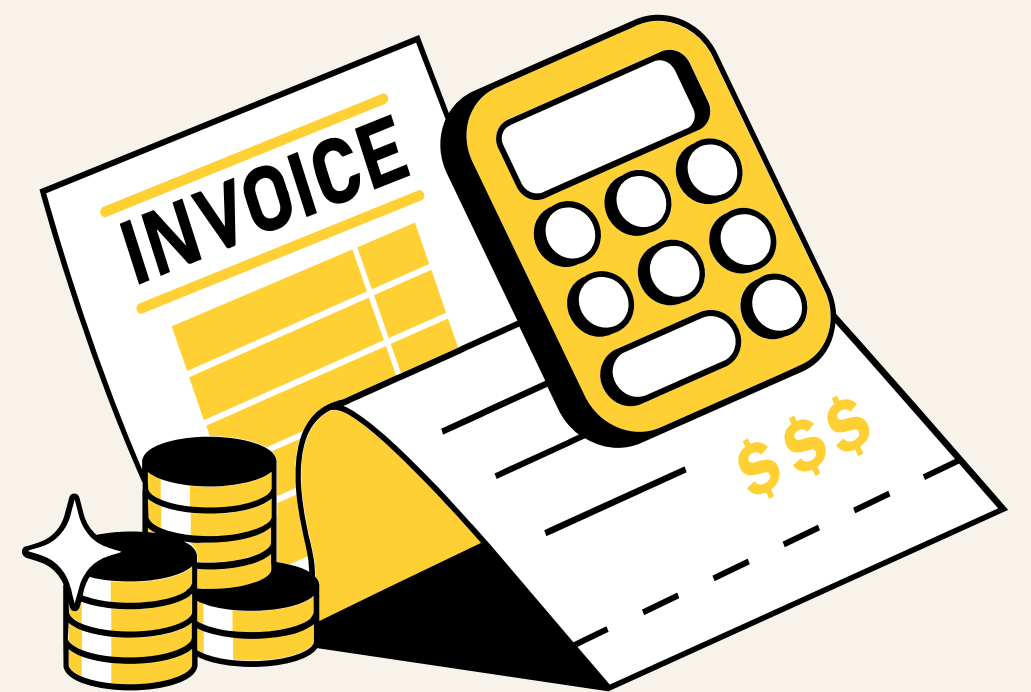


M.L. Dahanukar College
Of Commerce
(Autonomous)

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THE BAF TIMES

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INTERVIEW : Ms. Mrunmayi Vengurlekar

- By Interview Team

1. What's it like standing in front of students in the same campus where you once sat as a learner?

Standing where I once sat as a student is a full-circle moment — nostalgia wrapped in privilege. Teaching here adds an extra layer of meaning; it feels like giving back to the place that shaped me. And honestly, it's both an honor and a lot of fun.



2. What essential skills should management students acquire before entering the corporate world?

Technical knowledge gets you in the door, but soft skills — emotional intelligence, effective communication, and keen observation — make you stand out. And never underestimate Excel: in the corporate toolkit, it's the Swiss Army knife everyone needs. All these skills are important, which helps them to stand out. And other than this, Microsoft Excel is something which is a must.

3. How do you think management skills play in achieving success in both personal & professional life?

Management isn't just professional — it's a life skill. Planning, organizing, and decision-making apply to both work and personal life. Master time and self-management, and everything else, from daily routines to leading teams, becomes far easier.

4. What sparked your interest in management, leading you to choose it as your area of expertise?

My interest in management grew from a fascination with leadership and understanding what motivates people. Studying HR deepened my curiosity about workplace dynamics, especially employee retention. The blend of people and purpose is what ultimately drew me to management.

5. What difference do you notice between the current generation of students and the one you were part of?

Today's students access information at lightning speed, thanks to AI and digital tools — a dream my generation didn't have. But while they're resourceful, constant distractions challenge their focus, making deep, patient learning a rarer skill.

