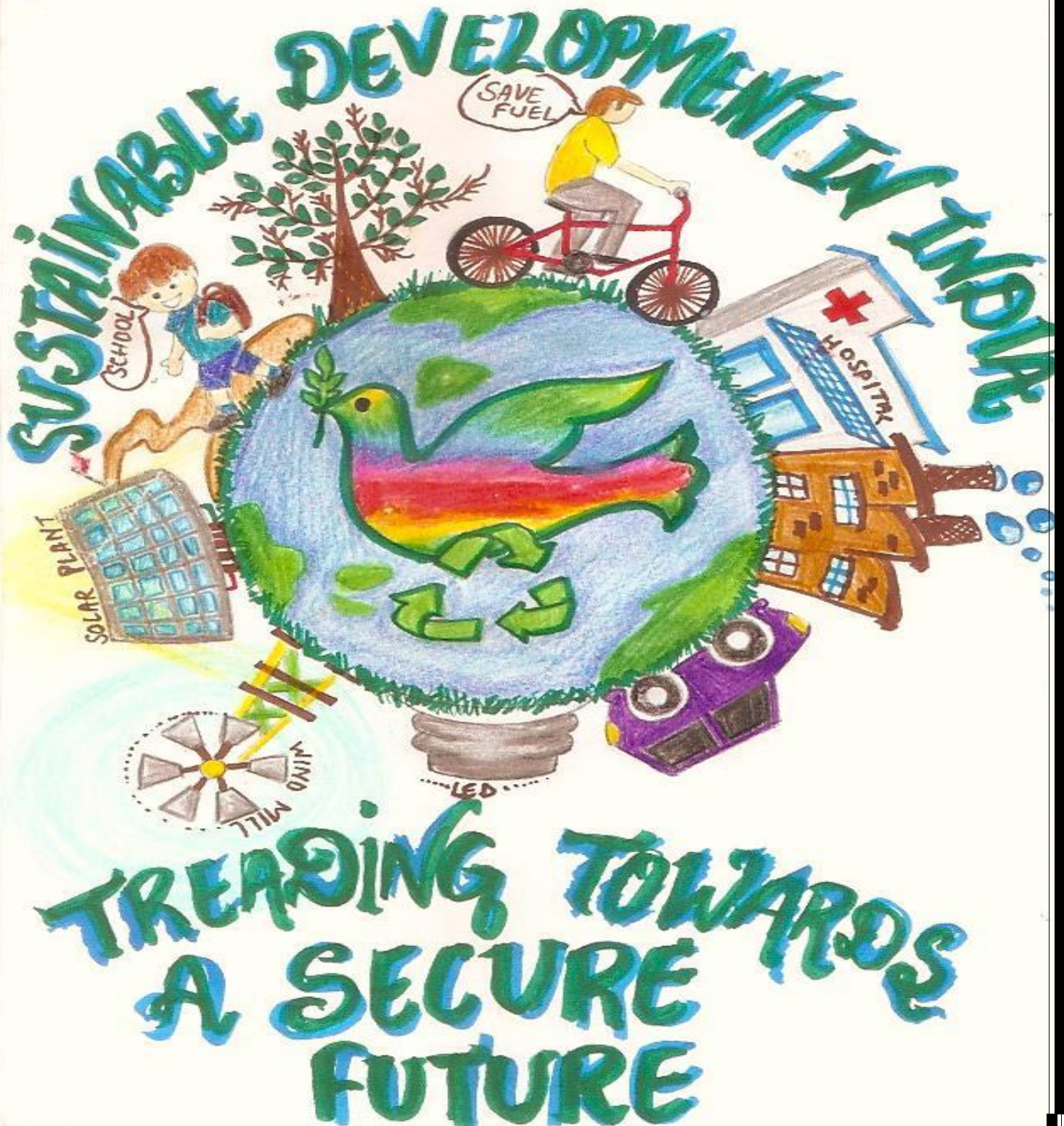


COMASCENT

VOLUME 2, 2016-17



PATHFINDER 2016-17



**CASCADE 2016
THEMED
'FINTECH: A
RENAISSANCE IN
FINANCE'**

SEMINAR



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

It gives me immense pleasure that the Department of Commerce is releasing its magazine, 'Comascent'. This department always makes me feel proud when I hear the shouts of excitement for their achievements and chit chat of aspiring managers, cost accountants and chartered accountants, while walking through the corridors of the third floor of the college. Theme for the current volume of their magazine is 'Sustainable Development'.



Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but most frequently it recognizes that growth which must be environmentally sound and builds shared prosperity for today's population and continues to meet the needs of the future generation. It must be carefully planned to deliver immediate and long-term beneficial economic growth for people and planet as a whole. The four water harvesting plants at our premises, a biogas plant near the canteen and a composting pit in the sports field, are a contribution towards sustainable development at Gargi.

In the context of an educational institute, I anticipate that serving students to the best of our ability, in order to transform them into a potential source of knowledge, energy, strength and humane values is sustainable development in a true sense so that our students are sustainable assets for the nation.

I congratulate the entire editorial team and contributors for the upcoming issue of 'Comascent' and enthusiastically look forward to reading our students' perspective on the undertaken theme.

Dr. Promila Kumar
Principal
Gargi College

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

Dear Readers

Comascent 2016-17 team is back with the second issue of the magazine on the theme, 'Sustainable Development: Treading Towards a Secure Future'.

'Sustainable Development'; two words that our eyes are frequently caught by in the newspapers, an issue that attracts the worldwide attention in the international meets and a prominent debatable topic, is the theme of the second volume of the magazine. Sustainability is not just an obligation to conserve the resources but also a pre-requisite for the long term survival of mankind. Bringing stringent norms in place at the political level for adhering to the social, environmental and economic issues, resigns with the essence of growing in co-existence with the environment. The society as a whole needs to imbibe a sense of urgency to minimize or neutralize the impact of their activities upon the environment. Being a broad topic, we have narrowed it to sustainability in the Indian domain.

Thus, with this issue, we put forward an important topic before the readers to ponder over and further encourage them to contribute in possible ways.

