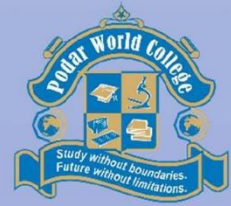


ME L O R A





Since I joined Podar almost 2 decades ago and then later took up the deanship in 2014, the enormous talents, capabilities, achievements and potentials of our senior leadership team, faculty, staff, students and alumni have never stopped to amaze me. Our teaching faculties are leading scholars, best teachers and experts in their respective subjects. Our students are among the brightest in Podar and our alumni are some of the most influential in their own profession. Podar has always been highly regarded and consistently ranked as the country's top educational institution since its foundation in 1927. Podar is committed to excellence in the delivery of education and providing students to access highest quality teaching, learning and recreation services.

Ensuring Podar remains at the leading edge; in 2017 our new education building was completed in Mumbai at our Santacruz campus. The largest redevelopment projects in the Mumbai city in recent years, this 155000 sq. ft. facility with basement plus ground plus 7 floors will transform the delivery of interdisciplinary teaching in Mumbai. Podar is wholly focused in developing future leaders who make a difference worldwide. We take pride in providing rigorously evaluated programme which is globally recognised and respected qualification from the University of London. The University of London International Programme offers undergraduate degrees in economics, management finance and the social sciences to students worldwide. Academic direction for these courses is provided by London School of Economics and Political Science. Our curricula put together the strengths of global excellence with regional relevance and a focus on India.

Innovative content, market-oriented enrichment programmes, international exchanges, internships, mentorship programme, active student organisations and a highly globalised student base nurture communication and leadership, on top of the pursuit of academic excellence.

You are sincerely invited to get to know more about us and our undergraduate programmes. I look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you to join our family – where successful leaders of the future are nurtured.

Dean,

Dr. Mrs. Vandana Lulla.

Podar World College

Editor's note

Welcome to Meliora! Just like every other issue, we've got a lot in store for you to read and love.

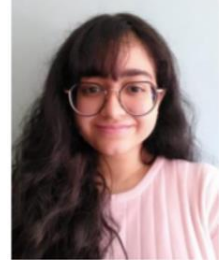
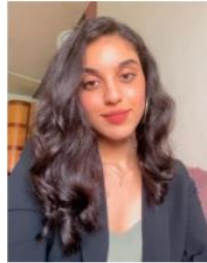
Meliora has given me the opportunity to put my love for writing, editing, and designing to good use, as well as work alongside two extremely talented and passionate people.

This issue has something a little different for all the short story readers out there! This month, the magazine includes Scribbled Stories, which are short pieces of writing submitted by some extremely talented writers, through an event we held last month. The purpose of Issue 4, much like the objective for the event, is to allow a safe space to express with freedom.

We hope you enjoy reading these wonderful pieces, judgement-free, and celebrate the writers' courage to share.

Here is Issue 4, with lots of love, from Team Editorial.

Madhura Bakshi



Welcome to the Vol.2 Issue 4 of Meliora, where we are in continuous pursuit of the betterment of knowledge and growth. This magazine is for the students, by the students of Podar World College!

This volume features RCPCs event highlights from November, and a new section suggested by you readers! We have a special event highlight this issue, of our Scribbled Stories event! Meliora is a place to share your opinions, talents, and anything that you want to share, and we can see that reflecting with so many amazing pieces coming in. This issue covers poems, writings, and a few news articles we found important to highlight! The photographs of this issue show off our students' talents and are very visually appealing!

From multiple Google Meets about layout, plans, editing with a lot of diversions, this magazine has materialised before you in its entirety. This issue has something for everyone and we hope you like it and continue to enthusiastically participate for the future issues!

Team Editorial

This is an accepting and open community, so let's be respectful of all authors and producers of the amazing entries in this magazine. The views expressed are not endorsed by college but are their own.

CONTENTS

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

'MUJHSE FRIENDSHIP KAROGI?' / 'YOU GO GIRL!' - SUHANI SINGH
ACADEMIC GUILT - HRITVI ACHARAYA
LETTER TO SELF - KALYANI DESHPANDE
BOOMING STOCK MARKETS - KUSHBOO LUNIYA
SHE IS FAT - PARINITA PANDIT

SCRIBBLED STORIES

FAULT IN OUR STARS - AYESHA LALAN
EXISTENTIAL CRISIS - DHRUV CHHIKARA

PHOTOGRAPHY

RYAN D'SILVA
MADHURA BAKSHI

NEWS ARTICLES

TOSHIBA - BBC
AMAZON - THE GUARDIAN
AFGHAN PILOT - THE GUARDIAN

ACTIVITY SECTION

WORD SEARCH
SUDOKU
CROSSWORD

SELF CARE CHECKLIST





“MUJHSE FRIENDSHIP KAROGI?” / “YOU GO GIRL!”



Suhani Singh

Friends come neither asking nor giving; they come and let us be.

I've been a part of many friend circles growing up. The exposure to so many different types of people and opinions has been an aid to my confidence as an adult but, the biggest help would be my friends. Specifically, my group of girl friends. Understanding their importance and value in my life was a journey because I had to unlearn so much that was taught to me as a child through people and the media. The patriarchal society we live in has made it seem like women are each other's biggest enemies but that isn't true, women aren't each other's competition; women supporting women is the biggest empowerment move.

Almost every girl I know has told me that they thought female friendship involved a lot of drama and they get along better with men. Having a genuine friendship with a man is a beautiful connection and I've had that, but I strongly believe that it holds nothing compared to the solace of female friendship. Women do tend to be more emotional, but that is a great toll as a friend. The \

strong emotional intelligence makes it possible to enjoy the highs and lows together, helps in making the friendship a safe place for you, which it should be. You need to be your true and honest self in a friendship to make the maximum profit from the time, attention, love and resources you're putting into maintaining it. I think it's time we let the Mean Girls narrative of female friendships go. Female friendships can be messy. But whoever said men can't be just as messy as friends, lied. We need to know the root of the problem, and I think I figured it out - internalised misogyny.

