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AMITY SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION



Expressions

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From the
PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR



I extend heartiest congratulations to team ASCO on the inaugural issue of Expressions - January 2020. I have nothing but admiration for the students who have penned their articles which I understand is their original piece of work.

Expressions has been launched with a view to give an opportunity to students of Journalism & Mass Communication to go beyond the classrooms teaching and utilize their writing skills by doing task based field assignments. I hope students will make best use of this opportunity and enhance their writing skills.

Prof (Dr.) Sunil Dhaneshwar

STUCK IN A VICIOUS CYCLE

Adeeba Lari

Almost all of us have taken a ride on a bicycle rickshaw. While sitting behind the man pulling the rickshaw have we ever noticed minute by minute changing expressions on his face? Have we ever calculated the amount of energy he utilizes for pushing each

pedal? Is he paid fairly enough for every drop he sweats? The questions are numerous and the answer is being 'human'.

Transportation mode shifted from bullock & horse carts to bicycle rickshaws and now to auto and e-rickshaws. In this fast moving life-style, it is still a wonder that bicycle rickshaw continues to survive.

Continued on P6



Photo inputs by Waqar Khan

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Pic: Suresh Sahu

It is a great pleasure for ASCOites to finally come out with the printed version of Expressions, which now will be in your hands every month.

The 12-page publication in colour will bring to you a wide range of stories written by ASCO students and each of their contribution is task-based assignment from field. What we teach them in theory has to be have field experience because they must translate their observations and information gathering into a news report. One who wishes to become a field journalist should engage in research, conduct interviews and collect information from varied sources, to give credibility to one's story. And this is what we will be attempting on regular basis through Expressions.

This is a publication by students and for students under our guidance and hope you like the content.

We have framed "code of conduct" and follow "ethics in journalism" to give you the correct perspective.

Cheers!

Prof(Dr) Sanjay M Johri

NEW GIRL IN THE CITY

Hi, I am Anjali. 'Naam to suna he hoga?' Well, for those of you who haven't yet heard, I am just your simple small-town girl with a big town story. Although I may be of short height but I come with dreams bigger than me. I joined Amity University in 2015 and now four years into this space, I can say confidently that it was one of the best decisions of my life.

The plan that my mom and dad had for me was the typical Indian dream- to go to an engineering college and be an engineer simply because my dad was an engineer and he thought someone in the family should carry the legacy, but I just knew it in my bones that it wasn't for me so I didn't.

My real passion spread from writing, communicating, learning about stories of people living around me, trying different lenses in life to know more and more about the world. And Amity University Lucknow turned out to be the perfect fit for me. I had never lived alone before and the experience in its entirety was life changing for me.

A new city with hostel as my new home, mentors as the new guardians and friends the new family. It was one of the best parts of my life. I have always been a shy and reserved person but when I first came to college, the longer I stayed here the more I was able to spread my wings and fly as high as I could. It was liberating to experience all these changes in me. My mentors who became more like my friends and family helped me at each and every step of my college life.

But they say nothing is permanent and I guess my happiness wasn't either in terms of enjoy-

ing my college life. In 2017, I got to know that my family has decided to move to the US to live with my grandparents.

To some of you who are reading this, I am sure you will look at it as a golden opportunity but it was more than that. It was a sudden change and that too unwelcomed.

I had to leave my degree in between when I was only one semester away from graduating. I had to uproot the life I had built for myself.

I came to Minnesota with my family, and the real struggle started. I tried to get into a college, but I

couldn't as I didn't have their curriculum. I had to take some time in community college to get myself into a real college. But the struggle didn't end there.

