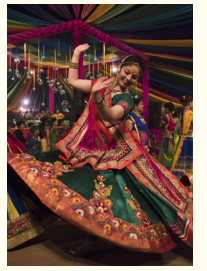




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# VSIT EXPRESS

“Enlightening minds. Inspiring perspectives”



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## Maadhyam Special Edition



### Maadhyam 2023

Maadhyam is a media conclave organised by the Department of BAMMC of VSIT. It serves as a platform for transfer of knowledge to the future generation of media and mass communication. Renowned personages from different fields are invited as guest speakers to motivate the students with insights from their experiences. The theme for Maadhyam 2023 was “Ordinary Lives. Extraordinary Stories”. This special edition of VSIT Express dedicated to Maadhyam 2023 dives back into the event and provides glimpses of the fruitful exchange between the guests and the audience.



Image Credits: Purva Jalgaonkar



Image Credits: Purva Jalgaonkar

### ShreeGauri Sawant in conversation with Mr. Yogesh Pawar: An Hour of Sheer Enchantment

Maadhyam 2023 was marked by the special attendance of ShreeGauri Sawant, one of the most prominent transgender activists and a dedicated social worker, who was invited as the chief guest for the day. Her vibrant presence illuminated the auditorium, and the audience enthusiasm remained high as the senior journalist, Mr. Yogesh Pawar, engaged in a live conversation with ShreeGauri Tai, an event highly anticipated not only by the students of VSIT but also by external attendees.

Mr. Yogesh Pawar and Tai have known each other for a long time and even shared the story of their first meeting. Through their conversation, it became evident that ShreeGauri Tai had come a long way, but it all started when she left her parents' house with only Rs 60. Along her journey, which began on the streets and eventually led her to join the Humsafar Trust, an organization that works tirelessly to promote LGBT rights, she encountered various problems faced by people. This experience also compelled her to extend her social activism in those directions. Mr. Pawar emphasized that ShreeGauri Sawant's work is not limited to transgender rights but encompasses 'human rights' as



Image Credits: Aryan Surve

well. Afeefa Nadiadwala reached out to Tai about producing a web series based on her life. Initially, ShreeGauri Tai thought it was a 'wrong number.' However, when she further shared her experience of meeting the Taali producer and the actress, Sushmita Sen, who portrayed Shree Gauri Tai's character, she expressed her happiness about having a woman play the role of a transgender person, which helped break several stereotypes against both women and the transgender community. Tai mentioned that there has certainly been a significant positive change in society regarding transgender rights, stating, 'It's because of this change that you are here listening to me today.' When asked about her future plans and aspirations, her response was as simple as 'eating daal-bhaat with ghee and living with her children.' ShreeGauri Sawant expressed her respect for the nation and added, 'Whenever it's my time to go, I want to be wrapped in our national tricolor, not in a coffin, because I am indebted to my nation'

- Sakshi Ghadigaonkar

### Dharmendra Jore: Crafting Extraordinary Tales from Daily Life



Image Credits: Mihir Pawar

Dharmendra Jore sir a political editor as someone who engineers the society through his political writing, most definitely his pen is his sword. Having 31 years of experience he has a strong background, having worked as a political writer for MidDay, Indian Express, and Hindustan Times. Notably, he has been honored with the Anilkumar Memorial Patrakarita Puraskar for his dedicated three-decade-long career in journalism. The question, "What is ordinary life?" sparked a thought-provoking conversation led by a seasoned figure in the print media industry. He shared his personal journey, highlighting the importance of proficiency in both vernacular and international languages. The core of the discussion emphasized print media's significance in our information-rich world, shaping public opinion and serving as a vital source of information. The speaker repeatedly circled back to the idea that living an ordinary life is a prerequisite for creating extraordinary stories, reminding us that our daily experiences can be a wellspring of inspiration. During the Q&A session, the speaker emphasized that print media doesn't die; it evolves, remaining essential despite the digital age. He also stressed the importance of listening as a fundamental trait for a good writer, enabling them to understand diverse perspectives and craft balanced, insightful narratives. In conclusion, the speaker left the audience with guidance on how to craft stories, reinforcing the notion that our everyday experiences can be the foundation for truly extraordinary tales.

