



School of  
Meaningful  
Experiences™

Assertive yet  
empathetic  
communication  
is the hallmark  
of good  
leadership.

**SoME**Times

March 2022

The quarterly newsletter from  
the School of Meaningful Experiences

# From the Founder's Desk



**Dear Colleagues, Learners, Partners,  
Shareholders and Well-Wishers of SoME,**

Welcome to the last newsletter of this financial year. March also happens to be the month of colour, Holi, in India, and from the entire SoME family, I wish you all a colourful and happy year ahead! This year, we have taken an important decision to move away from calling essential skills we teach here at SoME as soft skills. Instead, we will be adopting the lesser-known but more apt term—Human Skills. The skills we teach, especially the Six Cs - Communication, Confidence, Collaboration, Curiosity, Creativity and Competence - are not soft; they are integral to the development of the self. At a philosophical level, we have always disagreed with calling them soft, for having strong human skills empowers us to become confident communicators and empathetic leaders. It also enables us to deal with challenges on the personal front deftly. They are what makes us human, therefore human skills. It is also what the world is starting to recognise and move towards.

Coming to our updates, it has been an exciting time at SoME. Our small family is growing exponentially, and we have had seven new team members join us this quarter. They bring diverse experiences, live in different cities and countries and have worked in various sectors. Their immense knowledge and expertise will enable us to create content and products that are more industry-specific and relevant. We warmly welcome Venu Ayyar, Ashok Mirchandani, Kavita Mahesh, Sugandha Deshmukh, Shivani Shinkre, Shubhada Sudarshan, and Meenal Panjwani. Hope you have a Meaningful Experience with us.

Our associations are journeys we take together. We enjoy each other's company, share ideas and insights, but we have to leave others behind when our stop comes. Two of my teammates have decided that their stops have come, and they must get off, while we continue with this journey. Though their roles at SoME have ended, our relationship will endure. They have contributed their hard work, wisdom and friendship, making our organisation richer with their presence. All the best, Chitra Ramarajan and Niby James. May we meet again soon.

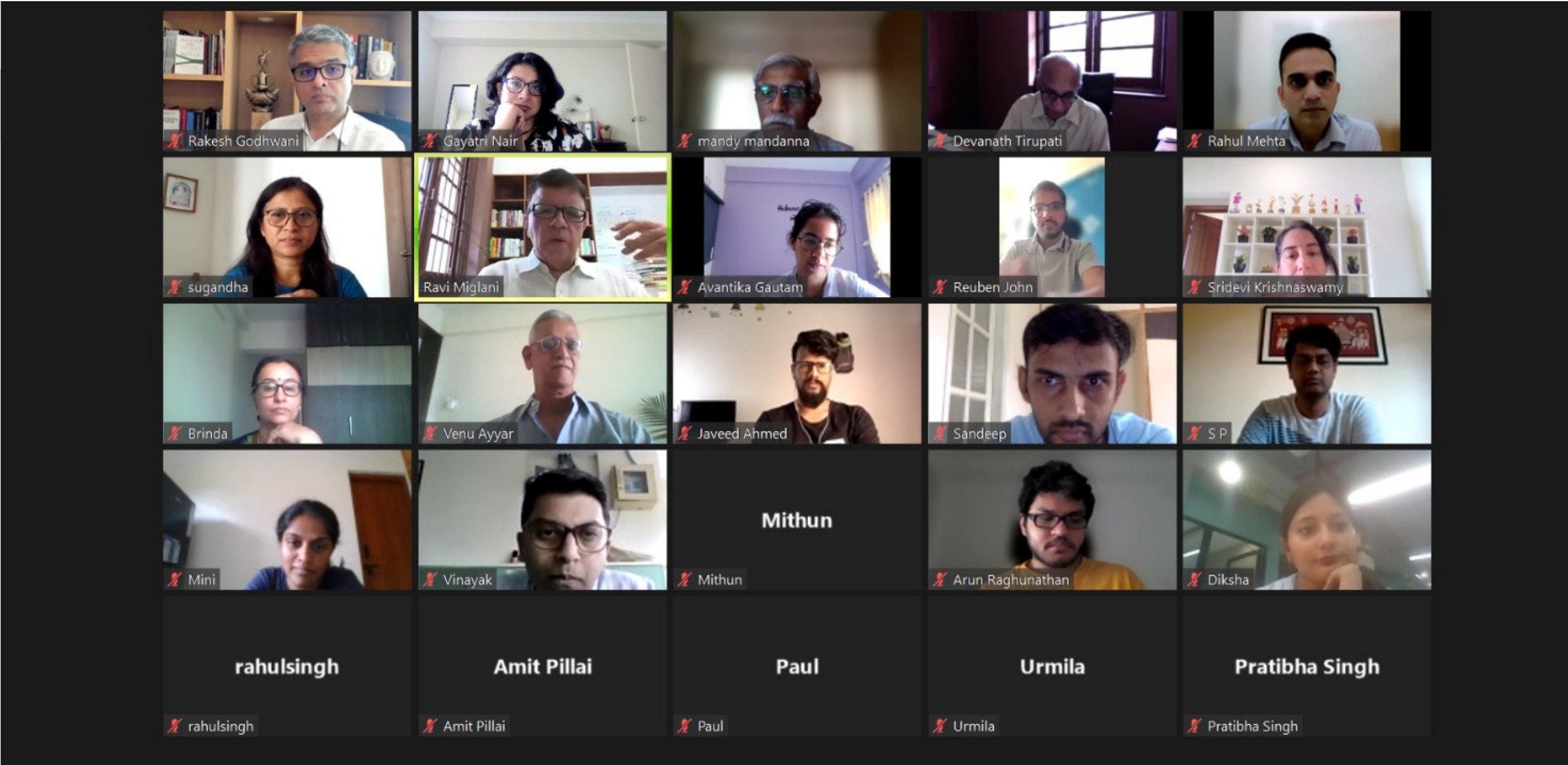




The team wishing Chitra and Niby farewell.

We forged two strong partnerships this quarter, the first one being with Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University. SoME and Ahmedabad University will jointly offer a 24-week Management Development Programme (MDP) for two categories of corporate professionals – middle to senior managers and individuals about to become first-time managers. With this partnership, we will enrich working professionals’ managerial and leadership capabilities by providing industry-specific content, bringing expert faculty from both Ahmedabad University and SoME, and giving more personalised feedback. Through the programme, our learners will explore topics like decision making, learning to manage office politics better, improving conflict resolution, negotiating for impact, and the art of being an assertive yet empathetic leader.

The certificate will be jointly offered by SoME and Ahmedabad University.



First MDP design meeting with SoME, Ahmedabad University and BetterPlace, a Bengaluru based company providing HRMS platform for blue collar employees.



The second partnership is with India's premier and oldest science institute – the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru. We offered a two-credit course to IISc students through their Office of Communication and were thrilled to receive more than 175 learners from their UG, PG and PhD programmes. We are so excited to hear that they love our classes and hope to do many more such batches every year.



Founder & CEO Rakesh Godhwani and Guide Col MK Mandanna (Retd.) with IISc students.

Our Internship Programme continues to grow stronger, and this March we celebrated its first anniversary. We have seven interns from three institutes – St. Agnes College (Autonomous), Mangaluru, Kristu Jayanti, Bengaluru, and Christ College, Bengaluru. Three new interns, Anuj Sethi, Shadiya Zubair and Grace Joseph, joined us this quarter and they help with our content, blogs and learner assignments. Along with one-year experienced interns - Linta and Lina George, Sarah Monis, and Dhanya Pai - they are making our organisation more vibrant with their ideas and energy.

It gives me great joy to inform you that we crossed a thousand paid learners this month - a huge milestone. We have programmes for almost all age groups - from 9 years to 40 and above. Multiple batches are running in parallel, and we are seeing a considerable intake of one-on-one batches from abroad. Currently, we have learners from Regina, Canada, San Jose and Dallas, USA, Manchester, UK and the Middle East.



February was a month of great excitement in our office. Two of our wonderful teammates, **Reuben John** and **Arun Raghunathan**, got married to their long-time partners, and we couldn't control our delight. There was much discussion about gifts, and we also attended their weddings virtually! All the very best, Reuben and Arun. May this next chapter of your life bring lots of happy adventures, love, and laughter.



