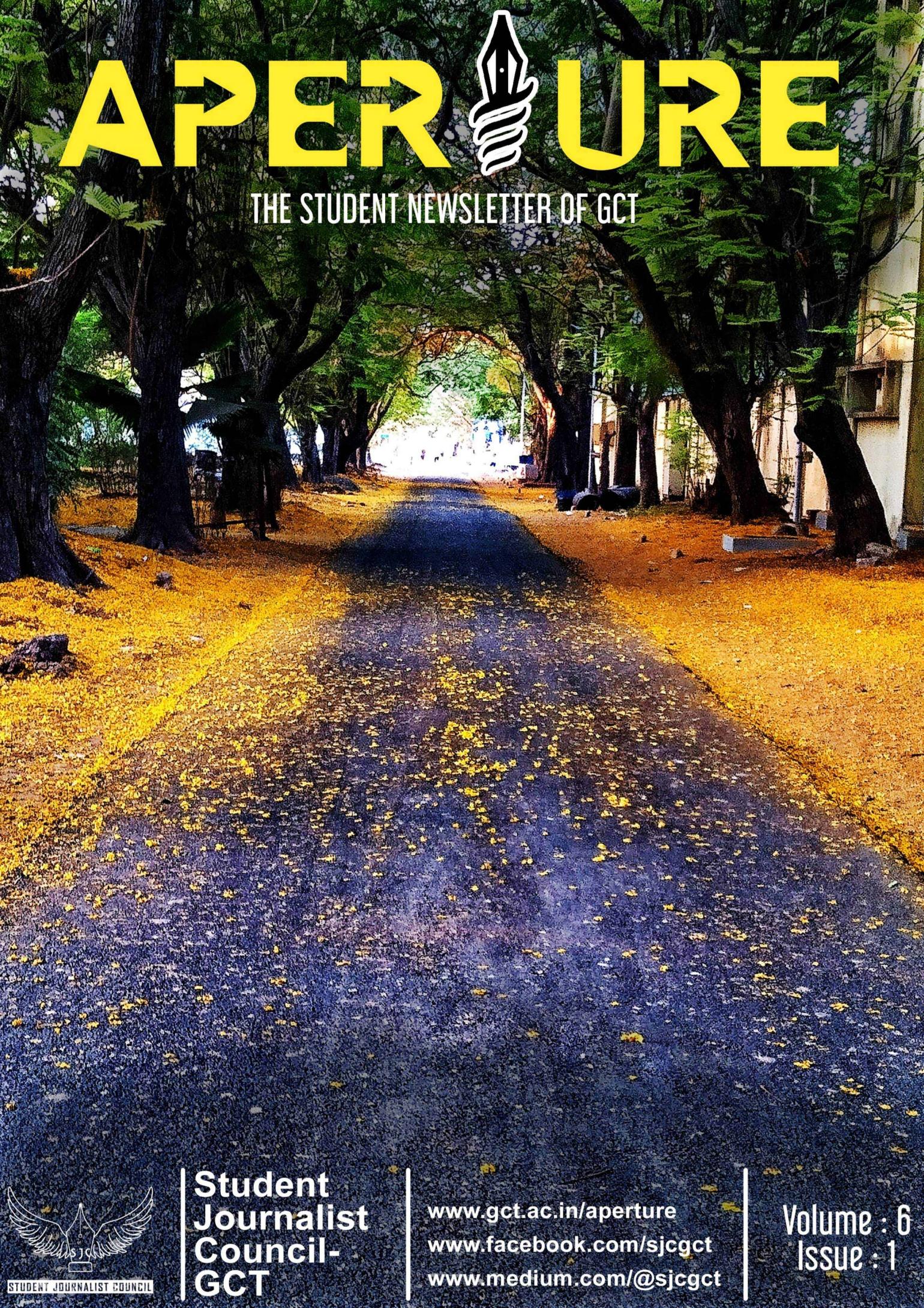


APERURE



THE STUDENT NEWSLETTER OF GCT



STUDENT JOURNALIST COUNCIL

**Student
Journalist
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GCT**

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**Volume : 6
Issue : 1**

Hello!

We feel delighted and honoured to present you this edition of Aperture. In this volume, we have made sincere efforts in curating the articles and hope each of them turn out to be interesting reads. People who worked for this edition - the writers, reporters, photographers, cartoonists and designers had an incredible time crafting this newsletter, and we believe this gets reflected in the articles.

2019-20 was a decent year for the club. In the initial months of the year, we faced a peculiar challenge. Social media platforms had evolved significantly and had resulted in the segregation of our audiences on different platforms. Notably, the number of people who had left Facebook for Instagram was high. Also, a large number of people from the alumni community had been actively engaging on LinkedIn. We realised the necessity to provide them with the possibility to learn what is happening inside the campus. Hence, at SJC, we decided to increase our presence on Instagram and LinkedIn to reach our audiences.

We desired to leverage our existing blog presence to provide people with an opportunity to voice their opinion on matters of national and international importance. We published a total of 24 articles on our Medium handle, the highest ever in a single academic year. All the stories published received appreciation and sparked meaningful conversations amongst our followers. Humans of GCT, our attempt to capture the soul of the institution, witnessed a much-needed revival. Instagram Story Quiz, a novel effort in educating our readers through fun, has genuinely helped people in getting through the lockdown period.

We, as editors of the club, are fortunate enough to have worked with the best crew we could have ever wished to get. All the members had the zeal to work tirelessly for a noble cause, and the spirit continued throughout the year. Apart from our members, the freshers we had the chance to interact with showed huge potential too! Personally, SJC has always been our favourite club and shall forever hold a special place in our hearts. The things we have learnt, the people we got introduced to, and the memories we made with them will stay with us forever.

With all said, we hope you have a great time reading this edition. We are open to all kinds of comments and opinions. Please email us your feedback at sjcgct@gmail.com. We will be grateful for your warm reception and honest feedback!

To keep you all updated throughout, we are also working on having a website. Until then, stay connected with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Medium!

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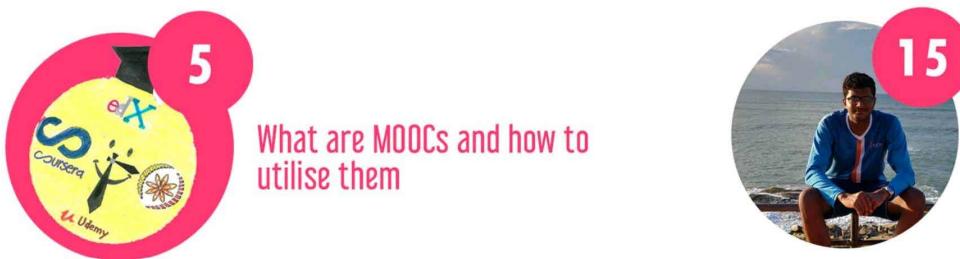
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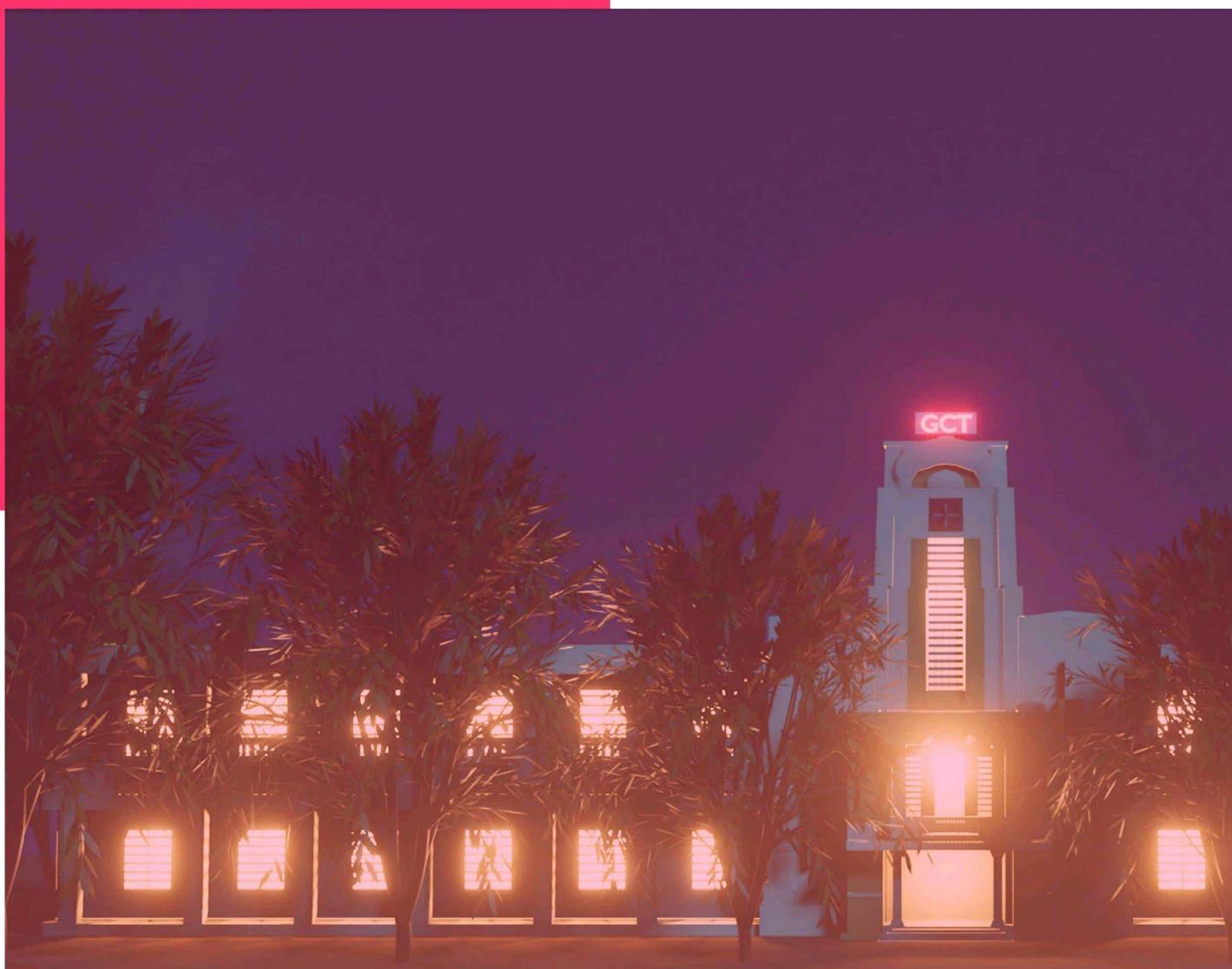
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அதென்ன மிருக காதல்?