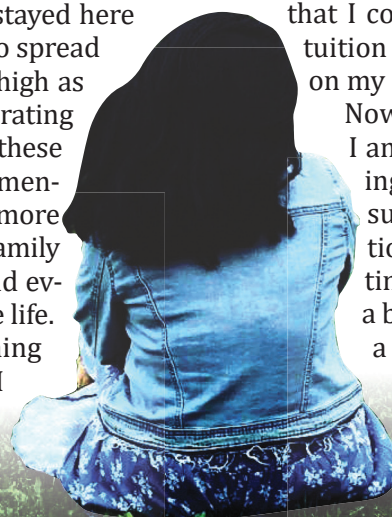
The school system was different, people are aloof. Education was tough and expensive, and since my family couldn't help very much as they themselves were struggling to find home in a new place.

I had to undertake several job to make my ends meet. I worked in student libraries as a student librarian, as a host in a restaurant so that I could pay for my own tuition and not be a burden on my family.

Now I am glad to say that I am finally here, achieving what I want, made super great connections, working part-time as an associate at a brand, and working as a peer-advisor for students at the university and still completing my degree.



Alumni speaks



'Make in India'

A policy too vague to be effective?

Akarsh Bajpai

The Make in India initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2014 as part of a wider set of nation-building initiatives. It is 2020 and this is the right time to review how this initiative has worked to strengthen our economy. India is going through a rough patch as the current GDP of 4.5% suggests. However, when launched "Make in India" was expected to take the GDP of the country to double digits.

The policy is aimed to shift thrust of the Indian economy from agriculture to industrial. With 'Make in India', the manufacturing sector is expected to contribute 12-14% to the GDP and by 2022 this figure is projected to reach touch 16% to 25%. Another initiative was to generate about 100 million jobs by 2022 by enhancing the skill sets of youth and all this with least environment damage having an overall sustainable development.

"I do not have to waste time to invite...I need to give the address. For the world, FDI (in 'Make in India')

is an opportunity. My definition of FDI for the people of India is First Develop India." PM Modi said while launching the program.

The initiative basically promises investors both domestic and overseas- a conducive environment to turn 135 crore population strong India into a manufacturing hub. In theory it was meant to do as stated but it seems the just got entangled into complicated labour laws and red-tapism. "Poor infrastructure, crony capitalism and corruption have likely done more to dissuade investment than labour laws," said Janice Bellace Professor Emeritus of Legal Studies & Business Ethics at the Wharton School of Business.

Progress on investment front is seeing slow growth. The decline in gross fixed capital formation recorded a decline of 28.6% of GDP 2017-18, as stated in economic survey 2018-19. The 45-year high unemployment rate also suggests the aim of "Make in India" to boost employment in India has failed.

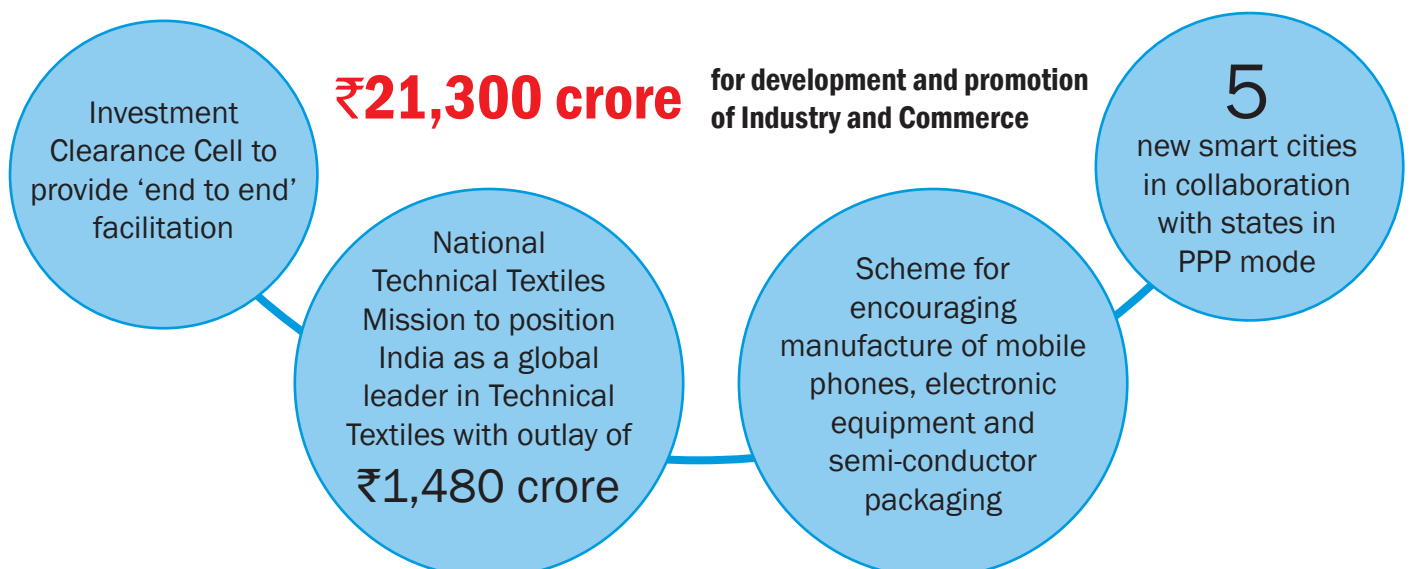
The problem is 'Make in India' program relies too much on foreign capital, having too ambitious goals beyond capacity rate for the sec-

