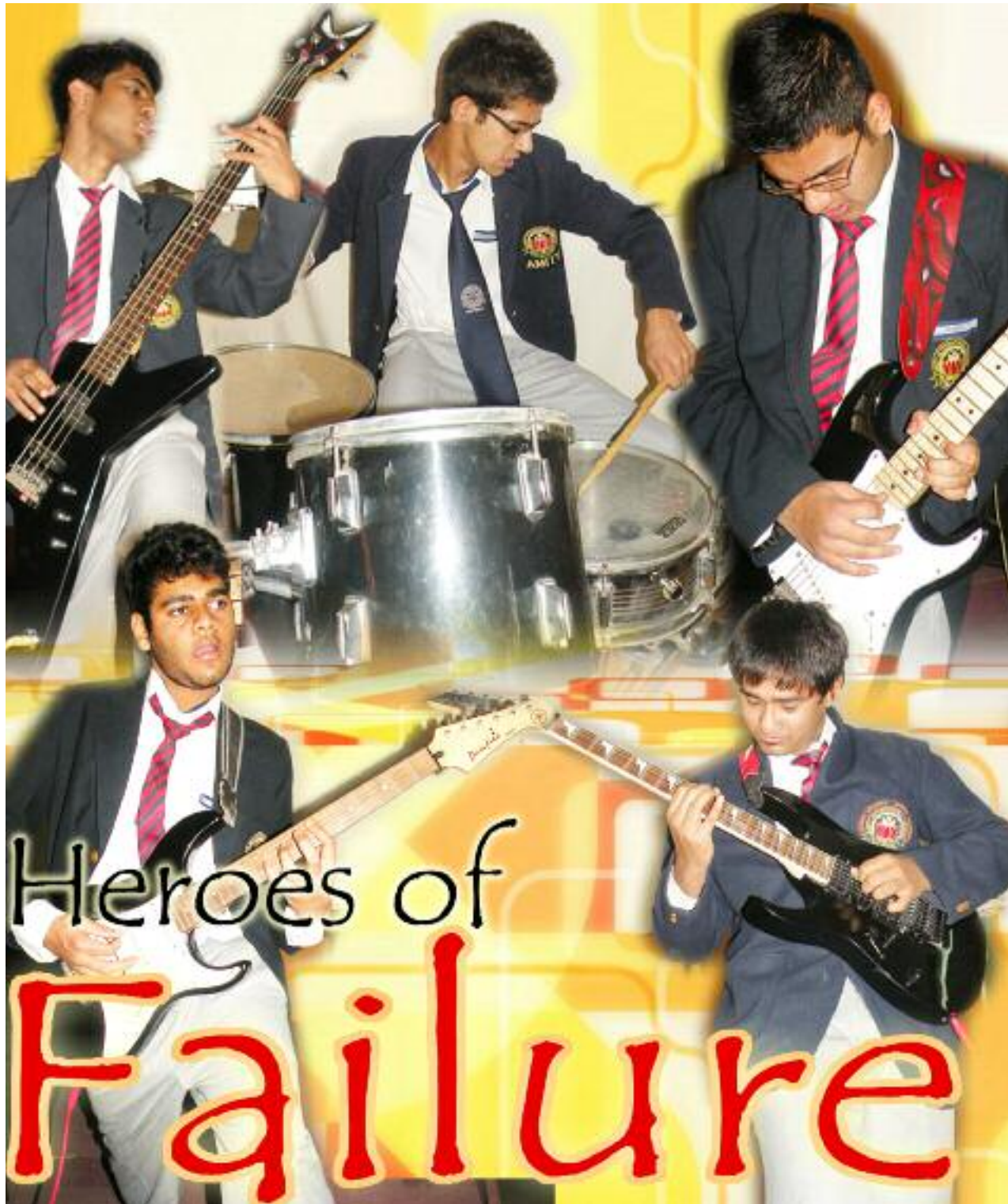




Pic and Imaging : Pankaj Mallik



# Golden years of our band

Sagnik Kar  
XI, AIS Saket

## Naming The Band

From gigs at Ansal plaza and Durga pujas to competitions like 'thunder' we have done it all. Before I go on, let me start by introducing the band. The current line-up goes like - Gautum on the drums, Ibanez boy Abheek, Nirjhar Bhat-tacharya on the bass and yours truly. Yes, we have had a revolving door musicians including Madhav who has been amongst us throughout, Agrim, Akshay Jaggi and Vidur.

## How it all began

The first time any of us played together was in the 8th grade, when Gautum and I played for the school orchestra on our annual day. Eventually, the band started to take shape when Gautum got the nod for drummer, I was asked to back Manak and Nirjhar got the green signal because of his excellent bass skills that he possessed. From then on, there were several noticeable changes. With Manak passing out, I took on the mantle as Lead Guitarist, Nirjhar turned into a somewhat more credible bass player and Gautum became a constant on the drums. Then Abheek joined the band as rhythm guitarist.