The idea that female friends are inherently more difficult to have comes from a patriarchal lens of several internalized, misogynist, and plainly wrong ideas about women, and platonic female relationships. It starts with small stereotypes like “girly” things are inherently ‘uncool’. It's ‘uncool’ to be in only girl friend groups and have feminine likes or do ‘girly’ activities. It makes you want to be ‘one of the guys’ so you seem cool amongst your peers but what's cool is unapologetically

liking/ disliking and enjoying/ hating according to you and not the society. It mainly provides male acceptance because this girl is 'not like the other girls' and this builds the blocks for the future when in teenage years girls start pitting and fighting against each other, especially for male attention and validation which will grow into their adulthood if they don't realise it quickly. The phrase 'I'm not like other girls' is an enforcer of regressive gender stereotypes, and to spell it out for you – it's not a compliment. And honestly, what's so bad about being like other girls anyway? They're talented, beautiful, opinionated, and there's so much to learn from them!

The media through movies and shows paints the same picture in front of our eyes which is toxic and untrue. We have multiple versions of women who aren't like other girls. We have the 'cool girl', the 'sporty girl', the 'quirky-relatable girl', each of whom is an idealistic, male fantasy. Each of whom is clearly different from the others. Each of whom inhabits traits of internalised misogyny. The narrative that all female friendship consists of talking and gossiping about men while shopping, braiding hair or painting nails is another lie the media has fed us from the start. All my girl friends want to do is check out new restaurants and cafes together. Every movie I saw taught me how

cool their 'brohood' is than sisterhood. While sisterhood may not look as fun and cool, there is infinite strength and support in it. The notion that women are catty, backstabbing, jealous, hysterical, dramatic and liars has been so cultivated within us because of these lying movies and the media. Ensuring we have a positive representation of female friendship is hugely important, especially since we are always going to be faced with the battles of being a woman in this society.

Even when you call yourself a feminist, these ideas that are embedded in us can still be there and alter the way we treat other women. The need for perfection is imposed on women so much so that we forget women are allowed to exist however they want to. It is overwhelming to look back at how much I've learnt about myself by being friends with other women. We have it in us to provide to each other the love and support that we yearn for from the perfect man. From my experience, women do understand each other better than men understand us. Women can sense vulnerability; we share the happy moments as much as we are willing to share each other's sorrow. We share similar experiences in our lives. It's us women who can heal other women that are wronged by male violence, sexism and patriarchy. It is

important to lift up other women whose voices aren't being heard. I love my friends because in a room of opportunity, they would take my name just as proudly as I'd take theirs.

I don't think feminism automatically means you must like all women! That's personal and frankly impossible, but you must learn how to support and be there for all women without being judgemental. If you can't find yourself with strong female friendships in your life, let me tell you - It's not all women, it's you. You're dealing with internalized self-hatred and insecurities that make you think that

opening up about your femininity and emotions with other women won't be a beneficial thing and you, just like most girls need to stop living in the past where it was her vs me and enjoy what another woman can bring about in your life. The kind of love, nurture, care, affection is so, so important and if you're as lucky as I am and have that already, please don't take it for granted and be grateful that your girl friend took the efforts to get over the internalised misogyny most women have to grow up with, and enjoys a loving friendship with you. Hopefully, every girl will get that in their life because trust me, you'll thrive in sisterhood!



*Grey November, I've been down
since July
Motion capture, Put me in a bad
light*

Taking a page from one of Ms. Swift's melancholic and heart-wrenching songs, I'd like to describe my current headspace stuck in a grey November. As 2021 nears its end, I've been stuck in longing and wanting change, but have unfortunately not received much. One main change though, is that I've started a completely new course in a different university. Many of us did, and with that came the deadlines and stress of assignments, examinations and endless material to be solved and read. Exciting, right? Definitely the idea of something new which you can learn!? But when academics seem to be the only thing shaping one's *course of life*, it's presumable that there is something which is holding you back.

Academic guilt, put in simple words, is the feeling of incompleteness or dread of not working/studying 'enough'. That isn't to say that no other work is done, just that, it comes along with a persistent fear of not studying enough or wasting time. It's the constant spiral in believing that all productivity is determined by the amount of work done in a day. It can be befuddling

and confusing to wrap one's head around and at times, also cause a lot of mental pressure and stress.

The roots of academic guilt

Guilt, as an emotion, is said to be very strongly attached to shame, disappointment and fear. The main difference? Shame is external, guilt is personal. Disappointment hurts, guilt eats one up. Fear can't be disguised but guilt can go into hiding for days. It's an uncomfortable and unnerving feeling. Making work the indicator of whether or not the person feels guilty, could be a sign of a personal disappointment of not working up to their standards. The person may begin to shut down all of their other interests because their work starts to matter the most. And this is not to deny the fact that work has to be done, but when one finds themselves in situations where they are constantly forcing themselves to work even though they don't really wish, it's probably because their reward system is entirely based around work or studying.

In testing times of a pandemic, many people also found themselves experiencing 'survivor guilt' which essentially refers to guilt faced due to the sheer fact of one getting the better end of the stick as opposed to someone else. This gives the person

an impression that they must work themselves to the breaking point, as they are privileged to be working in the first place. One finds out that no matter what they do they would never be enough for themselves.

The lack of mental stimulation or the bombardment of the tasks could lead to shockingly similar results. As much as having an endless amount of things to do and completing only a few of them makes one feel dissatisfied, having nothing to do can make one feel vulnerable, helpless and overly guilty for not having done anything productive that day, and this is felt EVEN when the person actually DOES work! They both single out the emotion of either “I have nothing better to do” or “I have so much to do” and a lot of it has to do with how one is wired as a child. Yes, I am ‘they’.

Over the past year, I have personally encountered both the situations many times, and navigating them have been confusing, at the least. I constantly feel like I’m not doing enough to qualify the day as ‘productive’, which I recognize is harmful to myself and must change! Doing nothing sometimes should also be as beneficial as doing way too much.

Navigating these emotions can get a little tricky depending on the support system around you. Most Asian families believe in pushing for excellence in all aspects, especially education and hence children have grown to accept that it is perfectly

normal to work oneself to the walls in order to be successful. “No play before you work” is what we heard since a young age and somehow, as we grew up, we started to fear playing at all.

How it extends into your work life and may affect your personal life

*Hey December, guess I'm feeling unmoored
Can't remember, what I used to fight for*

As said before, this guilt starts affecting the way one treats themselves. Work turns into a command which is to be followed in order to earn some free time or enjoy oneself. That’s exactly where the guilt heightens, because deep inside, the person would always feel that their time could have been spent better. One of the main reasons for procrastination is associating a negative emotion to that particular task. When you constantly feel guilt doing anything other than work, you start to dislike the work itself. It drains energy completely and one still keeps coming back to it to cling to the feeling of self validation that they’ve placed in their work. And in a quest of finding some calm from the storm in the head, burying oneself in work and not addressing actual emotions, we only lead ourselves to further complications.

