

# THE ECHO

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## AETHER

— SPECIAL EDITION —

■ *“...Ritviz, Ritviz...” the ecstatic crowd chanted until the man himself appeared on stage. The students roared with enthusiasm and the wait was finally over ...”* P02

■ *“...The Badminton tournament had a total of 14 teams participating and the event witnessed a thrilling final match as MU-A team emerged victorious ...”* P15

***EUPHORIC***  
***Capture The Feeling***



# Aether Extravaganza: A Glimpse Into The 2023 Cultural Events

Prachi Kansal, Technical Team

The Mahindra University organized its annual Techno-Cultural fest, Aether, in the first week of April this year. It was an amalgamation of an action-packed bouquet of events from each club of the college, along with a variety of activities, entertainment and scrumptious food. This year's theme was Euphoria, which went along with the tagline #CaptureTheFeeling.



Along with professional shows and other events being conducted by the various clubs of the university, the Aether Cultural team themselves hosted a series of mainly 4 events for the students. The cultural week opened with a thrilling and exciting college Tambola night. Students were invited to join in the fun as numbers, laughter, and prizes converged in an unforgettable event. With each round, the excitement intensified, and the stakes got higher, creating a pulse-pounding atmosphere.



Photo Courtesy of Media Club

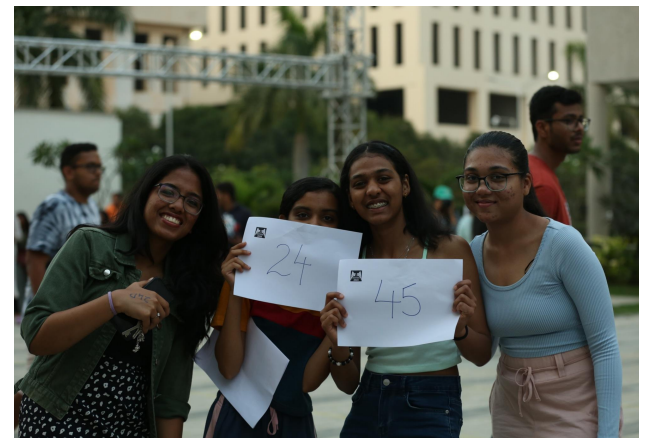
There were 10 prizes for the participants, ranging from being the fastest and winning an "early-five" to ticking off all the numbers on the ticket and getting a "full house". From the anticipation of calling out numbers to the thrill of winning coveted prizes, Tambola Night turned out to be an evening of unforgettable enjoyment.

With pulsating music, dazzling lights, and nonstop fun on the dance floor, the next evening started with the intra-college dance event, 'Campus Groove'. It was the ultimate dance showcase as participants unleashed their inner dancers while grooving to the electrifying beats. From the energetic Telugu beats to catchy Bollywood, the energy was off the charts.

To end the day on a fun note, the crowd indulged in the glitz and glamour of the film world as Filmy Hungama arrived on campus. This exciting event offered students the opportunity to test their knowledge of the world of music and movies.

This series of events came to a close with the most gripping game event, a miniature of the Netflix series that took our breaths away last year.

The student community stepped into the intense world of Squid Games: College Edition. With games like "Red Light-Green Light", "Hot Potato" and "Dodgeball," this thrilling event pushed participants to their limits, testing their physical endurance and mental acumen. The event gained good traction, with around 55 teams playing the games,



each with 5 members. The 10 strongest and smartest teams made it to the top of the leaderboard. Due to unforeseen weather circumstances, the games were cut short and stopped after the third round. All the events were made possible with meticulous

planning and preparation, along with creative ideation of the events by the cultural team, which comprised the cultural heads, along with about 40 other volunteers to help them. For Mahindra students, the event was a memorable night to cherish.



Photo Courtesy of Media Club

## Aether 2023: A Musical Extravaganza That Transcended Boundaries

Sravya Puvvala, Staff Writer

Musically, Aether 2023 embraced a variety of genres allowing culturally different students to unite. This year, the college authorities did a major overhaul of lighting and security to make the venue safer and more secure. Apart from music, the fest also included food stalls and a photo booth. Appreciating the extent of the event, fourth-year student Tanvi exclaimed, "Regardless of age, everyone had the time of their lives. this is probably one of the best events organised by the campus."



As part of the pre-events for Aether, the Red Carpet event took place on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The evening started on a lighter note with people posing in pairs. The duos walked hand in hand, wearing their best dresses and suits. Following the performance of RP The Band, a prominent Telugu band 'Maikam', teleported the crowd into a trance by belting out old and new numbers.



April 9<sup>th</sup> was a magical night filled with numerous energetic performances. The opening act was a performance by the band 'Varnam', a local Hyderabad band. The songs they played had the crowd screaming for more, making the entire experience electrifying. Due to stringent time, Varnam's performance was cut short and was followed by 'Xwitch Kid.'



Photos Courtesy of Media Club

"Ritviz, Ritviz..." the ecstatic crowd chanted until the man himself appeared on stage. The students roared with enthusiasm and the wait was finally over. Everyone was mesmerized as he continued to drop incredible beats such as Baaraat, Jeet, Liggi, Roz, Aaj Na (from his new album MIMMI), and the classic Udd Gaye. Reminiscing on the night, first-year student Kaushik said, "It was a wild night with music that had me in a trance. Can't wait for next year's pro shows."



## Talent Takes Center Stage At Synolo’s Battle Of Bands And Voices

Content Team, Synolo

The inter-college Battle of the Bands and Battle of the Voices are a set of dynamic events that bring together the best musical talents from different colleges to showcase their skills and compete for the top honors. These events were a celebration of both instrumental and vocal performances, creating an electrifying atmosphere that resonates with the passion and energy of the participants and the audience alike.



Photo Courtesy of Media Club

The stage came alive with mesmerizing melodies, soulful vocals, and powerful instrumentals as bands and solo artists took turns to showcase their unique styles and genres, from rock and pop to classical, folk, and more. The competition was fierce, with each participant giving their all to impress the judges and win the hearts of the audience. The events also provided a platform for aspiring musicians to gain exposure, connect with like-minded individuals, and learn from their peers and industry experts. It's a melting pot of diverse musical talents, where students from different colleges come together to celebrate their shared love for music.

There were eight bands and eight vocalists who took part in the competition. The winners of Battle of the Bands were none other than our own Mahindra University’s band, RP\_band and the runner ups were Crescendo from VNRVJIET. The winner of Battle of the Voices was Mrinal Thakur from BITS Hyderabad and the runner up was Varuni from Mahindra University. In conclusion, Battle of the Bands and Battle of the Voices were exhilarating and showcased the exceptional musical talents of college students.



They were a platform for creativity, competition, and collaboration, where the stage became a canvas for young musicians to express themselves, entertain the audience, and create unforgettable musical experiences. The inter-college battle of bands and voices is a highlight of the college calendar, leaving a lasting impression on everyone involved and celebrating the power of music to unite and inspire. Some of the comments and feelings, shared by the audience, along with members of Synolo.

## Dance Floor Showdown: 8Counts’ Battle Of Beats

Manikanta Reddy, Editor-In-Chief

The stage was all set to entertain the audience as 8 counts’ Battle of Beats event began. The night was filled with groovy dance performances by talented dancers coming from various colleges. With electrifying music complimenting the dances, the Battle of Beats event has stirred a wave of excitement among the audience. Participants from various colleges have performed in three categories: solo, duet and group. The event was graced by dancer and instructor Dinesh Kharleston, who was also the judge for the dance performances. He left everyone impressed by his own performance on

stage. More than five colleges participated among various categories, and students from Mahindra University participated in good numbers, showcasing their talent amidst the cheers of our own. The first and second places in the solo category were secured by Pranav and Saatvik from GITAM and BITS. The first place in the duet category was secured by BITS, and the second place was secured by both HY5 Crew from Avinash College of Engineering and 8 counts from Mahindra University. The first place in the group category was won by team CYPHER from BITS and 8counts placed second.



## The Ultimate Digital Escape: Inside the Electronic Escape Room Competition

Krish Hindocha, Staff Writer



Escape rooms have become increasingly popular over the years, challenging participants to solve puzzles and decipher clues to escape a locked room within a set time frame. A recent event occurred during Aether that took this concept to the next level by incorporating electronics and microcontrollers into the experience. The Electronic Escape Room event was organized by student coordinators Soumik Rao and Ishna Jain, and mentored by Professor Bhargav. The event had two stages and involved participants opening a locked box using a microcontroller by giving a particular signal based on the clues. 25 people participated in teams of 6 or 7. The first stage involved deciphering clues to find the password and access the microcontroller, while the second stage involved using the microcontroller to unlock the box

The winner of the event was decided based on the points acquired in each stage. The integration of electronics and coding into the traditional escape room concept make this whole event quite unique. It challenged participants to not only solve puzzles, but also to use their technical skills to unlock the box. It was a perfect blend of creativity, innovation, and technical expertise. The event had impressive turnout, with many people, including Vice Chancellor, Dr. Bishnu Pal, in attendance. Although no judge was present, the excitement and enthusiasm of the participants were enough to make it a memorable experience for all. The event announced the winners to be Ananta Srikar from 4th year taking first place, Ventrpragada Srikar from 3rd year standing 2nd, and Vanashree Mittal, Hitisha Tibrewala, Varshita Reddy from Third Year tieing with Sneha, Sudhamshu, Shanti Kumar from PHD from 3rd place.



