

# Two Sides of a Story—Conspiracies 101

Blank 101, Manipal's public speaking club, organised Conspiracies 101—their final talk of the semester. It threw light upon the various conspiracies which have overshadowed mainstream news. The event was held at NLH 102 on the 29th of October and saw a decent turnout in spite of upcoming assignments and lab examinations. Nine speakers spoke at the event, namely Shreyas, Prabhat, Nilay, Abhishek, Shayan, Ritwik, Swastika, Mayank and Siddharth.

Shreyas Ramani, the event organizer, delivered the introductory speech, which focused on the prevalence of conspiracies and the impact of hearsay on society. *"Our aim is for the audience to have an evening that was both informative and enjoyable. The speakers were all new recruits apart from Mayank and I, and they did a fantastic job. We are happy with the turnout as well"*, said Ramani.



The speakers discussed a wide range of topics in a span of one hour. These included Adam Weishaupt's Illuminati, the Billiwhack Monster of Ventura, Paul McCartney's "reincarnation", the 9/11 attack, the conspiracies behind Korean Airlines, MH17 and MH370, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, John F Kennedy and Corporate conspiracies. They spoke about the emergence and popularity of these counterplots and presented evidence to debunk the same. They explained how conspiracies are centered around different events forming a complex conglomeration, such as the disappearance of the MH17 and MH370 being interlinked. The speakers probed deeply into their respective subjects, and their analysis was met with an exhilarating response from the audience.



The talk drew attention to the distortion that bavardage and delusion can create. Each discourse was as riveting as the next one, with an element of satire being used as a barrel of laughs. On the whole, the event was highly entertaining and informative, and was appreciated by all the attendees.

*Image credits: The Photography Club, Manipal*