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## EDITORIAL DESK

After six successful releases and an overwhelming response, we are glad to release the seventh issue of “DISHA”, the newsletter of our Guruji Education Foundation.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if you would like to contribute to DISHA in any way.

We thank Mr. Shubham Lingayat for his contribution towards DISHA and Mr. Abhay Joshi for the editorial help.

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## Glimses of the 10th Annual Day



## Interaction with Ms. Swapnali Jagtap

It was an amazing experience to interact with Swapnali and get to explore the beautiful side of hers. She started taking up the responsibilities of her family at the age of 16 and has quite a lot to share about her experiences. Her Aaji has been an integral part of her journey, says she was never very happy and at peace being a wife or a mother but now as a grandmother she was living her best life. Let's get to know this simple yet brave hearted girl more.

**Congratulations Swapnali on your achievements so far, moving towards the interview, please tell us what is the motivation that gets you out of the bed every day?**

My responsibilities make me follow my schedule. I am the only bread earner of my family and my income depends on daily wages, if I miss one day at work I lose one day's pay. Every paisa I earn is budgeted to a particular expense for that month, so even missing a single day at work disturbs my calculations. I can say this is the thing that gets me out of the bed every day and it is the reason I push myself to be fit.

**Could you share your journey with us, how was it as a student, and how is it now with growing responsibilities?**

I started working when I was in 10th grade and gradually started taking over my family's responsibility. So the responsibilities then and now are pretty much the same. I lost my mother when I was 6 years old and my father when I was 10. My younger brother was just 4 years old when my father left us; they both left us even before he could understand the meaning of Aai Baba. Since my parents' demise Aaji has been our parent and she has taken care of us. I went to private school. Since people thought I was a brilliant student my fees were waived and many times even my teachers paid my exam fees or for the books. Meanwhile, my Aaji was already preparing for our future. She was now worried about my further studies and college graduation. During my 10th standard, I got associated with Vijay Krida Mandal where I met Santosh Kadle sir and through him I got introduced to GEF; thus my journey with GEF began. I completed my education and got a job. My aaji was severely unwell at this time and I had to look after her compromising my office duties. I was worried that my monthly salary would not cover the expenses, Aaji's medicines and hospital bills. Fortunately, my seniors at the

workplace were supportive; they understood the situation and didn't let my work hours hamper my salary. I feel so glad to have found such amazing human beings at every step of my life.

**What is the biggest achievement to date – personal or professional?**

I am part of Guruji Education Foundation, this marks my biggest achievement. Also, my Aaji once said to me that she was never very happy and at peace being a wife or a mother but now as a grandmother she was living her best life. That comment is a huge achievement for me. I feel so happy taking care of my Aaji and my brother, they mean everything to me.

**Who is your inspiration?**

All members of GEF, Santosh Kadle sir, Pradeep sir, and Gopal sir especially. Pradeep sir taught me to be honest and transparent. Gopal sir taught me to be righteous; he said other people must think twice before putting you in any trouble.

**How do you feel to be a part of GEF? Tell us how GEF happened to you?**

GEF has taught me to be what I am today, courageous, independent, and strong. The reason why I am able to communicate with anyone so confidently is because of Pradeep sir, Kadle sir, and Gopal sir. Students like me who were from vernacular medium and who faced difficulty in communicating in English were given professional help, I have seen myself grow. GEF is like a mother to me and just like a child is attached to its mother via the

umbilical cord, I feel a strong connection with GEF.

**Did you lose hope at any point in life because of financial or personal issues? How did you revitalize hope?**

I have spent my life watching my Aaji work hard and take care of us selflessly. She left no stone unturned to make our future better, she didn't rest her entire life. Now, it is my turn to take care of her and my brother. I must work hard and give them all the comfort, I want to live for them. I couldn't afford to lose hope at any point in my life.

**What are your plans?**

I want to build Swapnali Jagtap. I also want to give back to GEF

and help the students in every possible way, although currently I am only taking care of my family. I also have the vision to start my own NGO, I wish to help students who face difficulties like me. I want to be someone else's Pradeep sir, Kadle sir, and Gopal sir.