## Cracking The Code: A Recap of Enigma’s Aether 2023

Bhavana Gundeti, A&E Editor

Enigma, The Computer Science Club of Mahindra, hosted the “418 Hackathon,” “Data Challenge,” “UIUX Workshop with Kisai,” and the “Mirai CTF” as part of Aether 2023. Suchir Reddy Punuru and Diyaman Roy, members of Enigma, provided brief descriptions and technical terms of these events. The “418 Hackathon” was a 20k-prize pooled 5-day virtual event where the participants were given the theme and rulebook on the 4th April and had to make a final presentation on the 9th April. These kinds of hackathons are so popular that out of 7 total teams, 3 were from other college students! The theme included the usage of APIs, which stands for Application Programming Interface. Coming to the second event, on April 8th, representatives from an AI platform, Kis.ai (Keep It Simple AI), hosted a workshop which discussed UIUX (user interface & user experience) and provided a chance for individuals/teams to invent an idea and on the second day, the teams of the selected ideas had 6 hours to create a prototype of their app (paper, vue.js, or Figma) and present to the Kis.ai members, which was the “UIUX Challenge”. The workshop was “extremely interesting” and “a great learning experience”, as stated by the participants as “they were introduced to basic web design principles and given a crash course on web design using the Kis.ai framework”, Suchir elaborated. The prize pool was 50K and on the day of distributing the awards, the CEO of Kis.ai himself came to the university to declare the winners. Thirdly, the “MIRAI-Capture the Flag” was a

20k prize pooled cybersecurity challenge held for 3 hours. Dipyaman Roy stated that “competitors were provided with gamified versions of vulnerable machines, which they must exploit and retrieve a text string, called flag hidden within it”. CTFs usually involve networking and cyber/computer security skills. The “Data Challenge” was the biggest event of them all, having 41 individual registrations, out of which 29 were out of campus - and the prize pool being 50K. Hosted on Kaggle, a familiar platform, this event was of help for their careers. Using their Machine Learning skills, participants were to build a model trained on the given dataset to make predictions. Overall, we see how impactful and beneficial these events were to students for their professional goals. **List of Winners**  
**- 418 Hackathon**  
**1st Place: Team Lead by Shubh Srivastava**  
**2nd Place: Team Lead by Monisha Kollipara**  
**3rd Place: Team Lead by Maneesh**  
**- UIUX Challenge**  
**1st Place: Anirudh Chimpidi**  
**2nd Place: Parth Shah and Saathvika Jali**  
**3rd Place: Monisha Kollipara, Sahasra Mereddy, Mahathi Marepally**  
**Special Mention: Bhavana Gundeti**  
**- MIRAI CTF**  
**1st place: Ananta Srikar Puranam**  
**2nd place: Team from BITS Pilani Hyderabad led by Kevin K. Biju**  
**3rd place: Team led by Thribhuvan Rapolu**



# Insider Scoop: Aether From The Perspective Of Its Organizing Committee

Medha Prodduturi, Editor-In-Chief



Photo Courtesy of Media Club

Each year, the Techno-Cultural Fest of Mahindra University - Aether - is organized by a group of third-year students that go through a selection process involving multiple rounds of faculty interviews. This year's organizing committee consisted of various teams tackling different aspects of the week-long fest. To get a perspective on what it's like to have a backend view of such a large-scale event and to understand the mishaps and successes of the fest, The Echo sat down with the organizing committee of Aether 2023.

After stating that the interview processes for their respective roles were quite straightforward - questions regarding why they're the right fit, why they would like to take up such a responsibility, and what their plans are to execute this event - the committee soon brought out the concrete details.

Initially, a couple of ideas were floating around for this year's theme.

Having put up a poll on the Aether Instagram page, the student body had 3 options: Glow in the Dark, Euphoric, and Summer Spring Vibe. Although Glow in the Dark was most voted for, due to logistics issues the committee decided otherwise. "For the first time in Aether history, we planned to have a theme shift. For Pre-Aether events, Summer Spring Vibe and for events on and after the Red Carpet, a more party-based theme like Euphoric," Convener Nalin Koundinya said. Based on those two themes, the committee had also planned to sell Aether Merch. Design Team member Neethu Vangapalli recalls merch like "bottles, stickers, t-shirts, fridge magnets, caps were all under discussion." However, with the stringent time taken into consideration, the team concluded on Euphoric as the single and final theme. In terms of how each club event was scheduled meticulously throughout the Pre-Aether and Aether days, Hemal Tummapudi believes the cultural team did an efficient job with it.

"[The team] and I were given complete freedom by the Management to schedule events. The timing, the expenses, and the expected number of participants for each event were planned on a daily basis," he said. However, he feels as though club heads could have pitched events that centralized the aim of their respective clubs. The cultural team felt that in the future, club heads should prioritise organizing events that not only align with their core values but also enclose a reasonable budget.

A notable aspect of any Aether is the Pro-shows conducted on the very last day. This year, Varnam, a prominent local Telugu Band, followed by Ritviz, Singer-Songwriter and Record Producer, performed on the Mahindra stage. Though the committee originally had plans to invite Djane and Music Producer Mariana Bo, the plans were soon shut down when Ritviz's name was brought to the table. Pro-Shows Head Mufaqam Mohiuddin goes on to say that although it's not easy to bring an artist like Ritviz who rarely performs university shows, in hindsight, the team should have prioritized the appeal of the audience. "We hadn't seen [Ritviz] perform live before. Sometimes you have to keep in mind the difference between an artist performing live versus listening to them on streaming platforms," he expressed. Moving forward, he feels, it's crucial to weigh in such factors earlier on in the decision-making process.

Bringing renowned artists and executing numerous events also calls for the Logistics and Finance teams to uptake responsibility. Logistics Head Ridhi Bigala expressed her satisfaction with how her team has navigated through the week, saying, "Considering the weather conditions during the three majors day of

the event, I believe the logistics team has successfully executed the event in the best possible way." Compared to the budget allotted for previous Aethers, the management's allotted budget was comparatively higher this year. As nearly half of the budget was comprised of sponsorships, the team went on to appreciate the work done by their sponsorship team. Sponsorship Head Ananya Reddy recalls the initial rejections faced by numerous companies, yet says, "We were very disappointed with the rejections, but we didn't give up. The support from our mentors kept us going." For the upcoming years' Aether organizing committees, however, the team had some valuable suggestions. "Pro-show artists are just artists. Respect [them] but don't give them the highest of priorities," said Koundinya, referring to the balance the committee must maintain in handling any last-minute requirements artists may impose on them. They went on to advise the future committees to allow people to do the jobs they're assigned to do. Simply putting it on the same note, Hemal Tummapudi said, "Let people do their job." Regardless of the hurdles and conflicts of interest in the process, the committee recognized that in a small amount of time, being a part of the team became their new regular. Decor Head Ananya Gandikota remembered the day after Aether, saying, "I woke up and there was nothing to do. It was something we were working on for so long, and it was all done."

And like that, Aether over the years has not only brought the entire student body under one roof, but also helped organizing committees like this one to make new friends, become leaders, and put together something that entices the interest of a larger audience.

# Erudite's Repartee: The Annual Debate Competition

Anoushka Alex, Staff Writer

On the morning of 7th April, some eager and some anxious faces could be seen in LT1 waiting for the Erudite's Annual Debate to unfold. But wait, let's start from the very beginning... Repartee is Mahindra University's Annual Debate Competition, conducted by the Erudite. It is a competition for eloquent college students who have what it takes to voice what will stir the heart and soul of society. This year, however, the club decided to take this tradition a step further and make Repartee an inter-college event.

The first round was the debate Prelims-where students of MU had to pair up and submit their entries. Four selected teams would then lock horns, the winner of which would become Mahindra University's official debate team. The topics for the debate were "Movie adaptations ruin the integrity and uniqueness of the original work" and "Celebrities should be allowed to endorse products they don't use". The final round was between Tanmayisri and Suchir, and Dipyaman and Ashray on the topic "Public safety should be given priority over personal preference". We saw Dipyaman and Ashray emerge as winners, who would go on to represent MU in Repartee.

On 7th April, 10 AM, some eager and some anxious faces could be seen in LT1, waiting for Repartee to unfold. An accomplished three-member jury - Prof Venkatraman, Prof Bhanukiran, and Prof Kamna - would judge the event.



Photo Courtesy of Media Club

Teams from CBIT, Malla Reddy University, GITAM, and MU would battle it out, to win prizes from a pool of 25K.

The first semi-final round saw Amaan and Sasikiran from GITAM pitted against Ashray and Dipyaman from MU as they discussed the topic, "Politicians should be chosen on the basis of their educational qualifications." The second debate was between Hemanth and Abdul from CBIT and Vamshi and Mohit from Malla Reddy University

on the topic, "Mandatory military service should be instituted for a period of two years for all citizens." CBIT and MU marched their way into the Finals where they debated the topic, "The 2023 Union Budget of India significantly benefited the education sector". Both teams presented well-researched arguments, with confidence and passion. The rebuttal round added another layer of depth to their arguments. The event ended with Mahindra University being

crowned the winner of Repartee 2023, CBIT coming a close second.

Repartee has always stood as a testament that critical thinking and the power of persuasion are essential skills in today's world. With words clashing as sharpened swords, intellect and focus being the armour, the teams battled and we saw ideas clash. There couldn't have been a better end than seeing our own college team come out victorious.



Photo Courtesy of Media Club



# Capturing Moments And Shaping Narratives: The Media Club

Medha Prodduturi, Editor-In-Chief

Over the years, Mahindra University's Media Club has committed to capturing authenticity in student-run clubs, seminars, workshops, and sports tournaments, documenting a wide range of activities taking place on a daily basis. The Media Team is a community that consists of students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences but shares a common passion for visual storytelling. Their drive to bring the best work forward has led to attending any event regardless of short notice and late nights in the Media Lab, filtering, sorting, and fine-tuning for hours. The heart of the club is the art of photography; however, the club succeeds in providing a space for members to experiment with different styles, genres, and other media domains as well.

Sitting down with the team, it was clear early on how involved they were in exploring their creative perceptions. Although she didn't have any experience in this field of work before, Tanasi Singarapu, a first-year student, said, "I joined the club because photography fascinated me, and I wanted to learn more. I learned a lot, and I am still learning."

The club has given a platform for its members with a wide range of skillset, allowing them to grow and trust their work ethics. When third-year students and current club heads Likhith Gadde and Maitreya Guduru joined the team, they were intrigued by the variety of resources available to them to leverage their photography skills. "I always had a fascination for expensive cameras, taking good pictures of people, and nature. This club was a good opportunity to use the tools and bring out my talent," Guduru said.

Since acquiring the managing positions in the club, however, both Gadde and Guduru feel they don't find enough time to shoot like they once could. "I like shooting a lot. There were days I shot for 12 hours straight, and I liked those days. After becoming the head, I had to take a step back. It did feel a bit hard staying in the media lab and giving the camera to someone else to shoot," Gadde stated.



Recognizing that, members of the team feel the utmost responsibility to take care of the expensive equipment handed to them. "Our heads trust us a lot. The equipment is expensive even though they are rented. It's difficult to hand [such equipment] over to new volunteers and to train them," first-year student Pragati Shinde said while hoping that the upcoming club heads are just as supportive as Gadde and Guduru.

With most other clubs in the university not recognizing the Media Club as an independent one, yet benefitting off their work, members of the club feel it's high time they get the appreciation they deserve. In efforts to bring more attention and create something of their own, the club had conducted a Photography Workshop as part of an Aether 2023 event, calling it ViewFinder. Koumudi Balla, first-year Law student, recalls the success of the workshop, saying, "When I came to Mahindra, the Media club was something that was just clicking pictures for other clubs. But this workshop was a huge deal because we were recognized as a club and it was a step forward for all of us."

Although the team was occupied with the numerous Aether and Airo events, they all felt strongly about making this workshop happen. With only two hours in hand for preparation, the workshop attracted 40

people. Content with the turnout, Gadde said, "Till now we are only a club for namesake. After the workshop, we were by definition a club, because a club should have club events." Gadde and Guduru both hope that ViewFinder is a reminder for everyone in college that the Media Club is one of its own and also for its members to conduct regular events in the future. With camera equipment costing the university huge amounts of money, the club has found vendors giving them the best deals in the city itself. Most of their equipment is rented for large scale events. Otherwise, the club works with a camera owned by the branding team. "We can't be a multifunctional club with only one camera. When simultaneous events happen, the same camera can not be used to shoot all events," Gadde stated.

