Virtual Reality headsets such as the Oculus Rift and HTC Vive make it possible for players to experience a whole new side of gaming that involves them in a virtual space designed to mimic reality. Numerous large-scale companies have taken advantage of this revolutionary invention to transform their products. Say goodbye to mashing buttons, put on a headset and ride a rollercoaster in your living room!

With the rise of Steam VR and other such services, gamers can see a new era cropping up very soon. There have been numerous technological breakthroughs that have allowed expand their horizons & break the

mould of modern-day games and transform it into something picturesque and futuristic. It started with simple games such as asteroid shooters, dart throwing and ball games. Nintendo and Sega were the forerunners, birthing the first machines of this craze, including the Power Glove and the Virtual Boy.

These generated a new path in the early days, breaking the tradition and adding a new dimension for people to experience. But they weren't accessible to everyone. Google came up with the Google Cardboard and its many variants, which let anyone across the world enjoy a basic DIY virtual reality setup using their mobile phones, for a very cheap price.



Most VR games are centred around exploration and puzzle-solving. Many classics like Fruit Ninja and Superhot can now be enjoyed as VR games as well. But the breadwinner of this ideal is Valve's 2020 game Half-Life Alyx. It has shattered records and expectations with the way it's innovated VR technology, showing the world the powerful potential of the system. The tactile advancements have made it possible to apply thorough mechanisms which give a layer of immersive reality for players. For example, if you saw a pen in an ordinary VR game, it would just be a 3D model sitting with the rest of the static junk but in this game, you can pick it up and write with it. Liquids have been rendered in a seamless photorealistic way, making it feel like water is actually in front of you. Picking up guns, boxes and other items feels a lot more natural. It's more responsive than ever before and it even comes with accessibility options to alleviate commonly

faced issues such as motion sickness. The golden egg of virtual reality has hatched spectacularly. While it's still now in the budding stage with hundreds of hurdles to cross, it certainly has the scope for vast growth. Games like Half-Life Alyx have opened doors to mind-blowing possibilities and it's only a matter of time until we fully dive into the beautiful expanse of the virtual world.

- Ackshaj Anand, UID, SEM 4

DONTNOD GAMES



Dontnod Games doesn't shy away from respectful portrayal of the LGBTQ community. In Life is Strange (2015), you get to construct the protagonist's sexuality with the many choices you make. Tell Me Why (2020) features a riveting tale of a trans male protagonist and his sister reliving childhood memories.



EAT, SLEEP, SURVIVE, REPEAT

The will to survive is something that all of us are born with, to see the sunrise and know that you made it through another day. It is something that we have developed through millions of years of evolution. In fact, there would be no evolution if we did not have the will to live on as a species. This is a very fundamental concept that has been adapted into the world of videogames for quite some time now.

Ever since the release of Minecraft in the 2010s, there has been a steady influx of games with a complete focus on survival, or with elements of resource management and crafting. Most of them have similar gameplay: collect resources to build tools and shelters, construct structures that protect you from various environmental harm and manage resources wisely to keep your character healthy. It might seem quite simple at a glance but these games have garnered a huge player base because they tap into a very primal instinct of ours. Gathering materials, hunting, building shelters and becoming self-sufficient is something that comes naturally to us and survival games are a testament to this.

There are a few survival games that truly capture the harsh and unforgiving environments of our planet. One such game is- The Long Dark. Set in the snowy wasteland of a post-apocalyptic world, it has the most immersive survival systems I have ever encountered. The basics like hunger meters, inventory management & looting mechanics are all there, but what sets this game apart is its realism.

The sub-zero temperature of the Canadian wilderness means that staying out for too long will give you hypothermia, water is scarce & not boiling it would risk dysentery. Even lighting a fire, something that we take for granted in most games, has the probability of going out instantly because of harsh winds. The game manages to turn the simplest tasks into a matter of life and death.

There is one more game that offers such a visceral experience, tapping into the very nature of fearing the unknown. The Forest is an indie game that came out during the flood of survival horror games in the mid-2010s.

What set it apart was its gorgeous environments and ingenious A.I. mechanisms. Two survivors of a plane crash try to escape an island full of curious cannibals and twisted monsters.

The forest is dense and vast & the mysterious tribals spend days scouting out your camp & understanding your behaviour. However, what stands out in this game to me is how dark it is. The nights are pitch black & the only lights are the moon & a flaming torch that illuminates just a few feet. This game also features a sanity meter which shows how unhinged the player becomes as the days go by & they are forced to resort to cannibalism for survival.

Survival games have come a long way and living to see another day means a lot now more than ever. Such games provide lots of skill-building and help us realize what we take for granted out in this unpredictable world. The most we can do in the meantime is eat, sleep, survive and repeat.

- Nakshatra Roy UID, SEM 6



SPORTS

Electronic Line Judge In Tennis

Video Assistant Referee



ELECTRONIC LINE JUDGE IN TENNIS

In sports there exists an age-old problem that never fails to spark controversies now and then and no sport is immune from it. “Human errors” in sports officiating is a never-ending saga, sports referees, umpires, judges, officials are trained to make important decisions in the match, and sometimes their decisions are full of errors, they are humans after all, they can’t be perfect. The only problem is, they decide the outcomes of the match and error in their decisions gives unfair match results. Well, what is the most plausible solution we humans have of minimizing human errors? “Technology”.

