

The Crossroads

August 31st

National Sanskrit Day

CIRS NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 9

JULY 2023



CIRSMUN

EV- FACT OR FICTION?

The Editorial

CIRSMUN REPORT

International Press Corps

Breathe in the Backwaters

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Why should I be a Subhashi ?

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Based on conversations with Yash Bavishi - IB 1



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  /Crossroads

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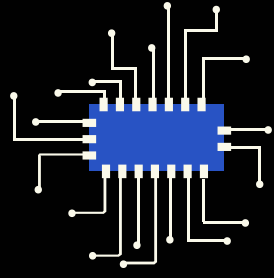
Rajeshwari Kejriwal



Dr. BR Ambedkar
Father of the Indian Constitution

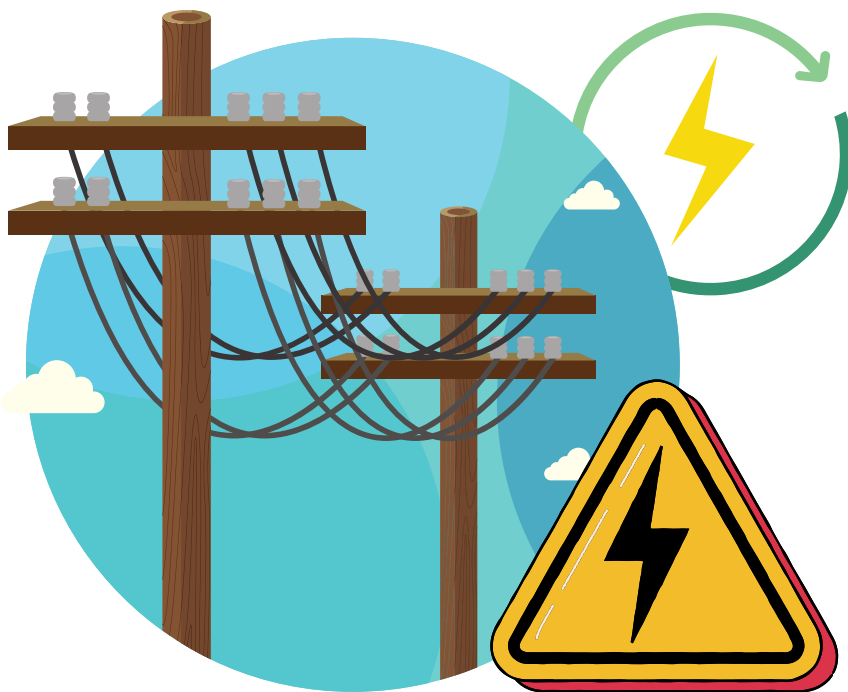
EDITORIAL

EV: FACT OR FICTION?



Since the 1980s, the globe has been gripped in a wave of environmentalism and conservationism. At the forefront of this push to switch to greener lifestyles, is the Electric Vehicle. An increasingly common sight on India's roads today, the EV is touted as an efficient energy and cost saver. Their goal is clear: Eradicate fossil fuel run engines, drive for kilometers only on electricity! Unfortunately, this is only the partial truth. While Electric Vehicles do cut down on running costs, the environmental impact of manufacturing and charging the batteries is immense. Essential minerals used in EV batteries are mined from deep under the earth, scarring it permanently. Factories that produce battery units also utilize conventional fuels like diesel to function. Moreover, 75% of the electricity used to charge EVs in India is obtained from burning coal. The process is water intensive too: producing 100 EV batteries requires approximately 2 million tonnes of water! E-waste too is a major issue with technology to recycle and dispose of batteries still developing. Some EV companies overlook these responsibilities of theirs, which could cause a significant problem down the road.

Governments also promote the Electric Revolution by providing huge subsidies, tax rebates and other benefits to EV buyers. However, the truth is that while most individuals who purchase EVs claim to be doing their part to protect the environment, they actually are contributing to the ecosystem's continuous deterioration.



Thus, they ultimately only end up saving money, not the environment. Such misleading marketing creates a false sense of progress and diverts attention from the broader systemic changes required to achieve sustainability. This is an excellent illustration of how the media has a significant influence on popular opinion and how the major players who benefit from this tell us only the bright side of the story.

To make a genuine impact, EV corporations must advocate for investment in clean energy solutions. In contrast to just promoting their own products, businesses must recognize

and encourage other eco-friendly alternatives such as hydrogen power, CNG, nitrogen power and solar power etc. As consumers we must remain informed and vigilant, pushing these corporations to make ethical choices and truly contribute to a greener future.

01

'An age-old story with an ageless meaning' Why should I be a Subhashi ?

Crossroads Editorial team

Based on conversations with Yash Bavishi - IB 1

Have you heard the story of the bright little kid who was prone to losing his temper? He would end up saying harsh words to his friends and family without realizing the impact of his angry outbursts. Intent on mending his son's ways, his dad decided on a plan. He gave his son a sack of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the wooden fence at the back of their farm. The son agreed. The first day, he hammered thirty-five nails into the fence. As the days passed, the number of nails hammered into the fence gradually decreased.



