



maitrēē

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FROM THE DESK OF WTD & CEO, HPL

It's my first opportunity to connect with the entire HPL family through a social in-house platform like Maitree.

Maitree means friendship, but the root goes even deeper, suggesting a deeper symbiotic dependence. And Maitree is the platform that reflects this.

The name is so apt. HPL has never been just another petrochemical company. It has been an articulation of the intellectual prowess and creativity of its team. It is the HPL family! The company sets the highest story by it. Though it sounds trite, one cannot take away the truth from the fact that the family helps nurture the mind that is us and it is the family that provides the primary sustenance of that mind.

Published in association with our sister entity, MCPI, Maitree, through its journey, has time and again proven this. As I write, the immediate past issue, exclusively showcasing our children's creativity comes to my mind.

This edition of Maitree focuses on sports and celebrates the same theme of camaraderie, teamwork and the jest to rise above all odds while at the same time reiterating HPL's responsible corporate citizenship and its role as a caring employer and how we repose our faith in family.

Ensuring work-life balance has always been one of the priorities that the HPL management has espoused. Because we at HPL believe



that a happy family paves the way for easier fruition of individual efficiency that collectively leads to a better organization.

We are also making the communication process more robust and easier to access, to ensure that new ideas are heard and HPL thrives on the sheer quality that the HPLites possess. 'HPL live' has recently been introduced to kickstart the process while other initiatives are also in the pipeline.

I wish all of our team members and their families safety and good health, as we stay committed to flourish together.

I wish this edition of Maitree great success.



Navanit Narayan
Whole-time Director &
Chief Executive Officer





FROM THE DESK OF WTD & CEO, MCPI

I am happy to note that yet another issue of 'Maitree' is ready to be published. I understand that the theme for this issue is on sports activities by the employees and their family members. We believe sports and cultural activities have a considerably positive impact on the social order and culture of any organisation, apart from enhancing bonding within the respective families and the society around us.

In an era in which change and disruptions have become part of life, it is essential for Companies to foster engagement with employees, both within the work place and outside. Till recently the primary objective of the Companies were centered around 'Customer Experience'. However, in the post Covid scenario the meaning and ambit of engagement has undergone a transformation, making it incumbent on organisations to sharpen focus on 'Employee Experience'. In some studies by HR experts in developed economies it has been established that an increase of 10% in engagement at the work place leads to almost 1% increase in productivity.

Moreover, with the 'onboarding' of new and younger workforce, the Companies are having to understand their points of view on 'work - life' balance. The new generation does have legitimate expectations from the Management of providing a 'caring and supportive environment' – one that enthuses them to deliver up to their potential. At the same time, with the rapid change in the external realities, and perceptions formed through the social media, it is natural that all employees seek transparency and speed of communication to



stay connected. In fact, holistic approach to engagement is likely to improve alignment of employees with the Strategic Vision of the Company, leading to enhanced agility of business. Such agility achieved through sustainable growth of professional capabilities of employees is becoming a necessary precondition for the developing resilience of Companies helping them to adapt to new technologies, emerging competition and challenges in the market place.

As a conscientious company believing in 'People First' policy, we are committed to accelerate engagement activities and give them a platform to intensify connect with the Management. I wish this edition of Maitree grand success and would like to end by extending hearty greeting to all employees and their beloved family members.



Debi Prasad Patra
Whole-time Director &
Chief Executive Officer



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ON
FIELD

THE RUNOUT THAT STOPPED A NATION

Aryaman Hazra
S/o - Asit Kumar Hazra
Instrumentation, HPL

Cricket, often described as a game of uncertainties and nail-biting moments, has the ability to unite millions of fans worldwide. The 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup was no exception, captivating enthusiasts with its intense battles and memorable performances. One such moment etched in the hearts of cricket fans was the runout of Mahendra Singh Dhoni during the semifinal match between India and New Zealand.

On July 10, 2019, at the iconic Old Trafford cricket ground in Manchester, India and New Zealand locked horns in a high-stakes semifinal encounter. The match, reduced to a two-day contest due to rain interruptions, witnessed the Kiwis posting a modest total of 239/8 after opting to bat first. With their strong batting lineup, India appeared to be the favorites as they began their chase. However, the game took a dramatic turn, forever etching itself in cricketing history.

India's chase started poorly, with the top order crumbling under pressure. As wickets fell at regular intervals, the responsibility to steady the innings fell on the experienced shoulders of Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja. The duo stitched together a magnificent partnership, blending composure, resilience, and aggressive stroke play. Their union rekindled the hopes of a billion Indian fans.

With the equation poised at 90 runs required off the

last 10 overs,
stadium
The

swung
two sides.
pressure
and Jadeja to

the tension inside the
reached its zenith.
crowd's collective
heartbeat
quicken as the
pendulum
between the
The mounting
pushed Dhoni
take

calculated risks
and execute sublime
shots. Every boundary
was met with thunderous
applause, amplifying the electric
atmosphere.

As the match entered its penultimate over, India still needed 25 runs to clinch victory. On the third delivery of the 49th over, Dhoni pushed a delivery from Lockie Ferguson towards the leg side and set off for a quick single. Martin Guptill, patrolling the deep square leg boundary, pounced on the ball and fired an accurate



throw towards the wicketkeeper's end. In a fraction of a second, the bails were dislodged, leaving Dhoni short of his crease. The realization struck the crowd like a bolt of lightning, marking the end of one of the greatest Indian cricketers' World Cup journeys. Dhoni's dismissal sent shockwaves across the cricketing world. The silence that engulfed the stadium reflected the immense disappointment felt by Indian fans and the players themselves. His exit from the tournament shattered dreams and left an indelible mark on the hearts of millions. The saddest part was that Dhoni was only spotted crying when he was leaving the field.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's journey in cricket has been characterized not only by his exceptional skills on the field but also by the depth of his emotions. Despite his calm and composed exterior, Dhoni has shown moments of vulnerability and profound emotions throughout his career, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of cricket fans worldwide.

One of the most memorable instances of Dhoni's emotional side was witnessed during the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup final against Sri Lanka. Chasing

a challenging target, Dhoni strode to the crease at a critical juncture. Demonstrating nerves of steel and unwavering determination, he played an exceptional innings, culminating in a six that clinched victory for India. The joy and relief that flooded Dhoni's face as he raised his bat in triumph were palpable, and the image of him embracing his teammate Yuvraj Singh with tears of joy streaming down his face became an iconic representation of his emotional investment in the game.



While the runout ended Dhoni's campaign in the 2019 World Cup, it did little to tarnish his legacy as one of the game's greats. Often referred to as "Captain Cool," Dhoni's contributions to Indian cricket are unparalleled. Under his leadership, India triumphed in the 2007 ICC World Twenty20, the 2010 and 2016 Asia Cups, and the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup. His unyielding dedication, match-winning performances, and ability to inspire his teammates will forever be remembered. The legend's career started with a runout when everyone laughed at him and ended with a runout when the whole nation cried. Finally, thank you Captain Cool for everything. You will be remembered forever.

INCREDIBLE PREMIER LEAGUE

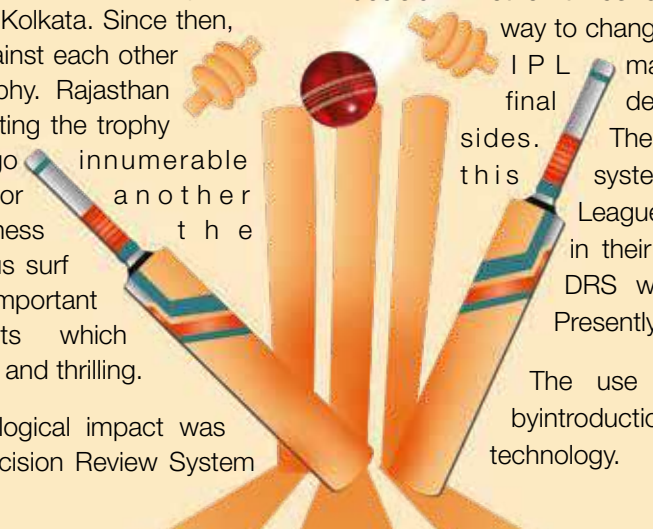
Ishan Raman Dutta
S/o - Koushik Dutta
Chemicals Business, HPL

The Indian Premier League (IPL) started way back in 2007 following India's victory at the ICC T20 World Cup 2007, South Africa. The inaugural IPL sponsored by DLFA consisted of Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Mohali, Mumbai, and Kolkata. Since then, these eight teams fought against each other to lift the sparkling IPL trophy. Rajasthan marked their IPL debut by lifting the trophy but since then have let go innumerable chances to lift the trophy for another year. Now, as we again witness the IPL in front of our eyes let us surf through some of the most important technological advancements which made the IPL more enjoyable and thrilling.

The most important technological impact was the advent of the use of Decision Review System

from the year 2018. This surely gave the power to the captain to challenge the decision made by the umpire. In the past the umpires had the sole right to give their decision whether it was fair or unfair. DRS marked the way to change of decision in almost all the IPL matches. This also made the final decision fair and square for both sides. The IPL committee introduced this system only after Pakistan Super League (PSL) used this technology in their matches. Initially appeal for DRS was allowed only one time. Presently two times is allowed.

The use of DRS is only possible by introductions of advanced digital technology.



What would happen when a wicketkeeper takes a catch behind the stumps even if the ball did not touch the bat though it went just slightly above the edge of the bat? Obviously, the umpire will signal out. That is where Ultra-Edge helped us to determine the given condition. A small microphone fitted on the stump captures the slightest sound made by anything. The sound made by a ball when in contact of the bat gets captured in the form of a frequency which is then transferred into waves. The technology helped many players to prove them out or not out.

LED stumps and bails were also introduced in IPL to give correct judgement in case of a tight run out or stumping. If the ball encounters the bails or stumps the lights lit up in a fraction of a second to provide accurate time or placement of bat or foot in case of a run out or stumping.

The initial seasons of the IPL were not so much attractive as they now are. This is mainly because Hi-tech cameras and other required devices were still not in the market. With the passage of time new advanced cameras rocked the market. Using these devices the picture clarity and the stadium-like experience improved in the digital screen. The picture and sound clarity is mainly because of modern day devices.

360o cameras or spider cameras are used these days to take digital experience into a whole new level. Using strong wires these cameras are set up at the centre of the stadium and also have the ability to move in fixed directions. The cameras give an aerial view of

the whole match.

Did you ever see a small camera fitted machine moving round the stadium? These are known as Buggy Cam. These small machines have wheels which enable them to move on the edge of the boundary rope. These give the digital viewers a side view of the whole match as seen by the dugout players.

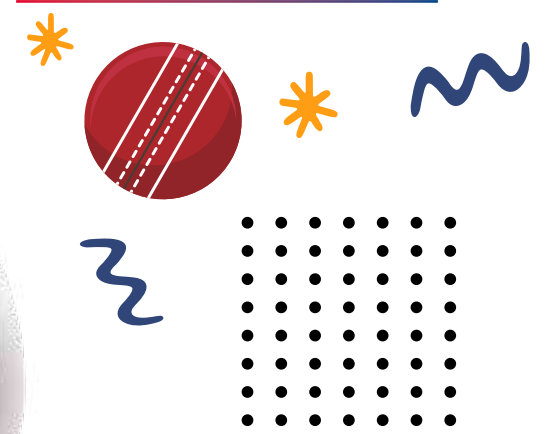
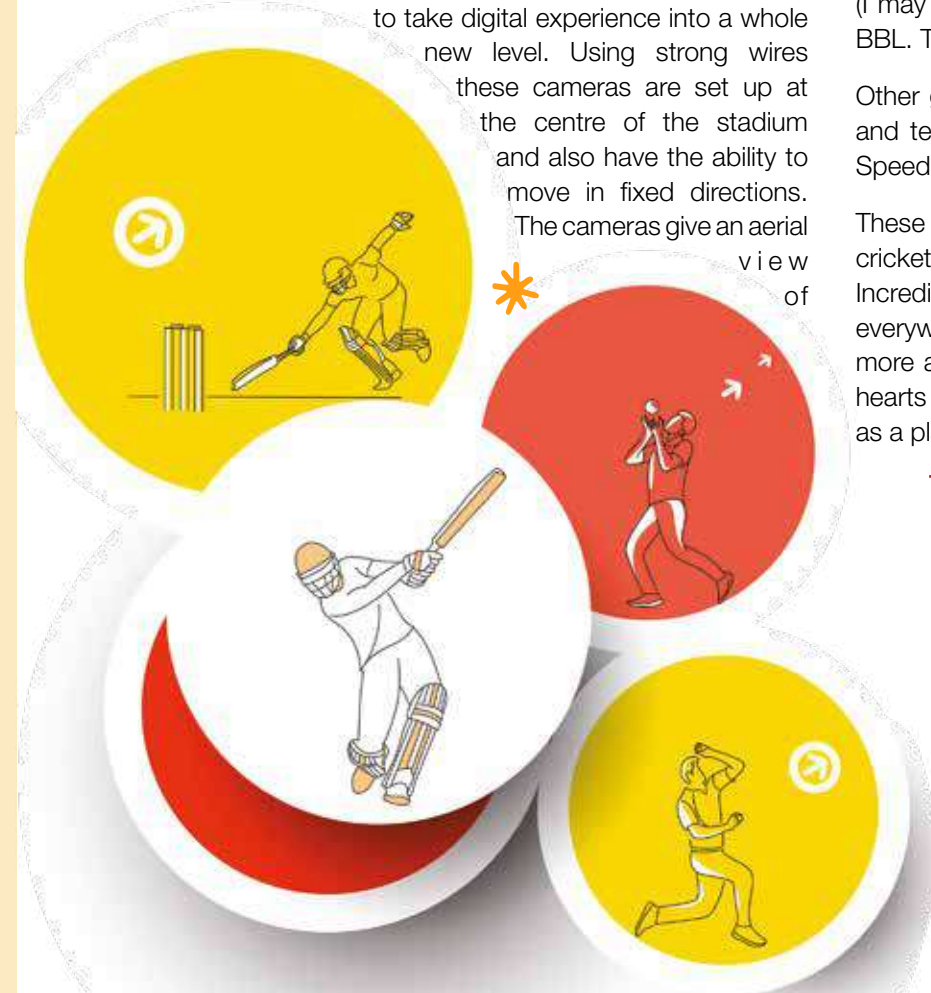
Digital displays in the form of giant big screens in the stadium provide the spectators with the digital scoreboard as well as the live match in a big screen. The viewers sitting far from the ground can see the match from the screen if needed. Though, some stadium, as in Eden Gardens have a manual scoreboard operated by stadium officials.

Special technologies have enabled the umpire to review the LBW appealed by the bowler. This technology has assisted in providing a possible course of the ball towards the stump. This technique is used in digital displays inspected by the third umpire.

The newest addition is the use of backup players as 'Impact Players'. Teams have the power to choose one player outside the playing XI and substitute them in place of another one. The main idea is to let that player support the team to victory if possible. My point of view is that (I may be wrong) this rule is also taken from Australia's BBL. There these players are known as 'X' Factor.

Other gadgets are used to measure the height of sixes and test the speed of the ball bowled, also known as Speed Guns.

These kinds of invention and young generation of cricketers from India have made this league truly 'The Incredible Premier League'. Overall, cricket is same everywhere, but the addition of spices to it to make it more amusing and electrifying. The IPL will relish in the hearts of many cricket fans as well as young cricketers as a platform of showing one's ability and entertainment.



VIRAT: THE FLAGBEARER OF INDIAN CRICKET LEGACY

Anish Bera

S/o - Ambarish Bera
Polymer Logistics, HPL

It was 18 August 2008 a boy of 19 years stepped onto the field making his debut in International Cricket against Sri Lanka where he was Dismissed on 19 runs by Nuwan Kulasekara. Who knew this boy would change the course of the cricket world forever?

Yes, his name is Virat Kohli. One of the greatest cricketers the world has ever seen. Later in the same year he scored his first maiden century against the same team at Eden Gardens. On that match he scored 107 runs. In 2011 he made his test debut against England at Kingston, but the match ended in bitter memories for Kohli. In 2011 world cup winning squad Virat was a key member of the squad. Till the world cup his success was not very high. But on his world cup debut against Bangladesh, he was on the headlines as he scored 100*. And became the first Indian player to score century in the world cup on debut. This was the first time he broke a record. In the following tournament he went on to score 282 runs. After this in the Champions Trophy Kohli scored 176 runs in 5 matches. In 2013 for the first time, he reached number 1 spot in the ICC ODI rankings. He held his position for 8 years in the rankings. And became the third longest player to retain the number 1 spot. In 2013 Kohli scored 2547 runs in 59 matches he played. He had been the highest run scorer for India in 2010, 2011, 2012 and of course 2013. In 2014 Virat got India's test captaincy in Australia Series. Though as an interim captain. But later in that series MS DHONI retired from tests cricket only to hand over Virat the test captaincy. This was the start of the Virat Kohli era of Indian Cricket. Virat has won 40 test matches. That makes him India's

most successful test captaincy with a win percentage 58.8% that is highest in India's red ball cricket history. He is also the third most successful tests captain of the world. In 2014 Virat again scored a mountainous 2645 runs in 61 matches. Again in 2015 Virat scored 1,812 in 53 matches. Of which 309 runs came in 2015 world cup. In 2016 Virat scored 3568 Runs of ending



up as the third highest run scorer of 2016

T 20 World Cup. In 2016 Virat scored an enormous 983 runs in IPL which is the highest ever scored by a player in the tournament's history. He won player of the series in T20 World Cup 2016. He also has the most runs in T20 World Cup as of 2023. He has won the most player of the tournament award in T20 World Cup history winning it for a record 3 times. 2017 can be named as Virat Kohli's prime year. Virat scored 2818 runs across all

formats in international cricket which is the third highest tally of runs recorded ever in a calendar year. In 2017 Virat was given the ODI captaincy and T20I captaincy.

In 2017 Virat broke a bunch of records—

1. Virat became the first captain with three 5-0 whitewashes.
2. Kohli became the first captain to score a hundred in each of the four innings in test cricket.
3. Kohli became the first player to score double centuries in four consecutive test series. After he hit the fourth ton against Bangladesh.
4. He became the first player to score six double tons as a captain.
5. Virat's 10 consecutive wins in ODI are most consecutive wins for India under any captain.
6. Kohli became the first captain to score more than 10 centuries as a captain in a calendar year. After scoring 11 centuries. Kohli's 6 centuries in ODI are most in a year are most by a captain in a year. He is also the only captain to score 5 hundred in a test.
7. Kohli's 31 wins in 2017 was the joint most by any captain. Along with Ricky Ponting.
8. Kohli is the fastest player to score 1000, 2000 runs as a captain.
9. Kohli's 2818 runs in a year are most by any Indian Player.
10. Kohli is the fastest player to reach the 8000, 9000 runs milestone in cricket.

Virat scored 2,735 runs in 2018. In this he scored the fastest 10000 runs. In 2019 Virat scored 2455 runs.

Everything was good till this. Until 2020 came this started the curse that lasted till mid-2022. He scored the last century on 23rd November. It was like a nightmare for him. No one would have expected him to bat like this. This is not all about his batting but also about the luck. There are many instances where the decisions went against him. He left the test captaincy in January 2022. While he left ODI and T20 captaincy at the end of 2021. This was like a century drought for him. But as we say – "Cometh the hour cometh the man". It was Asia Cup 2022, against Afghanistan after 1019 days he scored his 71st century. This was the tournament in which he took the flight of the form. That has not yet landed. In T20 World Cup 2022 Virat was the highest scorer. But not only that, he scored probably one of the greatest innings ever played. It was India vs Pakistan. Target- 160 runs.

India 5 down for 30 in 7 overs. But as great people say – "The night is enormous, but I look up ". With this motive he went on to score 83* to snatch the victory from JAWS OF DEFEAT. This was nothing less than a miracle. He continued his great form in the latter part of tournament by scoring a whopping 296 runs in 5 matches with an average of 98.66. After this against Bangladesh he scored his ODI century after 3 years. Then against Sri Lanka he scored 2 centuries in 3 matches. Thus, equalling Sachin Tendulkar's ODI century record. Against Australia in the test series, he scored 186* thus scoring his test century after 3 years. In IPL 2023 he has been in great form as of May scoring 419 runs in 10 matches till 9 May.

This was all about statistics and runs scored on paper. But his success formula lies due to his hardworking and passion. He is one of the fittest players of all time. His batting technique and footwork cannot be compared to anyone else. His batting temperament and dedication is to another level. This can be told by his chasing record, whenever he was not out while chasing his team has won. His aggression is just unique identity of him. His aggressive approach trembles cricketers. Till now everything was about his individual records but his impact in the Indian Team is also very rich. Here's how he changed the face of Indian cricket: -

2011: India wins the World Cup. An excited Virat Kohli, who had carried Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar on his shoulders, said: "Sachin Tendulkar has carried the burden of the nation for 21 years. It was time we carried him."

Since then, Kohli has carried the Indian team on his shoulders. Success is a by-product of sacrifice, hard work, and passion. There is no shortage of passion for Kohli. He always wore his heart on the sleeve and never hid his emotions. Never did he let his energy drop after a hard day's play. He has sustained the passion for so long, despite making his debut in Tests in 2011. It's a reflection of his character and his love for the sport.

Kohli wanted to be the best in the business. To accomplish that, he altered his lifestyle to get fitter and take his career to the next level. His obsession with fitness and passion for the game was so intense that he sacrificed his favourite food. Nothing was allowed to deter him from achieving his dreams. Kohli was not just happy to find the success formula; he also ensured that his Indian teammates followed it. So, he changed the fitness culture in the Indian dressing room, a move that dashed the dreams of several talented players. If you are not fit enough, you can't make the national team: that was the unwritten rule. And it worked wonders as India



went on to dominate cricket in all formats.

He can easily be said as the Greatest Player of All Time. While cricket has produced some greatest talents. Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara, Ricky Ponting, Virat Kohli among them Virat has played the least number of matches and is 2nd highest run scorer in Cricket history. Only behind Sachin Tendulkar who has played 664 matches while Kohli playing 497 matches. No time is left when we will see him become the highest run scorer in history of

cricket.

As a batsman, Kohli's best came when leading the side. And he became India's best captain, and his win ratio made him the fourth successful skipper in cricket history. Statistics bear that out. Even his worst critics would have to concede that. No one can regret his passion for cricket.

Thanks "King Kohli" for all you have done for us.

THE EVOLUTION OF CRICKET

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According to most experts the game of cricket is said to have originated during the Saxon period. Originally referred to as "creckett" modern day reference to the game was first noted in 1611 when a dictionary included it as a boy's game. From then on cricket has come a long way undergoing monumental changes that has altered its

look completely. Cricket back then and now are almost two different sports. Did you know that originally cricket was played with bats that looked like hockey sticks and that underarm bowling or rather rolling the ball on the ground was the norm?

players were not dismissed for this. Also until this point there were only two stumps, this amendment added the middle stump to create the wicket we know today.

Cricket was introduced in North America in the 17th century whereas it spread to the rest of the world in the 18th century by the English colonists like in West Indies and the Indian subcontinent. It reached New Zealand and South Africa in the 19th century. Amidst all this is Canada a rare exception of British colony where Cricket did not get popular.

As I had mentioned earlier the ball was originally rolled during the days of crickets beginning. Later in the 18th century balls started to be pitched and finally in 1864 overarm balling got legalized which is now the only allowed method in cricket. In response to pitched balling the cricket bat also changed from its hockey stick like structure to the straight ones we see today. Originally the number of balls per over had not been standardized and ranged anything from 4 to 8 per over and only after 1900 did it get set to 6 balls per over.

The rules of the game are noted in the "laws of cricket". The first was written in 1744 and then later amended on 1774 by the "star and garter club" whose members later founded the "Marylebone Cricket Club" in 1787. This is the club that maintains the "laws of cricket" even now after the ICC and other governing bodies have come into existence. The amendments in 1774 brought in the lbw rule, earlier

International cricket started in the 19th century with the first game being ironically played between US and Canada in 1844 of which both the teams are currently not full members of ICC and cannot play official international test matches. The Imperial Cricket Conference was setup in 1909 with England, Australia and South Africa as the members. In 1965 it was renamed the International



Cricket Conference when the English started losing in the world politics. After more countries joined ICC took up its current name "International Cricket Council" in the year 1987 and subsequently shifted their base of operations from Lord's, England to Dubai in 2005.

In the twentieth century we saw cricket getting monetized as a source of entertainment when Australian media tycoon Kelly Packer setup a privately funded cricket league called the "World Series Cricket". Though it did not last long, the series introduced colored kits and the concept of night matches. Limited overs crickets like ODI's started around 1970 and was highly popular because of the shorter length of games. In 1992 Third umpires were introduced for the first time to check run outs and from then on their range of decision-making has increased a lot to include lbw, stumping and even boundaries.

Twenty20, crickets' latest fad, was launched by England and Wales Cricket Board in 2003. It has high attendances and TV ratings leading to a huge shift in the International calendar to include 20 overs format in the global stage. Through all this the biggest change in 21st century would be the official amendment of the "Laws of Cricket" in 2021 to replace the term "batsmen" by "batter" for gender equality.



THE TRAGEDY OF MARACANA STADIUM IN WORLD CUP 1950

Kaushik Kumar Sinha
Commodity Business Team, HPL



The tragedy of Maracana represents a pivotal moment in the history of the World Cup and football in general, in which the dream of millions of Brazilians died, and a black jewel named Pele was born from the womb of the disaster.

Brazil prepared itself well to celebrate its first title in the 1950 World Cup, as it only had to avoid losing to Uruguay to win the title, with two landslide victories over Sweden 7-1 and Spain 6-1 in the final stage (which was playing in the group stage of four teams at the time), while Uruguay must win against its big neighbour in its field because of its difficult victory over Sweden 3-2 after it was late 2-1, and its hard-earned draw with Spain, who was also ahead 2-1.

Brazil did not include the word loss in its dictionary, so the governor of Rio de Janeiro addressed the Brazilian people as world champions, and the city over-prepared for the greatest carnival in the country's history,

And the Maracanã Stadium, as they thought, would be a suitable place for this, as Brazil on this stadium pitch scored 13 goals in the final against two teams that caused big suffering to Uruguay.

On July 16, 1950, more than 200,000 spectators gathered at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro. Legendary George Reader of England was the referee of the all-important grand finale who retired after the match.

The clamour of the masses was loud, and the celebrations pervaded all over Brazil, and the sound of the radio broadcasting the match's events resounded in the alleys of the slums whose residents gathered around it, and as soon as the English referee Rider blew the whistle, Brazil announced its intention to shake the guest net, so the hosts launched attacks that put terrible pressure Uruguay's defences.

Despite 17 attempts by the Brazilians against the visitors' goal, the first half ended in a goalless draw.

With the start of the second half, the Brazilian fans became anxious, yet their throats never held back in their encouragement, and it was only two minutes until the Brazilian striker Friaca was able to decode the Uruguayan defences with a powerful shot that cheered more than 50 million Brazilians, and here the stadium fans celebrated the victory as if the match ended, but the players of Uruguayan coach Ivan Lopez bared their fangs and showed their skills, which they hid in the first half.