-Vaidehi Satardekar

### Dr. Piyush Raj & Mr. Yogesh Pawar A Collaborative Hour



Image Credits: Aryan Surve

Dr. Piyush Raj, a versatile individual, spent two decades in the medical industry before embarking on a passionate journey into the world of Kathak dance. His presence at Maadhyam 2023, engaging in an inspiring live conversation with journalist Mr. Yogesh Pawar, captured the audi-

ence. Dr. Raj's remarkable journey saw him transition from pursuing a pharmacy doctorate to following his true passion for dance, despite forays into interior and fashion design. He even held a directorship at a US pharmaceutical company but opted for a more challenging path over a life of luxury.

When asked about his financial background, Dr. Piyush Raj revealed that he faced financial struggles, transitioning from a chawl to a flat. However, with

the support of his parents and unwavering self-confidence, he overcame the uncertainty of supporting himself during his career shifts.

"Katha kahe so kathak kahe". 'Kathak' is the art of storytelling through dance, he explained, captured by its ability to touch hearts with beautiful storytelling. For Dr. Piyush Raj, dance is a profound form of expression involving mind, body, and soul. He emphasized the need to distinguish genuine Kathak from

Bollywood adaptations, underscoring the immense dedication required for mastery, suggesting that a lifetime might not suffice for its full exploration.

Dr. Piyush Raj advocates breaking gender stereotypes in dance, stressing that both men and women should freely embrace the art form. He believes societal perceptions must evolve, with a vital role played by the youth in effecting this change.

-Pallavi Singh



# Maadhyam Special Edition

## In conversation with Yogesh Pawar



Image Credits:Aryan Surve

In our previous workshop on “Media-The Conscience Keeper of Society” we learnt about what “Journalism” is all about and how to be precise in this field? How to be a freelance journalist? What all points must be kept in mind? We all want answers to these questions. Let us see what Yogesh Pawar, a freelance journalist, and our guest for the event has to say about it.

Interviewer: How can journalist ensure that their reporting is accurate and unbiased?

Yogesh Pawar: Firstly, journalist need to ensure that there is a lot of fact checking while reporting. Cross checking the information is utmost important while delivering the news. Secondly, empathy should be at peak while talking to someone who is going through a tough time. A journalist should put themselves into other persons shoe to get into the depth of the situation. Both these things will help a journalist to stay on the right path.

Interviewer: In what ways can journalist hold powerful people accountable for their actions?

Yogesh Pawar: By asking right kind of questions without flinching is a way to hold a powerful person accountable of their actions. Along with being a journalist, he/she is also a citizen who gets affected by the policies made by them. This should come from being an empathetic person to ask questions which also should be their guiding spirit.

Interviewer: How do you think journalists can balance the need to report on important issues with the potential

risks involved?

Yogesh Pawar: There will always be risk in every profession. We need to check the statistics where india stands in the terms of safety of journalists and how many were killed. It should be up to the journalist that how much he/she is willing to put themselves out there to cover a story and risking their lives. The more devoted a journalist is towards their work; the more satisfaction is acquired from it.

Interviewer: In what way can journalists play a role in promoting social justice and equality through their reporting? If so, how?

Yogesh Pawar: Being aware of social justice and equality as a human being is very important. The way we treat people around us and how do we make them feel comfortable and involve them despite being from a different community or class is a step towards social justice and equality. To work on ourselves first as an individual will automatically manifest that in journalism. To be fair and empathetic and sensitive towards such issues is also important in reporting.

Interviewer: What do you think is the biggest challenge facing freelance journalists today, and how can they overcome it?

Yogesh Pawar: In the freelance world, the journalist's idea may not be paid attention to at first but later might get handpicked by an organization or agency but sometimes the idea is put through their own team members. I'm myself figuring out ways to tackle hurdles facing in being a freelance journalist but there might be cases where a story is stolen from you and published by somebody else. People would perhaps not pay attention towards your story and even refuse to publish at first. Such incidents happen while working as a freelance journalist.

