



# TAAL

THE OFFICIAL MALHAR PUBLICATION

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# EDITORIAL

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Change is the only constant, they say. Malhar knows it and has seen it all. Over the years, generations have observed this legacy morph and adapt to the changing times. Parallax is not merely a concept but an experience. Immerse yourself in the pages of a one of its kind, E-publication and stand a chance to witness a new perspective unfold on every page. This Taal is an attempt by Literary Arts 2021 to explore how the essence and grandeur of Malhar was preserved over the years, and each new beginning that it brought along. We present that an Online Malhar is not the first time Malhar has made major shifts in its structure. That resilience has been and will remain our trademark characteristic.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We, the Literary Arts Department of Malhar 2021, would like to express our gratitude to the following individuals who helped make this magazine come to fruition- Our Professor Ruby Pavri, for her invaluable suggestions, for being the constant pillar of support that kept us going; our commanding officers- The Quartet, for their faith in our vision and the genuine affinity they offered, that aided us through the smallest of inconveniences; the Creatives team for patiently bearing with us as we scrambled to complete deadlines (and failed miserably too) and trying to capture the very feeling of Malhar, put it all together and serve it on a platter that looks better than we ever imagined it would; finally our interviewees- staff members as well as our alumni, who were extremely generous and let us dive deep and bring this parallax to our readers.

# साजन आए, सावन आया

अब दिन बदले, घड़ियाँ बदलीं,  
साजन आए, सावन आया।

धरती की जलती साँसों ने  
मेरी साँसों में ताप भरा,  
सरसी की छाती दरकी तो  
कर धाव गई मुझपर गहरा,

है नियति-प्रकृति की ऋतुओं में  
संबंध कहीं कुछ अनजाना,  
अब दिन बदले, घड़ियाँ बदलीं,  
साजन आए, सावन आया।

तुफान उठा जब अंबर में  
अंतर किसने झकझोर दिया,  
मन के सौ बंद कपाटों को  
क्षण भर के अंदर खोल दिया,

झोंका जब आया मधुवन में  
प्रिय का संदेश लिए आया-  
ऐसी निकली ही धूप नहीं  
जो साथ नहीं लाई छाया।  
अब दिन बदले, घड़ियाँ बदलीं,  
साजन आए, सावन आया।

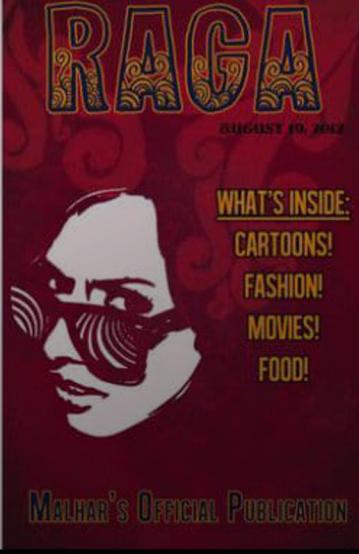
घन के आँगन से बिजली ने  
जब नयनों से संकेत किया,  
मेरी बे-होश-हवास पड़ी  
आशा ने फिर से चेत किया,

मुरझाती लतिका पर कोई  
जैसे पानी के छींटे दे,  
ओ' फिर जीवन की साँसें ले  
उसकी म्रियमाण-जली काया।  
अब दिन बदले, घड़ियाँ बदलीं,  
साजन आए, सावन आया।

रोमांच हुआ जब अवनी का  
रोमांचित मेरे अंग हुए,  
जैसे जादू की लकड़ी से  
कोई दोनों को संग छुए,

सिंचित-सा कंठ पपीहे का  
कोयल की बोली भीगी-सी,  
रस-डूबा, स्वर में उतराया  
यह गीत नया मैंने गाया  
अब दिन बदले, घड़ियाँ बदलीं,  
साजन आए, सावन आया।

- हरिवंशराय बच्चन



# TAAL

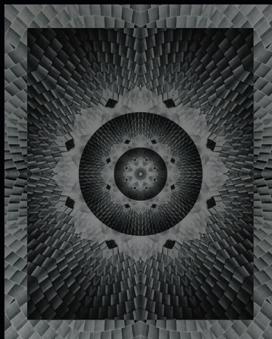
A MALHAR MANUAL



zoomin  
presents

## TAAL

Malhar's official publication



Adyot Rajadhyaksha

## TAAL: THE MALHAR YEARBOOK

For years now, the articulated rhythm of Taal has been narrating the extravagance of Xavier's and its monsoon glory called Malhar. Its pieces are like the soothing notes of an enchanting melody; a perfect mood in the midst of elliptical situations. While Malhar has transitioned to become an emotion rather than a mere fest, its historic legacy stands firmly rooted. Dive into the pages to experience the Malhar that wasn't, a legacy that was rerouted and a parallax for the generations to come.

The

# TAAL

MALHAR'S OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

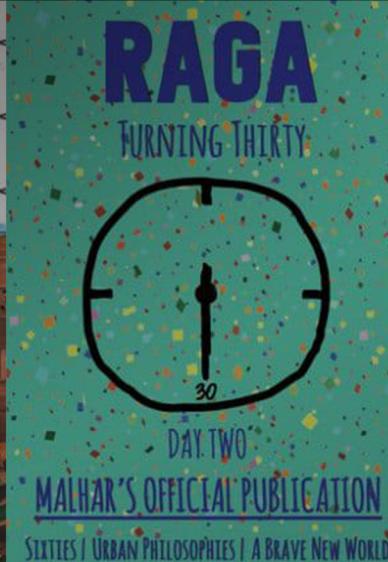
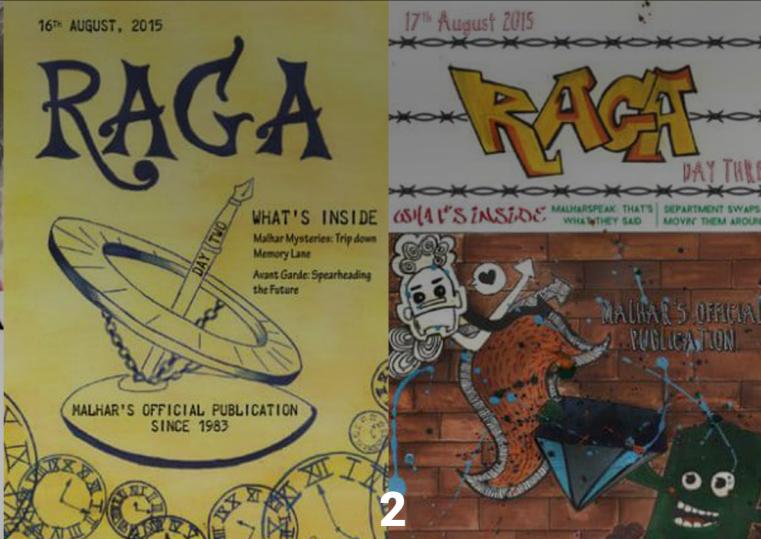
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COVER PAGE ART: ANMOL KAUR