In the Australian Open this year Electronic line judges made their debuts. Coronavirus enforced to have minimum humans in a sporting arena and in tennis human judges were replaced by ball tracking cameras. Introduction of live electronic line calls, saying movement-activated and pre-recorded voices were used for the terms “Out,” “Foot Fault” and “Fault” in matches during the tournament, and with that the most common problem in tennis of players calling line judges for close call of the ball being inside the court or outside came to a halt. ELJ received positive reviews from star tennis players as well.

We can't trust technology completely but in terms of reducing the error in decisions, it's the way forward and it is time that players, officials and audience change with the changing times. We aren't talking about removing the officials from the sports, completely removing the human element is not something anyone should be aiming for because we need officials to control the matches and not let things get out of control.

One of the famous controversies in tennis recently was the US open 2018. In the finals Serena Williams called the line judge Carlos Ramos a "liar" & a "thief" because she felt some of the decisions weren't in her favor and she lost the final and created a situation where the winner Naomi Osaka apologized for winning the tournament.

People who followed the event know that there weren't any in-game decisions for which Serena Williams called line judge a thief rather it was her unethical in-game behavior that made line judge Carlos Ramos deduct points from Serena Williams. Technology can monitor human actions but we still need humans to deal with the humans actions.

-Pranshu Kumar, USLM, SEM 4



WOMEN'S TENNIS



Women's tennis has broken all trends with LGBTQ+ players in sports. Throughout history, women's tennis had more than 40 lesbian players and in the last French tour out of 128 players, 3 were lesbians.



VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE

The video assistant referee (VAR) is a match official in association football who reviews decisions made by the head referee with the use of video footage and headset for communication. This is specifically in order to minimize human errors causing substantial influence on match results. Following extensive trialing in a number of major competitions, VAR was first written into the Laws of the Game by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) in 2018. Operating under the philosophy of "minimal interference, maximum benefit", the VAR system seeks to provide a way for "clear and obvious errors" and "serious missed incidents" to be corrected.

There are four categories of decisions that can be reviewed:

- **Goal/no goal** – attacking team commits an offence, ball out of play, ball entering goal, offside, handball, offences and encroachment during penalty kicks.
- **Penalty/no penalty** – attacking team commits an offence, ball out of play, location of offence, incorrect awarding, offence not penalized.
- **Direct red card** – denial of obvious goal-scoring opportunity, serious foul play, violent conduct/biting/spitting, using offensive/insulting/abusive language or gestures. All straight red cards are subject to review.

Mistaken identity in awarding a red or yellow card.

How does video assistant referee (VAR) work?

STEP 1

Incident occurs

The referee informs the VAR, or the VAR recommends to the referee that a decision/incident should be reviewed.

STEP 2

Review and advice by the VAR

The video footage is reviewed by the VAR, who advises the referee via headset what the video shows.

STEP 3

Decision or action is taken

The referee decides to review the video footage on the side of the field of play before taking the appropriate action/decision, or the referee accepts the information from the VAR and takes the appropriate action/decision.

Niloy Lahiri , UID, SEM 4

LGBTQ AND FIFA



Rainbow flags will be allowed in stadiums at the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Host nation Qatar still has punishable laws for same-sex relationships. Many reports claim that male footballers are forced to hide their sexuality because it drops the value of the brands which are associated with the teams.

In order to stop hatred towards the LGBTQ community, FIFA in 2019 passed a new policy in which referees can shut down matches if there are any anti-gay chants or remarks made during a match.

HOMEGROWN

ArtiCurate

The Food And Baking Therapy



If you're someone who loves creating and is always up for something new, Articurate is here to spread the love of art and let your creative juices flow. In an interview with the Homegrown team, Advika Prabhu, one of the founders of Aricurate shared her experiences and learning outcomes.

Question: What inspired you to start Articurate?

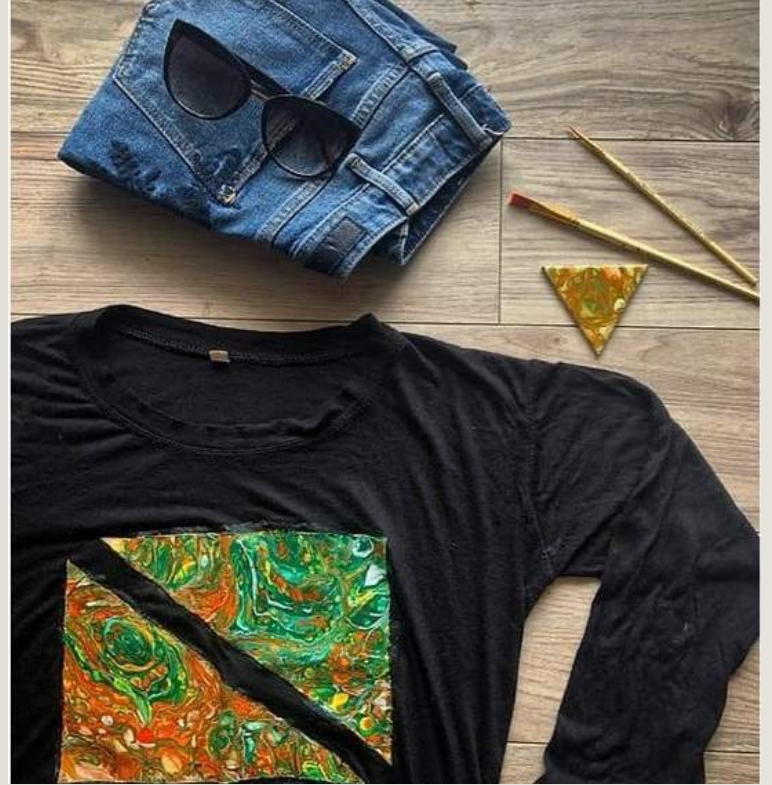
Answer: We wanted to help people find creativity in themselves and engage with art. The main objective is to bring people close to art, creatively and enjoy the process of learning.

