

MAC VOICE



A PRACTICAL NEWSLETTER OF DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

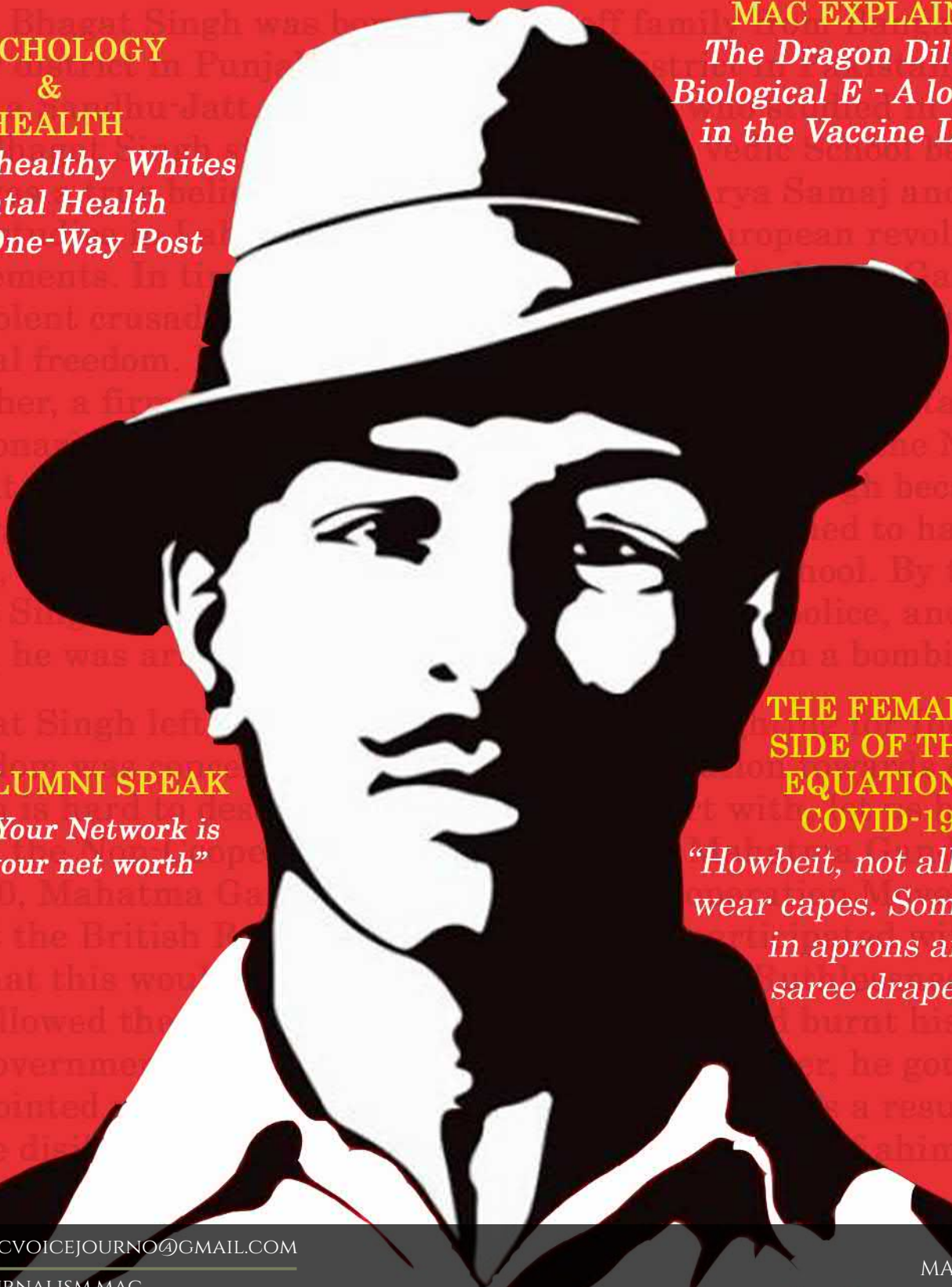
“INQUILAB ZINDABAD”

PSYCHOLOGY & HEALTH

The Unhealthy Whites
Mental Health
The One-Way Post

MAC EXPLAINED

The Dragon Dilemma
Biological E - A long shot
in the Vaccine League



ALUMNI SPEAK

*“Your Network is
your net worth”*

THE FEMALE SIDE OF THE EQUATION: COVID-19

*“Howbeit, not all heroes
wear capes. Some come
in aprons and
saree drapes”.*

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The Legacy Of Bhagat Singh
MAC Voice remembers one of the most revered freedom fighter, Bhagat Singh, on his 90th death anniversary.



