

EDITION 32.0

THE ALLIANCE

29 OCTOBER
2020

COVER STORY

MEDIA TRIALS

10th
Anniversary

Armenia vs
Azerbaijan

Preteens enter
the workforce

MEDIA TRIALS

BY DAKSH GUPTA

COVER STORY

PART 1 - THE ALLIANCE

As of April 2018, there are over three crore cases pending across the Supreme Court, the High Courts, and the subordinate courts.

Our overworked judiciary is forever indebted to the media houses of the country for their unanimous decision to take a chunk of that ever-increasing workload off their capable hands, to help ease their burden of course.

Some lawyers describe this as “bold” and “experimental”, while others see it as a sign of “good change”. Some political pundits have exhorted Oxford University to update the definition of the word, “progressive”.

When asked for his opinion on the matter, a retired judge issued the following statement:

“Giving a chance to media people/wannabe-lawyers to be judge, jury and executioner is fairly emblematic of good faith on both sides. This alliance will not only assuage the pressure on the courts, it will also be an opportunity for journalists to make news rather than merely report it - giving them a chance to figure out the pitfalls of our judicial system. It is about time that media trials become a reality.” The happiness on his face said it all.

PART 2 - EXPERT OPINIONS

Raju the *chaiwala*, a father of two and a widower (the mysterious circumstances surrounding his wife’s death had not yet been resolved), briefly, but enthusiastically, told us his opinion on the latest shift of power.

“I watch TV all the time. The TV *walas* wear such good suits and speak so confidently. They always know more about the case than the courts themselves. TV *walas* are the first to find a crime, the witnesses, and the criminals too. Our *amma* used to say, ‘*Late justice is no justice at all*’. I think TV *walas* can bridge that gap, bringing honour and justice to our *court-kachehri* system. When my children grow up,” he said, indicating to the elder one pouring out milk into the saucepan with the younger one at his side, playing with a sieve, “I want them to become *bade aadmi* just like the TV *walas*” His eyes shone as he went on with his day after having shared his poignant string of thoughts.

When spoken with, Rahul, an ex-House of Cards fan (ex because you, an educated man of the modern world, must not publically support someone who has had sexual misconduct charges pressed against them) and a full-time software engineer, recounted his experience with

the news coverage of the last few months: "I am a guy who works from 9 to 6 every day. I listen to my wife ramble and drone on about her boss from 6 to 7 pm. It is at 7 that I switch on my TV to break the monotony, and get ready for yet another binge-watching session. The uninterrupted and incoherent screaming with that daunting cascade of syllables, oh god! After a tiring day of debugging logical errors and acquiescing to my boss's demands, it's a sheer relief to watch them throw logic out of the window and yell over one another. I mean getting justice is so much fun. Media trials are the next big thing; watch out Netflix!"

PART 3 - THE MEDIA MULTIVERSE

Media Multiverse was finally convened for a round table discussion with the *key players*.

The CEO of NEWS-360: *We run the biggest law firms in the country.*

Welcome to News-360. We block fact-checking sites and believe our questionable sources to keep our senses intact.

The Anchor: *Baap ka, Dada ka, Bhai ka, sab ka badla lega re tera Faizal.*

Let's get this show on the road and off the rails. My topic for today's discussion is, "Is India's finest actress, Mrs Singh, related to Pablo Escobar? Does she pedal drugs? Does she hypnotize her smugglers to get it for free? Is she a witch? I will start with you, Miss Intellectual-Feminist? (Can someone please hold my *Gatorade* while I speak?)"

Female#1: *Miss Intellectual-Feminist*

As a woman, I would like to say that these allegations are baseless, misogynistic, androcentric, sexist, chauvinistic, audacious and utterly belittling in every sense of the word.

Male#1: *Mr Scream-a-lot*

She did it! She did it! Arrest her! I am telling you, she did it! *Arrey!* She did it! I know it! She did it! Why are they not arresting her!

