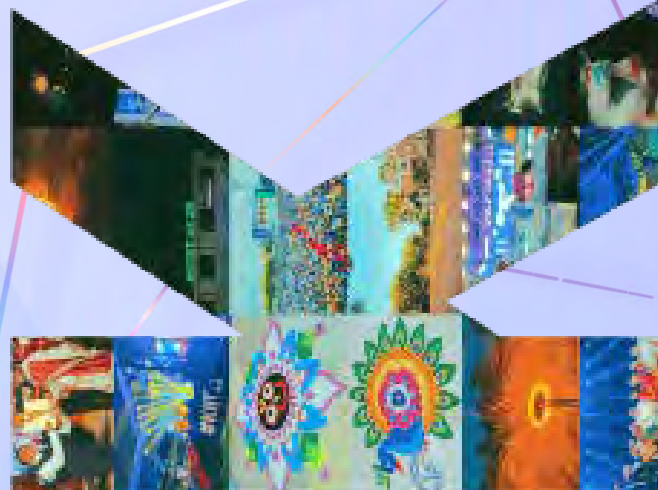
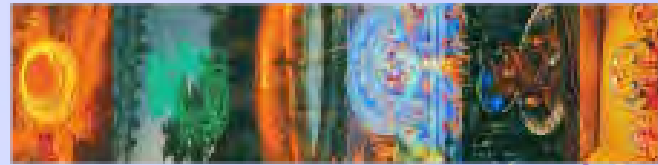
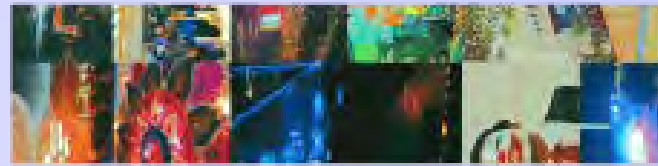




# konversations

10th Edition "Soil to Silver And Beyond"



KIIT at 25



**The Health of a Nation is Defined by the Quality of Education.**

**- Dr. Achyuta Samanta**

## Snapshots Across KIIT

### Silver Jubilee – Soil to Silver

25 years of KIIT University was celebrated with a grand event at the KIIT cricket stadium which was attended by a record-breaking 1 lakh students, faculty, and staff. The celebrations comprised a stunning firework show, an informative light show, and a music show which covered tunes from the early days of Indian cinema to the 2020s. As part of the silver Jubilee celebrations, which will continue for three months, KIIT has lined up countless events ranging from parent's meets to youth festivals.



### Kri Utsav

The 36th Inter University East Zone Youth Festival was a 5-day event being organized by KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi from 23rd to 27th December 2022. The event allowed youths from East Zone institutes to articulate their talent in a multitude of categories like Music, Dance, Theatre, Literary, and Fine Arts. The event saw the participation of 13 universities and about 450 participants who showcased India's cultural prowess.



## KIIT Nanhi Pari

Started in 2001 at Keonjhar, Odisha and patronized by Prof. Achyuta Samanta, the event has taken huge strides to become an event of national repute where teenagers and schoolgirls can showcase their talents before the world. The event aims to build an institution for spotting and nurturing the talent of the women of tomorrow and provide a pedestal for approaching national and internal pageants.



## Kamyab

The Grand Alumni Meet of KIIT was conducted on 17th December at the University Campus and was attended by thousands of former students from the last pass-out batch to the very first one. The alumni also organized a cultural program that included games, musical competitions, and much more. Many alumni also got a chance to share their memories of KIIT including many civil servants, engineers, and technocrats who are doing well in their respective careers.

## Kritajna

KIIT organized a parent meeting as part of its silver Jubilee celebrations. The event comprised movie shows and various competitions which ended with an address by the Hon'ble Founder Prof. Achyuta Samanta at the KIIT Cricket Stadium. The parents also shared their experiences about their association with KIIT through their wards and extended their deepest appreciation to the Founder for the success of both KIIT and KISS.