GCT - 75 years of building careers and memories!

AJAI KANNAN K

Stepping into college after school must have been an important step ahead in most of our lives. It is only at college where we get the opportunity to push ourselves, get out of our safe zones and prepare ourselves for the ultimate test, which is life itself. And a good educational institution is obliged to make a student understand what his innate potential is, apart from just imparting quality education. While a few of us would have spent numerous hours analysing the rankings and placement records of colleges to narrow down to a single college, others would have had the privilege of our parents deciding what would work the best for us. Consequently, a huge chunk of us would not have known anything about GCT before we joined our courses.

The experience of exploring the campus for the first time will always remain in our memories. Almost all of us would have spent a minute to stand back and gaze upon the mighty main building during our first visit. The names of prominent figures engraved on the foundation stones at almost every establishment inside the campus must have revealed the fact that we are not going to be studying in just another college, in a state full of colleges. For a first-time GCT visitor, the campus size, buildings and establishments, playground, student population and diversity, the frondescence, and almost everything about GCT is Herculean.



However, when it comes to colleges, a big college doesn't necessarily mean it is a good one. Having a decent placement record doesn't make one either. Of course, these factors come into play when we attempt to quantify how good a college is, and where it stands when compared to other colleges. The team of teaching faculty at GCT put in their best efforts to ensure the college doesn't lose points in this aspect. They give their hearts, minds and souls to provide us with the things they consider essential to our success and valuable for our future. Inheriting this quality of service is the ultimate achievement a student graduating out of the college could make.

In addition to the quantifiable perks, there are quite a few intangible benefits that go a long way in shaping a student's personality once he graduates and sets foot into the society. Providing the student with a platform to experiment and fail, allowing him/her to collect mulligans to ensure he/she has learnt from the mistakes made is one such intangible perk.

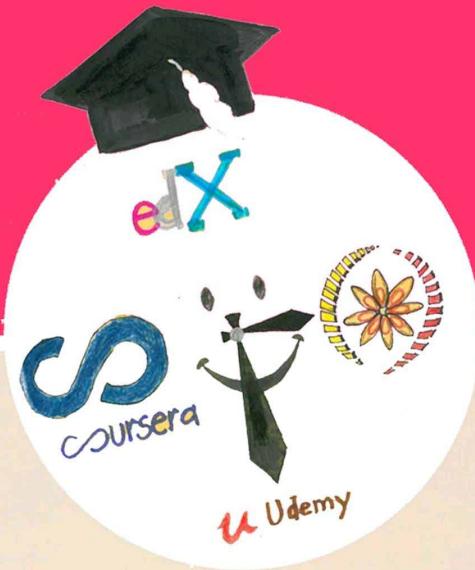
The entire campus is a standing testimony to tons of unforgettable memories. If the walls of the classrooms had ears, they would know more Engineering than all of us combined. The walls of the gallery echo the sounds of every Batch day/birthday celebration it has witnessed. If someone had a documentation of all the works of art ever displayed on the Oval, it would have beautifully captured the transformation of the cultural scape inside the campus. And the auditorium must feel proud when every kid who once used to perform and have fun inside its walls comes back to the same place to deliver his/her success story. Every time a student batch from the past decade or century assemble here for a reunion, they see themselves through us and long for the days they spent here. After all, who would want to forget the experiences of waking up at 8.45, rolling out of our beds, wearing whatever least dirty pair of attire comes out of our bags and still managing to make it to the class before the Professor arrives!

The active engagement of the alumni community in the college affairs is a unique aspect that distinguishes GCT from its competition. From building new infrastructure, recruiting our students in their firms and providing financial support through scholarships to connecting with students personally and guiding them in making career decisions, they do everything for the welfare of the students. We can confidently assert that no other premier engineering institute in Tamil Nadu has an alumni community that is at least half as active as ours. This attitude of giving back to the college is what our patron, G.D. Naidu, must have wished to instil in the minds of his students when he laid the foundation for the college!

The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of GCT. For more than seven decades, the college has been honouring its commitment to educating and uplifting the lives of thousands of students. The college has stood the test of time and has witnessed major scientific and cultural revolutions and accepted them with grace! It has created best friends and even life partners out of people from different walks of life irrespective of religion, race, ethnicity or caste and will continue to do the same. It has made each one of us kings and queens in its wonderful kingdom; a kingdom where its rulers hardly care about governing, and instead, celebrate every passing moment!

What are MOOCs and how to utilise them

AKSHAYA M



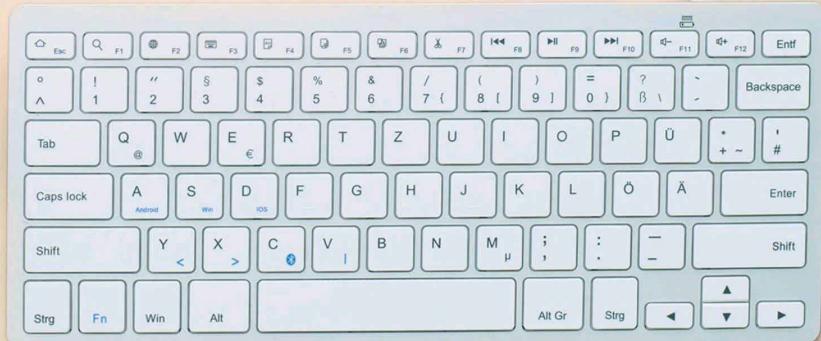
We all go to college, learn stuff and earn grades. In fact, most of us attend classes just for the sake of grades. Gaining knowledge and understanding how stuff works is almost always off our priority list. The advent of internet has left a huge impact in the way we learn. Books and teachers are no more the only sources of knowledge. Moreover, the skill sets required for various professions are becoming unique and the universities cannot teach every skill the industries expect. This is where MOOCs come into play.

Before getting to know what a MOOC is, it is important to understand technology enhanced learning (Tel). Tel is where learning is enhanced by electronic journals, e-books, digitized libraries, social networking spaces and MOOC courses. MOOC stands for Massive Open Online Course. They are courses run online by universities worldwide where participants from around the world can enrol and learn. It was first introduced in the year 2006 and it emerged as a popular mode of learning around circa 2012. A MOOC is formally defined as a course which is open, participatory, distributed and supports lifelong networked learning.