Interaction with friends and family becomes cumbersome and as much as one wants to pull up a chair and talk to them candidly, the ghost of one’s guilt lingers. This is not to say

that one must forgo all work just to relax and have fun. It's just about when and how much work one is able to do without hurting themselves, and guilt about work may skew that definition. Combined with hustle culture, it's interesting to see how many people would define productivity as a feeling of sheer tiredness and that too from only an academic point of view.

Academic guilt is linked to academic validation too, validation which is received in the sphere of one's work/study. It's a cycle of feeling guilty for not doing enough and so forcefully working till one faces burnout just for some academic validation. Guilt as an emotion is internalized, and is also called 'internal conviction of sin'. The funny thing is, no matter how much one does in a day, that twinge of disappointment remains. The mind is trained to reject that because of the feeling of 'not enough'.

How can we try to help ourselves and how much guilt is okay and when to seek some help

Call it a coping mechanism in a way or a way of just self-destruction, excessive academic guilt could seriously debilitate one's ability to

believe in their decisions, their sanity and finally, themselves. It's exhausting, draining and hurtful to oneself.

The way out? All methods suggest only work if the person themselves wishes to do something differently. Realizing your own boundaries and planning your day realistically could help restructuring the day in a way where one doesn't feel too stretched but also finishes the majority of the work. One can't clump up all their work at once; that would only lead to disappointments. I find assigning the wind down time to someone else much easier, so that they can help to be on track with it. Moderation is the only key to some sanity, even if it feels like an incredulous task to find a balance. If it gets too much, talking to someone about it and navigating what one feels and why so, is also a very viable option. At the end of the day, acknowledging the problem itself can really be beneficial in realizing where one is leading themselves.

Remember to be gentle and patient with yourself. Your efforts only continue to blossom when you are mentally, emotionally and physically at your best!



Dear me,

I've decided not to live a life full of excessive thinking and unneeded rationality. I'm young after all. My thoughts should result in some action at least, because what's the use if I'm only going to keep them to myself? I'm too young to be living with my passion on a leash, just because I'm too lazy to act on it, you know?

I want to sing, I want to quietly hum when I'm crossing to the opposite street, on the train while getting comfortably squished by fellow travelers, in the exam hall when I just can't get that one song out of my head before I move on to the next question. I want to sing when I'm doing math, when I'm in the shower, when I'm alone.

I want to dance more too, because dancing feels like flying, like falling in love with today, everyday, every night, every healthy and stupid moment that I can feel, and see and walk and breathe.

I want to write. I want to let my thoughts move faster than the hand I'm typing them with can move. I want to have the bubble of anticipation when I read what I typed in the frenzy of capturing

those thoughts. I want to see if it's good enough. I also want to backspace through it all, and try to recollect the exact piece I had thought out in my head. I want to. I really do.

But you know what? I want to learn to find passion in small things first, like doing the dishes, cleaning my cupboard, waking up the second the alarm sounds, or just listening to a friend talking about their day.

I want to fall in love with my big passion over one shoulder, and my small passion over the other, and I want to present this combination to whoever comes looking for it.

They'll have their revelations slung on their own shoulders too, wanting to tell a story. And I'll smile when I see them. "Come. I've cracked it. I know how it all works now", I'll say.

I'm writing to you to ask a simple question. Will you join me?



BOOMING STOCK MARKETS - CELEBRATION OR A CAUSE OF CONCERN?

Kushboo Luniya

On the 23rd of March, 2020 the first ever national lockdown was announced in order to curb the spread of coronavirus, and on the same day both the Sensex and the Nifty experienced massive falls of 13.15% and 12.98% respectively. Post that they have shown strong bullish trends and over the course of the last 15 months the Indian Financial Markets have been booming, hitting all time high records. The benchmark index Sensex has seen a one fold rise i.e. nearly doubling with 100% growth from the slump recorded on 23rd March, 2020. Is this a momentous event to celebrate or something we should look out for and be more cautious?

The huge amounts of capital inflow into these markets has risen due to major FDI and a lot more retail investors actively participating. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the amount of FDI equity inflow has grown exponentially, making India a hot spot for global investors. FDI policy reforms, and relaxation of rules to run a business have definitely made global investors believe that there is huge potential in the Indian financial

markets. As per the Ministry of Commerce the Indian economy has received the highest amount of FDI inflow of \$81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21, which is also 10% higher than the amount of FDI inflow in the previous financial year of 2019-20. Specifically the FDI inflow in the equity markets has grown by 19% in FY 20-21 standing at an excessively large amount of \$59.64 billion. The reports also reveal that Singapore, USA, Mauritius and UAE have been the largest contributors to the FDI inflow.

Yet another major source of inflow comes from small retail investors within the economy. The number of DEMAT accounts opened during the COVID-19 pandemic stood at a whopping high level of nearly 1.45 Crores for the year 2020-21. As per an SBI report, there are 142 lakh new investors who have entered this lucrative market in 2020-21. One reason it has led to such a massive participation is the lockdown owing to which many businesses temporarily shut, and all the surplus fund which was being used to run such businesses is now flowing into the stock markets. Yet another potential reason could be the

reallocation of bank savings due to falling interest rates.

The indicators on which these market participants base their decisions on matter a lot. It was found that stocks that have seen a very large retail participation suffered from weak fundamentals and lacked good business opportunities. This is surely a cause of concern, as many stocks are being overvalued and someday will be revised to their fundamental intrinsic value. This revision can have a devastating effect on the pockets of such retail investors. The Annual Report published by RBI for FY20-21 highlighted that the price to earnings ratio of the benchmark Sensex is way higher than its long term average indicating the overvalued nature of the same. The same ratio for Nifty 50 also recorded its all-time high during the pandemic standing at 42 compared to its long term average of 22. This puts light on the fact that investors today are expecting insanely large and unrealistic growth returns.