- Pallavi Singh

## In conversation with Mona Ambegaonkar



Image Credits:Mayuresh Dhauskar

You have worked in both television and film. What do you find most rewarding about each medium, and are there specific roles that have been particularly memorable for you?

Ms. Mona Ambegaonkar: I have worked not just in film and television, I have worked in web series, I have done short films, documentaries, I have done stage theatre. There is no difference in medium, when you talk about content, I always seek the kind of content that talks to me as a human being that speaks of the good winning over evil. Even if I play evil that's fine. I like it to talk about various human literature, justice so I try and find those subjects. Eventually I do roles that are offered to me and what it pays me because I have to pay my bills. Even among the satellite project that I have done Ambardhar, Maryadham which is about politician empowerment. Whatever has given me happiness is satisfying.

Your acting spectrum is broad; you have worked in many regional films and for both television and movies. Are there any different challenges that you come across while shifting from to another?

Ms. Mona Ambegaonkar: I have worked in one regional film. I have done a lot of ad's in various languages, I have even done works which were in Tamil and Malayalam. You always have a language supervisor there so they help you with the language. So even when I did this Haryanvi character I spoke to a brother of mine and told him “yeh bol ke dikha, woh bol ke dikha, yeh kaise bolte hai”, the rhythm, the pronunciations. Like I said I do not like things easier if something is easy, I will make it difficult because I like challenges. I like to experiment things and try new things. I am not the kind who like package food and I am not judging anyone. I do not respect those kinds of people and I am sorry I am not required to fit anyone's definition.

As someone who is an actor and commendably also a social worker, what role do you think actor and their films altogether play in the society?

Ms. Mona Ambegaonkar: There are many things. So, for the longest time we believe that a hero being behind a heroine and troubling and apparently, she likes it, no that is harassment. So recently in UP a girl's dupatta was snatched because these guys were following her and she fell off her cycle and there was another bike that was coming from behind that hit her and she died on the spot. And they suppose to call her names and apparently, she is supposing to like it and fall in love with him. This is all in the “entertaining industry”. The other day I was talking to a friend of mine about the film Mother India and in her song it says “laaj hi naari ka dharam hai” which is disgusting for me. Kisi ki izzat unke reproductive organs mei nahi hoti I am sorry izzat ek ehsaas hai jo mei mehsus karti hu”. She was protecting a woman from a rapist which is a crime. But you should give it the right names. I have learnt this working with an LGBTQ community, you clutch your identity very clearly, there are words for it and you use them.

- Simran Mehta

## In conversation with Sandeep Kulkarni



Image Credits:Aryan Surve

A massive congratulations on your success of City of dreams, so you have worked in the Marathi as well as the Hindi film industry Both rich and prosperous In cinema culture What are the rewarding aspects of each of the two that you have experienced?

Mr. Sandeep Kulkarni: as I am more comfortable in Marathi language I can gladly say that my work has Given the industry a very good turn. Some that I have put out has also gone to man international festivals like Cannes and also has made a good revenue. After I started working I made some friends like Sudhir Mishra who has helped me grow as an actor

How was your experience of turning into a producer from the movie Dombivli returns?

Mr. Sandeep Kulkarni: I started off by life producing a few movies before i took the big leap starting with movies like Prem Sutra wanted to get the experience of becoming a producer not because I had money but because I wanted that experience Sometimes maybe the producers are not able to justice to the script even though the script is very well written somewhere had a feeling that I might make for a good film producer so I just wanted an experience and give it a try.

Which one of your Co actors did you enjoy working with the most?

Mr. Sandeep Kulkarni: In theatre I really liked working with Divya Jagdale. Also, Chetan Datar though he was a director he supported me a lot to play my character in the best way possible.

We'll just move on to the quick **rapid fire** or the cookies as they like to call it;

What is a movie or series that you like to binge watch?

Mr. Sandeep Kulkarni: I like for the a lot also the Harshad Mehta scam; Paatal Lok is also a series that I find myself going back to always

Your favorite Maharashtrian dish that you can't live without?