The most important perk of a MOOC is that it is free, at least in theory. With a large number of universities joining the MOOC bandwagon, there is practically no reason for us to restrain from taking up MOOC courses and learning.

Though there are a large number of MOOC platforms, the prominent ones have been discussed here



NPTEL - SWAYAM

SWAYAM is a MOOC portal which was created as a programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development with the help of Microsoft. Various central universities run a large number of Online courses through the SWAYAM portal. Courses from various domains such as Business, Science, Humanities and Linguistics are offered. Under SWAYAM, all courses are offered free of cost, however a nominal fee is levied in case we opt for a certification exam. The science and technology courses on SWAYAM are offered by NPTEL, which is another initiative fully funded by the MHRD and coordinated by various IITs.



A fair number of students are aware of NPTEL and its existence. However, most of us are unaware of its perks and the flexibility it offers and credit Transfer is one such option. For every 4-week course provided under NPTEL, 1 credit is awarded upon certification and for 8- and 12-weeks courses, 2 and 3 credits are awarded respectively. When a certificate for the course is submitted to the university for verification, applicable credits are included in the marksheets provided by the university. In some cases, we can even avoid studying an elective course, if the course we complete is recommended by the professors upon review.

Coursera

It is a US based MOOC platform that partners with top universities and organizations worldwide. It offers courses, specializations and even degrees in various domains and subjects.

There are 3 types of paid and unpaid courses in Coursera. In the first type, we can learn the course and access the assignments for free but if we need certificates, we will have to pay. In second type, the courses are completely free and no certificates are provided upon completion. In the third type, we can access the course materials through an audit option; however, access to assignments and certificates are available only to paid users.



Apart from individual courses, Coursera also runs specializations in which a series of related courses are provided enabling us to master a specific domain. Accessing and completing specializations requires a paid subscription.

Unlike SWAYAM and NPTEL, Coursera is a profit-for organisation. However, this does not stop Coursera from offering thousands of courses to students for free learning. Almost every course available through Coursera comes with a financial aid option which we can opt for. Once our application for financial aid is approved, we can access the assignments and earn certificates for free.

Moreover, all the courses available through Coursera are self-paced, which means we can enrol and finish the courses as per our own schedule.

edX



edX is again a US based MOOC provider and is a Non-profit organisation. It is very similar to Coursera where we learn for free and pay for certificates. Many universities worldwide run a large number of courses, MicroMasters programmes and Degrees through edX. A MicroMasters programme in edX is similar to what Coursera calls a specialization. A large number of courses available through edX are self-paced. edX also comes with a Financial aid option that offers up to 90% discount for courses.

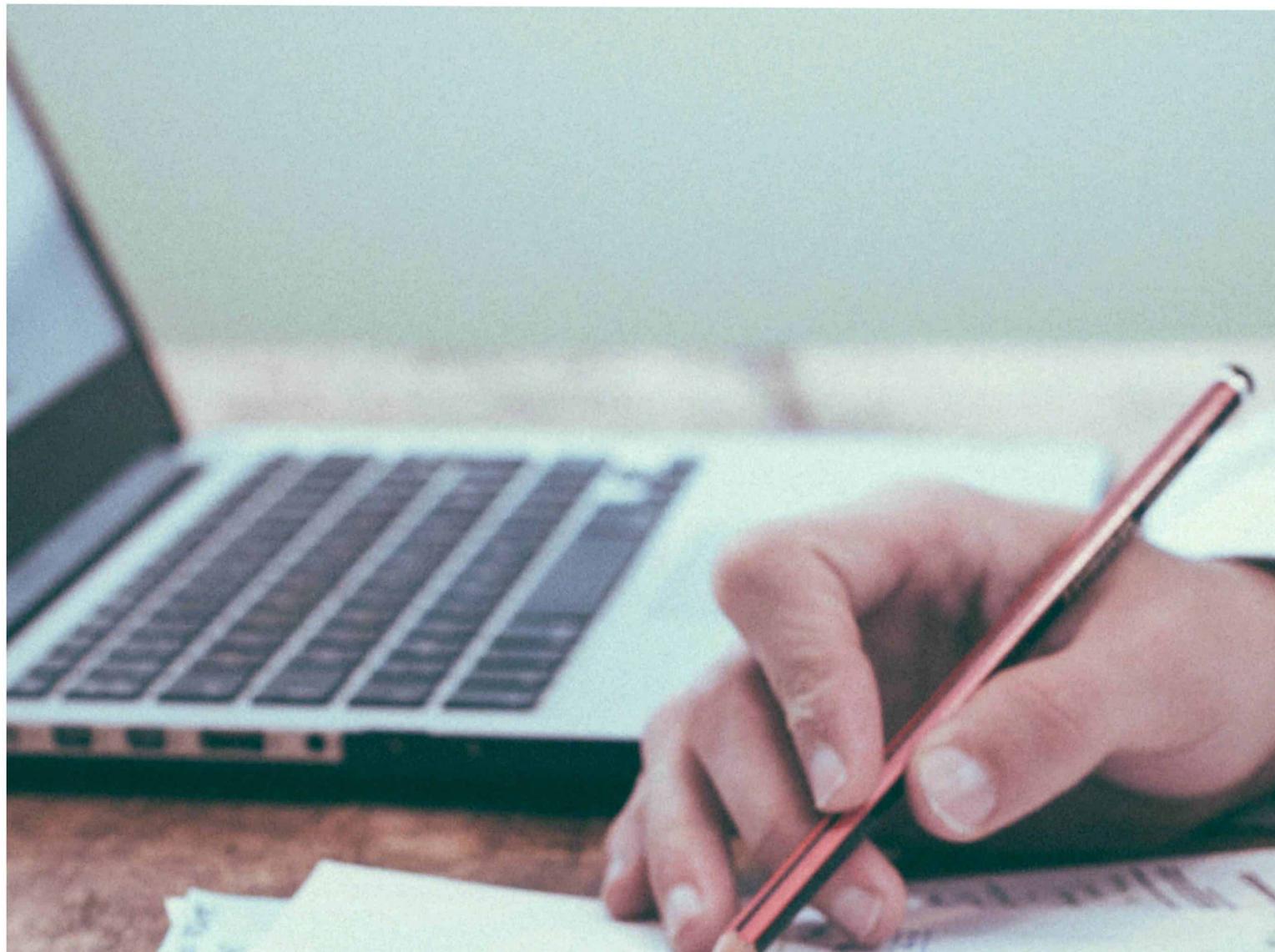


Udemy

Udemy is yet another MOOC provider where the courses are offered by individual instructors instead of universities or organisations. Therefore, the certificates offered are not accredited. Because of its instructor friendly nature, it is able to offer courses under a wide range of categories. Depending on the instructor, the courses offered can be either free or paid. Udemy is best known for the variety of courses it offers though the quality of content in most of these courses is often debatable.

Other MOOC providing platforms worth checking out include Udacity, Allison, MIT OpenCourseWare, Harvard Extension etc.

In a recently published Global Skills Index by Coursera, India is found to be lagging behind skills in most of the categories. The major reason for this could be the lack of awareness about the existence of such effective learning platforms. MOOCs are excellent examples of technology simplifying lives. As there is nothing that is stopping us from enjoying MOOCs, all that is left for us is to enrol and start learning!



A Tribute to

The greatest form of entertainment

AMUTHAN M



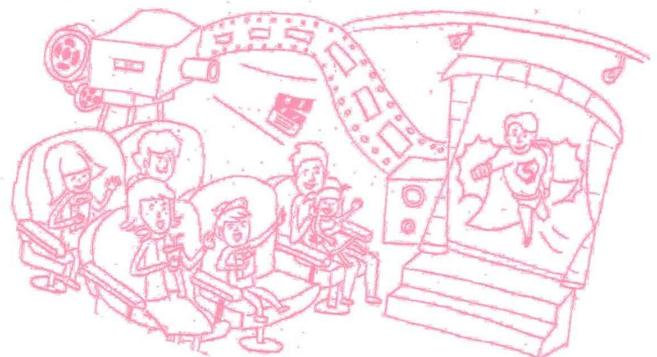
"The best movies are made from a point of view of an understanding of human nature and an understanding of history and an understanding of what motivates people, of what makes a good movie from an emotional place."

