

DISHA

GURUJI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

August 2024



**Empowerment Through Education:
Building Our Nation's Future**



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ABOUT GEF

Guruji Education Foundation (GEF) is a registered trust, which works with underprivileged students to enable their holistic education, and thus provide them with a more equitable access to opportunities and success. As part of its mission of “**Education for All**”, GEF provides support for holistic education of underprivileged students, based on the principles of:

- Inclusivity
- Quality over quantity
- Cycle of giving
- Customized career planning
- Holistic development
- Collaboration

GEF runs 2 broad flagship programs:

i) Holistic Higher Education (HHE), where high-potential college students from underprivileged sections are identified to catalyze their all-round development by providing them with resources that they may need. The resources could include interest-free loans (to be paid after they start earning), personal mentoring, career counselling and more.

ii) Adolescent Development Program (ADP), which aims at enabling schools, especially those catering to underprivileged children, to provide holistic education spanning physical literacy, psychological strength, intellectual prowess, life skills, and entrepreneurial thinking.

GEF accords special attention towards education of orphans, divyang (differently-abled), and those from distressed backgrounds such as single parent families and families impacted by cancer, covid etc. More than academic brilliance, the emphasis is on providing these students an education that is appropriate to their abilities and can help them in getting meaningful employment.



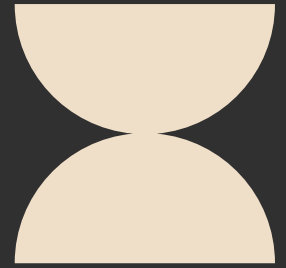
FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

I heartily congratulate and thank the new Disha team for bringing out the new issue on time and in style. As you can see even though the last quarter had a summer vacation, we were buzzing with many activities. I thank each and every volunteer for the same.

This issue is themed around Empowerment Through Education: Building Our Nation's Future. I am too small to write on this considering the many thought leaders who have profoundly spoken and written on this topic. To quote a few, Mr. Nelson Mandela said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". A Ugandan university has the following quote at its entrance "Destroying any nation does not require the use of atomic bombs or the use of long-range missiles. It only requires lowering the quality of education and allowing cheating in the examinations by students". And at the end, Erasmus, a Dutch philosopher whom we often quote, said "The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth". And I rest my case.

Enjoy the new issue, provide your ruthless feedback, and contribute to your Disha.

DR. PRADEEP WAYCHAL



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

- Dr. Nelson Mandela





FROM TEAM DISHA

DEAR GEF FAMILY

We are happy and proud to present the August 2024 issue of Disha in a all new look. The theme of this issue “Empowerment through Education: Building our Nation’s Future”, is especially relevant, as this issue is timed to reach you just as we embark upon our 78th Independence Day celebrations.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy reading the content that we have put together for this issue, and like the new features that we have added. We have also tried to introduce an element of interactivity, through a Contest in this issue. Your participation in large numbers will encourage us to continue bringing to you more such interesting contests, puzzles, quizzes, etc. in future. We would also look forward to receiving more and more content from all of you, so that over a period of time Disha evolves into a canvas that all of us paint together. The content could be related to New Developments in the World, Book & Movie Reveiws, your creative art, articles, etc. - basically anything that you would like to share with the larger GEF family.

If any of you would like to additionally volunteer your time and talent to actively contribute to the making of Disha, please do reach out to us.

Most importantly, we hope to receive lots of feedback and suggestions, so that we can continue to evolve and improve with each issue of Disha.

Happy Independence Day!

TEAM DISHA
disha@gurujifoundation.in

Let's meet

Sanket Bhoyar

Standing tall amidst challenges

An interview with Team Disha

Sanket Bhoyar currently works as a Resource Consultant with the Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra. A member of the GEF family since 2019, Sanket is a post-graduate from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), having completed his Master of Social Work, with specialization in Criminology & Justice. His hobbies include networking, talking to children and social work.



Team Disha: Hello Sanket. We would love to start with your childhood. Can you tell us something about your family and your formative years?

Sanket: I come from a rural background. My village, Sawali Wagh is 55 Kms from Wardha, which is the district headquarters. I completed my primary and middle school education from my village. My parents studied till 7th-8th standard, while my grandfather (Ajoba) studied till 4th standard only.

It is not that I was a very bright student at school, but somewhere, my parents believed and realized that I had the potential to do something good. So my parents sent me to a taluka school to continue my studies after 8th standard.

Team Disha: How has your mother influenced you, and how have her teachings impacted your life?

My mother has been a significant influence in my life. She worked hard to fulfill my educational dreams and taught me to handle various responsibilities.



“... my parents believed and realized that I had the potential to do something good.”