This issue is a compilation of the views of the students on the topic alongside offering creative stories and poems.

We are also pleased to offer you a glimpse of the campus placement and events conducted by the Department for the holistic development of the students and faculty.

Ruchika Bhatia
Editor
Comascent 2016-17



AN INSIGHT INTO THE THEME

SUSTAINABILITY: A METAPHORICAL CONTEMPLATION OF SURVIVAL

Progress is an undeniable characteristic of the human race. The need to progress by employing resources to manufacture commodities industrially was brought into the notice by the ascent of the industrial era in the nineteenth century. The period saw a plethora of technological advancements which furthered the idea of urbanization and the number of industries and factories only multiplied further to satiate the insatiable hunger to develop. However, what went unnoticed was the hefty price the environment was paying to such a development. Smoke, grime and effluents dissipating in the air and travelling to the once sacred river bodies made the once lively resources into lifeless basics. This development as known to be economic development became responsible for the downside of the rejuvenation of natural resources such as air, water, soil and minerals. The situation elicited an international attention of the environmental damage due to several factors such as, emission of air and water pollution and, depletion of the ozone layer and increasing concentration of the carbon dioxide in the environment. Not only this, but the social well-being parameters such as poverty began turning into a sore point too as the gap between the rich and poor only expanded.

Brundtland report, published in 1987 by the United Nations, was a report that stemmed from this realization to keep a balance between economic development and sustenance of resources, referred to as sustainable development. Sustainable development was an idea coined from this report to be adopted globally. It meant to use the available resources in a manner that they remain available for the coming generations as well. Broadly, sustainability was branched out into three pillars: social, environmental and economic. Social sustainability points to the resolution of problems such as poverty, illiteracy and health. Environmental sustainability, on the other hand, aims at generating a sense of responsibility to use economic natural resources such as air, water, crude oil, coal and soil, judiciously and cautiously. Lastly, economic sustainability aims at growing and developing economically but not losing sight of the degradation and depletion.

The Brundtland report aimed at focusing upon the social, environmental and political-economic aspects of the world economy as a whole. It wouldn't be wrong to say that this report was an awakening call to the world to use the natural resources consciously.

In the Indian context, sustainable development may not be a direct concept in the history but there are umpteen instances where India had already started witnessing and undergoing sustainable revolutions. The three majorly remembered movements namely: Bishnoi, Chipku and Narmada Bachao Andolan (movement) which served as alarms to the public, also set good examples before the world to prevent environmental destruction as it is equivalent to self-destruction. The following flow chart briefly gives a glimpse of these movements.



AN INSIGHT INTO THE THEME

POPULAR ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS IN INDIA

•Bishnoi, a village in Rajasthan witnessed its first sustainable drive in 1700s when Amrita Devi, a villager clung to sacred trees in the village to prevent them from being laid off to build a palace for the king. Many villagers were beheaded in pursuit of this movement which soon tasted success as Bishnoi was declared a protected area by the king of the village and continues to be legislated as a protected area.

Bishnoi Movement

Chipko Movement

•Tehri-Garhwal, a village in Uttarakhand came into the limelight for a movement that sparked in 1973 where the villagers hugged the trees and tied sacred threads around them to protect them from merciless contractors. The villagers were against the unjust felling of trees to plant commercial crops. The issue got nationwide attention and ultimately, the villagers were favoured by the judiciary.

•The movement which dates back to 1983 was aimed at resigning the projects of building dams along the Narmada river as the locals inhabiting the place were displaced and not incentivised in return. Narmada Bachao Andolan turned out to be a social as well as environmental movement as the interests of the locals and the long term negative impacts of dam construction impinges on the ecology, were addressed as key issues. The dam construction could not be stopped but the height of the dam was negotiated to be below the proposed height.

Narmada Bachao Andolan(NBA)

These three major movements pioneered a shift in the way natural resources were looked at and educated the locals about the benefits they reaped due to the presence of the resources. Apart from these three movements, there are many other instances pertaining to certain areas in India. Thus, sustainability is not a new concept in India whose roots can be traced to a period far before the Brundtland report was released.

Ruchika Bhatia B. Com(H)- 2nd year

AN INSIGHT INTO THE THEME

INDIA MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

India is inching closer to sustainability, be it environmentally, socially or economically. Many of the Indian states have shown remarkable augmentation towards fostering hygiene and sanitation as a prime concern to which campaigns like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan are an added fillip.

Thus, adequate steps are being taken to ensure that India emerges as a sustainable economy with the economic growth it is forging ahead with. There is no dearth of norms and incentives available to go green from the government's end. However, it is the implementation of the schemes that should speak in a manner that every area lagging behind gets absorbed in their goals. Following are some of the added feathers in India's cap towards sustainability.

States in India like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh which once lagged behind in terms of hygiene and sanitation facilities, have shown tremendous growth in this respect over the past few years. It was made possible by generating awareness levels through interactive road shows (yatras), campaigns through personal interaction, radio and television advertisement. As a result, open defecation has been reduced to nil in many districts of these states. Moreover, Self Help Groups have been formed who take the responsibility of introducing such facilities in the villages and arrange funds for the same.

Sanitation

Striding towards alternative inexhaustible sources of energy like solar and wind, has become a pressing need to save widely used conventional sources of energy like coal and oil. In this regard, India has signed an agreement for solar power alliance with Paris to promote and install solar plants at cost effective rates. On these lines, Tamil Nadu has gained fame for homing the world's largest solar power plant set up which is capable of supplying energy to more than 1,50,000 houses. Apart from this, India is the 4th largest wind energy producer in the world.

Renewable Sources of Energy

Corporate Social Responsibility has been a crucial step towards ensuring sustainable economic development as the natural resources are directly or indirectly used up by the business houses for production and manufacturing. The Indian government has unleashed a series of norms for the companies with a certain turnover to allocate 2% of their Profit After Tax (PAT) for the social development purpose, to which companies have positively responded.

