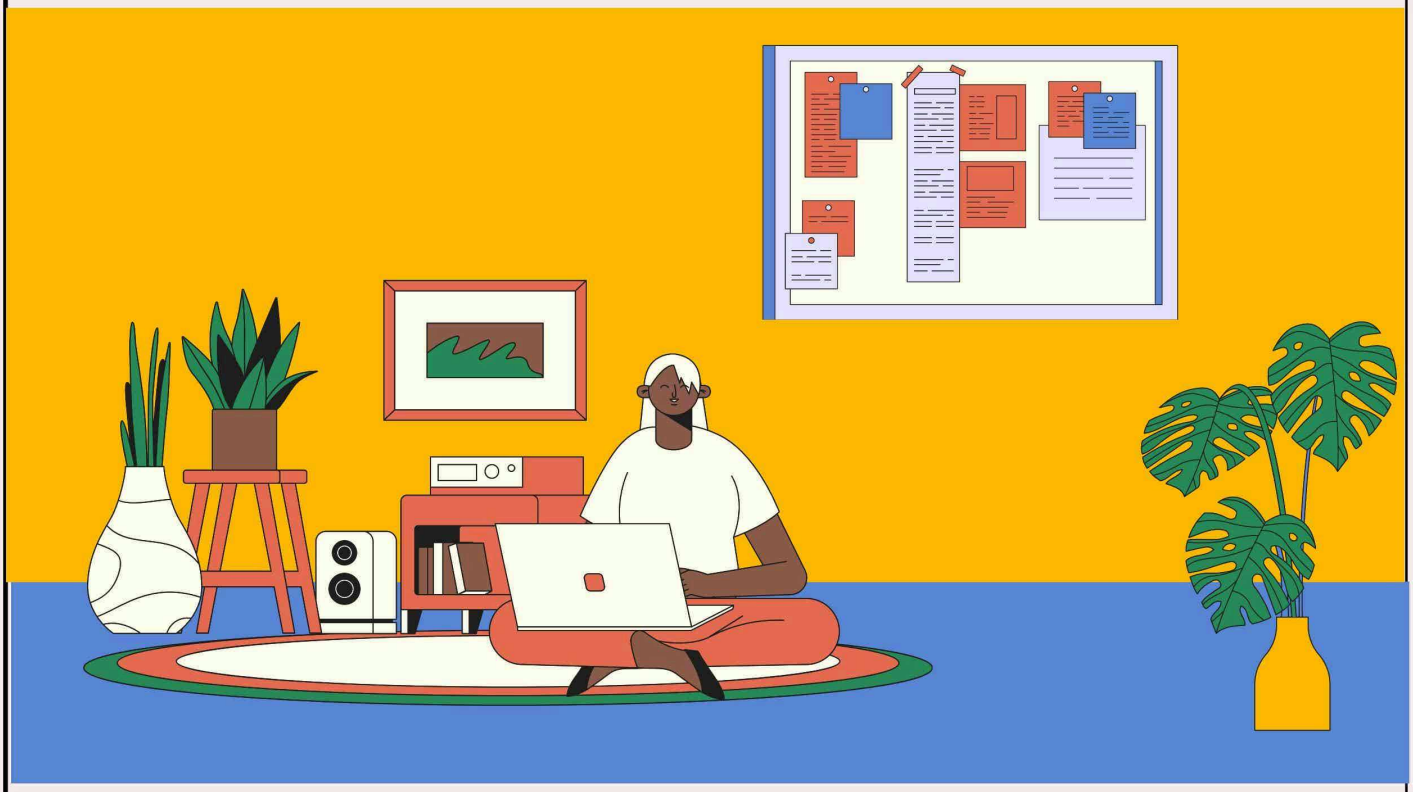
M.L,DAHANUKAR COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
(AUTONOMOUS)

