

INCLUDING:

POEMS, ARTICLES & MUCH
MORE!

SPECIAL THANKS:

*Sohira Kshemkalyani
and Mahek Shahani*

ASHOKA SOCIETY OF LITERATURE PRESENTS

literature unbound.

EDITION #3
NOVEMBER 2024

beauty In
literature.

*Literature flows through
us like a current, shaping
thoughts and emotions
with every word. In its
rhythm, we discover new
depths and meanings,
transcending the page.*



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Collection of
POEMS

The Playful Moon

I'm stranded beneath the stars,
under the playful moon,
She laughed at my solitude
across the sky, she swooned

She unveiled her veil and veiled again
Threw her tresses over her golden-stained
face.

She had many stories to tell,
for she was god's eternal witness.

I glance at her a glance,
that told her to unfold,
all stories she had witnessed,
since forever left untold.

Now consumed in slumber
I'm a witness too
Of the ever-playful moon,
laughing at my solitude
across the sky who swooned.

– *Aadya Pandit*

Power of Universe

There's a power within the stars that burn,
There's a vigor of the planets that turn,
The sunbeam portrays, a ray of hope
The moonlight reflects a gentle scope.

The power of the universe is unique in itself,
May it be nature or aura of oneself,
A force unseen, yet always believed
A mystery hidden, but still conceived.

Everything that occurs, has a purpose behind it,
'Cause destiny always has a plan to unwind,
Karma is another mystical principle,
That is often experienced by many people.

So trust in the energy, the mystical spirit
In each step, in each breath you inherit,
The divine energy, just and pure
In the habitat and souls, it will endure.

— Anushree Varade

Whispers of the Dawn

IN THE HUSH BEFORE THE DAWNING LIGHT,
WHERE SHADOWS SLEEP AND STARS TAKE FLIGHT,
THE WORLD IS WRAPPED IN QUIET GRACE,
A GENTLE, TIMELESS, SACRED SPACE.

THE TREES STAND STILL, THE BREEZE A SIGH,
AS VELVET NIGHT BEGINS TO DIE,
AND EVERY LEAF, EACH BLADE OF GRASS,
AWAITS THE SUN'S FIRST GOLDEN PASS.

THE SKY BLUSHES IN HUES SO RARE,
PINK AND GOLD, BEYOND COMPARE.
A PROMISE HELD IN MORNING'S BREATH,
A LIFE RENEWED, UNTOUCHED BY DEATH.

SO MAY WE RISE, LIKE MORNING'S GLEAM,
TO CHASE THE THREADS OF EVERY DREAM,
WITH HEARTS ALIGHT, AS SKIES UNFOLD—
IN DAWN'S EMBRACE, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD.

— *Karthikeyan Iyer*

रणांचा तो वीर

रणांचा तो वीर तू, सत्याचं जणू नाणं
धैर्याची आणि वीरतेची तलवार घेऊन
लढवितोस तू प्रत्येक रण ॥

तुझ्या पावलांनी थरथरलं आसमंताचं पान
तुझाच मुळे आली या रणभूमीला शान ॥

सागराच्या लाटांसारखे तुझे केस
आणि काठावरच्या वाळू सारखा तुझा रंग
माझ्या आयुष्याला दिला तू एक नवीन वेश
दाखवून तुझ्यात लपलेला नटरंग ॥

माझ्या हृदयात घुसलेल्या या आतंकवाद्याला काय सजा
सांजेच्या रंगासारखा उत्सव होतो माझ्या मनात साजरा
आसमंताच्या ताऱ्यांसारखे, तुझ्यासाठी माझे भाव वेगळे
नकळत माझ्या मला कधी पटले तर कधी रुतले ॥

– निहारिका खेडेकर

Collection of
ARTICLES

What Next?;

ADAPTING TO A DIGITAL DRIVEN WORLD

Commerce has evolved rapidly in recent years, driven by technological advancements and the rise of the digital economy. New-age careers in commerce are roles that didn't exist a decade ago or have been significantly reshaped by technology. These include jobs in e-commerce, data analytics, fintech, digital marketing, and sustainability—fields that blend innovation with business practices to meet the demands of today's fast-paced, digital world.

