

ECLECTIC TIMES

ARCHIVAL FINDS - SOCIAL HISTORY - ANTHROPOLOGY

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ECLECTIC



FROM THE LECTURE HALL TO THE PODIUM

HOW THE IIIT PUNE FACULTY TRADED CHALK FOR GOLD AT THE INTER-IIIT SPORTS MEET

They mark our attendance, grade our assignments, and lecture us on discipline. But a couple of weeks ago, the IIIT Pune faculty flipped the script. Arriving at the Inter-IIIT Sports Meet as underdogs, they returned as champions, bringing home a haul of Gold medals and stories that will circulate in the hostels for years. We sat down with a few of the faculty members to break down the strategy, the sweat, and the sheer chaos of victory.

THE POWERHOUSE: Sumit Sir's "Killer" Instinct

Sumit sir's performance on the cricket pitch became the tournament's viral moment. Chasing a target of 67 runs, he dismantled the bowling attack with a relentless offensive, smashing 10 sixes that cleared the stadium grounds entirely. "No ball came back," Sir stated.

The performance was so destructive that organizers jokingly requested compensation for the lost balls, while stunned opponents were left asking, "Who is this guy?"

THE TEAM PLAYER: Jatin Sir's Sports Diary

For Jatin Sir, the Sports Meet was less about winning individual awards and more about the strong friendships that form when professors leave the staff room and hit the field. His experience highlighted the grit and occasional chaos of competitive sports.

The Gold Medal Dogpile

The defining moment for him was securing the Gold in Tug-of-War against the physically imposing teams from Jabalpur and Allahabad. Jatin Sir described the victory as a triumph of confidence over size.

The win culminated in a moment that defied faculty decorum: a celebratory pile-up on the field.

"I fell to the ground, and Bhupendra Sir, in his excitement, climbed right on top of me!" he recalled with a laugh.

SUPPORT BEYOND THE GAME - PRIYANK SIR

Priyank Sir, the head of the SAC, cheered on the team and warmly congratulated the faculty members for their victory at the inter-IIIT event. It wasn't just appreciation; it felt like a genuine celebration of hard work, teamwork, and the spirit of IIIT Pune.

THE STRATEGISTS: Mahendra & Dipen Sir on The Mental Game.

Diplomacy & Heartbreak

Mahendra Sir described the volleyball campaign as an emotional rollercoaster. The team fought "neck-to-neck" battles, winning opening sets only to lose heartbreakers in deuce. "It came down to luck and a lack of touch—some of us hadn't handled a ball in five years," he admitted.

Off the court, Mahendra Sir played the role of the team's unofficial diplomat. Leveraging his alumni network and a philosophy of "give-and-take respect," he managed to convince rival teams to cheer for IIIT Pune. By the end of the tournament, strangers were shouting for our faculty.

On being asked about the team's energy, whether it was Play to Win or Play to Enjoy, Mahendra Sir stated, "Both, You enjoy and only then you can plan to Win, You enjoy some particular things, and then you basically try to build that."

The Data-Driven Swimmer

While Mahendra Sir managed the crowd, Dr. Dipen Sir applied a rigorous analytical lens to the pool. Facing off against competitors with superior facilities, he treated his races as a data-gathering mission.

"I have a reference scale now," Dipen Sir noted. "We didn't have practice data before this. Now, we can make a strategy to minimize time for next year."

He also pointed out that IIIT Pune had no female faculty participants this year, while many other IIITs did. Seeing that the competition in women's events was relatively low, he stressed that even minimal participation could translate into strong medal prospects. He urged that female faculty members be encouraged for future meets to enhance the institute's medal chances.



"ACADEMIC PROGRESS MEETS DIGITAL ROADBLOCKS"

MIDSEM WEEK: A CAMPUS UNITED BY STRESS, HOPE AND CHAI

The midsemester examination cycle once again passed through campus like a caffeine-fueled storm, bringing with it an atmosphere defined by preparation, pressure, and perseverance. Students shared a mix of panic, humour, and moments of unexpected wisdom. From night-long study sessions to last-minute syllabus revelations, midterms once again proved that exams may test memory—but they definitely strengthen community spirit. To understand this year's midsem experience more comprehensively, the Editorial Team collected student responses, conducted short interviews, and held a quick campus poll that captured the collective mood.