MALHAR 2019 THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

# TAAL

THE OFFICIAL MALHAR PUBLICATION





# **TWO STEPS AHEAD, ONE LOOK BACK**

*Malhar has experienced a series of monsoons since it's conception, each one with a unique story to narrate. Malhar, as we know today, is an amalgamation of concepts which pioneers today and the generations in antiquity have ideated into existence. This legacy has been crafted by the tireless efforts of its alumni. In an attempt to better understand the troughs and crests that have been experienced in the making of Malhar we acquaint ourselves with some changemakers from the past years. Without them, we wouldn't have a legacy to reroute.*



**AMISH TRIPATHI**

I joined St. Xavier's College in FYJC. My first Malhar was as a visitor. In SYBSc I, along with my twin brother- Ashish, and my then girlfriend- Preeti, decided to join the organizing side. In SYBSc, I was the Organizer-in-Charge for Performing Arts. In my TYBSc, 1994, I was the Chairperson and Preeti was the Vice Chairperson- Events. My brother Ashish- OC member (Organizer-in-Charge) of Informals & Open House. Our team started earlier that year, we started right in the middle of the summer vacations. That ensured fantastic team building.

The same year, we also tried to have an eco-friendly Malhar. We used recycled paper to make the Events Brochure, for example.

We also managed to negotiate a huge sponsorship, which raised the usual main sponsor budget of 1-2.5 lakhs to 10.5 lakhs! We raised another 2-3 lakhs by selling stalls at the Cafe. This was a massive amount of money. It was great work from the team. But honestly, just working hard and having a good strategy doesn't guarantee success. Luck has to favour you as well. In the words of Shakespeare, 'There's a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.' India had started booming post 1991, and companies were spending a lot more money. The economy was picking up in 1994. So the timing helped us a lot as well.

We used these funds to patch up the auditorium and the Moffice. That year we built a massive ship-shaped stage at Informals, incorporating the theme 'Pirates', the theme for Malhar '94. There were live mermaids and a merman for the 'Under the water' theme at Open House. The cafe stalls were spiffy and fantastic. Puddles also got a new costume. Taal and Raga were spruced up and turned into colour glossies. Our Events brochure was made eco-friendly (which was expensive). We made Malhar-branded t-shirts and caps for all. Eventually, even after such spendings, we had funds left with which we spruced up the woods and put up plaques which said 'Made by Malhar 1994'.

As the Chairperson, one runs a

massive organization of 1,500 people. And the best part is, nobody holds a carrot or a stick. Chairperson downwards, everybody manages to get the work done, without promising any benefits or forcing anybody. Very few organisations can do that! You say Malhar is a selfless organization. But it is not selfless, I say it is 'enlightened selfishness'. You get fun and comradery. You learn from it (learning which will help you throughout life) while it also does something good for others. These are the best kind of organisations.

The years of Malhar were the best years of my life! I made friends and memories. When you grow old, these memories will be the only things that matter, not the stress that you have now. Looking back, I realize that Malhar is a fantastic primer for life.



# ~FIRST QUARTET~

**How was Malhar as an experience back in 2009?**

**Sonali:** It was a Malhar of many firsts- The first quartet, the first conclave, and a remarkable day and a half long Malhar.

**Shriya:** Our Malhar was like firefighting. We were hit by the swine flu and the 3 day Malhar was brought down to a one and a half day event. The thing I'm proudest of was saving Malhar from being cancelled by bringing a 3-day event down to one and a half days without losing a single sponsor! Moreover, we had an entirely new department to handle, Conclave.

**Sonali:** I still remember walking into the conference room and fighting for Malhar to happen, even if it was for one and a half days, considering we were told that we will not have a Malhar at all. For us, being able to fight and keep that spirit of Malhar alive despite setbacks, was like a magnum opus coming alive.

**2009 saw the shift from the Trinity to the Quartet, that too - one of all girls! How did you feel about this?**

**Shruti:** I think we were all lucky in this regard. I didn't face any prejudice or 'different' treatment because I was a girl filling this role. Right from the sponsor meetings, to the staff committee, everyone was extremely supportive.

**Sonia:** These girls were my first team and glimpse into what the



**SHRIYA PILGAONKAR**  
CHAIRPERSON

corporate world would look like. They taught me what it is to fall and get back up again. We had our moments, both good and bad. And here we are, strong women, killing it in our respective fields. I think that's what Malhar was for us, it was that start, it was that stepping-stone to our future.

**When you first headed Conclave, did you think it would become such an integral part of the fest?**

**Sonia :** In all honesty, people weren't too excited about the idea of Conclave. We had to show them the bigger picture, what it meant to give future young leaders a platform to find their voice. The fact that Conclave is in its eleventh year makes me proud and humbled.

**Shriya:** I can hardly believe that we managed it in a time before



**SONIA JOHN**  
VICE CHAIRPERSON (CONVENTIONS)

Instagram. The only things that we had were scribbled numbers in notebooks and the single school telephone in the Moffee. People would take turns to make calls from it! So, when huge industry leaders like APJ Abdul Kalam came in, that was groundbreaking for all of us.

#### **What was your favourite ‘Malhar moment’?**

**Sonali:** I think we can all collectively agree that it was that moment where the four of us were passed out on stage in our green T-shirts, just brimming with emotions of exhaustion, exhilaration, and pure pride at the fact that we had accomplished everything that we had envisioned. It was all a blur, we didn't remember when Malhar started, or when it ended. And the funny thing is, the four of us don't have a picture together!

**Shriya:** That one and a half day felt like a lifetime. Thinking back, I realize that we were very very lucky to have each other. Malhar was fun.

I still remember that I had a broken toe on the last day of Malhar. I was just limping around campus!

**Sonia:** When Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam came to college, it was an absolute game changer. The 4 of us were ecstatic. He spoke about the relevance of a platform like Conclave in this day and age, and how important the students of the next generation were to him, to the future of India and the world. That's when Xavierites started warming up to the idea of Conclave.