tor. "He gave you an empty slogan called 'Make in India' but wherever we look we see Made in China products," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said. He seems to have hit the mark as India's share in global exports remains 2%, a far cry from China's 18% global share.

Radhika Kapoor, fellow, at the Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations and the author of a recent paper titled, 'Creating Jobs in India's Organized Manufacturing Sector,' noted: "What the policy does, however, is to send signals of vigour and enthusiasm? But it will take a lot more than a flashy new website, a new lion symbol and catchy phrases to make India a manufacturing powerhouse and create productive jobs for rapidly-expanding workforce."

The only major outcome of the make in India policy is GST and high influx of FDI that is not yet turned into infrastructure and development. More than an Ashoka Chakra and heavy advertising, the government should work on clearing the bottlenecks in different ministries that still hold back the process of development.

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND INVESTMENT



ELECTORAL BONDS

Opacity in the name of transparency

Photos: Trilochan S Kalra



Yashita Arora

Just like a plant needs watering and proper source of light to grow, so do political parties. They are like those plants that need constant watering and their gardeners are nonetheless but the big business aristocrats who sprinkle (donate) endless amounts of money through a source of light called Electoral Bonds.

The Electoral Bond Scheme came into existence with the 2017 Finance Act. It is a source of light that can be used to donate money to political parties anonymously but the question that comes to mind is how?

Any individual, organization, or company can buy these bonds from the bank and donate it to a favorable political party. Once you issue a bond with a specified value, you'll be known to the referred bank (SBI) and then you can donate that cur-

rency like bonds to political parties, bonds will be available in the denomination of INR 1000, INR 10000 INR 1 lakh. And so on. The donor can be anyone and the identity will be completely anonymous.

The amendments that took place in this scheme can cause destruc-

The allegations against the government over electoral bonds are baseless, the MODI government has taken various steps against corruption

Piyush Goyal | RAILWAY MINISTER

tion in our democracy; firstly the government has amended Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) which means political par-

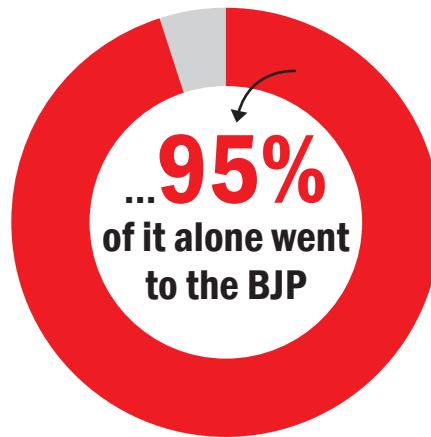
ties can receive funds from overseas another amendment was done in Companies act; removal of 7.5% net profit cap on donations to political parties, which means a company can now donate all their net profit to parties via electoral bonds and also removed the requirement for a company to disclose the party to which they contributed funds, to break down the matter if a multinational corporation donates a huge amount of money to a political party then on coming to power that political party can rewrite the rules in relevant sectors (such as, environmental regulations) benefitting that corporation.