Corporate Social Responsibility Gaining Ground

AN INSIGHT INTO THE THEME

GREEN INDIAN RAILWAYS

Sustainable development has become the need of the hour and that is exactly what the Indian Railways, one of the world's largest railway networks, is doing by adopting a variety of energy efficient technologies which can help to achieve the vision of an environment-friendly rail network in India. The project undertaken by the Ministry of Railways, Government of India in 2011, strives to improve the energy efficiency, which accounts for roughly 2.5% of total energy consumption in India. Funded by the Global Environment Facility, it largely focuses on institutional capacity development, technical training and proper implementation. Experts from around the world have discussed various strategies that would help the Indian Railways to build a sustainable future ahead.

Awareness generation and sensitization of railway staff regarding the importance of energy efficiency, introduction of energy saving technologies, measures in both traction and non-traction systems and introduction of intelligent station lighting systems, are some of the key plans for the future of this project. One of the adopted measures, is the replacement of electrical tube lights and bulbs in about 150 compartments of passenger trains with energy efficient LEDs, which declined the maintenance cost and saved energy worth millions of kilo watts per hour. This can continue to be achieved at a larger scale with the combined effort of all the stakeholders, regulatory authorities, Indian Railways and travellers.

Smriti, B. Com (P) - 3rd year

INDIAN CORPORATES- PIONEERING GREEN WAVE IN INDIA

Indian companies have pioneered a green wave by devising sustainable ways to foster long term economic prosperity. Some of them are mentioned below.

- Wipro and Infosys, the two Information Technology giants of India, introduced green desktops called 'green wares' in 2010. Green ware desktops are 100% recyclable. They are void of the toxic chemicals like polyvinyl chloride(PVC) and brominated flame retardants(BFRs), from which hardwares are traditionally manufactured. The process for developing such an alternative took about 2 years to become a reality.
- HCL walked on the toxic free path too by launching a PVC and BFR free notebook laptop.
- Intel, the widely known software and solution company in India, followed a strategy to stamp out the use of lead in its products.
- LG, a well- known electronics company, has made it a point to use LED bulbs in their products which consume 40% less energy.

Such environmental friendly practices of manufacturing recyclable and energy efficient products have not only taken note of the environmental degradation but have also paved path for future possibilities in research and development sector to build alternatives to the conventionally used toxic products.

Ruchika Bhatia, B.Com (H) - 2nd year





RURAL BACKWARDNESS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

India needs to promote sustainable development in the rural areas where ignorance still clouds the minds of the people. To ensure sustainability in rural areas, the remoteness and potentials in those areas have to be taken into consideration and in turn used for their advantage. Lack of sustainability makes these areas inefficient in all fields, hence leading to the rural backwardness.

In order to achieve socio-economic sustainability, it is important that the rural areas become self-sufficient in terms of food production. Every year thousands of farmers become victims of debt and inefficient climatic conditions. The farmers who feed the entire country are unable to feed themselves. The causes pertaining to rural backwardness are negligence and rural mindset. In spite of the economy's development, there are still a number of issues clogging the gates of rural success. Rural areas should tread towards their own development, consequently implying sustainability. The basic requirement for development is education. The age of putting thumb prints has become a thing of the past. Literacy will automatically pave the way for education. Rural people should be made aware about the benefits of education and its ability to shape their future. Also, due to shortage of qualified teachers and lack of infrastructural facilities in remote areas, quality education still eludes most of the school children.

Gender inequality is another hindrance for development of these areas. Although women have made long strides in achieving equality with men, the status of women living in rural areas is still vulnerable, helpless and dejected. They lack confidence and have little or no decision making power in the household, hence, virtually left with no choice. Added to this, women have to bear the brunt of lack of infrastructure in the schools like separate toilets which precipitates an increase in the drop-out rate of girl students.

Another problem that the rural areas face is health. Lack of proper medical facilities and poor infrastructure gives way to high mortality rates. Thus, it becomes crucial not just to prescribe medicines, but also to educate them about the health problems and providing solutions for better health.

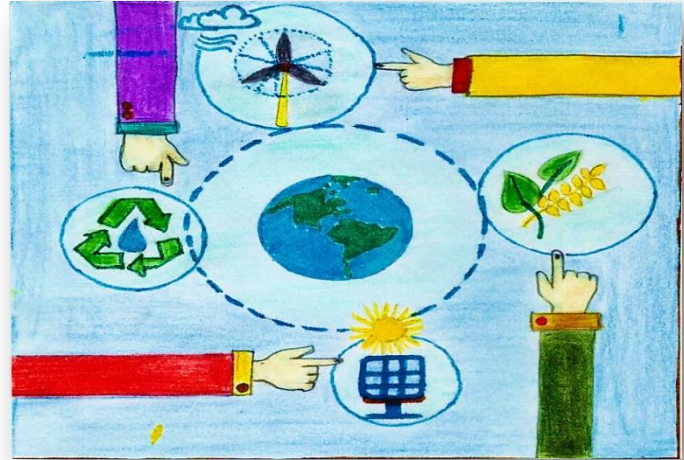
It's a fact that unskilled workers are mainly from the remote areas. It is estimated that only 23% workforce have undergone formal skill training. While launching the National Mission for Skill Development in 2015, Indian Prime Minister acknowledged a fact, "India currently faces a severe shortage of well-trained skilled workers.". Training the unskilled workers will make the economic growth become evenly contributed in India. A number of programmes have been launched by the government for rural development. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is one of them, aiming at cleanliness and hygiene in rural and urban areas. Ensuring that separate toilets are installed in co-educational rural schools is necessary to handle the increasing drop-out rates.

Rural development has a long way to go in India. Once the remote areas are equipped with these facilities, India will see a new wave of sustainability.

Neha Meena, B. Com(H) - 1st year

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: NEEDS V/S WANTS

Our world was a wonderful place,
But pollution and degradation it had to face.
We ourselves are at fault,
We must realize now and halt.
This is our planet we must think,
Growth and sustainability we need to link.
We all play an interesting game,
And what we do is only blame.
But what are we meant to do?
We must do our bit too.
Before it becomes too late,
We can change our own fate.
Light will indeed show us the way...
And the path of sustainable development is
not far away.