Harrison Ford

Entertainment platforms evolve every day with the rapid evolution of their tone, style and medium. From Shakespeare's stage dramas to Edison's Kinetoscope, the medium through which the story is delivered to us, the audience, has changed significantly. It is these platforms through which we forget our own tragic lives and enjoy comedy dramas or even compare ours with the tragedy being narrated. From peasants to dukes, each one of us has our own reasons to consume this precious entertaining medium. The fact that cinema has emerged as the biggest business element in the world is a standing testimony to the support it has been able to garner and retain from the various sections of the society.

Movies have always been classified according to their genre. A genre can be viewed as a tag that reveals the behavior of a movie to the audience. Crime, drama, biography, comedy, noir etc. are examples for genres. Developing a sense of liking for a particular genre often boils down to the individual's tastes and the spectrum of choices.

Biographies tend to motivate many people. In these movies, the task of providing satisfaction to the audience is given the first priority.



Most of us who play cricket would have absolutely celebrated movies like M.S.Dhoni - The Untold Story and Sachin – A Billion Dreams. We were simply thrilled by the possibility of seeing the lives of our role models at least once in the big screen. In general, whenever the lives of such role models portrayed in the big screen receive appreciation from others, it satisfies their fanbase. In some ways, these movies act as a guide for the people who want to become like the protagonist in their own lives. Evidently, the ultimate selling point of the biography genre is that it is inspiring. Audience get to see through their own eyes the transformation of ordinary men and women into heroes in times of dire needs.

Is it only biography that encourages people to meet their goals?

Sometimes, fiction can do it too. MS Dhoni – The Untold Story inspired many cricketers and street cricketers not just because it portrayed the life of Dhoni, but also because of the passion they carry for the sport. It would not be surprising to find a large portion of this crowd enjoying works of fiction like Jersey (Telugu), Jeeva (Tamil) and Kana (Tamil). This applies not only to cricket or sports in general, but also to other hobbies and professions like music, dance, film making among others. Biographies like Steve Jobs and Social Network (Mark Zuckerberg) have inspired and instigated the fire in many people to start their own business or organization.

People love to empathize themselves with fictional characters. The character of Joker is an excellent example from recent times. The character is crafted in such a way where a low-profile nice guy, when attacked by the society repetitively in a mentally brutal manner, pledges to exert his revenge. The irony here is people from all walks of life could relate their lives to that of Joker, irrespective of the differences. They believed their turn to become Joker was imminent and that becoming a psychopath would help them face the worst situations in life. Thus, in this case, a fictional character has literally manipulated the reality of people.



A comment on the Joker without mentions about his universe would make the fandom go crazy. The Joker lives in a universe where god tier human beings, the Superheroes, save the world from evil, pretty often. Hence, people love Superheroes like Batman, Superman and Ironman. Film studios make a large number of superhero movies these days as the concept sells like hot cakes which again would mean more money. In earlier times, these movies didn't have worshippers and the movies kind of struggled to sell that many tickets. Therefore, it was not a sound idea to produce them then. But what makes them commercially successful now?

The answer is current adults. These people grew up with these comics. The primary consumers of comics, who were children back are now adults. For instance, if an 8-year-old boy liked X-Men the animated series in the 90's, the 30-year-old present version of him would love to spend his income to watch X-Men movies, just to relive the nostalgia. Superhero movies establish a strong emotional connection with its audience, that transcends through the ages.

Apart from satisfying the tastes of individuals, movies are also aimed at satisfying the tastes of a certain group, such as families and friends. The Comedy genre is a universally liked genre. This is because, it is the genre in which the plot is narrated in much simpler ways and thus not difficult to understand for the wide age range of audience. The Mr.Bean movies are liked by the young and the old alike. The slapstick style of comedy is the sole reason why the show has such a large fanbase. This success can also be attributed to the fact that comedy makes people overlook their anxiety and depression and provide peace. After all, who wouldn't like to laugh heartily and live happily?

Human emotions are hugely reflected in movies. Hope, Love and Friendship are a few qualities humans carry which helps the most in achieving emotional connection with other people. Movies like The Shawshank Redemption, The Pursuit of Happyness, Mayakkam enna(Tamil), Ethir Neechal (Tamil) and Uyare (Malayalam) emphasize the importance of having hope. Still now it is inspiration for "Not giving up" attitude for many. 3 Idiots wonderfully talked about the concept of the Friendship. These movies are referred to as "Feel good" movies since they present people and life in a way which makes the people who watch it feel happy and optimistic. They tend to reestablish our lost faith in humanity. Movies like Charlie(Malayalam), Anbe sivam (Tamil), Comali, Forrest Gump are excellent movies of this genre

Movies that are based on a particular demographic capture the people and its culture in a wonderful way. For instance, the Godfather trilogy was appreciated widely by Italians since it portrayed their culture magnificently. The opening scene of Godfather has influenced almost every film that narrates the rise of a gangster in portraying the culture of the local demographic. Tarantino has imitated the Western pop culture and its references to perfection in almost all of his works.

A suitable example from India would be Chetan bhagat's works. They perfectly depict the culture and taboo surrounding Indian relationships, and the lifestyle differences across various castes and states. When we talk about diversity in the Indian culture, it is an obligation to talk about masterpieces like Devdas.

Devdas is a Bengali romance novel written by Sarat Chandra Chatterjee. The novel has been made into films in many Indian languages. The availability of multiple adaptions of the same storyline enables us to compare and contrast the differences in the portrayal. With more than 15 films released already, Devdas still remains an empathized character for many men who turned out to be failures in their love affairs. The Devdas phenomenon is not just Indian, every country and every language has got their own fictional characters like Devdas, which are empathized. Shakespeare's Romeo-Juliet or Ganjavi's semi-historical Persian poem Layla Majnun are notable examples.



Apart from these genres, there are thrillers and action flicks which aren't really followed for any particular reason. However, a 120-minute thriller movie with a gripping screenplay has in it the potential of fulfilling the ultimate purpose of filmmaking i.e. entertainment. Moreover, these films are thoroughly enjoyed by franchise fanboys and the particular actor's fans.

Films that are strong on the technical side serve as an inspiration for aspiring filmmakers. The argument of liking a movie is really subjective, since the tastes of the audience vary vehemently, and what is loved by one faction might come across absurd for others. Every art form ever created like, stage drama, puppet show and finally in modern era cinema, symbolically represents social unity in the form of entertainment. The purpose of art is entertainment and there is no discrimination when it comes to entertaining. Despite the audience's economic or social status, the quality and quantity of entertainment art delivers to each of them is the same. There is no religion, caste and racism inside a theatre. People are only categorized by their taste in cinema. Generically, they are all celebrating the greatest form of art.

The Victory that we all celebrated !

GANESH KUMAR S

We all live in an era, where the abilities and knowledge of a Government college student is questioned in every possible situation. Amidst all this, the students of Government College of Technology, Coimbatore are proving it very wrong in all the possible opportunities they get. One such grand victory that every corner of the college celebrated is the victory of "Team Panamera" in the Smart India Hackathon held at KIET group of Institutions, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The team consists of 6 final year students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering namely Abitha, Balakumaran, Bhuvan Bharath, Moulii Dharan, Bharani and Karthick. The team did wonders in the complex category, successfully presenting their project in " ". Let us jump into the stories behind their victory.



On asked about how all the things began, the most common answer was that the knowledge about the event was acquired from an article about the SIH event and that served as the starting point. Another interesting answer that we got was from Abitha, who stated that she came to know about the event only after when the students were rushing their adrenaline, running in a deadline to get their problem statement and mentor fixed! Any successful team must have the right combination to get things done right. The Team Panamera was initiated by the two masterminds- Balakumaran and Bhuvan Bharath, and as the event rule stated to have a girl member in the squad, Abitha- the only Mechanical girl of the batch was indeed an automatic selection! The rest of the team was selected and formed purposefully based on the type of project they worked on. Dr. K. Ramesh heard out to their problem statement and accepted to be their mentor. As per the team, there was no particular goal! The team just thought to give it a try to at least gain the experience if not for a victory. However, the initial hurdle was to clear the problem statement with an abstract to get progressed into the next round. They were short of time and had to work tirelessly on the eleventh hour to get things submitted. And, to their surprise one of the three statements they submitted was selected and now they had to head north to Uttar Pradesh for the final round.

