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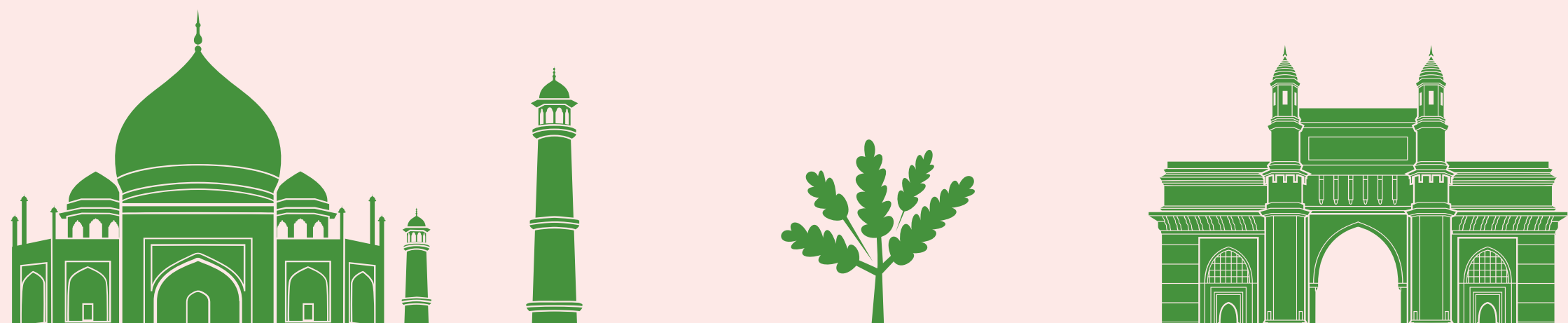
#4 Edition

# THE NARRATIVE

FEBRUARY EDITION

“The Indian way of life provide the vision of the natural and real way of life. We veil ourselfed with unnatural masks. On the face of India are tender expressions which carry the mark of the Creator’s hand”

By George Bernard Shaw



# ABOUT CIS

In its 18th successful year of operations, the Centre for International Studies (CIS) is a pioneering institution in India offering International Degree in collaboration with the reputed international University. CIS built its first partnership with Kingston University, London for the BBA(Hons.) Business Administration program. CIS has created a niche for itself in these years by providing a conducive learning environment. At CIS, students receive quality education, classrooms with innovative teaching techniques, and the latest e-learning environment of global standards.



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

As we embark on the exciting journey of our fourth edition, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible evolution of The Narrative, NMIMS CIS's cherished college newsletter. Conceived in 2023 by the Literary Club, The Narrative was envisioned as a dynamic platform for students to showcase their artistic endeavours, ranging from the written word to captivating visuals.

The inception of this literary venture marked the beginning of a captivating odyssey, one that has seen three remarkable editions come to life, each brimming with the diverse talents and creative expressions of our vibrant student community. From poems that resonate with emotion to thought-provoking articles that delve into the heart of contemporary issues, The Narrative has become a testament to the rich tapestry of voices within NMIMS CIS.

Edition after edition, our readers have been treated to a kaleidoscope of literary delights. With each passing edition, our contributors have ceaselessly proven that creativity knows no bounds.

The theme that we chose for this edition is, "Gems of India". Our motherland is not only home to numerous intricately curated monuments but is also an abode to the most pure nature. From sun-kissed beaches & snow-capped peaks to reveal nature's bounty. A tapestry woven with history, warmth, & wonder. Today as we release the 4th edition of our beloved Narrative we would like all our readers to take a moment to appreciate the unique 'Gems of India' and be grateful for abundance.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the contributors, readers, and supporters who have been an integral part of The Narrative's journey so far. Your enthusiasm has fueled the growth of this platform, turning it into a cherished space for artistic expression and creative exploration.

Happy reading!

# Effectiveness of Project Management in Indian Scenario

BY  
Dr. Rohit Kichloo  
(Faculty, CIS)

India has seen a surge in infrastructure projects in recent years, driven by the government's focus on economic development, urbanization, and improving connectivity across the country. Project management plays a crucial role in ensuring the successful execution of these infrastructure projects. Here are some key points about infrastructure projects in India and their management:

**Scope and Scale:** Infrastructure projects in India cover a wide range of sectors including transportation (roads, railways, airports, ports), energy (power plants, renewable energy projects), urban development (smart cities, metro rail systems), water supply and sanitation, and telecommunications. These projects vary in scale from small local initiatives to massive national endeavors.

**Government Initiatives:** The Indian government has launched several initiatives to boost infrastructure development such as the Bharatmala project for road development, Sagarmala for port-led development, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for rural road connectivity, and initiatives for the development of smart cities and industrial corridors.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Many infrastructure projects in India are implemented through PPPs where the government collaborates with private sector companies to finance, build, and operate infrastructure assets. Effective project management is essential to ensure coordination between public and private stakeholders, adherence to timelines, and successful project delivery.

**Challenges:** Infrastructure projects in India often face challenges such as land acquisition issues, regulatory hurdles, funding constraints, delays in approvals, environmental concerns, and execution challenges due to the sheer scale and complexity of projects. Effective project management involves identifying and mitigating these challenges to keep projects on track.

**Technology Adoption:** There's a growing emphasis on leveraging technology for project management in India. Tools such as Building Information Modeling (BIM), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), project management software, and drones are being increasingly used for design, planning, monitoring, and execution of infrastructure projects, improving efficiency and reducing costs.

**Stakeholder Management:** Infrastructure projects typically involve multiple stakeholders including government agencies, contractors, investors, local communities, and regulatory bodies. Project managers need to effectively communicate with and manage the expectations of these stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle to ensure smooth execution.

**Quality and Safety:** Ensuring quality and safety standards is paramount in infrastructure projects to avoid cost overruns, delays, and accidents. Project managers need to enforce rigorous quality control measures and safety protocols throughout the project, conducting regular inspections and audits to maintain compliance with standards and regulations.

