

YOUTHQUAKE

NEWSLETTER



(For Internal Circulation Only)



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF SCD GOVT COLLEGE, LUDHIANA

From The Editor's Desk...



To mark India's 73rd Independence Day, Copenhagen based guest artist Shaivalini Kumar created a meticulously crafted doodle for Google. This artistic illustration tried to reflect the spirit of India. The pictures of *Parliament, Delhi Metro, Bengal Tiger, Tricolour Kite* and *LGBT Pride Flag* reflected not only our rich heritage but also our growth, purity and progress.

Though India continues to ascend in the rankings of the world's largest economies, yet as common masses we are struggling for liberation – liberation from a rotten education system, from battling for a train seat to a seat in college, from pimped journalism, from intolerance, from poverty and from clichéd patriotic songs sung on every August 15 and from unfulfilled promises of our politicians. Who is to blame? The answer rings in Shakespeare's immortal lines – *the fault dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.*

India is at a tipping point where the 600 million strong youth of the nation *can* effect the desired transition, for it's only the youth who can become drivers of inclusive and sustainable development. This *youth bulge* can channelize our country's resources towards making it a formidable nation in times to come. So let's unfurl the pages of our Independence day and make a call for the much needed *Youthquake!*

Geetanjali Pabreja

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CAMPUS BUZZ



Campus Buzz

- July 2019 ushered in the historic *centenary academic session* of the college. The assembly for undergraduate students of BA, BBA, BCA, B.Sc. and B.Com. was held on 22nd July and for students of twelve Post Graduate courses on 23rd July 2019.

The Principal Dr. Dharam Singh Sandhu welcomed the new students. The chief guest was Sh S. S. Bhogal, industrialist and an alumnus. Dr. Sandhu said that the college has a long list of illustrious alumni who are a great inspiration to the present generation of students to similarly strive for excellence and self improvement because the country has high expectations from them.

Sh. S. S. Bhogal recalled his student days and spoke about the value of a teacher. He praised the college as a hub of activities which gives students invaluable exposure.

Another alumnus and philanthropist Sh Bhushan Goyal was also present who had pamphlets with the famous quotes of our former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, which he distributed among the students and through a signature campaign, made them pledge to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Kalam.

Different members of the Teachers' Council oriented the freshers about different aspects of the college like timetable and examination; sports activities, rules regarding maintaining discipline and decorum; opportunities that can be availed through Youth Club. Information about NSS, NCC and cultural activities was also given. They were also apprised about becoming a part of the Students' Council that shoulders the responsibility of supervising every college function and event successfully. The benefits of the Finishing School, college magazine **Satluj** and the college newsletter **Youthquake** were also told.

- A lecture was organized in collaboration with **Brahma Kumari Godly University, Mount Abu, Rajasthan** on 26th July, 2019 in the Sahir Auditorium. **Mera Bharat, Swarnim Bharat** formed the theme of the campaign undertaken by the Brahma Kumaris to ignite the youth for a glorious India. The Principal Dr. Dharam Singh Sandhu welcomed the guests and assured the students that they would learn moral ethics from them that day because Brahma Kumaris are dedicated to spread peace and spirituality.

Hitesh Bhai who is a mechanical engineer by profession and Meera Behen who has been a member of the Youth Services Wing of the Brahma Kumaris for the last 18 years, addressed the students and motivated them to cleanse their thoughts of all negativity and fill their minds with positive assertions in order to bring about a sea change in their perspective. Meditation helps in making the always busy mind stabilise itself. To prove this point, they also made the audience meditate.

They arrived in Punjab as part of a rally that started from Gujarat in August 2017 and Punjab is the 24th state that they visited. The purpose of this rally is to generate awareness among the youth. For this purpose they also had an exhibition organised in their bus which emphasized the cleanliness of the surroundings and of the body and mind.

- The Geography department of the college under the leadership of Dr. Harbans Singh, organised a *tree plantation drive* by planting saplings in the campus in a bid to sustain and safeguard the environment.
- Another *tree plantation drive* was initiated by Tandrast Punjab and NSS units of the college on Aug 5.
- The NSS units and legal literacy cell of the college organised a **legal awareness seminar** in the college campus on Aug 9. The vice-principal of the college Dr. Harbans Singh welcomed the chief guest of the day, S. Naginder Singh, a renowned advocate. S. Naginder Singh apprised the students of the legal options available to the needy sections of the society. He also spread awareness about lok adalats and consumer courts. He answered the queries of the students on various legal issues.

- In commemoration of **Swachta Pakhwara**, a govt. of India initiative, the NCC cadets of both the Air wing, Army wing and NSS volunteers of the college, organised a Swachhta Awareness Rally in the college campus on 14th August, 2019. Nearly 200 students took part in it. They went around the campus chanting slogans like *Swachta Apnao, Swasth Bano, Swachta hi Sewa hai, Swachta Hmara Param Dharam hai and Not Me, But You*. It was flagged by the college principal Dr. Dharam Singh Sandhu. Its motive was to sensitize the youth regarding the importance of maintaining a clean and litter-free campus. NCC Incharge Prof. Anamika, NSS Incharges Prof. Sumeet Brar, Prof. Arun Kumar, Prof. Neelam and Prof. Paramjit Chander also took part in it.

- The college organised **Fitness Oath Taking** function in the Sahir Auditorium at 10 am on 29th August, 2019. The function was in accordance with PM Modi's launch of the nationwide **FIT INDIA MOVEMENT** on the occasion of **National Sports Day** in the memory of Hockey wizard **Major Dhyan Chand's** birth anniversary. The function was presided over by the vice Principal Dr. Harbans Singh and the chief guest S. Gurpreet Singh Mann, Tehsildar, Ludhiana.

Nearly 500 students and teachers watched live the function that was telecast from Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. They heard PM Modi's speech in which he exhorted the people of the country to embrace a regular fitness regime in their lives because mental health can be achieved only after achieving physical health.

The students also felt motivated by the cultural programme that was shown to them which stressed upon becoming physically active and to shun gadgets. Prof. Paramjit Chander thereafter administered the *Fitness Oath* to the students.

Across the World...

➤ Chandrayaan-2 enters Moon orbit

Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to the Moon, entered the lunar orbit at 9:30 am 20th August, 2019, bringing the country closer to accomplishing something that nobody has -- landing a rover near the south pole of the Moon. Over the next few days, Chandrayaan-2, which is carrying a six-wheeled rover, will perform a series of manoeuvres to lower its orbit around the Moon. Currently, Chandrayaan-2 is revolving around the Moon in an elliptical orbit and after performing four sets of orbit manoeuvres, Chandrayaan-2 will be primed for its ultimate function--landing the six-wheeled rover, called *Pragyaan*, on the Moon.