A key example of this transformation is the growth of e-commerce. With online shopping surging, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses are relying on e-commerce managers to optimize online sales, manage digital platforms, and enhance customer experience. Alongside them, digital marketing specialists are in high demand, focusing on SEO, social media, and online ads. eMarketer reported that global e-commerce sales reached \$5.7 trillion in 2023, and this growth is expected to continue, making digital marketing a central role in modern commerce.

Another important new-age career is in data analytics. Companies are increasingly turning to data analysts and data scientists to help them understand consumer behaviour



and optimize decision-making. According to Gartner, 91% of leading organizations now use data analytics to drive business strategies. Data-driven insights help businesses improve operations, predict trends and enhance customer experiences.

The fintech (financial tech) sector is also booming, creating new roles in blockchain technology, digital payments, and online banking. Blockchain developers and fintech analysts are in high demand as businesses look for ways to incorporate cryptocurrencies and digital transactions. A PwC survey found that 80% of financial firms plan to adopt blockchain by 2025, signaling the growing importance of these technologies.

Finally, sustainability has become a major focus for businesses, leading to the rise of careers in sustainability consulting and



green finance. Professionals in these fields help companies reduce their environmental impact while also promoting eco-friendly investments. According to the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance, sustainable investments have grown by 25% in recent years, highlighting the importance of these roles.

In conclusion, the commercial landscape is evolving rapidly, creating new career opportunities in areas like e-commerce, data analytics, fintech, and sustainability. These industries are not only reshaping how business is done but also how professionals approach their work. The future of commerce will demand adaptable, tech-savvy individuals who can harness new tools and strategies to stay competitive. For those willing to learn and grow with these changes, the potential for success is vast. Whether it's optimizing an online shopping experience, analyzing data to drive business decisions, or helping companies go green, the careers of tomorrow are full of promise and diversity. Embracing these changes now will position professionals to thrive in a future where digital transformation continues to shape every aspect of business.

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– **Alisha Aneesh**

a student's word

I'm Meer, and I'm about to close the chapter on my "Golden School Life"—although calling it "golden" might be a bit of an understatement. Being a student is a wild ride. It's packed with moments that make you feel on top of the world, and others that knock you down. I've been through it all—mental meltdowns, love, growth, bullying, and yes, even depression. But school has taught me so much more than what's in the textbooks. It's taught me to keep my circle tight, to trust cautiously, and most importantly, to never forget that everyone is equal, no matter what.

Why am I telling you this? Because only another student can truly understand the struggle. I'm sharing these lessons to help you crush it in school and in life—even when things feel like they're falling apart.

Failure? We all face it. For me, it

came when I barely passed a big exam. At first, I was crushed. But my math teacher dropped some serious wisdom: "Failure is just a stepping stone." That hit me. Failure doesn't define you; it's just part of the journey. Mistakes are the best teachers.

Not fitting in? Yeah, I've been there. I spent way too much time trying to blend in with the "cool" crowd. I even pretended to be someone I wasn't. Mistake. Here's the thing: be unapologetically you. The right people will vibe with you exactly as you are. No need to fake it. Bullying is ugly, and it usually comes from a place of jealousy. If you're being bullied, don't let them get to you.

A simple "That's interesting" or "Okay, cool" followed by walking away is all you need. Don't let their hate consume your mind. Their problem is not your problem.