**Project Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuous monitoring and evaluation are essential to track progress, identify bottlenecks, and take corrective actions in a timely manner. Project managers utilize key performance indicators (KPIs), milestones, and project management tools to monitor progress and ensure that projects are delivered within budget and timelines.

Overall, effective project management is critical for the successful execution of infrastructure projects in India, helping to address the country's growing infrastructure needs and contribute to its economic development and social progress.

Project management principles are crucial in the successful execution of infrastructure projects in India. Let's delve into how these principles are applied in real-world projects, followed by examples of notable infrastructure projects in India:

**Delhi Metro:** The Delhi Metro project is a prime example of successful infrastructure development in India. Project management principles were applied to plan and execute the construction of metro rail lines across Delhi and its neighboring regions, transforming urban transportation.

**Golden Quadrilateral:** The Golden Quadrilateral project aimed to connect major cities in India through a network of four-lane highways. This massive infrastructure initiative involved meticulous project planning, resource allocation, and coordination to upgrade and construct thousands of kilometers of roads.

**BharatNet:** BharatNet is an ambitious project to provide broadband connectivity to over 250,000 gram panchayats (village councils) across India. Project management principles are crucial in coordinating the deployment of optical fiber cables and network infrastructure to remote rural areas.

**How Project Management Principles Taught in Classes Help Students:**

- Understanding project management principles equips students with essential skills and knowledge applicable across industries and sectors.
- Students learn how to initiate, plan, execute, monitor, and close projects effectively, improving their employability and career prospects.
- Practical case studies and simulations help students understand real-world challenges and develop problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Exposure to project management methodologies and tools prepares students to adapt to different project environments and complexities.

**Importance of Agile and PRINCE2:**

**Agile:** Agile methodologies prioritize iterative development, collaboration, and adaptability, making them suitable for dynamic and fast-paced infrastructure projects. Agile principles help teams respond to changing requirements and stakeholder feedback effectively, enhancing project flexibility and responsiveness.

**PRINCE2 (Projects in Controlled Environments):** PRINCE2 provides a structured framework for project management, emphasizing clear roles and responsibilities, effective communication, and stage-gate reviews. PRINCE2 principles help ensure projects are well-governed, controlled, and managed, reducing risks and enhancing project success rates.

In summary, project management principles are essential for the successful execution of infrastructure projects in India, and their application is evident in various projects across the country. Learning project management principles equips students with valuable skills and knowledge, while methodologies like Agile and PRINCE2 offer structured approaches to managing projects effectively.

# DID YOU KNOW?



## Khajuraho Group of Monuments

Famous for their stunning erotic sculptures, these temples in Madhya Pradesh are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and showcase exceptional medieval Indian art and architecture.

## Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Assam

Known for its vibrant biodiversity, including feral horses and white-winged wood ducks, this national park is a hidden gem for nature enthusiasts.



## Warli Painting

Originating from the Warli tribe in Maharashtra, these paintings depict rural life using simple geometric shapes and are a beautiful representation of tribal art.

## Savitribai Phule

An early feminist and social reformer, Savitri Bai Phule played a crucial role in the education of women and lower-caste individuals during the British colonial period.



# Radiant Realms: Exploring India's Vibrant Tapestry in Print.

BY  
Dhruvika Khanna  
(Student, L4B)

Through the kaleidoscopic landscapes of India as we delve into the gems of "Radiant Realms: Exploring India's Vibrant Tapestry in Print." I would take charge of unravelling the vivid narratives, diverse cultures, and timeless stories that make up the rich literary fabric of this enchanting nation.

Firstly, I would like to familiarise you with "the end". The renowned Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi, where cremations unfold ceaselessly, is a poignant symbol of this cosmic cycle. It's a place where the fire never dies down, hasn't since centuries. Legend intertwines with reality as it is said that Lord Shiva, in a moment of divine play, cursed this very spot after Goddess Parvati lost her earring.

Proximate to that is the enigmatic Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple, affectionately called "Kashi Karvat", stands as a testament to architectural marvel. The temple, known for its significant lean of over 9°, surpasses even the famed Pisa tower in its tilt, holding within its sacred precincts a story that echoes through the sacred waters and leaning walls of Varanasi. Moving on to Southern India, shrouded in mystery and steeped in history, beckons with ancient temples, intricate traditions, and the mystical charm of the Western Ghats.



From the grandeur of the Chola dynasty to the cultural richness of Kerala, this region unveils a captivating tale of the past, inviting exploration into its enigmatic landscapes. Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled in the heart of Karnataka, a playground of architectural enigma and acoustic wonders, never fails to weave a touch of magic into its historical narrative. Hampi's mystique, the Veerabhadra Temple harbours a fascinating secret – the legendary "Musical Pillars." Striking these intricately carved pillars produces musical notes, reminiscent of ancient Indian instruments. Another enchanting anomaly can be witnessed at the Mahanavami Dibba, where a particular stone is said to cast no shadow at noon. And the Hanging Pillar of Lepakshi Temple, a massive block of granite that doesn't appear to touch the floor. This hanging or "floating" pillar is said to be a miracle, and those who can get a thin object to pass underneath it will be bestowed with good luck. Furthermore, the intriguing charm of undiscovered mysteries persists, patiently awaiting the moment of revelation, "Door of Padmanabhaswamy Temple" in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The temple itself is known for its immense wealth, but one of its inner chambers contains a sealed door with no visible means of opening, the legend suggests that the door hides unimaginable treasures or secret chambers. Kodinhi, a village in Kerala, has an unusually high number of twin births, the exact reason for this phenomenon remains unknown and is a subject of scientific study.