The Election Commission in its response to this scheme also said that "this provision would enable the creation of shell companies for sole purpose of making political donations and also amendments to the law on foreign contribution would mean that there would be unchecked foreign funding of polit

ical parties leading to foreign influence on India's policy-making".

It may sound very simple but like any old tree, the roots of these are even messier. The controversy started when a survey by HUFFPOST revealed that SBI was supposed to sell the first tranche in April 2018 but the first round was opened a month earlier in March 2018 instead and once again it was opened in May 18 before Karnataka elections according to a survey done by NITIN SETHI (HUFFPOST). INR 222 crore worth of bonds were bought in this round with 95% of it alone going to the BJP.

222cr worth of
bonds were bought before
Karnataka polls of which...



**More than
6000cr**
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12 cycles since January
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only become clear in
October 2020

More than 6000 crore worth of electoral bonds have been sold out in 12 cycles since January 2018, but which party received how much will only become clear in October 2020.

Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) and Election Commission have also opposed this scheme as according to them these bonds are more like "bearer bonds". They are opaque in nature as there is no virtual sign of ownership. Any shell company or

foreign company can issue these bonds. However the twist in this story is that these bonds can be traced via alphanumeric code.

A recent investigation by the Quint revealed that these bonds have an alphanumeric number printed on them to track down the link between donor and political parties, following the purchase of two electoral bonds worth INR 1000 each.

The Quint got a forensic test done at one of the most reputed forensic labs in the country and the lab report stated that the hidden serial number was "visible on the right top corner when examined under Ultra Violet (UV) light."

According to The Quint these numbers are not visible through naked eyes.

Meanwhile, a top level State Bank of India (SBI) official said that "we don't believe this

code is a tracking mechanism. This was put in those papers as 'security features'. In other statement from SBI, one official said that "the bank can share only KYC/AML related records to authorized investigating agency or court, and is not authorized to share details with any other government officials, on the contrary Congress leader ADHIR RANJAN CHOUDHARY and other members of the opposition party called it a "big scam" and said it wasn't transparent, to which BJP held a conference led by Piyush Goyal, the Railway Minister who said that "the allegations against the government over electoral bonds are baseless, the MODI government has taken various step against corruption"



The effects of these bonds are severe. Almost every party gets funding, especially the ruling party nearly gets all the funds and the public masses are unaware about this.

How can one have good democracy in secrecy? If this big money entirely funds elections in an opaque way, democracy as we know it will not exist. In his Lok Sabha speech, late Finance Minister ARUN JAITLEY said that "if donors are forced to disclose their names, the system of political funding through cash and black money will return". It is true that black money cannot be used to buy electoral bonds, however black money can be used outside the scheme during elections.

BR AMBEDKAR once said that the constitution must guarantee not only one man, one vote but also one man, one value. An electoral system that allows limitless, anonymous corporate donations to political parties skews the process irrevocably, and makes the mockery of one man, one value in it's entirety.





SUR AGA THE

1. Same rickshaw which is used to earn bread in the day time is used as bed at night.

2. Electronic rickshaws have been pulling business from the bicycle rickshaws due to ease and speed.

3. Many uneducated village men have no option but to drive rickshaw to earn minimal amount.

4. They offer a chance of real human link.

5. Many rickshaw pullers are of old age and forced to work despite extreme physical stress but to support their families.

6. They sleep on rickshaws itself as it has become a crucial part of their family.

7. Passengers openly prefer E-rickshaw due to cheap prices and speed, thus rendering several rickshaw pullers hopeless and jobless



LIVING AGAINST ODDS!