*All the very best, Arun and Kopal!*



*Happy married life, Reuben and Shalaka!*

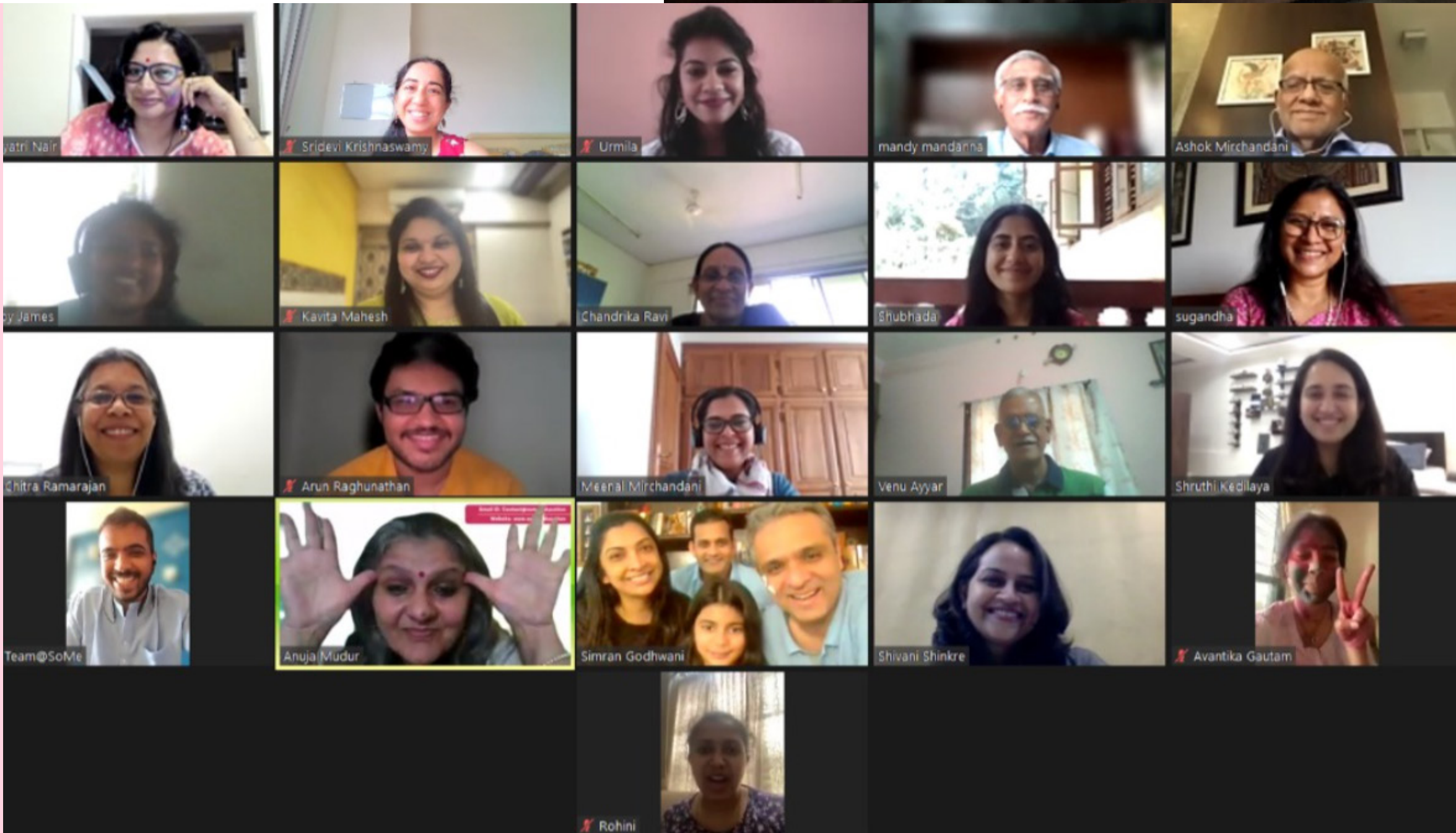


Our teammate Avantika Gautam in a play, titled Raat, at Ranga Shankara, Bengaluru.



At SoME, we have a tradition of supporting our teammates' passions outside of the organisation. So, when our lovely teammate **Avantika Gautam**, a budding actor, performed in a hard-hitting play, we were overjoyed. Our fabulous Guide, Anuja Mudur, also dropped by to wish her the best and watch the play. Keep shining, Avantika, here's to many more plays!

My birthday fell on Holi this year, and my teammates organised an online surprise birthday party for me! I was expecting a cake but didn't know they would surprise me by pouncing on me with wishes. I was really moved. So blessed to have them in my life.



My teammates joining in from six Indian cities and four countries to wish me!



This quarter, we also started a special initiative **#SoMERecommends**. Books and movies are an integral part of what we do. We wanted to take this up a notch and invite all our team members to share books and movies that have made them cry, laugh, and think. Therefore, every Sunday morning, one teammate shares a heartfelt note on a book or a movie they love with the rest of the team on our WhatsApp group. It has become such a hit that Sundays now feel incomplete without that message. From this newsletter onwards, we will be sharing a few recommendations that we think you should definitely check out too.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for supporting our work. I am extremely excited for the next quarter and look forward to more engagements with you all.

Till the next time, stay safe!

**Rakesh Godhwani, Founder & CEO, SoME**

# Community engagement activities

Here are a few highlights from the last quarter.


- In January, Rakesh Godhwani spoke at DoMS NALSAR’s Premier Entrepreneurship Event, Tarakki - A Journey from Rock Bottom on how to **Communicate Under Pressure**.
- He also spoke on **Charismatic Leadership and Communication** at N. L. Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research and on **Networking and Building Professional Relationships** at Great Learning.
- In February, he spoke on **Leaders, Failures and Communication** at the IFMR Graduate School of Business, Krea University and on the **Six Cs of Charismatic Leadership** at Ranosys.
- He also spoke on **How Communication Helps Finding Our Passion** at Plaksha University.
- In March he spoke on **Persuasive Communication and Charismatic Leadership** at IIM Kashipur and **How to Handle Failures** at Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous), Kerala.
- He also spoke on **The Art of Communication - How Leaders Can Influence Workforce for Positive Outcomes** at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.
- He spoke on **How to Handle Minor Failures in Startups** at Student Development Programme, Jain University - Centre for Management Studies.
- We also held our first post-pandemic on ground event at the wonderful St. Agnes College (Autonomous), Mangaluru. Rakesh Godhwani spoke about **The Challenges of the 21-st century schools and colleges**.







Rakesh Godhwani in St. Agnes College (Autonomous), Mangaluru talking about the challenges in the 21st century schools and colleges.



Do reach out at [contact@some.education](mailto:contact@some.education) if you want us to do a webinar/talk at your campus.



# What we have been up to!

## IISc students and the Art of Communication for Leaders

On January 12, 2022, we flagged off our first session with the Indian Institute of Science, IISc, India's top institute for scientific research. SoME had signed a partnership to conduct courses in the **Art of Communication for Leaders**, based on our Six Cs philosophy. There were four batches and Rakesh Godhwani was the lead instructor for these 10-session online classes along with the Guides of SoME.

In the first session, Rakesh broke the ice with the learners with his particular brand of communication, that is usually peppered with plenty of anecdotes and humour. The session was interactive and upbeat, and the learners felt free and safe to share their experiences with communication and leadership.



Guide Simran Godhwani (top second left) and Rakesh Godhwani (top right) with students of IISc.

In the weeks that followed, learners went through the Learning Management System (LMS) for the concepts, participated in weekly classroom sessions and submitted the three video assignments that are a part of this course. The discussions were as lively, practical, honest, and grounded as they were cerebral. It was enjoyable for the Guides as well to interact with the learners and hear their fresh perspectives on a wide range of topics.

The last couple of sessions – job interviews and resume building – were held in one of the classes on the beautiful grounds of IISc. The in-person interaction with the learners was the icing on the cake. The session was a simulation of job interviews and the plethora of intelligent, meaningful, and sometimes weird questions interviewers often ask.





Mock interview session conducted by Rakesh Godhwani at the IISc campus.

Rakesh and the Guides took on the role of the interviewers, and several mock interviews were held to give the learners a practical, real-world flavour of how these are held today. The learners enjoyed the session and shared positive feedback asking for more such classes.

About 175 students benefited from this programme, and we hope to have much more such cohorts in the coming days. The course aims to empower these future scientists and innovators to be more confident communicators and leaders.

# One-on-one sessions for working professionals continues

SoME’s one-on-one sessions are about getting to know the professional goals a learner wants to achieve, understanding the challenges they want to take on and the problems they wish to resolve. This enables us to deliver a customised learning experience that’s relevant, timely, and enriching.

This quarter, many learners enrolled for our one-on-one sessions from within and outside India.

We have experienced women IT professionals in our one-on-one programme. They are back from a career break and looking to steer their careers in their preferred direction. We have ensured that our executive leadership programmes are extremely flexible and meaningful to these savvy professionals. The case studies are appropriate and enable a better understanding of our human skills concepts in the context of returning to work. Our Guides offer practical tips which the learners can use at work each week, and the women professionals appreciate this approach and are very happy with the tools offered as part of the course.





Our one-on-one learner, Vandana.

Our one-on-one learner  
Deepashree, with Guide Sandya.

