

ISSUE I | VOL. XIV | DECEMBER 2025

# THE STUDENT

LAWYERS' MUSINGS



AN ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, HYDERABAD PUBLICATION

PAGE I

THE STUDENT

AN INITIATIVE OF

**AN INITIATIVE OF**

**ICFAI**  
**LAW SCHOOL**  
**HYDERABAD**



# FOREWORD

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Dear Readers,

As we step into a new year, we prepare to face greater challenges and begin to find newer perspectives. In that spirit, The Student continues its journey in showcasing the opinions and voices.

We shall strive to be a platform which encourages students to engage with their ideas and thoughts. It was amazing to see such an enthusiastic and overwhelming response in terms of contributions to this edition.

This edition, not unlike its predecessors, was possible only due to the undying determination of the editorial team. Their unwavering support and steadfast determination against all odds has given me and the club an immense sense of gratitude towards them.

I invite the students of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad to make this new year a space for dialogue, creativity and expression. We look forward to your contributions at [ergaliterarium@ifheindia.org](mailto:ergaliterarium@ifheindia.org).

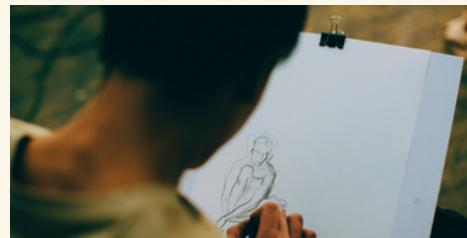
Sincerely,  
Vishnu Sisir Duggirala  
Managing Editor

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# CONTENTS

1

**Between Books And Justice**  
by Tejaswini Sunkaraboina

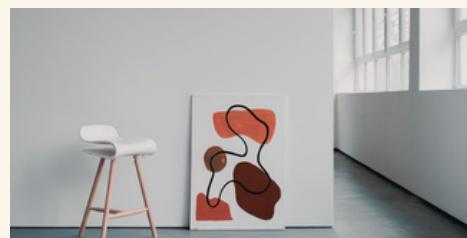


2

**Sketch**  
by Vally Devayani

3

**Kumari Pratha: Nepal's Living Tradition**  
by Indravalli Manda



5

**Artwork**  
by Sahiti Sree



**Tariffs, Retaliation, And Rule Of Law:  
Rethinking Trade Conflicts Economically**  
by Harini Pyarasini

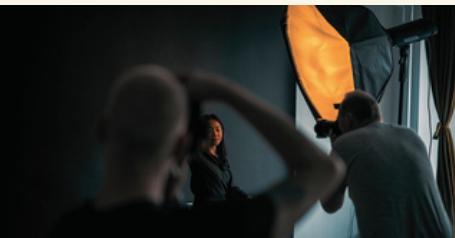


# CONTENTS

**18**

**Artwork**

by Sahiti Sree



**19**

**Photo**

by Ashwika Dheeravath

**20**

**The Building**

by Gadamsetty Anirudh



**21**

**Still Using AI To Write Assignments? Think Again.**

by Tanmaya Reddy

**23**

**Sketch**

by Vally Devayani



# CONTENTS

**24****Interview With Ms. Poulomi Ghosh Bhattacharya**

by D. Sai Aparna, Soujanya V Kulkarni, Tanmaya Reddy and Amarshi Chhetry

**28****The Art Of Connection**

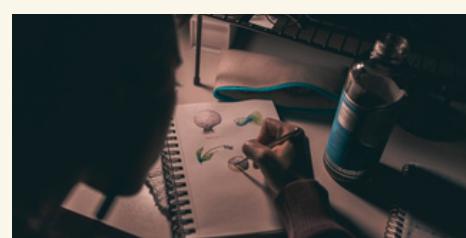
by Bhavika Sharma

**29****Alice In Chains**

by Gadamsetty Anirudh

**30****Problems Arising From FEMA's Non-Applicability To Cryptocurrencies In India (2025)**by S. Phaneendra Reddy  
& Mohammed Arif**33****Sketch**

by Vally Devayani



# CONTENTS

**34****Photo**

by Shri Ganachit Boini

**35****Bond Of Friendship**

by Sushumna Rajavolu

**36****Sketch**

by Prerna Bambore

**37****Unheard Voices: The Struggles Of Women In India And The Underlying Reason**

by Apurv Chawla

**40****Sketch**

by Prerna Bambore



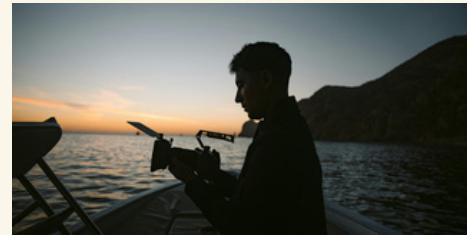
# CONTENTS

**41****Photo**

by Apurv Chawla

**42****The Echos Of Her Pawsteps**

by K. Bhuvana Srija Reddy

**43****Pink: The Emblem Of Women**

by Aman Ali Baig

**47****Mann Ka Safar**

by Bhavana Palakodety

**48****My Grandfather - A Silent Hero**

by Teja Sri Pasagadugula



# CONTENTS

**49****Artwork**

by Prerna Bambore

**50****Photo**

by Naga Praseeda Gridalur

**51****Last Wish**

by Tanushree Malviya

**52****Artwork**

by Sri Priya

**53****The Whispers Of The Sky And The Secrets Of The Stars**

by Sai Kushal Koks



# CONTENTS

**59**

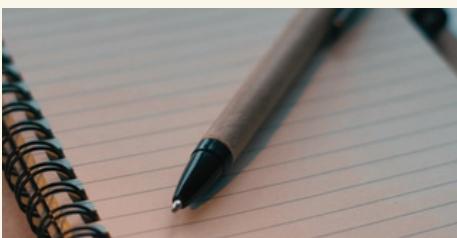
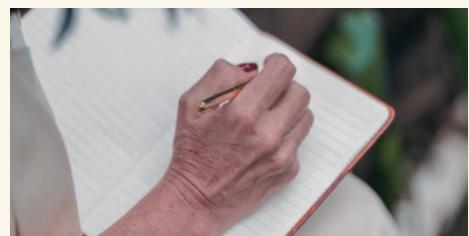
**Artwork**  
by Sahiti Sree

**60**

**Photo**  
by Sri Priya

**61**

**Legal Aid Event Report**

**64**

**MANN - Psychology Club Event Report**

**66**

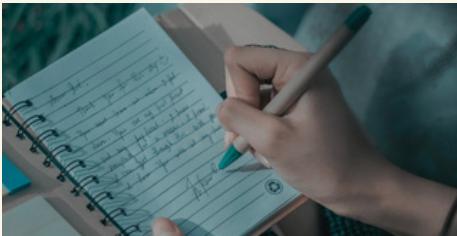
**GAIA - Environment Club Event Report**



# CONTENTS

68

**AAINAA - Photography Club Event Report**



71

**Moot Court Club Event Report**

75

**Abhinaya - Theatre Club Event Report**



76

**Erga Literarium - Literature Club Event Reports**

78

**Artwork**  
by Sahiti Sree



# CONTENTS

---

79

**Sketch**

by Prerna Bambore



# OUR CONTRIBUTORS



**Tejaswini Sunkaraboina**

Third year law student, uses the poem to reflect the journey of a law student navigating the balance between ideals, academic responsibilities, and personal self-discovery.



**Gadamsetty Anirudh**

Final year student of the BBA-LLB (H) programme.



**Sushumna Rajavolu**

Studying BBA-LLB (Hons.) at ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, is currently in her fourth year. She has an interest in writing short stories and free verse poems. This poem is one such free verse piece, written about friends who value you for who you are.

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1st Semester BBA-LLB student, who writes to express her emotions.



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Studying in the first semester of the BBA-LLB course. She loves to paint and write poetry, which she writes under the pen name “Shabd Saadhak” (Seeker of Words). Her other hobbies include reading, cooking, and conducting research that she is passionate about, encompassing art in all forms—whether on canvas, paper, or in law.



## K. Bhuvana Srija Reddy

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2nd-year B.A.J. LL.B. student at ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, enjoys writing. She enjoys analytical and research-based work on legal and social issues.



## Harini Pyarasini

4th year BA-LLB (Hons.) ICFAI LAW SCHOOL HYDERABAD. She has a keen interest in legal research and article writing; she is dedicated to exploring and contributing to contemporary legal discourse.



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Third-semester BBA-LLB student, loves to read and often engages in writing, using both to reflect and contemplate.



## P. V. Sai Kushal

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## Teja Sri Pasagadugula

She is a 5th-year law student of BBA-LLB (Hons). She has been interested in story writing and seeks to articulate her thoughts and experiences through creative expression.

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**Vally Devayani**

First year BA LLB (Hons.)

I find joy and peace in sketching. I believe that sketching is not just a hobby, but it is a way to express myself.

**Prerna Bambore**

First-year BA-LLB (Hons.) student. She loves drawing the beauties of nature. Her art often incorporates aspects of our culture into modern art styles.

**Sahiti Sree**

3rd-year BBA.LLB student who finds calm in creativity. She enjoys expressing ideas through art, music, and quiet reflection.

# OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**Sri Priya**

BA.LLB(Hons) 1st year; she enjoys creating artwork and capturing beautiful moments.

**Bhavika Sharma**

A first-year BBA LLB student, she blends creativity with clarity and a strong sense of reasoning. With an eye for detail and a flair for expression, she believes that law, much like art, thrives on perspective — and she brings her own thoughtful one to everything she does.

**Ashwika Dheeravath**

She is a 3rd-year BBA LLB (Hons) student; her hobbies are cooking and reading storybooks, and she enjoys photography.

# OUR CONTRIBUTORS



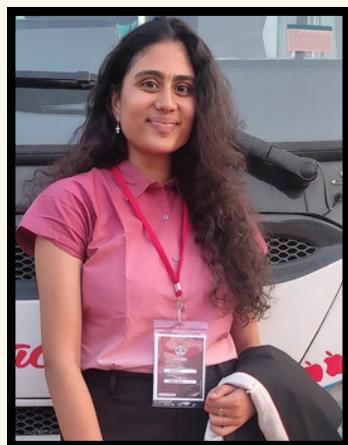
## Ganarchit Boini

Dedicated third-year student enrolled in the BBA-LLB (Hons.) program at ICFAI Law School. He is an enthusiastic traveller with a profound appreciation for nature, complemented by his extensive knowledge of history. This combination of interests not only enriches his personal growth but also enhances his academic and professional endeavours.



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Final-year B.A., LL.B. student with a keen interest in corporate and commercial law. She enjoys exploring the creative side of legal learning through writing and observation, viewing the law not just as a subject but as a living experience.



## D. Sai Aparna

5th year BBA LLB(Hons). She likes to study and cook. She loves to listen to music.

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**Soujanya V Kulkarni**

5th-year student of BBA-LL.B (Hons.). She is very passionate about books, music and playing the violin.

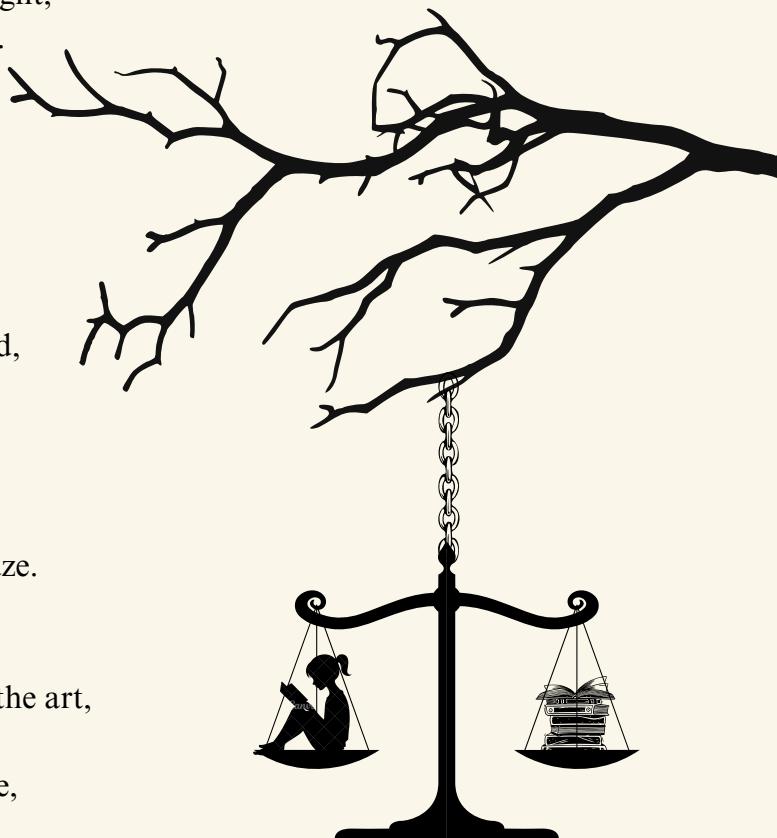


**Amarshi Chhetry**

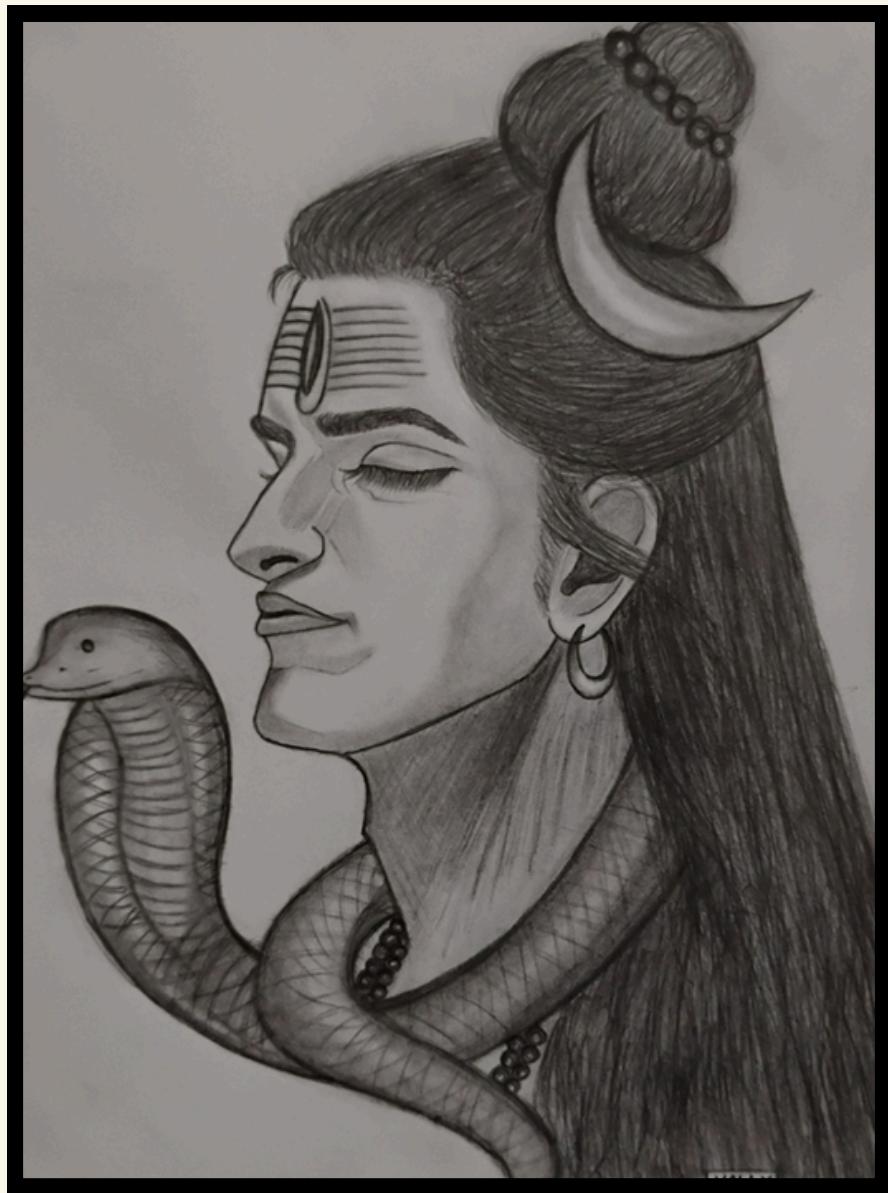
Second-semester law student with a love for debate, reading, and thoughtful conversations. Passionate about law and the power of argument.

# BETWEEN BOOKS AND JUSTICE

On the first day, with trembling hands and shining eyes,  
We entered the halls where truth never dies.  
The walls spoke softly, of rights and reform,  
Of battles fought to challenge the norm.  
The seniors spoke of justice, of reason and might,  
Of the sleepless nights that shape what's right.  
We smiled, not knowing the tests ahead  
The laws we'd read, the tears we'd shed.  
Through every class, and every page,  
We met the voices of another age  
Constitutions, codes, and dusty tomes,  
Yet in their words, we found our homes.  
We argued, we stumbled, we learned to defend,  
We lost, we rose, we made amends.  
In every moot court, every fiery stand,  
We felt the pulse of this noble land.  
Some nights, the words blurred into a haze,  
When doubt crept in through the sleepless maze.  
"Will I ever be enough?" whispered the fear,  
But courage spoke, "Justice begins here."  
Through judgments and sections, we learned the art,  
Not just of law, but of the heart.  
That compassion and courage must intertwine,  
For justice to truly stand divine.  
And one day, beyond the books and test,  
We'll wear that robe upon our chest.  
Not perfect, not fearless, but with grace anew,  
Ready to serve, the people, the true.  
For every late night, every silent prayer,  
For every student who fought despair,  
This is our story, both trial and trust,  
A journey between books and justice.



# SKETCH -VALLY DEVAYANI

**Caption :**

“In stillness, there is power — in silence, there is Shiva.” This artwork captures Lord Shiva, the embodiment of calm amidst chaos. With closed eyes radiating serenity, the crescent moon symbolising time, and the serpent representing control over fear and ego, this piece reflects the balance between destruction and creation. Every stroke signifies divinity, peace, and the eternal strength that lies in stillness.

“In the stillness of your gaze, I find a peace that calms the storm within my heart. Your presence is a reminder that even in chaos, there is divine grace and unwavering love. Har Har Mahadev.”

# KUMARI PRATHA: NEPAL'S LIVING DIVINE TRADITION

Kumari Devi, who is thought to be a living incarnation of goddess Durga or Taleju Bhawani in Nepal, is a young pre-pubescent girl who is chosen and worshipped as a living goddess. Kumari is derived from a Sanskrit word “kaumarya”, meaning “princess”. Kumari tradition is a particularly prevalent practice in the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal. It is also followed in cities of Lalitpur (Patan), Bhaktapur (Bhadgaun), Sankhu, and Bungamati.

## Historical Background

The worship of a living Kumari in Nepal began in the 17th century, but the tradition of Kumari Puja, or worshipping a young virgin girl as a goddess, has existed for much longer. There are several legends telling how the current tradition of the Kumari began. In one of the stories, it is said that during the Malla era, King Jayaprakash Malla secretly played Tripasa (dice game) every night with the goddess Taleju. Their meeting remained confidential until the queen discovered them. Taleju became angry and vanished. When the king prayed for her return, Goddess Taleju declared she would no longer appear to him but would live through a young Newar girl. Since then, the Kumari, a living goddess, has been chosen to embody Taleju. Another origin story involves King Trailokya Malla angered Goddess Taleju by making a sexual advance during their meeting for playing Tripasa (dice game). She stopped visiting and, after his repentance, she agreed to appear only in the form of a young virgin girl from the Shakya family, marking the start of the Kumari tradition.