Sanket with his mother

“Her resilience and dedication have inspired me to overcome challenges and strive for success.”

Even though I failed thrice in my 10th standard, my mother believed in me and motivated me to study. Her resilience and dedication have inspired me to overcome challenges and strive for success. She has prepared us to deal with problems and has ensured that we don't face the kind of issues that she had to face in her life.

Team Disha: Moving from a rural area to a city at a young age must have been very challenging. What was that experience like, and what did it teach you?

I moved to a city when I was in the 8th standard, and at that age the change for me was quite drastic. I discovered that there were a bunch of differences in the rural and urban ways of life, and I did face a lot of problems. I realized that my family, financial, and educational background was very different from that of my classmates. Coming to academics, while I knew things, understanding them clearly was difficult. Initially, I felt an inferiority complex, but I overcame it by focusing on my goals and continuously improving myself. Support from my family and new friends also played a crucial role in boosting my confidence.

Now, when I look back and analyze, I realize that because of my rural background it took me some time to adapt to urban life, the experience also taught me many things that have led to my growth and development as a person.

Team Disha: How did you join Guruji Education Foundation, and how did it help your holistic development?

I connected with Guruji Education Foundation (GEF) in 2019 while searching for economic support for my education. Prasadji Manakar and Mohanji helped me connect with GEF. Being part of GEF has been a rewarding experience. It provided me with financial support and opportunities for personal and professional development. GEF has also helped me build a strong network and gain valuable experience in the field of social work.



Team Disha: What made you choose social work as your line of profession? Was there any unforgettable incident or experience that directed you towards social work and made you feel like you want to contribute to nation-building?

My interest in social work developed over time, especially during my graduation from social work. One unforgettable and significant moment was when I went on a study tour to the Snehalaya Organisation in Ahmednagar and met TISS students. Learning about TISS, witnessing the students' passion for social work, and seeing the impact they were making inspired me to pursue a career in social work. I realized the importance of contributing to society and decided to be part of nation-building through social work.

Team Disha: We would love to know more about your TISS journey. How has learning at one of the most prestigious institutes in India helped you personally and professionally?

My journey at TISS was transformative. Being part of such a prestigious institution exposed me to diverse perspectives and a high standard of education. The professors were extraordinary, and I learned a lot from them. TISS also provided

me with opportunities to engage in social work and connect with various organizations. This experience helped me grow both personally and professionally.

Team Disha: What is your current working profile and what are your future plans?

Currently, I work as a Resource Consultant in the Planning Department of the Government of Maharashtra. I am involved in district strategy planning, budget allocation for district development strategies, and analyzing economic potential and employment generation.

My aspiration is to do a Phd in Public Policy soon. I don't really believe in waiting for the right time. and I have already started working towards the same with whatever time I get.

Team Disha: Things have not always gone the way you wished. You have seen failure multiple times in your life. What kept you going? What advice will you give to our students in that regard?

Perseverance and determination have kept me going. I faced many challenges, including failing my 10th standard exams multiple times. However, I didn't give up. My mother's support and belief in me were significant factors.

Having a goal has been a key factor that has helped me reach where I am today. My advice to students is to stay resilient, keep learning from failures, and never lose hope. Each setback is an opportunity to grow and improve. My habit of reading and continuous learning has helped me tremendously.



Team Disha: You have mentioned reading is one of your hobbies. Can you talk more about that and how it has helped you?

Reading has always been a hobby of mine, and it has played a crucial role in improving my English. Initially when I started reading English, I struggled as I wasn't fully able to understand whatever I was reading. However because of my interest, I continued to read newspapers, books, and articles which has tremendously helped me improve my vocabulary and comprehension. This, in turn, has also improved my English speaking skills over time.

Team Disha: From your perspective, what problems are Maharashtra in general, and areas such as Gadchiroli in particular, facing in terms of education?

Maharashtra faces several issues in its education policies, including inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained teachers, and disparity in educational resources between urban and rural areas. Teachers have the crucial task of creating future generations.

I don't have much idea about Zilla Parishad (ZP) schools in all of Maharashtra, but in the Vidarbha region where I have worked, there is definitely a shortage of dedicated teachers. There is a need for more focused policies that address these gaps and ensure quality education for all.

Digital literacy is a very big issue in rural areas. Compared to students in cities, students in ZP schools do not get exposure to areas such as IT, computers and various new technology developments. In many cases, the teachers themselves lack this exposure. Public private partnership models such as Teach for India, and our own GEF's AKTIV Scratch program could provide a solution.

Gadchiroli faces several educational problems, including inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained teachers, and limited access to quality educational resources. The region also deals with issues related to poverty and lack of awareness about the importance of education, which further hampers educational progress.