THE BAF TIMES



SOCIAL.BUSINESS.ECONOMY

VOLUME VI ISSUE III

INTERVIEW - ARCHANA TALEKAR

-By Interview Team

1. Please tell us about your journey as a teacher over these years especially with M. L. Dahanukar College.

My experience as an academician has been immensely gratifying and transformative. Over the years, the Information Technology sector has witnessed extraordinary technological innovations, evolving from basic programming languages to the current landscape dominated by artificial intelligence and cloud computing. This progression has kept my teaching dynamic and demanding, necessitating continuous learning and adaptation to emerging tools and methodologies. As I progressed in my career, I assumed greater responsibilities, transitioning from a lecturer to a senior faculty member, and ultimately to the Head of the IT Department. Each position presented its own set of challenges, but also offered new opportunities to impact the department and refine the curriculum.What has remained unwavering throughout my journey is the profound joy of teaching and the fulfilment derived from witnessing my students' success. Observing their growth, skill development, and eventual emergence as

2.What key soft skills and technical skills should students focus on developing to succeed in today's tech-driven world ?

To succeed in today's tech-driven world, students should focus on developing a combination of technical and soft skills. On the technical front, there are multiple avenues to explore, and students should choose paths based on their nterests and aptitude. Whether it's mastering programming languages like Python and Java, diving into data analytics and AI, specializing in cloud computing, or focusing on cybersecurity, each area offers unique opportunities. Additionally, gaining expertise in DevOps, automation, or UI/UX design can open further possibilities. Alongside these technical skills, students must also cultivate soft skills like problem-solving, adaptability, effective communication, and collaboration. Time management and creative thinking are equally important for innovation and success. By aligning their technical focus with their strengths and interests while honing their interpersonal skills, students will be well-prepared to navigate the diverse demands of the tech industry.

3. What are the key challenges students face today, and how can they overcome them ?

Students today face challenges like keeping up with rapid technological changes, managing academic pressure, and navigating a competitive job market. To overcome these, they should embrace continuous learning, practice effective time management, and focus on quality over quantity when consuming information. Building a strong portfolio, gaining practical experience, and developing soft skills like communication and adaptability are key to standing out. Additionally, seeking mentorship and building resilience can help ease the transition from academics to the professional world.

4. What programming languages and technologies should students focus on to be competitive in the industry ?

Students should focus on mastering programming languages like Python, Java, and JavaScript, as these are widely used across various industries. Python is essential for data science, AI, and automation, while Java is crucial for enterprise-level applications and Android development. JavaScript is key for web development, both front-end

-itionally, gaining proficiency in technologies like cloud computing (AWS, Azure), databases (SQL, NoSQL), and DevOps tools (Docker, Kubernetes) will make them more competitive in the industry.

5. Are there any specific skills or certifications that are highly valued in the IT industry ?

Programming languages like Python, JavaScript, Java, and C++ are essential, as are technologies such as cloud computing, cybersecurity, data science, AI, and machine learning. Soft skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and adaptability are also crucial. Certifications like AWS Certified Solutions Architect, Azure Certified Solutions Architect, GCP Professional Cloud Architect, CISSP, CEH, Certified Data Scientist, Certified Data Analyst, and PMP can significantly enhance your career prospects. However, the specific skills and certifications valued may vary depending on the industry, company, and role sought by the student.

6.How can students effectively manage their time to balance academics, extracurriculars, and personal life ?

Students can manage their time effectively by prioritizing tasks and setting achievable goals. Using tools like planners or digital apps to schedule study sessions, assignments, and extracurricular activities can help maintain balance. It is important to dedicate specific time for academics, hobbies, and relaxation. Breaking tasks into smaller, manageable steps and focusing on one task at a time can also improve productivity. Regularly reviewing and adjusting their schedule as needed will ensure they stay on track while making time for personal well-being.

7. How important is it for students to stay updated with current industry trends, regardless of their field ?

Staying updated with current industry trends is crucial for students, regardless of their field. It ensures they remain relevant and competitive in a rapidly changing job market. Being informed about the latest developments helps students understand emerging technologies, shifts in industry demands, and new opportunities. This

-ability in their chosen profession

8. How can students develop a growth mindset to continuously improve and adapt to new challenges ?

Students can develop a growth mindset by viewing challenges as opportunities for learning and growth rather than obstacles to avoid. They should focus on effort and perseverance, understanding that skills and intelligence can be developed over time with dedication. Seeking feedback, learning from mistakes, and seeing failures as valuable lessons are essential for continuous improvement. Nurturing curiosity, fostering passion for learning, and seeking out supportive peers and mentors will also strengthen their ability to adapt and thrive when faced with new challenges.