## Selection Process

The Selection of a Kumari is done with many

specifications; there are five senior priests involved in the process of choosing a living deity. To be chosen as a kumari, she must be from a Newar shakya clan of silver and goldsmith families and must not have reached her first menstruation. It is said that she must possess 32 Lakshanas (perfections). Some of them include a chest like a lion, eyelashes like a cow, a body like a banyan tree, thighs like a deer, and a voice as soft and clear as a duck. The girl should not have any marks on her body and should not have any disease. Her eyes and hair should be as black as possible, and she must have a set of twenty teeth. And a special test is performed during the Kalratri (9 black days) of Dashain for the final selection of kumari, in which she must spend a night surrounded by 108 heads of buffaloes and goats that are sacrificed to the goddess Kali. If the candidate truly possesses the qualities of Taleju, she shows no fear during this experience. In the final test, she has to search for the belongings of the ex-kumari in the same room. If she passes this test, she will be known as the new living Goddess Kumari in Nepal.



### Life of a Kumari

After being chosen, the Kumari moves into the Kumari Ghar (palace) and must follow strict traditional rules. She cannot live with her family. Caretakers ensure she eats well, stays clean, and maintains her ceremonial appearance. She is not allowed to talk to other people except her family and caretakers, and is not allowed to leave the Kumari Ghar, play outside, or wear shoes. Although she is not ordered about, she is expected to behave as befits a goddess. The royal Kumari gets out of the Kumari Ghar only 10-12 days a year. Most of them include festivals and jatras. There are 10 Kumaris in the valley. The Kumari of Kathmandu is the most popular one. The Kumari of Kathmandu is also known as the Royal Kumari, as she lives inside the Durbar square.

Kumari has to be serious-looking with very little body movement. There are gestures of Kumari indicated by her facial expression that some of them are:

Crying or loud laughter: Serious illness or death

Rubbing eyes: Imminent death

Trembling: Imprisonment

Picking at food offerings: Financial losses

Hand clapping: Reason to fear the king



### Present Day

The current Kumari of Nepal is Aryatara Shakya, a 2-year-old girl from the Shakya clan of the Newar community. She was officially enthroned on September 30, 2025, during the Hindu festival of Dashain, in a ceremony held at the historic Kumari Ghar in Kathmandu Durbar Square. Bio: Harini Pyarasani is a fourth-year B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student at ICFAI Law School. She has a keen interest in legal research and article writing. Harini recently published one of her articles in the International Journal of Legal Research and Analysis (IJLRA), reflecting her dedication to exploring and contributing to contemporary legal discourse.

### The Dethronement of Kumari

A Kumari remains the living goddess only until she starts her first period. Once she reaches puberty, she is no longer considered pure enough to be the goddess. In rare cases, if she bleeds from an injury, she may be replaced. It is said that the blood loss from the body of Kumari spoils the purity of the goddess inside her, and she loses all the divine power of the living goddess. After that, a new Kumari is chosen to continue the tradition. This ensures the goddess's spirit stays pure and strong.



# ARTWORK -SAHITI SREE



# "TARIFFS, RETALIATION, AND RULE OF LAW: RETHINKING TRADE CONFLICTS ECONOMICALLY"

## ABSTRACT

This article deals with the intricate interplay between tariffs, retaliation, and also the rule of law in shaping international trade disputes. Despite their political allure, tariffs often have the unintended consequence of escalating consumer costs, disrupting production processes, and destabilising supply systems.

As exemplified in the United Nations-China conflict and the Airbus-Boeing dispute, retaliation from impacted trading partners transforms disagreements into trade wars, leading to heightened inefficiencies and eroding diplomatic relations.

Historically, the World Trade Organisation has served as a stabilising force by providing legally enforceable dispute settlement mechanisms that have fostered predictability and justice. The significance of a rules-based system has been underscored by landmark decisions that have compelled compliance even from formidable powers.

However, since 2019, the WTO Appellate Body has been rendered inactive, hindering enforcement and promoting power-driven trade policies and unilateralism. Events in 2025, such as the imposition of broad U.S. tariffs and the ensuing legal battles, highlight the detrimental effects of unbridled protectionism and the limitations of existing institutional safeguards.

This essay advocates for a reevaluation of trade disputes in the context of economic cooperation rather than conflict. By adopting alternative approaches such as collaborative frameworks, regulatory harmonisation, multilateral change, and

negotiation, it is possible to reduce inefficiencies and enhance resilience. Ultimately, retaliation and tariffs are counterproductive, and systemic fragmentation can only be avoided by restoring law-based dispute resolution. The sole long-term path to stability and prosperity within the international trading system lies in a collaborative, rules-based strategy.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 TARIFFS

"Peace is a natural effect of trade." This renowned quote, attributed to Montesquieu, posits that trade fosters peace by establishing economic interdependence and mutual reliance between nations. This concept, commonly referred to as "Trade for Peace" or "Doux Commerce",<sup>1</sup> underscores the potential of trade to contribute to global stability and harmony. It posits that economic engagement and the dissemination of free market principles foster international comprehension and diminish the propensity for military confrontations.

Global trade encompasses the exchange of commodities and services across international boundaries. This presents a substantial opportunity for every nation globally, contributing to economic growth, facilitating access to a broader spectrum of commodities and services at diminished costs, stimulating innovation, promoting cultural exchange, and, most importantly, fostering diplomatic relations between countries. Despite the existence of international conflicts arising from tariff wars, retaliations, and the rule of law, economic power has been wielded through tariffs throughout history. Various trade conflicts demonstrate how retaliatory tariffs have evaded and, in certain instances, effectively undermined the international rule of law enshrined in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The persistent modern trade conflict illustrates how major powers employ unilateral actions, such as retaliatory tariffs, to undermine the World Trade Organization's (WTO) rule-based framework. This shift from a multilateral system to one predicated on power dynamics is evident. By pursuing unilateral action and disregarding adverse WTO rulings, major trading powers have weakened the multilateral trading system and redirected the emphasis from a rule-based framework to a power-based one. From colonial mercantilist rivalries to the contemporary US and the China trade war, tariffs have been a pivotal factor in shaping global economic dynamics. Tariffs have a cascading effect, as one nation imposes tariffs on another, resulting in provocation and retaliation. This escalation not only adversely affects the warring parties but also negatively impacts the global economy.



There should be no ripple effect due to tariff wars between countries that result in international trade disputes. Countries must strictly follow predictable, rule-based systems for international commerce for decades. International trade agreements like the GATT, established in 1947, and its successor, the WTO, established in 1995, have been crucial in facilitating global trade.<sup>2</sup> Major trading nations have engaged in escalating rounds of tariffs imposition and retaliatory measures. By providing solutions like negotiation and dispute settlement mechanisms, these institutions prevent protectionism from undermining global stability. Trade disputes can lead to economic downturns, disrupt global supply chains, increase costs for both producers and consumers, and generate chaos and uncertainty within the economy. In recent times, there has been a resurgence of protectionist tendencies. Nations have chosen unilateral tariffs, often outside the WTO procedure, and retaliatory court measures have followed. This has reignited concerns about the fragility of the international trade system and the resilience of the rule of law in global commerce.



“Tariffs are an act of war,” which leads to increased consumer prices and market uncertainty. Tariffs are the most straightforward method for any government to generate revenue and safeguard domestic industries. Tariffs are not novel to this world; they existed even before the industrial era. During the pre-industrial era, tariffs were primarily intended to raise state revenue rather than to regulate global competition. By the 16th

and 17th centuries, tariffs had assumed a strategic role. Under mercantilism, European powers such as Britain, France, Spain, and Portugal endeavoured to accumulate wealth by maximising exports and minimising costs. Tariffs were primarily used to discourage imports of foreign goods. In the 19th century, Britain was regarded as a global leader in the free trade ideology, as tariffs on imported grain designed to protect British landowners were repealed in 1846, leading to a shift towards liberal economic policies. In contrast, other nations did not adopt Britain's approach but instead chose infant industry protection. Nations such as Germany and the United States chose to implement temporary tariffs as a strategy to safeguard and stimulate domestic industries until they achieved competitiveness.



In the early 20th century, protectionism made a comeback, culminating in the infamous Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930 in the US. Enacted on June 17, 1930, during the Great Depression, this act imposed about a 20% tariff on over twenty thousand imported agricultural and industrial goods. This legislation was intended to safeguard American farmers and manufacturers. Despite a petition from over a thousand economists urging its rejection, President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act into law. Conversely, rather than reviving the economy, the act engendered retaliatory measures from over 25 nations, including Canada and European powers. The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act led to a decline in confidence on Wall Street and marked a shift towards US isolationism.<sup>3</sup>



After World War II, world leaders realised that political instability and conflicts were caused by nationalism and protectionism. To address this, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was established in 1947 to promote international trade by removing barriers like tariffs and quotas. The primary objective was to stimulate economic growth by fostering a free and open global trading system, particularly in the aftermath of the economic devastation caused by World War II. The GATT's fundamental principles emphasised non-discrimination and treating foreign and domestic goods equitably.<sup>4</sup>

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is a legally binding provisional agreement that aims to reduce trade barriers through negotiations. Notable negotiation rounds include the Kennedy Round and the Uruguay Round. Following these successful negotiation rounds, average tariffs on manufactured goods among the participating economies experienced a significant decline, reducing from approximately around 22% in the late 1940s to below 5% by the 1990s. This era witnessed the triumph of rule-based liberalisation, as global corporations privatised predictability and fairness, leading to a decline in the prevalence of tariffs. However, non-tariff barriers such as quotas, subsidies, and regulatory standards gained prominence.

Tariffs on obsolete products have occasionally been employed as geopolitical instruments. A notable instance is the trade dispute between the US and China from 2018 to 2020. The US initiated tariffs on

solar panels and washing machines, products for which China is a significant exporter. Furthermore, the US imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, citing national security concerns. The US officially started the trade by imposing a 25% tariff on \$34 billion of Chinese imports, specifically targeting advanced technology products from China's 'Made in China 2025' plan. China responded by imposing a 25% tariff on \$34 billion of US goods, including agricultural products such as soybeans, a crucial export from politically sensitive US states.<sup>5</sup> The US imposed a second phase of 10 % on \$200 billion of Chinese goods, with plans to increase them to 25% in 2019. At the G20 summit, they agreed to a 90-day truce for negotiations, but they failed. The US threatened to raise tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods from 10% to 25%, and China retaliated by imposing tariffs on \$60 billion of US goods. The US then blocked American companies from selling to China without approval and added Huawei to its 'entity list'. In 2020, they signed a 'Phase One Agreement'.



In 2018, the US imposed tariffs on steel (25%) and aluminium (10%) imports on national security grounds, citing Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. This led to disputes with allies like Canada, the EU, and Japan.<sup>6</sup> India, a developing nation, has also employed tariffs to safeguard its agricultural sector or shield domestic technology industries from global competition. These events are noteworthy as tariffs, once perceived as declining, have since become pivotal in trade politics. The persistent cycle suggest that the root cause of the issue is not just economic miscalculation but the ongoing tension between national sovereignty and global interdepend-

ence. Nations persistently view tariffs as symbols of sovereignty, despite the fact that the global economy has made unilateral action increasingly burdensome.



## 1.2 RETALIATION

Retaliation, the application of tariffs in response to another country's actions, can be likened to an "eye for an eye" principle. When tariffs serve as the initial shots in trade disputes, retaliation represents the counterfire that often transforms these disputes into prolonged trade wars. The logic and dynamic of retaliation are crucial to understand, as it explains why unilateral tariffs rarely remain isolated measures but instead escalate into conflicts with far-reaching consequences.

Retaliation serves several purposes:

- Firstly, it serves as economic defence, where counter tariffs are employed to neutralise the competitive advantage that the initiating country sought to protect through its protectionist measures.
- Secondly, it serves as political signalling, as governments use retaliation to demonstrate to domestic constituencies that they will not bow down to foreign measures.
- Lastly, it serves as bargaining leverage, as retaliation raises the costs of the dispute for the initiating country, compelling both sides towards negotiations.<sup>7</sup>

The repercussions of these retaliatory measures include:

- Elevated consumer prices, impacting both the nation's taxing imports and consumers due to increased costs.
- Export losses, as domestic exporters lose access to foreign markets, leading buyers to seek alternative suppliers.
- Investment uncertainty, as multinational corporations may delay or redirect investments due to an unpredictable trade environment.<sup>8</sup>
- Collateral damage to industries, resulting from reduced demand or increased input costs caused by cascading effects within supply chains.

A recent case between the European Union and the US about the Airbus-Boeing dispute:

The US and EU have had a long-standing dispute over subsidies for Boeing and Airbus, their leading aircraft manufacturers. After the WTO found instances of subsidy misrepresentation, both sides imposed retaliatory duties. The EU taxed rum and vodka motorcycles, and aircraft, while the US taxed European wine, cheese, and aircraft.

**Strategic Product Selection:** Both parties deliberately selected products that could exert political pressure on the opposing party. For instance, the United States imposed taxes on whiskey from Kentucky, the state that is home to several influential U.S. lawmakers.

**Resolution:** In 2021, the parties reached an agreement to establish standards for civil aviation subsidies, effectively suspending the ongoing dispute.

### 1.3 RULE OF LAW IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The bedrock of contemporary globalisation is the concept of a rules-based trading system. In theory, trade disputes should be resolved through organised dialogue and judicial adjudication rather than through

coercion or unilateral retaliation. The World Trade Organisation (WTO), which has established the most sophisticated dispute resolution framework in international law since 1995, serves as the foundation for this principle. Nevertheless, there are significant concerns raised by the resurgence of tariffs and retaliatory actions outside of WTO processes: does this herald a decline in the rule of law in commerce? What are the repercussions of this on the global governance of the economy?



The resurgence of power politics in trade poses a concern regarding the decline of legal systems. Economic leverage is increasingly employed to determine outcomes rather than impartial judgment in disputes.

- **Strong vs. Weak States:** Powerful nations like the US, EU, and China can impose tariffs unilaterally because smaller economies have limited capacity for effective retaliation.
- **Erosion of Predictability:** When commerce is governed by political manoeuvring rather than explicit regulations, firms and investors become less confident.
- **Marginalisation of Developing Economies:** When disputes shift to bilateral or power-based discussions, developing nations which rely on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for judicial recourse encounter a disadvantage.

The fundamental principle of the WTO that commerce should be regulated by established regulations rather than coercion is jeopardised by this deterioration of the rule of law.

In response to the WTO's Appellate Body crisis, several members have sought alternative solutions:

- **Multi-Party Interim Appeal (MPIA):** This mechanism, championed by the European Union, allows participating nations to temporarily replace the Appellate Body with arbitration under WTO regulations. While beneficial, its influence is constrained due to its exclusion of key actors such as the US and China.<sup>9</sup>
- **Bilateral and Regional Agreements:** States increasingly rely on trade agreements like the CPTPP, which include dispute resolution procedures, but they lack the universality of the WTO.
- **Mechanisms of Unilateral Enforcement:** To circumvent international institutions further, certain states, particularly the United States, have enacted tariffs and sanctions through domestic trade legislation.

**The decline of the World Trade Organization's dispute resolution system has significant implications:**

**Systemic Instability:** The absence of legally enforceable regulations risks transforming commerce into a tit-for-tat retaliation reminiscent of the 1930s.

**Erosion of Trust:** Long-term planning is discouraged by uncertainty, and businesses rely on legal predictability for investment decisions.<sup>10</sup>

**Global Fragmentation:** As legal authority wanes, the international trading system may fragment into regional blocs, each with its own regulatory framework.

The erosion of the rule of law in commerce threatens

the global order beyond its economic impact. Reliable legal systems are essential for upholding trade obligations, just as local economies rely on courts to enforce contracts. Without them, escalation and retaliation become the norm



## 2. PRESENT TARIFFS AND RETALIATION SITUATION IN THE WORLD

### 2.1 TARIFF WARS

Since Donald Trump returned to office in January 2025, his administration has imposed new tariffs, some of which have substantially increased existing duties. Trump employed a variety of executive actions and justifications, including assertions of unfair trade practices, national security concerns, and utilising trade to achieve geopolitical objectives.

In April 2025, a day he referred to as "Liberation Day", the Trump administration implemented extensive reciprocal tariffs on nearly all imports, mandated under a declared national emergency. This announcement resulted in a 2025 stock market crash, and new country tariffs scheduled for April 9th were temporarily suspended for 90 days. This strategy significantly elevated the average effective tariff rates in the United States to unprecedented levels since the 1930s, increasing from approximately 2% to 3% and subsequently reaching double-digit figures across various categories. The primary targets encompassed steel, aluminium, automobiles, copper, canned goods, and other commodities. For instance, tariffs on steel

aluminium, automobiles, copper, canned goods, and other commodities. For instance, tariffs on steel and aluminium surged to 50%, and by August, they were expanded to include 407 additional products, such as furniture and construction materials. Had the tariff rates remained unchanged, the average effective tariff rate would have stood at 17.4%, the highest since 1935.

The countries on which tariffs were implemented were:

**Venezuela:** Executive Order Imposes 25% Tariff on Venezuelan Oil Imports. On March 25th, an executive order was implemented, imposing a 25% tariff on all goods imported from any country that imports Venezuelan oil.

**China:** A universal tariff of 10% was initially applied in February, then elevated to 20% in March. Also, by April the tariffs on Chinese goods increased as much as 145%, which led China to retaliate up to 125%.

**India:** Reciprocal Tariff Implementation on April 2, 2025: President Trump announced a reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, with a base rate of approximately 25%. This tariff was implemented on August 1, 2025. Subsequently, on August 6, 2025, an additional 25% tariff was imposed, citing India's oil imports from Russia. This additional tariff was implemented on August 27, 2025, bringing the total tariff on many Indian products to 50%.

The additional 25% tariff was intended as a penalty for India's imports of Russian energy products, particularly oil. The United States maintains that India's purchases from Russia indirectly fund the Russian war in Ukraine. And the US was frustrated due to the Indies' policy of maintaining strategic autonomy by balancing ties with the West, China and Russia.

India also refused to compromise on agricultural and dairy tariffs during trade talks with the US.

### India's response:

- However, India asserts that its primary concern is ensuring affordable energy for its population and that this serves its national interests first.
- India's Ministry of External Affairs has vehemently condemned the tariffs, asserting that they are unjustified and unreasonable. The ministry has maintained that India has the autonomy to make its own energy decisions.
- Economic Countermeasures: To boost domestic demand and reduce the negative impact of tariffs, the Indian government reduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on many consumer goods in September.
- Diversification: To mitigate the impact on trade relations with the United States, India is exploring alternative export markets, including Brazil, the Netherlands, and Russia.
- Focus on Domestic Development: To reduce reliance on exports, the government is actively promoting its "vocal for local" campaign.
- Pragmatic Approach: Despite the increasingly heated rhetoric from some U.S. officials, India has maintained a level-headed and pragmatic stance, ensuring that discussions regarding trade remain open.

### Japan:

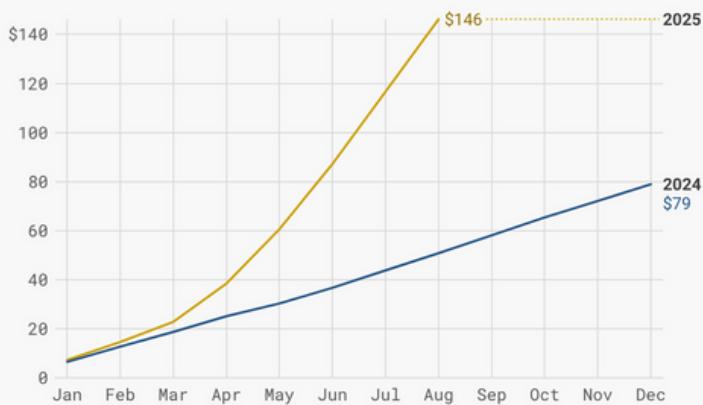
In September, a landmark agreement was concluded that resulted in a reduction of U.S. automobile tariffs on Japanese vehicles from 27.5% to 15%. In exchange for this concession, Japan committed to investing \$550 billion, thereby facilitating increased access for American agricultural and industrial products.