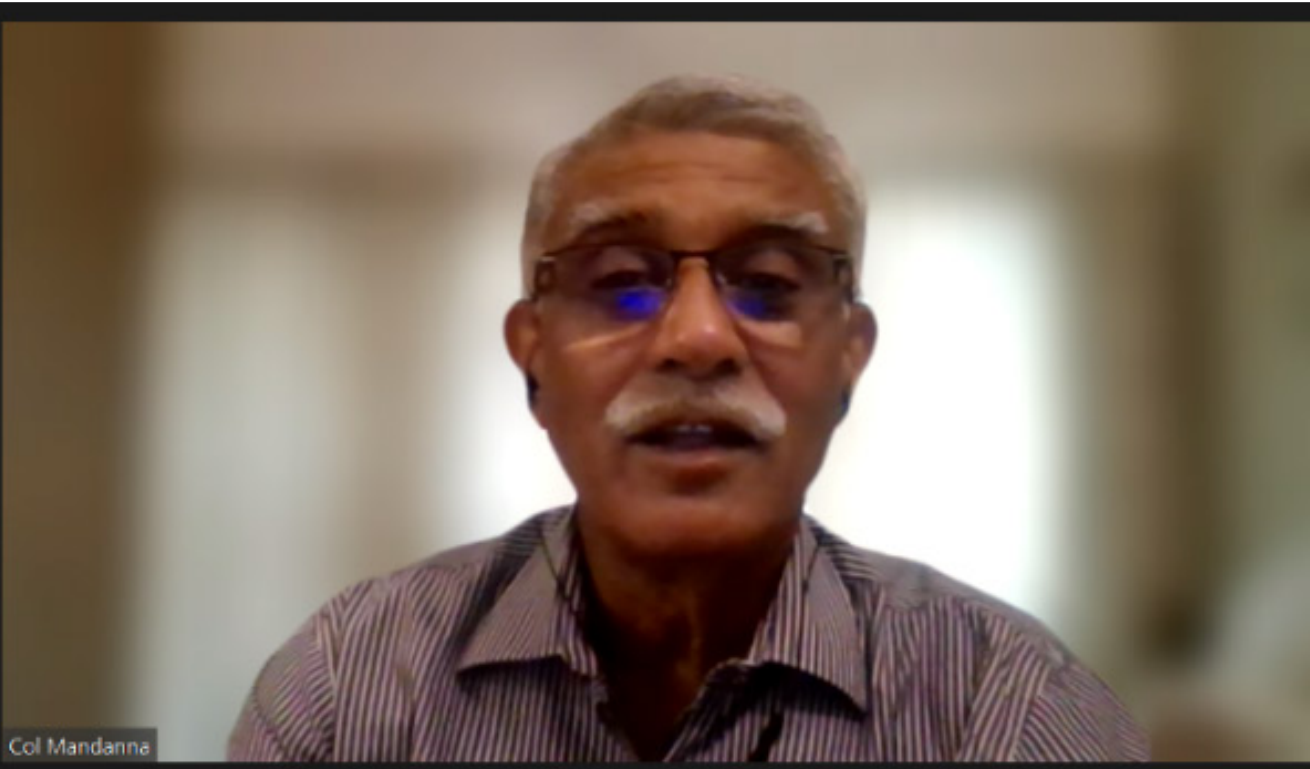


Other batches running:

**Competent Leaders Programme (CLP)**

This programme has become very popular with mid-level managers wanting to improve their human skills and enhance their professional growth. SoME has run eight basic level courses during the first quarter of 2022, including five one-on-one batches.

We have a learner joining in from Manchester, UK, for the Competent Leaders Programme batch. He is working for a global Agriculture company, helping to improve global food security by engaging with small holder farmers in North Districts of Karnataka. He is very open-minded and enthusiastic in his approach to learning and contributes enthusiastically to discussions on the various concepts and cases studies in the programme. Also, he wakes up at 4:30 am to take this class, showing his absolute commitment to becoming a more confident communicator and empathetic leader. Kudos to our wonderful learner from Manchester.



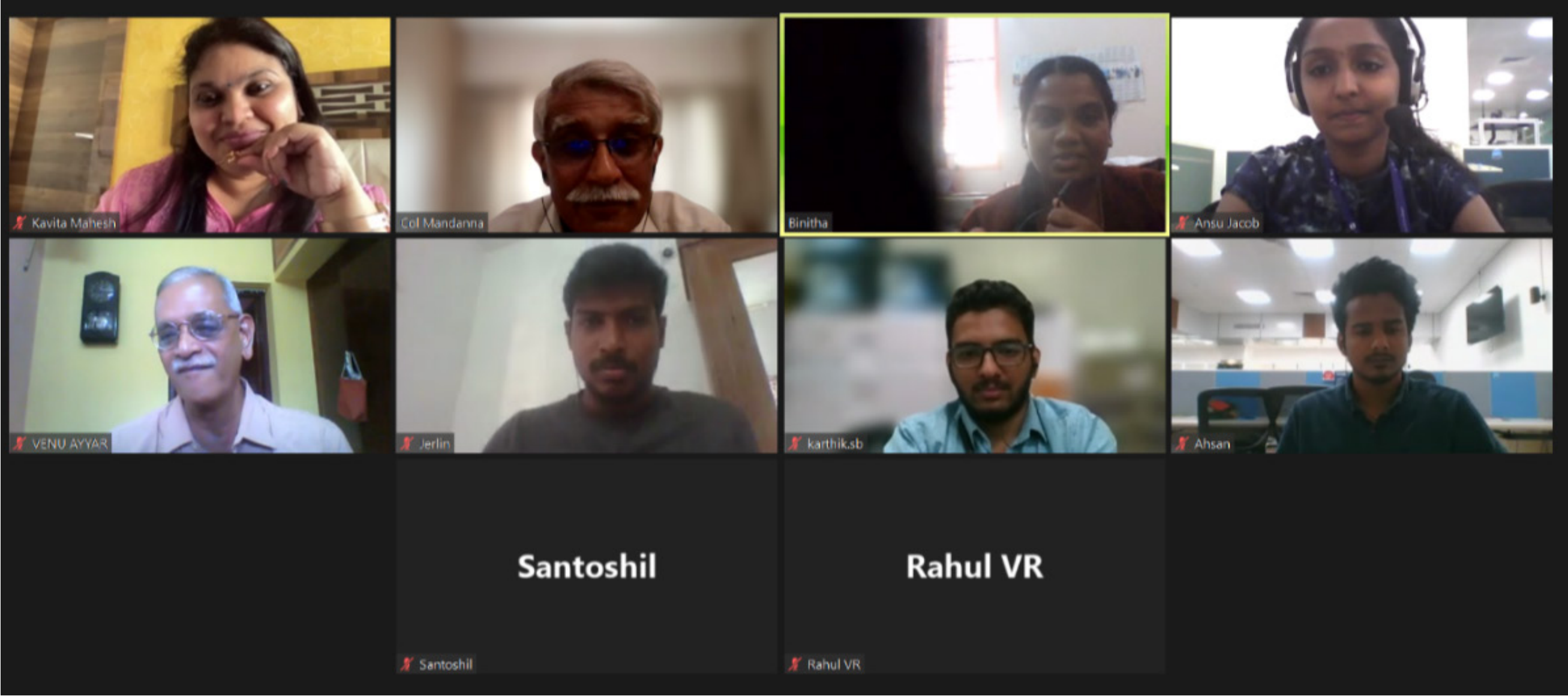
One of our learners with Guide Col MK Mandanna (Retd.).



Appreciating the content, four of our learners have taken up our advanced level course. One is a senior aircraft maintenance manager with over 20 years of experience, another is from the IT sector, and two others are working with MNCs. Such a varied audience has helped us refine our content to meet the needs of the present-day corporate environment.

### Effective Professional Programme (EPP)

This programme is for all those learners who have just stepped into the corporate world and wish to incorporate the human skills that will boost their competencies and enable them to become successful and confident professionals. This quarter, two batches successfully completed the programme.



With learners from Acsia, an IT company in Thiruvananthapuram.

