INITIUM

NOVUM

A NEW BEGINNING
Dear reader,

The great Greek philosopher Heraclitus once mentioned “Change is the only constant in life”. We must be ready and prepared to face this change in every sphere of our life and face the change with new vigor, hope and positivity.

The theme of this issue of SymBeat is “Initium Novum” – A New Beginning. The theme has been diligently curated by the SymBeat team to present various articles that will encourage you to confront everyday changes and challenges of life while gearing up to put our best foot forward. This issue of SymBeat covers the challenges faced in the corporate world with the advent of technological revolution while throwing light on the hidden opportunities that lie beneath. It has a plethora of articles based on the theme which portrays a creative side of the arduous writers of the college.

The theme is very appropriate considering the prevailing economic concerns and technological vulnerability that the corporate world has been facing in recent time. However, such situations can also be great opportunities for few who have the potential to innovate and redefine the long cherished rules of business. I hope you will enjoy and get inspired reading SymBeat.

–Dr. Rajesh Panda
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INITIUM NOVUM

Walked smartly into MBA life
With a hundred dreams in our eyes
Met new faces and made new friends
With hopes of achieving whole new scends!

Days passed by and so did nights
Assignments piled up, and so did our plights.
Events happened - and time just flew,
We braved it all with a drink or two!

Mid-terms came, adding to our woes
Leaving us weathered of highs and lows.
Now that we all want to get placed
It’s high time that our dreams be chased!

We rise, we fall and stand up again-
And none of it will go in vain.
What you strive for, you will become
Let this be the initium novum!

-Sanchari Pait
USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LOGISTICS

There are many reasons to believe that now is the best time for the logistics industry to embrace AI. Never before has this maturing technology been so accessible and affordable. In logistics, the network-based nature of the industry provides a natural framework for implementing and scaling AI, amplifying the human components of highly organized global supply chains. Now is a good time for AI to flourish – this is the state of its adoption in the world today. Logistics companies are uniquely positioned to benefit by applying AI in almost all aspects of the supply chain. One of the most underutilized assets in the industry is the high volume of and AI will enable logistics companies to exploit it.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE CASES IN LOGISTICS

I. Cognitive Automation - Refers to intelligent business process automation using a combination of AI and robotic process automation (RPA). This is the replacement of clerical labor using software robots that can be integrated into existing business applications and IT systems.

II. Financial Anomaly Detection - Logistics service providers often rely on vast numbers of third parties including common carriers, subcontracted staff, charter airlines, and other third-party vendors to operate core functions of their business. Here, AI technologies like natural language processing can extract critical information such as billing amounts, account information, dates, addresses, and parties involved from the sea of unstructured invoice forms received by the company.
**AI-Powered Customer Experience:**
Anticipatory Logistics takes the AI-powered logistics customer experience to the next level, delivering goods to customers before they have even ordered them or realized they needed them. Anticipatory logistics seeks to leverage the capabilities of AI to analyze and draw predictions from vast amounts of data such as browsing behavior, purchase history, and demographic norms as well as seemingly unrelated data sources such as weather data, social media chatter etc.

**Predictive Logistics: The Next Operational Paradigm**
In a world characterized by uncertainty and volatility, AI can help the logistics industry fundamentally shift its operating model from reactive actions and forecasting to proactive operations with AI.

Predictive Network Management using AI can significantly advance the performance of logistics operations.

DHL has developed a machine learning-based tool to predict air freight transit time delays in order to enable proactive mitigation. By analyzing 58 different parameters of internal data, the machine learning model is able to predict if the average daily transit time for a given lane is expected to rise or fall up to a week in advance.

Predictive Risk Management is critical for ensuring supply chain continuity. The Resilience360 Supply Watch module developed by DHL demonstrates the power of AI to mitigate supplier risks. Using advanced machine learning and natural language processing techniques, Supply Watch monitors the content and context of 8 million posts from over 300,000 online and social media sources this allows the system to understand the sentiment of online conversations from unstructured text to identify indicators of risk ahead of time.

"Artificial Intelligence is likely to assist in logistics especially for organizations where the volume of transactions runs into several billions and beyond. Yet, one needs to be aware that for an AI algorithm to operate seamlessly, it will require intense involvement of human effort as well. To that extent, AI may foster talent enhancement and compel skill upgrades especially among personnel."

-Prof John Ben P
CREDIT RATING AGENCIES: A FLAWED MODEL?

As per S&P Global Ratings-A credit rating is an educated opinion about an issuer’s likelihood to meet its financial obligations in full and on time. Agencies are bodies which provide such informed opinions. A strong rating reflects less risk and reduces cost of borrowing and therefore, inaccurate ratings become desirable. Inaccurate ratings give false unfair view of the underlying instruments eventually causing disruptions in financial markets as it was evident in the Financial crisis of 2008 or the ILFS crisis 2018. In both the cases incorrect ratings misguided investors and the bubble later burst. And unfortunately, 10 years down the line, between both the crises not much has changed about credit rating and its flawed model.

Stringent regulations came into being but proved to be futile. The core of this flawed model rests in the pecuniary relationship between agency and the institution, instruments of which are assessed. Also called the ‘issuer-pay’ model. The institution pays for rating services and therefore there is a clear conflict of interest. If the client doesn’t get the desired ratings it would switch to alternative agencies in the market. Agencies are for-profit organizations and are driven by revenue and profits.