Sustainable development is a concept
gaining wide recognition all over the globe.

It means “development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own need”.

It is correctly said that “We have not inherited this planet from our forefathers but we have indeed borrowed it from our children.”

To understand sustainable development, we need to understand the concept of need and wants.

Needs are the basic human requirements but wants define the greed of humans. Gandhi Ji rightly said, “There is enough for everyone’s need but not for anyone’s greed.”

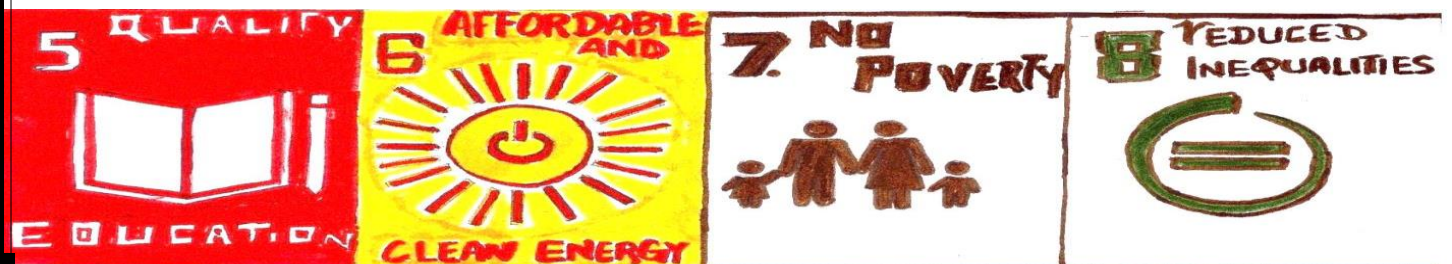
We must use our resources judiciously else, we ourselves are threat to the future generation. The idea of environment and degradation was normally used by the developed countries to blame the developing countries while the existing data clearly shows that majority of the resources are in the hands of a few rich people and countries who are the main culprits in the degradation of environment. Studies have shown that our resources are depleting at an alarming rate. As a matter of fact, coal resources are going to be finished within 10 years and other resources even earlier.

The need of the hour in order to save our planet is:

1. Generating awareness and sensitizing people to control and use their limited resources wisely.
2. Finding non-conventional alternatives to meet the energy requirements of the present and future.
3. Judiciously using resources in a planned way to ensure their equitable distribution.
4. Giving priorities to the needs of the people and following the path of development and growth along with ensuring sustainable development.

In conclusion, we can say that sustainable development is indeed the need of the hour and it’s time to join hands and support such an initiative.

Samreen Danish, B.Com (H) - 1st year





STORY CORNER

THE ECONOMICS OF OUR CHILDHOOD STORIES

Economics, in simple terms, is the branch of knowledge concerned with the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth. We use our economic knowledge every day in our day-to-day activities, without even realizing. A question arises here; how do we gain this economic knowledge? Everything around us, from bargaining with the *autowalla* (a three wheeler transport) to getting the best deals at the 'Sale' time on our favourite brands, it's all economics! So much so, that the stories we hear in our childhood also involve some basic but important economic lessons!

In the story of *The Three Little Pigs*, the third pig who makes his house out of bricks, survives the wolf's attack while he huffs, puffs, and blows away the first two pigs' houses made of sticks, and straws respectively. Here lies a lesson on the importance of long term investment. The third pig's house isn't destroyed because even though it took him longer to build his house, it was stronger and safer.

In the story of *Snow White And The Seven Dwarves*, the dwarves let Snow White stay in their house only when she does all the household chores for them. Much like in a barter system, where you give something in return for something you receive.

In the story of *The Monkey And The Cats*, the clever monkey takes undue advantage of the two cats and eats the entire piece of bread that he had 'promised' to split evenly in two halves for the cats because neither of the cats showed trust, and kept complaining that the other cat got a larger share. This is much like an Oligopoly market where both players incur losses because of a lack of mutual understanding between the market players.

In the story of *Hansel and Gretel*, again, the old witch makes prior investment luring and feeding the children with candy and chocolate only to fulfill the selfish motives of killing them and cooking them.

Lastly, in the story of *Cinderella*- the stepmother's decision forbidding Cinderella from going to the Grand Ball is although evil, but also a very smart and economic decision. The lesser the options available to choose from at the ball, the higher would be the chances of one of her daughters being picked. This evil intention of the mother conveyed one of the foundation concepts of economics which is scarcity of resources.

Thus, these economic ideas have been ingrained into our heads since we were children, for the most part without even getting realized by us! Economics is in everything we do and it's perhaps the simplest concept to understand because it comes so naturally to us. So as you go on with your life keep out an eye for these little things around you. After all, everything around us is not what it seems!

Ayushi Sharma, BBE- 1st year

DOES HELPING OTHERS REQUIRE ANY SECOND THOUGHTS?

Today, we live in a society where the concept of 'Self- Service' prevails over everything else. When we travel in an aeroplane, we are told that in case of an emergency we should help ourselves before helping others. And truly, there is nothing wrong with this. On the other hand, we do charity work simply to come into limelight. But having been born as humans; the most intelligent and sociable beings, we should always do our best to help others. The reason is, when we do something good for someone by helping them, it creates a ripple in the lake, waves of which reach afar. We have only one life that we are sure of, so we should take this chance to help people in any way we can. We talk about doing great things but nothing is greater than helping out a fellow human being. It is perhaps the most rewarding job. You are touching someone's life. This is not something that we do not know. We have been taught this since we were little kids, but with age, grew our self-interest too. When someone asks for our help, the first thought to cross our minds is 'What's in it for me?'. This is a venomous attitude. It not only disregards our core value system of helping the ones in need, but also makes a person pessimistic. There is no particular definition when it comes to helping people. Helping people is not simply about giving away money, food, or clothes. Helping someone goes way beyond the materialistic constraints of the world which we tie ourselves to these days. If we are in a place where we can help others but we choose to overlook, it's unacceptable. Helping others isn't something we should feel obligated to do. On the contrary, getting to help others should be seen as an opportunity because when you help others, you grow as an individual too. Thinking about someone other than ourselves improves our character and personality. Helping others is immensely satisfying. Devoting ourselves to the service of others is the greatest kind of respect we could show to God. We should not need reasons to help others, we should help them simply because we can.