VOICES FROM THE CORRIDOR

We asked students to describe their mid-semester experience, and the responses were as relatable as they were entertaining.

Q: How would you describe your midterms in one word?

A: Anshika from 1st year shared the word "Hectic" - Impact of sleepless nights and overwhelming syllabus.

Q: Who's your midsem MVP — the friend who shares notes or the one who motivates?

A: Ansh from 2nd year shared, "The one who shares the notes - I left my notes at home for the Diwali celebration, and I had to ask for the notes. Saviour"

Q: How do you handle stress or burnout during exam season?

A: Rishu Raj from 1st year mentions "Talking to my old friends and cursing the education system". Whereas, Atharva from 1st year shared that there wasn't as much stress, but troubling the third guy in the room from his sleep was a "Time paas" for him and his friends.



NETWORK CONNECTIVITY ISSUES: THE TURMOIL AND CHAOS

7th November, a very normal, simple-looking Friday. Fridays. They feel like blessings, don't they? The bridge between the hectic weekdays and chill weekends. A day when you have the freedom to do whatever you want, gaming, movies, reading or just scrolling Instagram. And almost all of this needs one very crucial thing—The Internet. The 2020s, when there's so much 'happening' in the world, life without the internet, in the midst of a bunch of mountains, is unimaginable!

But imagine we had to. Not imagine, rather experience. This wasn't a life experience we wanted. Well, getting back on track, 7th November. An email pops up in the inbox—"Temporary disruption of internet services (7th-9th November 2025)". This meant no wifi or LAN for the whole weekend!!!! And obviously, the mobile data works so well here. With a speed of 1.56 Mbps. Out here, in the middle of nowhere (Tale'gaon!) What are we supposed to do without the internet? With the ongoing hackathons, upcoming presentations, assignments, post mid-semester assessments, and whatnot, how could we be without the internet? Without AI? And...we definitely weren't going to exist without the internet. So, there were some serious plans in the making. Some were planning to flee home, some were going to visit their nearest relatives, those relatives they didn't even know existed till very recently. Some were planning treks and some were planning trips, to Lonavala, to Imagicaa, Phoenix, Dagdusheth, to Talegaon's exclusive Dmart and so on. And the rest..... were on their balconies. Balconies were the saviours. The golden zones where our mobile data speeds touched a whopping 30Mbps.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE CLUBS

VC – DANCE, MOVES AND VIBE

The bass drops, sneakers hit the floor, and the crowd erupts as Vanity Crew takes over. Whether it's a cultural fest, a competition, or a flash mob, the crew brings every stage alive with rhythm and expression.

What sets Vanity Crew apart is its inclusivity — of people and of dance itself. The team blends styles across cultures and generations, from sharp hip-hop and graceful classical to expressive contemporary and vibrant street forms, celebrating diversity in every beat.

We began with exciting auditions that set the stage for our journey, followed by fun socials and reel shoots that captured our best moments. The ice cream reel brought in sweet memories and laughter. We kept the energy high with our lively "Cortis-Go" act, and now we're all geared up for the upcoming flash mob—best is yet to come!!

To me, Vanity Crew is home. It's a group of dancers who share the same heartbeat when the music starts. We've laughed, learned, and grown together not just as performers but as a team that supports and uplifts one another. What makes Vanity Crew special is our passion for creativity and our drive to always bring something new to the stage. ~Avani Yadav

E-CELL – Cultivating the next-Gen of Innovators

At E-Cell, IIT Pune, we continuously strive to create platforms that expose students to real-world entrepreneurial and financial experiences. In November, E-Cell, IIT Pune, in collaboration with StockGro, launched BigShot, an intensive virtual trading challenge designed to test participants' financial acumen and investment strategy in real-time market conditions using virtual capital. The contest spanned several days, encouraging students to achieve the highest portfolio growth in a risk-free simulation environment.