*Fun Fact: The name “Conclave” took its inspiration from the movie based on Dan Brown’s novel, Angels and Demons.*

**Shruti:** I think my Malhar moment has to be going into the Conference room and negotiating whether or not to have Malhar; since there was a swine flu outbreak on the 12th of August, 2009 and all educational institutions were to be shut for a week. Malhar was

**SHRUTI RANGAVEDHRAN**  
VICE CHAIRPERSON (MANAGEMENT)



originally planned to be held from 14th-16th of August. We were told that it had to be cancelled so that the college could cover up on lost time, after all the preparations for Malhar had been made. It was a very charged meeting, with emotions running high. I aggressively fought to ensure that the festival wasn't cancelled altogether. We eventually managed to salvage a 1 and a half day long Malhar, and when the staff and Fr. Frazer agreed, there was a burst of emotions. I remember just breaking down right there and sobbing.

### **What did Malhar teach you?**

**Shriya:** It was a lot of hard work, but we made it fruitful by doing everything professionally and giving Malhar the respect that it deserves. Even today, I meet people who know me as Malhar Chairperson; you never know who is watching. You never know who's getting inspired. We were very lucky to have each other and we made a really good team.

**Shruti:** Given how things transpired, and the various obstacles we had to circumvent, Malhar was a fantastic learning ground for me. It prepared me to expect the unexpected and be nimble footed, for the times when life throws lemons at you. Being involved in such high-stakes negotiations with multiple internal and external stakeholders, and being expected to take big decisions, all at such a young age was a character-building experience. It set the tone and expectation that I could have from myself as a working professional in the years to come.

**Sonali:** We used to be so stressed that just to get our spirits going we used to crack jokes about how Shruti and OC Marketing would go to jail because of the changes in how Malhar was originally planned. Shriya would constantly joke that I might have to hold events in the washroom. But in the end everything turned out to be great. No sponsor backed out and we had to cancel only 1 event.

### **What do you have to say about an online Malhar?**

**Sonia:** The pandemic has seen the world undergo a blast of digitization. I think now is a time to embrace an online future because change is inevitable. Who knows, perhaps in 2030, we'll be having an immersive and virtually physical Malhar! The point is, the future is going to be so much more than what we imagine it to be. So, keep an open mind and give yourself the chance to be amazed. As Steve Jobs rightly said "Stay hungry, stay foolish!"

## **SONALI GUPTA**

VICE CHAIRPERSON (EVENTS)





## ADHITYA DHANAPAL

I joined the Malhar workforce in 2007, and I was a part of Malhar every year till 2011. For some reason, I was always in the LA department. I also remember how we used to hang out in a 30s classroom near the Psychology lab, everyday for the 3 months from mid June to mid August, we used to be there from 3 PM to 7-8 PM each day. We learnt a lot of skills and also made a lot of friends. We used to participate in chanting the classic "Hoo ha hoo ha" with the Security.

*“The most beautiful memory of Malhar that I have is of the night before Malhar, some departments got to spend the night on campus setting the place up.”*

One of the new things that I brought to Malhar was the Rhetoric event. Initially, Malhar was a two day event, but later when Conclave day came in, it transformed into a three day event. Conclave took over debates, so I came up with the Rhetoric event. This event focused on a Greek Pantheon, where Zeus was the judge, and the theme was 'Whether the world should come to an end or not?'. I remember how each person had to act out the character of the God that they were.

The years before 2011, had big scares. 2009 had the swine flu, and 2010 had the floods which got Malhar postponed. The floods were very scary, we did not know what was going to happen. 2011 felt like a big victory where we faced no significant problems. The most beautiful memory of Malhar that I have is of the night before Malhar, some departments got to spend the night on campus setting the place up. I remember that it was a rainy night and after we were exhausted, we went to the quad. The rainwater on the ground showed a reflection of the quad. It was a very beautiful feeling.



# LITERARY ARTS 2017

## What are your favourite memories of Malhar?

**Chinmay:** Apart from the thrill of organizing all the events, staying back late and bonding, what has stayed with me is things we unintentionally started, which went down in history as LA traditions.

The cosplayed department photos, ensuring the password for the LA ID is related to food, opening the first copy of Taal in the IPA Room and so many more that are still around today! It's things like these that warm our hearts because they ensure that the spirit and legacy of Literary Arts lives on.

**Yashvi:** Staying back late in college,

spending days with 7 people for 3-4 months. We all are still friends, we stay in touch even though we're supremely busy. Malhar just bonds everyone really well. I think those were the best memories.

**Joshua:** I remember the JAM event being a huge event, so we kept a huge stack of Taal there because that is where most people congregated. A lot of people had picked up Taals from there, which made us really excited!

*“Malhar just bonds everyone really well”*

**Chinmay:** There have been more emotional days like the 3rd day of Malhar. However, I think Eliminations was the best time I've had. There was so much happening

in one day! We were simply running on adrenaline.

**Gauri:** I clearly remember, Yashvi just sitting in the Moffice and going over and over with the Creatives OG, trying to explain to her the exact requirements of the Taal layout. She did this so patiently for days on end. I also clearly remember, when we got those boxes of printed, warm Taal copies. Ahh! That feeling.

**With Raga being discontinued, what was the vision behind Taal 2017?**

**Yashvi:** Honestly, being a Raga volunteer in FYJC, I just wanted to make sure that the legacy of Raga was carried on respectfully through Taal. Raga was essentially meant for entertainment purposes, for people to read during Malhar. We had to find a way to make it less literary while keeping its essence intact. Also, ensuring that it was fun and enjoyable so that people would've wanted to interact well with it. I never thought it would be a huge thing!

**Ayra:** Our biggest focus in 2017 was making Taal interesting and interactive, something people would want to read. We wanted people to see, value and appreciate the time, effort and energy that went into ideating Taal. Seeing people value it in this manner and paving the

way for future Taals fills us all with so much pride!

*“Seeing people value it in this manner and paving the way for future Taals fills us all with so much pride! ”*

**Chinmay:** A lot of credit goes to Yashvi (OG LA) and Gauri (OC LA) for ensuring that the magazine became such an integral part of Malhar. I remember having trouble getting sponsors where me, Yashvi and Joshua were calling sponsors for Taal. But, it was very easy next year, as an OC, because we had a budget set aside specifically for Taal.

**2017 was the only year with two Taals. Why did you choose to do this?**

**Gauri:** I think the main reason was that we were all very excited, and extremely ambitious! Logically speaking, the Conclave Taal was the more literary one. It was reserved for more serious topics and conversations. While, the other Taal or the ‘Pancake Taal’ was filled with quizzes and games. It was a lot more visual and catered to a broader audience.