As the current situations reveal, there is a financial bubble forming slowly and steadily in the Indian equity markets. The existence of this economic bubble becomes clearly evident due to a few reasons. Firstly, the stock markets have been rallying in spite of very poor economic forecasts and low GDP rates. According to a report published by

the Govt. of India the GDP has fallen by 7.3% in the financial year 2020-21. Secondly, the massive rise and spike in the number of retail investors certainly makes the markets relatively less efficient as most (but not all) of the small individual investors do not follow the fundamental finance rules and principles, leading them to base their decisions on incorrect interpretation of various parameters which in turn leads to poor investments. Another potential reason is the massive relaxations in monetary policy and increase in the money supply which has partly led to such asset price inflation. All of these things put together can lead to unbelievably high skyrocketing prices and an illusion of prosperous investments.

So now that we know that there is a bubble, what needs to be done? As per the finance theory and experience, the most basic but reliable technique is to base investments on financial rationales and not follow the crowd. Before investing in any stock do your fair share of research regarding its business opportunities and long term prospects. Take calculative and well planned risks, which will definitely lead you to picking better investments matching your risk appetite. Set realistic expectations, do not be the part of the herd and avoid the greed to make free money.

The bubble's catastrophic impact is felt when it bursts, i.e. the stocks are revalued at the right level. One definitely needs to watch out for this, in case we become victims of the burst, it could lead to a huge chunk of our investment and wealth being eroded in no time. From my point of view, the bubble continues to inflate and the markets will surely rally for some time. But once the COVID-19 pandemic comes to an end and we completely move to the pre pandemic way of operations, the bubble will burst. Few reasons for

this to happen is the potential withdrawal of retail investor funds which will then be channelized into their own businesses, tighter monetary policies and the lack of opportunities by overvalued companies who have witnessed a sharp price rise. In my opinion there will be a sharp correction of nearly 10% to 15% in the next 3-4 years which will come with fatal and harsh consequences for market players. Hence, the fact that our equity market is booming is surely not a reason to rejoice!



So what if a girl is fat,
You don't need to look at her like that.
Out of all the things that she may be,
Her size is all that you see?
But you know what,
You will never see these things clearly.
Instead of changing her, listen to her,
Make her confident about whom to prefer.
Tell her she is perfect the way she is,
Nothing in the world can change who she is.
Accept her the way she is,
And help her realise it is what it is.
Does size really define anything?
Happiness is all that she brings.



SCRIBBLED STORIES HIGHLIGHT: THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

A little infinity of your own
In the barbaric place you call world
The fear of oblivion shouldn't be
Your fingers are tight and curled

Humans leave scars on earth
Not the greatest achievement
Observation is the only sword
Catching your every movement

Crying on that old swing seat
Hoping to breath like everyone
No one to wipe them away
Leaving the things undone

In the galaxy very far away
It has its own faults too
No one to point out at them
Because everyone is flawed too

You don't decide when you are born
You don't decide your death
But surely you get to choose
When are you gonna take a breath

Maybe my end will be soon
Collecting candies in the jars
I don't want to be helpless
Maybe the fault is in our stars

Ayesha Lalan



SCRIBBLED STORIES HIGHLIGHT: *existential crisis*

In physical terms, reality is the totality of the universe, known and unknown. But I know, I know the glistening dewdrops and the snowflakes on my fingertips and the rain trailing my veins are real. Real, because I have witnessed nature perform in it's theatre and understood that the world is her stage. Real, because I have felt it. The mountains are real, they exist. They are not towering monuments of nature, designed to scare you. They are not there for you to conquer. You climbed the mountains to get their good tidings, to let nature's peace to flow as the sunshine does the trees. The winds blow their freshness on you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you as leaves of autumn.

Most of us exist for most of the time in a world which is so humanely arranged that we forget that there are environments which do not respond to the flick of a switch or push of a button, and which have their own rhythms and orders of existence. The mountains correct this amnesia. They pose profound questions together about our durability and the importance of our schemes. They

induce modesty in us. The world is a coaxing whisper when the wind hits the trees, when the sea licks it's shores, when animals burrow into the earth and people look up at the sympathetic stars. The world is an admonishing roar when the gales uproot the trees and the jagged waves attack the coastline. The world fades away amongst the walls of the mountains. Peace, oblivion, bliss, happiness, tranquility, quiet.

These are just words. Words that mean nothing if there isn't an experience to relate them to. The calm that washes over you amidst kind of high washed over you

as the background noise diminishes in volume and all you hear is the rustling of the leaves and melodious harmonies from the birds that fly in the domed ceiling above you. This same dome houses millions of us. It changes colour, this will never not fascinate me. The deepest reds, the darkest hues, the brilliant violets and the blossoming blues; each colour a sign of life and a sign of blissful existence. The sky is poised with a thousand emotions, a million colours.

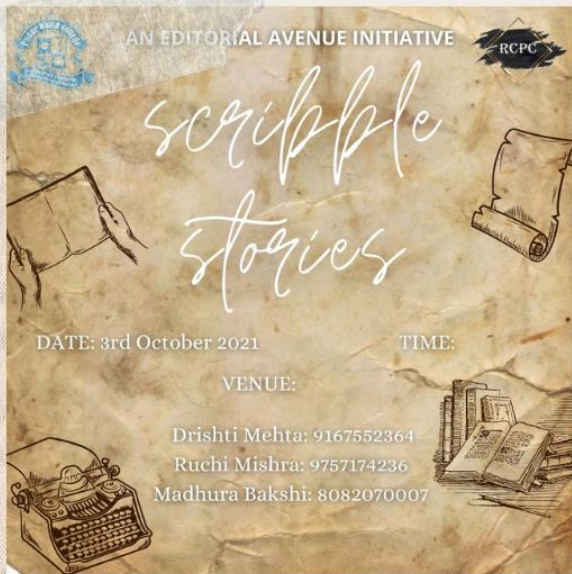
Every step, every breath had a purpose. A destination in mind. A goal with a defined path. But with every laborious breath I was closer, and I was proud of how far I had come. There were moments where the entire concept of climbing up and then coming down seemed futile. But looking at the birds and clouds hovering in the sky, their home; I realised this was my home. And I couldn't walk away. I couldn't do it. It was hard, really hard. But is it fun if it's not tough? Bursting that bubble of comfort that you have formed around yourself is probably the best decision you can make. And to keep doing it again is an act of courage worthy of praise. Because the limit? It does not exist. Lifted high above the level of human sounds and habitation, among the wide expanses in the mountains and we are thrilled with a strange fear and elation. The experience was, for lack of a better word, exhilarating. The things we do outlast our mortality, so we can cling onto the frail hope that the memories we make will linger long after we are gone.