Male#2: *The smug, inhouse comic*

Someone, please give this guy a mask to protect the world from his inane comments.

Female#2: *That aunty that played a recurring side role in "Saas Bhi Kabhi Devrani thi".*

I don't know about this Pablo-Ablo all I know for certain is that she is one messed-up woman. Do you even know what goes on behind the cameras? (followed by her kohl lined eyes giving us the well known *desi* mom glare through the TV screen)

The Expert: *I know things (depending on the financial situation of the parties involved)*

I propose that the road-kill victims deserve fair compensation. (Oh, it's the 7 PM show? Understood.) Ahem, it's Mrs Singh, the one with the substance abuse problem, that consciously drove while being inebriated. She is a victim in this case, and deserves fair compensation for the mental distress. The one who was hit, should apologize to her for the same.

Male#3: *Logic Bearer*

The point being-

The Anchor: *Maaf kijiye abhi break ka waqt ho raha hai.*

Meanwhile at home, Rahul scooped up the newspaper during the *useless* advertisements. The bold cover story read:

Is journalism blind like justice?

Has the public forgotten the image of The Journalist, being shot down in broad daylight, just for writing the truth? Should journalists renounce their allegiance to the truth to be safe? Modern news channels are but sharp suits and inconclusive debates.

The real debate was back on the telly.

PRETEENS ENTER THE WORKFORCE, BEAT OUT ALL COMPETITION

By : Kanav Dwevedi

'Children between the ages of 6 and 14 are a perfectly exploitable demographic. In fact, it's much easier to milk money out of parents when you use their children as a proxy.' Mr X is a senior executive at AdolescentLabour Inc., a global leader in the rising EduTech industry. In light of the expanding cultural impact of his company, Mr X kindly agreed to an interview.

'They read our name and think it's about the children. It's never about the children.' AdolescentLabour offers a variety of programs to make sure a child has every possible skill required for future success.

'We accept them as early as 6 months. We have cutting edge incubation facilities to prevent holistic development.' Amongst the plethora of services they offer, their most sought after programme — and the most controversial — is 'Crib Coding'.

'We wanted to be the next overpriced fad skill for Indian Parents. Lots of people made money by promising admittance into prestigious institutions. We bypassed them. Them, and the schools, and the universities. Now we have more than all of them combined. After all, it's Computer Science everyone's really after.' It's common knowledge that good parents never let children waste their time. Instead, they spend large amounts of money having them learn 'life skills'.

'Coding isn't a life skill.' explains Mr X, 'It's like accounting. *Someone* ought to know it, but most people can live without being an accountant. But parents pay for anything if you pretend that it's enriching and stuff. This is why no one's excited about accountants. No marketing talent!' Pre-teens from the program have experienced unlimited success in the job market and will soon supplant traditional engineers. Coincidentally, their claims about placements have been the subject of the greatest amount of controversy for the folks at AdolescentLabour.

'Of course Google hires 12 year-olds.' Mr X quite adamantly dismissed any contentions on the mat-

ter, 'Our students have received multiple extraordinary offers. Sometimes the same student. On the same day. Yes, indeed. No, you may not meet these students or their families. For privacy reasons.' Another point of controversy was the wider applicability of the methods being taught since traditional methods can hardly substitute for their extensive facilities.

