

अGRANIKA

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE '23



Maharaja Agrasen College
University of Delhi



राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन एवं प्रत्यायन परिषद

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग का स्वायत्त संस्थान

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission

Certificate of Accreditation

*The Executive Committee of the
National Assessment and Accreditation Council
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*Maharaja Agrasen College
Vasundhara Enclave, Dist. East Delhi,
a Constituent College of University of Delhi, Delhi as
Accredited*

*with CSQA of 3.14 on four point scale
at A grade
valid up to December 12, 2027*

Date : December 13, 2022



S. C. Das
Director

EC(SC)/135/2nd Cycle/DLCOGN23516

Chairman's Message

It gives me an immense pleasure in presenting *Agranika 2023*, the bilingual Annual College Magazine of Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. Since its inception in 1994, the magazine has presented multifaceted voices in imaginative and creative manner by testifying to the wide array of intellectual talents of the teaching fraternity and student community of the MAC Parivar.

The current academic year has focused our attention on the theme, **"Living in a Post-Pandemic World."** While several deliberations on the pandemic have been undertaken in various forums, the *Agranika 2023* with its focused theme is outlined by its cross-pollination with a wide variety of sub-themes, viz., memory and trauma; challenges/changes in Higher Education; Gen Z: aspirations and opportunities; mapping the New World Order: India's rise in the global arena. The pandemic has certainly transformed many aspects of our quotidian existence. Many creative pieces as listed in *Agranika 2023* have sought to examine this changed global scenario from the prism of memories, newer trajectories of academic practices, and the dreams and pitfalls as outcome of these changes. In verbalizing such diverse expressions around the contemporary world, *Agranika 2023* attempts to unfold new possibilities in the changing milieu.

Amidst discussions about charting a new terrain in the transforming world, *Agranika 2023* registers a resounding success of the MAC fraternity in its multivariant hues and shades. Outlining various activities and events undertaken by different societies and departments of the College in the last academic session, *Agranika 2023* has projected the pulsating and energetic atmosphere prevalent in this College from both microscopic and macroscopic perspectives. Whether it be the seamless implementation of NEP syllabi like the inclusion of multiple VAC or SEC subjects or the organization of Virasat – The Spic Macay Chapter of the College with its celebration of divergent cultural expressions of Indian heritage and tradition or the celebration of life in all its triumphant colours via Extra-Curricular Activities Committee of the College in collaboration with multiple institutions like Art of Living Foundation, Vivekananda Kendra



Prof. Sunil K Choudhary
Chairman

and UDAAN, or Yuvaan – The Annual Cultural Festival of the college; the MAC Parivar has continued to chart a dynamic cultural kaleidoscope linking the past history with contemporary reality. Alongside, the Inter-College Sports Event has also mapped an environment where development of physical skills, team spirit, and passion to compete and win was celebrated in the College campus. The efforts of MAC-NSS society has further imparted continuum by rejuvenating the students with a spirit of service towards their society, state and nation. Moreover, the innovative practices introduced by the Waste Management Committee to reuse and recycle waste products has added another milestone towards the creation of a sustainable world.

Agranika 2023 offers more than a glimpse of a collective spirit working towards the building of a better, greater and sustainable world. In its expression of talents, hard work, creative and analytical minds, representation of joys in simple pleasures, and basking in the glow of team spirit, energy and good cheer, this magazine imparts new momentum to life.

I am sure that *Agranika 2023* will be an enjoyable reading for all.

I would also like to congratulate the Principal of the College, Prof Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, for leading the team of dedicated faculty members, students and the administrative staff and successfully bringing their common concerns through *Agranika 2023*.

Best Wishes

Principal's Message

It is with delight and pride that we bring to you *Agranika 2023*, the annual bilingual magazine of Maharaja Agrasen College. *Agranika* means ever-progressing, and as the name suggests, it captures our ethos, as we adapt and evolve with changing times. It is the fruit of the collective efforts of students and faculty and showcases their creative synergies in the form of poetry, articles, short stories, opinion pieces and visual art. These reflect the sensitivities of our students as they respond to the changing ethos around them. This platform gives them an opportunity to articulate and express their thoughts freely but responsibly, keeping in mind consideration for diversities around them.

Furthermore, *Agranika 2023* is a testimony to the achievements of the departments and committees as they engage in efforts to provide holistic and inclusive education. The college has been abuzz with both co and extra-curricular activities the whole year as is evident in the reports. The various competitions and events organised have not only given students a chance to hone their skills but also enriched their growth both physical and mental. It has given them a forum to showcase their unique individual talents and contribute to the creative environment nurtured and fostered by the college.

This year marked enhancement in blended pedagogy with proactive use of smart classrooms and MAC eLearning platform. National conferences and the 6th National Student academic congress stimulated research and innovation. Add on courses provided additional skills to prepare students for the job market and entrepreneurship. The National Service Scheme volunteers have evolved as responsible citizenry and NCC cadets have worked continuously in the service of both the college and society. The Extra Curricular societies and Sports committee have been engaged all year round to organize events and competitions. A special mention is due for the efforts made to set processes to segregate and manage waste leading to the college being declared as a zero-waste campus by the MCD Shahdara, South Zone. All these efforts were recognized in our accreditation by several agencies. NAAC accorded grade 'A' with an improved score of 3.14 and NIRF ranked the college amongst the top fifty in the country. All of this is reflected in *Agranika 2023* as it archives several milestones achieved this year.

I congratulate the editorial team and students who have contributed to the publication of this edition and am sure this is a worthwhile addition to the legacy of the college.



Prof. Sanjeev K. Tiwari
Principal (Offg.)

Foreword



Dr. Geetika Jain Saxena
Convenor, Agranika-2023
Associate Professor
Department of Electronics

It gives me immense pleasure to write the foreword for the latest edition of 'Agranika 2023' College Magazine. As we commence a new academic year, we anticipate the opportunities and challenges that await us.

Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the world, causing a paradigm shift in the way we live, work, and interact with one another. As we gradually overcome the pandemic, we confront novel questions and obstacles and imagine a different future.

This year's edition of the college magazine, themed "Living in a Post-Pandemic World," reflects on the ways in which the pandemic has transformed us and the possibilities that lie ahead. It serves as evidence of our collective strength and resilience, and the remarkable innovations and adaptations that emerged in response to the crisis.

Inside the magazine's pages, you will discover a plethora of narratives, insights, and perspectives that capture the intricacies of existing in a post-pandemic world. From personal reflections to academic analysis, this publication provides a glimpse into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

I am honored to introduce this year's college magazine, and I hope it will stimulate you to ponder profoundly about the future we aspire to create and the kind of world we want to build for ourselves and future generations.

This year's magazine is a tribute to the students and faculty of **Maharaja Agrasen College** who worked hard and devotedly. You will find a wealth of knowledge, creativity, and insight within its pages, reflecting the varied interests and passions of our community. The articles, stories, and poems in this magazine represent the intellectual curiosity and creativity that characterizes our college. They span a broad range of topics, from science and technology to literature, history, and current events, demonstrating the vibrancy and diversity of our academic community.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the editorial team and all those who contributed to this magazine. Your hard work and dedication have brought this publication to fruition, and I am proud to be part of a community that values creativity, curiosity, and intellectual rigor. I am grateful to our Principal, Prof. Sanjeev K. Tiwari and Chairman, Prof. Sunil K. Choudhary for their constant support and guidance during the publication of this magazine.

I hope you enjoy reading this magazine and that it inspires you to explore new ideas and perspectives. Thank you for your support, and I wish you all a productive and fulfilling academic year.

Sincerely

Editor's Message

It was 2020 when the world came to a stand-still because of a pandemic that took everyone by surprise. Three years later, the hide and seek with Corona continues, but our lives have resumed, albeit still under its shadow. It has been more than a year since Delhi University too reopened and classes resumed in the 'offline' mode rather than the 'online' mode; these terms themselves leading the new lexicon that has emerged in the wake of the pandemic. As life appears to progress towards a sense of normalcy, and at times even deluded by it, it is imperative that the entire student and teacher community continues to engage with, and process the cataclysmic upheaval as one has experienced in the past three years. The despair and ennui of the darkest days of the lockdown, the traumatic loss of near and dear ones, the absence of hope of ever returning to a 'normal' existence, has truly embodied what the French writer Albert Camus refers to as the 'absurd'.

It is with this intent that *Agranika 2023* has sought to tap the young minds, to provide a platform for expression and recording of thoughts and experiences through its umbrella theme, 'Living in a Post-Pandemic World', with its sub-themes on memory and trauma, challenges in higher education, Gen Z and its aspirations and opportunities, and India's place in the new world order. The response has been overwhelming, our student contributors displaying wisdom and maturity which they have acquired over a testing period. As they try to make sense of the trauma, what is heartening in their writings is also a positive approach that looks forward to create a better world. Our students are our future, and it is assuring to see a strong sense of ethics and values that reflect in their thought processes. They have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability, and are now the drivers who shall be mapping out the new world order that lies ahead.

Throbbing, pulsating life lies at the centre of our students' creative pieces, as also in the reports that document their activities through the various units and components of the college. College, this last year, has been the place where the young have re-discovered the joys of existence, the pleasurable company of their peers, the exhilaration of excelling in competition, and the warm affection and encouragement of their teachers.

The past year has also been a year of irreparable losses, with the sudden demise of two of our most valued colleagues, Prof. Prem Kumari Srivastava of the Department of English and Dr. Anshul Taneja of the Department of Business Economics. Prof. Prem was also a member of the founding team of *Agranika 1996*, as well as its first English Editor. In her editorial capacity, she played an instrumental role in giving the name, shape and direction to *Agranika* as we have it today. Her legacy is invaluable, and it shall continue to illumine the path for all colleagues.

We thank all members of the Magazine Committee, ably led by its convenor, Dr. Geetika Jain Saxena for the teamwork and support in putting this section and the magazine together.

We hope you enjoy reading the prize-winning entries and the selections in the English section as much as we have enjoyed curating them.



Dr. Mona Sinha
(Editor)

Associate Professor,
Dept. of English



Mr. Aditya Premdeep
(Co-Editor)

Assistant Professor,
Dept. of English

संपादकीय



डॉ. आभा शर्मा
संपादक
सह-प्राध्यापक
हिंदी विभाग

वस्तुतः प्रकृति का कण-कण साक्षी है परिवर्तन का, वह साक्षी है निरंतरता का, जागृति का, उत्सर्ग का, नूतनता का, संयोग-योग-वियोग का और संचार का हर क्षण जो बीत गया है या बीत रहा है उसे जहाँ तक सम्भव हो अविस्मरणीय बनाने का प्रयास करें, प्रतिपल प्रकृति के गुणों के अनुरूप जो बीत गया उसको ही सोचते हुए नहीं रहा जाएँ, धारा के साथ आगे बढ़ें, बढ़ने के क्रम में नदी-नाले, पहाड़-झरने, ताल-तलैया, गुफाएँ-जंगल, दर्रे-समंदर सभी को पार करता हुआ मनुष्य आज भी अदम्य साहस से अभीष्ट को प्राप्त कर पाने के लिए आज भी निष्ठारत है, मानव को तलाश है अमरत्व की, लेकिन सशरीर अमरत्व कहाँ? जन्म है तो मृत्यु है, पुनर्जन्म में आस्थावान कहते हैं कि मृत्यु है तो फिर जन्म है, यही जीवन का चक्र है और यही प्राणी की नियति, जीवन-जगत की विकट पस्थितियों में फँसे मनुष्य को उसके अंदर का धैर्य, संयम, जिजीविषा जीवन की इच्छा ही उसे नया मार्ग दिखाती हैं। जीवन वह है जो दूसरों को कुछ दे सके, मात्र सुविधाओं का भोग करने के लिए जीना ही जीवन का उद्देश्य रह जाएगा तो समाज किस तरफ जाएगा, कह पाना कठिन है। कहा गया है कि मनुष्य एक सामाजिक प्राणी है तो साहित्य भी बिना समाज को चित्रित किए कैसे सम्भव है, रचनाकार अपने परिवेश बल्कि आसपास के जीवन से ही प्रेरणा लेकर रचना करता है, लेकिन यह भी सच है कि साहित्य केवल समाज का दर्पण मात्र नहीं है, उसमें समाज का प्रतिबिम्ब दर्पण की भाँति ज्यों का त्यों नहीं आता। 'साहित्य और समाज का सम्बंध धरती और फूल के समान होता है, वह धरती से पैदा अवश्य होता है पर उसका रूप-रंग और गंध धरती की तरह नहीं होता।' धरती से उत्पन्न होने के बाद जैसे पौधा अंकुरित होता है वैसे ही साहित्य भी स्वरूप ग्रहण करता है। वह समाज को उसकी कमियों के बारे में सचेत करता रहता है। मैथिलीशरण गुप्त ने लिखा है -

**‘केवल मनोरंजन न कवि का कर्म होना चाहिए,
उसमें उचित उपदेश का भी मर्म होना चाहिए.’**

अग्रणिका के प्रस्तुत हिंदी खंड में युवा छात्र-छात्राओं ने विभिन्न विधाओं में अपनी रचनाएँ भेजी हैं। इनमें वैचारिक निबंध, लेख, पुस्तक समीक्षा, फिल्म समीक्षा और कविताएँ आदि सम्मिलित हैं। हालाँकि परिपक्वता, स्पष्टता और मौलिकता की दृष्टि से इन रचनाओं में व्यक्त विचारों से सहमत और असहमत हुआ जा सकता है पर स्नातक स्तर के विद्यार्थियों का प्रयास अवश्य ही सराहनीय है, इससे उनकी रुचि और सामाजिक प्रतिबद्धता एवं समाज में निरंतर हो रहे परिवर्तनों के प्रति उनकी जागरूकता का पता अवश्य चलता है। यह जानकर मन में एक विश्वास और उत्साह उत्पन्न होता है कि हमारी युवा पीढ़ी जब इतनी जागरूक है तो निश्चित है कि आने वाला भविष्य भी अवश्य उज्ज्वल होगा।

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Milestones MAC 2023

Faith in all forms defines us, in imparting education and nurturing minds making them stronger than before.

We at Maharaja Agrasen College believe in creating best opportunities for teaching-learning approach to imbibe learning and defining performance. In our institution by imparting knowledge we explore recent innovative and technical pedagogies. Our college has excelled in almost every field and has successfully earned grade 'A' in the NAAC grading for our overall excellence.

Pandemic days, the time of losing our loved ones and saving rest of them, taught us the lessons to become fighters in the most adverse circumstances. We all were stuck inside our homes, isolated, still managing to execute our institutional and official responsibilities. Technological boom and multiple new applications brought learning to our rooms.

Our college being one of the Covid health centres, could successfully cater medical services and helped in making arrangements transforming itself to an isolation centre. We were united in this fight against virus and MAC worked on providing a favourable online teaching-learning environment by designing and developing the online learning portal, organising faculty development programs, workshops, seminars and webinars to the students across disciplines.

Many other Cells and Centres created more educational and research opportunities for the students even during the difficult pandemic days.



MAC has been nurturing the creativity and potential of its students by allowing them to express and explore themselves to latest innovative techniques. Supporting this, our faculty religiously inculcates the values of uprightness, hard-work, sincerity and diligence amongst its students. The college is sensitive towards weaker sections of society and has always created equal opportunities for all students

We allowed students to share narratives of pain, and gave suggestions to help them. Our engagement with students during online lectures helped them to feel motivated emotionally as well directing them with health related lectures and webinars to create more awareness of safety measures. We lost some and we saved many.

Our institution kept the focus on not only teaching-learning techniques, but MAC successfully conjoined mental health, emotional upliftment with moral learning during these online classes.

In MAC, we continued with a blend of imparting knowledge and making way for the creativity of students lining up with the intellectual richness of faculties. We are proud of our Alumni, most of them have accomplished remarkable positions in various fields successfully.

The college magazine *Agranika*, justifying its meaning bestows us with the responsibility of carrying this crown and stay always a step forward in chasing our most tough dreams blending them with hard work. The first issue of *Agranika* in 1994 led to the successful publication of celebrating 25th edition of *Agranika* in 2019. In the 29th Year of Maharaja Agrasen College as one of the most reputed Delhi University college, we proudly celebrate the Centenary Year of Delhi University!

We learnt our lessons and taught many to the young learners. Every year we celebrate more of what we still continue dreaming in carving futures of many in the campus of Maharaja Agrasen College.

This issue of *Agranika 2023* under the theme of 'Living in a Post-Pandemic World' will create a path to travel with our creative young minds while they narrate their emotional journeys while encompassing pain and coming victorious and celebrate being alive. We miss all and everyone we lost and this issue whole heartedly is dedicated to all of them.

The institution is a staunch believer that the path to individual and collective growth lies in its capability to adapt and accept changes as opportunities for future achievements.

We aim nothing less than being the best and shall continue in its spirit to scale greater heights in the coming years!

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES



The Annual Activity Committee organises the Orientation Day, Vivekananda Memorial Lecture, Sardar Patel Memorial Lecture, Constitution Day, Annual Day and Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti. The Committee renders valuable contribution to the teaching-learning process not only by initiating the students into College life through the Orientation Day but also acquainting them with the values of Swami Vivekananda, Sardar Patel and the Indian Constitution. The objective of the Committee is to inculcate a sense of academic excellence, social and constitutional responsibility and a zeal for nation building in students.

Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti celebrations were held in the College on 26 September 2022. This event was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr. Vikas Gupta (Registrar, University of Delhi) and the Special Guest, Shri Rohan Rai (Deputy Registrar, University of Delhi). The Guest of Honour was Shri Himanshu Gupta (IAS, Director of Education). His presence added an unforgettable sparkle and charm to this occasion. During the event a short film on the life of Maharaja Agrasen was broadcast which recollected the values that Maharaja Agrasen embodied. The dignitaries emphasized on the importance of holistic education and appreciated the efforts of Maharaja Agrasen College and its functionaries in building a system of inclusive learning and personality development.

Orientation Day programme is organized on the first day of the new semester for the first-year students. This year Orientation Day was organised on 09 November 2022. This Programme is held to acquaint the first-year students about their chosen respective courses in detail along with their different pedagogical systems. The students are apprised about different committees of the College during the orientation. The auditorium is full of new faces with fresh zeal and spark. A PowerPoint is shown introducing the college, its infrastructure as well as different facilities being available for the benefit of the students in the college.

A commemoration of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is held annually at Maharaja Agrasen College on his birthday, 31 October (known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas/ National Unity Day) through Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Memorial Lecture. This year it was organised on 15 November 2022, where Prof. Shri Prakash Singh, Director, South Campus, University of Delhi was the eminent speaker on this occasion.

Constitution Day was celebrated on 30 November 2022. Students were made aware about the importance of this day through the Lecture of the Chief Guest- Prof. Satish Kumar (Faculty of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, JNU). A pledge of constitution was read where the students took oath.

Swami Vivekananda's injunction to the youth to serve humanity and to value the rich and diverse culture of our country is appreciated every year by Maharaja Agrasen College by organising Swami Vivekanand Memorial Lecture. This event was organized this year on 16 January 2023 to imbibe the principles of Swami Vivekanand in everyday life. Prof. Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri (ex-VC, University of Himachal Pradesh) and Sh. Shyam Kishor Sahay (Editor, Sansad TV) marked the event with their learned thoughts as the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour respectively.



YUVAAN 2023

Yuvaan, the annual cultural festival of Maharaja Agrasen College was organised between 27-29 March 2023 by Team ECA. All the 13 societies, namely, Nataraj the dance society, Samayantar the theatre society, Meraki the English theatre society, Abhinay the street play society, Qissa the film making & photography society, Septune the music society, Vivekananda Study Circle, Markos the marketing society, The North East society, Inquizitive the quiz society, Chakrerview the debating society, Srijan the arts & crafts society, Anchoring Pool steered by the Cultural Council came together to organise the three-day long extravaganza of inter-college competitions. The ECA Committee supervised the efforts of the students. Yuvaan 2023 was unique because it organized some of its competitions in collaboration with international and national level organizations like Art of Living Foundation, Vivekananda Kendra and UDAAN. It got good media coverage and publicity due to its partnership with DU Circuit Updates, DU Online Campus, DU Club, Ensemble, DU India, Navyuvak Delhi, Delhi University Official, Evepaper, DU fest Update and special associateship with Dainik Jagaran, the Hindi daily.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Prof. Balamram Pani, Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour was Prof. Satish Awasthi, Treasurer Governing Body, Maharaja Agrasen College. Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, Principal said that the annual cultural fest, Yuvaan helps in students to showcase their talent and develop their skills. The inaugural also saw a mesmerising Kathakali performance by Gokul C. R, final year student of B.A Program. The welcome address was delivered by Ms. Shilpa Gupta and the vote of thanks was delivered by Mr Sudhir Kumar Rinten. The dignitaries also visited Silver Lining exhibition by Srijan the art and craft society.

The first day of Yuvaan had "Remember your Home?", the quiz competition by North East society in which Garvit Kaushal and Vivek Mavi were the winners. Aamad, Solo Classical dance competition had Deepshikha Upreti in first position, while Vaibhav Kumar achieved the second position. The face painting competition was won by Purvi and the second position was grabbed by Sunita. Deen Dayal Upadhyay College won the Hindi theatre play competition for their play "Ek Sapne ki Maut" in Drishyantar, the Hindi theatre competition. Other than these, Tarkshakti, the Hindi debate competition, IPL auction quiz, Life Size Game were the other events that were organised on the first day of the fest.





The second day of Yuvaan was even more special because Hiraeth, the Hindi and English slam poetry competition in collaboration with UDAAN and Yuj, the yoga competition in collaboration with Art of Living were held. Another special attraction of the day was the folk dance competition, Dharohar. Maitreyi College and the Venkateshwara College won the first and second position respectively. The North East specific solo song competition “Echoes of the Hills” also generated a large and keen audience. Other competitions of the day were Asadharan Quiz, Market Your Wits, Karwan, Swaragi and G Sharp, Still Life Making Competition and Best out of Waste.

The enthusiasm and energy escalated on the third day of Yuvaan. Geetha, the Gita Shloka recitation competition organised in collaboration with Vivekananda Kendra, Aaina, the street play competition and Xuberence, the western dance competition, Meraki, the English theatre competition were the highlights of the day. Around 21 teams and 270 participants from various colleges like Sri Venkateshwara College, Hindi college, Motilal Nehru College, Ramanujan College,

etc participated in the one minute short filmmaking competition, Maya. The competition was also organized. Yuvaan 2023 culminated with a zestful DJ Evening wherein students and all staff members celebrated the team spirit that each one showed during the three day gala.

Yuvaan 2023 had several high points apart from the organisation of the cultural competitions. Firstly, during the three days of Yuvaan a minimal amount of plastic was used to support the efforts of the Waste Management Team, led by Ms Puneeta Agrawal. During the fest days all the gifts presented to the judges and participants were made up of e-waste materials. The changing habits of the students were noticed during these days as they became even more cautious about segregating waste, reusing waste material and avoiding one time use plastic. The other noticeable aspect was the enthusiastic participation from the students in putting up stalls of various types, like one of bakery items, one of home-made ice cream and one of soft drinks. UDAAN also set up a stall to create awareness about its endeavours and a Delhi street food stall.

Yuvaan 2023 was a grand success with about 1700 about participants from various established colleges and educational institutions from the Delhi and NCR regions.



VIRASAT 2023

Celebration of the Culture and Heritage of India



SPIC MACAY Maharaja Agrasen College Chapter organised a performance by Pt. Nityanand Haldipur Ji on 25th January 2023. The students witnessed a melodious Flute Concert accompanied by Pt. Vinod Lele on tabla and Subal Sabyasachi on tanpura.

Organized by the SPIC MACAY Maharaja Agrasen Chapter, the event marked the beginning by Lighting of the lamp and rendition of Saraswati Vandhana. The event was further enhanced by a soul-fulfilling performance by the artists, leaving the audience spellbound. The audience was in awe upon seeing the talent of the artists and how beautifully and effortlessly they played the flute.



On 21st March 2023 SPIC MACAY MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE CHAPTER commenced the inaugural ceremony of Annual Festival VIRASAT 23 with mesmerizing Kathak Recital by a very eminent artiste Pt. Rajendra Gangani ji.

Pt. Rajendra Gangani ji is one of the leading exponents of the Jaipur Gharana style of Kathak. The audience admired his engaging performance with standing ovation.



On March 22, 2023, the sons of Padmashree and Sangeet Natak Academy awardee Pt Rajan and Sajan Mishra were invited. Pt. Ritesh and Rajnish Mishra ji duo spellbound the audience with their melodious performance. The artists began the concert with *Raag Desi*, where in its arohana (accent) only five notes are used, whereas in the avarohana (descent) all seven notes are used, and ended with a beautiful melody for Maa Saraswati, with the audience singing along.

The audience were full of appreciation to hear brilliant voices of Pt. Ritesh Ji and Rajnish Ji. The artists also emphasised the need to connect with

Hindustani music and Indian culture and recognised the work and efforts of SPIC MACAY in enabling youth to learn more about Indian culture. Also, they interacted with the audience by answering their questions.

On March 23, 2023, The society had organised a movie screening of "*Modern Times*", a film by Charlie Chaplin released in 1936.



The event began with an informative presentation by resource person, professor and Film maker Vinod Verma. He discussed the characters, plot, cinematography, editing, and so on of the movie. During his presentation, he also emphasised the importance of films and how they shape our society, as well as how the cinema influences society. Not only that, he also shared that one can understand a movie better by knowing its history and the process of creating it. The event was further enhanced by the screening of the movie, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and filled the room with chuckles and laughter.

After the end of the movie, a round of questions and answers were taken with the professor, which was further followed by a discussion about the movie and the issue it addressed, such as the increase in unemployment due to technological advancement. Audiences were enlightened by some interesting facts about the movie, such as the fact that even though the era of silent movies ended before this movie was released, Montage (a way of editing) was also developed with this movie.

Rajasthani Folk Concert a Rajasthani Folk performance by Anwar Khan ji, Zakir Khan ji, Mousin Khan a 14 year old son of Anwar ji on vocals. He carried all the attention of the audience once he started to sing. The artists recognised the work and effort made by SPIC MACAY and emphasised the need for connecting youth with rich cultural heritage of India . The artists set the stage with numerous songs, including Chaudhray and Kehna Galt Galt and many more. During the concert, they also enlightened the audience with some interesting facts about the instruments played in Rajasthani folk . The artists distinctively mentioned that the offline mode of performance of 2023 is far better than that of online mode in 2021.





On 26th March, 2023 SPIC MACAY Maharaja Agrasen College Chapter conducted heritage walk as the fifth event of **VIRASAT 2023**. Ms. Aradhana Sinha, accepted to guide the students as the historian for Haus Khas Fort.

She told that Hauz khas Fort was actually a madrasa where students were educated and lived. The monument has hostel dorms with proper ventilation which depicts how smartly it was built. A token of love was presented to the historian Ms. Aradhana Sinha ji .

The society and the college also extend a heartfelt thanks to the artists for performing at **VIRASAT 2023** and making it phenomenal with their magnificent voices and incredible talents.

The **VIRASAT** series successfully provided the opportunity for our younger generation to reunite with our Indian culture. The festival series of **VIRASAT 2023** was a grand success.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS



*Sitting: (from Left to right)
Ms. Sonia Sachdeva, Dr.
Vijeta Pundir, Prof. Sanjeev
K. Tiwari (Principal),
Dr. Pratibha Rai, Dr. Sultan
Singh, Ms. Preeti Goel*

The Department of Business Economics organised a seminar on 22nd September 2022 on the subject “Capital Markets: Trading and Technology” to provide a comprehensive understanding of working of Capital Markets. The resource person, Prof. Anoop Pant associated with Sharda University – School of Business Studies very eloquently explained the students the need for capital investments by every individual aspiring for wealth creation. The various mechanisms of investment and the adoption of newer technologies like Artificial Intelligence adopted in the stock markets was detailed by him. The success stories of investors and their failures were discussed in the interactive session. The students found the session very informative especially the fundamental analysis side of stock markets. How economics and markets go hand in hand in the long run was the takeaway from the seminar.

IIInd workshop on Philosophy of Wealth creation was organized on 3rd February 2023. The resource person was Harsh Goela, a Stock Market Investor, Entrepreneur, Mentor, and Public Speaker. He is one of the youngest trainers on behalf of the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. It received a whopping participation.

Many students of the Department participated in the intercollege competitions- individual and team and events and won positions and trophies.



Name	College	Event	Award/Position	Date
Krish Vats	Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce	Charades Court	Winner - 1st prize	16th February
Krish Vats	Aryabhatta College	Hedge the Market	2nd position	8th November
Tilak Periwal Kartik Singh Prasheen Singh	Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce	VAKTAVYA-2023	Best team	2nd February
Aakash Kumar	Aryabhatta- Roister event	Chess	Winner	23rd February

MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

BUSINESS ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION
ESTD. 1994

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS
presents a seminar on

CAPITAL MARKETS
TRADING AND TECHNOLOGY

PROF. ANOOP PANT
Professor of Finance and Accounts
Program Director and Professor at Asia Pacific Institute of Management

29 Sept 2022
11 A.M Onwards
Conference hall

FOR FURTHER QUERIES:
Krish Vats: 92059 11696
Sakshi: 9958204586

PATRON
Prof. Sanjeev Kr Tiwari
Principal (Offg.)

CONVENORS
Dr. Sultan Singh
Dr. Preeti Goel
Dr. Pratibha Rai

Department of Business Economics
MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

BUSINESS ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION
ESTD. 1994

SEMINAR
THE PHILOSOPHY OF WEALTH CREATION

SPEAKER:
Founder,
Goela School of Finance
HARSH GOELA

FEBRUARY 3, 2023
12:00 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM
ROOM NO. - 124

DR. PRATIBHA RAI
Teacher In-charge

DR. SANJEEV KR. TIWARI
Principal

DR. SULTAN SINGH
Faculty coordinator

SAKSHI GUPTA
Convenor

KRISH VATS
Co-Convenor

For queries contact: Sakshi Gupta - 9958204586
Krish Vats - 92059 11696

@mac_bbe

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Sitting: (from Left to right)
Dr. Vinod K. Yadav, Prof. Deepa Sharma, Prof. Abha Mittal, Dr. Neetu Bala, Prof. Sanjeev K. Tiwari (Principal), Dr. Soma Garg, Ms. Puneeta Agrawal, Dr. Sheetal Sachdeva.

Standing: (from Left to right)
Ms. Arti Nagar, Ms. Ekanshi Gupta, Mr. Amit Kumar, Dr. Alok Puranik, Prof. Rajat K. Sant, Dr. Arun Julka, Mr. Virendra K. Tomar, Mr. Praveen Kumar, Ms. Priyanka Katyal, Prof. Mona Kansal, Dr. Neha Kuhar.

The Commerce Department of Maharaja Agrasen College is one of the largest and most active departments. The Department strives to achieve excellence by instilling academic innovation, and social and ethical values in students needed to meet the varying demands of the entrepreneurial, educational, and corporate world.