➤ Ladakh Becomes First Buddhist-majority Union Territory in India

The Parliament gave its nod to the legislation for bifurcating the state, a bold and far-reaching decision that seeks to redraw the map and future of a region at the centre of a protracted militancy movement. This decision came after article 370 was scrapped off. MP of Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal has appreciated this move and called it a victory for his region. For decades, Buddhist leaders from this region held several campaigns. The aim was to get the Indian government to identify this area separate from Jammu and Kashmir.

➤ Simone Biles made History

Simone Biles made history with her never-before-seen triple-double floor exercise landing. She performed the twists in the Gymnastics Championship held in Kansas City. Biles already has a vault skill and a floor exercise manoeuvre named for her as their originator.

➤ Anshula Kant Joins World Bank as Group MD and CFO

Anshula Kant, the Managing Director of SBI has been designated as the new MD and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the World Bank group. In her responsibility as the MD and CFO, Kant will be handling the financial and risk management of the reputed lender, reporting to Malpass, the President of the firm. She will also work closely with him on the mobilization of IDA and other financial resources.

➤ Virat Kohli becomes First Batsman to score 20,000 runs

Indian captain Virat Kohli becomes the first batsman to score 20,000 International runs in a decade. Kohli has aggregated 20,502 runs across three formats out of which he has scored 20,018 in the ongoing decade.

➤ Centre launches San-Sadhan Hackathon

Department of Empowerment of persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), under Swachh Bharat Mission, launched San-Sadhan Hackathon on 17th August, 2019 with an aim to enhance sensitivity and develop an ecosystem for creating a barrier-free environment with

the help of technology innovators, startups and student innovators.

➤ Scientists Discover Pain-Sensing Organ in Skin

According to Journal Science, researchers have discovered a new sensory organ in the skin that is able to detect painful mechanical damage, such as pricks and impacts, that may help in developing novel painkillers.

➤ Bianca Andreescu won Rogers Cup 2019

Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu won Rogers Cup Tournament held in Toronto, Canada. She is the first Canadian to win this tournament in 50 years beating Serena Williams.

➤ Djokovic claims fifth Wimbledon in epic finale

Novak Djokovic, despite having been a four-time champion, gave the world at large, another chance to reassess that relationship with a performance for the ages to defeat eight-time winner Roger Federer 7-6(5), 1-6, 7-6(4), 4-6, 13-12(3) and clinch his fifth crown and 16th Major overall. On the other hand, Simona Halep, a dedicated and enormously likeable athlete, delivered the performance of her life by scoring a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Serena Williams.

➤ PNG has the most number of Languages

The Pacific island of Papua New Guinea has the highest number of indigenous languages in the world (840) While India stands 4th with 453. **2019 is the United Nation's International year of Indigenous Languages.** According to their report, Chinese, Spanish, Hindi, English and Arabic are the most widely spoken languages of the world.

➤ News Anchor Ravish Kumar felicitated with Ramon Magsaysay Award

Indian Journalist and news anchor Ravish Kumar of NDTV India was recently awarded the prestigious 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award. He received the award for *harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless* through his news show, **Prime Time**.

➤ Walmart ranked as India's top retailer

According to a study by Euromonitor International Tracking, Asia's largest retailer, Walmart is India's top retailer after it acquired Flipkart in 2018 for 16 billion dollars. Future Group ranks third followed by Reliance Group that has formats across electronics, apparel and grocery retail among others.

➤ A nine-year-old girl appointed as the Green Ambassador of Manipur

Valentina Elangbam, a nine-year-old girl from Manipur after seen weeping profusely in a viral video after two trees she had planted were cut down, has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for the Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission. She will be involved in various tree-plantation programmes including Environment Day and Van- Mahotsava.

➤ India's first underwater train to be launched

India's first underwater train project under the Hooghly river in Kolkata is almost complete. This train is proof of the progress made by the Indian Railways. The 16-km

long project will connect Salt Lake Sector-5 with Howrah Maidan.

➤ **China launches Commercial use-CCTV rocket**

A Chinese Government space agency successfully launched a commercial use rocket on 17th August, 2019. Smart Dragon-1 rocket, which weighs 23 tonnes, was developed by a unit of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp. China envisions constellations of commercial satellites that can offer services ranging from high-speed internet for aircraft to tracking coal shipments.

*Compiled by
Rishika Sharma
MA II Eco (6374)*

Youth Speaks

HOW REAL ARE THE REALITY SHOWS?



Yes, they are scripted, yes, to all the pre planning, and yes they will do anything to top the TRP game. With the daily soaps dealing with *nagins*, *daayans*, *saas-bahu*, and even with the heroine turning into a fly, people turn to these reality shows in order to find refuge. But unfortunately, these reality shows have become more or less the same. With over inquisitive judges, too many sponsors, sob stories of the contestants filled with poverty and hardships focusing on everything apart from the real talent they have. These shows are mere means for earning money. Not to forget a perfect platform for all the new movies to do their branding and promotions. Not only that, the kids that come on these reality shows are asked to do a number of things to get *masala* which may have a heart breaking effect on them and even making them mature before age which is totally a play with the purity and innocence of these children. Even the famous director Shoojit Sirkar wanted the authorities to ban the kids from working on these reality shows. And thus this is a fact that these scripted – unscripted reality shows are far from reality which is now upon the audience to decide.

*Deeksha Singh
MA I Eng (5041)*



Reality shows help children to showcase their talent to a wide range of audience. These shows feature common people like us which gives us a sense of realness. They enhance the knowledge and capabilities of participants. If a participant wins a show, he/she gets a lump sum amount of money. Reality shows have given us many renowned singers and actors like Divyanka Tripathi, Vishal Karwal, Ayushmann Khurrana etc.

*Jaideep singh
BA Sem III (1797)*



Reality shows often take us into the world of scripts, in which viewers are lured into the glamour world where everything is far away from the reality.

Over a period of time, many famous Indian reality shows like *Roadies*, *Big Boss*, *Splitsvilla*, *Indian Idol*, *Kaun Banega Crorepati*, *Fear Factor*, *Master Chief*, *SaReGaMaPa*, *Dance India Dance* and the likes have survived through the changing tastes and mood of their audiences. But the sad truth is that the reality only remains in the name; often now and then people have claimed it to be scripted. These shows are already planned, defined and directed in a way to manipulate the viewers to gain their sympathy and emotions, and attract them by using various entertainment factors which helps them in gaining higher TRPs irrespective of their talent.

*Nimarta Mehrook
M.A. I Eng (5023)*



In Indian television industry, there are reality shows of different genres like comedy, dancing, singing, acting, dating, cooking and sports etc. But to call them reality shows would be a misinterpretation. They are not real but scripted and preplanned. It feels that most of these are fake. It is doubtful if these shows actually promote some talent or just build on the TRPs. The shows are made of exaggerated dramatization and sympathetic stories of the contestants. There is no transparency in the auditions also. There are unnecessary augmentations and clashes among the judges regarding the performances and scores. It has also been seen that many times the winning amount is not given to the winners and promises made are not fulfilled.

