

COMPETE *Plus*



Photo Credit : Aashka Raichand, Student, UWSB

"BANITIZER": A COLLECTIVE DESIGN

- By Akshay Jain, Soham Mundada, Darshika Kantaria, Sparsh Tejawani, Kashif Khan, 2nd year, UID

Interior Design+ Product Design +Animation & Motion Graphics, UID

With the COVID-19 pandemic, students of Product Design, Interior Design and Animation & Motion Graphics, came together in participating in a competition by World Design Organization (WDO). The competition was for: COVID-19 Design Challenge: "How might we enable people to #StepOut Safely?"

The main objective was to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The idea was to generate a quick solution, which can be plausibly implemented within a short duration, as the virus has fast dispersion rate.

The team comprised of 2nd year UID students-Akshay Jain, Product Design, Soham Mundada, Animation & Motion Graphics, Sparsh Tejawani, Darshika Kantaria and Kashif Khan from Interior Design. This was only a 05 day exercise in which the students were mentored by Prof. Kishori Dalwadi. The work was shared with 05 panelists associated with the WDO, on 18th April 2020.

The concept of a Banitizer was explored by these 05 inspiring students. It is a wearable device for the wrist, very similar to a wrist watch.

Concept Note:

Safe behavior and social distancing is the only way to be safe while working outside in a pandemic like Covid-19.

Challenge statement:

Safe behavior and social distancing

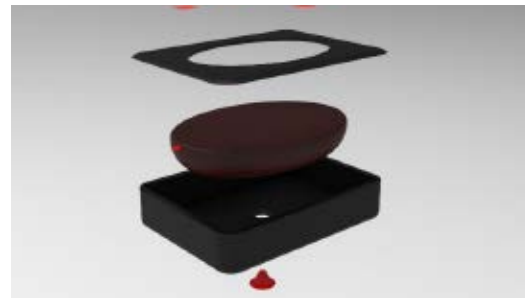
Concept Design:

BANITIZER is designed to different variants depending on the usage.

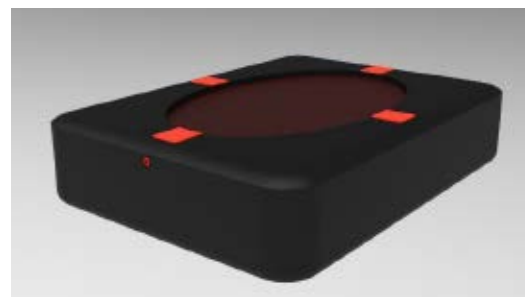
1. For holding of sanitizer
2. Alarming to keep for social distancing
3. Keeping a track of any change in your body health which needs a cautious alarm.

The device can be manufactured with a thermosetting polymer like silicone.

Exploded view of Banitizer



Top view of the Banitizer indicators



The Banitizer



Akshay Jain



Soham Mundada



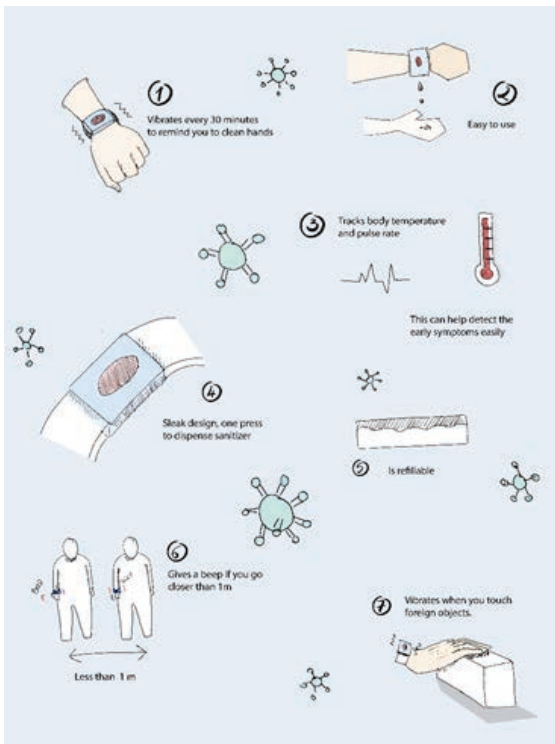
Darshika Kantaria



Sparsh Tejawani



Kashif Khan



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC: AN ACT OF GOD?

- By Ashmi P.S, Sem 3, BBA LLB, UWSL

Initially when a virus outbreak in China's Wuhan province was detected, it was announced that this virus cannot transmit from human to human contact. However, its transition from an epidemic to wreaking havoc halfway across the globe to the US, Iran, and The Middle East compelled the WHO to declare COVID-19 as a pandemic. The rest we know is history – there were lockdowns declared in many countries ultimately bringing to halt the flow of many contractual agreements, which left the parties involved in with no choice but to rely on "Act of god" as a defence, to compensate or cover for their business operations pending. Act of god mainly implies to incidents occurred without human intervention which is totally out of human control with proper preventive measures like; Tsunami, floods etc... courts in different jurisdictions apply act of god concept differently, whereas under any circumstance this chain is disrupted by the intervention of third party may lead to the defence being entirely stripped off of the party's claims. Act of god appears regularly within contracts but is not something defined under statute. Black law's Dictionary describes Act of god concept as – "comprehend all misfortunes and accidents arising from inevitable necessity which human prudence could not foresee or prevent" (Placeholder1) (Black, Act of God, 1990). Although parties won't be excused from performance, if the incident was a foreseeable risk at the time of execution, as any agreement to perform an impossible act is considered void. Force Majeure is typically a clause of Act of god which can also be taken into consideration in cases of contracts being intervened by an unforeseeable 'superior force'. This covers mainly catastrophes, strikes, civil wars and in some rare cases epidemics and pandemics. Force Majeure finds its roots from French civil code or Code Napoleon, it excuses the parties from performing their part of contract. Intention is to save the performing parties from any consequences from anything over which he has no control of.