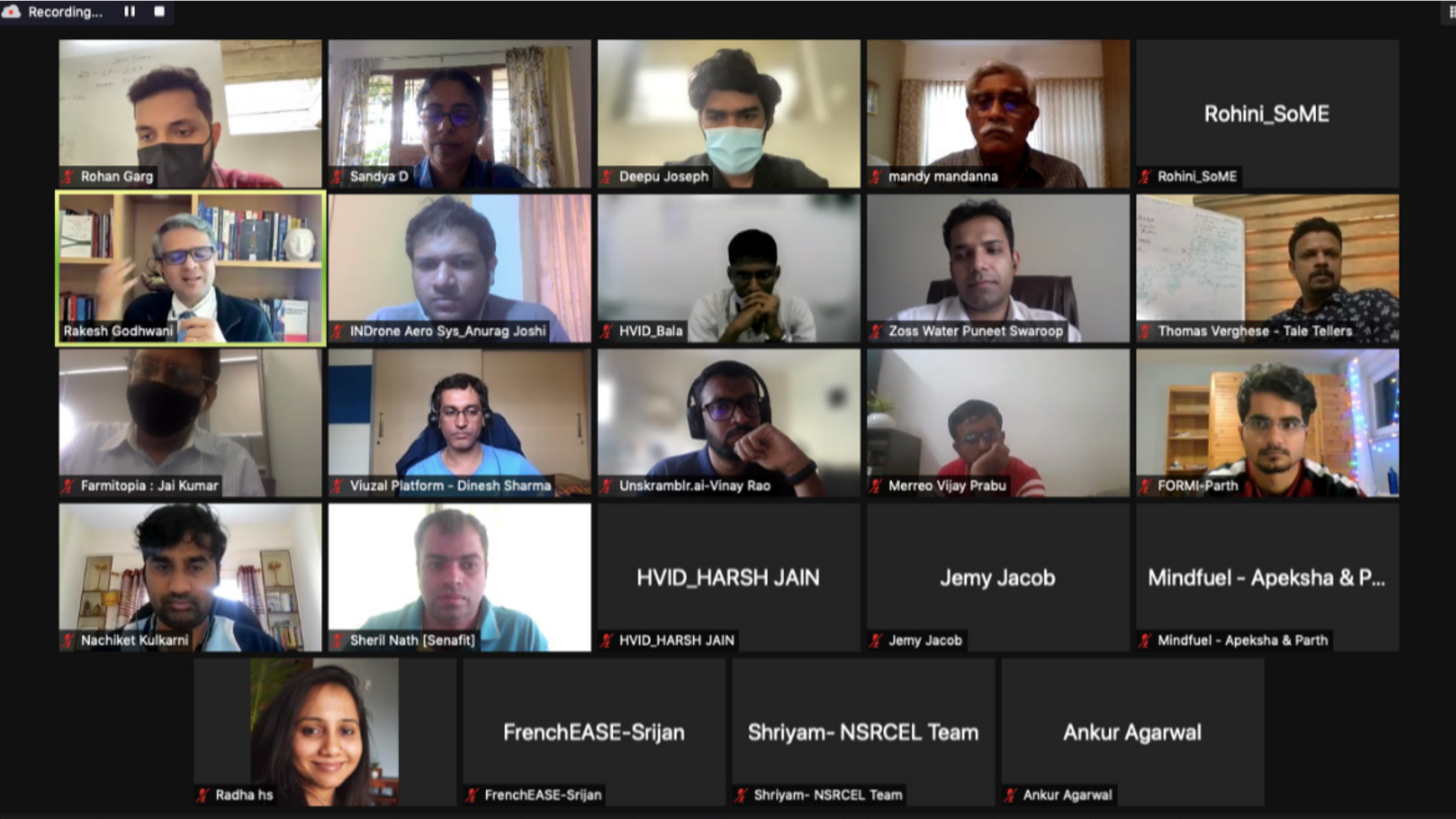
We are running a third batch of 24 learners from Acsia, an IT Company based in Thiruvananthapuram. The common issues the learners say they face are related to communication and confidence. Our industry-specific course materials, including case studies and relevant resources, encourage these learners to break old habits and myths associated with human skills and relearn new methods of confident communication. In their feedback, the learners said they found the content unique and exciting.

Four of our learners who attended the basic level course have decided to take up the advanced level as well. SoME is grateful to these learners for trusting our work.

### Pitch Perfect

We also held our pitching programme, Pitch Perfect, in collaboration with NSRCEL, IIMB, this quarter. Many entrepreneurs from different startups joined in and shared their experiences and challenges, while the intricacies of pitching and how to creatively present ideas, along with robust human skills tools were taught to them.

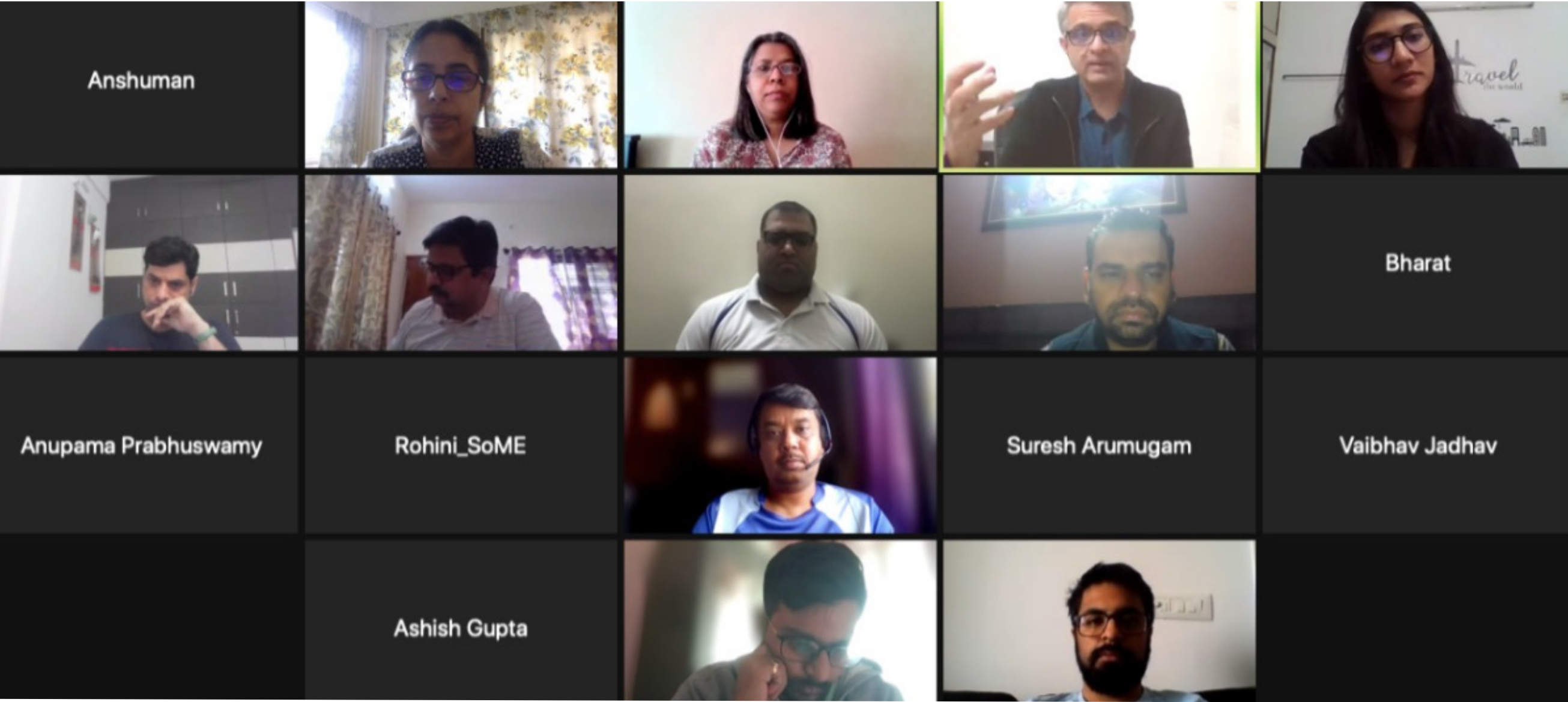




Pitch Perfect learners in a session.

## Perfios

The second batch from Perfios completed their advanced level course. The uniqueness of this programme was that we involved the learners (Pride Builders) from the first batch who had completed the Expert level programme to train their colleagues of the second batch. This experiment has been very successful. We certainly would like to replicate this model with other companies who desire to partner with us.



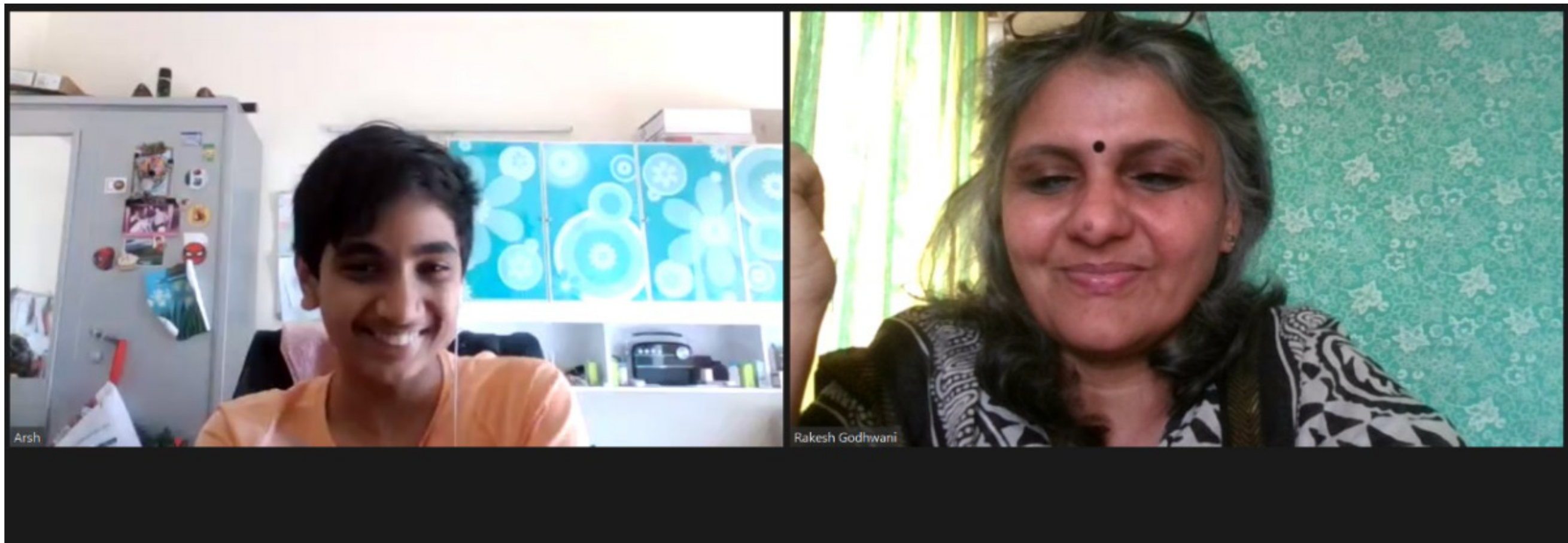
Conducting the programme at Perfios.

