

The
Seshadripuram
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SESHADRIPURAM COLLEGE

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Department of Commerce and Management

Graduate and PostGraduate Department

Commerce and Management Forum

Presents

Commerce and Management

CRUX



Also

The Utopian Egalitarian
World

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CRUX

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Editorial

What a fantastic experience it has been for the team working on the magazine. The founding Student Editors of The Seshadripuram Monthly who started it all will be graduating this month (hopefully) and I wish them luck in their future endeavours. And I want to wish more luck to the editors and designers who will take on more responsibility starting with the magazine's next edition.

What first began as an outcome of having a lot of spare time during the pandemic, has now been released 10 editions with publishing numerous articles from students and alums of the college and has helped the students to network with them in the process.

This issue features Ms Mangala M N for discussing the value of improving your skills, particularly in the area of digital talents.

Sihab and I have been weighing in on the current situation involving Virat and Oscar.

Deepal concentrates on the repercussions of the INR's devaluation with respect to the USD while discussing India's

macroeconomic situation.

The entire Student Editorial Team deserves my sincere gratitude.

For driving TSM's design, Mr Pranav Jagadeshan and Mr Raghavan Ravi, as well as Mr Vaishnav Sunil and Sir Vikram Shenoy, made sure the content was of high calibre.

Thank you to Mr Amogh P. Kumar, Ms Shraddha Anil, Ms Disha Rai, Ms Disha Srinivas, and Ms Dhatri for working on this project together.

If you, the reader, feel inclined to offer the magazine any articles, poems, stories, artwork, photography, etc., kindly share your submissions to **scosa.spm@gmail.com**.

You can give us your experiences if you are a graduate.

If you, the reader, feel inspired to contribute to the magazine with articles, poems, stories, artwork, photography, etc., kindly send your submissions to **scosa.spm@gmail.com**.

You can send us stories about your experiences, pictures of your

accomplishments while attending the college, articles, and photos if you are an alum.

Send inquiries about the publication to our email address.

Do not feel hesitant to get in touch with us.

I desire to express my appreciation to our administration, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, alumni, editors and any other individual who was directly or indirectly involved in the development of the bi-monthly. I have complete confidence that you will enjoy reading all of our publications.

Vikram Shenoy
III BBA B
August 2022

Effects of falling INR on the Indian Economy

Economics

By *Deepal Kapasi*, I BCom G

The US dollar serves as the world's most dominant currency. Regarded as the benchmark currency, the US dollar determines the value of other currencies in the universal market. The US dollar is also one of the most commonly used currencies in international investment and trade. Trading with the dollar is much easier than with any other currency. The emergence of the dollar as an indispensable medium of exchange began after World War I placed restrictions on exchanges.

Since then, the dollar has been enjoying worldwide attention. In light of this, the Indian currency, like various others, is compared against the dollar to determine its

value. But the history involved in the process of scaling the INR helps understand the Indian economy better.

During the independence 1 USD was standing at 4.16 INR but over time the exchange rate has always had extreme volatility since its inception and has seen a plethora of fluctuations over the years.

The Indian Rupee has fallen to an all-time low against the US dollar, reaching 1 USD to INR 76 in the recent past. The fall of INR vs USD is driven by several factors, including weak export numbers, an increase in fuel prices, increased energy prices and fear of soaring inflation, among other reasons.



Chart showing the value of INR over the period of time

Source: Business Insider

HOUSEHOLD: The price of fuel – diesel, petrol and cooking gas – which are already high, will inch up further as India heavily depends on crude oil imports. With rising transport costs, there will be an indirect impact on the daily household items you consume. Their costs will go up because production and transportation costs linked to oil will increase. Electronics are also set to be expensive. Devices like mobile phones, laptops, TV and solar plates, among other household electrical goods will cost you more since several components of such devices are imported.

INVESTMENT: The falling rupee also implies that fresh capital investments in infrastructure sectors like solar and wind energy, which are mainly dependent on imported plants and machinery, shall get advisory impacted. This will lead to overruns, delays in the completion of such projects and reduced capital formation.

EDUCATION: A falling rupee could also impact those looking to study overseas or those who plan to travel abroad. One would have to rework their budget math because tuition fees, accommodation and other living expenses would cost more in rupee terms as the rupee weakens while foreign trips would cost more, making shopping and another spending more expensive.

The Reserve Bank of India and the centre has taken a series of one-off measure to halt the rupee's slide. Along with this, the RBI has raised the bank rates to discourage commercial banks from borrowing from RBI, as it will increase the cost of borrowing from commercial banks. It forces commercial banks

to increase their lending rates, which discourages taking loans. Also, an increase in the repo rate discourages commercial banks from borrowing from the RBI and parking their funds with the RBI to earn higher returns on idle cash.

The Indian Rupee can depreciate against the US dollar due to a

combination of local and global factors, and this trend may continue as India is a developing nation. The exchange rate can have a profound impact on the economy. The RBI targets a particular exchange rate and may choose to actively intervene in the market by buying and selling US dollars. ■

Digital Talent

Gap

Education

By **Mangala M N**, BCom (2012)

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce and Management

Nearly all organizations would agree that digital talent is important and that they are aware of the digital talent gap. Our pioneering research in collaboration with LinkedIn however, suggests that although the majority of companies frequently discuss this gap, concrete action to bridge it is rarely taken. Close to 50% of the organizations we studied conceded they have not taken digital talent seriously. To probe this issue, we undertook a worldwide, cross-sector research program in collaboration with LinkedIn. With the ever-increasing demand for skills, the talent gap has widened. The challenge of the digital talent gap is no longer just an HR issue; it is an organization-wide phenomenon that affects all areas of the business. The objective of this report is to guide Chief HR officers, other CXOs, and the Learning and Development (L&D) teams in addressing this challenge. The Digital Talent Gap— Are Companies Doing Enough? In this paper we:

- 1.** Identify key trends and changes in the digital talent gap arena and pinpoint the digital skills and digital roles in greatest demand in “The digital talent gap is widening”.
- 2.** Assess the key challenges that are preventing organizations from bridging the talent gap by exploring employees’ views in “Key talent roadblocks: the employees’ perspective”
- 3.** Outline the best practices we can learn from leaders in the digital talent arena in “Proactive digital talent leaders have valuable lessons to offer”
- 4.** Recommend strategies to recruit, develop, and retain digital talent

The digital talent gap is widening. Every second organization we surveyed acknowledged that the digital gap is widening. Moreover, over half (54%) of the organizations agreed that the digital talent gap is hampering their digital transformation programs and that their organization has lost competitive advantage because of a shortage of digital talent. The talent gap in soft digital skills is more pronounced than in hard digital skills. More employers (59%) say that their organization lacks employees who possess soft digital skills than hard digital skills (51%). The two soft digital skills in most demand are customer-centricity and passion for learning and the two hard digital skills in most demand are cyber security and cloud computing. Many of today's employees are anxious. Employees

are worried that their skills are either already redundant or soon to become so. Overall, 29% of employees believe their skill set is redundant now or will be in the next 1–2 years. Employees feel organizations' training programs are not hugely effective and those who want to excel are looking beyond their organization's learning and development (L&D). More than half of today's digital talent say that training programs are not helpful or that they are not given time to attend. Close to half actually describes the training as "useless and boring." Nearly 60% of digital talent are even investing their own time and money, most commonly to be on a par with their colleagues on the required digital skills. Skill redundancy fears and lack of faith in their organization's upskilling efforts could trigger attrition.