They also have BDOs (Business development officers) deployed to bring in clients. The BDOs in quest for meeting targets lure clients by promising good ratings and then try influencing the analysts for the same. Analysts extract and accumulate information about the client being rated, from different credible sources.
The ratings recommended by analyst and reasons thereof are evaluated by a senior analyst or lead. At every stage there is an incentive to trade off a slice of integrity with a slice of enhanced rating which later causes chunks of volatility in the market. In the famous Satyam Scandal 2009, PwC’s involvement as auditors played a pivotal role aiding the fraud. The Chartered Accountants involved as auditors faced a life time ban imposed by the ICAI and a penalty of 5 lakhs each.

There is no similar regulation for credit rating agencies. Individual analysts are not held liable for manipulations and escape with ease. Moody’s, S&P and Fitch ratings together capture 95% of the market share. This leaves less room for competition.

Concentration of rating business in limited hands paves way for limited review or check of ratings by an independent peer.

All of this boils down to how flawed the credit rating system is. Yet, discontinuing the ‘issuer-pay’ model is not the recommended solution. Rather, a smart and preventive regulatory mechanism is needed.

Bringing Individual Analysts to inspection and accountability would be the best measure to dissolve the conflicts of interests and thereby establish a more reliable rating framework across the globe.

“Who is the client for credit rating agencies? The company for which they are giving the credit rating or the people who will use that credit rating (Banks, investors, suppliers etc). The million dollar question for the credit rating company is who should have their loyalty - fees paying company or the rest of the participants in the economy.”

–Prof. Pooja Gupta
One word that appropriately defines the changing dynamics of the future of work, is flexibility. Organizations are increasingly moving away from a ‘One size fits all’ approach to a more customized work environment, to better optimize the productivity of their employees.

The shift in work dynamics can be broadly attributed to a handful upcoming trends, that are rapidly catching up with the requirements of the millennial workforce. The emerging workforce seeks flexibility, that goes way beyond job security and a fat paycheck. There are various measures that organizations are taking up, in order to manage the changes in the perceptions and expectations of the young workforce. Let us see how!

India is one of the largest gig economies in the world. Food delivery startup Swiggy has an operational model based on gig workers. Besides Swiggy, several other start-ups like Ola, Uber and UrbanClap hire gig workers on a large scale. According to a survey by HR talent marketplace Noble House, the major reasons for companies to hire gig workers were reducing costs, supplementing the skills of the existing workforce and filling temporary job openings.

A flexible benefits package is another trend that companies are looking forward to. FlexBen is a flexible benefits package introduced by E-commerce giant Flipkart. This programme includes benefits for LGBT couples, child care coverage among others, that makes it lucrative for GenZ, who expect a lot more than merely job security from their employers. For the emerging workforce, organizational culture is more of a deal breaker than a fat paycheck.
Lastly, but most importantly, adopting technology in regular work processes is inevitable as we proceed towards automation. Organizations these days have incorporated self-service employee portals where employees can manage their own leaves, reimbursements etc., which has proved to be a major time saver for the employer. Application of Artificial Intelligence in the field of HR has already begun in full swing. Chatbots are already helping HR personnel to screen candidates from a large pool. Besides saving time, AI can also help in rooting out human bias.

These trends come with a set of challenges like lack of concrete employment data in the gig economy, technologically unskilled labour and lack of Government regulations regarding contract workers and automation.

These are the challenges that the Government and IR leaders collaboratively need to address.

Therefore, it is time that these changing trends be the Initium Novum for more evolved and employee friendly workplaces!

-Sanchari Pait

"We're looking at a new era for workforces around the world. I think it is probably a little early to create HR models for a Gig workforce. Lot of the processes are still to evolve, because with a large gig workforce how do we protect the knowledge base and the skill base? I would definitely like to wait and watch."

-Prof. Atish Dasgupta
The world today is nothing more or less than Data packets. A place is a piece of data on your Google Map, a product is a piece of data in your market, the price you set is a data bench marked against thousands of data bytes from competitors, the promotion you do is aligned to what you infer of all this data.

Thus, every ‘P’ in your marketing jargon, is related to data in some way or the other. The 21st century has seen a massive influx of data, with internet connectivity and smartphone markets growing in leaps and bounds. It is thus imperative for a business to integrate the hidden patterns in the ocean of data, into their core operations and strategies.

Does your business have web presence? If not, you are probably stuck in the stone age. If you do not target or re-target your ‘potential@customer.com’ through smart emails, then you are simply losing out on opportunities. Therefore, a structured e-commerce platform is indispensable.

So how can a business go about establishing itself across all these channels in a structured fashion, understand how they are interconnected, measure the progress and take future decisions? The answer to all these questions lies in Analytics. Analytics empower us to find a hidden pattern, a meaning, a conclusion and a strategy from this data. The ‘n’ number of statistical tools available in today’s world enables businesses to better understand consumer behavior and markets.
In short, Analytics draws the line between opinion and fact. Smart analytics has the potential to scale up business performance to a mammoth extent.