Continued from P1

For instance, Mohanlal (43) is still stuck in a loop of mind numbing physical labour that he started twenty years ago. Pulling a rickshaw in Lucknow, he is still bound by extreme physical work that he thought he would have to let go soon. Though the world has changed but the time not changed for a poor village man with no education. He and many others, still have to depend on manual labour to earn a miserly amount of Rs. 150-300 per day.

Ask him what change has he seen in the last few years, he shakes his head as a frown furrows into his face. "Earlier, I rented the rickshaw but later, I saved enough money to buy my own." He feels that tobacco has grown costlier.

The act of pulling a rickshaw is one of pure physical labour. Many of these rickshaw pullers are shown no mercy. Customers may be two or three times his own weight but will negotiate for a mere Rs. 5-10.

Ghanshyam, another rickshaw puller transporting materials to a construction site, admits that the work can be daunting and at the same time difficult to execute but he still would choose to carry kilos of materials rather than human passengers because there is no

certainty about the latter. He narrates how people often argue and prefer to choose e-rickshaw over bicycle ones.

The trend of electronic rickshaws grew in the past five years and has been a major reason for decline of bicycle ones. With their capacity to carry a larger number of passengers and its electronic mechanics to minimize the physical labour, it has gained importance.

Passengers openly prefer E-rickshaw due to cheap prices and speed, thus rendering several rickshaw pullers hopeless and jobless. "Everyday, I see people refusing to sit on my rickshaw just because of this vehicle. What choice do I have except to reduce my prices after begging someone to sit behind me?" Ram Singh, another rickshaw puller admits dismissively.

When asked on why he isn't switching to the better alternative like others, he grunts as he stumbles for his cigarettes. He admits that he desires the same but it is out of his reach. An E-ricksaw costs around one lakh alone and with his family of five, he can barely afford to save that amount. Many government schemes have been lucky for others, but for immigrants like him there is no such possibility. So the vicious cycle continues.



A fair skin, a petite frame and soft tone, we define beauty in so limited terms

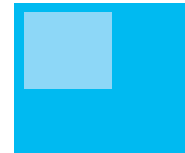
BENEATH THE MAKEUP AND BEYOND THE SKIN



'Beauty is only skin deep, what's really important is finding a balance between mind, body & spirit'
-Jennifer Lopez

Priyanka Chopra went through a lot of bullying in her childhood

Rekha and Kajol were once not considered beautiful as per 'societal' standards but are now evergreen icons of beauty



Avika Gupta

As we've grown up, our environment has moulded our conception of what we find beautiful. Beauty might lie in the eyes of the beholder but then what has influenced the "beholder" to see what he sees?

The answer is our society. But how can the society define something which is so abstract and yet so subjective?

Beauty is a subjective term and it is certainly beyond the idea of simply being docile and dutiful or being tall and slender with fair translucent skin. But what is real beauty about?

According to Jennifer Lopez, beauty is only skin deep and what's really important is finding a balance between the mind, body and spirit. Priyanka Chopra who's a recognized global icon went through a lot of racism in her childhood in America.

In an interview with W magazine, the 34-year old actress said that, "When I was a teenager, I was a tomboy. So I had scars, I was always

falling on my knees. They were not the prettiest legs in the world, and then I taught myself how to take care of my body. Anybody can do it if I can. And today my legs sell like 12 or 15 products in my part of the world. Yeah they do!"

So, being beautiful is about how we've the power of self-acceptance and how we have the power to be happy. Knowing that we're alive and that we have a control on our life in a way that we bring the best out of ourselves is what beauty is really about.

So, if you believe you're beautiful, you are beautiful! It is a matter of self love and self belief.

It is a famous saying that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder which is rooted so deep in our minds that we give so much of importance to the beholder and try establish ourselves according to society's standards of beauty. A fair skin, a petite frame and soft tone, we define beauty in so limited terms.

But when it comes to our brave acid attack survivors, they don't care about how the society sees them. The acid attack victim Laxmi

Agarwal who recently became the model for an Indian clothing label proved that beauty isn't skin deep as per the norms of the society.