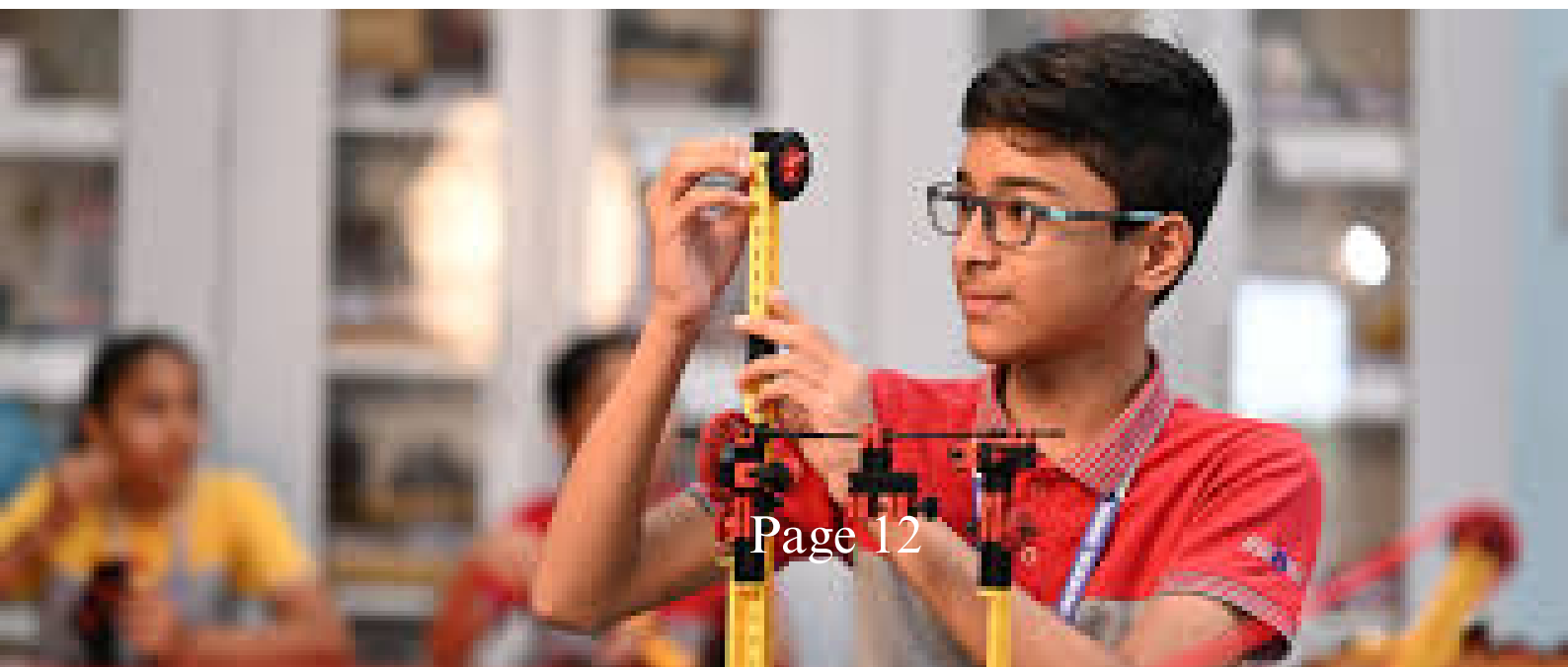
Studying can feel like a chore, but once you find your groove, it clicks. I wasn't always the best student. The pressure was real, and sometimes my grades didn't reflect the effort I put in. But I learned to make it work by summarizing everything in my own words and revisiting the material until I got it. It might sound basic, but it works. For a boost, check out the "Gohar" or "Fayfilms" YouTube channel—it's got solid personal development tips.

Mindset is everything. The way you approach your studies, life, and challenges can make all the difference. One habit that keeps me grounded is marking a cross on my calendar every time I study. Even if it's just an hour, it keeps me feeling like I'm moving forward. Small wins add up.

No one has it all figured out. We all go through struggles—that's life. But the key is to keep pushing forward, stay true to yourself, and learn from every mistake along the way. You're capable of greatness, even when things seem tough.

That's all for now. I hope these tips help you as much as they've helped me.

Stay awesome,
Meer Shaikh





DID YOU KNOW?

Climate; a Race Against Time

Did you know that the world is at a pivotal moment in the fight against climate change? The United Nations reports that current greenhouse gas emissions are pushing the Earth toward an average temperature rise of over 3°C by 2100—far above the safe threshold of 1.5°C set by the Paris Agreement. This would mean more intense floods, wildfires, and droughts, impacting millions. Yet, there is hope. Experts believe embracing clean energy like solar power could cut emissions by 57% by 2035. It's not just about technology—it's about the choices we make today shaping the world for tomorrow.