Over half of digital talent (55%) say they are willing to move to another organization if they feel their digital skills are stagnating at their current employer. And over half of digital talent (58%) are likely to gravitate toward organizations that offer better digital skill development. Furthermore, digital talent has an easy exit option as they are faced with an abundance of job opportunities. What can organizations do to narrow the digital talent gap? In an increasingly digital economy, those organizations that bridge the talent gap will enjoy a competitive edge over those that don't. A defined digital talent strategy that meets both business objectives and the needs and preferences of digital talent is critical for a sustainable and successful digital transformation.

- Align leadership on a talent strategy and the unique needs of digital talent
- Diversify recruiting approach Developing Digital Talent
- Create an environment that prioritizes and rewards learning
- Chart a clear career development path Retaining Digital Talent
- Give digital talent the power to implement change
- Provide flexible and collaborative ways of working

What is digital talent?

- Hard digital skills (such as data analytics)
- Soft digital skills (such as comfort with ambiguity) that constitute a "digital-first mindset" and are necessary for a successful digital transformation
- Digital roles that have been created as a result of digital transformation activities within an organization or the emergence of disruptive technologies

India can overcome the shortage of digital talent in the country, which is leading to high attrition rates and increased wages, and instead, emerge as the talent hub for digital skills. A recent report by McKinsey & Co says there is an estimated gap of 6 million (60 lakh) between demand and supply of digital talent across eight countries, including India, the US and China. As per a Salesforce study, 14 G-20 countries could miss out on \$11.5 trillion worth of cumulative growth in GDP if the digital-skill gap remains unfilled. "The digital skills gap has hit an inflexion point. Companies are facing a new challenge in a digital-first world: there's just not enough people with the right digital skills to power their companies' transformation now and in the future," the study says.

What Is the Digital Skills Gap?

Digital skills cover a range of abilities related to the use of digital devices, communication applications and networks to access and manage information — from basic online searching and emailing to specialised programming and development. There are multiple drivers of the skills gap, according to Salesforce: The demand for tech talent is outpacing

an already short supply; emerging technologies amplify the need for digital skills; high costs and disorganised approaches to traditional education increase barriers to learning; access to digital infrastructure and skills is limited by socio-economic status.

What is digital talent?

As per a survey done by Capgemini, in association with LinkedIn, all organisations most organisations agreed to the fact that the digital divide was increasing. Going by geography, the US had the highest gap (70 per cent), followed by India (64 per cent) and the UK (57 per cent).

In industry terms, banking had the highest talent gap, 62 per cent; consumer products and retail 60 per cent each; and insurance, 58 per cent.

The Capgemini survey says the five top digital roles would be information security/privacy consultant, chief digital officer, data architect, digital project manager, and data engineer.

The survey found that 42 per cent of employees felt their organisations' training was 'useless and boring' and 52 per cent of employees were looking at massive open online courses, commonly known as MOOC, to upskill.

Opportunity for India

This should be an opportunity for India to take bold steps and become a digital talent hub, Implementation of the National Education Policy as quickly as possible.

“Continuous learning, skill credits, world-class academic innovation, experiential learning, faculty training, all need to focus on excellence and outcomes,”

Deepening of the talent pool. Build digital capabilities in smaller towns, get more women to join the work stream, and revamp vocational education.

Incentives for skilling: Tax incentives played a key role in building a global footprint of multinationals in India. The country now needs schemes that incentivise skilling for corporates, not just for their own needs, but across the ecosystem.

Innovative learning models: Use apprenticeship programmes and learning-by doing-models. Invest in world-class free content. Lastly, democratise training and make it available to everyone. Drop unnecessary entry qualifications and eligibility criteria. “India must not only look at strategies aimed at increasing home-grown talent but also work on attracting the best global talent to catalyse the next decade of

growth and innovation,”

“This requires constant investments in re-skilling and embracing a culture that promotes skill development. Creating a robust digital talent ecosystem would further enable us to be future-ready and leverage the opportunities of a digital future.”

Adolescence They Say

Self-Health

by **Disha Banerjee**, I BCom F

It's 2022, where growing up is a challenge itself, a challenge difficult to navigate when you are constantly under the microscope, monitored and documented. Although it may seem that life of the most city-bred adolescents is full of fun and adventure with hi-tech gadgets and clubs, parties, pubs, fancy dates, costumes, non-stop exposure, and nightlife however the teens are observed to be more vulnerable to problems like exclusion, bullying, rejection, anxiety, stress, depressed and lot more. We all have been a teenager once in our life -some were a few decades ago, some still are and some are yet to be. It's said to be a phase of enthusiasm, energy, hope, opportunities, beauty, and physical and hormonal changes. An age to try out new things, experiments, experiences, failure, growth and so much more. While teens are

still processing to become adults, they sometimes choose the not -SO -advised path and often get in trouble. Though to some extent the criticism that follows this, is not wrong but before judgement or coming up to conclusions that this generation is oversensitive, take a look at what's going on in their mind. It is the first time that teenagers are introduced to the actual world, as they step out of their comfort zones, and start to shoulder responsibilities. Although it is quite accurate for adults to be concerned about their younger ones and guide them at every step, it seems to be a little too much when they start having unhealthy expectations. The purpose of this article is to highlight the issue of teens. Not only for the young generation but also for the

adults. The grown-ups look at their past through rose-tinted glasses, but they all know deep down that thing weren't as far as they seemed. The truth is things are not any easier even now, the part-time fun goes back to the monotonous time right after the fun is over with lot more thoughts. While the teens have to agree they aren't the only ones who are going through this phase. Similarly, the grown-ups should also realise that as time pass it changes and so does the way of living. In a world full of competitors and a judgemental society, be a person who appreciates the efforts of teens to maintain a balance among all spheres of life. Be a person on whom a teen can rely on...■



THE Utopic Egalitarian WORLD

Economics

by *Vaishnav Sunil, III BBA B*

The term Egalitarian is derived from the French word égal which means equal. Egalitarianism can be defined in the framework of a political ideology as the doctrine that sees every person as equal in their moral status, thereby granting them equal rights and opportunities. As a social doctrine, it advocates the removal of economic inequalities among people and decentralizing power. So, an egalitarian society is one where every person is entitled to equal rights and receives equal treatment and opportunities.