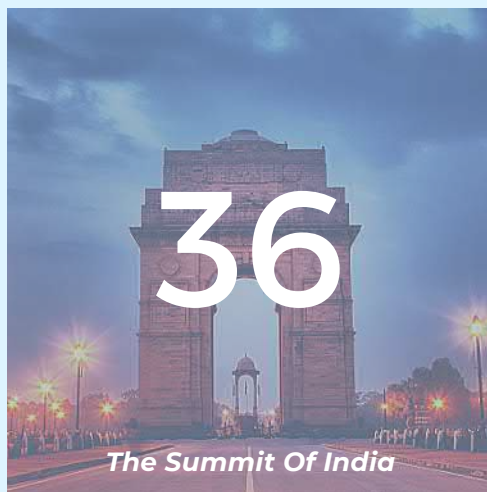
History has it that the Chinese, owing to their domestic politics and its decadent view of the western world, have largely been insecure about its sovereignty.



Indian Universities, for a long time now, have disregarded international rankings in addition to being ranked low consistently in such rankings.



A letter from a loving grandchild to her grandfather - the shiniest diamond in the sky - who has left this world and moved on to the world of stars.



After braving Delhi's chilly nights and more than 200 flights of stairs, I was finally here. I was on top of Lutyens' Delhi, I was on top of the India Gate.



NEECHE SE TOPPER: INDIAN VARSITIES AT GLOBAL RANKINGS

We, the students of Delhi University take pride in our university's heritage and quality. But more often than not we are reminded that being proud is one thing and being cocky is another. This time the reminder being the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings 2020.

The NIRF rankings released recently has ranked DU at the 18th position, its worst performance ever. Besides DU, recent times have been bad for other universities as well, in 2019 for the first time since 2012, none of the Indian universities featured in the top

300 institutions all over the world in the ranking released by Times Higher Education (THE).

Rankings are an area where our society often lays the utmost importance; we all have and will keep hearing the infamous tales of *Sharma Ji ka beta* until our mortal lives.

Somehow, we let go of this obsession with ranks when it comes to our most 'reputed' educational institutions. Therefore, even though universities like DU, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), Indian Institute of Technology's (IITs), Indian

Institute of Management's (IIMs) etc. fare poorly in international rankings, they are quick to claim fame and label themselves as the best.

The Lackluster Liberal Arts Arena

Most of the liberal arts universities in the country has been around for decades and were mostly born before independence, be it the DU, JNU or JMI. The struggle for independence bloomed in these institutions, however, they are struggling to keep up with the modern trends. Universities like JNU and DU, which are the faces of

liberal arts education in India, are nowhere near competing at the world stage. None of the liberal arts universities even feature in the top 500 lists of both Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and THE World Rankings. While Jadavpur University is ranked in the lowest bracket in THE world rankings.

As soon as the latest NIRF rankings were published, universities like DU, JNU, JMI, Jadavpur University, Calcutta University and the University of Hyderabad were quick to claim fame.

While these institutions are the best when compared to fellow Indian institutions, they don't hold the same sway against international competition like that of Oxford, Cambridge, Cornell, Yale or Harvard.

The Case of DU

Even our very own varsity's performance is in tatters. We rank 18th on NIRF rankings, below some of our counterparts like JMI, Calcutta Universities and some private universities as well.

When we look closely, we get to know the reasons for the same are varied. In DU the percentage of the faculties holding a PhD is dismally low at only 46.3% which is substantially lower than JMI at 85.8%. This according to several sources in the university can be



The Jawaharlal Nehru University, India's premiere liberal arts research university. (Source: JNU official website)

directly blamed on the lack of incentives as well as opportunities for teachers.



“MANY OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST TALENT WANTS TO GET INTO DU BUT EITHER THEY GET MUCH BETTER INCENTIVES ELSEWHERE OR THE VARSITY HAS SEEMINGLY FAILED TO CONDUCT EVEN A SINGLE RECRUITMENT DRIVE IN YEARS ON END”

- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DU

Due to an army of ad hoc teachers, the university has to shed more money on faculty pays instead of infrastructural development. In 2018-19, the university spent ₹600 crores on faculty salaries (an increase of ₹100 crores as opposed to 2017-18) while the spending on infrastructural development was only ₹100 crore (a decrease of ₹30 crores from 2017-18).