Force Majeure mainly asks for the suspension or extension of the obligation. In cases where the performance of contract was unavoidable yet termination or extension of the contract is inevitable and essential as an unanticipated incident occurred against the possibilities of embarking or carrying on with the contract to its fulfilment and it does not include negligence or wrongdoing which specifically excluded by the clause. Black law's dictionary defines Force Majeure as,

"An event or effect that can be neither anticipated nor controlled" (Black, Force Majeure, 1990). Recalling the case, *Lebeaupin v Crispin* [1920] 2 K.B. 714, 718. Here, the judge Mccardie refused the seller's claim for applying Force Majeure as mentioned under the terms of the contracts each with different canneries subjecting the breach of contract under the FM clause if the term specifies the exception (strikes, lockouts and any other interruptions out of the canner's or shipper's will be subjected to Force Majeure, and clearly it was the seller's mistake as the tins were defective and the contract was unfulfilled due to that sole reason, had they been tad bit heedful to the quality of the tins they wouldn't have had to pay the buyer his compensation of 12,500 dollars.

Considering all the information at hand the courts may look at the conduct of the parties that seeks for the plea of Force Majeure for negating its contractual obligations. If the clause is enshrined in the terms of any contract then the parties can enforce the same, but burden of proof rests on the party who invokes the clause. Aforementioned clause is discharged if, explicitly even the terms have epidemics and pandemics mentioned in it. Although typically a Force Majeure clause includes only riots, earthquakes, strikes or any other activity from a third party impeding the function of the contract of particular parties.

Nature of evidence of Force Majeure is on the basis of i) Documents relating to travel itinerary prepared prior to the incident which was hindered by the unforeseen incident, ii) News article on COVID iii) Notification of government having ensured Force Majeure as a reliable clause and other related restrictions and advisories enforced by the government such as, on 10 February 2020 Ministry of Finance addresses the supply chains disrupted by the COVID19 which it has identifies as a natural calamity, be considered under Force Majeure and apply the clause wherever necessary.

In case the terms of the contract haven't mentioned anything about Force Majeure clause then 'Doctrine of Frustration' under Section 56 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 come into force. Nevertheless, the counterparts rely on the excuse of Impossibility and impracticability of performance. This is when the contract cannot physically be performed even after having the will for it and performing the same would be not feasible given the circumstances. Considering two scenarios, where the impact of the contract falls heavily on one of the parties (impossibility) or subject matter dies and become meaningless as in case the event extends a reasonable amount of time (impracticability).



Conspiracies spiralling over China:

The growing speculation around the globe is that China kept the original nature of the corona virus to themselves trying to helm the real impact it could have if curbing the same goes out of control, such as human to human transmission of the virus. They hid the necessary facts even after being acknowledged by Dr. Li Wen Liang about the same. It is in conjecture whether Dr. Li was silenced or died, from whistle blowing the information and blowing the Chinese government's cover, China's many telecom and landline connections lost even after China seeing incredible growth on the telecom industry. This lack of transparency from China's part left the entire globe suffering from a contagious disease without a cure. US, Iran and Europe are the most affected. How the virus travelled such huge distance yet didn't permeate much parts far from Wuhan, is still debatable. Does this invoke the suspicion that China is supporting Bio-Terrorism (unsubstantiated), as much to people's surprise or coincidence, that a novel "The Eyes of Darkness" by Dean Koontz in 1981, happened to be mentioning about a contagious virus stemming from Wuhan. Or how a group of Chinese scientists were allegedly stripped of their access to Canada's National Microbiology Lab where they mostly work with deadly pathogens.

How the entire world is under forced lockdown whereas China seems to be on a strong footing with functioning stock market when the world market is crashing.

Many sceptics have a hard time believing China's wet markets are a probable and more realistic cause for the spread of the virus. Both the 2003 SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) epidemic and the current one can be traced to China's "wet markets". Until late December 2019, everyone affected by the virus had some link to Wuhan's Huanan Market. Keeping animals in a closed space for prolonged proximity may have enabled the rapid mutation to happen. More precisely, in such an environment, a coronavirus long present in some animals underwent mutation forcing it to change from nonhuman host to nonhuman host, and ultimately gained the ability to adapt to the human host. Journalist Jason Beaubien recently reported: "Live fish in open tubs splash water all over the floor. The countertops of the stalls are red with blood as fish are gutted and filleted right in front of the customers' eyes. Live turtles and crustaceans climb over each other in boxes. Melting ice adds to the slush on the floor. There's lots of water, blood, fish scales, and chicken guts." (Cavalieri, 2020) Wet markets, indeed.

It is also believed with proof of videos and reports that the Chinese hid the coronavirus facts from the USA and the world till the US-China trade deal was signed. Above all, China's 5G connections are also dubitable for questioning that why China turned on some of its 5G networks. To speak about speculations China can figuratively drown itself in them.

Considering the aforesaid information about the virus that wreaked havoc and continue to do so in an alarming rate seems to hinder not only the normal lifestyle of the people but also contracts and span of businesses, while some can be amiably solved and sorted, others are highly under pressure of this formidable force and demand litigation. Whether China is the culprit behind the spread of the virus is an indubitable and highly ambiguous question. Whereas, the spread of virus certainly disrupted the functioning of society also looking on the bright side our earth is healing with harming human activities at halt.