Beauty is about having the courage to accept yourself and hence she truly is the face of courage. She says, "People victimise acid attack survivors, but I think we need to come out of this mindset".

Actresses like Rekha and Kajol, who are known to be the dusky beauties and weren't really considered beautiful as per the shallow standards of beauty are now evergreen icons of beauty.

They have proved that one needs more than just a pretty face and a light skin tone to be beautiful. With their competency in acting, they have surpassed all other beautiful faces in the industry.

Examples of beauty are all around us but they will be insignificant unless we ourselves choose to abandon the cognitive belief of what is beautiful and accept ourselves for who we are. Once we do that, we will find beauty in every corner and every time we see our own reflection in the mirror.

Wanna hefty pay package and plush job? Start from scratch

Triyanshi Parihar

Media, the source of connectivity among the masses, is a highly sought after profession these days. But what a lot of people fail to understand is that it is a very broad field encapsulating several job profiles. The main ones are anchor, producer, researcher, PR consultant, advertising expert etc.

Youngsters are eager to reach such job profiles. But to reach that stature, one has to go through many lower job profiles to gain experience and increase their knowledge count first hand.

When questioned, media students mostly said, "They are under the heavy influence of western culture and cinema where everything is shown to be achieved at quite an early age and thus they feel like an under-achiever if they don't get things done at a faster pace during graduation as they have already done their schooling without achieving anything meritoriously excellent."

Also, the other factor that hugely affects them is the pressure of society and parents who continuously rush them to earn a living and become independent as soon as possible. Especially in the cases of female counter parts where their parents want to marry them off at a decent age and expect them to be at a good place career wise. In such cases, "the ambitious women have to rush the graph of their career so

aspirant.

When asked a placement coordinator about the queries from students, she said "Students aim for high job profiles with a heavy package right after their graduation, when they essentially know nothing about the industry. And it is quite an impractical approach. They should rather work for small start-ups initially to gain work skills and efficient work ethics and then go for

a bigger brand. Bigger companies have been in the market for longer time and very well set-up thus they will provide a dull experience to interns. Whereas start ups provide a much richer experience as they are establishing everything from the scratch and interns are

The constant taunts and pressure of comparison with students from underprivileged backgrounds or those who have overcome circumstances like poverty, diseases really makes us feel very insecure

Kshitij | CIVIL SERVICES ASPIRANT

that they feel financially secured in a marriage" said Neeti, 26, bank manager.

"The constant taunts and pressure of comparison with students from underprivileged backgrounds or those who have overcome circumstances like poverty, diseases really makes us feel very insecure," said Kshitij, a young civil services

heavily involved in the nitty-gritty thus they get a chance to enhance their resume ten folds."

Just like a tree started out as a sapling and reached its full growth through consistent watering, nourishment, testing harsh seasons and time, Career will also bloom organically and embed its strong roots with experience and time.





Nainital, a tale of quaint hill station that was...

Adeeba Lari

There are two types of people in North India; those who have visited Nainital too many times and then the ones who have never set foot inside the lush hill station. There is no in between, I for one can testify to that having visited the place umpteen times.

Nainital or "The Lake District of India" is one of the most sought after hill stations, frequently visited by honeymooners, backpackers, family and leisure seeking tourists.

From my first family trip in 2000 to a college trip in 2020, Nainital has never disappointed. This breathtakingly beautiful hill station is situated at an elevation of 2,084 metres above sea level, making it perfect for nature lovers to enjoy their dream getaway. Surrounded by hills, lakes, historical monuments and temples, Nainital happens to be a magical hill station, situated in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.

There are just so many things to do in and around the city that it keeps attracting you. From a quick detox weekend away from the city or escaping the scorching summer

of the Gangetic plains - Nainital provides reprieve.

Yet, the old towners sigh at the very mention of its name. Despite the many exciting options, the old timers and regular visitors feel it has lost its old town charm.