The concept of equality in every niche of society has been applied by humans ever since they started to band together. The early tribes engaged in hunting and gathering food. The sole purpose of coming together and expanding their

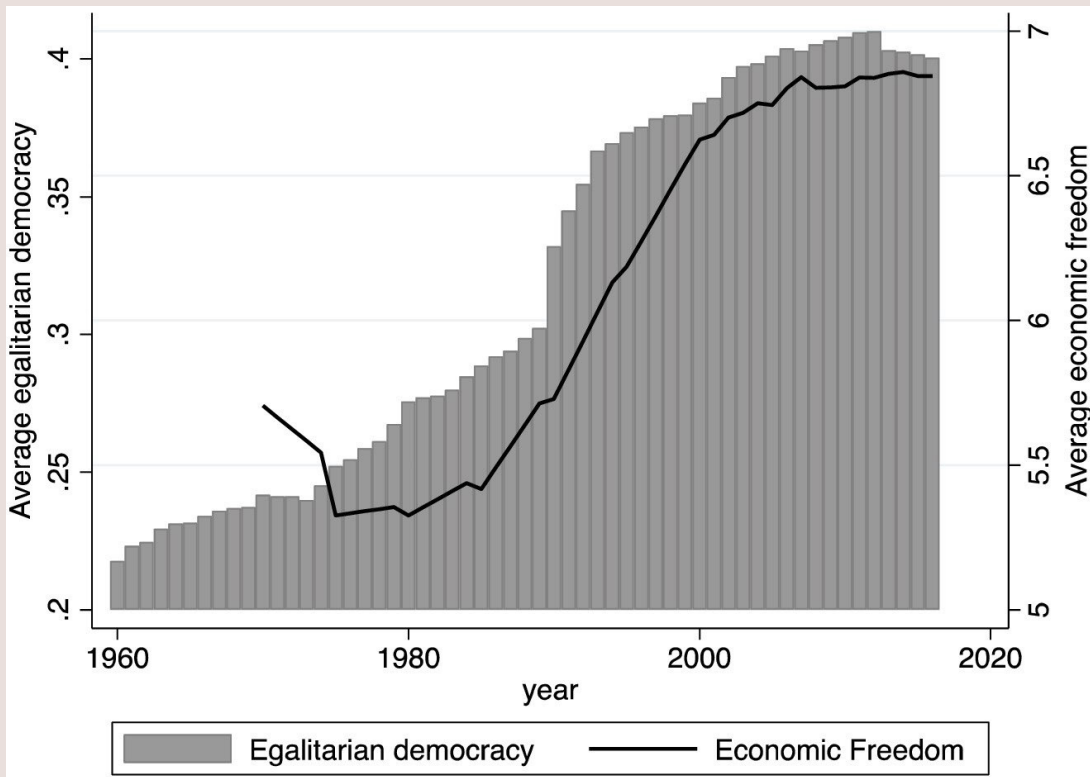
community was to suffice the necessities of existence, namely- food, shelter, protection, warmth, and mate.

With their bare minimum needs being taken care of, they proceeded to develop ideas and thoughts that gave each of their community distinctive identities and shaped the first societies. The Vedic Age ushered in the concept of equality in society, but as time progressed, society was slowly divided into castes and had become patriarchal. Even so, citizens commanded respect and had their rights and privileges, living in contentment. Such a Utopian society, where every member of society shares a communal sense of equality, is what an egalitarian society stands for.

These communities are made up of groups of individuals that

consent to coexist while upholding equality as one of their fundamental principles. If two objects have pertinent characteristics, they might both be regarded as significant. This makes the idea that all men are equally unavoidable. Insofar as justice and equality are interdependent, egalitarianism is crucial. Justice cannot exist without equality. A person cannot claim to be an egalitarian if he only considers his own society. Thus, it can be said that every form of egalitarianism is inclusive as it is based on a theory of universal human commonality.

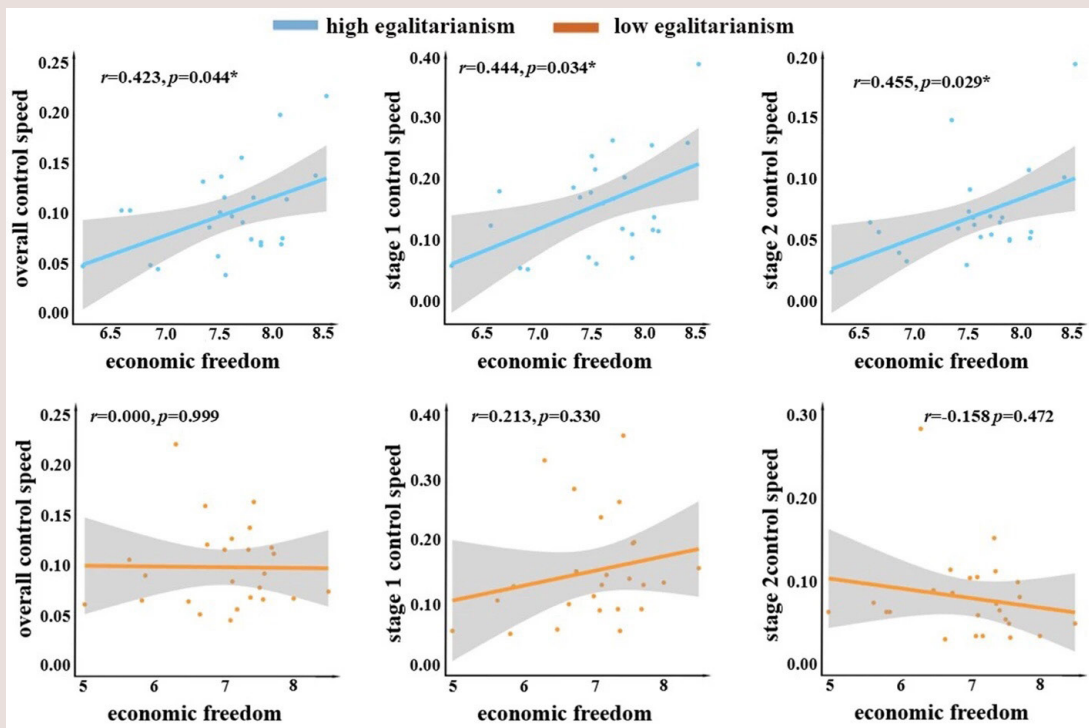
The main goal of an egalitarian society is solely the reduction of discrepancies of any sort so that every social class gets an equal share of the resources; be it wealth or power. A uniform and equitable distribution of resources are



emphasized. Different social groups (categorized based on gender, age, status, etc) are sought to be given equal rights and benefits. Such

societies can often be referred to as classless societies as all the people have equal access to resources and decision-making power.

In an egalitarian society, egalitarian decisions are taken where decisions are made by a group rather than a single individual. Even though this



decision can be made not by the entire community but just by a committee or group, it is still rendered as an egalitarian decision. The decision is taken through consensus where each person gets the power to either agree or disagree. A society can be called an egalitarian society if the assets, valuable resources, and all the necessities, income, etc are accessible to all the people or are distributed equitably throughout the group. These communities are a type of commune (a group of people who choose to live together by sharing responsibilities and possessions). However, not all communal groups are egalitarian in nature.

The various areas of concern for establishing an egalitarian society are communism, legal egalitarianism, gender equality, political equality, racial equality,

etc. every person residing within the society must be treated equally and should be provided with equal opportunities, rights, freedom, justice, and so on. Every individual, whether a man or a woman must be equal in their rights and duties. People belonging to all religions should also be treated equally even if that religion engulfs only a minority section of people. Many egalitarian theories have also developed at the cultural level including socialism, libertarian socialism, progressivism, economic egalitarianism, etc. Given the situation of a society where discrimination of hierarchies based on castes, race, religion, etc., does not exist, one thing that creates a hierarchy is education. Society will have people who are more educated than others. This will end up in an inevitable hierarchy in society.

There are instances in history as well as the current world where educated people look down on the uneducated and often address them in derogatory terms. This is one hurdle when it comes to an Egalitarian society (assuming the bigger hurdles of castes, races, etc have been overcome). This can only be overcome by educating the masses. Educating the masses will also empower them to climb up the social hierarchy. The other social hierarchies can also be overcome through educating the masses. It is only if the 'lower class' populace is educated, that they will be able to stand on the same turf as the upper and middle classes. Education should be seen as the first and most important step in moving toward the Utopic Egalitarian Society. ■

Educate the masses, elevate their standard of intelligence, and you will certainly have a successful nation.