6. How has the management syllabus evolved since you completed your studies, and what impact has it had on students?

When I studied management, specializations were limited and theory-heavy. Today's syllabus is rigorous, forward-looking, and hands-on, introducing advanced concepts earlier and emphasizing practical, experiential learning. Students now graduate ready to apply knowledge, not just memorize it.





7. Which syllabus was perfect the one you studied or the one you are teaching now?

My syllabus was solid for its time, but today's curriculum is far more advanced and contemporary. Thanks to NEP reforms, students learn broader concepts earlier, making it a truly modern, upgraded version.

8. Could you share a memorable experience from your time as a student at this institution?

One standout memory was interacting with industry experts — it made the professional world feel real. Another was 'Job Skills Training,' which honed soft skills like communication and teamwork. Those experiences shaped my readiness and instilled my love for practical learning. And of course, how can I not mention the amazing Industrial visit trips we were taken to...they were absolute joy!

9. What are some common misconceptions about management that you clarify for your students?

Many students think management only applies in corporate settings, but it's in daily life — from time and goal management to relationships. I also stress that management isn't narrow; it spans sports, events, entertainment, and more, making it versatile and deeply relevant.





10. What's the biggest reward you've found in teaching at the college level?

The biggest reward will be that... I used to work in corporate, and I have worked with brands like IBM and YES Securities. I have worked in various capacities, and I have worked in HR, and the last stint I did was HR VP, that is, HR Business Partner. And, you know, there I always used to think every day that something is missing. When I joined as a professor, every night I go to bed peacefully, knowing that I have contributed something to the future of our... not just our country, but the future of the world. The next generation... I know that I have, whatever teeny-tiny contribution I have, I have done it. So, it is highly satisfying.

THANK YOU !!!



Alumni Story : MISS. SNEHA CHAVAN

- From Student Desk to Staffroom Door



As an alumna of M.L. Dahanukar College of Commerce, my journey began in the very classrooms where you sit today. I completed my BMS here and later pursued my master's in management while gaining early exposure through coaching classes. My path then led me to the corporate world—first as an HR consultant, then to a client location, and eventually to the recruitment team at IDFC Bank.

Those three years in industry taught me lessons that went far beyond any syllabus: professionalism, resilience, adaptability, and the value of continuous learning. I was a NSS volunteer before becoming the NNS PO.

Yet, even while working in the corporate world, I carried a dream—to return to academics as a teacher who understood the realities of the workplace. I wanted to bring real-world insights back to students and help them bridge the gap between theory and practice. With this vision, I completed my UGC-NET and SET in 2021, and soon after clearing my interview, I returned to my alma mater as a faculty member in the BCom section.



This journey, however, is not mine alone. It has been shaped at every step by people who believed in me and contributed to the person I am today. I owe immense gratitude to my teachers, who nurtured my curiosity; to my peers, who challenged and supported me; and to my corporate bosses and colleagues, who guided me, trusted me with responsibilities, and taught me how the professional world truly works. Today, as a teacher, I continue to learn every single day—from colleagues who share their wisdom and from students whose diverse ideas and experiences keep me evolving.

Teaching has been one of the most enriching chapters of my life. Every batch of students comes with unique strengths, questions, and dreams. Their fresh perspectives remind me that learning is a continuous journey, and growth happens when we stay open to new ideas.

If I could share one message with all students, it would be this: your path will not always be linear—and that is perfectly okay. Every experience, whether big or small, adds value. Embrace internships, part-time work, volunteering, and even the challenges along the way, because they shape your character and skills. Trust your journey, stay curious, and don't be afraid to dream boldly.

I am here today because I followed my passion, remained open to learning, and walked forward with gratitude for everyone who helped me grow. And I truly believe that each one of you has the potential to build a future that is meaningful, unique, and deeply fulfilling.



Article : INDIANS CAN NOW TRAVEL TO 57 COUNTRIES VISA FREE

- By Aditi Mane, SYBAF B



When planning an international trip the first thought that crosses our minds is applying for a visa. Did you know that several countries do not require a visa for Indians. And a few others where you can avail of a visa-on-arrival? Yes, that's right!