Ayushi Sharma, BBE - 1st year

LIVING IN THE ALLEY

I woke up to see the window in the living room had been broken. On the floor, laid a piece of rock covered with paper. I picked it up and the paper read "Leave while you still can." I shook my head. Must have been some kids from the neighborhood trying out some practical joke! I stopped thinking about it and started getting ready for my day at work. The news channel said that a storm was coming our town's way.

As I got out of the office, it was already quite late. I looked up at the dark evening sky, filled with clouds conveying the storm was fast approaching. I decided that it would be best to take a shortcut to home.

I was in an alley when I felt the cold metal being pressed against my neck. "Give me all the money you have, Miss." said the voice from behind me. I tried to turn and look at his face using the bright light of my cellphone when he pressed harder. I refused to oblige. He snatched the phone away and realized I wasn't going to co-operate. The bright light from the phone screen dimmed. There was a high pitched scream and then everything went pitch black.

Three days later they found the body of a local tramp in the alley, his face was horror stricken. The local people called the alley 'haunted' and no one passes through the alley anymore. I would know, since I lived there.

Ayushi Sharma, BBE - 1st year

ALENA'S FAY

The sun had already set and the air was cold. As the wind weaved its way through her hair and tickled her arms, Alena looked down to the Parijat tree under her window. Breathing in the beautiful smell of blooming flowers, her mind wandered lazily. But she was filled with happiness as she thought about the last nine months of her life. Though these nine months had been a flurry of travelling and exotic food, family functions and parties with friends and rekindling of old friendships, they were the most important days of her life. She had gone river rafting and trekking, and even thinking about them reminded her of the exhilaration and she shuddered involuntarily. She had held her own exhibition of paintings and had consistently performed her best at school. Alena remembered the jokes and the laughter, the rain that had dripped down her back, the fine sand of the beach and the moon rise there. As her heart filled like a water balloon with unsurpassable happiness, she dozed off at her window sill.

As Alena's mother ambled her way to kitchen in the middle of the night for a glass of water, she glanced upon her sleeping daughter and was amazed at the astonishing sight. The wind still caressed her hair as the moonlight shone on her face as if protecting her from harm. The tree outside bent its branches in the wind rhythmically, providing music to her sleeping ears. Alena slept peacefully that night and did not know or hear her mother break down.

The next morning, the doctor came out of the operation theatre and faced the awaiting parents. With tears glistening in her eyes, the doctor said, "This is the first time I have known or seen any patient smile as the life ebbed away from her." The doctor bustled off without another word and did not tell Alena's parents what message their daughter had given to them.

"One might be wondering who I am. I am Fay, Alena's personal journal. I wanted to tell you a story, a real one, and I really hope I did."

Veda Sphoorti Veluvolu, BBE - 1st year

THE HARSH TRUTH

All the humans living on Earth; the only planet with life in this universe, should never forget that they do not own this planet. Rather they have borrowed it from their posterity. Humans should never allow themselves to get overpowered by a sense of superiority, thinking that they are the only creatures who can use their brains in a substantial manner and create things which make their living easier. Humans can be creators as well as destructors, but in today's scenario, they are viewed as the biggest destroyers of Mother Earth and subsequently their own future. Man has exhausted a large portion of the resources available in consideration their short lived satisfaction of wants. As one want gets satisfied another crops up to an extent that man has now become as a synonym for greed and gluttony. Economic growth alone cannot bring a better way of life for people unless environment conditions are taken care of. Development strategies in which only economic considerations are used, suffer from serious environmental problems; air and water pollution, deforestation, waste management, and a variety of other ill effects that seriously affect people's well-being. There are serious equity issues between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' in the society. The disparity in the lifestyles between the rich and the poor has been made worse by these unsustainable development strategies. To ensure sustainable development, any activity that is expected to lead to economic growth must be considered with its environmental impacts. It's high time that we should grasp the meaning of development in its true sense. The solution is sustainable development, which is something based on improving quality of life for all, especially the poor and deprived, within the carrying capacity of the supporting ecosystems. It is a process which leads to a better quality of life and using our resources smartly and efficiently. So, we all should join hands and start working before it's too late, start practicing what we all preach and make this world a better place to live in.

Shelly Singh, B.Com(P)- 1st year

POEM CORNER



BATTLE- FIELD

The ground is shaking beneath me,
it threatens to split and swallow me whole,
I run for my life,
I run from the valley.
in the woods of the mountains, horrors emerge,
I try to fight them off,
but they get inside me, inside my head and my heart.
I lay under the tree with shallow breaths,
and suddenly feel a stab at my chest,
but instead of blood and pain,
I feel this golden light,
so bright and clean and pure,
enter into me, my head, my heart and my soul,
it's almost as if part of the universe,
branched off and flowed into me.
I get up with hope in my heart and life in my limbs,
with a new sharpened spear,
I kill off all the horrors, all my monsters.
Scarred for life am I,
but as I reach the open beach and the waves invite me to
a dance,
my heart lifts and I look up at the sky,
a blue so blue that it seemed to engulf me whole,
and then I rose.
I rose above my fears,
I rose above my sorrows.
The scars will fade only with time.
But I know that the roars of the monsters will never be
heard.
Ever again.



Veda Sphoorti Veluvolu, BBE - 1st year

MIRROR

I asked her 'Are you of no good?'.
With fury in my eyes, waiting for a response, I stood.
Without disclosing the hope that my heart could not afford to lose.
I looked at her, from her messed up hair, to her unlaced shoes.
"No, I'm a mess", she said, probably reading my mind.
I looked at her doubtfully, and wondered if I should be more kind.
I wished she could convince me, that she was just like the others,
But then, I was reminded of everybody else, who thought that she
was nothing but a curse.
I looked at her again, with searching eyes,
Looking for an answer to my unheard cries.
" Stop. You won't find anything", she said.
And so I looked away, with my last hope, dead.
What others thought about her, was true, I realised with horror.
With a sigh I turned around, my back towards the mirror.