## 1. Statistics regarding the tariff revenue during the years 2024-2025:

### Tariff Revenue Starts to Climb

Cumulative Monthly Customs Duties Collections, in Billions, Calendar Years 2024 and 2025



Source: US Department of the Treasury, Monthly Treasury Statements. Analysis and visualization by Tax Foundation.

 TAX FOUNDATION

In the below graph there is a big difference in the tariff revenue from 2024 to 2025. The difference is around \$67 billion.

## 3. SCO SUMMIT

The 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit was held in Tianjin, China, from August 31st to September 1st, 2025. The summit yielded several notable outcomes, including the adoption of the Tianjin Declaration, the strengthening of existing alliances, and the endorsement of a comprehensive long-term growth strategy.

The countries which participated in this summit are Belarus (which formally became a member at this summit), China (host country), India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.



### Key outcomes are:

- The Tianjin Declaration, in which member states, including India, advocated for more robust counterterrorism measures, vehemently condemned terrorism and demanded prompt action against it.
- Development Strategy until 2035: To guide the SCO's long-term expansion during the subsequent decade, a roadmap emphasising trade barrier reduction, economic cooperation, and the development of regional value chains was agreed upon.
- Partnership Expansion: Belarus formally became a full member after fulfilling its obligations, and Laos was granted partner status, thereby increasing the total number of member states to ten.

SCO Development Bank: China pledged financial assistance for the establishment of an SCO Development Bank to foster sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development.

### India's role:

India's participation was particularly noteworthy due to its substantial diplomatic efforts.

- Leverage: India possessed leverage to be invited to this SCO summit. Pakistan was criticised for lacking leverage, unlike India, where Pakistan fervently sought to engage in dialogue with Russia.
- China and India met for the first time in seven years in China. They discussed various topics:
  1. Boundary Dispute: The two leaders agreed to continue working on troop withdrawal along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and expedite the resolution process.
  2. Connectivity: Both parties committed to enhancing economic and interpersonal ties and resuming direct passenger flights.
- India and Russia met to discuss strengthening their trade, space, and security ties, as per Prime Minister Modi's meeting with President Putin.

- Counterterrorism: Prime Minister Modi used the summit to draw attention to India's concerns about terrorism, citing the Pahalgam terror incident and calling for coordinated efforts to combat radicalisation and the funding of terrorism.

#### Consequences:

The optics of a growing alliance between China, Russia, and India at the 2025 SCO meeting particularly alarmed and frustrated the US. Concern about the perceived geopolitical shift was voiced by President Trump on social media and by US officials in remarks. Critics blamed recent US tariff actions for India's seeming move closer to Beijing and Moscow.

In a scathing post on his social media platform, Truth Social, President Trump commented on "Lost India and Russia": "It seems we've lost India and Russia to the deepest, darkest China." He expressed hope that their future together would be filled with success and longevity. The post included a widely shared image of Prime Minister Modi, President Putin, and President Xi Jinping together during the summit.

Alliance-related worries: The statement was seen as an indication of the United States' serious concerns regarding the growing collaboration among SCO members and the influence of this new alliance on world geopolitics.

#### 4. RETHINKING TRADE CONFLICTS ECONOMICALLY

The persistent use of tariffs, retaliatory measures, and escalating trade conflicts underscores the inadequacy of the current strategies employed to address international trade disputes. Alternative approaches must be explored if tariffs engender inefficiencies and retaliatory actions perpetuate vicious cycles that adversely affect both parties. A rethinking of trade disputes from an economic standpoint necessitates a shift from a zero-sum game to collaborative processes that recognise interdependence. This section examines

four aspects of reform: harmonising regulations, strengthening multilateral institutions, establishing cooperative frameworks that harmonise economic incentives, and negotiating mutually beneficial solutions.

- **Effective Trade Dispute Resolution:** Negotiation is the most effective strategy, aiming for Pareto improvements where at least one party gains without the other losing.
- **Bilateral Bargaining:** Direct negotiations between nations can resolve conflicts by balancing disagreements with concessions, exemplified by the 2019 U.S.-Japan trade agreement.
- **Regulatory Harmonisation:** Harmonising technical standards, environmental regulations, and health and safety requirements can preempt trade disputes, as seen in the EU-US MRA on telecommunication equipment certification
- **International Standards:** Establishing global standards for product specifications, cybersecurity, privacy, and data flows to mitigate disputes.
- **Strengthening Multilateralism:** Prioritising the revival of multilateral institutions like the WTO and its dispute resolution mechanism.
- **WTO Reform:** Restoring the Appellate Body, shortening decision-making deadlines, and updating regulations to address emerging issues like digital trade and environmental requirements.
- **Trade Rethinking Strategies:** Collaborative infrastructure investments, sustainability agreements, and regional economic communities.
- **Economic Rationale for Rethinking:** Tariffs and retaliatory wars lead to inefficiencies, including welfare loss, compromised market access, and undermined predictability.

- **Alternative to Tariffs:** Collaborative frameworks that align incentives can facilitate a rethinking of trade issues beyond negotiation and institutional reform.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The concept of “quid pro quo”, which translates to “something for something”, is frequently observed when one country imposes tariffs on another. It is imperative that no country should exceed its limits in imposing tariffs, as this can lead to chaos in the global economy. Tariffs have a ripple effect, causing disruptions in various countries. It is crucial to ensure that diplomatic relations between countries remain unaffected by such disruptions. In game-theoretic terms, trade disputes often resemble a “prisoner’s dilemma”. Both countries would benefit from cooperation, but the apprehension of unilateral disadvantage compels each to impose tariffs and retaliate, resulting in mutually detrimental outcomes.

Every nation should prioritise its national interests. All decisions should be made in the best interests of the people. India has consistently prioritised its national interests. Recently, China commemorated the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Sino-Japanese War and the Second World War with a Victory Day parade. Several countries, including Russia, North Korea, Indonesia, and Kazakhstan, attended the celebration. China extended an invitation to India, but India declined to attend the parade to avoid damaging its diplomatic relations with the United States and Japan. India held greater leverage compared to Pakistan at the recent SCO summit. While India actively engaged in interactions with Russia and China, Pakistan sought to establish connections with Russia and China.

Recently, a Truth Social post by former President Trump gained widespread attention. In this post, he asserted that the United States had lost significant influence over India and Russia to China. He expressed his hope for their future prosperity together. This Truth Social post has had a profound impact on

the United States, leading to a shift in its approach to international relations. The US is now considering imposing tariffs on India due to its oil imports from Russia, citing concerns about India’s potential funding of conflicts. However, this stance has been met with criticism, as the US itself has been a major buyer of Russian goods, particularly uranium, since 2020 and has spent \$26 billion on goods from Russia during that period.

The adoption of these imperatives by states will determine the trajectory of international commerce. The global economy risks entering a cycle of recurrent trade wars, institutional decline, and economic fragmentation if tariffs and retaliatory measures become the primary drivers. Trade will continue to serve as a catalyst for innovation, peace, and shared prosperity as long as collaboration, negotiation, and the rule of law are upheld.

Ultimately, the challenge lies not only in managing trade disputes but also in rethinking them in a manner that acknowledges the interconnectedness of our economies. While tariffs may appear as instruments of sovereignty, they frequently result in self-harm within a highly interdependent world economy. Retaliation may temporarily appease domestic politics, but it ultimately solidifies both sides’ losses. The most viable path to stability is the restoration of the rule of law, despite its apparent fragility.



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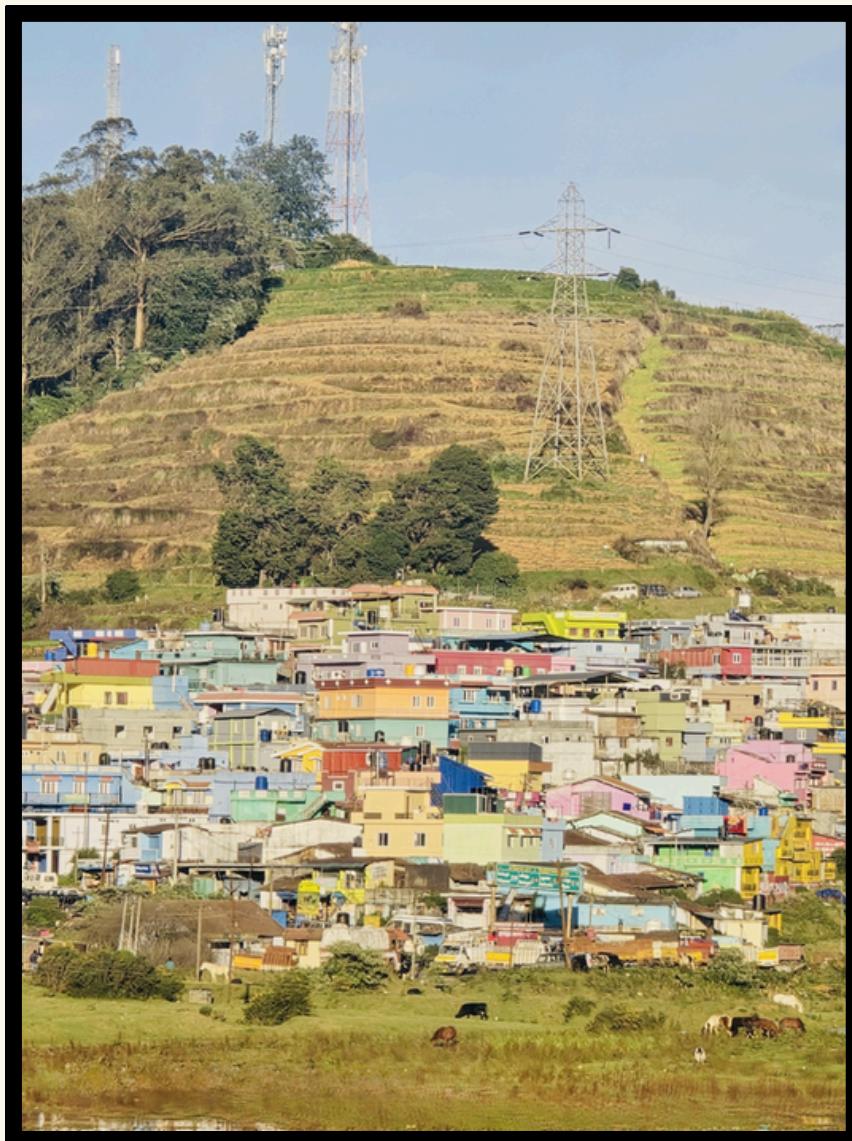
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# ARTWORK -SAHITI SREE



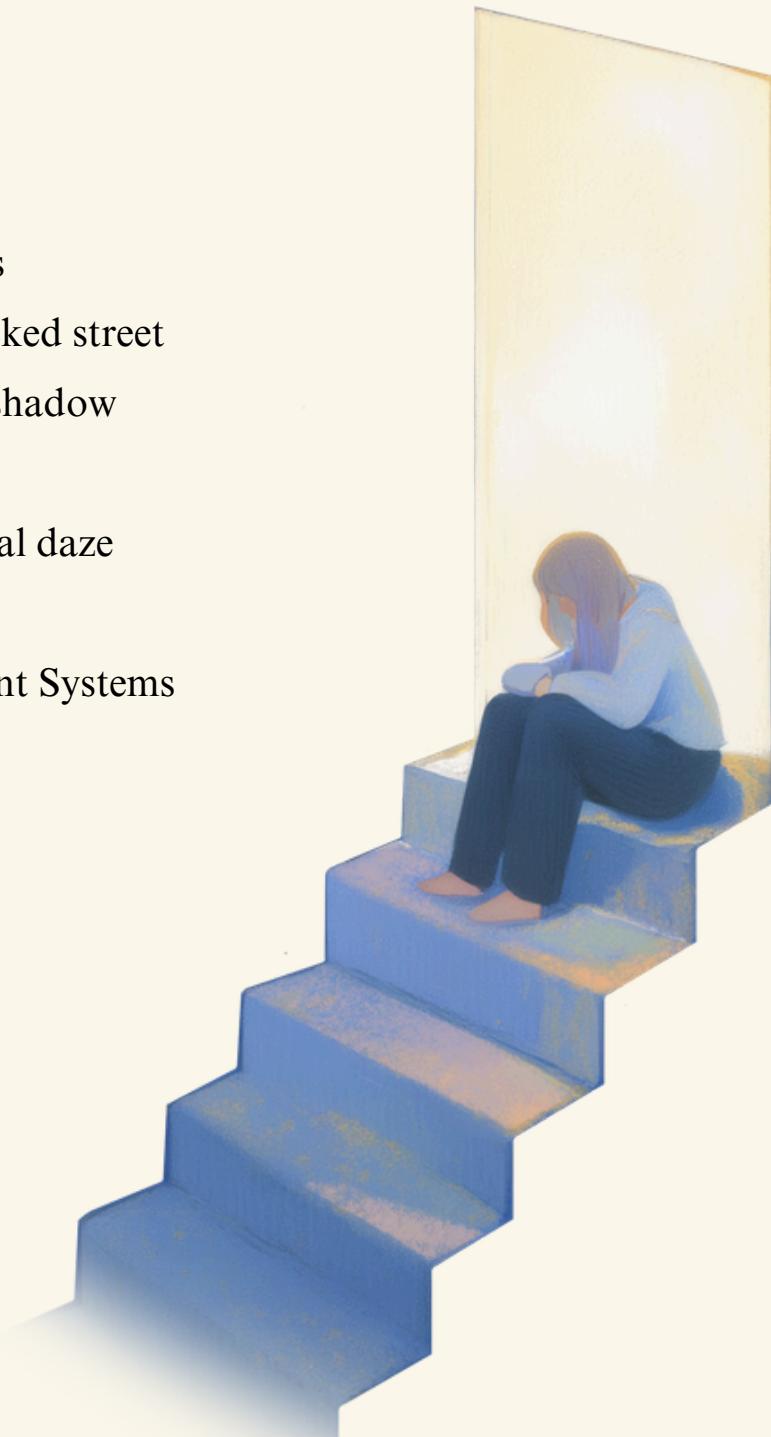
# PHOTO – ASHWIKA DHEERAVATH

**Caption:**

This picture shows a colourful hillside town surrounded by lush greenery. The houses are painted in vibrant shades of blue, pink, yellow, green, and orange, creating a cheerful, eye-catching scene. On the hill above, there are tall trees, power transmission towers, and several communication towers, showing a blend of nature and modern infrastructure. At the bottom of the image, there's a grassy area with cows grazing, adding a rural touch to the lively setting.

# THE BUILDING

Concrete heart's shoe polished smiles  
Mechanical miniatures in a bottlenecked street  
Pupilless master casting light's false shadow  
Rusty glass's magnetic gaze  
Seducing flesh parasites in an immoral daze  
Simulated Sanctuary for wet victims  
Forever indebted to your transcendent Systems



# STILL USING AI TO WRITE ASSIGNMENTS? THINK AGAIN.



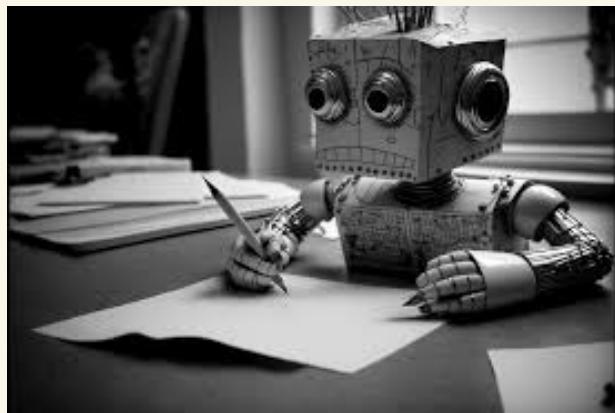
Throughout history, human civilisations have witnessed changes in many aspects of life. We went from walking to horseback riding to driving around in luxurious cars. In a way, you can say we went from simply trying to survive to actually enjoying life (in ways our ancestors couldn't have even dreamed of). One such development in our lives has been the evolution of artificial intelligence, commonly referred to as AI. Contrary to popular belief, AI is not a recent phenomenon. The idea of AI is said to have emerged in the 1950s, but the development of early artificial intelligence systems was hampered due to a lack of resources and limited processing capacity. A period of inactivity and lack of funding led to "The Artificial Intelligence Winter" from 1970 to 1980. The rise of the second AI winter in the 1990s used a different strategy. Scientists focused on machine learning approaches based on neural systems, choice trees and bolster vector machines and succeeded in improving the execution of programmes. The 21st century, particularly the period between the 2000s and 2010s, witnessed the rise of deep learning and speech recognition encouraging discourse acknowledgements, NLP (Natural Language Processing) and computer vision. Companies like Twitter, Facebook and Netflix had begun using AI as part of user engagements and business analysis. Apple had released Siri, the first popular voice assistant, in 2010 as well. Here on out, there were rapid developments in AI, with the most notable and prominently used being the Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT series). A GPT is a type of large language model (LLM) that is widely used in

generative AI chatbots. They are pre-trained on large datasets of unlabelled content and are able to generate novel pieces of work. GPTs are primarily used to generate text but can be trained to generate other kinds of data as well. OpenAI's launch of GPT-3 (part of its GPT series) in 2020 showcased generative AI's ability to generate human-like texts, opening up a new set of possibilities for the use of generative AI. This could be seen through the launch of ChatGPT by OpenAI in 2022, which brought into the picture the concept of conversational AI, enabling machines to interact with humans in a natural, human-like manner. It allows the machines to understand, respond to and learn from customer interactions.



Seems too good to be true, doesn't it? Well, you're not wrong. The computational work to run GenAI (Generative AI) models occurs in large cloud computing data centres. These data centres are used for both training and running GenAI models, requiring them to have massive electricity demands. Now, data centres have existed for a long time, even before the evolution of GenAI models. But what makes the current situation different is the power density that it requires. A normal generative AI training cluster might consume seven or eight times

more energy than a typical computing workload. In 2022, the global electricity consumption of data centres was estimated to be about 240-340 terawatt hours, making it the 11th largest electricity consumer in the world. By 2026, it is estimated to increase to 1050 terawatt-hours, which would bump their place up to 5th, between countries like Japan and Russia. It is also estimated that by 2030, data centres will generate around 2.5 billion tonnes of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions worldwide. This is three times higher than it would've been without the use of GenAI.



The next problem we face is the huge amount of water that data centres need. Chilled water is circulated through cooling coils, which absorb the heat generated from air inside the data centre. It has been estimated that, for each kilowatt hour of energy a data centre consumes, it would require two litres of water for cooling. Large data centres can each use up to 5 million gallons of water per day. As data centres use more energy to meet AI requests than for typical data centre activities, they use more water, thus increasing their carbon emissions. According to scientists, each 100-word AI prompt is estimated to roughly use about one bottle of water. This may not sound like much, but billions of users enter prompts into AI chatbots every minute, which necessitates huge amounts of water usage.

These were some of the general problems that constant usage of GenAI creates. Now let's get into something more personal. Human psychology and how the use of AI is affecting it for the worse. In a study done, students using AI to finish their assignments were

found to have done worse in tests as compared to those who did not. Was AI at fault?