Since the quality of work the Media Team produces for the university, the branding team and all the clubs are no less than that of professional photographers and is equally, if not more, time taking, Gadde and Guduru both feel compensation in some form would be ideal. "[Photography] is an expensive task. But the work we do on campus is comparatively cheaper to a professional photographer doing this for a living," Guduru said. Regardless of the hiccups in the process, the team



constantly works to improve the functionalities of the club and makes sure work is done in an efficient manner. When it comes to addressing other club heads, the Media Club has only one request: let them know an event is taking place at least three days in advance.

The Media Club has been the backbone for numerous events in the university. The club welcomes people from all schools and gives them an equal opportunity to explore their photographic interests. Singarapu recalls the growth of the club in the past year and the future of it, saying, "I see this club going places. Our volunteer count has increased, and so many people are interested in joining."

As the time nears to pass down the club to the upcoming club heads, Gadde and Guduru both look back at their days in the Media Club and the learning they took from Finney Graham, the 2022 head. When Graham pushed Gadde and Guduru to managing positions, they had one goal: make the Media Club a club and not just a photography studio. With the path they paved to fulfil that goal and the hope that the club flourishes and rebrands as an independent one, Gadde leaves us with a sweet note, saying, "I just wanna make sure that whatever reason I didn't wanna become the head for, that same reason my juniors won't have in the future."

## Ideastorm: EIC's Business Idea Hackathon

Content Team, EIC

IdeaStorm was a 48-hour Inter-College Business Idea Hackathon that encouraged students to come up with innovative and viable ideas to solve problems and pitch. This event was inaugurated by Shikar Goel and Chandan Perla, who also declared the hackathon open and released the problem statements.

Participants were given 48 hours to brainstorm, develop and pitch their business ideas for defined problem statements. The event was set to take place in a hybrid mode at the convenience of the participants of 30 teams.

The participants also have got an opportunity to attend a workshop called "How to Pitch your Idea" by Professor Neil Tarralo, a Senior Lecturer from Cornell

**The winners of the Hackathon were declared as -**

**First place: Laalithya and Team (Weavers- Organic Dyes)**

**Second place: Sudamsu and Team (Agriculture)**

**Third Place: Parth and Team (Cabverse)**

**Runner ups:**

**1) Akshita Rai & team (whiz kids)**

**2) Ayush Dixit & team (Digital Mandi)**

Participants were offered a prize pool of Rs 27000, and the event offered students a chance to demonstrate their entrepreneurial abilities and network with industry experts. Those who joined IdeaStorm had the opportunity to think out of the box, develop their skills, and potentially turn their ideas into successful businesses.



## MARC Reunites The Alumni Of MU

Lakshitaa Lanii, Staff Writer

This year's Aether was truly an unforgettable experience. As the most anticipated annual techno-cultural fest of our college, it exceeded all expectations and left an indelible impression on all who attended. The occasion was a fantastic break from the rigorous college routine, creating an environment of entertainment and new interactions, forging connections and new experiences.

One of the most significant highlights of Aether 2023 was the reunion of the 2018 batch, who were welcomed by the Mahindra Alumni Relations Club and treated to a range of activities spanning all three days. On the first day of the three-day extravaganza, the former students were welcomed with drinks and refreshments, and a team of enthusiastic coordinators were on hand to guide them around the campus. The MARC team had organized a special lunch, which was a delightful way to kick off the festivities.

There is perhaps no greater joy for the alumni than the opportunity to reconnect with their alma mater, reunite with old friends and professors, and relive the cherished memories of their college days. As such, the alumni were treated to a social interaction with faculty members at the Vivekananda Hall, CEE. The esteemed Vice-Chancellor, along with a distinguished panel of deans and professors, graced the occasion with their presence and imparted their wisdom through inspiring talks and engaging personal interaction with their former students. As the day drew to a close, the alumni savoured the dynamic atmosphere of the Battle of Bands and Battle of Voices.

The second day was jam-packed with a plethora of fun activities, thoughtfully curated to delight the alumni. It kicked off with a game of Tambola, where the former classmates engaged in a friendly competition. Later, a grand reunion celebration ensued, featuring a cake-cutting ceremony and an array of engaging



activities such as distributing titles, sharing pictures and many more enjoyable diversions. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the day was the exceptional lunch served at the LT-2 Dining Area, designed to connect the alumni to their college days. The scrumptious biryani and other traditional delicacies were not only delectable but also evoked a sense of nostalgia, eliciting fond memories of the past.

The final day of this memorable fest was a splendid opportunity to unwind and enjoy the electrifying performances of Varnam, XwitchKid and Ritviz. With a blend of Bollywood, Tollywood and electric music, the event drew to a close with a bang, leaving behind a range of emotions and phenomenal memories for the students and alumni alike. It was heart-warming to see old friends reunite and catch up on their college days.



## Étincelle: A Week Long Celebration Of The French Language

Bhavana Gundeti & Shreeniketh A K

The French department of Mahindra University conducted ‘Étincelle-Semaine de la Francophonie’ - a week full of events celebrating the French language and culture. It was held from 17<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, with the celebrations commencing with an opening ceremony. The ceremony had speeches from the French faculty and a flash mob. There were banners and educational posters present all over the campus, as people gained lots of information about the French culture through them.



Prior to this week, on April 12<sup>th</sup>, a pre-event with the Artfelt Club was also conducted. It was a poster competition called ‘Afficiel.’ The participants had to make a poster about Francophonie and what it symbolises to them. Abhigna Kappagantula, a participant, commented “I really loved the experience. The blend of music, art and spending time with my teammates made me really happy”. The Inquisitive Club had also organized a quiz as a part of the celebrations, named ‘Qui Say?’ on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Theme of the quiz included culture, food, geography, history, etc. of the Francophone countries.



The participants were enthusiastic and competitive, and there was a sense of excitement in the room as they worked together to answer the questions. On 18<sup>th</sup> April, a karaoke competition titled ‘On Chante Hé,’ and a poetry recitation competition titled ‘Po-aime’ were conducted. The students were given a list of songs and poems to choose from, and the judges selected the winners based on their pronunciation and intonation of the French words. One of the participants, Ananya Hazarika, was prepared for this event as she had already “knew the lyrics by heart” of a popular French song beforehand. Thus, she had a great time singing in front of the audience.

A workshop titled ‘Le français à travers l’art’ was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> April by Prof. Anjali Bagde, Dean of School of European Studies, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. Participants were shown famous paintings by some celebrated artists. At last, the participants made some illustrations by themselves. The workshop, Ankita Sarkar said, was a “wonderful experience and she learned many new things about French culture.” Throughout the week, there were different word challenges in French conducted by

volunteers, including tongue twisters, Pictionary, adding numbers in French, Lost in translation and identifying Francophone countries’ flags. It provided an opportunity for students to improve their French knowledge.



The celebrations culminated into a cultural evening, called ‘Soirée Culturelle,’ which was the highlight of the celebrations. There were songs and dance performances, a skit and felicitation of the winners of the different competitions held. The courtyard was beautifully decorated with lights, the smell of Macarons and Palmiers wafting through the air amongst the cheers of the audience. Professor Sherlin gave a surprise with a stunning vocal performance as the crowd cheered on.



The event was not only fun and entertaining, but it also served as a reminder of the importance of promoting linguistic and cultural diversity in our university.

## A Run To Remember: Outreach Club's CANathon For Cancer Awareness

Content Team, Outreach Club



Although the weather decided to surprise the Outreach Club by raining in the middle of summer, on April 14<sup>th</sup>, with a plan in place, they headed to KBR Park to conduct CANathon: A run for cancer awareness in partnership with Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute. The races were flagged off for 5K and 3.5K, and Honourable Sri Justice Nagesh Bheempaka, a high court judge, inaugurated the marathon.



200 students and faculty members came together to run for cancer awareness with the motto in mind being, "There is a CAN in CANcer, as we CAN beat it." The sponsors for the event were SBI, Food Sutra, and the Lion's Club.



Each participant was given customised merchandise, a water bottle, and Tata Gluco+ during the marathon. A team of 20 volunteers was around to provide guidance, water, and a confidence boost to the participants. After the marathon, everyone was taken to Basavatarakam Hospital, where they were provided with breakfast by Food Sutra. Post breakfast, CEO, Dr.R.V. Prabhakara Rao gave a warm welcome along with a small presentation on cancer awareness by the doctors at the hospital, which was followed by a small question and answer round.



In the 5K marathon, boy's 1<sup>st</sup> place was taken by Yashaswi Singh and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place was taken by Vipin. In girls, Anoushka Alex took 1<sup>st</sup> place, and Emani Sri Gayatri took 2<sup>nd</sup>. In 3.5K, Karthik Sattiraju came in 1<sup>st</sup> and Prof. Om Prakash came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the boy's category, while in the girl's category, Bhavya Chaurasia came in 1<sup>st</sup> and Akshaya Rao came in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Participants who finished the marathon were awarded medals, and the club members were honoured with shields.

## Introducing Haven: The Animal Welfare Club

Minal Sirigiri, Social Media Team

With a constant rise in the awareness of animal welfare, it is only fit to introduce “Haven”, a club devoted to promote humane treatment of animals and to provide education about animal welfare issues. Animal cruelty is a serious issue that can cause physical and emotional harm to animals. It is often linked to other forms of violence and can also have a negative impact on communities, as studies have shown that individuals who engage in animal cruelty are more likely to engage in other forms of violence against people. This club will serve as a platform for students who are passionate about animal rights and welfare to come together and work towards creating a better world for them.



Some activities that will be hosted include setting up feeding/ water stations, adoption and vaccination drives, and organizing workshops and seminars with animal activists.



## Voguenze Kicks Off Aether With Its Spirit Days

Content Team, Voguenze

Voguenze's Spirit week for Aether took place from 3rd to 5th April. The week kicked off on Monday with a 'Red Out Day', where students dressed up in red colour outfits. The entire campus was awash in red, coming together to celebrate the unveiling of Aether. The next day was 'The Ethnic day'. Students put on their best traditional outfits and witnessed the vibrant cultural performances.



Finally, putting an end to the Spirit week, Voguenze conducted 'The Mismatch Day' on 5th April where students dressed up in the wackiest clothes from their wardrobes spicing up their fashion game. Overall, the Spirit Week at Mahindra was a huge success. The week-long celebration gave students a great opportunity to come together and show their college spirit through a range of exciting and entertaining activities. The event was well-planned, and it was an excellent opportunity for students to create lasting memories with their peers.