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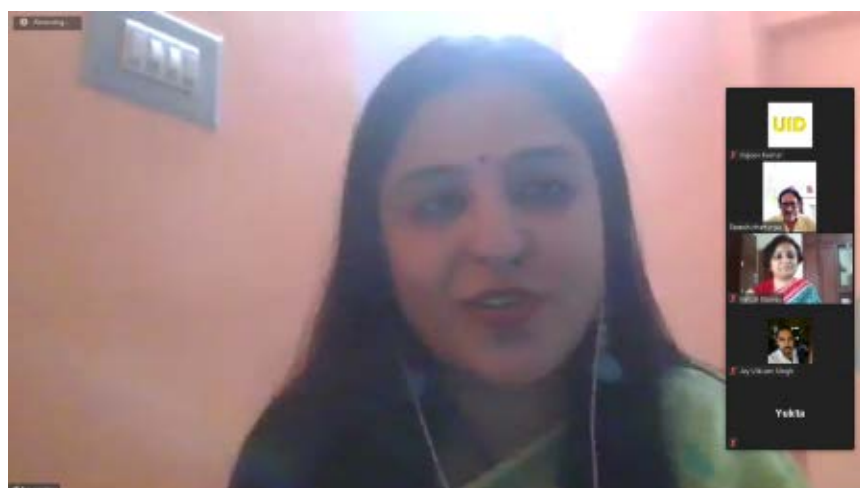
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CELEBRATING NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY

In an effort to create awareness and appreciation of Indian handlooms, the Government of India, has declared 7th August as National Handloom Day. It commemorates the start of the Swadeshi Movement, which was launched on 7th August 1905, in Calcutta.

The School of Fashion Design organized a virtual get together of all faculties and students, dressed in Indian handlooms, to share their own stories and experiences and celebrate the rich and diverse handlooms of our country.

The students were encouraged to share their pictures dressed in handloom fabric and the response was exhilarating with visuals of Ikat, Patola, Mekhala, Kota Doria, Tant, Mysore Silk, Maheshwari, among others, filling my inbox. To see the young generation appreciate these traditional textiles makes us hopeful for a future where these textiles become part of our everyday clothing vocabulary leading to upliftment of the weaves and weavers.



Faculties Pritam Saha, Kakoli Banerjee, Anahita Suri and HOD Taruna Vasu, dressed in Indian handlooms for the virtual session with all students. Image Credits: Paras Doulattramani.

Nandini Soni dressed in Patan Patola, Sujata Paul dressed in Jamdani and Shivani Singh dressed in Mysore silk. Image Credits: Nandini Soni, Sujata Paul and Shivani Singh.



Brinda Chapla in Kutch Shawl, Kinal Gandhi in Mysore Silk, Pragya Gupta dressed in Chikankari. Image Credits: Brinda Chapla, Kinal Gandhi & Pragya Gupta.

Aayushi Jaiswal dressed in Mekhala Chador, Divyanshi Sharan dressed in Tant Weave & Aditiba Gohil dressed in Maheshwari dupatta. Image Credits: Aayushi Jaiswal, Divyanshi Sharan & Aditiba Gohil.



FILMMAKER ABHISHEK JAIN INTERACTS WITH UWSB STUDENTS

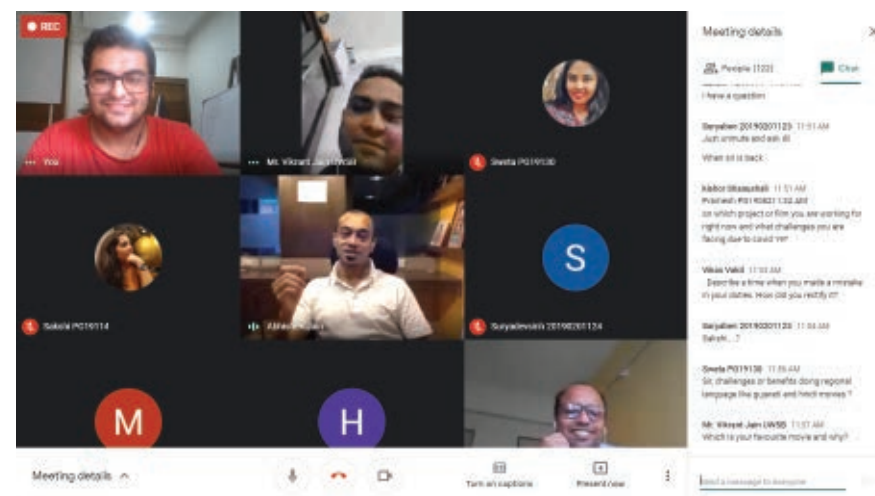
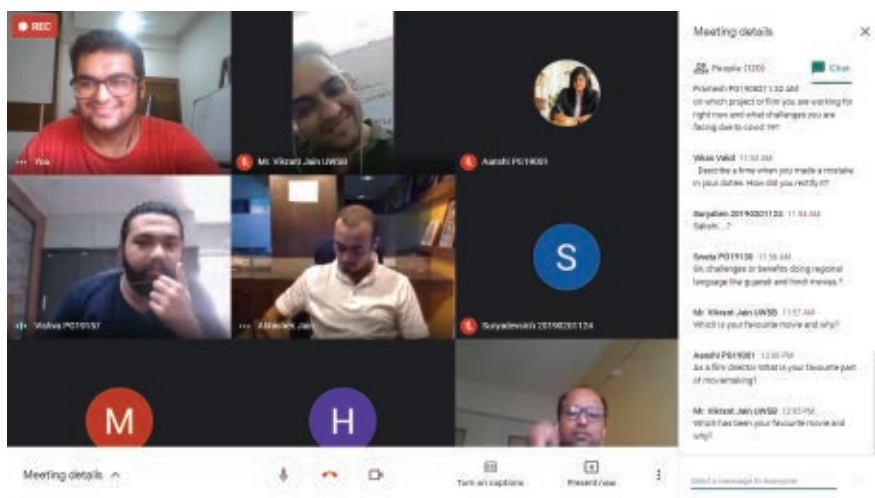
Students of Unitedworld School of Management, Karnavati University had an interactive webinar with the acclaimed director Abhishek Jain. Abhishek Jain is a filmmaker and the founder of CineMan Productions Ltd. one of the leading film production houses of Gujarat. Abhishek, at the age of 26, got recognized as a 'Trendsetter of the year 2012'. Mr. Abhishek Jain was welcomed by Dr. Kishor Bhanushali, Academic Director, UWSB. The event was anchored by Mohit Adhiya, the BBA 5th semester student.