*Prabhjot Kaur
M.A. II Eng (6039)*



Reality shows are the laziest and most base incarnations of fiction dressed up as non-fiction to bypass our innate essential and aesthetic filters that will otherwise reject them as unworthy of our attention in most cases.

*Tanvi Kaura
M.A. II Eco (6393)*



Reality shows refer to unscripted and off-hand shows. By and large, these shows are supposed to bring real talent of participants to people, to ameliorate their talent and to inspire people. But apparently *raison d'être* seems to be shifting to just TRP, tears, melodramas. Sometimes even judges who are supposed to gauge participants, seem odd choices of the producer/director: for instance, Chetan Bhagat in *Nach Baliye* and Farah Khan in *Indian Idol*. So, purpose of reality shows should be shifted from TRP oriented melodramas to bring showcase the real

talent of the participant which may be salubrious for the society.

Goldi Bhagat
M.A.II Eco (6327)



We are merely using these shows to escape our realities and I can assure you people that these reality shows are as real as a mirage. I've seen people building castles in the air and expecting something similar to happen to them while watching the younger Kardashian getting Rolls Royce as a gift from her family. Reality shows are like viruses and spread through episodes and seasons. These shows have elements full of abusive language, crocodile tears, fake laughs and scripted fights. It is just one negative form of fiction where you try to learn from the people who are not even doing something according to their own conscience.

Rishika Sharma
M.A. II Eco (6374)



Reality TV shows are not only a great source of entertainment, but also an epitome of knowledge. When I talk about reality shows, I am reminded of shows like *Satyamev Jayate*, which acquaint the masses about general issues in the country. Shows like *Dance India Dance* and *Sa Re Ga Ma*, not only make our lives more entertaining but also motivate others to participate in such shows. They also add fervour to the monochromatic lives of old people.

Piyush jain
B.com - II (4624)



Reality shows, as the name defines itself, are the shows based on real stories. They provide the platform to the unsung heroes who possess high calibre in a particular field of art. Such shows help in bringing out their talent. These shows act as a social bridge between the artists and the audiences.

Naman Garg
B.sc N.M Sem-III (3687)



In my opinion, some of the reality shows are really real. A common man who watches TV can relate himself with these shows. Usually the disclaimer page, to which we don't give any attention, says it all. In support to my opinion, I can quote shows like *India's Got Talent* or *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* where the talent shown is unequivocally real talent. The backgrounds are not fake. Some of the kids in dance shows have been from our city, Ludhiana. If we talk about *KBC* the knowledge of the participants is also real. Producers can't script that. So the reality shows are real to some extent in my opinion.

Vaibhav Joshi
B.Com Sem I (4515)



वास्तविकता यह है कि रियलिटी शो के पीछे पूरा का पूरा प्रोजेक्ट काम करता है और उसमें लोगों की बंधी-बंधायी सोच थोपना चाहता है। वह जितना प्रकृतिक रूप से उसके व्यवहार को दिखाना चाहते हैं, लोगों को जितना वह स्वाभाविक लगता है वास्तव में वो सब कुछ अस्वाभाविक है। नाटकों के ऊपर आधारित है। वो एक सीरियल की तरह है, नाटक की तरह है, धारावाहिक की तरह है जो पहले से ही रिकार्ड होता है, पहले से ही तैयार होता है।

रजत सेठी
एम.ए. तीसरा सेमेस्टर (6245)



रियलिटी शो के सम्बन्ध में लोगों की यह सोच हो सकती है कि यह अन-रियल हैं, परन्तु नहीं उसके पात्र भी रियल होते हैं। उसमें जो व्यवहार होते हैं वो भी रियल होते हैं, वो मानव के होते हैं, वो मानव के आस-पास जो भी चीजें होती हैं उससे जुड़े होते हैं। इसलिए भले ही हम चाहे उसे पर्दे पर देखते हैं, भले ही उसे नाटक के रूप में देखते हैं, भले ही प्रोग्राम के रूप में दिखाया जाता है, लेकिन वास्तव में वो वास्तविक जीवन से उठे हुए पात्र ही होते हैं। उनके व्यवहार उसी रूप में होते हैं जैसे वास्तविक जीवन के पात्रों के होते हैं। उनमें घटनाएं, संवेदनाएं वही होती हैं जो रियल लाइफ की होती हैं। इसलिए रियलिटी शो के बारे में लोगों की कोई और राय हो सकती है लेकिन फिर भी भले ही उसमें नाटकीयता होती है, भले ही वो प्रोजेक्टड होता हो, स्क्रिप्ट आधारित होता हो पर फिर भी उसमें रियलिटी होती है क्योंकि मानव जीवन के रियल लाइफ के बारे में ही होती है।

याचना शर्मा
एम.ए. तीसरा सेमेस्टर (6233)



ਕੁਦਰਤ ਦਾ ਅਸੂਲ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਹਰ ਬੰਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਨਾ ਕੋਈ ਕਲਾ ਦਾ ਧਾਰਨੀ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਬਸ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਕਲਾ ਨੂੰ ਹਵਾ ਮਿਲਣ ਦੀ। ਇਸੇ ਕੰਮ ਨੂੰ ਵੱਧ ਚੜ੍ਹ ਕੇ ਗੁੰਗਾਰਾ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਰਿਐਲਿਟੀ ਸ਼ੋਅ। ਇਹ ਕਹਿਣਾ ਕੋਈ ਗਲਤ ਕਥਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਰਿਐਲਿਟੀ ਸ਼ੋਅ ਅਸਲ ਕਲਾ ਦੇ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਹੁਨਰ ਨੂੰ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਅੱਗੇ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਰੋਜ਼ੀ-ਰੋਟੀ ਦਾ ਸਾਧਨ ਬਣਦੇ ਹਨ। ਦੇਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਆਰਥਿਕ ਪੱਖੋਂ ਬਹੁਤ ਹੀ ਮਾੜੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਹੁਨਰ ਜਦ ਰਿਐਲਿਟੀ ਸ਼ੋਅ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਟੀ.ਵੀ. ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਰਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦਰਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਬੜਾ ਭਰਵਾਂ ਗੁੰਗਾਰਾ ਮਿਲਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਲਾਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਅੱਖੋਂ ਚਮਕਦੇ ਹੰਝੂ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ ਨੂੰ ਬਾਖੂਬੀ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਰਿਐਲਿਟੀ ਸ਼ੋਅ ਨੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਫਰਸ਼ੋਂ ਅਰਸ਼ ਤੱਕ ਦਾ ਸਫਰ ਤੈਅ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਹੈ। ਅਸੀਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਸ਼ੋਅ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿਫਾਰਿਸ਼ ਚੱਲਣ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਹਿ ਸਕਦੇ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਜੇਤੂ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਵੋਟਿੰਗ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਸੋ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਅੰਦਰਲੇ ਹੁਨਰ ਦੀ ਪਹਿਚਾਣ ਕਰਨੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਰਿਐਲਿਟੀ ਸ਼ੋਅ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਾਗ ਲੈਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕਰਨੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਮ ਇਨਸਾਨ ਦੀ ਜਿੰਦਗੀ ਬਦਲਣ ਲਈ ਮੁਨਾਸਿਫ ਹਨ।

ਜਸਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ
ਬੀ.ਐਸ ਸੀ (4121)

Book Review

THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN

(Mitch Albom)

Hyperion Press Fiction, New York (2003)

ISBN :140130589

Pages :196, Price :\$5.99, Rs.235/-

Books are king's treasures - treasures filled not with gold, silver and precious stones, but with riches more valuable than these - knowledge, noble thoughts and high ideals.