9. How do you think the new education policy will benefit students?

The new education policy is designed to benefit students by offering a more flexible and holistic approach to learning. It emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills, moving away from rote memorization. The policy also promotes interdisciplinary studies, allowing students to explore various subjects and discover their interests. Additionally, the focus on vocational training and skill development will better prepare students for the workforce, aligning education with industry needs. Overall, the policy aims to create a more well-rounded and adaptable generation of learners, equipped to meet the challenges of the future.

10. If you could implement one major change or addition to the current IT curriculum, what would it be and why ?

If I could implement one major change to the current IT curriculum, it would be the integration of more hands-on, project-based learning. This approach would allow students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, enhancing their problem-solving skills and making them more industry-ready. By working on projects that reflect current industry challenges, students would gain practical experience, develop a deeper understanding of the technology, and build an impressive portfolio. This shift would bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice, better preparing students for the

ALUMNI STORY - RUTUJA KAMBLE

-By Interview Team

“The dawn right before the sun rises is the darkest, but don't forget that the stars you wish for only rise in the darkness.”-“Magic Shop” by BTS.This lyrics from BTS's "Magic Shop" reminds me that the darkest moments often come just before things get better. It encourages me to stay hopeful, as the dreams we chase often emerge from tough times. My journey at M.L. Dahanukar College began with my enrollment in the Junior College, which continued while I worked toward my Bachelor of Accounting and Finance (BAF) degree. Despite never being the best student in the class, I am happy to report that I never failed a subject when I graduated in 2018. This was mostly because of my professors' amazing help and direction, who had a true love for teaching and a thorough mastery of their subjects.In the year 2023, I was back in the well-known Dahanukar hallways, but this time as an Assistant Professor in Banking & Insurance Department. It has been an odd feeling to return to my former university as a teacher. My love

be able to teach in the same classroom where I was a student. Even while I long for my college years to return—for the good times, the company, and the insightful lectures from my favorite professors—I am indebted of the opportunity to support the College that helped to mold me. My teachers have been crucial in my success and personal development, and for that, I am incredibly grateful. Their influence has played a crucial role in shaping me into the educator and person I am today. Now, I have the immense privilege of imparting that same gift of education and growth to the next generation. Each day, as I step into the classroom, I see myself in the eager faces of my students, and it fills me with an overwhelming sense of responsibility and hope. I am determined to provide them with the same guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support that I once received. To my dearest students, make new friends & memories, create good Network, take efforts for smiling. In the technologically advanced, fast-paced world of today, it's important to remember to take care of your health. Even though we have access to more information and we are more connected than ever, maintaining our health, regular exercise, a balanced diet, and mental health is crucial. Thank you BAF Times for giving me this opportunity to share my journey.

FROM BEING TORPID TO GOING ON TREK!

-By Manasi Ghadi (SYBAF A)

I always dreamt about going on a trek with my friends and as it is said 'Dreams do come true' this one was definitely one of them, the one in my bucket list which is finally ticked! “Unforgettable” is all I can say about my first trekking experience to ‘TAKMAK FORT’. Beautiful views, mountains, greenery, the trail, weather, far away from crowd and boring daily routine and probably most important... travelling with friends made this experience a memorable one! People don't hire guides or seek help from any of the villagers for the trek routes and risk their lives and go on a trek without proper knowledge about the trek but we aren't one of them. As our trek was well organised by my seniors Kimaya Sonawadekar, Bhavik Tare, Vedant Patil and Team, so we also had our trek guide Mr.Kalpesh who was a 14 year old village boy with us, he led us to the Trek from the base and was with us till we returned back to the base in the evening. With a heart full of anticipation and a backpack filled with essentials, I embarked on this journey. As we trekkers were in large no. we were divided into small groups and each group had a group leader. All precautions were taken by the leaders by carrying first aid box, energy drink etc. Our journey commenced at Virar railway from where we took a bus to Shirsad and then from Shirsad we were