Team Disha: Our theme for this month's issue is 'Empowerment through Education'. What can we individually do to help build our nation?

Early education is vital. If we develop our primary, middle and secondary education, it will catalyze our efforts of nation building and help India become a superpower by 2047. Percentage of GDP invested in education is very low (2.9%) at present, and there is definitely a need to increase this. There is a cascading effect from school education to higher education to employment and entrepreneurship to empowered individuals and ultimately to a developed nation.

Individually too we can definitely help. There are many bright and hard working students in rural areas who don't have much exposure. We can link such deserving students with mentors and institutions like Guruji Education Foundation who can provide them with the right support and guidance. Some of us could also provide financial assistance to students interested in pursuing higher education but don't have the means to do so. We can also conduct awareness sessions about the importance of higher education, various fields and opportunities that exist, universities and institutes in various areas, admission processes, entrance exams etc. This will open new paths for the students and help them pursue careers in line with their aptitude and interest, and ultimately lead to a better nation.

Team Disha: Finally, if we meet another 10th fail student, what should we look for in him to assess his potential?

I think having a goal and the required drive to work towards the goal is a great indicator of potential. We should listen to the plan the student has, and if it is the right path, provide the required support, guidance and encouragement to him or her. It is like assuring the student - “We are with you. You just go ahead and do it and let me know. I will help you in whatever way I can.”





Highlights of the Quarter

1 GEF SELECTED TO JOIN SCRATCH EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

It is a matter of great pride that GEF is one among the only 52 organizations selected worldwide to be a part of the 2024-26 cohort of Scratch Education Collaborative (SEC). SEC is run by Scratch Foundation US, with the objective of getting institutions that are working on developing Scratch skills among underprivileged students, to collaborate with each other.



<https://www.scratchfoundation.org>

352 organizations from across the globe had applied for the cohort. The selection was based on an application and interview process. GEF was represented by Mr. Pranay Kalpavriksha, Mrs. Dnyanada Wagh, and Dr. Pradeep Waychal. Only 2 organizations from India got selected, with GEF being one of them.

SCRATCH Education Collaborative

The Scratch Education Collaborative (SEC) is an initiative that supports participating organizations from around the world in a two-year, collaborative effort to strengthen their organization's commitment to, and implementation of, computer science and computing.

SEC participants engage in a series of collaborative learning experiences developed and co-facilitated by Scratch and SEC partner organizations to build a self-sustaining community of practice and establish models for equity-centered computing resources.

SCRATCH in Practice

FUTURE TODAY EDUTECH HUB – Africa – Nigeria

Good Neighbors International – Nicaragua Branch – Central America/Caribbean – Nicaragua

Guruji Education Foundation – Asia (APAC) – India

Hillside Public Schools – North America – Canada

ICTeach – Australia

2

INTERVIEW WITH MR. SUNIL CHITALE, PRESIDENT, KALPAVRUKSH TECHNOLOGIES



GEF conducted an exclusive interview with **Mr. Sunil Chitale**, President, Kalpavruksh Technologies.

Mr. Chitale shared his thoughts of the Future of the IT Industry in the light of the latest technological advancements, and what would the industry look like in the next 5-10 years. He further shared his “success mantras” on how students could adapt to and thrive in the evolving IT landscape. The entire GEF family of students, alumni and supporters benefited from this engaging and informative session.

3

EMPOWERING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION

The GEF team of Dr Pradeep Waychal, Managing Trustee, and Sanket Bhojar, a successful GEF alumnus held a productive video conference with **Mr. Ravindra Thakare**, Additional Tribal Commissioner, Nagpur (IAS 2010 batch). Mr. Thakare oversees 133 Government Tribal Schools, 133 Government Aided Schools, 4 Military Schools, and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) under his jurisdiction.



The discussion highlighted impressive initiatives such as Bhavishyavedhi, Brighter Mind, and Lift For Upliftment, which have led to remarkable achievements such as

- 37 students clearing JEE Mains, with 15 securing admissions in NITs
- 3 students qualifying for CLAT
- 6 students clearing NEET
- 173 students succeeding in CET

The GEF team commended Mr. Thakare for these milestones, and also introduced the various programs run by GEF across the country. Mr. Thakare proposed introducing GEF programs in these schools and planning follow-up meetings to finalize the details. He also recommended connecting with the Gondavana Tribal Foundation. We look forward to working together to make a meaningful impact on the lives of tribal children and to support their overall development.

4

VISIT TO ELF CENTRES BY GEF TEAM

Mrs. Jayashree Raveendran, Mr. Gopal Kalpathi and Dr. Pradeep Waychal visited community study centres of Enriching Life Foundation (ELF), which has been doing excellent work at their 7 centres between Mankhurd and Wadala, serving around 50 students each.