The topic of the discussion was 'Filmmaking and Creative Pursuits in Business'. During the session, students asked a lot of questions related to the filmmaker's journey, choices, opinions, and views on the ongoing debate about nepotism, challenges of life, and why Gujarati film industry is his first choice.

Prior to starting CineMan, he was assistant director to Shubhash Ghai and associate director with Sanjay Leela Bhansali Films. At one point he realized his dream to revive the film industry in Gujarat and left the secured profile in the mainstream film industry to devote his talent to the regional cinema.

Abhishek's conviction has already created a benchmark at the beginning of his journey with a path-breaking feature film- 'Kevi Rite Jaish', which has settled a milestone for the Gujarati film industry, with its theatrical run of more than 100 days. His other works include blockbuster films like, 'Bey Yaar' and 'Wrong Side Raju'.

The entire session was engaging and insightful for the student fraternity. Moreover, the entire session was recorded so that it can be archived for later use. The vote of thanks was given by Surya Karavadara, a second-year BBA student. The webinar was coordinated by the faculty coordinator, Mr. Vikrant Jain.



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON REAL ESTATE

- By Arti Modi, Batch 2019-24, UWSL

The COVID-19 pandemic is now a truly global phenomenon with 2.6 billion people (a third of the world's population) now living under some sort of lockdown quarantine. The short-term human and economic impact is undeniable as people stay home, offices and shops close, and production stalls. Once the risk to human life has reduced and steps are taken back toward a fully productive economy, it is worth spending some time envisaging what this 'new normal' might look like. China is offering us some visibility on what this might be.

The current lockdown has brought the industry to a standstill position and the recovery curve will depend on the fiscal stimulus rolled out by the government. The ongoing Covid-19 outbreak and its impact on economy have pushed sentiment in real estate to its all-time lowest level in the quarter ended March. Both residential and commercial real estate sectors are expected to be hit in term of launches, sales and prices, showed a knight frank India survey. The residential sector which already had concerns of weak demand will find it difficult to launch new projects and complete the ongoing ones due to construction halts and labour shortage.

The level of uncertainty in the economy is currently at an all-time high with the trajectory of the recovery difficult to forecast. Although there has been no global joined-up policy response, individual countries have taken major steps to try to cushion their people and economies through this difficult period. We look to the economic outlook and policy steps, but would advise against putting too much weight on a specific-point forecast until the future pathway becomes clearer.

India, where the economic growth is already set to slow down to a record 11-year-low, a prolonged lockdown, which started from March 25, 2020 and has been extended till May 30, 2020, would further worsen the situation in Asia's third-largest economy. Note here that the lockdown in India is now in its fourth phase amid a dramatic rise in the number of infections. As on May 25, nearly 1.40 lakh Coronavirus infections were reported in India.

While the short-term negative impact of the pandemic on sales and launches cannot be negated, we expect the various support measures announced by the government and the RBI to yield positive results in the medium-term. Also, the lockdown is likely to bring about a major change in consumer behaviour, going forward. There already are early indications of this. While physical site visits to properties have stopped completely, online searches, as well as online bookings of apartments continue to take place. The adoption of digital platforms is likely to go up in the coming months. Much like mobile phone manufacturers that launch new products on a digital platform before a launch on traditional offline channels, we believe several real estate firms, particularly the reputed names, will adopt a similar strategy in the coming weeks and beyond. While, there will be a big question mark on the survival of the less renowned entities will arise because they have yet to prove their metal and establish trust amongst the buyers.

In the current age of economic crisis, where people are fired from their jobs and startups are losing their confidence in continuing business due to fear of meeting with the expenses, more chances of ongoing booking cancellations or late payment fashion will arise which will be a massacre for the ongoing real estate projects. The developers in the same scenario will find it difficult to complete the project due to lack of funds which will compel them to either obtain more and more financial facilities or to release their units for cheaper rates which will turn into a demotivating game for the small players, whereas it will turn into a paradise for the opportunist community who are having enough cash in hands.

There is a well established rule of economy that a business man never gives up putting efforts and will never prefer to see his boat sinking at the bank of river. Considering this rule absolute a standstill hope will always be there that likewise every segment, the Real Estate segment will also maintain its glory with a fantastic come back.



FIVE DAYS OF WASSUP USLM

- BY TEAM USLM

DAY 1

The first day started with a welcome note by Additional Director of USLM, Dr Preeti Das, and Senior Manager - Academic Administration and Assistant Professor Srotaswini Bhowmick. It was followed by introducing the students to the campus and the department. The newcomers got to know their faculties after each of the teachers gave their introduction through very captivating videos.