Possibly due to the rapid commercialisation of the town because of the availability of better vacation

Nainital may be surrounded by seven hills but the city's booming with what one calls, a classic city life

spots now; it is no hidden fact that Nainital might have a pleasant experience every time you visit but there is no thrill of newness in it. Like visiting one's grandmothers, there is the comfort of old home baked cookies but what if you want a sip of adventure?

Nainital may be surrounded by seven hills but the city's booming with what one calls, a classic city life. Whether it is the handicrafts business in the Tibet market or the

buzzing market of mall roads, the small town charm that once knit the city with warmth is starting to disintegrate.

There was a time when a famous Gupta ji used to sing old songs and people would hum along or Mall Road was more about conversations between the locals and tourists rather than bargaining and even when the aunty with hot corn not only recognised but also remembered how you liked your cob.

When I ask Jamshed, my horse riding guide, about his life and business he looks at me confused. "It's been ages since anyone has asked me that." He muses, a little thrown by my classic city girl attire and then smiles before telling me his tale of how he was born here and the only education his generation of men receive is how to tame a horse.

Similarly, the young shopkeepers are too busy to talk and the boatmen are baffled that anyone wants to listen to their tale.

Perhaps Nainital's charm has not been lost but it is we who have stopped looking into it. And with our non-chalance, we have let it rust like many good things in life.

If music is food of life, play on...

Vanshika Steffi Cruz

Who doesn't remember Ranveer Singh from 'Gully Boy', the plebeian character with exceptional music taste, especially rap, brought to life by the effervescent actor, which many youngsters related with! Although popular, rap music surged ahead and 'Apna time ayega', the famous number from the film became a punch line for many people even from the elder generation.

As I plonked on a couch waiting to interview a young rapper, I couldn't help but hum 'Apna time ayega' and as I was looking around the venue, music enthusiast and an underground rapper, Tushar Agarwal, 23, walked in. After a breezy introduction, as Tushar settled into his seat, he looked curious as his fingers continuously drummed to some music playing in his mind.

Speaking candidly while sipping 'chai', Tushar said he is currently producing his own music that is being played on the BBC radio. Bobby Friction, the famous DJ and radio presenter, compared him with the Divine. He is currently teaching music production in Arya Institute of Performing Arts along with making his own music. With the preliminaries done, we settled down to speak about some fun elements regarding his life and career in music.

The lad's journey in music began when he started playing a small keyboard along with his friend in class V. He says, "It was my gate to music production, rap and hip hop." Interestingly, the first tune that he remixed was the Airtel jingle composed by musical maestro A. R. Rahman. However, music took a backseat when societal pressure and the expectation of taking on his family business made him choose B. Tech for higher studies. However, here

too he found the music connection. "Doing B.Tech made me understand the technicalities of music production a lot better",

he quips. Tushar continued to follow his passion and while pursuing studies, he started making music for various ads and companies. The current school anthem of Awadh School is also composed by him.

Most of his musical journey was a self-learning experience, however, the lad learnt DJing from Beat Works Studio and started doing his own shows as a DJ at many events in Bangalore. After completing B.Tech from Alliance University, Bangalore, Tushar started his own studio 'Knobs Music Studio.' But due to some unfortunate circumstances, the studio was shut down later. However, this did not dishearten him as he started writing his own rap based on his experiences. Some of his raps have been played on BBC radio as well. His new upcoming song, 'Jo Bhi Likha,' speaks about the hardships he went through and how it helped him hone his musical skills further.

Speaking about the current musical trend in the country, Tushar states, "even though music has evolved greatly in India yet it is not as much open to new or different genres." So what's the solution and pats comes the reply, "music industry should be given as much importance as any other entertainment medium and should be made independent from the film industry."

When asked one last question about his goals, he ponders for a while and then says with a charming smile, "To raise awareness about various new genres of music and start developing a wider range of tastes."