## Evolve Conducts Weekly Meditation Classes

Prachi Kansal, Technical Team



Evolve's first weekly meditation session was held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The session was taken by Dr. Prashant Kumar Gupta, a trained yoga instructor by the Art of the Living and a professor at The School of Management of Mahindra University. The event started at 6.30PM and was held at the Canopies near the roundabout, all participants were made to sit on chairs

that were procured from the administration. The session was attended by students, faculty, and non-teaching faculty with a turnout of 50 people. The session lasted for about 30 minutes, during which 17 were allocated for meditation and the rest of the time was spent doing exercises known as Bhastrika.

## Flora and Film: Press, Pose, Preserve

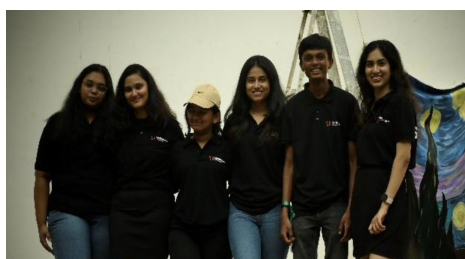
Content Team, Ambrosia



Ambrosia, the Biology club of MU, had conducted an herbarium event, 'Flora and Film' on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April as a part of the Pre-Aether events. The event was designed to introduce students to the art of making herbariums and to promote an appreciation for plant life.

It took place in the courtyard of the School of Engineering. Around 100 students had registered for the event, where a polaroid photo was taken of each and everyone. The photo was then put on a frame with different decorative materials like dried flowers, burnt newspapers, potpourri.

Throughout the event, volunteers were present for every team to demonstrate how to make an herbarium and to answer any questions they had. The club's initiative was in efforts to have participants engage in a fun and educational activity while making eye-catching art.



## Wax to Wonder: Kalakriti's Candle Making Workshop

Krish Hindocha, Staff Writer



Photos Courtesy of The Media Club

A candle making workshop was organized by Kalakriti on April 4th. The workshop was hosted by Ms. Mahek, a candle making expert. The main organizers of the workshop were Mihir Ranjan, Keerthana, Vanashree Mittal, and Parth.

The workshop allowed students to make three different flavoured candles of their choice. These flavours included Vanilla Rose, Ocean Breeze, and Lavender. The students first melted the wax and then the colour was added to it. After that, essential oils are added to the mixture to give the candles their fragrance.

The mixture is then poured into the jars and left to cool.

The next step is to decorate the jar candles. The students were given a variety of materials to choose from, such as jute rope, shells, and rose petals. They were encouraged to be creative and come up with unique designs for their candles. Once the decorations were complete, a handmade love sticker was added to the jar. The process of making jar candles was simple yet rewarding, and the students were able to create unique and personalized candles to take home with them.



## Celeste Astrophotography: Capturing the Cosmos

Shashi Kanth, Staff Writer

As a pre-aether event, Celeste - the astronomy club - conducted an astrophotography contest called 'Celestial Clicks.' The event took place from 25th to 30th March 2023. In this competition, participants had to submit pictures of the night sky and the best entries were selected. The winners had the opportunity to join Celeste's first star-gazing session with a telescope.



On 3rd April 2023, the winners of the competition, volunteers, the Celeste committee, and space enthusiasts came together for an unforgettable night of celestial wonder. The event was held at the Aether ground and participants were able to take turns looking through the telescope. They were guided by our volunteers who helped identify various objects in the night sky, such as the moon, constellations etc. In addition, the weather was favourable, with clear skies, allowing for uninterrupted stargazing and making the experience a pleasant one. Participants were enthralled by the breathtaking views of celestial objects and were in awe of the vastness and beauty of the night sky.

All Photos Courtesy of The Media Club

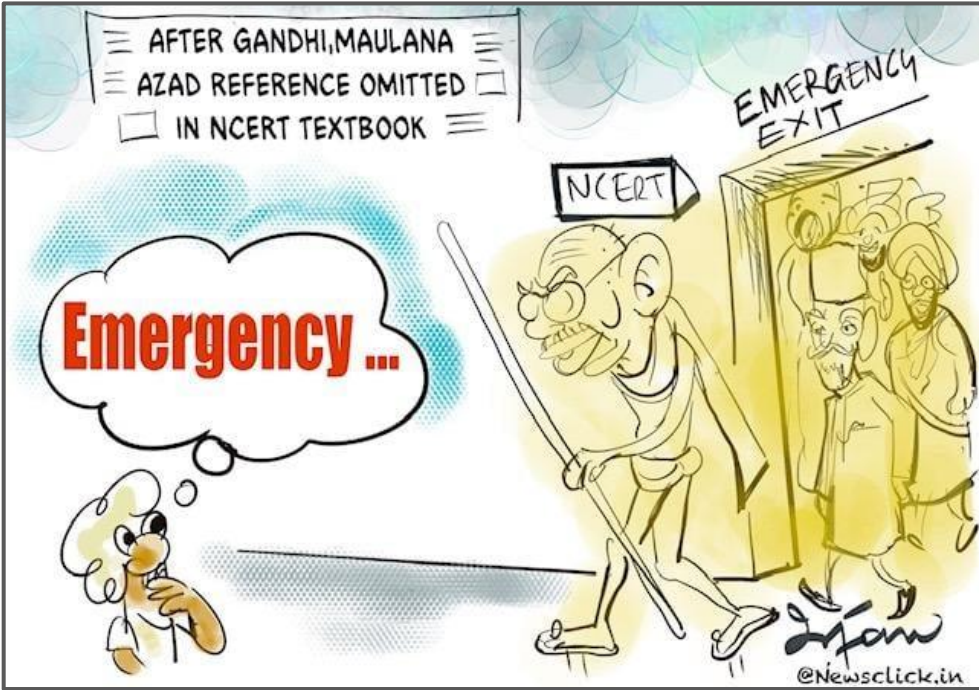


# NCERT's Educational Makeover: Embracing Innovation and Relevance

Sathya Saranya Vedula, Staff Writer

The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous body formed by the central government. NCERT textbooks are read by more than 5 crore students in 18 states. Over the years, NCERT has undergone several changes in its philosophy of the curriculum of school textbooks. With the recent changes announced as part of the syllabus 'rationalization' exercise, the Council is again being criticized for deleting important portions of social sciences including India's medieval and contemporary socio-political history. The removed topics in history include The Mughal Era, The Delhi Sultanate, all the references to the Gujarat riots, Nathuram Godse's background, the government's ban on RSS and some text on the role of The Hindu Extremists during the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. The NCERT has faced criticism by doing so and have been said to be politically motivated in their actions. The rationale behind the NCERT's actions are as follows:

**Lesser workload for students:** Often criticized to be too vast and demanding, the changes in the curriculum will now lessen the workload on students and hence relieve them of mental and physical stress.



Photos Courtesy of newslick

**Outdated Content:** Some topics in the current syllabus may contain irrelevant information which may not be useful to the students in the contemporary context. Topics like Swachh Bharat, Digital India, GST, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, demonetisation etc are not included in the current syllabus. The updated content moreover reflects the latest developments in fields such as science, technology and social issues.

**Lack of representation:** The present syllabus of the NCERT does not represent

the diverse cultural background of India adequately, leading to the lack of appreciation of the country's rich heritage. Replacing the chapters on the Mughal Empire, the NCERT has now introduced topics like yoga, Ayurveda and Vedic mathematics to help the students appreciate traditional practices. This was done in accordance with consultation from various groups of academic and religious groups that recommended these set of changes for students studying in CBSE.

The changes in the NCERT history curriculum also led to some controversies. The removal of topics like the Mughal era and the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi raises concerns about the government's motives. Some are opposed to the removal of Mughals from the syllabus as the Mughal kings did not "loot India but made it rich" by encouraging trade, developing roads and other transport systems, abolishing many taxes, manufacturing good such as cotton, cloth, spices, indigo, wool, silk and salt. The NCERT is also facing criticism as it is being perceived as biased in portraying a particular viewpoint or ideology on historical events, political issues or cultural aspects. For example, the book "Politics on Independent India" talks of the dominant nature of the Congress, Socialist and Communist parties of India.



## From Peril To Progress: The Indian Tigers' Journey

Mahidhar Vanguri, Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy of NDTV

At the beginning of the 20th century, as high as 100,000 tigers lived in India. However, during the Crown rule in India, the British encouraged people to kill tigers by offering rewards. Due to this, by the time of Independence, the population of tigers reduced to around 40,000. Though the British left India in 1947, poaching and habitat destruction continued till 1973. By this time, only 1,827 tigers were left in the country. This was when 'Project Tiger' was launched, and the tiger was declared as the national animal.

### LAUNCH OF 'PROJECT TIGER'

Since 1973, when only nine tiger reserves were there in the country, the number of tiger reserves rose to 53 by the end of 2020 with the combined efforts of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) and 'Project Tiger'. However, there has been a decline in the tiger population until 2006 when there were only 1,411 tigers. In the consecutive years, the tiger population in the country doubled to 2,967 due to better protection under Special Tiger Protection Force, *M-STripes* (Monitoring System for Tigers-Intensive Protection and Ecological

Status), and better Tourism Guidelines for Tiger reserves. As of 2018, there have been 646 tigers in the Gangetic, 1033 in the Eastern Ghats and Central Indian Highlands, 219 in the Northeast, and 88 in the Sundarbans. As per reports from NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) in 2023, the tiger population increased to 804 in the Gangetic, 1161 in the Eastern Ghats, 194 in the Brahmaputra Plains, and 100 in the Sundarbans. Though the tiger population increased in most of the regions, the tiger population in the Western Ghats declined from 981 in 2018 to 804 in 2023. The Western Ghats is a mountain range that runs north to south in the Deccan Plateau comprising a total area of 160,000 sq. km. The area faces several environmental issues like deforestation, habitat loss, climate change, etc. which may have led to a decline in the numbers. The political scenario of the region is also quite noteworthy. According to the KasturiRangan report (2022), about 37% (about 60,000 sq. km) of the total area of Western Ghats must be proposed as an eco-sensitive area (ESA). Activities such as mining, quarrying, setting up of red-category industries and thermal power plants, use of commercial timber, and tourism are prohibited in such zones. But the state governments of Karnataka, Kerala, and Goa are opposing this proposal. To restore the region's heritage, the area must be declared as an eco-sensitive zone, and human activities that degrade the flora and fauna of the region must be stopped.