The key focus of the first day was the address by the guest speaker Shri Minal Rohit, the ISRO scientist behind the Mars Orbiter Mission. Minal inspired the attendees as she narrated her journey from being a student to achieving her dreams. Immediately after her session Karnavati University Provost Dr Deepak Shishoo addressed the students and the faculties and talked in detail about the student-teacher relationship. The freshers also got to know their senior batches during an informal session by the USLM student council members.

DAY 2

The day saw interaction with guests from varied fields.

While the admins of Mad Mughal Memes spoke about the convergence of humor and history in their memes, Aishwarya Joshi and Mayur Narvekar of Bandish Projekt spoke in length about their various musical acts. Besides these, the students got to have an interaction with the registrar of the University, Mr. Tariq Ali Saiyed. He resolved their queries related to the curriculum. The students also had an interaction with the IT team, wardens and various other staff from the university. The fun game "Make your own story" was a hit among the newcomers.

DAY 3

The third day began with a fun Q&A session with the faculties, followed by "Notes from the field" by NDTV correspondent Sukirti Dwivedi. The session focussed on interacting with these young professionals who has made a mark in her profession. The talk focussed around the importance of fieldwork, her story and how she does her stories. Besides her, world-renowned filmmaker Pan Nalin addressed the students. Professor Preeti Das was in conversation with award-winning director, who directed movies like Samsara, Valley of Flowers, Angry Indian Goddesses. Like every day, there was also a fun activity planned for the students. They had fun with seniors in "Never Have I Ever".

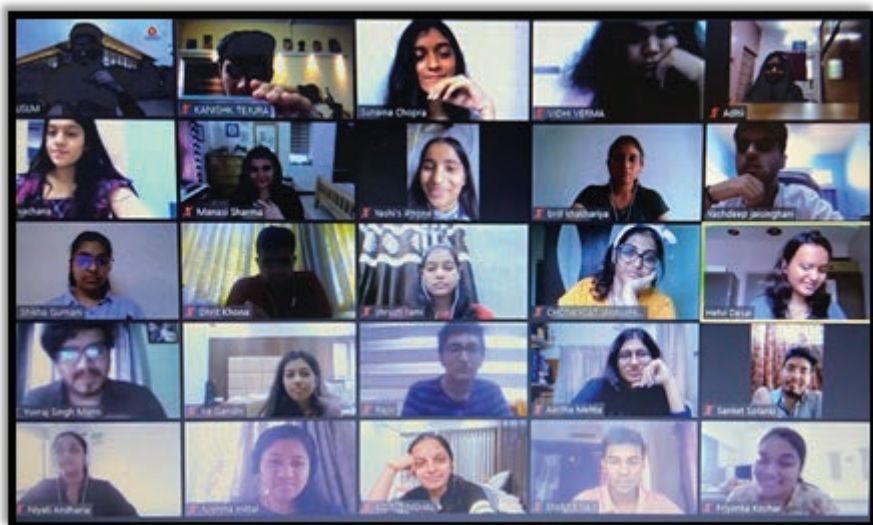
DAY 4

The fourth day started with an ice-breaker session with seniors, followed by a very engaging conversation with Hardik Mehta, a national award winner, writer of Patal Lok, director of the movie Kamiyaab and co-writer for the movies Queen and Trapped. The students of the psychology also had a great time listening to Dr Sam Manickam during "Maan Ki Baat". The students ended the day with a fun game "Ask us anything".

DAY 5

The last day was the day of stories as Vikram Sridhar, India's finest storyteller, spoke about the art and science of storytelling. Equally riveting were the stories by NDTV's Ravish Kumar as he spoke about his varied experience beyond the world of journalism.

The entire induction programme ended up with a talent show. After all, it's the talent that the USLM looks forward to and generates.



MINAL ROHIT – A WOMAN WHO LED INDIA'S MISSION TO MARS

– BY HETVI DESAI, SEM 5, USLM

The USLM Induction Programme 2020 – WassupUSLM – was organized for the youngest batch of the USLM.

The inauguration and the chief guest of the first session was Shri. Minal Rohit, who led India's mission to MARS.

She talked about her college life and motivated the students. She gave an advice to all the parents to let children fly high rather than giving them a safe shelter always. She said that everyone makes mistakes, but it should not deter them from flying high. "While flying high, they themselves will make a way," she said. She also gave an advice to students, "We are like atoms, we are just floating in the air. We just need to connect the dots." While working or studying, students do get chance to achieve something and do some great things for future, students need to only grab that opportunity and not just sit and imagine.

While taking about opportunities, she gave her example that she wanted to do something for her nation, and that's the reason she grabs the opportunity to bring her dream into life and not just sit on one place and dream about it.

She added, "Life is like a cricket game. Ball aapke paas aati rahegi, kabhi kahi jayega, miss wide ho jayega, but ek baar six lagega. So keep trying, you never know what is coming ahead." She also added by giving her own example, "We all need time to get a big success. MARS Mission came to me, but it took years to have a chance to work on a big project." Nothing comes in a day or two. Everyone needs to have patience, procedure and priorities to achieve big goals.