Then, Uruguay captain Obdolio Varela quickly dribbled past Brazil's defences and passed a superb pass to striker Alberto Schiaffino, who scored the equalizer for Uruguay. As mid-way was approaching of the second half.

This equalizer upset the Brazilian fans, but the result still means that Brazil is the world champion.

Brazil increased its attacks, hoping to settle things, but 11 minutes before the end of that match the disaster happened, the Uruguayan team managed to score the goal by Alcides Ghiggiano to make the score 2-1, taking advantage of a fatal mistake by the Brazilian goalkeeper Barbosa.

A terrible silence fell on the stadium of the match, everyone was astonished by the horror of the disaster, Luis Mendes, the match commentator on the radio, did not believe what was happening in front of him, he said 9 times the phrase "Goal for Uruguay" in nine different ways.

The fans held their breath and tears for the remaining minutes, hoping that their team would save them from this nightmare, but Uruguay's defences had a different opinion, and the final whistle blew the tears of millions of Brazilians in the 1950 World Cup final.

In one of the alleys of Brazil, there was a child playing with his friends, and he felt a strange silence in the neighbourhood, and returned home to know what was going on, to be surprised by a scene he had not familiar with in his life, as he found his father crying bitterly, and he asked him, "Why are you crying, Dad?" His father replied, "Brazil lost the World Cup", little Pele replied innocently, "Don't cry, Dad I will win the World Cup for you one day."

Collated from sources by kaushik kumar sinha (CBT)



KITE FLYING-A LOST SPORT

Parth Khandhadiya
Legal & Secretarial, HPL

The kite was said to be the invention of the famous 5th century BC Chinese philosophers Mozi and Lu Ban, other evidence suggests that kites were used by cultures in Malaysia, Indonesia, and the South Pacific as fishing instruments made of natural materials like leaves and reeds.

In 1972, Peter Powell introduced a toy dual-line stunter, wherein the kites could fly precise maneuvers, go faster and perform intricate tricks in a controlled way and the public began to fly kites not only for fun but also for sport. Millions of his kites were sold, and flying steerable kites became a craze in the mid-'70s. The popularity of all types of multiple-line kite flying today can be attributed directly to Powell's development of a modern dual-line kite.

In the 1980s, sport kite development utilized new materials such as carbon/fiberglass tubes and rip-stop nylon. Two of the most influential kite developments during this time can be attributed to Don Tabor, who introduced the "Hawaiian" team kite in 1982, and Joseph Hadzicki, who developed and patented the quad-line controllable kite in 1988.

After its introduction into India, the kite further evolved into the fighter kite, known as the patang in India, where thousands are flown every year be it the festival of Makar Sankranti or Uttarayan or a celebration of Indian independence, both are synonymous with kite flying. In the western part of the nation, 'kai po che' ('I have cut the kite' in Gujarati) is heard from the rooftops. The state of Gujarat has been, for long, associated with kite flying houses the Patang Kite Museum, which was

and



Bhanu treasure kites. The 33 panels paintings collected such as Albert London.

conceptualised by Shah and is a trove of historical museum has with kites and that he from places the Victoria and Museum in

In 1989, the International Kite Festival was started

the government of Gujarat, and it welcomes

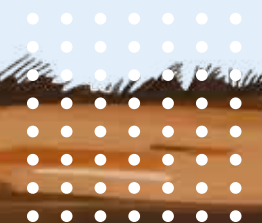
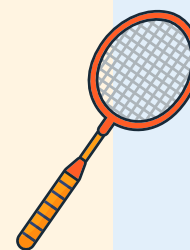
enthusiasts to fly kites and hundreds of tiny, colourful backdrop of the blue sky.

by

kite witness dots on the

In Afghanistan, kite flying is a popular game, and is known in Dari as GudiparanBazi. Some kite fighters pass their strings through a mixture of ground glass powder and glue, which is legal.

In Pakistan, kite flying is often known as Gudi-Bazi or Patang-bazi. Although kite flying is a popular ritual for the celebration of spring festival known as Jashn-e-Baharaan (lit. Spring Festival) or Basant, kites are flown throughout the year. The kite fights are at their highest during the spring celebrations and the fighters enjoy competing with rivals to cut-loose the string of the others kite, popularly known as "Paecha". During the spring festival, kite flying competitions are held across the country and the skies are colored with kites. When a competitor succeeds in cutting another's kite loose,



shouts of 'wo kata' ring through the air. Cut kites are reclaimed by chasing after them.

Just like a lot of other outdoor recreational activities, kite flying has also drastically declined in the recent past, thanks to urbanisation, technological advancements,

KITE fact

There is Kite Club in Kolkata with the name of College Square Kite Club situated in College Square location.

digital substitutes, busy schedules, and the list goes on. Anthropologist Suresh Dhakal quotes "The tall buildings and houses crammed into tight spaces and unmanageable power lines have affected the tradition of flying kites."



TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO BAGGIO

Subrata Sarkar

Plant Human Resource, HPL

Roberto Baggio, professional football player who is widely considered one of the greatest forwards in the history of Italian Football. He also called the Divine Ponytail.

He is a technically gifted creative playmaker and set piece specialist, renowned for his curling free-kicks, dribbling skills, and goalscoring,

He won the FIFA World Player of the Year award in 1993. He is also famous among football fans for missing the penalty kick that secured the victory for Brazil in the 1994 World Cup final.

Baggio started his journey as professional footballer in the year 1982, with the lower-division team Vicenza and in 1985 he joined Fiorentina which is Italy's top division, Serie A team. Baggio flourished into celebrity footballer with Fiorentina, his unique ponytail becoming famous throughout the country.

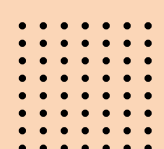
Later he shifted to Juventus with a record fee in 1990, there were riots in Florence. In the match against Fiorentina as a member of Juventus, Baggio refused to take a penalty kick to show protest the riots. His relationship with Juventus fans was continued over in the following years as Baggio led the team to UEFA Cup title in 1993.

On completion of UEFA championship, he was moved to AC Milan. The tenure at Milan was not very successful and he signed with Bologna in 1997 and tried to revive his career. He scored a career-highest 22 goals during the 1997-98 season and then signed a lucrative deal with Inter Milan. Baggio spent two seasons with Inter Milan before signing with Brescia.

Baggio had made his international debut for Italy in 1988 and as a substitute player in the 1990 World Cup, but four years later he starred, as Italy played in final against Brazil. A scoreless tie after regulation play and two overtimes, the match went into a penalty kick shoot-out. Italy losing in the shoot-out 3-2, Baggio sent final shot over the crossbar, and Brazil won the World Cup. He scored twice in the tournament and became the first Italian with goals in three World Cups.

After he retired from the game in 2004, Baggio engaged himself with charitable work, which included becoming a global ambassador for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN in 2005. He also served as the technical director of the Italian Football Federation from 2010 to 2013.

Baggio's career was one of a true warrior. There were times when he couldn't walk for days after matches because of his knee problems. He missed penalty that will haunt him forever. He battled physical and emotional pain. All that makes him even greater and puts a seal on his football legend status forever.



VIRENDER SEHWAG'S MULTAN MASTERCLASS - A LESSON IN FEARLESSNESS AND TENACITY

Jaydeep Parmar
Strategic Initiative, MCPI

Virender Sehwag, the fearless Indian cricketer known for his explosive batting style, etched his name in the annals of cricket history during the first Test match of the 2004 series against Pakistan in Multan. Sehwag's breathtaking innings not only resulted in a remarkable personal milestone but also provided invaluable lessons in fearlessness and tenacity.

The Iconic Inning

In the backdrop of historical significance and fierce rivalry, Virender Sehwag stepped onto the pitch at Multan Cricket Stadium with a sense of purpose and determination. The Indian team, batting first, needed a solid foundation to establish dominance in the game. Sehwag, displaying his unique brand of aggression, took charge from the very first ball.

Sehwag's approach was unorthodox yet effective. He launched a relentless assault on the Pakistani bowlers, tearing apart their attack with a flurry of boundaries. Unfazed by the magnitude of the occasion and the reputation of the opposition, Sehwag's bat did the talking. He went on to score a historic triple-century, becoming the first Indian to achieve this feat in Test cricket.

An Anecdote of Unyielding Determination

Amidst Sehwag's mesmerizing innings, there was a defining moment that showcased his unyielding determination. When Sehwag was batting on 295, he was just five runs away from joining the elite club of triple centurions. Fatigue and pressure could have easily crept in, but Sehwag remained undeterred.

On the penultimate ball of an over, Sehwag smacked a powerful shot towards mid-wicket and instinctively ran for a quick single. However, he faced a hurdle in the form of a formidable fielder, Abdul Razzaq, who swiftly picked up the ball and hurled it towards the non-striker's end. Sehwag, realizing the dire consequences of being run out so close to the milestone, displayed lightning-fast reflexes, diving full stretch to make his ground safely and secure his triple century.

Learnings from Sehwag's Multan Innings:

1. Fearless Attitude: Sehwag's innings exemplified

fearlessness in its purest form. He didn't allow external pressures or the significance of the moment to impede his performance. Instead, he embraced the challenge head-on and played with audacity, unafraid of failure.

2. Mental Resilience: Sehwag's unwavering focus and mental resilience were on full display. Despite the immense pressure to score big, he stayed composed, ensuring his concentration never wavered. This teaches us the importance of mental strength and the ability to perform under

pressure.

3. Seizing Opportunities: Sehwag seized

every opportunity that came his way. He capitalized on loose deliveries and transformed them into boundaries. This serves as a reminder to recognize and seize the opportunities that present themselves in our personal and professional lives.

4. Embracing Individual Style: Sehwag's batting style was unique to him, and he embraced it wholeheartedly. He played with a refreshing spontaneity, relying on his natural instincts and breaking the mold of conventional techniques. This encourages us to embrace our individuality and find our own path to success.



MARACANAZO: URUGUAY'S TRIUMPH OVER BRAZIL IN THE 1950 FIFA WORLD CUP

Rishi Shreya Mitra
S/o - Ranajay Mitra
Process DP, MCPI

One of the most memorable stories in the history of the FIFA World Cup took place during the 1950 tournament held in Brazil. It was a tale of an underdog team defying all expectations and achieving a remarkable victory that stunned the football world.

In that year, Brazil was chosen as the host nation, and the stage was set for an exciting competition. The favorites to win the tournament were considered to be teams like Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina, who had historically strong football programs. However, it was the underdogs from Uruguay who would eventually steal the spotlight.

The final match was held on July 16, 1950, at the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. The home team, Brazil, faced off against Uruguay in a highly anticipated showdown. The atmosphere in the stadium was electric, with nearly 200,000 passionate fans packed to witness history.

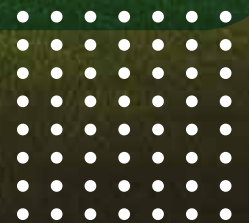
Brazil took an early lead in the match, scoring the first goal and sending the crowd into a frenzy. Confidence soared among the Brazilian players and fans, and many began to believe that victory was inevitable.

But Uruguay, refusing to succumb to the pressure, mounted a comeback. Just before half-time, they equalized with a goal, leaving the Brazilian team and their supporters stunned. As the second half commenced, tensions ran high, and the match became fiercely contested.

Then, in the 79th minute, Uruguay struck again, scoring what would be the winning goal. The Maracanã fell silent as the realization sunk in: the underdogs had triumphed over the mighty Brazil. Uruguay celebrated their victory while the Brazilian players and fans were left in disbelief and devastation.

This match, known as the "Maracanazo," is considered one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history. It shattered Brazil's dream of winning their first World Cup on home soil and forever etched the name of Uruguay into football folklore.

The story of the 1950 World Cup serves as a reminder that in football, and in life, the underdogs can rise to greatness and overcome seemingly insurmountable odds. It teaches us that in the world of sports, anything is possible, and the beauty of the game lies in its unpredictability and the passion it ignites in fans worldwide.



MY HERO

Valarie Maseyk Kapoor
HR - Plant, MCP

Diego Armando Maradona was indeed my superhero. I was fortunate enough to grow up watching his matches during the time he ruled the game.

Born on 30 October 1960 in Lanus, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Maradona entered professional football at the age of 15. He started playing in Argentinos Juniors. Something important in the life of Maradona was playing in the World Cup. The 1986 World Cup was Maradona's finest hour, as he single-handedly guided Argentina to victory, scoring 5 goals and creating 5 assists in the tournament. One of the most memorable moments of Maradona's career was "The hand of God" goal in the quarterfinals against England, where he scored a goal by using his hand, an action that was against the rules but went undetected by the referee. I will always remember this moment as my heart sank, my breath stopped and tears dropped down my eyes and this was the same feeling of thousands of fans across the world who worshiped him.

Maradona was widely considered one of the greatest footballers of all time, his hard work and dedication made a great impact on all football lovers. His skill of dribbling and accurate passing was very impressive and his performance on the field were simply phenomenal which made him the best.

Maradona died on November 25, 2020, at the age of 60, but his legacy lives on. He remains one of the most iconic figures in the world, Diego Maradona was a footballer of exceptional talent and charisma and he will be remembered for generations to come as a true legend of the game.

My love for Maradona and the game will always remain close to my heart.

Love you Diego Maradona.



“সোনার পা” এর ছোট ইতিহাস

Amrik Maiti
Quality Control, HPL

সমস্যা হল কি, যে শ্মশানে তাঁর পা দুটো কিছুতেই পুড়ছিল না।

তিনি খালি পায়ে ফুটবল খেলতেন। আটচল্লিশ ইঞ্চির ছাতির ওই ফুটবলারের নাম গোষ্ঠ পাল।

ইংরেজরা সেই সময় বুট পরে খেলতো। তা সত্ত্বেও গোষ্ঠ পালের দুর্ভেদ্য প্রাচীর কিছুতেই ভেদ করতে পারতো না। বল লাথি মেরে উড়িয়ে দিতো ইংরেজদের দিকে। শোনা যায় যে স্বামী বিবেকানন্দের বাণী পড়ে ফুটবল খেলার অনুপ্রেরণা পেয়েছিলেন।

স্বামীজির বাণী ছিল যে, গীতা পাঠের চেয়ে ফুটবল খেলা ভাল। তাই গোষ্ঠ পালেরও মনে হল যে লাথি মেরে পদাঘাতের জবাব দিতে হবে।

দেশপ্রেম আর ফুটবল দুটোই এভাবে মিশে গিয়েছিল গোষ্ঠ পালের ফুটবলে। তাই দেখে বিশিষ্ট রাজনৈতিক নেতা অতুল্য ঘোষ বলেছিলেন যে, গোষ্ঠ পাল স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রাম না করেই একজন স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামী।

বিশ্বকবি রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর প্রথম আলাপেই বলেছিলেন যে, তুমিই তাহলে দুর্ভেদ্য চীনের প্রাচীর গোষ্ঠ পাল।

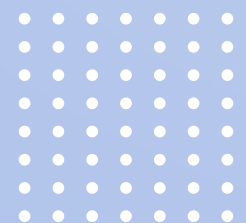
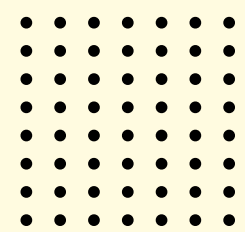
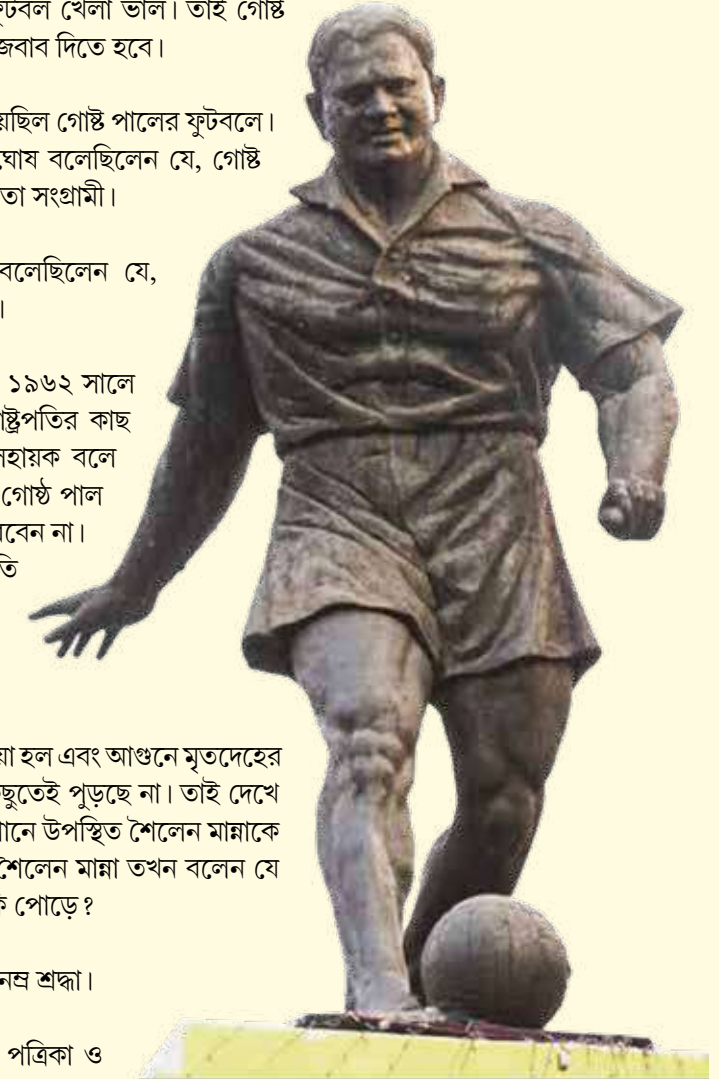
তিনি ছিলেন একজন মনেপ্রাণে খাঁটি বাঙালি। ১৯৬২ সালে তিনিই প্রথম ফুটবলে পদ্মশ্রী সম্মান পান। রাষ্ট্রপতির কাছ থেকে পুরস্কার নিতে যাওয়ার আগে, আশু সহায়ক বলেছিলেন যে গলাবন্ধ কোট পরে আসতে। কিন্তু গোষ্ঠ পাল জানিয়ে দিয়েছিলেন যে তিনি কোট পড়তে পারবেন না। ধুতি পাঞ্জাবি পরেই পুরস্কার নেবেন এবং রাষ্ট্রপতি ভবন থেকে ওঁনার কথাটা মেনে নেওয়া হয়।

ইনিই হলেন গোষ্ঠ পাল।

গোষ্ঠ পাল মারা যাওয়ার পর শ্মশানে নিয়ে যাওয়া হল এবং আশু মৃতদেহের সব পুড়ে গেল কিন্তু গোষ্ঠ পালের পা দুটো কিছুতেই পুড়েছে না। তাই দেখে গোষ্ঠ পালের ছেলে শৌরিশ পাল নিমতলা শ্মশানে উপস্থিত শৈলেন মান্নাকে বললেন যে, বাবার পা দুটো পুড়েছে না কেন? শৈলেন মান্না তখন বলেন যে গোষ্ঠ দার পা যে “সোনার পা”। অত সহজে কি পোড়ে?

বিখ্যাত এই ফুটবলার গোষ্ঠ পাল কে জানাই বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা।

তথ্যসূত্র : গোষ্ঠ পালের জীবন নিয়ে বিভিন্ন পত্রিকা ও সামাজিক মাধ্যম-এ নানা লেখা ও প্রতিবেদন-এর ওপর ভিত্তি করে এই লেখা।



FOOTBALL-MY FAVOURITE SPORT

Sparshadeep Jana

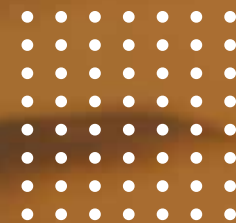
S/o - Pooja Jana

Plant Human Resource, HPL

I like to play very much, and Football is my favourite sport. Every evening I practice at our HREL ground with my friends. I never miss a chance to play football. Over 3.6million people are following this sport. And I am also follow this sport very much.It is one of the best exercises in the world. Some of my favourite football players are Ronaldo, Messi, Neymar, Lewandowski, Mbappe, Ramos, Pele, Maradona and Benzima. This year FIFA World cup has won by Argentina, but my wish was that if the finals would have played between Argentina and Portugal.

This sport has originated in Britain in the 19th century and now more over 200 countries are playing football. In this game there are 2 goalpost, one centre line. The main objective of the game is to move the ball in the opposing team's goal. We play this sport with our foot, so it is named as football.

I have a wish to play football with Ronaldo because he is my most favourite footballer.



REMINISCENCE: MEMOIRS OF THE GAME-CHANGERS

Ankita Banerjee

G/o - Goutam Mukherjee

Raw Materials, MCPI

Just imagine.... It's a night in your nineties. It's 12:45 AM and it's a Clasico night. It's your first El Clasico since your better half passed away. You just had your cataract operation. Things are still blurry to your eyes. The whole family is gathering in front of the TV. After all El Clasico is the only time, the whole family spends time with each other. So, you being a loyal fan, picked up the scarf of your favourite team; the team you turned to whenever you were down. You went to the drawing room and silently sat on the couch kept in the far corner.

Whenever it's El Clasico you get reminded of a certain Portuguese and a certain Argentine. Your granddaughter turned on the TV and thus the live coverage began from The Camp Nou. The crowd of Camp Nou had made a little Tifo for "The Brazilian Smiling Magician". The match began. The players in the Blaugrana colours are drawing beautiful pictures in the pitch with their brilliant passing football. On the other hand, the Los Blancos stronger than the last few Clasicos looks absolutely determined and giving their all for the counterattacking football they are known for. It's turning out to be a fabulous Clasico. 85 minutes have passed by. It's 1-1. Real Madrid got a free kick from 36 yards. The commentators are saying that this is too far for the player to even think about a direct goal. The Free Kick is taken. BOOM. It's a goal. You just smiled a little. (You know who you are relating him to) 90 minutes of play have been played. 3 more minutes are added on.

A certain nineteen-year-old of the Catalan side got the ball in the right midfield. The picture isn't clear to you but you can hear the commentators saying - "Trying to dribble past One.Two.Three..Brilliant.Brilliant. Brilliant..." you know these lines, you get a smile on your face as wide as your TV. The commentators continued- "Away from the last

defender...only got the goalkeeper to beat.....and it's a perfect finish in the bottom corner after an amazing piece of football from Andre Rodriguez".

That's when it hit you. Your eyes became moist. You somehow unknowingly mistook those players for a tall player at 6 feet 1 inch, who was a formidable right winger on the pitch and later developed into a forward with a free-reined attacking style with 34 major trophies (Cristiano Ronaldo) and a 5 feet 7 inches left-footed little unparalleled boy from Rosario Santa Fe, who "conquered his final peak" and had 42 major trophies (Lionel Messi).

As Peter Drury always said Cristiano Ronaldo has looked and played "like an athlete" throughout the majority of his career, "Messi looks like the boy next door and performs like a god". Although, "the debate can rage on if you like", those lines started running at the back of your mind. Like a beautiful poetry.

Suddenly the whole golden rivalry flashed by in front of your eyes. Scoring 50 goals a season for fun. Winning BallonD'ors as if they are personal property. The fans worshipping them like gods. The fanboys thrashing the rival one. The Drug Dealer pages abusing each other. You've seen your idols debuting, getting their recognition, creating magic on the field, winning silverwares, ageing, retiring, getting old and at last dying physically. But mentally and emotionally they'll always be evergreen in your memories. You went through it all.

The match ended 2-2. You are wondering if this is the last Clasico that you'd be witnessing. You went to your room with tears in your eyes. Before going to bed, you turned towards the poster at your wall of the Portuguese standing with the Argentine with an arm around his shoulder. You wiped your tears and whispered in a sobbing voice - "When I drift off into the eternal sleep, I will dream about you. It's always you. The game-changers."



A MESMERIZING VICTORY: MY JOURNEY TO THE 2022 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP FINAL IN NORTH SIKKIM

Ayan Kamar

Management Trainee (Electrical), HPL

In the breathtaking landscapes of North Sikkim, where nature takes center stage, I embarked on a memorable journey with my college friends. We knew that this trip would coincide with the highly anticipated Football World Cup Final in 2022, a momentous event for sports enthusiasts worldwide. So, we were a little anxious about the scope to watch the match. However, fate had a surprise in store for us, leading us to a small local bar just beside our stay, where we witnessed the match, and our beloved Argentina, led by the legendary Lionel Messi, emerged victorious. This unforgettable experience left an indelible mark on our hearts, forever linking our passion for travel and football.

Our adventure began as we ventured into the mystical landscapes of North Sikkim. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, serene lakes, and lush greenery, the region exuded an ethereal charm. As we immersed ourselves in the tranquility of the environment, little did we anticipate the thrill that awaited us on the football field.

As ardent fans of football, particularly Messi and Argentina, we were disappointed to learn that, being a remote location, our accommodation in Lachen had no television or internet access. The realization that we might miss witnessing the World Cup Final cast a shadow over our excitement. However, our determination and a touch of luck led us to a small local bar where the match was being screened.

We entered the Bar with some fear or rather say awkwardness, which had faded away eventually. Entering the bustling bar, we were greeted by a few fans, each adorned in jerseys, and cheering for their favorite teams. Waving flags were hanging from the rooftop. The electric atmosphere crackled with anticipation, uniting people from diverse backgrounds through a shared love for the beautiful game. Amidst the crowd, we found a spot and settled in, our hearts pounding with excitement.

As the match kicked off, tension filled the air. We watched in awe as Argentina's skilled players showcased their prowess, led by the legend Lionel Messi. The game ebbed and flowed, with both teams displaying their talents, but as the minutes ticked by, Argentina's determination began to shine through. The bar erupted in jubilation as Messi scored a breathtaking goal, followed by a collective roar of support for their favorite team. The energy was infectious, and we became one with the crowd, celebrating each moment with unabashed joy.

Two teams could not be separated in 120 minutes of the game, such was the intensity. The mercury of tension touched the night sky. Finally Argentina secured their victory after 36 years in a breathtaking penalty shootout, and the bar exploded into a crescendo of cheers, hugs, and tears of joy. We rejoiced, knowing we had witnessed history unfold in the most unexpected of places. Till then we did not realize we watched the World Cup finals in a small bar out of nowhere with complete strangers. Such is football. The memory of that night in the North Sikkim bar would forever remain etched in our hearts, a testament to the power of shared experiences and the indomitable spirit of sportsmanship.

As we left North Sikkim, we carried with us not only the breathtaking landscapes but also the echoes of that victorious night, reminding us that sometimes the most extraordinary experiences come from the most unexpected places



EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK

Suman Dewan

Manufacturing - IOP, HPL

Visiting the Everest Base Camp at 17,598 feet (5,364m) above sea level and standing in front of the famous Khumbu Icefall was one of my lifelong dreams. Our journey started with a short flight from Kathmandu airport to Lukla (World most dangerous airport). The flight route was remarkably interesting and can be quite scary for the faint hearted, especially the landing and take-off on a noticeably short and uphill runway on the edge of the mountain. The base camps are rudimentary campsites at the base of Mount Everest that are used by mountain climbers during their ascent and descent. The Everest Base Camp trek is not complete without a climb up Kala Patthar (also spelled out as Kalapathar). These 18,176 feet / 5,540-meter peak hovers over the small village of Gorak Shep and is one of the best spots in

Sagarmatha National Park to take in the views of Mount Everest itself. The main challenge we overcome is that it's a 15-day long trek in the month of Dec, 22 amidst freezing temperature of (-20 to 30) degree C.