Mr. Sandeep Kulkarni: I love fish, Rawas (Indian salmon) to be specific.

As we all know, you have experience in both theater and film. What do you enjoy more: theater or films?"

Mr. Sandeep Kulkarni: I won't be able to pick one as theatre has shaped me into being who I am especially with the help of my mentors Satyadev Dubey. That experience of working in theatre will stay with me for the rest of my life And films they are documented so it stays with you and becomes a legacy. It's a recorded thing that you can watch over and over again so I like them both equally.

-Simran Salagre



# Maadhyam 2023 Photo Gallery



Photographers: Aryan Surve, Mayuresh Dhauskar, Mihir Pawar, Purva Jalgaonkar



# Festivals, Occult Science and More

## Personality Traits According To Numerology

**Number 1** - Number 1 is associated with the planet Sun. These people are energetic, creative and powerful. This number is considered to be one of the most ideal numbers. These people can become good leader. They are authoritative, disciplined and fortunate in getting help from a person who is in the government department.

**Number 2** - Number 2 represents the Moon planet which means they are intuitive, romantic and deep thinker. These people are very sensitive and kind. People who are associated with number 2, find difficult to take decisions. They are not mentally stable, they change their ideas frequently.

**Number 3** - Number 3 represents the planet Jupiter. These people are sincere, understanding and knowledgeable. These people must be into spiritual activities and religious. This is the number of abundance, success, good fortune, and wisdom. Which leads you towards writing, acting, singing, debating, researching, speech-making, and poetry.

**Number 4** - Number 4 is associated with Rahu and this refers to planet Uranus. This is an earth sign. People who come under this number, are very sensitive. They always look for pleasure and very much attached to materialistic things and luxuries also. They can achieve anything by hook or by crook.

**Number 5** - Number 5 refers to Mercury. The people who belong to number 5 are very much studious, knowledgeable and understanding. These people are very talkative and social. They never feel shy to learn something new and engage with someone. They can be distracted easily. Being committed means being bored and tied down, which goes against them.

**Number 6** - This number is ruled by Venus planet. These people are very much attracted towards beautiful things. They are very much impressive, caring, trusted, romantic and passionate. They are friendly with everyone and love to spend time with family members and friends.

**Number 7** - This number is ruled by Ketu planet. The people who belong to number 7 are very spiritual, religious and out of every materialistic world. They are bit detached with the materialistic life. They are very much spiritual.

**Number 8** - The number 8 represents the planet Saturn. These people are very sincere, lazy but very much hard working and introvert. People who are under influence of Saturn are loyal and trustworthy. Sometimes they are very much into religious things and sometimes they are not totally stay away from these things.

**Number 9** - This number is associated with Mars. These people are very energetic, powerful, fearless and authoritative. They never get scared of any situation and face it like a soldier. They are wealthy enough to do anything. They are true and loyal. They believe in physical work hard.