Question: How did you come up with the name, Articurate?

Answer: The name came up very spontaneously while playing with different words. It is a mélange of two words articulate, which means to explore and curate, which means to create.

Question: At first, when the idea was born was there any dilemma? Building a brand is not an easy road, there must have been some stones and rocks on the way. What challenges did you face while building up the brand?.

Answer: More than a hobby, Articurate works like a side hustle. Since it is not financially rooted like a hard-core business, it is considered to be a work of passion. We really enjoy teaching people and making them aware of the resin work irrespective of how much engagement we get from the customers. The biggest challenge is to reach the target audience. No matter how much one advertises, people will just acknowledge it. It is like a challenge, to convince people to participate in a workshop or make them aware of the products. Most of the customers don't understand the difficulties in creating a piece of art. Hence, the product is undervalued and loses its uniqueness at times.



Question: What is the learning experience from interacting with different clients and people you work with?

Answer: The greatest experience was creating a network through communication which has eventually helped to develop interactive and communication skills while having an understanding of consumer psychology.

Question: You are pursuing your education while building a brand. How did you learn to manage time?

Answer: When you realize that someone is dependent on you instead of procrastinating one would rather work on finishing the order and being as productive as possible. Prioritizing your work does help a lot. Consistency is the key and one should always push oneself to work towards achieving the goal on time.

Question: How does Articurate function?

Answer: The role of teaching is handled by Advika herself and the art section is looked after by Siddhi. Certain responsibilities are divided between them by deciding and other times there is mutual understanding and a good rapport.

Question: What are your thoughts on expanding your business?

Answer: Our intention is to carry forward the business through digital media platforms because of the availability of their target audience in abundance. We are exploring more techniques and products to launch. Expansion in terms of networking was one of the major ideas which included making more people aware of it.

Question: How is the distribution and transportation procedure conducted?

Answer: The orders are dispatched to the local courier service after packaging. The time duration of the delivery depends on the location; which takes two to seven days.

Question: Can you elaborate on the process?

Answer: We have a pre-set stock of certain items. Customized orders are made as per the requirement of the client. Mostly the products are made after the order has been placed since they are delicate and easily breakable.

Question: What are the features of the product? Name the best-selling product?

Answer: The best-selling product is the Rose Petal bookmark. Real rose petals are used for making the bookmark with immense intricacy and uniqueness in design.

Question: Where do you see your brand in the next five years?

Answer: To See Articurate established as a solid company and expand their Instagram audience with a proper business website.



Founders: Advika Prabhu (right), Siddhi

Question: Which social media platform proves to be more effective as a source to reach out to people?

Answer: The choice of social media platforms depends on the product and its suitable audience. People having a taste of intricate design are mainly found on Instagram. Facebook and WhatsApp are mainly used for the marketing of objects which tends to attract elderly people. Whereas, Instagram helps to reach the young generation who are more into accessories and bookmarks.

Question: For anybody who wishes to start their own brand what will you convey to them?

Answer: Just start. No matter how inexperienced you are, you should give it a start because at the end we all gain experience by taking a risk. We all learn from our experiences so don't worry about what you don't know. Just believe in yourself.



There is and will be competing in every field but what keeps things going is the support. Love and appreciation from even one customer give immense hope for a better tomorrow. Try to build something which is your own and value your customers. The more one gets into the topic, the more one will find the motivation to build it.

Interviewed by: Ishwari Raut, Shatakshi Pandey and Neha Naskar.

Written by: Neha Naskar, UID Sem 2.



‘Food is our common ground, a universal experience.’ Be it a special occasion or a chill evening with friends and family, food never leaves the picture. The Food and Baking Therapy is here to serve you desserts for all occasions. In an interview with the Homegrown team, Divya Kaurani, founder of The Food and Baking Therapy shared her experiences.

Question: What was the first, most basic thought behind The Food and Baking Therapy?

Answer: The Food and Baking Therapy is a home-based baking brand. We make sure to provide our customers with the best quality baked goods with the finest ingredients at affordable prices.

Question: What inspired you to start this venture?

Answer: My passion for baking started in July 2020. I was concerned about covid transmission at the peak of the pandemic and hygiene levels of bakeries. Hence I made sure to provide the best quality and customized products made at home, in a hygienic environment.

Question: How did you come up with the name of your brand?

Answer: For a baker, like me, it is one’s passion towards baking and for the customer the satisfaction and pleasure of having it, hence a therapy. I also marketed it that way, food as a therapy.

Question: There are multiple aspects to building a brand. How did you plan and execute everything?

Answer: I take care of every aspect single-handedly. Right from the raw materials, equipment, baking, icing, to accepting, delivering orders, and marketing. In these times I believed, the fewer people involved, the safer it is. When customers were not able to step out of their house, I made sure to deliver their goods to them safely. I don't use any preservatives and artificial flavors, only pure ingredients are incorporated. Most of my customers are vegetarian and vegan, hence I carefully choose my ingredients. I make sure that they are pure vegetarian. I make sure to use reusable materials for all my orders, making them environmentally friendly.