**Any advice or message to our students?**

There was a time when I ignored calls from all my mentors. Then I continued ignoring their calls because I was feeling ashamed. This went on for a week, months, and a whole year. I was hiding for a year, I was disconnected from GEF. I felt extremely guilty for doing that and one day, I gathered enough courage to face them. If it were someone else, he would have scolded me but Pradeep sir understood me and talked to me very calmly. This struck me hard, Pradeep sir taught me to maintain transparency and to be honest with myself. He made me a better version of myself. I would never in my life see myself doing the same thing again, so just an advice to all the students, never disconnect yourself from the people who care about you, and be loyal & honest.



## Podcast – “ Let`s make our commute time more productive”

The four skills of language (also known as the four skills of language learning) are a set of four capabilities that allow an individual to comprehend and produce spoken language for proper and effective interpersonal communication. These skills are Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

One of our students has shared with us, in a short article below, a very good habit that he has adopted: listening to Podcasts. Since some of you might be wondering what exactly a Podcast means, Mr. Shubham Lingayat has beautifully explained it in this essay. His essay for the monthly form was so impressive that we felt it had to be shared with the whole GEF family.

After reading his article I surely feel inspired to use my time wisely and I think there is a good amount of listening to podcasts behind this excellently penned essay.

Mr. Lingayat has covered the following topics: -

1. What are Podcasts?
2. How listening to Podcasts during commutes is the best alternative to Radio Shows
3. His favorite podcasts and a few recommendations

**Podcast:** We have all been hearing about this trending “thing” on different music streaming platforms and YouTube, and nowadays every other influential personality is releasing and promoting their podcast shows. But, what exactly is a Podcast? And how does it make our long and monotonous commute more compelling and captivating? This article takes a peek into the podcast world and presents answers to these questions.

A Podcast Show is an audio program, sometimes a video program too, hosted on the Internet, just like various talk shows hosted on FM Radios, where, in each episode the host of the show interviews someone, or discusses a topic, or narrates a story of a particular genre, and so on. Though podcasts are on the trend list now, it is not the latest innovation in the media industry. Podcasts have been there on the Internet for more than a decade now. The term “podcast” is derived from the media player, “iPod”, developed by Apple, and the term “broadcast”, the traditional means of receiving information and leisure content on radio or television. It is believed that video jockey Adam Curry and software developer Dave Winer invented “podcasting” back in 2004. There are currently 850,000 active podcasts and over 30 million podcast episodes available worldwide. To listen to a Podcast Show we just have to install an app or visit a website of a Podcast Streaming platform like Google Podcasts, or use Spotify and subscribe to the podcasts we want to listen to and get notified whenever a new episode of that podcast is uploaded.

Most of the students like me and working people have to commute long distances to Colleges or Workplaces every day. Many travel by public transport such as bus, auto, or local train and some travel by private vehicles such as vanpools and cars. During these rides, we entertain ourselves by listening to music or FM Radio Shows. But often it happens that our favorite FM Radio Shows are not broadcast at the time of our travel. A major advantage of podcasts is that we can listen to them anytime, anywhere according to our schedule. And there is a large pool of options or genres posted by creators across the globe, so there are no geographical or radiological (:P) boundaries also. So, a podcast is a perfect alternative to FM Radio Shows. Another cool things about podcasts is that we can play them at any speed, like 1.5x, 2x etc. and finish a 30 minute podcast in just 15 minutes.

The renowned book author Dr. Stephen Covey brilliantly states in his book titled ‘Time Management Matrix’ that “The key is in not spending time, but in investing it”. So, instead of listening to any random FM Radio Show or podcast, what if we choose to listen to the podcasts that are knowledgeable, inspiring, insightful and engaging? Yes, if we choose the enlightening Podcast Shows we would be investing our valuable time and not just spending it. I do invest my commute time, which is roughly 1 hour, by engaging in listening to my favorite podcasts. My top favorite podcasts are **Microsoft Research Podcast, Imagined Life, 7 Good Minutes Daily Self Improvement Podcast, The Empowering Stories, The Seen and the Unseen** and **Cyrus Says**. Also, to improve my English, I listen to **Learn English through Listening**. There is another interesting podcast in my favorites which is **Sleep with me**, in which the host narrates us a story in such a monotonous and sleepy voice that we automatically start falling asleep.

So, now we know why podcasts are trending and why we should try listening to them! We can listen to podcasts of our interest not only while commuting but in our leisure or free time too. So, I encourage all readers to install the Google Podcasts App on your smartphone and start exploring and engaging in the world of podcasts!