Within the department, the 'MAC Commerce Society', a body of high-spirited students, is an association that endeavours to organize a plethora of insightful and erudite events with utmost zeal and exuberance. It aims at creating a conducive environment for the students to understand and apply what they learn. With the constant support of the Teacher-In-Charge, they successfully conducted workshops and interactive sessions on dynamic and modern-day topics such as 'Entrepreneurship and Economic Development'. It was held on 8th July 2022 by Prof. Ashish Chandra (Department of Commerce, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi). The session provided a brief, yet clear, view of what entrepreneurship entails and a thorough discussion about customer mindsets, illustrations of companies, business strategies, and ideas that made it big.

On 5th September 2022, Teacher's Day was celebrated to honour the countless efforts of the teachers. A session on 'Mind Management' was conducted on 12th September 2022 by Professor Ajay Kumar Singh, (Head and Dean, Department of Commerce, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi), where he gave his insights about the art of mind management.





Orientation Programme for the new batch of B.Com Honours students of the academic year 2022-2025 was organized on 3rd November 2022. The event introduced the curriculum, syllabus, events, programs, and faculty to the youngsters, giving a glimpse of what the college has to offer them.

The department conducted its first **Alumni Meet** on 18th November 2022, with the gracious presence of Mr. Atul Bhatia and Mr. Arpan Sharma, paving the way for an epic student-alumni discussion on one's 'Campus to Corporate' journey.

The much-awaited **Flagship Event: 'CRICMAC Season 7'** was carried on with 8 matches, conducted between 27th January 2023 and 4th February 2023. Players were bided upon and the teams were formed through an auction held on 17th January 2023. The event received exhilarating responses and participation from the students of the college.

Last but not the least, an informative seminar was held on the topic '**Stock Market and Trading**' on 7th February 2023 with CS J.K. Bareja (Former Prof. Shyam Lal College Eve., University of Delhi) giving a live, practical and interactive speech about the versatility, risks, and returns of the stock market.

To sum up, the Department conducts a myriad of events throughout the year to inculcate values and knowledge in its students. Through its persistent efforts, it aims to take the college experience and the quality of education to greater heights.



DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS



Sitting: (from Left to right)
Dr. Chhavi Bhatnagar,
Dr. Geetika J. Saxena,
Dr. Amit Pundir, Prof.
Sanjeev K. Tiwari (Principal),
Prof. Praveen K. Pandey,
Dr. Vandana Kumari,
Dr. Sachin Kumar

The Department of Electronic Science offers the four-year undergraduate B.Sc. (H) Electronics Science program. The B.Sc. (H) Electronics Science course is a part of Undergraduate Curriculum Framework 2022 which is based on National Education Policy 2020. This course is designed to enhance the students' understanding of scientific principle sand to further develop their technical skills by hands-on designing and testing of electronic circuits and systems. The Department of Electronics organized its Department Orientation Program on 9th November 2022 for first year students.

The TechTitans Society of Department of Electronics organized Teacher's Day on 5th September 2022. Department of Electronics organized Hands-on-Workshop - 'Basic Electronics Design: Step-By-Step Designing and Building DC Power Supplies' on 31st January 2023. The workshop was attended by 23 participants.

To enhance curricular and extra-curricular activities of its students, a learning environment is built through academic clubs in the department. The student's society "TechTitans" was formed through an student election held on 1st February 2023 for the academic session 2022-23. Various student groups were subsequently formed to organize the activities.

The TechTitans Society of Department of Electronics organized extracurricular activity 'Titanza-23' on 14th February 2023. The student volunteers planned, designed and executed three events – Chess Titans: Human vs. Artificial Intelligence, Speak Titans: Nanobots- Debate





Competition and WEB Titans: WEB Designing Competition under the supervision of Dr. Amit Pundir, Dr. Sachin Kumar, Dr. Natasha and Dr. Paramjeet Singh.

The students of Department of Electronics participated in sports event organized by Sports Committee and won the two prizes in the Interdepartmental Basket Ball and Interdepartmental Volley Ball during 10-16 February 2023.



The curricular and extra-curricular activities aimed to establish an effective platform for students to share their ideas, real-time experiences and to motivate teamwork. During Academic year 2022-23, the students and faculty members organized and participated in the various programmes of the college.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Sitting: (from Left to right)
Prof. Sangeeta Mittal,
Prof. Gitanjali Chawla,
Prof. Sanjeev K. Tiwari
(Principal),
Dr. Mona Sinha,
Dr. Anupama Jaidev

Standing: (from Left to right)
Mr. Aditya Premdeep,
Mr. Subodh Kr. Upadhyay
Ms. Nabanita Deka,
Ms. Indrani Das Gupta,
Ms. Shilpa Gupta,
Dr. Debosmita Paul

Department of English offers interdisciplinary courses to their students of English (Hons.) as well as students from other programmes to engage them with the study of literature, culture, language, communication, public speaking, theatre, cinema, photography, graphic stories, visual communication and critical approaches.

The vibrant and globally relevant courses are supported by activities and events that help students build resources and networks on skill development, creative expressions, presentation and public speaking skills besides developing reading culture, academic writing and the power of meaningful and focused speaking.

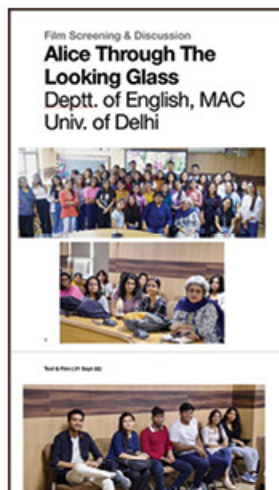
Post-Covid and Anchoring scattered academic times

Amid challenges of covid affected times and academic years and their semesters in discordance, continuous efforts have been made during 2022-23 by the Department of English as a collective body and individual teachers to bring back a sense of trust through teaching-learning and extra-curricular activities possible to be organized within limitations. English Department dedicates this report to Late Prof. Prem Kumari Srivastava who passed away on 12 Nov. 2022. She will always be remembered by her colleagues in MAC and the Department of English.

Text & Films

Under Text & Films feature, a Film Screening & Discussion on Alice Through The Looking Glass





was organized by Prof. Gitanjali Chawla for students in the conference hall of College on 21st Sept 2022.

Inter-faculty Lecture/Workshop Series (IFLS) Workshop : Graphic Narratives / Storyboarding / Storytelling

A workshop on Understanding visual storytelling and their story boarding was conducted on 27 September, 2022 by Vinod Verma on invitation from course coordinators Subodh Upadhyay and Aditya Premdeep. The workshop aimed at disseminating skills of visual literacy, visual arts, visual narratives and their meaning and interpretation.

English Department Orientation Day, 3rd Nov. 2022: Entrance exam preparations Tips from Alumnus:

Ms Mona, an English Hons Alumni, who did her post-graduation studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) conducted on 28 July 22 an interactive session with English (Hons.) Students to guide them on the subject how to do entrance exam preparations for further studies after the Bachelors.

Film Screening: Screening of the television series Byomkesh Bakshi - Chiriagh, directed by Basu Chatterjee was conducted by Dr. Debosmita Paul on 26th and 27th September 22. Saradindu Bandopadhyay's well known novella and series Byomkesh Bakshi - Chiriakhana, is part of the DSE paper Detective Literature for BA Prog (LOCF) students. The screening on the two days were followed by interactive session where students attempted to appreciate the television series and the novella as separate works. They also attempted to understand the nuances of the text as a post colonial detective fiction, understand the myriad of characters in the text, thereby developing a deeper interest in the genre of detective fiction.

Film screening: A recorded YouTube video of Mahesh Dattani's play Tara produced by The Dramatics Society SRCC was screened by Dr. Debosmita Paul for the BA (H) Multidisciplinary Course students on January 27, 23. The screening was useful to help the students understand the nuances of modern Indian theatre in terms of the use of space, lights and other techniques adopted in theatre.

English Department students' magazine 'The Edges' was revived after more than 12 years and was published on 6 December 2022 on the theme 'Winter' by Dr Charu Arya as



faculty editor and Vriti Jain, Riddhima and Akshita as student editors. The magazine published articles, creative writings and other forms of expressions to create the culture of self-expression among students. It was brought out both in hard-copy and electronic-copy form.

Film Screening for the Core Course Introduction to Literary Studies : Sem 1, BA English Hons. 22-23

The film *Pride and Prejudice* (2005) Dir. Joe Wright was screened in Smart Classroom (Room No 237) by Department of English, Maharaja Agrasen College (University of Delhi) between 10.30 am to 12.45 pm on 3rd January 23. The screening constituted part of teaching methodology of the paper Introduction to Literary Studies (UGCF Sem 1 English Hons.) designed with objective to offer students a foundational understanding of the domain of literature, its genres, methods of critique and its distinctive ability to influence and project social and cultural change. Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and dissemination of Narratology constitute the first unit of the syllabus. The film was screened to create interface between the text and the theoretical component of narratology to expand the perspective of learners to the introduction of literary studies.



Aditya Premdeep introduced students to the film and explained the context of screening. Vinod Verma discussed the difference between the art of novel writing and the art of film-making. He explained the difference of the application of narratology from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* to Joe Wright's *Pride and Prejudice* based on Jane Austen's novel. He illustrated from the film strategy of character development, set-design to show historical time/ socio-economic development, dialogues/ belief system as key of characters' motivation of conflicts and aspirations. In feedback session, students said they found the event entertaining, educational, full of fun and a new chapter to their classroom experience.

WORKSHOPS : Visual Communication & Photography

The workshop was held by Vinod Verma on 12 January 2023 to impart skills to MAC students on how to use smartphones for visual communication. The emphasis was laid on frames, grounds and composing for storytelling through photography.

MOON PHOTOGRAPHY NIGHT WORKSHOP

Inter-faculty Lecture Series, 2nd Lecture of 2022-23

Dr Mona Sinha presented a lecture on 20 February 2023, to first year honours students on Abhijnana sakuntalam, as part of Inter-faculty Lecture Series. Her fascinating lecture covered aspects on the background of Indian Classical literature, Sanskrit dramaturgy and Rasa theory, and deliberated on key thematic issues present in Kalidasa's classic play. It was a resounding success. Indrani Das Gupta coordinated the event.



Film-Screening for Literary Texts and Their Cinematic Adaptation

The movie *Maqbool* was screened on 23 February 2023. The movie is an adaptation of William Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*. The purpose of screening was to explore and understand the similarities and dissimilarities between Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and its cinematic adaptation *Maqbool* by Vishal Bhardwaj. The screening also aimed to compare both the film and the play in terms of politics and power from psychoanalytic perspective and to examine the close relationship between literature and cinema by studying the points of contact of literary and cinematic praxis. Dr. Subodh Upadhyay conducted and coordinated the event.



हिंदी विभाग



समाज की उपलब्धियों का आकलन उसकी भाषा और साहित्य से किया जा सकता है। ज्ञान-विज्ञान के विविध क्षेत्रों में भाषा की सहज संप्रेषणीयता ही उसकी परिधि और उपयोगिता की सूचक है। महाराजा अग्रसेन कॉलेज का हिंदी विभाग इसी लक्ष्य और सोच के साथ विद्यार्थियों को जोड़ने के लिए प्रयत्नशील रहता है। नई शिक्षा नीति के अंतर्गत इस अकादमिक सत्र (2022-23) से यूजीसीएफ का पाठ्यक्रम आरंभ हुआ और प्रवेश परीक्षा (सीयूईटी) से नामांकन प्रक्रिया आरंभ हुई। सत्र के आरंभ में परंपरा के अनुसार हिंदी विभाग के विद्यार्थियों में से नवचेतना परिषद के सदस्यों का निर्वाचन किया गया। इसके सदस्यों ने वर्षभर आयोजित होने वाले विभिन्न विभागीय समारोह में अपनी उपस्थिति और सक्रियता बनाए रखी और विभाग की शैक्षणिक एवं प्रतियोगिता परक गतिविधियों को सुचारु रूप से संपन्न कराने में अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा की।

5 सितंबर, 2022 को शिक्षक दिवस कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया, जिसके अंतर्गत प्राध्यापकों ने विद्यार्थियों का मार्गदर्शन किया और विद्यार्थियों ने सम्मान प्रकट किया। कार्यक्रम में लगभग 50 विद्यार्थियों की उपस्थिति रही।

14 सितंबर 2022 को हिंदी दिवस मनाया गया, जिसके अंतर्गत शब्द बोध प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम में लगभग 60 विद्यार्थियों की उपस्थिति रही। नवचेतना परिषद् के सभी सदस्यों ने पोस्टर अभियान के माध्यम से पूरे महाविद्यालय में हिंदी भाषा के महत्व पर जागरूकता रैली निकाली।

बैठे हुए (बाएं से दाएं)

प्रो. राजहंस, सुश्री मनोज चौधरी, प्रो. शंकर कुमार, प्रो. संजीव कुमार तिवारी (प्राध्यापक), प्रो. टी. एन. ओझा, डॉ. आभा शर्मा

खड़े हुए (बाएं से दाएं)

डॉ. शिव कुमार, डॉ. जितेंद्र कुमार भगत, श्री किशन सिंह यादव ।





रविवार, 2 अक्टूबर, 2022 को ऑनलाइन माध्यम से देशभक्ति गीत प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन हुआ और बड़े उत्साह के साथ विद्यार्थियों ने इसमें अपनी प्रतिभागिता सुनिश्चित की। महात्मा गांधी के विचारों और व्यक्तित्व पर लोगों ने अपने-अपने विचार रखे। इसमें उपस्थितों की संख्या लगभग पचास रही। हिंदी विभाग ने 6-7 दिसंबर 2022 को नैक विजिट के दौरान विभागीय उपलब्धियों एवं गतिविधियों की प्रस्तुति पीपीटी के माध्यम से की, जिसकी काफी सराहना की गई।

नवंबर 2022 से प्रथम वर्ष के विद्यार्थियों ने कॉलेज परिसर में कदम रखा। ओरिएंटेशन कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से विभाग ने उन्हें पाठ्यक्रम, विभागीय गतिविधि एवं हिंदी विभाग के प्राध्यापकों से परिचय कराया। 10 जनवरी, 2023 विश्व हिंदी दिवस के अवसर पर तीन कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गए— नाट्यमंचन (हिंदी की गरिमा), पोस्टर मेकिंग प्रतियोगिता (विश्व में हिंदी) और श्रुतलेखन प्रतियोगिता। उपस्थित विद्यार्थियों की संख्या लगभग 70-80 रही।

26 जनवरी, 2023, वसंतोत्सव के उपलक्ष्य में संस्कृति कला केंद्र (हिंदी विभाग) के द्वारा विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया गया। इस बार सरस्वती वंदना एवं सरस्वती पूजन कॉलेज सभागार में पूरे विधि विधान पूर्वक संपन्न किया गया। पूजन के उपरांत सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों में लोक नृत्य प्रतियोगिता तथा लोकगीत प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन हुआ। हिंदी विभाग एवं अन्य विभाग के विद्यार्थियों ने प्रतियोगिता में उत्साह पूर्वक भाग लिया। प्रतियोगिता के उपरांत सभागार के मंच से पूर्व कार्यक्रमों के सभी विजेताओं को पुरस्कार व प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान किए गए। पूजन एवं कार्यक्रम के दौरान हिंदी विभाग के प्राध्यापकगण, प्राचार्य संजीव कुमार तिवारी, विशिष्ट अतिथि श्याम सुंदर पाठक, प्रो. सुनील चौधरी (चेयरमैन) एवं लगभग सौ विद्यार्थी उपस्थित रहे। प्रसाद वितरण के साथ कार्यक्रम का समापन हुआ।

10 फरवरी 2023, को ऑडी लॉबी में शिक्षक विद्यार्थी संवाद एवं कला कौशल कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। प्रथम वर्ष के विद्यार्थियों के लिए प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें मि. फ्रेशर (विवेक कुमार गौतम) एवं मिस फ्रेशर (इकराशाद) चुने गए। विद्यार्थियों की संख्या लगभग 60 रही।

21 फरवरी, 2023 को संगोष्ठी कक्ष में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस का आयोजन किया गया। इसके अंतर्गत लोक कथावाचन एवं बिदेसिया लोक नाट्य का प्रदर्शन किया गया। वहां उपस्थित विद्यार्थियों की मातृभाषा का ब्योरा लिया गया और उन्हें उसी में बोलने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया। विद्यार्थियों ने बांग्ला, गढ़वाली, भोजपुरी, मैथिली, हरियाणवी, राजस्थानी, बुंदेली, ब्रज आदि भाषाओं के लोकगीत सुनाए और अपनी भाषा में अनुभव साझा किए। उपस्थित विद्यार्थियों की संख्या करीब 50 रही।

मार्च-अप्रैल 2023 में शैक्षणिक भ्रमण, राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी, कार्यशाला, वार्षिकोत्सव एवं विदाई समारोह संभावित कार्यक्रमों की सूची में शामिल है।

हिन्दी विभाग के अधिकांश कार्यक्रमों में आदरणीय प्राचार्य प्रो. संजीव कुमार तिवारी की गरिमामय उपस्थिति रही और उन्होंने अपने ओजस्वी विचारों से सभी का मार्गदर्शन करते हुए प्रोत्साहित किया। विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों के संचालन एवं धन्यवाद ज्ञापन हेतु प्रो. शंकर कुमार (प्रभारी, हिंदी विभाग), डॉ. शिव कुमार एवं प्रो. राजहंस कुमार, बीजारोपण एवं



संयोजन-संवर्द्धन- प्रो. तेजनारायण ओझा (संयोजक, नवचेतना परिषद, हिंदी विभाग), और डॉ. आभा शर्मा (संयोजक, संस्कृति कला केंद्र, हिंदी विभाग), प्रबंधन-अनुशासन एवं व्यवस्था- प्रो. चंद्रशेखर राम, डॉ. जितेंद्र कुमार भगत, निर्णायक मंडल में श्रीमती मनोज चौधरी, डॉ. अजय पांडेय, डॉ. किशन सिंह, सुश्री प्रीति मिश्रा एवं श्री सदानंद का विशेष योगदान रहा। दीपाक्षी भारद्वाज, प्रांजल, भारती, अक्षिताराणा, शिखा, शिवाक्षी एवं रितु ने अलग-अलग कार्यक्रमों में मंच संचालन किया। सत्र 2022-23 के समस्त कार्यक्रमों में सभी

शिक्षकों एवं विद्यार्थियों का योग- सहयोग रहा जिससे कार्यक्रमों की सृजनात्मक स्वरूप में उत्तरोत्तर वृद्धि हुई और समस्त कार्यक्रम विधिवत आयोजित एवं सम्पन्न हुए।



DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM



*Sitting: (from Left to right)
Dr. K. Newme, Ms. Rachita
Kauldhar, Prof. Sanjeev K.
Tiwari (Principal), Mr. Sudhir
K. Rinten, Mr. Vinay K. Rai.*

*Standing: (from Left to right)
Dr. Vivek Vishvas, Dr. Shruti
Goel, Mr. Yogeshwar Singh*

The session of 2019-22 began with the induction of highly talented and enthusiastic students who joined the course not just to learn but also to refine their skills and showcase their caliber. Despite the challenges vis-à-vis the COVID-19 pandemic, the teaching-learning process continued relentlessly with the students making the most of every opportunity that came their way. The Department of Journalism organised a felicitation ceremony of one of its students, Ms. Shinata Chauhan, for bagging the position of 2nd runner-up at Femina Miss India 2022. The Department of Journalism organized various Industry Interface programs including a visit to 'Museo Camera' on 28 January 2023. It was an educational trip that was primarily organized to enlighten the students about cameras and photography. At the museum, students saw a plethora of exhibits, ranging from the ancient cameras to the latest ones. Also, the students got to learn about the emergence and history of photography in detail.



The Department of Journalism organised expert lectures on various topics including 'Data Journalism: Concept & Objectives' on 29 September 2022. Dipak Kumar Dash, Senior Assistant Editor at 'The Times of India' was invited as the Expert Speaker who gave an overview of data journalism and also enlightened the students about the scope and future prospects of the field in the media industry.

The Department also organised an industrial visit to Sahara National TV News room on November 25 2022. The visit was planned to provide the students with first-hand

exposure to the TV News room, the assignment and the output desk functioning and the MCR.

The Department of Journalism organized a Live Project in collaboration with 'Times Now Navbharat' on 24 January 2023 in the college auditorium. The event was held in order to give the students an experience of a 'Live Project' in the media industry. Apart from the live project in the college premises students were sent to the studio of TV9 Bharatvarsh to get the experience of the in-house programme recording.

It is indeed a matter of pride that numerous students of the Department have excelled in different fields. Our students of the past batch have joined industry in various job roles in the organization like; 'The Good Glam Group, Amar Ujala, The Economic Times, world Football, Dainik Bhaskar, Book my College, Tech Story, Sports Times 24X7, Digital Khirki, Khel Now etc. not only in Industry but many students of the department preferred to go for higher studies in the Institutions like, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Delhi, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, IIMC, Jammu, London College of Communication, University of Arts, London etc.

In a nutshell, the students of the Department are performing exceptionally well in every field that they have joined. They continue and strive to make their teachers, Department and college extremely proud.



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



*Sitting: (from Left to right),
Ms. Shomila Warsi,
Dr. Niraj Kumar, Prof.
Sanjeev K. Tiwari (Principal),
Prof. Subhod Kumar,
Dr. Sushmita Rajwar,
Standing: (from Left to right)
Dr. Pramod Kumar,
Mr. Prabira Sethy*

The Department of Political Science began its new academic session 2022-23 by welcoming its new batch of students. The whole academic year was very eventful for the Department. **Student Faculty Meeting** became a regular feature this year too as meetings were held in the beginning of the new semester to interact with students and inquire about their queries and problems. **Mentor-Mentee Meetings** were also held regularly by the concerned faculty in order to discuss various problems of the students.

The Department of Political Science in collaboration with Chanakya Student Society held its **Annual Academic Fest 21-22 April 2022**. Various events like poster-making, rangoli, face painting, extempore and be-the-minister were organised by the students on political theme. The two day fest was very eventful and provided ample opportunity for the department students to participate in various activities.

The Department of Political Science, Student Society Chanakya organised a **Plantation Drive on 23rd July, 2022**, by the students and faculty of Department of Political Science. The students planted around 50

plant saplings in the college campus and pledged to take care of these saplings. Through this plantation drive, the students created awareness on green environment initiative taken up by the college and made sincere efforts to carry them forward.

The Department also organised a **Cleanliness Drive on 27th July, 2022** by the students and faculty of Department of Political Science. The students and faculty utilised the day to clean their



department room and all the classrooms of the department. The students created an awareness amongst other students and faculty to keep their surroundings clean and maintain a healthy environment.

The Department also donated large number of paper waste on 17th August, 2022 to the Waste Management Volunteers of the **Waste Management Committee** and made their contribution in the Waste Management initiative of the college. The department is segregating their paper and plastic waste on a regular basis and many department students are actively working as Waste Management Volunteers.


The students and the faculty also organised the **Teachers' Day** celebration in collaboration with Centre for Civic Education on 5th September, 2022. The faculty members talked about the values of a teacher and the importance of the Teachers' day. Some students also shared their thoughts on Teachers' day and some self-composed poetry on the relevance of teachers' day.


Chanakya, the student society in collaboration with Vivekananda Study Circle also organised a **Panel Discussion on Swami Vivekananda and Youth** on 13th September, 2022. Shri Nikhil Yadav, Yuva Pramukh, Uttar Prant, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari was the Chair and Panelist. Prof. Prem Kumari Srivastava, Deptt. Of English, Maharaja Agrasen College and Dr. Ritu Kohli, Deptt. Of Political Science, Maharaja Agrasen College were also the panelists in the discussion.


The Department of Political Science in collaboration with Centre for Civic Education also organised **Alumni Interaction & Guest Lecture** on the topic "**Constitutional Values and Fundamental Duties**" by Mr. Shourie Anand Singh, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, DU on 29th November, 2022. Mr. Shourie discussed about the Constitution of India and talked about our fundamental duties in detail. The event was followed by Alumni interaction where Mr. Shourie talked about his experience in the department as a student. The students had various queries for Mr. Shourie and greatly benefitted through the interaction.

A Special Lecture on the topic "**Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**" by Guest Speaker Dr. Namita Vashishtha, Assistant Professor and Deputy Dean, Academic Affairs, Faculty of Law, DU was also organised on 29th November, 2022. She talked about the Domestic Violence Act 2005 and gave first hand information about various agencies and helplines established by the government for protection against sexual violence. Sexual Harassment at Workplace was also discussed in detail and she highlighted various shortcomings of the existing laws too. The lecture was highly informative for the students and faculty.





MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE
 University of Delhi
VIVEKANANDA STUDY CIRCLE
 under the aegis of ECA
 presents
समर्पण
Panel Discussion
TOPIC: SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND YOUTH



PROF. SANJEEV KUMAR TIWARI
 PRINCIPAL (OFFG.),
 MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY
 WELCOME ADDRESS


SHRI NIKHIL YADAV
 (YUVA PRAMUKH, UTTAR PRANT,
 VIVEKANANDA KENDRA KANYAKUMARI)
 CHAIR AND PANELIST


PROF. PREM KUMARI SRIVASTAVA
 (PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH,
 MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY)
 PANELIST



DR. RITU KOHLI
 (ASSOCIATE PROF., DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
 MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY)
 PANELIST



DATE : 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2022 (TUESDAY)
TIME : 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
VENUE : CONFERENCE ROOM (212)


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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE



Sitting: (from Left to right)
Dr. Ranvijai Ram, Dr. Latesh Kanoujia, Prof. Sanjeev K. Tiwari (Principal), Prof. Parthasarathi, Prof. Nibedita Khuntia, Dr. Kalpana

Standing: (from Left to right)
Mr. Ashutosh Jaiswal, Dr. Preeti Gupta, Mr. Omkar Singh, Ms. Barkha Sain, Mr. Vedpal Singh

The B.Sc. Physical Science Course Committee for the academic session 2022-2023 started functioning under the Convenorship of Prof. Nibedita Khuntia, Professor, Department of Biology. The other members of the committee consisted of - Dr. Asha Gupta, TIC Department of Physics, Dr. Vandana Soni, TIC Department of Chemistry and Dr. Omkar Singh, TIC Department of Computer Science. The committee worked sincerely during the whole session by conducting several programs and organizing various activities for the benefit of the students.

Orientation Program

In the beginning of the academic session for first year students in November 2023, the Committee organized a Departmental Orientation program for the newly admitted students. Faculty members of all the departments within B.Sc. Physical Science introduced their respective subjects to the students and explained their importance and application in real life.



Lecture Series:

On 2nd February 2023, "Vigyanmanthan" the society under the Department of B.Sc. Physical Science organized its 6th lecture series. The series was inaugurated by our esteemed Principal Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari and attended by all the faculty members and students. About 100-110 students have attended it. The speakers spoke on various aspects of developments currently taking place in the field of science which the students should know for





pursuing their higher studies in future. A brief report of their respective talks is given below:

- I. The first lecture was delivered by Professor Kirti Ranjan, Department of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi on the topic "Large Hadron Collider: Unravelling the enigma of the Universe".
- II. Second lecture was delivered by Mr. Dhruv Govil, Sr Data Scientist, Sr AI consultant CEO and Founder Pinaki IT Consultant Pvt Ltd on the topic "Cloud Computing".
- III. Finally, the third and last lecture was delivered by Dr. Rahisuddin, Associate Professor Department of Chemistry, Jamia Milia Islamia University, on the topic "Coordination compounds and their applications".

Scintilla

The Annual Cultural Meet of the B.Sc. Physical Science, known as "Scintilla", was organised with lots of fanfare on 3rd February 2023. The meet was an amalgamation of various activities such as Extempore (Clash of Words), Science Quiz (Scino Factz), Marvel and EVS Quiz (Marvathlon), Web Designing (Web War) and Fun Games (Fun Mania). Scintilla happens to be an open cultural meet that allows students from all the different departments of the college to participate in the competitions in the above-mentioned events. Around 120-125 students participated in the event.

The students of B.Sc. Physical Science felicitated all the laboratory staffs– Mr. Pramod, Mr. Ashish, Mr. Vinod and Mr. Barnabas Dung Dung without whom the grand event could not have become a success.

Annual Sports Meet

The Annual Sports Meet which included Basketball, Football, Cricket, Kabaddi, Volleyball etc. was another major attraction organised in February 2023. Here also, the student participants from B.Sc. Physical Science



did very well in all the events and received accolades from faculty and public in general. They bagged prizes in Kabaddi and Football as runners up.

Workshop

MacStak, the Tech society of Department of Computer Science, has organized a 5 Day long Workshop on “Deep Learning using Python with Statistics” from 31st October to 4th November 2022, in association with Pinaki IT Consultants Pvt. Ltd. The workshop was organized for the students of B.Sc. Physical Science, B.Sc. Mathematical Science and B.A. Prog. Around 20 students got themselves registered and successfully completed the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to make students aware of on the concept of “Deep Learning”. Deep learning is a machine learning technique that teaches computers to do what comes naturally to humans.



Industrial Visits

A visit to National Physical Laboratory (NPL) was organised on 4th January 2023 on the occasion of their 76th foundation day ceremony by department of Chemistry. The NPL is a CSIR laboratory which maintains standards of SI units in India and calibrates the national standards of weights and measures

An industrial visit to Argentor Silver Electroplating Workshop at Moti Nagar Industrial Area was organized for the students of BSc Physical Science on 14th February 2023 to acquaint the students.

With the industrial processes in the field of electroplating. A group of 20 students were accompanied by two faculty members, Dr. Vandana Soni and Dr. Ranvijai Ram.

A group of 50 students with three faculty members, Dr Vandna Soni, Dr Ranvijai Ram and Dr Krishan Kumar and one Lab Assistant, Mr Ashish, visited Yamuna Biodiversity Park in Wazirabad on 9 th January 2023. The objective of the visit was to create awareness among students about different aspects of biodiversity, environment, ecology and the rich flora and fauna of the park.



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS



Voting for selection of members of Ramanujan Society-Departmental Society

The Department of Mathematics every year conducts an election for selection of the student body for smooth working of the society. This year election has been concluded for various posts of Ramanujan Society on 23 September 2022. As per the votes received the elected members of Ramanujan Society are President- Harish Kumar (Third Year), Vice president- Ujala Jaiswal (Second Year), Secretary-Abhijeet Singh (Second Year)

*Sitting: (from Left to right)
Mr. Vedpal Singh, Dr. Vanita Jain, Prof. Sanjeev K. Tiwari (Principal), Prof. Prasannan A. R., Dr. A. Jiren.*

*Standing: (from Left to right)
Prof. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Renu Saini, Ms. Anjana Kumari, Mr. Dilip Kumar,*

How To Handle Nss Unit Level Data Using SPSS?