ABHINAY – Lights Camera Action

Abhinay – Streetplay Triumph at Mood Indigo! In a story straight from the campus headlines, Abhinay, the unstoppable drama force of IIT Pune, set MIT WPU buzzing at the IIT Bombay Mood Indigo drama fest auditions. For the first time ever, the Abhinay squad blazed through fierce competition and grabbed that coveted golden ticket—earning their chance to perform live at Mood Indigo itself! Lights, Camera, Abhinay

After years of relentless hustle, this win tastes extra special! Every stage, every street, every skipped heartbeat led to this day. All credit to the visionary guidance of Abhishek Singh sir, whose dedication built the spirited foundation of Abhinay. This victory? A collective script—written by every member, every rehearsal, every roadblock overcome together. IIT Pune gets a bigger stage, and the entire Abhinay fam is ready to rise higher, shout louder! And as the curtain rises, remember—

"Picture abhi baki hai mere dost"

RANG – Splash of Creativity and Spooky Art!

Rang, the art club, lit up the month with strokes of creativity, color, and pure passion! From brushes to bleach, every corner buzzed with artistic energy as members turned dark fabrics into sparkling masterpieces during the bleach painting session—proving that even the darkest shades can shine with imagination. But the fun didn't stop there! Halloween came alive with Rang's spooky face-painting event, where ghosts met glitter and eerie met elegant. Faces became canvases, laughter filled the room, and art blurred beautifully with celebration. Each creation told a story—of fear, fun, and freedom of expression. Rang truly turned ordinary moments into a festival of shades and smiles, reminding everyone that art isn't just seen; it's felt, lived, and celebrated with every vibrant hue!

SAAZ – Strikes a High Note with Workshops and Jam Session

If you felt a musical buzz in the air this month, you have "Saz" to thank! Our music club hit all the right notes in November, wrapping the campus in a schedule packed with rhythm, theory, and pure, unadulterated fun.

For those eager to look "behind the music," Saz hosted two fantastic workshops on Music Theory. These sessions were the perfect entry point for aspiring musicians, breaking down complex ideas into simple, engaging lessons. The club decoded the essentials, from basic terminologies to the soul of Indian music: "sur," "sargam," "taal," and "lay." Using a clever ladder analogy to visualize different "sur," the workshops made theory feel less like a lecture and more like discovering a new language. Of course, no music session is complete without practice, and attendees also benefited from guided vocal exercises.

The month's chart-topper was the "Saz Jamming Session" on November 9th. This wasn't just a club event; it was a campus-wide celebration. Students—both seasoned Saz members and curious newcomers—gathered to share tunes, collaborate, and simply sing their hearts out. The energy was infectious, creating a wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie and expression.

This November, Saz successfully curated a month of fun-filled musical activities for the entire campus.

BLUEPRINT – Design, creativity and PSD

1. It was a reel in collaboration with Horizon with the music 'New person same old mistakes'. It took me a lot of time and it turned out well, it has hidden references in condensed 10 seconds

Also there was a motion poster which was inspired by a tattoo design I found on Pinterest. It is meant to be an angel spreading its hands in space, based off Evangelion's cosmic and psychological horror. The angel is blind.

SAC forms and Anti ragging posters were done by us but not exactly in this month

Honestly there is no single direction, the club is less strategic and more expressive. I believe each member should create or make what expresses them, be it a design, video edit, small clip, reel, 3d art etc

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE CLUBS

QUANTNUM Chronicles: A Month of Growth and Excitement

This month, Quantum brought together curious minds through a series of energizing learning sessions aimed at strengthening the mathematical foundations that power coding and problem-solving. Each session sparked fresh curiosity as members uncovered the beauty of mathematical reasoning and its surprising connections to competitive programming. The growing enthusiasm in the room was a clear sign of how deeply the spirit of exploration is taking root within the club.

QRIOCITY

Qriocity, the quiz club of our college is ready to set off a competition by testing your knowledge in different areas ranging from videogames, books, movies, sports etc in their upcoming events.

First type is their classic trivia rounds, familiar, fast paced format covering a large range of knowledge and second would be a family feud quiz.

To raise the stakes and rewards they are officially overhauling the club with a new point system.

Points will be earned based on group or individual performances in every official Qriocity event held this academic year and they would be accumulated and by the end of the year next semester, the top three members would be awarded prizes based on their cumulative points.