Though there were three categories- simple, complicated and complex, the team chose to work on the third, on raised a question about this, their common answer was that they didn't look for the category instead they decided to look for the most effective problem that they were comfortable with and also the problem that could serve useful for the society. Though the team was formed by the double B's – Balakumaran and Bhuvan Bharath, the entire mind behind the project idea and its implementation was Karthick. They wanted the idea to be unique and never got tired working. They wanted the project to be entirely useful and also economical. A fire in the belly was always there. Though there were other teams from the state of Tamil Nadu, the air around there was not friendly! The team wanted to give their best not only for the sake of GCT, but also for the state.



**"Colleagues are a wonderful thing- but mentors,
that's where the real work gets done!"**

Travelling and staying a week or two to the northern part is indeed a tough thing to do for any proper South Indian. The team initially faced issues with the language, but they were resilient and then the hospitality provided by the SIH team was awestruck they quoted. The hospitality management team and the local guide took complete care of the team until they left Delhi, thanks to Mr. Shiv, SPOC. The six days in there were the best and restless for the team. Most of the other team had their project done by the time they reached Delhi, but our team was only full of ideas with no product! They started materials on Day 1 followed by manufacturing on Day 2. Every one of them worked so hard in their respective areas to get the product developed on time. The last two days were literally sleepless, Abitha quoted. However, all's well that ends well! The final report and the presentation the team submitted impressed the juries, which lead the way to the famous victory.

The team was overwhelmed by the way they were welcomed back. The congratulations posters, interviews, blessings, the social media posts, ah! All those were mandatory stuffs, weren't they? The team has made everyone proud, they even deserve much and much more.

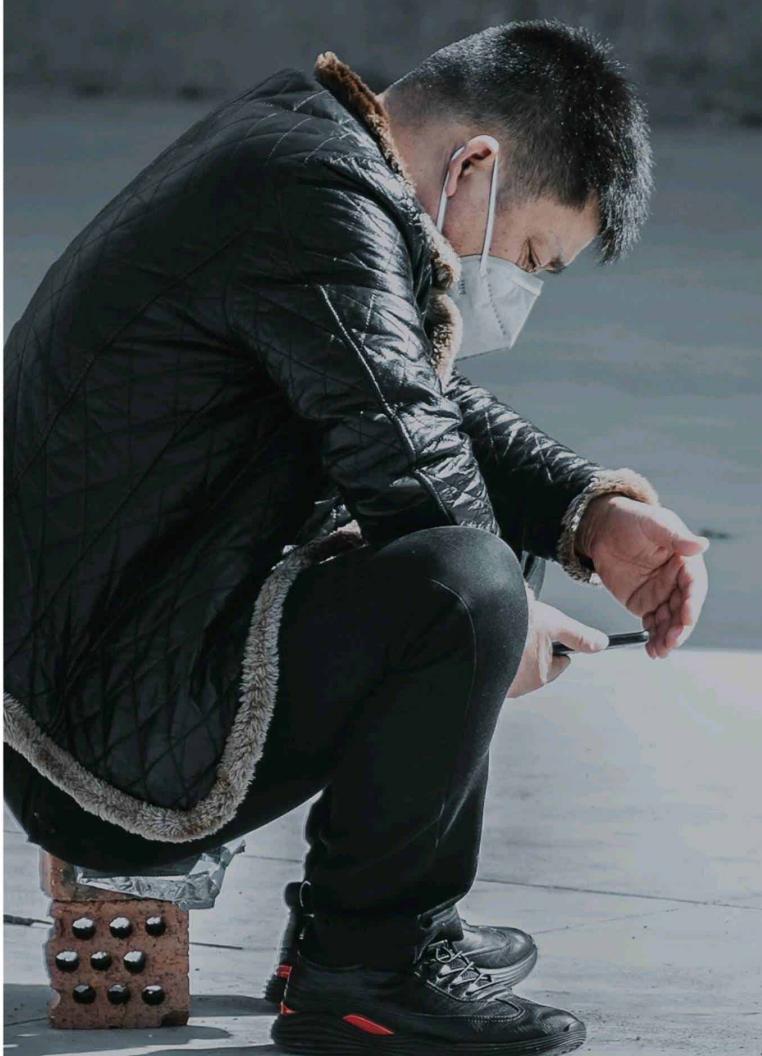
A famous quotes goes as "Colleagues are a wonderful thing- but mentors, that's where the real work gets done!" It proved to be so true for the team as their mentor Dr. K. Ramesh extended his help in everything he possibly could. Right from its initiation to its success, even after success to be specific, he supported the team.

He is always for the students, such a strong character. He was the sole reason behind the media reach of the project, helped the team getting featured in Expos and conferences.



Getting the better of epidemics

BHARATHI D



While we were busy bidding goodbye to 2019 and getting pumped up to welcome 2020, a new antagonist to the human community, which we never knew would pose a threat to our lives, made a slow yet terrifying entry into the world. 'CORONA' – as it is generically named, has announced its arrival in almost all the countries. With millions of people infected and the fact that no vaccine has been discovered for the virus yet, the disease has easily managed to grab the world's attention. From travel bans to share market collapses, the virus has indeed infected a lot more entities than just humans. Putting the cause, effects, seriousness and preventive measures of the disease aside, which are the hot topics of the town and asking ourselves the question "Are only the diseases caused by newly mutated pathogens such as Corona and Ebola viruses serious?", upon thorough introspection we arrive at the answer 'No'. Ischaemic Heart Disease, which is a lifestyle disease and not pathogenic, is the disease with the highest mortality rate in India.

Indians can be classified into three parallel groups who never cross the paths of each other - high, middle and low class, depending on their incomes and standards of living. The way their health impairs varies widely once we dig deeper and try to understand the correlations between lifestyle patterns and prevalence of illnesses. A country's cleanliness is defined by the self-discipline of its people. India's improper sanitation system and poor maintenance are more than enough to define our position. Blaming the government for any of the country's flaws has become our tradition. To a large extent, the reason behind unhygienic conditions is the lack of civic sense among people which is reflected in the poor maintenance of public toilets, dumping of garbage in public places and lack of people's indulgence in cleanliness campaigns and drives. These things which are seen as petty acts serve as the driving factor behind the outbreak of several severe illnesses.



"Defining the growth of a country in terms of the increase/decline in its GDP seems pointless when a major portion of its population has to fight for a glass of pure water"

India is still a host to several communicable and vector-borne diseases. It is the poor who are the ultimate victims as malnutrition is the punishment imposed on them as a result of our negligence. Defining the growth of a country in terms of the increase/decline in its GDP seems pointless when a major portion of its population has to fight for a glass of pure water.

Again, health impairment isn't uncommon among the middle-and high-class sections of the society. Instead, the case here is somewhat different. The sedentary lifestyle of a techie living in a metropolitan might seem great to outsiders at first but it has its risks. Restaurants and Food delivery apps target these people with lots of attractive offers. The people who are excited by these offers, forget about the quality of the food. Neglecting the consequences of consuming unhealthy food, they develop an addiction over junk foods and eventually, our body's mechanism starts impairing and introduces us to a variety of new disorders. Besides, our generation is playing a prominent role in transferring the disorders and impairments to the upcoming generations through both genes and food habits.

Our modern mothers prefer to feed instant noodles & spicy pastas to cereals & pulses to their children, and their modern children prefer mobile & laptop games to outdoor games. Some parents have gone an extra mile by never letting their kids play in the mud or soil to prevent them from getting dirty.

This is simply a consequence of the lack of knowledge among people about the importance of participation of microbial flora in the development of our immune system. When a child growing up in a closed and over-hygienic environment is exposed to the outside world, it will be easily susceptible to allergies, autoimmune diseases and pathogenic diseases. These unhealthy lifestyle practices we force upon our kids collapse the effective functioning of their system. Likewise, the importance of breastfeeding for the development of a healthy individual is often neglected even by the educated masses. Even in cases of Corona and Ebola, infected people with high immunity have successfully recovered. Our body keeps on fighting in all possible ways even if there is a single percentage possibility for us to survive and return to a steady-state. However, the problem lies with ourselves who lack the enthusiasm to enjoy a healthy life.

The spread of outbreaks and epidemics can be contained much more effectively with little participation and involvement of the masses. All it takes is to be concerned at least half as much as we do in following pop culture and its celebrities! Improving knowledge about healthy lifestyle and sanitation practices among the people and in turn developing their civic senses is the need of the hour. The only way to build a better nation is by ensuring the healthy living of its individuals. Healthier its masses, wealthier would be the nation!

Engineering at GCT to Management at IITB

AKSHAYA M

AJAI KANNAN K

Can you tell us a little about Yourself and your background?