Teen Prodigy Programme (TPP)  
continues to be a favourite  
among teens



## TPP L1 with Arsh Mishra

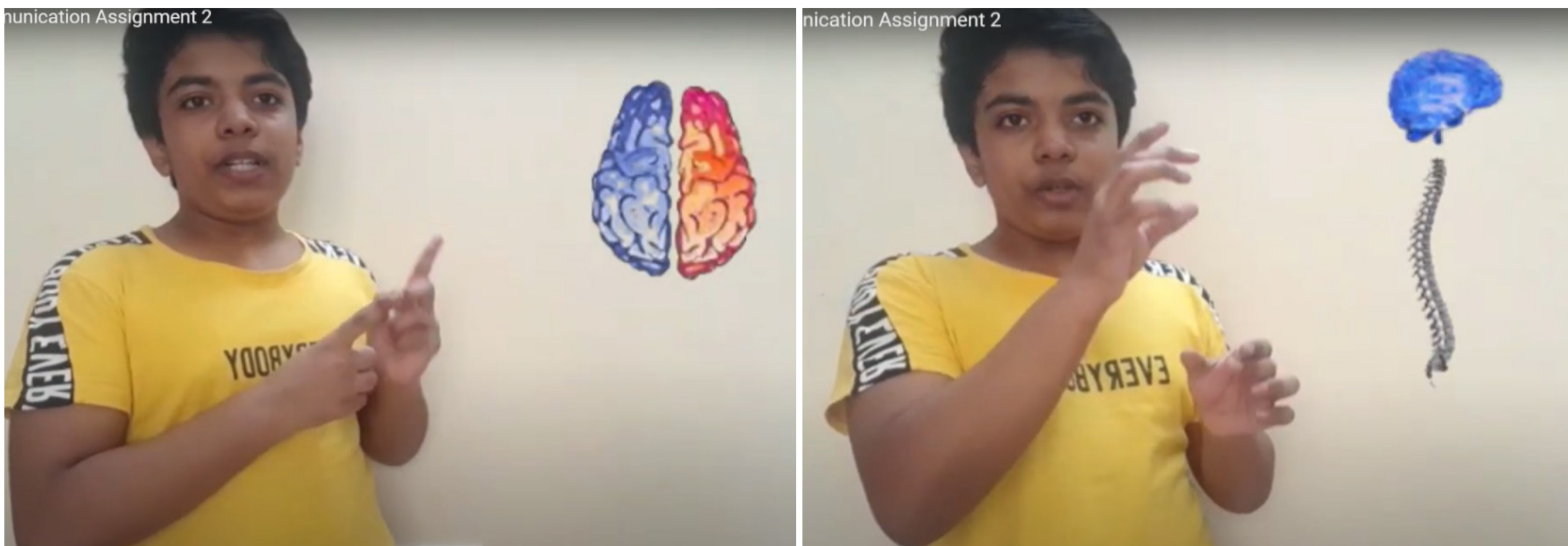
Arsh Mishra joined us for TPP level 1 this quarter, and it has been a wonderful journey of interaction and sharing. Together, the learner and Guide held numerous discussions on topics like, ‘Time management,’ ‘The Art of Conversations’ and ‘Enhancing self-esteem and self-confidence.’ We encourage our learners to listen and share any relevant stories or anecdotes that might add value to the learning process. Arsh, 13- year-old, has been generous with that, and our classes have become a good mix of fun and serious discussions. After all, communication is a two-way process.



Learner Arsh with Guide Anuja Mudur.

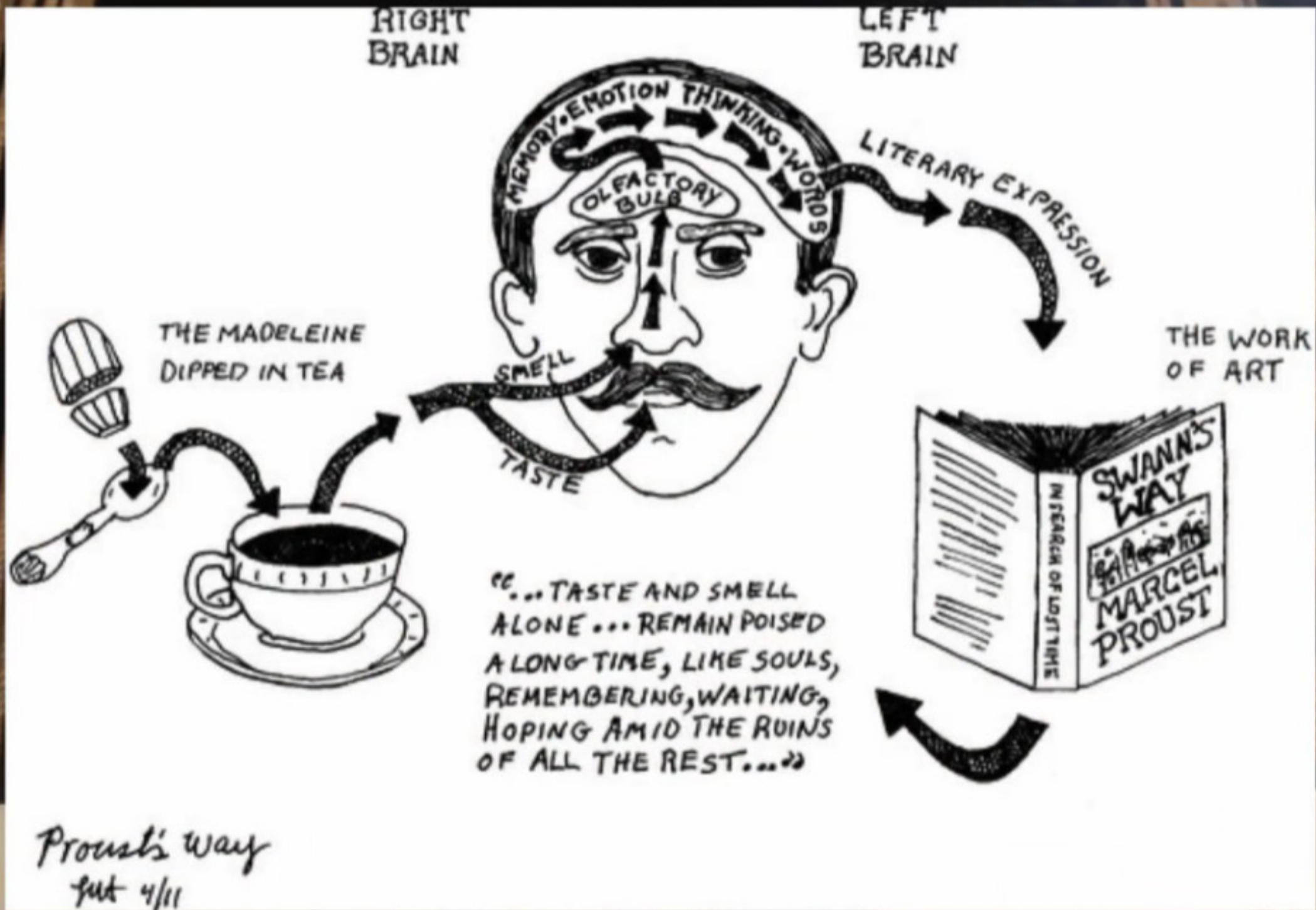
## TPP L2

Regular assignments are a part of all our programmes at SoME. These assignments serve as an opportunity for our learners to practically use and apply the concepts they have learnt in class. Most of these are ‘video’ submissions that the Guides can view and assess. The learners are then given detailed feedback, which tells them about their strengths and areas of improvement. It is also lovely to see their gradual progress with each assignment, including the refinement in the research undertaken, delivery style, or added creative touches. It’s a pleasure to see how each learner brings some distinct value to each presentation in their own way.



Varad with his Breakthrough Challenge assignment.





Krish with his Breakthrough Challenge assignment.

One such assignment in our TPP L2 course is the Breakthrough Challenge, where the learner is given a couple of topics to choose from and prepare. Their video presentation should not only be educative and entertaining but also creatively illustrated. Two learners did this challenge in TPP L2. Varad Deshpande, 14-year-old, chose the topic, 'Why are some people left-handed', and Krish Yadav, 16-year-old, chose, 'Why do some smells trigger memories.' Both the learners had unique styles, which were encouraged by the Guides, and they presented the topics with excitement and creativity.

These learners have been with us since the previous level, TPP L1, and it was amazing to see their progress, the way they apply the Six Cs in their life, and the maturity reflected in their submissions. We could see that they had been working on their areas of improvement and were getting better at everything they were doing. All the best to our young superstars!