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# Message From The Director

## The Choice that makes all the Difference

Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living from what we get; We make a life from what we Give”. He had serious differences with Mahatma Gandhi but he was also one of his greatest admirers. There is a difference between ‘living’ and ‘life’. Living is limited to material desires of comfort. Warren Buffet, one of the richest man on Earth, prefers a minimalist living over luxurious living. Living is about life style but not life itself. Living can contribute to Life but is not enough to make a life. ‘Giving’ alone adds maximum value to life. The fundamental choice is between a “life of giving’ and a ‘life of taking’. Earning, Deserving, Merit, Entitlement etc are but allusions to camouflage ‘Taking’, and justify a life of taking! One doesn’t require an inheritance of wealth or power to be a ‘Giver’, but requires a mindset for ‘Giving’. Everyone can be a ‘Giver’, if there is a strong will and conviction to do something good, keeping self-interest aside.

We live in a better world today because of the rare “Givers”, who have been transforming our society, unmindful of billions of “Takers”, who thrive on their work, their giving! Mahatma lived like the poorest man in India by choice, giving our society a strong message to live like one family, in peace, bearing no ill-feeling or malice, being always truthful and helpful, and doing things right. He gave us ‘Ahimsa or Non-Violence’ and ‘Satyagraha or to take the side of Truth’, as opposed to ‘armed struggle’ and ‘fear’, by practical demonstration, in his way of living and life. The Mahatma towers over hundreds of Kings, Emperors, Presidents, Prime Ministers, and intellectuals of his generation like Tolstoy, Tagore and Einstein, as the greatest leader of the 20th Century. What he gave to mankind is beyond valuation. Not that wars have completely stopped, armies are disbanded but the number of lives lost in violence and war is negligible compared to any other period in human history till the second world war.



**Prof. SK Mahapatra, Director**

**Mother Theresa made the choice to be a Giver. Shri Kailash Satyarthi made a choice to be a Giver. Pandit Gopabandhu Das made a choice to be a Giver. Prof Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT & KISS too made a choice to be a Giver. They made their choice when they were in the same age as our graduating students are now. We at KSOM are proud of many of our alumni who are making a life for posterity to judge by turning entrepreneurs. We are also proud of our alumni who have started practicing the “Art of Giving”. Jamshedji Tata used to say, “What you take from society, must you return manifold”. That is what life is all about. This choice will define you to posterity.**

# Editor's Desk

## The Mountains Have Eyes!

Mountains are shrouded in mystery and Gothicism.

The deep, dark greens, the play of light and shadows, the rustling of winds through the crisscross of boughs and leaves, the hide and seek of fogs and mists, the onslaught of dense showers of rains, the gurgling of brooks and splashes of waterfalls, and the winding little foot trails through them all – all tell a story. Or so I have heard. I hail from such a land, a quaint little mountain-top hamlet called Kurseong, which is also apparently one of the most haunted places in the world. I have never seen a semblance of any hauntings, or anything remotely supernatural or unexplainable either, or ever faced so-called 'spooky', despite walks and bouts of loneliness and solitude amidst the greens of the forest, even in the darkest hours of the night. But tales do abound. A small hill station known for its beautiful vistas, orchid gardens, forested hills, and tea plantations, Kurseong is also home to a death road, headless ghost, a haunted school, and countless ghost stories. The fainthearted have been warned to avoid the 'death road,' which lies between Dow Hill Road and the Forest office. While locals have had a harrowing time watching the headless ghost of a young boy walking and disappearing into the forest, unsuspecting tourists have reported cases of being followed and constantly watched over by an unseen entity. Some have reported seeing a red eye peering at them. There is even a ghost of a woman dressed in grey. Such bad is the air of these forests that unfortunate visitors have either lost their mental balance or ended up killing themselves.

I don't believe in such tales. I firmly believe in the adage, if you don't see something, it doesn't exist. But it does. And one unexplainable incident recently made me rethink if actually there are more things on heaven and earth, that are not explainable in human terms.