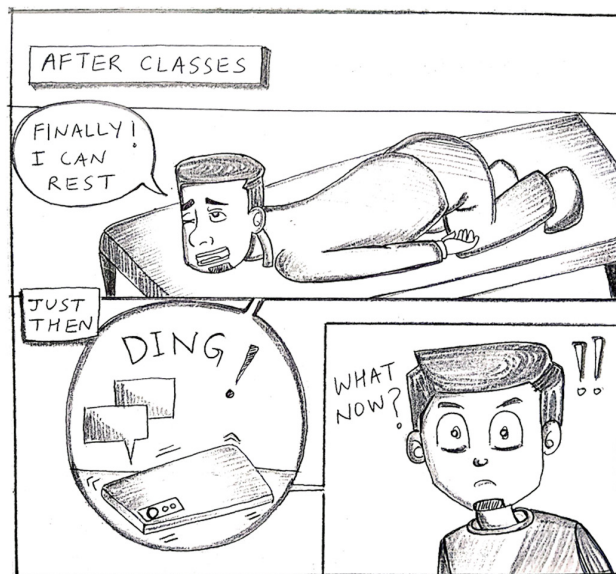
'Puff up the Scratch interface with copy-pasted Java, et voilà! You have a perfect environment to implement ML techniques. What did you expect? Are we going to teach these twerps *typing* now? We'd be here all day! Let them drag and drop coloured boxes.' Yet another contention is their outreach program for potential customers, which has been described by some to be 'aggressive'.



'If they didn't want us to hound them for their money, they shouldn't have given us their contacts. If they aren't getting several messages and emails and calls a day, then I have idle interns. I dislike idle interns.' But the greatest concern by far has been about the effect of their enterprise on a child's development. According to many, using up childhood as an investment for 'unlikely eventualities of success' might lead to 'a lack of character and meaning in the child's life'. Mr X readily cut through the sentimentality.

'It's all fluff. People espouse this and that but we wouldn't be here if they weren't willing to pay. In the end, all that matters is what you think certain things are worth.' Indeed.

ITCHY SITCHES



Art By: Omkar Swaroop
Concept By: Tabishi Singh



ARMENIA VS AZERBAIJAN: *A glimpse of the future ?*

By: Yash Sethia

If you've been following the news, you would have heard about the simmering, decades-long conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan which has erupted into violent hostilities. Essentially neglected by Indian media, this event, however, holds far greater relevance for India and Indian diplomacy than acknowledged. Not in the least for bearing striking resemblance to events closer home.

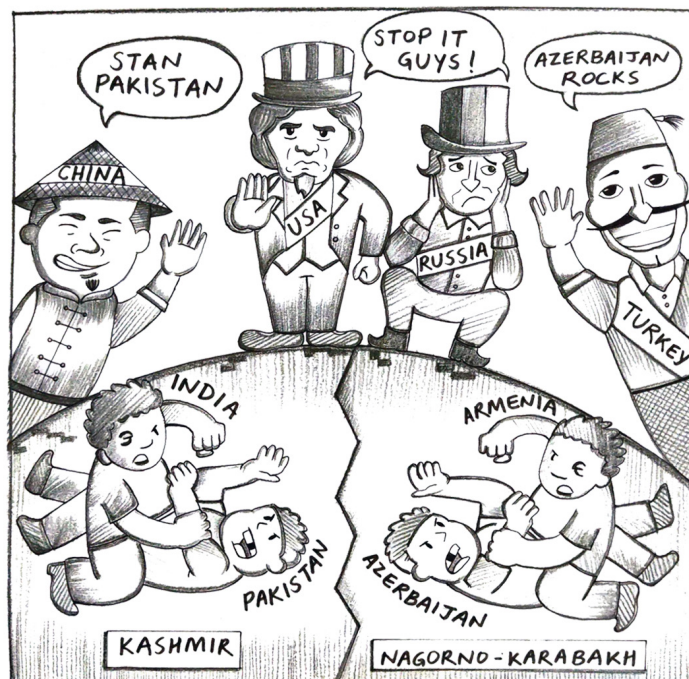
On one hand, there exists the region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the Soviet Union of the 1980s, which despite having an ethnic Armenian majority was governed by Azerbaijan.

