

THE COMMUNIQUÉ

Dear reader,

The MUNSoc journey is strange. Somehow, it feels like it has gone by in a heartbeat, yet when you look back, it feels like a lifetime. It changes you, but in many ways, it doesn't. You grow, you learn, you fall, you become a little more confident, a little more open, a little more yourself and yet somehow, the person who walked in on day one is still there.

Along the way, MUNSoc becomes more than meetings, and late nights. It becomes the people you meet, the conversations you never planned, the memories you never expected to make, and the friendships that somehow become home. It gives you moments you know you'll look back on years from now and smile.

The journey keeps moving forward, and so should you. Chase what comes next, take every opportunity, make mistakes, grow from them, and never be afraid of where the road takes you. But every once in a while, stop and look back. Remember the people, the places, the chaos, the laughter, and the version of yourself that got you here.

Because maybe that's what MUNSoc is really about, not just where the journey takes you, but who you become along the way, and the people you become with.

I'm incredibly grateful for every part of this journey, for everything MUNSoc has taught me, for everyone it has brought into my life, and for all the memories I get to carry forward. Looking back now, I don't think I could have asked for these four years to be any different. They've been unexpected, unforgettable, and, in the simplest and most genuine sense of the word, interesting.

So keep moving forward. Keep growing. Keep connecting. Keep making memories. And most of all, be happy.

Have fun,
Naman Bhatia
Student Mentor

MUNSOC 26-27 IN SESSION

"More than just a society, nothing short of a family"

The start of any major event is charged with excitement, and on July 30th, the first General Body meeting gave that exact energy, as the seats filled up with the newly recruited executives, marking the official beginning of their MUNSoc journey.

As the General Secretary, Aiden Juneja, took centre stage, nostalgia took over as she recalled sitting in those very seats years ago. She spoke of how, for her, MUNSoc evolved from a committee into a second family, building her confidence and public speaking skills along the way. The rest of the LT agreed with her and recalled the thrill of planning events like the Mumbai MUN, and reminding the recruits to enjoy their first year. They also emphasized on how this journey is going to be "the ride of our lives!" and how the committee itself helped them evolve not just as a student but as a person.



The Faculty mentor, Prof. Nirmal Thakur, then joined in to offer his wisdom, encouraging the executives to fully enjoy this unique experience, while still focusing on academics, and playfully advised everyone to annoy their core with endless questions and doubts.

With the speeches wrapped up, the mood in the auditorium shifted into a lighthearted chaos as the LT announced an icebreaker: four groups, five minutes, and dance performances. Highlights included the viral aerobics dance, followed by a team bumbling their way through Taylor Swift's 'The Fate of Ophelia', and a chaotic performance of 'What Do You Mean'.

A photograph of this year's entire team was taken to mark the occasion. The evening concluded with departmental gatherings at the cafeteria followed by a casual afterparty arranged by the Core and LT.

With new faces, shared ambitions and memories already in the making, a new chapter begins. MUNSoc 2026-27 is officially in session.



A Ruling, A Rumour, and 80,000 People

Ceuta, a Spanish autonomous city on the North African coast, became the centre of an international migration crisis on the 30th of July. The Spanish Government estimated that around eighty thousand people crossed the border and entered the city. Its services were quickly overwhelmed, and the Mayor called for the Spanish Government to declare a state of emergency. The crossing also proved fatal for dozens, with the death toll eventually reported at around 96. The Moroccan Government denied encouraging the influx of people. Nevertheless, the collapse of border controls raised questions regarding the management of one of Europe's most strategically significant land borders.

The developments that preceded the mass crossing began weeks earlier. On July 8th, 2026, a ruling by the Spanish Supreme Court regarding migrants who reach Ceuta by swimming was made public. The court stated that anyone intercepted entering Spanish territory by sea cannot be subjected to Spain's immediate return procedure. Instead, they must undergo the ordinary legal process, which allows for an individual assessment and the opportunity to seek asylum before a return decision is made.

On social media, the ruling was quickly distorted and misinterpreted. For many young Moroccans eyeing migration, the line between restricted immediate returns and total protection from deportation rapidly blurred as news spread. Consequently, many began to believe that simply swimming to Ceuta would shield them from being sent back.