Kongthong in Meghalaya has a unique tradition where each villager has a musical tune assigned as their name, locals communicate through these whistling sounds, creating a distinct form of village communication. Mystifying, isn't it? In closing, "Radiant Realms" has unveiled the colourful tapestry of India's iconic heritage. Each gem shared reflects the diverse and timeless essence of this nation. As we conclude, let's cherish the richness of India, a treasure that echoes the spirit of a land woven with enchanting tales



## After 500 years: राम आयें

BY  
Sampada Kulkarni  
(Student, L5B)

Lord Ram, lauded as an embodiment of dharma (righteousness), is a central figure in Hinduism. Hailed as the ideal son, brother, and king, his epic journey in the Ramayana resonates deeply with millions. He is believed to be the seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu, a supreme deity, who played a crucial role in restoring balance when evil prevails in all the four Yugs (Satya Yug, Treta Yug, Dwapar Yug, and Kal Yug). From his unwavering devotion to his wife Sita to his righteous rule, Ram serves as a moral compass and inspires virtues like courage, truthfulness, and compassion.

His life story holds immense cultural significance, influencing art, literature, and traditions across India, making the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, believed to be his birthplace, a site of immense spiritual and cultural importance. The Ayodhya Ram Mandir has always been a focal point for religious vehemence. January 22, 2024, marked a historic turning point in this decades-long saga. The temple is a testimony to the enduring spirit of the Hindu community. The temple is an architectural marvel built in the Nagara style. The idol is carved out of a giant Shaligram stone, a black stone brought from the Gandaki River in Nepal.

The temple is not just commemorated as a religious place of worship but has also been the center of attention for Indian politics. The site also held the Babri Masjid, demolished in 1992, sparked communal violence and left deep scars. This added a layer of historical contestation, with differing narratives about the site's ownership and demolition's impact. Will the Ram Mandir be a catalyst for interfaith dialogue and inclusivity, or will historical wounds resurface? The future remains unwritten, but the answer lies in embracing mutual respect, fostering understanding, and prioritizing the well-being of all communities. Only then can the Ram Mandir truly embody the ideals it represents, contributing to a more harmonious and prosperous India.

## Unspoken

BY  
Tapasya Sureka  
(Guest/ Poet, Author)

She stood in pride  
With him by her side  
Her face radiant  
With twinkle in her eyes  
An epitome of grace  
She is always full of life  
He beams with joy  
For having her as his wife  
His silence is her biggest support  
A true gentleman  
Her secret admirer  
He is her longest companion  
She is his Gift of life.



## Dying Daisies of Dreadful Days

BY  
Gayatri Mishra  
(Student, L5B)

Daisy, a type of flower that blooms in the ruthless winter month of november to the early onset of new bloom of spring in march. With a young ray of sunlight it struggles to bloom. Each petal battling its way to form a vibrancy of life.

In a way, it quite mirrors the transient nature of every moment of our life. It reminds us how things keep changing in our short lives. Like each petal withers away with time, our lives have phases that transpire with time.

The once blooming petals now falling on the ground are a perfect metaphor for the way of our lives, how it's all about the ups and downs which gives you a perfect momentum to move forward.

Although falling of the petals is not the end, rather it becomes a part of the ecosystem's renewing process, where new flowers bloom.

All in all, dying daisies prompt us to withstand the hard cold nights and not shy from withering. As once the cold nights pass the day brings you a garden of happiness. As the months pass by and seasons change our lives too have short fleeting memories that we cherish.

Appreciate the beauty of now because as the petals of the daisies die the spring blooms in full swing and gives birth to summer.

# Resilience in Ruins: Nalanda's Legacy

BY  
Mika Sinha  
(Student, L4D)

In the annals of ancient India, Nalanda University stands as a testament to intellectual brilliance and cultural exchange. Established in the 5th century CE in present-day Bihar, Nalanda became a beacon of knowledge during the Gupta dynasty, attracting scholars and students from across Asia.

Nalanda's rise was marked by a vast campus, distinguished scholars, and a diverse curriculum that encompassed philosophy, astronomy, medicine, and mathematics. The university's library, a treasure trove of manuscripts from various cultures, fueled an environment of rigorous debate, intellectual curiosity, and spiritual growth.

However, the echoes of Nalanda's past glory are marred by the shadows of its tragic collapse in the 12th century. The invasion led by Bakhtiyar Khilji marked the beginning of the end, as the great library, a repository of ancient texts, was set ablaze. The destruction of Nalanda was not merely a physical assault but a grave blow to the spirit of intellectual pursuit and cultural diversity.

Several factors contributed to Nalanda's demise. The invasion and destruction by Khilji, political turmoil with shifting dynasties, and economic strain on the region weakened the institutional foundations of the university. The tragic collapse of Nalanda serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerability of intellectual institutions in the face of geopolitical and socio-economic challenges.

In contemporary times, there have been commendable efforts to revive Nalanda University as a modern institution of learning. This endeavor symbolizes a resurgence of the intellectual spirit that once flourished on its grounds. The tragic history of Nalanda calls for a global commitment to the preservation of cultural heritage and the promotion of education as a means of fostering understanding and unity.

As we reflect on the collapse of Nalanda, let it serve as a reminder within our NMIMS community of the enduring importance of safeguarding the treasures of human intellect. Just as Nalanda's legacy lives on, so too should our commitment to the preservation and promotion of knowledge for the benefit of future generations.

# DID YOU KNOW?



## Hornbill Festival, Nagaland

Celebrated by the Naga tribes, this festival showcases the rich cultural heritage of Nagaland with traditional dance, music, and indigenous games.

## Ziro Festival of Music, Arunachal Pradesh

Held in the picturesque Ziro Valley, this music festival promotes independent artists and offers a unique blend of music and the natural beauty of the region.



## Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh

Famous for its rock shelters and cave paintings, Bhimbetka is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that showcases prehistoric art dating back to the Stone Age.



## Chaukori, Uttarakhand

Tucked away in the Kumaon region, Chaukori offers breathtaking views of the Himalayas and is a serene hill station away from the usual tourist trail.