Question: How do you plan your costs and prices?

Answer: I get most of the raw material in bulk, which decreases the cost of production. For customized orders, comes customized pricing. Early on, my focus was to set up this brand, and hence the first month was not that effective cost-wise. But as my brand started to grow, we managed the cost accordingly.

Question: Please brief about your baked goods and how you managed your orders during festivities

Answer: I have had many corporate orders so far. I created around 40 new Year and Christmas hampers. During Christmas, I came up with a new dessert and it was a bestseller! I try to keep experimenting with recipes and observe what tastes good. The brand took off profoundly post Diwali. There are times where we had to bake 5-6 cakes per day. I try to minimize wastage no matter what the design and pattern. It feels great to see the customer pleased when they see these efforts making their loved ones happy.

Once a customer buys my product, I make sure they come back to me next time as well. I try to provide them with the best service and gain their trust.

Question: You are pursuing your studies simultaneously. How do you manage your time?

Answer: All my orders get ready till the evening, even customers want their cakes post noon. Because I have observed this schedule, I manage my time accordingly. Even on same day delivery, I make sure every cake is freshly baked. I ensure I do both things whole heartedly and give it my all.

Question: What are your thoughts on expanding your business?

Answer: It is intended to be a side hustle, I never thought it would go on for a year in the first place. I am very much focused in my field and this will always be a side hustle.

Question: What kind of marketing proves effective for you?

Answer: Word of mouth marketing is very effective. Since the customer analyses the order in terms of taste and presentation, they spread the word and that's how people get to know about the brand. I send a visiting card with each order so that people can share it. Instagram has also helped where I regularly post to engage my audience and attract potential customers.



Founder: Divya Kaurani

Question: Are you planning to introduce a new variety?

Answer: Recently I launched themed cakes on my menu, which got a good response. So I am planning to add more of that like Mercedes and music-themed cakes etc. I plan different flavors every month. I'll be experimenting more with mango, trying out different recipes, and observing what goes best with it.

Question: What advice will you offer to budding entrepreneurs from your learning experience?

Answer: Don't think only about the profits you'll gain. Having a wider perspective, gaining customer satisfaction and getting feedback from multiple people helps in updating and improving your brand. One should keep researching on the current trends and the accurate needs of the customers.



Question: How did you manage the early struggles and dilemmas?

Answer: My family and friends have been there with me since the beginning. With all the struggles, they are a very strong support system.

Question: It's necessary to look for customers' needs and wants. How do you keep up with that?

Answer: I did not learn baking professionally, by practicing and experimenting I learned all by myself. Maintenance is another factor as customers want the best quality products in all aspects. Sometimes, we have to customize the packaging also. Ultimately, my reward is the review and feedback I get.

Interviewed by: Riddhi Khichi, UID, Sem 4

Written by: Ishwari Raut, UID, Sem 2

STUDENT COUNCIL

Session With Reyneir Fernandes

Celebrating Pride with KUSGC

SESSION WITH RAYNEIR FERNANDES

Rayneir Fernandes talked about his passion for football and his professional journey. He also talked about the behind-the-scenes and pressure that a team and staff undergo during a match. He emphasized the fact that a successful player is one that does rigorous and regular training.⁴

Link to the interview: https://www.instagram.com/tv/COu217RgYAC/?utm_medium=copy_link

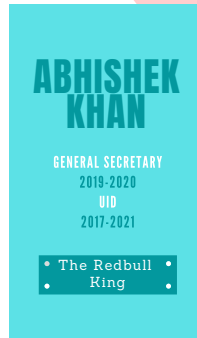
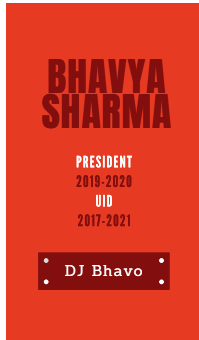


CELEBRATING PRIDE WITH KU-SGC

The Cultural Committee of Karnavati University Student Governing Council did a 30 day "did you know" segment related to Pride in the KU SGC stories. Along with that , they also organised a short Qn A / Quiz on KU SGC stories regarding the same.