The Global Hunger Crisis

Did you know that over 345 million people worldwide face severe food insecurity? This figure is more than the populations of the USA and Canada combined. The causes are deeply interconnected—climate change destroying crops, ongoing wars disrupting food supply chains, and rising costs making basic meals unaffordable. Children are among the worst affected, with malnutrition stunting growth and potential. The UN's World Food Programme is working tirelessly, but it reminds us of a somber truth: hunger is not just about a lack of food—it's about unequal access.

New Frontier in Space

Did you know that the outer space, once a dream of science fiction, is now a reality? But the growing amount of debris—discarded satellites and rocket parts—is a looming threat. This month, the UN highlighted the need for international cooperation to keep space safe and accessible for future generations. Beyond the stars lies a simple question: how do we ensure that exploration doesn't mirror Earth's mistakes?



AI at UN: Digital Diplomacy

Did you know that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is everywhere—from chat-bots answering questions to algorithms predicting weather patterns? But as powerful as it is, it comes with risks. This November, the UN held discussions on regulating AI to ensure it serves humanity. The UN Secretary-General emphasized that AI must be used responsibly to bridge global gaps rather than widen them. One concern raised was the potential misuse of AI in spreading misinformation or creating autonomous weapons. Yet, AI's promise is undeniable—it can optimize healthcare, boost education, and even predict natural disasters. The question remains: will we use it to unite the world or divide it further?