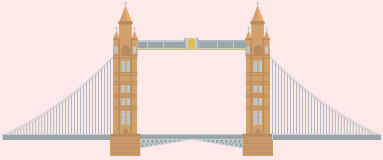
# INTERVIEWS

## Approaching the Horizons

with **Mili Gupta** (Student, L6)

Tell us about the transition from NMIMS to Kingston

The way Mumbai and London operate are very different. Weekdays and weekends in London are strictly divided, and people won't adjust their weekends for work. India has more options in terms on commute whereas in London you need to check all commutes properly and make sure you're on time. Everything is more structured and organised there.

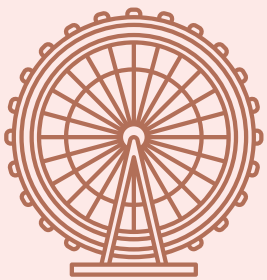


What about the time zones?

Daylight matters. In London the exposure to daylight is very limited and it gets gloomy and cold. Make sure you have a solid backup of mental support.

Faculty and Culture in Kingston?

It's very professional. The professor pupil relationship is very strict and it isn't as easy to call or text them anytime. Emails are the way to communicate with them. Kingston has a Student Council that puts a lot of effort into having an engaging crowd. You can look forward to a lot of icebreakers and activities.



More about the Student Council?

The Student Council there is just in charge of tracking progress during lectures and schedules of classes. Not as significant or burdensome as the CR/SR position in Mumbai.

Difference in academics and if we can opt for Majors in L6?

There are 2 core modules. They are International Business Operations and Strategic Management. There are 2 optional subjects. the first one being in between Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The other option is an extensive one like a third subject in school. Some example are Financial Management, Psychology in Business and Data Driven Decision Making.

## Clubs in Kingston?

Clubs are a crucial part of the entire University experience. To have a fresher pool of people to network with, enroll in clubs. There are fun clubs such as the Anime and Gaming Club, Go- Karting Club, Fencing Club, Taekwondo Club, Karate Club. A lot of Sports Clubs too. They also have societies such as The Hindu Society and The African Society. It's a mixed bag but it also depends on how active they are.

## Will we get to mingle with other International Students?

Yes, there are plenty of International Students. Norwegians make up the majority. There are Britishers, Americans and overall a diverse student population.



## Internships in London?

In London they prefer the students to finish their studies before hiring them for internships, unlike in India. They are not expected to juggle studies and work at the same time. Students get internships in the summer. Even if you apply early, they accept you in the coming summer only. Start applying for internships midway through your academic year and try to build networks with International Companies to get referrals there. Focus on building your resume and learning transferable skills. Your Cover Letter is an important document too.

## Provision for job placements?

Placement Cell reviews your CV, Cover Letter, help you target certain points and job descriptions. It's a good support but it's an extensive process- booking appointments, finding an appropriate schedule, sitting and working on it- it's a long process.

## What is the living situation like over there?

There's not much of a difference between getting a flat and a dorm. It's much more convenient in a dorm because they have weekly cleaning, and the electricity and water is taken care of. There's a maintenance person who takes care of heaters. In a flat the burden is all on you, so it is suggested to go for dorms or third party hostels. Even if these hostels are close to the University, the commute will heavily depend on which direction it is from the University. The most popular one is Chancellor's and another majority is Aparto. But they have to change two buses. It takes them a lot of time with commute. Make sure you're checking the routes of wherever you're planning to live.



## Dorm or flat?

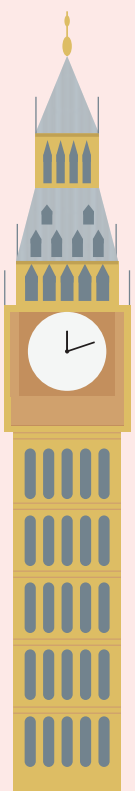
When deciding between a dorm and a flat, convenience is paramount. Dorms come with perks like weekly cleaning, reliable utilities, and maintenance. Considering third-party hostels is an option, but it's crucial to factor in elements like distance, especially when it involves changing two buses, it takes around 30 minutes when it's actually a 40-minute walk to the college itself. Striking a balance between comfort and practicality is vital in this decision-making process.

## How much! Who will spend?

Successfully managing finances allows for a comfortable lifestyle, even living pay-check to pay-check is possible, provided essentials like nutrition and accommodation are taken care of. Opting for a more lavish lifestyle could result in monthly expenditures ranging from 800-1000 pounds, but with effective management, 500-600 pounds are more than enough.

## How about food?

Utilizing the "Too Good to Go" app proves cost-effective for meals, as dining outside typically costs 9-10 pounds. This app offers unsold food daily at a reduced price, providing 2-3 meals in a bag for 5-6 pounds.



## How about cards - commute and financial?

For commuting, an Oyster card is recommended, as it charges only £1.75 regardless of the number of buses taken in an hour. There's also a student Oyster card, requiring an upfront payment of £20 with a 20% discount on trips. While some find it seamless, others cite occasional payment issues.

Opting for cashless transactions, Metro Bank is a student-friendly choice allowing account opening before receiving the Biometric Residence Permit, unlike other banks that require it beforehand.

## An Entrepreneur's Journey- A Candid Interview with Priyam Mogal (Student, L5)

We spoke with one of our very own CIS students, Priyam, to learn more about the inner workings of the cultural event management company, he along with his brother founded that is focused on tier-2 cities.

The idea for the start-up emerged in 2021 during the celebration of Navratri. Recognizing the vibrancy and cultural richness of the festivities, Priyam had an epiphany – they should venture into event management and beyond. This realization marked the beginning of their journey into the cultural event management space. The start-up has strategically positioned itself by organizing culturally significant events. The choice of these events aligns with the founders' vision of promoting cultural celebrations that resonate with the diverse communities in Tier-2 cities. Their most popular event was on the first day of Navaratri in Nashik.

They invested 25k of their own money to book a prime location for the event which was a huge success. To bolster their financial capacity, the start-up has adopted a proactive approach to sponsorship. By approaching new brands and understanding their needs, they've been able to establish mutually beneficial partnerships. They have gone the extra mile by obtaining insider information on potential sponsors, allowing them to tailor their pitches effectively.