Metamorphosis is the most profound of acts. To witness the product of

nature emerging from its chrysalis is beautiful, not only in the metaphorical way but literally. The process of change is difficult, transforming your ways is hard. But the change from a caterpillar to a butterfly is profoundly different. Individually they have different impacts but it's the process of its change that is the most fascinating and beautiful thing to witness. The process is slow and arduous and painful. But it's worth it. Remember a butterfly may be free and delicate being, but it spent days shedding skin and dramatically changing inside its chrysalis so it can grow wings to fly. The caterpillar's perception of reality changes. And when it emerges from its cocoon with a considerable amount of struggle, our perception of it changes. Metamorphosis is not a phenomenon that insects go through. Humans morph into different versions of our self because change is the only constant. And after we emerge from our own chrysalis we are who we want to be.

In the end reality is whatever we want to be.

Dhruv Chhikara



We began October with an exciting evening where participants were given a chance to share a short piece of writing that expressed their condensed thoughts or feelings in a judgement-free space, we had poetry, a open discussion on society and the impact of social media on loneliness and mental health, inspired by a poem shared by a participant.

We took to Instagram to spread awareness about the same. Various Instagram posts about how to be mentally healthy went up each day with a few activities for the members. we had an awareness session with Dr. Seher Sheikh, an excellent psychiatric counsellor who survived cancer. She now works to benefit mentally challenged people and assist them in various ways. This event was carried out in collaboration with the Rotaract club of Lokhanwala, the Rotaract club of Bombay Mid Town and Leo Club.



The aim of this event was to give the spotlight to businesses of all types and highlight their specifics. It was conducted as a week long project so that different types of businesses could be accommodated and ventured into in depth. Also, the main reason for the use of social media for this project was to ensure a large audience, for creating awareness as well as benefitting the businesses in questions in terms of reach.

The event kickstarted with the seminar Be Your Own Boss, which was conducted by Mr Ravikant Banka. The interview with SnoutClout gave insight on how a social enterprise functions and what exactly does the student-run organization do. Ms Shreya Chauhan from The Ecolution, spoke about her journey from the small seed of idea to the full grown plant it is right now.

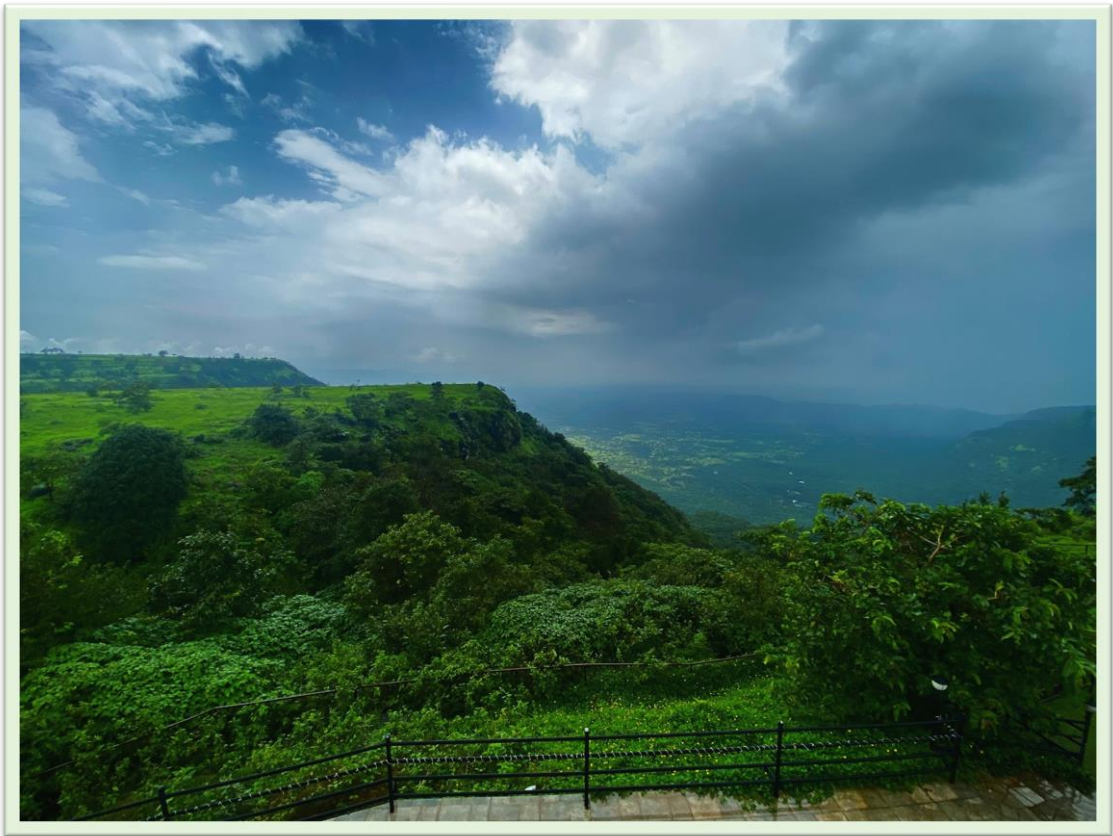
Kravebakes is a product of Ms Ankita Dalwani's passion and dedication to start her own custom cakes business. This YouTube video mirrors Vogue's "73 Qs with _" videos and was a fun way to know more about what goes in an small entrepreneurs mind. The final event was a series of Instagram stories about Puraani Jeans, a company which upcycles old denim and makes lifestyle products out of them. An inside report of its working and its growth was uploaded on the club's Instagram.

PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOGRAPHY



I wanted to get this photograph out and across because, when I look at it and spend a few minutes observing it, it becomes easy for me to visualise myself being on the seashore. The auditory imagery of the waves coming and going, splashing upon the rocks really relaxes my mind, as if I was actually there by the seashore. So, I hope this photograph turns out to be as helpful to others as it is for me.

Ryan D'Silva



Madhura Bakshi

ART
ART
ART



Shreenidhi Nagda

News

Japanese giant Toshiba announces breakup plan

Toshiba said the three companies would be focused on infrastructure, semiconductors and devices.