Ramanujan Society organized a Faculty Development Program on "How to handle NSS unit level data using SPSS?" on 29 September 2022 at 11:00 a.m. The speaker was Dr. Manoj Jatav, Associate fellow, VVGNI. He has profound knowledge in his field. He explained and also performed practicals to use SPSS for handling a huge amount of data. The FDP was succeeded by a very fruitful question answer session in which the speaker cleared all the doubts.

Orientation Day

The Ramanujan Society organized an orientation program on 4 November 2022 at 10.00 a.m. in physical mode for the first-year students. A presentation regarding the department, course structure and the departmental society was presented by our respected teachers for better





understanding of the curriculum and working of the society. Orientation program was concluded by a query session taken by the teachers and the student coordinators of Ramanujan Society. It turned out to be very interactive and fruitful for the students of first year.

Teacher's Day

The students of Mathematical Sciences celebrated the Teacher's Day on 5th September 2022 to show their love and respect towards their teachers. All the teachers were invited and welcomed by the students.

Ramanujan Quiz

Ramanujan quiz organized on the occasion of National Mathematics Day (22th December) in two rounds on 21 & 22th of December 2022 through online mode for undergraduate students. More than 350 participants of different colleges from all over the country like IIT, NIT, IIM, IPU, BIT Sindri, BHU, USICT, HNGBU etc. participated in the quiz. The following participants emerged as the winners

First prize : Hemlata (Maitrey College, DU), Second prize : Arpan (GGS, IPU), Third prize: Abhay (Keshav Mahavidyalay, DU)

World of Prime Numbers

Ramanujan Society organized a seminar on the 'World Of Prime Numbers' on 17 February 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

The speaker of the seminar was Dr. Shanta Laishram, Professor of Mathematics, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. He explained and shared so many theorems and facts about the prime numbers. The seminar was successfully organized with the participation of more than 70 students. The seminar was succeeded by a very fruitful question answer session.



Sports Day

The Department's football team got the first rank on the Annual Sports day organized by the Maharaja Agrasen College from 10-16 February 2023.

The credit goes to the team and our star players:

First year players: Manish, Tarush, Abhinav, Second year players: Sameer, Arnav, Arya, Rishu, Third year players: Siddharth, Devesh



B.A. PROGRAMME



B.A. Programme {BA (Honours) Multidisciplinary} is a flexible, interdisciplinary and choice-based programme that allows students the choice to study two main disciplines, one as a Major subject and one as a Minor subject. It is unique in the sense that it permits students to diversify and also specialise in the subject of their choice. It aims to prepare the stake holders with intellect and skills necessary to lead a meaningful life. Along with focusing on academics, B.A. Programme also aims to provide for holistic development of the students via the Society "Lakshya". About 700 students are enrolled in BA Programme at Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. Many co-curricular and extra curricular activities are organized by the Lakshya society. Office bearers and members of Lakshya society took their responsibility very enthusiastically and organized various activities.

A debate on "Digital Currency: The future of Global Economy", organized by the department of Economics saw huge and enthusiastic participation. The department of History took students for a study-tour to Fatehpur Sikri. The trip provided the much needed academic guidance to students which drastically changed the way they look at historical monuments.

The educational trip to Rangmanch Farms gave students a chance to experience folk arts like kathputli shows, folk music and songs, magic shows and many other performances. They also got a chance to ride horses, camels, carts and tractors.

Students are now looking forward to their annual festival "Aagaz", with a range of activities like Pot making, traditional painting, music and dance

Sitting: (from Left to right)
Mr. Vickey Mehriya, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Saumya Shukla, Prof. Sanjeev K. Tiwari (Principal), Dr. Shirin B. Raina, Dr. Abha Sharma, Mr. Omkar Singh, Standing

First Row: (from Left to right)
Mr. Amit Kumar, Dr. Farha, Ms. Barkha Sain, Dr. Preeti Gupta, Mr. Ashutosh Jaiswal, Ms. Aarti Nagar, Dr. Sadamalla N. Rao.





competitions, Marketing competition, Logo designing, Story Writing and many others. The events are organized under the experienced guidance of the BAP Committee members who motivate students to take initiative and enhance their skills as organizers of different events and also as participants in not only the festival of BA Programme course but also in festivals organized by other departments of the college.

Students of BA Programme showed exceptional performance in sports, like last year, winning team game trophies for inter department Kabaddi matches for both men and women and inter department basketball matches for both men and women. Our students did us proud by winning many first positions and second positions in individual track and field events also.

Department of History

Department of History was abuzz round the year in engaging its students in various curricular and co-curricular activities. This academic year was challenging especially in view of the introduction of new curriculum framework under New Education Policy. Accordingly, the department offered Major and Minor papers in History as well as SEC on Sustainable Ecotourism and Entrepreneurship to the 1st year students.

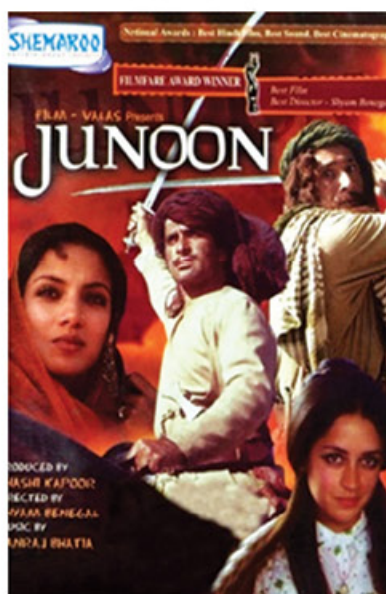
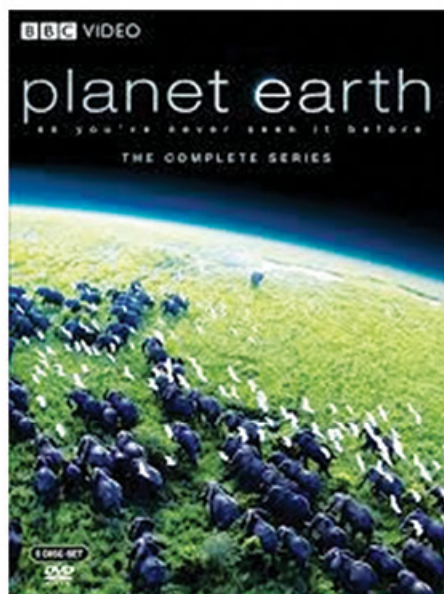
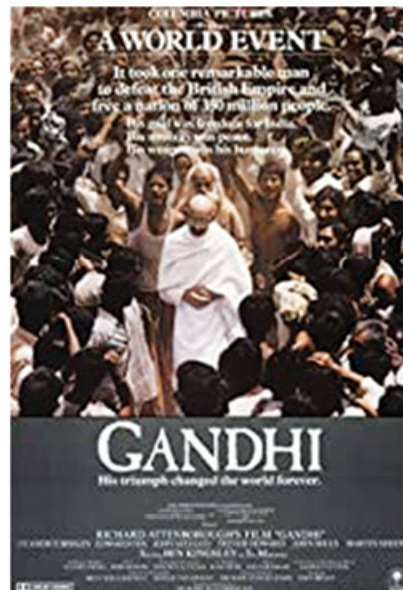
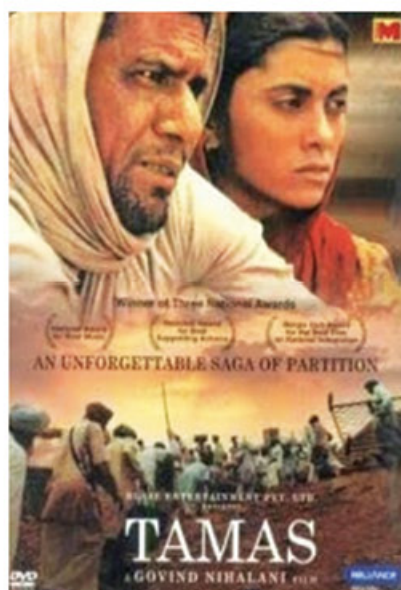
The department organised one-day visit to Yamuna Biodiversity Park for the 3rd semester students who had offered to study GE paper on Politics of Nature. The visit was very fruitful for the students in developing an understanding about sustainable ecosystem and waste-land management. Dr. Faiyaz Khudsar, Scientist In-charge, Yamuna Biodiversity Park and his team of Botanists and Nature Conservators interacted with the students and took them round the Park.

The department also organised a visit to the historic city of Fatehpur Sikri which is architectural marvel of the medieval period. During this visit, students learnt the architectural details of Mughal buildings, evolution of a composite culture and the importance of Sufism in the lives of people.



Screening of films and documentaries on relevant socio-cultural issues has been a regular feature of the department of History. This year too, films like Gandhi, Naya Daur, Swadesh, Mughal-e-Azam and Junoon and documentaries –Tamas, Bharat Ek Khoj and BBC documentary on Nature – were screened.

The department is committed to carry forward the historical and cultural legacy of the country and disseminate the same among the student community.



English Section

Agranika-2023



Gen Z in Post Pandemic World- Recovery and Resilience

As the world celebrates the start of a new era, the 'post pandemic' life, it has also changed and redefined the ambitions of youth all across the world. When the world was combating the virus, everyone had to face its repercussions. Students had to stay indoors and take online classes instead of meeting their teachers and peers in person. It was indeed a trying time for many, but the world is gradually overcoming the crisis. The journey of Generation Z and their optimistic response to the pandemic demonstrates that a comeback is always stronger than a setback.

The pandemic transformed the way people learned and worked, and so did Gen Z's goals and opportunities. The INTO University Partnerships survey tells a tale of resilience of Gen Z, with many under 25 years old remaining hopeful about their future. According to the survey, Indian students are the most optimistic, with 94% indicating they have a favourable outlook on their future.

Besides the challenges faced by the corona pandemic, the majority of Generation Z expects a bright future. While many are upbeat and excited, some have indicated that their positive attitude is frequently accompanied by anxiety.

It is also worth noting that Generation Z was one of the hardest hit generations by the pandemic. The outbreak completely disturbed their social lives, and they had to learn and up-skill themselves within the four walls of the house. For more than a year, their lives had been radically altered by the pandemic.

Many students around the world were affected by the disruption to their education, which caused significant stress, worry, mental health difficulties, and financial hardship. But the beauty of human beings is that they overcome obstacles, learn from difficult experiences, and gradually develop a more courageous and hopeful mindset. In the pandemic Gen Z has learned empathy and inculcated a growing understanding for the struggles of others.

Many of them came forward to help those in need during the outbreak and also plan to volunteer for social causes in future. Self-motivation, adaptability, and emotional perseverance were some of the qualities learned after combating the pandemic. Here, Gen Z's optimism towards the future is not considered unrealistic; rather, Gen Z is known for their pragmatism. They are popularly described as "realists" and the "practical" generation as compared to the millennial.

The pandemic has also changed their outlook towards career and their expectations from it. Many youngsters under the age of 25 are evaluating their professional routes and prospects as a result of the pandemic. People have begun to value their family time and balance their work with leisure in order to



preserve a healthier and happier lifestyle after the pandemic. Gen Z now desires jobs that enable them to balance their work and personal lives.

Another new trend in Gen Z post the pandemic is that an increasing number of them are pursuing entrepreneurship. Many youngsters worldwide have expressed an interest in becoming entrepreneurs and launching their own businesses.

They aim to gain self-reliance by creating their own enterprises. Born in the digital age and having undertaken their education during a global pandemic, Generation Z is now well acquainted with technological advancements and can deal with the digital world. The majority of them returned to colleges and schools in the last year all over the world. According to studies, the opportunities they seek from educational institutions have also shifted. Now, social and extracurricular activities are also significant considerations that they examine before enrolling in an institution.

While Gen Z recognises the impact of Covid-19 on their learning, overall lifestyle, and professional opportunities, the majority of Gen Zers believe they can get past these hurdles and live the life they've planned for themselves. Generation Z is indeed set to make a stunning comeback. The pandemic's difficulties have not been able to hinder them from accomplishing their dreams.

Vandana P.
B. A (H) Journalism 3rd Year

India's Rise in the Global Arena

India has always been an important player in the global arena, but in recent years it has risen to new heights in terms of its economic and political influence. As the world continues to undergo rapid changes, India has emerged as a significant player in shaping the new world order.

The rise of India can be attributed to a number of factors, including its large population, its rapidly growing economy, its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, and its highly educated and skilled workforce. Additionally India's democracy and commitment to the rule of law have helped to attract foreign investment and establish it as a stable and reliable partner in the international community. India's economic rise has been particularly impressive in recent years. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown at an average rate of 7% per year since 2014, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world. This growth has been driven by a number of factors including a strong service sector, a growing middle class, increase in domestic income finance, and a government that has been actively pursuing economic reforms and policies aimed at attracting foreign investment. In addition to its economic rise, India has been also making significant strides in the political arena. It has been an active participant in international forums such as the United Nations the World Trade Organization, and the G20, and has been working to establish itself as a regional leader in south Asia. India's foreign policy has focused on building partnerships and alliances with other countries, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region as it seeks to play a greater role in shaping the new world order.

One of the key areas where India has been making its mark is in the realm of defence and security. India has been modernizing its armed force and developing its defence industry and has been actively involved in regional security initiatives such as the QUAD, a strategic alliance between India, United States, Japan and Australia, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). India has also been working to establish closer ties with its neighbours, particularly in Southeast Asia, in order to counterbalance China's growing influence in the region.

Another area where India has been making significant progress is in the realm of technology and innovation. India has a highly educated and skilled workforce, and has been actively investing in research and development in areas such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology and renewable energy. India's government has also been working to promote entrepreneurship and innovation through initiatives such as the start-up India program, which aims to create a supportive ecosystem for starts up and entrepreneurs.

While India's rise has been impressive, it has also faced a number of challenges and obstacles along the way. One of the biggest challenges facing India is the issue of poverty and inequality. Despite the economic growth India still has a large population living in poverty, and income inequality remains a significant issue. India's government has been working to address these issues through initiatives such as

the National Royal Employment Guarantee Act, which provides a minimum level of employment to rural households, and Pradhan Mantri Yojna, which aims to provide financial inclusion to every household in the country. Another challenge facing India is the issue of regional instability and conflict. India has faced on-going tension with its neighbour Pakistan, and has also been involved in a long-standing border dispute with China. Additionally, India has been dealing with a number of internal conflicts, including a long-standing insurgency in Kashmir and on-going violence in the north-eastern States. Despite these challenges India's rise in the global arena has been nothing short of remarkable. As the world continues to undergo rapid changes and new dynamics, rapid changes and new power dynamics emerge, India is well positioned to play a key role in shaping the new world order. Its growing economy, strong democratic institutions and strategic location make it valuable partner for countries around the world.

Md. Noor Basar
B.A (P) 2nd Year



Living in a Post-Pandemic World

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the world, both in terms of its human toll and its effects on society and the economy. As vaccines continue to be distributed and restrictions begin to ease, it is clear that the world will never be the same as it was before the pandemic. In this essay, we will explore what it means to live in a post-pandemic world, including changes in social behaviour, economic impacts, and long-term societal shifts.

One of the most significant changes in a post-pandemic world is the shift in social behaviour. Many people have become more aware of the importance of personal hygiene and sanitation, with frequent hand washing and the use of face masks becoming commonplace. Social distancing and avoiding large gatherings have also become the norm in many places, with people being cautious about their interactions with others. While some of these behaviours may relax as the pandemic recedes, it is likely that many people will continue to practice these habits to some extent.

Another major impact of the pandemic has been on the economy. Many businesses have struggled due to the lockdowns and restrictions put in place to slow the spread of the virus. Some industries, such as travel and hospitality, have been hit particularly hard, while others, such as online retail and teleconferencing, have thrived. As the world emerges from the pandemic, it is likely that there will be significant shifts in the economy, with some businesses and industries struggling to recover while others adapt to the new reality.

The pandemic has also highlighted and exacerbated existing societal issues, such as inequality and the digital divide. The pandemic has disproportionately affected low-income communities and people of colour, who are more likely to work in frontline jobs and have less access to healthcare. The shift to remote work and virtual learning has also highlighted the digital divide, with many people lacking the necessary technology and internet access to participate fully. Addressing these issues would be critical in creating a more equitable and just society in a post-pandemic world.

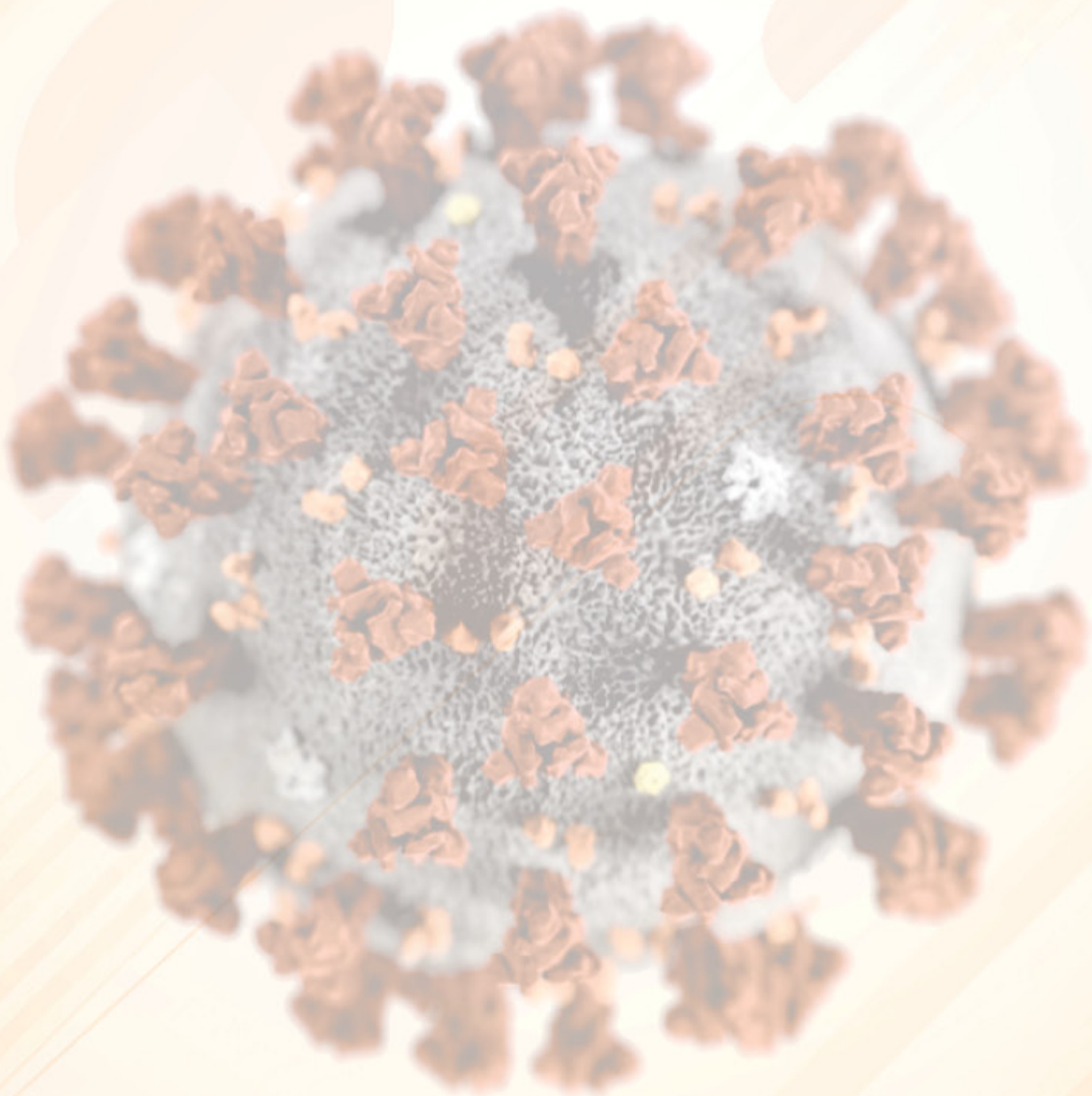
Another important aspect of a post-pandemic world is the potential for long-term societal shifts. The pandemic has forced many people to re-evaluate their priorities and the way they live their lives. For example, many people have realized the importance of spending time with loved ones, while others have reconsidered their career paths or the value of material possessions. There is also potential for societal shifts in areas such as healthcare and climate change, as people and governments recognize the importance of investing in these areas to prevent future crises.

In addition to these societal changes, the pandemic has also accelerated the adoption of technology in many areas. The shift to remote work and virtual learning has forced many organizations to adopt new technologies and tools, which are likely to persist in a post-pandemic world. The pandemic has also

spurred innovation in areas such as healthcare, with telemedicine and remote monitoring becoming more commonplace. These technological advances have the potential to improve efficiency and accessibility in many areas, but also raise concerns about privacy and the potential for job displacement.

In conclusion, living in a post-pandemic world will bring many changes and challenges, both for individuals and society as a whole. The shift in social behaviour, the impact on the economy, and the potential for long-term societal shifts will all shape the world we live in. It is up to us to use this opportunity to create a more just and equitable society, one that is better prepared for future crises and more resilient in the face of adversity. While the pandemic has been a difficult and painful experience for many, it has also presented us with an opportunity to reimagine the world we live in and build a better future.

Pratyush Singh
B. Sc. (H) Electronics 2nd Year



Healthy– Beyond the Physical

The first ever pandemic recorded in history is that of a disease similar to typhoid fever which broke out at the time of the Peloponnesian War in Athens. Historians date it to be 430 BC. Almost 2500 years and several pandemics later, another pandemic was declared by WHO.

Due to the Covid crisis, over half a million lives are officially reported to have been lost in India, many times less than the actual deaths. But we also had one of the highest recovery rates despite the consistently escalating graph of daily spike in the number of cases. Over 75 countries were aided with vaccine supply from India, apart from other medicines and help provided to many more nations. We were lauded all around the globe, and there was a definite spurt in international recognition.

In such challenging times, it was not easy for anyone to cope with the situation. Each had their own way to stay afloat. Amidst the chaos, a sudden upsurge in mental health issues was also witnessed. While lockdown and isolation were essential to avoid the approaching disease, nobody could fathom the long-term consequences of staying without schools, colleges and work for months and months. People lost their lives, their dear ones, their jobs and even their sanity.

WHO reported an increase in anxiety and depression worldwide by 25% due to Covid19. Mental health still faces neglect and rejection in our lives. It has not been able to become a part of our conversations and routines. Whereas, on one hand we do see the upcoming generation being more frank and more open to talking about mental issues, on the other, no statistics are available to confirm the increase in illness and death rates due to problems beyond the physical. This increase can be credited to a highly stressful lifestyle and a lack of time for self-care. We are collectively heading towards an excessively anxious and unmotivated population. Yet, it is not without judgement that we often look down upon people going through such setbacks. Some are accused of pretending and some are simply ignored. It is even our lack of understanding and cluelessness about what to do which adds to the scorn in our eyes when we see someone facing mental and emotional problems. Many a times, we are an indirect catalyst to their sickness.

There is no point in being cool and talk about mental health, but only mock and ridicule someone who actually goes through a related illness. In fact, the Gen-Z culture has only led to a normalisation of opting for serious terminology in regular contexts on daily basis. At one glance, it might seem appreciable to create a zone wherein one is absolutely comfortable to talk about things. However, what we fail to realise is that there is now an absence of thoughtfulness and sincerity in the way we talk about mental health.

Someone could be on the verge of losing their mental battle to life, but since anxiety and depression today are such commonly spoken of terms they would never be able to receive an extra ounce of attention. Who cares? Everyone is suddenly on the same boat. If you are struggling to cope up, I am struggling too. In fact, more than you. People in dire need of care can no longer ask for it because people obliged to help them are demanding the same for themselves.

This is just a reflection of our conditioning which makes us talk about our problems in a way which portrays them much larger than the problem of someone else, as if it is a competition. Comparison might be set aside because it is human nature to be able to look at things in quantitative measures. We have the mental agility to easily pick out which side has done the horrendous act of considering themselves as more entitled to receive a larger portion of something which we might not even have wanted in the first place. This comparison turns, amusingly, into a competition as soon as it is something about pain and suffering.

Brene Brown, a researcher who spoke about Covid-19 in the light of comparative suffering says that, "People tend to wear uncomfortable moments like a badge of honour". Even the vice versa holds true when people side-line their own issues and shove aside their pain because they feel it is not worth giving thought to when compared to someone who has it worse.

It is not often that we let high fever pass without taking care of ourselves because someone is definitely at war with cancer every day. The discrimination sits down with mental health only.

We no longer want to be left behind in the race to claim a mental health issue for ourselves. Yet, we can neither ask for help nor give any because tagging an issue or disorder with our names is what our story begins with and ends at. We might not know the full form of OCD, but we throw around the abbreviation casually to make it fit in with our enlightened personalities. We will not want to know about the intensity and types of panic attacks, but we are allowed to use the term in our description of the stress we faced for a day or two.

Normalisation of mental issues is no longer normal; it has become fashionable.

There is an urgent need to realise and accept that a change needs to be brought in. We are failing to recall that it is not only awareness which requires to be expanded, but also our actions that define any collective advancement. In our journey towards better mental health, we are beginning to digress. Providing people with succour that is due to them and stepping down from a selfish approach towards mental illness should be aimed at. If we persist with a selfish approach, it will ultimately lead to an uncaring and self-destructive society.

Garvita Singh
B.A (H) English 2nd Year

The Game Changer Year!

So, do you have that game changer year?

Well for me, it started off with 2020, when I was 18.

That urge to get things done you get to do, when you're 18. Well driving license, voting rights, moving out, being independent and what not?

It was fun, fantasising about it all as a 'lil' girl dreaming big, unless I grew big and the dream 'lil'.

Failing four times in a driving test taught me that it's no big deal. Not getting my name on the voters list reminded me that I have a long way to go. Not settling in UK for a Russell Group, taught me that's not I actually wanted. It showed me 18 was just the beginning and not the end. And I didn't know why I rushed it. Maybe someone said, if you were to die tomorrow, what would you do?

And as my dad says, things may seem perfect, but is it the best for you?

Bro, let's stop right there. Get me off your imagination. I find the pace I'm on right now pretty soothing. Definitely not comfortable, but the satisfaction that I chose what I want to meddle in and not someone else. Because I chose the role and the play I'm acting, it's the control. The control of my so-called picture-perfect life, I wanted. And now that I've got it, I feel I earned it. No plans for a revolutionary move on the table. But it's a promise to my dreams that I alone but none got to stop me. And that's what is keeping me breathing..... For a leap I might take in less than a year.

Yes, I wanted to be independent. And thanks for being so supportive. I love to wander, get lost, figure out things on my own, play hide and seek and swing from east to west. But I want you to remember, wherever I go, whatever I do, I'll be back. For sure, to bake the cake and share a bite, to say cheers to a glass of red wine, and to rest my head on your chest on Christmas Eve.

I'm bold enough to walk through hell, devils or demons or death don't scare me now. My love is above my fear. And that is what I wanted to gain. My obsession, this time I know it's right. Not because it worked out, but it changed me in a way nothing or none would have ever done. Some journeys are meant to set off late, but when it does, it feels like the right timing. Kudos to the number of people I've met. I would say with pride, that's my achievement. Not the file of certificates or the cupboard of trophies that a three judges panel marked me for. Or the countless nights of crying over failures. It was hope that helped me, of things that never existed, of people I've never imagined I would meet.

Isn't it that thing, waiting for the soldier son to return from a battle field, alive. Or is it that wish to encounter your loved one, dead and gone to be a living soul. I'm unsure of making sense, as I describe it in words. But I know for sure, it's that thing I carry while writing, that I write as if none could read them.

And that's a tip for you all, as a wise man said, the worst ever piece is the one, never written!

Milen Anugraha Paul
B. A (H) Political Science 3rd Year

Lost Loss

She was my best friend. I liked to pretend that she was. At least, she was a good friend, one of my only few. We would talk for hours sometimes and spend every possible minute together. It never occurred to me that something as regular as that would need to be remembered by me like a thing from distant past. Is it destiny? Maybe. Is everything destiny? I do not know. Is it right to put everything on destiny? Well, we did not have a choice. More than me, she did not.

This was around the time when Covid struck India. People often say- “when Covid happened...” as if it is some sort of an event. When Covid happened, lockdown made sure we did not meet our friends, remained isolated throughout. The time I spent with her became limited to phone calls and text messages. Initially, it was bearable, but soon the calls no longer came; a few messages here and there. No one would talk on a phone in this day and age of social media, anyways. It was not until one particular day that I remember it from.

Was it a Monday? I’m not sure. She told me her father was no more. It was shocking news. She had told me how he had not been very well but I could never have thought that it would end up like this. She was devastated. Can I put down someone else’s side of the story? I can only be my own teller.

She could never be the same. I tried and tried and tried. I sat with her on video calls. I pushed her to at least pass her exams. I visited her whenever I could. She must have tried too. It must have been much harder for her. She could not cope up.

Her eyes no longer gleamed. Her lips spoke fewer words each day. She gained a lot of weight and refused to eat altogether. I was losing my friend and I could not bear this loss. The questions now changed. What could I even do? I could only wait. I could never have understood her feelings. I could only empathize.

It Is a Thursday today. I like to pretend that she was my best friend. It has been more than a year since I last talked to her. I lost her to her loss. A few text messages turned into none at all. A visit evolved into the last one I ever had. She’s doing okay, I’ve heard. She has made some new friends. She has been performing fine in her college. She even looks forward to her buried dreams again.

Am I happy? Am I sad? I do not know. Is it even fair to feel anything? I do not know. Her loss was bigger than mine. Her recovery was harder than mine. I am not sure if I am allowed to complain.

I only know one thing. She was my best friend.

Garvita Singh
B.A (H) English 2nd Year

A Label is Stuck

Scaptured and caged, tied up in chains.
She glances my way,
The sickness screaming through her eyes.
She stares unblinking with those deep black
holes,
Penetrating way past my flesh,
Digging up my truth and lies.

And I look at her.
The human she is, brooding most likely.
A little lost, painfully pretty.
I smile at her; she smiles back instantly.
A soothing smile, I suppose-
A reassuring one, yet formal and supervised.
Something suppressed underneath,
Like a sudden urge to frown, but disguised.
I frown, she imitates immediately.

I let out a sigh and she imitates me again.
She's alone, I'm surrounded.
I was only a few droplets and dribble,
She was a stormy rain.

I glance around cautiously.
Am I a lunatic, making faces this way?
"You are not mistaken",
The girl seems to agree with everything I say.

"Do you know me?", I blurt out.
"Do you know me?" I hear her ask.
She resembled me,
Almost like me but without a 'mask'.
"What's that!" I shriek.
And point my finger at her forehead.
A label is stuck.
I blink and squint, 'positive' it said.

I gasp and take a step back.
Terrified, I turn, prepared to go.
Unable to walk, I fall.
Amid the crowd I sleep, swift and slow.