Analytics enables you to gauge your business performance in terms of metrics. Just like we measure length in kilometers or centimeters, the degree of our website’s customer interaction through ‘page views’ and ‘bounce rate’. One such metric is the Shopping Cart Abandonment Rate- the total number of online shoppers who put items in their shopping cart but don’t complete a purchase as a proportion of the number of people who complete a purchase. In this case, flood the potential customer’s inboxes- make sure the first thing he sees on his news feed is his incomplete purchase. Re-targeting becomes easy!

Analytics also gives you a clear picture of how your individual prospects and clients are interacting with your business, with your various campaigns.

Deciphering data can allow marketers to understand the psychology of their prospects, their trends and which marketing activities are valuable at different junctures in the buyer's journey.

Consider how impactful it would be to be able to tell your boss that since you started blogging on a regular basis, you drove 50% more traffic to your website, and out of that traffic, you generated 20 new leads and 6 new customers. A concept called Closed-Loop Marketing connects Marketing Analytics with Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and helps us get better insights as to how visitors are converted into leads and subsequently, into customers.

Therefore, it is time that these changing trends be the Initium Novum for more evolved and employee friendly workplaces!

Undoubtedly, technology has the capability to change how businesses function and the same is proved every passing day. As mentioned earlier, the world is a collection of data packets, and is a part of a big puzzle with countless possibilities. The need of the hour is professionals with a penchant for solving these puzzles and adapting abilities in an ever changing, technology clad business landscape.

-Deepayan Ghosh

"Measurability is the power of business analytics and this helps businesses minimize their wasted dollars on the web. The article brings forth the essence of measuring and attributing everything from inbound to outbound marketing using data packets. This fact-based quantitative data will help firms drive revenue outcomes."

-Prof. Semila Fernandes
THE BEST KIND OF 140 KM

An expedition to Shiva Samundaram falls

*Before we take over the road and know about our friend’s journey, Here’s a list of travel essentials carefully curated for you by SymBeat*

#SymBeatRecommends
OUR LIST OF TRAVEL ESSENTIALS 101"

1. **Google Maps** - For locating your happiness.

2. **Zoomcar** - For reaching that happy place.

3. **Friends, Symbians and Countrymen** - They are the ones who’ll be with you all this while.

4. **Comfortable clothes** - Some things can make the journey a bit simpler.

5. **Bagpack** - To put your phone and all the worries away, while you cherish those memories.

6. **The Selfie Partner** - Usually used for capturing those memories (has no comparison to the usage mentioned in point (5).

   Sometimes used for making calls.

7. **Money** - The Honey - We hostellers cannot emphasize upon its value more!
Driving their Zoomcar through the scenic paths of Mysore and Nice road, playing and singing (read: shouting) songs, and experiencing a bike getting slightly rammed into their car, they surely had a lot to write in their book of memories.

“The place was amazing! Never in my life had I seen such a spectacular waterfall. We could even feel the freshness from so much far away. It was that chilling!” Smiles Ankit.

Adding to that, they even broadcasted a live video on Instagram from the location and made their followers jealous (I too was one of them), tempting them to visit the place in the future.

Even though they reached the place just an hour before its closing time, they had the time of their lives.

"It is a must go place, if you have a whole day at your disposal. Everybody should definitely visit it,” Says Ankit.

So that’s all folks! See you at Shiva Samundaram waterfalls (I am actually thinking when, but let’s hope it’s soon).

“Safar ka hi tha mein, safar ka raha...”
(Meaning: I was already a part of this journey, and still I am)

Journey is about gathering all the experiences (not just the classroom ones) in this little box of memories that is going to stay with you for the next two years of your MBA life. So beginning the journey of getaways from the hectic student life, we have a group of five friends- Ankit Rohra, Aishwary Koul, Deepit Singh Uppal, Divya Madnani and Palak Lohia from the first year with an account of their memorable trip to the Shiva Samundaram Waterfalls.

In a chat with Ankit, let’s see if I am able to take you 140 km away from your daily reading pilgrimage (with no offence to newspapers). It was a rare holiday, with surprisingly no work pending. So like the presentations, this trip too was what it could be best- impromptu, but with a touch of suggestions from our local batch mates. It was a much- needed break from our intense everyday schedule,” Says Ankit.

-Muskan Singla
This is a journey that I experienced in Gangtok, the beautiful capital city of Sikkim. We were road tripping to the Nathula Pass which stands 15000 feet above sea level. The roads which took us that high were no less than a rollercoaster. But, the hairpin curves were experienced only to witness the deep, never-ending valleys which were a treat to our eyes.

On our way up and down the hills, our first stop was a small traditional sikkimise 'tapri wali dukaan' where we sipped 'garam chai' which came from the 'Queen of hills-Darjeeling'. This shop sold gum boots, gloves and other jackets which helped the tourists protect themselves from the freezing temperatures up there.

After this short snack break, we started further. As we reached higher altitude, we could see thin streams of water flowing down the mountains.

Eventually, these streams turned into blocks of ice along the roads. Our second stop was the Tsongmo lake. The water was as clear as crystal and seemed like nothing could be any colder.