The company has come under increasing pressure from activist investors to make changes since an accounting scandal in 2015.

This week, US giant General Electric announced a similar strategy that will see the historic company broken up.

Major changes

Toshiba's plan will see it spin off two core businesses - its energy and infrastructure unit as well as its device and storage operation.

After shedding those two companies, Toshiba will continue to own a 40.6% stake in memory chipmaker Kioxia as well as other assets.

It expects to complete the reorganisation by the second half of 2023.

The move is aimed to increase the stock market valuations of Toshiba's different businesses after facing pressure from shareholders.

But some analysts are concerned about the timescale for the changes.

"The move is in the right direction, but it seems slow," said Atul Goyal of investment bank Jefferies, who would have preferred a timeline of three-to-six months.

"2023 is a long way out and we are not sure what else will change between now and then."

Toshiba Board of Directors Chairperson Osamu Nagayama attends a news conference in Tokyo.

Toshiba is one of Japan's oldest and largest firms, with divisions that range from home electronics to nuclear power stations.

However, the company has faced wrenching changes in recent years as it dealt with the fallout of an accounting scandal and huge losses linked to its US nuclear unit.

In 2015, then-chief executive and president Hisao Tanaka resigned after Toshiba said it had overstated its profits by more than a \$1bn.

In April of this year, UK private equity group CVC Capital Partners made an unsolicited \$20bn takeover bid for Toshiba.

A week later, the company's chief executive Nobuaki Kurumatani resigned amid controversy over the bid.

Toshiba then rejected CVC's offer, which angered some activist shareholders.

In June, a shareholder revolt saw chairman Osamu Nagayama ousted from his position.

Breaking up conglomerates

On Tuesday, US conglomerate General Electric announced that it would split into three separate companies.

The company said it will spin off its healthcare business in early 2023 and combine its renewable energy, fossil-fuel power and digital units into one company that will be spun off the following year. The remaining business will be its jet engine maker GE Aviation.

The move marks the breakup of an iconic manufacturer which was founded by Thomas Edison. It went on to become a sprawling business empire that was once the world's most valuable company.

Via BBC



Amazon to pay \$500,000 fine for failing to notify workers of Covid cases

Amazon has agreed to pay a \$500,000 fine and be monitored by California officials after the state's attorney general said the company failed to "adequately notify" workers and health authorities about new Covid-19 cases.

Amazon employs about 150,000 people in California, most of them at 100 "fulfillment centers" – sprawling warehouses where orders are packed and shipped. The agreement, which must be approved by a judge, requires the Seattle-based retailer to notify its workers within a day of new coronavirus cases in their workplaces.

Amazon also agreed to notify local health agencies of new virus cases within 48 hours and will stop issuing notices that Rob Bonta, California's attorney general, said do not adequately tell employees about Amazon's safety and disinfection plan and workers' rights related to the pandemic.

"As the company enjoyed booming and historic sales with its stock price doubling, Amazon failed to adequately notify warehouse workers and local health agencies of Covid case numbers, often leaving them unable to effectively track the spread of the virus," Bonta told reporters in San Francisco at an event held across the street from an Amazon warehouse.

Bonta added: "This left many workers understandably terrified and powerless to make informed decisions to protect themselves and to protect their loved

ones," such as getting tested for the virus, staying home or quarantining if they have been notified of a potential workplace exposure.

Bonta said the judgment is the first of its kind in the US and complies with a state "right-to-know" law that took effect last year.

An Amazon spokesperson, Barbara Agrait, said in a statement that the company was "glad to have this resolved and to see that the AG found no substantive issues with the safety measures in our buildings".

Xavier Becerra, the former California attorney general who now heads the US Health and Human Services Department, last December asked a judge to order Amazon to comply with subpoenas his office issued nearly four months earlier as part of its investigation into how the company was protecting workers from the coronavirus at its facilities.

It is not known how many Amazon employees have been exposed to the virus at work during the course of the pandemic. In October 2020, the company disclosed that nearly 20,000 of its frontline US workers had tested positive or were presumed infected.

The judgment, which applies only in California, requires the company to allow monitoring of its virus notifications by the attorney general's office for a year and to pay the half-million-dollar settlement that

will go to enforce the state's consumer protection laws.

California's "right-to-know" law requires employers to notify employees of coronavirus cases at their worksites, tell the workers about pandemic-related protections, benefits, disinfection and safety plans and to report cases to local health agencies.

The agreement came as Amazon gears up for the holiday crush of package deliveries. Bonta said compliance is particularly

important as the state prepares for another possible winter surge in cases as people gather indoors for the holidays.

California this year also became the first state to prohibit big retailers from firing warehouse workers for missing quotas that interfere with bathroom and rest breaks.

That law prohibits Amazon and similar companies from disciplining workers for following health and safety laws, and allows employees to sue to suspend unsafe quotas or reverse retaliation.



Via Guardian

‘If I can get a plane into the sky, I can do anything’: female Afghan pilot refuses to be grounded

Sitting alone in her small flat in Bulgaria, Mohadese Mirzaee contemplates the future. Three months ago, she left behind her family, and her dream job, in Afghanistan. At 23, Mirzaee was the country’s first female commercial airline pilot.

“Today, I don’t know where to go, but I’m not giving up. I’ve started applying for pilot jobs anywhere because I know I need to get back to flying,” she says by phone from the capital, Sofia.

When news broke that the Taliban had seized Kabul, Mirzaee was already at the airport in her uniform, preparing for her evening flight to Istanbul. She had left home early that morning, waving goodbye to her mother and two sisters.

The flight never took off. As thousands of Afghans stormed the city’s international airport, desperate to leave the country, Mirzaee was diverted to a flight to the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv – this time as a passenger.

“It was dark when we took off, that’s all I remember,” she says. “It was a rollercoaster of emotions because everything happened so quickly. I couldn’t believe Kabul had fallen. When I left my house in the morning and said goodbye to my family, I couldn’t have imagined that by evening time, I’d be permanently leaving home.

“I saw my country crumbling,” she recalls.

Just months earlier, Mirzaee had made headlines as one of the pilots of a Kam Air

Boeing 737 – the country’s first flight with an all-female crew.

“It was a huge accomplishment for Afghanistan and for the male-dominated aviation industry in general,” says Mirzaee. She believed then that change within the country’s conservative society was possible, and that she and the airline would be part of it.