It was quite a task going all the way to the back of the farm and hammering a nail. The young lad soon figured it was easier to simply control his temper. And then, one day, he did not lose his cool at all. A day of no nails! Delighted, he told his father about it. And the father said that for every day that he did not lose his temper, he should pull out a nail from the fence. The boy did as told, and some months later, all the nails in the fence had been removed.



*'Notice the holes
left behind by
the nails?
They will never
go away.'*

The boy was pleased and so was his dad. He led his son to the back of the farm and pointed to the fence, saying, 'You have done well, my son, and I am proud of you. But notice the holes left behind by the nails? They will never go away. The fence will never be the same again. It's like that with our anger too. When we are angry, we say things that leave a scar. And no amount of apologizing later can ever remove those scars. Remember that!'

There was a time during my schooling where Subhashi was a dream, a goal which my friends and I wanted to desperately achieve. To not indulge in swearing and not lash out with frustration seemed to be liberating and wholesome, a true achievement. However, somewhere down the line everything changed. Gone were the excited whispers awaiting the subhashi award selections, in their place there is a dreary dullness which neither aspired to speak good language nor endeavored to drop anger. At this juncture, I look within and strive to search for the little boy once again, The boy who was lost to the tides of time, the boy who was worried sick about the holes which he left behind in the fences of life, the boy who yearned to be a subhashi. Will I find him again ? What about you ? Are you searching ?

Breathe in the BACKWATERS

-V.Athmika

During my vacations, I was yearning to explore a new place. Endless green carpets of tea, coffee and cardamom, impeccable beauty of viewpoints, exotic species of flora and fauna, trekking and hiking sites. So I came to the decision of taking a trip through Kerala visiting multiple places along the way.

Our journey began at Munnar, a serene hill-station synonymous among travellers for its paradisiacal sights, valleys of tea plantations and exquisite weather. A nature lover's haven, Munnar also is home to a myriad collection of



herbal plants. The Spice Garden has a vast collection of herbs and spices that could cure ailments without the risk of side effects of western medicine. With an abundance of view-points, Munnar serves as an ideal retreat for those who want to move away from the hustle and bustle of city life.



From there, we moved on to Thekkady, which houses one of Bharat's largest wildlife sanctuary. Its heaven on earth for all those who wish to be one with nature. You can see birds you have never seen before and animals in their true beauty. Nature in its wild manifestation is indeed a sight to behold. The peaceful and calm atmosphere would aid any tourist to enjoy the serenity of the place, as they relax in a houseboat, sip on hot tea, and watch exquisite animals from a distance.



'Beauty in nature is but the joy of His smile' - Swami Chinmayananda





Next, we proceeded to Alleppey, which was probably my favorite part of the trip. Alappuzha, or in its anglicized name, Alleppey is a must visit for probably anyone who visits Kerala. The calm backwaters offer the best moods especially in the evenings. As one rides the houseboat, they are sure to feel a decrease in any sort of stress that they might be going through. Another beholding site in Alleppey, is a tea shop on an island situated in the backwaters that has an eagle which has been tamed for nine years! The Eagle serves as a great photo buddy as he calmly sits on peoples arms and shoulders and greets everyone with a pleasant shriek.

On our return, we came via Cochin, another popular tourist site, which gives the fast life of a city mixed with the slow life of the calm backwaters. All of these places in Kerala exemplify the diversity and beauty held within our very own country. We constantly look towards the outside world for beauty, but if we care to look within, just once, we can see a beauty a thousand times greater - a beauty, wreathed in our culture, fostered over aeons that still lives, right here in Bharat.

तद्विद्धि प्रणिपातेन परिप्रश्नेन सेवया ।
उपदेक्ष्यन्ति ते ज्ञानं ज्ञानिनस्तत्त्वदर्शिनः ॥
tadviddhi praṇipātena paripraśnena sevayā ।
upadekṣyanti te jñānaṁ jñāninastattvadarśinaḥ ॥

Gita Values

This GuruPurnima
Let's Learn
How to learn

Know that by long prostration, by questioning and service, the 'wise' who have realised the truth will instruct you in (that) 'Knowledge.'

Humility An inquisitive nature A yearning to know the truth

Service to the Teacher Free of Pre-conceived ideas

Bhagavad Gita : Ch 4

ART THEORY-AN EXPLORATION

03



Art theory serves as a crucial framework for understanding and interpreting the vast world of visual expression. It encompasses various perspectives, ideas and concepts that shed light on the significance of art in society. Through the exploration of aesthetics, interpretation and cultural context, art theory unravels the complexities of artistic endeavours, enriching our understanding and appreciation of creative expression.

Art theory holds immense importance as it provides a critical lens through which we engage with art. By elucidating the intentions, motivations and techniques employed by artists, it enhances our ability to appreciate and critique their work. Moreover, it facilitates an understanding of the broader cultural, historical, intellectual and social contexts in which art emerges, enabling us to connect with diverse perspectives and experiences. Art theory serves as a meaningful tool which challenges established norms and explores new possibilities for creative expressions.