A crucial aspect of Priyam's journey was the mentorship he received from various experienced individuals, including the Owners of "K for Kathiyawad." Learning from those who had navigated similar paths provided him with valuable insights and guidance, shaping the trajectory of his entrepreneurial venture.

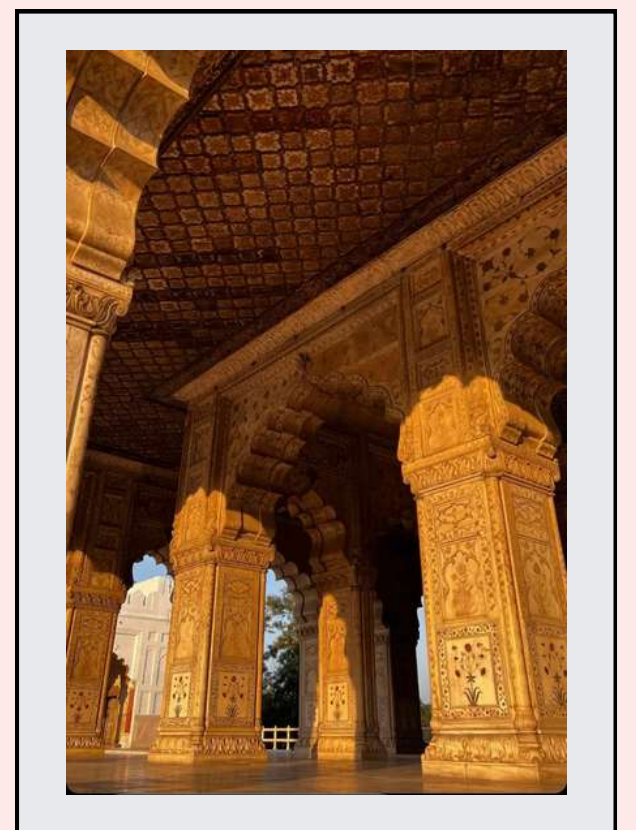
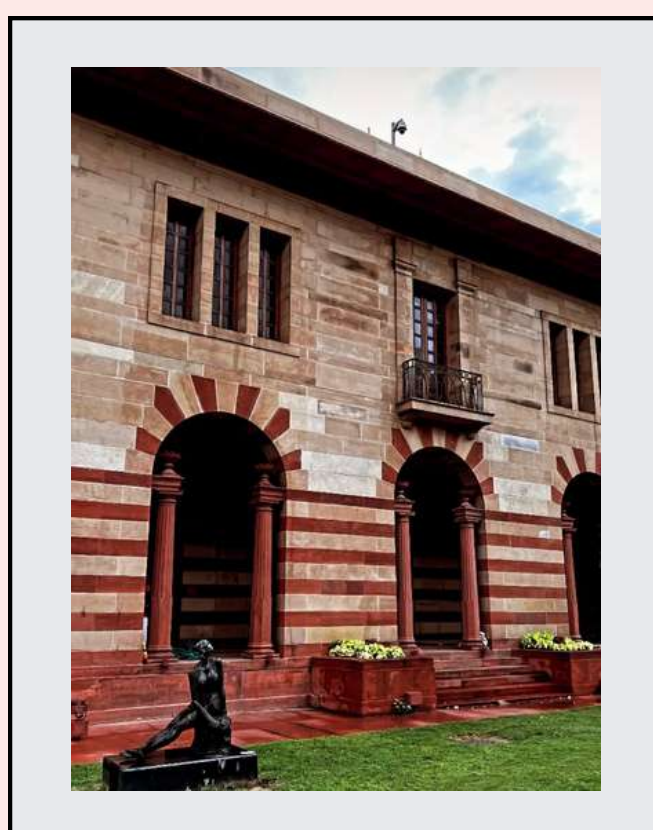