# Happy Graduation!

Graduation Day is a special part of our programmes and is open to everyone in the learner’s circle – family, friends, and other team members. This is our final interaction with our learners for that level. Based on our guidelines, they present a speech on a chosen topic which include intense subjects like 'Do exams matter?' 'Depression in teenagers' and 'Rap music - the 21st Century Poetry.'

The Guide helps the learner get their speech ready in the preceding weeks. Applying all the concepts learnt through our Six Cs philosophy, learners develop many original ideas based on sound research. They add relevant stories and creative elements, and use effective delivery techniques, resulting in a marvellous experience for the audience. This is also an opportunity for our SoME team to get to know the learner’s family and close friends. The speech/presentation is followed by heart-warming words of appreciation from those in the audience.



Krish’s Graduation Day attended by his father Mr Vikas Yadav (middle left), Guides Anuja Mudur (top left), Chitra Ramarajan (middle left), Simran Godhwani (middle centre), content creator Shruthi (top centre) and Rakesh Godhwani (bottom left).

The topic chosen by Krish for his graduation was ‘Hunger Insecurity In India’, a sensitive subject that our young learner handled with maturity beyond his age. He was articulate and passionate in his way of speaking and used many concepts learnt in the TPP course. However, what was striking was how he used the ‘xE’ factor. The ‘xE’ (extra E) factor is one of the techniques used in persuasion, and E here stands for ‘Emotion.’ Krish, in his unique way, used this xE by adding some delicate humour and pathos to his presentation. It is a moment of pride for us to see our learners doing all this with dedication, interest and confidence.



# Our Internship Programme turns one!

Our Internship Programme, which came into being last March, was crafted to enable students to gain hands-on work experience in a startup, empowering them to become excellent communicators and brand ambassadors of the Six Cs philosophy of SoME.

Dhanya Pai, and sisters Lina and Linta George, our first three interns, joined us from St. Agnes College (Autonomous), Mangaluru. Soon, Sarah Monis, also from St. Agnes, and Angela Victor from Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru joined the trio. They were our first Fabulous Five!



Sarah, Angela, Lina, Linta, and Dhanya, the first Fabulous Five interns to join our programme.

Over the past year, Anuj Sethi from Christ College, Bengaluru, Shadiya Zubair and Grace Joseph from Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru joined this wonderful team. In December, Angela even completed her internship with us and earned herself a beautiful experience certificate from SoME.



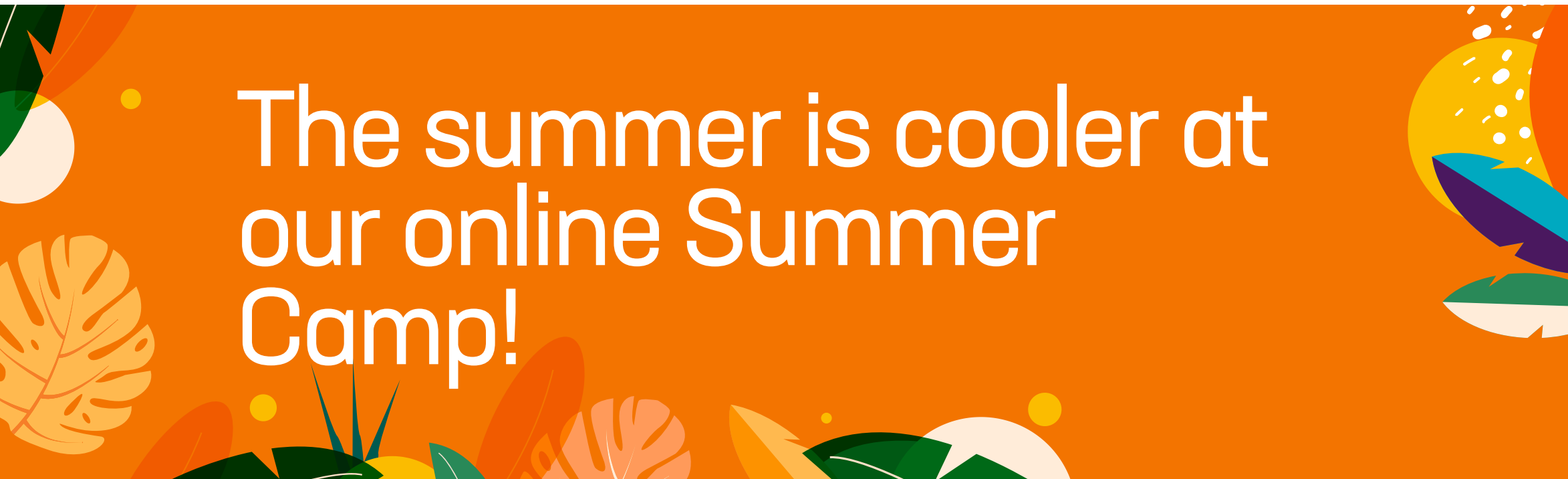
***Anuj, Shadiya and Grace joined this quarter.***



The interns had the opportunity to work on blogs, evaluate assessments, and take the entire Six Cs course in communication and leadership for free and grow as professionals. Our interns are hardworking, smart, and dedicated. They are learning how to manage deadlines, craft learner feedback with grace and empathy, and deliver quality output promptly. In addition, they maintain collaborative relationships amongst themselves and help each other out whenever a colleague needs some assistance.

Our Internship Programme is committed to Inclusion and Diversity. Our team is diverse, and we are dedicated to shaping young professionals into leaders with the coaching and mentoring that is woven into our programme.

We are proud of our collaborations with the alma mater of our interns - St. Agnes College (Autonomous), Mangaluru, Kristu Jayanti and Christ College, Bengaluru.



Summer of Meaningful Experiences, our ten-day online summer camp, is back! The activities are bigger, better and more fun. From exploring the immense power of words, understanding the importance of good body language, and analysing storytelling to scripting their own pieces of art, our camp is designed to make your little champs more confident and communicative. For ten days, they will learn to be more than just students; they could be confident news anchors, curious documentary filmmakers, creative writers, or even cool, cool rappers - the possibilities are endless.



Guides Simran Godhwani (top left) and Chitra Ramarajan (top right) with summer camp participants last year.



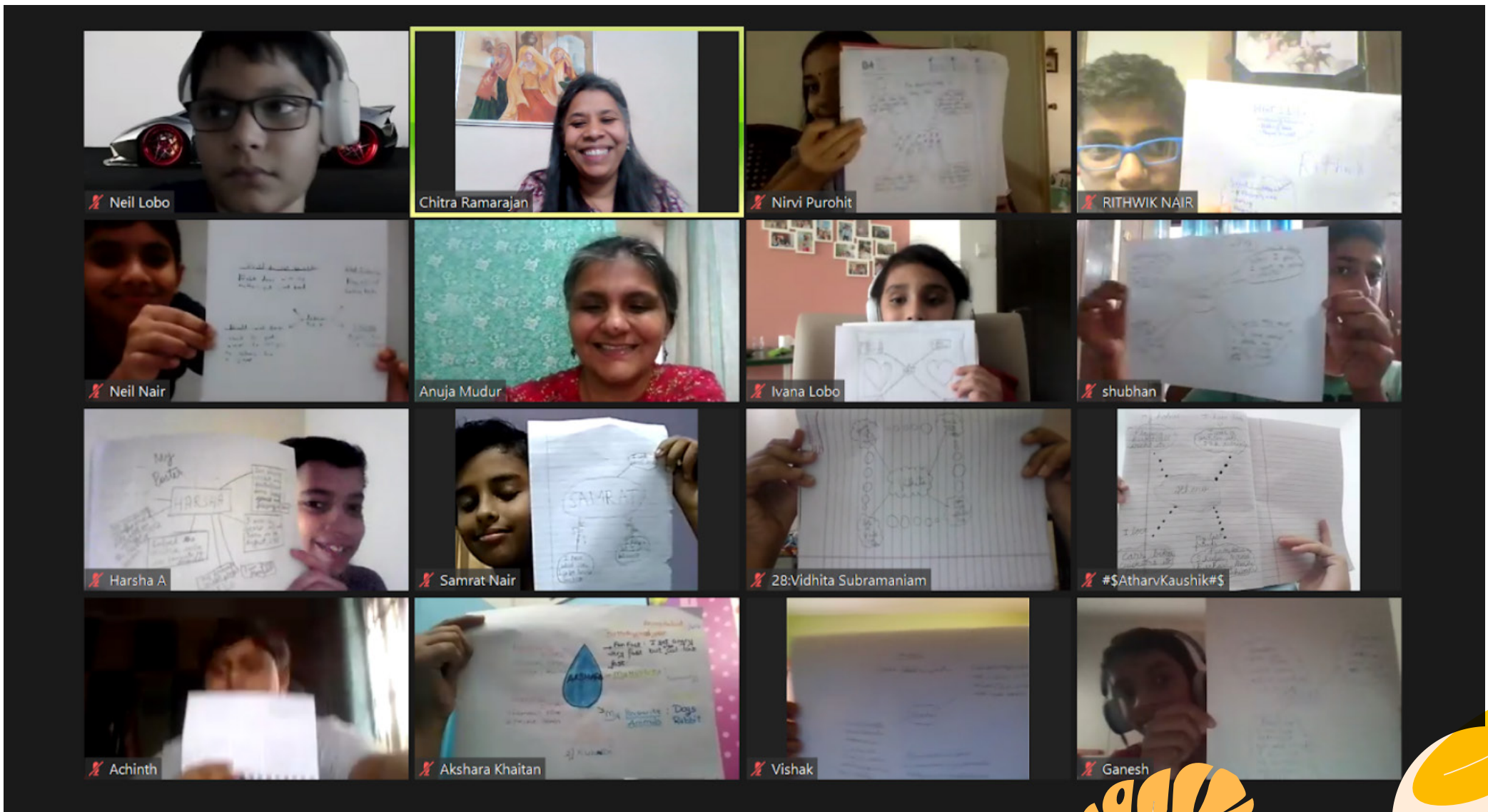
The camp will explore two crucial facets of communication - written and oral - emphasising the power of correct words, body language, and visuals, among others. Every participant will be encouraged to choose a professional role they would like to play for the next ten days, like a news anchor, documentary filmmaker, author, poet, vlogger, or even a rapper. They will spend the following days ideating, creating and executing their final projects related to their chosen profession. They will also have loads of fun learning from our amazing Guides and making friends with other kids from around the country.