BITLEGION Bulletin: Code, Collaboration & Campus Momentum

This month, BitLegion set the stage for one of the most dynamic technical events on campus—the intra-college round of the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). With 20 teams and over 60 participants, the competition brought together coders eager to test their logic, efficiency, and coding instincts under real pressure. Alongside the contest, BitLegion hosted five engaging sessions designed to strengthen core programming skills and deepen students' understanding of writing cleaner, smarter, and more effective code. The energy throughout the month reflected the club's commitment to helping students grow as confident and capable developers.

ROFIES – robots and beyond

R.O.F.I.E.S, the Robotics club, far from being a closed technical group, are proving their commitment to being an open club creating a supportive environment where enthusiasm and curiosity are the only prerequisites required.

Their most defining event of the semester was the club's participation in MINDSPARK at COEP. The club took the freshers to compete in events like Robo Soccer, Robo Race and Line Follower.

Building on the lessons learned from the competition and the core interest in real-life applications, the club is now focused on an internal project, an autonomous DRONE under the team AeroVision. Through its open door policy and practical, project-based approach, the R.O.F.I.E.S club continues to set a strong baseline, proving that freshers are highly capable and ready to advance into the complex world of robotics and embedded systems.

HORIZON:

This month was one of the busiest for the photography club, with continuous coverage of major college activities such as Hindi Pakhwada, Anti-Ragging Week, Vigilance Week, Anti-Tobacco drives, and multiple guest lectures. Members found themselves shooting in classrooms and auditoriums almost daily, facing challenges like dim lighting and long hours of coverage. Through this, the team significantly improved their low-light photography skills, learned better control of camera settings like ISO, and adapted to the fast pace required for professional-style event documentation. Alongside routine coverage, the club also celebrated its growing digital presence as it recently crossed a major follower milestone on Instagram, reflecting the increasing appreciation for its work across the campus.

Coding, Creativity & Campus Buzz: LOCALHOST Updates

This month, LocalHost, the college's vibrant technical club, ignited the campus with an inspiring session that opened doors to the rapidly evolving worlds of AI and web development. The centerpiece of the month was Neuro_sys, a high-energy hackathon that pushed participants to design AI-driven automation for video generation. Supported by a generous ₹15,000 prize pool from Carter AI, the event drew a wave of ambitious minds ready to innovate under pressure.

A STARTUP MINDSET: BEYOND A HACKATHON

A team of two students, Aadish Shelke and Bhagyashri has emerged victorious in the prestigious Samsung Solve for Tomorrow (SFT) 2025 competition, securing a substantial grant and incubation support at FITT, IIT Delhi. Their winning project, an AI sports platform to empower athletes from Tier 2 and Tier 3 Indian cities featuring a virtual coach, AI referee and neuro inclusive tracker for inclusive athletic training, was chosen for its powerful social impact and innovative use of technology.

SAMSUNG SOLVE FOR TOMORROW

Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow is a global Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative that challenges young minds (ages 14-22) to address real-world challenges using science and technology. The 2025 edition focused on four key themes: AI for a Safer, Smarter, and Inclusive Bharat; Future of Health, Hygiene, and Well-being; Environmental Sustainability via Technology; and Social Change through Sport and Tech: For Education and Better Futures. The winning teams, one from each theme, collectively receive a grant of ₹1 crore, along with essential mentorship and incubation at FITT (Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer), IIT Delhi to transform their prototypes into market-ready solutions.

THE WINNING INNOVATION

The winning project is a comprehensive web plus app platform aimed at providing athletes from underserved backgrounds with access to national opportunities and a clear path for career development in sports.

PERSONAL MOTIVATION

Aadish Shelke, a former tennis player for over ten years, explained that the motivation was deeply personal. "Coming from a middle-class background in a Tier 3 city, I lacked access to national opportunities and a path for a sports career. We want to change that for other athletes."

TECHNOLOGY USED:

The solution utilizes Flutter and Dart for the mobile applications (Android and iOS) and a React with Python backend for the web component. Crucially, the platform includes a pilot ML model designed to analyze and determine an athlete's technical skills, strengths, and weaknesses. This focus on empowering those who lack resources is what perfectly aligned their project with the competition's theme of "Social Change."



STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

The team emphasised that SFT significantly differed from other hackathons; the competition was less about technical skills and more about developing a viable startup ecosystem. The judges prioritised problem-solving and scalability. "What the investors want is how much you can scale and how many people you can reach.", mentioned Bhagyashri, who focused on the business aspect of the project, market size, customer acquisition, competitor analysis, and clear differentiation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The team recounted a critical piece of advice from a FITT mentor to always view their solution from a "bigger perspective" and prioritise scale. A particularly harsh but constructive critique that broke down their initial pitch forced them to completely change their pitching strategy, a lesson they plan to carry into all future ventures.

FUTURE PLAN

With the grant secured, the team is set to begin their incubation at FITT, IIT Delhi. Their ultimate goal is to help each athlete across the country create a sustainable career in sports, confirming their commitment to the competition's vision.

CRITICAL ADVICE

They offered simple yet powerful advice: "Keep exploring, keep trying, keep building." They urged juniors not to fear failure, stressing that the experience gained from repeated attempts, even when they lose, is what truly matters. "Don't stop, and take part in everything... you will definitely fail, but the experience is what really matters."



FROM NO POSTERS TO FULL HYPE — THE EVENT'S GLOW-UP

Last year's event was, in his words, a very basic version of what we witnessed now — “no decorations, no PR,” and only regular gamers knew about it. This year, the team went all out. Posters across the building, colorful lighting, and widespread communication ensured the entire college knew what was coming.

But with great hype came great pressure. Shirraj recalled SAC members reminding them that this had to be “a great and prestigious event.” The expectations were sky-high — but the Esports team delivered.

He also revealed “inside news” about the prizes: winners' details have already been submitted to the college, and the funds will be issued directly to them. The club is hoping to host an award ceremony soon.

As we all know, our college recently hosted the first major event of this semester — the Esports Tournament — and it proved to be a huge success. To get a closer look at what happened behind the scenes, we, the Eclectic members, were honoured to have a brief conversation with Shirraj, who led the Esports event operations.

During our chat, he emphasised giving full credit to co-head Bhavin, the hardworking FY and SY juniors, and RANG, who elevated the event atmosphere with their beautiful decorations. With 8 exciting games and 150+ enthusiastic participants, this tournament didn't just run — it brought the entire campus together in celebration.

Played, Lost, Laughed — And the Network Had Their Back

Shirraj didn't just organise — he jumped into the action too, playing FIFA and Clash Royale. With a grin, he admitted, “I lost in both, but it was fun.” The Esports club actually encouraged every member to participate in at least one game, so no one was only working backstage — everyone got a taste of the competition.

While players battled on-screen, the organisers were fighting a different kind of match behind the scenes: keeping the tech flawless. And the result? The tech team won.

“You'll be surprised — aisa ek bhi problem nahi aya,” Shirraj shared proudly. The smooth gameplay wasn't luck; it was all preparation:

- Multiple LAN ports to handle traffic
- Backup routers in case any hardware fails
- Extra laptops were ready to provide hotspots

All that planning meant zero delays and matches that ran without a hitch.

GAME ON, CAMPUS — INSIDE THE ESPORTS BUZZ

NEW CHAMPIONS, FRESH ENERGY, AND UNDERDOG MATCHUPS

The most interesting part of the event?

The unexpected talent that emerged this year:

- In Valorant, the well-known senior squad led by Rishi Dubey was defeated by a new team led by Nikhil — a true underdog triumph.
- In FIFA, (name of the first-year student), a first-year student stunned the crowd by winning the entire tournament.
- In Clash Royale, players from FY, SY, and even fourth-year reached advanced rounds — a rare and entertaining mix.

Meanwhile, games like BGMI and Free Fire kept the competitive energy alive, while Smash Karts and Stumble Guys added pure chaos and comedy, especially during late-night remote matches with almost 50 players each. People played, laughed, and enjoyed — exactly what gaming should be.

A SIMPLE AND STRONG MESSAGE FROM SHRIRAJ TO EVERY STUDENT

With a proud smile, he told us how packed the room was during the FIFA finals — cheering, loud reactions, and a sense of unity. That energy, according to him, is what makes small events feel big.

His message was clear: “Participate more. Cheer more. Show up for each other.

That's how events become memories.”