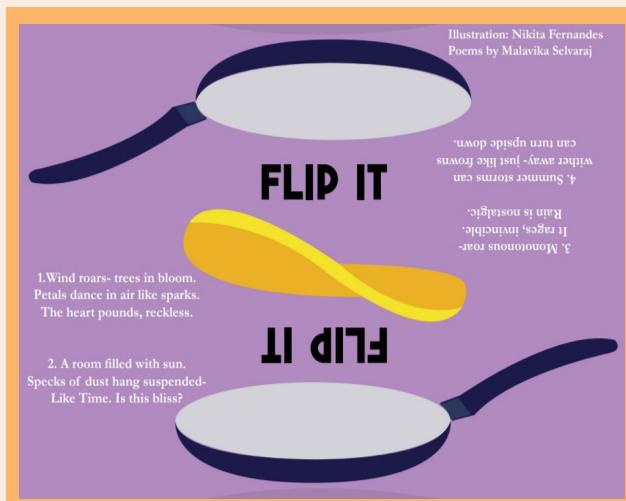


**Taal '17 had a very cool flipped theme - what was the inspiration behind that?**

**Yashvi:** As the theme for Malhar 2017 was 'Upside Down', we wanted to incorporate it into Taal as well. Madhu, one of the other OGs, came up with the idea of flipping the magazine halfway, just like one would flip a pancake!

**Gauri:** I remember this day very clearly!

**Yashvi:** In fact, this is what inspired 'carrot pancake', our codeword for regrouping and getting back to the task at hand after a break.



**Do you think Taal replaced Raga effectively?**

**Yashvi:** I think we managed to keep the essence of Raga by converting it into something that captured the essence of Malhar, while also making it enjoyable. We took literature and elevated it to become something entertaining to people with a whole array of interests. The aim was not to replace, but to take the essence of Raga and make it

*“The aim was not to replace, but to take the essence of Raga and make it more acceptable.”*

more acceptable. Honestly, I think we have done that successfully.

**Gauri:** A lot of people didn't know about Taal. The people from the management domain weren't aware of Taal at all. So, we tried to change the perception around it. We also succeeded in making not only the Taal but also the blog more inclusive and accessible by opening submissions to everyone. It was a big step forward.

**If you were in our shoes, what would you incorporate into Taal 2021, an E-publication?**

**Gauri:** I'd like to add a small side note here, we actually had an entirely different Online Taal for 2017, ready for publication on the blog. We were supposed to publish it a week earlier but for some reason we never went ahead with it! If you ask me I'd suggest that you merge the Taal and the Blog together. It could occasionally give teasers about what to expect from Taal.

**Yashvi:** As a music enthusiast, I would love to explore sound effects, adding tunes and lyricism into the online edition of the Taal to give it a new sensory experience. This would also compensate for the lack of having a physical copy.

**Chinmay:** Adding small video clips of people talking would be fun. Having department profiles in the form of videos would also make the profiles more immersive.

# THE MALHAR THAT WASN'T

Malhar is known to have changed and adapted with the times and through the years. However, the strangest and probably the hardest shift was the unimaginable break to the 41 year old college festival.

The Batch of 2020-2021 couldn't have what was supposed to be their last Malhar. Through their lens we look at understanding the only Malhar that wasn't and we hope that's the only one.

Taal '21 aims to capture the emotions, feelings and thoughts of the TY batch of 2021. These individuals are simply mouthpieces of the entire workforce who embody the true spirit of Malhar and represent the sentiment of the entire workforce.

This section is a celebration of their sweat and tears.

It is an attempt to offer them closure, a chance to reminisce; filling our minds with delectable nostalgia and to take a peek into what Malhar 2020 would've looked like had their vision come to life.



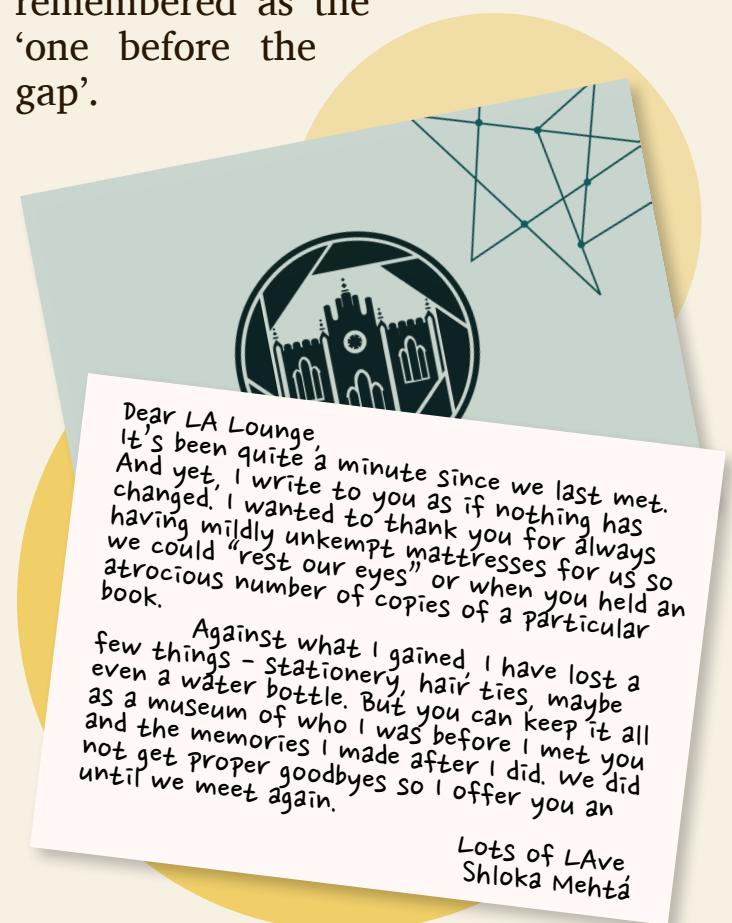
*Shloka Mehta*

**M**y first Malhar in 2016, was in FYJC. I remember being absolutely overwhelmed as a part of the audience. In my SYJC, I decided to join the workforce as an LA volunteer. It was one of the most exciting experiences I've had. I remember the Closing ceremony (2017), when the Chairperson just came out onto the stage and said the classic - "What's up Malharr?", and everybody just started cheering. That is the day when I decided that I wanted to be the CP in my TY, or at least a part of the Quartet. That was the defining moment that set me off on the path of doing Malhar every year. While working for Malhar 2018, I remember I was awaiting the FY-BMM merit list. The list was put up, with my name on top. The happiness was amplified when my team started cheering. I didn't know them well, but we were celebrating together.