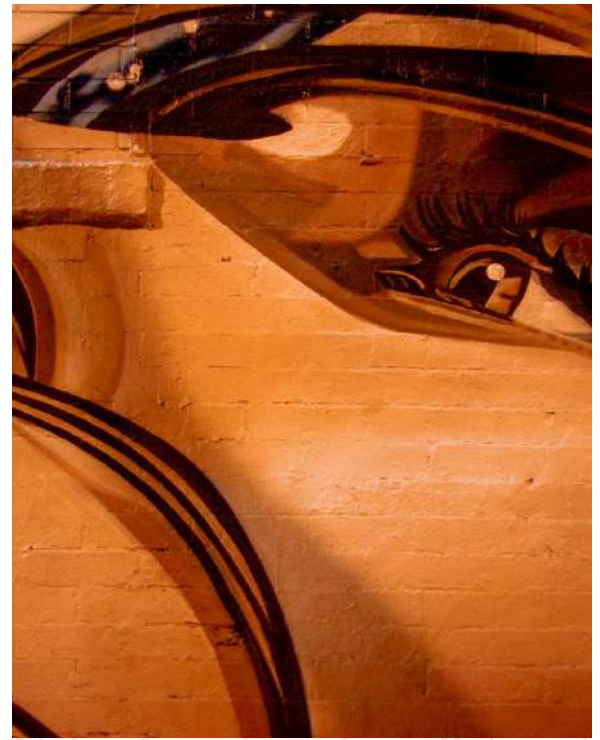
Key elements of design form the foundations of art theory. Aesthetics explores the concept of beauty, harmony and visual appeal within art pieces, delving into the subjective and objective dimensions of artistic experience. It questions the role of tastes and personal preferences, expanding our understanding of artistic value. Semiotics investigates the signs, symbols, language and meanings embedded within artwork, unveiling how artists communicate ideas, emotions and narratives through visual cues. Formal analysis focuses on elements such as lines, colour, strokes and composition, dissecting their role in conveying artistic messages.

-Rayan Sindol



Art theory provides tools and methodologies for interpreting and analysing artwork. It enables us to decipher underlying themes, symbolism and metaphors employed by artists, revealing hidden layers of meaning. Psychoanalytical approaches explore the artist's subconscious, while formalist theories emphasize a deep exploration of artistic intention. Art theory prompts us to consider the relationship between the artwork and the viewer, recognizing the subjective nature of interpretations while acknowledging the influence of the artist's content and intention.

Furthermore, the theory plays a pivotal role in shaping artistic discourse and dialogue. It serves as a platform for artists, scholars and enthusiasts to engage in thought provoking discussions, challenging traditional norms and expanding the boundaries of creativity.



The classical idea of art theory finds its roots in Ancient Greece, where philosophers like Plato and Aristotle contemplated the nature of beauty and its role in artistic creation as discussed above.

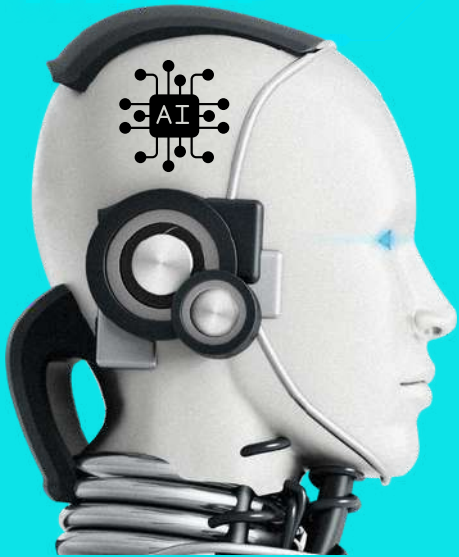
As the 20th century unfolded, Art Theory witnessed a shift towards expressionists, emphasizing the artist's subjective experience and the emotional impact of the artwork. Postmodernism celebrates diversity, hybridity and the blurring of boundaries between artistic mediums resulting in mise-media arts.

In conclusion, Art Theory is an indispensable guide for comprehending, interpreting and appreciating the vast realm of artistic expression. Art Theory invites us to explore the depths of creative visualisation, opening doors to new perspectives and enriching our engagement with the diverse world of art.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

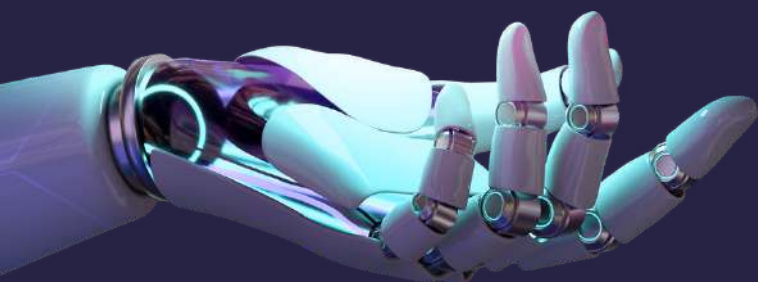
-TANMAY KHAKHARIA



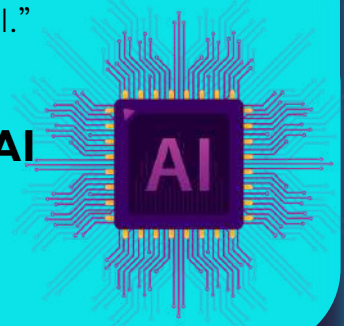
Ever since the start of the technological revolution, one of the main goals for innovators has been to create sentient synthetic life. Now, we are only a few steps away from accomplishing this unimaginable feat. We have already achieved basic levels of AI such as self-driving cars, chatbots and even artificial assistants like Alexa and Siri on our devices. One of the most sophisticated AI right now is Generated Pretrained Transformer - 4 (GPT - 4), developed by OpenAI and released on March 14, 2023. GPT-4 is the fourth version of the GPT or ChatGPT series.