COUNCIL FAREWELL BATCH OF 2021





PRATIK BHAGWANI

HEAD - SOCIETIES
2018-2019
UID
2017-2021

Chocolate Boy



AISHWARYA RAJESH

HEAD - SOCIETIES
2019-2020
UID
2017-2021

The Nightingale



ANANYA SRINIVASAN

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2020
UID
2017-2021

Ms. Sunshine



SONALI AGLE

COUNCIL MEMBER
2018-2021
UID
2017-2021

The artist



NISH CHAUHAN

COUNCIL MEMBER
2018-2021
UID
2017-2021

The Gentle Giant



RHEA MEHTA

COUNCIL MEMBER
2018-2021
UID
2017-2021

The Anchor



YUKTI DAVE

HEAD - HEAL THE WORLD
2019-2020
UID
2017-2021

The Activist



CHETAK DOBARIYA

JOINT SECRETARY - UWSB
2019-2020
UWSB
2018-2021






DEV PATEL

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2021
UWSB
2018-2021

The Ladies Man



Farewell

2021

**AMOL
KUKREJA**

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2021
UWSB
2018-2021

• DADA of
KU-SGC •



Farewell

2021

**MRUNALI
PHANSE**

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2021
UWSB
2018-2021

• Beauty with
Brains •



Farewell

2021

**ABHAY
KURSIJA**

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2021
UWSB
2018-2021

• The Carebear •



Farewell

2021

**AZHAR
ABBAS**

HEAD - SOCIETIES
2020
UWSB
2018-2021

• Fitness Freak •



Farewell

2021

**NIKUNJ
SONI**

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2021
UWSB
2018-2021

• The Guy with
the Passes •



Farewell

2021

**SUNAINA
CHOPRA**

HEAD - CULTURAL COMMITTEE
2020-2021
USLM
2018-2021

• Chota Packet
• Bada Dhamaaka •



Farewell

2021

**TANISHA
VYAS**

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2021
USLM
2018-2021

• "The Communication"
Bridge •



Farewell

2021

**HETVI
DESAI**

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2020
USLM
2018-2021

• The Bright
Light •



Farewell

2021

**VATSAL
PATEL**

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2020
USLM
2018-2021

• Jugaadu •





DHYEY SHAH

JOINT SECRETARY - USLM
2019-2020
USLM
2018-2021

• The
• Gujju Bhai •



DEEP SHAH

COUNCIL MEMBER
2019-2020
USLM
2018-2021

• The Helping
• Hand •



MEET DAVE

JOINT SECRETARY - PGDM
2020-2021
PGDM
2018-2021

• Bunny of KU •



ANURAG THAKUR

COUNCIL MEMBER
2020-2021
PGDM
2019-2021

• The
• Innocent One •



AYUSH BINAKIA

COUNCIL MEMBER
2020-2021
PGDM
2019-2021

• The Gandhi
• of KU-SGC •



ARCHIE MANSINGKA

COUNCIL MEMBER
2020-2021
PGDM
2019-2021

• The Angel
• of KU-SGC •



AASHAY DEO

COUNCIL MEMBER
2020-2021
PGDM
2019-2021

• The White
• Knight •



SAURABH BAROT

COUNCIL MEMBER
2020-2021
PGDM
2019-2021

• Mr. Handsome •



SOCIETIES

Haafiza

Izhaar

Kalam Kush

Samaa

HAAFIZA

An emotion was continued and Haafiza kept working on the feeling which was Disgust. As part of Shabdo ki Shaam, a group activity was conducted for the members of Haafiza. All members were divided into three groups. Each group was given a specific body part; head to shoulder, hands, and feet. The three groups had to express the emotion of disgust through videos using just the body part assigned to them. This video was then shown to everyone and the members were given an opportunity to critique each other's work.

While cinematographers, technicians, actors are all important in a film or in theatre, it would be incomplete without the creativity of the writers. Haafiza decided to conduct an activity, especially for their very own writers. Each writer would come up with a beginning of a story and pass that on to another writer to complete. Thus, challenging another writer to think in a fresh direction while still keeping their unique style of story-telling alive.

Another activity was held where members saw a film named 'Eraser head'. Keeping its lighting, story, cinematography in mind, everyone was told to do a photoshoot while still portraying the emotion of disgust.

Social media has become an even bigger platform given our current situation and so Haafiza thought to play along the Instagram trend of 'how fast can I change my emotions' challenge that several actors participated in. Videos of the challenge were put up too.



In times of difficulty like these, Haafiza decided to not let its members lose motivation and so, as in ice breaker session, had a lovely and exciting game of 'dumsharades' where everyone had fun and yet were connected to their love for films.

It certainly was a very fruitful month for everyone at Haafiza.

IZHAAR

In 1982, the International Dance Day was first celebrated marking the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), the creator of modern ballet. It is a global celebration of dance, created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute, the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO. The event takes place every year on 29th April. International Dance Day was started to spread the message of the benefits of dance, celebrate dance and bring people together. It is truly an event that all dancers celebrate with enthusiasm each year. And Izhaar did not hold back either.

In collaboration with TheBlend magazine, an exciting live session was organized where members of the dance society had face-offs with each other. This session was hosted by Mehak Kumar and Ishwari Raut who made this session a treat for the audience. Six members of the dance society participated in the face-off; Ishita Thakkar, Niyati Andharia, Ritu Priyadarshan, Bhavya Rawat, Harsh Ratnani, and Rutuja Patil; and showcased their graceful and energetic moves. The audience was then asked to vote for their favorite dancer. The three winners were Ishita Thakkar, Bhavya Rawat, and Harsh Ratnani. A big congratulations to them!

-Harsh Ratnani



- Kripa Joshi, UID, SEM 4



- Ishita Thakkar



- Bhavya Rawat

KALAM KUSH

Speaking our minds

When it comes down to the capability of humankind, the answer has always been our power of adaptation. Adaptation is what makes humans, the intelligent species. Time challenges everyone and it has been doing a lot of that lately! I need not mention the pandemic which has tested our power of adaptation to its extremes. Our bodies have grown, adapted, and are striving to survive. But what about our minds? As much as our bodies are challenged, our minds are too. This is what we at Kalam Kush focused on talking and discussing for this month- mental health. Being a society of writers and speakers, what could have been a better subject to discuss than mental health itself. Mental health is a problem that isn't even considered a problem. Poor mental health problems have increased in the past decade and every person has dealt with their own challenges. This gave our members an opportunity to speak for their minds, the challenges they have faced, their own exquisite journeys and at a point raise some awareness about this ignored subject. Members got a chance to write an article about mental health and all the aspects revolving around it. On every possible level, this has been one of the thought-provoking activities we conducted at Kalam Kush.