On a recent trek on the snowy planks of North Sikkim, I was stranded in my car, out of the blue. Completely lost, and engulfed in snowfall, and the deepest, densest of white mists, some 15,000 feet above sea level, nothing was visible beyond the confines of the car, And I knew the dangers of surging ahead on the narrow, slippery, winding road ahead. I was panicking. But then the driver started the engine and inched the car forward. With hairpin bends coming up anywhere and everywhere ahead of me, I was petrified that I would drop into the deep, dark crevasses by the side of the car, with no one knowing where my corpse could be found.



**Prof Saptorshi Das**



I yelled at the chauffeur to stop. And he said, “Aap tension matt lo Madam. Baba Harbhajan yahaan kisi ko kuchh nahi hone deta. Isiliye to China koshish karti rehti hai infiltrate karne ka, but Baba bacha lete hai. And bachate rahenge.” I was intrigued. Nothing like a good story to keep your mind off other things. I asked him who this Baba was. Was he some saint? Or is one of those godmen India is so fond of worshipping?

He revealed that the Nathula Pass on the Indo-China border in the state of Sikkim is a strategically important location for the Indian Army. Blocked by snow in the winter, what you may not know about it, is that the pass is guarded by the ghost of one Baba Harbhajan Singh. Late Sepoy Harbhajan, serving with his unit in Sikkim in 1968, passed away on October 4 that year while escorting a mule column from Tuku La to Dongchui La. He slipped and fell in a canal and the water current carried his body two kilometers downstream. His body is said to have been found three days later after he appeared in a dream of one of his colleagues and told him where the body would be found. He was cremated with full military honors. Later, he is said to have appeared in the dreams of his fellow soldiers and asked them to build a ‘samadhi’ for him. His unit did so 9 km from where the present shrine stands. The most interesting point is that Indian Army has accepted him as a regular Indian army soldier who is still serving the nation. For that, he is given regular promotions. Not even this, he is given leave on 14th September, every year. In the camp at Nathula Pass, a camp bed is kept for him, his boots are polished, and his uniform is kept ready every night. The sheets are reportedly crumpled every morning and the boots muddy by evening. The Ghost soldier also continues to draw a salary and takes his annual leave. Legend also has it that in the event of a war between India and China, Baba would warn the Indian soldiers three days in advance. And through the year, he protects the locals from all perils and dangers.

So engrossed I was in his story, I did not realize when we had cut through the clouds of mists and layers of snow and reached the plain lands. Once it struck me that we had come down successfully, I looked back and up and could see nothing beyond the fog and mist again. A silent thanks to the local legend, while I left, carrying with me a lifetime of a memory I have no explanation for.

The mighty Himalayas and the charm they cast is undeniable. One voyage to the mountains and you will not stay the same, always yearning to go back to its mighty folds. But this time, I realized, the Himalayas are much more than a vacationer’s fancy. They guard secrets, mysterious and unimaginable, they sound nothing less than fantasies. But they all have their reasons. Because the mountains see everything, even what we cannot. The mountains have eyes.





# Interview Tips By Prof. Kaish Q Khan

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- **Train to be a Tiger** - Patient, Brave and Hungry
- Understand the **Job Hunting Game** - and play it.
- Sharpen Your **CV Laws well** - the prey is slippery
- **The Tiger's Coat is its statement** - Dress royally
- **Practice Your Roar** - A solid memorable Intro
  
- **Walk To Wow** - Stance, Shoes, Speed - all matter
- **Grin Graciously** - Remember who's ruling - You
- **Look Into their Eyes** - Almost everyone is food.
- **Either you fight or you Eat** - There's no defeat
- **A hungry Tiger doesn't Grass** - Never Compromise

# Coordinator's Desk

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The last quarter has been very stressful for many of us, for we had our placements. One failure can immensely affect our confidence; even though we might have those competencies, we hugely tend to undervalue ourselves. We must evaluate ourselves from time to time and try to overcome our shortcomings. A well-disciplined life is challenging because we will have to give up on many things close to us.