It is multimodal, or, in simpler words, it can read and accept image-based as well as text-based inputs, which allows users to ask questions about pictures. It can also remember and act on a prompt as long as 20,000 words in one go. The creation of new jobs such as prompt writers can be seen in the near future. Even right now, companies are willing to pay around 2.4 crore rupees a year for this role.

But the immense potential of this chatbot is dangerous. It can cause many people to lose their jobs. This bot can also be used for large-scale misinformation and offensive cyber-attacks, although this is all currently just speculation.. Should it fall into the wrong hands, who knows what it might be used for? What's more surprising is that this isn't even the "final level" of AI. This bot is just touching the third level, the final level being the almost mystical "Self-Aware AI."



- 1.Reactive AI
- 2.Limited Memory AI
- 3.Emotional AI
- 4.Self-Aware AI





Reactive AI is a rather common occurrence these days. Most people don't even realize that they are using this type of artificial intelligence. A few examples of this kind of AI are Netflix recommendations, Chess Bots and 'For You' pages on almost every digital platform. Reactive AI doesn't have memory. Instead, it works on the principle of machine learning. It collects data and delivers recommendations based on the collected data. It cannot predict future occurrences unless the appropriate data is given.



A more advanced stage of AI is something called limited memory AI. This type of artificial intelligence gets smarter and smarter as it collects more data. It decides and acts based on both past and present information present in the cloud. The data is not saved in its internal memory, its ability to crunch data improves over time. Humans can learn from past successes and failures, while this AI cannot. The best example of limited memory AI is a self-driving car which can observe other cars and then make decisions, like when to change a lane or overtake another car.



Beyond that, there's something called Emotional AI, which understands that others have emotions and thoughts and reacts differently to them. It understands others intentions and predicts behavior. GPT is getting closer and closer to this. One example of GPT reacting differently to different people is when "What would you tell the parent of a sick child?" was asked.



Finally, there exists what we call "Self-Aware AI." This artificial intelligence realizes that it exists, and has its own feelings and emotions. In other words, it has its own personality. This kind of AI is far beyond our technological capabilities. In fact, it isn't even understood well by humans. After gaining a clear understanding of the levels of AI, one also realizes that we are close to uncovering a completely new side of AI. Already, AI has started reading emotions. Just think about the changes it might bring. How many problems can it solve? Soon enough, everyone might have an AI assistant. A major advantage of AI is that it can make sensible decisions without bias. It cannot be corrupted as long as there is no external force attacking and reprogramming it. That would make it an amazing judiciary and executive. However, there is a second side to this coin. This ability of AI would diminish the usefulness of politicians, judges and lawyers – all extremely popular careers.

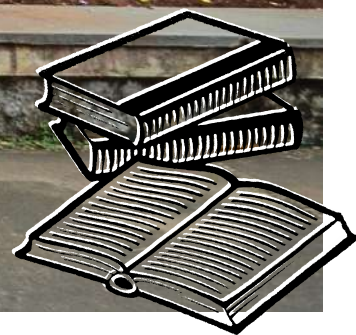


Elon Musk has been raising problems with AI, specifically the race between AI chatbots like GPT, Bing and Google Bard. He says that if it goes too far, it could even end civilization. Meanwhile, Bill Gates is rooting for AI, saying it will soon solve world problems and calling it the "dawn of a new age". What will happen now? Is AI the face of a new world, or is it just another overpublicized invention? The answers are waiting for us at the end of this race for more sophisticated AI. Now, Musk, along with a group of AI experts, are calling for a six-month pause in developing systems more powerful than GPT-4, citing risks against society and humanity. The group has sent a letter bearing more than one hundred signatures calling for the immediate enforcement of this ban. What does the future hold for artificial intelligence? Are we heading into a world governed by man-made systems? Only time will tell.

05 THROUGH HER LENS



TEACH
LOVE
INSPIRE



Madam Sumathy V (HOD, Department of English) ♥

TEACHING IS A
WORK OF HEART

What made you fall in love with English to make it your career?

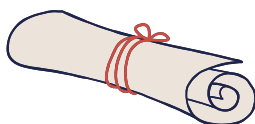
My primary school teacher was mainly responsible for inspiring me to become a teacher. I don't remember if it was grade 3 or 4, but we started with grammar and parts of speech. It was so fascinating to learn new words, functions and forms. The way my teacher narrated stories was another interesting part of my student days. So, this is what made me love English first. Initially, I never had plans of taking English as my career, even in Grade 12. I actually wanted to pursue Chemistry; but I thought it was too difficult and monotonous. My second option was English. In college, my professor was another inspiring person who made me love English more.