All our activities are rooted in our Six Cs philosophy aimed at enhancing our learners’ Communication, Confidence, Collaboration, Creativity, Curiosity, and Competence.

To register your little one, head over to our [page](#).



Guide Simran Godhwani with summer camp participants last year.



Guides Citra Ramarajan and Anuja Mudur with summer camp participants last year.



The art of listening is  
not just about hearing the  
words being said but also  
understanding the  
emotions behind them.





# Our Programmes




**Competent Leaders Programme (CLP)**

35 years & above

A six-week programme crafted for mid-managers who want to improve their communication skills and present their ideas confidently.

Log on to our [website](#) to learn more or WhatsApp us on **7676009639**.




**Effective Professionals Programme (EPP)**

21 - 35 years

A six-week online leadership programme for working professionals who want to tackle workplace problems arising from communication and confidence problems efficiently.

Log on to our [website](#) to learn more or WhatsApp us on **7676009639**.




**Young Orators (YO)**

9 - 12 years

This is a foundation course for pre-teens, empowering them to overcome their fear of public speaking and boldly articulate their thoughts and ideas.

Log on to our [website](#) to learn more or WhatsApp us on **7676009639**.



**Teen Prodigy Programme (TPP)**

13 - 17 years

The programme is crafted to encourage teenagers to acknowledge and accept their talents and skills while making informed choices regarding various aspects of their lives and education.

Log on to our [website](#) to learn more or WhatsApp us on **7676009639**.



# SoME in media

Rakesh Godhwani and SoME featured in Zee Business,  
The New Indian Express and Daijiworld

Unravelling the treasures of effective communication

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## Unravelling the treasures of effective communication

SoME's comprehensive curriculum is based on its unique 'Six Cs' philosophy that empowers entrepreneurs, working professionals and adolescents with key life skills.

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[Read more](#)

With third Covid wave knocking doors, what next for students?

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## With third Covid wave knocking doors, what next for students?

The third wave has amplified ambiguity for students who are in a state of limbo with regard to their course of action

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Last Updated: 11th January 2022 06:51 AM

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## Mangaluru: Session on 'Understanding the challenges and the importance of people skills' held

# Mangaluru: Session on 'Understanding the challenges and the importance of people skills' held

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**Mangaluru, Mar 21:** The School of Meaningful Experiences (SoME) on Monday, March 21 conducted an engaging session on “Understanding the challenges and the importance of people skills in 21st-century schools and colleges at St Agnes College (Autonomous) here.

Students, parents and professionals from across the city attended the two-hour session by Rakesh Godhwani, Founder and CEO of the Bengaluru-based education start-up.



[Read more](#)

## Blogs from our blogosphere

We write regular blogs on tackling school and workplace challenges stemming from human skills issues. Some blogs we wrote this quarter include:

### How to deal with gossiping colleagues?

[Read more](#)

### How to be a strong leader? Let this Chelsea footballer be an example

[Read more](#)

### Developing time management skills is integral to becoming a competent professional

[Read more](#)

### Is being a Perfectionist Problematic?

[Read more](#)



# Testimonials

Thank you, dear learners!



I really enjoyed the EPP L1 course. The course was filled with beautiful concepts and videos about the Six Cs by Rakesh sir. The teachers were really experienced and friendly. They provided good and detailed feedbacks of each assignment. I would highly recommend this course to anyone who wants to improve their communication skills.

**U. Pavan Ravi**  
**Working Professional, EPP L1 Learner**



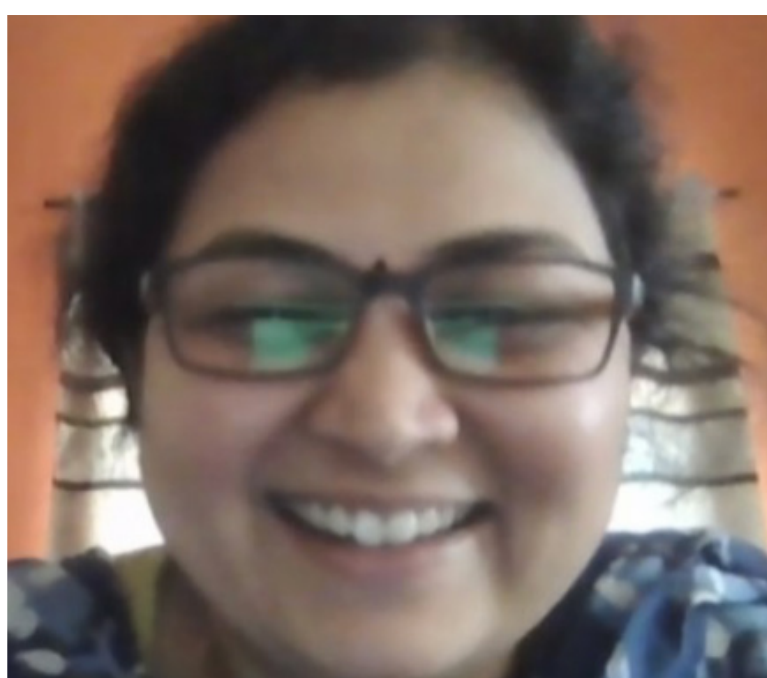
I did NSRCEL Launchpad 20 mentorship programme with SoME, and I thoroughly enjoyed the course. I appreciate the kind of effort that was put in by the team. The videos by Professor Rakesh are amazing, and each one of them is very useful and valuable to me. The effort from Sandya and the team is really amazing. I learnt a lot.

**Dinesh Sharma**  
**Founder of Vizual Platform, Pitch Perfect**



I was part of a learning programme by SoME X NSRCEL. SoME brought out the bigger potential in me and enriched me with the knowledge that is applicable in real-world scenarios. Our mentor Prof. Rakesh Godhwani sir enlightened our class with his own years of experience and knowledge. Our other teachers, Ms. Sandya ma'am and Col. Mandanna sir gave us all the support and assistance that we needed and brought their own experiences to the learning table. The whole learning experience provided by SoME is something that I cherish and value even today. Truly hope that it keeps enlightening the minds of this nation.

**Anwesh Bhagat**  
**Co-Founder & Director Utkarshini Edutech, Pitch Perfect**



Very effective programme with nice case studies that makes one think, apply learning, sort of day-to-day situations faced in our work-life. The tools taught can be applied to make ourselves better.

**Deepashree**  
**Working Professional, CLP L1, One-on-one mode**



# Happy Birthday, SoMEbodies



Seven SoMEbodies celebrated their birthdays this quarter. Happy Birthday **Urmila, Gayatri, Chandrika, Shubhada, Reuben, Sandya, Rakesh, and Sridevi**. May you have a safe, joyous and prosperous year!





# Welcome to SoME, new teammates!

## Ashok Mirchandani, Guide and Mentor



I have an experience of over four decades of several key leadership business positions in Indian and multinational operations in a range of companies. In my last executive position before retirement, for several years, I was the Managing Director – Asia Pacific at Carrier Transicold, a business unit of Carrier Corporation. I completed my B.Tech (Chemical Engineering) from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and my MBA in Marketing Operations Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. I have joined SoME as a Guide and Mentor.

## Kavita Mahesh, Guide



I am a seasoned HR professional with broad experience in recruitment, HR operations, Employee Engagement, and Internal Communications. Along with being a corporate trainer, I am also a certified PoSH, POCSO enabler with expertise in mentoring, coaching and personality development. I believe in experimenting and developing ways to make communication, personality attributes, and language skills better. I have joined SoME as a Guide, and I look forward to a meaningful experience here.