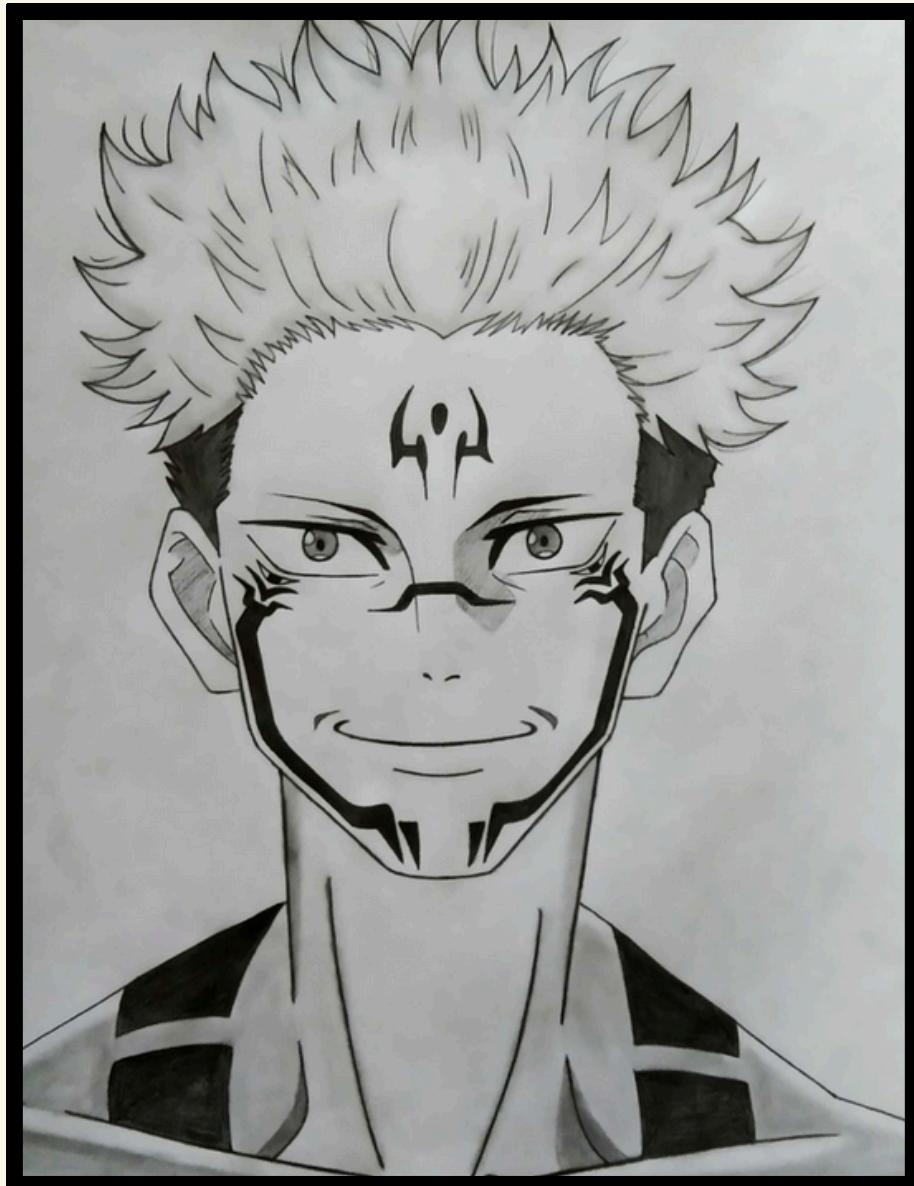
Ironically enough, even though chatbots are notorious for giving us wrong answers, that isn't it. The problem here was, in fact, the student. Depending on AI for everything related to their course caused their critical thinking skills to deteriorate. Some might even say AI is turning our brains into "mush". Now, I wouldn't agree with their choice of words, but it is true to an extent. Experts argue that the increased use of AI in educational environments is weakening the development of problem-solving abilities in students. This effect can also be felt in workplaces as employees are turning to AI for every minor task. In the short run, this may seem like a good idea to increase productivity, but in the long run, it reduces innovation and creates more of a robotic environment. Increased trust in AI-generated information is also dangerous, as the risk of incorrect outputs is ever-present, even in the most sophisticated LLMs.

All things considered, the development of generative AI, or artificial intelligence as a whole, has been a huge leap in the technological progress of humans. But the speed at which the progress has taken place hasn't given us enough time to catch up with its consequences; hence, the above-mentioned problems arise. What we need right now are responsible and sustainable methods of developing GenAI models. Development isn't enough. We need to encourage responsible usage among the consumers as well. Asking AI to write a letter or to complete our assignment might seem like simple requests, but the more we depend on AI for something, the more we're leaving our brains to rot away. Don't get me wrong, using AI for tedious tasks like summarising an 800-page document is completely valid; however, it shouldn't become a habit. You should be able to utilise it in such a way that requires you to combine your intellectual prowess with the easy access to abundant knowledge that AI provides.

#### Source:

<https://news.mit.edu/2025/explained-generative-ai-environmental-impact-0117>

# SKETCH -VALLY DEVAYANI

**Caption:**

A captivating sketch of the King of Curses, Ryomen Sukuna. "Unleash your inner power. Every line you draw, every challenge you face, is a step toward mastering your own strength."

# INTERVIEW WITH Ms. POULOMI GHOSH BHATTACHARYA



## 1. You've worked across India, Singapore, the US, and the Philippines. How did these global experiences shape your outlook on leadership and organisational culture?

I think it depends on the country. Like the way you meet people. Everybody brings in a different experience; they come from a different background, so I think if you talk about leadership development, organisational behaviour or talent management, it is a little different from country to country. For example, in India, leadership positions are given after spending a considerable number of years in the industry or within a specific domain. However, when I worked abroad, I observed a different approach – leadership opportunities are often provided at a much earlier stage in one's career. If someone demonstrates the ability to drive change and deliver impact, they are quickly entrusted with leadership responsibilities, regardless of how many years they've been in the workforce. I think leadership is all about making that

impact. It's about making a meaningful difference in the lives of others and driving positive change within an organisation. While there are differences in how and when leadership is assigned, the fundamental qualities of a good leader remain consistent across geographies. That has been my experience.

## 2. With almost three decades of experience, what has been the most challenging transition in your career, and how did you overcome it?

The most challenging and significant transition in my career was moving from a call centre agent role to eventually becoming a Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO). I began my career in a BPO, working as a call centre agent. From the very beginning, I was passionate about training, and I eventually transitioned into a trainer's role, where I focused on voice and accent, language skills, and business communication. Over time, I gradually transitioned into human resources, despite not having a formal HR degree—a requirement still considered essential in many organisations in our country today.

Typically, one is expected to have an MBA or a PGDM in HR to be part of an HR department, but I took a different path. I started with talent acquisition, and through consistent performance and leadership, I grew into broader HR responsibilities, eventually becoming the CHRO. I consider this one of the most meaningful transitions and achievements in my three-decade-long career. While educational qualifications provide a strong foundation, I firmly believe that leadership capability, adaptability, and the ability to execute are just as critical. Being able to deliver results, lead teams, and drive change is what ultimately defines success in a role. This journey has taught me that with the right mindset and commitment, it is possible to break traditional barriers and grow beyond formal qualifications.

3. As someone who has coached senior leaders, what do you think are some of the most essential qualities of a good leader in today's world?

Let me ask you a question: you guys have a lot of clubs where you organize a lot of programs, right? And there is somebody within your team who takes the lead? So, what do you think are the great qualities of a leader? Have you ever seen what is required?

[Interviewer – In my opinion, a great leader is the one who listens to everyone and takes everyone's opinion into consideration and not someone who takes decisions according to their own will.]

I think, to an extent, that is absolutely correct. The most important qualities that I would look for in a leader are, first, a leader that I would hire in my team and, second, a leader that I would want to look up to. A couple of other things that I would look for are the vision that this person has for an organisation or for a career level. I would definitely look at the empathy that this person has. I would also look at their decision-making and problem-solving skills. Qualities like accountability, ownership and responsibility are highly sought after. I would look at how adaptable this leader is in terms of how they would respond to drastic changes in the organisation. I will look at how this person is able to influence and empower the team. Being able to help the team in reaching their full potential is very critical for me. At the same time, one last thing is somebody who is extremely passionate about what he or she is doing. They should be able to demonstrate enthusiasm for their work, which in turn inspires and motivates others to become great leaders in an organization.

**4. You're a strong advocate for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) and POSH. What role do you think legal education plays in shaping awareness around these issues in organisations?**

There are both legal and logical aspects to maintaining diversity in an organization. When we talk about diversity, we're referring to bringing together individuals from different backgrounds, experiences, and characteristics—including gender, ethnicity, age, culture, ability, and importantly, cognitive perspective.

Now, when I mention cognitive perspective. I mean the unique ways individuals think, problem-solve, and approach challenges. Achieving diversity in leadership isn't just about representation—it requires sustained commitment, accountability, and alignment with organizational goals. Legal education has played an important role in promoting diversity. In the past, there was little recognition or encouragement to include members of the LGBTQ+ community or third-gender individuals in the workforce. However, today, legal frameworks have evolved, and diversity hiring—especially including LGBTQ+ individuals and those who identify as the third gender—is not only encouraged but, in many cases, legally mandated. It reinforces the idea that what truly matters is the value an individual brings to the table, not their gender, background, or orientation. In this way, legal measures have played a critical role in accelerating diversity and inclusion in our country. They've helped create pathways for individuals who may not have previously had the opportunity to thrive.

**5. Our generation will likely face ethical dilemmas in workplaces—whether in law or corporate roles. What advice do you have for handling conflicts while staying true to one's values?**

An ethical dilemma is, by nature, a complex and challenging situation. It often involves making difficult choices between competing values or principles, where none of the available options may feel entirely "right". In many cases, there's no perfect solution—just the need to weigh the consequences and make the most responsible decision possible under the circumstances. In the context of an organization, understanding ethical dilemmas is critical for all of us. These situations often arise due to conflicting personal and organizational values, differing goals, or a clash between ethical principles. One of the most common sources of ethical dilemmas that I've observed is organizational pressure—where individuals feel compelled to act in ways that may conflict with their personal or professional ethics in order to meet expectations or deliver results. Navigating such dilemmas requires a thoughtful and structured approach. The first step is to clearly identify the issue and understand what's at stake. It's important to assess

the potential consequences of each option—not just for the individual, but also for the broader team, organization, and even society. Gathering relevant information and gaining a clear understanding of the context can help in evaluating the situation objectively. Ultimately, dealing with ethical dilemmas is about balancing integrity with practicality and striving to make decisions that are both responsible and aligned with core values. While these situations are rarely easy, approaching them with clarity and ethical intent can lead to better outcomes for all involved.

**6. Law schools often focus more on academics than on practical corporate exposure. How can students start preparing early to enter the corporate world while still in law school?**

From my perspective, as I mentioned at the very beginning, there are certain things that you learn from books, and there are others that come only through experience. To be truly effective in delivering a task or completing a project, there needs to be a blend of both: knowledge and skills. This is something I always emphasise—success in any professional setting depends on how well you combine what you've learnt with how you apply it. Most of you, especially those who have already completed your internship or are currently working on a project, will likely relate to this. You begin to realize that what you study in theory often differs significantly from how things operate in a real-world environment. The execution and presentation of work in an organizational context requires much more than just academic understanding. That is why I believe in a blended approach. Education provides your foundation—your backbone. But without the right set of skills to apply that knowledge practically, it becomes difficult to deliver meaningful results. The integration of both knowledge and skill is essential to becoming a successful professional in any organization. That's how I see it.

**7. If you had to credit one mindset or habit that has kept you grounded and successful, what would it be?**

If I had to highlight just one key factor, it would be difficult to limit it to only one or two—but I would say mindset stands out the most for me. To me, mindset

refers to the attitude and belief system that shapes who I am as a person, while habits are the automatic, routine behaviours that we engage in every day. Among all mindsets, the growth mindset has always been a foundational pillar in my personal and professional life. I strongly believe in the idea that with effort and dedication, I can continuously improve my skills and abilities. A person with a growth mindset welcomes challenges and sees failure not as a setback, but as an opportunity to learn and grow. This belief has consistently guided me.

When it comes to habits, they've played a crucial role in shaping my daily approach. Many of my habits have been developed, reinforced, and refined over time. I've consciously worked on building habits that increase my productivity and keep me focused on my goals. For example, I've made it a point to stay positive, goal-driven, and committed to consistent self-improvement. Over the past three decades, I've maintained a practical and positive consistency in everything I do. I've made it a daily practice to engage in behaviours that support my long-term objectives and bring me closer to achieving my goals.

**8. Is there any book, movie, or piece of writing that has deeply influenced the way you look at leadership and life?**

One book that has had a lasting impact on me is "You Can Win" by Shiv Khera. I'm not sure if you've read it, but I highly recommend it. The book offers tremendous encouragement and motivation, especially in terms of how we perceive and approach life. "You Can Win" is a practical, step-by-step guide to achieving both personal and professional success. It emphasizes the importance of maintaining a positive attitude, developing a strong character, and building effective habits—principles that have deeply influenced me over the years. What stood out to me most was how the book encourages readers to take full ownership of their lives, work on self-development, and transform weaknesses into strengths. These lessons resonated with me profoundly, and I continue to refer back to them even today. Although it has been over 25 years since Shiv Khera wrote this book, its teachings remain relevant and impactful. It continues to serve as a guiding force in my journey, both personally and professionally.

**9. You have worked with Fortune 500 companies and coached so many leaders – if you weren’t doing all this, what’s an alternate career you could see yourself in?**

One of my biggest dreams—and something I’m truly passionate about—is to start a school. Not for older children, but for the little ones. I envision a small, nurturing space that caters to early childhood education: nursery, lower KG, upper KG, and perhaps up to Class 2. That’s it. I believe that beyond this age, children begin to grow more independent, but it’s those early years that truly capture my heart. I want to create a joyful, engaging environment where children can learn their Zs, count from 1 to 100, sing rhymes, and enjoy simple games. I imagine a school filled with laughter, playful learning, and even seesaws in the playground—where learning is fun and development happens naturally. If I hadn’t spent the past three decades building my professional career, I believe I would have dedicated all those years to running a school like this. I’ve always been drawn to the innocence and curiosity of young children—the tiny steps they take, the broken language they speak, and the pure joy they bring. More than anything, I believe we learn a lot from them too—especially qualities like resilience and patience. That’s why starting this school isn’t just a dream; it’s a goal I’m actively working towards. I don’t know exactly when it will happen, but it’s something I truly want to do in my life—and I’m committed to making it a reality.

**10. Since our Literary Club loves books – if you could recommend one book that every law student should read (professional or personal), what would it be, and why?**

There are a couple of books that have stayed with me, both offering unique insights and powerful narratives. The first is a book by an author named Scott—unfortunately, I can’t recall the full name at the moment—but it’s based on a true story about a first-year law student at Harvard Law School. The book vividly captures the intense and often turbulent experience of navigating one of the most prestigious law programs in the world. It explores the challenges law students face and the resilience required to overcome them. I found the story to be deeply engaging and reflective of the kind of

determination needed to succeed in high-pressure academic environments.

Another book that stood out to me is “Presidential Pardon” by Saikrishna Prakash. While I may not recall all the individual stories in detail, the book presents a compelling exploration of presidential powers, particularly around the subject of pardons, through various historical cases. It offers both legal insight and real-world relevance, especially for anyone interested in constitutional law or governance. These are just two from a longer list of impactful books I’ve come across. I often refer back to them, and I’d recommend them to anyone interested in law, leadership, or personal growth. I think it depends on the country. Like the way you meet people. Everybody brings in a different experience; they come from a different background, so I think if you talk about leadership development, organization behavior or talent management, it is a little different from country to country. For example, in India, leadership positions are given after spending a considerable number of years in the industry or within a specific domain. However, when I worked abroad, I observed a different approach—leadership opportunities are often provided at a much earlier stage in one’s career. If someone demonstrates the ability to drive change and deliver impact, they are quickly entrusted with leadership responsibilities, regardless of how many years they’ve been in the workforce. I think leadership is all about making that impact. It’s about making a meaningful difference in the lives of others and driving positive change within an organization. While there are differences in how and when leadership is assigned, the fundamental qualities of a good leader remain consistent across geographies. That has been my experience.

## "THE ART OF CONNECTION"—BHAVIKA SHARMA



### Caption:

The sky overhead is a canvas of magnificent conflict—a heavy curtain of bruised charcoal clouds fighting with the brilliant, fleeting promise of the sun. It's the moment of deep breath just before the monsoon truly breaks. Below, the familiar campus path is bathed in a crisp, pre-rain light, guiding the eye through an oasis of deep emerald green. The manicured hedges and trees stand silent and lush, a tranquil sanctuary beneath the dramatic ceiling. Here, in the fleeting shift of light and shadow, the true drama of our university grounds unfolds. It's a study in contrasts: the grand power of nature mirrored by the steadfast, enduring presence of the campus we call home. The air is thick with anticipation—a beautiful reminder that even in the quiet moments, the season is changing, and life on campus moves forward.

# ALICE IN CHAINS

My beautiful white caramel beings  
Your smooth toes pierce the minds of the foreign  
Reducing it to the size of a dwarf prince  
Indebted to your coconut wine  
Forever worshipping your vanilla shine  
But you have grown to hate me  
Opening the closed barrel of my sustenance  
Eager to be womb-devoid  
Leaving your brothers at House paranoid  
Yet our friction turns magnetic  
Owing to the man's metallic shackles  
Forever to me you are bound  
Hapless you shall be for there is no rebound  
My sugar-coated princess!



# PROBLEMS ARISING FROM FEMA'S NON-APPLICABILITY TO CRYPTOCURRENCIES IN INDIA (2025)

## ABSTRACT

This paper explores the current uncertainty on the legal status of cryptocurrencies in relation to the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), and how this void and uncertainty affects cross-border financial activities. Although crypto was acknowledged as a virtual digital asset for taxation purposes, its position under FEMA remains undefined. Cryptocurrency not falling within the purview of the definition of "currency" under FEMA means its activities are being operated outside of the control of FEMA. This loophole in the current system allows for unregulated international transactions, capital outflows and compliance issues. This lack of control also means there are higher chances and an easy means for activities such as money laundering and terror activities to come into play, which results in weakening India's foreign exchange governance and monetary discipline.



## INTRODUCTION

Over the last few years, cryptocurrency has become a hot topic of debate. Since the creation of Bitcoin in 2009 (Nakamoto, 2008), currently 2.2 million-plus different cryptocurrencies are in existence. The rise of cryptocurrencies has forced lawmakers and regulators around the world to rethink the meaning of "money". In India, one of the biggest challenges has been understanding whether the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), applies to cryptocurrencies. As of 2025, while the tax and compliance framework for Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) has evolved, FEMA continues to operate in a grey area. This paper discusses the position of crypto under FEMA, cross-border implications, and recent regulatory updates.<sup>1</sup>

### I. Background and Legal Classification

Cryptocurrency, or more broadly virtual digital assets, was officially recognised for taxation through the Finance Act, 2022.<sup>2</sup> However, this recognition was limited to taxation—it did not give crypto the status of "currency". Under Section 2(h) of FEMA, "currency" includes all currency notes, postal notes, postal orders, money orders, cheques, drafts, travellers cheques, letters of credit, bills of exchange and promissory notes, credit cards or such other similar instruments as may be notified by the Reserve Bank.<sup>3</sup> Since no notification exists for crypto, it cannot be called a "currency" under FEMA.<sup>4</sup>

## KEY WORDS

1. Regulatory Vacuum
2. Cross-Border Transactions
3. Foreign Exchange Control
4. Legal Uncertainty



Similarly, foreign currency under Section 2(m) refers to any currency other than Indian currency.<sup>5</sup> Because crypto is not "currency" at all, it also cannot be "foreign currency". The same reasoning applies to foreign exchange under Section 2(n), which includes only foreign currencies and specific instruments.<sup>6</sup>

Due to this, cryptocurrencies in India are often treated as digital assets rather than money. Some experts even classify them as "goods" or "intangible property", depending on the context.<sup>7</sup> This uncertainty creates major problems when such assets cross national borders.