The narrative eventually translated into a mass influx across the border into the enclave. However, a very different reality awaited those who made the crossing, as Spanish authorities quickly clarified the apex of the court's ruling. The decision had not guaranteed anyone the right to remain in Spain. Around seventy thousand of those who had crossed subsequently returned to Morocco, making the crisis impossible to resolve. The sheer scale of the influx made a quick resolution of the crisis impossible, and thousands remained stranded. This turned a sudden border crisis into a humanitarian crisis. Reception centres quickly struggled to accommodate the number of people who remained, while healthcare and other essential services faced mounting pressure. The presence of thousands of unaccompanied minors added another layer to the crisis, requiring accommodation, protection and individual legal assessment. All of this prompted an emergency meeting of EU interior ministers, who expressed solidarity with Spain and called for stronger external border controls, returns and cooperation against migrant smuggling and misinformation. Recent developments show that temporary accommodation has been provided, and that Spain has also relocated the most vulnerable to the mainland. Still, the conditions and future of thousands remain uncertain. While the crisis dominated headlines, the dispersed crowds that once gathered at the crossing have consequences that remain very much evident.

The events in Ceuta extend beyond any single border crisis. The incident brought questions of economic desperation and legal uncertainty into focus. It also highlighted the wider humanitarian challenges and geopolitical challenges surrounding migration at Europe's external borders.

ultimately single incident misinformation, legal also highlighted and geopolitical surrounding Europe's borders.

A Stranger in the City of Dreams

There is a particular feeling that follows you when you leave home. It is difficult to define as it tethers on the edge; not quite sadness and certainly not loneliness. It is the awareness that you are stepping away from everything that was intimately familiar to you and into a place that has yet to take shape.

When you first arrive in Mumbai, the city can feel almost overwhelming. It moves at a rapid, breathless pace, as if everyone has somewhere to be and something to do. The streets are crowded and buzzing with life, painting each corner with their own colors. The sound of a local train, the honk of a taxi, or the quick rhythm of Bombay Hindi fills your ears.

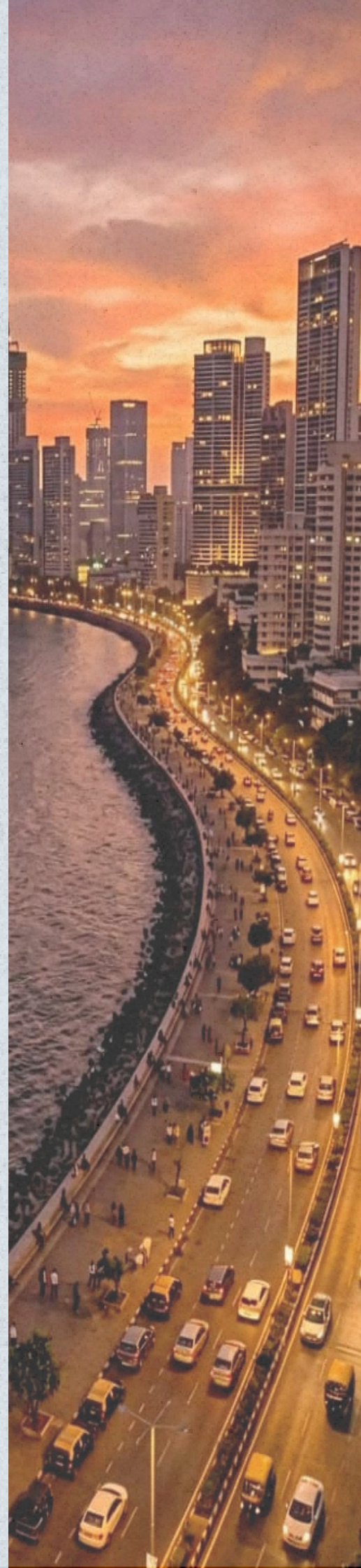
But perhaps that is the beauty of it. Maybe there is this comfort in being just another face in a city of millions. It takes a certain kind of strength to find yourself in an unfamiliar place, and even more courage to be certain that you made the right choice.

And slowly, the rhythmic sounds of the tracks, the hum of the kaali-peeli taxis, the rain tapping against windows, all become familiar. Even the chaos becomes nostalgic. Mumbai's rains are the perfect example. Every year, the city complains about them, and then romanticises them anyway.

The strangest part is that you don't notice yourself becoming a Mumbaikar. It happens quietly. You go home for a visit one day and realise your hometown feels too quiet. The roads feel too empty. Everyone seems to be walking too slowly. And then you realise this city has changed you. The place that once made you feel like an outsider has become the place you miss when you're away.

Maybe that is Mumbai's greatest gift.

It doesn't promise you an easy life. It doesn't slow down for you. But somehow, it gives you something in return. A sense of belonging. So, what is the best thing about Mumbai? How could there be just one best thing in a city of dreams? You come to Mumbai looking for a life. Somewhere along the way, without even realising it, Mumbai becomes a part of yours.