Alexander Graham Bell

한류 HALLYU

Entertainment

by **Dhanya D**, I BCom F

BLACKPINK

Hallyu or the “Korean Wave” first appeared, referring to the global craze for Korean culture.

The Korean Wave, which had established a foundation through popular culture such as TV dramas and music, has been pushing the boundaries of its influence since 2010.

As the unique charm of Korean culture is widely known to people around the world through global online platforms such as YouTube and social networking services, the craze has expanded to Korean traditional culture, food, literature, and language, creating more and more enthusiasts. As such, the artistic excellence of globally recognized Korean culture was not built overnight. This is a five-fold increase over five

years. The majority of them consist of K-pop fan clubs such as ARMY, BTS’s global official fan club, and BLINK, BLACKPINK’s official fan club.

In addition, other organizations and communities are also active in various fields such as South Korean dramas, food, and tourism.

One area that is growing more rapidly than any other is 21st century K-pop, or Korean pop music, which spans dance-pop, pop ballads, K-pop is a generic term for popular music from South Korea, which was originally called gayo, meaning pop music.

The world’s craze for K-pop reached its zenith in August 2020, when the South Korean boy band BTS achieved its first No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 songs chart with its first all-English-language single entitled “Dynamite.” BTS has become the first all-South Korean act to top the Billboard Hot 100.■



Sadness and Pain

Health

by **Amogh P Kumar**, III BCom H

The term depression describes a wide range of emotional lows, from mere sadness to a pathological suicidal state. This is a common mental problem encountered in a day-to-day stress-filled life. Usually, a person who is sad or feeling unhappy should return to normal emotional stability within a reasonable period. There are times when this state of sadness or unhappiness may continue to such a degree and for such a length of time that it far outweighs the significance of the

precipitating factor. The sufferer continues to be in a prolonged state of sadness and withdrawn from his/her personal, social, and occupational activities.

Some people periodically or chronically remain depressed despite their having all social privileges and material comforts, severely compromising all their functions, culminating in about 15% of cases of suicide. A tragic fatality is associated with the loss of about 1 million lives worldwide every year.

Adolescence which is the transitional period from childhood to adulthood is a stage of emotional instability making them

vulnerable to depression.

The state of emotional instability results from difficulties

in establishing self-identity and self-esteem leading to conflicts within family and peer groups. In adolescents this may be a part of the adolescent developmental process, resulting from the giving up of childlike security in the drive for separation and independence.

The consequences of depression in this age group are phenomenal. It may negatively impact peer or family relationships. Moderate to severe depression can affect the scholastic performance of adolescents. Above all, there is also a danger of students picking up habits like the usage of substances of abuse to get over depression. Major depressive disorder is also found to be a leading cause of youth suicidal behaviour and suicide. Adolescent depression disorder often has a chronic waxing and waning course and there is a two to fourfold risk of depression persisting into adulthood.

In addition, research indicates that depression onset occurs earlier in life than in past decades. The reasons for this could be the result of rapid urbanization and lifestyle changes. Evidence suggests that early intervention for depression in children can improve long-term outcomes.



The students of the commerce stream having depression significantly more than students from the science stream probably indicate the differential expectation from various streams on students' mental health. Student counsellors are required for each stream to help students to cope with the necessary course requirements. This will alleviate stress on students and help them perform well academically and have a healthy campus life.

Depression levels are seen more among students at government colleges than in private colleges probably could be due to reasons like shortage of facilities, lesser quality of educational systems, and lack of social activities on campus very commonly observed in government colleges. Another reason for this could be that students in government colleges are usually of a poor socio-economic background as compared to students at private colleges and are hence more prone to depression. People who are often depressed find it difficult to perform activities requiring advanced motor and cognitive abilities. They can be perplexed, disorganized, distracted, or easily irritated. Also, simple daily tasks become challenging. Students with these disorders are at risk of poor academic results and resistance to school-related activities. This may include a lack of classroom interaction, strained relationships with peers and instructors, and a loss of enthusiasm in pursuing interests or making plans. Their learning is often hampered because depression and anxiety can impair working

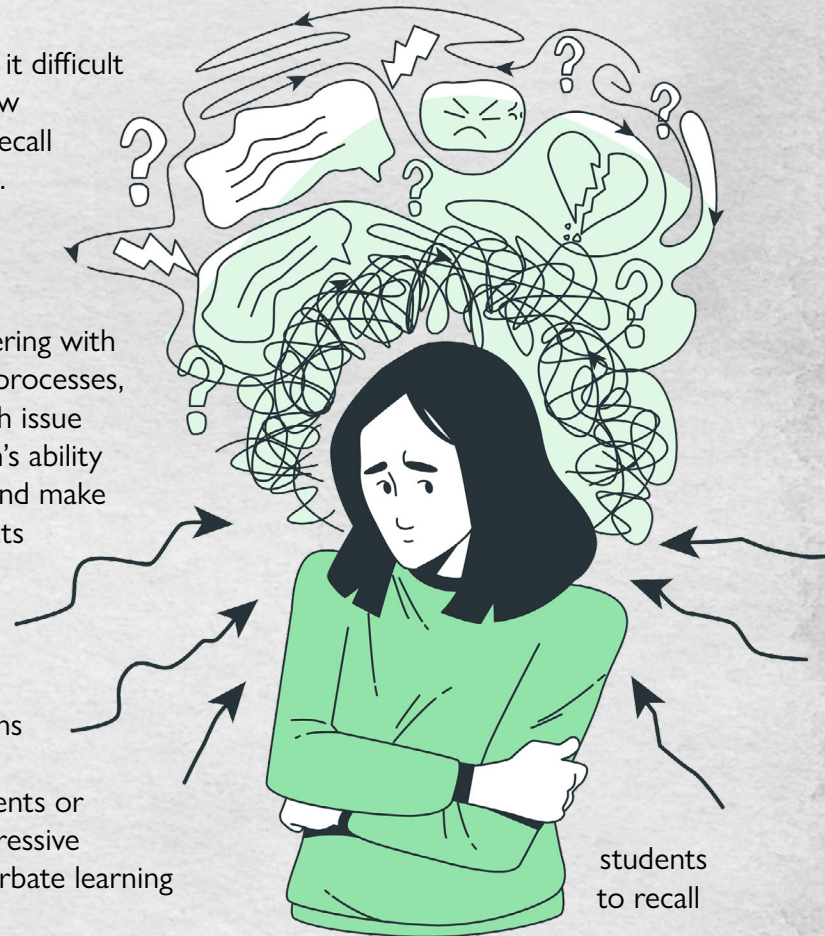
memory, making it difficult to remember new knowledge and recall past experiences.

Depression impairs one's ability to reason clearly. By interfering with healthy thought processes, this mental health issue impacts a person's ability to concentrate and make decisions. It affects the brain, and many people who are depressed have memory problems and trouble remembering events or facts. Other depressive symptoms exacerbate learning difficulties

Mood swings make it difficult to pay attention, and feelings of despair or low self-esteem can lead people to think they shouldn't bother learning new things or that they simply can't. Depression affects sleep, and insomnia and hypersomnia can wreak havoc on one's mental well-being and ability to work.