Reading books might not interest everyone until we find one book that would help us practically use it in our life. As mentioned earlier, a well-disciplined lifestyle is harder to achieve, but we can form habits to become more disciplined. Books can be one of the best means to help individuals develop habits, get over procrastination and live a better life overall.

Always remember it is never too late to start reading.



**Anisha Mahanty**  
**MBA-2**  
**Student Coordinator**



# Evolution Of KIIT



In 1992, KIIT was founded as a vocational training facility with just two employees and 12 people. But it wasn't until 1997, with the start of the degree engineering program, that it began to take shape as an institution. Prof. Achyuta Samanta, the founder of KIIT, had the idea to establish a university for societal good despite having no property, little money (only Rs. 5000), and little experience in higher education. Since its humble origins, KIIT has grown into a prestigious institution with a strong interdisciplinary culture and dedication to teaching quality.

A poor boy who struggled for food, education, and survival would never have imagined that he would accomplish great things and become a self-made man. The same person who has received a lot of praise for unique initiatives has also struggled hard in his life. When one takes into account the extensive journey of struggles that Prof. Achyuta Samanta has travelled over the course of his fifty years of existence, one can say that his life story is one of a kind and unrivalled. Professor Samanta is one of the greatest educationists, social workers, social activists, humanists, and philanthropists of the modern era. He has blessed this world with his dedication, sacrifice, and extraordinary vision for removing poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and social alienation, and ensuring the development of human capital that is so desperately needed.

Late Neelima Rani Samanta and Late Shri Anadi Charan Samanta gave birth to Prof. Achyuta Samanta. However, Achyuta Samanta's childhood was the most difficult and full of struggle, in contrast to the majority of children who are blessed with inexhaustible care, comfort, and compassionate nurture in the arms of their parents.

Odisha is one of India's poorest states, home to almost 25% of the tribal population, who have lived for centuries in extreme poverty and misery. In the forests, they go through a cycle of birth, life, and death, away from the forces of development. In a situation like this, which still exists, one man, when he was just 25 years old, dared to walk the unbeaten path and mainstream into the alienated population by empowering first-generation students through education with his vision, mission, and passion.

As stipulated in the UN resolution of 2015, KISS has successfully addressed the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals of global development for 2030. His initiative, Education for All, aims to raise awareness about the benefits of high-quality education and ensure that no child is left behind. Due to his dedication and commitment to the fight for educational equity, Prof. Samanta has received worldwide recognition. He was awarded the GUSI PEACE PRIZE, also known as Asia's own Nobel Prize, in 2015 for his efforts to promote peace. He was the only Indian recipient of this award. Today, the institutions are world-class businesses that are well-known and respected across the globe. The first organization was established to assist Odisha's youth, his own state, which lacked progress in comparison to other Indian states. He was certain that the necessary transformation and growth of human capital would result from a high-quality education. Industrial trade skills, engineering, medicine, law, management, rural management, architecture, and more are all taught at KIIT, which established itself as a leading educational hub.







## Kamyaab

The Grand Alumni Meet 'Kamyaab' was held on December 17th 2022 in the presence of hundreds of former students from the first to the last pass-out batch to commemorate the Silver Jubilee celebration of KIIT Deemed To be University.



## Konflikt Konfront

Synergy, the HR club, came up with an offline event under the name "The Konflikt Konfront". This event primarily focused on the topic of 'New Labour Laws Implementation and Its Effect on the employees

## Vijay Diwas

On December 16, 2022, the BBA students of KSOM celebrated "Vijay Diwas." Prof. Sumita Mishra, Dean, KSOM, Prof. Isa Mishra, Chairperson, BBA, Prof. Shikha Singh, SDC Co-chair, Prof. Abhishek Kumar, FIC, NSS, and Prof. Dinesh Sarangi, was part of the occasion.



## Grooming Session

On November 15, 2022, a grooming and etiquette workshop was held. The workshop was organized by the Synergy club for MBA students, and 53 students attended. Participants were judged by Dr Kaish Q Khan sir, who spoke to the students about professional etiquette as well as the importance of grooming and etiquette.