## SuperNovas Are Celestial Explosions Shaping The Universe

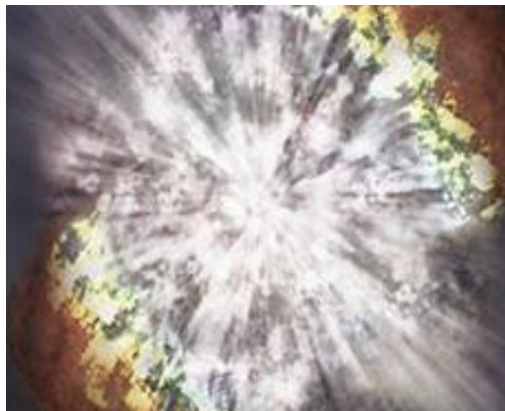
Shashi Kanth, Staff Writer

A supernova is an astronomical event marked by the explosion of a star, resulting in one of the most potent and luminous occurrences in space. These celestial explosions offer captivating sights and provide scientists with valuable insights into the universe's composition and expansion. Supernovae in the Milky Way are challenging to observe due to the dust obstructing our view. The last recorded supernova in our galaxy was discovered by Johannes Kepler in 1604. However, NASA's Chandra telescope found more recent evidence of a supernova in the Milky Way, which detected the remnants of an explosion over a century ago. Two primary types of supernovae are known to occur:

**Binary Star System Supernovas:** Two stars orbit a common centre in these systems. One star, a carbon-oxygen white dwarf, gradually accumulates matter from its companion star over time. Eventually, the white dwarf accumulates excessive matter, leading to a supernova explosion.



Photos Courtesy of NASA



Photos Courtesy of NASA

**Single-star supernovae:** Mass flows into its core when a single star reaches the end of its life cycle and runs out of nuclear fuel. As the core becomes heavier, it can no longer withstand its gravitational force, ultimately collapsing and triggering a supernova. However, not all single stars have enough mass to undergo this process, and for instance, our Sun will not experience a supernova. Supernovae, despite their short-lived nature, hold vital information about the universe. Certain supernovae have revealed that our universe is not only expanding but also doing so at an accelerating rate. Moreover, these explosions are crucial in distributing elements across the cosmos. The debris and factors released during a supernova eventually contribute to the formation of new stars, planets, and other celestial bodies. To study supernovae, scientists employ various telescopes that detect visible light, X-rays, and gamma rays emitted during these events. As our understanding of these celestial explosions continues to grow, supernovae will remain a critical aspect of unravelling the mysteries of our universe.



# Oscar 2023: Not so ‘naatu’

Alekhya Kosuru, Forum Editor

If someone told me even a year ago that I’d see a Telugu song being performed on the Oscars stage, I’d laugh it off. The 95th Academy Awards was a milestone night for the South Asian community, with “The Elephant Whisperers” winning Best Documentary Short and RRR’s “Naatu Naatu” winning Best Original Song accompanied by a live performance of it. Given that the entire song essentially talks about moves rooted in traditional Indian folk dance, you’d think it’s obvious to showcase dancers of Indian descent onstage. Well, maybe it wasn’t.



Photos Courtesy of NDTV.com

It didn’t take people long to point out the astonishing lack of South Asian representation onstage during the performance. Styled as stand-ins for Jr. NTR and Ram Charan, one of the lead dancers was Lebanese Canadian, while the other declined to clarify his ethnic identity. Explaining the casting process, Oscars Producer Raj Kapoor said they wanted to be open to any ethnicity to help honour the global impact of the song.

Not only does hiring an ensemble to represent global diversity contradict the anti-colonial message of the song in the first place, but the entire process highlights the convenient shortcuts that can directly lead to exclusion.

Performing at the Oscars is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and rejecting well-known Indian choreographers’ work just because the Academy prefers to work with “dancers they already know” is a weak argument. Is there a dearth of expertise and experience among Indian dancers? Absolutely not. It’s just that unless we’re allowed to step in when the opportunity offers itself to us, we can’t be expected to expand our horizons. Telling us to be grateful that an Indian song was nominated (and won), and asking us to be happy with what we got is part of the problem. It almost makes it seem like the award was given to us just to show that they’re being “inclusive” and not because we actually deserve it. Our winning the award doesn’t and shouldn’t overshadow the overwhelming racism that was evident in the performance.

For many years, South Asians have been forced to accept minor roles, especially in the entertainment industry and to see it happen in an era where we witness so many barriers being broken is extremely problematic. Being conscious of where we’re heading as a society and working through the problems as we go can hopefully bring an essential positive change. It’s high time the world moves forward with more cultural literacy.

# Fromage Haven: The Culinary Delights Of PS Cheese Cafe

Ananya Agarwal, Staff Writer

Ask any Gen Z in Hyderabad for suggestions to go to a café and their answer will be Roastery. However, when it opened its latest brainchild, PS Cheese Café, in Jubilee Hills, it was a whole new game. With its large white windows, sunny yellow interiors, and glass roof, PS Cheese most definitely caught everyone’s attention. Located 45 minutes from campus, it is pocket-friendly at a cost of 1100 for two and pet-friendly.

On entering the doors, it’s hard not to be mesmerised by the bright yellow and white walls and the large windows accompanied by a transparent sunroof to gaze at the stars or watch the raindrops fall. Their outdoor seating is like a home garden, with lush green trees and a cool breeze surrounding you, while on the inside there is air conditioning. If you are lucky enough to get indoor seating, go for it; this may be one of the few cafes where the indoor seating is much more beautiful than the outdoors. Indoors, the seats are arranged thoughtfully around the coffee and dessert section, giving the oval-shaped building a courtyard vibe.

One of their most popular brews stands to be cranberry coffee; even as a non-coffee drinker, I loved the taste of it. Their coffee mojito is a must-try, a brilliant mix of espresso and mojito. The menu for the non-coffee-based drinks is sparse, but the brownie shake is delicious; though extremely heavy on the stomach, it is a delicious addition to the side of a good pizza. One of the must-tries at this café is their cheese platter, which, unlike a usual charcuterie board with aged cheese, is made with freshly made cheese and is built around the Indian palate.

The platter offers cream cheese, feta cheese, ricotta cheese, and mozzarella cheese, all freshly made in-house. It’s served along with crackers, and fresh fruits in the vegetarian version, while the non-vegetarian option offers it along with crackers, fresh fruit, olives, chicken sausage, and salami. The servers explain which cheese is paired with which item for the best taste.



Photos Courtesy of Ananya Agarwal

Their AOP Sauce pasta is a dry pasta dressed beautifully with flower petals. When it comes to their confit tomato and mozzarella cheese bruschetta, the bread was toasted with a generous amount of olive oil. The chef here is capable of making a simple grilled spinach and corn cheese sandwich, one of their bestselling items. The complementary bread and cheese dip and banana bread were a sweet addition to their service.

The artisanal cheese café is one of a kind in the city. While comparing it with Roastery, the brews section of the menu remains the same, while the food menu is also partly borrowed from there. PS Cheese Café, however, has its own set of cheese-based items on the menu, which add to the charm of the place. One thing both places share is a waiting line; neither of the places takes reservations, which adds to a long waiting line at peak hours. Yet, the food was to die for, and the brews will be any coffee lover’s heaven. Overall, the instagrammable interiors, delicious food, good service, and decent pricing make it a visit-worthy place.

# Does Attendance Really Mean Education?

Srikar Tadeparti & Vineel Pentrala, Staff Writers

You drag yourself out of bed because it is Monday, and you’ve got to get to class since attendance is compulsory. You sit among a class of three hundred similar students, with barely any of them willingly there. Most of them surf through Instagram, play video games, or watch Netflix, and you wonder what the point of coming to class is, at all. A whole day of similar classes. The professor, likely facing the same morning, is now forced to teach to a bunch of uninterested students, in a noisy and unappreciative classroom.

A mandatory attendance system gets more students to attend, sure, but how many of them are actually learning? The inclusion of unwilling students can create an atmosphere that further reduces the number of students interested in class. An atmosphere for learning is created only when the professor and students each fulfill their duties of teaching and absorbing knowledge.

Mandatory attendance policies can be coercive and undermine the autonomy of students (Attanasio & Oppedisano, 2010). Students are adults who are capable of making their own policies, and restrictions can evoke feelings of discontent and discouragement. An environment where fulfilling attendance requirements is more important than actual learning can limit activities such as independent study and group work, which means limited deep learning and exploration of a subject.

Such policies not only affect the students, but faculty as well. A false sense of security is achieved, where professors may assume that



Photos Courtesy of Srikar and Vineel

all the students are actively engaged and learning, when it is not the case. This can lead to a lack of attention to teaching methods and learning outcomes, which can ultimately undermine the quality of education that students receive (Kapoor, 2018).

While mandatory attendance has its pros and cons, there are instances where it proves beneficial for both faculty and students. Labs and tutorials, for example, present unique opportunities for hands-on learning and collaborative problem-solving. In these settings, where active participation and engagement are crucial, mandatory attendance can significantly enhance the learning experience. However, it is essential to exercise caution and evaluate the need for mandatory attendance on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the specific requirements of different subjects and the individual needs of students.

# Is India Ready For Electric Vehicles?

Kaundinya Swarna, Staff Writer

Transport is a very important service required for the economic development of a country, and it is a connecting factor between production and consumption apart from the transport of passenger traffic. Reflected in the production and sale of automobiles, it’s safe to say that India is making rapid strides in all parameters. While the use of vehicles has increased manyfold in our country, the consumption of fuel has increased simultaneously. But unfortunately, we have to depend on other countries for our fuel requirements given that a major chunk of our imports is towards crude oil. Apart from economic implications, our dependency on other countries for our fuel requirements has several ramifications. War or political disturbance anywhere in any corner of the Globe can affect the supply chain of oil to our country.

At times, the Oil Producing Countries(OPEC) decide arbitrarily to curtail their oil production which leads to a spiralling of oil prices. This has a cascading effect on the prices of all other commodities in the country leading to inflation and consequent side effects in the form of unemployment, malnutrition and political unrest.

Apart from the import bill, fossil fuel is causing environmental concerns. The pollution has reached a level where living in many cities has become increasingly difficult. Pollution has a direct bearing on the productivity of our workforce as it affects their daily routine and health.

Now, the moot point is whether we can reduce our dependency on other countries for our fuel requirements and also reduce our pollution levels substantially. We cannot curtail the usage of vehicles since transport is a very important economic activity. An important alternative is to depend on clean energy. While so many options like hydrogen fuel, ethanol, solar etc., are available, as far as automobiles are concerned Electric Vehicles appear to be the most feasible and viable proposition.

The biggest challenge before us is the improvement of the quality of batteries and the setting up of charging stations. Once these two problems are addressed, the Indian market is sure to be flooded with EVs. Another important aspect the automobile industry and the Government should take into consideration is the promotion of hybrid vehicles. In India, where traffic is unpredictable and recharge stations are not available, these vehicles relieve the public of their mental worry.

Our automobile industry should concentrate on producing electric vehicles at a lower cost, which will encourage people to use them. They should have a wide range of choices regarding usage of fuel and the best way to solve the problem is to promote hybrid vehicles. Stringent measures should be taken to ensure the quality of batteries; to ensure the safety of people.



## A Human Rights Imperative: Should India Legalize Same-Sex Marriage?

Surya Sankella, Staff Writer

Homosexuality is a romantic or sexual attraction between members of the same sex. It is one of the three main categories of sexual orientation, alongside heterosexuality (sexual attraction to the opposite sex) and bisexuality (sexual attraction to both sexes). The most common adjectives for homosexual people are gay for males and lesbian for females. The exact cause of sexual orientation is unknown, but scientists theorise that it is caused by a complex interplay of genetic, hormonal, and influential experiences and do not view it as a choice. Across cultures, humans are predominantly heterosexual, with a small percentage being homosexual or bisexual.