Indians can now travel to 57 destinations completely visa free or visas on arrival arrangements. Indian passport improved by 5 places and is now ranked 80th in the latest Henley Passport Index.

Here are the 57 destinations that Indians can visit without visa inconvenience. Barbados (maximum of 90 days) enjoy the scenic landscapes of this island nation without any visa hassles. Thailand (maximum of 30 days) famous for its tropical beaches and ornate temples, Thailand provides visa-on-arrival. Bhutan (maximum of 30 days) nested in the Himalayas. Bhutan welcomes Indian travellers without any visa required. Bolivia (maximum of 90 days) in South America, Bolivia allows Indians to visit with a visa-on-arrival. British Virgin Island (maximum of 30 days) this group of islands in the Caribbean is another visa-free destination you can consider for your next vacation. Cape Verde Islands (maximum of 90 days) situated off the West African coast, Cape Verde Islands offer visa-on-arrival.

Comoro Islands (maximum of 45 days) this volcanic archipelago also provides visa-on-arrival for Indian passport holders. Djibouti (maximum of 90 days) this East African country offers visa-on-arrival for Indian visitors.

List of other Visa-Free countries for Indian citizens Cook Island, Grenada, Indonesia, Macau, Mauritius, Montserrat, Northern Cyprus, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia, Transnistria, Turks and Caicos Islands, Dominica, Fiji, Haiti, Jamaica, Maldives, Micronesia, Niue, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal and Svalbard, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Vanuatu.

Necessary documents for entry include a valid passport, passport-size photos, return ticket, accommodation details, bank statement, and a negative Covid-19 health certificate. Indians can stay in visa-free countries for approximately one week to three months (varies by country).

57 countries now

Smart way to Travel

Visa-free for Indians



Singapore now has the world's strongest passport, allowing visa-free entry to 192 global destinations, replacing Japan. Serbia was the only European country free for Indian visitors without a visa. Unfortunately, since January 1st 2023, Serbia is no longer a visa-free country for Indian Nationals.



THANK YOU!!

BOOK REVIEW : THE ALCHEMIST

- By Aditi Prabhune, TYBAF C

The title of the book is, 'The Alchemist' written by Paulo Coelho which was first published in 1988. Originally, the book was written in Portuguese and later translated into English. The Portuguese title was, 'O Alquimista' which later translated into english title , 'The Alchemist'. The book was written with an intend to encourage people to plan their goals, never be afraid of failure, not getting over-attached to material things. Even alchemy, the book's primary symbol, involves persuading metal to fulfil its own Personal Legend and transform into gold in the novel.

The main topic of The Alchemist thus becomes the notion that everyone should live in the solitary pursuit of their own goals. According to the author, the book is more about one's destiny but some renowned publication refer to it as self help book. The story revolves around a boy named Santiago , a shepherd who travels to find worldly treasure and on the way learns life lessons which turns out to be gold for him. The writing style is more in the form of story telling format i.e. fable. Although the narrator concentrates on protagonist's voyage, the point of view is third person omniscient.