## Finance Konclave

KSOM organized the 13th National Finance Konclave on November 12, 2022, on the theme, "Financial Sector Outlook: Navigating the Sustainable Landscape."

The esteemed speakers were Mr Sandeep Dhingra, (head of finance for global capability centres – Transunion, moderated the panel discussion), Mr. Vivek Suman (CFO- of the national energy centre), Mr Manish k Agarwal (vice president & CFO – of Olam information services, Singapore), Mr. A. Srinivasa Rao, (CFO – my home constructions ltd), Mr. Vikas Jaiswal, (AVP – of Motilal Oswal financial services ltd)





# Knowledge Dialogue Series By Smrutisree Singh, a finalist on MasterChef India, Sailesh Mohanty, and Pritish Nayak of Mommy's Momos



In association with **Konfabulate**, **BookHive Club** hosted a **Knowledge Dialogue Series** with the theme "**Karma Yatra - Turning Dreams into Reality.**" It took place on November 17, 2022. **Smrutisree Singh**, a finalist on MasterChef India, **Sailesh Mohanty**, and **Pritish Nayak** of Mommy's Momos were the chief guests. The purpose of the discussion was to inform the students of the actions that entrepreneurs have taken to achieve their objectives.

**Smrutisree** spoke to the audience about her passion for Odia food and her desire to introduce it to a global audience. She also discussed the hurdles that women experience when they decide to work in a professional kitchen as well as the problems in a professional kitchen. Then she provided information on her current home cooking venture, "Desi by Smrutisree," as well as the effects of the COVID pandemic on her plans to start a restaurant and how she still has those plans. She closed by advising aspiring business owners to never give up and to work passionately.

The **Mommy's Momos** co-founders also recounted their entrepreneurial journey. They discussed how they had no ambitions to start their businesses once they graduated. They also provided information on the various facets of running a small food business and discussed the challenges associated with working in the food sector. Additionally, they promoted entrepreneurship, stressing that small enterprises are the backbone of the Indian economy.

**Prof. Saptorshi Das**, the faculty Chairperson of the **BookHive Club**, oversaw the Knowledge Dialogue Series' operations. The event was successful, thanks to her assistance and direction.

## Knowledge Dialogue Series By Dr. G.S. Gupta



Dr G.S. Gupta, Ambassador (Retired), delivered a talk on India's Foreign Policy: Context and Contemporary Challenges under KONFABULATE - KSOM's Knowledge Dialogue Series. It was a very insightful session for our students and faculty.



## Accolades & Achievements



## Faculty Korner

KSOM Assistant Professor **Ritika Sharma** presented a paper titled "Investigating OTT Subscription Intention Antecedents" at the "Seventh International Conference on Information and Communication Technology for Competitive Strategies," held recently in Chandigarh.



**Prof. Priti Ranjan Sahoo**, PhD's technical paper on the theme, "Enhancing the accessibility of school among the rural students: A study on Kalarabanga smart village" got highlighted at the "7th Ideal Village Conference".



KSOM Associate Professor **Dr Shikta Singh** presented a paper titled, "Measuring the Efficiency of Microfinance Institutions: An MPI Approach" at the 105th Indian Economic Association, which was held in Ranchi from December 27th to 29th, 2022.



**Prof. Joydeep Biswas** addressed college partners of Enprendia like University College Dublin, Ireland, and Universität Wien, Vienna at the Global Meet of Women Entrepreneurs in Mumbai.





**Maitri Monali, KSOM BBA final year student, has been ranked among the Top 5 finalists competing for the title of Femina Miss India Odisha 2023 and is now contending in the Miss India contest.**

### **1. What are the qualities that made you win the title?**

Since childhood, I have had sheer dedication towards whatever I want in life be it studies, or modelling. I believe hard work and due diligence toward my work made me worthy.

### **2. What are your plans after winning?**

My plans for modelling are continuing my passion yet trying to give out knowledge to those who cannot because of so many reasons. One more addition to making the state and country proud through my deeds.