All these factors play a key role in each student's academic success and achievement. A child who has anxiety is more likely to focus their attention on things that they perceive to be a possible threat rather than focusing on what is important, like learning in the classroom. Individuals will also interpret everyday situations as dangerous or threatening and will often assume the worst-case scenario.

Not only do these disorders impact memory, which makes it hard for



students
to recall

information,

but they can also have negative effects on how students engage in social situations. Often, students with anxiety or depression will avoid interactions with their peers and will perceive neutral situations as threats. This, in turn, makes others uncomfortable and results in the student feeling lonely, and outcast and increases anxiety and depression.

Dealing with undiagnosed depression or anxiety can result in students feeling like they are constantly missing out on opportunities, and this can lead to substance abuse, conduct problems, further mental health problems and even suicide. ■

CRUXx

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C O N S I L I U M

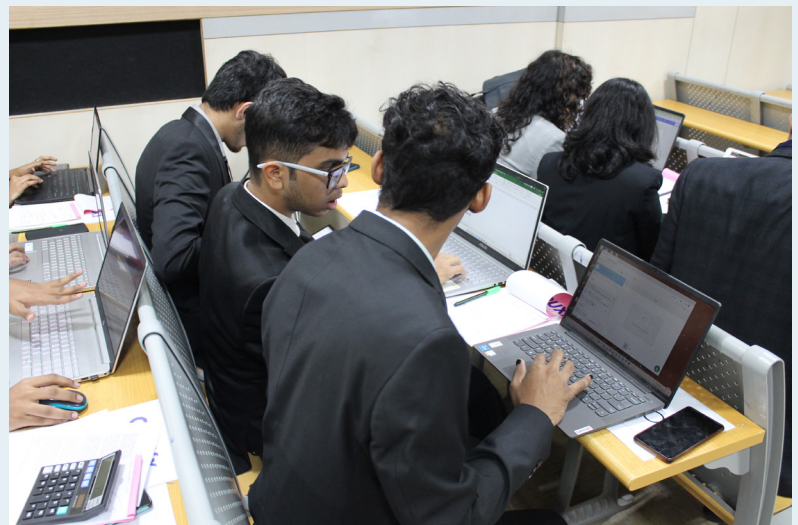
Review

by **Dhatri L**, II BCom H

Lakshya, the Seshadripuram degree college's forum of commerce and management, hosts an intercollegiate fest every year; this year's is called CRUXx Consilium.

CRUXx is a one-day festival that revolves on many parts of many different businesses and attempts to provide participants the skills they need for the coming corporate world. It consists of two events: a business quiz and a contingent event. The event focuses on various areas of business operations including Corporate Strategy, Strategic Planning, Public Relations, Finance, Human Resources, and Market Analysis. On the other hand, a business quiz is an activity where one must compete on knowledge, speed, and the capacity to think quickly under pressure.

The main goals of CRUXx are co-learning, knowledge expansion, and providing students from other institutions with an opportunity to get a taste of the outside competitive world.



The student coordinators of the final, second, and first years of the Lakshya forum begin planning for the fest a few months prior to the date of CRUXx. The second and first year students of the Lakshya Forum were instructed by the final year coordinators, Pranav J, Raghavan R, Vikram Shenoy, Vaishnav Sunil, Shraddah Anil, Disha Srinivas, and Amogh P Kumar, on how to plan an event and what to do and what not to do.

Third-year student coordinators, often known as seniors, assisted their junior peers in every way they could. From how to create case studies to how to handle a scenario when something goes wrong, we second and first years learned a lot.



Only 10 to 15 people cannot organise a festival; we want volunteers at all levels. The Lakshya Forum requires student assistance to organise the festival, it was announced

Business Quiz Participants from various other colleges

in every class. A group of volunteers—roughly 40 people—who were interested in assisting us got in touch with us. To inform the volunteers of their activities and progress, a few volunteer meetings were arranged. They were divided into groups and given roles like “hospitality,” “guiding,” etc.

Given that they attend to all of the participants’ needs, hospitality plays a significant role. The participants were taken care of by the guiding staff to

the appropriate classes where the competition was place. Technical team for presentation, a few for delectable food preparation, Scheduling team to ensure that each event proceeded on schedule, PR team to contact the institution and provide them with the event brochure,

and most importantly, Decoration team to assist in creating really useful charts and attractive CRUXx cut out. ■

“This was the first time I had ever done something similar, and I must say it was a wonderful experience. I’ve only attended fests at other institutions, but this was the first time helping organize one. I learned about the preparation, perseverance, and unending efforts made by each and every person to make that one day a great success. I’m eager for more similar experiences and am hopeful that I will have several in the upcoming year.

Yash Kapasi, Volunteer”