Simran Kathuria, BBE - 1st year



ARMOURED CONSTITUTION

And they assault my buttons with gushing fingers,
and I beam as they spill on the floor.
They intend to gut me with their limp sleuth
and old tricks but
I am much too wicked for this world.
They load their guns with cliches
and shoot blanks by the dozens.
I am not easily impressed by fresh violets
or stale apologies.
These bones were bred from rejection
and lost innocence,
but I am stronger than my antiquated abuse.
Give my cynicism an honest tug.
Introduce me to the men
that are shackled to your asylum.
Show me something
that would paralyze an army
and only then will you discover
that I am more
than collateral damage,
more than this armored constitution.

Shivika Katyal, B.Com(P) - 1st year

INTERVIEW WITH MS. RAJKUMARI GUPTA



Q. You have seen the transition of Gargi College right from its change in location to the completion of 50 years. Please tell us about this journey.

Ma'am: The college started in the year 1967. The commerce department started in year 1973 and I joined the department on 26th July, 1976. We were just three members in the department then namely, Mr. R.K. Jain, Mr. V.S. Malik and me. The college then was located in a school building behind LSR College with just one course in commerce, that is, B.Com.(Pass). The science courses had already shifted to Siri Fort Road in year 1976. The other courses in college shifted to Siri Fort Road in year 1977. In 1978, the founder Principal Dr.(Mrs.) Thakur Dass retired. Later on, in early 1980s, we got more sections for B.Com.(Pass). I have such fond memories of those days.

As a tree grows and spreads its branches all over, our college has been consistently on a path of growth. Around early 90s, we introduced B. Com (Hons.) course. For each of the courses, we started with only one section whereas now it is more than two. Now, we are one of the leading colleges under South Campus of University of Delhi.

The college building has been growing beautifully. In my experience of more than 40 years, I have seen the college growing over the years in terms of infrastructure, courses offered, students, faculty members and non-teaching staff. We have separate blocks for the Science, Arts and Commerce streams and along with three computer laboratories to cater to the curriculum needs of all the courses taught in the college. Previously, we just had a seminar hall. The foundation for the Auditorium was laid down by the then Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dixit in January, 2008. Now we are proud to have an auditorium and a seminar hall in the college. The College Library, lush green Sports Ground and canteen add to the laurels of the college.

2. How has the Commerce Department evolved over the years?

Ma'am: As I mentioned previously, the commerce department started in 1973 and I joined the department on 26th July, 1976. We just had three faculty members then and now we are the largest department with over 25 faculty members. I have served the department as the Teacher-In-Charge for nine years and witnessed it flourishing over the time period. Previously, B. Com(Pass) had just one section of students. B.Com(Hons.) was introduced in the year 1993. Now, both the courses have huge number of admissions every year. In fact B. Com (Pass) is now termed as B. Com(Prog.) or just B.Com.

With the passage of time, the commerce department of Gargi College has spread its wings across the Delhi University and has been getting top ranks both in the B.Com(Pass) and B.Com(Hons.) courses.

Since early 90s, the Commerce Department has been organizing the Annual Commerce Festival: 'Cascade' on relevant themes that tap the pulse of the prevailing business environment. From the past four years, we have been organizing the festival at a national level. In the year 2003, the Commerce Department came out with the first commerce newsletter titled 'Comascent' for faculty and students. Now, we have the same in the form of a magazine published twice a year.

I have lived every moment and loved every day working for this department and seeing it grow from a newborn to a charismatic mature child.

Q. Any special memory in Gargi you'd like to share?

Ma'am: In my experience of over 40 years, I have had many memorable moments to relish. College has always been my second home. The faculty has been more of my family than just friends. We have spent time laughing, eating, working and organising events together. The college made me forget even the biggest of the tensions that had occupied my mind. The whole staff of the college has always accepted me with open arms. Work always seemed to be refreshing than stressful. Meanwhile I got married and was blessed with motherhood which could not have been possible without the support of my faculty. My students have always bestowed upon me unconditional love. Every batch of students have had special place in my heart.

One of the special moments was when my students gifted me with such wonderful self-hand crafted cards on my promotion as a mother.

I recall one of such another special moments when my students Bani Singh and Naina Pahuja gifted me with the trophy for the BEST TEACHER in the year 2013.

In this journey of my work life, I have been blessed to meet so many people and was unfortunate to even lose some of them. It was in the year 2009 that my dearest friend and colleague Mrs. Manju Dhawan passed away.

Life has been very kind to me and this college has brought joy to my life. I would never forget appreciating each one of those who have been a part of this wonderful and memorable journey.

4. What advise would you like to give to the faculty and students?

Ma'am: To my lovable students, I would say that college days are the best days of one's life. This is the time for exploring one's talents and developing them. The various societies help in grooming the personality of the students. Make the best of your college life by attending classes as well as by participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.

To my lovely colleagues, I would say that Teaching is a challenging job, but it becomes satisfying and enjoyable when it is backed by learning and re-learning. Our work fills a large part of our lives and one could be truly satisfied only by way of doing what one loves to do. My best wishes to all my friends. Lots of love to you all.

BOOK REVIEW

Title: World Made by Hand

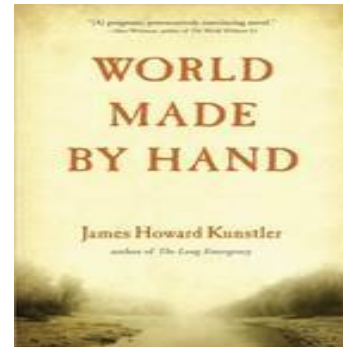
Author: James Howard Kunstler

Publisher: Atlantic Monthly Press

Genre: Utopian and Dystopian Fiction, Speculative Fiction

ISBN: 978-0-87113-978-8

Readers rating: 3.5/5



The novel 'World Made by Hand' is the first novel in a trilogy that deals with what the world might come to, in a few years. This post-apocalyptic fiction deals with a world which has been stripped of its comforts and things have fallen apart due to terrorism, decline in oil production and global warming. Millions of people dying, no electricity and, horses being used as the only means of transportation, is now the reality of these people. With the ongoing civil-war, religious persecution and people having to live on their own, they have become apathetic.