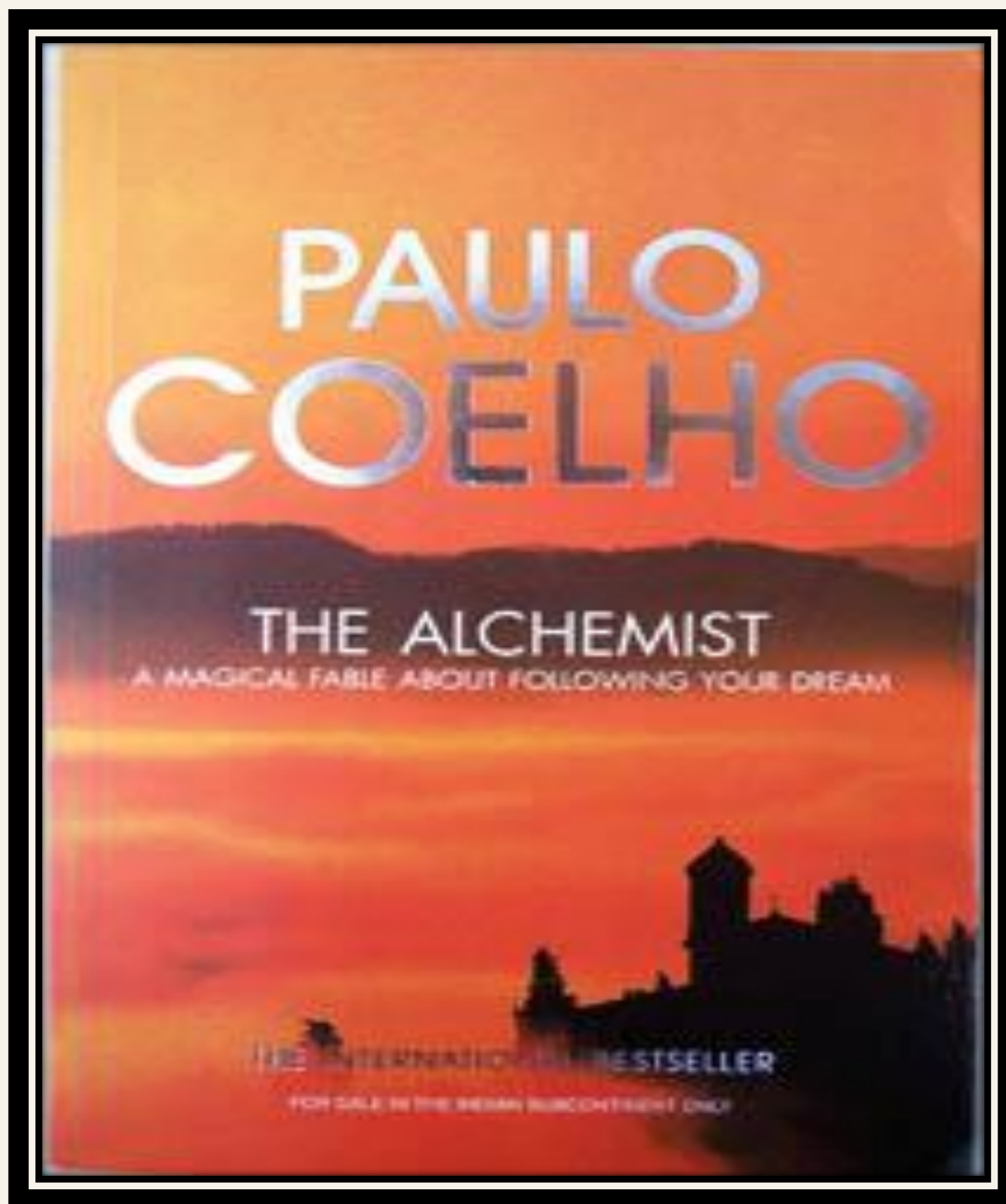


The narration occasionally takes a step aside from main character and focuses on a side character, but it always comes back to Santiago. Significantly, after the first third of the novel, the narrator ceases mentioning the protagonist. Although the point of view makes observations about some of the characters' deepest motivations and aspirations, it is primarily an impartial spectator.

Not being completely in dilemma but there are few parts where I agree and some parts where I disagree with the author as some of it mentioned above.

The title, 'the alchemist' aptly suits the book. The author has perfectly chosen the title with respect to the storyline. Alchemy means turning something ordinary into gold. It is simple, direct and didactic language. The book has stated many self help lessons but personally I picked up majorly don't be afraid to face failure. This book has completely transformed the direction of my life where it is headed, thus I highly suggest it to everyone. I especially advise it for people who need to rediscover their childlike self-assurance and the conviction that anything is possible if it feels right in your heart.





No success is overnight. Every successful person has seen their fair part of failures but what makes them different is that they learned from their catastrophe. The book urges the reader to be optimistic, think long term and trusting the process.

THANK YOU !



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