Yaks surrounding the lake proved the beauty of life existing on earth, in all places and in every corner. It's miraculous how almighty has made every being to what and where it's destined to be. We also took a stroll around the world's highest golf course which was probably the toughest one too. Finally, after a wonderful drive, we reached the Baba Harbajan Singh Mandir. Harbajan Singh, was a soldier in the Indian army who died at a very young age due to some unforeseen events. It is believed that his soul still resides there and guards the nation. We climbed up the stairs to 14500 feet to visit his bunker where his uniform, clothes, utensils, and all other things which he had used were kept. The view from there just blew our minds.
We were covered in layers of clothing but could barely stand still in those freezing temperatures. Low pressure, less oxygen and dead low temperature made our hands turn numb and ears go deaf.

Hats off to those 'Jawaans' and soldiers who gaurd the Indo China border in such adverse conditions. We captured the breathtaking scenery's in our cameras hoping we would come here again. After the Baba darshan, we had our prashad and went to the adjacent 'Baba cafe' which served 'garma garam bhajjis and coffee'.

That little food pumped us up for some snow fights on our way down to Gangtok. While we were driving down, we stopped at few more lakes and waterfalls and to our luck and surprise, we could see the world's third highest snow covered mountain peak of Kanchenjunga.

I considered that as a blessing because people rarely get to see it due to the weather prevailing at such heights. As soon as we drove past the mountain, it started raining, which turned into a hailstorm and staying in the car felt safer. But, we being mischievously adventurous, decided to get down to have some fun. Those blocks of ice felt like small grains slamming our bare skin. Soon, the guards shooed us away and warned us to drive down as soon as possible because such storms usually lead to road blockage.

That was the end of our day which was indeed an unforgettable lifetime memory which I would suggest everyone to experience. A road trip to cloud 9, literally!
The word that hope is,
The relevance of which you cannot miss.
Do you know that it is also the meaning?
In life, of a new beginning.

There are thoughts that often bog you down,
Moments that can make you frown,
But do not falter ever, my friend,
This ain't to your life, any end.

Sometimes you might doubt your abilities,
And calculate, of your failure, all the possibilities,
But keep that mind strong,
This is where you can never go wrong.

A little courage is needed in such moments, I know,
To hopelessness and hindrances, you've got your fearless side to show,
Keep that goal in your mind,
It is time for your determination to shine!

Leave no stone unturned,
Or that midnight oil unburnt,
You will get to the place you desire,
Just keep alive, that zest and fire.

So throw away those fears,
And other negatives, to your near,
Never forget the four letter word said in the beginning,
A lot more is what you are going to add, to its meaning.

-Muskan Singla
Looking Back at our MBA journey

The past few months in our MBA life, has been one to look forward to for one and all in SIBM, Bengaluru. Amidst the regular workload, tests and assignments, student activities has been the crux of most our learning and joyful experiences.

While on one hand these experiences have been exhausting for the organizing teams, it is important to remember that each student has contributed to the successful organisation of these events and as such these moments have been for everyone, living and breathing in the same campus. Let us walk down the memory lane and gather up the bits and pieces.

**Ice Breakers 2019:** No wonder that Ice Breakers indeed broke the jinx between the two batches.

On a fine evening, some chits revealed things that juniors wanted to put forward to the seniors, and indeed were never able to before.

The stage was set, the dancing shoes were on and the campus was booming with cheer and joy.

**Open Mic 2019:** Slowly and steadily, our MBA lives indeed opened up. With the stage hosting poets, singers and mimicry artists, Open Mic laid the platform for an informal interaction between the two batches surrounded in an ambiance full of joy and laughter. The cafeteria was LIT! with the two batches having the laugh of their lives and it never felt, on that beautiful evening, that we were indeed “Professionals”.

**Fresher’s 2019:** Indeed this was the day most juniors were looking forward to. Juniors and seniors got together to have a blast and it indeed became of the most memorable evenings!
**Utopia 2019:** Utopia in short was an amalgamation of multicultural ingredients, served under the same roof. It was an occasion when foreign nationals visited the campus to share their ideas, and it was not only limited to ideas, some of them even did an act of honour like donating blood. Yes, it was the same day when Blood Donation was hosted and the superheroes of our campus saved a thousand lives.

It is imperative to mention here, Jzaa through their jaw dropping Nukkad made us think twice about the perils still persisting in the 21st century Indian society.

While at the other end our thoughts had to exercise more through a brilliant Mime performance. Utopia set the stage for other major events in the college on a sweet note.

**Utthaan 2019:** Never did we see more smiling faces in the campus, than on the day of Utthaan. The campus was filled with innocent faces that put smiles on the faces of everyone. Through a mix of fun games and performances, all of us went down the memory lane to the times when we were all but a child appreciating every little detail of the world around us.

Indeed the number of bubbles in the air was in no way more than the smiling faces of students carrying kids on their backs!

**Alchemy 2019:** It is safe to mention here that we were never so enthusiastic to learn something since our 6th standards. Through excellent keynote speeches and panel discussions, SIBM Bengaluru’s corporate connect was showcased in sheer force during the two days of Alchemy, so much so that the event literally broke Twitter, with a staggering 6900+ tweets, trending 4th in Bengaluru.

A proud moment for students and faculties alike, hosting corporate giants like M.G. Arun, Sakshi Gupta, Manoranjan Pattanayak and Shweta Modi, in non-exhaustive list, it was no short of a feeling of confusion as to whether we were watching the television or a live panel discussion!