The novel is set in Union Grove, New York and deals with the story of the depressed protagonist Robert Earle, who was formerly a software executive and, later became a carpenter after losing everything, even his family, in the aftermath of the terrorist attack. Earle's life soon takes a major turn when he witnesses a murder. He then goes on an adventure trying to free a boat crew being held by a local warlord. The novel mainly deals with Earle's encounters with two people: i. Brother Jobe with his religious cult who often try to take the law into their own hands, ii. Wayne Karp, a sadistic psychopath and his gang, who decide that nothing should be done about the murder. The community of Union Grove is slowly dying and Earle's life takes another major turn when he gets elected as the mayor of the town. He tries his best to restore law and order, despite the hopeless conditions. The novel ends on an abrupt note and leaves you wanting more and that's why I am looking forward to reading the other two parts in the trilogy.

The research that the author put into this book is praiseworthy and the precision regarding what the future holds is quite similar to that of an anthropologist's. The characterization is interesting and realistic. Although the one missing aspect was that little attention was given to climate change as a serious problem. Even with a bleak future, the novel seems to end on an optimistic note with people coming together and 'making a new world by their hands' with the author showing his confidence in the coming generations.

Ayushi Gupta, B. Com(H) - 3rd year

TRIVIA

DID YOU KNOW?

In May 2016, Germany hit a new high in renewable production energy, so much so that people were paid to use electricity. The windy and sunny weather ensured that 87% of the electricity needs were met through solar and wind energy.

India ranked 110th on Sustainable Development Index in 2016.

India generates 60% power from coal.

Tamil Nadu has the world's largest solar power plant with a capacity of 2100MW.

The Indian state with highest Sustainable Development Goal performance ranking is Goa.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sweden's recycling is so revolutionary that, for several years, it has been importing garbage from other countries to keep its recycling plants going. It is so efficient and advanced that only less than 1% of the total household waste is sent to landfill.

#IRONY: When Coldplay performed in Mumbai in November 2016, as a part of the Global Citizen Festival which aims at bringing awareness regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, attendees who had 'pledged support for sanitation and better health', littered the venue and wasted water.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The idea for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came from the Rio+20 Summit in 2012 – the largest summit in UN history. The new goals which are a successor to the Millennium Development Goals, are the result of a three-year process involving 83 national surveys engaging over 7 million people, making it the biggest consultation in the UN history.

PATHFINDER 2016-17

On 31 March 2017: Pathfinder 2016-17 witnessed an impressive participation of ten teams who covered a variety of topics centered on the recent happenings in the Indian Economy. The Pathfindings of the research projects addressed and explored the following issues:

S.No.	Topic	Participants	Mentors
1	Impact of Demonetisation on Digital Payment and Digital Literacy	Anchita Veer Arshia Mehta	Mr. Siddharth Rathore
2	Startup India: Creating the Future We Seek	Renuka Prasad Shivangi Arora Simran Bhatia Vaishali Chhokar	Dr. Geeta Sidharth
3	An Analysis of Placement across Colleges in Delhi University	Sanchi Mehdiratta Kajal Verma	Ms. Hansika Khurana
4	A Study of Exploration and Commercial Feasibility of 'Shale Oil and Gas' in India	Priyanka Chugh Ruchika Bhatia Vidhi Mongia	Dr. Geeta Sidharth
5	Cashless Campus: A Paradigm Shift	Aanchal Chawla Kavya Sharma Nidhi Singh	Dr. Sangeeta Jerath Ms. Shikha Mahajan
6	Cyber Stalking: Victimisation of Women in India.	Neha Muskan Sodhi Meenakshi Kharakwal	Ms. Rupal Arora Ms. Payal Jain
7	Education Loan in India: An Empirical Study of Defaults	Monika Sharma Roopal Varshney	Dr. Geeta Sidharth
8	GREENEX: A Renaissance in Investing	Aastha Guruprasad Tanvi Mehta Vishnupriya Gupta	Mr. Varun Bhandari
9	Restructuring the Commerce Curriculum of Delhi University	Poorva Bajaj Radhika Khanna Sakshi Agarwal	Ms. Aakriti Chaudhary
10	Status of Women in Indian Corporate Sector	Nikita Ahuja Ria Rattanpal Samreen Danish	Ms. Laxmi Devi Mr. Varun Bhandari

The first position was bagged by Anchita Veer and Arshia Mehta mentored by Mr. Siddharth Rathore. The second position holders were; Renuka Prasad, Shivangi Arora, Simran Bhatia and Vaishali Chhokar mentored by Dr. Geeta Sidharth. The third position went to Aanchal Chawla and Kavya Sharma mentored by Dr. Sangeeta Jerath and Ms. Shikha Mahajan.

PRESIDENT'S SPEAK

"Beginnings are usually scary and endings are usually sad, but it's everything in between that makes it all worth living." - Sandra Bullock.

As the sand hour glass comes to a stop, I sit to ink the reminiscence of the past when I was bestowed with the responsibility of representing my department. Now that I look back, I realize how much we've achieved over the past few years. To mention a few milestones, we hosted Cascade at a national level for the first time on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Gargi. Our department also participated in national level commerce competitions for the first time like those in Christ University, Bangalore and IIM, Indore. The fresh idea of 'Commerce Week' was a success with impressive participation from the entire college. I would like to wish the incoming Council good luck. I hope that they lead the department to more glories.



-Vishnupriya Gupta

PRESIDENT, COMMERCE ASSOCIATION 2016-17

PLACEMENT REPORT

We heartily congratulate the following students who've been selected in the campus placement drive!