## I. FEMA and Cross-Border Crypto Transactions

### 1. Payments for Imports and Exports

The norm is that authorised dealers come into picture for cross-border transactions (banks, as a rule).<sup>8</sup> Payment by an Indian business to a foreign vendor in Bitcoin or Ethereum avoids authorised banking channels and hence may be non-compliant with FEMA regulations.<sup>9</sup>

Similarly, for receipts of export, FEMA requires proceeds to be realised in easily convertible foreign currency. Receipt of crypto when compared to dollars or dirhams does not qualify. This leaves Indian exporters vulnerable to breaches.

### 2. Cross-Border Gifts and Transfers

Gifts or transfers of crypto abroad may also come under the FEMA ambit. These transfers are considered capital account transactions, and they need RBI approval in advance under Section 6(3).<sup>10</sup> As per a report in 2024,

cross-border gifting of crypto "remains highly ambiguous and may constitute a FEMA violation."<sup>11</sup>



### 3. Trading on Overseas Exchanges

Numerous Indian investors now utilise global exchanges to trade or bet on crypto. According to a report by The Economic Times in 2025, Indian exchanges providing crypto derivatives with foreign collaborators "may test FEMA limits", as such contracts attract unregulated cross-border value transfers.<sup>12</sup>

### 4. Penalties

Under FEMA Section 15, penalties up to three times the involved amount can be imposed for violations. Changes brought about in 2025 now make minor reporting defaults (less than ₹2 lakh) compoundable on a speedy basis, but serious ones are still open-ended.<sup>13</sup>

## I. Legal Issues under FEMA

The absence of cryptocurrency regulation under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), has created serious legal issues for India.<sup>14</sup> FEMA governs all deals involving foreign exchange and cross-border capital movement, but cryptocurrencies, being decentralised digital means, do not fit within the legal meaning of "currency" and "foreign exchange" under Section 2(n) and Section 2(h) of the Act. As a result, crypto transactions between Indian and foreign entities fall outside of FEMA's scope on Foreign exchange, allowing unmonitored cross-border transfers and capital flow without RBI authorization, contrary to Section 3(a),

which restricts dealing in foreign exchange without authorization.<sup>15</sup>

This legal void enables the use of cryptocurrencies for money laundering and supports terror activities, violating the intent of FEMA and other similar Acts such as The Prevention of Money

Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).<sup>16</sup> Since FEMA states that all transnational fiscal deals must be routed through authorised channels, the anonymous and person-to-person nature of crypto transfers directly undermines compliance with RBI's foreign exchange control programmes. Similarly, enforcement agencies face jurisdictional and evidentiary difficulties, as crypto is yet to have a defined legal status or valuation medium under Indian law. Accordingly, the absence of FEMA regulation leads to nonsupervisory arbitrage, loss of foreign exchange control, and weakening of India's legal and fiscal sovereignty in cross-border digital deals.<sup>17</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Cryptocurrencies remain outside the definitional scope of "currency", "foreign currency", and "foreign exchange" under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, leaving cross-border crypto transactions in a regulatory vacuum. This ambiguity enables unmonitored capital movement and potential misuse for illicit activities, undermining FEMA's core objective of maintaining foreign exchange control.

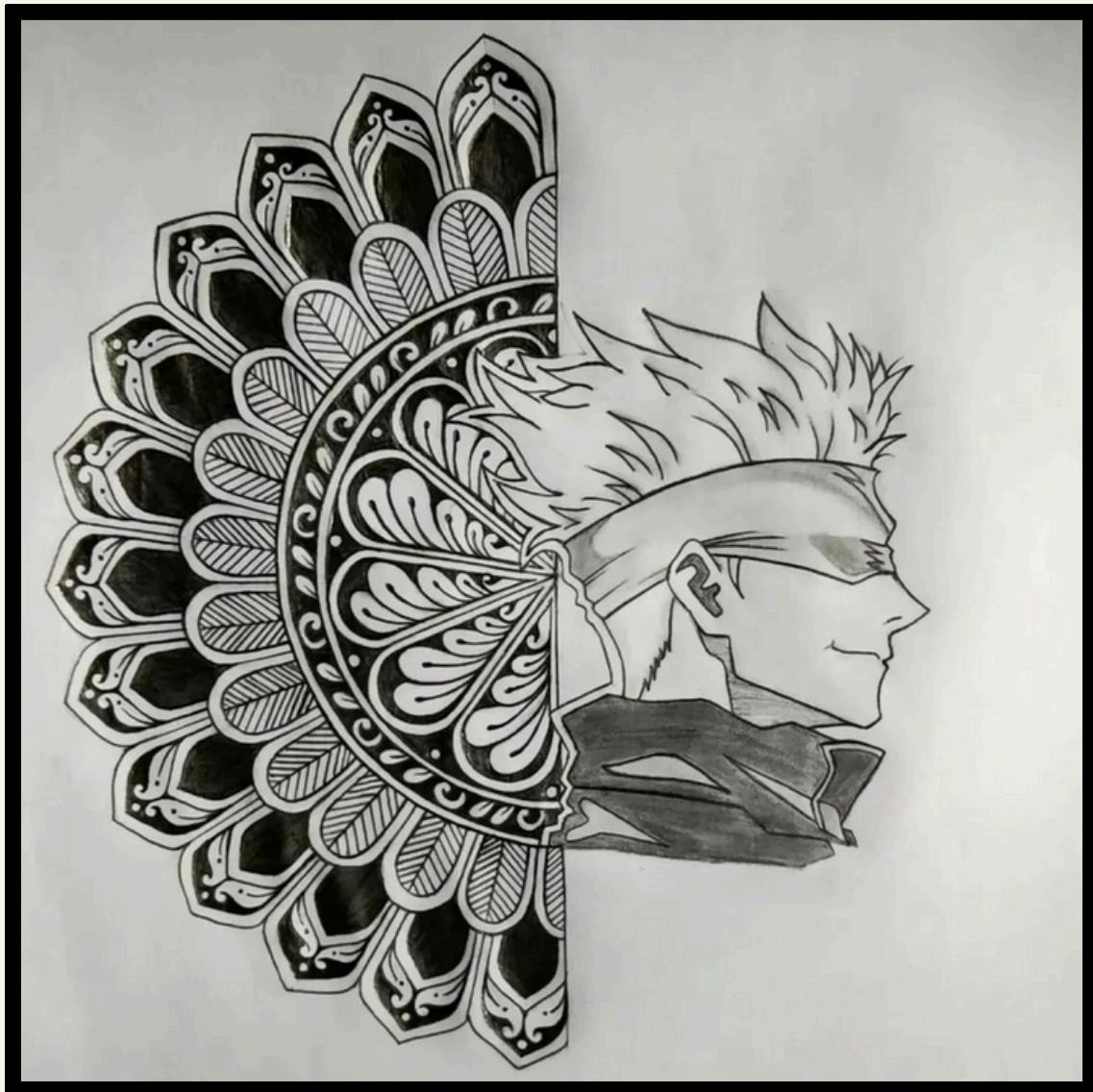
Although the Finance Act, 2025, recognised virtual digital assets for taxation, FEMA continues to lack clarity on their cross-border treatment. A targeted amendment or RBI notification is therefore necessary to align FEMA with emerging digital realities.

Until such reforms occur, crypto transactions across borders will remain legally uncertain, highlighting the urgent need for India to balance financial innovation with regulatory oversight.

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# SKETCH -VALLY DEVAYANI

**Caption:**

"A fusion of spiritual art and modern sorcery."

A beautiful fusion where the intricate, spiritual patterns of a traditional Indian mandala meet the dynamic, modern style of Japanese anime. It's a visual harmony of two distinct cultures, bound by the universal language of art.

# PHOTO - SHRI GANARCHIT B

**Caption:**

“In the silver rain of Ellora, one senses the breath of Nagaloka—nature guarding her secrets beneath cascading light, where the eternal meets the earthly.”

# BOND OF FRIENDSHIP

People always want a change in you,  
For they feel no one is perfect;  
What they do not understand  
Was everyone being fine in their very own way.

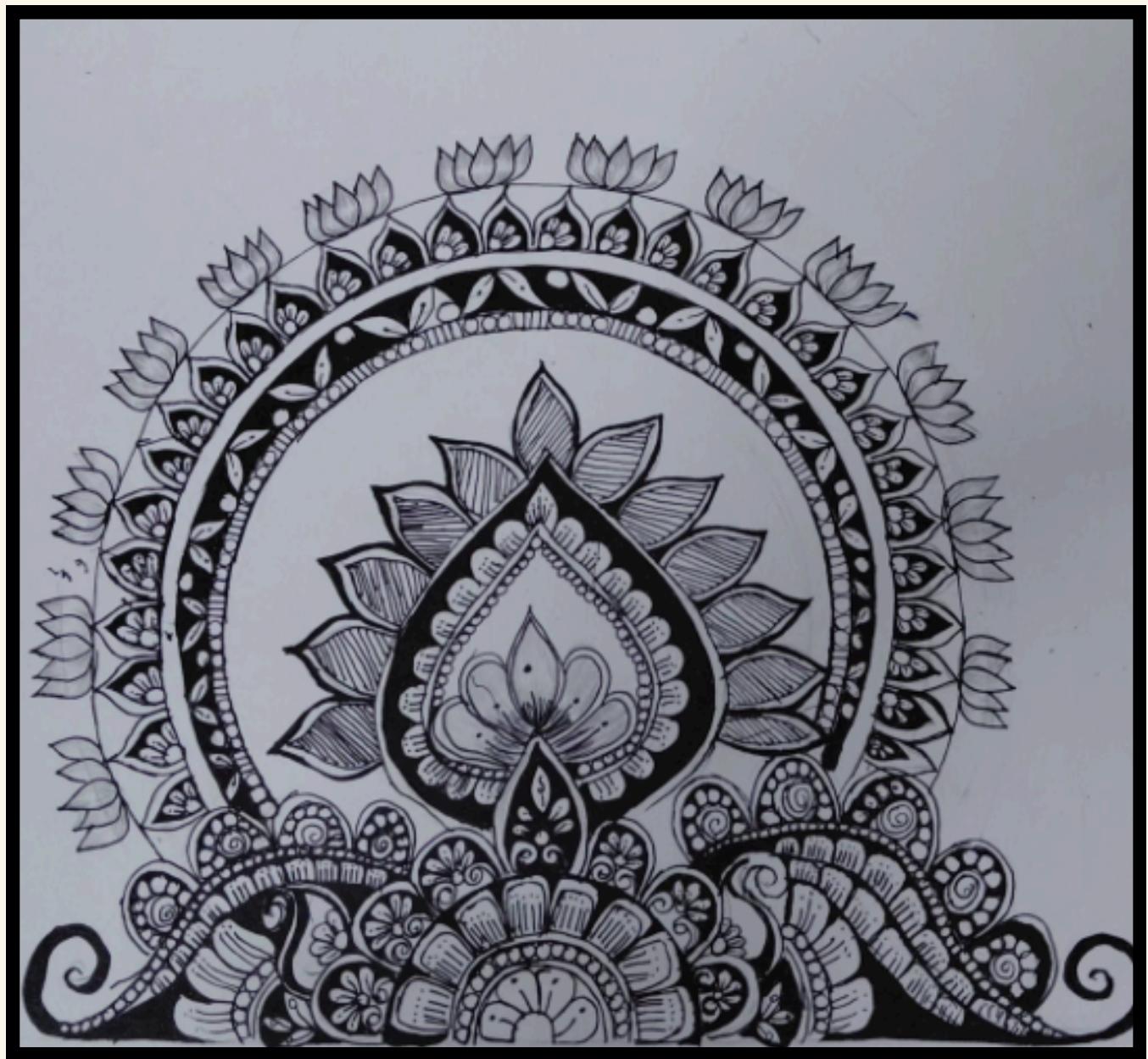
They want you carved  
In their very own way;  
So that you would fit in with them  
Or be worthy of them at least.

They would never accept you  
If you do not wish to change;  
But one person would,  
Who loves you just the way you are.

That person lets you be yourself,  
They don't mind if you are a nerd or a goth;  
That one person who never leaves you behind,  
Is the one you build your bond of friendship with



# SKETCH -PRERNA BAMBORE



# UNHEARD VOICES: THE STRUGGLES OF WOMEN IN INDIA AND THE UNDERLYING REASON

## why would it take generations to change a mindset?

India, a country that has a vast history of different cultures and religions and a rich tapestry woven from diverse languages and a history stretching back to the Indus Valley Civilisation. With the passage of time, not only the people but the laws protecting the people have been evolving. In today's world we see a mixture of our cultural heritage and laws that are tailored keeping in mind the best interest of its citizens. The legislations in today's world have recognized women and has always had an essence of empowerment. But unfortunately, backwardness of the mindset of the people, especially our country towards women and girls remains unchanged and old.

In the contemporary era, the evolving mindset of society has significantly transformed the position of women in India. With increased access to education and equal opportunities, women have become an integral part of nearly every professional field from the rapidly advancing the information technology sector to small-scale manufacturing industries. This progress has enabled women to achieve financial independence, social recognition, and personal empowerment, making a remarkable shift from traditional gender roles. Today, many women are capable of supporting themselves and leading successful lives without relying on external assistance. However, despite these notable advancements, the question of women's safety and empowerment continue to remain a matter of grave concern. While some women possess the confidence and resources to voice their opinions, assert their rights, and defend themselves against injustice, there exists a large section of women who still live in fear and vulnerability. These are the women who worry each day about their safety while travelling to work, returning home late at night, or simply participating in public spaces.



This study seeks to explore the paradox that persists in modern Indian society: why, despite greater educational and professional empowerment, crimes against women remain disturbingly constant. It aims to analyse the underlying social, psychological, and institutional factors that continue to hinder women's freedom and security. Furthermore, the research intends to evaluate whether current empowerment initiatives are sufficient or if a new, more holistic approach is needed one that not only focuses on women's education and employment but also addresses safety, social awareness, and systemic reform.

Parenting forms the foundation of every individual's character and values, and consequently shapes the mindset of an entire society. The attitudes and actions that we observe today are deeply rooted in the lessons and behaviours individuals internalize during childhood primarily from their parents or guardians. Therefore, when we examine offences against women, it becomes evident that these are not isolated incidents but reflections of ingrained social conditioning.



When people are questioned about the reasons behind the persistence of such crimes, the responses often reveal deeply problematic beliefs that continue to thrive even in a modern and educated society. In various interviews, respondents expressed opinions that women should not be allowed to go out at night and that it is the duty of their fathers or husbands to “keep them under control.” Some went further to state that women who wear “short clothes” are provoking or inviting other men to do such crimes. Disturbingly, despite the extensive awareness campaigns and advocacy for gender equality over the years, many still believe that a woman’s rightful place is inside the home managing domestic duties and that stepping outside these boundaries warrants punishment, even physical violence.

One of the most horrifying examples that exposes the depth of this mindset is the Nirbhaya case of an incident that shook the entire nation and drew global attention. In a documentary filmed before the execution of the convicts in Tihar Jail, New Delhi, the accused were asked whether they regretted their actions and if they would behave differently if given another chance. Their responses were chillingly unapologetic. They claimed that if a woman is out alone at night, men will naturally perceive her in a “wrong way”, and that if they had not committed the act that night, someone else would have. Even more disturbing were the views expressed by one of the defence lawyers interviewed for the documentary.

When asked what he would do if his own daughter went out at night wearing short clothes, he stated without hesitation that he would take her to his farmhouse and burn her alive and that this is not the culture that has to be incorporated.

This statement did not come from an uneducated individual but from a practicing advocate of the Supreme Court of India, a person who represents the very system meant to uphold justice. Such remarks highlight a grim reality: if men in educated and influential positions continue to harbour and express such regressive views, expecting the larger society to transform its mindset towards women remains an uphill battle. The problem, therefore, is not merely legal or institutional but deeply cultural, rooted in the values instilled during upbringing and reinforced through generations of patriarchal thinking.



If this is the kind of thinking that still exists in society, one can only imagine how difficult life must be for young girls and wives. For many of them, their homes often feel like a kind of jail, a place where freedom and dreams are limited by strict rules and outdated beliefs.



Daughters who wish to achieve something great in life, even when they have the ability and determination to do so, are often stopped before they can even begin. They have been suffering silently for generations, and with time, this suffering has become so common that it now feels normal to them. This pattern continues from one generation to the next, as such thoughts and behaviours are passed down within families.

income sections of society. In a country like India, where a large number of people remain uneducated and live below the poverty line, changing such deep-rooted beliefs will not happen quickly. It will take many years perhaps generations of education, awareness, and effort to truly change how people think and to build a society where women are respected and free to live as they choose.

*This is why it would take generations to change mindsets.*



It is not just women who are affected by this cycle; men, too, grow up learning and carrying forward these same ideas. The way boys are raised and the examples they see around them shape how they treat women later in life. Although there has been noticeable progress among the middle class, whose outlook has become more open and understanding, the situation is still worrying among the lower-

# SKETCH -PRERNA BAMBORE



# PHOTO -APURV CHAWLA

**Caption:**

There's something truly magical about temples in Thailand, the way they rise gracefully under the bright blue sky, adorned with intricate details that seem to hold centuries of devotion. Walking through this temple, I could feel the weight of history in every carving and every colour. The air was calm, the sound of soft prayers drifted through, and the golden patterns glimmered under the sun. It wasn't just a visit; it was an experience, a quiet reminder of how art, faith, and culture blend so beautifully here. Thailand has a way of grounding you, of making you pause and just take it all in, and this temple was the perfect place to do just that.

# THE ECHOS OF HER PAWSTEPS

Some goodbyes don't happen all at once — they unfold slowly, in memories, in silence, and in the spaces love used to fill. This piece is a small part of that silence, written for someone who never really left.

The world didn't stop the morning she left—but mine did.  
That day, the sunshine felt unusually bright and honest.  
Her toys were still scattered at the door, and her leash hung nicely, as if she'd be back any minute.

She used to greet me as if I was the only person who mattered. There was no judgment or reluctance, only pure delight that made difficult days melt away.

She would curl up at my feet as I studied.  
When I was too quiet, she'd nudge my hand, as if to remind me that silence didn't have to imply grief.  
However, love has unusual ends.  
I recall holding her last time, her breathing smooth and slow, and her calm, trusting, and unafraid expression.  
I told her that she could leave if she was tired.  
She blinks once, as if to say, "Thank you for loving me."

Everything after that became a memory.  
The house seemed the same, yet nothing seemed alive.  
Every corner was still whispering her name.  
I couldn't move her beloved blanket from the couch, and I didn't want to.

Weeks have passed. The agony decreased but never vanished. When the breeze brushed against my cheek, it reminded me of her sweet, familiar, yet transient presence.  
At that moment, I realised she had not abandoned me.  
She simply discovered how to live in the places where my heart still aches for her.



# PINK: THE EMBLEM OF WOMEN



Red, a colour synonymous with power, courage and authority, is most often associated with masculinity, yet its most popular tint, pink, is seen as a symbol of femininity. But why? And how did a variation of red become permanently linked with women? In this essay we shall investigate the historical, social and cultural origin of pink.

## Origins

Before we talk about how pink was associated with women and, in turn, femininity, we must first learn its origins. The colour pink is named after the flower “*Dianthus Plumarius*” of the genus “*Dianthus*”; it’s a flower which is pink in colour and has frilled edges. However, the verb “pink”, Germanic in origin, dates back to the 14th century and means “*to decorate with perforated or punched patterns*”. While the word is usually associated with the colour, its archaic meaning still survives in “*pinking shears*”, a tool used to create zigzag patterns rather than straight ones.

## Symbolism

Pink is associated with other characteristics and emotions rather than just femininity, such as charm, politeness, sensitivity, tenderness, sweetness, childhood and romance. Interestingly, the colour was symbolic of seduction in the 18th century, a notion perpetuated by *George Romney* in his portrait of “*Emma, Lady Hamilton*”. Later, when the color was used in tandem with white by *Thomas Lawrence* in his portrait of “*Sarah Barrett Moulton*”, it shifted its association to that of innocence, childhood and tenderness.