-Ruskin

Mitch Albom is a first rate storyteller and his book *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is an imaginative and a creative tale in the tradition of the best fairy tales or folklores. Unlike Mitch Albom's utterly prosaic existential crisis in the earlier novel, he decides it is time to leave the rat race and appreciate the people in his life more after spending time with his dying and sagacious former college professors.

Thus, sportswriter-turned-pop-religionist Mitch Albom has one more cute little lesson for us unenlightened masses to gobble up and gag on. It is a bit of a misnomer this time. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is not really the five people you will meet in heaven (like your friends- Albert Einstein, Madonna, or John Holmes - is that just my idea of heaven?), but rather the five people destined for Albom's main character, an ornery old man straight out of central casting.

Eddie, the maintenance man who keeps the rides safe at a Coney Island like amusement park at Ruby Pier, has led a predominantly banal life. He did fight in the Philippines in World War II, where, after escaping a POW camp, he torched a hut that he comes to suspect may have had a child inside. (It did. Egad!) When he returns, he marries his high school sweetheart, gives up on all his hopes and dreams, and spends the rest of his life tending to the rides at Ruby Pier. His 83rd birthday seems like any other day - he inspects the rides, watches the people, makes pipe cleaner animals for the children. However, on this day, he dies unexpectedly. Eddie, while trying to rescue or save the young girl in harm's way, is unceremoniously killed.

The skies open, the clouds change colour, and Eddie wakes up in heaven - but not in *the paradise garden, a place where we can float on clouds and laze in river and mountains*, not the idyllic place that heaven has been described as throughout time. Rather he is suddenly back at Ruby Pier - but magically it is the pier from his childhood and it is empty. Freaky! Throughout his time in heaven, Eddie fears he may not have rescued

child when he died - which is a bit odd, since his worries were supposedly lifted upon reaching the great ever after. Eddie awakens to a series of introductions or reintroductions - to five people whom he had met during his life, either in passing or at length. All the five are, of course, deceased and they all impart knowledge of Eddie's life and life in general. Each one of them knows each and everything about Eddie's life. With each meeting, he relives in part that time of his life, but now the gaps are filled in, for maybe the first time he sees what really happened. The Blue man, Eddie's first encounter, explains, *There are five people you meet in heaven*. Again he says, *Each of us was in your life for a reason. You may not have known the reason at the time and that is what heaven is for. For understanding your life on earth*.

For instance, the Blue man asks, *Why do people gather when others die*, and his explanation is at the core of the meaning of Albom's book: *It is because the human spirit knows, deep down, that all lives intersect. That death doesn't just take someone, it misses someone else, and in the small distance between being taken and being missed lives are changed*. It raises questions in the mind of a reader, "What does Mitch Albom know that we don't?"

Heaven also changes depending on who Eddie is talking to - such changes are, of course, always book-ended by the skies opening and clouds changing colour. Eddie meets a carnie from the freak show, talks to his old army captain, meets the real Ruby of Ruby Pier and gets time to spend with his dead wife. Each provides Eddie with some nauseating wisdom to help him understand his life. Some of those dazzling Albom-isms: "All endings are also beginnings"; "The only time we waste is the time we spend thinking we are alone;" "The world is full of stories, but all stories are one."

He knows everything to what we remain curious and question repeatedly. We look for meaning behind the experiences in our lives. More often than not, we never get the answers but we continue - we plod on, happy or unhappy, fulfilled or unfulfilled, pain-free or in pain. Yet we live and the life moves on. Albom doesn't pretend to offer us the answers, but he does offer us an interpretation of life. The answers may never be revealed. And do they need to be?

But what Albom's novel (Fable? Didacticism? This must be a new genre) is really about is his very own conception of heaven. As he puts it in the book's dedication, *Everyone has an idea of heaven, as do most religions, and they should all be respected*. Where to begin? In fact, not everyone does have an idea of heaven. And not all versions should be respected - least of all one that comes from a man whose mid-life crisis has been foisted upon the country. I, for one, don't respect the view of heaven that comes coupled with a nice hot hell for all the heathens, pagans and heretics out there to rot in. And I don't respect the view of heaven that guarantees

Mormons higher standing in the afterlife than the majority of the rest of us.

Truthfully, I don't believe in heaven - I have no clue as to what, if anything comes next, whether it's Valhalla, Nirvana, the Garden of Eden, reincarnation, or absolutely nothing. My fundamental problem with the concept is that it acts as some kind of celestial incentive to be a good person on earth. But there are plenty of Earthly and tangible reasons to do so already. If I tend to an elderly relative, it is because I care for the well-being of that relative and his quality of life, not because I desire a reward. And, frankly, that's a much more profound way to live in the world; behaving for the sake of doing what's right, not for the sake of gain.

It is easy to feel an affinity for this simplistic, folksy bathos; it is easier, after all, to act for the sake of heaven than to make the considered and nuanced moral choices that really confront us in life. And it is here that Albom fails. His character makes no moral choices, he does not ponder the depths of his existence and he is merely a reactive stick figure that has to go to cotton-candy heaven to learn that his life had a meaning. It is single-serve religion for a drive-thru, strip-mall, mega-church kind of country.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven is a very realistic story of Eddie who is human and appreciable for his fears and weaknesses. The writing-style of the novel is lyrical and fable-like. Though the book is fiction, it reveals Albom's lifelong love towards his uncle. It lends a tenderness and intimacy to the tale at par with *Tuesdays With Morrie*. You will want to share this with your friends, family, acquaintances, and even those nameless people you pass on the street who may have played a larger role in your life than you ever could have imagined.

Dr. Neelam Bhardwaj
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Know Your English

(Unusual Silent Letters)

RENDEZVOUS

a meeting planned at a certain time and place

This is from the French phrase *rendez vous*, meaning "present yourselves." Following the French pronunciation, both the "z" and "s" go silent.

RECEIPT

an acknowledgment (usually tangible) that payment has been made

In the Anglo-French spoken by the Norman conquerors, the word was spelled *receite*. The spelling eventually changed in English to add a "p" (bringing it into line with the Latin root *recepta*), but the pronunciation stayed the same.