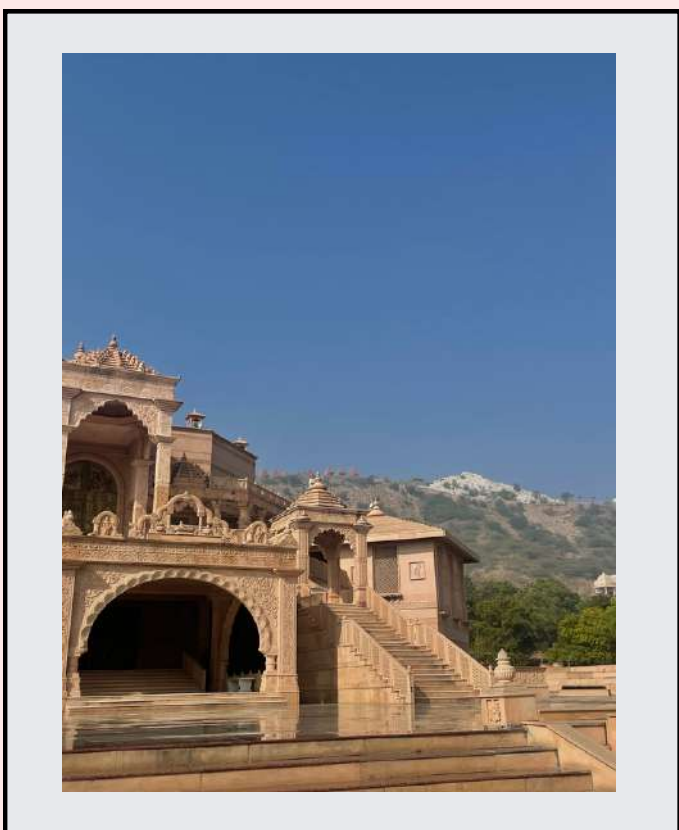
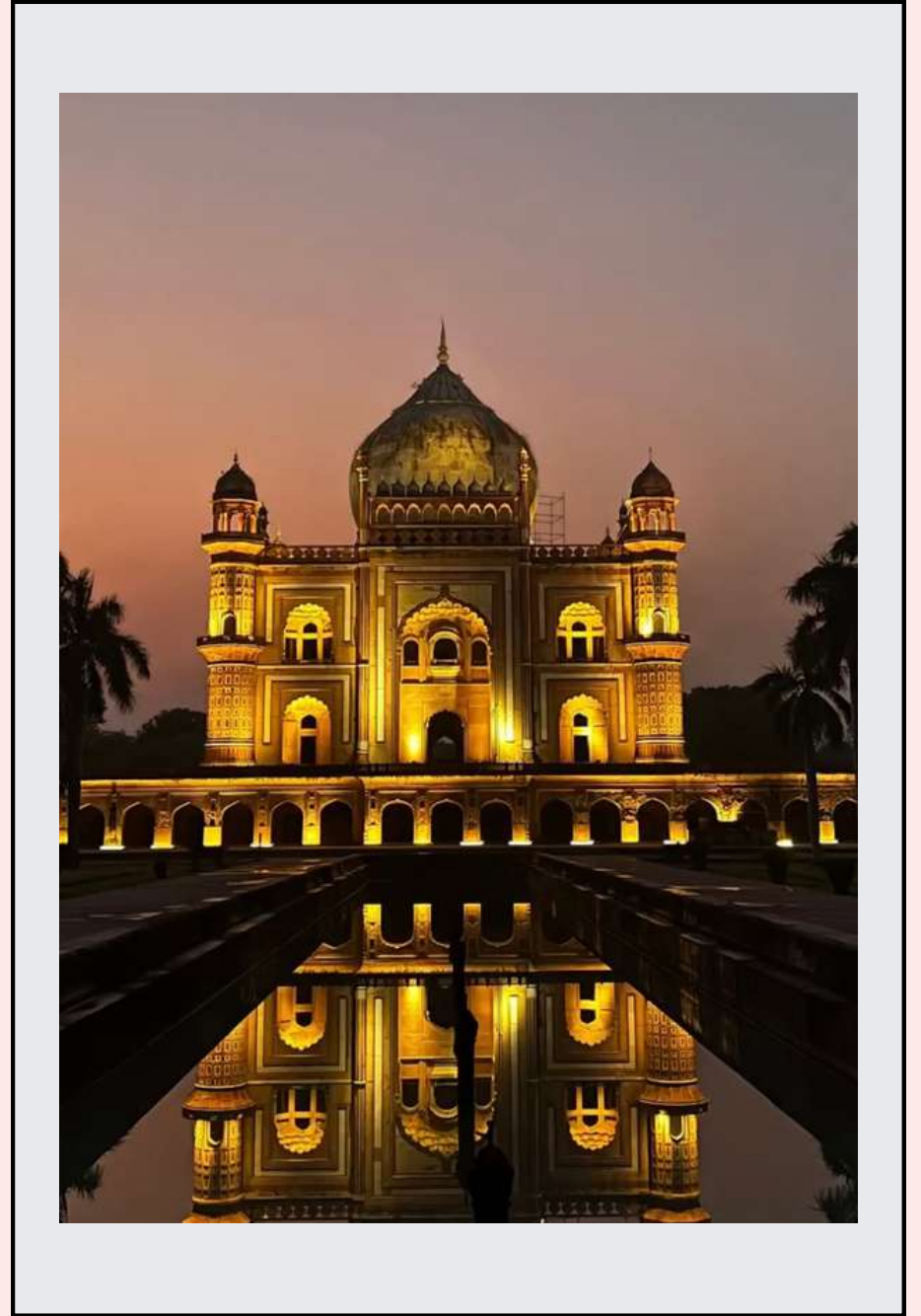
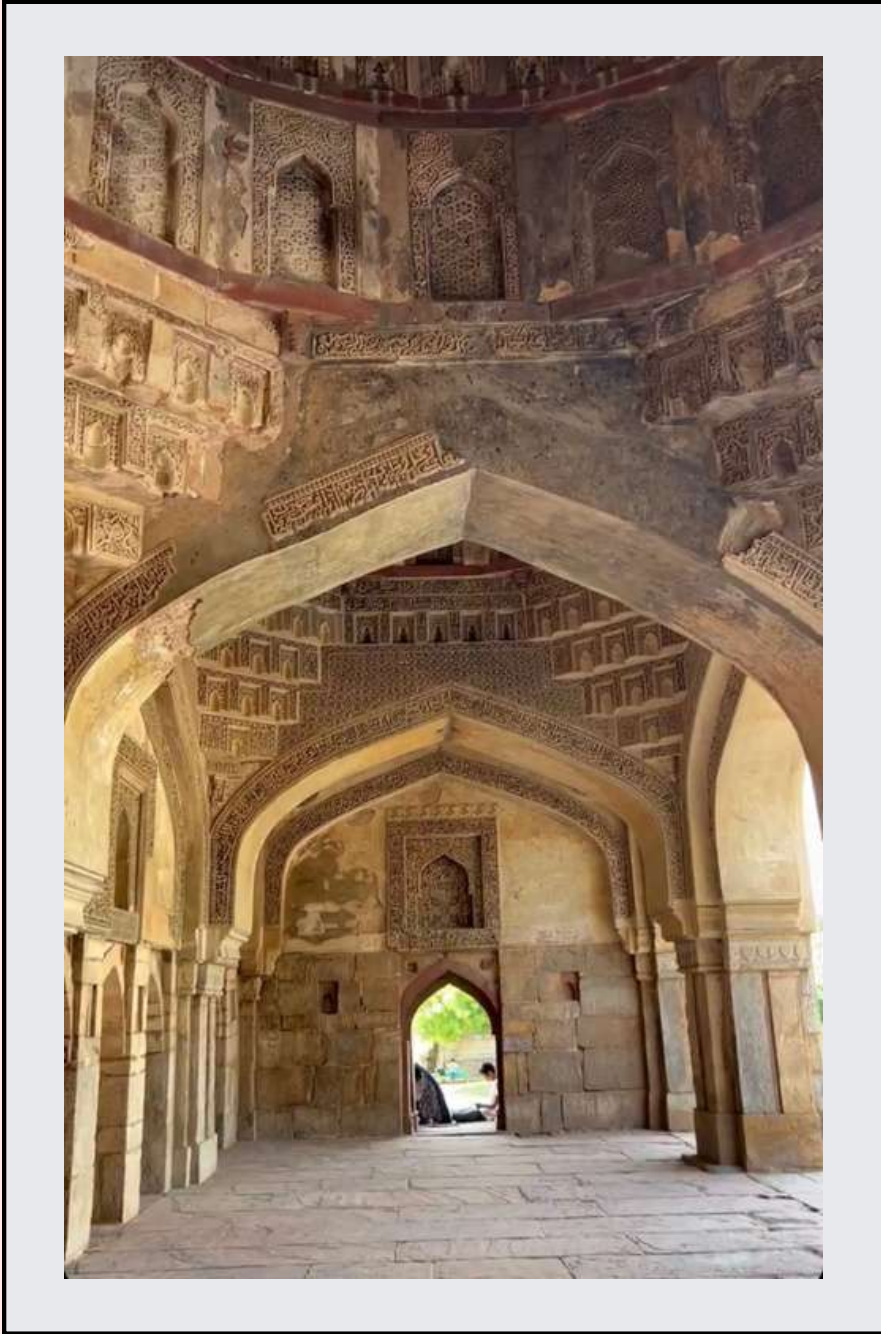
From engaging with the Rotary Club to leveraging connections through friends, he demonstrated a keen understanding of networking and utilized diverse channels such as dance classes, "Arena Animation," "Aakash Tutorials," and "AND-I" dance studio to reach a wider audience.