Peace largely prevailed despite minor conflicts being commonplace between the Armenians and Azerbaijanis. However, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the parliament of the enclave voted for unification with Armenia in accordance with the results of a referendum boycotted by the Azerbaijani population. A war broke out between the two nations in 1992, which came to a halt only after a Russian brokered ceasefire. But by this time, Armenia already controlled most of the enclave and its surrounding territories. On the other hand, there was the Hindu ruled Muslim majority princely state of Jammu and

Kashmir in the 1940s. Following the partition, the issue of accession led to riots breaking out in several major cities of J&K. In order to force the king to accede to Pakistan, rebels in Poonch recruited Paksitani tribal militias to invade Kashmir. Unable to defend his state, the king hastily acceded to the Indian Union in exchange for protection. Pakistan immediately contested the accession arguing that the king acted in duress. The conflict has since already led to 3 wars between India and Pakistan. Over the years many international organizations, countries, and mediation groups have repeatedly tried and disastrously failed to chalk up an acceptable and peaceful resolution for both the conflicts.

A new round of hostilities flared up on the largely inactive border of Karabakh on the 27th of September due to repeated ceasefire violations by both nations. The conflict has unfortunately spilled out of the disputed region with confirmed civilian casualties. Azerbaijani drones have been flying within 20 miles of Yerevan, Armenia's capital and Armenia has conducted airstrikes on an Azerbaijani military base in Ganja. For the Armenians, the war is an attack on their sovereignty while for Azerbaijan, a fight against "historical injustices" and for territorial pride. The conflict, however, is starting to delve into a proxy war between Turkey and other power players in the region, with threats and rhetoric coming from third parties. This delicate situation can take a turn for the worse, with Azerbaijan supported by Turkey threatening a physical invasion of Armenia. This would force treaty-bound Russia to come to Armenia's defense against Turkey and its affiliate groups and Azerbaijan.

Just as in Karabakh, the Indo-Pak conflict has caused numerous wars resulting in hundreds of civilian and military casualties with no resolution in sight. With Chinese interests in PoK through the CPEC, American interests



By: Omkar

in the Indo-Pacific and Russian commercial interests, the conflict is slowly delving into a proxy war. China's unconditional love for Pakistan became quite evident when it blocked India's move to declare the mastermind of the 2001 attack on the Parliament and the 2019 attack in Pulwama, Masood Azhar a global terrorist. While India is the only hope of the United States to reduce Chinese influence in the subcontinent, a war now would simply mean mass destruction for both the countries. Even though the conflict has not spilled out of Kashmir and areas of Punjab, however ceasefire violations are so common that even the media has stopped reporting them. Warmongering by the media on both sides has halted civilian cooperation and further limited avenues for cooperation.

An article published by the New York Times showed how a 19-year-old Armenian boy was forced to take shelter in the basement of a hospital to escape Azerbaijani drones buzzing overhead. Armenia and Azerbaijan present a perfect example of how ugly things could become for India and Pakistan. It is a wake-up call for all of us to realize the gravitas of war and think twice before talking about it.

10 YEARS OF THE ALLIANCE

Photograph By: Ishkaran Kochar

KRISHAN KUMAR SINGH BATCH OF 2015

The Alliance was the concomitant of some of the finest learning experiences I had at NSIT. I still miss those 6 PM meetings in the Library and the semester-break "treats" by the seniors. Unlike other clubs and societies, it was Alliance that gave me a sense of ownership of the final product. It taught me to lead a team and bring out the best in us. Also, dear juniors, many of us still read all the editions. This is what The Alliance means to us! Congratulations, on the 10th! Hope we have many more to come.



DIVYE GIROTRA BATCH OF 2018

Alliance to me is 'family'. A crazy bunch of people coming together (to make a newsletter and then getting people to read it). The long meetings, the infinite errata, revamping the designs (last-minute, obviously) and most importantly the parties. All of this and the people, are what always made me feel that it was much more than just a society.



ESHA PURI BATCH OF 2013

I cherish every minute I spent with the lovely The Alliance members! Brainstorming on ideas for the next editions, debating on numerous topics and having a gala time during our breaks... The Alliance was an integral and precious part of my college days!

To see the society grow from the first few editions to being an established newsletter, the voice of NSIT students and being among the most popular societies on campus - the journey has indeed been extraordinary and memorable!