In an ideal world, most of us would love to stand on the top of the world, 8,848m high on Mt Everest.

Realistically, most of us will not be able to achieve this! But if you have good fitness and strong determination, you can make it to Everest Base Camp!

And between you and me, the views of Everest from Kalapathar are the most spectacular you can get without having to spend weeks trudging up to the summit!

Everest Base Camp Trek Highlight

- Stand at the base of Mt Everest in awe of its majesty and size.
- Witness the sun setting over Everest from Kalapathar, known as the Everest viewpoint.
- Fly into the high-altitude Tenzing Airport at Lukla, an experience in itself.
- Visit Sherpa villages with their Tibetan like peoples and yak herders.
- Stay in Namche Bazaar, the starting point for all Everest expeditions.
- Be stunned by the chilling beauty of the Khumbu Glacier and Khumbu Icefalls
- Use the essential acclimatization days to learn something of the lifestyle of the Sherpas.
- Pass through Sagarmatha National Park with its unique flora and fauna.
- Follow the footsteps of Sir Edmund Hillary and many other famous mountaineers.
- Visit Tengboche Monastery with its strong spiritual connection.

Day-1: Kolkata to Kathmandu via Air India flight after reaching airport foreign currency exchange to be done including Nepal sim for contact purpose and reached hotel near to city so that we can get to airport as early as possible to catch early flight to Lukla next morning. For EBC trek, the main important things to do is packing for 14 days necessary requirement, because for next 14 days you have to be on your own as in the trail you can face many difficulty/Challenges which is unknown to us.

Kathmandu – 1,300 m / 4,265 ft.

Day 2: Kathmandu to Lukla (Flight) to Manjo via Phakding.

Next morning we had taken the early flight to Lukla and after reaching Lukla we had to trek for 9 hours to reach Manjo, a small village on the way. Usually, people stay in Phakding but we reached 3 km ahead in Manjo because next day we had to reach Namche Bazaar as early as possible so that we can enjoy the evening in Namche Bazaar. Namche Bazaar is a small market where we can enjoy the scenic beauty of Namche Bazaar in the evening.

Phakding – 2835 m / 9291 ft .

Day 3: Manjo to Namche.





Manjo lies in the Dudh Kosi river valley just north of Phakding in Sagarmatha park, it's a very beautiful village to say, next day our destination is Namche bazaar which is very beautiful small market place in the mountain. The trail to Namche bazaar is difficult, it is ups and down. The first glimpse of Everest can be seen on the way. We reached Namche Bazaar around 2 pm and had our lunch in the Everest lodge. The lodge is beautiful, and the market of Namche bazaar is just awesome. one cannot understand how much beautiful is the market. It reminds me of Darjeeling market.

Namche – 3,700 m / 12,139 ft – 5 to 6 hrs

Day 4: Namche to Tengboche: Normally all trekkers used to acclimatize themselves in Namchee bazar for 1 day, but we moved on because it's better to acclimatize ourselves above 14000 ft from sea level. Acclimatize in 12000 ft is not accepted. so on day 4 we moved from namchee bazaar to Tengboche. The trail to Tengboche is the most beautiful trail in EBC. Many mountain range can be seen here but Mt Ama dablam is just awesome. Tengboche is a midway station on the trail to the base camp for the mountain climbers of mount Everest and others peaks of over 8000 metres (26000 ft) elevation.

Tengboche monestery which is the largest gumpa in the khumbu region. The panoramic views from the monestery area are still spectacular and include views of

Tengboche – 3,956 m / 12,979 ft – 8 hrs.

Day 5&6: Tengboche to Dingboche: Dingboche is the last sherpa village of the khumbhu region. Dingboche is the best place to acclimatization during the Everest base camp trek. Dingboche has library and an internet cafe with satellite system, Dingboche is close to Mr Ama dablam. From dingboche top we can see Mount Tawache, Mount Amabadlam, Mount Island peak, Mount Lhotse, Mount Pumori and Mount Everest. The trail to Dingboche is the hardest trek what I feel. Its ups and ups, crossing nearly about 7 mountains But the trail is beautiful which cannot be explained. The temperature in dingboche is negative in night we faced problem in dingboche, shortness of breath and sleepless night. We felt that we cannot proceed further German and French team returned due to shortness of breath. Somehow, we took hot tea and hot water whole night and tried to sleep but we hardly slept for half an hour straight. Next morning, we felt good & somehow managed to acclimatize ourselves and we finally decided to move on. In mountain acclimatization is the main thing and self-motivation plays an important factor.

Dingboche – 4,380 m / 14,370 ft – 8 hrs.

Day 7: Dingboche to Lobuche: This trail is over the valley for about 5 km and after that full steep for about 5 km. Lobuche is a Nepalese mountain which lies close



Mount Everest, Mount Nuptse, Mount Lhotse, Mount Ama dablam and Mount Thamserku. we can get all the views from the lodge windows itself. The tengboche village is the ancestor village of Mountaineer Tenzing Norgye, very beautiful place and landscape with rhododendron flower.

to then khumbhu glacier. The journey to lobuche is very tough and we are short of breath. After a few hours of walk we felt dizziness. To overcome the dizziness, we drank hot water and tea as much as possible to regain energy. After having our lunch on the way, we felt good,

and our body started to acclimatize well, and we reached Lobuche at around 6 pm in the evening and the outside temperature is freezing. The accommodation in lobuche is just awesome with wifi facility. We cannot imagine we will get wifi in lobuche. we had dinner early and slept. We hardly slept for 1 hour at a stretch but in the morning we felt good. Our body completely acclimatizes to the altitude. Now we are feeling very well. We had our breakfast and started the trek to Gorakshep the next morning.

Lobuche – 4,938 m / 16,200 ft – 4 to 5 hrs.

Day 8: Lobuche to Gorakshep (Afternoon hike to Kalapatthar).

The temperature in Lobuche is negative and there are chilling winds, we somehow started our trek around 8 am in the morning. The trail from lobuche to gorakshep is completely in the khumbhu glacier. Each step to be taken carefully. Gorakshep is a small settlement that sits on the edge of a frozen lake bed covered with sand. Gorakshep village is a small settlement of guest houses near the everest base camp. we reached gorakshep around 2 PM noon, we had our lunch in gorakshep. we kept our belongings in the guest house and after taking rest we started our trek to kalla patthar top for sunset view in the Everest range. The kalla patthar top is the most chilling place but it had a spectacular view of the Everest range. From kalla patthar we have seen Nuptse, Lothse, Everest, Makalu west and others peaks as well and sunset view we cannot forget. Reminf me of sonar pahar.

Gorakshep – 5160 m / 16929 ft – 6 to 7 hrs.

Day 09: Gorakshep to Everest base camp and again hike to Lobuche.

We planned to hike early as possible around 6 am so that we can go to EBC as early as possible and return to Lobuche because the prediction is that today's climate will get worse. But in the morning at 6am, our guide told us not to move out before 8am because the temperature

outside is freezing negative -21. We started our hike at 9 am and we reached Everest base camp around 12 pm and the weather is getting worse. The trek for 3 hours is very difficult. The main challenge is cold and wind. The thermoflask water got freeze. we took images and without delay we started to return back to lobuche as early as possible. Snowfall already started at 13:00 hrs and in the snowfall we trek for 5 hours to reach Lobuche.

Day 10: Lobuche to Pangboche: we started our trek in the early 7:00 am and reached pangboche around 6pm in the evening. It takes 2 more hours to reach Tengboche but somehow, we did not reach it on time, so we stayed in Pangboche. Next day is a long trek we somehow had to reach Namchee bazaar covering almost 2 days trek in the single day which is must because we want to see WORLD CUP FINAL MATCH.

Day 11: Pangboche to Namche: After having breakfast we started our hike to Namche and reached namche around 7 pm in the evening. We took rest and enjoyed the night with most memorable world cup match along with homestay owner and teammates.

ARGENTINA VS FRANCE.

Namche – 3,440 m / 11,286 ft – 6 to 7 hrs

Day 12: Namche to Lukla.

It's a long trek with ups and down and reached Lukla at around 8 pm in the evening. The night trek of 2 hrs. in the jungle we enjoyed.

Lukla – 2,860 m / 9,383 ft -7 hr

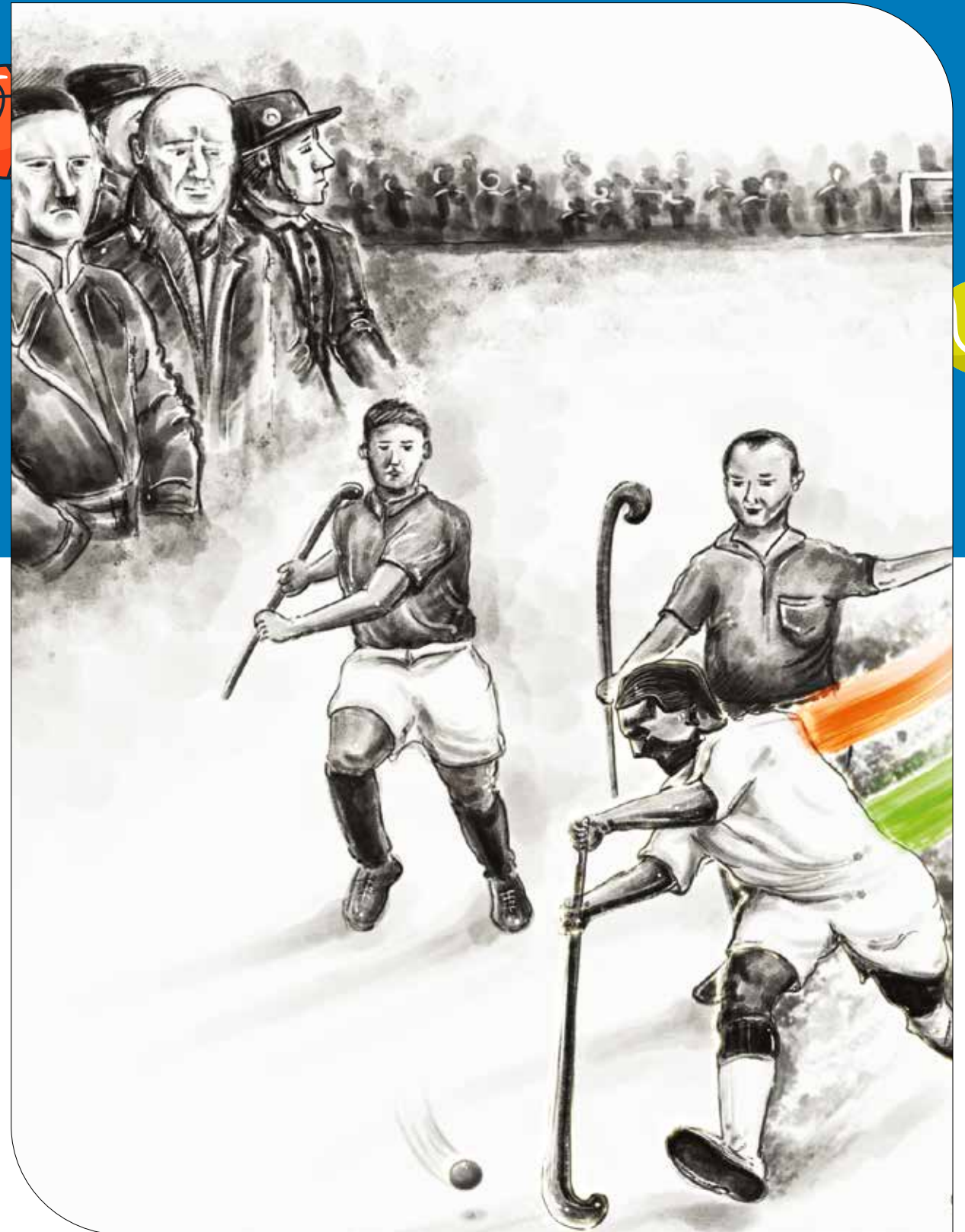
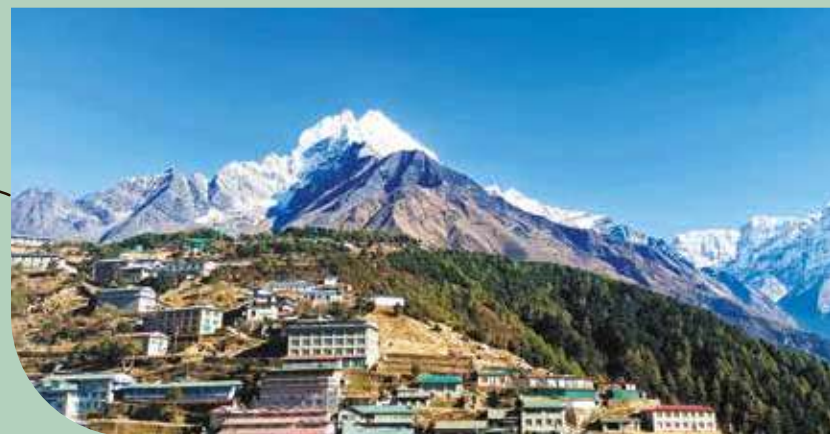
Day 13: Lukla to Kathmandu (Flight).

My journey comes to an end by taking flight from Lukla to Katmandu with breathtaking flight.

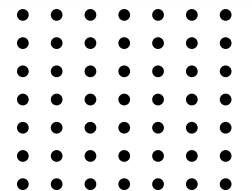
Kathmandu – 30 min

This Everest base camp trekking – a great challenge and achievement – a thrill being so close to the highest peak on earth.



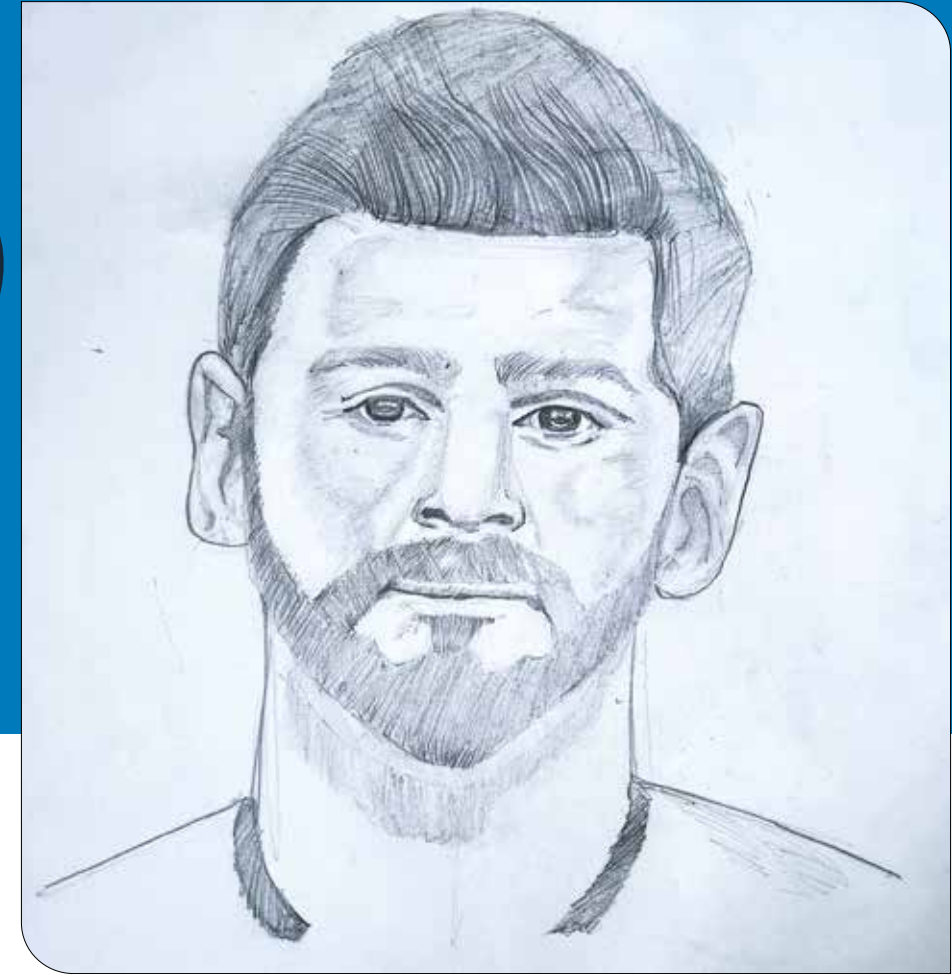
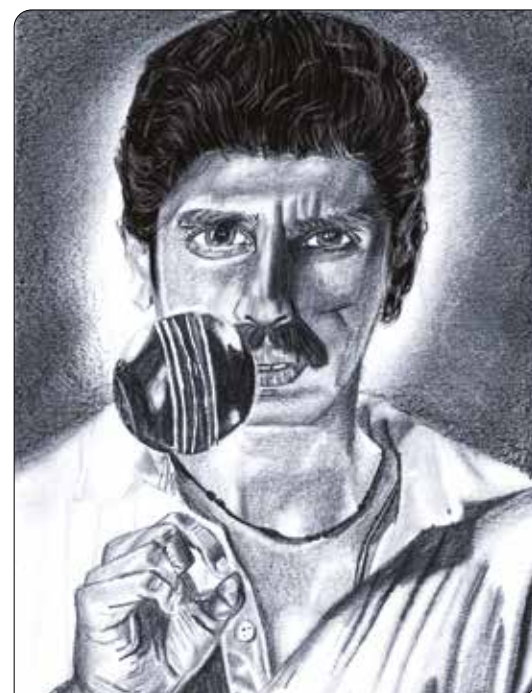


Ratul Bhowal
Instrumentation, HPL





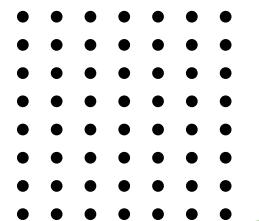
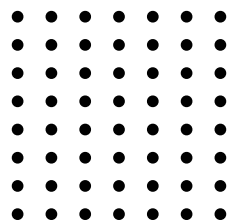
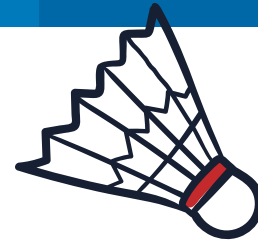
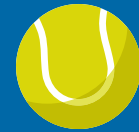
Arnesh Barman
S/o Ashok Kr. Barman
Bagging, HPL

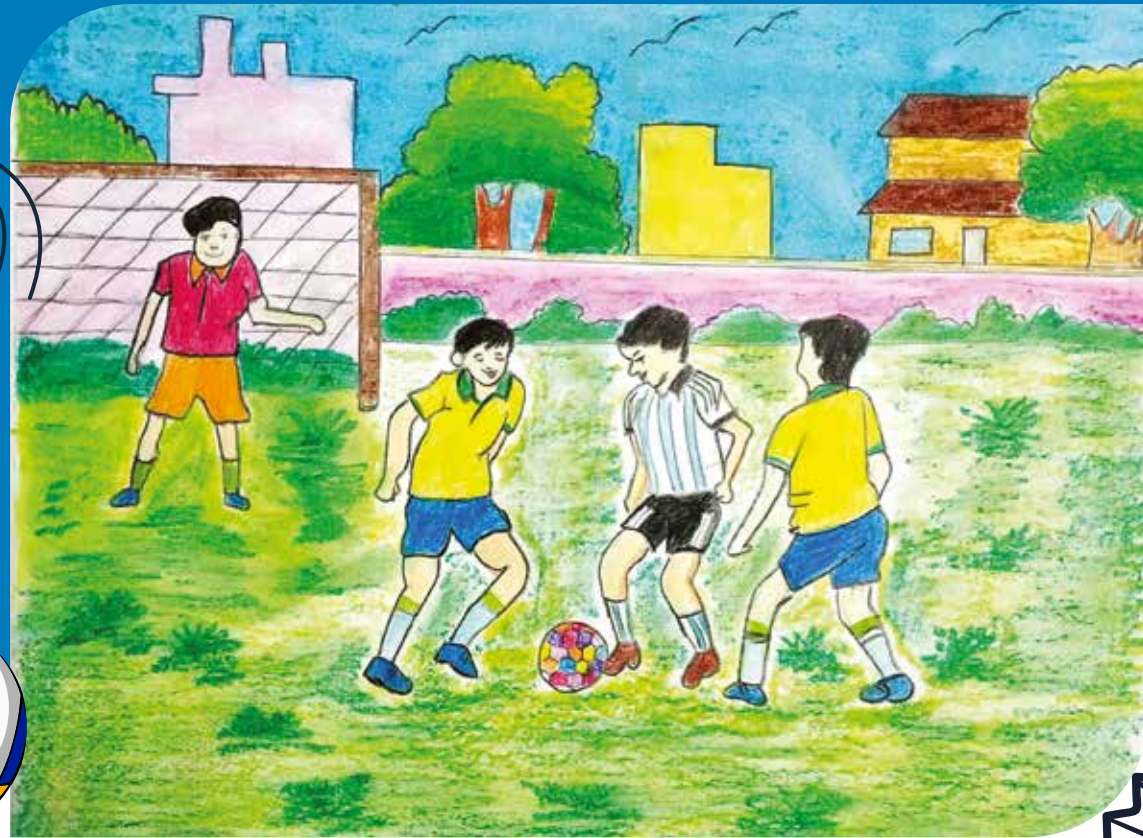


Adwitiya Gupta
D/o Sramana Bhattacharyya (Gupta)
Chemicals Procurement - HO , HPL