the trail the leader gave us the instructions on the route ahead. The initial part of the trail was relatively straightforward, leading us through lush greenery and a warm up for what was to come. But as we delved deeper the terrain began its transformation. As we ascended, we encountered several muddy patches. Recent rains had turned parts of the trail into slippery and gooey sections, with each step the boots sank deeper into mud. Navigating through these areas required careful footing and occasional detours. The terrain soon transitioned to stony paths. Concentration was essential to avoid slips and ensure a steady pace. Loose stones and large boulders made walking difficult. Throughout the trek,we crossed a few small streams.The water flow was not strong,but we had to navigate carefully over stepping stones or through shallow paths. The cold, refreshing water provided temporary relief from the relentless climb. We halted at regular intervals, not just to catch our breath but also to soak a breathtaking vistas. From these vantage points, we witnessed the transformation of the landscape. The sprawling plains gave way to mesmerizing view of hills and valleys. Reaching at the top was a triumph. The view was nothing short of spectacular,a reward for our efforts,was breathtakin

We all spent a good time at the top by clicking pictures, laughing, lying on the grass and the silent satisfaction of having conquered a formidable challenge. But the descent was as treacherous as the ascent. Each step was a calculated risk. Team members supported each other through difficult patches, shared tips on navigating tricky spots, and celebrated each small victory we reached the base. Looking back at the fort I knew I would return, armed with more experience, but with the same sense of adventure. It was a challenging exhilarating experience. The memories of the trek is etched in the depths of my mind and heart. I

The Microsoft Outage: A Lesson in Digital Infrastructure Resilience

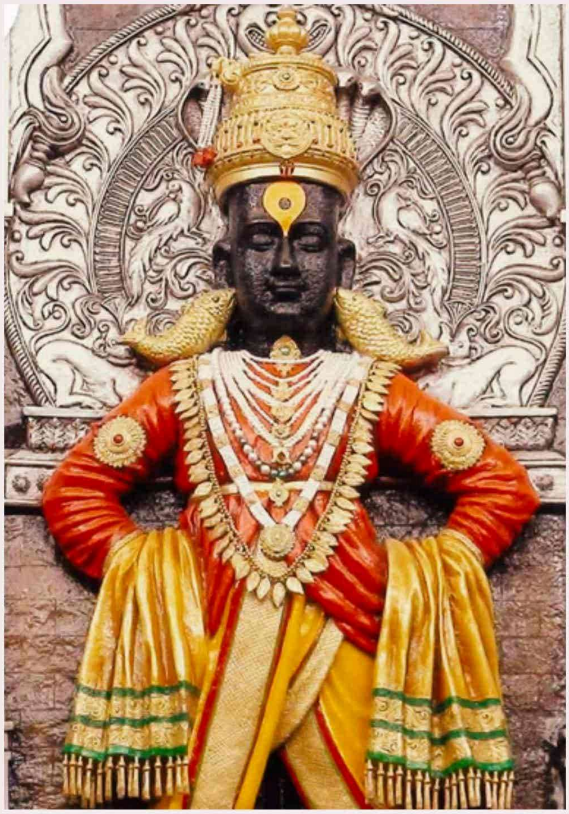
-By Sahil Khandare (SYBAF B)

On July 19, 2024, a significant outage hit Microsoft's cloud services, including Teams, Azure, and Office 365, disrupting operations worldwide. This incident shed light on vulnerabilities in centralized digital infrastructure. The outage, attributed to an issue with Azure Active Directory (AAD), affected millions relying on Microsoft for remote work tools and cloud computing services. Businesses faced disruptions in communication and operations, highlighting the risks of single-cloud reliance. Microsoft swiftly worked to resolve the issue and communicated updates via social media and their status page. However, the incident underscored the need for redundancy and contingency planning in digital infrastructure to mitigate future disruptions.The outage prompts organizations to reconsider their cloud strategies, emphasizing the importance of diversifying cloud providers and enhancing cybersecurity measures. It also calls for regulatory scrutiny to ensure resilience and accountability in digital service provision. The Microsoft outage serves as a pivotal reminder of the criticality of digital resilience. By learning from such incidents and implementing robust strategies, businesses can navigate future challenges more effectively and maintain operational continuity. This concise article summarizes the impact, causes, and lessons learned from the recent Microsoft outage,

Sacred steps to Pandhari

-By Aastha Panjari (TYBAF C)

"अवघे गर्जे पंढरपूर"