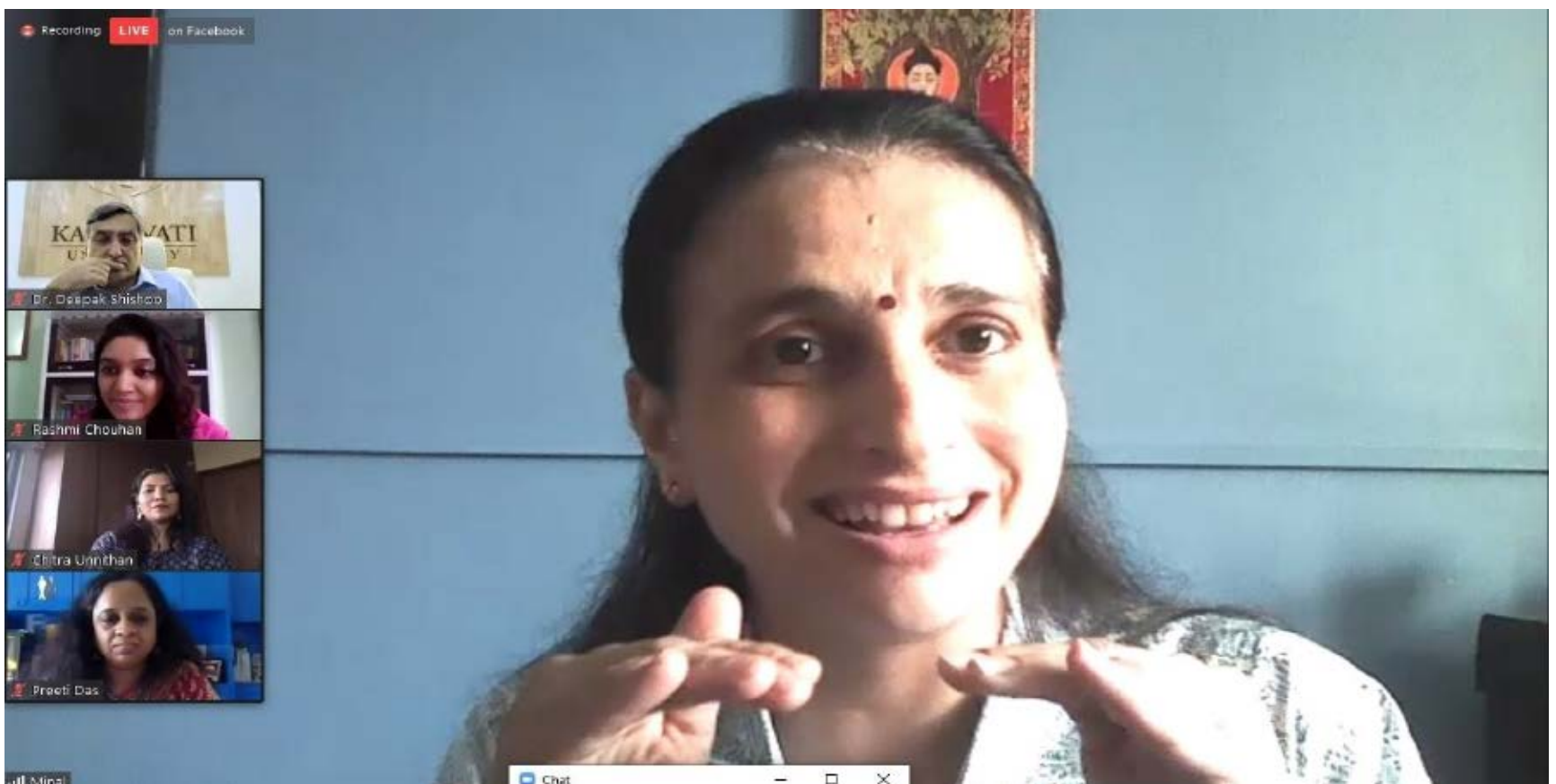
She also said, "Do your job to the fullest. There should be no 'chalega' attitude, otherwise your rocket will crash. By giving 100%, success comes easily." "Never give up on things, power is within you, just achieve it" She also touched gender issue in our nation. "There's nothing like gender, male-female. Think beyond that. There's a lot to do with that."

She also said, "We are bound because we cannot come out of our comfort zone, but we should." Humans always tend to do those things in which they are comfortable with. Minal Rohit said when the humans are comfortable, their comes a full stop in the success. She also added, "There are two kinds of lives to live, one is monotonous life and the other is like me who needs a change every now and then."

She believed that, "Other people who are just visiting or looking our nation, they are going to see our country through your eyes, so give best to our nation and feel proud of our nation."

She ended her note saying, "We as parents, always appreciate good things, but we never show faults while nurturing our kids while they are growing up." She advised the students to trust their dreams, have a drive and do anything to achieve your goals.

The session was conducted by Unitedworld School of Liberal Arts and Mass Communication faculty members, Chitra Unnithan and Rashmi Chouhan.



MINAL ROHIT

Space Scientist & Engineer, Project Manager, Methane Sensor for Mars (MSM)

IN CONVERSATION WITH MAD MUGHAL MEMES

- BY DISHA PUWAR, SEM 5, USLM

In its five-day induction programme, The Unitedworld School of Liberal Arts and Mass Communication (USLM) was in conversation with the creators of Mad Mughal Memes.

The session was hosted by Dr Anirban Bandyopadhyay, faculty at USLM, and Nandish Shah, a Semester III student.

Mad Mughal Memes, popularly MMM, has been invading the social media space since 2016. They are a bunch of young students combining history with humour and drawing a comparison between the contemporary issues and the past, which changes our perspective of classical Indian art and history. MMM is a multi-ethnic team of seven members. All the attendees thoroughly enjoyed an interactive session with admins named Birbal, Ruqaiya and Zauq.