# Welcome to SoME, new teammates!

## Shubhada Sudarshan, Content Development



I did my BA triple major in psychology, literature and performing arts from 2018 to 2021 at Christ (Deemed to be University). I have been working as a content designer at SoME for nearly two months now. I am currently curating a course on reading and writing for pre-teens and still finding my rhythm, but that doesn't stop me from enjoying my work! I love the content development team and the many interesting discussions we have. A little random fact about me - I am a huge sucker for sunsets, be it on my terrace, the mountains, or the beach.

## Venu Ayyar, Guide



I have been in the packaging industry for more than 35 years and am also a Visiting faculty at Indian Institute of Packaging, Chennai and SIES School of Packaging. I did my Post Graduate Diploma in Printing from JJ School of Arts, and I am really passionate about the printing and packaging industry and try to stay updated about the various developments in that sector. In my spare time, I love reading Akbar and Birbal stories to my five-year-old grandson. I have joined SoME as a Guide and every day I am learning something new.



# Welcome to SoME, new teammates!

## Sugandha Deshmukh, Tutor



I am the Founder of Fancy Fun Phonics, have a teaching experience of 14 years and am also a former teacher at Symbiosis Nursery School. Before that, I used to work as a Quality analyst in CVDPL (Champion Voyager Designers Pvt. Ltd.) for four years. At SoME, I am a Tutor, looking at how to improve our learner feedback. In my spare time, I love playing basketball and cycling.

## Shivani Shinkre, Guide



I was born in Mumbai and live in Goa - yes, it is as lovely as everyone thinks it is! I have 16+ years of experience in the corporate sector and began as a Personal Banker in HDFC Bank and further excelled in various profiles and became an Intuitive and proactive Trainer-L&D Manager in SBI Life Insurance for entire Goa. I have developed and incorporated new ideas and adjusted training resources to meet changing business needs. I love hanging out with my 16-year-old daughter in my spare time. I have joined SoME as a Guide.



# Welcome to SoME, new teammates!

## Meenal Panjwani, Content Developer and Instructional Designer,



I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, followed by an MBA, and worked as a market researcher in the FMCG industry for over 12 years. I have always enjoyed writing, public speaking and connecting with others, and am currently learning to speak French. In between all these goals, I am also living and enjoying the process called Life! I have joined SoME as Content Developer and Instructional Designer, and will be working on its various programmes.

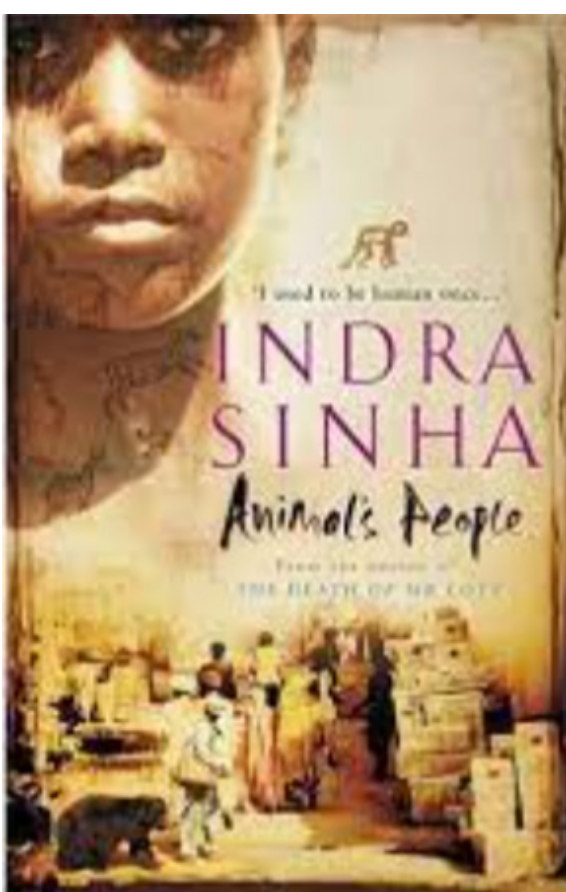
## #SoMERecommends

Books recommended by the SoME family



Every Sunday one SoMEbody shares a book or a movie that they love. We thought it would be amazing to share these recommendations with our larger SoME community. Do give these books a shot; you will not be disappointed.

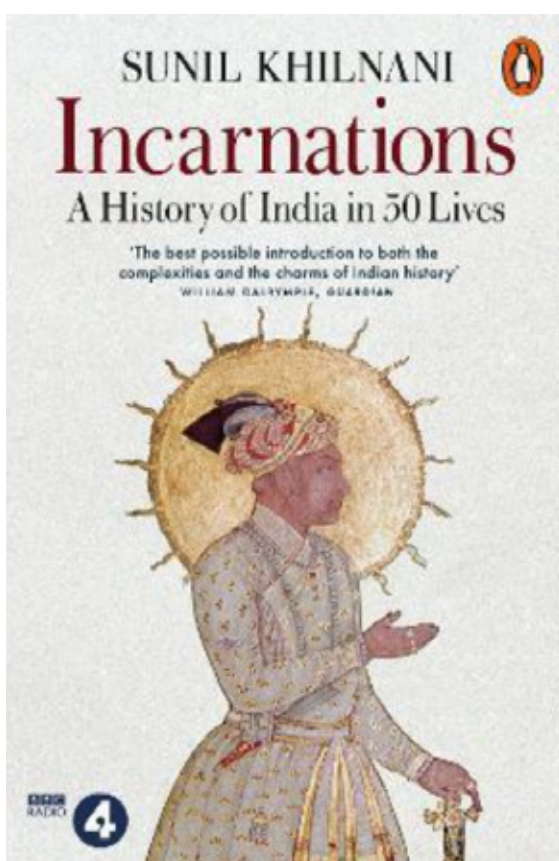
### Animal's People by Indra Sinha



Highly underrated, piercingly painful, and beautifully written book on the Bhopal gas tragedy. The events are described by the protagonist, a foul-mouthed, bitter orphan, so severely deformed by the leak that his spine is bent forward in a way that makes him walk on all fours. The narrative is raw, brutal, funny, heartbreaking and in some strange way, very relatable.

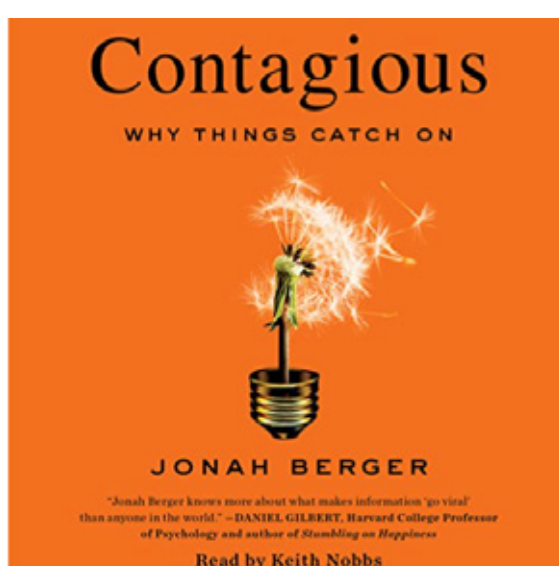


## Incarnations: A History of India in 50 Lives by Sunil Khilnani



This is an absolute masterpiece and will rekindle your interest in Indian history. It contains the stories of 50 extraordinary individuals who shaped India over the last 3000 years. The stories also available as podcast on BBC, narrated by Khilnani himself.

## Contagious - Why things catch on by Jonah Berger



The book by Wharton Professor Jonah Berger, is not what you think it is. He does not address the very contagious coronavirus that has upended our lives, but talks about ideas, and discusses why some go viral and others never seem to take off.

## Becoming by Michelle Obama



A book that gives the reader a peek into the wondrous life of Michelle Obama – the girl next door – who grew to be the ‘confident, strong, sensitive and supportive’ First Lady of the United States of America. Michelle’s story, America’s first Black First Lady, is truly the story of grit and determination.



# Finally, the exciting things we are looking forward to:

## 1

### **SoMEbody Day!**

On May 7, we will hold our annual alumni meet for all learners from our programmes. Please block your calendars, we will be sending out invites soon. Join us and your fellow batchmates for a day of conversations, networking and fun!

## 2

### **Management Development Programme**

Our first batch, in collaboration with Ahmedabad University, will start in April with BetterPlace, a Bengaluru based company.

## 3

### **New programme for pre-teens**

Our new programme under Young Orators, Money Matters, will be launched next quarter. The programme focuses on improving pre-teens' financial literacy and has been crafted by Guide Simran Godhwani and Business Philosopher Uday Singh.

## 4

### **Webinars and talks**

Next quarter, we might come to a college or company near you. Keep checking our website and Social Media for the latest updates on our webinars and talks.

## 5

### **Conversations with Rakesh**

Watch Rakesh Godhwani explore topics on issues related to communication, confidence and workplace collaborations every Sunday on our [YouTube](#) channel.

## **Credits:**

### **Inputs:**

Guides Col MK Mandanna (Retd.),  
Sandya Karnad Deviah, Anuja Mudur

### **Blogs:**

Interns Anuj Sethi and Sarah Monis

### **Blogs proof-reader:**

Intern Shadiya Zubair

### **Editor:**

Gayatri Nair

### **Design:**

Rahul CN





Thank you!



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