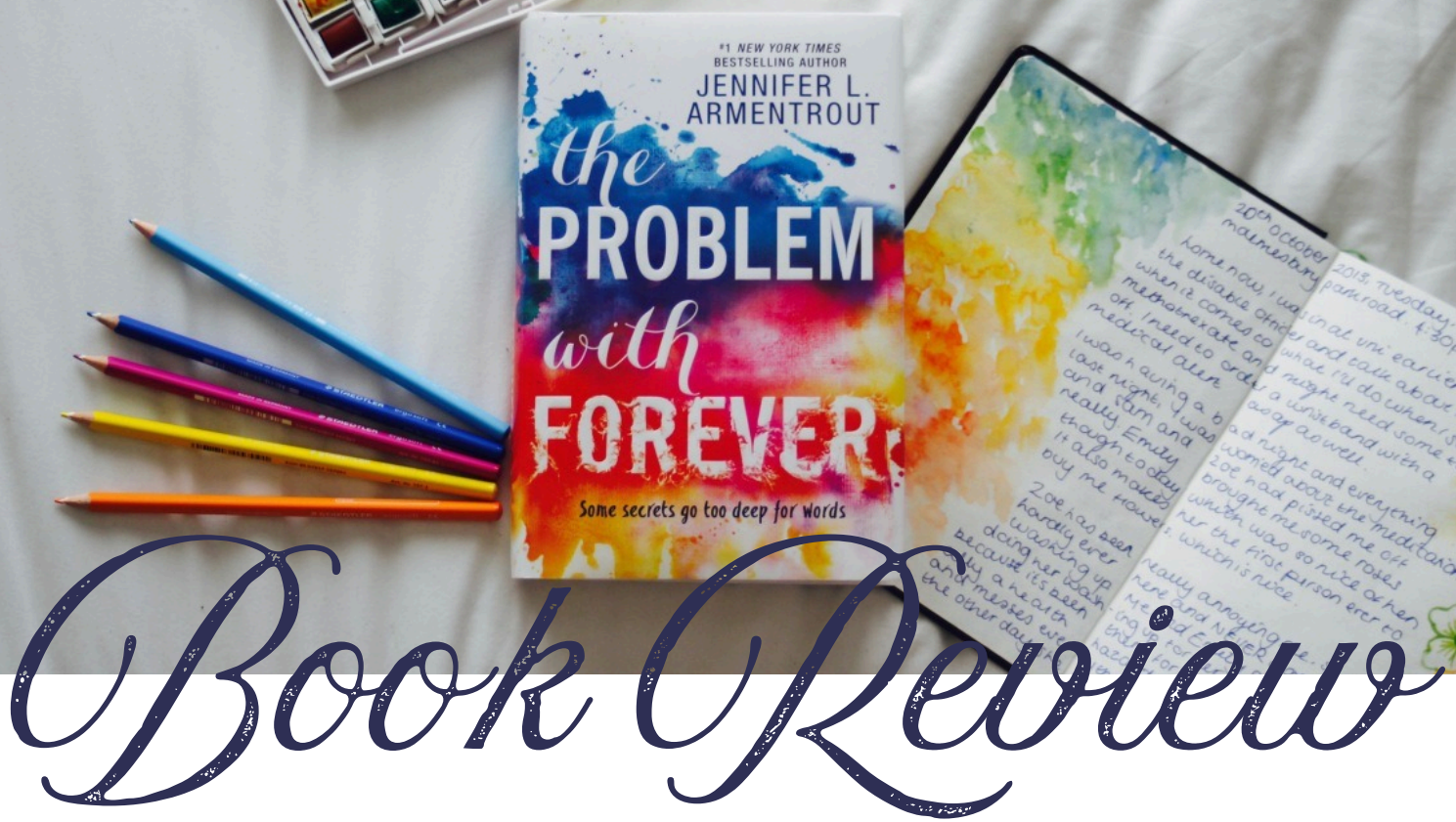
Gaza: Humanitarian Efforts

Did you know that In Gaza, the scars of conflict are stark, and the fight for survival is relentless? Despite challenges, the UN has delivered critical humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies, to over 2 million people caught in the crossfire. Beyond providing necessities, this response embodies a deeper truth: even in conflict zones, the global community carries the responsibility to restore dignity and hope.

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— Nirat Gill



Book Review

Jennifer L. Armentrout's "The Problem with Forever" is a deeply emotional novel that explores themes of trauma, healing, and the complexities of human relationships. The story follows Mallory "Mally" Dodge, a teenager who has spent most of her life hiding from her past after surviving an abusive childhood. The book's central tension revolves around Mallory's struggle to reconcile the girl she used to be with the woman she's becoming. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she is placed in a new school, and she reconnects with Rider Stark, a boy from her past with whom she shares a profound, albeit tragic, bond.

Armentrout's writing style is compelling, capturing the raw emotions of her characters and immersing the reader in Mallory's psychological turmoil. From the outset, the book examines the lasting effects of abuse, not just physically, but emotionally and psychologically. Mallory's intense internal struggle is relatable for anyone who has ever faced the weight of trauma. The slow unraveling of her fears, and insecurities, and the gradual path toward self-acceptance forms the backbone of the story, making her character arc both heartbreaking and inspiring.

Rider, as a character, is equally layered. His rough exterior masks his own scars, and his relationship with Mallory is one of mutual healing. Their connection is written with great sensitivity, showing how love and trust can slowly emerge from pain. The evolution of their relationship is one of the highlights of the book, as it moves from friendship to something more profound, based on understanding and shared experiences.

Read more to find out how she overcomes her past and takes a huge turnover in her life.

— Honisha Samnani

Forever wasn't pain and grief.

Forever wasn't a problem.

*Forever was simply a promise
of more.*

ASHOKA HORIZON

Alumni Inspire: A Homecoming

ALUMNI SOHIRA KSHEMKALYANI ALONG WITH NEHEK SHAHANI
INSPIRES ASHOKA STUDENTS WITH PROFOUND INSIGHTS INTO
PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL MARKETING

IN AN ENLIGHTENING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING INTERVIEW, ASHOKA ALUMNI SOHIRA CAPTIVATED STUDENTS WITH HIS EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY FROM ASPIRING PHOTOGRAPHER TO A LEADING FIGURE IN DIGITAL MARKETING. HIS VISIT SERVED AS A VITAL BRIDGE BETWEEN ACADEMIC LEARNING AND REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE, OFFERING INVALUABLE PERSPECTIVES DRAWN FROM HIS VARIED AND DYNAMIC CAREER. PRIOR TO SAHIRA'S INTERVIEW, ANOTHER ESTEEMED ALUMNA, NEHEK, HAD ALSO VISITED ASHOKA, SHARING HER OWN INSPIRING EXPERIENCES AND ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR CREATIVITY.