Concentrix	S&P Global	Nexus Exhibition	Finedge	Amazon	Edwards
Sheetal Sardhana	Binny Anand	Aanchal Chawla	Aastha Verma	Ameesha Gupta	Sadhana Yadav
Shilpi Kumari		Jyoti Shrivastava		Mohini	
Pooja Gupta	Nexus Exhibition			Monika Yadav	
Shruti Narwal	Aanchal Chawla				
Simran	Jyoti Shrivastava				
Swati Arya					
Priyanka Kamboj					
Rajni Chahal					
Pallavi Sharma					
Parul Chaudhary					
Krati Bhardwaj					
Lavanya Joon					
Swati Arya					
Kajal					

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

CASCADE 2016-17 REPORT

Cascade, the national seminar of the Commerce Department, Gargi College gets bigger and better every year. Cascade 2016-17 themed 'Fintech: A Renaissance in Finance', was in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee celebration of Gargi College. It was graced by four eminent speakers; Professor Raj S. Dhankar, Vice Chancellor, Ansal University, Professor I.M. Pandey, Director General, Delhi School of Business, Ms. Neha Punater, Managing Partner, KPMG and Mr. Gaurav Kachru, CEO, Today Retails, India Today Group. The speakers took the floor and drew the audience's attention on the paradigm shift in transacting finance in 2016, throwing light on how fintech has opened doors to a bevy of startups which are exploring its opportunities amid certain challenges, in the Indian economy. The seminar was followed by an interactive session where students and faculty interacted with the speakers. Added to this, students from Delhi University enthusiastically participated in the competitions held like B-Prompt, Mock Stock, Minting Money and QFiesta. An overwhelming appreciation was showered from the contingent teams of the participating students in their feedback for the high level of competitions selected at Cascade. All things considered, Cascade 2016-17 was a success through and through.

SEMINAR BY CAREER LAUNCHER

On 25 January 2017: A seminar was organised by the Commerce Association taken by Career Launcher to acclimate students about conduct in Group Discussions and Personal Interviews. The seminar proved to be useful to the students especially for the ones who wish to sit in the placement drives.

COMMERCE WEEK

The Commerce Association declared 20- 24 March 2017 as the Commerce Week in which the competitions like Ad making, Biz Charades, B- Prompt and Online Case Study were held. In Ad Making, Shivika Katyal won the first position followed by Kritika Baluja and Shreya Kohli winning the second and third position respectively. In Brand Tambola, Toshika Aggrawal and Tanya Khetal won the first position followed by Roweena Verma and Yashika Surekha who bagged the second position. In Biz Charades, Twinkle and Kritika won the first position, followed by Apoorva and Shreya Kohli who bagged the second position. Srishti and Preeti Aggrawal were awarded the third position. In B-Prompt, Apoorva and Mansi stood first, followed by Avni Bhasin and Priyanka Chugh who bagged the second position. In Online Case Study, Vidushi Singal and Shivani Kanojia won the first position followed by Simran Sethi who bagged the second position.

EVENTS CONDUCTED BY CONSILIUM

On 08 February 2017: An interactive seminar was held on US GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards(IFRS) by Ms. Sucheta Kalra who is a CPA(USA) and currently works in KPMG as a Senior Consultant.

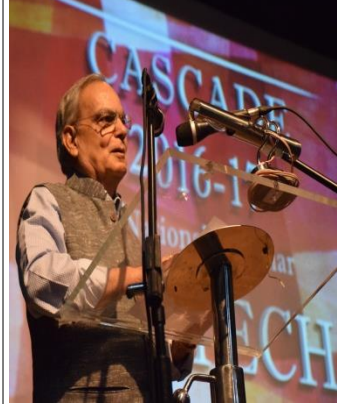
On 30 March 2017: A Case Study workshop was conducted by Ms. Neerja from Talerang. Technical skills to crack case studies were unviended by the speaker which the students found enriching.

On 06 April, 2017: Mr. Vishal Sharma, who works at Talent Development division at Accenture, addressed the commerce students at Gargi and took them through the nuances of enhancing executive presence thereby helping them enhance public speaking skills.

On 08 April 2017: Mr. Nagesh Sharma, Manager at Deloitte India (Offices of the US), conducted a seminar on 'Analysis of Financial Statements'.

CASCADE 2016

THE COMASCENT TEAM



SEMINARS BY CONSILIUM



EDITORIAL TEAM

FACULTY ADVISORS: Dr. Kiran Batra, Dr. Sangeeta Jerath, Ms. Sumant Meena, Ms. Rupal Arora, Ms. Hansika Khurana and Ms. Vaishali Joshi

EDITOR: Ruchika Bhatia, CULTURAL EDITOR: Ayushi Gupta, ART EDITOR: Soumya Jain

SENIOR REPORTER: Sneha Saini, ART MEMBER: Juhi Chaudhary,

REPORTERS: Shivika Katyal and Neha, TEAM MEMBER: Manasvini Bansal

College has given me everything that it has to

offer & I couldn't have asked for more!
Thank you Gargi!

→ Anvi
B.com(H) A)

This college has given me memories which I will cherish all my life.

Apart from memories, the experience we have got being a part societies is extraordinary. Always & Forever a Gargite.

Meha Sharma
B.com(H) III-A
Convener (Placement cell)

Gargi was the best thing happened to me

→ Nikhil Singh
(B.com(H) A)

My favourite college memories are the ones that were in RETREAT. From working there in the gossessions - made part of my life, but moments in college. Unforgettable to unbearable at the same time. But still, the most memorable years. Learned a lot from Gargi.
Kanya Sharma BCH-A

Being a Sports President it was great experience. This college gave me lot of experience & immense number of opportunities. Proud to be a Gargite.

Kritika Sharma
B.com(P) Section B

Being the part of CONSILIUM and MARKETING SOCIETY, I have gained a lot of exposure & knowledge. The memories will be cherished forever.
- SAKSHI AGARWAL (B.com(HI-B))

The Best of my life, place for 3 years has gifted me for 30 years memories. Glad that I am a Gargite. Glad that I am a Gargite. Glad that I am a Gargite.
- Manish Chawla
B.com(H) (A)

Being a part of this college, I have gained a lot of experience. Made new friends; & have seen associated with various societies. These memories will always stay with me.
Ayushi Gupta
B.com(H) (A)