India has a vast history of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) communities, and their rights have evolved recently. Needless to say, there's a strong stigma around homosexuality in India because of which a large percentage of queer people do not openly identify due to prejudice and discrimination such as homophobia (a negative attitude towards homosexuality) and heterosexism (a system of attitudes in favour of heterosexuality).

Section 377, an act of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) introduced in 1861 during British rule in India, criminalises homosexuality. However, in a historic verdict, the Supreme Court of India on September 6, 2018, decriminalised Section 377 of the IPC and allowed gay sex among consenting adults in private.

Despite that, same-sex marriage continues to be illegal, and the couple won't have any rights when it comes to inheritance, divorce, property ownership, or adoption like their heterosexual counterparts. This is because India's socially conservative government is against the legalisation of same-sex marriage and questions whether the court has the right to decide it at all. The government went on to reject the argument that marriage equality is a fundamental right, evoking strong reactions from LGBTQ communities. Leaders of different religious communities have joined hands to oppose the legalisation of gay marriages, stating that it contradicts the very idea of procreation and "natural family order."

On the flip side, India's Supreme Court has been receiving numerous petitions to legalise same-sex marriages. The petitions are asking to extend the right to marry a person of one's own choice to LGBTQ citizens. People argue that homosexuality is not a disease and is totally natural. An individual's sexual orientation is not a choice but something biologically created. Having said that, a state cannot ask its citizens to marry only in a certain way. The final verdict is yet to be heard from the Supreme Court. If the result favours the LGBTQ community – which is unlikely to happen looking at the circumstances – India will be the 35th country worldwide and the 2nd in Asia to allow marriage equality.

## Unpacking The Resistance Religious Leaders Against Same-Sex Marriage

Ashray Gupta, Staff Writer

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, started hearing petitions on same-sex marriages. This is a major event for LGBTQIA++ rights in India, after repealing Article 377 by the same court in the famously known Navtej Johar judgment - decriminalisation of consensual gay sex.

However, this case led to something rare- the unity of various faith leaders against the petitions. While some have filed an intervention in the case, others have lodged appeals to the President to intervene. It won't be wrong to say that calls for the constitutional rights of the LGBTQIA++ community have led to unity in bigotry.

The Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the Communion of Churches, the Akal Takht, Hindu Gurus as well as representatives of the Ajmer Dargah and Jain gurus, have expressed apprehensions regarding the legalisation of the same-sex marriages. They have iterated that the legal sanction would be against natural family order and their scriptures. The VP of Jamaat-e-Islami also added that this will violate the rights of men and women in the country. Adv Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing against the petitions took the unsaid liberty to say "Homosexual couples are not equal to Heterosexual couples" in open court,

conveniently ignoring that the constitution does not allow the creation of any classes of citizens in the country.

Religious groups protest whenever the victims of their persecution demand to expand their rights because they want to keep their control over peoples' lives concretely. For instance, Clergy in the USA protested against bills and the Obergefell judgement of SCOTUS for recognizing same-sex marriage. The same goes for the Hindu groups that protested against the Hindu Code Bill that recognized women as equal citizens.

Make no mistake, the institution of heterosexual marriage is very important for religion to capitalise and exist in the first place. This idea loosens the grip religion has over people to control them. Observe how countries like Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Pakistan etc. formed on religious beliefs criminalise homosexuality with capital punishment, let alone allow marriage. Patriarchal ideas of religions firmly concretized by hetero marriages are diluted by the legal sanction on same-sex marriages. Hence, it is important for the people to stand in solidarity for these rights of the LGBTQIA++ community as the table of time can turn against anyone.

## Kunal Kamra Files A Case Against IT Rules 2021

Praharsha, Staff Writer



Photos Courtesy of The Indian Express

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021's constitutional legitimacy has been contested in a number of Indian courts, including the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court of India. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced the guidelines in February 2021 with the intention of regulating social media platforms and online material. Social media platforms are required by the regulations to comply with a number of requirements, including the appointment of a grievance officer, the removal of illegal content within 24 hours of receiving a complaint, and the implementation of traceability for specific types of content. As part of it, any false or illegal news will be removed right away.

A petition challenging the constitutionality of the rules was filed in the Delhi High Court by comedian and social commentator Kunal Kamra.

The rules, according to Kamra's appeal, are illegal and infringe the freedom of speech and expression that the Indian Constitution guarantees in Article 19(1)(a). Additionally, he contends that the regulations give the government too much power and might be applied to muzzle criticism and dissent.

In my opinion, Kunal Kamra is right, and this law will put an end to the careers of those who rely solely on social networking sites. While it is important to stay away from bogus news, peoples' careers also matter. Many other articles, like freedom of expression and equality, which I believe to be quite valid, are violated by this law.

The result of Kunal Kamra's appeal against the IT rules 2021 is still pending as of the deadline of September 2021. The Delhi High Court was scheduled to hear Kamra's appeal in May 2021, but the hearing was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## A Note From The Editors-In-Chief

The final edition is out as the semester comes to an end. We have started this club this year with the intention of reporting and writing articles of various events that take place around the college, which can then be read and discussed among the students, faculty, and parents. The Echo helps in keeping you informed and get an in depth analysis of certain news and topics. While we witness how events organised by clubs unfold in front of us, the behind-the-scenes part is largely not known by everyone. We aim to bring their stories to the forefront. Over the months, we have discovered various talented writers and editors who have contributed immensely to each edition. Apart from the creative side of writing, we actively encourage students and faculty to express their opinions and thoughts on issues that would be helpful and knowledgeable to people who read it. It helps people to form an opinion, ponder about it whether in agreement or disagreement but eventually lead to a healthy discussion. In the future, as the consistency and frequency of editions increases, we anticipate more and more writers to write for us across the different institutions

of law, BBA and Engineering, diminishing the differences and letting everyone be aware of the events around the campus.

As we conclude our tenure as Editors-In-Chief, we are filled with gratitude for the work accomplished by our dedicated team as well our advisor, Tabitha Chekuri. Every edition has been put together with utmost commitment, thanks to our journalists who dedicated hours of their time researching, interviewing, fact-checking, and polishing each article to its finest.

To our readers, we thank you for being the driving force behind the time we take to deliver accurate, conversation-worthy, and impactful journalism.

As we pass our positions as Editors-In-Chief to the future heads, we are confident that they will bring forward quality editions, making sure to uphold the values of integrity and ethical reporting. We encourage you too to continue contributing to us and embrace the transformative power of journalism. Thank you for being part of this journey, and we look forward to seeing how the club will transmute in the coming years.

THE  
Echo

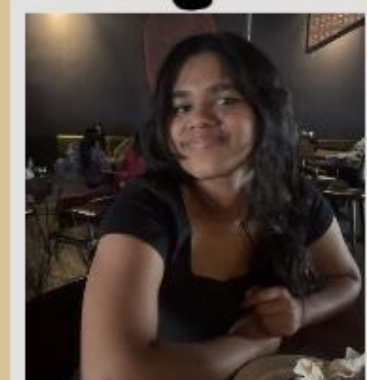
Logo by Divya Reddy

~ Medha Prodduturi  
Manikanta Reddy



Photos Courtesy of The Leaflet





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# A Tapestry Of Stories: A Review Of MasterShot's Versatile Cinema

Manikanta Reddy, Editor-In-Chief

## Tomorrow

A short and simple story explaining the importance of living in the present rather than sacrificing things for a better tomorrow. The protagonist Vijay (played by Abhishek Vedula) leaves aside his favourite sport and friends in order to pursue and work hard towards his goal of getting a job. The turning point is a call from his father who has high expectations for his son to stop wasting his time and get a job soon. It is quite ironic because Vijay, in this scene is watching a movie called "Dead Poets Society" which has a basic crux that while science and engineering are necessary to sustain life, poetry, prose and love are what we stay alive for. This contrast in the scene might be intentional by the director Vaishnav or I overanalysed. Either way, Vijay chooses to leave everything aside to work on his goal. He finally gets a job and plans to meet Nitya (played by Chetana Buddhiraju) to confess his love but as fate would have it, he is met with an accident and passes away. The technical team has worked well in all departments and the supporting cast (Chirag and Chetana) justified their roles.

**My rating - 3.75/5.**



## Another

Another, a film by Goutham Aitipamula and Amarthya Raj, ticks most of the boxes for a proper horror film. The short film is more about the experience than the story, giving you an eerie feeling throughout. Although the film does not have a three-act structure and goes at a monotonous pace, the team certainly managed to create an atmosphere of horror and evokes a feeling of helplessness for the audience looking at the actors in the film. Special appreciation for the lead actress Sathvika Andhavarapu, phenomenal in her acting especially in the lift sequence and waking up from the dream (possibly?) again and again showing her fear and confusion that we can empathise with. Subtle signs like showing figures in the background during transition scenes and panning the camera over the book titled 'Dreams' certainly piqued my interest. The entire lift sequence was a perfect example of getting the desired output with combined effort of all departments. The red flickering lights, the editing, the haunting music paired along with the close-up shots of Neha showing her vulnerability, all together leave you with a creepy feeling as intended by the directors. Special appreciation to the cinematographer Dhruv Krishan as the entire short film is filled with a range of close and long-range shots along with the running shots parallel to the actors that captured the director's vision. There were also a couple of panned overhead shots that were perfect to watch. The feeling this film has left me with, it is more of an experience that you have to go through to understand. After watching this movie, I would certainly think twice to go to our library at night, all thanks to the directors.

**My rating - 3.5/5**



## Ram-Calm

Ram-Calm is a fresh breeze of a movie filled with humorous dialogues and charismatic actors. Ram (played by Pranav Bhupathiraju), an easy-going and quick-witted guy, starts narrating the story of meeting his friend Harika in a cafe by talking to the camera i.e. to us, continuing its tradition of breaking the fourth wall. Harika (played by Bhashi Chaganti) arrives at the scene and what follows is a five-minute sequence of conversation between the lead actors that is one of the best executed and performed in recent times. The dialogues written on paper do not always translate well onto the screen, but Pranav has managed to add flavour to them in his own style, leaving the audience mightily impressed. Bhashi totally justified her role and characterization as Harika playing as an annoyed and caring friend to Ram, equally complimenting her co-actor in every frame.



What impressed me the most is the non-linear screenplay - the imaginative sequence followed by the transitions between the conversations of two pairs of friends while maintaining the flow of context is top notch. This is very difficult to execute but the editing team, Amarthya Raj and Gowtham Netha, has done a brilliant job in it.