Apart from talking about mental health, we also got ahead with keeping our social media handle up to date. A good speaker's main attribute is the power to portray emotions only through voice. This is what our new series of reels focus on, communication of feelings and thoughts only through voice. In the end, Kalam Kush is a society that binds all the writers and speakers together and provides them with a platform to express their raw thoughts.

- Shreya Chhajed, UID, SEM 4

A background image of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a black t-shirt and a yellow guitar strap, playing a black electric guitar. The image is dimmed to serve as a background for the text.

SAMAA

Like a summer breeze, Samaa decided to keep things mellow and hence the theme for the month is also 'Mellow May'. Samaa collaborated with TheBlend magazine and posted reels of members doing covers of songs, playing instruments, etc. All videos are posted on the Instagram pages of TheBlend and Samaa. Along with this, new members were introduced to society as well.

One of the members of Samaa, Mann Vijay, had an amazing opportunity to showcase his talent in front of Arjun Kanungo. It started with a simple Instagram story posted by the famous singer regarding a donation program run by Hemkunt Foundation for the equipment associated with Covid-19. A link was put up on Arjun Kanungo's story for fans to join, donate any amount of money and enjoy a live session with him. He sang many of his originals and invited several fans to play an instrument or sing along. Mann Vijay got the opportunity to play the Tabla for him, his music was appreciated, and was encouraged to play live soon as well.

To keep a calm mind in these difficult times, Samaa kept their activities light, breezy, and yet musical.

LEISURE: PRIDE

Literature

Illustrations

Literature

Love Is Love !!

The month of "Pride"
I guess not for everyone,
One needs to understand,
How others feel.

I am terrified,
What people will think,
Don't know how to say,
I am bisexual.

Yeah; I am attracted to both sex,
Is it a crime or is it normal,
Leaving in a judgemental world,
It fears me.

There are people who once said,
It's a phase; you will pass,
Didn't know how wrong they are,
I guess their perspective was.

But worst of all came,
When I meet a girl,
Whom I liked,
Told her I am bisexual.

She said; "Sorry"
I am lesbian,
I thought it's a goodbye!

That's not it works,
I love men & women both,
It's not what matters,
In the end; love is what matters

Rutika Jariwala, KSD

A NEW WORLD

Two people, in the same room.
One, a bit shy, the other, total opposite.
Eyes meet, the conversation starts,
love falls in place.
Nobody understands them, for they are
both men.
And men don't belong together.
So they make their own world with the
likes of them.
A world of love for all,
And no harm to any.
A world where parents don't assume
it's a girlfriend for their son,
And a boyfriend for their daughter.
Where love is all that matters.
A place where they don't need everyone
to understand them, but just their love.
Somewhere in a faraway land,
Where they walk hand in hand,
With no eyes full of confusion on them.
Their love finds its way,
And a million others too.
For love does not discriminate when it
comes to two.

Niharika Jain, VID, SEM 2

It's high time we start accepting people as they are

I remember you once told me you hated rain.

You said if you were given one wish you'd wish that there be no more showers from the clouds.

That it was this rain that ruined your beautiful life; that corrupted your heart and soul.

You were alone and so was he. You were desperate for love and so was he. You were drenched and so were everyone else staring at you. He came, held your hand and took you to that tea stall you loved. He helped you dry yourself and gave you his handkerchief, a dry one. He hugged you tight to keep you warmer and then he left, without a goodbye.

I see you look at that handkerchief when you miss him. I see the pain in your eyes and the regret in your words when you say, "I couldn't even say a goodbye to him".

Nani visited us yesterday and she asked for you. I couldn't bring myself to tell her that you miss him terribly. But she knew it already.

Nana had caught you wearing my dresses and he threw you out. You had make up on and I could see your mascara terribly ruined by tears, although you say it was rainwater. Passerby hushed and giggled in small voices and Nana told this is how people would react if your do it ever again. But I saw him stepping towards you. He had seen Nana and said, "This isn't America sure but it still isn't Harappa." And he kissed you. You were drenched and so were everyone else staring at you. He stood up from that tapri and started walking towards us. But not before Nana made up his mind and hit him with his car. He said people like that stranger were plague for the society. This was a tabboo. Being gay was a sin that cannot be forgiven and held a secure place in hell. And to top it off, being kissed by the same gender in public was much worse. Especially for someone with the reputation Nana had. He hit him again and made sure he killed the plague.

I remember screaming but Nani held me and took us both inside. That night we lost Nana too. People say it was because of accident and rain but I know Nani just had enough of him over the years.

You hate rain, right? Let's make rainbow a symbol for new life, new years and new starts. Let's just not remember it for bitter days and harsher deaths. Shall we, bhai?