**Samaagam 2019:** Networking and Samaagam have been synonymous to an extent. The joyful faces of the nostalgic Alumnus of SIBM, brought with themselves a lot of learning and stories to live up to. Beautiful performances from Saaz and Jhankaar, lit up the evening where it was reinforced that you can check out of this campus anytime you like, but you can never leave!
In every MBA student's life, there comes a time when they must visit "The Office" of their Summer Internships or Final placements to start off their mid/post MBA Journey and that is the biggest (that's what she said) day of their lives. For some, it is a new beginning, working for the first time and for some, it is going back to the old Office days. There will always be new things to learn and understand when you start off your career after your MBA.

1. DO NOT try to steal the show at a wedding of an employee (If you're invited to one): At the wedding of Phyllis's, Michael tries to make the day about him by interrupting the ceremony and making an embarrassing toast that ends with him getting attacked by the groom. Sometimes the spotlight belongs to someone else, and you must understand it. Michael is that type of a boss who takes all the credit for the branch's success and he fails to takes any of the blame for the failures. Being a good manager involves being part of a team and learning when to let an employee outshine you.

PS: Don't let the employees trick you into thinking that you have a part in their wedding so that they can get extra vacation days for their honeymoon.

2. Always, always TRY to avoid accidentally dressing in drag. (Always follow the dress code) Michael thinks he's found a great new suit on sale, but the other employees immediately understand it's been made for a female.

And if you're like Michael, you do not have to give more excuses to embarrass you. Make sure your shirts are ironed and your socks match and check the label carefully before buying anything from the flea market.
3. NEVER call a client a "beeyotch."
A lot of us will be working in the front office and here is an advice to everyone. NEVER EVER call a client a “beeyotch”. An offensive watermark instigates a massive paper recall at Dunder-Mifflin. When a client refuses to accept a voucher for free paper at a press conference, Michael tells her to call the "Ungrateful Beeyotch Hotline." Name-calling is no way to win over a client, especially in front of the press. With increasing competition from larger office supply companies, you can’t afford to lose customers. It’s not true that all publicity is good publicity, at least not always.

4. Don't buy lingerie for employees.
After receiving some dating advice from the female employees, Michael decides to thank them with a trip to Victoria's Secret. Establishing boundaries with employees is crucial for maintaining a professional working environment. Stick with less risky gifts, like coffee mugs and restaurant gift certificates and not buy your colleagues, lingerie.

5. TRY NOT TO hit employees with your car
Although Michael claims it was an accident when he runs over Meredith with a company car, the other employees have their doubts.

He also fails to see the gravity of the situation when explaining it to his new boss, Ryan. "Double jeopardy” does not mean that two wrongs make a right. Taking out your anger on your employees is a good way to get yourself fired and your company sued. Leave your personal problems at home. And that doesn’t mean you leave your Office laptops at home.

Michael Scott was a boss who took quirkiness and incompetence to new heights, meanwhile ignoring all the rules of business and sometimes even basic human interaction, all the while maintaining his sense of infallibility. But, we have provided you with SOME of the mistakes Michael made during his stint at “The Office” and we hope that you don’t repeat the same mistakes stated in the article and god help you if you do.

Now, go out there and make the QUANTITATIVE DIFFERENCE you have been learning to make all this while and whenever you have a bad day at “The Office”, take a step back, switch your laptop on and watch an episode of The Office.

- Mayank Makhijani

DID YOU KNOW?
France was still executing people with guillotine when Star Wars came out.
Across
1. Which brand unofficially featured in final season of Game of Thrones. (9 letters)
6. Our education has a __________ difference. (12 letters)
7. Biggest unofficial stakeholder of SIBM-B (7 letters)
9. A collaboration of SymBeat and SWSC. (6 letters)
10. A Bangalore based sustainable start up for travelling. (4 letters)

Down
2. Angel" food item served on campus with vegetables. (10 letters)
3. What does Ross Geller wants Rachel to believe and MBA students rarely get. (5 letters)
4. Go back to your childhood days and remember the best cartoon show based on a police station. (9 letters)
5. It is not brand value, it is brand ______ (6 letters)
8. A mobile giant which entered Fortune 500 in 2019. (6 letters)
No matter what we achieve..
No matter what we believe..
But the happiness is connected by a string..
Those are called the “little things”
Maybe it won’t be any of your business..
Maybe there is no one for you to impress..
But passing a little smile to a stranger kid..
Will do wonders and surely the god will bless...

People ain’t got time to devote
But have ample time for an anecdote..
Try sitting with parents for half hour at-least.
Maybe they too require your support..
Wanting the person who doesn’t want you.
And crushing the feelings of one who falls for you.
Maybe you don’t value it today
But you will, When that person will say “adieu”

Have seen poor people enjoy
And rich people in stress
As they don’t have those “little things”
Included in their success.
For some it is the guitar strings.
For some it is the “chicken wings”
But the happiness truly lies.
In these “Little things”
Himanshu: I really miss my childhood days.

Mayank: Yeah. I do it too. Why such nostalgia suddenly?

Himanshu: I haven’t watched a Cricket Test Match for long now.

Mayank: Oh, I don’t even like Test matches. I can’t wait for 5 days for a result. I love T20s.

Himanshu: Dude! Test Cricket is the heart and soul of this sport. It is a proper competition between bat and ball. I agree that T20 has increased the love for the sport but the level of Test Cricket is just altogether different.