During their conversation, they described different types of memes and cited a few famous and trendy memes such as "Lord of The Ring" and WWE John Cena memes. The MMM team also gave a detailed description of the elements of a meme in their presentation. When asked as to why they only choose the Mughal empire, admin Birbal replied, "The Mughal dynasty had some interesting monuments, artifacts, history and obviously the Mughlai food." Their main purpose of collaborating history and humour is that they want to spread "infotainment", which means spreading information and making their viewer's laugh at the same time, said admin Ruqaiya. They believe in making their followers happy and are committed to bringing smiles on their fans' faces on a daily basis. From the talk, the audience came to that biryani is a very important part of the Mughal empire and personally admin Zauq is a biryani lover. Biryani, too, is a very big source of formation of their meme content.

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WORLD MA FAMOUS HARDIK MEHTA

- BY Saachi Shah, Sem 3, USLM

The fourth day of the orientation of the new batch commenced with a National Award-winning film 'Amdavad Ma Famous', a short film by the guest of the session – writer and director Mr. Hardik Mehta.

The film, which was ardently liked the world over, and won six awards in total. One of them is National Film Award for Best Non-Feature Film at 63rd National Film Awards for 2015 and many other international awards in 2016.

The film set the tone for a brilliant conversation with Mr. Mehta who calls himself a storyteller by heart.

Mr Mehta and students discussed his films Kaamyaab, Queen, Trapped, Lootera, and the web series Paatal Lok that he co-wrote, among many other projects. Apart from throwing light on the various aspects of researching, scriptwriting and film making, he invoked varied reactions when he discussed the use of abusive language in scripts, rejected the notion of 'creative blocks' or talked about 'over-romanticizing struggle' in Bollywood.

He calls himself a patriot who wants to show the grassroots problems in our society. He said that one needn't directly be a filmmaker. Rather, one needs to know one's roots and explore different cultural diversities, read a lot and most important keep an eye on the ground. He is also a minute observer and always see a positive side in a negative one.

He left the students with many points to ponder upon after a really engaging and insightful session.

The session was hosted by USLM faculty Chitra Unnithan, and Semester 3 student Nitesh Sangtani.



EXPLORING FIREBRAND INDIAN WOMEN: FILMMAKER PAN NALIN

- BY SRUSHTI MANIAR, SEM 3, USLM

One of the Indian filmmakers to achieve worldwide critical and commercial triumph



Pan Nalin is truly an international filmmaker; he won the Audience Choice Award, First-Runner-up for ANGRY INDIAN GODDESSES at the Toronto International Film Festival, 2015.

The Unitedworld School of Liberal Arts and Mass Communication had the opportunity to invite Mr. Pan Nalin to our #WassupUSLM Induction Programme 2020 for a small session to motivate and enlighten our newcomers.

Mr. Nalin always dreamt of doing a film with firebrand Indian women in lead roles, purely out of rebel spirit because shockingly 96% of women's roles in Bollywood are only for "decoration", or being a lover, mother, or a sister who sacrifices everything for her family.

He also mentioned that the film had emotional parallelism in many scenes with a surprise element at every point so that the audience feels inspired to debate and open their minds to new cultures. According to him, a 'Goddess' is anyone with Power (men too). He also talked about his first film, "Samsara" where he brought the concepts of Spirituality and Sexuality together along with the ideologies of Buddhist monks.

In an industry where women are mostly used as mere "decoration", the woman power is coming at full force- thanks to people like Mr. Pan Nalin. In the end, he encouraged the students to think out-of-the-box, instead of the usual stereotypes and always have fun while exploring new ideas.

He gave us an insight into the world of storytelling and how he was inspired by his parents and his childhood memories, playing with lens and light.

He mentioned that he always had strong female characters in his films, be it in Samsara or Valley of Flowers because he did not want to make another male-centric movie such as Rang De Basanti and Dil Chahta Hai.

In his film, Angry Indian Goddesses, he talked about how the idea for a 'female buddy' film came into his mind. Kali's manifestation in the film along with the modern women's issues were brought into the spotlight as well. While filming, he asked the female co-writers and actresses to improvise and nourish the script. He didn't want it to be a 'male-bashing film'.



MANN KI BAAT WITH SAM MANICKAM

– BY Riya Rajani, Sem 5, USLM

The penultimate day of WassUp USLM saw an interesting and informative session by Dr. L.S.S. Manickam. One can call Dr. Sam Manickam a brain science VIP, unquenchable analyst, creator, educator and an international Gestalt Therapist.

He began the session by talking about mental wellness and psychology. He said that mental health is not the “absence of mental illness” but more than that. It is about a person’s well-being, it is realising individual’s ability to cope with things and can work productively.

In India, people are usually not comfortable to talk about any problem associated with their mental health, he said. They don’t want to acknowledge it and share it with anyone.

He said that brain research has its roots in India and the lessons are in “Upanishads”. Psychology is not only the brain, mind, soul and spirit but is more than that. He also addressed the difference between mental health and physical health. The mind and the body are not different but interdependent, he said. What happens to our physical health always has an impact on our mental health.

Dr. Sam also spoke about Gestalt therapy. He said the therapy talks about what is “NOW”. An individual who is present here at the moment, no past and future attached, not being anxious about what happened in the past or what will happen in the future. It’s not completely forgetting the past but moving on with a lesson and experience and not holding it back.

He highlighted the importance of physical wellness and fitness for performing day-to-day activities.

Dr. Sam talked about his early life and journey while pursuing Psychology. There were many incidents, the people, abnormal and strange behaviour that made him think about such things and led him to study it.