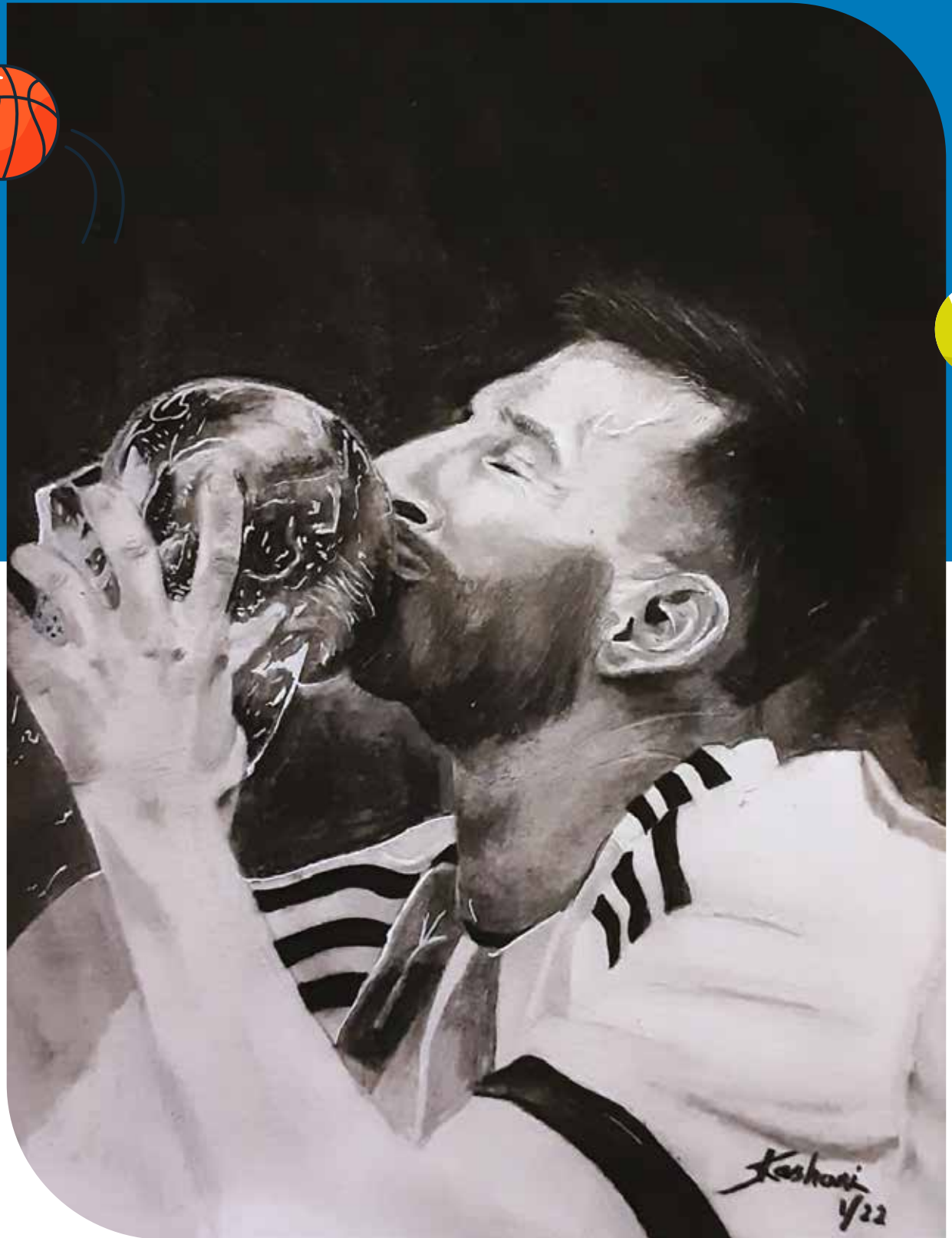


Ankita Maity
D/o Jhuma Karati Maity
Plant Administration, HPL

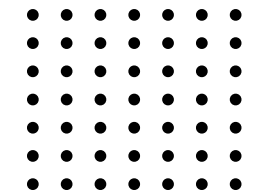




Arinjoy Bhattacharya
S/o Artiman Bhattacharya
Manufacturing NCU, HPL



Koushani Samadder
D/o Kaushik Samadder
LLDPE manufacturing, HPL

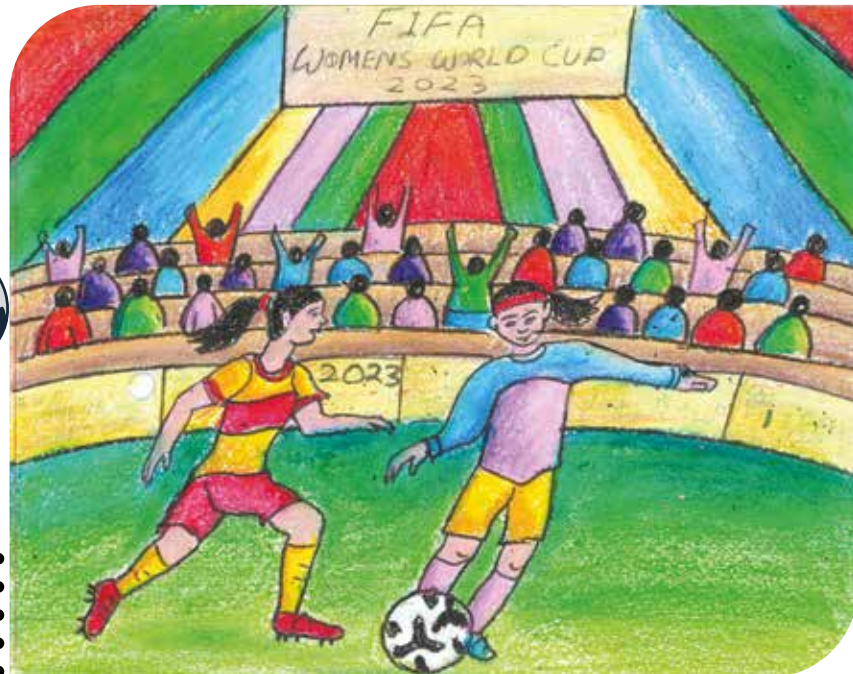


Anurag Pal
S/o Raghunath Pal
Electrical - Integrated Offsite Plant, HPL





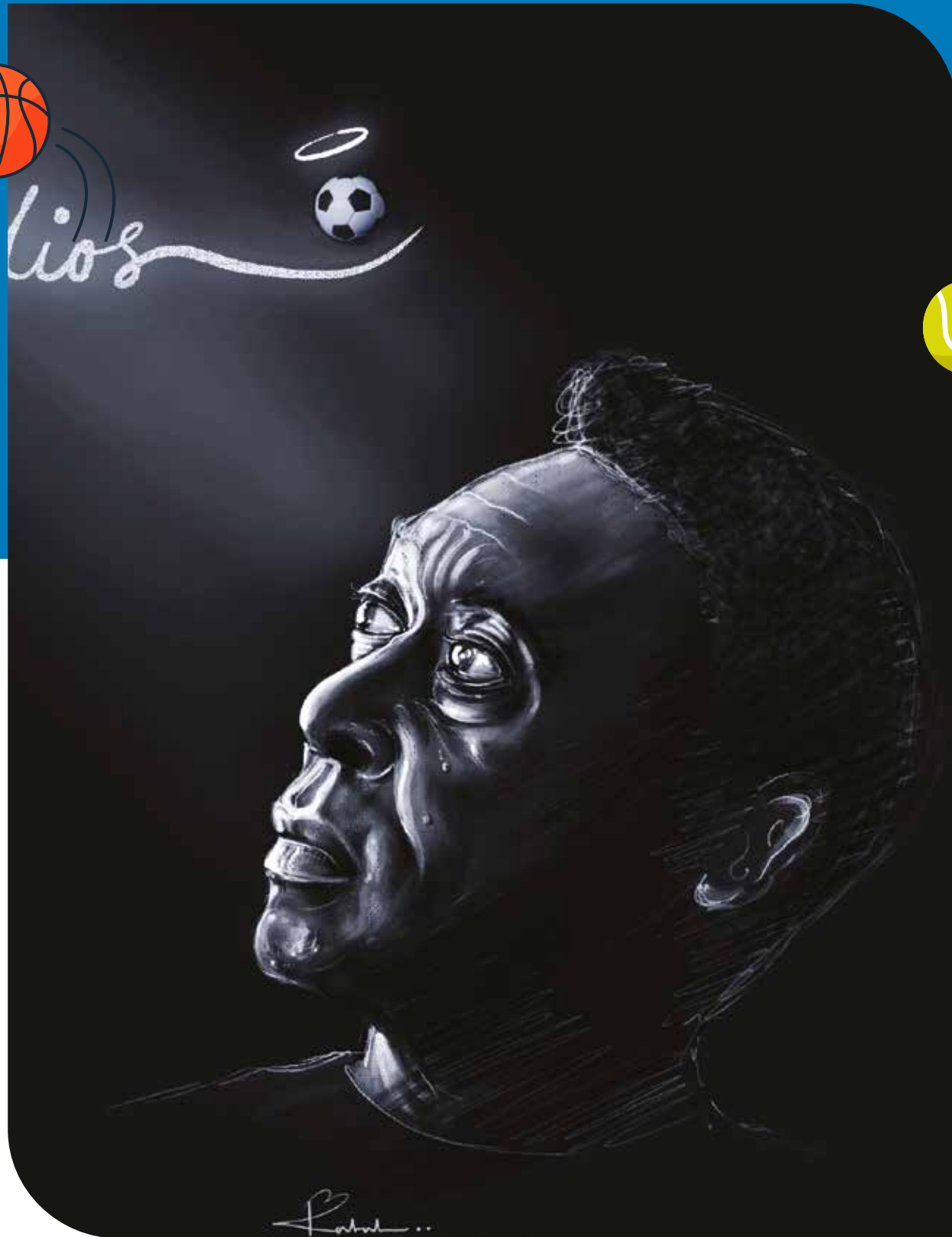
Meghashri Roy
D/o Maloy Roy
FSSC, HPL



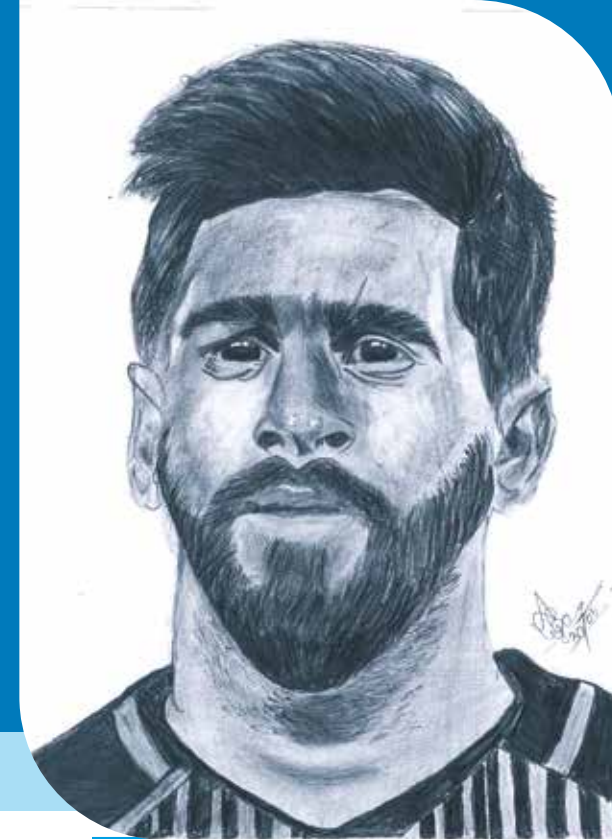
Mrigasakhi Samanta
D/o Madhusri Samanta
Quality Control, HPL



Ratul Bhowal
Instrumentation, HPL



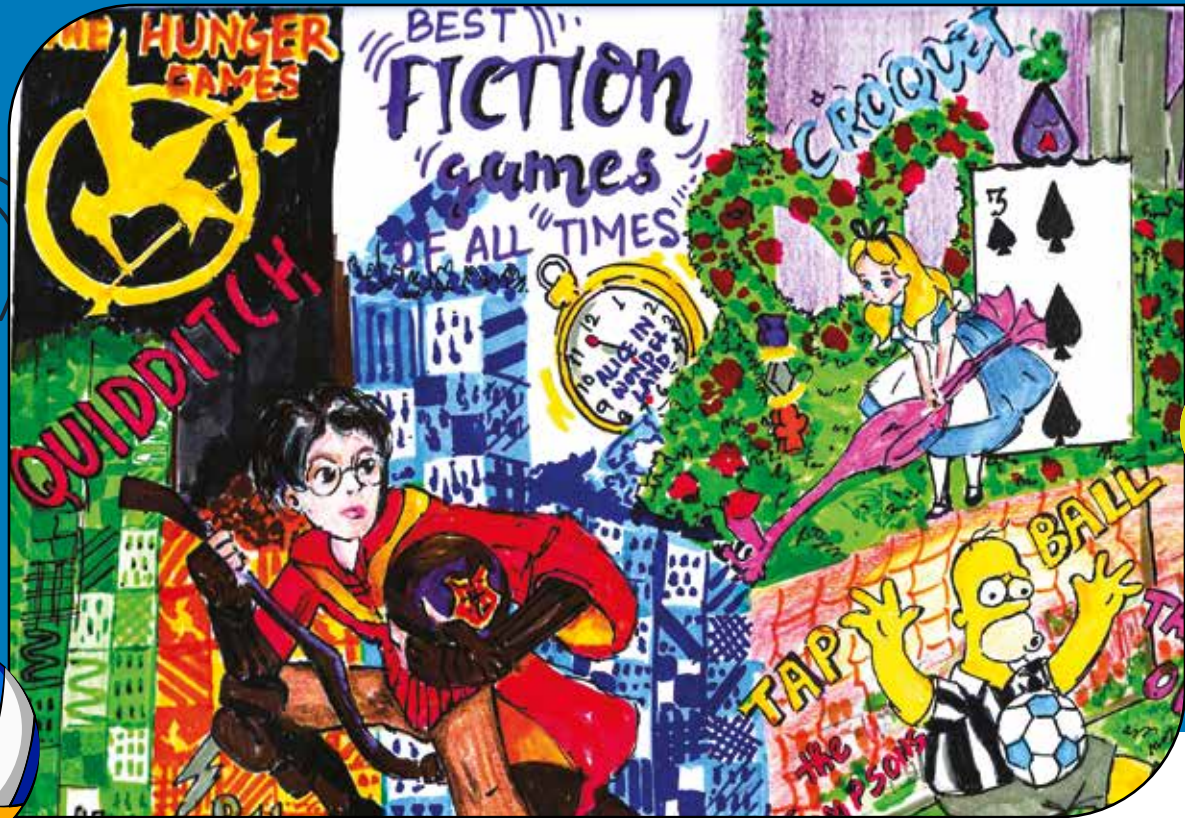
Ratul Bhowal
Instrumentation, HPL



Adrit Bhattacharya
S/o Amrit Bhattacharya
Electrical, MCPI



Sparsadeep Jana
S/o Pooja Jana
Plant Human Resource, HPL



Anusmita Kar
D/o Subhasish Kar
Corporate F&A, HPL



Samridhi Bhaumik
D/o Subhadip Bhaumik
LLDPE manufacturing, HPL



Angelina Kapoor
D/o Valarie Maseyk Kapoor
HR - Plant, MCPI



Sudip Jana
Materials, HPL



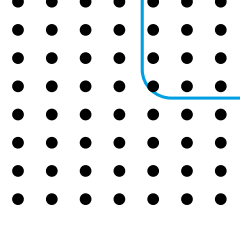
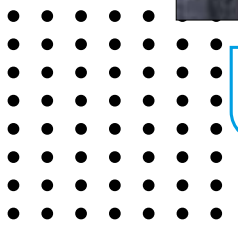
Judhajeet Ghosh
S/o Kallol Ghosh
Plant F&A, HPL

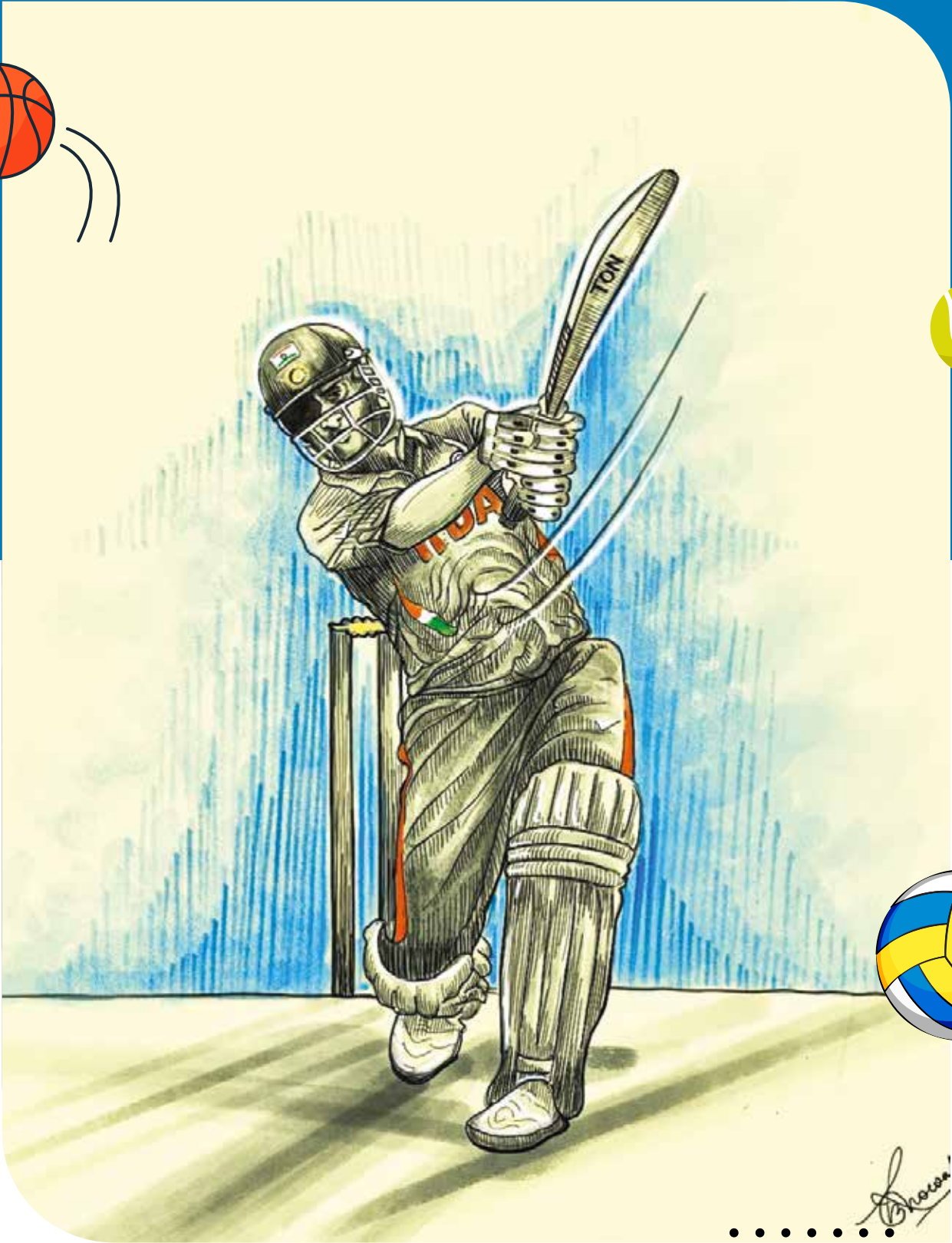
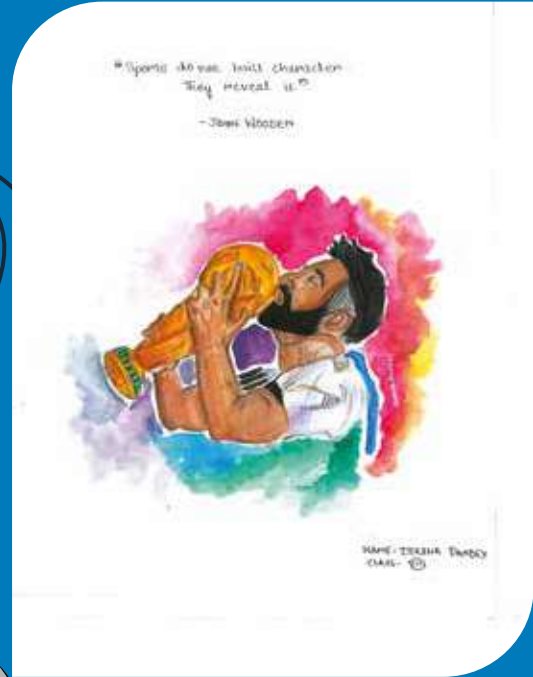


Debadrita Mondal
S/o Pradipta Mondal
Process DP, MCPI



Deepesh Ghosh
S/o Shamik Ghosh
Administration, MCPI





Diksha Pandey
D/o Kaushik Kishor Pandey
Utility, MCPI

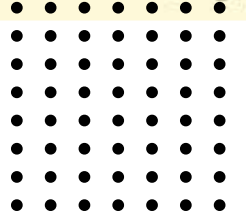
Trinabh Ghosh
S/o Abhirup Ghosh
Utility, MCPI

Ratul Bhowal
Instrumentation, HPL



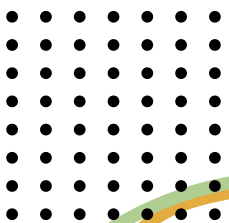
Yuvaan Pandey
S/o Kaushik Kishor Pandey
Utility, MCPI

Jayashree Dash
D/o Dipak Kumar Dash
Corporate HRD , MCPI

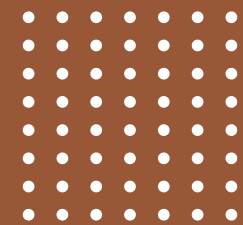




Ratul Bhowal
Instrumentation, HPL



Avik Halder
Environment Services, HPL



OF RHYME WITH REASON



Verses

BATTLEFIELD

Amlan Dey
S/o Ashis Baran Dey
NCU Manufacturing, HPL

It was wrapped in an unknown stillness
no birds did their choir, no leaves rustled.
Lying there were a pile of bodies,
that fought the war with unquestionable valor.

The war staged by some greedy men
“What caused the death of thousands of innocent?”
asked a boy whose both parents died.
He was left alone only to repent.

The bodies of those great fighters lied there
with wounds and cuts all over,
depicts how merciless the enemies were
they strangled them till their last breath.

“The war is necessary for your country,
You must fight till your last breath.”
Say the people, who never fought.
It was The Leaders who waged this war.

The battlefield is now silent,
it witnessed some ruthless and cruel killings.
The people who started it sipped their tea,
leaving a widow only to grief.

Anjurekha Mitra
W/o Asit Mitra
Manufacturing, HPL

কথিত আছে সংসার সুখের হয়, শুধুমাত্র রমনীর গুনে।
তা নয়, সংসারের সুখ নর নারী তথা উভয়ের অবদানে।
আমি উৎসুক, খুঁজে ফিরি সুখ সংসারের কোনে কোনে।
খোঁজ নিয়ে দেখি, কোথা সুখপাখি বাসা তার কোনখানে।

শৈববে মায়ের কোলে, আদরে দোলে চাহি থাকি মুখপানে।
কিশোরীরবেলায় বন্ধুদের সাথে খেলে কেটেছে দিন আনন্দমনে।
যৌবনেতে সংসারমারো, সকাল সাঁঝে প্রিয়জনের শয়নে স্বপনে।
ঘর আলো করে সন্তান এল কোলজুড়ে
দিন কেটে যায় আনন্দমনে।

কারো সুখ দামী দামী বাড়ি গাড়িতে কারো নিত্যনতুন শাড়ি কিনে।
কেউ বা সুখী মেলায় কেনা রেশমীচুড়িতে কেউ বা সুখী
বাদামভাজা কিনে।

ওরে মুচ, সুখের পাশাপাশি আসে দুঃখ বেকার ঘুরিস সুখসন্ধানে।
এক আকাশেই অবস্থান চন্দ্র ও সূর্য আলো দেখায় গগনপানে।
এক নদীতেই জোয়ার ভাটায় মাঝি নৌকা বায় মধ্যখানে।
এক আকাশেই আসে পূর্ণিমা অমাবস্যা সুখদুঃখ গাঁথামালা
সংসারজীবনে।

স্মৃতি

Siddhartha Modak
Corporate HRD, MCPI

দিনের শেষে পড়ন্ত বেলায়
অস্ত রবি রঞ্জিত আভায়,
মন মন্দিরে ধীরে প্রবেশিলে
নৈবেদ্য ভরা ডালি হাতে,
জ্বালায়ে সান্ধ্য প্রদীপ শিখা
কল্পনা রাশি হল সবই বৃথা।

বৈশাখের তপ্ত দাবানল সাথে
জ্বালায়েছিলে মোরে কামনার অনলে,
বৈশাখী ঝড় সম দূরন্ত তব চাহনি
দেখিয়েছিল মোরে জীবনের পথ খানি।
নব জীবনের নবদূত রূপে বিকশিত তুমি
ক্লাস্তিকে করেছে চরন ভৃত্য জানি।

শতকোটি রঙে রাঙিয়ে জীবনকে করেছে রঙিন,
যন্ত্রনা কাতর ফিকে স্মৃতিগুলো হয়েছে যে মলিন।
সমুদ্র তট কিনারে যবে হায়-
লাগিয়াছিল তব উন্মত্ত ঢেউ এর পরশ,
জঞ্জাল সবে জমেছিল একরাশ;
আঁখি পলটিতে ভাসিয়ে লয়ে যায়।

অবসাদক্ষনে যখনি শূনি নূপুর নিক্রন ধ্বনি
আঁখিপটে ভেসে উঠে তব মুখ খানি।
বাঁধা পড়েছিল মোরা সেই কবে একই সূত্র ডোরে,
রাখিয়াছ আজও মোরে তব হৃদয় মাঝারে।
দিনের শেষে পড়ন্ত বেলায়,
তাইতো;
তোমার স্মৃতি দুহাত বাড়ায়।।

প্রতীক্ষা

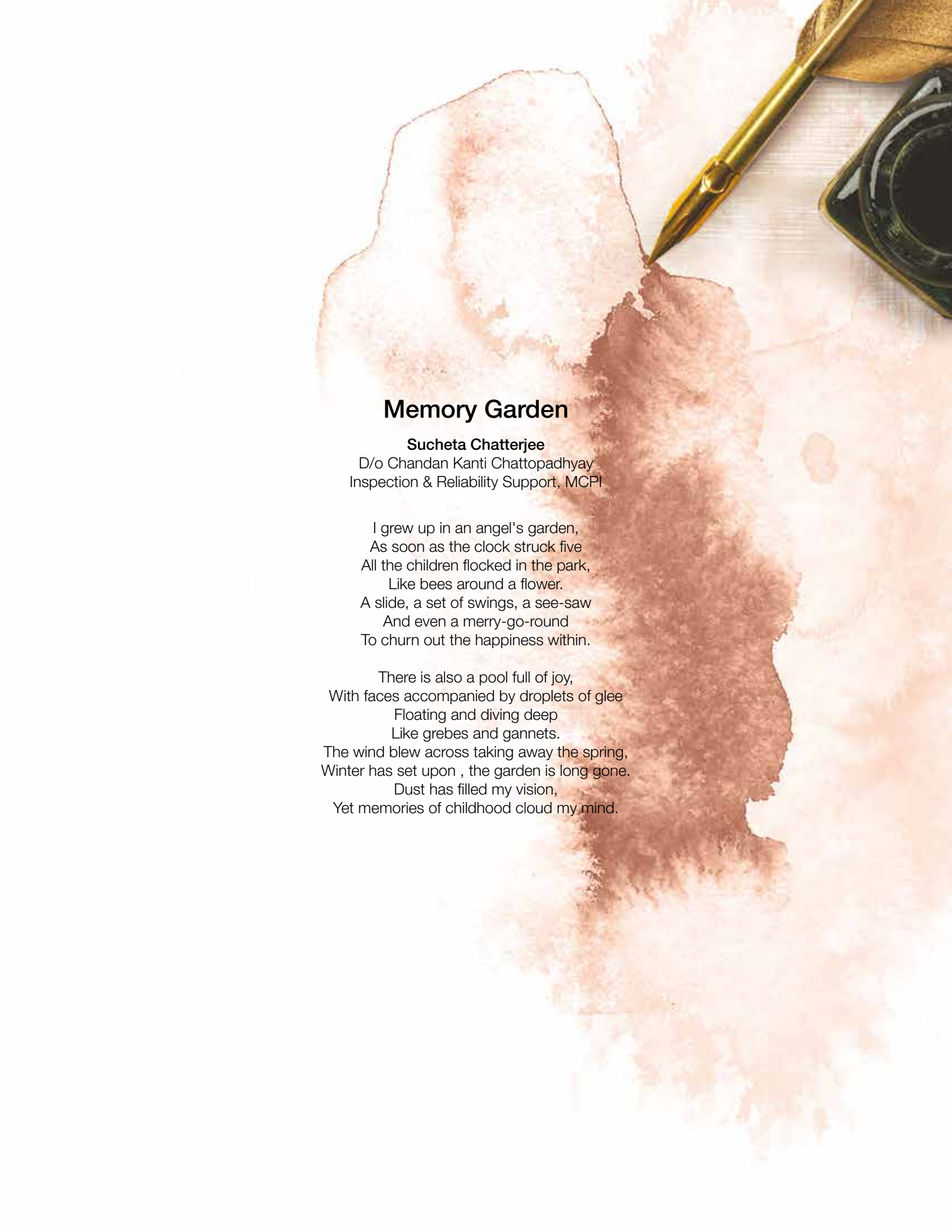
Tagari Ghosh
W/o Kalyan Ghosh
Mechanical, MCPI

নির্জন স্টেশনে এক অসহায় মা।
পরনে মলিন ধুলো মাখা কাপড়।
দিনের পর দিন বসে থাকে চেয়ে,
এত ভিরের মাঝে চোখ দুটো,
কি যেন সারাক্ষণ খুঁজছে।
মা কিছুর হয়েছে?
হ্যাঁ মা, আমার ছেলে।
ছেলে বলে গেছে ভেবো না মা,
কয়েকটা দিন পর - সব গুছিয়ে,
তোমায় নিয়ে যাবো।
ছেলে করে অনেক বড় চাকরি।
অনেক মাইনে,
মস্ত বড় বাড়ি, আর গাড়ি।
সেই পথ চাওয়া।
কত ট্রেন, গাড়ি এলো আর গেলো।
ছেলে আর নিতে এলো না মাকে।
ছেলে হয়তো আর কোনদিন আসবে না।
কিন্তু তবুও তো মা।
অবুঝ মন,
চোখের পাতা পড়ে কই!
ছেলের সময় কোথায়?
অনেক বড় অফিসার।
বেশির ভাগ সময় অফিসে কেটে যায়।
আচ্ছা, ও ঠিক করে খাচ্ছে তো?
ওর শরীর ঠিক আছে তো?
তাই মাকে নিয়ে যাওয়ার সময় হয়নি আজও।
কিন্তু প্রতীক্ষা,
পথ চেয়ে থাকা।
অপলক অস্পষ্ট ঝাপসা জলে ভেজা চোখ
আজও উঁকি মারে,
প্রতিটি কমপার্টমেন্টের দরজায় -
গাড়ি না ছাড়া পর্যন্ত।

ছোট মেয়ে বিনি

Rekha Sarkar
W/o Subrata Sarkar
Plant Human Resource, HPL

ছোট মেয়ে বিনি
স্কুল থেকে ফিরে টেবিলে রাখা খাবার খেয়ে
ড্রয়িং রুমের জানালায় বসে,
শহরের ব্যস্ততার ছবি দেখা
তার নিদ্রা দিনের অভ্যাস।
পড়াশুনো বিনি খুব ভালোবেসে করে,
কারণ ওই যে টেবিলে থরে থরে সাজানো বইগুলো
ওরাই তো ওর মন কেমনের খোঁজ রাখে।
ওর ভালো লাগা মন্দ লাগার হিসেব, মনের কোন্দল
সবটাই ও খাতার পাতায় পেন্সিল দিয়ে
বিনা সুতোয় মালা গাঁছে।
শ্রেয়ার সাথে টিফিন ভাগাভাগি, অঙ্কের মিসের কাছে নম্বর
পাওয়া থেকে রাস্তায় বিড়াল বাচ্চাটার সাথে আলাপ
সবটাই বিনি বলতে চায়
কিন্তু বাবার অফিস আর মায়ের কলেজের ব্যস্ততা
শুনতে কি চায় সে কথা?
মিনু এই ব্যস্ততার কারণ খোঁজে
আর অপেক্ষা করে কোনো একদিন এক অজানা চেউ
সব ব্যস্ততাকে এক লহমায় সরিয়ে দেবে,
আর বিনি তার বাবা-মা এর কাছে
রূপকথার রাজা-রাণী ও রাজকুমারীর গল্প শুনবে।
বিনি স্বপ্নের দেশে চলে যেতে চায়,
ঠিক তখনই মুঠোফোনে মায়ের আওয়াজ
কি করছো? ঠিকমত খেয়েছো তো?
মিনু আবার তার নিত্য সঙ্গীদের নিয়ে বসে হিসেব মেলাতে
কিন্তু হিসেব মেলে না।।



Memory Garden

Sucheta Chatterjee

D/o Chandan Kanti Chattopadhyay
Inspection & Reliability Support, MCP

I grew up in an angel's garden,
As soon as the clock struck five
All the children flocked in the park,
Like bees around a flower.
A slide, a set of swings, a see-saw
And even a merry-go-round
To churn out the happiness within.