Inside TSK's lens

Sanjana Saxena

Any Amitian who claims to have a running passion in workings of the camera has at least once stumbled onto the path of Trilochan S Kalra (well known as TSK) and his exhilarating projects. While others definitely must have spotted him guiding a group of students in the campus on a photography escapade; Trilochan



is not only a beloved faculty of Amity School of Communication but is popular for his intrusive yet exuberant personality all around the campus.

Be it bumping into him in the middle of his projects and coming out as a model or being one of the students under his open elective course, Trilochan sir has dedicated

his life into teaching students the art of photography.

The man who has directed his life to make sure a keen student is close to his passion, a man full of jovial laughs and hundreds of motivating conversations himself didn't have a very smooth ride.

When you see him happily running around with a camera or hear his laugh echoing from the studio, it forces a question into thought.

"How has life treated him?"

And when you ask him this, he sits on his chair when we ask him, his grin slightly tapering to melancholic as he starts narrating his tale.

"Dear childhood dream, I would be lying if I say I don't think about you. All this time, I've been trying to make peace with the fact that I, a middle class juvenile, have had to strike a balance between my dreams and the weight of responsibilities on my tender shoulders.

My ambition of becoming an Army officer was fuelled when I saw pictures of Army officers in the photo studios near my house in Cantonment. It left me in pain but my priorities were clear. I had six siblings and I was the first born.

Being the eldest child in an unplanned family came with hardships that I did not ask for and the essence of any sort of childhood was gone. I did my schooling from a Hindi medium school upto class 10th and then my family members expected me to magically make money yet ironically nobody had any idea how.

I was assigned all sorts of work by my father (a rickshaw stand owner) that a teenager was simply not qualified to do like haggling, extorting due money from drivers by any means possible, few among all the tasks I loathed because they were not meant for me. But the kind of money I needed for higher studies was nowhere to be found. I always felt that I would never be able to compete with others and their fancy degrees. I had no idea what to do with my life and the brimming river of responsibilities. It almost felt like I would drown in it."

One is shocked beyond belief at the story. The roots of this happy tree are watered with immense



I proudly say, I do not have a stack of degrees because I know a mere piece of paper can never become my identity, my experiences and struggles have made me what I am today

-TSK

struggle and trauma. It brings to mind the philosophy of happy faces often hide the saddest stories.

Glancing around the photography studio where he teaches and works in, one sees brilliant works of art in photographs; some of his own and others of his student. Having such caliber and the ability surely must require high professional training from a high end institute.

When we ask him about his training, TSK smiles before continuing.

"One day, my father decided to give me the daily dose of his lecture, equipped with recurrent humiliation in front of our relative, hoping that a third person encountering the confrontation would finally lead to a solution and I, ashamed and fed up, would settle for the odd jobs he came up with but that day something changed.

I finally saw the silver lining of the clouds in the dark gloomy sky of my life. My relative asked me if I wanted to work as a photographer and my answer was an indubitable yes. He took me to his studio and imparted practical knowledge

about photography. I started working from the first day itself. It was a small room but for me it was my dreamland because I was finally doing something that I wanted with all my heart. All this time, I was baffled about my career and aspiration to be in the Army because I saw a magnificent photographs that portrayed the military as an absolute ideal profession, but it has always been photography. The photographs made my heart cry with joy and sorrow.

I started working and was paid Rs 1 per day and then gradually it was almost like all the missing pieces were finally in the right place. After years of freelancing, joining an evening newspaper, working as a photojournalist in a leading newspaper, joining Dainik Jagran and then Tehelka finally after working for almost 30 years in press, the kid, who adored the photographs of Army officers, that made his eyes shine so bright that the stars would be jealous of them; he, who had no idea that he is looking at his very own passion just in a slightly different way and all he needed was support and guidance, was imparting his knowledge about photography in esteemed Amity University to other kids.

I proudly say, I do not have a stack of degrees because I know a mere piece of paper can never become my identity. My experiences and struggles have made me what I am today and there are no degrees that can bring the gleam in my eyes that I possess because of the values people place on my skills and my passion that filled the void in my life."