Garvita Singh
B. A (H) English 2nd Year

Survival

There was once a piece of land, we call it earth,
The dawn of 2020 saw a colossal wreck and
dearth.

Plagued by horrors, death, misery,
Alas! a pandemic,

To the ones we lost, memories beyond
boxes in the attic.

As I write, I shiver with trauma,
The catastrophe I saw, the unstated drama.

It spread faster than wildfire of Oceania,

And I lost my school and teen years.

But some lost their jobs, families succumbed,

Losing their beloved, with senses numbed.

And years later we come out from the abyss,

Even a walk on the grass felt like bliss.

But this decay was far from over,

The harder it struck, like roaring war-machine
it hover'd,

O'er our heads under quarantine, covered,

And once again we are out, in disbelief and
doubt.

So, I pinched myself and tried to recall,

"Was it over, was that all?"

With scepticism I quivered,

Online classes, felt mis-steered.

And after a while, are we really back?

What they lost were put in images on rack.

Everyone seems to be back in the bustle,

Is it the silence before the rustle?

With the lessons we learned, can we act?

Rather than counting the casualties in fact.

With whatever predicament we faced,

We survived, for we were blessed.

It feels so different to be alive and feel yet so lost,

We survived, but at sanity's cost.

Even survival now seems absurd,

For it's the living in the post-pandemic world.

Akanksha Tiwari
B. A. (H) English 2nd Year



Humans Found

We are the people obsessed with the colour Black

The 10 year old says, "I don't like when people don't ask my favourite colour, they assume it's pink"

The boy whose favourite colour actually is "pink" is too scared that people might ask about it

We are the people who love sunflowers and cakes and coffees and guitar and rains

When exactly did we stop waving at a plane?

Or being fascinated by the very idea of how something
so big can actually just fit in between a finger and a thumb

We are the people who crave gossip and loyalty at the same time

Maybe friendship is just a combination of sorrys and thank yous

We have names, surnames, caste, class, age, race, gender, religion, nationality

And yet, when finally aliens will find traces of us

The headlines in their planet will read just "HUMANS FOUND"

Do you remember the butterflies in your stomach when we were on a giant wheel?

I wonder where they flew away

We are the people with same hearts trying to match the rhythm of a drum

We dance, dance like no one's watching but if someone is watching we don't

So the mirror is the only audience we are known to

And these walls, these are the only four friends we have

But we want to be friends with the sky

Because we have aspirations of travelling the world with a backpack and the eyes of a child
Do you remember entering a shop knowing all the things you can ever wish for were right
in front of you?

The chips, the chocolates, the crayons

We are the people made out of metaphors and question marks

But we are not a question

Not the answer

We are bones and flesh

Sweat and blood

Dipped in Paradox

We are made for window seats

We fight over political beliefs

We like to pit one God against the other

We measure beauty by cheek bones and jawline but write
love poems on somebody's eyes, bones or smile

We did dream about dancing in the rain

Call us insane

We are the people too cryptic to define or explain

Ishani Chauhan
B.A (H) English 2nd Year



Higher Education

Higher education, a path to the sky,
With challenges that make us wonder why.

A pursuit of knowledge,
a quest for truth,
Yet hurdles to overcome from our youth.

The cost of tuition,
a burden to bear,
A mountain of debt,
a constant scare.
Degrees and diplomas,
a measure of success,
But is it worth it when it brings us distress?

The competition is fierce,
the bar set high,
A race to the top,
with no time to lie.

The pressure to perform,
the fear to fail,
The anxiety of exams,
a never-ending tale.
The lack of resources,

a struggle to cope,
A system that's broken,
with no room for hope.
The biases and prejudices,
a wall to climb,
The inequality and injustice,
a mountain to define.

But despite the challenges,
we push ahead,
With a determination,
A fire to be fed.

We strive for excellence,
We seek to thrive,
We overcome obstacles,
We come alive.

Higher education,
A journey to embrace,
With challenges that make us stronger,
in this race.

For in the end,
it's not just a degree we gain.

Jyotirmoy Das
B. Sc. (Physical Science) 1st Year

Emerging from Isolation

We emerge from isolation,
With cautious steps and hopeful hearts,
Into a world forever changed,
As we take our first uncertain starts.

The streets are bustling once again,
But the air is different now,
We wear our masks and keep our distance,
With a new-found sense of how.

The world is still a wondrous place,
But we approach it with new eyes,
We appreciate the little things,
And cherish every sunrise.

The simple joy of human touch,
Is now a precious thing indeed,
And we hold our loved ones tighter,
With a new-found sense of need.

Our days are filled with hope and fear,
As we navigate this unknown realm,
But we face each challenge head on,
With a new-found sense of helm.

For we have learned resilience,
And we have learned to adapt,
And in this post-pandemic world,
We know we will overcome and surpass.

So let us move forward with courage,
And with kindness in our hearts,
For though the world may be different,
We know we can make a fresh start.

Pratyush Singh
B. Sc. (H) Electronics 2nd Year

I surrendered!



When the last leaf,
painted the ground in green;
And the winter birds,
Returned to their kin.
When the sun diminished,
Into the distance,
The jasmine flaunting,
It's white.

I surrendered.
The crafter of my dreams,
The weaver of my needs.
Tightly knit the deeds,
To write what it means.

I surrendered!
To the echoes of my beats,
Through the vein, in pain,
The song of life,
Slashing me with a knife.

I surrendered.
To the lullabies of,
the unknown world;
To the stories of,
people in mould.
In the jail of my desires,
Waiting for a bail.

A prisoner of my thoughts!
I surrendered.
A sailor, she is!
The salt sea is her world,
Yet, she flows,
Through the fresh waters.
Washing the stains of her past.

I surrendered.
To the smoke of nostalgia,
That choked my memories,
In the winters of freedom.
Obscure - The sun, like my hope.
I surrendered, to my wounds.

Like a Caterpillar, unveil
Vulnerable! I feel.
For my thoughts, naked.
I surrendered.
To the clutches,
Of my subconscious,
With the rays of wisdom,
Summer springs from conscious.
I SURRENDERED,
To my inner self.

Milen Anugraha Paul
B. A (H) Political Science 3rd Year

Movie Review: RRR



The rockstar director of Telugu films, S.S. Rajamouli just keeps giving one mega-blockbuster after another. His latest film *RRR* (2022) has also become a world-wide sensation, winning in the category of 'Best Foreign Language Film' and 'Best Original Song' for 'Naatu Naatu' at the Critics' Choice Awards, and then going on to win an Academy Award (Oscar) for Best Song. While the Indian audiences have been on a contemporary streak with Bollywood movies of late, *RRR*, a Telugu film, is yet another statement that Indian cinema is not defined by Bollywood alone. It is a classic Indian movie not just in terms of the cast where you see actors like Ajay Devgan and Alia Bhatt but all the elements that are peculiar to an Indian movie, that is, the colours, the patriotism, the fights, the romance, the brotherhood, the energy, a complete package. The movie offers variety- in its setting and plot it is historical fiction, but it is also fantastical as you see exaggerated scenes, a romance as you have a recreation of 'Ram- Seetha' and an English woman falling for a local. Indian movies have the history of working several genres in one movie like Rohit Shetty's *Dilwale* that is equally an action movie as it is a romance and a comedy, and *RRR* rises as a perfect example of this versatility.

The movie is visually pleasing and lucid, its organisation and presentation is remarkable considering the length of the movie. *RRR* stands for 'Rise, Revolt and Roar'. Ram is the character that rises in position and gets closer to his goal, Bheema is the character who has started a revolt to rescue Malli, and together they roar against the British empire; it is the genius of Rajamouli which has managed to balance the presence of the two big names of the Tollywood industry in this movie. You might like NTR Jr's Bheema more than Ram Charan's Ram seeing how he endures the brutal beating by him, but Ram's character arc of a hidden motive doesn't fail to impress, the passionate acting of the two is one of the factors adding to

the movie's success. The plot itself makes room for grandeur in the movie, it is a recreation of India under the British Empire and a spectacle of the scenic beauty of rural India.

You would find a brown aesthetic in the shots, and an extensive use of green, the dull pastel colours that the British wear and carry in their atmosphere seems to have been specifically used for the purpose of laying the contrast - that the British can't contemplate Indians' close association with their land and nature. There are examples of masterful shot compositions like when there is a protest for Lala Lajpat Rai, and Ram has just beaten up some of the protesters. A close up of his eyes depicts what he witnesses, then cuts to his being in a police uniform. It is a true example of storytelling collaborating with the visuals of cinematography and editing. He can empathise with the protesters but he is obliged to compose himself. There is another artful shot taken through a fence, where on one side Bheema is looking at the palace and Ram at the Barrack, how both are so close to one another and yet unaware of each other's motives. It is a movie like this one that tells us what an art cinema is, that you're not just taken aback by the turns and twists in the story but also the visuals before you.

Rajamouli is known for the grandeur in his movies; this grandeur is a work of passionate acting, CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) that doesn't fail to appear realistic, impactful cinematography along with storytelling. The thought of a man countering a tiger surely feels unreal, but in this fictional world where the natives refer to their land as 'mother' and cherish life in all its forms, you can't resist associating this surreal act to the strength, emotions and passion of the character. It is the same with other seemingly absurd shots like the rescue scene of a kid in a very complicated and athletic manner, and almost all fight scenes where Bheema and Ram take on mobs of men and come out triumphant. Despite all this grandeur, the attention to detail by Rajamouli is marvellous, an example of which we see in the shot where Bheema is beaten publicly and his knees are put in focus a number of times as he refuses to bend the knee in any condition. There are more such examples like the blade skilfully passed to Bheema to get rid of the ropes, the value of an English bullet and the governor's wife's obsession with seeing the Indians bleed. In the end she's shown dead, completely covered in blood.

It has been the way of Indian cinema that songs enter the picture out of nowhere, but *RRR* is an exception in this case as the 'Naatu Naatu' performance is probably the shot that carries the most weight of the message that the movie wishes to convey. A drummer pumping the Indian performers, the Indians challenging the British men to attempt to dance like them - that is how a narrative of the colonised standing up to the colonisers is set. It is a shared history, and that is probably one of the main reasons why it is gaining global attention. The movie has managed to serve almost all types of audience's interest - it has tribal representation in NTR Jr's Gond, the same character disguises himself as a Muslim; Ramayana is recreated and redefined as NTR Jr. as Hanuman is out to get Ram out of the confinement for his eventual triumph and union with Seetha.

To sum it up, it becomes crucial to appreciate this movie even though it did not manage to secure an Oscar nomination for the 'Best Foreign Film'. But 'Naatu Naatu' winning in the category of 'Best Original Song' at the Academy is one of the many steps Indian cinema will be taking towards leading the Indian style of cinema to more global appreciation than it already receives. We need to look at it in terms of the break-through this movie has brought to Indian cinema that its predecessors could not. Before judging it as a contender amongst global movies, we need to see it in the context of Indian cinema, only then would we realise what an achievement *RRR* truly is.

Sakshi Rathore
B. A (H) English 2nd Year

Movie Review: *Chhello Show*

Written and directed by Pan Nalin (Nalin Arvind Kumar Pandya), *Chhello Show* (The Last Show) is a low-budget Gujarati film which premiered on 10 June 2021 at the 20th Tribeca Film Festival, and was released in Indian theatres on 14 October 2022. The film was formally chosen by the Film Federation of India to represent India at the 95th Academy Awards (Oscar) leaving behind S.S Rajamouli's *RRR* which was the frontrunner for the Oscar nomination. The movie stars Bhavin Rabari, Richa Meena, Bhavesh Shrimali, Paresh Mehta and Dipen Raval. Rabari's performance as Samay, the protagonist is flawless.

The film revolves around the story of a 9-year-old boy named Samay who lives in a small village in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. His father runs a tea stall near a railway station (Chilala) and he helps him by selling tea. His father once takes him to a cinema hall named Galaxy to watch his first and last film show. His father doesn't want him to watch movies as he believes that cinema is not for decent people and that it is against their culture. But that one movie show mesmerizes the young boy and he gets fascinated with cinema. He then begins to watch films secretly at the theatre without his father's knowledge. Gradually, he gets so fascinated with the cinematic world that he decides to become a filmmaker.

While watching movies, Samay becomes friends with Fazal, the projectionist of the cinema hall. In exchange for Samay's lunch box, Fazal allows him to watch films for free from inside the projector room. There he gathers knowledge about how stories become light, and how light becomes film. He then imparts this knowledge to his friends and they together create cinema on their own. It blew my mind when I saw how a nine-year-old boy makes a projector even though he has no facilities at all. This shows his passion and determination to become a filmmaker. *Chhello Show* is somewhere inspired by the life of Nalin, who was interested in cinema more than studies. Nalin described the project as "very intimate and organic" because he chose to shoot in his home district of Saurashtra.

The movie, shot at 24 frames per second (fps), is a fantastic example of cinematography. The selection of shots is commendable. Each and every shot is unique in its own way: the close-up shots while he watches the movies that capture his expressions; shots of delicious food (especially dal dhokali) that his



mother makes; the spices she uses, the techniques, the vessels, the boiling oil and the packing depicts fine details. Swapnil S. Sonawane has beautifully captured minute details like telling a story with the help of colourful matchboxes and shots through the pieces of glass bottles of different colours. Low-key lighting has been used while the family has dinner together. Long shots have also been used to establish the tone and geographical understanding of the story, the plot and troubles of the character. These long shots contribute significantly to the world building of the film.

Despite the fact that it is a Gujarati film, the 'Hindi audience' does not find it strange. The distinction is barely visible. The film also has 'Bollywood Approach' as there are non-diegetic sounds of the song, *Chhora Kamal Hai* playing in the background and also the sound of the train. Diegetic sound include Samay's scream when he witnesses the reels being destroyed. This is significant because music establishes the tone and feel of the film which is why it is one of the most important elements of the film.

A few small but important details are included by Nalin to highlight the diversity of Indian cinema, and to unite caste, class, religion, and community. One such detail is the touching friendship between Samay, a poor upper-caste Hindu child and his equally poor Muslim friend, Fazal, the projectionist. He gets him a job at the railway station when Fazal loses his job after modern machines replace the old ones for the screening of films in the theatre.

This also depicts the struggle of people who have lost their jobs due to digitalization, and highlights the ending of single-screen cinema in India. This gives it a unique perspective and adds depth to the story. As the old film reels are dumped and converted into bangles, we can see the emotions through Samay's expressions.

The rural setting of the film and the poverty of the family depicts the struggle the characters are going through. There is a lack of facilities but still, the boy doesn't give up as he is determined, focused, and passionate about his dream. Samay's father eventually believes in his son and encourages him to leave the village to pursue his dreams. Some scenes in the film stand out. It is amazing how Samay and his friends, after facing a lot of obstacles, somehow manage to project a movie on his mother's white saree with the help of a sewing machine, and then also produce sound through voiceover. A scene where Samay and his friends try to catch the light so that they can use it in projecting the film depicts their innocence. After all, kids are kids.

The editing and direction is particularly powerful and moving, leaving a lasting impression. The script is fascinating and depicts the sincerity towards the moving culture of cinema. The scene themselves speak more than the dialogues. There has also been some discussion about how similar this film was to another Oscar-winning film, *Cinema Paradiso* (1988). However, apart from the friendship between Samay and Fazal, which is similar to the friendship between Toto and Alfredo, the films are distinct from each other. Cultures, eras, geographical strata, and narratives are all distinct. The title of the movie is justified through the story as the protagonist's first and last film show become the reason for his curiosity to know more about light, and he discovers his passion to become a filmmaker. It is a must-watch film that will drive you through the magic of cinema.

Riddhima Kapoor
B.A (H) English 2nd Year

Book Review: *The Alchemist*

The Alchemist, written by Paulo Coelho, is a book that has touched the hearts and minds of millions of readers worldwide. Originally published in Portuguese in 1988, this book has become a modern classic, selling over 65 million copies and translated into 80 languages. *The Alchemist* is an timeless tale of self-discovery, following the journey of a shepherd boy named Santiago as he embarks on a quest to fulfil his dreams and find his purpose in life.

The story begins with Santiago, the young shepherd in Andalusia, who has a recurring dream about a treasure hidden in the Egyptian pyramids. Curious and intrigued by his dream, Santiago sets out on a journey to fulfil his destiny and find the treasure. Along the way, he meets a series of characters who teach him valuable life lessons and help him discover the true meaning of his journey.

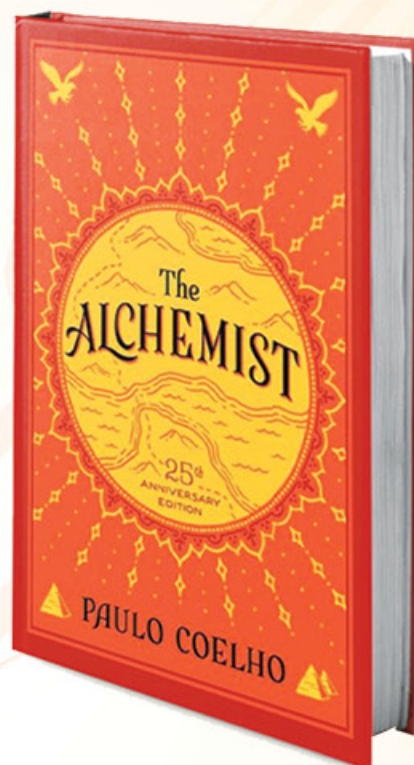
Throughout the book, Coelho explores themes of self-discovery, personal growth, and the power of the universe to guide us towards our destiny. *The Alchemist* encourages readers to follow their dreams, take risks, and believe in the power of the universe to help guide us towards our true purpose in life.

One of the most compelling aspects of *The Alchemist* is Coelho's use of symbolism to convey deeper meanings throughout the story. For instance, the recurring theme of alchemy represents the process of transformation and the journey towards self-discovery. *The Alchemist*, who Santiago meets on his journey, represents the guide who helps transform and discover the true purpose of life of the protagonist.

Another powerful symbol in the book is the concept of the Personal Legend. The Personal Legend is our individual destiny- the things that we are meant to do in life. Coelho teaches that our Personal Legend is not something that we can choose, but rather something that chooses us. Santiago's journey is a reflection of this idea as he discovers that his destiny is not to be a shepherd, but rather to pursue his dream of finding the treasure in the Egyptian pyramids.

The Alchemist emphasizes the importance of listening to our hearts and following our intuition. Throughout the story, Santiago is guided by a series of omens, or signs from the universe, that help him on his journey. Coelho teaches that by listening to our hearts and paying attention to the signs around us, we can unlock the power of the universe to guide us towards our true purpose in life.

One of the most memorable characters in the book is *The Alchemist* himself. He teaches Santiago about



the process of alchemy, the process of transforming something ordinary into something extraordinary. *The Alchemist* encourages Santiago to listen to his heart and follow his dreams, and helps him overcome the obstacles that stand in his way. *The Alchemist*'s wisdom and guidance is a reflection of the power of a mentor or guide to help us unlock our full potential and discover our true purpose in life.

Another compelling aspect of *The Alchemist* is Coelho's exploration of the concept of fear and the role that it plays in our lives. Santiago faces many obstacles and challenges on his journey, but it is his fear that holds him back the most. Coelho teaches that fear is often the biggest obstacle that stands in the way of our dreams, and encourages readers to confront their fears and take risks in pursuit of their goals.

Overall, *The Alchemist* is a beautifully written book that inspires readers to pursue their dreams, follow their hearts, and discover the true meaning of their lives. Coelho's use of symbolism, powerful storytelling, and universal themes make this book a must-read for anyone on a journey of self-discovery and personal growth. It is a book that will stay with readers long after they have finished reading it, and is a true modern classic that deserves its place among the greatest works of literature.

Pratyush Singh
B.Sc. (H) Electronics 2nd Year



Crossroads

I

With a sudden rush of panic, I realised I had no idea where I was. Just before, I was in a crowded classroom. The teacher had called me for the submission of the career form. I got up. And when I stood, I was at this abandoned intersection in the middle of a concrete jungle! The skyscrapers took over the class walls. The granite flooring turned coal-tarred. It took me a minute to understand and as I did, I started running forward, shouting, 'Hello ... Anyone!' I saw a house, I banged on its door. There was no response. I kept running straight past the buildings and intersections but they never ended. All I could hear was my voice breaking off the skyscrapers. My breathing became coarse and the echoes quieter. I finally stopped when I passed the same house twice. The buildings are not ending, they are repeating. I am stuck in a loop.

I sat down right at the crossroad; my breath was too short to go on any longer. The intersection wasn't extraordinarily clean. The paint of the road signs had worn off. That house is on the left from here. It has a porch. The wooden structure is a sore thumb in this concrete jungle, inserted between the high-rises. The sun was over me. The pavement became too hot to sit on any longer. I moved to the porch. From here I saw skid marks on the road but till now I have not seen a single car here, parked or moving. Neither have I heard a single chirp or bark. It is quiet. Unlike at the crowded class where the noise ate up my voice, here I have to only listen to me. No need to decide on what others want. I am starting to like it here, maybe I'll stay. It reminds me of my grandma's place. Just the emptiness of peace. It got to me.

'What's this "career form"?'

'It's a survey for what we want to do after graduation.'

'And you ... ?'

'I don't know.'

'Why? You're in the final year. Don't all your friends talk about this?'

'Who talks about that stuff in online class. Anyhow, they have it all sorted out.'

'Why not you? Oh, I know – Corona. You know Corona isn't the answer to all the world's problems.'

My face spoke of an inner anger that my words did not. A confusion that I do not understand myself. This was the thing about my grandma, she understood. When she used to see me like this, she'd change her stance altogether.

‘So what, they know and you don’t. What to do in life is something I did not understand till I was actually doing it for 2 years. Things like these take time ... stay and look back at what you like. Try out different things. So, anything you like in college?’

‘No’

Now I could see her outer anger reaching for her cane. Before she could lift her stick up, I sprang away. Weird thing to remember when stuck like this. My grandma, she passed away. She passed away when everyone thought Corona had gone. Every place was opening back. Full capacity. College did too. And I left. This empty quietness is too much like that. All I can hear is just me.

II

Now I walked with calm steps, looking around. I took the left turn from the intersection, walked and the intersection was in front of me with the house ahead. I looked up at the worn out road signs and squinted to make out what it said and saw more rust over it than letters. I turned right, moved forward and was back at the intersection.

I move forward from anywhere and it always leads me back to the intersection. My reference point, the house, repeats from taking any of the crossroads. The sun is setting but it was when I came here. This means that time is moving forward while I am the only one stuck in the loop of coming back to the same crossroad.

I don’t know what to do next. Seeing the directionless road signs again and again, the crossroad asking me to pick again and again. I ran away from the intersection, passed the house and was back at the crossroad. In whatever direction I move, I come back to square one. I just can’t move forward!

‘So what, ... things like these take time. There is no clear direction, no one path. No one to show where to go. Times like these, stay, look back and –’

This silent intersection, in the middle of an abandoned city, where I hear no one else. Where a house follows me. Where the directions have faded. Where the same crossroads come at each turn. I stood up and moved forward aimlessly trying to run away from the crossroad. A memory filled me with courage. I can’t make up my mind. Not even now. I don’t know what I will do if I go back. I know my career form will still be blank and I would have to choose a path. But first I will stay and look back. I won’t run forward. I’ll move back. I’ll turn around. The house will be at my back. The setting sun will be behind me. And so, I closed my eyes and ran towards the crossroads, finally passing the house behind.

Dhruv Rahal

B. A (Prog.) 3rd Year

Haze of Grief

Memories are tough. Very often, they hurt. All those foundational years that made you who you are, makes it so painful to look back that you must invent an entirely new system.

The bright sunshine poured through the curtains with a subtle wind flowing through the stone cladded windows. Anahita woke up with a jolt. She rubbed her wary eyes and adjusted to the blinding light. Another day. Another nightmare. Gradually she was getting used to these nightmares in the post-pandemic world.

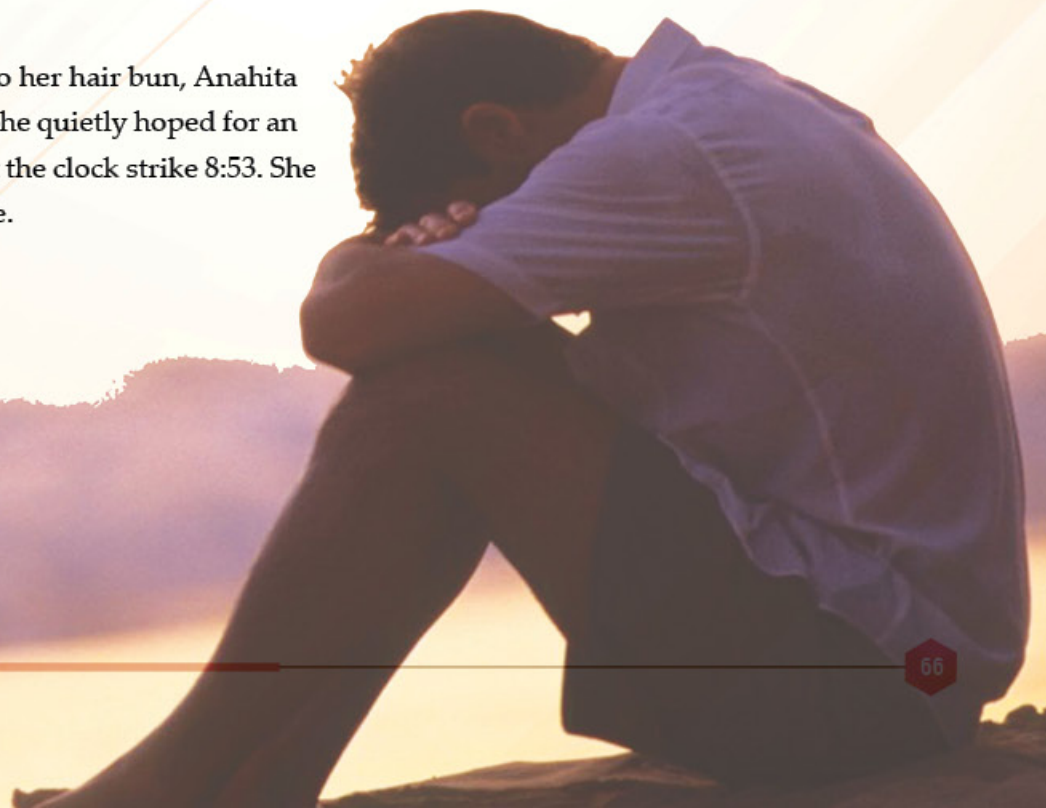
She made a strong cup of coffee and a crisp French toast baked fresh out of the oven that looked inviting. She smiled to herself. A very good morning indeed.

She often wondered about the dynamics of how the world works in mysterious ways. The past three years since Covid hit had been Anahita's own personal hell. She lost her family in the pandemic. She was alone now. It took some time to adjust but finally she was okay. Everything from the past three months had been delightful and something she would want to last long.

Nothing could go wrong, she thought to herself. But you only see the tsunami when you see the fast approaching tidal wave. She wasn't ready for the wave... and definitely not for what was about to come next.

Finishing her toast with the last sip of her coffee, Anahita took out her freshly ironed uniform from her closet. She brushed the shiny gold plated stars on her shoulder, and a silver badge with the words Anahita Sethi on her left chest pocket. Anahita had always been too critical of her self. Even when she was the youngest detective ever to crack a case in under a week, she wouldn't give her self enough credit. It was something in her, an innate drive that made her more ambitious.

With some final touches to her hair bun, Anahita was ready to leave for work. She quietly hoped for an easy case today. She looked at the clock strike 8:53. She was definitely going to be late.



The Duty Officer was going to have her run for coffee duty today. She hurriedly picked up her bag, her sandwich and what was it that she was forgetting? Oh right! Her watch. She stumbled on the bedside drawer and scrambled through the mess to find her watch. Something shiny struck hereye, a round gold plated earring. She sat back down, clutching those earrings tightly in her hands. Flashbacks flooded her mind in an instant.

A cold sunny day in January 2020. Anahita had just been promoted to Junior Detective. Coming back home, she looked forward to the warm hug from her mother, a proud pat on the back from her father and an excited shriek from her whimsical younger sister. She found the living room decorated from ceiling to floor. A banner which read "congratulations" in bold italics hung from the window frame. All three of them awaited her arrival. Her mother had something in her hand wrapped up in neat pink wrapping paper. "We're so proud of you", she said, revealing a velvet box containing a pair of gold plated earrings.

Her blizzard of thoughts was sharply interrupted by her phone ringtone.

"Yes, I'm on my way". She wiped off a tear that had rolled down, put her thoughts aside and scurried off closing the drawer. She was focused on getting to work now.

The hustle bustle of the investigation department, papers printing, pens clicking, hushed tones of detectives working on the newest case, were all music to Anahita. She loved her job, and more importantly how it brought justice to those who suffered. She sat at her desk, keeping her bag aside and logging into her computer. Anticipating the newest case assigned to her, she glanced across the screen.

With a slight knock, the door to her office was wide open. In came Officer Bakshi, a man who had always been like a father figure for Anahita as well as her biggest mentor. She greeted Officer Bakshi with a good morning and received an ever so slight head-nod in return.

"How can I help you, Officer?" Anahita chirped with a genuine smile on her face.

"It's about a case. That case."

Anahita's smile dropped almost instantly.

"What about it, Officer?"

"Well, we require your help. It's gotten a little out of hand now."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean- we found another evidence".

A sinking feeling weighed down on her chest. A feeling she knew all too well. There was a recent case that had taken the department by storm. Many detectives had racked their brains, trying to even get a thread of evidence, but always ended up nowhere. Anahita was always the first to volunteer for more cases and ended up cracking almost all of them. But the one thing she specifically asked Officer Bakshi to never assign her were cases related to the pandemic. She had a past she didn't want to delve in.

"Officer Bakshi, I had already told you, I didn't want to get involved in-"

"I know what you said. I wouldn't have asked if I didn't desperately need your help. You have away of doing things and I know I can trust you with this."

With a sigh, she nodded her head. It was time she faced it.

"How can I help?"

She looked through the case files. It was natural how much she could relate to a child whose parents are missing. The child was currently in the hospital since he was covid positive with no other guardian by his side. It was a case that hit too close to home for her. She could relate to how alone, lost and tired the child must have been feeling. The paradox of trauma is that it has both the power to destroy and the power to transform and resurrect. Anahita thought about this long and hard. She couldn't let her trauma rob a child of finding his home, his comfort. She had to step up, face her traumas and find his parents.

Officer Bakshi led Anahita to a room filled with people working with the forensic evidence. He updated her with the latest information on the case. She took a long breath and looked at the recent findings, suspects and most importantly where the case was currently at. She talked to some of the detectives and their observations. She had always been a detective who viewed things from every angle. This is what made her a master of her craft. She decided she wouldn't back down now. She would reach to the bottom of it even if it meant addressing her worst fears.

There had been a time, many months ago, when she had entombed herself in a world full of inconsistency. But this was different. This was a matter of life and death.