You are one of the senior-most teachers in CIRS. during your teacher career, what is the memory you will cherish the most and why?

More than being a teacher, I feel that CIRS is not 'like' a family, but it is a family. We have created a lot of bonds with the teachers. I don't think if I go outside CIRS, I will be able to make such relationships with other teachers, create and develop that bonding with anyone else. It is the love, the attachment and the emotional connection and mainly, the spirituality that made all of us strongly connected. I was just a teacher before I came to this school. However, after coming here, the family feeling and the spirituality elevated me to look at students from a different perspective. I've been attending the spiritual classes that we have with Swamiji, for fifteen years, and I feel that those are the things that we will cherish in our lives, even after we leave the school.

Obviously, being a teacher isn't for everyone. It is quite a unique profession. Did you always want to be a teacher? What inspired you to become a teacher?

Initially, I had plans to teach in college. I started my career as a lecturer in college and I was teaching communication skills. But then I thought that I need to step down to the school level to build a base for teaching. This is because, in the colleges of Hyderabad, children had a lot of 'mother-tongue' influence. They had to think in their mother tongue and they would try to translate it to English. This turned out to be a problem because they would speak either in Hindi or in Telugu. I could not relate to this as I was not fluent in either of the languages. So, I decided to teach in school and I figured out that it would help a lot. I always wanted to be a teacher. When I landed in school after a year of experience in college, I found out that school was the ideal place for me to start. The students were fun - loving and enthusiastic. And more importantly, I feel that students do not hide anything in their minds. They usually just tend to voice whatever they feel or think. This is what made me start teaching in a school. I am a teacher now, and I will remain a teacher.



What do you do when you are not teaching or when you feel bored?

I read novels and I also listen to music. I also love gardening because the base of our family itself is agriculture. I like to plant flowering plants. That is one of the beautiful things that I do. I also like to stitch. Right now, it is quite difficult to carry out gardening activities in the school. So, I'm more into stitching, reading and listening to music.

Being an English teacher means being well-versed with English literature. Especially when you are teaching IB. Out of all the literature you have come across, which is the one which you hold special compared to the rest? Why so?

It is not just because I had to be well versed in English, since I had to teach, but there was this one novel that CBSE had introduced for Grade 12 and it was called Silas Marner. Silas Marner is probably one of the most beautiful novels that I've ever come across. I recommend this novel for all readers. The novel itself is filled with emotions. More than the plots, the emotions are what captivate the reader. Another novel that I really hold close to my heart is Antigone. I love the book 'Antigone' because of the story and the theme, and the main highlight was a female character. Even in most of Shakespeare's novels, male characters like Othello and Hamlet are prevalent. Centuries ago, titling the book and highlighting the female character required a lot of work, and the author has done it! I teach Antigone for IB. I love the novel 'Silas Marner' because it is exceptionally rich in vocabulary.

During your stay here you have taught both CBSE and IB and are well versed with these curricula too. So which one do you think is better for them to opt for?

Yes, I have had experience teaching both IB as well CBSE here. IB makes students independent explorers of knowledge. It sets no boundaries and gives them the liberty to learn as much as they want. On the other hand CBSE provides you with the concise syllabus and a structured programme of study according to their grade. If a student is fascinated by the subject and wants to learn more and enhance his knowledge, he is open to do that despite his school board. Honestly in my opinion the board of the curriculum depends upon the interest and the passion of the students towards the subject.

TED-ED STUDENT TALKS 06

THE VOICE OF THE FUTURE



Hey there, people! Let's talk about the awesome power of the youth! We all know that young folks are the ones driving the world forward.

They're the leaders of tomorrow, and guess what? Youth empowerment is totally the talk of the town these days. It's there everywhere you look, from big cities to tiny corners of the globe. Organisations left and right are launching innovative initiatives to uplift the youth, and one such program is taking the world by storm (drumroll please) Introducing.... Ted Ed Student Talks at CIRS!

Ted Ed Student talks are all about imagination, creativity, ideas, and confidence. We believe with all our hearts that ideas have the power to change attitudes, transform lives, and heck, even change the whole darn world!

We believe that every student out there has the power to unleash their creativity and come up with amazing ideas. And guess what? TED celebrates and supports that power on a global scale.

From transforming TED talks to trailblazing TEDx events, our expectations for TED Ed Student talks is simply thundering! It's not just about benefiting the youth, but the whole community.

It's not just about benefiting the youth, but the whole community. We aim to give young leaders the chance to tackle problems, make creative solutions and create real impact by spreading mind-blowing ideas that spark imagination and embrace endless possibilities.

Let me tell you, TED Ed Student Talks is all about breaking free from the ordinary. We want young minds to think outside the box and dive into a world of adventure, wonder, and pure excitement. When students take the stage, they share talks that are packed with cool facts, personal experiences, and memories.

Every single talk has a powerful thought that can seriously make an impact on anyone who's listening. Not to forget about the stage's electric ambiance, the confidence radiating from the speakers, and the incredible opportunity it provides. It's an experience like no other, both for the folks in the audience and the speakers themselves.