## Dutch Announcements



The earliest instance of gender-coding colors appeared in 18th-century Netherlands, where it was common to hang a small square of lace with trimmed edges on the doors of local homes. This *Kraam-Kloppertje* served two functions, firstly as a way to announce the arrival of a baby in a household and secondly to discourage visitors from disturbing the family during such a tender time. It was so effective that it not only warded off the neighbours but also tax collectors, debt collectors and law enforcement. The *Kraam-Kloppertje* was the earliest form of a gender reveal. It rested upon a reddish-pink background signalling the birth of a boy but when a white piece of cloth was inserted; it announced the birth of a girl. This practice was indigenous to the Netherlands and it left most foreigners perplexed.

## Baby Clothes And The Invention of Modern Dyes

Gender coding of colours was usually an affair reserved

for royal infants during the early 19th century; an example of this can be seen in France during the birth of *Napoleon III's* child. The royal couple had prepared a layette specifically in the colour light blue, not because they had anticipated the birth of a boy but rather to place the baby under the protection of the *Virgin Mary*, who, prior to the Protestant revolution, was usually portrayed in blue. However, this practice of associating babies with certain colours was not seen universally; rather, babies at the time were dressed in white rather than any particular colour. The reason being, natural dyes faded away when boiled, which was the preferred method of cleaning infant clothing.

Later, with the invention of modern dyes, some variation in colour for infant clothing was seen, but much confusion still persisted regarding which colour denoted which gender. One source, *The Infants' Department, June, 1918*, claimed that pink must be used for boys, as it is a stronger colour, and blue is a more delicate and dainty colour appropriate for girls. While other sources claimed the opposite, that blue is for boys, as it is a more calm colour. Some people even based the colour of their children's clothes on the basis of their complexion. Mostly during this time the opinion on gendered colors was pretty mixed, and they were used interchangeably.

### Pink-Blue Reversal

Pink-Blue Reversal (PBR) is a commonly held belief that the colour association of pink for girls and blue for boys is a recent development, and prior to the mid-20th century it was the opposite. The discovery of this phenomenon is usually credited to *Jo B. Paoletti*, but *Paoletti* herself has never endorsed this idea and has much rather claimed that there was an inconsistent use of the colors than a full-on reversal. According to Marco Del Giudice in his paper "*The Twentieth Century Reversal of Pink-Blue Gender Coding: A Scientific Urban Legend?*", very little non-anecdotal evidence suggests the existence of such a reversal or even inconsistent usage of these gendered colors. In his follow-up to this paper titled

"*Pink, Blue, and Gender: An Update*", Del Giudice corrected his stance by stating that this inconsistency was more prevalent in newspapers and magazines as compared to that of books, suggesting a rather fluid use of color coding than a strict reversal.

In my personal research I have found very little evidence suggesting a reversal in gendered colors but quite a lot of instances of inconsistency. I feel *Del Giudice's* research only analysed the literary significance of "*pink is for girls and blue is for boys*" rather than looking at the wider cultural and social stance on this topic. Furthermore, he tries to find empirical evidence to disprove PBR and inconsistency but fails to take into account practical aspects of gender coding. This is why I stand with *Jo B. Paoletti's* claims that prior to the 1940s the inconsistency of gender coding was quite prevalent and common throughout America and other parts of the world.

### Pink Post-War

During World War 2 women's fashion was very simple and occupational; thereby, it focused on function rather than fashion. This changed post-war primarily due to *Mamie Eisenhower*, the 34th first lady of the USA. She was particularly fond of the colour pink, as she liked the way it set off her skin tone and pretty blue eyes. During her husband's inaugural ceremony, she wore a gown designed by *Nettie Rosenstein* embroidered with 2,000 rhinestones, which at the time was quite extravagant and unheard of at that time



Her fondness for the color influenced her taste in decor which is emulated in parts of the white house being decorated in so much pink, earning it the moniker of the “*Pink Palace*”. Her taste was quickly picked up by the American people as pink became increasingly common in home decor, especially in bathrooms and kitchens. But *Maine*’s influence on the gender association of pink had been symbolic of traditional ideals, portraying that the color was liked and preferred by traditional housewives as compared to that of modern women. This was in large part due to her own *trad wife* personality, which was evidently shown through quotes like “*Ike runs the country. I turn the pork chops!*” and “*I have a career. His name is Ike.*”



Later *Marilyn Monroe* in her movie “*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*” wore a skin tight dress of *shocking pink* skewing the public opinion on the color from tradition to seduction, the popular movie star *Jayne Mansfield* also wore lots and lots of pink which, coupled with her baby-voice and super voluptuous figure formed a connection in the minds of the people that women wearing pink were of no harm, i.e. they were delicate in nature. This association of the color made people view women who wore pink as less intimidating and innocent. This allegory was used by women to their advantage by wearing pink to deflect criticism or make people underestimate them. An example of this would be *Donna Mae Mims*, a professional race car driver who competed in 1963 and was covered in pink from head to toe. She called herself the “*Pink Lady*”, and although she was a lady competing against men, her wearing pink helped deflect criticism and reminded the observers that at the end of the day she was just a girl.



A recent example of women wearing pink to deflect criticism was when *Hillary Clinton* wore a bright pink jacket and appeared on the cover of *People* magazine in 2014. The article she was featured in was about breaking the “highest, hardest glass ceiling”, and her jacket helped deflect the criticisms of her being confused about her gender. So liking or wearing pink became an easy way for women to deflect criticism or seem less intimidating.

### Modern View Of Pink

During the late 20th century the association of pink for girls and blue for boys became quite a necessity due to the growing concerns over homosexuality, in particular gay men, as a pink triangle was used as a symbol to represent them. It was believed that in this era children must be dressed in certain colors right from their childhood in order to prevent them from “*straying off the path of normality*”. Hilariously, an article on this subject was published in *Ladies’ Home Journal* titled *As the Twig is Bent* by *Leslie B. Hohman, M.D.*, which documents a case of a young boy who touched his mother’s pink frilly lace slip and wasn’t reprimanded, setting him down a path to liking girly things, thus creating a growing concern for his sexuality. This “*abnormal*” behaviour was fixed when they sent him off to military camp to “*set him straight*”.



Another reason why the color pink became increasingly associated with women was due to the marketing campaigns of businesses who greatly propagated the message 'pink is for girls' by making products related to women in pink, for example, pink razor blades or pink loofahs or toys like Barbies, etc. Currently in the modern day, pink is used in several things, such as gender reveal parties, breast cancer awareness, beauty products, media clothing lines, children's books, etc; this shows that the colour is now ingrained in our culture to be permanently associated with women and femininity.



## CONCLUSION

Over the course of writing this essay, I've come to realise that the gender association of pink isn't something that appeared suddenly or arbitrarily. It is a complex and multifaceted notion which has evolved into what it is now through its journey. Starting out as the earliest known form of gender reveals with the Dutch, evolving into more creative and subtler meanings perpetuated by the English and finally being shaped into what it is by Americans. Its meanings and symbolism have changed drastically from that of frailty and innocence to seduction and deflection. Showing that colors just like ideas, are carved, sculpted and shaped by society and its ideals.



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# मन का सफर

## MANN KA SAFAR

चंचल मन में सवाल उठे,  
की 'क्या घूमने जाएँ कहीं?"  
पर याद आती हैं ज़िम्मेदारियाँ  
और छा जाती हैं खामोशी ।

लेकिन उस खामोशी में भी  
एक इच्छा उभर के आती है  
एक इच्छा जो दिन का चैन,  
और रात नींद ले जाती है

सबसे बड़ा सवाल यही,  
कि "सफर कहाँ कि तै करें?"  
जगाएं तो ध्यान में आती हैं,  
पर दिल एक जगह कहाँ टिके?

कभी बनारस घात रुके,  
तो कभी महाराष्ट्र का शाही स्थल  
एक वक्त मेघालय हो, तो  
एक वक्त केरल कमल

कभी मिनाक्षी मंदिर हो,  
कभी राजस्थान का शहर सफर  
कभी शिमला कि वादियाँ हो,  
तो कभी असम में रात ठहर

कभी ब्रज-धूल का स्पर्श करें,  
तो कभी बालाजी मंदिर दर्शन,  
हो सिद्धि विनायक कि एक झलक,  
या जगन्नाथ का महा अन्न

अनगिनत हैं दृश्य यहाँ,  
वर्णण सबका है मुमकिन नहीं,  
जहाँ हर शहर में अलग रंग-ढंग,  
ये हैं बस वो भारत वही॥



# MY GRANDFATHER – A SILENT HERO

In every family, there is always that one person who shapes our dreams and future. For me, that person is my grandfather — a man whose life speaks of courage and simplicity.

Growing up, my grandfather faced many challenges. His father passed away before he was even born—he never got the chance to see his father's face. His journey was filled with exhaustion, hardship, and endless struggles. Yet, he was determined to overcome every obstacle. Through these trials, he became emotionally and mentally strong, forging his own path with unwavering determination.

Being raised by a single parent, he endured many struggles and did not get to enjoy much of his childhood. He began working day and night at a very young age, sacrificing his own happiness and rest to provide for his family. Despite the hardships, he never complained. Instead, he remained optimistic and cheerful toward everyone.



Every day at 4 a.m., he would ride his bicycle — not for exercise, but to begin his day of hard work. He took up many odd jobs, such as selling pulses and groundnuts. With his wit and careful management, he saved enough to support the family. Eventually, he bought a small piece of land and began cultivating cashew crops. This marked the beginning of his greatest success in life.

But his dreams didn't stop with his own achievements. He wanted his future generations to lead better and more fulfilled lives than he did. He dedicated himself to expanding his cultivation and building a stable, successful business in the cashew industry. His passion and perseverance became an inspiration to all of us. With his wisdom and strength, he became the pillar of our family — a man whose hard work and efforts will never fade from memory.



I never imagined the day would come when I would be tearfully gazing at his lifeless form, begging him to come back, even though I knew he never would. Accepting a world without him was one of the hardest things I've ever done. The grieving process was long and painful, but with time, we found peace in cherishing his memories.

Today, I stand proud, carrying forward his legacy with all my heart and effort. He always encouraged me to face life head-on, no matter how difficult it becomes. With his blessings, I will continue to live by his values and strength.

He will forever be remembered as the most beloved person in our family.

# ARTWORK -PRERNA BAMBORE



# PHOTO -NAGA PRASEEDA GRIDALUR

**Caption:**

"Under the red domes of the Telangana High Court, I found not just justice but the heart of why I chose law."

# LAST WISH

I took a promise from you and you promised  
You promised to stay by my side while I burn  
You promised to stay till I burn to ashes  
You'd stand by, till the end  
If you'd stay and I'd leave first

But then you asked

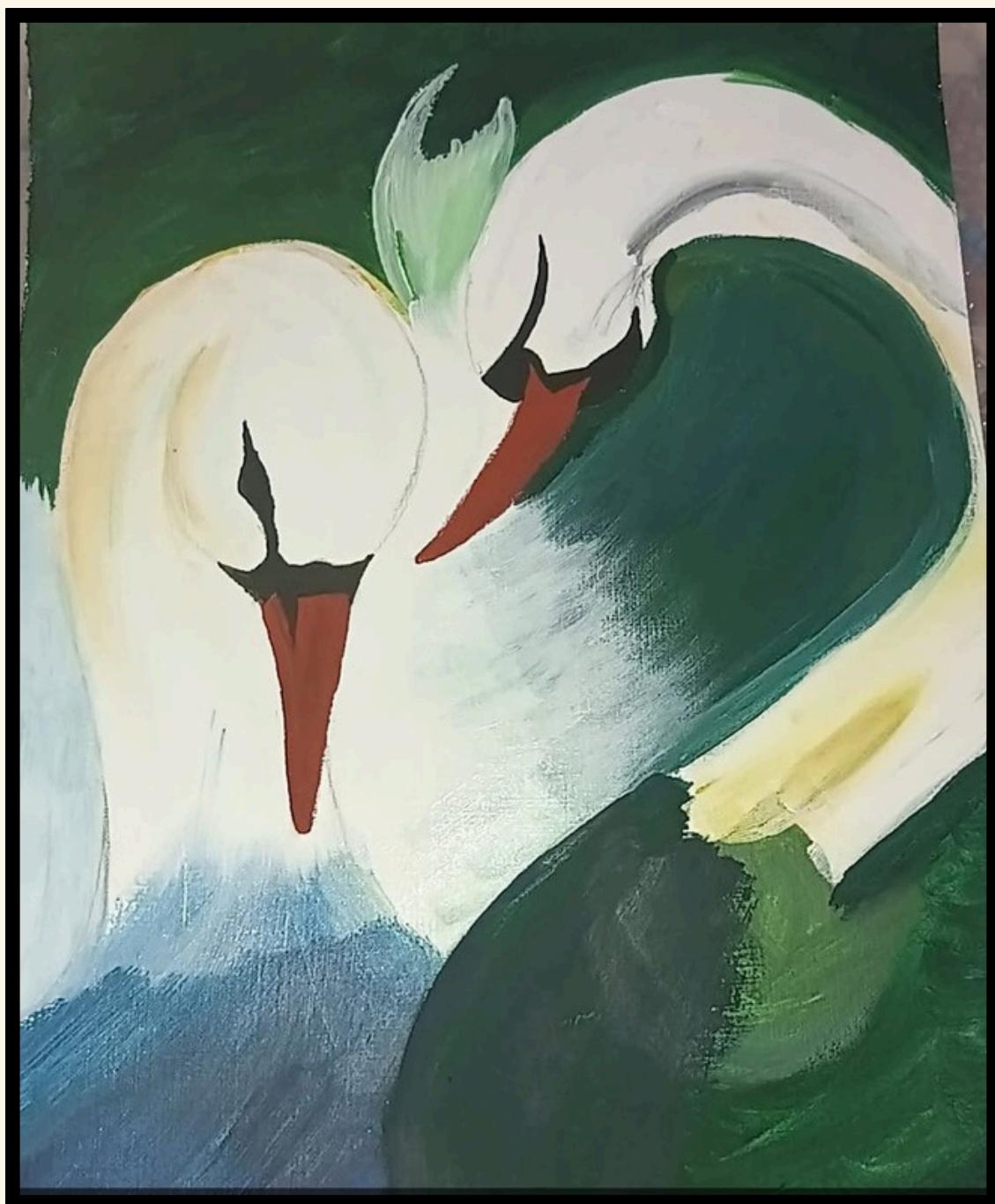
If you left and I stayed  
I promised to stay by your side even through the flames  
I'd stay till they consume you to ashes  
I'd stay and watch over you with pain  
I promised to take you with me  
Bury you with me, and grow a garden of roses  
Because you said I can grow what I like  
To hold the flowers again, to feel you in them  
To feel like I've held you in my arms again  
Content enough to hold the flowers close  
Let the thorns burn through my skin  
Bleed on our garden to let out my pain  
Hoping you'd feel it through my veins  
That you left me right here  
Alone to whisper into my tears  
“I love you until death do us apart.”  
Is what you'll hear  
Piercing your thorns into my palms  
Letting your tears through my bloodstains

I'm content; I'm happy, to lay onto you  
Into my last breath

Beneath the sorrow and pain  
To hope to hold you again  
Together, not as roses or blood  
But as souls locked together for ages



# ARTWORK- SRI PRIYA



**Caption:**

The Art Of Connection - Subtle, Pure, Eternal”

# THE WHISPERS OF THE SKY AND THE SECRETS OF THE STARS

Anirudh, an 11-year-old boy, feels lost as his parents, who have grown distant and silent, drop him off at his grandparents' house, leaving him with memories of his old school and friends.

Life with his grandparents was simple and strange in equal measure.

Every morning, his grandmother woke him up by saying, "The rooster has shouted thrice! Even the Sun's looking for you!"

To which Anirudh once muttered sleepily, "Then tell the Sun to go back to sleep. I'll join him."

At breakfast, his grandfather would read the newspaper and grumble, "The world's gone mad!"

Anirudh, munching idlis, would ask, "Then why do you keep reading it every day? You like getting angry, or what?"

By evening, he'd sit under the neem tree doing homework while his grandparents argued over who makes better rasam—an argument that had lasted forty years and showed no signs of ending peacefully.

Life was slow.  
Beautifully slow.

And slowly, Anirudh began adapting himself to the new environment—a new school and new beginnings.

One day, his teacher said in class, "The sun rises in the east and sets in the west."

Simple.  
But it stuck in his head like a stubborn sticker.

Why rise? Why set?  
What does the Sun do when he's not working?

That evening, he asked his grandfather, "Thatha, where does the sun go when it sets? Does he get tired?"

His grandmother shouted from the kitchen, "Careful, Anirudh! When your grandfather doesn't know something, he starts inventing stories!"

"Ah, jealous woman," said his grandfather dramatically. "When history forgets science, stories keep it alive!"

Anirudh clapped in excitement. "Tell me then, Thatha! Tell me where the sun goes!"

His grandfather leaned back, cleared his throat, and said, "Then listen carefully. This is not a bedtime story. This is the truth nobody remembers anymore."

## Chapter 1: The sun and the stars

In the earliest dawns of creation, there were no nights—only endless days bathed in radiance.

The universe was young, and light had no rival.

To bring life to this newborn world, the gods created many stars. They were all created in such a way that no one was more than another, and none was less than anyone else; they were all equally similar, made as energy resources of nature.

The Sun was one of those stars—a being made not just of fire, but of pure kindness. His light was meant to nourish rivers, awaken forests, and whisper life into seeds sleeping beneath the soil.

The Sun was warmth itself—gentle, generous, and eternally smiling. While the other stars kept most of their light within, glowing softly, the Sun—too innocent, too kind—gave all that he had, and more.

He shone so brightly that even the gods had to shade their eyes. His radiance reached every corner of the cosmos, wrapping the universe in a golden blanket of light. Slowly, something began to happen—his brilliance grew and grew, his form swelling until he appeared like a blazing crown in the heavens.

From Earth, people could see nothing else.

No stars.

No constellations.

Only him.

The other stars, once proud and twinkling, began to feel like ghosts in daylight.

At first, they whispered among themselves.

“He means no harm,” said one softly.

“But he leaves no room for us to shine,” sighed another.

Their sadness turned to envy, and envy soon fermented into hatred. They forgot that they too were stars. They forgot that light does not compete—it coexists.

And so began the plotting.

One day, a few stars came together and tried to throw comets at the Sun, hoping to dim his shine. But the comets melted before reaching him. Another day, they tried to eclipse him with dust clouds—but his heat turned them into golden mist.

Every plot failed, and every time, the Sun would look down at them with a smile, thinking:

“Ah, my little friends are playing again!”

He thought it was all a cosmic game, a teasing among siblings. His innocence blinded him to their growing bitterness.

The stars watched, their envy blooming like poison.

“He thinks he’s eternal,” they said.

“Let him see how eternal darkness feels.”

Until one day, the stars came to him—each shimmering more than usual, their voices sweet as nectar.

They said, “Dear Sun, there’s a place at the edge of the sky where the view is breathtaking. You must see it! The whole universe looks like a jewel from there.”

The Sun, glowing with trust and curiosity, agreed.

As they travelled together across the heavens, he noticed their eyes—darting glances, whispers behind smiles. Deep inside, he knew something was wrong.

So he began to speak softly, testing their hearts.

Tell me, my friends, have you ever wondered what happens when light gives too much?”

They hesitated. Their silence answered him.

The Sun understood. He knew what awaited him at the edge of the sky.

Still, he kept walking.

Not out of ignorance—but forgiveness.

He wished to teach them something words could not.

When they finally reached the celestial cliff, the stars hesitated.

At the edge of the world, their smiles vanished.

“You’ve had enough of the sky,” they whispered. “Now let us have our turn.”