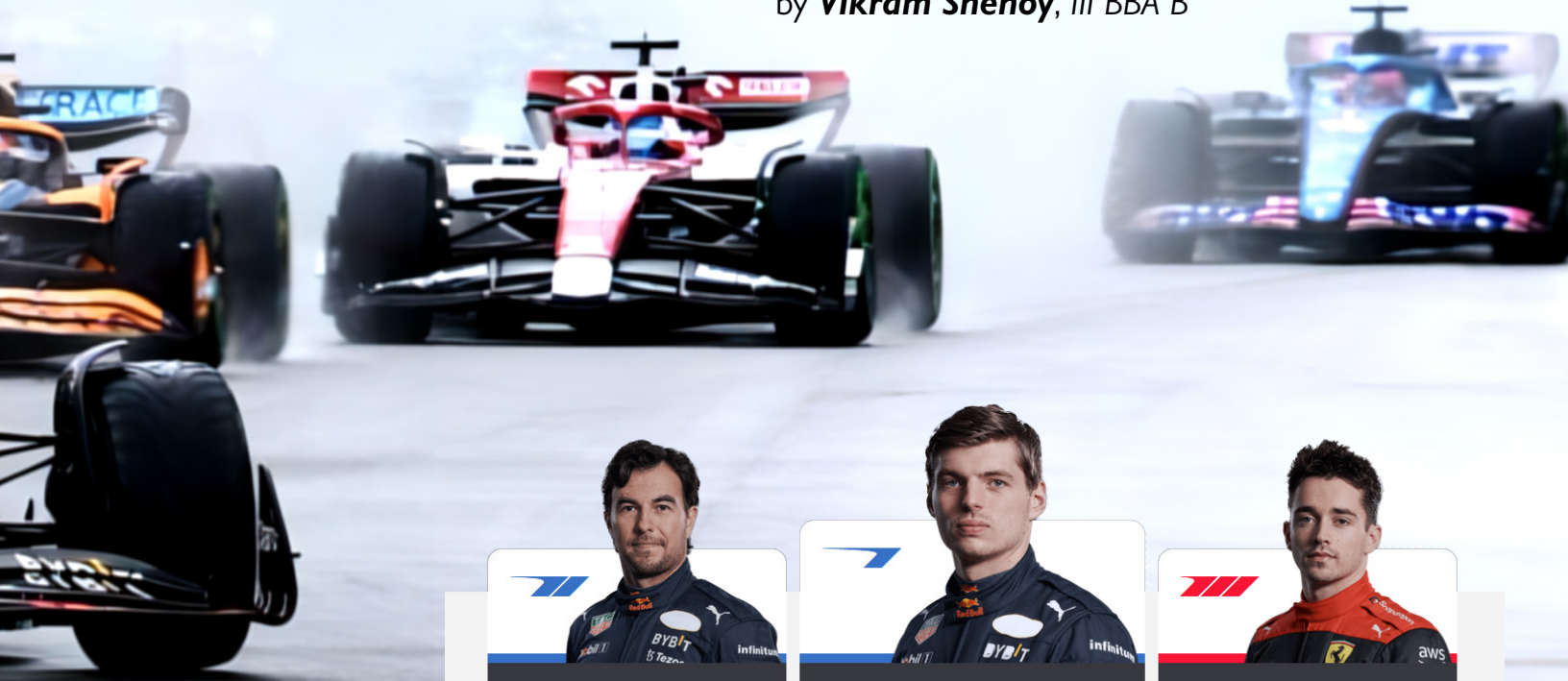
STAN





L IN ALPINE NDS FOR LOL


Sports


by **Vikram Shenoy**, III BBA B




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LECLERC

2022 Driver Standings as on 23rd Aug 2022

After the highly awaited end of the summer break, which featured, to put it mildly, quite a bit of drama, Formula 1 is back. After the four-time World Champion Sebastian Vettel announced his retirement on Instagram (Yes, he finally has an Instagram account), there were talks on the paddock about who would replace him. Though Seb had backed Mick to succeed him, Aston Martin had different plans and announced that they had signed a multi-year contract with the double World Champion Fernando Alonso which astounded many people, especially Otmar Szafnauer. To those of you who don't know Otmar, he serves as the full-time Team Principal at Alpine and part-time meme on the internet. From being unaware of his marquee driver's plans to getting violated by his rookie reserve driver whom he had thought will replace the Spaniard, Otmar was the biggest disappointment Renault had seen since the Crashgate.

Oscar Piastri, the 21-year-old Aussie is the new kid on the block who has astonished everyone, most notably McLaren boss Zak Brown with his race craft helping Prema Racing win the 2020 F3 and 2021 F2 championships. The Australian was supposed to have inked a contract with the Papayas for 2023 and was thought to make a smooth transfer to McLaren. Alpine believed they are to his services and presented him as the successor of Fernando Alonso. Alpine claimed to have a contract with Piastri that



Sebastian Vettel racing for his last F1 season

would bind him to the French team through 2023 and has appealed about the matter to the FIA's Contract Recognition Board (CRB). However, Piastri and his managers believe that a deadline in that contract had passed, leaving Piastri free to go where he wanted.

By the Concorde Agreement, both teams are obligated to honour the CRB's ruling and refrain from pursuing additional legal action to have it annulled. The CRB, which was constituted in the wake of the controversy involving Michael Schumacher's departure from

Jordan to Benetton and Roberto Moreno's subsequent dismissal from the latter, often works in the background and only makes news when high-profile disputes arise.

The full details of how it operates are enshrined in the Concorde, and are thus not widely known, even within the F1 paddock. When a dispute arises three lawyers convene and review the evidence from all parties and are required to render a verdict





Left to Right: Fernando Alonso, Oscar Piastri, Daniel Ricciardo

within three days of the hearing. It was uncertain if Piastri would compete for the French team if Alpine prevailed in the legal dispute. The relationship between the two sides was obviously somewhat strained, yet the team had a spot open. Alpine may have decided to lend Piastri to another team to fulfil its contractual obligations.

If McLaren/Piastri were correct, Alpine still needed to recruit a driver, but even then, the matter was not fully resolved. Piastri must settle Alpine's damage claim, as it has already been saying. If

that were to happen, Piastri would owe the team millions of euros for his inclusion in the past Alpine training, which the team substantially invested in to prepare him for Formula One. Szafeauer further stated that if the case ever made it to the London High Court, he wouldn't hesitate to hire accountants to determine every penny they had spent on Oscar. As a response, FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem asserted that the FIA would resolve the situation independently, without requiring teams to file a lawsuit. The Contract Recognition Board, however, reached a

verdict in favour of Oscar Piastri and against the Alpine F1 Team on Friday, August 2, 2022. "The only contract to be recognised by the board is the contract between McLaren Racing Limited and Mr Piastri dated 4 July 2022," the governing body FIA said in a statement. For the 2023 and 2024 seasons, "Mr Piastri is entitled to drive for McLaren Racing Limited." Piastri was welcomed to the McLaren team by CEO Zak Brown, who referred to him as "one of the up-and-coming talents" and suggested he could succeed with British driver Lando Norris, who has six podium finishes in his F1 career.

Alpine stated that it had accepted the ruling, leaving a slot open for it the next year. AlphaTauri's French driver Pierre Gasly has been





linked to the seat and so has Daniel Ricciardo, who is leaving McLaren at the end of this year. “We consider the matter closed on our side and will announce our full 2023 driver line-up in due course,” Alpine said in a statement. “Our immediate focus is the Dutch Grand Prix and securing points in our fight for fourth in the constructors’ championship.”

The CRB further stated that Alpine is liable for paying legal costs of all parties involved in the case, including McLaren, Piastri himself and the board members. The team must pay £229,965.00 to McLaren, and £120,086.14 to Piastri with the arbitrators’ fees ranging from £34,000 to £74,400. An additional £16,000 is required to be paid to cover the CRB interests, meaning Alpine is liable for a total of £530,467.14 GBP in legal fees, on top of its costs.

Aggravating its financial woes, McLaren reportedly paid Daniel Ricciardo £8.5 million to quit the team a year before the contract expires after his lacklustre stint with the team. He looked heartbroken in his video on Instagram announcing

the news, the Australian having given it everything to try and find a way to get the most out of the McLaren. He hasn’t lost his speed overnight – and remains one of the best drivers in F1. Simply put, the McLaren marriage didn’t work out. With his future uncertain, Alpine is the favourite to land his signature to fill the seat open alongside Esteban Ocon. Ricciardo has previous with the Enstone team, of course, having raced for them under the Renault banner for two years before joining McLaren. He ended that stint with 11 straight-point finishes, including two podiums.

In other headlines, Audi, a luxury car manufacturer, declared that it would enter Formula 1 in 2026. The German automaker announced in an official statement that it would enter the new market as an engine supplier and set up power units for established F1 teams.

Although rumours claim that Audi would partner with Sauber, which is now known as Alfa Romeo, the corporation has not yet made any official announcements about collaborations.

By the end of this year, Audi

said in the statement, it would formally reveal its agreements. When completed, the Audi power unit will be the first F1 engine to be manufactured in Germany in 10 years. The entire business operations of Audi’s F1 program will be handled by its subsidiary, Audi Sport.

The World Motor Sport Council recently gave its nod to the new F1 regulations to be incorporated from 2026. Per reports, the most notable amendment has been about the new engine design focused on attracting new players to the sport. The new regulations have been designed to make it easier for car manufacturers to enter the world of Formula 1, as the WMSC is about to ditch MGU-H F1 engines for newer, larger, and more powerful powertrains.