ACHIEVEMENT

THE ELITE ATHLETE: Rajat Sir on "Medal Math"

When Rajat Sir joined IIIT Pune as a Physical Training Instructor, he brought a resume that demands respect. With 15 years of experience in everything from Ice Hockey to Boxing, and a qualification for the prestigious Khelo India Winter Games in Snowboarding, he set a high bar for the faculty team

The "Medal Math" Philosophy

While the campus loves cricket, Rajat Sir offers a different perspective on how to win championships.

"Cricket is great, but 11 players work for just one medal," he explained. "In individual sports like swimming or athletics, one person can win four medals. That is how you raise the country's name."

He pointed to Dipen Sir's four-medal haul in swimming as the perfect example of this efficiency.



Sprinting vs. Stamina

Rajat Sir walked the talk, securing three medals in athletics. Impressively, he did this while playing out of position.

"I am a long-distance runner," he noted. "These were short sprints requiring power, not stamina."

Despite the energy drain of back-to-back events costing him potential medals in other categories, his mindset remained elite.

Mohan Sri Krishna Alavanthar Budumuru

The poem Pond Of Mercury, has recently been published in Active Muse's "Shishir 2025 Poems" collection.

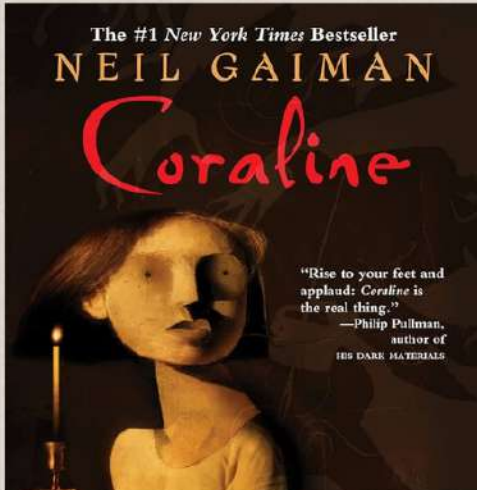
Innovation meets execution, and our campus couldn't be prouder!

A huge congratulations to Team Cache Me If You Cann for their outstanding victory at Smart India Hackathon.

Nikhil Prajapati, Shreyansh Kachhadiya, Rohan Katale, Tanishq Ingole, Pallavi Bade, and Aditya Pandey showcased exceptional problem-solving skills, technical depth, and teamwork to emerge victorious on a national stage. Their achievement stands as a testament to dedication, creativity, and the spirit of innovation at our college.

Innovation, teamwork, and perseverance took center stage at the hackathon held on December 8-9, and IIIT Pune proudly celebrates the success of Team INNOHACK.

Led by B Sai Amrutha, along with G Praneetha, K Sai Kiran Raju, K Sainath, M Pritam Reddy, and P Vihaan, the team demonstrated exceptional technical expertise, creativity, and collaborative spirit. Their performance reflects the strong culture of innovation and problem-solving nurtured at our institute.



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Coraline – Neil Gaiman

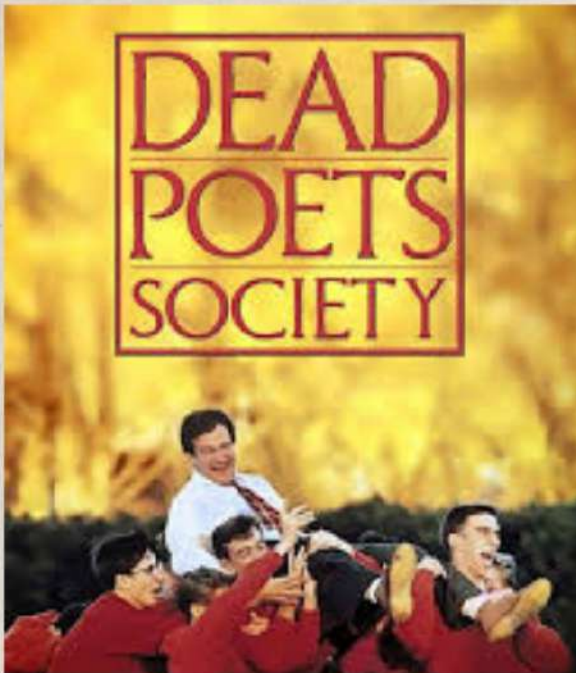
The book is about a young girl named Coraline who is fond of exploring. That's the first thing she did when her family moved into their new house.