Mayank: Come on Bro. T20 gives you entertainment in a short span in a world where people are already very busy.

Himanshu: This T20 format started just recently. Test matches go way back till 1877. Do you know that first test match was played between Australia and England?

Co-incidentally, Ashes was born 5 years later as England lost a match against Australia.

Mayank: Damn! That’s nice. But the T20 format is a “paisa-vasool” entertainment. Nail-biting finishes, Super overs and sky rocketing sixes. I’d prefer T20 over Test any day.

Mayank: That’s nice bro. But I’d stick to Test over T20 as the sport was born this way and the temperament and class which you get to see in Test Matches is unmatchable. “Shoaib Akhtar running in to bowl furiously at 150 km/hr and Rahul Dravid leaving the ball like he doesn’t care.” Man! Think of the mental state of the bowler. Phew! I just got another nostalgia.

Mayank: Well, I like Virender Sehwag in Test Matches, as he makes them look like T20 too. But thinking about it, you are right in stating that Test Matches need a lot of patience, technique and temperament to win.
Himanshu: Okay, let me give some interesting facts about test cricket. Did you know that test matches were once a timeless affair? Teams used to play until the definitive result was reached.
In one such game in 1939, South Africa vs England game went into the 10th day with England chasing 696. They were 654-5 at one position with just 42 more runs needed. But the captain of the ship which was supposed to take England back home refused to wait anymore and the game was declared drawn by the agreement.

Mayank: SERIOUSLY? That’s equally hilarious and interesting. Test Match surely has a great history.

Himanshu: Yes! And even now, ICC is taking important steps to keep the legacy of Test Cricket alive. It has come up with “World Test Championship” where top 9 ranked teams play 6 series, with each series counting for 120 points. This Championship will go on till 2021 and the Finals between top 2 teams will be held at Lord’s, just like the finals of World Cup.

Mayank: Woah! I didn’t know. That’s awesome. This is certainly generating a more competitive vibe in Test Cricket. You must be knowing some interesting facts or rules specifically related to Test Cricket. I am curious to know.

Himanshu: Okay, so you must be knowing the basic rules of Cricket. Let me tell interesting rules about Test Cricket. So, the ball gets replaced after every 80 overs in each innings as per the discretion of the fielding team.

Also, If the team which was trailing and got out with a deficit of more than 200, can be forced to bat again and if they get out before making the required trail runs then it’s called an innings defeat.

Mayank: That’s interesting.

Himanshu: Yeah! You should watch Test matches sometime. You’ll experience the feeling.

Mayank: Never knew the Test match can be so intriguing. I am definitely watching it.

Himanshu: You know what. You should definitely watch the 3rd Test Match of “Ashes 2019” where Ben Stokes became a legend.

Mayank: Yeah, I watched the last few overs where he single handedly took the match away from the Aussies. It was just mind boggling.

Himanshu: Exactly. Even I was feeling the pressure just by watching. I don’t know how he coped with that amount of pressure and expectations. Truly a legend.

Mayank: Seriously Bro. Well, such insights have definitely created excitement in me to watch some great Test Match Classics. Could you suggest me a few recent epic battles in Test Cricket?

Himanshu: Of course. Well these are my top 3 as of now:
• “England vs Australia Ashes 2019- 3rd Test”
• India vs England Lords Test, 2014”
• “India vs Australia Kolkata Test, 2001”

Mayank: Thanks Bro. I am definitely going to watch them.
It feels like it was just yesterday when we all went to watch, “Spy Kids” in theatres. Some of us couldn’t resist wanting to be an agent back then just like Juni and Carmen. It wasn’t the movie per se that got us so hooked to it; more than that, I think we were absolutely fascinated by all the cool gadgets and the advanced technology. It was one of the coolest movies of our times and to even think that the era of fictional gadgets ended with it, would be an understatement of the day!

Arya, Ramya, Zoey, Alice and Sansa—these names ring many bells when you hear them and evoke fond memories. But here in Bengaluru, they are more than just fantasy characters in this place. These are the 5 most highly efficient robots serving in a restaurant at Indiranagar in Bengaluru.

Situated 20kms away from the Electronic City, this quaint little place is packed with customers throughout the whole week. These five humanoids have managed to garner the attention of a tremendous crowd in a very short span of time. The Robot Restaurant in Indiranagar has been the talk of the town since August 18, 2019, when it was inaugurated. Equipped with these wonderful robots imported from China, this restaurant is known for being a step ahead of its generation in technology. Each table in this place is equipped with Tablets. Not only this, the Robot Restaurant has gone one step ahead and started feeding customers’ data by retina scanning.
The most popular cuisine served at the restaurant is Thai and Indo-Asian. The menu includes everything ranging from Soups and Momos to Thai Seafood starters and Biryani. And at last, the dessert in this place is to die for, I mean, literally. Do you remember the time when we ordered extra chocolate with almost everything? Well, here in this place, you wouldn’t even have to say it twice. The dessert, ‘Death by Chocolate’ truly lives up to its name. The only possible drawback of this place is how compact it is. The robots walk on a track laid down on the floors which causes some inconvenience to people and somewhat restricts their movement.

What’s more there is to ask for when you have robots serving a meal so delicious that your stomach starts growling?

It must be the first time in Karnataka that someone has successfully pulled something of this sort.