Apart from this, the University also suffers from a lack of

infrastructural development in campus colleges and poor perception of out-of-campus colleges.

Why so low?

Indian Universities, for a long time now, have disregarded international rankings in addition to being ranked low consistently in such rankings.

The disregard is based on the argument that the ranking criteria, like the percentage of international faculty and students used by ranking agencies like QS and THE, is more favorable to western institutions.

In addition to this, the nation also lacks quality interdisciplinary institutions like Yale, Oxford, etc. For instance, the IITs are top-notch engineering institutions while the IIMs excel in management but neither of them has acclaimed courses in other

streams.

Another major reason for such low ranks is the lack of attention given to these ratings. Many institutions like Panjab University do not even give the latest data while others do not even participate.

The reason given for the same is that these universities do not give much importance to rankings and instead have different priorities. However, that is now changing with the introduction of NIRF.



“EVERY TRUE GLOBAL UNIVERSITY HAS TO HAVE A GOOD AMOUNT OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION IN IT. HOWEVER, TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH A POPULACE THE UNIVERSITY HAS TO BETTER ITS INFRASTRUCTURE. THE UNIVERSITY HAS FOR A LONG TIME NOT EVEN CONDUCTED A PROPER RECRUITMENT PROCESS AND UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES CAN WE ACCOMMODATE FOREIGN FACULTY? WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.”

- SAIKAT GHOSH, DUTA ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Is anything being done?

The answer thankfully is a big yes. The Ministry of Human Resource Development saw this abysmal performance and thus came up with the NIRF rankings. As many of the universities felt that international rankings were biased, the ministry started compiling the NIRF rankings in the year 2016 to provide a national ranking platform for

domestic universities. The idea of this was inspired by the Shanghai Rankings, which the Chinese started for the same reasons, even though NIRF is much more comprehensive and authentic. The ultimate aim of the same is to better higher education institutions in India while it also aims to include foreign universities in some time as well.

Additionally, institutions around the nation are taking rankings more seriously and thus are focusing more on them, with private universities being the torchbearers. These developments have resulted in some positive outcomes already. Even though the positions were lower, the number of Indian universities at global rankings are at an all-time high.



INDIA'S BEST RANKING Universities

Clockwise from top)
University of Delhi, IIT Delhi, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, IIT Bombay, Banaras Hindu University, University of Hyderabad and Jawaharlal Nehru University
(Source: Wikipedia)



ANIKET SINGH CHAUHAN

B.A(H) Journalism, 2nd year

I mostly describe myself as a go-getter and a trend setter.

THE SUMMIT OF INDIA GATE

After braving Delhi's chilly nights and more than 200 flights of stairs, I was finally here. I had never imagined that I would be able to scale these heights, ever. As I stood on top of it, I couldn't believe that I was where I was but then a chilly wind blew past me and I came back to my senses; I was on top of Lutyens' Delhi, I was on top of the India Gate.

The lockdown had just made me restless. And when I finally got the chance to get out of my four walls, I must've been feeling the same way Andy Dufresne felt when he broke out of the Shawshank Prison. But lucky me, I didn't have to have to crawl my way out. I feel I have to be honest here. This summit of India Gate – I really like calling it that – was only possible because of my father, an Army officer. After several phone calls between Greater Noida and New Delhi, a trip had been planned to the National War Memorial and to compliment that we were also allowed to scale the mighty and the majestic, India Gate.

As I stepped outside my house – a place that I've been living for the last four years – I was discovering just how beautiful it was. The frail sunlight was peeking from behind the hanging lamps, as if it wanted to play a game of hide and seek



The Rajpath Bhawan as seen from the Mughal Gardens

with me. Tender winds blew past me as if welcoming me to the open world again, their gentle touch reminded me just why I loved to travel, as much as I do. Even though this was the place that I had lived for so long, it took me a deadly pandemic and a stringent lockdown to appreciate its own beauty.

Anyway, we (it was a family trip) started our trip at 4 in the noon, as we were advised that the beauty of Delhi spills its vibrant colors in the darkness of the night.

Not a single soul could be found in the otherwise packed to the brim India Gate lawns. As I walked

towards the India Gate canopy with the National Museum of Modern Art behind my back, I realized just how quiet the Raisina Hills were. This small hillock has seen India through its ups and downs from the age of Delhi Durbar to the catastrophe of CoVID. Even with such rutted history behind it, it showcased the very quality that defined the ancient metropolis of Delhi; resilience.