Being the Organizer-in-Charge of LA (2019), there is an added sense of responsibility and accountability.

I remember staying back late, spending time in LR 37, the office, or near the cupboard. It was all worth it when someone would come up to me and say, 'Wow, amazing prompts. Great event.' It was the most 'human' experience that I could've had, where you're meeting so many people and everyone is working so hard towards one thing. It forms a sort of bond that I can't explain, but it just ties you. My time as a part of the Malhar workforce is an invaluable memory. There is nothing that I would trade it for.

In 2020, I would've wanted to bridge the communication gap between departments, strengthen the bonds, and for it to be more audience and participant oriented. I would've wanted to carry forward the notion of always being there for each other. I would like to be remembered as the 'one before the gap'.





## Sabina Saldanha

My first experience with Malhar was as an audience member for two years. The first time I was involved in Malhar- during degree college, to say the least, was absolutely insane! You get this feeling of intense brotherhood from Malhar. As a volunteer you have this assumption that your superiors in the hierarchy will be tough on you, but this hierarchy isn't actually there. Everyone is very friendly and that is precisely what made me fall in love with Malhar in the first place. You end up forming bonds with people you would never talk to otherwise. It's the best form of socialising. I remember crying out of joy after my first Malhar.

In 2019, I applied for the position of an Organizer-in-Charge for Hospitality. My selection came as a bit of a surprise. Malhar 2019 was built on stress and sleepless nights. It definitely paid off in the end. I have vague memories of answering calls while asleep and



Dear cardolate,  
It's been 2 years to my last Malhar  
I still remember most people and  
memories, all thanks to you!  
The messages from loved ones were  
always sweeter than the chocolates  
that you brought along!  
Thank you for keeping Malhar alive  
in my heart and memories!

not remembering anything the next day. On the main days, I remember walking around with food to the Events members and feeding them since they didn't have time to take care of themselves! When they say Malhar gives you a home, it literally does! Logistically, most of us were living in the college.

At the risk of sounding extreme, I think you can find yourself in Malhar. I had a period of low self-esteem before Malhar. I was mortified by public speaking. After Malhar, my self-esteem shot up. Malhar taught me to give without hesitation. If I had a chance to do it all again, I would change nothing, just maybe take more time saying goodbye properly if we had known it was going to be our last.



*Radhika Zaveri*

I was in FY when I had my first Malhar ever. This was a real 'time of growth' for me. In fact, this was when I first realized that I wanted to pursue management as a career!

By the time we got to my last Malhar in 2019, I was an Organizer for the Marketing department. We were handling lakhs of money! This was when I realized what it was like to work in the real world. As a part of the marketing department, I was in charge of collecting, sorting and distributing around 5,100 Malhar T-shirts, which was an overwhelming but a

very gratifying experience. It was a lot of responsibility, and the toughest thing was scrounging up huge amounts of funding in a time crunch. Just a fortnight before Malhar, we managed to get a huge sponsor, and the team was elated!

It was an emotional roller coaster. I'll never forget the feeling of walking into the Woods on the first day, seeing all the stalls set up. The entire environment is so chaotic, but you're filled with a sense of pride and belonging because of what you've accomplished.

The one word I can think of for describing Malhar is nostalgia! If I could go back and give some advice to myself at my last Malhar, it would be to be less stressed, and spend more time in the present! I only wish we had taken more videos back then, but luckily for 2021, everything is recorded for you already, so you guys are sorted!"

I don't think anyone but Xavierites can truly understand Malhar to the core. If an outsider were to hear what I'm saying they'd think it's absolute rubbish because it sounds exaggerated when I say that a College fest is a life-changing experience, but it truly is!



Dear Tshirt,  
I've always had a confusing love - hate relationship with you. You're always a cause of stress for my department, from sourcing to sorting. But still you lie in all our cupboards for years to come and never get old.

I hope that very soon, the students of Xavier's get to have you again for logo discussions, AmNite entries, and department photoshoots. I know I'm never getting rid of you.

From my first Malhar as a Marketing Volunteer, to my last as OC Finance in 2019, it was a huge leap! As an SY student, I wasn't expecting it at all! Initially, it was difficult to refuse budgeting demands, and balancing the needs of the departments, especially in a budget crunch. But with all the OCs and OGs, we managed well enough, and I finally had my "Malhar Moment" when we had a breakthrough with the title sponsor!

In the MOffice, we often lost track of time.

My day started and ended with the fest. I was even nicknamed the only 'Finance Volunteer', something I think I will forever be remembered by.

When the big day finally arrived, all 5 months of my work flashed before my eyes. Wearing a Malhar t-shirt, filled with pride, it was a satisfying experience indeed! Quite frankly, I'm glad I got to have the 2019 Malhar, I wouldn't change a single thing about it! Even years down the line, if there's one thing I hope never changes, it would be the selflessness of the people. After a point, any

Malhar problem automatically becomes yours. In fact, one of the biggest lessons in confidence and organization, I learnt was that it's better to get into the problem and resolve it rather than running away.

My vision for the 2020 Malhar would've been making it more sustainable in terms of finances. Clear co-ordination could help make this a reality. In fact, now, in 2021, I hope we can use this opportunity to set a precedent by building a system that brings in technology in a huge way for event management. Everything can be easily organized, using apps to bridge the gap between people.

*Shubham Baldawa*



Hello MOffice,

Long time no see, but never long enough for me to forget the beautiful memories made in there! I don't know how are you dealing with your walls not displaying all the Malhar teams and also not knowing the deepest secrets and gossips of Malhar but it will be your time to shine super soon! There will soon be new faces feeling privileged to have access to the finger-print scanner and many more students just waiting to get a glimpse of you! You have been home to all of us for months and looking forward to spending so much more time in there having chill times :)

You'll always be wanted by everyone for providing all the warmth and comfort and the ones who get to have you will always be cherish the times with you!

See you soon  
Shubham Baldawa

My first Malhar was as a participant in 2017, for a slam-poetry event. It was the first time I stepped into the St. Xavier's College campus. Later, when I came in for my entrance exam, I saw posters of the 150 year celebration. The idea of belonging to this institution fascinated me and Malhar became a very crucial part of this college journey. In 2019 I was just super excited to be a part of Malhar in its all functional capacity. I think everyday I realised the grandness and the legacy I was being a part of.