But when the Taliban established an all-male government that saw hundreds of women removed from their jobs, Mirzaee says she was robbed of her hopes for the future.

“Afghan women have done amazingly over the past decades. We’ve used any opportunities given to us. We fought for our rights and scored big achievements. I was hopeful that a window had opened. I was approached by many young women who also dreamed of becoming a pilot,” Mirzaee says. “With the Taliban takeover, it all disappeared. They are the same barbaric group they have been in the past and they want to silence women. If I give up on my passion, they have achieved their goal.”

Mirzaee attended Kabul’s Afghan-Turk Maarif school but finished her final year in Port Colborne in Canada, where she first considered a career in aviation.

She stayed in Canada for another year after her studies, working as a cashier and barista to scrape the money together for flying lessons.

“My flight instructor told me, ‘you have control, so fly the plane’ before taking off

on my first ever flight. I was nervous, but I also felt free. I figured, if I can get a plane into the sky, I can do anything,” she says.

Back in Afghanistan, Mirzaee talked to airlines to see if she could continue her training, but they all initially said no. “I kept annoying them,” she laughs.

“Kam Air, one of Afghanistan’s carriers, decided to give me a chance – and I took it very seriously.”

She became Afghanistan’s first female commercial airline pilot in September last year, flying to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and India.

Mirzaee was able to travel to Bulgaria on a pre-existing visa. It has just expired and she has been advised to claim asylum.

Her mother and sisters were also evacuated from Afghanistan, flying to Albania on the same day an explosion ripped through the crowds outside Kabul airport, killing almost 200 people and injuring hundreds more.

Most of her friends are now scattered across the globe.

“When I was studying, my mum always told me to come back to Afghanistan and work for my country. I shared her conviction. But today, even though I’d like to go back, I can’t. There is no space for

women like me in Afghanistan any more. I lost my job, my home, my crew – everything.”

But she says: “I’m hoping another airline will give me a chance to continue my career. A lot has been taken from me, but I will fight for my passion. That is what makes me, me.”



Via Guardian

Fun stuff!

Economics

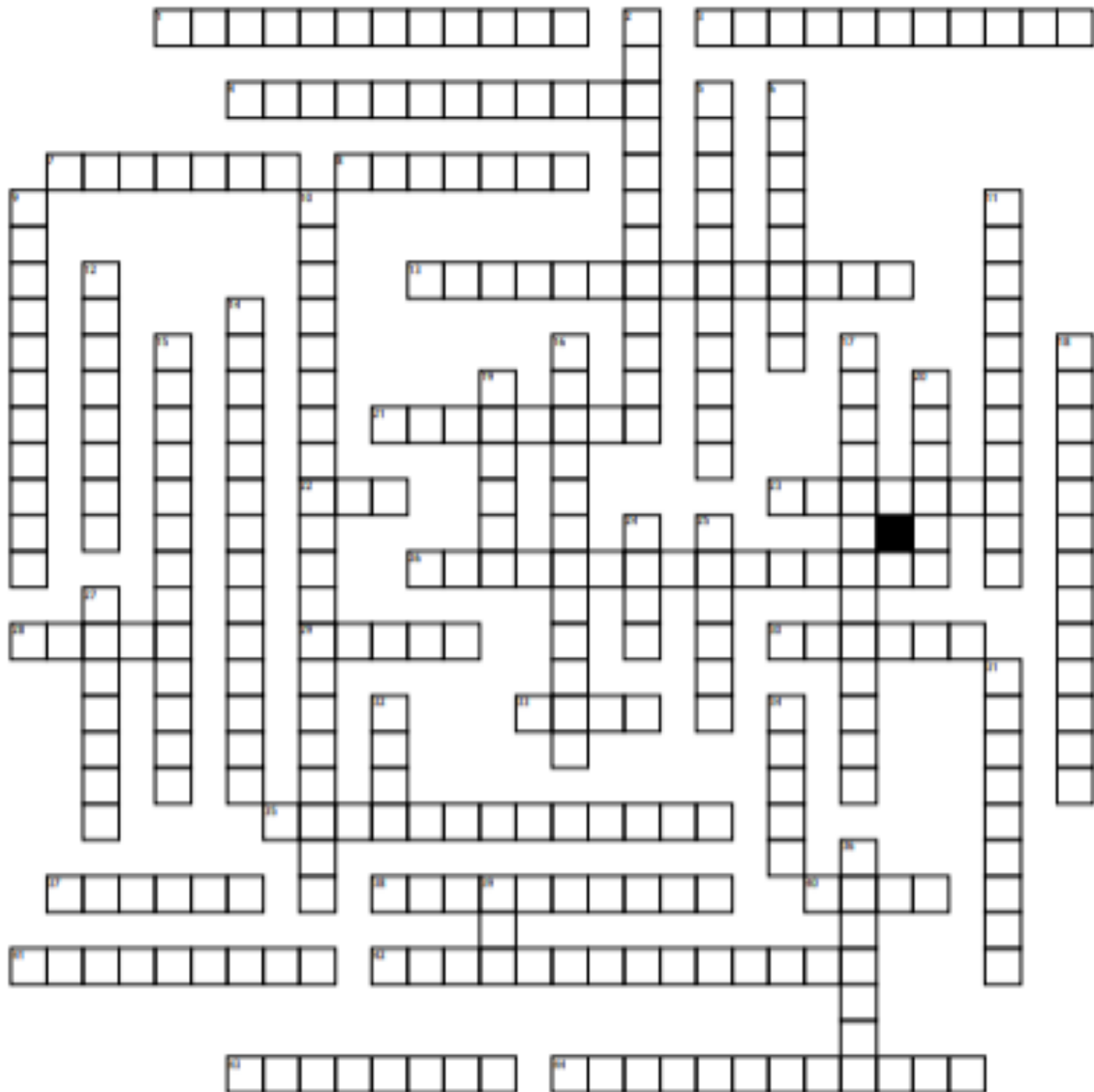
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money	barter	trade	hiring	revenue
resource	scarcity	produce	cost	demand
supply	wants	needs	choice	consumers
producers	services	goods		

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						9		2
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		5		2	7			4
	9						1	
			8	9	2			
		7	1	4			2	

Superheroes



Across

1. Which movie had the most improvisations from actors?
3. Who is Hulk's alter-ego?
4. Who did Thanos take the Reality Stone from?
7. Who created Marvel?
8. Thor is the God of...
13. Who had to eat his body weight in grams of protein every day to maintain his muscular physique?
21. Which movie did the Avengers first break up?
22. How many Infinity Stones are there?
23. Which character placed snacks around the set so he could eat while filming?
26. Which villain does Star Lord fight in Guardians of the Galaxy?
28. Which of the 6 stones is the Tesseract also known as?
29. Who is SHIELD's enemy?
30. What colour is the Power Stone?
33. Holland and Hiddleston
35. Who does Brie Larson play?