The core theme of the book is accepting what you have with you, even if you desire more. Another core theme of the book is having the courage to face your fears.

The writing style is descriptive and uncanny, creating a vivid effect that stays with the reader.

I recommend this book because it strongly engages the reader's imagination. And because it's a horror book at the end of the day, the scary part comes from imagining the detailed sets and characters, and not so much from what is happening to the main character herself.

MOVIES OF THE MONTH

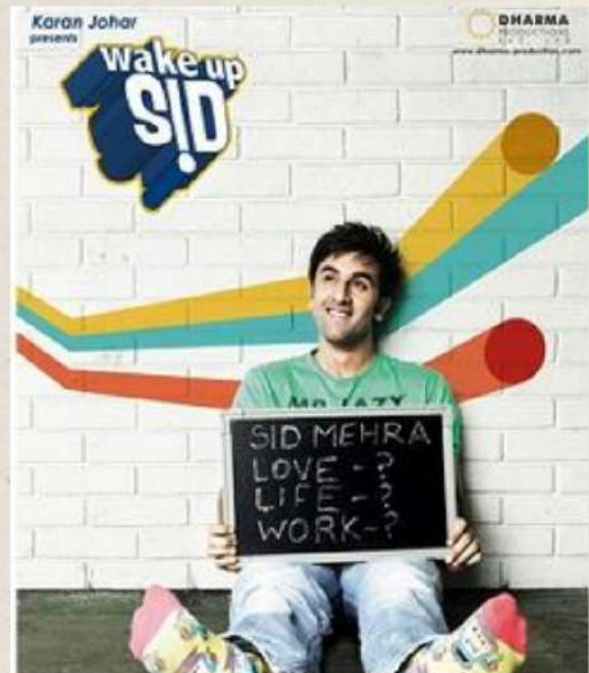


Dead Poets Society

Peter Weir

Dead Poets Society is a perfect November pick because it's reflective and emotional ideal for a month centred on change and introspection. The film has a powerful message about individuality, the pressures of conformity and the transformative role of a passionate teacher. Robin Williams' unforgettable performance as Mr. Keating, resonates long after viewing.

The standout element for me is its dialogue "Carpe Diem" which means seize the day

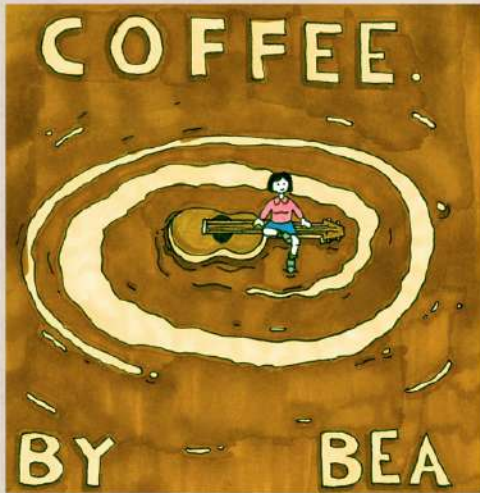


Wake up Sid

Ayan Mukerji

All of us know Ayan Mukerji for 'Brahmastra', but his directorial debut 'Wake up Sid' is rather less known. The film stars Ranbir Kapoor and Konkana Sen Sharma in lead roles. The plot shows the journey of 'Sid' from a careless, spoiled brat to a responsible man. Ayesha, who is a young, independent woman is the catalyst for this change and the film shows how she falls for him once he changes his ways.

What was unique about the film is its relatability, since we see such people around us all the time. Also the movie is based in contemporary Mumbai, the 'City of dreams'.



SONG OF THE MONTH

COFFEE -

beabadoobee

This month carries a special kind of mood as the wind gets sharper and the early winter gloom settles in like a soft, cold blanket. It is the month where the days feel shorter, the evenings feel heavier and everything slows down and a hot cup of coffee is what we would enjoy the most at this time

HORIZON PICK OF THE MONTH



Paridhi Sethia

RANG DRAWING OF MONTH



Bhavishya Mahawar

CLUB MONTAGES