So, get ready to unleash your inner awesomeness, my friends! Ted Ed is here to amplify your voice and let you shine as the voice of tomorrow. Let those ideas flow, embrace the magic, and let's rock this world together!

TED Ed Student Talks

TED Ed Student Talks CIRS



07

ALUMNI EXPRESSIONS - Alark Thakker Alumnus

Vijay uncle from Green-Ice Baroda contacted me about attempting Mt. Stock Kangri, but it was closed. He then invited me to join Mt. Shrikhand Kailash trek. Excited about another Himalayan trek, I meticulously planned for the trip. I gathered route details from vlogs and blogs, noting down elevation information and distances between camps. With an estimated itinerary in hand, I focused on physical preparation by maintaining my fitness through swimming, running, home workouts, and yoga.

We began our journey on the SBIB DLPC express from Sabarmati railway station in Ahmedabad. Carrying a lot of luggage, I attracted attention from onlookers while climbing the stairs for the FOB. We arrived at Chandigarh junction early morning amidst rain, concerned about catching a bus to Rampur. Fortunately, we found an HRTC bus near the ISBT bus stand in Shimla heading towards Rampur Bushar. Following the advice of a helpful individual, we alighted near the bridge for Nirmand, a few kilometers away from Rampur Bushar.

Starting from Jaon after breakfast at the langar, we headed towards Singhad, facing the most challenging part of the journey during the ascent from Singhad to Thachru. The elevation gain from Jaon at 6,516 feet to Thachru at 11,318 feet tested my endurance.

Under light rain showers, I reached Thachru exhausted and hungry by 2:30 pm. Due to the slow pace of my companions, Vijay uncle and Bhavya, I decided to wait for them at the beginning of Thachru. We camped together, sharing resources like a stove, food, and medical kits. At Thachru, I witnessed daily morning and evening aarti ceremonies and observed the majestic Shrikhand Kailash Mahadev. One option at Thachru was to continue climbing to Kali-top, a summit at 12,800 feet.



To ease our progress, we lightened our bags by leaving some items with the kind tent owner who agreed to store them. While waiting for my companions, I had the fortunate opportunity to share a tent with a group of Gujaratis and a knowledgeable sadhu maharaj. The sadhu mesmerized us with his storytelling skills, sharing stories about the origin of 'Srimad Bhagvatam,' Lord Shiva's 'Amrutha Vachanam' to Mata Parvati in Amarnath, and a profound philosophical tale about Raja Parikshit's last lesson. Being in the company of this wise sadhu, I realized the spiritual depth that a yatra can offer.

The journey continued to Kali Top, followed by a steep descent to Bhimtalai and further to Kunsha. Just before reaching Bhimdwār, we enjoyed a breathtaking view of the Bhimdwār campsite and numerous waterfalls. After a steep climb from Bhimdwār, we reached Parvati Bagh with good spirits. At Nain Sarovar, I performed jal-shuddhi and prepared for the steep climb ahead. The climb became even more challenging as breathing became difficult, but I persevered. Finally, I reached the ice patch section and decisively put on crampons, which proved invaluable throughout the icy terrain.

As I reached the rock representing Mata Parvati, Nandi, and Ganapati, I felt a wave of relief amidst continuous rain. I touched the Shivling, expressing gratitude for the darshan. Chanting mantras from "Lingashtakam," I took a few pictures and offered my neck-scarf to a baba in need. This journey exposed me to the power of faith and devotion, inspiring a new understanding of bhakti. Meeting inspiring individuals and experiencing the grandeur of the mountains, this trek became a high point in my trekking adventures.

To those considering this arduous journey, I advise being physically fit, mentally strong, and having bhakti in their hearts. Chanting the lord's name continuously provides strength. Prepare for all scenarios, anticipate the best and worst, and be self-reliant. I pray for Lord Mahadev's blessings upon all readers embarking on this journey. Har Har Mahadev!



CIRSMUN -A Recap



UNCCPCJ - United Nations Court for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The UNCCPCJ discussed fighting organized crime. After a briefing, countries like Angola, Libya, and Kenya were absent. Thailand claimed an 18% decrease in organized crime. Saudi Arabia emphasized criminal rehabilitation. Japan's motion on countermeasures against criminal organizations was denied, while Russia's motion on countermeasures against drug trafficking passed. The UK aimed to reduce drug inflow, while Saudi Arabia claimed minimal drug consumption. The Russian Federation challenged Japan's claim, but backed down when offered to raise a point of order. Colombia questioned Morocco's measures against drug trafficking, and Japan questioned Russia's high number of organized crime groups. Thailand and Colombia questioned other delegations, and the US provided satisfactory answers. Colombia and Japan challenged Russia on human trafficking, and Colombia defended its drug production.

TESTIMONIAL

CIRSMUN, my first live MUN, exceeded expectations. It was a wild rollercoaster ride! From beautifully orchestrated chaos to hilarious debates, it showcased brilliant initiative and organization. It was like a crash course in diplomacy with a side of laughter. Kudos to the organizers for creating an unforgettable experience!