There is also a pool full of joy,
With faces accompanied by droplets of glee
Floating and diving deep
Like grebes and gannets.
The wind blew across taking away the spring,
Winter has set upon, the garden is long gone.
Dust has filled my vision,
Yet memories of childhood cloud my mind.



FRIEND

Srijani Mistry

D/o Swapan Mistry
Instrumentation - HDPE, HPL

Sitting alone on a beach,
Having a thirst of friendship to quench,
Looking at the kids playing by,
Am I the only one to be alone? But why?
Thoughts lingering around in my head,
As I heard some footsteps on the autumn leaf bed,
Just to see you beside, on my bench.

Your eyes shone like stars, looking at me playfully,
As I looked at you as the same, clueless,
You raised your hand by saying the unheard sentence,
Which got me looking at you at instance?
"Will you be my friend?"
"Yes" I replied as I intend,
Finally after years of my life,
I had someone to call as a "Friend"

মা

Sayan Bose
Corporate HRD, MCPI

শীতের শহরের এক কোনে বসে ছিল সে
পোশাকটা ময়লা, শাড়ীতে অজস্র গিট
পাশে পরে এক লাঠি - শেষ অবলম্বন
আমার শহরের ইতিকথার নতুন চাবিকাঠি

অসহায় হাত ছেঁড়া চাদর পরে করছে
আকুল মিনতি করছে কটা পয়সার জন্যে
রাত তখন প্রায় আটটা পঁতাল্লিশ
বাস স্ট্যান্ডটা খুব চেনা - সেই এক চল্লিশ

বাড়ি যাওয়ার বড় তাড়া সবার
অনেক রাত যে হলো, অপেক্ষায় যে বাড়িতে প্রিয়জন
প্রশ্ন জাগল মনে, এক বৃদ্ধার কি নেই...
এতো বড় শহরে কোনো আপনজন

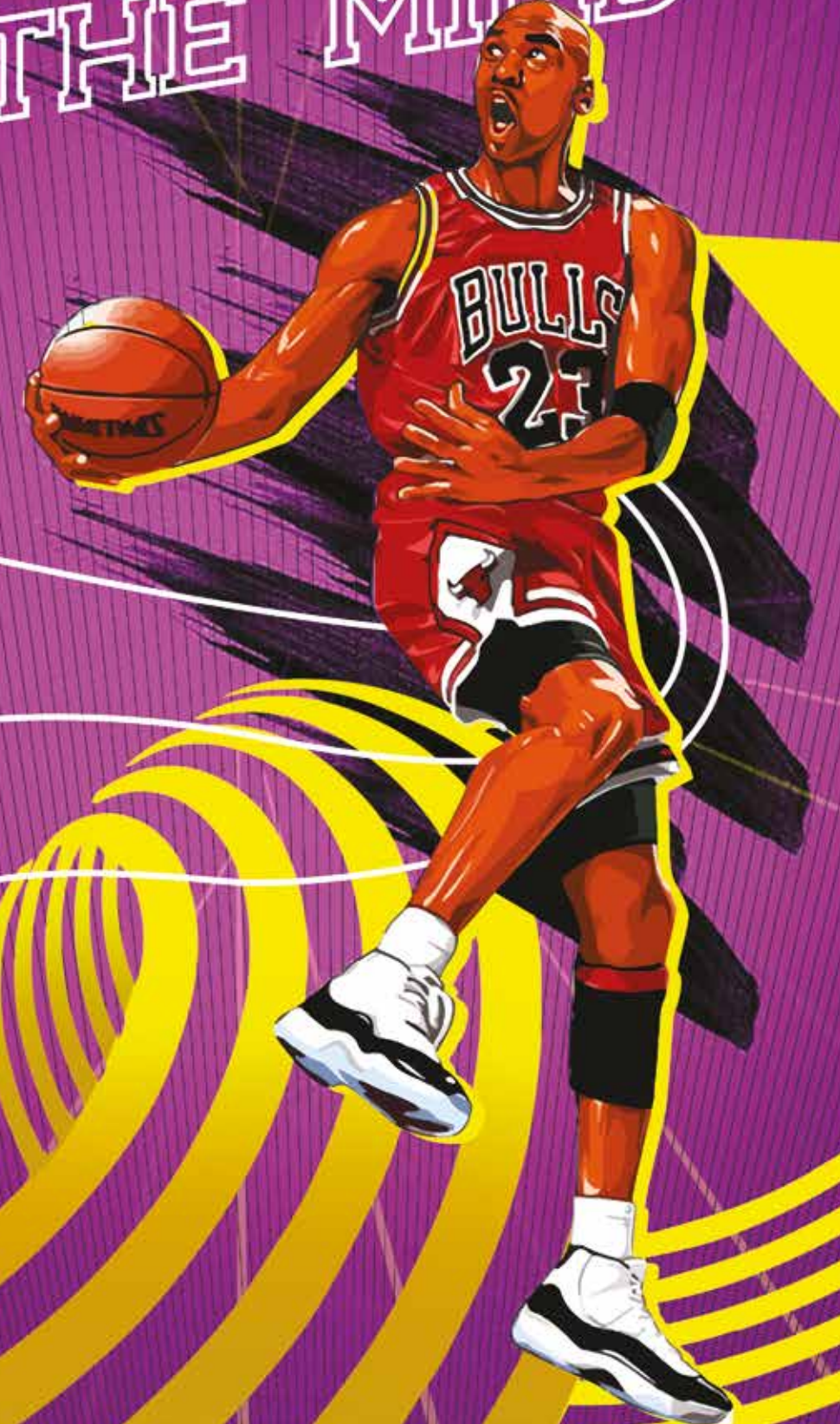
সামনে প্রদীপ জ্বলছিল - মা কালীর মন্দির
অনেকে করছিলো নমস্কার
করছিলো রাখা প্রণামীর বাস্তু পূরণ
হয়তো এই প্রণামীতে পাওয়া যাবে
মনোস্কা... রোজ চলতি সংগ্রামের খোঁজ

তফাৎ শুধু এক চিন্ময়ীর মৃন্ময়ীতে
দুজনেই মা... তফাৎ আরো আছে কিছু চোখে পড়ার মতন
মাটির মায়ের গায়ে দামি গয়না, শাড়ী
দুগ্ধিনী মায়ের জুটেছে কি খাবার
চায়ের দোকানের পরিত্যক্ত বাসি রুটি তরকারি

আমিও ফিরছিলাম বাড়ি সেদিন
এগিয়ে গিয়ে বাড়িয়ে দিলাম একটা দশ টাকার নোট
বুড়ি কেঁদে হাত এগিয়ে দিলো আশীর্বাদ
যার কাছে হার মানে প্রণামীর পরিবর্তে কেনা এক টুকরো প্রসাদ

মা কে সেদিন দেখলাম মন্দিরের বাইরে
অযথা আগে খুঁজতাম পূজোর আড়ালে
মানুষের থেকে আজ মাটির দাম বেশি
আঁধারে অন্ধকারে নেমে আসছে নিশি।

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE MIND





Abodhita Shrivastava
D/o Abhishek Shrivastava
Chemical Logistics, HPL



Anindita Maity
D/o Biswajit Maity
Manufacturing- IOP, HPL



Anusmita De
D/o Tanmoy Kumar De
Chemical Logistics, HPL



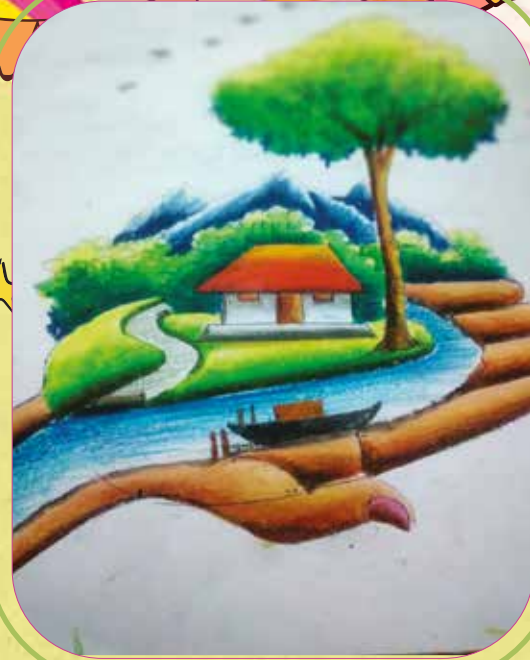
Heba Kashaf
D/o Amanullah Md
Mechanical- Inspection, HPL



Shambonath Paul
S/o Nakul Ch. Paul
Peon, HPL



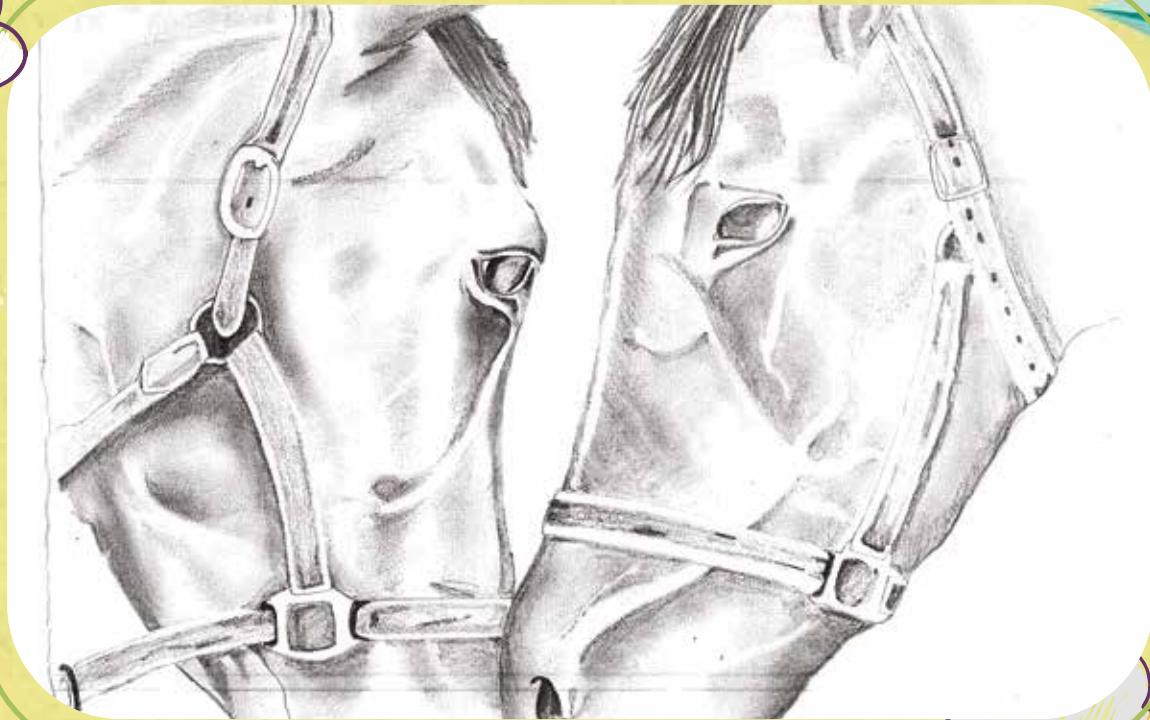
Md. Zimraan Abdullah
S/o Amanullah Md
Mechanical- Inspection, HPL



Aishee Das
D/o Pijush Kanti Das
Quality Inspection, MCPI

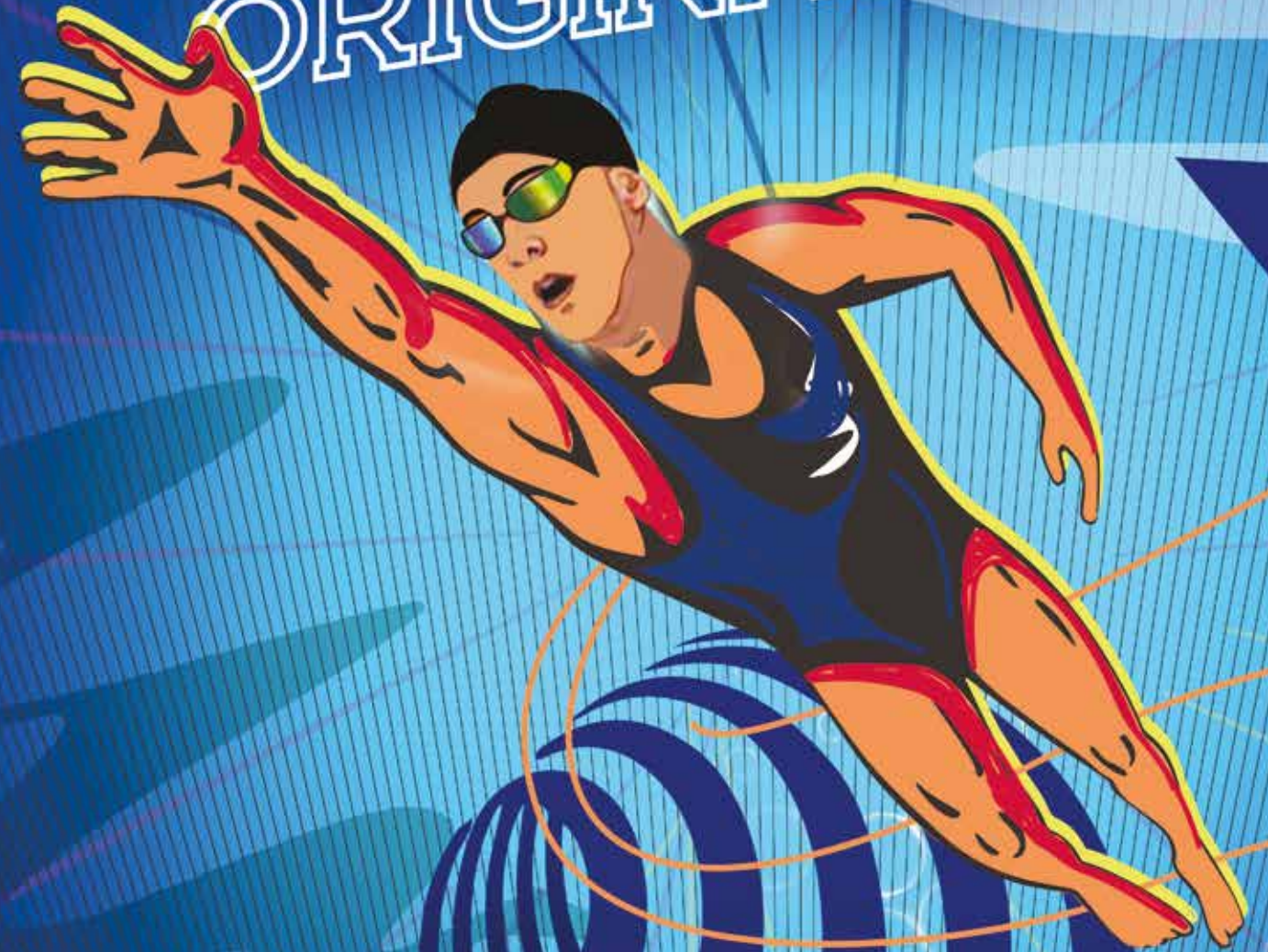


Suhanya Sarkar
D/o Subrata Sarkar
Plant Human Resource, HPL



Sinjana Khanra
D/o Pathik Khanra
Instrumentation, MCPI

CELEBRATING ORIGINALITY



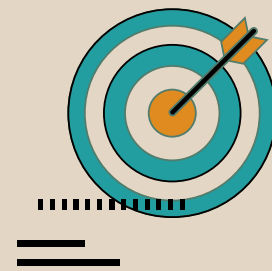
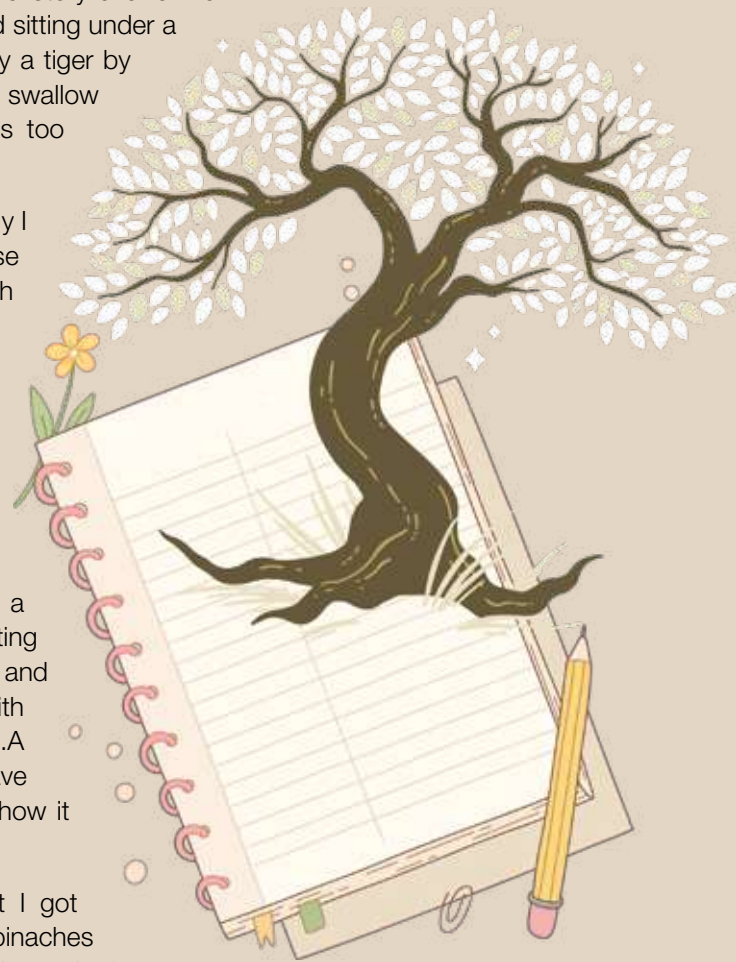
MEMORIES FROM MY DIARY

J. Uma
SRO-Marketing Finance, HPL

As Sri Ramakrishna says...God is a Kalpatharu..no doubt about this! All you wish manifest beautifully! I was saying to my Guruji....Swamiji I am afraid..even small small things...if a thought arise within me it manifests! It is as though I am under a wish-fulfilling tree! I feel if by chance negative thoughts rise...like a story a of a man getting everything he wished sitting under a kalpatharu got swallowed by a tiger by thinking will a tiger come & swallow me, I am afraid if negatives too manifest...!

It happened like this! normally I rarely watch T.V. in my house because after working with computers all through the day I do not want to strain my eyes. On Independence day there was a Tamil Movie telecasted "Peranmai" I was watching it....so thrilling...and suddenly I remembered having read about it somewhere in a magazine that how the shooting was done in the forest area and how they encountered with blood sucking leeches....A thought arose in me...I have never seen such leeches....how it would look like...?

You know a day after that I got some vegetables, fruits & spinaches from the market and my Home Assistant when she was segregating it pointed out a leech...see seeakka(sister) if it sticks it will never leave us without sucking the blood! I jumped the other side! It was black with half white bottom which I saw first time in my life! There is no way we could see it in the city. God saveI didn't think how it would be if it bites!



NEW JOB... NEW VENTURE... BEING ADULT...

Subhojit Acharyya
S/o - Swapna Acharyya
Administration, HPL

It was the year 2022 when I first left home. To put it the other way around, I went out of my Comfort zone ie Sweet home for internship.Well, there were some good reasons and some, well...not so much. I was too young to embrace the choice . Became Home sick because I was 2000 kms away from my house, panicked me every time i think about the distance. Initially Cried but then no one was there to console . All my Nakhras were digested by my parents when I was in my house like demanding food of my choice, sleeping for hours, independent, but then here in Jaipur no chance of showing nakhras, whatever food you get just grab it and independence has gone for a toss.

But then I am fortunate to have such a supportive parents who had paid visit almost every month and used to go for an outing on every visit. Did not made me feel that i am on a internship 2000kms away from my hometown.

Exposure and Experience was fabulous for a mere small stipend, but then it was bridge to my upcoming career building.

The next time I left home was in March 2023 It was a choice I had made for myself and it seemed like the best one back then.

The next 3months were breezy. It was a whole new adjustment and I made myself at home without a glitch. New friends, new people, new culture, new language, and new responsibilities.

By now, I was on the threshold of adulting and I started making sense of things (or, that's what I used to tell myself probably). But, the idea of staying away from home is something I held on to.

Looking out for a home where I can spent my free time alone was a bit difficult and to adjust with roommates was a tough job.

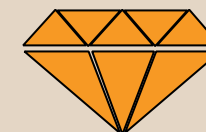
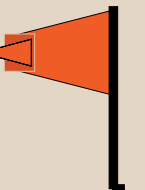
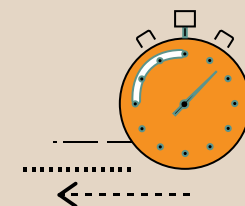
But then economically it was a win-win situation, so staying with 4 roommates was also a great experience, having fun, food and gossip.

So, why I am iterating my story is because, at some point, you need to leave, to mobilize. Change is inevitable. Eventually staying away from home, parents and school/college friends is gradually making me adult and a decision maker.

Sometimes, it's for the better or worse. A new place might do you some good, if not, you learn to live with it

Make a checklist of all the information you can gather on the city, the highs and lows, how the people live and breathe. The food joints, the beverage cafes that keep the city going. The morning schedule, the night life or anything that intrigues you. Embark on solo outings on weekends and get to know the place. Use the local mode of transport as much as possible at first. These are the support systems of any urban jungle. It might take a while to adjust oneself to the changing environment and that's okay. This is where connections come into the picture. Build a good rapport with a handful of people around you...it could be your colleagues, or the neighbors, or even the people you see around you in the vicinity every day.

The idea is to not feel left out in the madding crowd. Be a part of the hustle of the new city. As the old saying goes, "When in Rome, be a Roman".



কান্নার শব্দ

Pabitra Das
Mechanical, HPL



বছানায় শুয়ে শুয়ে হটাৎ চোখটা দূরের সবুজের মাঠে যেতেই চোখ টা জলে ঝাপসা হয়ে ওঠে শান্তির। সে এই বিছানায় শুয়ে শুয়ে জানলার ফাঁক দিয়ে, আকাশের রং, পাখিদের ডাক, মেঘেদের ভিড়ে ভেসে যায় অনেক দূরে, মাঝে মাঝে সবুজের খেতে ফড়িংদের দল বেঁধে খেলা দেখে আবার মাঝে মাঝে হাঁসতে হাঁসতে চাদরের ভিতর মুখ ঢুগিয়ে নেয়। বয়সটা তার বছর তেরো হবে, ছোটবেলা থেকে মেয়েটা শান্ত স্বভাবের জন্য বাবা মা আদর করে তাকে শান্তি নামে ডাকতো।

তার এই শান্ত স্বভাবের জন্য সবাই তাকে খুব ভালোবাসতো। গত বেশ কয়েকদিন ধরে সে এই বিছানায় শুয়ে আছে এক কঠিন রোগে, গ্রামের কত কবিরাজ, ডাক্তার দেখে গেছে সবাই যে যার মতো ওষুধ দিয়ে গেছে কিন্তু কাজের কিছুই হয়নি। সবাই শুধু জ্বরের ওষুধ দিয়ে যায়, ডাক্তারবাবু বলে “এই রোগের নাকি কোনো ওষুধ নেই সবসময় নাকি মুখে মাস্ক লাগিয়ে থাকতে হবে”। শান্তি নিজেও বুঝতে পারে না তার কি রোগ। দিনে দুই তিন বার কাঁপুনি দেয় জ্বর ওঠে আবার কমে যায় আর গায়ে খুব ব্যথা চলার শক্তি নেই সারাদিন বিছানায় শুয়ে থাকে, মাঝে মাঝে তার মা এসে তাকে দেওয়ালে পিঠ ঠেকিয়ে বসিয়ে দিয়ে যায়। বাড়িতে মাত্র চারজন থাকে সে, তার বাবা, মা ও তার ভাই। ভাই সবার ছোট নাম তার কানাই। কানাই সারা দিন মাঠে, ঘাটে ঘুরে বেড়ায় এর জন্য মার বকুনিও খায় অনেক। শান্তি যে স্কুলে পড়ত ভাই সেই স্কুলে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণিতে পড়ে। আজ ছয় মাস স্কুল বন্ধ এক মহামারী রোগের জন্য। স্কুল থেকে মাস্টার সব বাড়ি চলে গেছে, যাবে না বা কেন! এই মহামারীর জন্য কত লোকের প্রাণ গেছে। গ্রামে কত মা তার ছেলেকে হারিয়েছে কত ছেলে আঁধা বার তার মাকে ও হারিয়েছে আবার কেউ বাবাকে, বৌকে, স্বামীকে। মহামারীর এই রোগে ভয়ে লোকে রাস্তায় বেরোয় না। হাট বাজারেও মানুষ সাতদিনে একবার আবার কেউ পনেরো দিনে একবার যায়। কানাই মাঝে মাঝে তার কাছে আসে কখনো খেজুরের কুল নিয়ে হাতে গুঁজে দিয়ে যায়, কখনো প্রজাপতির পাখার রং গালে লাগিয়ে দিয়ে যায়, আবার কখনো জানলা দিয়ে গায়ে কাদা ছুড়ে দিয়ে যায়, কখনো জমিনের গোটা কতক ডাল গাছের সুটি তুলে নিয়ে এসে পাশে রখে যায়। কখনো টক কুল গাছ থেকে পেড়ে দিয়ে যায়। শান্তি লুকিয়ে খায় কিন্তু সে আগের মত স্বাদ আর গন্ধ পায় না। এখন মার রান্না ও আর আগের মতো চেনা চেনা গন্ধ পায় না। একদিন শান্তি দেওয়ালে পিঠ ঠেকিয়ে বসে আছে, মা তাকে একটু আগে ঔষধ খাইয়ে গেছে। কানাই হটাৎ কাদা মাথা গায়ে এসে তার হাতে ফড়িং ধরিয়ে দিয়ে ছুচে পালিয়ে যায়। পাছে তার মা এই অবস্থায় দেখে ফেলে। ভাইকে কতবার বলেছে একটি জোনাকি ধরে দিতে সে সেটাকে কাচের শিশিতে ভরে রাখবে আর সারা রাত তার আলোতে