During the meeting, he interacted with the students and professors and addressed their queries.



ONCE UPON A TIME AND EVER AFTER WITH VIKRAM SRIDHAR

- By Arti Modi, Batch 2019-24, UWSL

The last day of the induction programme of the news batch at the UnitedWorld School of Journalism and Mass Communication was taken to another level as the key speaker was Mr. Vikram Sridhar, one of the finest storytellers of India. This former mechanical engineer uses storytelling to break stereotypes. Vikram is the mind behind the story Tree, a conservation initiative through storytelling. He is also a frequent TEDx speaker.

He started off the session by asking fun questions like "What did you all have in breakfast?" and taught some asana as well. Then he told a very interesting story behind his name "Vikram". The way he narrated stories was magical reflecting varied emotions gracefully.

He said that from his childhood days, he was intrigued by the laws of nature and wildlife. Even while being on the job, he always saved time for animals and visit rescue centers and work with them for conservation.

He also spoke about his love for theatre. He used to work in production and watch different plays where he learned how the stories can bring a big change in society. He started volunteering and held storytelling sessions at weekends for children. He started his own theatre group Tahatto in Bangalore.

He said that as children we tend to build notions about animals, for example, a fox as cunning or a snake as cruel, but that is untrue because they are as beautiful as any other animal. He developed his confidence in storytelling through animals. He wanted to break the stereotypes of the stories that we have heard or bound to hear. The session became much more interesting and fun at the same time when he used different animal characters in his stories and played flute whenever there was a change of scene. His way of narrating the story was so unique and attractive that it astounded the audience.



RAVISH KUMAR: A FIGMENT OF CULTURAL PROFOUNDNESS

– BY VIVEK LUHANA, SEM 3, USLM

Wassup USLM, Induction programme 2020, was nothing less than a pageant. It was a unison of fun and learning, a harmony of ambition and knowledge on a melodious note of remarkable and diverse speakers to which students together with faculties grooved with zest and cheerfulness. It was a wonderful takeaway for students of the latest batch (2020) of Unitedworld School Of Liberal Arts & Mass Communication (USLM), as it exposed them to harvest the wisdom and experience from a bunch of magnificent personalities in India. It also assisted the contemporary batch (2019) with the scope to evolve and prove their true potential and talent while functioning beside the nitty-gritty of the professional domain. The five-day prolonged fest was concluded by Ramon Magsaysay Award (2019) winner Shri Ravish Kumar.

Mr. Ravish Kumar is a journalist, author and the senior executive editor at NDTV India. The session started off by exhibiting a video crafted by a bunch of skillful students from Semester III, which took the audience to a humble tour of the life of Mr. Ravish Kumar. An opening speech was presented by Semester III student Yuvraj Singh Mann and the session was coordinated by the professor and additional director of USLM Preeti Das.

The level of uncertainty in the economy is currently at an all-time high with the trajectory of the recovery difficult to forecast. Although there has been no global joined-up policy response, individual countries have taken major steps to try to cushion their people and economies through this difficult period. We look to the economic outlook and policy steps, but would advise against putting too much weight on a specific-point forecast until the future pathway becomes clearer.

India, where the economic growth is already set to slow down to a record 11-year-low, a prolonged lockdown, which started from March 25, 2020 and has been extended till May 30, 2020, would further worsen the situation in Asia's third-largest economy. Note here that the lockdown in India is now in its fourth phase amid a dramatic rise in the number of infections. As on May 25, nearly 1.40 lakh Coronavirus infections were reported in India.

Mr Kumar broadly spoke about his journey and his life after stepping into the world of journalism. He forged qualities like humility, aestheticism and diversity in people and the culture around as the foundation of his talk. He paraphrased how observation and communication with people around make one more permeable towards diversity in our culture and society.

He simplified the significance of humility in a person; the better one converses, the more knowledge and ideas one extracts, where humility caters as a communication tool which eventually makes one an evolved person. Journalism is a quest for stories and everyone has a story to tell. "Par bahut gussa hai logo me," he added, so humility and benevolence along with communicating, reading and writing make one a distinct storyteller. "System bahar na dikhe to logo me zarur dikh jaayega," he stated. The more one communicates, the more refined story one crafts, he said. Talking and interacting with people will get you more immersed in the system and culture around, he added.

"Apna bharosa samaj par kayam karna hai," a journalist must be a humanist first, he said. One must inspire and look for goodness in people and society, as grudge can inhibit but modesty and benevolence would cater to one's creativity and knowledge. He explained the ramifications of technology on our memory and thinking patterns and how it relegates the diversity of knowledge and imagination. He talked about enjoying and getting the best out of whatever one chooses to work for. He emphasized the significance of reading and writing, learning more about our history, culture and the contemporary society around and clarified how all these would eventually make an individual realize the organic beauty of diversity in our society. He shared his interpretation of the legacy of culture and courage in Gujarat. "Sahas koi sharirik chiz nahi, dum hota hai irado me," he reckoned, talking about the significance of courage, as long as you believe in oneself there is nothing one cannot achieve.

Mr. Ravish Kumar is one of the most transparent and shrewd orators in the sphere of broadcast journalism. In the end, he assessed the entire talk and averred, humility is of supreme importance and humanism must be the way ahead because hatred depletes creativity in a person. Negativity and grudge elude us from the aestheticism of the world around us. We must keep learning our culture, tradition and encourage diversity. One must harbour a hunger towards learning. Knowledge must be sought after and that wisdom ought to be used for the betterment of society. He navigated students to read, write and share their stories, for how these qualities would serve as a cradle for the essence of their personalities.





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