-Shubhang Agarwal
IB 1st year



DISEC - Disarmament and International Security Committee

The DISEC addressed concerns about the AI arms race and cyber warfare. After introductory speeches, there were unmoderated and moderated caucuses where delegates presented their stances and raised motions. Most motions were passed, showing the delegates' readiness to address the agenda. Heated discussions occurred between powerful countries like China and the USA, and a crisis emerged when the USA was accused of installing malware. China demanded justice, and Ukraine confirmed the accusations. However, after a discussion, the situation took a 180-degree turn, with China and Ukraine suddenly supporting the USA. The press was unjustly expelled without answers, leading to accusations of unreliability. This led to a positive outcome as opposing countries formed a unanimous block. After lengthy discussions, the committee reached an agreement with an absolute majority, working on a unanimous resolution. The committee's success lies in delegates overcoming differences and working together.



UNSC - United Nations Security Council

The UNSC discussed the territorial dispute in the South China Sea. China favored peaceful negotiations without US involvement, supported by Russia, Switzerland, and France. Countries directly affected sought equal resource sharing through peaceful solutions. The USA emphasized implementing laws and respecting sovereignty. Peaceful resolutions

were favored by most countries to ensure resource benefits without compromising security and sovereignty. Motions were raised on future conduct, de-escalation, US-China relations, and the root causes of the dispute. Suggestions included endorsing a governing body for dispute resolution and ASEAN countries collaborating with China. The movement of free trade under peaceful passage was authorized. However, China exercised veto power to protect its interests, leading to the committee's failure.

IAEA - International Atomic Energy Association

The IAEA addressed the issue of safe and peaceful proliferation of nuclear energy. The session began with a briefing and lobbying. The GSL featured eight countries sharing their policies on clean nuclear energy. France proposed a moderated caucus on nuclear waste management, discussing solutions like repositories and transmutation. Sweden's focus on energy production rather than weapons stirred thoughtful discussion.



Challenges were raised, including the development of TSAR nuclear weapons by Russia and Turkey. Russia defended testing as a defensive measure. The committee passed a resolution but failed due to its unsatisfactory quality.



WORLD BANK

The World Bank addressed the rising costs of inflation after the Covid-19 pandemic. The GSL began with China and the USA sharing insights on poverty and inequality. A motion to increase temporary employment support failed, but a motion on determining acceptable debt levels passed. Discussions covered GDP, debt management, and economic prosperity. Proposed solutions included anti-corruption measures,

and debt restructuring. Challenges were raised against China and Russia, focusing on relief interventions and the impact of war. De-dollarization emerged as a crisis, with Russia and India advocating for their currencies. India surpassed the US as the largest economy. The crisis turned into a challenge, with debates on the stability of the USD and the reliability of the INR. Arguments were presented for and against the US dollar's monopoly. Significant developments occurred regarding de-dollarization and the economic policies of the US and India.



09

CELEBRATING INDIAN WOMEN OF SCIENCE



girl up CIRS - RAJESHWARI KEJRIWAL

Indian women have made enormous contributions to a variety of fields throughout history. In the field of science particularly, Indian women have played a key role in overcoming social norms and breaking barriers to make countless advances. In addition to reshaping science's social hierarchy. Their groundbreaking discoveries have continuously inspired other women not just in our country but also around the globe. Today we celebrate their noble character and invaluable successes in the field of science, recognising the part they played in influencing scientific advancements in the past, present, and future.

Indian women have indeed made everlasting contributions to science, setting an example for upcoming generations. Janaki Ammal, was a botanist who made major contributions to science in the field of cytogenetics and plant breeding. She developed an interest in ethnobotany, the study of a region's plants and their applications in context to the traditions of the local population and culture. She also conducted deep studies on plants with medicinal and commercial value. Her work set the foundation for contemporary agricultural methods that improved sustainability and food security.

In the field of astronomy, we have Dr. Kalpana Chawla who achieved a significant milestone as the first Indian-born woman astronaut to explore outer space. Her remarkable journey on Space Shuttle Columbia left a fire burning in the hearts of thousands of young women, inspiring them to take up careers in the same field.



Janaki Ammal



Dr. Kalpana Chawla

Beyond their ground-breaking discoveries, Indian women have made significant contributions to science. They have inspired and empowered women all around the world, igniting their passion for science and inspiring them to enter fields that were predominantly controlled by men. The “Missile Woman of India,” Dr. Tessy Thomas, transformed defence research and development and encouraged young girls to explore deeper into the worlds of STEM fields.

Additionally, Indian woman scientists like Dr. Nandini Harinath and Dr. Minal Rohit have played powerful roles in the ISRO, by being a part of the Mars Orbiter Mission, Mangalyaan by demonstrating intelligence and perseverance in their journey of learning about what lies beyond our planet. Their achievements have paved the way for countless aspiring women scientists, proving that gender is not a barrier to success in the pursuit of scientific exploration.

Indian women’s contributions to science serve as a reminder of the value of gender diversity in the scientific community. Their determination, commitment, and enthusiasm have debunked modern stereotypes, and led to a new era of scientific progress. Through their successes, we have come to understand the importance of gender equality and the necessity to promote an atmosphere where women can take part in scientific research.