He emphasizes the importance of standing up for what one believes is right, especially when surrounded by supportive individuals. His mantra is clear: fight for your convictions with the backing of a solid support system. Furthermore, Priyam encourages aspiring entrepreneurs to pursue endeavors they love passionately, underlining the significance of loyalty and respect towards one's work.

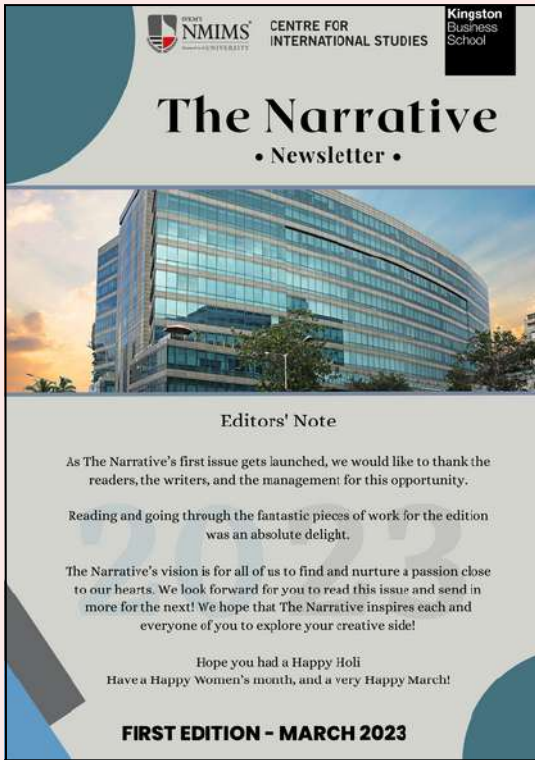


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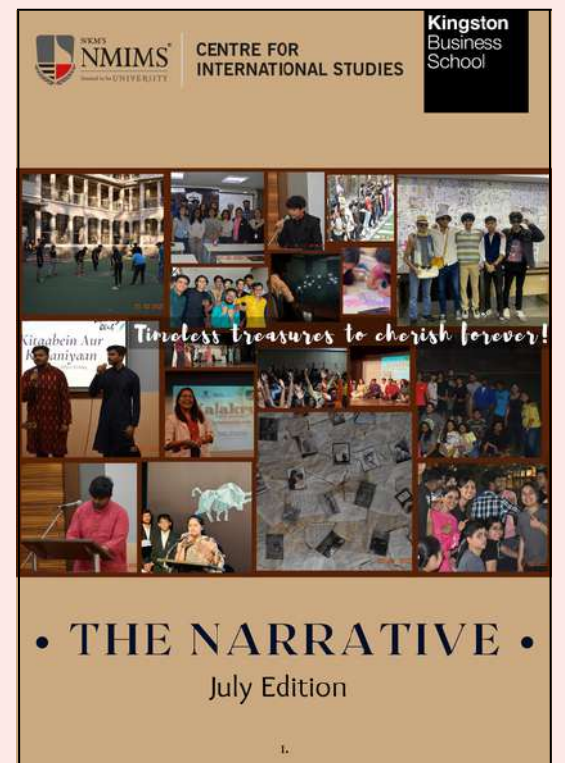
BY  
Adhya Jain  
(Student, L5C)