Days passed. Weeks had gone by. Anahita was in a bind. How could something as simple as a missing case get so complicated. She had been working at odd hours, never leaving her desk, constantly questioning witnesses and suspects. She had come very close to solving the case. Almost done more than the department combined but she still felt like she might have been missing an element. One fine afternoon, the element presented itself.

She had already interacted with the neighbours and got to know that Mr. and Mrs. Burman, the missing parents, had always been aloof of sorts. They had been very paranoid, and something about them had been unsettling. Anahita promptly instructed them to contact the department if they received any information or saw anything suspicious. It was like her wish had come true.

Suddenly the phone beside Anahita's desk blared with a deafening sound. It was the sound of hope. The hope that this might be the call that does it for them.

"Good afternoon, Is this Detective Anahita?"

"Yes this is her." she exclaimed in anticipation.

"I'm Mr Shekhar, the family's neighbour."

"Yes Mr Shekhar, I am glad you called. Anything you have for us?"

"This might sound a little weird but I just saw somebody entering their house that has been locked for months now." he said with hesitation in his voice.

"Alright, that information helps us a lot but may I ask what is weird about it?" Anahita said, scribbling down in her little notepad.

"Because I think it was them. The missing parents."

Anahita stopped writing. Her mind went blank.

"Are you sure Mr. Shekhar that you saw them? Mr and Mrs Burman?"

"I wouldn't say I'm completely sure, but I did see it was them."

Anahita was at a loss of words. Her mind raced with questions but there was only one way to find out the answers.

"Thank you Mr. Shekhar, we will be there in 15 mins."

The police sirens filled the streets as the sunset gradually went over the horizon. With doubts in their mind and eyes on the road, the officers were finally about to find out the reason behind their sleepless nights. They arrived at the location shortly after the phone call. The door to the house was wide open, no signs of forced entry. The detectives along with the officers quietly entered the house with guns ready and Anahita leading them. There was a faint shuffling sound from the last room. Anahita gestured with her hand and the officers moved to their positions. She crept up to the door and quietly pushed it open. There were Mr and Mrs Burman stuffing items in their bags. They froze in mid-air, looking at the number of officers in their house.

"I am sure you must have a good explanation for this." Anahita lowered her gun and sat in the nearest chair. Everyone was as perplexed as she was..

The Burmans admitted how they had purposely abandoned their child and left since they couldn't take care of him anymore and his recovery from covid wasn't about to happen anytime soon. They knew what they were doing and didn't feel guilty about their actions. Some officers scoffed at their justification.

But it made sense. They had always been working around a missing person's case. But it wasn't a missing persons' case at all. How can you find someone who doesn't want to be found?

It was surprising how the parents had abandoned their own child. Anahita walked out of the room with an uncomfortable feeling. She empathized with the child but you can't compare the feeling of abandonment. The officers took the parents under custody and the case was wrapped up. The parents were booked under IPC section 317 and would further be charged with negligence.

The child had been swiftly recovering. Officer Bakshi and the department had planned on enrolling the boy into foster care. That way, they would ensure he was taken care of.

It was a bright morning for Anahita the week after. She got up early, content that the case had been solved, but still not at peace. She ironed her uniform, about to embark on yet another case and made her breakfast all the while feeling like something was missing. Still not at peace, she locked the door behind her and left for work. Love often leads to healing, while fear and isolation breeds illness. And our biggest fear is abandonment. The sun would never abandon the moon to darkness.

On the drive home she decided to make a stop. She reached the destination and parked her car. Moving towards the building she looked up at the board "Joyce Foster Care". She took a peaceful sigh.

Aditi Mishra
BBE 2nd year

Tilly – ‘Guardian of the Forest’

Once upon a time, in a world beyond our own, there existed a magical forest unlike any other. This forest was home to creatures of all shapes and sizes, from fairies and unicorns to dragons and giants. Among them was a small, unassuming creature named Tilly.

Tilly was a fairy, with delicate wings and a sweet, gentle voice. She lived in a tiny flower near the edge of the forest and spent her days flitting from flower to flower, singing songs and spreading joy wherever she went.

One day, while Tilly was flying through the forest, she stumbled upon a group of fairies who were huddled together, whispering excitedly. When Tilly approached them, they eagerly told her about a new arrival in the forest – a powerful sorceress who had come to claim the land as her own.

The fairies were frightened, for they knew that the sorceress was not to be trifled with. They begged Tilly to help them, and although she was scared, she knew she couldn't let her friends down. So, she took a deep breath, puffed up her chest, and flew off to face the sorceress.

As she flew deeper into the forest, Tilly's heart pounded in her chest. She had never faced such a powerful foe before and wasn't sure if she was up to the task. But as she approached the sorceress, she felt a strange sensation wash over her – a feeling of power and strength she had never known before.

Without thinking, Tilly began to sing a soft, melodic tune. The sorceress, who had been preparing to cast a spell, paused and looked up in surprise. As Tilly continued to sing, her voice grew stronger and more powerful, filling the forest with a magical energy that hummed in the air.

The sorceress tried to cast her spell again, but Tilly's singing disrupted her concentration, causing the spell to fizzle out. In frustration, the sorceress summoned a bolt of lightning and aimed it at Tilly. But just as the lightning was about to strike, Tilly's wings began to glow with a bright, golden light. The light grew brighter and brighter until it engulfed the entire forest. When the light faded, Tilly found herself hovering in the air, her wings pulsing with energy. The sorceress was nowhere to be seen, and the forest was bathed in a soft, golden glow.

From that day onwards, Tilly was known as the Guardian of the Forest. She had found a power within herself that she never knew existed and had used it to protect her home and her friends. And although she knew there would always be challenges ahead, she was ready to face them head-on, knowing that her inner strength would always guide her.

Divyam
B.Sc. (Phy. Sc.) 2nd Year

OFF-THE-CLIFF-IN-SLOW-MOTION: COVID CHRONICLES

February:

And we sing
coz it's spring
feeling feline, betting on lives nine
with all the grace of leaping leopards
clutching our sheepskins exploding at seams
mid-air, confident of landing on our feet
... yet to hit ground zero.

March:

The evil that men do and are.
Formally anointed, unhinged and un-reined.
Children stare through their masks.
Eyes rolling in lolling heads,
as fathers weep.
A shaky caterwaul denounces the
measure of rationed bread.
Her baby cannot chew.
Elsewhere, across a cobbled street
the day's supply of milk seeps through the
cracks: no curfew passes today.

April:

God be with you till we meet again.
If and when; but until then;
vacate, begone!
Don't eat, don't speak, sure as hell don't breathe.
Disappear quietly
like legions of lost souls willingly
drowning in infernos.

No more decapitated ghosts chasing
the wrong trains.

We don't need the bad press.

May:

Summer suns beat down
On your torn up on tracks.
As you break down on lonely bridges,
hoping to survive the horror of days ahead.
Footprints: shoeless, soleless, signed in
blood, erased by grit and grime:
Will be a story for another time.

June:

Contagion gets collective gets personal.
Hell, it doesn't even wait
for the poor to return and contaminate.
Shopping furiously for cans, cylinders,
concentrators
the lucky ones mourn deaths twice removed.
The naked and dying don't haunt their
nightmares
The dead, denied, will wait forever.
Not mentioned even on community support
groups.
No point scaring the living.

July:

Hospitals actually spit out in tact
(from time to time)
some of those brick-walled in Covid wards

Who would've thought!

Hopscotching through interminable scares
Of crumbling homes and melting crematoriums.

And the marvel of those going unscathed
Without a single mask through all the waves.

August:

Big data imaging
shows us flaming red turning maroon turning
black.

Full blown, we stop tracking.

What will be, will be.

The bell curve balloons and explodes.
Curves peep o'er curves, graphs on graphs rise.
The dead clog everything, it's embarrassing,
but that's all right.

After all, we couldn't run out of the living
if we tried.

September:

"Let bygones be bygones

Look at all that was done!

Or go figure the figures

With those whining truth seekers
and truth keepers

So much... yet never enough

(Your thanklessness is appalling.)"

The ground erupts--then settles beneath
our feet:

Just as we come to our knees.

Not an extinction level event: could be
a lot worse.

But how dare we?

How dare we disturb the universe?

Dr. Anu Jaidev

Associate Professor, Dept. of English



हिंदी खंड अग्रणिका 2023



उच्च शिक्षा में परिवर्तन और चुनौतियाँ

परिचय, उच्च शिक्षा व्यक्तिगत विकास और सामाजिक प्रगति का एक अनिवार्य पहलू है। हाल के वर्षों में, उच्च शिक्षा की दुनिया ने कई बदलावों और चुनौतियों का अनुभव किया है।

प्रौद्योगिकी, वैश्वीकरण, और सामाजिक और आर्थिक परिवर्तनों की प्रगति के साथ, उच्च शिक्षा नई और जटिल चुनौतियों का सामना करती है। यह निबंध उच्च शिक्षा में चुनौतियों और परिवर्तनों की जांच करता है और चर्चा करता है कि कैसे इन चुनौतियों का समाधान किया जा सकता है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान, छात्रों को सर्वोत्तम शिक्षण अनुभव प्रदान करते रहें।

शिक्षा उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के सामने सबसे बड़ी चुनौतियों में से एक अनुदान है। उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान सरकारों, ट्यूशन फीस और परोपकारी दान सहित विभिन्न स्रोतों से वित्त पोषण पर भरोसा करते हैं। हालांकि, हाल के वर्षों में उच्च शिक्षा के लिए सरकारी अनुदान में कमी आई है, और संस्थान अपनी जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं। ट्यूशन फीस की बढ़ती लागत ने उच्च शिक्षा की पहुँच और सामर्थ्य के बारे में भी चिंता जताई है।

तकनीकी व्यवधान प्रौद्योगिकी उच्च शिक्षा की दुनिया को बदल रही है, और यह अवसरों और चुनौतियों दोनों को प्रस्तुत करती है। ऑनलाइन लर्निंग प्लेटफॉर्म ने छात्रों के लिए दुनिया में कहीं से भी शिक्षा प्राप्त करना संभव बना दिया है। हालांकि, ये प्लेटफॉर्म अकादमिक अखंडता बनाए रखने और छात्रों को गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा प्राप्त करने को सुनिश्चित करने जैसी चुनौतियाँ भी पेश करते हैं। रोजगारपरकता और कौशल अंतराल उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों पर यह सुनिश्चित करने का दबाव है कि उनके स्नातक रोजगार योग्य हों और उनके पास कार्यबल में सफल होने के लिए आवश्यक कौशल हों। हालांकि, कई नियोक्ता शिकायत करते हैं कि स्नातकों के पास आवश्यक कौशल नहीं है। यह कौशल अंतर उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के लिए एक चुनौती है, जिसे छात्रों को व्यावहारिक कौशल और व्यावहारिक अनुभव प्रदान करने वाले कार्यक्रमों की पेशकश करके इसे पाटने के तरीके खोजने होंगे। उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों में छात्रों की





जनसांख्यिकी तेजी से बदल रही है। विविध पृष्ठभूमि से अधिक छात्र उच्च शिक्षा में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं, और यह चुनौतियों को प्रस्तुत करता है जैसे यह सुनिश्चित करना कि सभी छात्रों की शिक्षा तक समान पहुंच हो और सांस्कृतिक योग्यता और पाठ्यक्रम में विविधता जैसे मुद्दों को संबोधित किया जाए। उच्च शिक्षा में परिवर्तन मिश्रित शिक्षा मिश्रित शिक्षा ऑनलाइन और आमने-सामने सीखने का एक संयोजन है। मिश्रित शिक्षण छात्रों को लचीलापन और सुविधा प्रदान करता है, और यह संस्थानों को व्यापक दर्शकों तक पहुंचने की अनुमति देता है। मिश्रित शिक्षण तेजी से लोकप्रिय हो गया है, और कई उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान शिक्षा के लिए इस दृष्टिकोण को अपना रहे हैं। उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान छात्र-केंद्रित शिक्षा पर अधिक जोर दे रहे हैं। सीखने का यह तरीका छात्रों की जरूरतों और रुचियों पर केंद्रित है और इसमें सक्रिय भागीदारी और सहयोग शामिल है। छात्र-केंद्रित शिक्षा को सीखने के पारंपरिक तरीकों की तुलना में अधिक प्रभावी दिखाया गया है और कई संस्थान इस दृष्टिकोण को अपना रहे हैं।

अंतः विषय कार्यक्रम ऐसे कार्यक्रम हैं जो विभिन्न शैक्षणिक विषयों को जोड़ते हैं। ये कार्यक्रम तेजी से लोकप्रिय हो रहे हैं क्योंकि वे छात्रों को कौशल और ज्ञान की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला प्रदान करते हैं। बहु-विषयक दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता वाली जटिल समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए अंतः विषय कार्यक्रम भी महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

अनुभवात्मक अधिगम पर बढ़ता ध्यान अनुभवात्मक अधिगम में अनुभव के माध्यम से सीखना शामिल है, और यह उच्च शिक्षा में तेजी से लोकप्रिय हो रहा है। प्रायोगिक अधिगम छात्रों को व्यावहारिक अनुभव प्रदान करता है और उन्हें वास्तविक दुनिया की स्थितियों में सीखी गई बातों को लागू करने की अनुमति देता है। सीखने के लिए यह दृष्टिकोण व्यावहारिक कौशल विकसित करने और छात्रों को कार्यबल के लिए तैयार करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

निष्कर्ष :-

उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों को कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिसमें अनुदान तकनीकी व्यवधान, रोजगार और कौशल अंतर और छात्र जनसांख्यिकी में बदलाव शामिल हैं। इन चुनौतियों के लिए नवीन समाधानों की आवश्यकता है, जैसे उद्योग के साथ सहयोग में वृद्धि, व्यावहारिक कौशल पर अधिक जोर और पाठ्यक्रम में अधिक विविधता। उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान भी महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तनों के दौर से गुजर रहे हैं, जैसे मिश्रित शिक्षा को अपनाना, छात्र-केंद्रित शिक्षा, अंतः विषय कार्यक्रम और अनुभवात्मक शिक्षा। ये बदलाव यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक हैं कि उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान छात्रों को सीखने का सर्वोत्तम अनुभव प्रदान करें और उन्हें भविष्य की चुनौतियों के लिए तैयार करें।

मो. नूरबसर गद्दी
बी.ए. प्रोग्राम, द्वितीय वर्ष

पोस्ट-पैंडेमिक दुनिया में जीना

जिस दुनिया को हम जानते थे, वह दुनिया हमेशा के लिए कोविड-19 महामारी द्वारा बदल दी गई है। यह वायरस एक वैश्विक महामारी के रूप में हमारे ग्रह में फैल गया है, लाखों लोगों को पीड़ित कर रहा है और हमें अपने जीवन जीने के तरीके को बदलने के लिए मजबूर कर रहा है। इससे पहले कि हम प्रभावी ढंग से वायरस का मुकाबला कर सकें और आगे बढ़ सकें, हमें पहले महामारी के बाद की दुनिया में जीने के नए तरीके को अपनाना होगा।

सबसे महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तनों में से एक जिसे हमें अपनाना चाहिए वह है मास्क पहनना और सामाजिक दूरी बनाए रखना। यह समझना आवश्यक है कि ये उपाय न केवल हमारी अपनी सुरक्षा के लिए हैं बल्कि हमारे आस-पास के सभी लोगों की सुरक्षा के लिए हैं। हमें अपने कार्यों के लिए व्यक्तिगत जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए और अपनी और दूसरों की सुरक्षा के लिए सभी आवश्यक सावधानियां बरतनी चाहिए। हालांकि जीवन के इस नए तरीके से तालमेल बिठाना मुश्किल हो सकता है, लेकिन यह जरूरी है कि हम खुद को और अपने समुदायों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए इन दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन करते रहें।

एक और बड़ा बदलाव जिसे हमें अपनाना चाहिए वह है दूरस्थ कार्य और डिजिटल संचार का उदय। महामारी ने कई कंपनियों को घर से काम करने के मॉडल को अपनाने के लिए मजबूर किया है, और यह उम्मीद की जाती है कि महामारी समाप्त होने के बाद भी यह प्रवृत्ति जारी रहेगी। इस बदलाव ने हममें से कई लोगों को दूसरों से शारीरिक दूरी बनाए रखते हुए अपनी उत्पादकता बनाए रखने की अनुमति दी है। हालांकि, इसने डिजिटल संचार के महत्व और आभासी दुनिया में जुड़े रहने की आवश्यकता पर भी प्रकाश डाला है। हमें अपने डिजिटल कौशल को विकसित करना जारी रखना चाहिए और जुड़े रहने और उत्पादक बने रहने के लिए नई तकनीकों को अपनाना चाहिए।

महामारी ने हमारी स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणालियों की नाजुक प्रकृति को भी उजागर किया है, जिससे सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य पर नए सिरे से ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है और सभी के लिए गुणवत्तापूर्ण स्वास्थ्य सेवा तक पहुंच का महत्व है। महामारी के बाद की दुनिया में, हमें स्वास्थ्य सेवा की पहुंच को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए और यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य सेवा के बुनियादी ढांचे में निवेश करना चाहिए कि हम भविष्य के प्रकोपों को संभालने के लिए बेहतर तरीके से तैयार हैं। हमें बीमारी के प्रसार को रोकने के लिए टीकाकरण, नियमित स्वास्थ्य जांच और स्वस्थ जीवन शैली की आदतों जैसे सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य उपायों को भी बढ़ावा देना जारी रखना चाहिए।

इसके अलावा, महामारी ने सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य पर पर्यावरणीय कारकों के प्रभाव को प्रकाश में लाया है। जैसे-जैसे हम आगे बढ़ते हैं, हमें स्थायी जीवन को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए और अपने कार्बन फुटप्रिंट को कम करने की दिशा में काम करना चाहिए। हमें एक अधिक स्थायी अर्थव्यवस्था बनाने की दिशा में भी काम करना चाहिए जो नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के विकास को बढ़ावा दे, स्वच्छ हवा और स्वच्छ पानी को बढ़ावा दे। महामारी ने समुदाय के महत्व और कठिन समय के दौरान आपसी सहयोग की आवश्यकता पर भी प्रकाश डाला है। महामारी के बाद की दुनिया में, हमें मजबूत समुदायों को बढ़ावा देना जारी रखना चाहिए जो कठिन समय में एक-दूसरे का समर्थन करते हैं। इसमें मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संसाधनों, सहायता समूहों और स्वयंसेवी कार्य को बढ़ावा देना शामिल है।

अंत में, महामारी के बाद की दुनिया में रहने के लिए हमें जीने, काम करने और दूसरों के साथ बातचीत करने के नए तरीकों को अपनाना होगा। हमें सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य को प्राथमिकता देना जारी रखना चाहिए, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल के बुनियादी ढांचे में निवेश करना चाहिए और सतत जीवन को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। हमें यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अपने समुदायों और एक-दूसरे का समर्थन करना जारी रखना चाहिए कि हम भविष्य में उत्पन्न होने वाले किसी भी संकट का सामना कर सकें। सहयोग और आपसी समर्थन के माध्यम से ही हम इस महामारी से मजबूत होकर उभर सकते हैं और सभी के लिए बेहतर भविष्य का निर्माण कर सकते हैं।

प्रत्युष सिंह

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बंधन और मुक्ति

‘विहाय कामान्यः सर्वान्मुमांश्चरति निःस्पृहः।

निर्ममो निरहंकारः स शान्तिमधिगच्छति ॥

अर्थ- जिस व्यक्ति ने इंद्रिय तृप्ति की समस्त इच्छाओं का परित्याग कर दिया है जो इच्छाओं से रहित है और जिसने सारी ममता त्याग दी है तथा अहंकार से रहित है, वहीं वास्तविक शांति को प्राप्त कर सकता है।

मनुष्य की तृष्णा का कभी अंत नहीं होता है। जब तक मनुष्य जीवित रहता है, तब तक उसके मन में विभिन्न प्रकार की तृष्णाओं का जन्म होता है। इन तृष्णाओं में प्रमुख हैं- धन की तृष्णा, सम्मान की तृष्णा, विभिन्न प्रकार के भोग विलासों की तृष्णा। अपनी इन तृष्णाओं को पूरा करने के लिए मनुष्य कुछ भी करने को तैयार हो जाता है। इस प्रकार वह पाप कर्मों के लिए प्रेरित होता है। अर्जुन ने श्रीकृष्ण से पूछा- ‘हे वाष्ण्येय! मनुष्य न चाहते हुए भी पाप कर्मों के लिए प्रेरित क्यों होता है? ऐसा लगता है कि उसे उनमें बलपूर्वक लगाया जा रहा हो।’ इस पर श्रीभगवान् कहते हैं- ‘हे अर्जुन! इसका कारण रजोगुण के संपर्क से उत्पन्न काम है, जो बाद में क्रोध का रूप धारण करता है और जो इस संसार का सर्वभक्षी शत्रु है। जिस प्रकार अग्नि धूँ से, दर्पण धूल से आवृत रहता है, उसी प्रकार जीवात्मा की बुद्धि काम रूपी शत्रु से ढकी रहती है, जो कभी तुष्ट नहीं होता और अग्नि के समान जलता रहता है। इंद्रियां, मन तथा बुद्धि इस काम के निवास स्थल हैं। इनके द्वारा यह काम जीवात्मा के वास्तविक ज्ञान को ढककर उसे मोहित कर लेता है।’

इस प्रकार मनुष्य पाप कर्म करता है। गरुड़ पुराण में पापी आत्माओं की दुर्दशा का वर्णन मिलता है। मृत्यु के बाद उन्हें वैतरणी नामक ‘कष्टदायिनी नदी को पार करना होता है। यह नदी रक्त और पींव से भरी होती है, यह सौ योजन चौड़ी है। इस प्रकार पापी जीवात्मा को इसको पार करना बहुत ही कष्टदायक होता है। इसी प्रकार मनुष्य की इच्छाओं का भी कोई पार नहीं है। मनुष्य सोचता है कि उसके पास आज इतना धन है, कल वह और धन का संचय करेगा, संसार में उसके समान कोई धनी नहीं है, वही अपनी नियति का नियन्ता है। इस प्रकार वह अपने हृदय में स्थित परमात्मा के विषय में भूल जाता है और जीवन के अंत तक कई कष्टों को भोगकर मृत्यु को प्राप्त होता है। मृत्यु के बाद वह विभिन्न प्रकार के नरकों में कष्ट भोगता है। मनुष्य को अपनी इच्छाओं को नियंत्रण में रखना चाहिए। उसे शरीर की नश्वरता का ध्यान रखते हुए सदैव परमात्मा का चिंतन करते रहना चाहिए। मनुष्य को समझना चाहिए कि धन, यौवन कभी स्थिर नहीं रहते और मृत्यु सदैव उनके पास रहती है, इसलिए उसे सदैव धर्माचरण करना चाहिए। क्योंकि धर्म ही मृतक व्यक्ति का सबसे बड़ा मित्र होता है। इस संसार में कोई कितना भी बड़ा हस्ती क्यों न हो उसे एक दिन यह संसार भूल जाता है। इसलिए हमें मान सम्मान की कभी आशा नहीं करनी चाहिए। हमें जीवन में संतोष रखना चाहिए।

अन्तकाले च मामेव स्मरन्मुक्तवा कलेवरम्।

या प्रयाति स मद्भावं याति नास्त्यत्र संशयः॥

श्रीकृष्ण का कहना है- ‘अंतकाल में जो कोई मेरा स्मरण करते हुए शरीर का त्याग करता है, वह तुरंत मेरे स्वभाव को प्राप्त होता है, इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं।’

मनुष्य को ईश्वर के नाम का जाप करते रहना चाहिए। इस प्रकार वह ईश्वर के प्रति आसक्त होगा और उसके नित्य ईश्वर के नाम का जप से उसका हृदय शुद्ध होगा और अंतकाल में भी व्यक्ति अपनी तृष्णाओं के बारे में न सोचकर ईश्वर का चिंतन करेगा। मनुष्य को चाहिए कि वह ईश्वर का स्मरण बराबर करता रहे यदि इस अवस्था में वह मर जाता है, तो वह निश्चित ही भगवद्धाम को प्राप्त होता है और जन्म मृत्यु के बंधन से मुक्त होता है।

अभिषेक बुडाकोटी

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युवा नदी

अक्सर जब बात नदी की आती तो तमाम लोगों का ध्यान पर्वत के शिखर से निकलकर मैदानी भागों में बहने वाली जलधारा की ओर जाता है। जिसके किनारे रहकर अनादि काल से हमारे ऋषि-मुनियों ने ज्ञान प्राप्त किया है, साथ में पीपल का पेड़ जो उनकी साधना स्थल का चश्मदीद गवाह बना था।

वही पीपल का पेड़ है जो हमें चौबीस घंटे ऑक्सीजन प्रदान करता है, जिसकी विधि-विधान से हिंदू धर्म में पूजा की जाती है।

बात जब नदी की हो रही है तो यहां पर और भी कई तरह की नदियों की भी वार्ता होनी चाहिए। जिसका बहाव किधर है, ये तय कर पाना असंभव तो नहीं, दुष्कर अवश्य है। वह नदी है, हमारी आज की युवा पीढ़ी की नदी जिसमें अत्यंत तीव्र गति से जल रूपी ज्वाला बह रही है। जिसके कोरों का अनुमान संभवतः नहीं लगाया जा सकता है।

वह तो कभी प्रेम रूपी नदी को बहाता है, कभी करुणा की नदी में डुबकी लगाता है, तो कभी अंतर्भावना में ही तैरता रहता है उसे आज यदि आवश्यकता है, तो बस एक ऐसे किनारे की जहां पर करुणा, प्रेम रूपी नौका को आश्रय मिल सके। जिससे युवा नदी को अपनी सीमाओं के बारे में ज्ञात हो सके।

संसार में सभी नदियों के किनारे हैं सभी में लोग किनारे से प्रवेश करते हैं। भारत के लोग तो नदी के किनारों को भी अपने माथे से लगाते हैं, जो उनकी अपार श्रद्धा और भक्ति का परिणाम तो है ही, साथ ही साथ में उनकी प्रकृति चेतना का भी आधार है, तभी तो नदियों को पतित पावनी कहा गया है। जो अपनी हिलोरों से सबको आकर्षित करती है, साथ में मानव समाज को भी संचित करती है।

नदी के किनारे रेत के टीलों का उपधान लेकर बैठे श्रांत पथिक को नदी उसकी यात्रा की थकान को शांत करती है। यही कारण था कि आदिकाल में मानव ने अपने जीवन के शुरुआती क्षणों को नदियों के किनारे बिताया जो उनके आश्रय का आधार बना।

इसी तरह आज युवा नदी को भी एक मजबूत किनारे की आवश्यकता है। जो उनको स्थिरता दे सके, अनुशासित कर सके, ना कि उन्हें बंधन रूपी रस्सी में जकड़ ले। उन्हें अब बांधने की नही सांचे में ढालने की आवश्यकता है।

यथा एक मां अपने शिशु को शरारत करते जब देखती है तो खुश होती है, साथ ही जब वही बाल नालायकी करता है तो उसे डांटती भी है।

हमें सोचना होगा किनारे नदी की पहचान नहीं होते नदी की पहचान तो उसकी तीव्र गति से बहने वाली जलधारा है जो जीवन में गति का प्रतीक है, जो चलती रहती है।

जिनको आज लगता है कि वह समय से पीछे हो रहे हैं उन्हें नदी की उस धारा से सीखना चाहिए जो गर्मी के मौसम में निढाल हो जाती है, लेकिन वर्षा आने पर अपनी उफान से किनारे रूपी सीमाओं में वृद्धि कर देती है। इसी तरह आज के युवा को मेहनत करते समय यदि बंधनों में नियमों का पालन कर निढाल होने में परेशानी हो रही हो तो उसे नदी को याद करना चाहिए। कैसे वह अपना समय आने पर अपनी सीमाओं को भी विस्तृत कर लेती है।

“संघर्ष का समय संयम का होता है सफलता में सब पंख फैलाते हैं” सफलता में कोई पंख के फैलाव का विरोध भी नहीं कर पाता “सफलता का समय सीमा विस्तार का होता है।”

बाकी नदी भी किनारों में बंधती है युवा को भी किनारों की सीमाओं का उल्लंघन नहीं करना चाहिए। अपने संघर्ष को सीमा में रहकर टालना चाहिए— “सफलता संयम का ही परिणाम है।”

अनादि काल से संयम के द्वारा ही बड़े- बड़े ऋषियों को ज्ञान की प्राप्ति हुई है जिनका वर्णन जितना किया जाए कम है, चाहे महात्मा बुद्ध हों, महावीर स्वामी हों, महर्षि पतंजलि हों या महर्षी कणाद जिन्होंने इस पावन धरा को अपनी आत्मा द्वारा पवित्र किया है।

और हमारे ग्रंथों में नदियों को माता का दर्जा दिया गया है, नदियों की छत्रछाया में ही हमने बचपन, जवानी और बुढ़ापा व्यतीत किया है और यहां तक कि हिंदू धर्म में तो मरने के बाद भी शव की अस्थियों को अस्थि कलश के रूप में प्रवाहित किया जाता है, जो जीवन पर्यंत नदी की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।

नदी का किनारा भी तो साथ ही साथ में चलता है जिसको सभी अंजाना करते हैं। सभी को अवगत करा दू कि— “वह नदी का किनारा है जिस पर आरूढ़ होकर हम नदी तक पहुंचते हैं” बात कहने का आशय केवल इतना है कि— “व्यक्तित्व की नदी जब बहे तब उसमें चरित्र के किनारे भी होने चाहिए जो व्यक्तित्व को उभारते हैं।”

यदि अपने को अधीर कर जल्दबाजी करेंगे निःसंदेह सफलता से दूर होने का पंथ खोज लेंगे चाहे पथ कितना ही सरल सुहावना लुभावना क्यों ना हो संयम का पथ अवश्य अपना पड़ेगा तभी सफलता का सही मार्ग चुनने में कोई दुविधा उत्पन्न नहीं होगी।

हमारे ग्रंथों में कहा भी गया है कोई भी कार्य बिना विचार किए नहीं करना चाहिए— “जो लोग कार्य को बिना विचार किए करते हैं वह बाद में प्रहसन का शिकार होते हैं, उन्हें दूसरों के सामने लज्जा का घूट पीना पड़ता है।”

प्रतिकार तो सब कर सकते हैं लेकिन जिसमें सहयोग की भावना विकसित है वही सिद्ध पुरुष की संज्ञा को प्राप्त करता है वही इस जगत का पुरोधा सिद्ध होता है वही समय के रथ पर आरूढ़ होकर राज करता है, जीवन को सुचारू रूप से परिभाषित करता है।

“चिंता के मार्ग को छोड़कर चिंतन की ओर अग्रसर होकर संयम रूपी किनारों में बंधने पर ही जीव की जीत होती है” अनादि काल से प्रवाहित होकर आज तक मैदानी भागों में विचर रहा जल नदी की विजय है इसी तरह युवा नदी के शुरुआती अनुशासन की डोर “मजबूत होकर सफलता के बाद विस्तृत होकर समाज में प्रभावी रूप से जब प्रकाशित होगी वही युवा नदी का मैदानी भाग है, विजय है, संयम का फल है, पुरुषार्थ है।”

अनुराग पाल “धीरज”
बी.एस.सी, गणित, द्वितीय वर्ष

वध

रनिंग टाइम 110 मिनट की थ्रिलर फिल्म वध दिनांक 9 दिसंबर 2022 को रिलीज हुई थी; यह जसपाल सिंह संधू, राजीव बरनवाल द्वारा लिखित और निर्देशित है। 'लव फिल्मस' इसके निर्माता हैं।

अभिनीत द्वारा:

संजय मिश्रा (चरित्र: शंभुनाथ मिश्रा)

नीना गुप्ता (चरित्र: मंजू मिश्रा)

मानव विज (चरित्र: शक्ति सिंह)

सौरभ सचदेवा (चरित्र: प्रजापति पाण्डेय)

दिवाकर कुमार (चरित्र: दिवाकर मिश्रा)

उमेश कौशिक (चरित्र: नवीन)

फिल्म एक व्यक्ति के भीतर उठे आत्म-संघर्ष के मुद्दे को उठाती है चाहे वह किसी स्त्री के भीतर उठ रहा हो या एक पुरुष के। फिल्म का मुख्य कथानक इसी एक अवधारणा पर आधारित है। आने वाली पीढ़ी की विचारधारा और उनके संघर्षों को भी बहुत ही शानदार तरीके से दर्शाया गया है। फिल्म में आप अपने आप को प्रेम, विश्वासघात, घृणा, क्रोध, रहस्य, विश्वास और सांत्वना की भावना के भीतर पा सकते हैं; जो कि ठीक उसी क्रम में एक बंद लूप बनाते हैं। यह वह रास्ता है जिसके माध्यम से निर्देशक चाहता है कि आप अपने विश्वास और विचार के साथ चलें और एक निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचें। वो निष्कर्ष आपके आत्मा से भी संबंधित हो सकता है या समाज में व्याप्त कथानक: 'कर्म प्रधान विश्व रचि राखा। जो जस करहि सो तस फल चाखा॥' से। यह फिल्म यह भी चर्चा करती है कि एक व्यवस्था को कठोर होना चाहिए या नहीं, चाहे वह किसी भी प्रकार की व्यवस्था हो। अगर हाँ! तो कितना? और यदि नहीं तो क्या कुछ आत्मीयता और मानवता के विरुद्ध तो नहीं घटित हो रहा है?