The seniors and juniors of this family have served as inspirations to me even today. Special shout out to Gazal, Arjun, Nilayan and Nitin - The Alliance troop from my batch! :) Congratulations to The Alliance family for 10 years on campus. Upwards and onwards! :D



IPSHITA CHATTERJEE BATCH OF 2018

Being part of The Alliance during my time at NSIT was definitely one of the best things that has ever happened to me! The transferable skills I acquired from the various roles I held in the society have helped me in my college life and beyond. But most importantly, it's the lifelong friends that I have made through the Alliance which make it an inseparable part of my life, even long after college. It would not be an understatement to say that I am largely what I am because of this wonderful bunch of people

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DEVANSH BATRA BATCH OF 2021

My experience with The Alliance has been extremely memorable. For me, the society served as a cradle of creativity in an otherwise productivity focused environment. The institute and the society, have both gone through tremendous transformations in the past three years. I am extremely grateful to have witnessed all of that, and be able to record it in the extremely diverse channels which The Alliance has roots in. The Alliance is more of a memoir than a newspaper, with each our pieces (the art, design as well as the literature) carrying the entire team's thoughts, emotions and experiences within them.

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MIMANSA BAGRI BATCH OF 2020

I'd decided I'd join Alliance way before I actually even started my first year. My interests were specific and had everything to do with writing, literature and reading, so I was naturally inclined towards the only society that served my interests, and all of them at the same time at that.

What I realized was that Alliance is so much more than just a newspaper society. It became synonymous to a lot of things for me: family, growth, love, bonds, high levels of unparalleled intellect, work ethic, deadline anxiety, Azeez seniors and of course periodic treats.

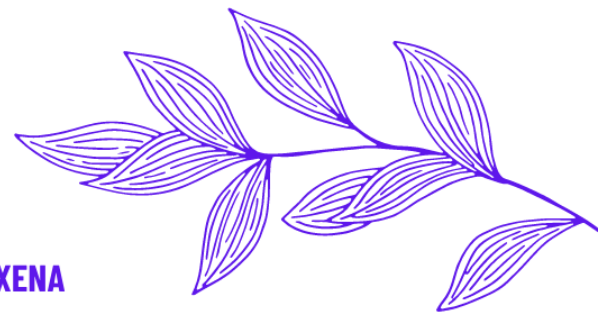
I've only ever had a few people come into my life and change it completely. Nothing and no one has left such a profound impact on my life the way this one place, this one very special group of people have done.

Congratulations to the team on successfully completing 10 years! There are many, many more to come!

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SHASHANK BATCH OF 2020

It's funny how The Alliance was one of the first things that happened to me in college. It's like colliding with one of the best experiences right on the first day! I remember coming into college as an ethu-cutlet. It was orientation, Perry and Ball talked about the college newspaper and handed out an edition to everyone in the room. And that's when my enthu heart in my ethu-cutlet self did a shimmy. And after four years of association now, I still feel like that Fresher, all excited about everything that happens around here. It has been a very beautiful and rewarding experience being in The Alliance. I'm not even kidding I found family here. My college Mommy, my Kids! I even got titled Gandalf as I had been hoping for all my life (I just didn't know I wanted it till I got it). It has been real fun working with all these amazing people, doing what I like very much- Writing, often ranting. It has been a good many years which have taught me how to read better, how to really edit what I've written no matter how deeply in love I am with the words I've written. The Alliance holds a very special place in my heart because of the special place it has held in these years.



MAYANK SAXENA BATCH OF 2021

I have never really thought of The Alliance as just a student club. Even though it started off as a clique of literary zealists for me, it became more of an adrenal-adjusted, beer-bewitched, caffeine-caliberated, deadline-dedicated, errata-erasing force of nature that encompassed my college life.

From new year parties to interviewing celebrities at Moksha, to writing and editing and publishing an edition in less than a week this family at Alliance and the time I have spent with these awe-inspiring people is truly priceless.

I can't believe that we are completing 10 years of this amazing venture and I wish the future batches to take it to even greater heights.



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