Through the four months of working, there was no one singular overwhelming moment, but there were several isolated warm moments. I remember on Conclave Day, Fiona (OG Conclave) and I were standing together as Sir Mark Tully walked past us and she started crying out of sheer happiness and I remember hugging her. Those

moments, they stand out to me. I would do anything to go back to it and to get all of that back. The only thing I would've done differently had I known it was my last, would be to enjoy it a little more.

Malhar 2019 was about learning. It was my stepping stone towards Malhar 2020 and

I put my best foot forward. If I had gotten a chance in 2020, I would've made it more than just a bunch of competitions spread across

three days, more celebratory, more audience engagement.

To me, Malhar will remain incomplete because I didn't get the closure I needed. However, the idea of Malhar will always excite me. I hope Malhar gets bigger and an experience everyone looks forward to, which gets people together, make friends out of strangers. The world needs repair; Malhar, may you be the respite students need.

## Suryansh Deo Srivastava



Dear Admin cupboard,  
If there's anyone who can take pride in knowing all Malhar secrets, it is you. From housing some of the most crucial documents to silently witnessing contingent ambushes, from minutely observing the proceedings of the Moffice to eavesdropping on the juiciest of fest gossip, you have seen time turn upside down at critical junctions in this multiverse of possibilities.

You are the beating heart of admin and I hope you continue to power this legacy silently and sincerely just like the team you represent. May you always be an object of fascination for volunteers, a place of respite for exhausted OGs, and a Malhar institution for posterity. Thank you for the memories.



Anugrah Singh Pundir

In my first year (2018), I was a PR (filmmaking) volunteer. I was an introvert when I came to Xavier's. Malhar acted as an icebreaker for people like me, who may or may not find it difficult to interact. It has contributed a lot into making me an extrovert. I grew up a lot in one year and was for sure, a different person.

I remember Malhar that year was on the verge of getting cancelled as there was a national call for mourning because Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee passed away. All events were stopped midway and the guests were escorted out of college. There was panic and chaos everywhere. I, as a filmmaking volunteer, really thought that this was

the moment to capture because it was something that has never happened in the history of Malhar. I kept recording and then the Quartet along with the principal went up on the stage and declared, "Malhar will happen again". This became a part of the Malhar aftermovie, that's when I thought to myself "I did that!"

People don't realise how much Malhar adds to your regular college life. It has given me two things- memories and friends, that I'll cherish forever. Malhar is not just a fest, it's a life experience. It completes ones experience at Xavier's.

My vision for Malhar 2020 would've been to reinforce the standing of prestige of this student-run organization. Culture is the one thing that is so difficult to pass down and I hope that the documentation we have done is inspiring for others and is replicated in a better way. Your name might not but your work is going to stay and be an inspiration for the batches to come.

Dear After movie,

Oh, how I am going to miss you; 24 frames per second of sheer bliss.  
of happy faces and a stranger's smile, living that singular moment that made it all come to life.  
For 3 days & 3 nights, every moment sheltered is saved in your minutes.  
That one day, we may look back at you with tears in our eyes, reliving...  
what it meant, to be young and alive.

Thank you.  
~ASP

**R**ajpriya - My first Malhar was as an SYJC Conclave Volunteer in 2017. As a volunteer we used to go for PR activities like Malhar on Wheels (MoWs) and I think it was through this that I found my true calling in PR!

**Fiona** - I wasn't even going to apply for Malhar, I did so at a friend's recommendation, and then there was no looking back! In 2018, when I applied to be a volunteer the department was called 'Confluence' as there were no events, only speaker sessions. The day Malhar 2018 ended I knew I was going to apply as OG next year. I had my heart set on Malhar after that.

**Rajpriya** - We were overenthusiastic volunteers, and we both carried that ahead into Malhar 2019 as OGs of our respective departments. I think the way you perceive Malhar changes drastically once you're a part of the core team. As a volunteer everything is served to you on a platter. Not being directly accountable to something going right or wrong, makes it different from being part of the core team that requires you to take decisions.

**Fiona** - Yes, that's why when things go right, it means so much more! I think for my team and I, getting Sir Mark Tully on board was the highlight. Watching him walk down the corridor, it was such a dream come true that I teared up. Suryansh (Admin Coordinator) saw me and he got really concerned for a minute before he realised that I was just too happy. He hugged me and it's



*Rajpriya Bhattacharya &  
Fiona Raval*

just these little moments that make Malhar what it is.

**Rajpriya** - I know! It might sound cliché but, everyday, every little progress, was a huge accomplishment for us. I remember on the day we touched 5000 followers on Instagram, I had tears in my eyes too!

**Fiona** - At the end of the day, we need to remember that it's all about the people. They're the spirit of Malhar. Rajpriya and I have been most excited, simply at the prospect of occupying a core team position together. We exchanged our apps and discussed our interviews, there was no toxic competition. I don't think we would be as close if we hadn't done Malhar before.

**Rajpriya** - On the last day of Malhar,

2019, Fiona and I hugged each other and cried our eyes out. I have so much to be grateful for because of Malhar. This fest means so much to us, there really aren't enough words to describe it.

**Fiona** - I know! When I think about Malhar, I just think of 'happy'. Having so many people around you, working extremely hard to pull something off that was initially envisioned, and everyone's simply having fun. Things go wrong too, but you forget all of that on the final days of Malhar.

**Rajpriya** - Oh, none of this comes to mind. The only thing you think of is 'Look! We pulled this off.' because it's the memories and friends that we cherish the most. I'd say they're my family. I'd do absolutely ANYTHING to go back to those days. Truly, we'd have done anything to have our last Malhar.

**Fiona** - I was actually very optimistic

about having a Malhar last year, even if it was online. Honestly, any Malhar is good Malhar. I always envisioned Malhar 2020 to be as good an experience for the audience as it is for the workforce. Additionally, I'd have liked a non-English Conclave session also.

**Rajpriya** - I would've ensured the volunteers had a good experience. That's important since Malhar needs you to come back to it. It is vital to retain the principle values and carry on the legacy. Even after 10 years, if someone from Malhar calls me, even at 4 am, I'd happily do everything I could to help!

**Fiona** - I can't tell you how much better college is because of Malhar. Now, when I look back, I am very grateful for everyone who has been part of this journey with me. I genuinely wish everyone gets to experience and feel Malhar the way we did. I hope everyone finds a 'Home' in Malhar!