दोनों लेखकों और निर्देशकों (जसपाल सिंह संधू और राजीव बरनवाल) ने इस बात का खास ध्यान रखा है कि जितने किरदार परदे पर नजर आए उनका फिल्म में एक खास योगदान हो। इसका प्रमाण पार्श्व भूमिका में रिवक्शा वाले, घर के नीचे रह रहे पड़ोसी (मुख्य किरदार के पुत्र की तरह जो विदेश जाने को उत्सुक है) या पुलिस अधिकारी की उपस्थिति से जो मनोहर कहानियों में खास रुचि रखते हैं। पार्श्व भूमिका में एक साइड-रोल-केरेक्टर भी है जिसका उपयोग एक ऐसे प्रश्न को उठाने के लिए किया जाता है जिसका मैंने पहले उल्लेख किया है और इसी साइड-रोल-केरेक्टर के सहारे फिल्म के लेखक एक अनुनादपूर्ण और संतोषजनक चरमोत्कर्ष प्राप्त करते हैं। जिसमें साइड रोल का ऐसा इस्तेमाल इस कदर हो ऐसी थ्रिलर-फिल्मों की संख्या कम है। इस तरह की फिल्में हम विदेशी सिनेमा में उचित मात्रा में देख सकते हैं। भारत में कभी-कभी ही ऐसी थ्रिलर फिल्में बनती हैं, यह दुर्लभ है!

माता-पिता और पुत्र के एक ऐसे सत्य को उजागर किया गया है इस फिल्म में जो एक पुत्र (बस में होने के बावजूद भी) नजर अंदाज कर देता है। क्योंकि अपने लिए वह एक ऐसी जिंदगी चुन कर बैठ गया है जिसका तागा किसी और के हाथ में है (जिसने बड़े नाजुक तरीके से पकड़ रखा है)। उसके लिए तागा का एक सिरा पकड़ना मजबूरी है।

वह अपनी बेटी की उपस्थिति से खुद को सांत्वना देने के अलावा कुछ नहीं कर पा रहा। माता-पिता ने भी पड़ोसियों के बच्चों में वही सांत्वना खोजी। खास कर एक बच्ची में जिसकी कहानी को बढ़ाने में एक मुख्य भूमिका है। दोनों पति-पत्नी का इस बच्ची के प्रति प्रेम फिल्म के क्लाइमेक्स में दिखता है।

पुत्र माता-पिता को विदेश से कुछ पैसे भेज देता है पर उसमें उनका गुजारा संभव नहीं है। एक ठेकेदार से पैसे ब्याज पर लिए थे (बेटे को विदेश भेजने को) जिसे चुकाना भी एक संघर्ष है। और तो और घर भी चलाना है। फिल्म के सभी नकारात्मक किरदारों का इसी मूल-धन और ब्याज की पूर्ति से संबंध है। ठेकेदार का एक खास आदमी दोनो पति-पत्नी को ब्याज के आड़े काफी अपमानित करता है। यह फिल्म इसी किरदार के वध के कारणों को उजागर करती है। यह किरदार ही कारण बनता है इस फिल्म के शीर्षक का जो की सार्थक है।

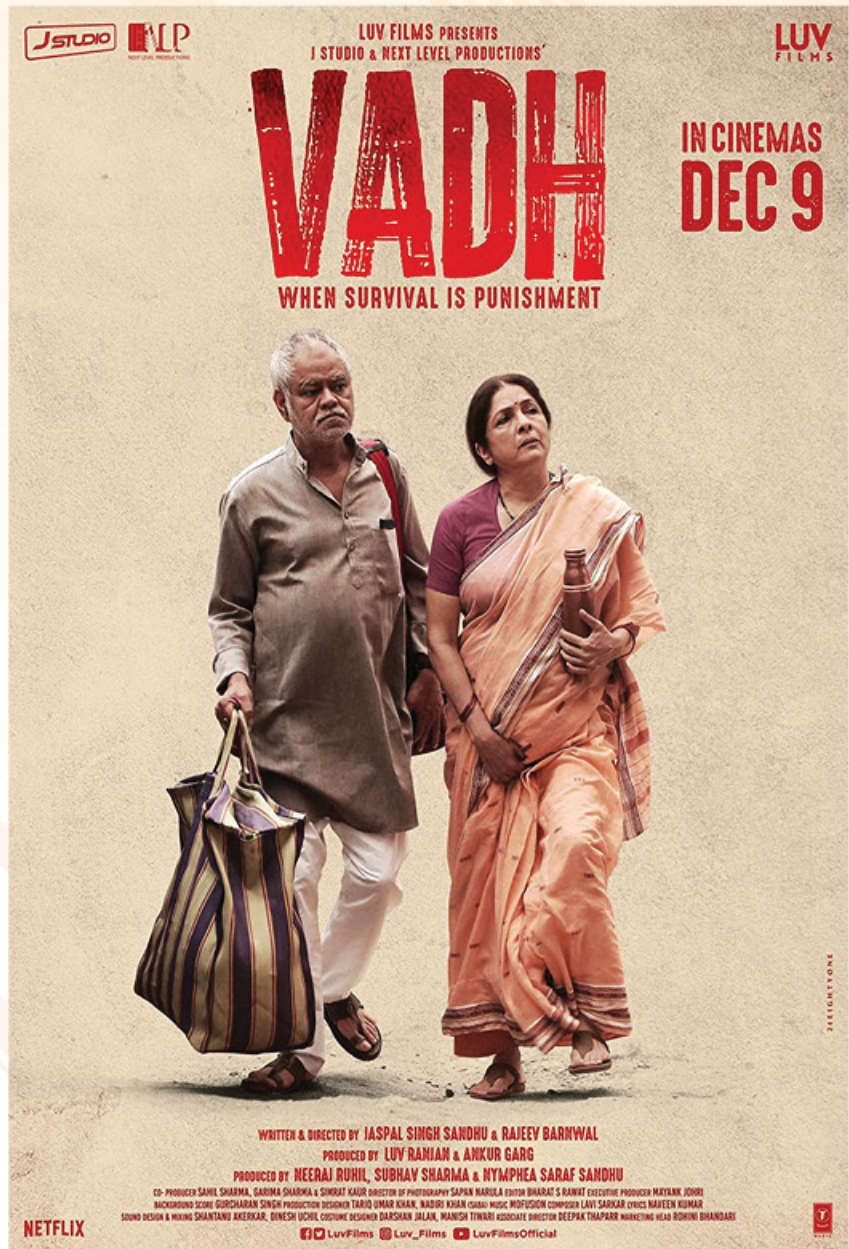
फिल्म में किरदारों की उपस्थिति और घटनाएँ किस तरफ मोड़ लेती है ये देखने का मजा किरकिरा ना हो जाए इस के लिए फिल्म की पूरी कहानी का उल्लेख तो नहीं करूंगा पर अंश छोड़ा है आप के लिए। क्या वध और हत्या में कोई अंतर है? फिल्म के अंत में आपके मन में यह प्रश्न जरूर उठेगा।

आज के समाज में यह प्रश्न उठाना आवश्यक है जहां सभी अपने को सही साबित करने को उतारू रहते हैं। इस शब्द के सही अर्थ को समझना करना जरूरी है ताकि ये शब्द किसी के लिए जीवन बरबाद करने वाला ना साबित हो।

फिल्म के कुछ दृश्यों की व्याख्या नहीं की गई है, जो काफी हद तक अनुमान लगाने वालों के लिए ठीक है, फिल्म कई मायनों में लाक्षणिक भी है। आप इस थ्रिलर फिल्म के माध्यम से एक निम्न मध्यम वर्ग के जीवन के बारे में बहुत कुछ जान सकते हैं।

जाते-जाते फिल्म की सिफारिश या संस्तुति विशेष रूप से उन लोगों के लिए करता हूँ जो इस सप्ताह के अंत में एक थ्रिलर देखने जा रहे हैं। साथ ही यह मूवी नेटफ्लिक्स जैसे ऑनलाइन स्ट्रीमिंग प्लेटफॉर्म पर भी उपलब्ध है, जहां आप इसे देख सकते हैं। तो जाएँ अगर इस फिल्म को नहीं देखा तो देखें और फिल्मों की अपनी प्यास को कुछ सात्वना दें। जल्दी ही मिलेंगे एक नई फिल्म पर चर्चा के लिए। तब तक के लिए नमस्कार, सलाम और फिर मिलेंगे!

यशराज मिश्रा
बी.एस.सी. (ऑनर्स), इलैक्ट्रॉनिक्स,
द्वितीय वर्ष



मेरे गुरु

आचार्य शब्द का मूल संदर्भ व्यक्तित्व की आचार संहिता में सन्निहित है। आज की अकादमिक दुनिया में यदि कोई 'आचार्य व्यक्तित्व' है तो वह वाकई दुर्लभ है, अनर्घ है! और उल्लेखनीय है! गुरुवर के व्यक्तित्व में यही आचार्यत्व दैदीप्यमान होता है! उनकी प्रतिष्ठा का मूल यही है।

उनके जैसा सहज- छात्र हितैषी व्यक्ति जो मानलिप्सा और परद्वेष से अछूता है -अकादमिक पतन के इस काल में प्रेरणास्रोत है!

विद्यार्थी के तौर पर हम सबने यह बखूबी जाना है कि आदरणीय गुरुजी जी ने कभी भी किसी को ईर्ष्या या द्वेष की तरफ नहीं ढकेला! 'परनिंदा व्यसन'- जो इस सदी का सबसे घातक और कुख्यात अकादमिक रोग है, उससे डाक्टर साहब खुद तो बचे ही रहते हैं हम सभी को भी बचा लेते हैं! उनके वार्ड की यह विशेषता है।

पांडित्य उनमें अगाध है लेकिन लालित्य के साथ! इसलिए उस अगाध पांडित्य का दाह उनके आस पास वालों को नहीं लग पाता! उनके यहाँ दोनों गुण एक दूसरे के परस्पर पूरक हो गये हैं फलतः व्यक्तित्व में ये एक अलग ही प्रकार का रासायनिक चारुत्व निखर उठा है! वे एक तरफ 'प्राच्यवाद' और 'इतिहास दर्शन' जैसे विषय पर शोध करते हैं तो दूसरी तरफ 'कालिदास' और 'विद्यापति' पर भी! व्यक्तित्व के भीतर प्रबुद्धता के ये दो पक्ष बहुत कम लोगों में सन्निकट हो पाते हैं।

चौतन्यदेव जैसे प्रकाण्ड नैयायिक और सहृदय भक्त ने व्यक्तित्व की व्याख्या कुछ यूँ कि :-

तृणादपि सुनीचेन तरोरपि सहिष्णुना

अमानिना मानदेन कीर्तनीयः सदाहरि!

आदरणीय गुरुदेव एक प्रोफेसर और एक विद्वान के तौर पर इस निकष पर सदा खरे उतरते हैं!

वाग्मिता के कई प्रकार होते हैं! सात्विक वाग्मिता साधुधर्मी होती है! वहाँ व्याख्याता या वक्ता मौन का अधिक प्रयोग करता है। मितभाषी होता है और मृदुभाषी भी! गुरु कि वाग्मिता इसी प्रकार की है! उनका स्मितयुक्त बोलना साधु भरत की याद दिलाता है! कम लेकिन नपा तुला! ऐसी बात साधारण होकर भी पकड़ में नहीं आती!

गहि न जाई अस निर्मल बानी!

भरत बचन सुनि देखि सुभाऊ। सहित समाज सराहत राऊ

सुगम अगम मृदु मंजु कठोरे। अरथु अमित अति आखर।

इसीलिए उन्हें भी सब सराहते हैं!

पाखण्ड के घटाटोप में अब अकादमिक मंडल में जब कोई ऐसा आचार्य उभर रहा है तब विद्यार्थियों का यह कर्तव्य है कि ऐसे व्यक्तित्व का स्वागत करें और प्रोत्साहन तथा सत्कार की मंगलभावना प्रेषित करें!

महिमभट्ट ने व्यक्तिविवेक में कहा है कि सूर्य के उदय से सब प्रसन्न ही नहीं होते; कुछ विकसित होते हैं, खिलते हैं तो कुछ प्रभावहीन भी हो जाते हैं! सच ही है। तारकों से लेकर उलूकों तक की श्रेणी है! सब प्रसन्न नहीं हो सकते हैं! लेकिन कमलवत्त जो हैं; जिन्हें ज्ञान और सज्जनता के आलोक से उर्जो ग्रहण करनी है, वे खिलेंगे ही! ऐसे कमलवत्त- हम सब विद्यार्थी- उनके सान्निध्य में खिल रहे हैं!

गुरु जी से आशीर्वाद की आकांक्षा कि हम पर अपनी ज्ञान रूपी, क्षमा रूपी दृष्टि हमेशा बनायें रखें।

अज्ञान तिमिरान्धस्य। शलाकया। चक्षुरुन्मीलितं येन तस्मै श्री गुरवे नमः

जिसने ज्ञानांजनरूप शलाका से, अज्ञानरूप अंधकार से अंध हुए लोगों की आँखें खोली, उन गुरु को नमस्कार।

सादर चरणस्पर्श

पुष्पांजय मिश्रा, बी.ए. प्रोग्राम, तृतीय वर्ष

मेरी माँ की सीख - सहानुभूति

मुझे याद हैं वो दिन आज भी जब उम्र थी पाँच साल, तब फिफ्ट न कोई थी कभी हँसना खेलना ही था मेरा काम सोचना न था कभी, मेरी शरारतों का क्या होगा अंजाम !

वो दिन था जब मैं माँ के साथ था बुआ का घर मेरे घर के पास था माँ ने उँगली पकड़ी और ले चली संग अरे, बुआ के घर जाना था, दिल में थीं ढेरों खुशियाँ और उमंग यूँ तो रिश्ते हमारे बहुत सारे थे चाची, मामी, मौसी, सब ही तो हमारे थे पर बुआ से तो कुछ खास लगाव था।

उनके दुलार का भी अलग ही चाव था मैं माँ की उँगली पकड़े तेज-तेज चल रहा था आज बुआ से मिलूँगा, सोचकर दिल उछल रहा था बुआ के घर जाने की एक और भी थी खुशी उनके बेटे के संग खेलने में थी मेरी रूचि।

बुआ के बेटे के पास रहते थे खिलौने बेहतरीन उनके साथ खेलते-खेलते हुई मेरी कई शामें रंगीन। जब पहुँचा बुआ के घर दिल धड़क रहा था आज कौन-सा मिलेगा नया खिलौना, इस सोच में पड़ा था। बुआ के घर पहुँचकर हुआ पहले तो मिलना-मिलाना फिर उनके बेटे ने खोला खिलौनों का खजाना उसमें एक कार थी, जो अलग चमक देती थी उसका काला रंग, सुनहरी लकीरें क्या खूब दमक देती थीं। उस कार को मैं निहारता रह गया, काश! मेरी हो जाए, मन-ही-मन पुकारता रह गया।

उसी वक्त आई कमरे में, बुआ की आवाज सरपट दौड़ा उनक बेटा, उसका अलग ही था अंदाज तब मेरे दिल का आलम ही अलग था अब मैं था, वो कार थी और कमरे में बस समय रुका पड़ा था।

रोक न पाया मैं अपने इन कमबख्त हाथों को जेब में रख ली कार, थाम न पाया जज्बातों को अब तो मेरी खुशी का अलग ही मुकाम था पाँव जमीं पर कहां रखूँ, चलना मुश्किल काम था घर आकर जेब से निकाली जब मैंने वो कार गर्व से सीना फूल गया। आखों में उमरी नई चमकार खुश था मैं ऐसे, जैसे फतह किया हो कोई किला न कोई डर था, न शर्म और न ही कोई गिला कार को देखकर माँ तो हैरान थी कैसे आई वो मेरे पास इससे परेशान थी! माँ को मैंने फिर सारा किस्सा बताया चोरी की थी मैंने, पर कहां मैं सकुचाया!

गुस्से में लाल हो गई माँ, पर मुझ से कुछ कहा नहीं, पी गई सारा गुस्सा, पर मैं कुछ समझा नहीं मीठी मुस्कान लिए, उसका सवाल था बस एक ही इस सवाल ने उसी दिन मेरी सारी सोच ही बदल दी।

उसने कहा बेटे मेरे, थोड़ा सोच के देख लो उस बच्चे के जूतों में जरा खड़े होके तो देख लो क्या होगा तुम्हारा, अगर हो तुम्हारे साथ ऐसा! तुम्हारा ही सगा, न रहे जब पहले जैसा चुरा ले तुम्हारा वो कुछ, जो हो प्रिय तुम्हें सोचो क्या गुजरेगी तुम पर कैसे जियोगे तुम वो लम्हें! माँ के कहे ने मुझे तुरंत झकझोर दिया बुना था जो महल मैंने उसे पूरा तोड़ दिया अगले दिन वो कार थी बुआ के बेटे के पास क्षमा माँगी मैंने, मुझे था गलती का एहसास। आँखों में आँसू भरे, उसने गले लगाया प्रेम और सौहार्द का गहरा सबक सिखाया।

घर वापस आते हुए खुश था मैं दिल में सुकून था सबक सीखा एक मैंने जिंदगी का मुझे यकीन था माँ ने सिखाया मुझे जो पाठ 'सहानुभूति का उसूल बन गया वो हमेशा मेरी जिंदगी का सहानुभूति' क्या है। सदा के लिए जान लिया मैंने, दूसरों की आह को समझो, महसूस करो थाम लो उसका हाथ, उसके भी दर्द का एहसास करो यही है 'सहानुभूति', इसे बना लेंगे जब अपनी अनुभूति जीवन का ये सबक हमेशा काम आएगा इसे अपनाकर जीवन का रंग बदल जाएगा।।

रिषभ कटियार
बी.एस.सी. (ऑनर्स) इलैक्ट्रॉनिक्स
द्वितीय वर्ष

जीवन एक संघर्ष है

जीवन एक संघर्ष है रहे दूर वियोग से,
यही तो वीरों का कर्तव्य है।
मिलेंगे राहों में कुछ यादगार अनुभव,
चलेंगे साथ वो भी जब तक साथ तुम,
खैर मंजिल तक तो अकेले ही है जाना,
तो वियोग, दुःख, दर्द से क्या घबराना?
जब अवगत है हम भविष्य ही हमारे,
तो क्या चिंतन, चिन्ता तले दबा दे ख्वाब हम अपने सारे?
चले एक बार कांटों में यही तो हर्ष है,
जीवन एक संघर्ष है।
था सर पर हाथ जब तक,
रहे दुःख, दर्द, पीड़ा से हटकर थे बहुत मस्ती-मजाक,
आनंद के पल पीड़ा में पडकर फिर क्यों घबराता है?
अरे था वक्त वो भी,
खैर वक्त तो बदल ही जाता है।
फिर हटकर पीछे क्यों कायरता दिखलाता है?
अरे शेर है तू, रंगों में मां भारती का रक्त विभक्त है।
क्या हुआ अगर गिरा, गिरकर उठने में ही तो हर्ष है।
जीवन एक संघर्ष है।

अगर लगे कर्तव्य तेरा तुझको बोझ,
तो तू है कायर, निर्दयी और डरपोक।
आया जब वक्त तो हटता क्यों पीछे हैं?
भूल गया कंधों पे हाथ तेरे, कितने खिंचे है,
था जब मंत्रों के साथ, तो बड़े तीर चीरता था।
कहां गई वो बातें तेरी?
कहां है वह तेरे तेरा तेज?
कह कर पीछे हटना यह कहां शूरी की निशानी?

अरे बढ़ आगे जब तूने जमीं नहीं,
आसमा को हासिल करने की ठानी है।
मिलना-बिछड़ना तो लगा रहता है।
वीर तो हमेशा आगे बढ़ा रहता है।
भूल गया तू भगत सिंह की कुर्बानी?
धर्म, प्यार, दर्द से परे की कहानी।
अरे बढ़ अब आगे, यही तेरा फर्ज है।
जीवन एक संघर्ष है।

शुभम पांडे
बी.ए. प्रोग्राम, तृतीय वर्ष



नव जीवन की ओर

कितना दर्दनाक समय था तबाही का,
घर टूटे, रिश्ते टूटे
वह समय था कोरोना की तानाशाही का।
कोरोना जगत में आया या लाया गया,
किसी को ना था अंदेशा,
मगर चीन पर था सबको बहत बड़ा अंदेशा।
फस गई थी पुरी दुनिया लिया चार दीवारों में,
ना सड़क पर कोई दिखता था ना ही आंगन में,
सब बस मोबाइल में चिपके थे घर के किसी किनारों में।
हर दिन कोई बुरी खबर, गिरती लाशों का था ढेरा,
यही उम्मीद में सब एक ना एक दिन तो आएगा कोरोना
मुक्त सवेरा।

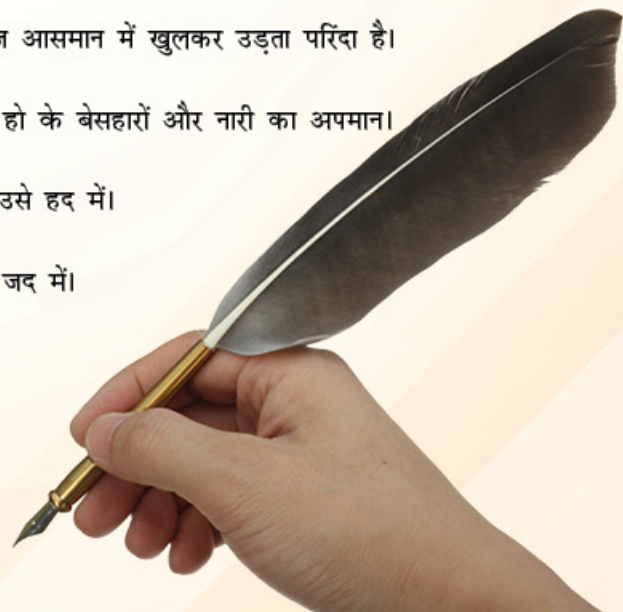
रेलवे ठप, हवाई यात्राएं भी बंद, बंद हुए व्यापार,
किसी ने नहीं सोचा था फोन में समा जाएगा पूरा परिवार।
वीडियो कॉल से लेकर यूट्यूब में कुकिंग तक का सफर,
कभी पकोड़े बने, तो कभी मंचूरियन,
वाकई में कोरोना तू दे गया एक अलग ही सफर।
ना किसी को आशा थी पूरा परिवार कभी साथ में खाएगा,
लेकिन कोरोना ने यह भी कर दिखलाया था।
काफी कुछ खोया बहुत कुछ सीखा,
लेकिन कोरोना ने परिवारों रिवाजों में मेलजोल बढ़ाया,
और अच्छी शरीर का महत्व भी सिखाया।

हिमांशी अग्रवाल
बी.ए. अंग्रेजी (ऑनर्स) तृतीय वर्ष

कलम

कलम तबाही है, कलम दवाई है।
दिन और रात की शक्ति कलम में समायी है।
प्रेमिका के गिले-शिकवे, मजदूरों-तीमारदारों की
दुहाई की जिम्मेदारी भी कलम ने उठाई है।
दर्द की अनुभूति भी कलम ने बखाई है।
शोषितों का मसीहा है तो रिश्तखोरों की दुखती नब्ब भी है।
मूकों-अमूकों की कहानी को जुबानी पर लाने की जहमत भी कवि ने कलम की सहमति से उठाई है।
कलम ना होती तो मजदूर के पसीने का स्मरण ना होता।
ना होता ज्ञान पिता के संघर्ष का और मां के समर्पण का,
कि कैसे पिता ने सर्दियां काटी, बरसों पुराने जूतों और स्वेटर से और
मां ने क्यों नहीं अपने लिए कभी नयी साड़ी मांगी।
कलम ना होती, तो ना होता अनुभव अपनों और परायों का।
कलम है तो सब अपने हैं, कलम है तो सच सब सपने हैं।
कलम है तो लोगों में जमीर जिन्दा है, है कलम की ताकत जो आज आसमान में खुलकर उड़ता परिंदा है।
कलम है तो पत्थर में भी जान है, है बेहया और बेजान देखता मूर्त हो के बेसहारों और नारी का अपमान।
कहां तक भागेगा अन्यायी, आना पड़ेगा उसे हद में।
है समेटा कलम ने हर दायरा अपनी जद में।

सोनू कुमार
बी.ए. हिंदी ऑनर्स
द्वितीय वर्ष



उठो वीर संग्राम करो

हे उठो वीर संग्राम करो।
 हे उठो वीर संग्राम करो,
 अब क्षण ना एक आराम करो।
 सर पर तेरे सूर्य तेज,
 राहों में तेरे विध्न अनेक,
 तुझ पर लोगों का विश्वास नहीं,
 नदी तो है पर नाव नहीं,
 अब उतर नांव से काम करो।
 हाँ! हाँ! उठो वीर संग्राम करो।
 तुझको पता क्या सूर्य कहाँ?
 हैं पश्चिम में, या पूर्व में कहाँ?
 वो शीतलता का चांद कहाँ?
 अब उत्तर युद्ध में, विराम कहाँ?
 क्यों ढूँढ रहा, मानसून की वर्षा को?
 अरे भले चाहे तू तरसा हो,
 लाख क्षण तू मरता हो।
 अरे है यही जीवन, अब आराम ना दे।
 उतर समर में लगाम ना दें।
 अब आर-पार का खेल, खेल,
 बढ़ आगे अंजाम न देख,
 रण मे शोणित बहा दे तू,
 ऐसा एक संग्राम रचो।
 हाँ! हाँ! उठो वीर महासंग्राम करो।
 जल बिरह की तेज अग्नि में,

दिखा दे अपना तेज प्रकाश,
 साँस साँस जलता था जो,
 अब भयानक वह आग दिखा,
 बहा दे शोणित की धार,
 लगा दे मुर्दों का भंडार।
 अपने मस्तिष्क को कर पार,
 अरे समझ तुझमें शक्ति है अपार।
 मर्द नहीं कोई ऐसा,
 जो बन सके तेरे जैसा।
 अरे भिष्यता मचा कहर,
 मिटा दे अपने अंदर का भय,
 आकर विद्रोह में,
 तू हार जीत को भूल जा।
 बस जीवन का पैगाम समझ,
 है हार जीत में भी,
 जीत में भी हार।
 अब बढ़ा कदम, आराम न करो,
 हाँ! हाँ! उठो वीर संग्राम करो।
 अब क्षण तनिक ना आराम करो,
 हाँ! हाँ! उठो वीर संग्राम करो।

शुभम पांडे
 बी.ए. प्रोग्राम, तृतीय वर्ष



तिरंगे का साथ

मैं रोऊँ या कल नाद करूँ,
जब भी उसकी याद करूँ।

शहीदों की इबादत
करता है जगत
एक माता के लिए
एक माता को छोड़ता है
उस वीर सिपाही की क्या दशा
यह देश काल क्या पहचाने

जाने अनजाने रिश्ते में
शोक तूफान छा जाता है
तिरंगे में लिपट कर
वह सपूत घर जब आता है
माँ की ममता के आंचल में
दूध उतर सा जाता है
राखी वाली बहना भी
कलाई भूल न पाती है

सजनी का तो क्या कहना,
सुध- बुध भूल ही जाती है,
रोती रोती पास में जाती,
कहती है कुछ कहती है,
सिर पर उजड़ा चमन लिए,
दुःख ही दुःख वो सहती है।

बच्चों की दशा भूल भुलैया लगती है,
भारत माता जब एक सिपाही की,
आरती थाल चरणों में अपने रखती हैं।
तिरंगा भी लिपट-लिपट कर,
रो-रो कर रह जाता है,

वीर शहीद जाबाजो का जब,
चीर कफन हो जाता है।
तिरंगे की ही शान में,
हर सिपाही की पहचान है,
और जाऊँ घर को जब मैं भी,
तिरंगा ही साथ चले।
अरमान एक फौजी का,
जब ऐसे ही परवान चढ़े।।
उन वीर सपूतों की यादों में,
कहते कलम रुक जाती है,
छोड़ कागज से मितवा,
श्रद्धा के सुमन झुकाती है।

सांस के आखिरी दम तक वह,
तिरंगा साथ लिए फिरता,
जब छोड़े साथ तिरंगे का,
तिरंगा स नमन झुकता।