The drama that transpired when it came to naming the band isn't something I'll forget in a hurry. Firstly, we decided *silver snow* and *firestone* to be the potential names for our Band. Then, on our way to a competition in East Delhi, one of our seniors suggested 'synapse'. Later that day, we guys were unjustly denied a top three finish, which triggered the inspiration for our current name, 'Heroes Of Failure'. I remember Nirjhar's words, "This is our name because we play our socks off everywhere, but never manage to win anything." Unlike the name, the band went on to win many prizes later including qualifying for the top 5 bands in Delhi. Well, whether it be me, considering myself among the Guitar Gods or Gautum tossing his sticks after every performance just to let people know he's there behind his drum kit, or Nirjhar pulling off all his jumps and other forms of showmanship on stage perfectly but forgetting the little matter of playing his bass now and again, it is what makes us unique. We will surely take this forward, work hard to turn our dreams into reality and transcend the sweet memories of Amity to the world musically. ●

## Sufi music A fad or fantastic?

Krutika Dash  
XI, Saket

Sufi is the new kind of music that is catching the attention of everyone, be it the youth or the older generation. This music has been generated from Sufism which refers to the teachings of Muhammad, believed to be a path leading to a strong bond between one and the divine. To put it precisely, a Sufi song

is said to be a collection of poems composed by the greatest saints of Islam. Sufi music is considered to be a truthful demonstration of the most pure state of mind. Mostly sung in Sufi gatherings, concerts and mosques, the theme of this music is generally based on one's love for and devotion to God.

In the last few decades, the popularity of Sufi songs has increased by leaps and bounds. One of the reasons for its popularity is the message of harmony it sends out to its admirers. Itself being derived from Islam, Sufism is founded on the principle that hurling one's sentiments at other religions is a sin and therefore, punishable by God. Sufi songs are thus sung in praise of both Ram and Allah. Abida Parveen, Barkat Sidhu, Bibi Nooran, Hans Raj Hans, Miraj Khan, Iqbal Bahoo, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Wadali brothers, Riaz Ali Khan, Ustad Juman are few of the flabbergasting and incredible Sufi singers today.

Sufi has gained the popularity it deserves after some decades and its time we realize its importance to perceive the divine truth and become one with Him. ●

### Top 10 Sufi songs

1. Mann lago yaar-Abida Parveen
2. Saahib mera ek hai- Abida Parveen
3. Jab se tune mujhe- Abida Parveen
4. Chaap tilak - Abida Parveen
5. Lambi judaai-Richa Sharma
6. Ma rewaa - Indian ocean
7. Tune deewana banaya-Indian ocean
8. Chehra mera yaar-wadali brothers
9. Tere Nai Khayal bhulde- Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan
10. Tere bin nahin lagda-nusrat fateh ali khan



## Life unplugged?



Rekha Jain, past life therapist and tarot reader with Vaishali Mahajan

Vaishali Mahajan  
XI, AIS Saket

*Before the sun, the moon, the earth  
Before the stars or comets free,  
Before e'en time has had its birth,  
I was, I am, and I will be.*

Swami Vivekananda

Have you ever been to a new place that seems familiar or met a stranger that you are sure to have met somewhere before? These moments happen to us all and can often be a memory from a past life. The fact that past life shows such as *Raaz Pichle Janam Ka* have been able to allure so many people

Vikas Saxena who has had a view of the four lives he lived in the past.

On the other hand, sceptics say that the past life memory is just an imagination. "It's all bogus. I don't understand how people get misled and believe in something that might not be true" commented Nijatam Arora, alumnus, AU.

Condemning the therapy of propagating blind superstition, Dr. Yusuf Matchewala, a practicing psychiatrist was quoted in a national daily, "While past life regression claims to heal people, it has no scientific basis and there is no evidence to show that hypnosis help recall past life events. The scientific community has labeled past life therapy to be an irresponsible propagation of blind superstition. The concept of past life regression is more of a cultural and religious belief. This so called past life regression therapy has been tested and debunked and besides, it is dangerous." Mrs. Rekha Jain, who has many TV shows to her credit, *Mangalsutra* on NDTV India, horoscope predictions, *Samohan* on Aaj Tak among them, takes a holistic view that our body, mind and emotions have fundamental interconnectedness. Opines the reiki, vastu and the past life regression expert, "I believe that it can bring you a step closer to the timeless in you that can never die. Dispelling the darkness of ignorance through knowledge and therapy, the mind becomes lighter and positive. The therapy helps us to understand a lot of things that otherwise may remain a mystery. It's like pulling a thorn buried deep under the skin for complete healing to take place."

While the by-gones become a debated therapy tool, the present awaits us! ●