### **3. What did you learn from the process of preparing yourself to win this title?**

In the process of this journey, I learned the importance of time management as well as the collection of information from sources as much as I can. I practised vigorously so that I can be close to perfect in all the rounds.

### **4. How will you make the best use of your winning title?**

Winning something makes you more confident as well as you become a people person, they look up to you. I will strive harder so that I can become a better version of myself, interact with my audience on social media, and reach out to the people who want to for forward in this profession.

### **5. What tips will you give to the girls who will be preparing themselves for winning this title?**

It is pure trial and error, in everything that we do in life. But one consistent thing is your efforts, how motivated you are and how much you can push yourself. A few important tips are diet, workout, hydration and obviously knowledge.







**Aditya Satpathy, MBA 1**, won two weeks of doubles in the tournament and became a singles finalist in the 1L Men's championship organized by KT GLOBAL SCHOOL AITA-OTA which was held from 19th December to 23rd December and 26th December to 30th December.



In **IIT Kharagpur**, 'Spring Fest', BBA students from KSOM participated in the group dance event (CENTRIFUGE). The team was selected for the final battle with 2 other groups at the university level in the entire state and the finals are to be held on the 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th of January 2023. The team members were **Soumyaraj, Subodh, Soumya, Anisha, Anandita, Seniorita, Elina, Manish, Mahaveer, and Gargi**.

## Placement korner



I owe a huge thank you to the faculty at the KIIT School of Management as well as the placement and training department for their support and advice in helping me land a job with the renowned global consulting firm 'Protiviti'. Throughout my time at the KIIT School of Management thus far, I have gained knowledge and developed both personally and professionally.

~ Barennya Kar, MBA 2



It is rightly said that everyone gets the opportunity but an opportunity with the right amount of support is what we all require.

The placement team persistently ensured that we were getting the best of opportunities and because of this during my summer internship, I was a retail trainee at 'Yes bank' and have been placed in 'HDFC bank' as a personal banker.

I will always be grateful to the KIIT School of Management, the placement team, and the entire faculty for the support and guidance that they have provided me during this expedition.

-Anisha Rani Nayak, MBA 2



## Placement korner



KIIT (Deemed-to-be University) offers exposure to its students through various curricular, non-curricular, and industry-related activities that help them to choose their future field or industry. With the constant support and guidance of faculty members and the placement cell, I got placed in 'Agelix Consultancy' and I am extremely grateful to have been a part of such an esteemed institution.

-Abhishek Patra, MBA 2



I am extremely humbled and pleased for the opportunity to work with Haldiram. I am looking forward to engaging all my learnings and gaining some more. I am forever grateful for all the guidance from the faculty and all the real-time activities that helped me to understand the concepts better.

-Asiya Jawed MBA 2



When I discovered that I have received my pre-placement Offer from 'Deloitte' USI, it was like a dream come true moment for me as I have always wanted to work for one of the Big 4 corporations as my first corporate job. During the golden 6 weeks of my internship program at Deloitte, I was exposed to several situations to get myself groomed with my co-workers and understand the culture of the company. The experience helped me to inculcate confidence and optimize work processes, which one needs to excel in future endeavors. I would also like to thank the placement cell and faculty of the KIIT School of Management for all their support and guidance, as without them this dream would have remained unfulfilled.

-Tarun Gupta, MBA 2







**Beleswar Shiva Temple, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam**



**Udupi, Karnataka**

**Clicked By- Prof. Sugato Tripathy**





**Painted By- Prof. Sumita Mishra**



**Painted By - Rishika Panda  
BBA 2**



**Made By - Natasa Swain  
BBA 2**

### Of all the Special gifts in life

Of all the Special gifts in life,  
You are the Premier one.  
Who loves me a lot,  
And makes me happy,  
When I hurt.

You are my Superstar,  
From whom I never want to go far.  
From a little to a big thing,  
You have served me everything.

I know how much you love me,  
So your slap is a blessing for me.

How can I fall?  
As I learnt walking from you.

How can I live?  
If you leave me,  
As my world is you.  
Papa, I love you.  
For all that you do.