साथ तिरंगे के एक फौजी ही जी सकता है,
भारत माता की आजादी हेतु वह ही,
जीवन अपना दान कर सकता है,
जिसका मरना कहलाता है जीना ही

“करता है संसार नमन,
उस वीर सपूत सिपाही को,
प्राण न्योछावर किया जिसने
है भारत माता जैसी माई को”

अनुराग पाल “धीरज”
बी.एस.सी, गणित, द्वितीय वर्ष

अल्फाजों के अंदाज

कुछ दोस्त बिछड़ गए हैं दोस्ती के लम्हे बिखर गए हैं
पास होकर भी अब सब दूर हो गए हैं।
वह यादें वह बातें हमेशा याद आती है
कभी हसाती है कभी तड़पाती है।
वो मस्तियां, वो शैतानियां, वो अठखेलियां,
वो नादानियां यूं ही झरोखों की तरह सामने आ जाती हैं
मीठी सी मुस्कान चेहरे पर और नमी आंखों में दे जाती है।
सब पहले जैसे होकर भी वैसे नहीं रहे हैं
अब अल्फाजों के अंदाज बदल गए हैं॥

बातें अब सिर्फ मोबाइल तक रहती हैं
सिर्फ स्टेटस पर कमेंट और काम की बातें होती हैं।
दिल की बातें अब कहीं दफन हो गई हैं
वह बेबाक पनकी सी आदत
अब कहीं खो गई है।

मिलकर भी मिल नहीं पा रहे हैं
जाने अनजाने अब दूर होते जा रहे हैं।
अब सब खुद में रहने लगे हैं
यार टाइम नहीं मिलता यह कहने लगे हैं।
दूर अब उन खूबसूरत रातों से हो गए हैं
अब अल्फाजों के अंदाज बदल गए हैं॥

वो हर बात पर झगड़ना अब बंद हो गया है
अब वो बेवजह मिलना बंद हो गया है।
वो हंसी अब सिर्फ एक मुस्कुराहट बनकर रह गई है
प्यार भरी वो नमी अब कहीं खो गई है।
मेरे दिल की सुनने और अपनी सुनाने वाले कम हो गए हैं
अब अल्फाजों के अंदाज बदल गए हैं॥

रिषभ कटियार
बी.एस.सी. (ऑनर्स), इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, द्वितीय वर्ष



सांसों की पूर्ति

रेल की वो यात्रा, वो लोग, वो सीट, वो भेल, वो दिन, वो धूप और वो लड़की।

मैं बस उसके सामने ही बैठी थी, वह शांत थी मगर उसमे सन्नाटा नहीं था। मानो चीख रही हो, जैसे कह रही हो बचाओ मुझे बचाओ। मुझे अजीब लगा और मैं अपने फोन में व्यस्त हो गई। मगर मन को कौन नहीं जानता, उसी ओर लगा रहता है जहां से हटाना चाहो। कुछ देर बाद मैं फिर उधर ही मुड़ी मैं देखना चाहती थी कि वो रो तो नहीं रही मगर वो अब भी उतनी ही शांत बैठी थी। बस अब वह शायद कुछ सोचना चाह रही थी, कुछ परेशान, कुछ बेचैन मुझे सहज ही मालूम पड़ रही थी। मगर मैं ठहरी अजनबी कुछ बोलना भी ठीक नहीं था। अब मैं अपनी सीट पर लेट गई और सोचने लगी ये लड़की ऐसे क्यों बैठी होगी? शायद एक लड़का होगा जिससे ये बहुत प्यार करती होगी और वो नहीं करता होगा और सच्चे प्यार में धोखा मिला होगा। नहीं नहीं शायद दोनों एक दूसरे से बहुत प्यार करते होंगे मगर परिवार वालों की बात रखने के लिए अपने प्यार की कुर्बानी दे रही होगी, बेचारी। पर शायद घर में कोई परेशानी होगी और इसके उपर बहुत जिम्दारियां। तभी ट्रेन सीटी देती है और मेरी आंख खुल जाती है। तब मुझे पता चलता है कि मैं इन विचारों में सो गई थी। मगर मैं सब बातों को हटा के बस उस लड़की को देखना चाहती थी। और झट पट उठ गई। देखा तो उसकी आंखें बंद थी मगर आंखों के कोने कुछ नम थे। शायद बाहर की सर्दी ठंडी हवाएं उसकी आंखों और उसके दर्द को थोड़ा और खरोच रही थी। मैं उसे देखने लगी और बस खुद को कहने लगी 'एक बार पूछ कर तो देख ही सकती हूँ क्या पता उसे किसी के हाथ रखने की ही देर हो' मगर फिर न जाने क्यों मुझे मेरे मन ने रोक लिया। और मेरे सहारे वाले हाथ बे सहारा रह गए।

जैसे जैसे वक्त बीत रहा था मेरी अंदर की खलबली मुझे उसकी ओर आकर्षित कर रही थी।

'बस एक बार मैं बस इतना पूछूंगी तुम ठीक हो?'

'क्यों तुम्हें ये अधिकार किसने दिया'

'इसमें अधिकार वाली क्या बात है'

'चुप चाप बैठी रहो'

मुझे नहीं पता उस अनजान के लिए मैं खुद से क्यों लड़ जा रही थी।

ऐसे ही खुद से लड़ झगड़ कर मैं चुप बैठ गई। और खुद को ही गलत समझ बैठी। अचानक प्रतिक्रिया उधर से हुई। मैं क्या कहूँ कैसे कहूँ कुछ भी समझ नहीं आ रहा था। वह उठी और मेरी तरफ वो अपनी बोझिल, बेचैन आंखों से एक टक देख कर बोली, 'क्या तुम मेरा एक काम कर सकती हो?' मैं खुद से बातें भूल गई और अचानक ही उसको कहने लगी, 'हां, जी जरूर। कहिए'। कहती है 'एक पत्र लिख सकती हो?' मैं निसंकोच हाँ कर देती हूँ। और एक कलम और कागज निकाल लेती हूँ।

वह कहती है 'एक शर्त है लिखने से पहले बस छोटी सी।'

मैं कहती हूँ 'जी बताइए किसी को देने भी जाना होगा क्या?'

वह सुन्न सी हो जाती है और करीब चार साढ़े चार मिनट बाद बोलती है 'नहीं ये पत्र किसी को नहीं देना। बस जब मैं चली जाऊँ तो तुम इसको फाड़ देना और कभी कहीं इसका जिक्र मत करना'। मुझे ऐसा मालूम पड़ रहा था ये अब आत्महत्या ही कर के मानेगी। मैं सोच में ही थी की वह बोली 'क्या लिखोगी?' मैं मंजूर कर लेती हूँ। सच कहूँ तो मैं उसका दुख शायद कम नहीं कर सकती थी मगर मैं खुद की उथल पुथल को शांत करने के लिए ही लिखने लग जाती हूँ।

तकरीबन दो से तीन घंटे मैं बस सुनती हूँ और लिखती हूँ। मुझे यह अहसास पहली बार हो रहा था की मेरे शरीर का रोम रोम अलग अलग हो रहा था मानो मैं बिखर रही हूँ। मुझे पता नहीं क्यों वो लड़की वास्तविक ही ना लग रही थी। लगता था मानो मेरा भ्रम हो।

वो उसकी आंखों के सन्नाटे काफी गहरे थे और अब मुझमें उस पत्र को लिखने के बाद उसे अपने हाथ में पकड़ने की भी हिम्मत नहीं थी। मैं अगर लिखूँ उस पत्र को एक शब्द में तो लिखूंगी 'सांसों की पूर्ति' उसका जीवन इसके अलावा और कुछ ना था।

वो सामने बैठी लड़की मुझे एक बात सीखा गई और वो शायद कभी ना जाए मेरे जहन से कि तुम्हें जीना होगा चाहे जीवन में सब खत्म क्यों ना हो जाए चाहे तुम मरने के लिए जहर ही क्यों ना खा लो। सांसे नहीं रुकती आसमान गिरने पर।

मानसी मिश्रा
बी.ए. प्रोग्राम, द्वितीय वर्ष

लघु निबंध

आदर्श प्रेम

प्रेम सरल शब्दों में किसी के प्रति आकर्षण, लगाव, समर्पण होता है। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति के दृष्टिकोण में प्रेम की परिभाषा अलग हो सकती है। प्रेम कई लोगों, वस्तुओं से हो सकता है। प्रेम को मोटे तौर पर तीन प्रकारों में बाँटा जा सकता है:- मानवीय, राष्ट्र, ईश्वर। मानवीय प्रेम के अंतर्गत मनुष्य, जीव जंतु और वस्तुएं आती हैं। राष्ट्र प्रेम के अंतर्गत अपने राष्ट्र के प्रति निष्ठा और दायित्व आते हैं। अंतिम, ईश्वर प्रेम जो एक प्रकार का अनूठा प्रेम है। अब प्रश्न यह उठता है कि प्रेम का आदर्श रूप कौन सा है? मनुष्य को किस प्रेम को आदर्श और महत्वपूर्ण मानना चाहिए?

सबसे पहले, मानवीय प्रेम जिसमें प्राणियों, वस्तुओं से प्रेम शामिल है। हम सभी जानते हैं कि आजकल समाज में स्वार्थ का बोलबाला है, मनुष्य के बीच संबंध तब तक ही हैं जब तक वह एक दूसरे के काम आ रहे हैं। मनुष्य के संबंधों का निर्धारण करने में धन, पद की एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। प्रकार हम देखते हैं कि संसार में अपना कोई नहीं होता, अतः यह प्रेम का आदर्श रूप नहीं हो सकता। दूसरा, राष्ट्र प्रेम जो एक प्रकार की मिथ्या है, राष्ट्र प्रेम की भावना के कारण संसार ने दो भयानक युद्धों को देखा, जिसमें असंख्य लोग मारे गए। मनुष्य राष्ट्र प्रेम के नाम पर पृथ्वी को बाँट देता है, यह एक संकीर्ण सोच है, भारतीय संस्कृति 'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्' की अवधारणा में विश्वास करती है, जिसका अर्थ है कि यह संपूर्ण पृथ्वी/धरा एक परिवार है। राष्ट्र प्रेम इसलिए, आदर्श प्रेम का रूप कभी नहीं हो सकता। तीसरा, ईश्वर प्रेम एक अनूठा प्रेम है, हम जानते हैं मृत्यु जीवन का अटल सत्य है। कोई कितना भी प्रसिद्ध, धनवान क्यों न हो एक दिन उसका भी अंत होगा। उपरोक्त प्रेम के दोनों रूप क्षणिक हैं, जबकि ईश्वर प्रेम एक शाश्वत प्रेम है इसका कभी अंत नहीं होता। ईश्वर प्रेम मनुष्य को नैतिकता की सीख देता है, यह हमें सभी मनुष्यों से प्रेम करना सिखाता है। हमारे समाज में नर सेवा को ही नारायण सेवा कहा जाता है। ईश्वर प्रेम ही समाज में सद्भावना, भ्रातृ भाव का निर्माण कर सकता है। मनुष्य जन्म मृत्यु के चक्र से केवल ईश्वर प्रेम द्वारा ही मुक्ति पा सकता है। इस प्रकार ईश्वर प्रेम ही वास्तविक प्रेम, सबसे महत्वपूर्ण और प्रेम का आदर्श रूप है।

अभिषेक बुडाकोटी
बी.ए. (ऑनर्स) राजनीति विज्ञान, तृतीय वर्ष

मंगू की खेती

सही कह रहे हो चचा मंगू ने रामदीन से चौपाल में बैठे कहा- दरअसल मंगू गांव में पिछड़ी जाति का सदस्य है। जो जमीन से निर्धन है, लेकिन किसान है।

कहा जाए कि खेतिहर मजदूर है दूसरों की खेती बटाई में लेकर खेती बाड़ी का काम करता है लेकिन अकेले अधिक काम नहीं कर सकता इसलिए उमरिया गांव के रामदीन को भी आधे की खेती में शामिल कर लिया, चौपाल में बैठे बैठे दोनों बात कर रहे थे।

चचा इस बार यदि हम दोनों एक साल के लिए साहूकार रामधनी जी के खेत को साल भर के लिए पैसा देकर ले ले तो कैसा रहेगा चचा थोड़ी देर सोचकर बोले विचार तो ठीक रहेगा लेकिन इतने पैसे कहां से आएंगे? हम कोई धन्ना सेठ थोड़े ही हैं जो इधर अलमारी से निकाला उधर रामधनी को दे कर एक साल के लिए खेत ले लिया अब खेत लेना कोई मामूली बात थोड़े ही पूरे 200 बीघा साल भर के लिए मिलेगा यदि खेत में सही से जुताई और मेढ़ की बंधाई नहीं की तो फसल का इंतकाम हो जाएगा लेकिन मंगू ने चचा से कहा यदि खेत को एक साल के लिए ले लिया तो लाभ होगा और हम लोग तो किसान हैं अंत में बातें हो जाती है कि फिर दोनों अंतिम निर्णय पर पहुंचते हैं कि कल हम रामधनी से एक साल के लिए खेत लेने चलेंगे।

लेकिन यह अभी बात का अंत नहीं था असली शुरुआत तो अभी बाकी थी चचा रामदीन ने कहा बात तो ठीक है लेकिन पैसे का इंतजाम कैसे होगा तो मंगू ने कहा कि चचा अभी कुछ पैसे पड़े हैं और गहने भी तो हैं उन्हें बेचकर रुपयों का इंतजाम हो जाएगा चचा भी इसी तरह आधे पैसे की जुगाड़ करते लेकिन चचा के घर में ना तो गहने और ना ही अधिक पैसे लेकिन गांव में घर है इतनी बात होते होते अधिक रात हो गई चाचा बोले अब कल हम सुबह रामधनी के पास जाएंगे और खेत का दाम ठीक करेंगे।

अगले दिन सुबह दोनों घर से रामधनी के घर चलने के लिए चलते हैं रास्ते में दोनों बात करते करते जाते हैं कि इस साल बादल कितने अच्छे दिखाई दे रहे हैं बारिश भी ठीक होगी अगर बादल ऐसे ही रहे तो बारिश अधिक होगी और फसल भी अच्छी होगी खूब दाम मिलेगा हमारे भी निराशा के बादल छट जाएंगे।

जब कोई व्यक्ति सुनहरे भविष्य की सोच में होता है तो उसे अपना भविष्य सुनहरा ही दिखाई देता है लेकिन वह भविष्य की सुनहरी यादों को प्राप्त करने के लिए छिपी कठिनाइयों को नहीं देख पाता यही हाल मंगू का हो रहा है जो खेत को एक साल के लिए लेने के लिए उत्साहित हो रहा है लेकिन कठिनाइयों को नहीं समझ पा रहा है।

जब व्यक्ति कुछ अच्छे करने की सोच में रहता है तो भगवान भी उसकी परीक्षा लेते हैं और उसे कुछ और कठिनाई देते हैं यदि व्यक्ति उन कठिनाइयों से पार पा लेता है तो उसका भविष्य उज्ज्वल हो जाता है ।

रामदीन चचा कब मंगू से बोले तुम ठीक तो कह रहे हो दोनों कसमकस करते हुए रामधनी के पास पहुंच जाते हैं और एक साल के लिए खेत को रामधनी से खरीदने की बात करते हैं रामधनी कहता मुझे कोई परेशानी नहीं है लेकिन हां दाम पूरे 500 लूंगा।

मंगू और चाचा दोनों सेठ से कहते हैं कि 500 दाम तो बहुत ज्यादा है हम तो केवल 300 देंगे लेकिन अंत में बात 400 पर हो जाती है दोनों दस दस रुपये बयाना देकर खेत की बात पक्की करके आ जाते हैं अब घर आकर दोनों अपने-अपने हिस्से के हिसाब से 190 190 रुपये जुटाने के लिए हिसाब लगाते हैं मंगू ने अपने घर की मटकियों में देखा तो उसे 120 रुपये मिले।

मंगू के घर में संदूक नहीं था इसलिए मंगू पैसों को मटकियों में रखता था पर अब भी 70 कम थे।

इधर रामदीन चचा भी घर पर आए पैसों का हिसाब देखने लगे 123..... 50 फिर 99..100

फिर 149... 150

150 रुपए तक गिनने के बाद देखते हैं कि अभी उनके पास 40 की कमी है।

मंगू ने बचे पैसों को पूरा करने के लिए पत्नी के गहने सुनार के यहां रख दिए।

चाचा रामदीन ने भी अपनी पुरखों की विरासत के ठाठ के चलते और घर के सामान के बदले साहूकार से 40 उधार ले लिए पूरे पैसों का इंतजाम होने के बाद दोनों सेठ रामधनी के पास जाते हैं और आगे से पूरा पैसा देकर खेत एक साल के लिए ले लेते हैं।

दोनों खेत में फसल बोने की तैयारी करते हैं खेत को मंगू ने अपने बैलों से दो-तीन बार जोता चचा ने भी मेड़ों की ठीक-ठाक बंधाई कर दी।

खेत की दशा दोनों मिलकर सुधारने लगे खेत को जोत लेने के बाद दोनों आपस में बातचीत करते हुए कहते हैं कि हम इस बार मूंग की खेती करेंगे और खूब धन कमाएंगे।

चाचा आपस में बातचीत करते हुए मंगू से कहते हैं कि जब मूंग तैयार हो जाएगी तब केवल हम मूंग की फली फली तोड़कर आधी आधी बाटेंगे।

मंगू कहता है कि नहीं पूरी फसल को जड़ से काटने के बाद आधी आधी बांट लेंगे दोनों बहुत देर तक अपनी बात एक दूसरे से मनवाने में लगे रहते हैं।

कोई नहीं मानता मंगू कहता नहीं पूरी फसल काटकर आधी आधी बाटेंगे चचा कहते नहीं केवल फली फली तोड़कर आधी आधी बाटेंगे।

झगड़ा बढ़ जाता है लात घूंसे चलने लगते हैं फिर दोनों एक दूसरे पर टूट पड़ते हैं अचानक से मंगू ने चचा को खेत पर दे पटका चचा सीधे हल पर जाकर गिरे।

चचा के सिर पर चोट लग गई चचा ने मंगू को धमकी दी कि अभी जाकर थाने में रपट लिखाता हूँ कि मंगू ने मुझे मारा और मेरी ऐसी हालत कर दी।

पुलिस थाना होता है मंगू और चचा दोनों थाने में खड़े होते हैं थानेदार मंगू से पूछता कि मंगू तुमने चचा को क्यों मारा।

मंगू चुपचाप खड़ा रहता है मंगू नहीं बोलता।

थानेदार चचा से कहते हैं चचा अच्छा आप बताओ क्या बात है।

फिर चाचा सारी बात थानेदार साहब को बतलाते हैं।

चाचा कहते हैं कि—

मूंग के बंटवारे को लेकर हम दोनों में झगड़ा हो गया है।

मंगू कहता कि मूंग की सारी फसल काटकर आधी आधी बाटेंगे।

मैं कहता हूँ कि पूरा पेड़ क्यों काटेंगे केवल फली फली तोड़कर आधी आधी बाटेंगे

इसी बात को लेकर हम दोनों में झगड़ा हो गया।

मैं सच कह रहा हूँ साहब।

मंगू से पूछ लीजिए,

मंगू से थानेदार साहब पूछते हैं।

मंगू हां में सिर हिलाता है।

थानेदार साहब कहते हैं कि कोई बात नहीं

फैसला मौके पर ही जाकर करेंगे यह बताओ मूंग कहां बो रखी है

तो दोनों कहते हैं कि साहब अभी मूंग कहां बोई है अभी तो केवल खेत जोता है।

अनुराग पाल “धीरज”
बी.एस.सी, गणित, द्वितीय वर्ष

टहलते-टहलते

अतुल टहलते-टहलते पार्क की तरफ निकल पड़ा। आप सोच रहे होंगे की ये “अतुल कौन है, अब कहानी की शुरुआत अतुल से हुई है तो अतुल के बारे में जानना तो बनता है। ‘अतुल’, अतुल एक खुश मिजाज लड़का था जिसके चहरे पर दुख का होना दुर्लभ था। उसे लोगों से बात करना, दोस्तों से हसीं मजाक करना काफी पसंद था और “घूमना”। घूमना तो उसे शायद सबसे ज्यादा पसंद था, उसके चक्कर में वो कई बार घर पे डांट भी सुनता था, पर वो “शरारती” सुनने वालों में से कहा था। अतुल को लोग बहुत अच्छा मानते थे, उसके साथ वो खुश रहते थे, वो शायद इसलिए क्योंकि वो खुद बड़ा खुश रहता था। जब से ये ‘कोरोना’ आया और “लॉकडाउन हुआ उसके बाद से अतुल मैं इतना बदलाव आया की वो पहले जैसा नहीं रहा, “शरारती और “खुश’। इसका कारण लॉकडाउन नहीं था, इसका कारण था... अ... कारण के बारे में आगे बात करते हैं। तो हाँ, लॉकडाउन, लॉकडाउन आया और ये खबर सुनके की अब घर पर ही रहना हैं अतुल का तो मानो संसार ही उजड़ गया हो। अतुल की हालात उस पंछी की तरह हो गई जो अपने पंखों को फहराके उड़ना चाहता हैं, पर पिंजरे में बंद है। लॉकडाउन अतुल का पिंजरा था। खैर अब रहना तो पड़ेगा ऐसे ही, शुरुआत के दिन तो काफी लंबे लगे, एक दिन इतना लंबा शायद ही उसे कभी लगा होगा। पर बाद के दिनों के लिए उसे एक सहारा मिल गया, “प्रेमचंद”। अतुल के पिता प्रेमचंद की कुछ किताबें लाए थे, वो ये किताबें अतुल के लिए नहीं बल्कि अपने लिए लाए थे, उन्हें अतुल से पूरी उम्मीद थी कि वो इन्हें पढ़ेगा तो क्या, छूएगा भी नहीं। अब एक दिन उसके हाथों में प्रेमचंद की एक किताब लगी और प्रेमचंद की कहानियों को पढ़ने में उसे रस मिलने लगा। इसका कारण शायद ये हो सकता हैं की उन कहानियों के माध्यम से वो घर बैठे-बैठे गांव घूम सकता था और कहानियों के पात्रों से बात भी कर सकता था, शायद।

अब उसके दिन खासा आसानी से कट जाते। सुबह वो प्रेमचंद की कहानियां पढ़ता और शाम होते ही अपने दोस्त आदिल से खूब सारी बातें करता। ‘आदिल’, आदिल और अतुल बचपन के दोस्त थे, करीबी दोस्त। शाम को छत पर घूमते-घूमते वो आदिल से खूब बातें करता। उसे आदिल के साथ बात करते-करते समय का होश ही न रहता, वो कभी कहीं की बातें करता तो कभी कहीं की, और कभी तो प्रेमचंद की कहानियां ही सुनाने लगता। एक दिन वहीं शाम का समय आया, रोज की तरह ही अतुल ने आदिल को फोन लगाया और पता चलना कि आदिल की थोड़ी तबियत खराब है। अतुल को चिंता होने लगी और हो भी क्यों न, उस समय तबियत खराब होना बहुत चिंता की बात थी, पर उसने अपने को सांत्वना देने के लिए सोचा, “अरे हल्की सी तबियत खराब होगी, ठीक हो जाएगा”। वो उससे अब हर दिन तो लंबी-लंबी बातें नहीं कर पाता पर हाल पूछने के लिए कॉल कर लिया करता। एक दिन उसने ऐसे ही हाल चाल पूछने के लिए कॉल किया तो कॉल उसकी जगह उसकी ‘माँ’ ने उठाया, उसे उनसे पता लगा कि उसे ‘कोरोना’ हो गया हैं, और वो हॉस्पिटल में भर्ती हैं। ये जानकर

अतुल इतना चिंतित रहने लगा की उसे अब किसी भी चीज में रस नहीं मिलता, अब वो प्रेमचंद की कहानियों को भी नहीं पढ़ता, बस पूरा दिन चिंता में ही रहता और प्रार्थना करता की आदिल जल्द ही ठीक हो जाए। वो कुछ-कुछ दिनों में उसके घर कॉल मिलता, कॉल आदिल की माँ उठाती और वो हर बार ही पूछता, 'आंटी, अब आदिल कैसा है?' और उसे हर बार आवाज में एक ही जवाब मिलता, "बेटा, वैसा ही है"।

एक रोज उसने कॉल किया तो कॉल आदिल की माँ की जगह उसके पिता ने उठाया शायद इसलिए क्योंकि आदिल की माँ शायद बेहोश होंगी या रो रही होंगी, अब आदिल नहीं रहा। ये बात जैसे ही अतुल को पता लगी उसके दिमाग ने तो काम करना ही बंद कर दिया था, उसे इस बात का यकीन ही नहीं हो रहा था की जिसके साथ वो बड़ा हुआ, जिसके साथ वो रोज बात करता, जिसके साथ उसकी कई यादें जुड़ी हैं, अब वो उसे न कभी देख पाएगा, और ना ही उससे कभी बात कर पाएगा।

तो ये थी वो घटना थी जिसके बाद से अतुल में इतना बदलाव आया और वो पहले जैसा नहीं रहा, "शरारती और खुश"। अब वो उदास-उदास रहता था न वो घर में किसी से बात करता और न ही कहानियां पढ़ता, बस एक कोने में बैठे-बैठे पता नहीं क्या सोचता रहता। घरवालों को अब उसकी चिंता होने लगी थी, उसकी माँ कोशिश करती रहती की वो पहले जैसा हो जाए।

लॉकडाउन हल्का-हल्का खुल गया था, अब कुछ-कुछ लोग बाहर निकलने लगे थे। ये सोचकर की घूमना उसे अच्छा लगता है उसकी माँ ने उसे बोला, 'जा बेटा बाहर घूम के आजा, कितने दिन हो गए तू बाहर नहीं गया और तेरा थोड़ा मूड भी ठीक हो जायेगा', अतुल का मन तो नहीं था पर उसकी माँ के जिद्द करने पर वो घूमने चला गया।

अतुल टहलते-टहलते पार्क की तरफ निकल पड़ा, उसके घर से पार्क के रस्ते में ऐसी कई जगह थी जहाँ उसकी आदिल के साथ कई यादें थीं, वो और उदास हो गया।

वो पार्क पहुंचा, ये वो ही पार्क था जहा वो और आदिल बचपन से आते थे।

पार्क में ना के बराबर लोग थे, वो एक बेंच पे चुप चाप बैठ गया, और फिर से कुछ-कुछ सोचने लगा।

कुछ देर बाद पीछे से एक आवाज आई, थोड़ी भारी, बेटा।

वो मुड़ा तो उसने देखा एक बूढ़े दादा जी मास्क पहने खड़े थे, दादी जी ने अतुल से कहा, 'बेटा, तुम बुरा न मानो तो मैं यहां बैठ जाऊं? (पार्क में और भी कई बेंच खाती थी, पर दादा जी अतुल को अकेला बैठे देख उसके पास गए होंगे)।

अतुल कुछ क्षण चुप रहा, और जैसे ही वो कुछ बोलने वाला था दादा जी ने मास्क खिसका के हस्ते हुए कहा, 'चिंता मत करो, मुझे वैक्सीन लग चुकी है'।

अतुल ने भी हल्की मुस्कान के साथ कहा, 'हां दादाजी बैठ जाइए।'

अब दोनों बेंच पर बैठे थे, कुछ देर तक शांति थी।

दादाजी शांति तोड़ते हुए बोले,

"कैसा समय आ गया है, सबके हँसते चेहरे गायब हो गए हैं"

"बेटा तुम यहाँ अकेले बैठे कुछ परेशान से दिख रहे थे?"

"नहीं-नहीं दादाजी, ऐसी बात नहीं है"

"अच्छा, हो सकता है, उम्र के साथ साथ शायद आंखें कमजोर हो गई हो"

फिर कुछ देर तक शांति हो गई, फिर दादाजी खामोशी तोड़ते हुए बोले,

"इस समय ने सबसे कुछ न कुछ छिना है, सबसे दुखी वो हैं जिनके अपने उनसे छीन गए"

"बेटा, तुमसे भी कुछ छिना है क्या?" (ये सवाल अजीब था, पर शायद दादा जी जान चुके थे की अतुल यूँ अकेला और चुप चाप क्यों बैठा है, और उसको ऐसे किसी से बात करने की बहुत जरूरत है)

अतुल कुछ क्षण चुप रहा, वो कुछ बोलने वाला था पर उससे पहले दादा जी बोल पड़े, “ये कोरोना मेरे बेटे-बहु को ले गया, वो मेरे सब कुछ थे” ये बोलते हुए उनकी आंखें हल्की नम थीं)

ये सुनके अतुल ने उनकी तरफ देखा, और फिर सामने देखते हुए बोला- आपने अपने आपको कैसे संभाला?”

“अब बेटा संभालना तो पड़ेगा ही, और वैसे भी वो मेरे पास एक जिम्मेदारी छोड़ कर गए हैं, मेरी पोती, वो 6 साल की हैं”

“कितना मुश्किल होता है न किसी अपने को खोना”

“सबसे मुश्किल, अब सिर्फ उस इन्सान की यादें रह जाती हैं”

“हां” (अतुल की आंखें भर रही थीं)

“बेटा, बुरा न मानो तो एक बात पूछू?”

“जी”

“तुमने भी किसी को खोया है”

अतुल चुप हो गया ...