Biography

TONI MORRISON

"You think I don't know what your life is like just because I ain't living it? I know what every colored woman in this country is doing."

"What's that?"

"Dying. Just like me. But the difference is they dying like a stump. Me, I'm going down like one of those redwoods. I sure did live in this world."

(*Sula*, 143)

A major architect in creating a literary language for Afro-Americans, one of the most critically acclaimed, formidable black writers, Nobel Prize-winning American novelist, essayist, editor, and Professor at Princeton University **Toni Morrison**, was born in Lorain (Ohio) in a working class family on February 18, 1931 as Chloe Anthony Wofford, the daughter of George and Ramah Willis Wofford. Toni Morrison grew up in the salubrious atmosphere of Lorain during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Morrison displayed interest in literature in the early years. Her novels are known for their epic themes, vivid dialogues and detailed black characters. The best known works are *The Bluest Eye*, *Song of Solomon*, and *Beloved*.

Morrison was very well known for her African-American identity. She tried to discover the complex life of the black slaves and other men and women who were living in a highly backward and neglected condition in America and blacks were treated as animals. She was much concerned with the improvement of black community.

Through her novels, she presented the African-American socio-historical reality. Her first novel *The Bluest Eye*, published in 1970, was about a black girl Pecola, who longs for beauty and blue eyes. She hopes that this will bring her the love she longs for. In this novel, Toni Morrison is concerned with the contradictions fostered by racism, sexism and class distinctions affecting the black girls in white America. Morrison considered racism to be Africa's primary obstacle.

As a novelist, she earned much acclaim for her third novel, *Song Of Solomon*. It bagged her the **National Book Critics Circle Award**. The book was a main selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, the first novel by a black writer to be chosen since Richard Wright's *Native Son* in 1940.

She was awarded the **Pulitzer Prize** in 1988 for *Beloved*. She was the 8th woman to win the **Nobel Prize in Literature** in 1993. In 2012, Barack Obama awarded her the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**. She was awarded with **National Humanities Medal** and **National Endowment for Humanities** in 1996.

She was also an editor and in the late 1960s she became the first black female editor in fiction at Random House in New York City. As an editor, Morrison played an important role in bringing black literature into mainstream. She edited books by authors like Toni Cade Bambara, Angela Davis and Gayl Jones.

She was famous among her readers because of her dialogues which were *poetically charged* and she depicted well the situation of Black Americans in her works. In *The Bluest Eye*, she portrayed the struggles of African-Americans with realistic description of personality and characters.

Her works like *God Help the Child*, *Home, Jazz*, *A Mercy*, *Paradise*, *Sula*, *Tar Baby* and *Sweetness*, have been a great contribution to literature. She will always be remembered for her works. After giving a great contribution to American literature for almost five decades, Toni Morrison died on August 5, 2019. She has left a huge void in world of literature.

Harshil Jolly
M.A. II (6022)

RISEN FROM THE ASHES LIKE A PHOENIX - J. K. ROWLING

Joanne Kathleen Rowling was born on 31st July 1965 in Yate, Gloucestershire, England. When she was a young teenager her aunt gifted her a copy of Jessica Mitford's autobiography. Mitford became her ideal and she read all her books.

Rowling's early teenage years were unhappy because her mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She had a sour relationship with her father as he was not much friendly. She attended St Michael's primary school. Her school headmaster at St. Michael's, Alfred Dunn, has been suggested as the inspiration for Harry Potter headmaster Albus Dumbledore.

In 1982 Rowling took an entrance test for Oxford University but she failed to get admission. Then she went for the degree of BA in French and Classics at the University of Exeter. Her French Professor remembers her as a quietly competent student who in academics did nothing extraordinary.

After working as a Secretary in Amnesty International, she moved to Manchester, where she worked at the Chamber of Commerce. While travelling in the train from Manchester to London, she came up with the idea of story of a young boy attending a school of wizardry. She quickly penned down her thoughts. Soon after, her mother Anne died after suffering from multiple sclerosis. She was writing Harry Potter at that time but she never told her mother about it. The sudden death of her mother affected her writing and then she transmitted her own feelings of loss by writing about Harry's feeling of loss in book.

Rowling then moved to Portugal to teach English as

foreign language. She taught at night and during the day she used to complete her writing. She married Portuguese television journalist Jorge Arantes in 1992. They had a daughter a year later but the couple separated soon after owing to domestic abuse of Rowling by her husband. Seven years after graduating from university, Rowling saw herself as a complete failure in her life. In this period, due to overthinking, she had depression and contemplated suicide. Her condition inspired the characters known as dementors, soul-sucking creatures introduced in the third book.

While struggling to support her daughter Jessica and herself on welfare, she finished her manuscript for *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* which was typed on an old typewriter. Twelve houses rejected the manuscript and when finally editor Barry Cunningham from Bloomsbury agreed to publish the book, he advised Rowling to get a day job, as chances of her success were bleak. J.K. Rowling finally sold her first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, for the equivalent of about \$4,000; it hit shelves in June 1997 with an initial print run of 1000 copies, half of which were distributed to libraries. The word "Philosopher" in the book's original title was changed to "Sorcerer" for its publication in America.

Five months later, the book won **Nestle Smarties Book Prize**. In February, the novel won the **British Book Prize** and later the **Children's Book Award**. Rowling's popularity grew overnight and her books were valued very high. The sequel *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* was published in July 1998 and won the Smarties Prize yet again. In December 1999, the third novel *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* won the Smarties Prize, making Rowling the first person in history to win the award three times in a row. The fourth book *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* was released in July 2000. It broke the sales record of selling more than 3,70,000 copies on the first day of sale.

In 2004 **Forbes** named Rowling the person to become a billionaire by writing a book and the second female entertainer in the world. Rowling published the novel *The Casual Vacancy* in 2012, followed by the crime novel *Cuckoo Calling* under the pen name Robert Galbraith in 2013. In 2016, she released a play, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, and a movie, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. In 2017, she released *Harry Potter: A History of Magic* for an exhibition at the British Library, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the publishing of her first novel.

Rowling's life has been a roller-coaster ride but facing all the challenges in her life, she has continued relentless and undaunted towards writing her stupendous success story.

Jaideep Singh
BA II English Hons (1797)

Creative Columns

IS TECHNOLOGY MAKING PEOPLE SMARTER OR DUMBER?

For many people, it's impossible to go a day without their smart phones. Is the access to technology improving human intelligence, or encouraging a mindless dependency? On one hand, classrooms around the world can achieve more because of new technology. On the other hand, everyone is more distracted than ever which decreases their concentration. It all reaches down to one question: *Is technology making people smarter or dumber?*

It is found out that children with Autism from age 5 to 8 who had access to a tablet has helped in doubling the amount of words in their vocabulary. According to **Pew Research Centre**, 81% of over 370 internet experts agree that people's use of the internet has increased human intelligence. Roughly three quarters of teachers were surveyed who said that technology helps them to motivate students to learn and respond to a variety of learning styles.