I am Ranjith Kannan and I hail from Kovilpatti, Tuticorin District. I did my schooling at The Lakshmi Mills Higher Secondary School, Kovilpatti. I graduated in Mechanical Engineering at GCT, Coimbatore and pursued MBA at SJMSOM, IIT Bombay. Currently, I am working for IBM as a Functional Consultant at Bangalore.

While most of us at GCT are pretty much aware of the IIMs and the flagship Post Graduate Programs they offer, very few here even know about the management programs offered by IITs. As a GCTian, how did you come to know about Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management?

I got to know about management programs offered at IITs from TIME institute. Also, it is in the top 10 list of best B-Schools in India.

How do you compare SJMSOM with the IIM ABCs?

It would be naive to compare SJMSOM with IIM ABC as it is a relatively new college. ABC are the best in the country in terms of both curriculum and placements. SJMSOM is striving hard to reach that level. It's been just 20 years since SJMSOM was started. But its growth has been phenomenal and it's in the top 10 list of best B-Schools across the country.



Can you share your preparation strategy for CAT? What is your advice to a GCTian appearing for CAT 2020?

Hard work, focus and perseverance are the most important virtues to possess for CAT aspirants. I used to study at least 4 hours a day on weekdays and 6 hours a day on weekends. Mock tests matter a lot and it is mandatory to analyse your performance in each test. The more you study, the better it is for you.

Can you explain the events that led up to the conversion of your CAT percentile into an IIT Bombay admit?

1. December 2016 - CAT exam.
2. January 2017 - CAT result.
3. January 2017 - Applied for SJMSOM, IIT Bombay. (We must apply separately for all non-IIMs.)
4. May 2017 - Written Assessment and Personal Interview. A random topic was given to me and I had to write an essay in not more than 2 pages. Personal interview was focussed on UG Subjects, General Knowledge and Value-Added Questions.
5. June 2017 - Admission result.
6. July 2017 - Admission.

How good is the culture at IITB? Is it really worth envying? Did you come across any cultural shock at IITB initially?

IITB has thousands of students from all parts of the country and hence the kind of exposure one gets is enormous. IITB is known for its night life. People roam around the campus till 4-5 am in the morning. The surface area of IITB is around 500 acres, and it has a lake and a mountain inside the campus. We must take an auto or a bus to travel from hostels to classrooms. The major cultural shock for me was autos in Mumbai use meters which we would not be able to see in most parts of Tamil Nadu

How hard was it to compete and excel in a batch comprising of exceptional minds?

It was extremely hard in the first year as I did not have enough exposure back then. Moreover, I did not have work experience prior to MBA and that haunted me a lot during internship. But, by the end of first year, I got to know how to cope up with the peer pressure and from that moment, there was no looking back

How is the placement scene at SJMSOM?

Please find below the link to Final Placement Report of my batch. This would give a fair idea about placements at SJMSOM, IIT Bombay.

<http://www.som.iitb.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Final-Placement-Report-2019-Batch.pdf>

To be frank, getting a fat package is not an issue at all but only half of the students get their dream job and company at SJMSOM. This is because it is a relatively new college and this scenario will change in near future.

Any chances of seeing Mr. Ranjith launching his own start-up? What traits would you expect in a potential candidate to be hired at your company?

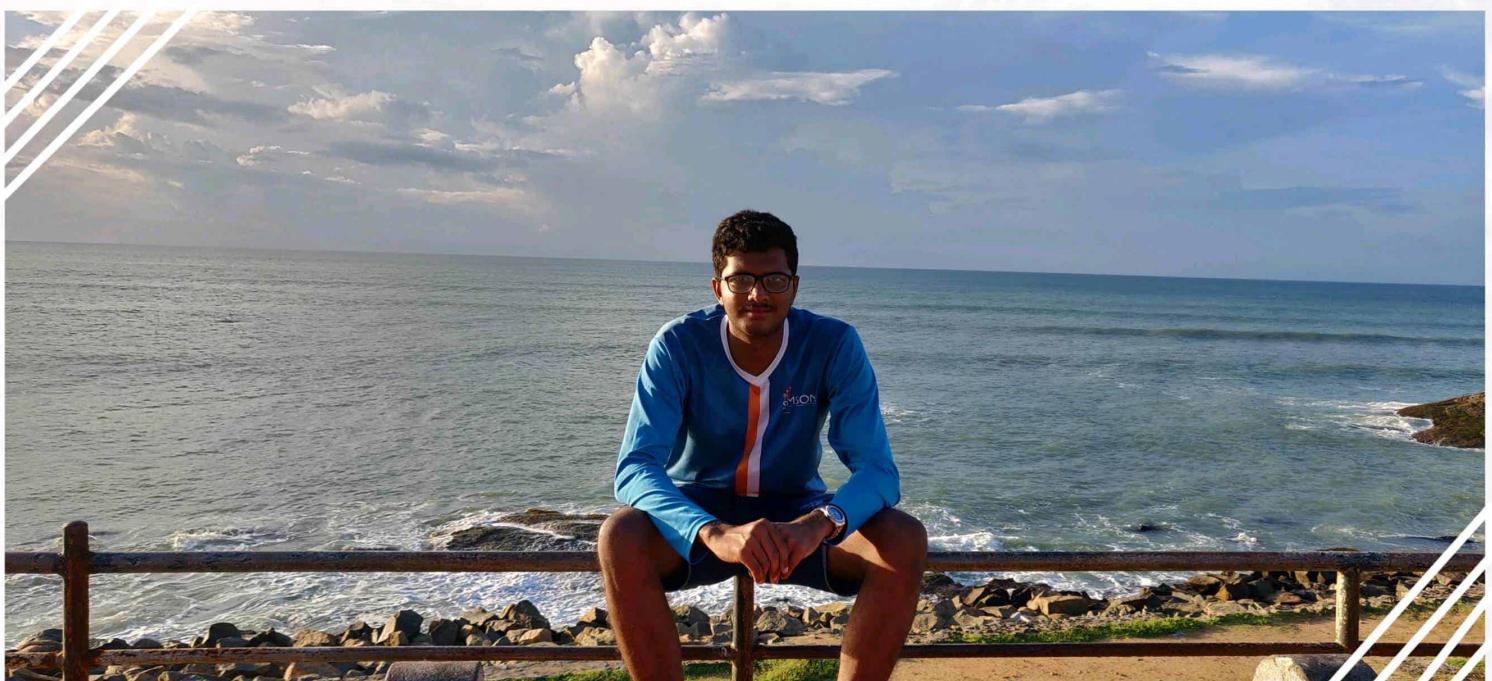
I do not have any idea as of now. However, I would look for a hardworking and responsible person, if I were to hire an employee for my firm.