It’s a must visit and a highly recommended place for all the people in Bengaluru. There is no best possible time as such to visit this place but whenever you plan to, do expect a bit of waiting time. There might be long queues and hours before you get served, but we guarantee you that this futuristic experience will be one of a kind.

- SHREYA WAGHERKAR
It’s difficult to imagine what it would be like if there was no North Indian cuisine in our lives. Living here in Bengaluru, it’s almost impossible for a lover of North Indian food like me to find a restaurant that is suited to my tastes. Imagine my delight, when I found this place while randomly searching for somewhere to hog. Situated in the heart of Bengaluru, Oldtown Dilli has been a savior and a popular restaurant amongst the crowd. Looking from the outside, this place looks just like a regular restaurant with minimalistic decorations on the outside.

The vibe of this whole place is set in accordance to the Taj like structure that they have incorporated in their design at the entrance. You would be taken aback after you enter this place and see the magnificent interior.

The walls are intricately crafted portraying the details of the Mughal Era. Apart from this, what really catches your attention, is the semi floor sitting styles, and grey paints on the walls. It feels like you have suddenly entered a different time altogether.

Oldtown Dilli believes in “Reviving the art of Food” along with making your experience a memorable one. Adding a dash of 2019 to keep in touch with the reality, they have tried to incorporate the theme of the restaurant with a comic on each table.

This comic mainly consists of the Mughals having a chat about FaceBook. The only reason why this place should be on the top of our lists is the food that’s served here. This place is a safe haven for all the non-veg lovers in the city. You can eat the most famous Biryani here and perfectly cooked Kebabs on the side, until almost forever and you would still not get enough of it.

That’s how deliciously cooked it is all the time! In beverages, Mint Cooler and Lemonade, can quench all your thirst. Chicken Shami Kebab and Chicken Burra are the highlight of this place for its authentic taste. For all your sweet tastebuds, we recommend you to try Gulab-e-Kheer. This place is a must visit for the ever exploring foodies who are on the lookout for incredible historic experiences with some of the best Biryani’s in Town!

- SHREYA WAGHERKAR
Movie Review: Source Code

Source code is a science fiction thriller that keeps you on the edge of your seat for a better part of its duration. It is the story of Captain Colter Stevens, played by the supremely talented Jake Gyllenhaal, who is inside an algorithm called the Source Code. How is our protagonist inside an algorithm, you ask? Well for that we’ll have to dive in a bit deeper.

The movie revolves around a bomb blast that has already taken place in a Chicago bound train and has claimed lives of hundreds of innocent people. Captain Stevens is synced with the dying memories of a passenger and therefore he can be transported back and forth on that train but only for eight minutes. The task is to find the bomber. I did not ruin anything for you, don’t worry! The movie has an entirely different take on time travel which makes it believable while you’re watching the movie. It’s not time travel, it’s time reallocation. Time reallocation creates a parallel world whose past we may visit and alter, since those actions have no effect on our reality.

Jake Gyllenhaal has embodied Captain Colter Stevens as nicely he does for all his roles. His range of emotions starts from perplexity and hesitation but as he navigates his way through the source code, he gains conviction.

You start rooting for him the moment you see him on the screen. You share his scepticism and vacillation as you also sail through the plot along with him. The more he knows, the more you know. And when he finally figures it all out, you eagerly wait for “checkmate”. But at his core, Captain Stevens just wants to be told that “everything is going to be okay” as he helplessly asks Christina Warren (Michelle Monaghan) to tell him that as he waits to be blown up by yet another blast.

This movie transports your mind to places because it opens a realm of possibilities for its viewers. According to astrophysicist Michio Mako, “what you see in Source Code is improbable but possible”. As for syncing memories of a dying person, studies on spatial vision have shown that it is indeed possible to track the grid pattern or a map of the activities of a dying person as they are looking out at the world.

What I am trying to say is that the movie is vitally thought provoking and opens up an array of possibilities. Who knows maybe something will materialize in the future and an actual Captain Colter Stevens will save the world for us!
Imagine Bob Dylan sitting beside you on an acoustic guitar, answering the question—“The answer my friend, is blowing in the wind”. Considering Music as a subset of ‘Art’, in a world tied up into knots by data packets, can Art have an escape from being ‘programmed’ Art? Since the inception of civilization, Art is something which was dubbed as ‘unique’, ‘original’ and a ‘creation of the human mind’.

Can something as small as a snippet of code, replace an Artist’s brainchild? Transform it? Make it just another algorithm? Let us dive deep in search of answers!

The availability and creation of music has been largely impacted by Technology, so much so that both of them could mean the same. Where is the concept of Time and Effort then, the two most essential ingredients in the cooking of a work of Art?

It is the era when DJ’s have become Artists, when talent is measured by the ability to manipulate sounds through smart electronic ware. New genres of music, mostly electronic, are coming into the picture.

IS ROCK AND ROLL DEAD? : Analyzing the Impact of Technology on Music
K-Pop, Electronica, House, Crank and the myriad other hybrid genres which have evolved hand-in-hand with technology, are encased by synthetic sound effects. While this renders classical genres redundant, cross cultural integration is taking place. Genres like Hip Hop which were considered unacceptable in countries like Africa have started finding acceptance in an alternative like Afro Hip Hop.