Porsche, another subsidiary of the Volkswagen Group, will join Audi. Porsche anxiously anticipated the ratification of the new regulations in 2026. Though there hasn’t been any official confirmation, the scuttlebutt says that Porsche may replace Honda as the engine supplier for the Red Bull team. ■

LORD OF THE RINGS

Book Review

By **Disha Rai** | BCom(Hons)

The Lord of the Rings trilogy is one of the best movie trilogies ever made. One of the finest tales of good versus evil yet written. Lord of the Rings is a trilogy of books namely Fellowship of the Ring (2001), The Two Towers (2002), and The Return of the King (2003). It is based upon the book written by JRR Tolkien. The movie was directed by Peter Jackson starring Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Liv Tyler, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Astin, Cate Blanchett, John Rhys-Davies, Christopher Lee, Billy Boyd, Dominic Monaghan, Orlando Bloom, Hugo Weaving, Andy Serkis and Sean Bean. Set in a fictional world, the main protagonists of this tale is the hobbit, Frodo Baggins and his fellowship of eight companions who are out to get the one ring and its maker, the dark lord, Sauran. He is ultimately left with his devoted friend Sam as the fellowship breaks down.

The most remarkable aspect of this film is its aesthetics. I've never watched a movie with such mind-blowing visuals. Given that it was created in the year 2000, it is worth

mentioning the effort put forward. It provides a visually appealing backdrop set amid New Zealand's scenic lanes. Every single person's and group's performance touches us on a deeper level, which is wonderful. Everything about the character, including the musical scores, clothes, weapons, and cinematography, is so fascinating.

I can say that the movie makes most of us cry, laugh, worry, dread, fills our hearts with hope, and gives us a desire to behave as the characters do. This film has good character growth, a strong plot, and a central goal that runs through all three of the films and is addressed in a variety of magnificent and glorious ways.

The movie teaches you about friendship, love, people, team work, bravery etc. It is a foundation for trilogies.

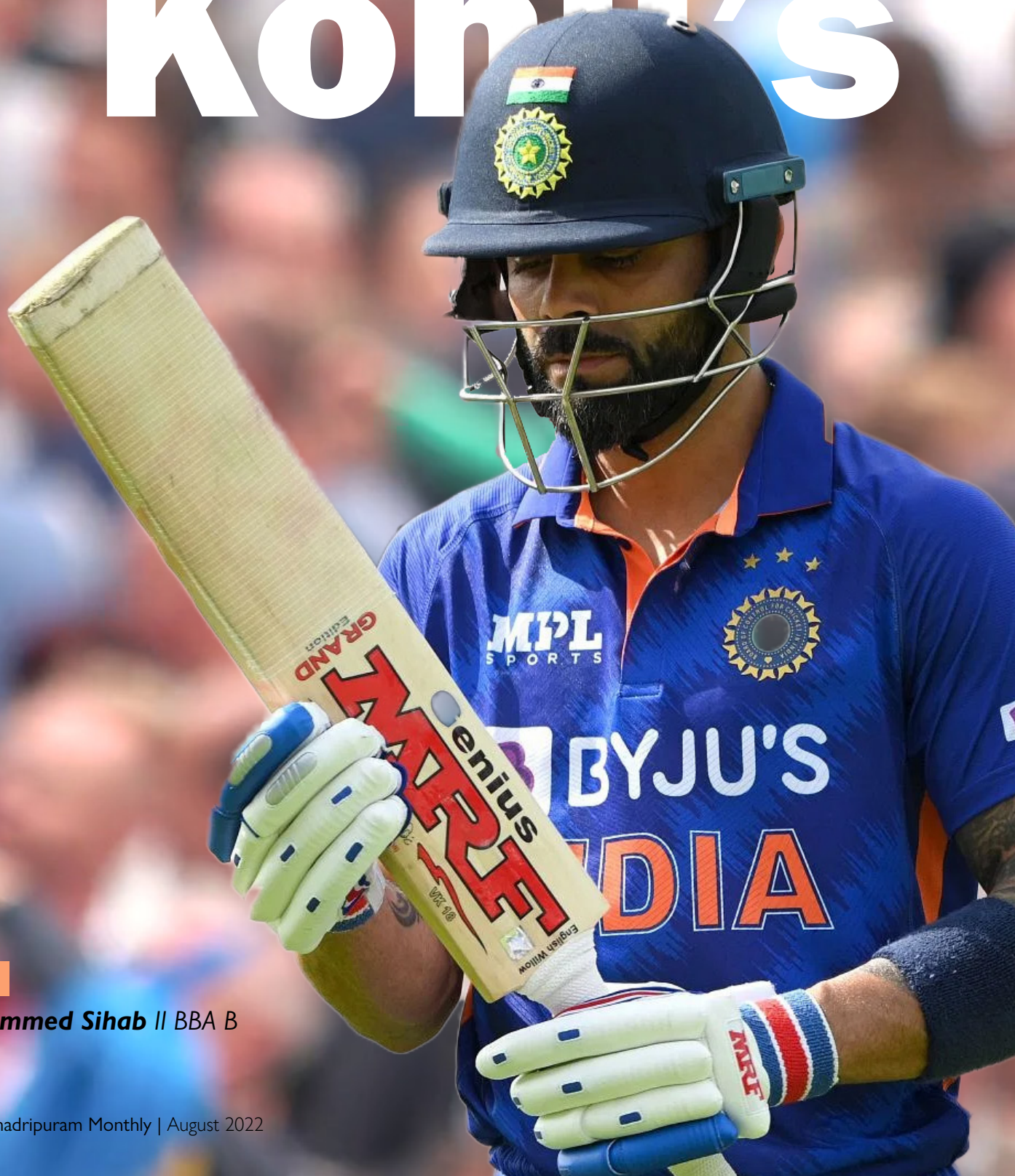
I must admit that this movie will remain with me for the rest of my life, and I recommend everyone to see it if they haven't already. The fellowship of the rings, tells us about the origin of the ring and how it causes disruptions. The one

wearing the ring, Sauron had gained immense strength and had used it to take down all his enemies. Regardless they had managed to kill Sauron but weren't able to destroy the ring as it creates bait for the powers in the mind of the bearer. The ring was lost for years and was finally found by the protagonist's Uncle. He handed it over to Frodo and gave him the duty to destroy it. In the path of destroying the ring, a fellowship of all the best men in the country was formed, along with his best friend, Sam.

The two towers revolve around following the continuing quest of Frodo and the Fellowship to destroy the One Ring. Frodo and Sam discover they are being followed by the mysterious Gollum, who was once the bearer of the ring. The return of the king is the last part of the trilogy which presents the final confrontation between the forces of good and evil fighting for control of the future of Middle-earth. Frodo and Sam reach Mordor in their quest to destroy the 'one ring'. ■



Virat Kohli's



Sports

By **Mohammed Sihab** || BBA B

next century?

You only realise that the world is perfectly imperfect when the finest legacy of calibre starts to get doubted. Every athlete must deal with failure in their daily lives. However, experts have said to have a potential solution, as long as the deadbeat stays within the predetermined

parameters. But sadly, for Virat Kohli, the drought at the highest level has gone on for an unbelievable length of time.

Yes, the same Kohli who dominated the world's top bowling line-ups. scoring runs for enjoyment in different situations. No matter the format, he was marked by consistency, class, and courage. Putting together 70 centuries in about a decade absolutely describes everything.

Why is Kohli's form getting questioned?

Pick any chart that shows all-time records, you'll find Virat somewhere in there. He holds countless records spread across the game's three formats. The right-hander currently averages 58.07 & 51.5 in ODI and T-20 formats respectively. With an average of a tad under 50 in the longer format, i.e, Test. With an international career that spans over 14 years, these numbers are nothing but gigantic. When you put such a high bar there. Expectations will always be high. A basic patch, really an expansion patch after three epic years of top-notch performance from 2016 to 2018, where he put together 29 hundred and 32 fifties in 140 innings, surely does bring in questions on his form. A stylish 136 against Bangladesh in the pink ball test played at Eden Gardens Kolkata in November 2019, and deafening silence afterwards as far as the centuries are concerned. Over the course of the past 2.5 years, there have been 71+ unsuccessful attempts to reach the 71st tonne.