Mrs. Jayashree Raveendran & Mr. Gopal Kalpathi presenting GEF's AKTIV Scratch Handbook to Manju Madam, ELF Teacher, and Ms. Komal Mhapankar, ELF Administrator



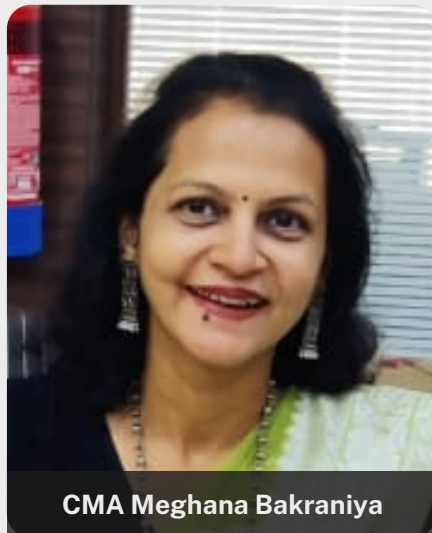
GEF initiated its **Thinking & Team Lab - Scratch program** at all the centres. Jayashree Raveendran, who also serves as the Academic Head for all ELF centres, and Komal Mhapankar, ELF Administrator, will drive the program.

Sheer Joy! Their smiles say it all 🌟😊

5

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE CORPORATE WORLD

CMA Meghana Bakraniya conducted a session to prepare students to face job interviews confidently, and to introduce them to corporate culture. The session started with the importance of preparing a good CV. Since it creates the first impression, a CV is critical in the journey towards securing one's dream job. The session also focused on small crucial points related to different interview rounds, and how these could be handled professionally and effectively. This included tips on preparing for interviews, presentation, projecting a positive body language, responding to commonly asked questions, and do's & don't's for the interview day. The session ended with an engaging discussion on handling the shift from college to corporate, confidence building, and converting Strengths & Weaknesses into Opportunities & Challenges.



CMA Meghana Bakraniya

“It was superb. We got to know about many things which are important while preparing & appearing for an interview - the choice of clothes to wear, how to speak, how to request the interviewer to repeat a question, how to respond when you don't know an answer, how to handle situations under pressure, questions to ask the interviewer etc. These things will definitely help me for my interview. Thanks to Meghana Ma'am. ”

- **Sanskriti Jadhav,**
Student

6

VISIT TO SSGMMS, VADAKKUR

Mr. Gopal Kalpathi and **Mr. Venkatesh Kuppuswamy**, senior members of our GEF family, visited the Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School (SSGMMS) at Vadakkur in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu. The visit started with an introductory meeting with the new Principal Mr. Karthikeyan. This was followed by a meeting with the teachers associated with various GEF programs viz Spoken English, AKTIV and GRAPES, and sessions on Scratch for students from 7th, 8th & 9th standards.



Left to right: Mr. Karthikeyan, Principal, Mr. Gopal Kalpathi, Mr. Venkatesh Kuppuswamy and HH Sadhvi

Mr. Gopal Kalpathi with students

7

WORKSHOP ON INNOVATION AT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING JALGAON

A workshop titled "**Need for Innovative Mindset and How to Achieve the Same**" was conducted by **Dr. Pradeep Waychal** for the students and faculty of College of Engineering, Jalgaon. The workshop covered the What, Why, and How of Innovation.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD?

GENERATIVE AI

Suyash Sumant

Walchand Institute of Technology, Solapur



Generative AI or GenAI, a cutting-edge form of artificial intelligence, is rapidly transforming numerous fields - from streamlining software development to accelerating medical breakthroughs. SUYASH tells us about this new technology, its potential, and implications.

Imagine a photo of Virat Kohli holding aloft the FIFA World Cup trophy, or Lionel Messi celebrating with the ICC T20 trophy! It seems unbelievable, but could this actually be possible? With the help of emerging technologies ... YES, it is possible! How? GenAI is the answer!!

Generative AI or GenAI is a newly emerging technology in the field of Artificial Intelligence, which is capable of generating new text, images, videos, or other data using models that it builds by learning from the patterns and structures in the input training data provided. We would have read about various tools such as ChatGPT, Google Bard/Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Midjourney, etc. that enable us to explore the powers of this new technology. Some of us who may have tried using them, would have also discovered how the tools sometimes need to be “prompted” to get the desired outputs.

There is tremendous potential in these tools as they themselves are continuously learning & evolving all the time. Gen-AI, a cutting-edge form of artificial intelligence, is rapidly transforming numerous fields. From streamlining software development to accelerating medical breakthroughs, Gen-AI's capabilities are making significant waves.