- Shubham Lingayat

## ANNUAL DAY SUMMARY

I am one of those fortunate people who is getting the opportunity to complete his graduation, getting to explore new technologies, getting to set my path, getting to fulfill my family's dream. I can set major goals and can see myself achieve them. I am Mr. Shubham Lingayat, a second-year Computer Engineering student from Yeshwantrao Chavan College Of Engineering, Nagpur and it's my first year as a student with GEF.

Since I was attending the Annual day of GEF for the first time, there was a train of different emotions running inside me. The annual day was being held in Thane, Mumbai which further escalated my excitement as this was my life's first trip to Mumbai. Mohan Varadpande sir headed the Nagpur group.

Our trip's first day, my first train journey started the evening of 3rd Jan. I was down with viral fever but chose not to stay back home as I was eagerly waiting for this day and was looking forward to meeting the rest of the GEF family. My friends and Mohan sir cheered me up throughout the journey which kept me energetic. We reached Thane the next morning and it was altogether a different vibe and energy when we reached Pradeep sir's place, felt like everyone was preparing for a huge family function. We got introduced to these amazing personalities like Pradeep sir, Sandhya Ma'am, Neena Ma'am, Sadavarte sir, who are the reason all of us are able to dream and achieve those dreams too. We also met Niraj Dada, Kalyan Dada, Chaya Tai, Ashwini Tai, Mandar Jiju, Omkar Dada, Nikhil, and many of the GEF students, alumni, and supporters.

After the interaction of merely a day with all of them, we all felt a healthy family-like bond among us. On Saturday we prepared for the event and also celebrated Neena Ma'am's birthday. We experienced how humble, caring, enthusiastic, and young these souls are. The next day was the Annual function. I was now doubly excited for the next day.

It was GEF's 10th Annual Day and the program started at 9 am with a welcome song followed by an energetic dance performance of Super 30 students of Thane and Nerul. Our energies were at the peak and we were charged up watching these kids perform. The theme for this annual day was "business". How does one become an entrepreneur? What are the skills required to run a business? Who motivates people to do business? What are the challenges they face and how do they overcome them? What are the factors necessary to run a business successfully? I was already excited about the whole function and was quite sure about one thing, that I was going to take away a lot of things from this day, the people around me, and this place.

The next segment was the interview of Mr. Prashant Sapkal sir who is the founder of the renowned Mithai & Farsan retail chain company 'Prashant Corner'. His life story was inspiring, he shared how he won over the hurdles in his life, how he grabbed

all the opportunities he got. He is a kind of personality who motivated everyone with his story. Despite lacking financially, he fought every obstacle and became a self-made billionaire. If you want to run your business successfully you must build a good bond with your employees, this was the major take away from his interview. Their employees have been working there for more than 20 years, which clearly showed how valuable their employees are for them.

We also got some time to interact with the supporters and the alumni present there. I talked with Arvind Dhupkar sir; he briefed us about how "Data Science" is trending in our Computer Science field. I also interacted with Shashi Agrawal sir and got to know

more about how his venture provides security solutions. After this, Mr. Saurav sir conducted Yoga and Meditation sessions which made us feel fresh and energetic. We also got an opportunity to perform a skit called "Lokachalvalitun Vikas". Neena ma'am and Kalyan dada guided us so patiently and we performed quite well.

After Lunch, I got the opportunity to interview

Shashi Agrawal sir, with Ashwini tai. He explained the crucial qualities to be successful in a business, like risk-taking and perseverance. Then Mumbai's Dabbawala gave a presentation on how it was founded, how the system works without any errors, how several business and management institutes wrote case studies about them. The event finished at 5.30 and we departed for Nagpur from Thane station the same evening.

My mind was full of positive, innovative thoughts, ideas, memories. Though it was called the "Annual Day Function" it was more like a family gathering: an opportunity to showcase skills, share achievements and experiences, get connected. The primary purpose of this function was to bring together all the members of GEF, understand how GEF works, how supporters and mentors contribute towards GEF, and how the betterment of every student is achieved. I saw that it was clearly a great privilege to belong to this prestigious family and I must strive be a responsible student and perform all my tasks with sincerity and dedication. I enjoyed my second family's get-together and took so many life-inspiring lessons from each one of them. I thank each one of you who attended this event for creating one of the best memories of my life. I am honored to be a member of this wonderful family.

– **Shubham Lingayat**