Music can be read, copied and transferred at lightning fast speeds with our devices sitting ‘smartly’ on the Web. The Music industry has seen a prodigious loss of 12.5 Million Dollars in the past decade. Is the artist really incentive to produce Art in the face of this situation?

However, business opportunities have proliferated through streaming channels like Spotify and iTunes. Small artists can make a mark faster through channels on YouTube. Recall the era when artists had to wait for people to listen to their cassettes; tap on your screen and bang! “Who’s this new guy?” At the end of the day, you make a living much faster, and thus jobs have been created. At this juncture, a major cost reduction has taken place, whether or not it makes up for the losses, is still a matter of debate.

While niche genres have taken a substantial hit, as music today is no more a mix and match of data, newer genres have made their way through our labyrinth, setting the standard for upcoming generations.

The internet penetration in a country like India has increased substantially, making music more accessible and cheaper to the common lot. This means has attention can be sought at the speed of light, but retention? With growing competition people don’t remember your music amidst a thousand other “clicks”. Hence the life cycle of these newer genres are at a major risk.

Therefore, the effort that Beatles or Leonard Cohen or even Rolling Stones took, to make a mark at the contemporary time, was much more arguably. In the era of floppy discs, only the privileged few were accessible to their masterpieces. Well ladies and gentlemen, we have perhaps found a vague answer “blowing in the winds”. Every sphere and every domain is susceptible to the power of Technology. In an era when human cloning is not a far cry, how could something as humane as music be untouched? Technology has both boons and banes. Ending on the notes similar to Shawshank Redemption- “Hope is a good thing, perhaps the best of things”- let us hope that authenticity in music is not lost, art does not become ‘programmed art’ and that dreamers like John Lennon get resurrected again.

-DEEPAYAN GHOSH

DID YOU KNOW?
There are few activities in life that utilizes the entire brain, and music is one of them.
Outliers is the third book by Malcolm Gladwell. The book held the number one bestseller position for The New York Times for eleven straight weeks. Malcolm is a curious writer and he transmits his curiosity on to his readers. He is atypical and mystifying.

Outliers talks about a variety of phenomena, cultures, famous, rich and intelligent people which on the face value have nothing in common but they do have a common story behind their success. That story revolves around the community and society around them. Why was Bill Gates able to build such a huge empire? Why are Asians good at Math? Why were scientists like Oppenheimer able to climb the ladders of success but people who were equally intelligent as them could not? This book answers these questions in the most discerning fashion. “We should know where we come from in order to understand our journey”.

This is the underlining philosophy of this book. This book is not a sermon or lecture, it is a very absorbing and compelling piece of text that you cannot look away from. It’s a page turner in a true sense.

Very early on this book sets the distinct tone and perspective that it has throughout. In the introduction it talks about the Roseto Mystery. Roseto Valfortore is a small town that lies in the Italian province of Foggia. The people of that town started to migrate to United States in 1882 in order to explore fresh financial opportunities. Gradually they created an ecosystem for themselves in Pennsylvania in a small town. The mystery was that these people were JUST dying of old age and nothing else. They were not developing heart conditions that were fatal or other chronic diseases. It was found out that reason behind this this spectacular anomaly was that the ecosystem of their community. Reduced stress levels, closeness amongst people and a close knit, integrated social structure was the reason for this beautiful phenomenon.

This is the kind of outlook this book has. It dissects a situation to its very core and gives such an elegant, logical and believable solution that you can’t help but smile in admiration and awe. You simply cannot miss this book. It will change the way you perceive things, forever.

-PRA SHANT CHAHAR
Plethora of you makes me a librocubicularist. Enabled to abate my enervate condition. For being my latent ubiquitous peace, loving me in phases, turning me into a liberal meek. Cascading on me set of scary ataraxic emotions, making this eccentric incongruous person connected with you. Driving away clouds of diffidence from my life, handling my academic whimpers, reducing my coffee intakes, helping me select best possible attires.

Demonstrating that closures are best masterpieces and that letting go is an art, looking through my altitudinous walls, making me realize the value of priorities, making me a better person not so inexorable for future experiences. With you, I made mistakes, learned, laughed, cried, missed, gained, lost, got better. Thank you for bringing a little order to this restless soul.

For selflessly letting me sparkle, comforting enough while realizing that it is brilliant enough to breakdown and cry and be vulnerable.

Making me vacillate amidst wide range of emotions, ensuring that I give up, yet go for it the next instant. Taking me out of my comfort zone, assuring that I don’t get left behind in that dilapidated self. Showcasing that it is important to share stuffs, extremely comfortable to abandon the bigger picture to smaller fractions of details.

Preaching that apologies, efforts and love can melt the inexorable. Checking that I survive in best of spirits. Calming down my mood swings. Making me appreciate life, sacrifices a little more, taking it a little less granted. Helping me to keep people close, that certain things are not meant to be, they don’t last and there can be smoke without fire. Helping to abate scary hallucinations, overwhelming odds. Not every time the Phoenix shall rise from the ashes and we may not dance in the storms while the eagle hovering over it. As the bridge between us dangles with pernicious ablaue, accompanied by bitter sweet occasional sprinkles, maybe one day we will wake up and this will all just be a dream or a new beginning, indeed!

What Initium Novum means to me

-JAYDEEP MOHARANA
Team SymBeat

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