As we have seen in the past, most technologies that can be used for the benefit of mankind and betterment of life, could also possibly be misused as well. GenAI is no different. While we have seen the vast potential of GenAI, we should not forget its flip side. Because of its generative power, it can be used to produce unfounded information and misleading content. Deepfakes are a well-known example of , how GenAI can be misused to create content that can be used to spread misinformation, malign individuals or groups, and even influence politics.

We are just at the beginning of the GenAI revolution, and this is just a very short introduction to this new technology. There is a lot more to explore & discover. As GenAI continues to evolve, it is important to keep ourselves updated, and adapt ourselves to use the powers of the technology.

CONTESTS

Friends, now that you have read about GenAI, it is your turn to put on your thinking caps and participate in one or both of the following contests:

CONTEST 1

Share in 250 - 400 words, how you think GenAI is going to impact your field of study or work. Please note that this is about YOUR thoughts, and hence DO NOT use any GenAI tools for this contest 😊

CONTEST 2

Explore using any of the freely available GenAI tools for creating (preferably funny!) text, images, videos etc. and share your experience and learning in 250 - 400 words

Please submit your entries to disha@gurujifoundation.in by **30 September 2024**. The contests are open to all GEF students and alumni. The winning entries will be featured in the next issue of Disha.

MENTORS' SPACE

Views . Reflections . Experiences . Life Stories



Empowerment through education is the process of providing students with the tools and resources they need to succeed, such as knowledge, critical thinking skills, and the ability to make informed decisions.

- **Bhimrao Chavan Sir**,
Ex-Principal, Maharashtra
Sant Vidyalaya, Ter, Dharashiv



Students are the architects of the country's future, and education serves as their foundation. Education teaches us how to overcome adversities, build resilience, and develop compassion. Guruji Education Foundation works to ensure that no student is denied an education due to financial constraints, while also actively contributing to nation-building by developing students' holistic, academically, emotionally, and socially competent skills.

- **Ganesh Chadre Sir**, TISS Tuljapur



Through education, an individual as well as the nation grows.

It leads to innovation, inventions and new technologies that enable progress and improve our lives. Education is a powerful weapon which empowers us.

- Shailaja Pore Ma'am, Educator

Education is a transformative process that enables individuals to gain knowledge, skills, and confidence to shape their lives and contribute to society positively. It equips students with critical thinking abilities, problem-solving skills, and the capacity to adapt to a rapidly changing world. It thus empowers them to make informed decisions, advocate for themselves and others, and access opportunities and resources that can help break the cycle of poverty, discrimination, and inequality.



Inclusive and quality education is a powerful tool for empowerment that fosters personal growth, better economic prospects, improved health outcomes, and increased social mobility at an individual level. This enables individuals to reach their full potential, and contribute meaningfully to create a more equitable and prosperous future for themselves, their families, their communities, and ultimately the nation.

- SM Shinde Sir, Govt College of Engineering, Aurangabad

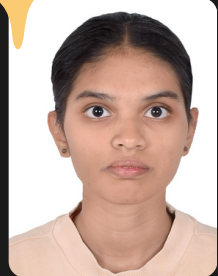
Student Stars



Gayatri Jadhav Secured 1st Class with Distinction in BE (Elec) from Savitribai Phule University, Pune. She is currently doing an internship with Bharti Airtel, Pune and also has an offer from them.

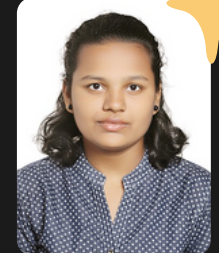
Gayatri has also been an active participant in extracurricular activities, and was a part of the Brahamasta QUAD Bike (ATV) team from her college, that had won the ISNEE Quad Torc Championship 2 years back.

Sampatti Girgavakar Completed her B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from SGGGS College of Engineering, Nanded. She has received an offer for apprenticeship from Siemens, and another offer from BNC Power Projects Ltd.



Sharvari Patil who has just completed her Class XII, was adjudged as the winner of a Writing Challenge organized by GEF. The Challenge involved reviewing a Times of India article “The Beautiful & The Damned”, and writing their views “For” and “Against” the proposition presented in the article.

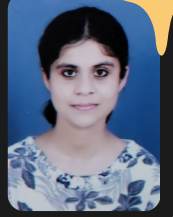
Shrutika Tawade’s project “SheShine” was selected for the Mentorship Cohort round of the “Creators of Tomorrow” challenge. This is a global Challenge conducted by WiX, a company that provides website building solutions & services.





Ravindra Pawar who completed his BTech in Computer Engineering from RC Patel Institute of Technology, Shirpur, has received placement from TCS in the Digital cadre.