**-Lingaraj Meher,  
MBA1**





### Freedom

What is this freedom everyone fights for?

Only listening to your inner voice and being abstracted from others' voices is freedom.

Always doing things negatively for others is freedom.

Observing your needs and giving importance to them is freedom.

Ocean of disappointment towards me due to their expectations is freedom.

Abandoning consciousness and assent to the unconscious is freedom.

Living life waiting to get written by myself is freedom.

I would rather lose my sanity in my thoughts rather than become the person I am in your expectations.

Freedom is lonely but it's best to feel lonely than to get chained by their toxicity.

It will never be the same once you accept yourself as you feel.

I would love to get called wander who knows how to create wonders with himself.

Isn't love crazy how we put their needs before ours but never realized we are also the one who needs to be loved?

**-Rohan Roy**

**BBA 2**



**Painted By -Sai Sivraj Sahoo**

**BBA I**



**Clicked By - Paridhi Rungta**

**BBA-II**



**Painted By - Prerana Patra**

**MBA 2**



**Clicked By - Soumya Lenka  
MBA-I**

### If Thou?

Thou under the indigo heaven attire  
Where every candle earns its rushlight fire  
Who never draws a blank to hook up the flames  
But always stand to cheer up the oxygen's ball games

Thou ayond the earthy crust of river  
Making thy hulk bones shiver  
Moulding thy frenzy and flap without any fever  
And around the clock drop dead like a father

If thou slack yourself tonight, you will be dead inside.  
If thou foster the hate in mind, you will be defunct from the  
kind.

If thou carry grudge in heart, you will be roiled hearth.  
If thou croak yourself behind, you will be the lost fossil in wild.

If thee lie not to get lied  
If the urge just to get the need  
If thee bleed just to get feed  
If thee hide just to get bright  
Then what all!  
What all!

Hiding the hazy mist with the forged eyelash  
Driving the horseless carriage without any clash  
Blistering the flameless cigar by a Scaramouch  
And fearlessly playing in the Gulf of Kutch

If thou nob to the end of the line  
Where thou sense the aroma of the entire being fine  
Shimmering with the last authentic moonshine  
And the whole will land on the same deadline.

**-Samikhya  
MBA 1**





### Westernization and the subsequent decline in Indian Culture

Culture refers to the people's style of living and beliefs. A tradition refers to a belief that is continuing from generation to generation. Indian culture shows diversity in India. Every state has its own culture, food, and clothing style. Growing westernization in India has led to a decline in Indian culture. This decline can be observed in many areas such as clothes, food, festivals, and many more. Expansion of the education system: In earlier days, Students were taught Vedas, Science, and Mathematics. Teachers were not allowed to take any fees from the students. The lessons were given only in oral form. Students were dependent on the teachers to study Urbanization and industrialization- In earlier times, there used to be villages and a beautiful environment. Now we see the whole country has come to the stage of building new and big industries of new products. Clothes: Indian clothes are becoming an old trend. Past few years, Indians used to wear their traditional dress such as Dhoti, Kurta, Saree, and Salwar Suit. Nowadays, most Indians wear western clothes such as jeans, pants, t-shirts, shirts, and short dresses. Ripped jeans are today's trend in the market. Food and food habits: In the past few years, people used to have home-cooked food and their cultural food such as Tamil Nadu is famous for Idli, Sambar, Vada, and Dosa. Nowadays, people mostly love to eat junk food outside, and instead of their cultural food, they also eat Chinese, Mexican, and other countries' food such as Pizza, burgers, Chili Potato, Taco, etc., and give less preference to Indian foods. Festivals: In earlier days, Indians used to celebrate their festival with great enthusiasm. Nowadays, They are most interested in festivals such as Valentine's Day, Halloween day and Christmas. Valentine's day is the most important and popular day among youngsters. Temple visit norms: In earlier days, Indians used to wear Indian dresses such as kurtas and suits. Nowadays, most teenagers wear jeans, tops, and other western dresses during temple visits. e) Dance form: In ancient times, people used to give more importance to classical dance forms but nowadays, people are most interested in western forms such as salsa, aerial dance, jazz, belly dance, and many other forms. Classical dance is losing its existence day by day. Music: In ancient times, people used to sing classical songs. Now people are most interested in fast songs such as party songs. Most of the time, classical singers get less recognition. Old traditions: Westernization also happened for good because westernization has led to the abolishment of Indians' old traditions such as sati. Sati is a ritual that used to be performed in ancient times in which the widow has to burn herself with her husband's dead body during the funeral. Marriage: For many years, Indians follow the tradition to marry a boy or a girl of the same caste. Nowadays, inter-caste marriage is also taking place in India. Family: In earlier days, every member of the family would live together, i.e. they lived in a joint family. Nowadays, the concept of a joint family is decreasing. Every mature child wants to live his/her life in their way and wants to settle by buying or making their own house. This led to the loneliness of the parents. Language: Before, people used to speak in their local language or English. Now with their local language, they are also interested in many languages such as French, German, etc. This is because now there is no barrier to going to other countries for any work. Status of women: In earlier days, it was believed that women were made only to cook food, maintain households and take care of the children. Now, every woman is successful in almost every field. Women are also competing in the Olympics and national and international sports competitions. They gained success in the areas such as astronomy and many other areas. Religion: A few years ago, people used to bind to their religion. Nowadays, people are willing to change their religion from one religion to the other.