They wanted to push him, but his heat was unbearable; they could not even approach him. Their envy trembled before his warmth.

The Sun turned to face them.

For the first time, his smile was both sad and beautiful.

Without speaking a word, he spread his arms wide. His rays reached out to embrace the stars.

And then—

He fell backward, laughing softly, as if surrendering to destiny.

He tumbled down through the skies, smiling at the stars as he passed them, while they stared—frozen—unsure if he was mocking them or forgiving them.

As he fell, the light began to fade.

The heavens dimmed.  
The clouds turned grey.  
The Earth below trembled.

Rivers glistened faintly and then darkened. The forests stilled.

The sky slowly dimmed. Birds stopped mid-flight. Shadows vanished into themselves.

When the Sun hit the ocean, there was a sound—not of water, but of the world exhaling in grief

And in that instant, the first night was born

Darkness swallowed the world

The stars, finally visible, looked upon the Earth and realized—

They were not ready for what they had wished for.

The people who once cursed the Sun’s endless brightness now screamed in fear of the dark. They lit fires, cried to the heavens, and prayed to the gods:

“Bring back the light!  
Bring back our Sun!”

The gods, hearing the cries, descended from the firmament to find their missing child. They searched the heavens, then dove into the deep oceans where his body had fallen.

But they found no Sun—only shimmering trails of his radiance, floating like golden fish in the depths.

When they asked the Ocean where he was, she whispered in her deep voice:

“He has left all his brilliance within me. He walks among your creations now—in human form. He walks among people now—hidden, humble, unseen.”

The gods looked at each other in disbelief. The sea shimmered with stolen gold beneath them, yet the sky above was hollow, wounded.

So began the Great Search for the Sun.

## CHAPTER 2: THE SEARCH FOR THE LOST LIGHT

The gods walked among humans, disguised as wanderers. They searched everywhere—temples, palaces, markets.

They found kings who called themselves the Sun’s heirs—their eyes full of pride, but their hearts dark with greed.

They found priests who preached about light but feared the shadows in their own minds.

They found poets, lovers, farmers, mothers—all carrying a flicker of warmth, yet none that belonged to him.

One night, in a quiet village, a god disguised as a beggar saw a child sharing his only meal with a stray dog.

The boy smiled, wiped the dog's mouth with his sleeve, and said,

“You look tired, little one. Eat first. I'll eat later.”

The god's heart trembled. In that moment, he saw a faint glow behind the boy's eyes—not bright, but infinite.

He bowed his head and whispered,  
“Found you.”

The boy looked at him and laughed softly.  
“Ah... you've found me too soon.”

Before they could blink, the boy suddenly disappeared, transforming himself into a disguised adult form.

Now, even the gods disguised themselves as monks and began searching for the Sun again.

His hands glowed faintly as he touched wounds, but no one noticed. He spoke little, smiled often, and never stayed anywhere long enough for people to remember his name.

The gods confronted him again.

“Sun, you run from your own light. You are needed above, not below.”

He replied,

“And who told you light belongs above? It belongs where it is most needed—in darkness.”

His words silenced even the thunder.

The gods tried to reason.

“The world cannot balance without you.”

He looked at them sadly.

“Then teach the world not to depend on one flame. Every heart must burn on its own.”

Before they could answer, he disappeared into the crowd again—leaving behind a faint warmth that lingered on their skin.

Centuries passed.

The gods grew weary. The Sun, in his wandering, had aged into an old man—fragile, wrinkled, sitting by the same ocean where he had once fallen.

His eyes still shimmered faintly—like embers refusing to die. He was feeding birds with his trembling hands.

The gods appeared before him, no disguises this time. The sky itself bowed.

“We found you again,” they said.

He smiled, tired but peaceful.

“You always do. And yet, you never understand why I leave.”

“Tell us, then,” said the oldest of the gods. “Why exile yourself among mortals?”

The old man looked at the sea.

“Because I wanted to know what it feels like to be loved without shining. To be seen without blinding. I wanted to know hunger, pain, laughter, loss—all the things my light hid from me. I wanted to know what makes them pray... and what makes them stop.”

The gods fell silent.

“And what have you learnt?” one asked finally.

The old man smiled faintly.

“That light isn’t glory. It’s grace. It’s not in how high you shine, but in how softly you touch. Even the smallest flame can guide a lost soul home.”

The wind carried his words across the sea. For a moment, it felt as though dawn itself had sighed.

The gods bowed.

“You’ve learned what no heaven could teach. You’ve walked as man, lived as light, and felt as a heart.

The world needs both—your blaze and your calm.”

They placed their palms upon his head, and the old man began to rise—his frail skin turning gold, his eyes igniting like twin dawns.

“From this day,” the eldest god declared, “you shall rule both day and night—as the Sun by morning and as the Moon by night, hidden yet present.”

The ocean roared in joy. The winds bent in reverence. The earth opened its eyes again to light.

And when the Sun rose the next morning, his warmth felt different—softer, wiser, touched by the memory of having once been human.

At night, he shone again—gentler, quieter, enhancing the other stars’ glow—as the Moon.

The hottest sun is the coolest moon, but it is nature’s secret—one no one knows, not even the stars around the moon.

When Anirudh’s grandfather finished, there was pin-drop silence—except for his grandmother pretending to cough to hide her tears.

Anirudh leaned forward, his eyes wide and glowing.

“Thatha,” he asked softly,

“Why did the stars hate the Sun when he did nothing wrong?”

The grandfather smiled, his wrinkled hand resting on the boy’s head. His eyes looked past the window, where the last rays of sunset faded into dusk.

“My dear Anirudh,” he said slowly,

“That’s how the world sometimes is. Even when you do nothing wrong—when you shine too kindly, too honestly—some will feel smaller beside your light. They’ll mistake your warmth for pride.”

Anirudh frowned, puzzled.

“So the Sun was punished for being good?”

“No, my child,” the grandfather said with a soft chuckle.

“He wasn’t punished. He was tested.

The world needed to learn what true strength is—not the kind that fights back, but the kind that understands, forgives, and still shines again the next morning.”

There was silence. Night had fallen outside; the moon hung softly in the sky.

The grandfather continued, his voice almost a whisper now:

“In today’s world, people throw hate like stones, and those who wish to love end up bruised.

But remember, my boy—just as the Sun did not stop shining, you too must not stop being kind

Even if they envy you, even if they mock you, keep giving warmth.

Because somewhere, someone still needs your light.”

Anirudh thought for a while, his childlike curiosity wrapping around the depth of those words. Then he smiled.

“So... if I forgive people even when they hurt me, I’ll become like the Sun?”

The grandfather laughed warmly, his eyes moist.

“Yes, Anirudh. That’s when you’ll truly rise.”

The boy hugged him tightly.

Outside, the Moon shone gently through the window—the same Sun, resting in disguise, watching over them. And somewhere in the night sky, the stars twinkled—not in envy this time, but in quiet admiration of the Moon, without knowing that the Moon himself was the Sun.

Anirudh's question was answered—at least for now.

The boy had just begun to see the world, and with every sight, new questions would bloom.

But for each of them, his grandfather would always have a story—his own kind of truth.

He may never use this to write in an exam why the Sun rises or sets—but he would learn how to rise like the Sun and be loved like the Moon.

The Anirudh sparks of curiosity had just been lit...

And the story is only the beginning.

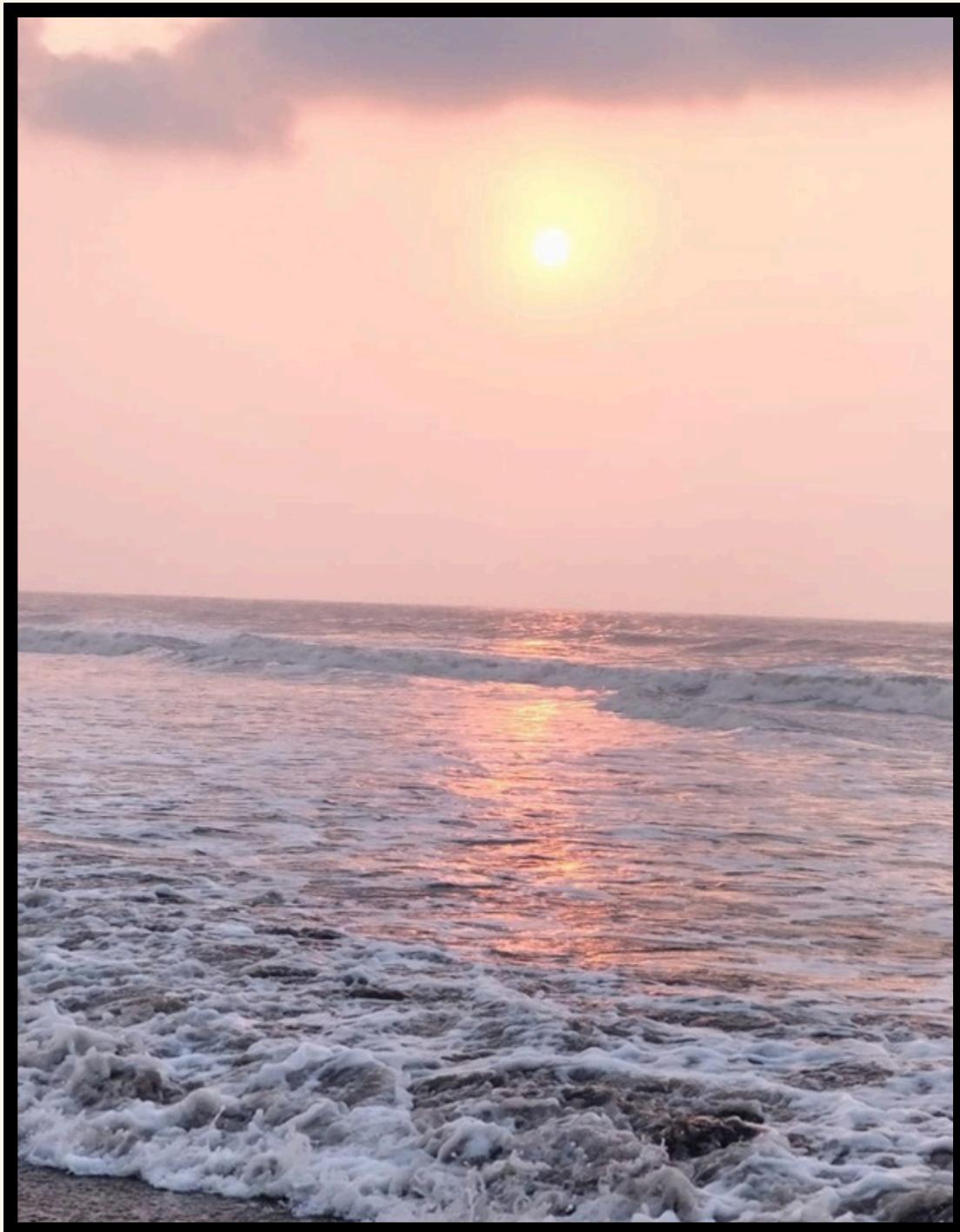
— To be continued.

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# ARTWORK- SAHITI SREE



# PHOTO - SRI PRIYA



**Caption:**

Golden Hour Meets Gentle Waves

# LEGAL AID CLUB

## EVENT REPORTS

1. Awareness on POCSO Act - The Legal Aid Society of ICFAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad, recently organised a legal awareness programme centred on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, at ZPHS in Tangatoor village, Shankarpally mandal, Rangareddy district, on 12th September 2025. Approximately 70 students from the 9th and 10th grades participated in the event. During the programme, faculty members discussed various provisions of the POCSO Act, focusing on child sexual abuse and the penalties imposed on offenders. The legal aid team presented an informative poster detailing how to report instances of sexual abuse to parents, the police, and the school disciplinary committee. Students were educated on the concepts of "good touch" and "bad touch", highlighting the importance of vigilance in recognising and addressing inappropriate or disturbing behaviour.



The presentation also covered the topic of drug abuse and its ramifications. In a creative segment, students performed a mime act demonstrating how they can protect themselves and others by utilising the child helpline number, 1098, and the police helpline number, 100. Student feedback indicated a strong comprehension of the POCSO Act's provisions. The programme concluded with an engaging activity that encouraged students to share their insights from the session. The POCSO Act underscores the importance of not remaining silent in the face of sexual abuse; students are urged to report any incidents immediately to their parents, law enforcement, or school authorities. This event was made possible through funding from IFHE Management, aimed at promoting legal literacy in Telangana. The event is organised by Dr S. Kannan, Coordinator of Legal Aid Society and Legal aid members of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad

# EVENT REPORTS

**2. Speed mentoring programme on the Awareness on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012,** on October 30, 2025 - The Legal Aid Society of ICFAI Law School at IFHE, Hyderabad, organized a legal awareness programme focused on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, 2012, at MNR High School and School of Excellence in Chanda Nagar, Serilingampally Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana, on October 30, 2025. Approximately 350 students from the 9th and 10th grades participated in the program. Faculty members discussed various provisions of the Act related to child sexual abuse, including safe and unsafe touch, as well as the penalties for offenders.

During the program, the faculty emphasised the importance of the POCSO Act, highlighting the significance of consent and respecting personal boundaries among children and teens. They explained concepts like grooming and manipulation to help students recognise warning signs of child sexual abuse. The discussion guided students on how to respond to and report unsafe situations confidently. Furthermore, it underscored the role of teachers and adults in fostering a culture of safety, trust, and respect for every child.

Legal aid members presented a poster outlining the process for reporting sexual abuse to parents, the police, and the school disciplinary committee. Additionally, students performed a mime act to raise awareness about child abuse, demonstrating ways children can protect themselves. They shared vital information about the child helpline number (1098), the police helpline number (100), and the POCSO eBox facility under the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. A game activity centered on awareness made the session more interactive for the students.

Feedback from attendees indicated that they gained a clear understanding of the POCSO Act and its various provisions. The Act emphasises that students should not remain silent if they experience sexual abuse; they should report such incidents immediately to their parents, the police, or school authorities. The event is organised by Dr S. Kannan, Coordinator of Legal Aid Society and Legal aid members of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad

**3 HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | OCTOBER 31 2025**

**Deccan Vision**

**ICFAI Law School's Legal Aid Society Conducts POCSO Awareness Program for 350 Students in Hyderabad**

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE ■ RANGAREDDY

The Legal Aid Society of ICFAI Law School at the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE), Hyderabad, organized a comprehensive legal awareness program on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, 2012, at MNR High School and School of Excellence in Chanda Nagar, Serilingampally Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana.

The event, held on October 30, 2025, engaged approximately 350 students from the 9th and 10th grades. Legal aid members led interactive sessions delving into key provisions of the POCSO Act, focusing on issues of sexual abuse. They explained the distinctions between safe and unsafe touch, the severe penalties for offenders, and the critical role of consent in respecting children's boundaries among children and teens.

Participants were educated on recognizing grooming and manipulation tactics as well as warning signs of abuse. The program empowered students with practical guidance on responding to unsafe situations and reporting incidents confidently.

It also highlighted the responsibilities of teachers and adults in creating a culture of respect, trust, and respect for every child.

To aid understanding, legal aid members displayed a poster detailing the step-by-step process for reporting sexual abuse to parents, police, or school disciplinary committees. Students contributed through a mime act that illustrated child abuse scenarios and self-protection strategies.

Key takeaways from the session were shared, including the child helpline (1098), police emergency line (100), and the POCSO eBox facility under the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

An engaging game activity on awareness topics kept the session interactive and reinforced key messages.

Attendee feedback reflected a strong appreciation of the POCSO Act's provisions, with students emphasizing the importance of breaking silence on abuse and immediately reporting incidents to parents, police, or school authorities.

The initiative, funded by IFHE Management, aims to enhance legal literacy across Telangana and promote child protection.




# EVENT REPORTS

3. **The National Lok Adalat** - took place in Telangana across various levels, from the High Court to the Taluk level, on September 13, 2025. This initiative aimed to settle civil and compoundable criminal cases, encompassing both pre-litigation and pending litigation. Lok Adalats were established to encourage compromise between the parties involved, based on mutual consent. Furthermore, the awards issued by a Lok Adalat are recognized as decrees of a civil court, making them enforceable. Members of the legal aid team from ICFAI Law School actively participated by assisting legal counsels in resolving reported cases. They contributed in multiple courts, including the Ranga Reddy District Court, City Civil Court, and Sessions Court in Nampally, as well as in Sangareddy District, Karimnagar District, and Kukatpally Court, Medchal-Malkajgiri district. This experience provided law students with practical insights into case resolution while allowing them to contribute to society by promoting legal inclusion.



# MANN - PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

## EVENT REPORTS

### MINDFUL AWARENESS AND NURTURING NOTIONS (MANN CLUB)

The club has conducted a guest lecture and debate competition on “Mental Health Awareness: Emotion and Intellect in Dialogue” in collaboration with Vox Populi on October 16, 2025 – The Debate Club, ICFAI Law School, and IFHE, Hyderabad.

The event aimed to promote mental health awareness and foster meaningful dialogue between emotional intelligence and rational thinking. It featured a guest lecture by Ms Neha Tripathi, a certified career counsellor and psychologist, followed by a debate competition and an interactive session on emotional health, gender, and safe spaces.

Ms Tripathi's lecture emphasised the importance of understanding psychology, the shortage of mental health professionals in India, and the role of culture in shaping emotions and anxiety. She discussed real-life case studies, explained how to identify and manage anxiety, and stressed the need for creating non-judgemental safe spaces for emotional expression.

The guest lecture was followed by the debate on the motion “This House Opposes the Growing Presence of Unlicensed Social Media Therapists in Shaping Youth Mental Health”, which showcased students' critical thinking and ability to connect law, psychology, and social awareness.

At the end, the club conducted an interview session with Ms Tripathi, addressing key themes such as the difference between sex and gender, emotional expression, self-awareness, managing sadness, and becoming a “safe space” for others. She highlighted that emotional health and sadness can coexist and that empathy, confidentiality, and self-reflection are essential for balanced well-being.



# EVENT REPORTS



The discussion also extended to the psychology behind crime, where Ms Tripathi advocated for a reformative approach rooted in understanding mental states and trauma.

The event concluded with appreciation for the collaboration between MANN and Vox Populi, reinforcing ICFAI Law School's commitment to holistic education that nurtures both intellectual growth and emotional awareness.



# GAIA - ENVIRONMENT CLUB

## EVENT REPORTS

### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS ACTIVITY AT MANDAL PARISHAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The GAIA Club of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, organized an environmental awareness and interactive program on 15 October 2025 at Mandal Parishad Primary School, Donthapalle.

The initiative was aimed at sensitizing young children toward environmental care and sustainable practices through enjoyable, educational activities. The main objective of this outreach was to promote awareness about the environment, encourage students to appreciate nature, and instill the habit of cleanliness and proper waste management from an early age. The event was conducted for students of Classes I to V. The children participated with great enthusiasm, showing curiosity and excitement throughout the session.

#### Activities Conducted

##### 1. Picture Card Identification:

The GAIA Club members displayed various picture cards featuring fruits, leaves, clouds, and other natural elements. The children were encouraged to identify these objects and share their thoughts about their importance in nature.

##### 2. Drawing and Creative Engagement:

Students were invited to participate in drawing sessions where they depicted fruits and elements of nature, allowing them to express creativity while learning about biodiversity.

##### 3. Waste Segregation Demonstration:

Club members conducted a practical demonstration on segregating dry and wet waste into different dustbins. This hands-on learning activity aimed to help the students understand the importance of proper waste disposal and environmental hygiene.

#### Interaction and Response

#### Interaction and Response

The young students responded with keen interest, engaging actively in the discussions and guessing games. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn reflected the success of the initiative. The teachers appreciated the club's efforts in imparting valuable environmental lessons in a fun and accessible manner.