The internet provides us with unlimited data, images, videos and other raw materials that could in our work enhance our intelligence and enable us to become more knowledgeable, skillful or we could improve our skills of decision-making, reflect on our beliefs and so on. The smart phone in our hand enables us to record a video, edit it and send it around the world. With our phone, we can navigate in cities, buy a car and complete thousands of other tasks.

With the help of technology we can do more work but understand less about what we are doing and in turn it will increase our dependence on technology. Often, specialization enables us to become more efficient and productive at one set of tasks, but it increases dependence on others for additional needs. Higher use of a mobile phone is generally associated with less accurate response to cognitive tasks.

Although by including human skills into a machine, tasks are easier for the user – for example, blood pressure is measured without investing the time, resources and effort into learning the skills but previously we needed to use a blood pressure cuff. Another example is learning to drive a car with manual versus an automatic car. Also, producing millions of automatic rifles like AK-47 means people can kill far more individuals easily in comparison with primitive weapons like knives.

Moreover we depend on others to do what we cannot do at all. Like asking **Siri**, **Alexa** or **Google Homes** to open phone, television, lights and AC etc. This makes us dependent on technology for even the easiest of works.

It is impossible to be fully self-reliant but it is

definitely possible to learn more about the technologies and tools we use and to learn basic skills of repairing and fixing them. On an individual level we depend more on our technologies than ever before. On the whole, technology has made us smarter, capable and productive. But what technology has not done is that it hasn't made us wiser.

Sukriti

M.A. II Eng (6063)

ETHICAL HACKING -- A CAREER IN DEMAND

In general, hacking refers to the unsolicited intrusion into a computer or network simply because you are more interested in my life than your own. A hacker is a person who is involved in an activity of gaining unauthorized access to data. Most of the people in this world misinterpret hackers with crackers but by definition, **hacker (White Hat)** is a person who identifies flaws in the security system and works upon to address those fault lines whereas a **cracker (Black Hat)** maybe someone who would target and exploit highly sensitive information and then use the flaws in the system to his advantage. The critical appreciation remains as both should have the extensive knowledge about computer networking, programming or in a nutshell the technical know-how of computers.

Yet the unanswered question prevails, what is Ethical Hacking? Ethical Hacking, also known as Penetration Testing, is an act of invading into a system or networks to find out threats or vulnerabilities in them which a vengeful attacker may find and exploit causing loss of data, like Julian Assange who in the wake of Wikileaks expose in the American context is a "hi-tech terrorist". Ethical hackers may use the method and tools similar to that of malicious hackers but only with the permission of authorities. The sole purpose of ethical hacking is to enhance the safety of the systems by fixing the bugs found during testing.

The great documentary called **The Great Hack** which stole the limelight, was based upon how **Cambridge Analytica** exploited public sentiments for the **United States Presidential Election of 2016**. Even though the same organization stole the Indian thunder for all the wrong reasons, involving almost half a dozen Indian political parties like the **Indian National Congress**, yet failed to make the party win the elections. No wonder hackers promoted and demoted by administrative setups, today have acquired the place of **My Terrorist vs Your Terrorist (Good terrorism vs Bad terrorism)** but who will define the cause? Everyone defines the way he pleases and there is no denying the fact that in times to come this will take the shape of an organized industry where billionaires will call the shots.

Pranav Arora

BCA I (7022)

CHANDRAYAAN-2: A GLIMPSE OF INDIA'S TECHNOLOGY

Touch the Sky with Pride becomes the new slogan of India's Science and Technology Agencies. One of India's most ambitious space-based mission, **Chandrayaan-2**, took flight on 22nd July, 2019. The innovation of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, the mission will attempt to explore the south polar region of the Moon. It is a region hitherto unexplored by any country before. The space mission will help us understand our natural satellite better, through complex topographical studies, and deep analysis. These studies will be performed by the *lander* **Vikram**, named after the space inspiration, **Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai**, who lead India's developing space programme.

At the time of launch, the Chandrayaan-2 will have conversation with the **Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) at Byalalu**, as well as with **Vikram**. India is using its space power, the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk-III)**, in this mission. There are certain features of the Chandrayaan-2 that it weighs 640 tonnes and, is as high as a very large building. The mission will cover the journey of 384,000km (239,000-miles). ISRO is aspiring that the *lander* of this mission will touch down on the Moon on 6 or 7 September, 2019 as planned. The journey of more than six weeks is a lot longer than the four days the **Apollo 11** mission 50 years ago took, to land humans on the lunar surface for the first time.

Given below are the key scientists and engineers who were active to the development and launch of Chandrayaan-2 project:

- **Muthaya Vanitha** - Project Director
- **Ritu Karidhal** - Mission Director
- **Chandrakanta Kumar** - Deputy Project Director

Chandrayaan-2 has several features to better understand the detail of the creation, origin and development of the Moon. After this, a new experiment will be given on the *lander*. The Orbiter payloads will perform remote-sensing observations from a 100 km orbit while the *lander* will perform measurements near the landing site. The ground characteristics include the third main part of Chandrayaan-2 mission. It will operate the important task of receiving the medical data as well as the scientific data from the spacecraft. It will also transmit the radio commands. Chandrayaan-2 is a significant milestone in this challenging mission. This venture is a vital step on behalf of India in the field of exploration of the universe.

Jaspreet Singh
Bsc Sem V (4121)

KASHMIR: A DISPUTED TERRITORY

Days before the Independence day, on 5th August, 2019, the world held its breath as the Lok Sabha passed a bill for bifurcation of the long standing state Jammu and Kashmir which had enjoyed autonomy status since the 1940s. The very foundation of the nation shook and everything came to a standstill. What lies in front of us is a state divided into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. This bold move has let loose a faucet of juxtaposing emotions. To understand the relations between Kashmir and India better, let's take a trip back in time when the British rule in India had just come to an end and the partition of India triggered a battle for control in Kashmir. Since 1947, India and Pakistan have each held a portion of the Muslim majority territory in a tense standoff that has sparked several wars. After a major 1947 catastrophe, a series of border skirmishes led to the 1965 **Indo-Pak war**. The conflict lasted only 17 days but there were thousands of casualties. In 1999, the so called **Kargil war** erupted with India alleging a Pakistani intrusion in the Kargil district of Kashmir. Complicating matters is the disputed Aksai Chin area at the northeast of Kashmir along the border with China. In 1962, China and India fought a brief war and later came to an agreement to respect Kashmir borders in the mid 1990s. China however continues to hold Aksai Chin. Some people see the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir as a big planned move put forward by the Indian government to take back the Chin area.