Dear concert and AM Night,  
It has been a while since we met and although the world might have changed since, my love for you hasn't. Malhar feels less thrilling without you in it but I know it isn't good-bye yet.

very soon you'll have overwhelmed members of the organizing committee look at the stage under construction with tears in their eyes because they anticipate your arrival. very soon some kid will perform for their fellow Xavierites and never forget that high. very soon there will be a quad full of dancing students with aching feet and ONLY adrenaline fuelling them. very soon you'll create such surreal moments of joy that people will associate that feeling with Malhar forever.

until then, I'll remember you in the photos, the anecdotes and the laughter. You can remember us in the backstage panic and the on-stage exhilaration.

With love,  
Fiona Raval



# BEHIND — THE SCREEN

*Malhar's Parallax is incomplete without those who are the real wind beneath the workforce's wings. With most holistic perspectives, maximum insider information and commitment to the fest that remains largely uncredited, Taal 2021 presents conversations with the Staff members. We invite them to talk about Malhar, share their perspectives, talk about the challenges they faced and reminisce their fondest memories all of which have made Malhar what it is today.*



**Dr. Rajendra Shinde**

I've seen Malhar as a student ever since I joined St. Xavier's College in 1980. Initially, the participation for the fest was limited only to a few colleges. There used to be physical games conducted in the canteen, foyer back then. The literary events and other events started much later. In 2008, I represented our college at the International Youth Congress in the UK. When I came back, I asked Fr. Frazer if we could have a similar academic programme in our college. This is how the idea of Conclave was born in 2009.

The bonding between the students and the teacher during Malhar is just amazing. Looking at the situation this year, in the midst of the pandemic where people are in a bad shape, Malhar is required to vent out stress that students are undergoing.

**W**hen I was a student in the late 1970's, there was no Malhar. It began as a fest just for us, Xavierites. Later, Malhar started getting commercialised which became a problem for the college. We started getting replicated by the other colleges who further replicated consumerism. The disparity between theory and the organization of Malhar is a problem. What bugged me, as part of a Jesuit college, was the lack of reaching out to economically underprivileged colleges. When I became the principal, I set the tone right from the beginning. I think this year is a chance to be creative and to pioneer a newness into this festival. The students' learning responsibility hasn't changed. We have seen egalitarianism in the festival's workforce.

**Dr. Agnelo Menezes**



**MS. Ruby Pavri**

**M**y first interaction with Malhar was as a student, as a participant. I joined as a staff member in 1996, and within a couple of years I was brought into the Malhar staff committee. Through the years, changes with respect to sponsorships can be seen although the work ethic, the thrill and the belongingness of Malhar hasn't changed. When students come back, they are full of respect and appreciation for the experience. Malhar generates a lot of goodwill and it has a special place in the hearts of people who were involved.

## Dr.Bobby Matthew



I joined this college in 2003 and Malhar was a completely new thing for me. I was the convenor in 2017 and was involved with Malhar up until 2019. Malhar has changed a lot over the years, every year some new things become a part of Malhar and this should keep on happening. Students have amazing potential and that fascinated me even when I joined this college. I am very happy to see that we're not ending Malhar, we're reigniting it through an online mode. It's a good start!

My first foray into Malhar was from the outside, as the college contingent faculty-in-charge. I remember being a young faculty and seeing a different kind of zest, excitement and enthusiasm in the students. Malhar attracts the best of talents and performances. I was a member of the staff committee as the convenor in 2015 and 2016. The staff and the student committee synergised for the first time, we worked very closely. It was an uphill task with sleepless nights but it turned out to be a gamechanger. For us in the staff committee, we worked continuously with a single pointed conviction to celebrate and acknowledge creativity and make a difference to the society.

We've seen Malhar for so many years, it has taken on its own personality. Malhar is a festival of all festivals. It celebrates life in all its different shades and hues.



## Dr. Radha Kumar

# WHAT'S NEW MALHAR?

**“To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often.”**  
- Winston Churchill

Malhar has never been just a college festival. It is an entity of its own, composed of the brightest and the most innovative minds that St. Xavier's College has to offer. The world has changed and Malhar has kept up. Like everything else this year, Malhar too has grown beyond and outlived its physical format. Here, we reflect upon some of the changes adopted by us, in an attempt to continue to put up such a grandiose undertaking online. Post a year's hiatus, the magic of Malhar is back this year and will come alive over the course of a single day - the 29th of August, 2021.

Moving ahead is a challenge and it's tougher when you have to leave things behind. We bid farewell to numerous departments this year, colourful foyer boards, Malhar on Wheels, Moffice, walkie-talkies, souvenirs, badges, Yardsale, Book Exhibitions and the bustling Quad, full of energy. This goodbye doesn't bring us dismay, for we know, it is only a while until we meet again!

While we reroute our pathways leaving behind some of our fondest things, we heartily welcome the presence of something new. The Organizing Committee is working tirelessly to create the best possible experience in this virtual medium. We introduce Performing Arts - an amalgamation of the Indian and World Performing Arts, with events that

exhibit complete harmony. The only Big 4 representative, Texxx, doubles up as an events department too. With our first edition of eSports, it has got everyone really excited to see what's in store! Puddles has reinvented itself to become a cute Instagram filter. Another important 'first' for us is the Malhar Music video. Filming and Documentation is still kicking, this year as a part of Creatives, and continue to spy on us during meetings.

Some things never change, they stand their ground in the face of turmoil. Conclave is one such department which promises rapturous talks.



It is undeniable that we miss staying late in college, but the workforce stays up late in their homes, on meetings and calls, still fretting over the smallest details, to ensure this magnum opus comes to life. The

bonding over shared deadlines is the same. The endless breakout rooms and meeting links do not numb or overwhelm us because we know we made friends (who we now call family), over the last few weeks.

This adds to the electricity in the air which is synonymous with Malhar. This year, we cherish the legacy of Malhar which is being rerouted and recorded in the pages of history. The spirit of Malhar continues to burn brighter, by the day, in each one of us.

# QUARTET 2021



— RITTIKA GHOSH —

*Describe yourself in one line.*

**Rittika (Chairperson) :** \*answers concerningly fast\* Zero self-esteem

**Devdatta (VCP Events):** Ranting honestly since 2002

**Radhika (VCP Networking):** #Extra AF (As-Falooda)

**Kenn (VCP Management):** Reader-Memer-Musician-Dreamer \*instant chorus of groans\*

*What is your spirit animal?*

**Rittika:** Puddles! \*super excited with a BTS finger hearts\*

**Kenn:** Monkeys, because they're very unpredictable \*rants about stolen water bottles\*

(We have excluded the sloth performance to preserve mental sanity)

**Devdatta:** Wolves, because they're smart and hunt well in packs.

**Radhika:** I'd be a dog! \*group comments redacted for propriety\*. Maybe a cheetah then, because I'm swift at decision making.