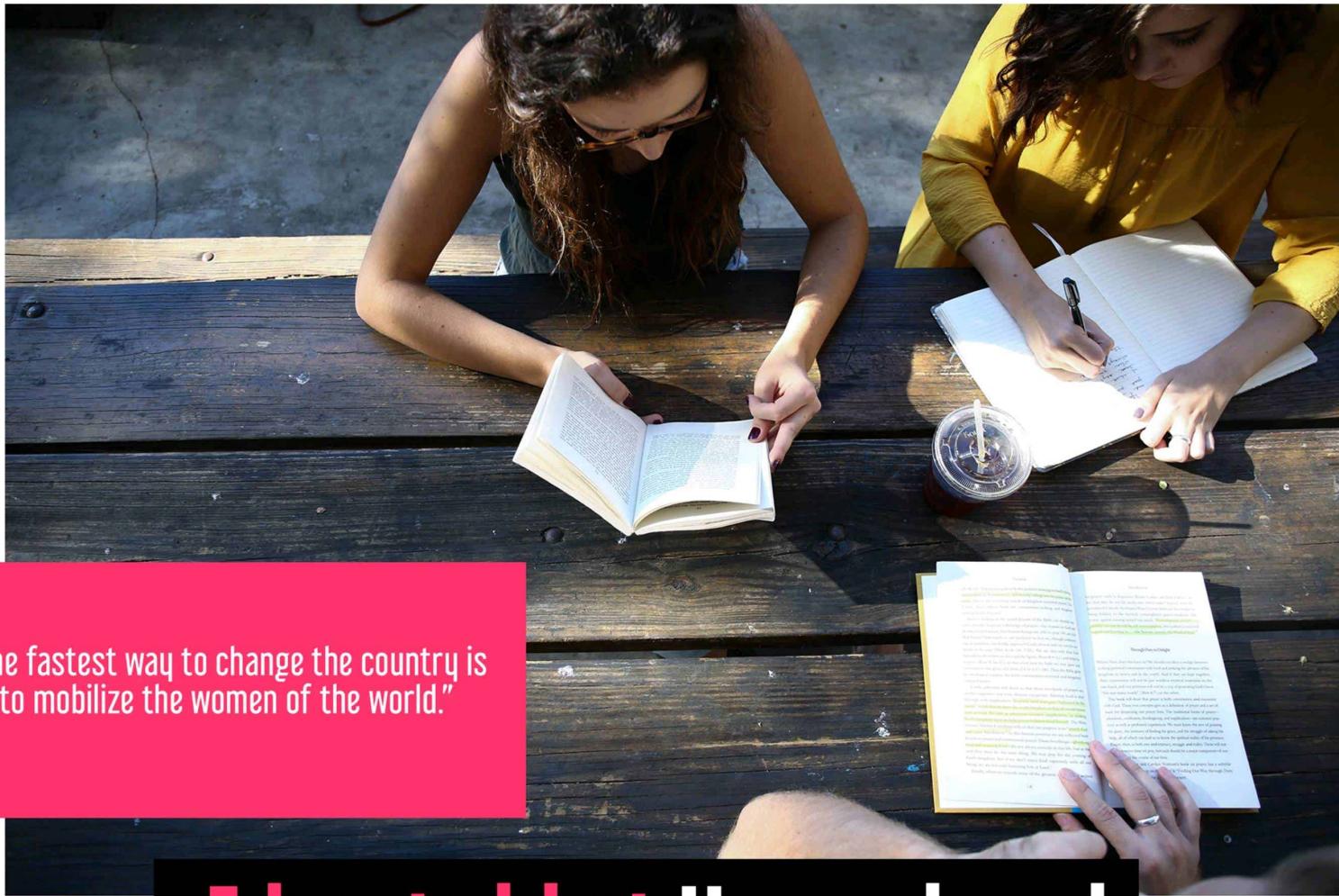
What is it that you learnt here at GCT that is a little more to your heart than your head?

Cricket and Volleyball. I love playing these two games anytime, anywhere. I had spent my time more on playgrounds than in classrooms at GCT.

Your message to GCTians..

“Don’t wait till fourth year to figure out what you really want to become in future. This is the most common mistake committed by students nowadays. Always be responsible about your professional life. And most importantly, find a friend for life and have lots of fun.”





"The fastest way to change the country is to mobilize the women of the world."

Educated but Unemployed

NIVETHITHA M

We have finally marched into the next decade of the 21st century – a decade where women's role in the society has increased manifold. As much as we vouch for women empowerment and gender equality, we must also take the time to appreciate the progress we have made so far. A major portion of what remained an unattainable dream to women a generation back is now easily accessible.

Access to education is one such dream which a large number of women have been able to materialize in the recent years. The literacy rate of women in India witnessed a steady growth in the past decade and has brought the current rate to 65.46 per cent. There is now an increased awareness of the need and importance of education to a woman. However, as wise men say knowledge without action is useless, the increase in literacy hasn't really helped in increasing the participation of women in the workforce. The female labour force participation in India has instead witnessed a steep fall from 36.7 per cent in 2005 to 26 per cent in 2018. Though overall unemployment can be cited as a reason, with numerous schemes and benefits specifically introduced for supporting women employment by both the Government and other organisations, the justification fails to make sense. Interestingly, the male LFP rate has remained quite stagnant throughout this period unlike that of women.

There are two major cases which contribute to this tremendous waste of human resources:

- ➡ Women who are educated and not allowed to work.
- ➡ Women who are educated yet choose not to work.

While the former can be mitigated with proper awareness and schemes to support the dreams of girls, the latter is a serious issue. The age-old gender stereotypes are to be blamed for this because the society has always left working as an option for women and a woman, in most cases in India, is presumed to work to support her family and not out of her self-interest or aspiration.

It has become really common for highly educated women to opt a domestic life as though their education serves only adding some pride in their wedding cards. Even women who end up taking jobs after education are not able to make it past their thirties. Though all these accusations might sound outdated as we see many ambitious ladies and listen to more success stories of women these days, there is still a large section of the female population in India whose education is frittered away for trivial reasons.

It has become really common for highly educated women to opt a domestic life as though their education serves only adding some pride in their wedding cards. Even women who end up taking jobs after education are not able to make it past their thirties. Though all these accusations might sound outdated as we see many ambitious ladies and listen to more success stories of women these days, there is still a large section of the female population in India whose education is frittered away for trivial reasons.

Gender inequality sometimes contributes to the same as many recruiters don't consider employing women in their late twenties owing to their domestic burden and the need to provide them maternity benefits. The gender pay gap is another highly spoken of yet unsorted issue. India has an average gender pay gap of at least 30% amongst casual workers and as high as 57% in the organized sector. Another reason for poor female LFP rate could be that the choice of jobs available for women is comparatively limited. This, however, is gradually reducing with women breaking the stereotypes and entering into almost all jobs in the society which were once classified as men's job.

As a child, most of us had wide dreams and aspirations. As we grow up, the society we live in shells our thinking and diminishes our ambitions without our knowledge. Nevertheless, it is quite challenging for women to rise to higher posts. Even in the open-minded society that we are in, the mentality of women being a subordinate to men is still not completely out of our minds. There are a lot of women who are really capable but refrain themselves from soaring to higher positions, feeling incapable, inferior and content with a 9 to 5 job. Apart from the 10% of women who are already empowered and doing wonders, the rest still hesitate to risk it all, and they need to be brought out of their shells too.

"If more women are in leadership roles, we'll stop assuming they shouldn't be."

-Sheryl Sandberg



As the quote reads, change begins from us. Women should stop restricting their aspirations citing their gender. Let's raise all boys with the attitude that women are normal humans who are at par with men. Just like women trying to break the shells and enter into the competitive world, men should also not hesitate or feel ashamed of sharing the domestic burden. There is nothing as such as a 'men's job' or 'women's job'. These are just social constructs and it is high time they change.



A GCTian's bucketlist

AISHWARYA R

DHARANI TP

Explore from within!

Some spots in our campus that we often tend to overlook, but definitely deserve to be admired!

GALLERY

Just sitting and gazing at the ground and watching people their favourite sport can make us forget our regrets. If that doesn't help, an intentional gaze at the beautiful sunsets and sunrises surely will. The place is a free super deluxe party hall that has witnessed thousands of birthday cheers and bumps (you will definitely have some fellow dogs to accompany you, lol!!)

CANTEEN

The best place to either avail or offer a low budget treat. Even if you are left with an empty wallet, you can satisfy your appetite, by cashing in the secret ingredient, your ID cards (it need not be yours all the time).

OVAL

The Oval is GCT's answer to the Graffiti culture prevalent in some neo-liberal colleges. They serve as the reflection of GCT's creative minds who elegantly showcase the happening of every event.

FOUNTAIN

A place we often overlook, but definitely deserves a prolonged gaze every time we pass through it. The front view of the main building looks majestic combined with the flowing fountain. An exclusive photo spot inside the campus.

AUDITORIUM

The Auditorium has memories of hundreds of cultural and symposiums etched on its walls. A platform where the young talents bud and blossom.

Titbit centres

STREET FOOD STALLS

Alluring aroma, affordable price and adequate quantity are the qualities that define these stalls.

THEMED CAFES

There are a number of trendy and crazy themed cafes in Sai Baba Colony. If your wallets are huge enough, they can serve as the perfect places to throw parties and treats.



Motorsports events

The city has its own car racing circuits and dirt tracks. A number of racing events and championships are conducted here throughout the year and can serve as perfect entertainment centres for petrolheads.



Malls

The city may not have become Cosmopolitan yet, but it has its own fair share of malls and other cosmopolitan elements. These malls are the perfect places to hang out as they have in them almost everything that we could wish for such as food courts, movie screens etc.



GD Naidu Museum

This Museum showcases various vintage cars and some wonderful historical innovations of GD Naidu and is a remarkable tourist site.



Marudhamalai

Marudhamalai has a serene atmosphere, thanks to the air that brings with it the aroma of the medicinal herbs of the Western Ghats. The hill hosts the deity Murugan at the top.

Explore the City and its vicinity

Anaikatti

Anaikatti is an underexplored green heaven that is merely a 30-minute drive from the campus. You can experience and enjoy the forest trail, do bird watching, and enjoy trekking.