সারা ঘর ছিকমিক করে উঠবে। ভাই সে একটাও ধরতে পারে না।

সারাদিন জানলার ধারে বসে বসে মায়ের কাজ কর্ম দেখতে থাকে, ভাইয়ের দুষ্টুমি দেখে,মা ভাইকে মারলে তাকে ছাড়াতে যেতে এখন আর সে পারে না। বাড়ির পাশে শ্মশানে সারাদিন কত বৌ, কত লোক তার প্রিয়জনকে নিয়ে আসে কেঁদে কেঁদে আবার চলে যায় কেঁদে কেঁদে। চিতার সাদা কালো ধোঁয়া গুলো ঘুরে ঘুরে আকাশে মিলিয়ে যায়। শান্তি বসে বসে জানলার ফাঁক দিয়ে এ সব দেখতো আর ভাবতো মানুষের স্বপ্নগুলো কিভাবে ধোঁয়া হয়ে নীল আকাশে হারিয়ে যায়।

একদিন রাতে শান্তি ঘুমিয়ে আছে, হটাৎ একটি শব্দে ঘুম ভেঙে যায় তাঁর, ঘরের ভাঙা ছাদটা ফাঁক থেকে চাঁদের আলো এসে পড়েছে শান্তির চোঁখে,সেই আলোতে দূর হয়ে গেছে তার ঘরের সব অন্ধকার। দূরের শ্মশানের আলোটা এসে জানলার ফাঁক দিয়ে ঘরে আলো পড়েছে, চাঁদের শান্ত আলোটাকে শ্মশানের তীর তাপ যেন পোড়াতে চাইছে। সেই শ্মশান থেকে গুমরে, গুমরে এক শব্দ ভেসে আসছে, হয়তো কেউ তাঁর প্রিয়জনকে হারানোর কষ্ট সেটা কান্নার শব্দ হয়ে ভেসে আসছে। পাশের বিছানা থেকে এক ফিস ফিস করে কথা বলার শব্দ ভেসে আসে শান্তির কানে। শান্তি ভালো করে শোনে, শুনতে পায় সে মা ও বাবা তার সমক্ষে কোনো কথা বলছে, তাঁর অসুখের কথা, কোথায় নিয়ে যাবে তাকে ভালো ডাক্তার দেখানোর জন্য, ভালো ডাক্তার দেখানোর জন্য টাকা কোথা থেকে আসবে, ঔষধ কেনার টাকা, শান্তি বুঝতে পারে সব, সে বুঝতে পারে কয়েকদিন মা কেন জ্বরের সময় জ্বরের ওষুধ আর খাওয়ায় না। শুধু জ্বরের সময় তার মাথায় ভিজে একটুকরো ভেজা কাপড় চাপিয়ে দেয়, আর মাথায় হাত বুলিয়ে দেয় আর মায়ের চোখের জলটা যখন গরম কপালটাকে ভিজিয়ে দেয় তখন শান্তি সেই স্পর্শ ঠিক বুঝতে পারে। শান্তির তখন জ্ঞান থাকেনা, জ্বরের ঘোর কত কথা বলে, সারাদিনের মনের ভাবা কথাগুলো তখন মুখ দিয়ে বের হয়। শান্তির এই সব কথা শুনতে শুনতে চোখ বন্ধ হয়ে আসে। ঘুমের রানী তাকে নিয়ে যায় এক অজানা স্বপ্নের দেশে। শান্তির বাবা সারাদিন খাটাখাটা করে লোকের জমিনে, যেটুকু উপার্জন করে তাতে চারজনের দুবেলা ভাত শাক ও খেতে ঠিক মতো জোটেনা। মাছ সাতদিনে একবার হয়। রেশনের চাল ডাল এখন তাদের একমাত্র ভরসা। মাংস তো তাদের স্বপ্নে দেখা বস্তু, ... গত দুই মাস আগে তার বাবা দুর্গা পূজোর দশমীর দিন নিয়ে এসেছিলো। ডাক্তার বার বার বলে গিয়েছিলো শান্তির বাবাকে যে শান্তিকে যেন এই সময় মাছ, মাংস, ফল দেয় কিন্তু তার সেই উপায় নেই। টাকার অভাবে বাড়িটা সারাতে পারেনি শান্তির বাবা। মাটির বাড়ি, রুম বলতে একটা তার উপরে খড়ের ছাদ, ঘরের একপাশে কিছুটা খড় বুলে আছে, চাঁদের আলো,

বৃষ্টির জল, সূর্যের আলো সব ঢোকে ঘরে। ছিটে মাটির দেওয়াল এই দেওয়ালে শান্তি আর তার ভাইয়ের কত হাতের ছাপ আছে, ছোটো হাতের ছাপগুলো ভাইয়ের আর বড় গুলো শান্তির সেটা দেখলে স্পষ্ট বোঝা যায়। তবু ও তার ভাই ঝগড়া করে তার হাতের ছাপ নাকি বেশি আছে দেয়ালে। কত বার হিসেব হয়েছে, কত বার মার কাছে এর জন্য নালিশও হয়েছে।

গ্রামের কতজন বাইরে কাজ করতে গিয়ে ফিরে এসেছে, কেউ আঁধা বার আসতে আসতে মাঝ পথে মারাও গেছে, কেউ খেতে না পেয়ে, কেউ আবার ট্রেন কিংবা বাসের ধাক্কায় প্রাণ হারিয়েছে। মাঝে মাঝে শান্তির বাবা গ্রাম থেকে এই সব খবর নিয়ে আসে আর তার মার কাছে বলে, একদিন সকালে দেখে শান্তি তার ঘরের পাশে একটি চার চাকার গাড়ি এসে দাঁড়িয়ে আছে। শান্তি চোখটা ভালো করে মেলে দেখে মা ঘরে ঢুকে তাড়াছড়ো করে কিছু ব্যাগে ঢোকাচ্ছে। ভাই দরজার পাশে দাঁড়িয়ে সব দেখতে থাকে, শান্তির বাবা বিছানার পাশে এসে শান্তির মাথায় হাত বুলিয়ে দেয় বলে শান্তি বলে ওঠে “আমি কোথায় যাবো বাবা?” বাবা কিছুক্ষন চুপ করে থাকে তারপর বলে “তোকে যে ভালো হতে হবে মা”।

এই বলে তাকে কোলে তুলে নেয় আর তাকে গাড়িটার কাছে গিয়ে ভিতরে বিছানায় শুইয়ে দেয়। দুটো মানুষকে দেখে শান্তি ভয়ে কেঁদে ওঠে, এই রকম সাজে কোনো মানুষকে এর আগে শান্তি কখনো দেখেনি। তাদের সারা শরীর, মুখ সাদা পোশাকে মোড়া খানিকটা মার গল্লের ডাকাতের মতো। তারপর সেই দুটো সাদা ডাকাতের মতো মানুষ গাড়ির দরজাটা বন্ধ করে দেয়। গাড়ির জানলা দিয়ে দেখতে পায় মার চোখের জল আঁচল দিয়ে বারে বারে মুছে নিচ্ছে, ভাই মার আঁচল ধরে দাড়িয়ে এই দুটো সাদা ডাকাতের মতো মানুষের দিকে তাকিয়ে আছে। বাবা গাড়ির পাশে দাঁড়িয়ে আমাকে শুধু দেখে যাচ্ছে, শান্তি বাইকে হাত মেলে ডেকে বলে “আমি ফিরে এলে তুই আমাকে ফড়িং ধরে দিবি তো” কানাই মাথা নেড়ে সম্মতি দেয়। শান্তি ফড়িং ধরতে ভালোবাসে কানাই সেটা জানে। যখন সে ভালো ছিল তখন সারাদিন ভাইয়ের সঙ্গে ঘুরে বেড়াত।

ধান গাছের উপর বসে থাকা ফড়িংকে ধরত তারপর তার পায়ে সুতো বেঁধে নীল আকাশে উড়িয়ে দিতো। সে ছটপট করতো মুক্ত আকাশে বাঁধনছাড়া উড়ে উড়ে বেড়াতে আর ধান গাছের উপরে বসে হাওয়া গায়ে মেখে দুলতে। আজ শান্তি ও বন্ধি এই বিছানায়, এক অজানা অসুখ জাপটে ধরে রাখে তার শরীরকে, সে চাইলেও

ছুটে যেতে পারবেনা মুক্ত আকাশে মেলতে পারেনা মনের আশা। গাড়িটা চলতে শুরু করে ছুটে চলে শান্তির চেনা বাড়ি, গ্রাম, মাঠ, চেনা গাছ, পুকুর, খাল পেরিয়ে ছুটে চলে যায় এক অজানার দেশে। তারাও যেন কষ্ট পাচ্ছে, ধান গাছ মাথা দুলিয়ে যেন তাকে ডাকছে বলছে “আবার এসো খেলবে আমার সাথে”।

অনেকদিন হয়ে গেল শান্তির কোনো খবর নেই, সে কেরেন্টাইনে আঁধা ছে মাঝে মাঝে বাবা যায়, কখনো দেখতে পায় আবার কখনো না দেখতে পেয়ে ঘুরে চলে আসে। জানালার পাশে একটি ছোট বিছানায় সে থাকে পাশে আরো অনেক বেড তাতেও রোগী ভর্তি, রুমের বারান্দায় ও নিচে অনেক রোগী আছে। শান্তির বাবা ডাক্তারের সঙ্গে অনেক বার দেখা করতে চেয়েছে কিন্তু পারেনি কেউ তাকে ভিতরে যেতে দেয়নি। জানালা দিয়ে শান্তির সঙ্গে দু চার কথা বলে আবার চলে আসে। শান্তি একা শুয়ে শুয়ে পাশের দেওয়ালে কত হিজিবিজি সব ছবি আঁকে, কোনটা ফড়িং, কোনটা মাঠ, কোনটা ব্যাঙ, তার মন এর মধ্যে হারিয়ে যায় তার চেনা জায়গায়। এর মধ্যে অন্য কেউ দেখলে আবার জানলা বন্ধ করে দেয় ও শান্তির বাবাকে বকাবকি করে। কিছু কিছু দিন তার বাবা লুকিয়ে জানলা দিয়ে দেখা করে আসে, জানলা খোলার শব্দ পেলে শান্তি ধড়পড় করে উঠে পড়ে, সে বুঝতে পারে তার বাবা এসেছে, শান্তির কত কথা প্রশ্ন করে, ঠিক ছোট বেলার মতো “ভাই আসেনি কেন? আমাকে এরা কবে ছাড়বে? মাকে নিয়ে আসেনি কেন? ভাই কি আমার জন্য ফড়িং ধরে রেখেছে? ভাই কি কুল নিয়ে এসেছে?” আরো কত কি ...

গত কয়েকদিন শান্তির শরীর আরো খারাপের দিকে গড়িয়েছে, প্রচণ্ড জ্বরে শান্তি মাঝে মধ্যেই জ্ঞান হারাচ্ছে আর কত কথা বিরবির করে বলছে, কখনো “বাবা... ভাই মাছ বেশি খেয়ে নিয়েছে”, কখনো বলে “আমাকে ছেড়ে দাও আমি ফড়িংধরতে যাবো” অনেক কথা বোঝা যায় আবার কোনটা বোঝা যায় না।

শান্তির এই অবস্থার খবর, তার বাড়িতে যায়, সবাই ছুটে আসে শান্তির বিছানার পাশে নিয়ে যাওয়া হয় তাদেরকে। মা কাঁদতে কাঁদতে তাকে কপালে চুমু খেতে থাকে, বাবা পায়ের কাছে বসে থাকে আর দেওয়ালে আঁকা ছবিগুলো দেখতে থাকে, ভাই বিছানার পাশে দাঁড়িয়ে থাকে শান্তি চেনা আদর পেয়ে বলে ওঠে... “ভাই তুই কি ফড়িং ধরে নিয়ে এসেছিস আমার জন্য?” বলতে বলতে জ্ঞান হারায়। আজ শান্তির মনের ঘরে বেঁধে রাখা ফড়িংটা উড়ে চলে যায় অনেক দূরে অনেক, অনেক দূরে।



KINDLING KNOWLEDGE



EARTH DAY

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Earth Day is celebrated every year on 22nd April to protect the environment. It was first celebrated in 1970. In 1969 peace activist John McConnell suggested to celebrate the earth and the concept of peace on March 21, 1970 the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere at an UNESCO conference. This day was sanctioned later by McConnell in a proclamation which was signed by U Thant at the United Nations. After a month the senator of United States Gaylord Nelson suggested to hold a nationwide environmental teach-in on April 22. He hired Denis Hayes, a young activist as the national coordinator. He renamed the event as earth day. Denis and his staff grew beyond the original idea of a teach in to include the entire United States. More than 20 million people poured out on the streets to make the first earth day the largest single day protest in human history. In 1990 Denis Hayes made it international and organized events in 141 countries.

It is believed that Gaylord Nelson was inspired to create earth day after seeing an 800 square mile oil slick from an airplane in the Santa Barbara channel. Julian Koenig who volunteered to help suggested the name earth day to which Hayes immediately agreed. Walt Kelly created an anti-pollution poster featuring his comic strip character Pogo with the quotation "we have met the enemy and he is us" to promote the 1970 earth day. The Paris agreement was signed on earth day 2016.

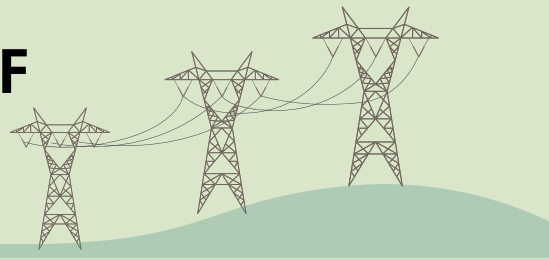
This year [2023] we celebrated the 53rd earth day. The official theme this year was "Invest In Our Planet" which is actually a repetition of last year's theme. A collection of images to date of earth taken from various deep space distances in the solar system was published.

Many people have the wrong notion that the environment should be protected only on special days like earth day, environment day etc but this is not correct. We must protect the earth and the environment every day.



ELECTRICITY – THE GAME CHANGER OF HUMAN CIVILISATION

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Electricity is one of the most essential forms of energy that has revolutionized the world in numerous ways, powering homes, businesses, and industries. The evolution of electricity has been a long and complex process that has spanned several centuries, and it has been driven by technological advancements, scientific discoveries, and societal needs.

The history of electricity dates to ancient times when the Greeks discovered the concept of static electricity by rubbing fur against amber. However, it was not until the 19th century that the first practical uses of electricity were discovered. In 1800, Alessandro Volta invented the first battery, which provided a steady stream of electrical energy. This invention led to the development of the telegraph in the 1830s, which revolutionized communication by allowing messages to be sent across long distances.

The next major breakthrough in the evolution of electricity was the discovery of electromagnetic induction by Michael Faraday in 1831. This discovery laid the foundation for the development of generators and transformers, which allowed electrical energy to be generated and transmitted over long distances. This propelled the second Industrial Revolution. The use of electricity also led to the development of new industries and technologies, such as electric motors, which replaced steam engines (The First Industrial Revolution) in factories and made manufacturing more efficient. The invention of the light bulb by Thomas Edison in 1879 was another significant milestone in the evolution of electricity, as it allowed people to have access to electric light for the first time.

The adoption of electricity also transformed transportation, as electric streetcars and subways replaced horse-drawn carriages and steam-powered trains. This not only made transportation more efficient and reliable, but it also helped to reduce pollution and improve public health.

Perhaps most importantly, the widespread adoption of electricity made it possible to bring power to rural areas, which had previously been left in the dark. This helped to level the playing field and create new opportunities for farmers and other rural residents, who could now

access electric lighting, refrigeration, and other modern amenities.

The development and growth of a nation is based on various indicators in which reliable, stable and availability of Electrical Energy plays a vital role. The demand of electricity is increasing around 5% Year after year. A sustainable plan is needed to cater to this growth so that power shortage in near future is eliminated or minimised.

At the time of independence, India (December 1947) had an installed capacity of only 1362 MW which has increased significantly with addition of new units. The present installed capacity as on 31st March 2023 is 416,059 MW (416 Giga Watts). With the increase in Power demand, the major threat to the planet earth comes in form of Global warming due to Emissions of green House gases during burning of the coal to generate steam in the power plants. India has one of the largest proven coal reserves in the world. However, one of the objectives of India's energy mix has been to promote the production of energy through the use of renewable energy sources in accordance with climate, environment and macroeconomic considerations in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, ensure security of supply and reduce emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases. In India 57% of Installed capacity is Thermal, 16% Constitutes Solar, 10.25% is Wind and 11.26% constitutes Hydro. Efforts are being made to increase the share of Renewable power which is clean Power.

There is a high potential for generation of renewable energy from various sources like wind, solar, biomass, small hydro and cogeneration bagasse in India. The total potential for renewable power generation in the country as on 31.03.2022 is estimated at 14,90,727 MW This includes solar power potential of 7,48,990 MW (50.24%), wind power potential of 6,95,509 MW (46.66%) at 120m hub height, SHP (small-hydro power) potential of 21,134 MW (1.42%), Biomass power of 17,538 MW (1.18%), 5,000 MW (0.34%) from bagasse-based cogeneration in sugar mills and 2,556 MW (0.17%) from waste to energy.

With the increase in power generation and consumption, the management of power distribution becomes a very complex operation. With the concept of national grid, an intricate mechanism is in place to maintain a balance

between generation and Consumption. The entire grid is now a single system with generators and load connected in a single network which brings a lot of challenge to maintain the power system stability. Resource adequacy in all time horizons besides planning and maintaining generation reserves becomes the key to ensure reliability. The grid management is maintained at various tiers with state level called State Load dispatch centre (SLDC), Five Numbers Regional load dispatch centre (RLDC) and National Load Dispatch centre (NLDC) presently Grid Controller of India Limited.

Transmission system plays an important role in supply of power to the consumers through the vital link between the generating stations and the distribution system. The energy resources like coal, hydro and renewable are unevenly distributed in India. Coal reserves are mainly available in Central and Eastern part of the country, whereas hydro energy resources are primarily available in Himalayan Range in the Northern and North-Eastern parts. Renewable resources like wind and solar potential are also mainly concentrated in states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat & Ladakh etc. The major load centres of the country are located in central part including Northern, Western and Southern regions. This skewed distribution of resources necessitated development of robust transmission system including establishment of inter-regional corridors for seamless transfer of power from surplus to deficit regions/areas. In this process, it enables access to power generation from anywhere in the country to various consumer spread throughout the country.

The transmission system has expanded over the years for evacuation of power from generating stations to load centre through Intra State and Inter State Transmission System. The progressive integration of regional grids started in 1992, and on 31st December 2013, our country achieved 'ONE NATION'-'ONE GRID'-'ONE FREQUENCY' with synchronous interconnection of Southern Region Grid with rest of the Indian Grid with the commissioning of 765kV Raichur-Solapur Transmission line. High Altitude border areas of Ladakh got interconnected with national electricity grid in January 2019 with the commissioning of 220 kV Srinagar- Leh line. This helped the people of Ladakh to get access to 24x7 quality power from the national Grid.

Emphasis has been given to have congestion free transmission network, so that there is no constraint in flow of power from surplus region to deficit region. Accordingly, transmission system in the country has

been continuously strengthened with addition of transmission lines and inter-regional capacity. With the transmission capacity addition, the country has become one of the largest synchronous interconnected electricity grids in the world with 4,63,758ckm (Circuit Kilometre, 1 ckm= 3.16km for a 3-phase line) of transmission line and 11,56,105 MVA of transformation capacity (as on Jan'23).

Grid Frequency– As per IE Rule 1956 (Amended upto 25th Nov 2000, the permissible range of grid Frequency is +/- 3% of the nominal i.e. 48.5 to 51.5 Hz. The permissible frequency band in India is regulated by Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC). Hence, the band is sometimes also mentioned as the IEGC band which was set as per following.

May 2010 the permissible frequency Band – 49.5 Hz – 50.2 Hz.

September 2012 revised to 49.7 Hz – 50.2 Hz.

Presently it is being maintained between 49.90 Hz – 50.05 Hz

Transmission & Distribution Losses (T&D) Losses

Energy losses occur in the process of supplying electricity to consumers due to technical and commercial reasons.

The technical losses are due to energy dissipated from the Electrical equipment in the network during distribution of power. These losses are inherent in a system and can be reduced to a certain level.

Pilferage and defective metering are the main sources of the commercial losses

When Commercial losses are added to technical losses, it gives Transmission & Distribution (T&D) loss.

There is another component of commercial losses, which is attributable to non-recovery of the billed amount, which is reflected in collection efficiency.

T&D losses together with loss in collection give us Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses.

Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses of DISCOMS decline significantly to ~17% in FY2022 from ~22% in FY2021

Conclusion:

Electricity is one of the most important discoveries for the progress and sustenance of mankind, so a judicious use of electricity as a resource is the need of hour. Preserving

the finite resources available in the earth and more and more clean and green energy needs to be explored and harnessed. Use of more and energy efficient equipments and minimising the losses should be our focus area. We should educate ourselves and our future generations

the need of energy conservation as the existing energy resources are getting depleted and continue to invest in the development of new and more efficient forms of energy, so that we can continue to enjoy the benefits of electricity for generations to come.

INSTALLED CAPACITY (MW)			
SL.NO.	TYPE OF GENERATION	CAPACITY (MW)	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Thermal	2,37,269.00	57.03
2	Nuclear	6,780.00	1.63
3	Hydro	46,840.00	11.26
4	Solar	66,780.00	16.05
5	Wind	42,633.00	10.25
6	Bio	10,802.00	2.6
7	Small Hydro	4,944.00	1.19
		4,16,058.00	100.01

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE

18th April 2023, Peak Demand met was 215.9GW with nearly 20 states touching record daily Energy or peak demand



GEOTEXTILE: PAVING THE WAY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!

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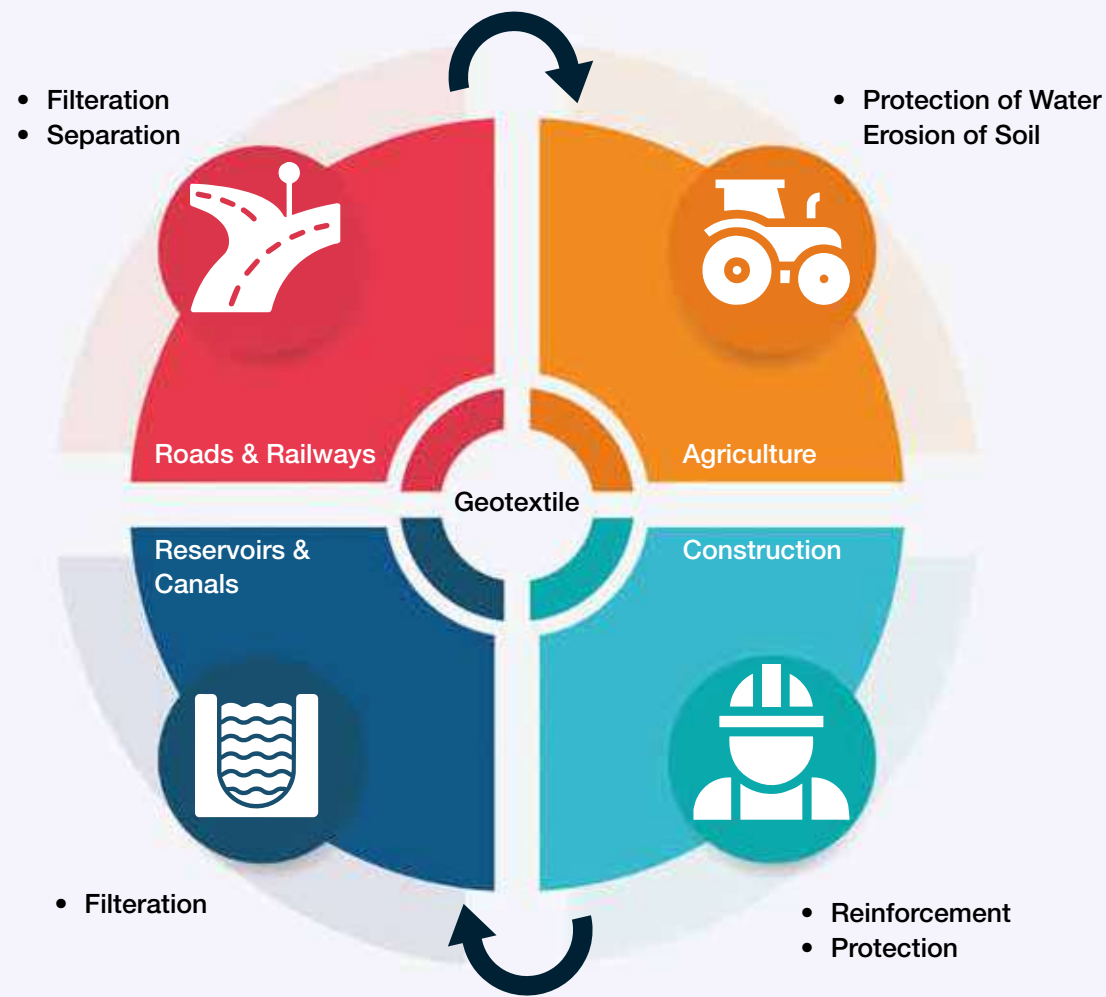
Geotextiles are permeable members which are used in contact with soil/rock and or any other geotechnical material for civil engineering applications and have the ability to separate, filter, reinforce, protect, or drain. They are basically textiles manufactured from synthetic fibres. The polymers used in the manufacturing of geotextiles are Polypropylene, Polyester, but large majority of geotextiles are made from Polypropylene.

“From Ancient Innovations to Modern Marvels: Unveiling the Fascinating History of Geotextiles”

Geotextiles have a fascinating history that spans centuries. Ancient civilizations like the Egyptians and Romans used woven mats and natural fibres to stabilize riverbanks and control erosion. In the mid-20th century, synthetic materials like polypropylene and polyester revolutionized the field, leading to the commercial production of geotextiles. Since then, geotextiles have found applications in various industries, such as civil engineering, construction, agriculture, and environmental remediation. They are used for soil stabilization, erosion control, filtration, and drainage. Advances in manufacturing techniques have expanded their versatility, and the development of eco-friendly options has promoted sustainability. Today, geotextiles are essential in infrastructure development and environmental conservation, offering cost-effective solutions to geotechnical challenges

Categories of Geosynthetics					
Geo Textiles	Geogrids	Geomembranes	Geofoams	Geo-composites	Geocells
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separation Reinforcement Filtration Drainage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents sliding Landfill capping system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Aquaculture Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenroof Thermal insulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steep slopes of landfill capping systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Railroad long-term road support Protects Riverbed
Geotextiles	Geogrids	Geomembranes	Geofoams	Double sided Geo Composites	Riverbed Geocells

“Transformative Applications for A Sustainable World”



Sustainability plan of Geotextile

The sustainable development is based on environment, economy, and social

- The development from the environment perspective, is the liveability of our world. Protection against the effects of climate changes. This product extends the life of structures by limiting cracks, erosion.
- From the social economic view, the geosynthetic sector employs several thousand people in many fields like production, sales, marketing, implementation and many more. This innovative market is growing steadily for the past few years as the market has great impact to protect from natural disaster.
- In the use of social work, the technology allows better use of the resources as sustainability and long-term maintenance. The material will help against natural hazards by limiting the effects of erosion, flooding, or landslides.