-Om Patil

## Nine Nights of the Divine Feminine



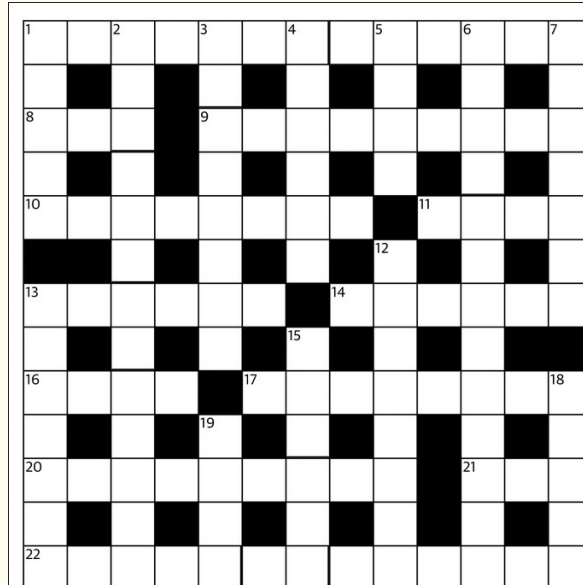
Image Credits: Sujal Mayekar

Navratri, a vibrant Hindu festival celebrated across India, is rooted in ancient mythology. This nine-night festival is dedicated to the goddess Durga, marking the victory of good over evil. The term 'Navratri' is derived from two Sanskrit words: 'nava' meaning nine, and 'ratri' meaning nights. The festival's origins date back to the Ramayana and Mahabharata epics, where it was observed to honour goddess Durga's triumph over the demon Mahishasura and Lord Rama's worship of goddess Durga before defeating Ravana. Navratri symbolizes the power and strength of the divine feminine. Each night of Navratri is associated with a distinct colour & forms of goddess Durga, with specific meanings:

- Day 1: Shailaputri - Orange: Represents energy and enthusiasm.
- Day 2: Brahmacharini - White: Signifies purity and peace.
- Day 3: Chandraghanta - Red: Symbolizes the determination to succeed.
- Day 4: Kushmanda - Royal Blue: Reflects the power of meditation.
- Day 5: Skandamata - Yellow: Represents happiness and hope.
- Day 6: Katyayani - Green: Stands for growth and prosperity.
- Day 7: Kalaratri - Grey: Denotes the first day, symbolizing the beginning.
- Day 8: Mahagauri - Purple: Represents the essence of forgiveness and transformation.
- Day 9: Siddhidatri - Peacock Green: Signifies harmony and balance.

These colours evoke the emotions and attributes essential for spiritual growth and self-improvement, making Navratri a time of reflection, devotion, and celebration. Navratri continues to unite communities, and its rich history and symbolism remain an integral part of India's cultural tapestry.

- Gunjan Naik



**Across**

- 1 Agatha Christie detective (7,6)
- 8 Chap (3)
- 9 Star that explodes, increasing greatly in brightness (9)
- 10 Brought together again (8)
- 11 Eagerly desirous (4)
- 13 Shepherds' sticks (6)
- 14 Pestilence (6)
- 16 Silence! (4)
- 17 Plato's mentor (8)
- 20 Mechanical failure – analysis (9)
- 21 Word for frightening! (3)
- 22 Shakespeare play (5,2,6)

**Down**

- 1 Bart Simpson's father (5)
- 2 Lose impetus (3,3,2,5)
- 3 Change (address, job etc) (informal) (2,6)
- 4 Seen (6)
- 5 Cruel fairytale giant (4)
- 6 Swede, for example (4,9)
- 7 Tosh (7)
- 12 Woodwind instrument (8)
- 13 Live together (7)
- 15 Doze (3,3)
- 18 Glaswegians, say (5)
- 19 Very like (4)

**Unscramble the letters to form a phrase related to media and the festive season:**

Scrambled Letters: TAINMEECCRNHOIS  
 Phrase: [Hint: A festive event often covered by the media].

Scrambled Letters: TMAOCISNENRTFVEEIA  
 Phrase: [Hint: Popular during the festive season, involves watching]

Scrambled Letters: ILGFOTSRCAAIDNE  
 Phrase: [Hint: A traditional festive program often broadcasted]

Scrambled Letters: RITCHSMAPLAAEETI  
 Phrase: [Hint: A special show or episode related to the festive season]

Scrambled Letters: EESONSPGRITG  
 Phrase: [Hint: Greetings exchanged during the festive season]

- Clue: Popular festive movie  
 Scrambled Letters: DNLFIYAHM
- Clue: Traditional festive song  
 Scrambled Letters: LNAQ JIELSB
- Clue: Festive TV special  
 Scrambled Letters: ITHCDAMLSAP
- Clue: Festive season decoration  
 Scrambled Letters: NRIAGLAD
- Clue: Festive season greeting  
 Scrambled Letters: RNHIHCSTAEMSAG

## SUDOKU

	2		1	7	9	6		
	3		6	4				2
			2					
			3	5				6
	9			8				
8	1					5		
	6	2	5				2	4
	4		7	9				
7								

**How to solve:**

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9

-Isha Gharat & Nandita Maggidi