In June 2018, United Nations published its first ever report on the ongoing unrest in Kashmir. The report called for a major investigation into human rights abuses in the Kashmir region but was neglected both by Pakistan and India. Now perhaps as the dice is set rolling, protests have broken out in Pakistan administered Kashmir and elsewhere in Pakistan as politicians condemned India's unilateral decision. Expressing prejudice, Pakistani held Kashmir president Sardaar Masood Khan held a legislative assembly meeting to bring international attention which is already being closely monitored by the UN. On the contrary, the Indian BJP insisted the move would bring peace and prosperity to the region but it is widely seen as PM Narendra Modi's effort to tighten grip over India's only Muslim majority state.

The controversial and restive Kashmir region remains a flashpoint between India and Pakistan leaving many Kashmiris unsure about their future. As the whole country rejoices and is one with the decision that the parliament took, the Kashmiris have totally opposed the scrape off. They see the striking off of the 370 article as an act of majoritarian hooliganism and vandalism. The Indian government has already taken note of the repercussions and deployed 90,000 troops to handle the affected Kashmir area. However, what the future holds,

largely depends on today's decisions. Maybe perhaps the uproar wave will or will not settle once the once the aftermath unfolds.

Japin Panjrat
MA Economics Sem I (5314)

BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL WOMAN, THERE'S A MAN: BREAKING THE STEREOTYPES

We all have heard about the phrase *Behind every successful man is a woman* but how refreshing in this day is to have known a powerful couple of Sushma and Swaraj Kaushal. This couple has broken down the stereotypical norms of society through role-reversal. Sushma Swaraj, a woman of substance, is in fact a woman of many firsts who redefined the face of Indian politics. First ever woman CM of Delhi, woman spokesperson of any political party in India, woman leader of any opposition in parliament, full-time woman External Affairs minister of the country and first woman awardee of an outstanding parliamentarian- this is what Sushma's 'Swaraj' was built of. Who could have thought that a young girl of 25 years of age could break the shackles of patriarchy by becoming a cabinet minister in 1977?

The impact of her recent demise was so powerful that it left a haunting void not only in the hearts of the leaders of BJP but also among the great leaders of the opposition. But can we say that if her husband, Swaraj Kaushal has not had her back all this time, all this could've been possible? The unsung hero Swaraj Kaushal has won a million hearts by bidding good-bye to his college sweetheart through a smart salute instead of showing pathos or sympathy by folding hands. It was this man who continued to applaud, cheer and support his wife for 44 years through her ups and downs. Instead of being a condescending and an exasperating person, Kaushal stepped up above the petty male chauvinistic ideologies and believed in the aspirations and goals of his wife. Being a Supreme Court lawyer and former governor of Mizoram, Kaushal is and was a man of his own life but he never let his wife feel the domestic pressure while she was away serving the nation and attending international conferences. He never let it hit on Sushma Swaraj whenever someone tried to mock her down through a series of tweets and questions. By laughing away at the diplomatic questions, he protected the dignity of his wife through wits. Even when Sushma Swaraj decided to opt out of contesting the 2019 elections due to her precarious health, Swaraj Kaushal supported her in the mushiest way possible by tweeting, *I am no longer a 19 year old... Madam, I have been running behind you for 46 years... I remember there came a time when even Milkha Singh stopped running... this marathon has been on since 41 years... I'm also running out of breath. Thank you.*

Another unsung hero cum husband is Raj K. Nooyi, husband of Indira Nooyi of Pepsi Co. Raj played wind beneath Indira's wings by adjusting and making sure that they both are equal versus each other. Being a president of AmSoft systems himself, he never let his sceptre dominate Indira Nooyi inside or outside the home. He has helped in balancing their personal and professional lives by recalibrating on regular basis for last 37 years.

Now, we all have heard about this 69 years old, three time Oscar winner legendary Hollywood actress with successful hits like *The Devil Wears Prada* and *The Iron Lady*. Yes! I am talking about Meryl Streep. According to her, it was the love of her life, Don Bummer, a successful sculptor who has played a powerful role in encouraging her by being on her side for 40 years. He's been witnessing his wife's endless wins by appearing and backing up at countless public facing events. Streep's monologue at 2012 Academy Award speech proves how her husband appreciates her megawatt career. She thanked him by saying,

First, I'm going to thank Don because when you thank your husband at the end of the speech they play him out with the music, and I want him to know that everything I value most in our lives, you've given me.

There are more such examples of men like Bill Clinton, Barack Obama and Clarke Gayford who have stepped up their game. People like them enlighten a sense of hope inside the hearts of today's female in a world full of wrecked and torn out relationships built on male dominance. I am not saying that a woman is weak enough that she needs a man to depend upon but my point is to throw some light on the importance of bold relationships build upon strong foundations of gender equality and respect. Women of 21st century are walking shoulder to shoulder with men and therefore they are not rooting for a prince charming on a horse. Instead, they need a man who could go against the petty barriers of the male dominant society for them by keeping to push their woman to achieve whatever her goal is and admire her limelight by keeping their male-egos aside like a real man is supposed to do. These men will be the ones who could actually mould the society for betterment of their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters.

Rishika Sharma
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NEBULA OF GLOBAL RECESSION

Recently in the **World Global Summit** which was held in Dubai, famous Nobel laureate Paul Krugman prognosticated the Global Recession for late 2019 or early 2020. Before heading towards for the analysis of this statement we will differentiate **Financial Crisis, Recession, and Depression.**

Financial Crisis refers to the unhealthy condition of economy in general. Indicators are, **Non-performing Assets** (NPA), Bank Run (when investors or depositors take away their money from bank and from markets because of losing confidence).

Recession is a situation of declining of economic activities such as dwindling of production, output, income, employment which leads to decline in GDP.

Depression is a severe version of recession. If recession continues for a long period, then it turns out to be depression, as of Great Depression of 1929, which lasted for a decade.

The genesis of Krugman's statement can be traced in the **Global Financial Recession of 2008**, when U.S economy and world economy was hit badly. But from 2008 to 2018, it is on the path of recovery. This is evident from the fact that the apex monetary authority of Uncle Sam continuously hiked the interest rate which lead to decline in money supply. So, decreasing the money supply is an indicator that country is moving out from recession phase.

Debt in the U.S can be the mainspring for 2019-2020 recession. As of now, fiscal situation of U.S is worse than that of 2008. Currently, public debt is more than \$22 Trillion and it is unceasingly increasing. Debt-to-GDP ratio is 104%. Debt-to-GDP ratio measures the capability of government for the repayment of debt. Greater debt-to-GDP ratio shows that Govt. is unable to repay the debt. Besides this, the present leadership of U.S is favouring for the protectionism which may prove a bane for the economy.

European zone is also on the verge of recession as the economic powerhouse of Europe, Germany, is being badly hit in the wake of the tariff war (between U.S and China). Along with this, recession is going on in Italy and growth has been slowing down in France. If the situation is not handled appropriately, it is likely to bring about recession in Europe which will in turn, hit the world.

Another mainspring for the recession can be the trade war between U.S and China which was unfolded by U.S. President by imposing tariffs. If this is not settled within due course of time, it can hamper the present situation.