The ending sequence shows Ram after a few years, who is a director now enacting his own life incident in his film. But the scene does not live up to the mark at all. Although it is shown as a comic relief, it is ironic in the sense, not anyone can easily do the same role with his ease and comfort. The music certainly adds a cheerful mood to the film and is one of the plus points. Last but not the least is the director, Suhas Venigalla who also wrote the screenplay and dialogues. He has certainly managed to leave the audience laughing, smiling, and cheering by the end of the film. He brought the story to its fullest form by choosing the right actors, excellent dialogues and a sound technical team.

**My rating - 4.5/5.**

## Agent Viper

Arjun, a narcissistic and a self-obsessed person, code named Agent Viper is the protagonist of the short film. A remorseless character driven by the motive of his job, he is obsessed with the title of an agent and any minor inconvenience in his life is met in the harshest terms to the other person or as he famously says, "The fear in their eyes makes me high." Breaking the fourth wall, the protagonist (played by Lokaditya) explains about himself in a montage, thus establishing his character in a minute. The agency he works at consists of a three-member team: his P.A Manju (played by Dheera Reddy), Theeran, your typical hacker (played by Saketh B) and their boss Dharma (played by Souri Satya Saketh), perfectly portraying the role of a no-nonsense boss.



What follows is a task assigned to Viper to save a girl in the jungle kidnapped by a notorious villain called Mongoose (played by Kedharesh). The rustic abandoned location for viper to invade perfectly fit the theme of the film. One thing that stands out is the background score by G Sai Ravi Teja, especially in the fight sequences that greatly elevated the fights. The fight stunts are not fully mainstream due to obvious reasons, but the editing and background score certainly made it enjoyable. While Theeran (code named Pin) guides him through the earpiece, a small error in access causes viper to get knocked out and tied up to a chair. It all turns out to be a trap by Dharma who is working alongside mongoose to restrict viper. It is shown that he cheated on his agency in an earlier operation. Viper has nothing to lose and is ready to face the consequences, but suddenly the kidnapped girl is brought out, who turns out to be the love interest of our hero. Leela (played by Neha S) is a naïve and innocent girl who understands and listens to whatever Arjun says or does. But for some boring reason (pun intended), he wants to end the relationship.



Sticking to the commercial elements, the hero somehow frees himself, beats up the goons and kills the villain. At this point, the makers of the film made a smart choice by not falling prey to the routine traits of an anti-hero having a moral conscience or a tragic backstory and instead made Arjun fully embrace his negative character by killing Leela, the only weakness in his life. Special appreciation to the editor Prabhath B, who is well versed in the craft and the cinematographers Varun Sai and Adinath for opting an oversaturated yellow tone in majority of scenes and blue lighting in a particular scene that enhanced the intensity of the film.

**My rating - 3.75/5**



# Uniting Cultures Through Art: A Recap of the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre Event

Hamsitha Choudhary, Forum Editor



The Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) hosted a grand inauguration event on March 31st, 2023 in Mumbai, India. Located within the Jio World Centre in the Bandra-Kurla Complex, the event brought together artists, musicians, dancers, and other performers from all over India in a celebration of art and diversity. Attended by a diverse audience, including members of the cultural community, business leaders, politicians, and notable Hollywood celebrities such as Tom Holland, Zendaya, and Gigi Hadid, the event served as a testament to the centre's mission of promoting and preserving Indian art and culture while fostering a sense of global community.

At the event, traditional Indian dance performances by Nita Ambani herself captivated the audience with intricate choreography and vibrant costumes. In addition to the performances, several exhibitions showcased artwork from renowned artists from India and beyond, ranging from traditional paintings and sculptures to contemporary installations which included 'Kamal Kunj' - one of the largest Pichwai paintings in India. These exhibitions provided an opportunity for attendees to engage with the artists and learn about their creative processes, showcasing the breadth and depth of artistic talent.

Nita Mukesh Ambani, the founder of the culture centre, expressed her gratitude for the event's success, saying, "We envision this centre to become home not only to the finest talent from Indian cities but also from our small towns and remotest villages. I truly hope this space continues to inspire and empower our future generations."

The Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre event was an incredible celebration of diversity through art, showcasing the power of art to unite people, bridge cultural differences and promote mutual understanding. It was a true reflection of the centre's mission, and we can only hope that such events continue to inspire and empower future generations, serving as a beacon of hope for a more harmonious and inclusive world.



Photo Courtesy of News18

# The Asian Community Breaks Barriers At The Oscars 2023

V. Rishi Varma, Staff Writer

The 95th Academy Awards, a night of glamour and prestige held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, was a celebration of talent and a display of redemption. 2022 was a massive year for movies, marking the return of classics such as Top Gun: Maverick, mind-blowing dedication from actors like Austin Butler, and unforeseen masterpieces such as Everything Everywhere All at Once.



India was once again made proud of the success of RRR for Best Original Song and The Elephant Whisperers for Best Documentary Short Film. "Naatu Naatu" has transcended all borders, touched the global audience, and received an astonishing amount of success.

In a year of surprises, many awards were given to previously unrecognized talent. Brendan Fraser, known for his role in 'The Mummy Series,' had taken a decade-long break from acting after speaking out about being sexually assaulted by a prominent industry figure, which led to his unjust blacklisting from Hollywood. He made a remarkable comeback and won the Best Actor award for his outstanding performance in 'The Whale'. Now the biggest movie in 20 years, 'Everything Everywhere All at Once (EEAAO)' won almost everything in every category. This sensational movie won a whopping seven Oscars out of eleven nominations while breaking records and tears.

Jamie Lee Curtis took home the Best Supporting Actress award at the age of 64, she took the time in her speech to advocate for the transgender community. Ke Huy Quan won Best Supporting Actor and his emotional speech resonated with many as he shared his journey. Quan spent over a year in a Hong Kong refugee camp before starting his career as a child actor in movies like 'Indiana Jones' alongside Harrison Ford. Despite a 20-year hiatus due to a lack of opportunities for Asian actors, he won an Oscar in only his second movie back. Speaking of second movies,



Paul Rogers won an Oscar for Best Film Editing for his second-ever professional movie. The great Michelle Yeoh won the Oscar for Best Actress at the age of 60 and became the first-ever Asian actor to win an Oscar and made history. The Daniels thought that EEAAO will be their first ever movie to be recognised, but they weren't expecting that recognition to be an Oscar for Best Director. EEAAO also won Best Film, and Best Original Screenplay, and became the most-awarded movie in the world with over 264 awards, beating Top Gun: Maverick and Avatar: Way of the Water.

The 95th Academy Awards provided the recognition of talent that was previously overlooked and the acknowledgement of diversity in the industry made this year's awards even more significant. From India's proud moment to Brendan Fraser's well-deserved redemption, and EEAAO's historic sweep, the night was filled with unforgettable moments. As we look forward to next year's awards, we can only hope to see more breakthroughs and representation in the movie industry.







THE AIRO' 23 OC TEAM



# AIRO 2023

PUSHING LIMITS  
**ACHIEVING**  
GREATNESS

The AIRO' 23 organised by Mahindra University in the month of April turned out to be a hugely successful sports event. More than 20 colleges across the city have come to participate in various sports.

MU sports teams were phenomenal in their performances, winning trophies and medals with their hard work and persistence. The AIRO OC team has played a pivotal role in providing all resources necessary for the games. Following pages showcase some of the interesting sports MU has witnessed.



MU’s Basketball Wins Airo 2023  
Tournament

Abhishek Vedula, Staff Writer

The basketball tournament was one of the most exciting events of the fest, with a total of 16 teams taking part in the boys category and 8 teams participating in the girls category. The tournament was held in the college's basketball court, which was fully packed with enthusiastic spectators. In the boys category, 4 pool brackets were curated fitting in four teams each. Both our MU teams fought hard all the way till the end of semi-finals where MU-A played against BITS HYD and MU-B played against KL University securing a victory in both the matches. The boys' category witnessed some intense competition between the teams, with each team displaying their skills and techniques on the court. The teams from Mahindra University, including MU Team A, MU Team B, and MU Girls Team, showed their dominance on the court, with MU Team A emerging as the champions and MU Team B securing the runner-up position. KL University also put up a great show and secured 3rd place in the boys’ category.



In the girls category, 2 pool brackets were made with 4 teams each. MU girls’ teams performed spectacularly until the end to secure a hard-earned runner-up spot. They faced the GNITS team in the semi-finals where a sweet victory was earned. In the end, it was BITS Hyderabad that emerged as the champions, with CBIT securing the third place. The success of the tournament is a testament to the hard work put in by the players and the organizers. The players' dedication and commitment to the game was evident in their performances on the court. The organizers left no stone unturned to ensure that the tournament ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all the participants and spectators. The winners and runners-up were felicitated at a grand ceremony, where the chief guest applauded the players' efforts and dedication towards the game. The players were given medals and trophies, and the winning team was awarded a cash prize.



Rivalry and Triumph: AIRO Badminton  
Highlights

Sai Raju Namburi, Staff Writer



Photos Courtesy of

The AIRO badminton tournament held on campus witnessed an impressive display of skill and talent by students from 12 different colleges. The participating colleges included CVR, ICFai, MLRIT, CMR, Anurag University, VJIT, Symbiosis University, JNTU, MRIET, and GNITS. The tournament was played for three consecutive days and featured three different events - the men's team event, women's team event, and mixed doubles. The matches were highly competitive, with participants displaying great enthusiasm and dedication throughout the tournament. The men's team event had a total of 14 teams participating out of which MU-A, MU-B, ICFai and MLRIT qualified for the semis. MU-A boys won a close match against ICFai, whereas the MU-B team lost to MLRIT in the second semi-finals. The event witnessed a thrilling final match as the MU-A team emerged victorious with a score of 3-1 against MLRIT. On the other hand, the MU-B team lost to ICFai in the third-place match of the men's team event.

The MU-C team was eliminated in the quarter-finals of the men's team event, putting up a good fight against their opponent team - ICFai. In the women's team event, out of total 4 teams that participated, MU girls team emerged victorious with a score of 2-1, in the closely contested final match against MLRIT girls’ team. The match was a display of sheer talent and determination, with both teams giving their best to clinch the title. Coming to the mixed doubles, MU-A won the gold medal while MU-B won the silver. The tournament was a huge success, with participants displaying great sportsmanship and competitive spirit. The audience witnessed a thrilling display of badminton, with players from different colleges showcasing their talent and skills. The tournament served as a great platform for students to come together and engage in healthy competition while also fostering a spirit of sportsmanship and unity among them.