We then moved onto the National War Memorial and having seen the armed forces so closely, two emotions rushed my soul; pride and poignance. Seeing hundreds of names etched on the walls of this immortal memorial, I couldn't help but wonder uncountable lives these martyrdoms must have affected. Being a member of the armed forces himself, my father had various emotions on his face. I wished he could let them out but a man has a sea emotion inside of him that is forever locked in him till his mortal life.

“As soon as I walked into the east gate. I was awestruck. I had only seen this landscape on the screen and now it lay before me.”

After witnessing the valor of the armed forces, we moved onto what each one of us were waiting for, the summit of India Gate. It was around half past six and Delhi had started showing its vibrant colours. As I walked into the holy circle of the *Amar Jawan Jyoti*, I had a cold chill running down my spine – firstly, as it was dead cold and secondly, as the tricolor fluttering in all its might, I remembered the old saying; the tricolor doesn't fly due to the wind but by the breaths of thousands who died defending it.



We had to wait for sometime for the inner staircase to open. The plaque just beside the staircase gate stated that the people of the British Isles were proud of the Indian soldiers who died defending the crown, while a small locker beneath it had in itself, the names of all soldiers who died fighting in the British Indian Army. The flight of stairs was maintained properly and didn't look like it was inaugurated exactly nine decades back. As we approached the final level, my heart started pounding and it was extremely difficult for me to contain this excitement.



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF INDIA GATE; THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES CONTINGENT MARCHES PAST THE INDIA GATE. (SOURCE: ADITYA KAPOOR)

At the end of the stairs was a small yellow gate which opened to a round and empty hall. The hall itself had two more gates to get to the east and west terraces of the monument.

Memorial. In between these two marvels were the sprawling India Gate lawns; all empty, thanks CoVID.

As soon as I walked into the east gate, I was awestruck. I had only seen this landscape on the screen and now it lay before me. On my left was the majestic Rajpath with the resplendent Rashtrapati Bhawan and on my right was the breathtaking National War

After spending some considerable time at the place and a several photo ops later, it was time scale down. As I leapt back into my car to head home, it took me some time coming back into senses. I think this trip taught me the very reason I love this city; even after several centuries, it still calls avid travelers to see and experience its splendor. I don't think that will be able to get back up soon, but I want to be; much sooner than later.



ANIKET SINGH CHAUHAN
B.A(H) Journalism, 2nd year

I mostly describe myself as a go-getter and a trend setter.

OUR FACULTY

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Mr. Vinay Rai
Mr. Yogeshwar Singh
Dr. Rachita Kauldhar
Dr. Vivek Vishwas
Dr. Kingaule Newme
Dr. Shruti Goel



EDITOR

Aniket Singh Chauhan, 2nd Year

GRAPHICS TEAM



(Clockwise from top)
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Chahat Suri, 2nd Year
Harshita Verma, 2nd Year
Shristi Gupta, 2nd Year

EDITORIAL TEAM



(Clockwise from top)
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Jyoti Yadav, 2nd Year
Khushi Malhotra, 2nd Year
Ranveer Malhotra, 2nd Year



CHIEF OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Sanya Kakkar, 2nd Year

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

Journalism was first introduced in the college in the year 1998. Since then, it has been a forward march. This is the most sought-after course in the College. Today, the department does not only offer a graduation course in Journalism but has also introduced a new program under the name "Advance Diploma in T.V. Program and News Production". The department boasts an proficient and a adept cadre of teaching faculties who have experience in wide range of areas, starting from academics to the industry. To complement the prowess of our faculty, we have a fully equipped Media Lab with a full-fledged studio including high end cameras, professional tripods and lighting equipment along with recording devices. Apart from catering to the infrastructural needs of the students, the department has remained committed to providing industrial exposure to students through frequent workshops and seminars by media professionals. It is the approach that the college while still being in its blooming years has a great cadre of notable alumni including Sakal Bhatt in Republic TV, Sahil Menghani as an anchor and a senior correspondent at CNN News 18, Shweta Kothari as the co-founder of the digital news The Logical India, Anshul Tiwari as the founder and editor-in-chief of Youth Ki Aawaz, Pratima Mishra as a correspondent and anchor in ABP News, Richa Jain Kalra as a principal news anchor at NDTV and Krishna Pokhreal as a reporter for the Wall Street Journal.



*'Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I Learn.'*



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