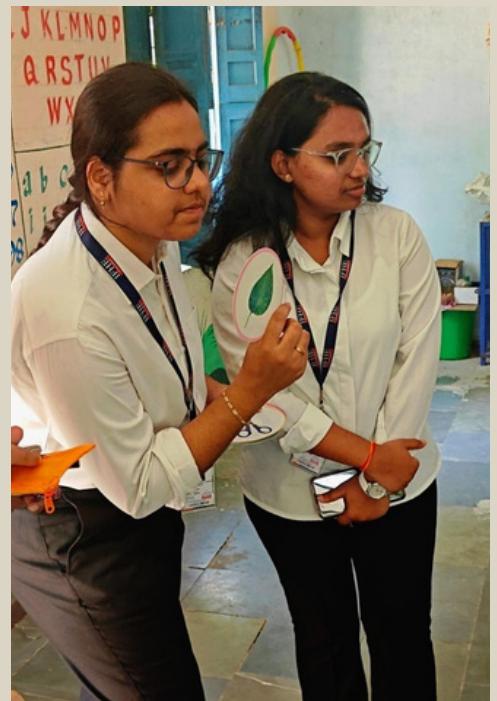
At the conclusion of the event, each student was given a small token of appreciation, including pencils, erasers, and a refreshing drink. This gesture added joy to the learning experience and encouraged further participation.

#### Conclusion

The activity was a meaningful step in GAIA Club's mission to create environmental awareness and responsibility among the younger generation. Through such community-based programs, the GAIA Club of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, continues to promote values of sustainability, ecological balance, and civic responsibility.



# EVENT REPORTS



# AAINAA - PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

## EVENT REPORTS

**QUIZFLIX Competition** – AAINAA, The Photography Club, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad has organized "QUIZFLIX", an engaging quiz competition based on movies, OTT shows, and general knowledge, based on legal aspects. The event was conducted to encourage teamwork, creativity, and fun learning among students while enhancing their cultural connect.

Date of Occurrence: 3rd September 2025

Venue: CR 6, Old FOL

Strength: A total of 78 student participants actively took part in the competition.

Event Reception & Feedback: The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. Students highly enjoyed the interactive rounds and appreciated the blend of entertainment and knowledge. Many participants expressed strong interest in similar fun and learning-orientated activities in the future.



# EVENT REPORTS

**EXPLORING PROFESSIONAL SYNERGIES – LAW & COMPANY SECRETARSHIP.** THE ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, IFHE HYDERABAD, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY SECRETARIES OF INDIA (ICSI), SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISED AN ENLIGHTENING SESSION ON “LAW AND CS: PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD”.

Prof. Y. Pratap Reddy, Dean, ICFAI Law School, emphasised the importance of integrating law with professional courses like Company Secretaryship, encouraging students to seize emerging opportunities. CS R. Venkata Ramana, Central Council Member, ICSI, delivered insights on the evolving role of company secretaries in governance and compliance. CS Manjeet Bucha, Chairman, ICSI Hyderabad Chapter, shared practical perspectives on career avenues for aspiring company secretaries.

Date of Occurrence: 9th September 2025

Venue: IFHE Auditorium

**Strength:** With the participation of around 200 students, the event highlighted the growing relevance of governance, compliance, and corporate law in shaping future professionals.

**Event Reception & Feedback:** The interactive Q&A session saw enthusiastic participation from students, exploring the synergy between law and CS as career pathways. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Md. Akbar Khan, Associate Dean, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, appreciating the collaboration and knowledge-sharing. The session was truly inspiring and reinforced the importance of multidisciplinary learning in preparing students for impactful careers in law, governance, and corporate advisory.

**CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAM: GUEST LECTURE ON SECURITIZATION AND BANKING LAWS**

Name of the Event & Description: The Career Guidance Program featured an engaging guest lecture on Securitization and Banking Laws by Advocate Sri Prem Kumar Pothina, founder of Prem Kumar Pothina Associates LLP, Solicitors & Advocates. With his vast experience in banking and financial law, he provided valuable insights into the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, its application, and its impact on financial institutions. The session also offered students practical exposure to legal procedures in debt recovery and asset reconstruction, along with guidance on building a career in banking and finance law. It was both informative and inspiring for attendees.

Date of Occurrence: 9th October 2025

Venue: FST Auditorium

**Strength:** The program received an excellent response with the participation of approximately 200 students.

**Event Reception & Feedback:** The session was highly insightful and engaging. Students gained a deeper understanding of Securitization and Banking Laws, particularly the SARFAESI Act, and its real-world applications in the banking sector. The interactive discussion and practical examples shared by the speaker enriched the students' learning experience, making the session both informative and inspiring for those aspiring to build a career in corporate and financial law.

# EVENT REPORTS

## BLOOD DONATION CAMP

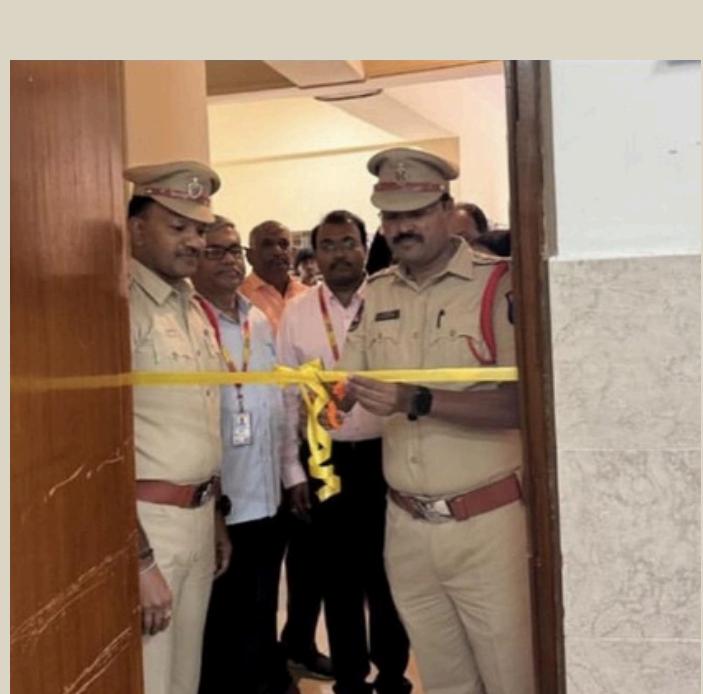
Name of the Event & Description: Organised by AAINAA (Photography Club) and GENESIS (Journalism Club) in collaboration with the Government of Telangana on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day. This initiative is directed towards supporting thalassaemia patients and spreading awareness about the importance of blood donation.

Date of Occurrence: 17th October 2025

Venue: Old FOL, Legal Aid Club

Strength: A total of 130 students donated blood

Event Reception & Feedback: The Blood Donation Camp received an overwhelming response, with around 130 students coming forward to donate blood. Students from all schools of ICFAI actively participated, with a majority from the Law School, followed by the BBA and B.Tech departments. The event was impactful, encouraging unity, compassion and social responsibility among students.



# MOOT COURT CLUB

## EVENT REPORTS

### WORKSHOP ON FUNDAMENTALS OF MOOTING

The Moot Court Society, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, organised a one-day workshop on “Fundamentals of Mooting” on 15th October 2025. The workshop aimed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of mooting as an essential component of legal education. The inaugural session began with a welcome address by Prof. (Dr) Akbar Khan, Associate Dean (Research), who emphasized the historical significance and pedagogical value of mooting. Dr A. Arun Kumar, Assistant Dean (Student Activities), highlighted the workshop's objective of strengthening advocacy and research skills among students. The primary session was conducted by Mr Satyendra Mani Tripathi, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, who shared his experiences and discussed the fundamentals of mooting, courtroom etiquette, and oral advocacy techniques.

The post-lunch session, led by Mr Shubham Prakash Singh, Faculty Co-Coordinator of the Moot Court Society, along with Ms. M. Sri Bhuvana, Mr. Abhijeet Nimmaraju, and Mr. Padakanti Srikanth, demonstrated the structure of a moot court through an engaging mock session. The workshop concluded with a valedictory address by Dr. Sayan Das, Coordinator, Moot Court Society. The workshop successfully blended theoretical and practical learning, enriching students' advocacy skills and confidence.

#### Faculty Coordinators:

1. Dr. Sayan Das, Coordinator, Moot Court Society
2. Dr. Sadanand Karhale, Co-Coordinator, Moot Court Society
3. Mr. Shubham Prakash Singh, Faculty Co-Coordinator, Moot Court Society
4. Dr. Shruti Kandoi, Faculty Member, Moot Court Society
5. Dr. Munish Swaroop, Faculty Member, Moot Court Society
6. Dr. Sumanta Meher, Faculty Member, Moot Court Society

#### Resource Person:

1. Mr. Satyendra Mani Tripathi, Advocate, Supreme Court of India

#### Key Highlights:

1. Insightful session on the fundamentals of mooting, memorial drafting, and oral advocacy.
2. Practical demonstration of a moot court by the General Secretaries under the guidance of Mr. Shubham Prakash Singh, Faculty Co-Coordinator: Ms. M. Sri Bhuvana, Mr. Abhijeet Nimmaraju, and Mr. Padakanti Srikanth.
3. Personalized mentoring for students preparing for international moot competitions.
4. Introduction of a cash prize for the upcoming intra-moot competition, announced by Dr. Sayan Das.

#### Outcomes:

1. Participants gained clarity on courtroom etiquette, memorial structure, and advocacy techniques.
2. The workshop enhanced confidence and practical understanding of mooting among students.
3. Students expressed greater enthusiasm to participate in national and international moot court competitions.

# EVENT REPORTS



# EVENT REPORTS

## .2. SHRI NJ YASASWY MEMORIAL INTRA MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2025

The Shri N. J. Yasaswy Memorial Intra Moot Court Competition, 2025, organized by the Moot Court Society, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, was held on 1st and 2nd November 2025. The competition served as one of the institution's most prestigious academic exercises, aiming to enhance advocacy, research, and analytical skills among students. The event was preceded by a One-Day Workshop on "Fundamentals of Mooting" conducted by Mr. Satyendra Mani Tripathi, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, who also drafted the official moot proposition for the competition.

This year, the competition witnessed an overwhelming response, with 56 teams comprising over 168 participants from across all years of the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), and B.A.J. LL.B. (Hons.) programs. The two-day event included Preliminary, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final Rounds, judged by a distinguished panel of advocates and academicians. The Grand Final Round was presided over by Mr. Rajeev Rambhatla, Partner at Luthra and Luthra Law Offices India, and Ms. Pooja Dongre, Advocate, Supreme Court and Bombay High Court. The competition culminated in the recognition of outstanding participants who demonstrated exceptional advocacy, teamwork, and research excellence.

A Preliminary Workshop was conducted by Mr. Satyendra Mani Tripathi, Advocate, Supreme Court of India where he covered essentials of mooting, research methodology, memorial drafting, and courtroom etiquette

### Participation:

1. 82 registrations and 56 participating teams (over 168 active participants)
2. Representing students from all batches of B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), and B.A.J. LL.B. (Hons.) programs

### Judging Panel (Final Round):

1. Mr. Rajeev Rambhatla, Partner, Luthra and Luthra Law Offices India
2. Ms. Pooja Dongre, Advocate, Supreme Court and Bombay High Court

### Key Highlights:

1. Transparent memorial exchange and draw of lots conducted on 31st October 2025
2. Systematic management of logistics, score tabulation, and courtroom coordination by MCS members
3. Lively interaction between judges and participants encouraging analytical precision
4. Demonstrated exceptional teamwork and professional discipline among students

### Outcomes:

1. Enhanced participants' understanding of procedural and substantive law
2. Improved skills in research, drafting, oral argumentation, and advocacy
3. Strengthened teamwork, communication, and professional ethics
4. Reaffirmed the institution's commitment to fostering a robust mooting culture

### Results

1. Winners & Best Memorial – Team IMC-123: Sarabjot Singh, Charu Agarwal, and Bhuvana Shreya Pabbichetty (2nd Year)
2. First Runners-Up - Team IMC-147: Khushi Sethia, Jui Vinay Rode, and Harshita Jaiswal (2nd Year)
3. Best Speaker – Team IMC-159: Aura Satpathy (1st Year)
4. Best Researcher – Team IMC-143 : Sneha Siri Puligari (3rd Year)

# EVENT REPORTS



# ABHINAYA - THEATRE CLUB

## EVENT REPORTS

### DUO-LOGY ACTING COMPETITION

#### Date & Venue:

The event was conducted on 29th October 2025 at the IBS Seminar Hall from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

#### Judges:

- Dr. A. Arun Kumar, Assistant Dean & Coordinator for Student Activities
- Mr. Rajasekhar Reddy, Assistant Professor, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad
- Dr. D. V. N. Murthy, Assistant Professor, ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad

#### Overview of the Event:

Abhinaya's Got Talent – titled “Duo-logy Acting Competition” – was a unique platform created by Abhinaya, the theatre club of ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad, to celebrate the power of performance, teamwork, and storytelling. The event aimed to nurture creativity, confidence, and stage presence among law students, all of which are essential attributes for aspiring legal professionals.

The competition encouraged students to participate in teams of two, highlighting chemistry, coordination, and expression. These skills are invaluable to both theatre and advocacy.

#### Participation Details:

1. Total Teams: 11
2. Participants per Team: 2
3. Total Participants: 22
4. Total Audience Strength: Approximately 100-130, including students and club members.

#### Structure of the Competition:

The competition consisted of two rounds, each designed to test different aspects of acting:

1. Round 1 – Comedy Carnival: Participants recreated iconic comedic duos from Bollywood or Tollywood, delivering light-hearted performances filled with humour, wit, and timing.

2. Round 2 – Dramatics and Emotion: This round tested the emotional depth and range of the participants, as they performed dramatic or sentimental scenes. Character selection for this round was done by drawing lots, adding an element of surprise and spontaneity.

Each team was allotted 3 to 5 minutes for their performance.

Costumes, dialogue delivery, and coordination were integral parts of the judging criteria.

#### Judging Criteria:

The participants were evaluated on the following parameters (each carrying 10 marks):

1. Character Involvement
2. Chemistry & Synchronization
3. Expressions
4. Dialogue Delivery
5. Costume and Presentation

#### Event Impact:

The competition was a resounding success, drawing enthusiastic participation and appreciation from both faculty and students. The judges commended the participants for their originality, confidence, and command over performance. The event reinforced Abhinaya's reputation as a vibrant platform that merges artistic expression with legal education. This competition successfully showcased the creativity and dynamism of ICFAI Law School students. Beyond entertainment, it served as a platform for experiential learning, bridging the gap between performance art and legal oratory. The event reaffirmed that the art of advocacy begins with the art of expression, making it a valuable addition to the Law School's student activity calendar.

# ERGA LITERARIUM - LITERATURE CLUB

## EVENT REPORTS

### DEBATE COMPETITION: POLICY PARLEY

The competition was held on 12th November, 2025 by the Erga Literarium Club of ICFAI Law School on the occasion of National Education Day. Students from different semesters debated on The National Education Policy, 2020 putting forward their viewpoints on topics such as constitutional autonomy, three language barrier, vocational training, etc. The participants were judged on their content, articulation, body language and time management. The participants wonderfully put forward their content impressing the judges. The event was held during the activity hours in the presence of Assistant Prof. Rupak Das and other faculties as esteemed judges



# EVENT REPORTS

## THE GREAT GAUNTLET – A LITERARY CHALLENGE UNFOLDS

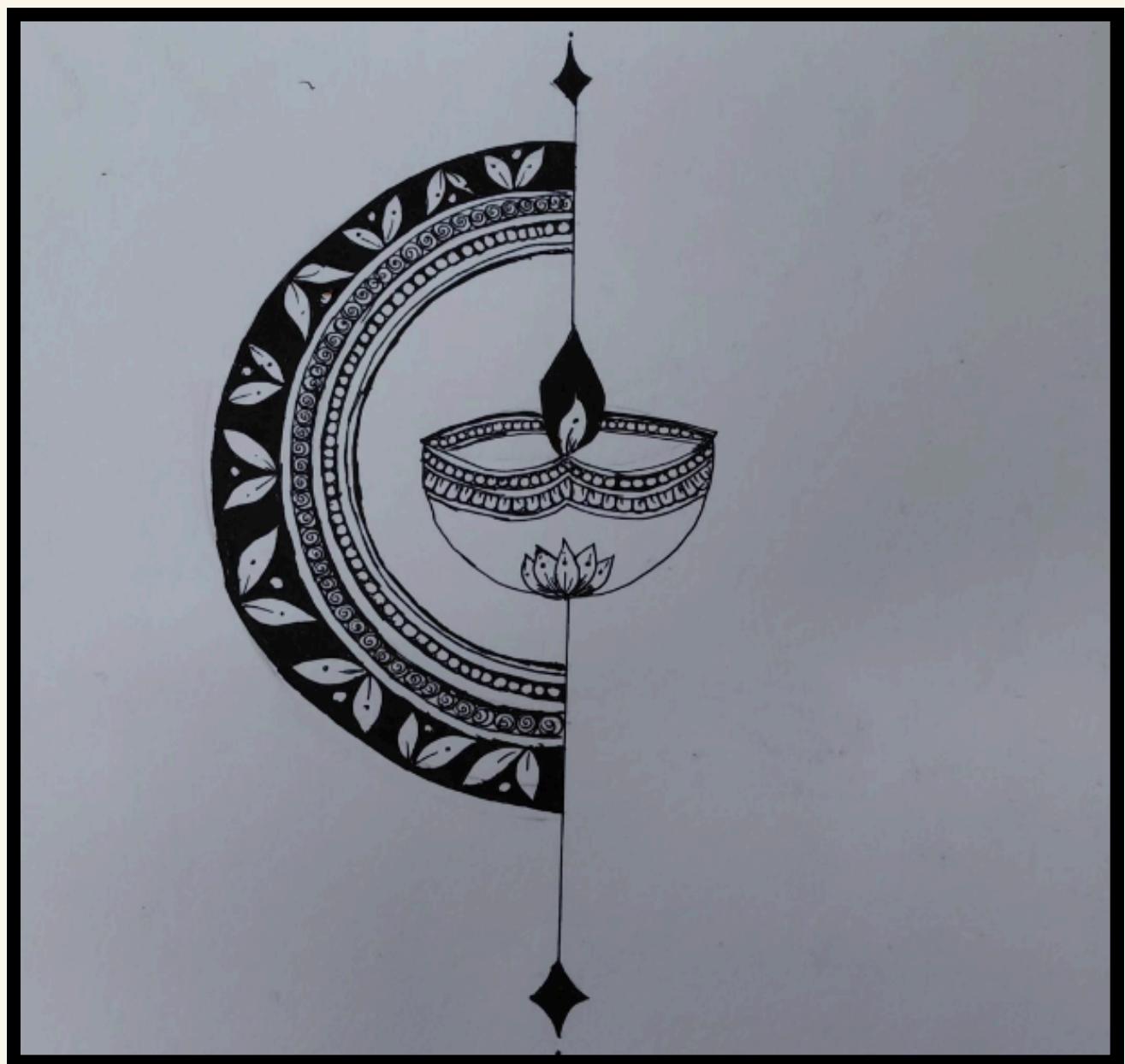
Erga Literarium organized The Great Gauntlet on October 22, 2025, at CR7, New FOL, during the activity hours under the guidance of Faculty Coordinator Mr. Rupak Das. The event featured nine teams who competed across six challenging and creative rounds inspired by popular literary works. The participants analytical and literary skills were tested through decoding plot clues, solving visual puzzles, scrambling their brain for understanding the riddle and unraveling ciphers. The event's innovative structure, seamless coordination, and enthusiastic participation made The Great Gauntlet 2025 not just a competition but a celebration of intellect and imagination, leaving everyone inspired for the next edition.



# ARTWORK - SAHITI SREE



# SKETCH -PRERNA BAMBORE



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