SOHIRA EMBARKED ON HIS PROFESSIONAL PATH AS A PHOTOGRAPHER AT RAPCA.COM IN 2021, WHERE HIS INNATE CREATIVITY AND TENACITY QUICKLY SET HIM APART FROM HIS PEERS. HIS DEDICATION AND STRATEGIC ACUMEN FACILITATED HIS RAPID ASCENT TO THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, A ROLE THAT REFLECTS NOT ONLY HIS ARTISTIC VISION BUT ALSO HIS SOPHISTICATED UNDERSTANDING OF MARKET DYNAMICS. ONE OF HIS CROWNING ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDES A GROUNDBREAKING COLLABORATION WITH POKÉMON IN PRODUCT DESIGN, A TESTAMENT TO HIS ABILITY TO MERGE ARTISTIC EXPRESSION WITH COMMERCIAL VIABILITY. THIS INNOVATIVE PROJECT EXEMPLIFIES THE CONVERGENCE OF CREATIVITY AND STRATEGY, AREAS IN WHICH SOHIRA EXCELS DURING HIS ENGAGING TALK AT ASHOKA. SOHIRA RECOUNTED A PARTICULARLY ARDUOUS EXPERIENCE DURING A 200-KILOMETER VOYAGE, WHERE HE FACED ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND THE STARK SOLITUDE OF THE CHALLENGING LANDSCAPE. THIS MEMORABLE SHOOT TESTED HIS RESILIENCE AND INGENUITY, REINFORCING HIS BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF ADAPTABILITY IN ANY CREATIVE UNDERTAKING. "IN MOMENTS OF ADVERSITY, IT'S CRUCIAL TO REMAIN FOCUSED AND RESOURCEFUL," HE SHARED, PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH A GLIMPSE INTO THE MINDSET THAT HAS PROPELLED HIM TO SUCCESS.



AS SOHIRA DISCUSSED HIS TRANSITION AWAY FROM FULL-TIME PHOTOGRAPHY, HE DELVED INTO THE VITAL THEMES OF COMMITMENT, PROFESSIONALISM, AND SELF-AWARENESS IN ONE'S CAREER. HE CANDIDLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHILE CREATIVITY CAN SOMETIMES BECOME MONOTONOUS, UNDERSTANDING ONE'S PURPOSE IS KEY TO REIGNITING PASSION. "THIS ALL DEPENDS ON WHY YOU ARE DOING IT," HE REMARKED, STRESSING THAT A CLEAR SENSE OF MOTIVATION CAN INVIGORATE EVEN THE MOST ROUTINE TASKS AND PROTECT AGAINST CREATIVE BURNOUT. SOHIRA PASSIONATELY URGED STUDENTS TO LEVERAGE THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AVAILABLE TO THEM, PARTICULARLY THROUGH INNOVATIVE PLATFORMS SUCH AS BLUE LEARN, WHICH FOSTERS PEER-TO-PEER CONNECTIONS.

ASHOKA HORIZON

Alumni Inspire: A Homecoming



THESE RESOURCES OPEN DOORS FOR MENTORSHIP, COLLABORATION, AND SKILL ENHANCEMENT, VITAL FOR SUCCESS IN TODAY'S COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE. HE ALSO UNDERScoreD THE NECESSITY OF AUTHENTICITY IN SELF-PRESENTATION, ESPECIALLY ON SOCIAL MEDIA. ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO EMBRACE THEIR TRUE SELVES, HE ADVISED, "CHOOSE TO BE GENUINE IN YOUR EXPRESSIONS, OR ADAPT TO WHAT OTHERS WISH TO SEE." THIS DUAL APPROACH CAN FACILITATE PERSONAL GROWTH WHILE ALSO APPEALING TO THE EVOLVING DEMANDS OF VARIOUS AUDIENCES.