Cricket: The All Round MU Domination

Saketh Bettakonda, Sports Editor



The cricketing league of AIRO’23 started on 29<sup>th</sup> March, a bit earlier than the AIRO event. The matches took place in three different stadiums with an average of three matches happening per day. The match between MVSr and WOXEN A23 was tremendous. MVSr displayed an amazing batting and bowling performance with the total score of a whopping 242/4 in 20 overs. The bowlers, bowling a wonderful spell restricted WOXEN A23 for 93/10 in 13.4 overs. On 30<sup>th</sup> march, MU team A played against NGIT, winning the toss, and opting to bat. Starting off on a good note with 50 runs in just 4.4 overs, Koushik Avula was on the pitch for a few minutes but scored quick runs taking the team score to 130/10 in 16.3 overs. MU bowlers dominated in the second innings, with Mufaqam taking two wickets with an economy of 5 restricting NGIT to a score of 125/9 in 20 overs. On 31<sup>st</sup> march, MU- B played against AVNIET. Sai Yashwant and Harsh Mathur played a wonderful innings with Chetan scoring quick runs at the end, boosting the team score to 179/8 in 20 overs. The second innings was a complete bowler’s game restricting the opponent to 149/10 in 16.3 overs. On the same day MU-A played

against WOXEN A23 in which WOXEN won the toss and chose to bat scoring a total of 149/7. In the second innings, Abhiram Karyampudi with a score of 67 in just 32 balls chased the target of 149 in just 14.4 overs. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April, MU-B lost the match against VJIT with a difference of 1 run. MU-A got into the qualifiers by defeating MVSr, chasing the target in just 9.1 overs. Defeating VJIT and GRIET in quarters and semis with relative ease, MU-A made its way into finals. In the final match, VNR VJIT won the toss and chose to bat. Yashwant from VNR VJIT has shown splendid performance by scoring 93 in just 36 balls pushing the team total to 155/10 in 16.4 overs. Despite the efforts, MU-A fell short of a few runs and eventually lost the match securing the second place in the tournament.



Photos Courtesy of Likhith Gadde

Power and Strength: Airo Powerlifting  
Competition Recap

Venkata Prateeth, Staff Writer

MU organised the powerlifting competition as a part of the annual sports fest, AIRO for the very first time. More than 15 colleges including GRIET, GITAM, MLRIT registered for the event. The competition was held at the Amphitheatre for two days and three national powerlifters participated as well.



There were separate categories for different weight classes which were held as an "open category". The criteria here was the total amount of weight lifted divided by their respective body weight. Here the total amount of weight lifted is the summation of weight lifted during squat, bench press and deadlift for both boys and girls. In the 61-70 kg weight category for boys, Ranga from MU secured the first place lifting a total of 420kgs followed by K Satya Sai Chandu from MLRIT lifting a total of 415kgs. In the 71-80 kg category, R. Yeshasvin from VNR lifted a total weight of 465 kgs followed by Atmakoor Koushil Goud from BVRIT lifting a total weight of 420kgs. In the 81-90 kg category, Uday (national level powerlifter) from GRIET lifted a total weight of 600kgs followed by DV Prateeth from MU lifting a total weight of 430 kgs.



In both 71-80 and 81-90 categories, MU had a tie for second place and the tiebreaker in the sport is the total amount of weight lifted by body weight. The one with a higher ratio wins. In the 90+ boys weight category we had Arnav Challa from MU securing the first place and Parth Yadav from MU securing the second spot. Arnav lifted a total of 520kgs and Parth lifted a total of 455kgs.



In the girls category we had D Sree Poojitha from BITS winning the first place lifting a total of 320kgs. Chandana Goud won the second spot lifting a total of 200 kgs (total amount of weight lifted divided by their respective body weight criteria).



## IPL 2023: New Teams Rise, Old Powerhouses Fall

Surya Sankella, Staff Writer



Photos Courtesy of IPLT20.com

IPL 2023: A New Phase Has Begun, The Indian Premier League, abbreviated as IPL, is a men's Twenty20 cricket league annually held in India between ten city-based franchises. The Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) founded the IPL in 2007, with the first season being held in 2008; fifteen seasons have been held so far. The IPL is the most popular cricket league on the planet and has an exclusive window for the ICC Future Tours Programme (fewer international tours take place during IPL seasons). As of December 2022, the IPL was valued at \$10.9 billion, making it the second[1]most popular sports league in the world in terms of revenue, only behind the National Football League (NFL). Having said that, the 16th edition of the IPL has been scheduled for March 31–28, 2023 and comprises 74 matches spread across 12 venues. Gujarat Titans (GT), a one-year-old franchise, is the current title holder after defeating Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the final of the IPL 2022. If you take a bird's-eye view, the Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are the most successful franchises, with five and four titles to their names, respectively. They have faced each other more times than any other two teams, thus giving birth to the IPL's oldest and biggest rivalry. Unsurprisingly, their clash attracts the highest viewership, and their rivalry is often referred to as the El Clasico of the IPL. MI and CSK have admittedly lost their prime and are no longer the powerhouses they used to be. The fact that they were literally the bottom-most teams last year and continue to face setbacks this season speaks for itself. While this may have hurt a lot of fans, it made the tournament fresh and interesting. Hardik Pandya's GT, one of the two youngest IPL teams (alongside LSG), already holds a title in their kitty and continues to top the charts this season. Teams like the Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Rajasthan Royals (RR), which are traditionally considered underdogs, are

beating the likes of MI and CSK with their power hitting and smart tactics. Considering these circumstances, it won't be a surprise if these used-to-be-great teams don't make it to the playoffs yet again. The Delhi Capitals are arguably the weakest of all; the absence of Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer is a huge blow to the team. Nevertheless, they have made their presence felt by defeating the mighty GT by five runs. Talking about our home team, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), it has too many voids that are yet to be filled, from David Warner to Kane Williamson to Rashid Khan. The Orange Army, currently led by Aiden Markram, is far from being the best and is struggling to make ends meet. The Nitish Rana-led Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) are quite a mediocre team in all aspects. But how can anyone forget Rinku Singh's carnage against GT? Punjab Kings (PBKS) is a side one cannot rely on. The chances of them qualifying for the semis are wafer thin. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), a highly popular yet heavily trolled franchise, looks promising in all departments if we ignore its overdependence on the KGF trio (Kohli, Glen, and Faf). A tough yet unpopular franchise, the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) have a fair chance to make the playoffs. But considering KL Rahul's leave from the tournament due to a hamstring injury, it looks vulnerable. Remember the gut-wrenching defeat of RR against GT in the IPL final last year at Narendra Modi Stadium? RR paid it back by defeating GT on the exact same ground. Within a span of a few weeks, GT crushed RR by nine wickets at the latter's home ground. GT is without a doubt the strongest of all. A blasting opening pair (Saha & Gill) followed by a good middle order (Pandya, Shankar), a great finisher (Tewatia), a world-class leg spinner (Rashid Khan), and a deadly pacer (Shami), what more do you want? RR and GT are two teams that are very likely to make it to the playoffs or probably make it to the final on May 28, 2023, at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

## Sainz's "Pen"ultimate Lap Penalty: Fair or Not?

Shreyas Aditya Bakshi, Staff Writer



Photos Courtesy of AutoSport

The 2023 Australian Grand Prix that took place on Sunday, April 2nd, had certainly lived up to its reputation as one of the most exciting races of the season, but not without its fair share of controversy.

The latest of which is the controversial penalty handed to Carlos Sainz, the driver for Ferrari, during the latter stages of the race. Sainz had been running a strong race and was in contention for a podium finish when the incident occurred. The incident in question took place after a 'second' red flag restart on lap 57 out of 58 that required 2 laps of flat-out racing to decide the final classification. Sainz made a move on the inside of turn 2 to overtake Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin racing, but Alonso, who was running 3rd at that time, closed the door on Sainz, and the two made contact, resulting in a 360-degree spin for Alonso dropping him to last place.

The stewards deemed Sainz at fault for the incident and handed him a five-second penalty, which ultimately cost him a podium finish. The decision has sparked a fierce debate among fans and experts alike, with many questioning the fairness of the penalty. On one hand, some argue that Sainz was simply trying to make a legitimate overtaking maneuver and that Alonso should have given him more room. Others argue that Sainz was overly aggressive and should have backed off to avoid the contact.

Regardless of which side of the debate one falls on, it is clear that the penalty had a significant impact on the race. Sainz, who had been running in fourth place, at the restart before the incident, ultimately finished outside the points due to another red flag caused by the incident between the 2 Alpine cars in turn 3, while Alonso eventually went on to finish third, thanks

to another controversial decision by the stewards to end the race in the same order as on the start of lap 57 whilst still imposing the penalty on Sainz. The penalty has also raised questions about the consistency of the stewards' decisions in Formula One. Similar incidents have been handled differently in the past, leading some to question whether the stewards are applying the rules fairly and consistently. Emotions were explicitly felt, as Sainz was heard weeping (literally) and pleading with his team to go after the stewards and overturn the ruling.

While the debate over the penalty may eventually die down, it serves as a reminder of the complicated and highly subjective nature of Formula One racing. There is always the possibility of disagreement and discussion with so many variables at play, including driver experience and talent, team strategy, and even the weather.



Photos Courtesy of AutoSport

In the end, however, it is up to the stewards to make the tough decisions and ensure that the rules are enforced fairly and consistently. Whether or not they got it right in the case of Carlos Sainz and the Australian Grand Prix of 2023 will no doubt be a topic of discussion for some time to come.

## Unpredictable Playoffs: Upsets and Nail-Biting Finishes

Adit Rushil Potta, Staff Writer



Photos Courtesy of mirror.co.uk

The NBA playoffs of the 2022-23 season have been nothing short of thrilling, with top teams facing off against each other in intense matchups. The season saw many surprises, with upsets and close games keeping fans on the edge of their seats.

In the Eastern Conference, the Milwaukee Bucks entered the playoffs as the number one seed, with an impressive 61-21 record. Led by superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo, the Bucks showed their dominance in the first round, sweeping the Miami Heat in four games. They then faced a tough challenge in the Brooklyn Nets, who were led by their own superstar trio of Kevin Durant, James Harden, and Kyrie Irving. The series went to a thrilling seven games, with the Bucks coming out on top in a nail-biting overtime victory. The Bucks are now set to face the Philadelphia 76ers in the Eastern Conference Finals, where they will look to continue their impressive form.

In the Western Conference, the top-seeded Utah Jazz had a tough start to the playoffs, losing their opening game to the Memphis Grizzlies. However, they bounced back to win the series in five games, setting up a matchup against the Los Angeles Clippers in the second round.

The Clippers, without their own superstar

Kawhi Leonard, surprised many by winning the series in six games, with Paul George stepping up to lead the team. The Clippers are now set to face the Phoenix Suns in the Western Conference Finals, with both teams looking to make their first-ever NBA Finals appearance.

One of the standout performances of the playoffs has been from Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker, who has been on fire throughout the postseason. He has averaged 29.7 points per game, with a field goal percentage of 48.9%, and has been instrumental in the Suns' success so far. Meanwhile, in the Eastern Conference, Giannis Antetokounmpo has continued to dominate, averaging 28.8 points and 13.3 rebounds per game for the Bucks.

Another impressive statistic from the playoffs has been the number of close games, with many matchups going down to the wire. In fact, the first round saw a record number of games decided by three points or less, with 10 such games taking place. This has made for incredibly exciting viewing for fans, with no team able to rest on their laurels and every game proving crucial.