FROM CLASSROOMS TO CONFINEMENT

What happens when going to school, getting a job, or simply stepping outside becomes a privilege rather than a right? For millions of Afghan women and girls, this is increasingly becoming a harsh reality. Afghanistan today is often associated with images of women behind closed doors, girls barred from classrooms, and an increasingly restricted public life. But this was not always how it was.

Prior to 2021, even though Afghan women still experienced discrimination and encountered numerous difficulties, there had been obvious advances in the areas of education, employment and public life. Girls were going to schools and universities, women had professional lives and had bigger societal roles. This changed abruptly in 2021, when the Taliban came back to power. After that there was a steady tightening of the restrictions placed on women and girls. The consequences of these developments cannot be ignored.

Five years after the Taliban's return, these restrictions have gone far beyond education and employment. The consequences are now seen in the ordinary things Afghan women can no longer do, as well as in the laws that increasingly limit their rights. Key decrees issued in 2026 have further restricted women's and girls' access to justice and stripped them of equal status and protection under the law. Decree 12 abolishes legal equality between men and women, placing husbands in the position of power over their wives and limiting women's ability to seek justice. Decree 18 makes it significantly harder for women to leave their marriages, while preserving only men's unilateral right to divorce. It also implicitly permits child marriage, further eroding the rights and protections of women and girls.

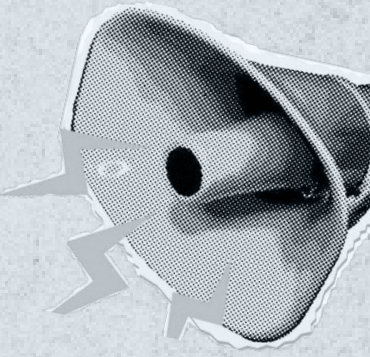
As of 2026, more than 10.7 million women and girls require humanitarian assistance. As low as 7% of women are employed, compared to 84% of men. Together, these figures show that the restrictions are part of a wider system that is steadily removing women from education, work and public life. But perhaps the greatest long-term consequence is one that cannot be measured only in statistics, it is the creation of a "lost generation". This is not only a loss for Afghan women, it also threatens Afghanistan's future workforce, economy and development.

Afghanistan has become a stark reminder of how fragile human rights can be. August 15, 2026, marks five years since the Taliban returned to power. Despite repeated intervention and condemnation of the Taliban's draconian policies by the UN and international governments, the question remains whether objection has been enough to bring change.

Yet Afghan women continue pursuing education through community programmes and supporting their families through work, keeping the glimmer of hope alive. Their persistence keeps open the possibility of rebuilding lost opportunities. The future is uncertain, but the story of Afghan women is not over.



Meet Pawani Gupta



Pawani Gupta. A little spontaneous, a little chaotic, but always ambitious. As a Business Development & Marketing Executive at MUNSoc, Pawani loves meeting people, taking action and turning ideas into something that people can relate to. Pawani's love for leading, talking and creating makes BD&M the perfect match for her. She is excited to take on challenges, help the team and create some great memories along the way.

What do you think makes a MUN event successful from a marketing perspective?

From a marketing point of view, I feel that there are many other aspects that need to be considered for a successful MUN apart from bringing in funds. It is marketing which generates visibility and helps in creating an interest amongst people in the MUN. The use of social media promotions and building partnerships with brands also help in reaching out to more people. I feel that effective marketing is what helps in converting a good MUN into a well-known one.

What is the one skill you feel you have developed the most since joining the Business & Marketing team and what has been your biggest challenge?

One of the biggest skills I have developed is the confidence to approach and communicate with people effectively. Reaching out to approximately 300-400 brands through calls, emails, LinkedIn, and Instagram has pushed me outside my comfort zone. Although facing rejection can sometimes be discouraging, I have learned not to take it personally and to remain persistent. With the support of my core and teammates, this experience has helped me become a more confident communicator and taught me the importance of perseverance and not giving up after the first "no."



What has been your favourite part of being an executive so far?

One of my favourite parts of being an executive has been the opportunity to interact with my seniors and collaborate closely as part of a team. As an executive, we always have the opportunity to learn something new, especially from the experiences of our core and the Leadership Team. Listening to them and learning from them will be amongst the most rewarding parts on this journey.

How would you describe the Business Development & Marketing team in three words?