AS THE INTERVIEW CONCLUDED, MY FELLOW ASSOCIATES, HIONISHA AND AARYA ALONG WITH MYSELF, EXPRESSED HIGH GRATITUDE FOR SAHIRA'S CANDID INSIGHTS, RECOGNIZING HIM AS A PIONEERING FORCE IN DIGITAL MARKETING AND PHOTOGRAPHY WITHIN THE ASHOKA COMMUNITY. SAHIRA ACKNOWLEDGED THE PROFESSIONALISM DISPLAYED BY THE STUDENTS, NOTING THAT THEIR INTERACTION FELT COMPARABLE TO ENGAGING WITH SEASONED EDITORIAL PROFESSIONALS. "YOUR SKILLS AND ENTHUSIASM ARE REMARKABLE," HE COMMENDED, HIGHLIGHTING THE POTENTIAL HE SEES IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS.

SAHIRA'S INTERVIEW, ALONG WITH HIS AND MEHEK'S VISIT TOUR SCHOOL EARLIER, NOT ONLY ILLUMINATED THE DIVERSE PATHWAYS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS IN THE RAPIDLY EVOLVING REALM OF DIGITAL MEDIA BUT ALSO SERVED AS A POIGNANT REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSION, RESILIENCE, AND ADAPTABILITY IN FORGING A SUCCESSFUL CAREER. TOGETHER, THESE INSPIRING ALUMNI CONTINUE TO MOTIVATE AND EMPOWER ASHOKA STUDENTS TO EMBRACE THEIR CREATIVITY AND PURSUE THEIR ASPIRATIONS WITH CONFIDENCE. SAHIRA'S ENCOURAGING MESSAGE - URGING ALUMNI AND STUDENTS ALIKE TO REMAIN CURIOUS, PROACTIVE, AND RESILIENT - RESONATES DEEPLY WITHIN THE HALLS OF ASHOKA, MOTIVATING THE FUTURE INNOVATORS AND CREATORS WHO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SHAPE TOMORROW'S LANDSCAPE.

~TANISHKA PARMAR



Hyderabad Calling

Grade 10th trip to Hyderabad batch 2024-25



The much-anticipated Grade 10 trip to Hyderabad unfolded over five thrilling days and four exciting nights, creating unforgettable memories for all participants. The adventure began with a visit to Lumbini Park, where they were captivated by a dazzling laser show that illuminated the night sky, telling stories through stunning visuals complemented by music. The experience was breathtaking, leaving everyone in awe of the Technicoloured presentation on display. Students also went boating in Husain Sagar Lake and witnessed the great Buddha statue in the middle of the lake with a blast of fun laughter and music accompanied by lots of dance where they got a whimsical experience of nature between the waters that was sparkling with night lights.



For a change of pace, the students had a blast at Snow World, indulging in winter-themed activities and games, including snow slides and snowball fights, offering a refreshing escape from the warm weather outside. Next, the students travelled the renowned Ramoji Film City, where students immersed themselves in the vibrant world of cinema. They experienced exhilarating rides, from thrilling roller coasters to immersive 4D experiences. The students also got a glimpse of famous film sets that have shaped Indian cinema, with many blockbuster films shot in this expansive complex. Followed by a grand DJ night bash!



Hyderabad Calling

Grade 10th trip to Hyderabad batch 2024-25

The excitement continued with a visit to the Sudha Car Museum, where they marvelled at an array of uniquely designed vehicles, from quirky two-wheelers to luxurious cars, showcasing the creativity and innovation of automotive design in India.

Afterward, the group explored the Birla Planetarium, a marvel dedicated to astronomy and science, which features a massive dome and educational programs about the universe, making it both entertaining and informative.



The trip also included a visit to the Salar Jung Museum, home to one of the largest one-man collections of antiques in the world. Students were captivated by its vast array of artifacts, including exquisite sculptures, paintings, and the legendary Veiled Rebecca, a stunning marble statue. This museum served as a perfect blend of art, history, and culture, enriching the students' educational experience during this remarkable journey.

Overall, the trip was not just a break from routine but a thrilling educational experience that left lasting impressions on the students.

~Tanishka Parmar



“To be a well-favoured man is the gift of fortune; but to write and read comes by nature.”

— William Shakespeare