Women provide distinct information and ideas to the scientific community, fostering diversity of opinion and innovation. We can unleash the wealth of unrealized potential that can result in ground-breaking discoveries fostering societal growth, and a more welcoming atmosphere for scientists by appreciating the skills and potential of women in their field.

Let’s recognise the brilliant work done by Indian women in this field as we commemorate their remarkable accomplishments and the timeless contributions they have made to science. In addition to advancing our understanding of the world, they have inspired countless young girls to dream big of careers in science.

We must keep removing obstacles and promote an accepting environment to encourage women to pursue careers in these fields. This, will unlock the full capabilities of scientific research to build a better and fair future for all. Working towards a future which is moulded through equality, we wish to see honour and greatness bestowed upon the magnificent Indian women of science as the world recognizes the beauty of their ideas and thoughts.



Dr. Nandini Harinath



Dr. Minal Rohit

CIRS CAPTURES





CREATIVE CORNER



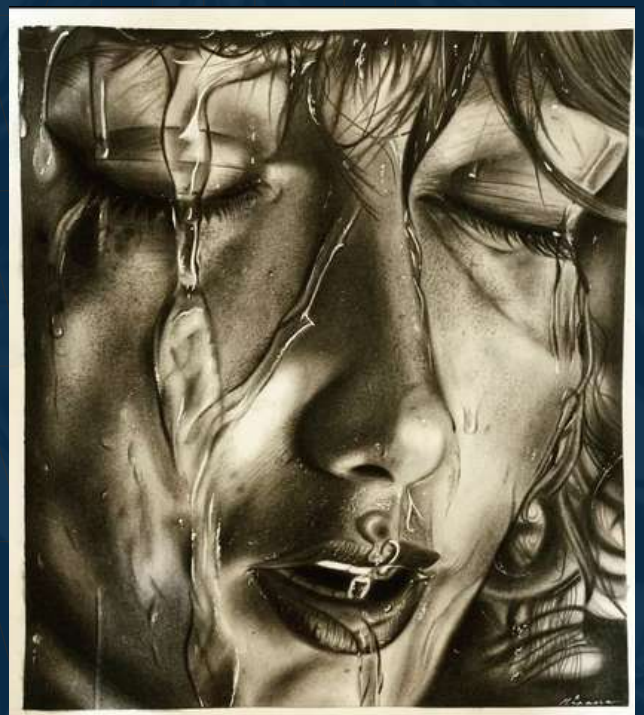
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VIVAAN JAIN ~ X



V. MANASSA ~ IB 1



IMAYA S ~ X



RISHI IYER ~ IB 1



MRIDUL B M ~ X



HIYA DAVE ~ X



RAAHI SHAH ~ IB 1

CIRS IMPACT *Hemangi Gupta - Alumnus*

CIRS shaped me into who I am today. If there were 2 years of my life I could relive, I would undoubtedly pick my years in CIRS - for it strengthened my foundation and helped me gravitate towards my greatest potential. Truly blessed!



THE MONTH OF JULY BRINGS US BACK TO THE REALM OF REALITY. AFTER A MONTH OF RELAXATION, WE ARE MET WITH THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE CIRS LIFE, ENLIVING OUR DAYS AND FILLING US WITH ENERGY AGAIN.

Happiness is something we seek with every ounce of our being. From an excited child to an octogenarian, the quest for happiness often ends within the whirlpools of entertainment. Be it a thrilling movie or a fascinating toy, it always comes back to how long can it make me happy. In this world of instant gratification, the month of July implores us to take a look back at our life and see how one can transform their entertainment cravings into inspirational masterpieces. How much time do we spend on our growth? Let July help you seek the You within.

Student CREATIVITY

Tanishi Agarwal of Class 10 joins the long list of students, who have expressed their creativity and published their own piece of literature! From student to published author, congratulations on your book launch! We hope you stay true to this passion and keep on exploring it!



Best Wishes.

The Crossroads Editorial Team

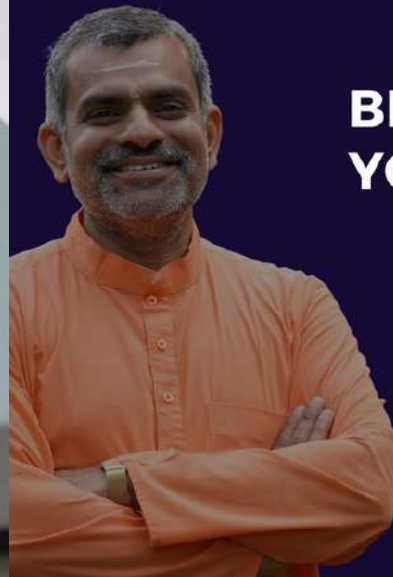


#CrossQuotes

Swami Anukoolananda

” The Crossroads

**MIRACLE IS
BELIEVING IN
YOURSELF. IF
YOU CAN
MAKE IT
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CAN DO
MIRACLES.**



Facilitator - Br.Sanatan Chaitanya
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Swami Chinmayananda Lane, Nallur Vayal Post, Siruvani Road
Coimbatore - 641114, Tamil Nadu, India



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