Anjali Bhatt, KSD, SEM 6

Illustrations



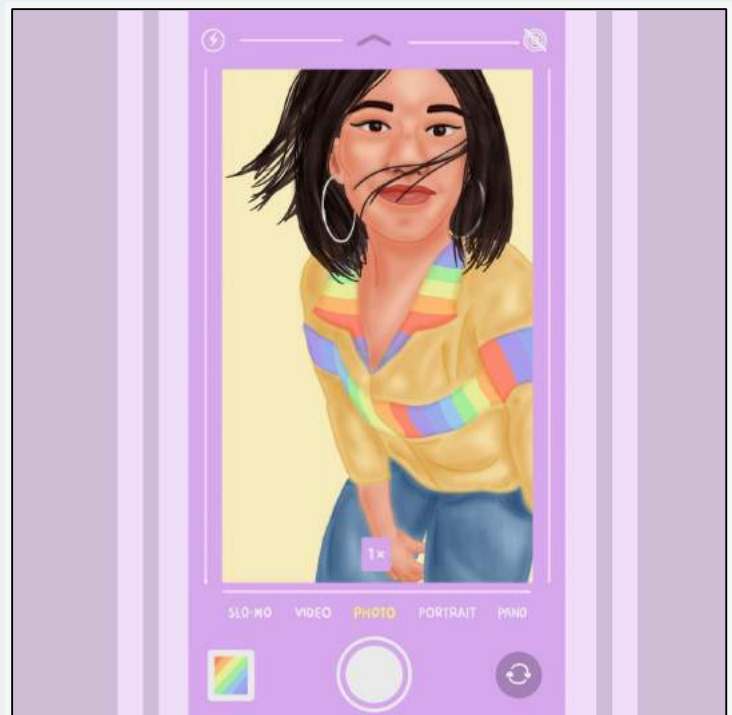
Pallavi Sethi, VID, SEM 4



Niharika Jain, VID, SEM 2



Shivani Shahane, VID SEM 2



D.V Lakshita, VID SEM 2

FEATURED

Illustrations

Photographs

3D Artworks

By- Raahul Reddy, UID, SEM 4

PHOTOGRAPHS



By- Tanvi Mehta, UID, SEM 4

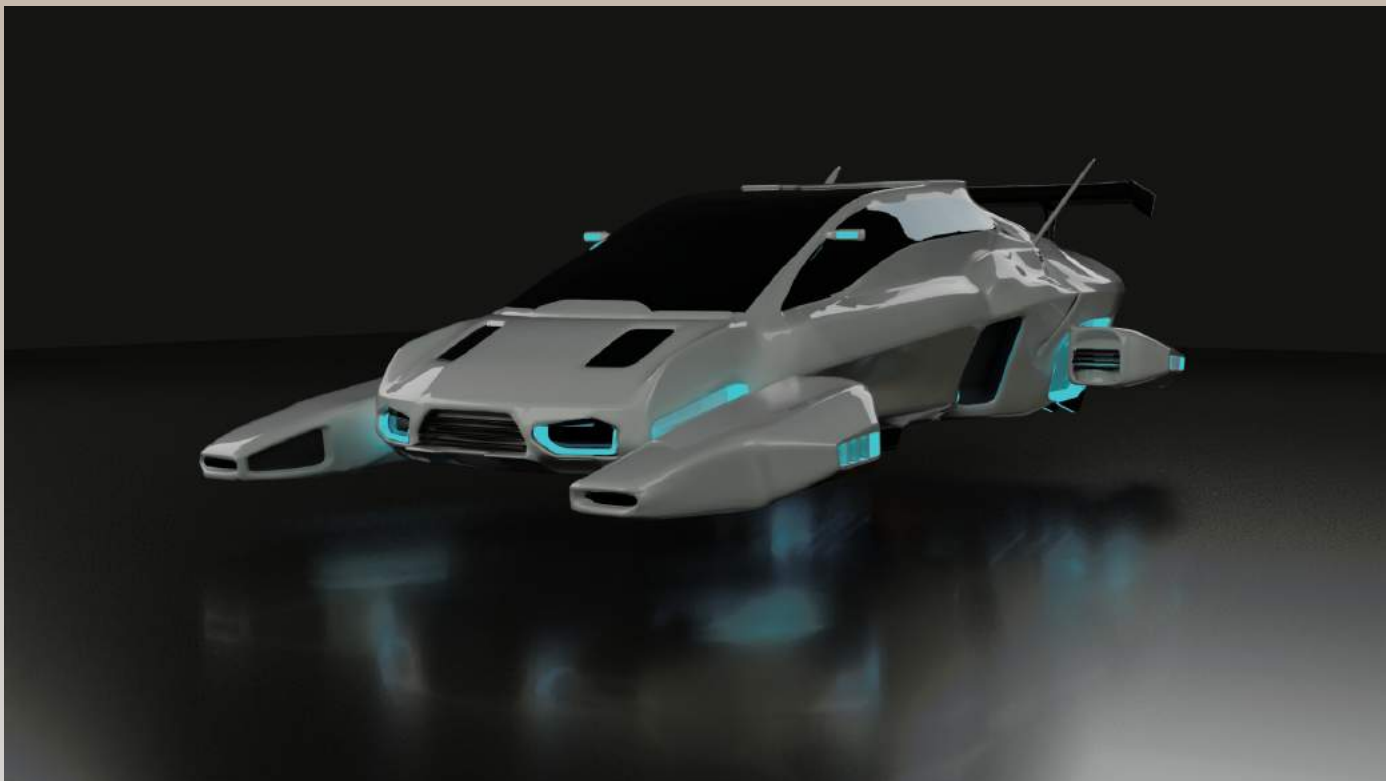


By- Vivek Luhana, USLM, Sem 4

3D ARTWORK



By- Atharva Mali, UID, SEM 4



By- Prathamesh Hindlekar, UID, SEM 4

UNITEDWORLD SCHOOL OF COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

The world is changing forefront with science and technology taking a toll over lifestyles benefiting the mankind in every way possible. Data Science is one such emerging technology that forms the heart of Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics Design and Automation, Blockchain and more. These technologies have started reshaping the world of digital business targeting a constant growth of 5% in 2017 to nearly 40% in 2025 across all sectors.