Anuja Vaidya scored 198 out of 200 in Pratham Diksha Sanskrit examination.



Molika Sharma was one among the 38 students (out of 150) selected for NSS at her college after 2 rounds of selection process including an interview.

Alumni Stars



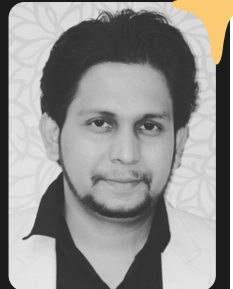
Rajat Bhaskar Pujari was promoted to the role of Manager-Innovation at Urethane Speciality Solutions (USS), Rabale, Navi Mumbai. Rajat had completed his MSc - Chemistry from the prestigious institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai (UDCT) in 2021, and was earlier working as a Research Scientist at USS.

Smita Bhosale has joined as a Project Associate at Smile Foundation, where she is working on implementing the Siemens Scholarship Program. Smita had completed her Masters in Social Work from SNDT University in 2021, and subsequently worked with Doctors for You, and Boston Institute of Analytics.



Girish Joshi has joined Accenture as an SCM Consultant with a substantial rise. After his graduation in 2019, Girish worked as an Application Engineer - Sales in Aspiration Energy, and then with Birlasoft as an SCM Consultant.

Paresh Dalvi has joined TCS as a Network Administrator. Paresh who graduated in 2010, was earlier working with Reliance Communications.





Chhaya Rohane won the Dashing Debutant award at Arena Consultants.

Congratulations to all our students and alumni for their remarkable achievements. May you all continue to reach greater heights and inspire many more on your journey!



Komal Amrut Chavan

CAN'T HURT ME

By David Goggins



"Can't Hurt Me" is a book by David Goggins, where he talks about his life journey from facing extreme challenges to becoming mentally and physically flexible. Goggins shares his own story of facing super hard circumstances and becoming super strong. He says you need to think tough thoughts,

face things that make you uncomfortable, and set big goals. Look at yourself honestly, take responsibility for your actions, and keep going even when life gets really hard. Goggins believes you can handle way more than you think - at least 60% more. So, be tough, set big goals, and don't let anything stop you. That's the main idea of the book.

I could deeply relate to the book because it talks about being strong mentally and facing challenges, which is something I try to do in my own life. This book has made me think about pushing myself to do more and not giving up when things get tough. It has inspired me to try harder and be stronger.

I especially liked the quote, "You are in danger of living a life so comfortable and soft, that you will die without ever realising your true potential."

I chose this book because I wanted to learn from David Goggins' tough life and how he developed the strength to deal with it.

I would definitely like to read more books by David Goggins because his story and ideas are very motivating and helpful.



NASTI UTHATHEV

By Pu La Deshpande



I recently read the book "Nasti Uthathev", which is a delightful collection of humorous episodes and reflections written by noted Marathi writer P.L. Deshpande or PuLa as he is popularly known.

Pu La is a much adored personality especially in Maharashtra, and is especially known for his wit and ability to capture everyday situations with humour. His writings blend satire with insightful observations about human nature and society.

In "Nasti Uthathev" Deshpande showcases his unique style through a series of short stories and essays. The title itself is attractive, loosely translating to "Needless pursuits" in English, which reflects the weird and unique nature of the book's stories.

I connected with this book because it closely relates to many of my own personal experiences and emotions, and offers a humorous take on everyday struggles. In particular, the first story 'Music Chivdamani' especially resonated with me. The story is about Mr.Dattabuva, a music teacher, who faces a dilemma when his students don't attend his classes and he is forced to teach others at their home. At the same time, feeling underpaid and unappreciated, he starts selling chivda and snacks by the road outside the school. People start liking his skill and he earns a good reputation. "People who live by thinking about simple things in life, rise in life" is the message that I got from this story.

My favourite lines from the book:

जनहो झडकरि उठारुठा
सांगत आली मुळामुठा !
वरतूनिया ती वाहत आली
पुलाखालूनी वाहत गेली ओंकारेश्वर बुडून गेला
पार बुडाली पहा जटा
सांगत आली मुळामुठा!

In simple words, the lines are a representation of life's journey, which is compared to the flow of a river. The message is about embracing the ups and downs of life & finding joy in the journey.

While many writers can be intense and serious, PuLa's writing makes you laugh and forget your worries. His characters are usually ordinary people facing everyday dilemmas, but through his storytelling, he transforms these situations into comedic gems that leave the reader hungry for more. "Purchundi" is another book by PuLa that I have thoroughly enjoyed earlier.

All in all, "Nasti Uthathev" is an enjoyable read for anyone who loves wit, humour and has curiosity about life.