37. Which villain is different colours in different movies?

38. In Age of Ultron, which character NEVER tried to lift Thor's hammer at the restaurant?

40. Ant-Man and the...

41. Which Avenger is the youngest?

42. Who was the first Avenger?

43. Who are the rivals to DC's Justice League?

44. What is Thor's new hammer's name?

Down

2. Which key actor was NOT in Infinity Wars: Part 1?

5. Who is Scarlett Witch's brother?

6. Who initially finds the Power Stone?

9. Who does IronMan love?

10. Which team is too late to take the Reality Stone from The Collector?

11. Loki is not from Asgard. Who are his "people"?

12. Which villain does Captain America first have to conquer?

14. Who keeps Loki falling for 30 minutes before he brings him back to "reality"?

15. Who tried out for the role of Thor, gained 50 lbs of muscle, but ended up as an Avenger's Super Villain?

16. Which actor played Hulk, before being recast to Mark Ruffalo as the director didn't feel he was creative enough?

17. Who has the Time Stone?

18. Who does Bucky become?

19. Who had the Mind Stone?

20. Which planet did Thanos find the Soul Stone on?

24. What is Agent Coulson's first name?

25. Who is sacrificed for the Soul Stone?

27. Which character's actor was trained by Olympic archers for his role?

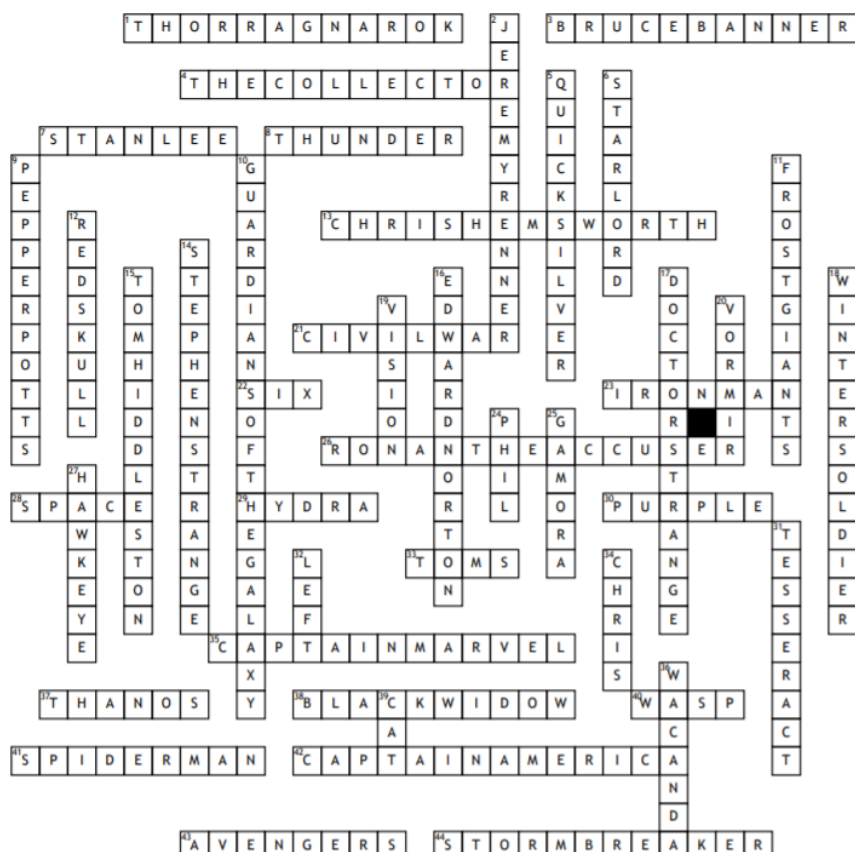
31. What was Loki always after, and Thanos killed him for?

32. Which hand does Thanos wear the gauntlet on?

34. Hemsworth, Evans, or Pratt

36. Where does Black Panther live?

39. What caused Nick Fury to lose an eye?




N BARTER WANTS Q W J B C
 I G Y N A W I REVENUE F F K
 V X M Z Q K SERVICES G N E
 A T NEEDS E Q N O P COST H
 T L DEMAND N P S L Y P K L H
 P Z S S C O M A C O N S U M E R S
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 A B A P H D R S V B X N E G I O U
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 D E T R N H T K A O Y S H E K F N
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7	2	3	6	1	4	8	5	9
9	8	5	3	2	7	1	6	4
2	9	4	7	3	6	5	1	8
1	5	6	8	9	2	7	4	3
8	3	7	1	4	5	9	2	6



SELF CARE CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Meditate**
 - ☐ **Write on your journal**
 - ☐ **Do something kind**
 - ☐ **Yoga/Exercise**
 - ☐ **Eat Healthy**
 - ☐ **Call a friend**
 - ☐ **Plan a trip with a friend**
 - ☐ **Learn something new**
 - ☐ **Organise your space**
 - ☐ **Get creative**
 - ☐ **Grab a face mask**
 - ☐ **Listen to your favorite song**
 - ☐ **Dance**
 - ☐ **Go for a walk**
- 

Some words from the team

"Whatever makes you uncomfortable is your biggest opportunity for growth." - Bryant H. McGill

Although we hope you loved the 3rd issue of Vol. 2 of Meliora, that gave a little insight on the professional side of our lives, we are proud to put forward Issue 4 in it's entirety! We can't wait to give you more issues and continue to make this the magazine we are envisioning!

"Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection" - Mark Twain

Our little team of 3 worked so cohesively this issue and we promise to continue to do so! Our interesting little banters that we have during meetings and conversations is what makes our team so special!

Opinions are always useful, even if they are not implemented, which is why we welcome you to give us your feedback!

Signing off,
Team Editorial

See you next month!



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@entrepreneurshipclubpwc

@culturalclubpwc

Rotaract Club of Podar College on YT