Further, this recession can prove riskier than that of 2008. Because Krugman also revealed at the summit that if there is no effective policy with the policy maker, we land into recession. Not only Krugman but European Commission had also forecast that Europe's growth will slow down from 1.9% in 2018 to 1.6% in 2019 and will rebound in 2020. Paul Krugman is a professor at Princeton university's Woodrow Wilson school and won the Nobel Prize in 2008 for his work on economic geography and identifying international trade patterns.

Goldi Bhagat
MAI Eco (6327)

PERMAFROST : A CLIMATE TIME

When the soil and microbe beasts are permanently frost, it is called permafrost.

The frozen surface of soil is said to be permafrost which is not meant to be temporary just in winter season, but for a long time: likely to be 2000 to 3000 years. It is found on earth in the northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere. In northern region the Arctic, Russia, Alaska, Canada, Greenland are main while in the southern region there is only Antarctica. Generally the northern hemisphere has more surface area under permafrost as compared to southern region because there is lack of land in southern hemisphere.

The depth of permafrost can be from few meters to 100 meters above the soil surface. In permafrost approximately 1.7 trillion tons of carbon is present in the form of frozen organic matter. When permafrost thaws, the organic matter warms up and decomposes, eventually releasing the carbon that it holds as carbon dioxide and methane which will be released into the atmosphere leading to greenhouse warming on the planet. There are many natural calamities which are causing melting of permafrost and it is the major calamity experienced over the past few weeks in the northern region. In Alaska, 2.4 million acres of land have been burnt by wildfire In Siberia 7 million acres have been burnt. Greenland has also been seen witnessing several wildfires over the last few months. But the largest threat is for Greenland: its heat wave caused 197 billion tons of ice to melt in July.

Now as the global temperature increases closer to plus 1.5 degree Celsius, it will lead to destructive consequences. Permafrost leads to many negative consequences such as rise in sea level, reinforced climate, loss of biodiversity.

STRANGE FACTS ABOUT PERMAFROST:

In geology, permafrost is the ground including rock or **cryotic soil** with a temperature that remains at or below the freezing point of water (zero degree celsius) for two or more years. The most permafrost is a band of permanently frozen land that rings the Arctic circle and it makes up about a quarter of the land in the northern hemisphere. Some sections can be a mile thick though the top layer may thaw and refreeze as the season changes. The lower levels stay ice cold and rock solid which makes it an amazing place to find solid old preserved things. Some of these are simply amazing. These weirdest things are :

- **ancient plants** e.g White Campion.
- **giant viruses**-30,000 years old monster of virus Pithovirus sibericum which almost seem to be alien
- **wooly mammoths** -42,000 baby mammoths.
- small volcano shaped hills called **pingos**.
- many **human bodies** are also found in permafrost grounds.
- **Puppies**-scientists have found dogs in the permafrost including family.

We can stop permafrost melting by applying some easy steps in our day to day life:

reduce, reuse, recycle (RRR). Save gas and work more. Plant a tree every month. Eat green and local by prepared food, not exported. Use less heat and air conditioning. Save electricity. Use less hot water.

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EVERY DROP COUNTS!!

When water becomes a luxury it becomes a catastrophe for human survival.

Having the most diverse population in the world residing over a small area, India has the second largest population in the world after China. We are sure to beat China in the coming years. According to the statistics of **World Bank**, India has taken important steps to reduce poverty but the number of people in **BPL** (below poverty line) is still highly disproportionate to the number of people who are middle class.

India bags 13th rank on **Aqueduct's list** of *extremely highly* water stressed countries, which is more than three times the population of the other 16 countries combined. Northern India especially faces severe groundwater depletion which is being visualised on Aqueduct's maps. **The recent water crisis in Chennai gained global attention, but various areas in India are experiencing chronic water stress as well**, said Shashi Shekhar, former Secretary of India's Ministry of Water Resources. In 17 countries which are facing extremely high water stress, the main areas which are consuming up to 80 percent of the available surface and groundwater in an average year are agriculture, industry, and municipalities which leaves very little water for domestic use. As a result, a lot of people die due to zero availability of water or get diseased due to contamination of water resources.

India's water crisis is due to lack of government planning, increased corporate privatization and industrial and human waste. Moreover, water scarcity in India is expected to heighten, as the overall population is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by the year 2050. To that end, water scarcity at global level is expected to become a leading cause of national political conflict in the future for all countries.

But with no rain catchment programs in the country, most of the water gets displaced or dried up instead of being used. In India, **rain harvesting** could be one solution for water collection. Collected water can be immediately used for agriculture and with improved filtration practices it will be beneficial for human consumption.

India have to pull up their socks to save water at large scale. Children in 100 million homes lack water and one out of every two children are malnourished. Water resources needs to be restored in India so that families can raise their children with dignity and also provide water to all living organisms.

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MEMORIALIZED DIGITALLY

According to a research from the University of Oxford, by the next 50 years, there will be more dead Facebook users than living ones. More than 8,000 Facebook users are estimated to die every day. Within the eight years of its existence, 30 million users of Facebook accounts had died. An analysis suggests that a minimum of 1.4 billion users will pass away before 2100 if Facebook ceases to attract new users. A majority of profiles will belong to non-Western users. And very soon Facebook will turn into a **digital graveyard**.

First, Facebook decided to remove the digital remains of the deceased ones but later it planned to **memorialize** these accounts which served as a means to enable the continuation of digital bonds and maintained information, beyond death. A *memorialized* account appears with the word "Remembering" next to the name of dead one on his/her profile. In this process, we keep the timeline on Facebook but limit access and some features. Facebook verifies the information or the relationship before acting on a *memorialized* account. Sensitive information such as contact info and status updates are removed. *Memorialization* also prevents the tagging of decedent in future posts. A new friend cannot be added to such account.

As we see, these social networking websites have occupied a special place in our life. With the emergence of social media platforms, everything has gone digital, whether it is life or death. Being a dead Facebook user, the soul of the deceased person becomes a **digital soul**. Even after the physical death, that *digital soul* loves for ever in the world of Facebook. Thus **eternity** takes a new meaning. **Carl Ohman**, a doctoral of **Oxford Internet Institute**, calls these digital remains *part of our global heritage*. The eternal memories, thoughts, feelings and life experiences of our ancestors become a part of global heritage.

Each Facebook profile is like a biography of some person. Sometimes, the great experiences and thoughts of some intellectual beings provide us guidance and motivation even if they are not alive. Facebook also helps us to keep our loved ones in our memories. We can freshen up the faded memories. They guide us in our times of difficulty through their past experiences. To memorize a deceased loved one, we need not to go to his or her grave, Facebook serves this purpose very well. Facebook users can plan in advance who can access their profile after their death. They can also choose their account to be deleted when they die. Empowering users in this way will not only benefit the user's families and successors by granting them certainty in relation to digital remains, but also by promoting maintenance and heritage institute access. Therefore, even after the death, everyone can be a part of the future.

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