**Which TV Character do you relate to the most?**

**Rittika:** \*Carefully sticking Post-Its on her face at 1 AM\* Gopi Bahu, because "Rasode mein KAUN tha?"

**Kenn:** Tyrion Lannister from The Game Of Thrones, because although I'm short, I make up for it with my personality \*suave smile\*

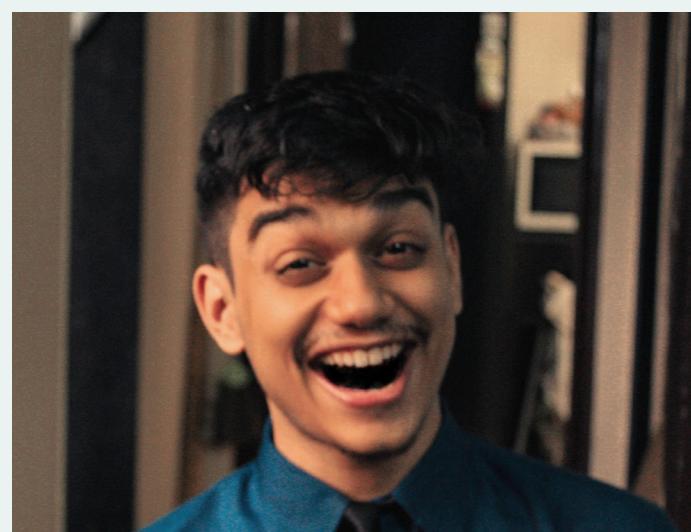
**Devdatta:** Tulsi from Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi for reasons 'undisclosed'. It may or may not have something to do with crashing a Marketing GD.

**Radhika:** Kat Edison from the Bold Type, because I am ambitious and blunt. I don't shy away from saying the right thing.

*If you weren't to be called the Quartet, what would you be called?*

**Radhika:** THE FANTASTIC FOUR! \*hair flip for extra oomph\*

**Rittika:** \*munches on chips\* 24 X 7 customer care service :')



— KENN D'SOUZA —



## — DEVDATTA REGE —

**Kenn:** Four Directions! Or maybe the 'Malhar Compass' \*deliberates\*

**Devdatta:** Conflict Resolution Experts.

**If you weren't a part of the Quartet, what existing department would you want to be a part of?**

**Radhika:** Admin! \*Delivers long speech before changing her mind\*  
Actually, PR.

**Kenn:** Literary Arts! (We see you trying to flatter us, sir)

**Devdatta:** \*mumbles about 4 different departments before deciding\* Conclave it is! <3

**Rittika:** Admin or PR or Security \*still deciding\*

**How about you choose from the departments that aren't a part of Malhar this year?**

**Kenn:** ETC, always had a special place in my heart \*awwww\*

**Rittika:** Hospitality

**Devdatta:** IPA seemed like fun, everyone was dancing all the time, but also, Hospitality has CAKE.

**Radhika:** ETC but I wanted to be in charge of the sports department (Field domination basically)

**What is the one thing that you hope stays a part of Malhar forever?**

**Devdatta:** Cardolates, because they're that one sweet gesture that completely eliminates the hierarchy and allows people to appreciate each other.

**Kenn:** Malhar on Wheels, external PR activity, because it is such a unique and interactive way to take our fest to people of other colleges.

**Rittika:** The Social Outreach Programme and the workforce T-shirts!

**Radhika:** Bonding! Malhar is way more than just work. It's an essential part of working.

**Describe Malhar in one word.**

**Radhika:** We ended up throwing a lot of words out there, so here are a few. Malhar is an emotion, a journey, which honestly can be a blur. It's a place of comfort, and it's also a powerhouse that leaves a lasting legacy. Malhar is a parallax! It is #NeverEnough.

**Kenn:** 'Experience'

**Devdatta:** 'Comfort'

**Rittika:** 'Legacy'

**Radhika:** '#NeverEnough'



## — RADHIKA DIKAY —

# CONCLAVE '21

## VISION

Malhar Conclave celebrates human intellect with its amalgamation of ingenious ideas, thoughts, and disciplines; a forum for dialogue and discussion. The times have changed and Conclave has progressed with it. Its fast-driven multiplex of notions and innovations has transitioned into the digital world, as Malhar 2021 brings back Conclave, an initiative of former Principal, Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas S.J, a platform that believes in the power of sharing knowledge and aims at incorporating meaningful discourse into this youth festival. Our podium has been graced by a network of eminent speakers including the 44th President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Dr. Raghuram Rajan, Sir Mark Tully, Mr. P. Sainath, and many others. With the right mix of Keynote Speakers, panels, and interviews, Conclave aims to bridge the gap between academia and the much-needed discourse around it; and put forward a platform that is representative of all and to all.

# **Lt General Satish Dua**

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Lieutenant General Satish Dua, PVSM, UYSM, SM, VSM, retired as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff. A counter-terrorism specialist, General Dua was the Corps Commander in Kashmir, who planned and executed the Surgical Strikes in response to the terror attack at Uri. He has authored a book about soldiers' lives on the LoC, titled 'India's Bravehearts'.



# **Prof John Lennox**

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Professor John Carson Lennox is a mathematician, philosopher of science and a Christian apologist who is an Emeritus professor of mathematics at the University of Oxford, an Emeritus Fellow of Green Templeton College. With his avid interest in the fields of science, philosophy, and apologetics, he has penned several books in his lifetime. In addition to this, he has also published over seventy mathematical papers and co-authored two Oxford Mathematical Monographs.

***Log in to the official Malhar website ([www.malharfest.org](http://www.malharfest.org)) for further updates regarding the entire line up!***

# EVENTS SCHEDULE

## SCREEN 1 - CONCLAVE

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Conclave Session 1
10:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Malhar Icon
1:45 PM - 4:45 PM	Rendezvous
4:15 PM - 6:30 PM	Conclave Session 2

## SCREEN 2

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Once Upon Online
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM	Glimpse of Performing Arts Events
1:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Taal is Well

## SCREEN 3

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM	A Tale of Two Tales
1:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Line it Up!
3:30 PM - 4:15PM	Guest Speaker Session: Mr. Ashutosh Bishnoi on Financial Literacy in the Youth today

## SCREEN 4

10:30 AM - 1:30 PM	E-Sports
1:45 PM - 4:45 PM	Quizine

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