When we hear this tune, we all prepare for a journey to the Lord situated near the Chandrabhaga river. Lord Vithoba blessing his disciples and standing on the brick is a significant representation of Lord Vishnu's incarnation. Pandharpur Wari is a deeply spiritual journey undertaken by pure devotees. It is one of the oldest pilgrimages in Maharashtra, with a history tracing back approximately 700 years.People from all over the state embark on a pilgrimage to Pandharpur. This is not just a pilgrimage but also a journey through history, highlighting the contributions of great saints who championed the Bhakti movement. Sant Dnyaneshwar and Sant Tukaram initiated this Wari to offer love and prayers to Lord Vithal. All the Warkaris carry the padukas of the saints in a palanquin to Pandharpur. The palki of Sant Tukaram starts from Dehu, while the palki of Sant Dnyaneshwar begins its journey from Alandi. All this takes place in the month of Ashadh (June-July). This month brings unity, blessings and joy throughout the state. The journey of several days is enjoyed and cherished by the Warkaris as they walk long distances. They sing abhangas and chant "Vitthal Rakhumai","Ram Krishna Hari" and "Mauli" while performing their bhajans. The air is filled with divinity, peace, and positivity. Sant Namdev beautifully described devotion towards Vithoba by comparing it to a mother's love, and he earnestly requests Lord Vithoba to shower blessings.

This Wari is not just a devotional journey but also marks an

their religion orcaste. It promotes equality and spreads the message of love and compassion. All the devotees walk together, dance in synchrony, share meals, and join in prayer together. The Pandharpur Wari reflects significant importance in Marathi literature and poetry, thereby enhancing cultural values. These values and traditions are passed down from generation to generation, making it a cherished spiritual journey in the state. The Pandharpur Wari has always continued to inspire people and has been a ray of light in the dark. It represents a journey of faith, love and gratitude, spreading good morals throughout society. The Wari offers a glimpse into the rich cultural tapestry of Maharashtra. One must visit this divine journey at least once in their lifetime to experience its fascinating and spiritual essence.

"बोला पुंडलिक वरदे हरी विठ्ठल, श्री ज्ञानदेव तुकाराम, पंढरीनाथ महाराज की जय"

VINESH PHOGAT - A TRUE CHAMPION

-By Bhumika Nandiwadekar (TYBAF B)

Vinesh Phogat's journey at the Paris Olympics was filled with incredible victories and unexpected heartbreak. Her first match was one of the toughest challenges she had ever faced. She was up against Yui Susaki, a Japanese wrestler who had never lost a match in her international career and was a four-time world Olympic champion. But Vinesh was ready. Drawing strength from her personal struggles, she shocked everyone by defeating the reigning champion in one of the biggest upsets the Olympics had ever seen. Building on her victory, Vinesh went on to defeat Oksana Livach of Ukraine, earning a spot in the semi-finals of the women's 50 kg freestyle wrestling event. Tears of joy filled her eyes, but she knew there was more to achieve. In the semi-finals, Vinesh faced Yusneylis Guzman Lopez of Cuba. With great determination, she won the match, becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach an Olympic final. The entire country celebrated her success as she prepared to compete for historic gold. But on 7th August, there was devastating news. Vinesh, who was competing in the 50 kg category, was found to be 100 grams over the weight limit for her event. Normally, she competes in the 53 kg category but had worked hard to bring her weight down to 50 kg for the Paris Olympics. However, on the second day of the weigh-in, she was just over the limit by a small margin. The night before, Vinesh had realized her weight was 1 kg over. Desperate to lose the extra

Indian officials asked the Olympics committee for more time, but there was little room for negotiation. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appealed her disqualification, but the decision was firm. Despite this heartbreaking outcome, Vinesh made history as the first Indian woman to reach the final of a wrestling event at the Olympics. Though she was disqualified just when she was so close to winning a gold or silver medal, her journey is a powerful example of never giving up.Vinesh Phogat showed the world what it means to be truly determined. She pushed herself beyond her limits, fighting every step of the way. Her story teaches us that even when the odds are against us, we should keep trying and make ourselves and our country proud. Her courage and perseverance remind us that it's not over until we decide to give up—and Vinesh never did.

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