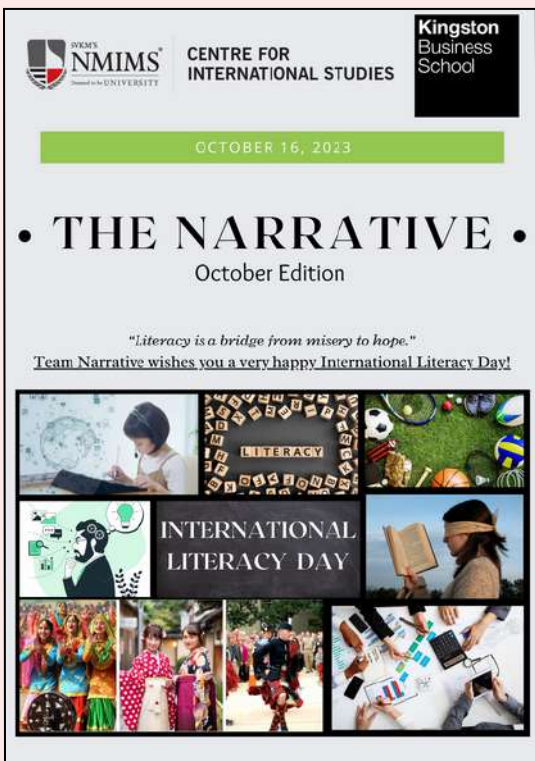
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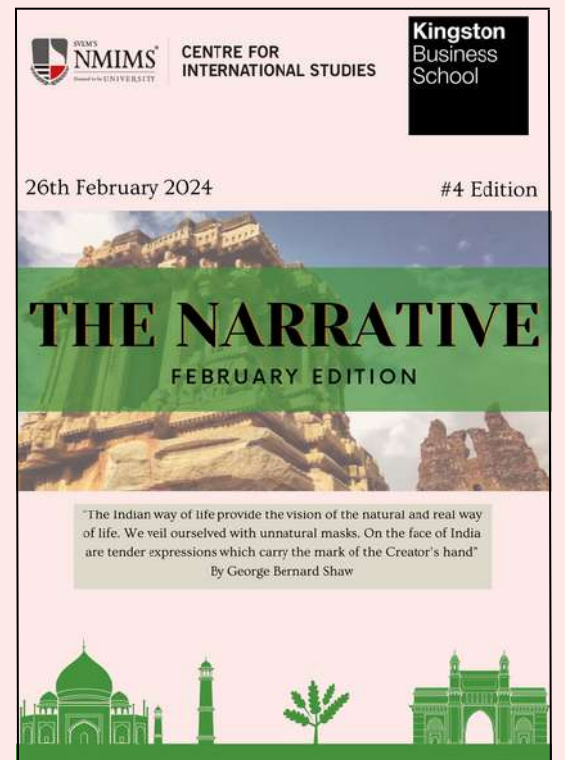
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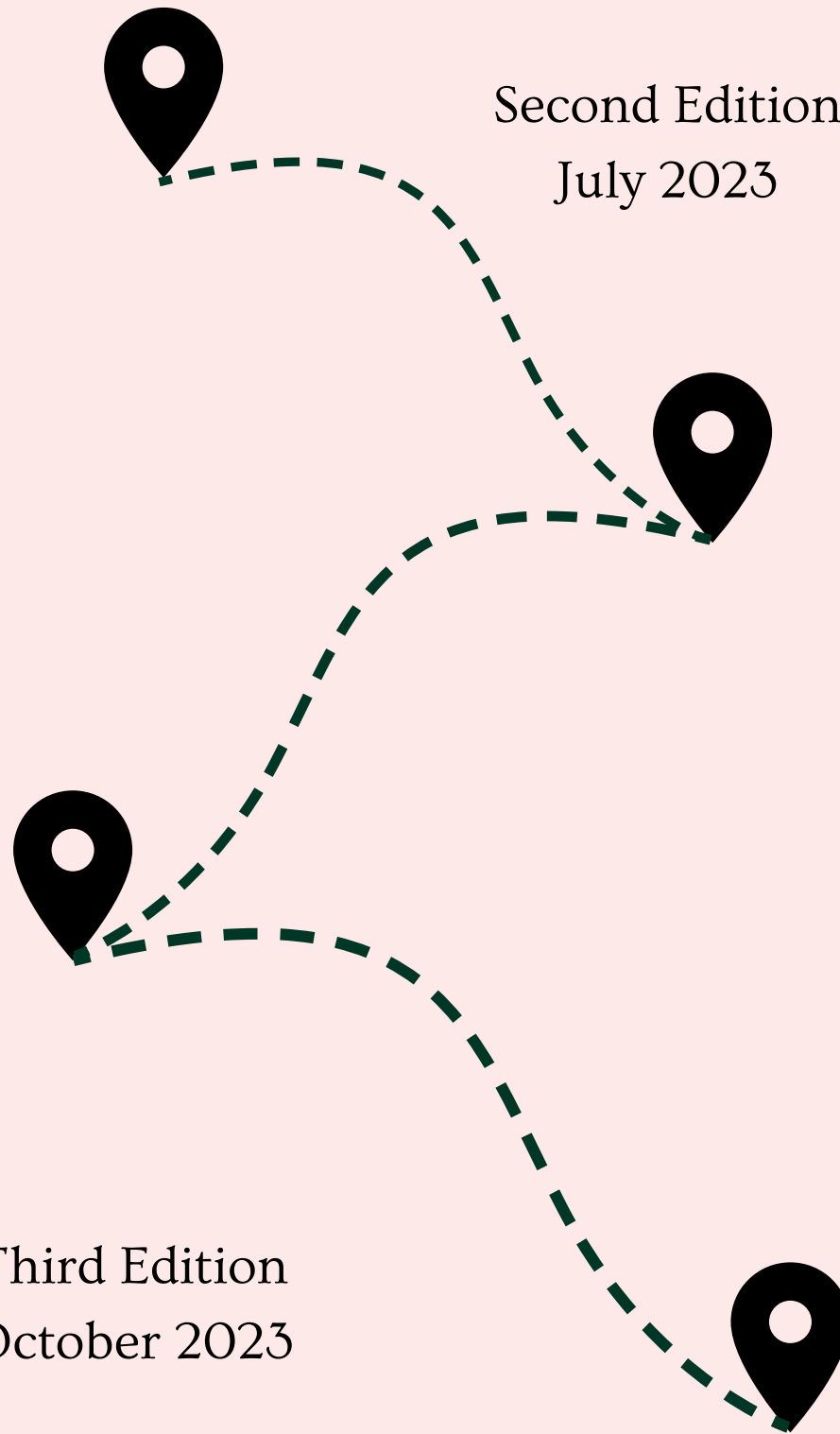
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