Dhyana Lingha

A relatively new getaway spot, this place provides a serene and spiritual ambience. The splendid look of Adiyogi Shiva's statue grabs our attention upon an instant gaze.

Ooty

An itinerary for the city is incomplete without the mention of the Queen of Hills. Ooty is a well-known hill station and it entices tourists from all over the world.

Kerala

The city lies so close to the state of Kerala, which has got in it everything from the gorgeous hill stations to the fabulous beaches. In fact, some of the most beautiful beaches of Kerala are just a three/four-hour drive from the city and can serve as perfect weekend getaways!



அதென்ன மிருக காதல்?

புனர்வேளி

அதென்ன மிருக காதல்? கொடுரமாக ஒருவரை காதல் செய்வதோ? அன்று, கொடுரமான விலங்குகளையும் காதல் செய்வது! அன்பு அலாதியானது. அத்தகைய அன்பை மனிதன் மட்டுமல்லாத பிற உயிரினங்களின் பாலும் காட்டுவதே மிருக காதல்! விலங்குகள் மனிதர்களைப் போல அல்ல, அவை வெளிப்படுத்தும் அன்பு தாய்மையானது, கள்ளங்கபடமற்றது. விலங்குகள் மனிதனுக்கு சிறந்த துணையாகும். அவற்றுக்கு உணவளிப்பது ஒரு தாய் தன் சேய்க்கு உணவளிப்பதையொத்த மிகையளிக்கும் செயலாகும். விலங்குகளால் நம் உடலுக்கு தீங்கு நேரிடலாம். ஆனால் ஒரு போதும் உள்ளத்திற்கு நேரிடாது.

இன்பம், துன்பம், காதல், காமம் போன்ற உணர்வுகள் விலங்குகளுக்கும் உண்டு என்பதை அவற்றிடம் பழகும்பொழுது மட்டுமே நம்மால் அறிய இயலும். கடவுளின் அற்புத படைப்புகளுள்ளனரு விலங்குகள். ஆகா, எத்தனை அழகு அவைகள். நான் ஒரு விலங்குப்பிரியை விலங்குகளின் ஒவ்வொரு அசைவுகளையும் ரசிப்பவர். மனிதர்களைப்போன்று விலங்குகள் உணர்வுகளை ஒருபொழுதும் அலட்சியப்படுத்துவதில்லை. அவை மனித உணர்வுகளை மதிக்கத்தெரிந்த மிகச்சிறந்த கடவுளின் படைப்புகளாகும். நம் இன்ப துன்ப நேரங்களை அறிந்துகொண்டு அதற்கேற்றாற்போல் செயல்படும் தன்மை வாய்ந்தவை.

நாம் வளர்க்கும் நாய் நம்மை நீண்ட நாள் கழித்து பார்த்துவிட்டால், எத்துனை மகிழ்ச்சி அதற்கு! தன் வாலை ஆட்டியே விழுந்து, நான்கு கால் பாய்ச்சலில் வந்து சேற்றை அப்பி, துணிகளைக் கிழித்து, அப்பொ! இப்படி ஒரு வரவேற்றபை மனிதர்களிடம் எதிர்பார்த்திட முடியுமா? விலங்குகளின் பிரிவோ கொடுமையானது. விலங்குகளின் அரவணைப்பு தாயின் அரவணைப்போடு ஒப்பிடவல்லது. விலங்குகள் மனிதர்களைப்போல் யாரையும் ஏமாற்றுவதில்லை யாருக்கும் துரோகம் இழைப்பதுமில்லை.

அன்பு செலுத்துவதிலும் மனிதர்களை விட மேலானவை, விலங்குகள். தாயில்லாதவருக்கு தாயாகவும் சகோதரன் இல்லாதவருக்கு சகோதரனாகவும் நண்பன் அற்றவருக்கு நல்ல நண்பனாகவும் விளங்குகின்றன. பலரின் தனிமைத்துயரத்தைப்போக்கும் வல்லமை வாய்ந்தவை விலங்குகள். விலங்குகளின் மீது அன்பு கொள்வதால் நம் மனநலம் சீராக இருக்கும், நம்மிடையே நல்ல உணர்வுகள் பிறக்கும். செல்லப்பிராணிகளைக் கொண்டவர்களால் அவற்றுடன் அவர்களுக்கு இருக்கும் நட்பை சிறப்பாக புலப்படுத்த முடியும்.



விலங்குகள் மனிதர்களின் உணர்ச்சிபூர்வத்தேவைகள் மட்டுமன்றி பிற தேவைகளையும் பூர்த்தி செய்கின்றன. உதாரணமாக, நாய்களின் மோப்பத்திற்கு பல்வேறு குற்றச்செயல்களைக்கண்டிவதில் காவல்துறையினருக்கு பேருதவியாக இருக்கிறது. வீட்டில் வளர்க்கும் கிளிகள் கூட, அறியாதவர் யாரேனும் வீட்டிற்கு வருகை புரிந்தால் தனது பேச்சுத்திற்னால் உரிமையாளருக்கு அதனைத்தெரிவிக்கின்றன. குதிரைகள், யானைகள், கழுதைகள், ஓட்டகங்கள் போன்ற விலங்கினங்களும் மனிதர்களால் அவர்களது தேவைகளுக்காகப் பயன்படுத்தப்படுகின்றன.

விலங்குகள் மனிதர்களின் உணர்ச்சிபூர்வத்தேவைகள் மட்டுமன்றி பிற தேவைகளையும் பூர்த்தி செய்கின்றன. உதாரணமாக, நாய்களின் மோப்பத்திற்கு பல்வேறு குற்றச்செயல்களைக்கண்டிவதில் காவல்துறையினருக்கு பேருதவியாக இருக்கிறது. கிளிகள் அற்புதமான செல்லப்பிராணியாக விலங்குகளின்றன. அறியாதவர் யாரேனும் வீட்டிற்கு வருகை புரிந்தால் தனது பேச்சுத்திற்னால் உரிமையாளருக்கு அதனைத்தெரிவிக்கின்றன. கிளிகள் மிகவும் வேடுக்கையாகப் பேசும் ஆற்றலுடையவை. குதிரைகள், யானைகள், கழுதைகள், ஓட்டகங்கள் போன்ற விலங்கினங்களும் மனிதர்களால் அவர்களது தேவைகளுக்காகப் பயன்படுத்தப்படுகின்றன. விபத்து மற்றும் ஆபத்தான சூழ்நிலைகளில் இருந்து சிறு குழந்தைகளையோ அல்லது வயதானவர்களையோ காப்பாற்றும் உள்ளணர்வு நாய்களிடத்தில் இயல்பாயுள்ளது.

வெவ்வேறு வகையான மற்றும் வித்தியாசமான குணங்களைக் கொண்ட சொற்களற்ற உயிரினங்கள் விலங்குகள்! நாம் அவற்றுக்கு தீங்கு செய்யாவிட்டால் அவை பாதிப்பில்லாதவை. உலகில் எந்த உயிரினமும் காரணமின்றி யாருக்கும் தீங்கு விளைவிப்பதில்லை. ஆனால் மனிதர்கள் மட்டும் இதற்கு விதிவிலக்காய், தன் சுயநலனுக்காகப் பிற உயிரினங்களுக்கு தீங்கு விளைவிக்கிறார்கள். அவற்றின் கொம்புகள், கால்கள் அல்லது உடலின் பிற பகுதிகளுக்காக விலங்குகளைக்கொன்று குவிக்கிறார்கள்.

உலகில் வேறு எந்த உயிரினத்திற்கும் வழங்கப்படாத கூர்மையான மூளையைக் கடவுள் மனிதனுக்கு வழங்கியிருப்பினும், நம்முடைய தனிப்பட்ட நலனுக்காக மற்ற விலங்குகளை கொன்று கொண்டே இருக்கிறோம். இது மட்டுமல்லாது அவற்றின் வீடுகளையும் அழிக்கிறோம். மனிதவாழ்விற்கு இன்றியமையாதது அன்பும் மகிழ்ச்சியும் தான். அவை விலங்குகளிடம் கொட்டிக் கிடக்கின்றன. அன்பு ஒன்றே இந்த உலகை இயக்கவல்ல கருவியாகும். அனைத்து உயிரினங்களையும் நேசிப்போம். அது தான் நமக்கும் நல்லது, நம்மை சார்ந்த உயிரினங்களுக்கும் நல்லது.



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