Indian Geotextiles Market			
Types	Materials	Application	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woven • Non-Woven • Knitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polypropylene • Polyester 	Woven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railway Subgrade construction • Highway subgrade construction • Tunnel waterproofing membrane • Urban green flower project • Waterproofing materials • Aquaculture 	Non-woven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Construction • Railway embankment • Separation Fabrics • Reservoirs Canals • Airport Runway • Fabric for underlayment

Global Geography	Geotextile Markets (Customers)	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Regions is the largest demand generating region for geotextiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garware Wall Ropes Ltd. • TechFab India Industries Ltd • Maccaferri Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd. • Terram Geosynthetics Pvt. Ltd • Hrishikesh Industrial Fabrics Pvt. Ltd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate CAGR of 12% during 2017 – 2026

The use of this technology is increasing rapidly, and the world is more focused into making sustainable roads, bridges, embankments that will not be destroyed and gives a permanent solution. Besides preventing natural disaster, it is used to make drainage system and filtration. Thus, due to the properties of geotextiles they are used in the concerned areas. Geotextile will grab the future textile markets.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

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In Mathematics, a Square Root of a number 'p' is a number 'q' such that 'q²' is a (q x q) = p. In other words, a number q whose square is p. I am not going into details of the negative square root is this particular article.

Now, for calculating the positive square root of a number, which is not a perfect square, we definitely need a calculator.

Friends, the method illustrated below will help us to calculate the square root of a non-perfect square without using calculator. The non-perfect square number should be in between 1 & 100.

This method is called
Divide and conquer method.

Let's take an example -

Square Root of 19

Step I First find the perfect square
Less than 19
It is 16
The Sq. Root of 16 is 4

Step II Now divide 19 by 4
19/4 = 4.75

Step III Now add 4.75 with its module i.e. with 4 &
divide it by 2
(4.75 + 4)/2 = 4.375
The Answer is 4.375

Let's take another example -

Square Root of 27

Step I Finding the perfect square
Less than 27
It is 25
The Sq. Root of 25 is 5

Step II Divide 27 by 5
27/5 = 5.40

Step III Add 5.40 with its module
i.e. 5 & divide the result by 2
(5.40 + 5)/2 = 5.20
The Answer is 5.20

Let's take another example -

Square Root of 85

Step I Finding the perfect square
Less than 85
It is 81
The Sq. Root of 81 is 9

Step II 85/9 = 9.44

Step III (9.44 + 9)/2 = 9.22
The Answer is 9.22

So, following this method we can calculate Square
Root of any number in between 1 & 100.

Happy Computing ...

আমার প্রিয় লেখক

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S/o Arijit Dutta
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পৃথিবীতে অনেক জাতি এবং ধর্মের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। সেই জাতিদের ভিন্ন-ভিন্ন ভাষা। আমার প্রিয় ভাষা বাংলা। শুধু যে আমার, তা নয়। লক্ষ লক্ষ মানুষের গর্ব এই বাংলা ভাষা। কারণ এই ভাষাতেই তো আছে এমন লেখকেরা যাঁদের কলমের ছোঁয়ায় একটি লেখা হয়ে ওঠে অনবদ্য। এই লেখকদের-ই অন্যতম ছিলেন শ্রী শৈলেন ঘোষ। শৈলেন ঘোষ মহাশয়ের লেখা হল একজনের জন্য একটি জগনসম্ভার। শ্রী শৈলেন ঘোষের লেখায় আমরা জানা জিনিস নতুন ভাবে জানি, নতুন ভাবে শিখি। তাঁর প্রত্যেকটি লেখায় একটি আদর্শ বিষয় আঙ্ঘ ছে। বলতে কী, তিনি ছিলেন এক উচ্চ মাপের জাদুকর। সেই জাদু আমাদের আকর্ষণ করে এবং আদর্শ বিষয়টি শেখায়। যদি আমরা জিজ্ঞেস করো, কোন উপন্যাসটি আমার প্রিয়, তাহলে তা বলা একটু মুশকিল হয়ে পড়বে। কারণটি নিশ্চয় বুঝতে পারছি। শৈলেন ঘোষ মহাশয়ের কোন্ উপন্যাসটি ছেড়ে কোনটির কথা লিখবো। তাই সেটি বলা শক্ত। তাও খুব চেষ্টা করে বলতে পারি যে, শৈলেন ঘোষ মহাশয় রচিত 'মা এক নির্ভীক সৈনিক' আমার খুব প্রিয় উপন্যাস। 'মা' শব্দটা বোঝায় একজন মানুষ যিনি চান আমাদের মঙ্গল। 'মা'- তিনি আমাদের মাতা, আমাদের জননী। তিনিই তো আমাদেরকে পৃথিবীর প্রথম আলো দেখান। আমরা সকলেই বোধ হয় আঙ্ঘ মাদের মায়েদের খুবই ভালোবাসি। মায়েরাও আমাদের খুবই ভালোবাসেন। কিন্তু এই উপন্যাসে একজন মা তাঁর সন্তানকে শুধু যে ভালোবাসেন তা নয়, তিনি চান তাঁর সন্তানকে এক আদর্শ পথে তৈরী করতে। এমন এক আদর্শ পথ - যে পথে নেই হাতাহাতি, নেই কোন মিথ্যার আশ্রয়। সেই পথে আঙ্ঘ ছে সত্য আর আছে এক আদর্শ মানুষ তৈরী হওয়ার সরঞ্জাম। এবার একটু গল্প নিয়ে বলি। গল্প আমরা সবাই ভালোবাসি। সবাই শুনতে চাই। কিন্তু শৈলেন ঘোষ মহাশয়ের গল্প একটি রামধনুর মতো। কোনো গল্প মজার, কোনো গল্প স্বপ্নালোকে পাড়ি দেওয়ার। এদের মধ্যে অন্যতম 'আজ রোদ উঠেছে'। আমাদের দেশে জন্মগ্রহণ করেছিলেন কত মহাপুরুষ। আঙ্ঘ মরা তাঁদের শ্রদ্ধা করি। কিন্তু আমরা ভুলে যাই আমাদের

দেশের বীর সৈনিকদল কীভাবে আমাদের দেশকে অন্যান্য দেশের সৈনিকদলকে হারিয়ে রক্ষা করে। তারাই তো আঙ্ঘ মাদের দেশের অনুপ্রেরণা। এই গল্পে একজন ছেলে আছে - তার নাম মোমপা। তার এক পোষা ঘোড়া আছে। যুদ্ধে ক্ষতিগ্ াস্ত এক সৈনিককে সাহায্য করবে বলে ঠিক করেছে মোমপা। এক সৈনিক সঠিক চিকিৎসা পেলে তার প্রাণ থাকবে, এই কথা জেনে তো সে আর বসে থাকতে পারে না! এই গল্পটি আঙ্ঘ মাদের মনের ভেতর আমাদের দেশের সৈনিকদের প্রতি এক আন্তরিক ভালোবাসার ও শ্রদ্ধার সূচনা করে। এবার বলি আর এক গল্প নিয়ে। গল্পটির নাম 'ইয়াসিনের চিঠি'। কাশ্মীরের নাম আমরা কে না শুনেছি। কাশ্মীর এক অপরূপ সুন্দর জায়গা। পাহাড়-ঘেরা এই কাশ্মীরে আছে কত গাছ, কত বর্ণাধারা, কত মানুষের মিলন-ক্ষেত্র এই কাশ্মীর। সেই কাশ্মীরের বাসিন্দা এই ইয়াসিন। ক্রমশ ইয়াসিনের বয়েস বাড়ে। সে চল্লিশ পার করে গেছে। হঠাৎ কাশ্মীর হয়ে গেল এক রক্তে রাঙা ভূমি। ইয়াসিন রাইফেল ধরল। রক্তলীলা চালালো তার দস্যুদের উপর। কিন্তু হঠাৎ এমন কী ঘটল যে ইয়াসিন বুঝল রাইফেল নয়, জীবনে বাঁচার মূল মন্ত্র ভালোবাসা। তোমরা সবাই বোধ হয় নাট্য মানে জান। নাট্য মানে নাটক। কিন্তু শৈলেন ঘোষ রচিত নাটকগুলি নাট্য নয়। সেইগুলি হচ্ছে এক আলাদা জগত। এমনই এক নাটক হল 'মিতুল নামে পুতুলটি'। এটি হল শৈলেন ঘোষ রচিত অসাধারণ উপন্যাস 'মিতুল নামে পুতুলটি'-র নাট্য রূপ। এই নাটকে দুই পুতুলের সম্বন্ধে - মিতুল আর রাজকন্যা। এই নাটকে লেখা আছে এই পুতুলদের এক সুন্দর জগতের প্রতি যাত্রা, যে জগতে নেই নাচনওয়ালার মতন মানুষ, আছে আনন্দ। আমার প্রিয় শৈলেন ঘোষ রচিত কবিতা হল 'নতুন পৃথিবী গড়ি'। আমাদের জীবনে কত ঘটনা ঘটে, কোনটি আঙ্ঘ নন্দের, কোনটি দুঃখের। আমরা দুঃখের ঘটনাগুলিতে ভেঙে পড়ি। কিন্তু আমরা কী পারি না সব নতুন করে আরম্ভ করতে, নতুন করে এক পৃথিবী গড়তে? শেষে আর একটি কথা বলব। আমি ভগবানের কাছে প্রার্থনা করি আমি যেন শৈলেন ঘোষ নির্মিত এই রঙীন-সুন্দর জগতে বসবাস করতে পারি।



HOW TO CONTROL YOUR FAT & CHOLESTEROL

Dr. Sudipta Nandi
HSE, MCPI

Be aware of how important is to know how much cholesterol and fat is in the food they eat.



Nutrition Facts

Serving Size oz.		
Serving Per Container		
Amount Per Serving:		
Calories	Calories From Fat	
		% Daily value*
Total Fat		%
Saturated Fat		%
Trans Fat		
Cholesterol		%
Sodium		%
Total Carbohydrate		%
Dietary Fiber		%
Sugars		
Protein		

*Percent Daily values are based on a 2000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on you calorie needs.



Know that the foods highest in cholesterol and fat come from animal and organ meats, full fat dairy products, and desserts.



Understand that changing their eating and cooking habits will lower the amount of cholesterol and fat in the foods they eat.

Learn how to read nutrition food labels to choose food that are lower in cholesterol and fat.





Learn to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables and 100% whole grain products and eat fewer fatty foods.

Find places or events in your community where people can get their Cholesterol and Triglyceride levels checked.

Understand the best numbers for total cholesterol, HDL (good cholesterol) and LDL (bad cholesterol) for a healthy heart.

Cholesterol and Triglyceride levels in adults				
	TOTAL	HDL	LDL	TRIGLYCERIDES
HIGH	240 or higher	n/a	160 or higher	200 or higher
BORDERLINE	200-239	n/a	130-159	150-199
GOOD	Less than 200	40 or higher	Less than 100	Less than 150
LOW	n/a	Less than 40	n/a	n/a

Having high cholesterol including high bad cholesterol and a high fat diet means:

that the risk of heart disease increases for that person including heart attacks and stroke, especially if the person is not physically active, has an unhealthy weight, and eats an unhealthy diet, and / or has a history of high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, or heart problems.



The good news...

is that you can do many things in your daily life to reduce your chances of developing these problems. Preventing heart disease can save your life and the lives of your family members



Aim for a Wealthy weight

Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, whole grain products (such as breads, pasta, cereals), and fat free or low-fat milk, yogurt, and cheese, less fatty meats, animal products and fatty and high calorie desserts



Be physically active. Adults should be active at least 30 minutes on most days. Children and teenagers should be active at least 60 minutes or more daily.



QUIT
s m o k i n g



Keep your high cholesterol levels under control by selecting healthy food choices daily.

Reduce your fat intake and intake of saturated and trans fats.



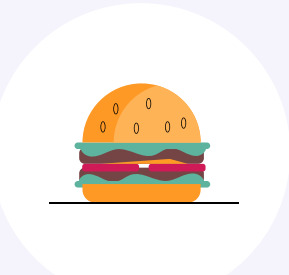


Stay away from packaged foods with palm and coconut oils that are high in saturated fat.

Check your cholesterol as often as your doctor or nurse advises



Choose foods lower in cholesterol



ROLLING STONE RECORDS



A TRIP TO DARJEELING / GANGTOK (EAST SIKKIM)

Deepa Yadav

Secretary to EVP-SI&P, HPL

Once a year, we go to someplace that we have never been before. So, this year we decided to visit Darjeeling during end March as the winter beauty of Darjeeling leaves one breathless. After living several years in Kolkata, still somehow, we did not happen to visit to North Bengal. The best time to visit 'Darjeeling-Queen of the Hills' is Feb-Mar and Sep-Nov. Ours was a sudden plan and hence we took flight to Bagdogra from Kolkata and from there we travelled by road. The lush green tea gardens and the pine woods was quite soothing to our eyes and soul.

MIRIK: We reached Darjeeling via Mirik. The name Mirik comes from the Lepcha words Mir-Yok meaning "place burnt by fire". Mirik has become popular due to its picturesque tourist spot by the huge lake.

We also shopped few woollen clothes from the local Bhutia shop at very reasonable price.

DARJEELING: As we had not purchased prior tickets for the toy train ride, we went by Road to reach Darjeeling. Our Nepali driver made our 4 hrs journey more interesting by playing good music and narrating interesting stories. The toy train established in 1881 is enlisted as one of UNESCO World Heritage sites. We took an evening walk along the Mall which was very crowded and did shopping at the Chowrasta which made us hungry and so we decided to check-in at the Glenary's. The Glenary's owned by the Edwards family in Darjeeling is over 100 years old. It has a wonderful Bakery and café and a restaurant.

Next day, we visited the Japanese Temple, Peace Pagoda-that houses the four avatars of Buddha which is situated in the slopes of Jalapahar hills and offers a peaceful and spiritual surrounding. We also visited Ghoom monastery, built in 1850. The statue of Buddha was made with clay brought from Tibet. The two huge

lamps are kept burning throughout the year. The intricate work and paintings are worth watching The Batasia loop which is a famous railway loop that offers an amazing view of the mountains goes around an open air Gorkha memorial, with a beautiful garden. Since we did not get clear view of Kanchenjunga due to foggy weather, we got a glimpse of the mesmerising mountains through binoculars' available for rent at the loop. The steaming momos and hot Darjeeling Tea gave us energy to climb the slopes and kept us warm.

LAMAHATTA: Enroute journey from Darjeeling to Gangtok was quite interesting, as we visited Lamahatta - The Eco Tourism place which is 23 kms away from Darjeeling. Lamahatta situated at an altitude of about 5,700 ft, a quaint, sleepy little hamlet nestled among the Eastern Himalayas, where your senses are soothed by the smell of fresh flowers, pine and oak trees. The Teesta River Rafting which is the most popular adventure sport activity in Kalimpong was quite an exciting and enthralling life-time experience for us. We did an hour rafting and its safe for non-swimmer like me

GANGTOK: Our Gangtok local site seeing tour started with visit to MG Marg, Ropeway, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Ganesh Tok, Hanuman Tok, Tashi Viewpoint, Banjhakri falls, Plant Conservatory and other places. M.G Marg is considered as the town centre of Gangtok which houses some spectacular restaurants, food joints, and cafes.

Ropeway's cable car gives a bird's eye view of Gangtok and the surrounding valley. It will take you high up the ridge to Tashiling Secretariat. Namgyal Institute of Tibetology is a mansion reflecting the traditional Tibetan architecture, it gives insights into Buddhist culture. It exhibits cloth paintings, manuscripts, ritual objects, and human bone trumpets. The gleaming white Do-Drul

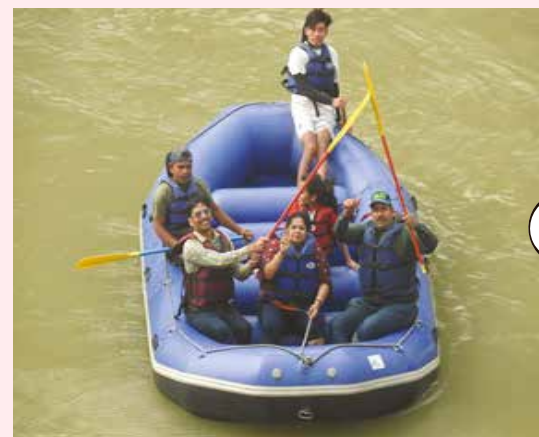
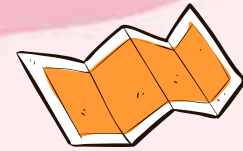
Chorten is located close to the Institute, on the same road. According to its fascinating history, this stupa was built by a powerful Tibetan lama who came to rid the site of evil spirits that were haunting it. Banjhakri Falls is a 100 feet waterfall located in a park near Ranka Monastery and is popular among tourists and locals for day picnics. The Hanuman temple maintained by the Indian Army is very clean and peaceful.

As it had snowed heavily few days ago, we were doubtful whether we will get permit for Nathula pass issued by the army. Located at an altitude of 14,450 ft, Nathu-La is a prime corridor of the passage between India and Tibet. Passing through the serene Tsomgo Lake, it is one of the most alluring sightseeing places in Gangtok. It has one of the highest motorable roads in the world which makes it a popular adventure destination. Luckily, we got permit and we visited Baba Mandir and Changu lake, covered with snow, is a sight to behold. We also rented

boots and jackets to protect us from biting cold from local shops there. The shrine was built to respect Baba Harbajan Singh and it is believed that he guards the lives of soldiers on the border. Yak and Mule rides, tea, and piping hot instant noodles in small eateries are major attractions of the lake. As it started snowing, we did not go to Nathula pass and we feel, it's a right decision made by us.

Finally, we had to bid good-bye to the snow laden mystical mountains, lush greens, refreshing waterfalls, serene lakes, quiet temples, monasteries, friendly locals, and drool-worthy cuisine which makes these destinations worth visiting again by tourists all around the world. Due to time constraints, we could not cover few tourist places. Just a week after our return, a massive avalanche struck Nathu La in Sikkim and seven tourists lost their lives. We thank the Almighty for our safe trip.





A SHORT TRIP TO JHARGRAM

Suhanya Sarkar

D/o - Subrata Sarkar
Plant Human Resource, HPL

Last February in this year, one fine evening, I sat with my parents watching movie with some snacks, when suddenly my father told us about a short 3 days trip to Jhargram. We were very excited for that trip.

As per plan, on a Friday morning we started our journey. The weather was pleasant, on the way we saw many beautiful places. When we reached our guest house, I was surprised to see the surrounding. Different types of big trees enhanced the beauty with their shadow and chirping of birds. My father & mother were sitting on the couch and having coffee and I was enjoying the scenic beauty of the resort. Then we went for some sightseeing. On day 1, we saw ChilkgirhKanakDurga temple and Chilkgirh Raj Palace. We saw many monkeys roaming here and there in front of the temple. We also visited Jhargram Raj Palace and came back to the resort.

On day 2, after finishing breakfast, we went for Belpahari tour. First we saw Ghagra River rock. There were many rocks with holes in them. People were taking photographs and few of them enjoying inside the holes. We also saw a beautiful river with small fishes swimming. We then move to Tarafeni Dam. We also visit to Khandarani Lake and taken snaps to cherish our memories. Next we went to Gurasini Hill. It was a mountain and we climbed it to check our stamina. After going long way on it, we found there was a sitting place and beside we saw a temple. My mother was taking break at the temple while self and my father continued. The scenario was very beautiful from top of the mountain. Then we had our lunch at one village dhaba and visited to Dhangikusum where there was a water fall. During returning to our resort via Burisole Jungle, we came through tribal huts and theeyecatching thing was the walls of the huts were beautifully painted with some stories & design.

On day 3, after checking out from the resort, we went to Krish Garden. The garden is famous for huge variety of roses. We saw a hall that exhibitingaquarium and birds inside the cages. There was one small 'BHOOOL BHULAIYA' to attract the children. After that we went to Amlachati medicinal garden. There were many known and unknown medicinal plants which enriched my knowledge about them.

Then we headed to Haldia and on the return journey we also visited Khirai which is called 'valley of flowers'. It was a cherishing and unforgettable trip to Jhargram.

IN THE SHADOW OF SANDAKPHU: THE QUEST FOR KANCHENJUNGA

Swarnava Pal

S/o Subhabrata Pal
Process DP, MCPI

The majestic Kanchenjunga stood out in the midst of grey clouds, bathed in golden sunshine. It and the other peaks together truly seemed to be Lord Buddha himself in all His glory lying on His back, the Sleeping Buddha. The rays of the sun struck the mountain at an angle, making it seem as the mountains are not merely a portion of the mortal world. Awestruck by the heavenly beauty of the mountains, I stood rooted to the spot for several minutes, unable to take my eyes off the mountain range. Chilly winds blew through the hotel roof, tearing at our skin and pressing its frozen fingers even through the various layers of clothes. But nobody likes jumping right in the middle of an episode without knowing what happened before. Let's start from the beginning...

I peered out of the window of the Darjeeling Mail, en route to New Jalpaiguri. The train entered the station at 9 o'clock in the morning. It was a sunny and bright day in Siliguri. We sped off in a Wagonr from the train station, headed for Palmajua, an offbeat tourist destination within Darjeeling district and a part of Singalila National Park. On the way, we had a breakfast of delicious momos and hot tea. It was a five hour drive to Palmajua. I had thought that I would have spent most of the journey catching forty winks. But to my surprise, as soon we exited the town area I was captivated by the view of the hills and the forests. Thereafter, sleeping felt like a distant dream to me. Throughout the whole journey, I kept staring out of the windows, enthralled by the sights and views. We halted at the Gopaldhara tea estate. The tea garden was huge, with rows and rows of the green shrub stretching out endlessly over the rolling hills. The garden was bordered by large pine trees that looked as if they had stood there for centuries. After that we stopped at the Mirik view point. From there we could see a long way below to the river valley. Despite the heavy fog, the view from Mirik was stunning. From there, we continued on our way to Palmajua. We also halted at the Simana view point on the way.

It was a two day stay at Palmajua. We resided at the Singalila Jungle Lodge. The village of Palmajua mostly consisted of forests filled with coniferous and deciduous vegetation. Thus, it was the perfect place for bird watching. I and my father captured many species of birds like Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Green backed tit, red vented bulbul, laughingthrushes, Green tailed Sunbird,

Barbets, warblers, flycatchers, Redstarts and so on. The food in the lodge was decent. Meals were composed of fresh produce grown in and around the lodge and the occasional non-vegetarian. From Palmajua, we went to Srikhola, a scenic little village about 15 kilometers from Palmajua. It is set amid magnolia, pines, oak and rhododendrons on the banks of the Srikhola River.

After spending two days in Palmajua, we went to the land rover association in Manebhanjan. We booked a Bolero and set off for Tumling. The whole area from Manebhanjan and onwards fell in the Singalila National Park. We had to submit our documents and get permission from the forest office about two kilometers from Manebhanjan market. The way to Tumling was extremely steep with hairpin bends and narrow roads. But our capable driver managed it easily. The journey took a time of around two and a half hours. As we got higher up on the mountains, the weather gradually turned colder. One side of the road



was the steep face of the hill and on the other side was a steep cliff. But both the sides were lined with dense forests. Except for the sound of our engines, the forest was unnaturally quiet with frequent bird calls breaking the silence. Within the dense foliage of the trees, there were several beautiful flowering trees like rhododendrons, magnolia, and blossoms. We occasionally halted to take pictures of the wonderful view, the beautiful flowers, and the awesome birds or of ourselves. Just before Tumling, we arrived at Tonglu. It was a deserted and windswept place with only a trekker's hut to indicate civilization. The Tonglu Lake was completely dry. Tonglu was famous for glimpsing the Kanchenjunga but at the time of our visit, the view was obstructed by grey clouds.

We got to see and capture many different species of

birds in Tonglu. Some of them are- Rufous vented yuhina, Yellow billed magpie, Blue fronted redstart, Fire tailed myzornis, Rufous sibia and Fire tailed sunbird, among others. The distance from Tonglu to Tumling took little time. Soon we were in our hotel, having lunch. The name of the hotel was Siddhartha Lodge. In the afternoon, we went out to explore Tumling. Tumling was situated right on the India-Nepal border. In fact, the road itself was the border. On the Nepal side of the road, there was no coverage for Indian networks. But just a few steps away, on the road itself, we had a pretty decent signal. Similar to Tonglu, Tumling was also empty and fast blowing cold winds continuously blew from the Nepal side. But there was one or two more hotels in Tumling. We went for a walk up the slope to a small stupa. The temperature was so low that even through two layers of jackets and a sweatshirt we were completely frozen. Our hands became numb by keeping them for too long without gloves.



We spent the evening in front of the fireplace in the lounge. The night in Tumling was so dark that there was no difference with keeping our eyes closed or open while looking out of the window. The electricity service was bad. There was a power cut for the entire day and the generator was activated for only two hours in the evening. The next morning, we departed at 9 o'clock for Sandakphu. The distance from Tumling to Gairibans took about an hour to cover. During my father's time, when he had undertaken a trek along the same road, Gairibans was just a roadside halt on the Tumling-Sandakphu trekking route, consisting of a few living quarters and a trekker's hut. But now Gairibans had turned into a small settlement of quite a number of houses and hotels. The road from Tumling up to Gairibans, though bad, was bearable. But from Gairibans, the paved road ended. The road further was made up of boulders strewn on the ground. The car jerked, jostled and bumped and nearly dislocated our spinal cord. As we neared each sharp turning, all while going uphill, my heart flew into my mouth so quickly that if I had not clapped my teeth together, I would have lost it. By the time we reached Kalpokhri, the continuous bouncing of the car had

completely scrambled by innards. Several times, the car came close to overturning or toppling off the hillside. But our driver always pulled through. We were on tenterhooks the whole journey.

Kalpokhri was a small village en route to Sandakphu. It is named after the Kalpokhri Lake. The words 'Kala' means dark and 'pokhri' means lake. The lake was quite shallow at his time of the year. Its surface was smooth and glistening obsidian black without a ripple breaking its surface. Though the winds were blowing quite strongly, the water of the lake was sheltered by the shallow depression. The banks rose up steeply from the lakeside, sparsely adorned with stunted and gnarled trees. One or two mountain goats skipped around, bleating shrilly. We spent some time photographing the scene and enjoying the cool crisp air. Sometime later, we got into the car and started on the next phase of our journey.