**Written By - Neha Sakya**

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India is often referred to as the land of celebrations. Since ancient times, many diverse religions have coexisted. As a result, there is now a culture where individuals celebrate holidays regardless of their religious affiliation. For example, a Muslim may celebrate Diwali while a Hindu may celebrate Eid. There is nothing like this in the entire globe. India's festivals honour the nation's diversity while also recognizing its oneness. While some holidays, including Diwali, Holi, Dusshera, Christmas, and Eid, are celebrated widely across the nation. We ought to be aware of some of India's less well-known festivals as well.

### **Lui Ngai Ni, Manipur**

Lui Ngai Ni, one of the largest festivals in the state of Manipur is celebrated by the Naga tribes of the region. Three different Naga languages combine to provide the meaning of the word Lui Ngai Ni. The word "Lui" is derived from the Tangkhul word "Luiraphanit," which means the festival of seed sowing. "Ngai" is Rongmei for the festival, and "Ni" is Mao for the festival of seed sowing. To ask God for the health of the crops and the general prosperity of the populace, this holiday is observed. Every year, it is typically observed on February 14 and 15. There are numerous cultural events, fire lighting, dancing, singing, and traditional games during the celebration.

### **Sume-Gelirak festival, Odisha**

The Bondas of Koraput commemorate this event. The young men and women of the tribe eagerly await this festivity. The event typically begins on a Sunday in January and lasts for ten days. They sacrifice animals and birds in their honour as well as worship their traditional gods and demons over the first few days. By offering alcohol to their gods, the Bondas also hope to gain their favour. The most distinctive feature of this celebration is that the women can select their lifemate during the ceremonial dance.

### **Thimithi, Tamil Nadu**

One week before Deepawali, there is a festival called Thimithi, also called Kundam. In homage to the goddess Draupadi Amman, participants in this celebration walk barefoot over blazing coals. This festival is observed not just in India but also in nations with sizable Tamil populations, such as Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Fiji, etc.

### **Bagwal Mela, Uttarakhand**

This celebration, also known as Pathron ka Mela, entails the throwing of stones back and forth between two groups of villagers from two different villages. A Tika is applied on the forehead of an idol of the goddess Kali using the blood of those who are struck. The day following Diwali is when this festival is held.

**Written By - Aayush Shrimali**  
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**To be continued in the next edition.**

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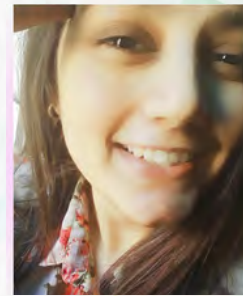
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