Sanskruti Jadhav

Laapata Ladies



I recently saw the movie “Laapataa Ladies” directed by Kiran Rao. The movie is based on a book “Two Brides” by Biplab Goswami.

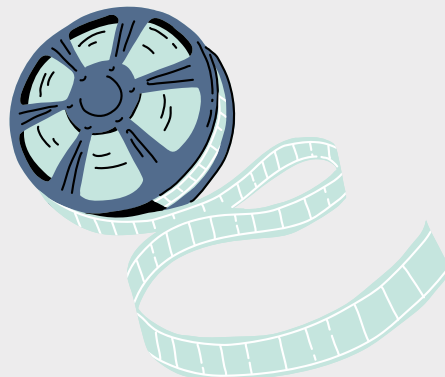
Through the story of two newly-wed brides who get exchanged during a train ride to their husband's homes, the film gives many important messages about being

independent, caring for our loved ones, helping others, importance of education, respect for women, etc. The movie shows that there do exist people who help others without looking for something in return. It reinforces the belief that kindness and compassion can make a significant difference in people's lives, fostering a sense of community and solidarity.

The importance of having a goal to look forward to and not giving up until you get what you are looking for, are my personal takeaways from the movie. The thought of unconditional love for our close one, is again something that I found to be deeply touching.

I think watching this movie has given me greater confidence and strength to deal with and find solutions to challenging situations.

I would look forward to seeing more such inspirational movies from the same director or author.





Recommendations



1. **The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (Book)**

A touching novel about teenage cancer patient that explores love, loss, and resilience. This book caught my eye when I was feeling low, and its title drew me in. I believe everyone can relate to its theme at some level.

2. **The Queen of Katwe by Tim Crothers (Book, also adapted as a movie)**

Inspiring true story of Phiona, a young Ugandan girl becoming a chess champion speaks of resilience, determination, and the power of dreams. As a chess enthusiast, I found Phiona's journey truly inspiring. Her story reminded me that small achievements are steps to greater success and one should never lose hope.

3. **The Lord of the Rings (Film trilogy)**

This epic fantasy adventure reflects themes of friendship, courage, and the battle between good and evil. Quotes like "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us," made me realise that we all have a purpose and that something great awaits us.

4. **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Movie)**

This true story of a young boy from Malawi - an East African country, who built a wind turbine to save his village from famine is deeply inspiring. Watching this movie with my sister, I felt a strong connection to the innovative spirit and the desire to make a difference in the community.

5. **Jurassic Park (Movie)**

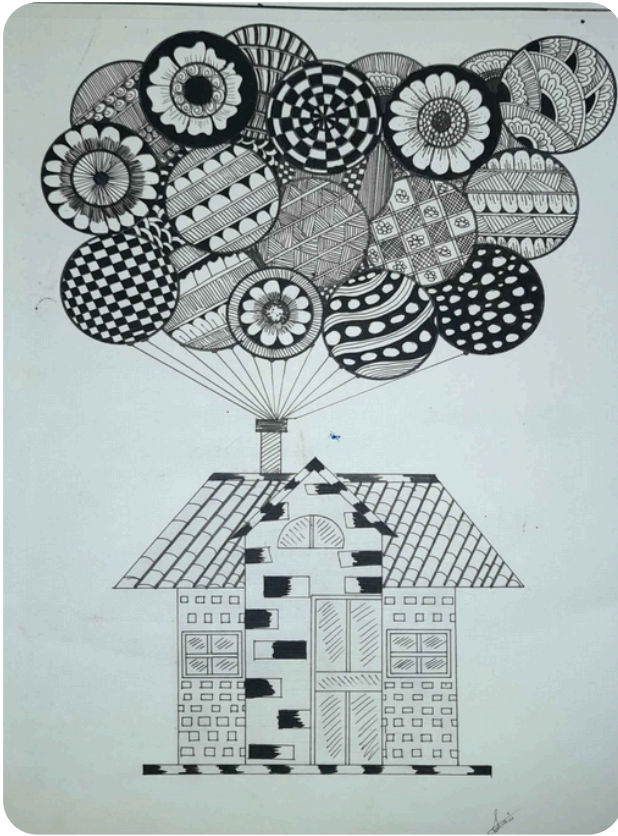
A thrilling adventure about a theme park with genetically-engineered dinosaurs makes one ponder over the ethical implications of scientific advancements and the unpredictability of nature. The imaginative concept of dinosaurs existing today is fascinating.



Talent++

Our Students and Alumni not only excel in academics and at work, their talents cut across drawing, painting, photography, literature and more.

We are proud to showcase some of their amazing talent



MANDALA ART
by Shravani Manish More

युवा छावणी-प्रेरणास्थान

ना कसा कळला
प्रवास कधी संपला...!
एक एक क्षण
हवेत विरून गेला...!!