The way to Sandakphu was exceedingly steep and uneven. Our car bounced from one stretch of road to the other, inches from hurtling off the hill. Though the road was treacherous, the view was breathtaking. We could see the miles upon miles of green mountains, occasionally splashed with the red colour of rhododendrons, the white of magnolia and the beautiful pink hue of blossoms. It took another hour of jerking and jolting to reach our destination. The village of Sandakphu consisted of a few hotels, residences and farms. Otherwise, it was quite barren, but not desolate. Biting cold winds blew across the mountaintop, slapping at our faces with its freezing hands. We stayed at the Hotel Sunrise. Our room was cozy and pleasant with a huge glass window governing a wide view, but unfortunately not on the side where the Kanchenjunga was usually visible. Even inside our hotel room, we had to wear three layers of jackets to counter the cold.

The hotel had a large and spacious restaurant alongside the reception area. The food was served in buffet style and we could eat as much as we desired. After lunch, we watched the glorious sunset over the mountains. The sunset was picturesque. In front of our eyes, the sun dipped below the horizon, the last gasp of beauty before the death of the day. The rest of the evening, we sat on our hands and whiled away the time till dinner. We slept comfortably that night due to the use of an electric heater provided by the hotel staff. The next morning, I was awakened by my mother at the break of dawn. She quickly told me to dress up and meet her on the roof. Upon reaching the roof, I saw that my father was already there. He pointed towards the horizon. I glanced along his line of vision and was astounded. The majestic Kanchenjunga loomed at the skyline, like the golden-white battlements of Almighty's castle, resplendent in its beauty.

And here I was, standing on the roof of hotel Sunrise, gazing at the Kanchenjunga. The view from here was much closer and more detailed than from Darjeeling. It was, or it at least seemed like an eternity before I could will myself to go back to our rooms. We had managed to capture some impressive photographs. After a hasty breakfast of the local Tibetan bread and jam, we set off downhill. There had been a heavy snowfall in the night and most of the roads were covered with snow. This is the reason due to which we had to cancel our detour to Phalut. Our driver himself said that it would be madness to attempt the route to Phalut without proper snow gear. The nighttime snowfall was really unexpected. It was March so the driver had not even brought the winter chains for use in case of snow. We returned to Manebhanjan and continued on our way to Sittong. On the way, we stopped at the Lepchajagat pine view. It is a beautiful and serene spot characterized by the tall and ancient pine trees. As we walked beneath the multitude of pine trees, the rustling whispers of wind as it passed through the needle shaped pine leaves created a soothing and tranquil atmosphere.

It took us a journey of two and a half hours to reach our destination. Sittong is a cluster of villages within a large area known as Sittong Khasmahal. It is located

in the Kurseong subdivision of the Darjeeling district in the Northern part of Bengal. Sittong is a secluded yet picturesque place perched in the beautiful eastern Himalayas. The Himalayan peak, the valley full of mist and cloud, the small river, the chirping of birds, the orange orchards, and the surrounding greenery everything here in Sittong is invigorating. Far away from pollution and hustle-bustle of the urban chaos, Sittong is the ultimate expression of the pristine beauty of nature.

We stayed for three days in Panch Pokhri homestay. The food was good, the staff excellent and the weather rejuvenating. On 21st March, it was finally time to say goodbye. My visit to Sandakphu was an unforgettable experience that left a lasting impression on me. The stunning natural beauty and warm hospitality of the locals made it a truly unique adventure. I was struck by the importance of preserving this fragile ecosystem and the need to promote sustainable tourism practices in the region. This trip taught me the value of pushing beyond my comfort zone, embracing new experiences, and connecting with people from different cultures. I will cherish the memories of my journey to Sandakphu and look forward to exploring more of this beautiful world in the future.

MYSORE DAYS

Sucheta Chatterjee

D/o Chandan Kanti Chattopadhyay
Inspection & Reliability Support, MCPI

Along with my father and mother, I went to meet my brother in Bangalore. From there, we decided to go on a short trip to Mysore. Located in the foothills of the Chamundi Hills, Mysore is the third most populated city in Karnataka, and its rich heritage draws millions of tourists all year round.

We started our journey from Bangalore around 7:30 a.m. on 21st April. We stopped at a small cafe for a tea break. Being in the southern part of India, I could not miss the chance to taste filter coffee. It had the perfect flavour. Then we hopped on to complete our journey to Mysore.

We reached Mysore around 11 a.m. and dumped our belongings at the hotel. We had a lot of plans for the day. First, we started with St. Philomena's Cathedral Church. It was my first time entering a church. There were paintings of incidents from Jesus's life. There were names of people engraved who helped build the church.

Next, we went to a place that I was most excited for, Varuna Lake. It was about thirteen kilometres away from Mysore. The District Administration and State Tourism Department of Karnataka had leased the lake to Outback Adventures, one of the reputed agencies in adventure sports, to conduct water sports. The Outback Adventures provides a number of fun rides and activities, it also has a cafe and changing room. My brother and I went for a package that included kayaking, jet skiing, and bumper ride. We were provided with life jackets. Kayaking was the first activity, it took a little time to get the balance, but then it was a peaceful one. It was followed by jet skiing. The instructor warned us not to let go of the handle. The water scooter took off, and the instructor asked if I wanted to drive and I nodded. It felt like I was living a scene straight out of a movie. Then came the bumpy ride, we were made to sit on a sofa like thing that was tied to a motor boat. It really was 'bumpy' and at times we were high up in the air, gripping hard on the handles of the seat.

Chamundeshwari Temple was our next destination. The journey felt like climbing high in the sky in a chariot. Inside the temple there were monkeys of all sizes. Two monkeys decided to use me as a support to climb up to their destination, who was I to deny them?

Our driver suggested that we visit the sand museum.

It was eye catching. There were sculptures made out of sand, water, and glue. The sand museum was set up by two women. Various interesting themes have been used at the museum, which one can enjoy here. As soon as you enter, you can view A giant 15 feet lord Ganesha statue right at the entrance is followed by a variety of themes, including Tom & Jerry, Mysore Kings, Chamundeswari Goddess, landscapes and animals, laughing Buddha, His Holiness Srikantadatta Wodeyar, Egyptian sculptures, Krishnarjuna on a chariot, Disneyland characters, a vintage car, and many more, like a horse chariot, the Taj Mahal, aquatic creatures, tribes were some of the sculptures on display. There were shops that sold handmade articles like jewellery, bags, and various decorative items. That was the end of the day's adventures.

The next day we started with Mysore Palace. Initially, the palace was a wooden fortress that was struck by lightning and reconstructed under the reign of Kantirava Narasa Raja Wodeyar. The palace was destroyed by fire during the wedding ceremony of Princess Jayalakshmmanni. Again, Maharani Kempananjammani Devi and her son, Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, decided to rebuild the palace. The task of revamping the palace was commissioned to a British architect named Henry Irwin. Mysore Palace is built in the Indo-Saracenic style. The exterior of this marvellous structure is enriched with two durbar halls, several arches, canopies, columns and bay windows. There is also a sprawling green garden surrounding the palace. The interiors are opulently designed with carved doors, stained glass ceilings, glittering glazed flooring tiles, spectacular Czechoslovakian chandeliers, and works of art from all over the world.

We couldn't be in Mysore and miss the special Mysore dosa which we downed with a hot cup of filter coffee. It was time for us to return to Bangalore. On our way, we stopped by Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace in Srirangapatna. Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace is built with wood, mortar, stone, and plaster. A huge garden area surrounds the palace. Interiors are well decorated with floral motifs and paintings showcasing historic events and battles. Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace also houses a museum, showcasing artifacts used by Tipu Sultan and his family. Clothes, coins, weapons, silver



utensils, and crowns used by Tipu Sultan and Hyder Ali are showcased here. Several paintings portraying key people and historic events, including a 200 years old oil painting showcasing the storming of Srirangapatna, can

be seen in the museum.

Our trip ended with a visit to the Iskcon temple in Rajajinagar of Bangalore, with the blessings of shree Krishna.

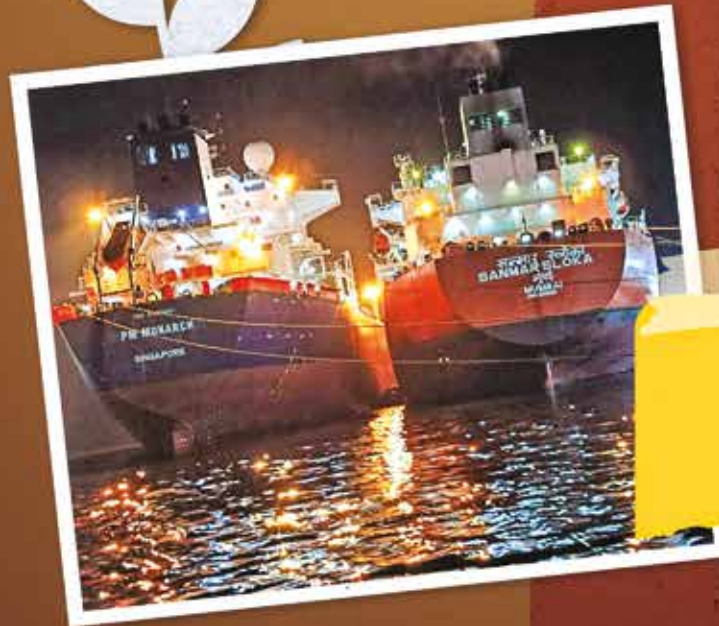


SHUTTERBUG SHOWCASE

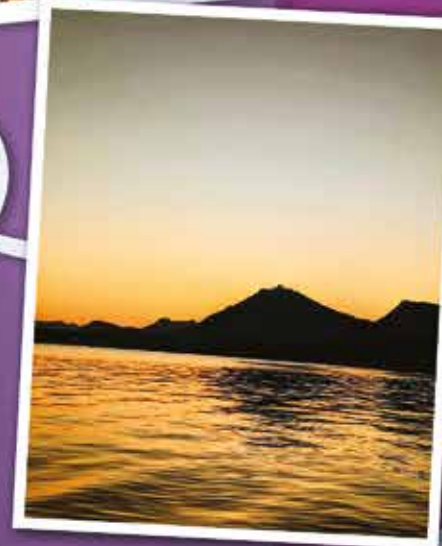
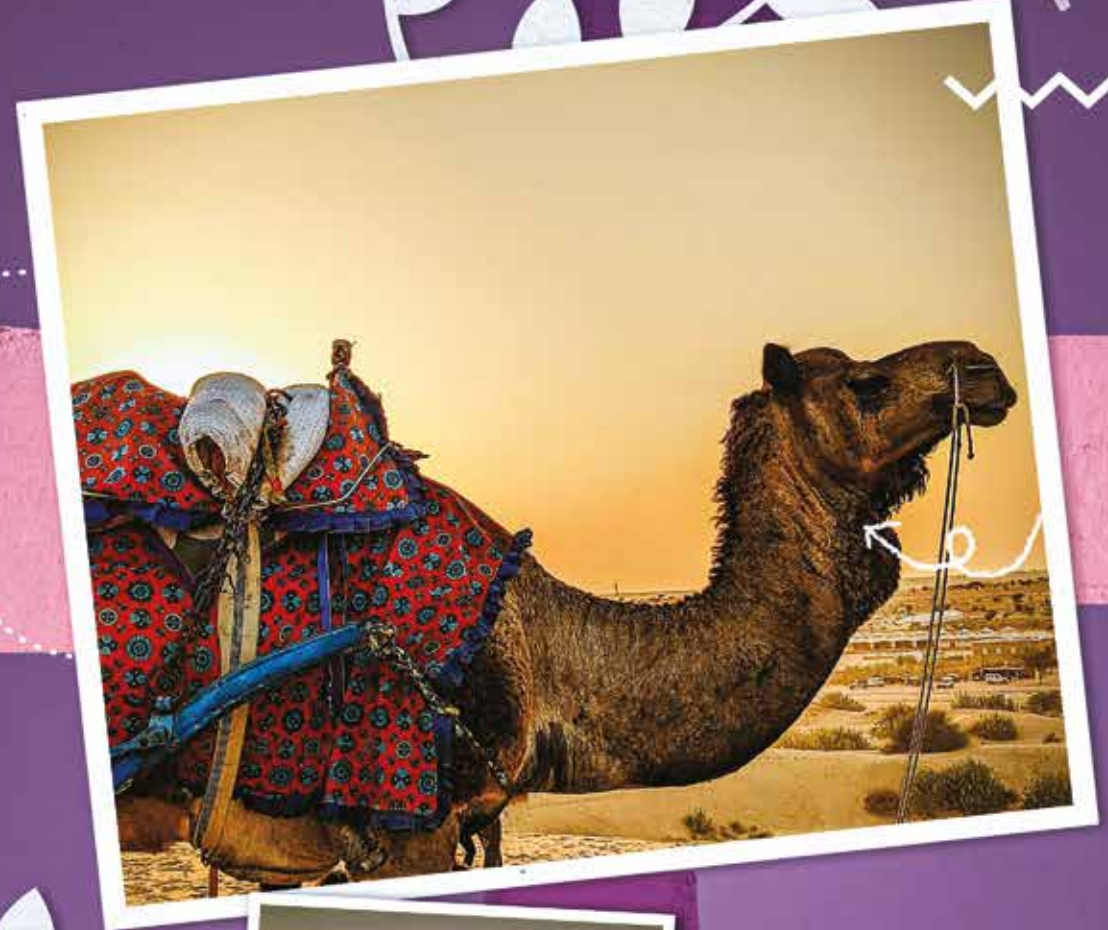




Shweta Ganguly
HDPE manufacturing, HPL



Abhishek Srivastava
Chemical Logistics, HPL



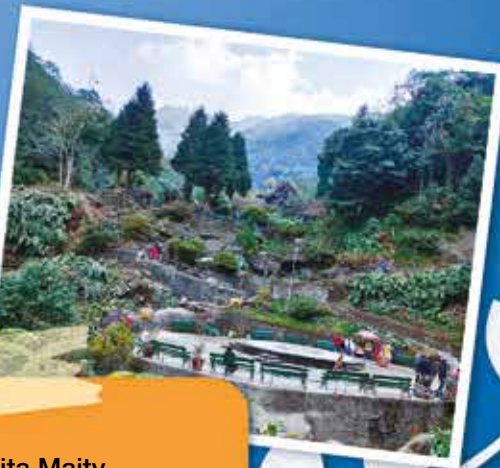
Rupam Raha
PP Manufacturing, HPL



Sougata Rakshit
LLDPE manufacturing, HPL



Sunandita Maity
D/o Biswajit Maity
Manufacturing- IOP, HPL



Nishika Saha
Polyester Centre of Excellence, MCPI



Sujit Kumar Haldar
Inspection & Reliability Support, MCPI

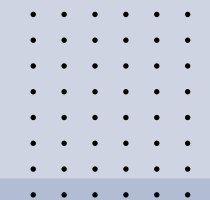


Subhojit Haldar
S/o Sujit Kumar Haldar
Inspection & Reliability Support, MCPI

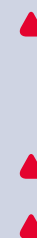
HAPPENING AND HAPPY



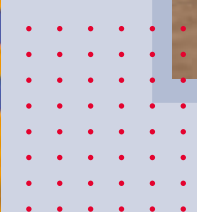
HPL Events



Independence Day 2022 celebration



Republic Day 2023 celebration with great zeal at Plant



Republic Day Quiz at Techna



Holi at HREL



National Fire Service Day



Volleyball Match at HREL



HPL at the 6th Edition of Discussion Forum on Ecological Sustainability in the Industrial Region



HPL at Hadia Trade fair



HPLites at the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K marathon 2022



Carrom Competition 2022 at Techna

- ▲
- ▲
- ▲
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Interviewing Skill Development Program



Women's Day Celebration 2023 at Techna & Plant



HPL as a major sponsor at INDPLAS 2022



Durga Puja & Vishwakarma Puja at HREL



POSH awareness session



Family Engagement programs



Felicitation program for the employees completing PGDME at Techna



Team HPL at APIC 2023



Management trainee batch 2023 with WTD & CEO



HPL chairman Dr.Purnendu Chatterjee at India Petrochemicals – Tech Summit 2023



US Consul general Melinda Pavek visits HPL plant & corporate office



AWARDS:



Felicitation by Haier Applications



Recipient of Encon Award



HDC Port - The Best All-round Performer Award



Long Service Awardees 2023





IOCL - long standing business relationship award



World Environment Day Celebration at HPL plant



Emotional Intelligence Session at Techna



Air Rifle Shooting Workshop for Children with WBRA at HREL Club



Women Wellness Camp at HREL Medical Center



HPL Foundation Day celebration 2023





Giving back to the Society - CSR HPL

Contribution of Hospital Beds, Hydraulic Table for Operation Theatre, Drug Trolley and Wheelchairs for Upgradation of the Maternity Ward at Haldia Subdivisional Hospital



Manjushree Computer Training Centre - for underprivileged meritorious students developed by HPL



Repair & reconstruction of School building: Doro Sovrampur Maktab Primary School





Modernization of Thalasamia care and treatment by contributing Auto analyzer and blood storage unit at Haldia Ramkrishna Seba Sadan, Chaitanyapur



Repair, renovation and reconstruction of school, building and facilities in Haldia



Charitable Health Check Up Facility with Dispensary: built by HPL at Dwariberia, Haldia



Repair and renovation of free student hostel in Mahisadal

Construction of classroom at Haldia Punarbasan Vidyaniketan High School





Community Development Initiative by HPL at Kalapatru Utsav



MCPI Events

Mid-Year Cultural Program



Vishwakarma Puja



Pre-Durga Puja Celebration at HO



Republic Day





Retirement of Parvez Ahmad



Solar Plant at Shataku 1



Women's Day



Safety Day



MCPI Day





National Safety Day 2023



CSR Activity

Certificate distribution ceremony of the Tailoring & Beautician course under the Women Empowerment Initiatives





Environment Day



Solar Plant Inauguration at Administration Building



Awards

Winner of 16th ICC Environment Excellence Award (2022) under the Large Industry Category of Chemicals, Petrochemicals & Fertilizers



NCQC Aurangabad

All the four teams performed extremely well and was awarded Par-Excellency for their presentation. In comparison to other industries MCPI's NCQC team excelled in all round.



Synergy



Ascent



Sanskar



Volcano

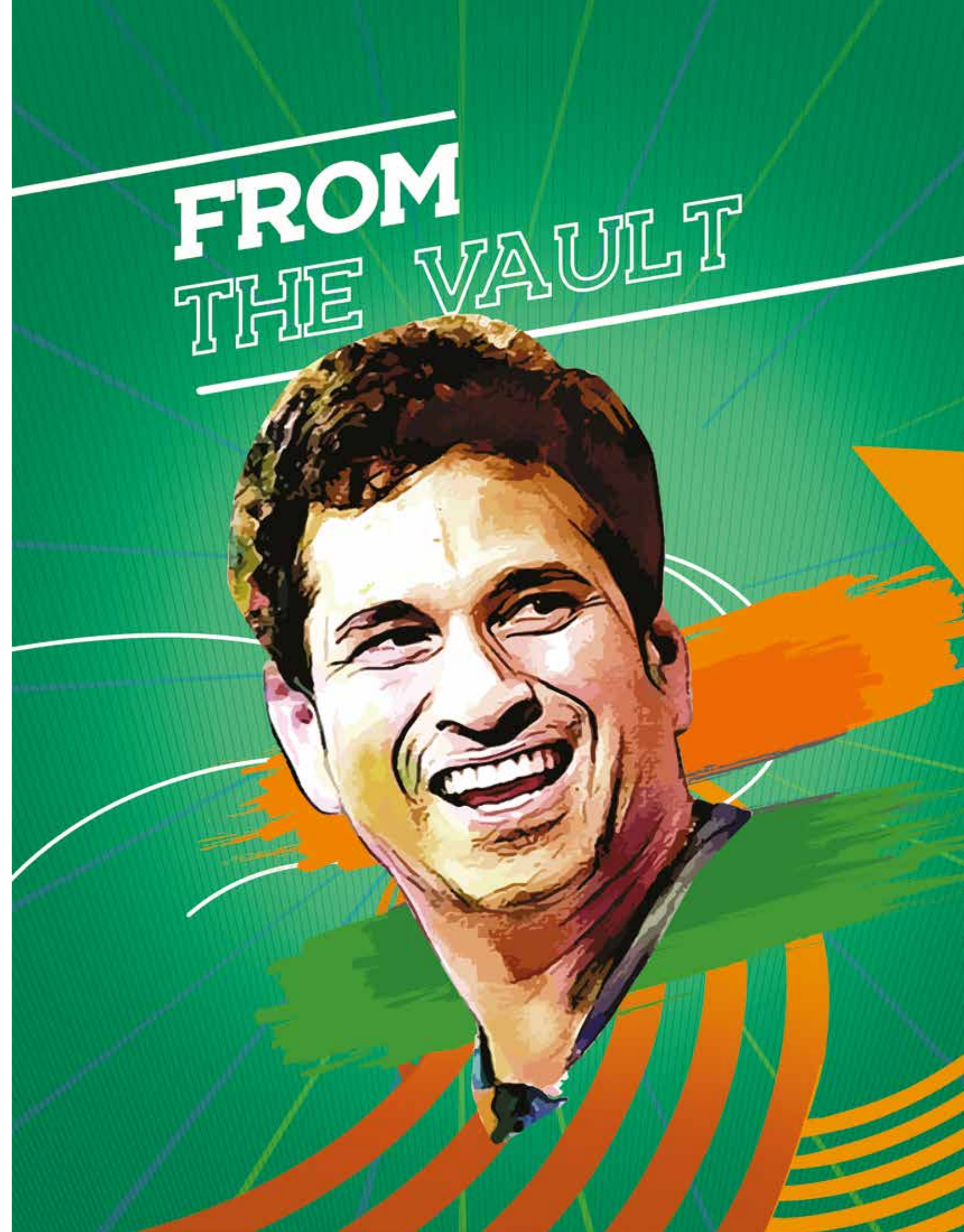
FICCI GIZ Awards on Excellence in Industrial Disaster Risk Management
Winner of Platinum Award



Haldia Fair 2023
3rd Prize in Small Category Pavilion



HDC Friendly Cricket Match
Won trophy for Fair Play Award





How it all started



14 February, 2001: Former Bengal Governor Mr. Viren J. Shah visits HPL plant



Britain's former high commissioner to India Sir David Gore-Booth visits HPL plant at Haldia on 29 January, 1998



HPL Day celebration 2002

2023 CRICKET WORLD CUP FIXTURES

ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND

Thursday 05 October, 14:00 HRS
Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

PAKISTAN VS NETHERLANDS

Friday 06 October, 14:00 HRS
Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad

BANGLADESH VS AFGHANISTAN

Saturday 07 October, 10:30 HRS
Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala

SOUTH AFRICA VS SRI LANKA

Saturday 07 October, 14:00 HRS
Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi

INDIA VS AUSTRALIA

Sunday 08 October, 14:00 HRS
MA Chidambaram, Chennai

NEW ZEALAND VS NETHERLANDS

Monday 09 October, 14:00 HRS
Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad

ENGLAND VS BANGLADESH

Tuesday 10 October, 14:00 HRS
Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala

INDIA VS AFGHANISTAN

Wednesday 11 October, 14:00 HRS
Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi

PAKISTAN VS SRI LANKA

Thursday 12 October, 14:00 HRS
Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad

AUSTRALIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

Friday 13 October, 14:00 HRS
Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpai Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow

NEW ZEALAND VS BANGLADESH

Saturday 14 October, 10:30 HRS
MA Chidambaram, Chennai

ENGLAND VS AFGHANISTAN

Saturday 14 October, 14:00 HRS
Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi

INDIA VS PAKISTAN

Sunday 15 October, 14:00 HRS
Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

AUSTRALIA VS SRI LANKA

Monday 16 October, 14:00 HRS
Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpai Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow

SOUTH AFRICA VS NETHERLANDS

Tuesday 17 October, 14:00 HRS
Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala

NEW ZEALAND VS AFGHANISTAN

Wednesday 18 October, 14:00 HRS
MA Chidambaram, Chennai

INDIA VS BANGLADESH

Thursday 19 October, 14:00 HRS
Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune

AUSTRALIA VS PAKISTAN

Friday 20 October, 14:00 HRS
M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

NETHERLANDS VS SRI LANKA

Saturday 21 October, 10:30 HRS
Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpai Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow

ENGLAND VS SOUTH AFRICA

Saturday 21 October, 14:00 HRS
Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND

Sunday 22 October, 14:00 HRS
Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala

PAKISTAN VS AFGHANISTAN

Monday 23 October, 14:00 HRS
MA Chidambaram, Chennai

SOUTH AFRICA VS BANGLADESH

Tuesday 24 October, 14:00 HRS
Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

AUSTRALIA VS NETHERLANDS

Wednesday 25 October, 14:00 HRS
Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi

ENGLAND VS SRI LANKA

Thursday 26 October, 14:00 HRS
M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

PAKISTAN VS SOUTH AFRICA

Friday 27 October, 14:00 HRS
MA Chidambaram, Chennai

AUSTRALIA VS NEW ZEALAND

Saturday 28 October, 10:30 HRS
Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala

NETHERLANDS VS BANGLADESH

Saturday 28 October, 14:00 HRS
Eden Gardens, Kolkata

INDIA VS ENGLAND

Sunday 29 October, 14:00 HRS
Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpai Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow

AFGHANISTAN VS SRI LANKA

Monday 30 October, 14:00 HRS
Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune

PAKISTAN VS BANGLADESH

Tuesday 31 October, 14:00 HRS
Eden Gardens, Kolkata

NOVEMBER '23

NEW ZEALAND VS SOUTH AFRICA

Wednesday 01 November, 14:00 HRS
Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune

INDIA VS SRI LANKA

Thursday 02 November, 14:00 HRS
Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

NETHERLANDS VS AFGHANISTAN

Friday 03 November, 14:00 HRS
Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpai Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow

NEW ZEALAND VS PAKISTAN

Saturday 04 November, 10:30 HRS
M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

ENGLAND VS AUSTRALIA

Saturday 04 November, 14:00 HRS
Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

Sunday 05 November, 14:00 HRS
Eden Gardens, Kolkata

BANGLADESH VS SRI LANKA

Monday 06 November, 14:00 HRS
Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi

AUSTRALIA VS AFGHANISTAN

Tuesday 07 November, 14:00 HRS
Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

ENGLAND VS NETHERLANDS

Wednesday 08 November, 14:00 HRS
Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune

NEW ZEALAND VS SRI LANKA

Thursday 09 November, 14:00 HRS
M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

SOUTH AFRICA VS AFGHANISTAN

Friday 10 November, 14:00 HRS
Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

INDIA VS NETHERLANDS

Saturday 11 November, 14:00 HRS
M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

AUSTRALIA VS BANGLADESH

Sunday 12 November, 10:30 HRS
Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune

ENGLAND VS PAKISTAN

Sunday 12 November, 14:00 HRS
Eden Gardens, Kolkata

SEMI FINALS

1ST PLACE

4TH PLACE

Wednesday 15 November
14:00 HRS
Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

2ND PLACE

3RD PLACE

Thursday 16 November
14:00 HRS
Eden Gardens, Kolkata

FINALS

WINNER OF SEMI-FINAL 1

WINNER OF SEMI-FINAL 2

Sunday 19 November
14:00 HRS
Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad





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Tel: +91 33 7112 2334, +91 33 7112 2445

Plant (HPL): PO Box No. - 12, P.O. Durgachak, Dist. Purba Mednipur, Pin - 721 602
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