I would describe the Business Development & Marketing team as dynamic, collaborative, and driven. It is a team that constantly brings fresh ideas and energy, works closely together to achieve common goals, and remains highly motivated to create meaningful impact and drive successful outcomes.

What made you want to join MUN Society, and why did you choose Business Development & Marketing?

As I am really interested in debating and speaking at public events, joining MUN Society was an easy choice for me as it offered me the ideal platform where I could make some great connections and broaden my network amidst people with similar interests. I also believed that joining MUNSoc would help me improve myself in terms of confidence and leadership. Joining Business Development & Marketing was based on my belief that I needed to enhance my understanding of business and management and for that purpose I felt BD&M was a good fit for me as it allowed me to network with people and brands outside the MUN circuit.

Can we ever be truly selfless?

Selflessness is often understood as giving without expecting anything in return. But perhaps an impossible standard has been created for what is considered a truly selfless act.

If happiness or fulfilment experienced after helping someone is enough to make an action selfish, then is an act only selfless when absolutely nothing is felt by the person performing it?

A distinction must be made between getting something from an action and performing an action specifically to get something from it. Human motives are rarely completely pure. A person may genuinely care about someone while also experiencing happiness from helping them. Both can exist simultaneously. A mixed motive does not automatically make an act insincere.

Consider charity. A donation may be made without recognition, gratitude, or any expectation of a return. Yet, fulfilment may still be experienced afterward. That feeling does not necessarily make the donation selfish. It may simply be the natural emotional consequence of knowing that someone else's life has been improved.

The same principle can be seen in sacrifice. When someone's comfort, time, or safety is willingly placed behind another person's needs, a choice has been made to prioritise someone else. The positive emotions that may follow do not erase that choice. This is where selflessness is often misunderstood.

Selflessness cannot reasonably be defined as the complete absence of self-interest. Human beings are naturally driven by emotions, values, attachments, and desires. To demand that all of these disappear before an action can be considered selfless is not morality; it is an impossible purity test. Instead, selflessness should be judged by what is chosen when personal interests come into conflict with another person's needs.

Human motives are rarely completely pure. A person may genuinely care about someone while also experiencing happiness from helping them. Both can exist simultaneously. A mixed motive does not automatically make an act insincere.

Perhaps morality was never meant to be measured by the complete absence of self-interest. Perhaps it should instead be measured by what is chosen despite self-interest.

The motives behind every action may never be completely known or proven. But the inability to prove perfect selflessness does not prove that meaningful selflessness is impossible. So perhaps the question should not be, "What was received?" It should be, "What was willingly given up for someone else?"

Because selflessness is not about receiving nothing. It is about ensuring that the reward received was never the reason the help was given in the first place.

Even Joey Tribbiani said it, "Look, there's no unselfish good deeds, sorry."

You've probably heard someone say, "I don't do it for anything, I do it because I care." That belief is hard to accept. Not because people are necessarily liars, but because nobody is as self-aware as they think they are.

Here's a problem with the word "selfless"; the word is thrown around for anything that looks kind on the outside. But looking kind and being selfless are not the same thing. A proper definition would mean that being truly selfless is an act that gives back absolutely nothing. Neither pride nor relief. Not even the quiet satisfaction of being on moral high ground.

Take charity, supposedly the most genuine example of pure kindness. People donate and volunteer. Nobody's watching, nobody's clapping. So there's no reward, right? Wrong. They still feel that quiet content and the overwhelming fulfilment. Just the knowledge that they did something good, even in the absence of praise, gives internal gratification.

If this is true for just one act of giving, imagine what happens over years of give and take - a relationship. Some might argue that relationships cannot survive on expectation and that real care means showing up for people without needing anything back. So, then why does it hurt so much when someone doesn't show up? If reciprocity truly didn't matter then betrayal wouldn't sting as much. But it does, because even unconsciously, the expectation was still there. People support their friends because the same support would likely be returned. Birthdays are remembered and presents are bought because the same gesture is expected back. Nobody consciously calculates this, but the expectation is still there, quietly running underneath every relationship described as "unconditional."

This argument traces back to a philosophical concept called psychological egoism meaning: "All human actions are ultimately motivated by perceived self-interest." It says even actions that seem altruistic can be linked to some desire of the individual. The most unsettling part is that this concept is almost entirely impossible to disprove.

Someone could have made a donation just to feel content, someone could help others just to avoid guilt, etc. It's an endless loop. But that doesn't make kindness any less human. The fact that human kindness comes tangled up with emotion, ego, and self regard isn't proof that humanity is inorganic but proof that it is exactly the opposite.