प्रारंभ करतानाची थडथड
एक वेगळेच स्वप्न ...!
निघतानाची हळहळ
दोस्त दोस्तात मन...!!

ना mobile विचार
ना Good morning ,Good night प्रचार!
तुझ्याच सावलीत करु लागलो
स्वः भानाचा विचार...!!

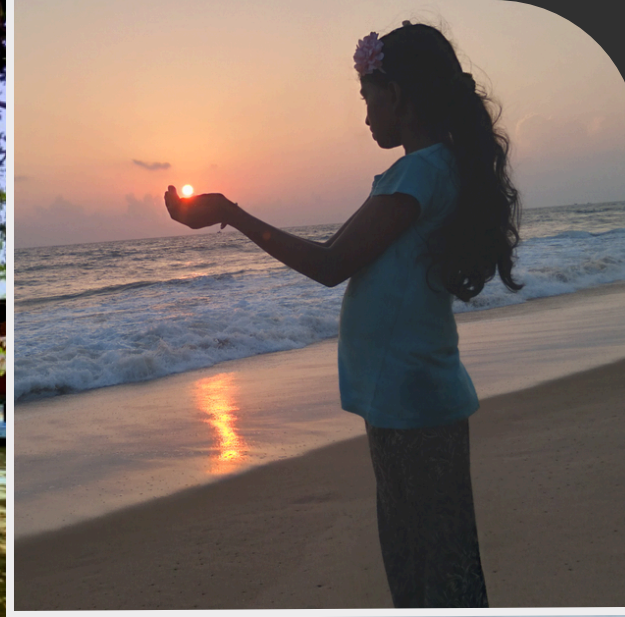
निसर्ग सौंदर्याचे प्रतीक
स्वर्गाहुनि रम्य...!
तुझ्याच छायेत आदर्श युवा होऊनि
आज आम्ही झालो धन्य...!!

कधी हवेत विरळ झालेत
छावणीचे सप्तदिन...!
कळत नकळत सुमित्र मिळालेत
ना छावणी तुझ्याविन...!!

मजा मस्ती धमाल
जगत होतो एकएक क्षण ...!
छावणी तुझीच आठवण
आज येतेय मनोमन...!!

तुच आमुची जगतत्राता
तूच आमुची भगवदगीता...!
तुझ्या स्मरणात सदैव राहू
तुझेच आज मी गीत गाता...!!

- जयश्री सुप्रिया लक्ष्मण



**A poetry, a paper
craftwork, and a couple
of photographs**

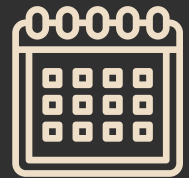
All by Jayshree Mestry





Vishwa Shetty a GEF scholar at Grant Medical College, Mumbai (GMC) was a part of Phoenix - GMC's dance crew that participated in a competition organized by Terna Medical College, Nerul, and bagged the 1st Prize.

Upcoming Event



**GURUJI
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

Guruji Education Foundation's Amit Khare
Training for Indian Villages (AKTIV)

presents

SCRATCH DAY

10 August 2024
09.00 AM - 01.15 PM



DR ANAND NADKARNI

Co-founder, Institute of
Psychological Health

Psychiatrist, Thinker, Playwright,
Musician, Poet, Sketch Artist, Social
Activist

Guruji Education Foundation (GEF) teaches Scratch (a visual programming language by MIT, USA) to develop Thinking and Teaming Skills at 38 schools, hostels and community centres with around 3500 beneficiaries - mostly from remote villages across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The Scratch Day on 10th August, marks the culmination of our 3rd Scratch Festival which commenced on 1st June 2024. 20 out of the 38 schools participated in the Projects, Hackathon. Debate and Quiz competitions that were a part of the Scratch Festival.

JOIN US LIVE

<https://tinyurl/4-8-zoom1>

<https://tinyurl/4-8-youtube>

A member of the

Scratch Education Collaborative 2024

www.gurujifoundation.in

AGENDA

- WELCOME
- ADDRESS BY DR ANAND NADKARNI
- FINAL DEBATE COMPETITION
- SCREENING OF WINNING PROJECTS
- PRIZE DISTRIBUTION



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

**10th August 2024
9 AM - 1.15 PM**

We would love to hear your feedback on this issue of Disha

Write to the Team Disha at
disha@gurujifoundation.in

Team Disha

Abhijeet Waghchaure

Bhagyashri Bahirat

Molika Sharma

Nimisha Dalvi

Om Moharkar

Sharvari Patil

Shubham Lingayat

Vidyut Navelkar

To donate

Please visit: <https://www.gurujifoundation.in/donate>

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