Karnavati University is now offering bachelor's degrees in Computational Intelligence with the establishment of Uniteworld School of Computational Intelligence having state of the art facilities beginning this academic year 2021-22.

The following are the courses offered:

B.Sc. (Hons.) Computer Science

B.Sc. (Hons.) Computer Science with specialization in Data Science

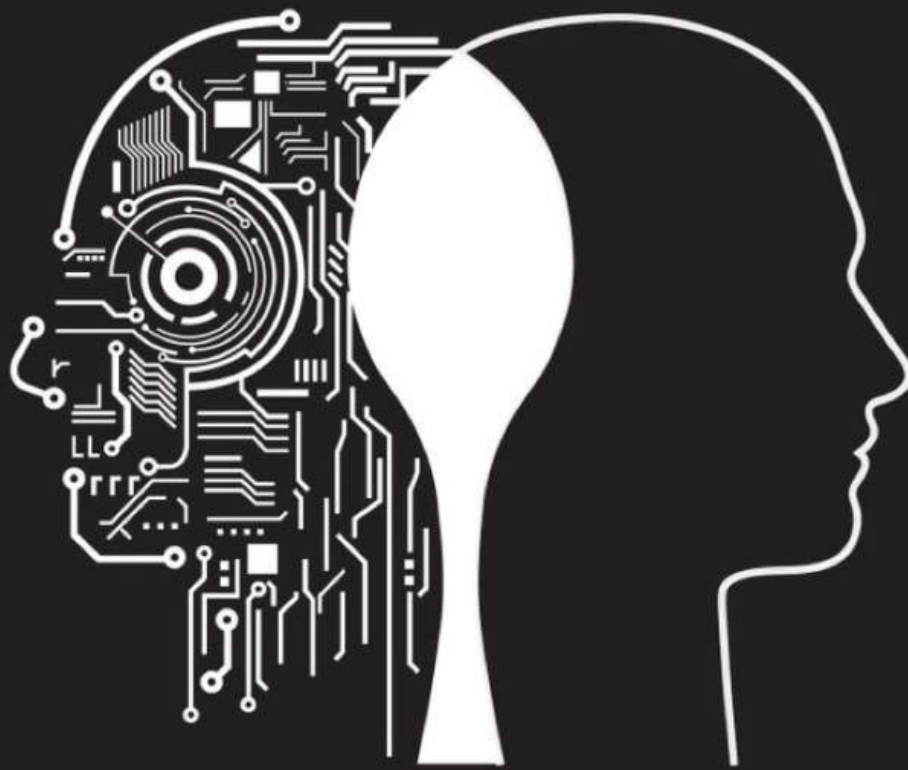
B.Sc. (Hons.) Computer Science with specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

B.Sc. (Hons.) Computer Science with specialization in Robotics and Automation

B.Sc. (Hons.) Computer Science with specialization in Cryptography and Blockchain

B.Sc. (Hons.) Computer Science with specialization in Cloud Computing and Virtualization

Karnavati University continues to be a pioneer in higher education offering bachelor's, master's and research degrees in Design, Law, Business, Dental and Liberal Arts and Mass Communication for the last two decades and has taken yet another step towards building a strong youth.



OUR CONTRIBUTORS

EDITORS

Aaditi Rohilla
Aditi Kawdikar
Atharva Mali

LAYOUT TEAM

Dwija Soni
Neel Ubhaykar
Prathamesh Hindlekar
Saumitra Pandey
Tanvi Metha

WRITERS

Abhinav Jha
Ackshaj Anand
Aadit Sheth
Amrutha Jaisanker
Anshita Agrawal
Bhavika Garg
Ishwari Raut
Kashish Parihar
Kavya Dholakia
Khushi Srivastava
Kripa Joshi
Mahek Rastogi
Nakshatra Roy
Neha Naskar
Niloy Lahiri
Pranshu Kumar
Shaily Agrawal
Shubhi Gupta
Sneha Sowmi
Sri Sharanya Sateesh
Stuti Bhatia
Vivek Luhana

MEDIA TEAM

Nishtha Mittal
Priyanshi Khatri

CORE TEAM

Bhanvi Juvekar
Sakina Mandviwala
Saumitra Pandey
Shatakshi Pandey
Tanvi Metha

DESIGN TEAM

Aditi Singh
Krisha Salian
Maithilee Naikare
Menakshi Ranganathan
Muskaan Tiwari
Priyanshi Khatri
Riddhi Khichi
Srushti Maniar

ILLUSTRATION

Mansi Lele
Mitalee Makwana
Niharika Bedse
Prajwal Kashyap
Priyanshi Khatri
Raahul Reddy
Srushti Maniar

HOMEGROWN

Ishwari Raut
Neha Naskar
Riddhi Khichi
Shatakshi Pandey

SOCIETIES

Menakshi Ranganathan
Kripa Joshi
Shreya Chajjed

COVER PAGE

Maithilee Naikare

By KU-SGC Editorial Board

Contact info: +91 8619445492

Email ID: edboard@karnavatiuniversity.edu.in

Instagram: [@theblend.ku](https://www.instagram.com/theblend.ku)