But we need to understand this is the worst he can perform, and his worst is still better than 80% of so many other players international. Is he really out of form? According to his standards absolutely a big YES but according to the normal international standards. It is a big NO.

His peak might be gone, but his hunger will never die. He will once again roar back with his determination and hard work. Kohli's next century coming up very soon...■

VALORANT

E-Sports

by **Dhruva B**, II BCom F

Valorant is a Free to play First person Shooter which was released on the 2nd of June,2020 by Riot Games, available only for Microsoft Windows. Valorant is inspired by games such as Counter-Strike and other tactical shooters. The players play as one set of agents, characters based on different countries and its cultures.

Ranks

This game's competitiveness is ranked. The higher your rank, the more challenging the game gets. The ranking system starts at the lowest, (Left to Right) the Iron rank and goes up to Radiant where the best of the best players compete with one another. The rank order is Iron, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond, Ascendant, Immortal and Radiant.



Game Modes

In order to improve on strategies and exercise teamwork as well as aim training, the game has provided the players with different game modes, namely Unrated, Competitive, Spike Rush, Deathmatch, Escalation, Replication and Custom.

Agents

The game has 4 sets of agents, namely Controllers, Duelists, Initiators and Sentinels. The game is played using agents with unique abilities and their special quirks but the crux of this game is teamwork, without which even the best of the best bite the dust. The agents are as follows:

False Gods True Idols



SENTINELS

Chamber
Cypher
Killjoy
Sage



CONTROLLERS:

Astra
Brimstone
Omen
Viper



DUELISTS:

Jett
Phoenix
Raze
Reyna
Yoru
Neon



INITIATORS:

Breach
KAY/O
Skye
Sova
Fade



Maps

In order to strategize and demonstrate one's skill in using the abilities, strategies and show one's competitiveness, the game has built in different kinds of maps which allows the player to come up with different strategies and choose the best alternative under pressure. Let's have a look at the top 3 maps of the game.

BIND

Bind is rated as the third best map in the game. It is majorly a defending map, as it doesn't have many entry points to the sites, but the attackers have a fairly decent chance of entering the sites, mainly by the use of the duelist and controller agents. It has teleporters which help in teleporting to the other site easily, but it makes a loud noise, thus making it easy for the opponents to know your location. The teleporter has only one exit, but this not only works as a disadvantage but also as an advantage as one can come up with strategies accordingly. The guns that are most favorable on this map apart from the assault rifles are the Operator, Judge and the Spectre. The run and gun on a Spectre, camping in a corner with a judge or holding B-long, A-tower or A-short with an operator supports the defending side. This is the best map to test your creativity when it comes to strategizing, for the attacking side.



HAVEN

Haven is rated as the second best map of the game. One of the main reasons is that it is the only map in the game with 3 sites. Thus, it gives the attacking side to plant the spike at any of the 3 sites. The defending is also provided with equal opportunity as it has an option of using all sorts of guns due to the provision of a wide range of unpredictable angles. The standard strategy for this map is 2 players holding A site, 1 holding B site, 1 holding C garage and 1 Holding C site.



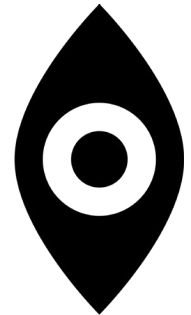
ASCENT

This map is one of the best maps as the strategies the map proposes are mind-blowing. Some angles on this map may be better for the defending side, but the same could be said about the attacking side. The most important strategy on this map is to take control of the middle of the map as it gives both the attacking side and the defending side to choose the site as well as rotate to the other with ease.



MANAS IN THE

Review



Manas is an interclass competition conducted in Seshadripuram College, specifically, it is organized by the second-year students for the first-year students to demonstrate and test their ability, skill, knowledge, and presence of mind. It is a fantastic platform that offers us many options for exposure and education. The event featured a variety of verticals, including marketing, finance, human resources, a business quiz, and the best manager. All the events consisted of an aptitude that is followed by a fun round and concluded with a case study round. Except for the best manager competition, which is a two-day event with numerous rounds, Every event was carefully planned and exceptionally executed.

The best manager event, tests you to the utmost, and trusts me, it has assisted me in changing my introverted nature to an outgoing one. The event started as usual with an aptitude round that included a series of questions about business and management. I thought the questions were fairly neutral and not too complex. Then came the fun round, which was a group discussion on the topic of legalising marijuana in India was a fairly controversial topic and

a great learning experience, the round went very smoothly. The fun round was followed by the case study round, which was based on crisis management and was incredibly tough, I had a great learning experience in it. The case study round was the final round of day 1 on the college grounds. The event continued in the evening, during which we were given several tasks, including solving numerous riddles and recreating scenes from a popular movie. we were supposed to make a case study involving a business launch, for which we had to create a PowerPoint presentation. It was quite exhausting and while being a fantastic learning experience. I was meant to present the ppt to the judges the next day, for which they gave me feedback which was extremely useful and would help me scale up my presentation skills. The best manager event was concluded with a stress interview round, which was incredibly stressful to conclude with I would say that the best manager event helped me in many ways including gaining experience, improving communication skills, personality development and much more. The experience from Manas has helped me develop both personally and professionally.■

By **Yash Kapasi**, I BCom G

Manas is an inter-class competition conducted by the commerce and management forum in Seshadripuram college. It is conducted to enhance social learning and to train the students to become better versions in various fields. It covers business quiz, marketing, human resource, finance and the best manager.

It was a great learning experience and it also provided me with good interactions with different people of a different caliber. In marketing, the first round is the aptitude round. This helped me gain knowledge about logos and taglines which is the main element in marketing. Marketing was extremely amazing with products that had to be sold to people by convincing them. This developed a different vision to view things not only as a buyer but also as a seller. A case study was the last round where I had to launch a product in the market keeping in mind the customers as well as the competitors. A case study always helps me come up with a better version of all ideas combined. This case study also helped me to gain knowledge and basics in the field in which I was uncertain.

In the Human resource round, the first round is the aptitude round. This round tests our fundamental knowledge in the human resource field. The second round was the interview round where we had to interview

people and choose wisely the best one. This round helped me to have knowledge about people and the basis on which we have to select them. This competition has taught me to handle stressful situations calmly and it has helped to deal with people in the most effective and efficient manner. It decides the relationship we keep with our employees.

In Finance, the first round was about the financial situation that not only takes place at the national level but also international level. Next, I had to tally the balance sheet which was to be calculated by analysing the missing figure and then comes the case study where I got the knowledge of handling the financial matters of a company. This is a great learning platform for people who are interested in finance background. It enables us to learn to pool money and invest in different portfolios.

These are the crisis that we need to work on which will help us to overcome real-life situations in our corporates. This type of competition has time constraints which will enable us to stick to the time given and solve the problems. This helped me in the management of time and helps to deal with people irrespective of any field. It helps students understand the area they are interested in and also builds teamwork and arrives at a solution at any given point in time.■

By **Riya K Shah**, I BCom F

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Art Corner



by **Manjunath M Chouti** II BCom(Hons)



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