“कोई नहीं उसके बारे में बात नहीं करना चाहते हो तो”

अतुल बोला,

“आदिल, मेरे बचपन का दोस्त”

“दोस्त, फिर तो काफी मुश्किल रहा होगा तुम्हारे लिए” टूटी सी आवाज में अतुल ने कहा, “बहुत” (आदिल के बारे में उसने कभी अपने घरवालों से भी बात नहीं की थी, वो इस बारे में बात ही नहीं करना चाहता था)

“तुम्हे पता है, मेरी पोती मुझसे पूछती रहती है कि, मम्मी पापा कब आयेंगे, उसे हमने बता रखा है कि उनकी तबियत खराब है वो जैसे ही ठीक होंगे आ जाएंगे, और मेरी पत्नी उसे भी उनके साथ ही कोरोना हुआ था उसकी जान बच गई, पर जिनमें उसकी जान बस्ती थी, उसके बेटे और बहू वो नहीं बच पाए, अब लगता है उसकी जान तो बच गई, पर वो जिंदा नहीं है, बेटा जो खोया है एक मां ने” (ये बताते हुए उनके आँसू छलक गईं) दोनों, अतुल और दादा जी एक दूसरे के गम को समझते थे, “किसी अपने को खोने के गम को” अतुल ने दादा जी को अपनी और आदिल की अच्छी-अच्छी यादें बताई, और दादा जी ने अपने बेटे और बहू के साथ अपनी अच्छी-अच्छी यादें। अब शाम हो गई थी, अंधेरा भी होने लगा था, ये देख कर दादा जी बोले, “बेटा अब हमें जाना चाहिए, तुम्हारी मां भी चिंता कर रही होंगी”

“हाँ, रात होने वाली है, जाना चाहिए”

जाते वक्त दोनों ने एक दूसरे की तरफ देखा, ऐसा लग रहा था मानो बिना बोले ही कल फिर से मिलने का तय किया हो।

दादाजी ने जाते-जाते बोला, ‘बेटा, मेरी उम्र भले ही हो गई हो, पर मैं बूढ़ा नहीं हुआ, मुझे अपना दोस्त ही समझना।’

अतुल ने हस्ते हुए बोला, “हाँ, बिल्कुल”।

दोनों को एक दूसरे के साथ समय बिता के बहुत अच्छा लगा, दादाजी को शायद अतुल में अपना बेटा दिख रहा होगा, और अतुल को उनमें एक मित्र।

हम सबने कोरोना काल में किसी न किसी को खोया है, पर अब हमारे हाथों में कुछ भी नहीं है सिवाए उनकी अच्छी यादों के साथ जीने के और ऐसे में हमें एक दूसरे का सहारा बनना चाहिए।

नारायण दो ऐसे लोगों को जिन्हें एक दूसरे की जरूरत है, किसी ना किसी तरीके से मिला ही देता है।

तरुण ध्यानी, बी.ए. प्रोग्राम, प्रथम वर्ष

नाट्य रचना- 'लापरवाही'

पाठ - पात्र

रमेश - पिता (एक औद्योगिक कंपनी में काम करता है)

बिमला - माता (सामान्य ग्रहिणी)

कमल - पुत्र

सोहन - रमेश का मित्र डॉ. रंजन - निजी अस्पताल का चिकित्सक

संक्षिप्त विवरण- मुख्यतः यह नाटक हाल ही में फैली महामारी कोरोना को आधार मानकर लिखा गया है जिसमें यह दिखाने का प्रयास किया गया है कि किस प्रकार एक सामान्य व्यक्ति की थोड़ी सी लापरवाही का परिणाम उसके परिवार को सहना पड़ सकता है और किस प्रकार उनके बच्चों का जीवन और भविष्य एक गम्भीर रूप से प्रभावित हो सकता है

(प्रातः काल का दृश्य)

रमेश- (नहा कर आता है) मेरा तौलिया कहां है? विमला - सही से देखो तुम्हारे सामने ही तो रखा है! रमेश - ओह! यह रहा (मेज पर)।

विमला - अगर नहाना हो गया हो तो खाना लगा दूँ?

रमेश - हाँ हाँ! मैं यहीं बैठा हूँ दो।

(टीवी चलते हुए, आज फिर से कोरोना के 34000 मामले सामने आए और 2500 लोगों की हुई मौत)

विमला - अरे तुमने भी सुबह-सुबह यह क्या देखना शुरू कर दिया तम्हें तो पता ही है कि मझे कितनी चिंता होने लगती है यह खबरें सुनकर।

रमेश - अरे इसमें चिंता करने की क्या बात है, अभी तक हमें तो नहीं है ना, जब होगा तब देखेंगे।

विमला - हां, वो तो है लेकिन फिर भी ध्यान तो रखना ही है।

(फोन की घंटी बजती हुई)

रमेश- हाँ सर! बिल्कुल सर! मैं अभी जल्दी ही रवाना हो जाऊंगा।

विमला- क्या हुआ?

रमेश -अरे बॉस का कॉल आया था उन्होंने कहा कि मुझे एक बहुत बड़ी डील करने के लिए दिल्ली जाना है तो उसी के लिए उन्होंने मुझे जल्दी से ऑफिस बुलाया है।

विमला -अच्छा अच्छा वह सब ठीक है लेकिन कोरोना कितना फैला हुआ है और आने जाने में भी कितना खतरा है तो ऐसे में जाना जरूरी है क्या? रमेश -अरे कुछ नहीं होता तुम इतना मत सोचो अब बॉस ने बोल दिया है तो जाना तो पड़ेगा ना। (कमल खेल कर आते हुए)

कमल -पापा आप कहाँ जा रहे हो?

रमेश- दिल्ली।

कमल - अरे वाह! पापा, मेरे लिए वहाँ से अच्छे अच्छे कपड़े और खिलौने लाना (खुशी के साथ)

रमेश- बिल्कुल बेटा...चलो मैं अब आगे ही काफी लेट हो गया हूँ कमल- हाँ! हाँ! पापा.. लेकिन आप अपना ध्यान रखना और हाथों को अच्छे से धोते रहना और मास्क लगाकर रखना।

रमेश - हाँ चलो अब मैं चलता हूँ।

(रमेश दिल्ली पहुंचने के बाद)

रमेश -(सोहन को फोन करते हुए) अरे तू आ रहा है कि नहीं!

सोहन - नहीं यार! मेरे बच्चे और पत्नी मुझे नहीं आने दे रहे वह कह रहे हैं कि कोरोना है और आपको वैसे भी सामान्य सर्दी-जुकाम तो होता ही रहता है

रमेश-अरे कुछ नहीं होता यार...आजा!

सोहन- नहीं नहीं यार, तू कल आएगा तो कल ही मिलेंगे ऑफिस में।

रमेश - ठीक है, अब मैं बाद में बात करता हूँ मुझे मीटिंग में बुला रहे हैं।

सोहन- हाँ हाँ ठीक है। (रमेश अगले दिन वापस घर आने के बाद)

(घर की घंटी बजती हुई)

विमला- आती हूँ.. आती हूँ, देख कौन है?

रमेश- अरे कमल की माँ हूँ..

विमला- भला- अच्छा! माँ अच्छा! इतनी जल्दी आ भी गए।

रमेश- हां काम जल्दी हो गया तो आ गया।

विमला - चलो फिर जल्दी से हाथ धो लो और नहा भी लो पता नहीं इस कोरोना काल में कहाँ कहाँ जा कर आए हो।

रमेश- अरे कोई जरूरत नहीं है, मुझे दिल्ली में भी कुछ नहीं हुआ तो यहाँ तो क्या ही होगा तुम यह सब छोड़ो और जल्दी से एक बढिया सी चाय बनाओ क्योंकि आज भी तो ऑफिस जाना है।

विमला-एक दिन का आराम भी नहीं है?

रमेश- आराम कहाँ... तुम्हें तो पता ही है कि कोरोना के चक्कर में काम और कंपनी वालों की कितनी मारामारी हुई है लगभग सभी काम ठप पड़ गए हैं और हम जैसे मध्यम वर्ग के लोगों की हालत तो सबसे ज्यादा खराब हुई है।

कमल- पापा, आ गए..

रमेश- हां बेटा और मैं तुम्हारे लिए बहुत सारे खिलौने भी लाया हूँ

कमल- वाह! आज तो मजा ही आ गया अब मैं पूरे दिन इन्हीं के साथ खेलूंगा! थैंक यू पापा! आप मेरे सबसे अच्छे पापा हो...

रमेश- चलो चलो अब जाओ और खेलो..

विमला- यह लीजिए आपकी चाय।

रमेश- (चाय पीकर ऑफिस जाते हुए)

सोहन- अरे आ गया! कैसा रहा सफर?

रमेश- हां यार आ गया आज सुबह ही। (खाँसते हुए कहता है)

सोहन- अरे क्या हुआ खाँसी कैसे आ रही है?

रमेश- अरे क्या बताएँ यार जब से दिल्ली से वापस आया हूँ तब से खाँसी आ रही है, बुखार है और गला भी दर्द कर रहा है।

सोहन- (सोचते हुए) यह सारे तो कोरोना के लक्षण हैं।

रमेश -अरे क्या सोचने लग गया सोहन?

सोहन -यही कि कहीं तुझे कोरोना तो नहीं हो गया...

रमेश- पागल है क्या? कछ भी बोल रहा है, यह तो सामान्य सर्दी खाँसी के लक्षण हैं।

सोहन- हां वह तो है लेकिन फिर भी तुझे एक बार कोरोना की जाँच करवा लेनी चाहिए उससे तुझे भी खतरा नहीं होगा और तेरे

आसपास के लोगों को भी नहीं होगा।

रमेश - अरे नहीं यार तू कुछ ज्यादा ही सोच रहा है जाँच की कोई जरूरत नहीं है यह अपने आप ही सही हो जाएगा।

सोहन- वह तो तेरी मर्जी है लेकिन मैं तो यही कहूँगा। कि तुझे करवानी चाहिए जाँच क्योंकि तू अपने साथ-साथ भाभी जी और कमल को भी खतरे में डाल रहा है।

रमेश- (अचानक से गहरी गहरी सांस लेते हुए) तू सही कह रहा है मुझे भी थोड़ी अपनी तबीयत कम सही लग रही है यार चल हॉस्पिटल चलते हैं।

(इतना कहते-कहते रमेश बेहोश हो जाता है, सोहन एंबुलेंस को बुलाता है और विमला को फोन करता है)

सोहन- भाभी जी आप जल्दी से हॉस्पिटल आ जाइए रमेश की तबीयत ज्यादा खराब हो गई है।

विमला- जी भैया जी मैं अभी आती हूँ..

(हॉस्पिटल का दृश्य)

(हॉस्पिटल पहुंचने के बाद रमेश हॉस्पिटल बेड पर बैठा है और विमला और कमल रमेश के पास टेबल रखकर बैठे हैं)

(रमेश को होश आ जाता है)

विमला - देखा मैंने कहा था ना तुम ध्यान रखो ..ध्यान रखो. -और तुम लापरवाही करते रहे।

रमेश - तुमने सही कहा था, अचानक से सांसे बढ़ती हुई

विमला- डॉक्टर... डॉक्टर..

डॉ. रंजन - हां क्या हुआ?

विमला- यह देखिए, इनकी सांस फूल रही है।

(डॉ., विमला और कमल को बाहर भेजते हैं)

डॉ. रंजन -इनको जल्द से जल्द ऑक्सीजन देनी की आवश्यकता है।

डॉ रंजन- (बाहर आने के बाद) अब सब ठीक है हमने रमेश जी को ऑक्सीजन चढ़ा दिया अब वह थोड़ी अच्छी हालत में है।

विमला- (खांसते हुए) आपका बहुत-बहुत! शुक्रिया डॉक्टर साहब!

डॉ रंजन- लगता है आपको भी हुआ है आप भी जल्द से जल्द अपनी और अपने बच्चे की जाँच करवाइए।

(जांच करवाने पर विमला और कमल को भी कोरोना होता है)

डॉ रंजन- (विमला और कमल को भर्ती करने के बाद) अब आप सभी जल्दी ही ठीक हो जाएंगे क्योंकि कोरोना की जाँच करवाने ही सबसे ज्यादा जरूरी होता है जब तक हमें इसका पता नहीं चलता तब तक हम इसका उपचार भी नहीं कर सकते।

(5 दिन बाद)

डॉक्टर रंजन -अब आप स्वस्थ है लेकिन मैं एक बात रमेश जी से कहना चाहूँगा कि ऐसी लापरवाही आप दोबारा ना करें क्योंकि हो सकता है इस बार अपने समय रहते उपचार करवा लिया हो अगर आप इसी प्रकार लापरवाही करते रहते और अगर आप किसी कारण वश अगर नहीं बच पाते तो आपका परिवार टूट सकता था और आप ही की लापरवाही की वजह से विमला जी और कमल को भी कोरोना हो गया। जो कि इनके जीवन के लिए एक बड़ा खतरा साबित हो सकता था।

रमेश- जी डॉक्टर साहब मैं अब ऐसी कोई लापरवाही नहीं करूँगा जिससे मुझे और मेरे परिवार को कठिनाई झेलनी पड़े और अब से मैं इस कोरोना काल में सदैव मास्क पहन कर रखूँगा और लोगों से एक उचित दूरी बनाने के साथ-साथ नियमित तौर पर हाथ भी धोता रहूँगा ताकि ना केवल मैं खुद की सुरक्षा संरक्षित कर सकूँ दूसरों की सुरक्षा का भी ध्यान रख सकूँ।

- हर्षवर्धन

बी.एस.सी. गणित, तृतीय वर्ष

‘दुर्बलता’ (एक सामाजिक सत्य)

सहसा मेरी नजर उस पर पड़ी। वह अबोध बालक आज भूखा था, सुबह से लाख मिन्नतें कर चुका था लोगों से पर उसे खाना नसीब ना हुआ था। वह अपने दोस्तों के साथ एक आधुनिक होटल के सामने खड़ा था। मुझे उसको द्वारा लोगों से खाना मांगने के लिए मिन्नतें करना अच्छा न लग रहा था। मन का एकांत कहीं बैठा था जा रहा था, मुझे मुझमें लघुता सी महसूस होने लगी थी। ऐसी विह्वल कर देने वाली स्थिति का सामना कर एक क्षण के लिए मन चिंतन की अवस्था में जा ठहरा। मन में कई तरह के मन को झकझोर देने वाले विचार अंतर्द्वंद्व कर रहे थे। वह एक बेसहारा और समाज द्वारा उपेक्षित बालक था।

बात पिछले साल गर्मियों की है वह फेरी करके लौट रहा था कि पड़ोस के गांव के पास पड़ने वाले सुनसान टीले के पास ही अचानक उसे कमजोरी का एहसास हुआ। गरीबी के चलते उसके पास कभी दो जून के खाने से ज्यादा का बंदोबस्त नहीं था, जिसके कारण उसके तथा उसकी बीबी और बच्चों के तन पर कुपोषण का आधिपत्य हो गया था।

आज जब कमजोरी का अहसास हुआ तो उसे क्षणभर भी संभलने का समय ना मिला। वह अचेतन की स्थिति में चला गया। गर्मी की गरम दुपहरी, सुनसान सड़कें, दूर-दूर तक कोई न था जो उसकी मदद कर सके। उस अभागे ने कुछ ही क्षण पश्चात प्राण त्याग दिए। घर में खाने को अन्न का एक दाना ना था।

भूख से बेहाल बच्चे उन्हें सांत्वना देती वह अभागन पति की राह देख देखकर, उसे आता ना देख जब वह थक गई तो गांव के बाहर जाने वाली सड़क पर उसका इंतजार करने के लिए निकलने वाली ही थी कि तभी अचानक पास के गांव के गिरधारी ने आकर खबर दी कि चचा चल बसे। बात में गंभीरता के साथ विह्वलता भी अपने पूर्ण रूप से अपनी छाप छोड़ गई।

गिरधारी की बात सुन वह क्षण भर को विस्मित होकर उसके चेहरे को गंभीरता से देखने लगी साथ ही उसमें छुपे व्यंग्य को भी खोजने की असफल कोशिश करने लगी पर सफल ना हो सकी। अपने कानों पर उसे विश्वास ना हो रहा था कि उसने जो सुना कहीं वह गलत तो नहीं सुना। पर जब उसे पूर्ण चेतना में बात की सत्यता का आभास हुआ तब उसे उसकी बातों में गंभीर्य का एहसास हुआ। घोर चिंता में जीवन व्यतीत करने के कारण अकस्मात मिले शोक संदेश से उसका तन-मन इस आघात को सहन न कर सका और वह मूर्छित होकर वही द्वार पर गिर पड़ी।

इस तरह इस गरीब, असहाय और अबोध बालक के ऊपर से माता पिता की छत्रछाया का आवरण हमेशा-हमेशा के लिए एकांत के शून्य में विलीन हो गया।

समाज की एक खासियत होती है जिस व्यक्ति में समाज का सामना करने का साहस होता है, दर्शकों का अनुभव उसकी मनोःस्मृति में समाहित हो जाता है। आज का यह अबोध बालक भी उसी समाज का डटकर सामना कर रहा था और उसकी मनोःस्मृति भी कहीं ना कहीं उसे मजबूत बना रही थी। इसमें कहीं दो राय नहीं है कि वह बालक किसी भी तरह की प्रतिभा से वंचित है। परंतु संसाधन की कमी कहीं ना कहीं अभाव का एक अदृश्य आवरण बनाकर उसे कमजोर, लाचार बना रहा था।

वैसे तो मैंने समाज के हाशिए पर रहने वाले लोगों को करीबी से देखा है। उनकी मनोःस्थिति से भी अच्छी तरह परिचित हूं, परंतु आज इस बालक में मुझे पता नहीं किस तरह के आकर्षण का एहसास हो रहा था। वह एक अनाथ बालक है, इस अभाव की झलक की एक शिकन भी उसके चेहरे पर दिखाई ना दे रही थी। मैं खुद को न रोक पाया उसके पास जाकर मैंने उससे पूछा यहां क्या कर रहे हो पहले तो वह अपने दोस्तों के साथ बातों में मशगूल था पर मेरे एक-दो बार और कहने पर वह मेरी तरफ घूम कर खड़ा होगा गया। मैंने प्रश्न दोहराया, उसने कहा कुछ नहीं ऐसे ही। बाल मन को किस चीज की जरूरत होती है शायद यह प्रश्न ही

पूर्णतया निराधार है। बाल मन ऐसी मनो:स्थिति है जब किसी बच्चे को भूख लगी हो और उसे खाना ना मिले बजाए उसके उसे हास परिहास या उसके पसंदीदा कार्य को अगर उसके सामने क्रियान्वित किया जाए तो वह क्षण भर में ही अपनी भूख ही नहीं बड़े से बड़ा दर्द भी भूल जाता है ऐसी मनो:स्थिति शायद उसमें भी सक्रिय थी।

अभी जिस बालक को मैंने अपनी पूर्ण चेतना की स्थिति में लोगों से खाना के लिए मिन्नतें करते देखा था। उसी बालक से अब यह सुन रहा था कि बस ऐसे ही खड़े हैं। मानो उसे किसी चीज की जरूरत ही ना हो, मानो उसे भूख ही ना हो, मानो वह हास-परिहास का प्रतिभागी मात्र बनने के लिए वहां आया हो। एक क्षण के लिए फिर मैं विचारों के अंतर्द्वंद में कहीं खो सा गया। अवचेतन मन से जैसे ही मैं बाहर निकला वह अपनी टोली के साथ गायब था।

जिंदगी के दिन प्रतिदिन नए अनुभवों का सामना करना लगभग मेरा पेशा बन चुका था पर आज के हृदय को छू लेने वाले दृश्य ने मुझे चिंतन करने पर विवश कर दिया था। मैं सामाजिकता पर ज्यादा चिंतित तो नहीं हुआ वजह मैं ऐसी सामाजिकता से अच्छी तरह परिचित था। यह समाज है जो अय्याशियों को गिरा सकता है तो परिश्रमी को अर्श तक पहुंचाने की भी शक्ति रखता है। बावजूद इसके मैं इस दृश्य से इतर अपना ध्यान कहीं लगा ही नहीं पा रहा था। आज का दृश्य मेरे अंतर्मन में बैठी किसी घटना का स्मरण कराने की चेष्टा कर रहा था परंतु किस घटना की, इसका सिर्फ आभास ही मुझे हो पाया घटना को स्मरण करने की लाख चेष्टा करने पर भी उसका स्मरण न हो पाया...

सोनू कुमार
बी.ए. हिंदी ऑनर्स, द्वितीय वर्ष

‘फर्क पड़ता है’



प्रो. अंजू अग्रवाल
रिटायर्ड प्रो. मैक

मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब तुम मुझे
अपने बराबर नहीं समझते।
बराबर मैं हूँ भी नहीं।
वो कहते हैं ना !
औरतें बायोलॉजिकली
कमजोर होती हैं।
ये सच भी है
किंतु !
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है!
तब !
जब तुम मेरी
इज्जत नहीं करते।
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब तुम मेरे लिए
दरवाजा नहीं खोलते
पर तब !
जब दरवाजा तुम
मेरे मुँह पर मारते हो।
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब होटल में मेरा
बिल नहीं चुकाते

पर तब !
जब किसी के साथ
बदतमीजी हो रही हो
और तुम उसे रोकते नहीं।
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब क्रिकेट मैच में
मुझे ना खिलाया जाए।
पर तब!
जब मैं क्रिकेट खेलूँ
तो सीटियां बजाई जाए।
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब तुम बच्चे
पैदा ना कर पाओ
पर तब !
जब मैं पैदा करूँ
तो तुम उन्हें संभालो नहीं।
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब तुम्हारे शरीर से
कौन सा क्रोमोसोम
मेरे अंदर जाए।
पर तब !
जब मैं लड़की पैदा करूँ
तो सवाल उठाए जाएं।
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब तुम अपनी कमाई
मुझ पर ना खर्च करो
पर तब!
जब मुझे
मेरी ही कमाई

ना खर्च करने दी जाए।
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब तुम अपने पिता की
संपत्ति के मालिक बनो।
पर तब !
जब मुझे मेरे पिता की
संपत्ति का मालिक
ना बनने दिया जाए।
मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब नहीं
जब तुम खुद पर
विश्वास रखो
पर तब !
जब तुम मेरे आत्मविश्वास
को डगमगाओ।
हां, मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब !
जब तुम हिंसक होते हो
हां, मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब!
जब तुम अत्याचार करते हो
हां, मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब ! जब तुम मुझे
अपने से हीन समझते हो
हां, मुझे फर्क पड़ता है
तब !
जब तुम मेरे तन मन पर
आधिपत्य जमाते हो।
क्यूँ ना दोनों मिलकर
आज ये फर्क मिटाएं
और जीवन स्वर्ग बनाएं।



CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL STUDIES (CPACS)

Centre for Performing Arts and Cultural Studies (CPACS), Department of English, MAC DU has been promoting performing arts and cultural studies through its focus on live demonstration of theatre based multi-media and cinematic arts since its inception in 2014.

The year 2022-23 as has been post-covid transition to offline activities, CPACS was actively involved in the campus activity mode to reach MAC students and teachers for bringing connect of performing arts to life situations. During the period of pandemic, CPACS was engaged with bringing news of online availability of performing arts events, workshops and training links to develop engagement with performing arts for stories of resilience, health and care including mit-press-journal TDR/ The Drama Review Students' Essay contest info and guidance. As CPACS had conducted theatre making workshop LETTERS in collaboration with Arvind Gaur's Asmita Theatre Group, continuing its networking with resource persons and practitioners of theatrical arts CPACS shared the info of online live performances of Asmita regularly with students and staff members through social media groups. The link of live performance by Asmita 'Godse@Gandhi. Com', a fiction fantasy play by AshgarVajahat, was shared on 30th January 2022 to promote online play watching. The play is a fictional-fantasy dialogue between the two historical figures. Another significant online event attended and shared by CPACS was the official launch of the Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation with an address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Video messages from distinguished Musicians viz. Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, Padma Vibhushan; Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Padma Vibhushan; Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Padma Vibhushan; Dr. L Subramaniam, Padma Bhushan; Dr. N Rajam, Padma Bhushan.

New Visual Look of CPACS.

The NAAC preparation and presentation of CPACS to the NAAC visiting team, reconfigured the visual stories of the Centre. Based on increasing volume of activities and events, more space was visualised to present the CPACS stories through visual culture of exhibition to be viewed by CPACS visitors. Dr. Subodh Upadhaya and English



Hons. Students contributed in shaping the new look under the concept design and visualisation of CPACS coordinator Vinod Verma.

Workshop on Face-Painting and Photographic Documentation in September 2022

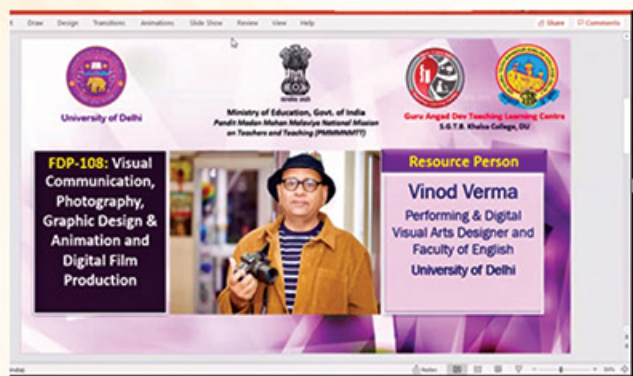
While evaluating the face painting event in the auditorium lobby, Vinod Verma, CPACS Activity Director and Coordinator, shared his theatre and performing arts make-up and face-painting skills with students by bringing home the elements and principles of human face-painting based on given subject and themes.

The Selfie and Beyond The Selfie :

Photography Workshop by CPACS Coordinator at ZHC (E) Delhi University

Chhaya, the Film & Photography Society of Zakir Husain College (E), University of Delhi organised Workshop on Visual Communication and Photography. As Resource Person, CPACS Activity Director Vinod Verma was invited to conduct the workshop on the subject The Selfie and Beyond The Selfie. Both Theory and Practice Sessions were held for understanding history and technology of visual arts with reference to camera's past, present and future for a deeper human social need of communication beyond the Selfie and skill development for being able to significance creator in the times that are technologically driven mobile. Digital technologies interface with camera and have given the digital camera the status of an essential tool of global visual content creation and instant world wide communication.





Students' Interaction with Abhinav Sharma at CPACS

Retelling the past: Abhinav Sharma (2016 MAC DU batch) narrates the story of his startups on film & graphic design to current batch students. On 14 February 2023, he visited the Centre for Performing Arts and Cultural Studies (MAC DU) where he learnt camera skills while participating in three month long workshops on the film-making on project Shabad Sambhale Boliye directed and produced by Vinod Verma for CPACS, MAC. While interacting with students, he spoke about his association with CPACS and he said that CPACS skills have become his profession after his graduation and leaving college.

CPACS Activity Director and Coordinator engaged as National Resource Person by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India (Organised by Delhi University) to conduct FDP in Nov. 2022 on Visual Communication, Photography, Graphic Design, Animation Film Design and Digital Film Production for University/College faculties across India.

Sharing Food Together During NAAC 2022-23 Make-over of the Centre's Visual Appearance





ABDUL KALAM CENTRE (AKC)

Abdul Kalam Centre was established in Maharaja Agrasen College to provide support facilities to its students as well as faculty members for carrying out their research activities. Following activities were carried out by the Centre in the academic year 2022-23

Short-term Courses

Abdul Kalam Centre offered following Short-term Courses for students in the current academic year. The main objective to start short-term courses in the college was to augment the undergraduate course curriculum, to empower student to meet challenges after graduating from college and to enhance the soft skills of the students. Following courses were launched by the centre –

- ◆ **English Language Course for Professional Success**– After the successful completion of ELCPS 1, 2 and 3 (the three chapters conducted between the three consecutive years between 2019 to 2022), this course aims to take English speaking for professional purposes forward in the following manner:
 - Enable students to understand the basics of professional etiquettes.
 - Facilitate students in dealing with the various demands and communicative requirements expected in various professional sectors.
 - Managing conflict within different professional set-ups.
 - Focus on the integrated-elements of LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) and Grammar and Vocabulary.
 - Focus on aspects like crisis-management, conversation management during Interviews, telephone calls, video calls and managing speaking and listening cues during real professional situations

DrIndrani Dasgupta and Dr Guntasha were the Course Coordinators of the Short-term Course and the duration of the course was 30 hours.

- ◆ **Enhancing Soft Skills for Employability** – Employers today rate soft skills as essential skill sets just as much as technical skills and qualifications. These are character traits and abilities that can be acquired and developed for holistic growth both in the professional and personal space. Emotional intelligence is a significant component of soft skills and refers to self-awareness and self-management along with our ability to handle interpersonal relationships with empathy and positivity.

This short-term course aims to enhance students' soft skills to make them desirable team players and leaders in any organization. This course comprises of modules on Soft Skills, Leadership, Teamwork, Emotional Intelligence/ Emotional Quotient, Personality Development, Flexibility & Adaptability and Critical thinking & problem solving. The methodology used includes analysis of case studies and active interaction in class simulating real time team work and leadership.

Prof. Gitanjali Chawla was the Course Coordinator of the Short-term Course and the duration of the course was 30 hours.

- ❖ **Legal Awareness** – The course was organized in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Services Authority. The course covered legal topics of paramount importance including- Right to Information Act, Consumer Protection Act, Overview of Criminal Justice System, Gender Discrimination and Violence, Domestic Violence Act, Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, POSCO Act, Victim Compensation & NALSA Schemes. The resource persons were Judicial Officers, Legal Aid Counsels and Experts in their respective fields.

Ms Puneeta Agarwal was the Course Coordinator of the Short-term Course and the duration of the course was 15 hours.

- ❖ **Computer Learning with MS-Office** – This short-term course is open for all the students and specially for the students of NCWEB. MS Office is used for organizing, handling, and presenting data and information and that can be helpful to improve the employability skills of the students. Presentations, word files and excel sheets, all have become a must know for each now a days. With the in-depth knowledge of MS Office, one can make better presentations, use more features in Word, Excel and thus makes a mark with style on work performed.

The course started in the last week of March. Dr Kalpana is the Course Coordinator and the duration of the course is 30 hours.

- ❖ **Application of Digital Technology Tools** – In the age of Digital Technology in every sphere of our life, this course aims to introduce and train the students in Digital Technology Tools. The course shall begin in the 2nd / 3rd week of April. Dr Ritu Kohli is the Course coordinator Course and the duration of the course is 30 hours.

- ❖ **Data Analysis for Business Decision Making** – Course Objectives: Classify & Tabulate Raw Data, graphically represent the Data, Analyze the Graphs, Estimate and Test the Hypothesis, Derive Statistical Inference

Course Content: Descriptive Statistics, Probability and Probability Distribution, Inferential Statistics, ANOVA, Regression Analysis.

The third batch of the course was withdrawn in the month of January as University has introduced similar paper for the SEC courses under the NEP 2020 course framework. Dr Arun Julka and Dr Soma Garg were the Course Coordinators and the duration of the course was 30 hours.

MAC eLearning Portal

A one-day Workshop on 'MAC eLearning Portal' was organised on 29th November 2022. Around 20 faculty members attended the program. Faculty members created their new courses as per NEP 2020 Curriculum framework on the portal. The new users (both faculty and students) were added on the portal.





Ek BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT (ESSB)

The Government of India's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative is a modest programme designed to respect and celebrate our country's rich cultural legacy and conserve and promote its history, customs, and values.

According to the Government guidelines, Maharaja Agrasen College of Delhi University founded the MAC-EBSB club in 2019 as part of the flagship initiative of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Screening of 'Azaadi Ki Amrit Kahaniyan'

"Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" is celebrated by the EBSB club of Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. The 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' club displayed "Azadi ki Amrit Kahaniya" during an event to convey the message of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" project at Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. "Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniya" is a short film series featuring seven remarkable women who have achieved incredible feats in disciplines such as environmental preservation, healthcare, and aviation. The event was scheduled at the conference hall on July 22, 2022. Prof. Sanjeev Kr. Tiwari, the principal, provided some wisdom and guidance through his precious words at the event.

The tales were about seven women changemakers of Indian society. The films were about Basanti Devi, who dedicated her life to preserving the Kosi river and forest in Uttarakhand, and Anshu Jamsenpa, who became the first woman to climb Mt. Everest twice in five years.

Harshini Kanhekhar, the first Indian woman firefighter, Poonam Nautiyal, who worked as a frontline warrior in difficult times and helped Bageshwar achieve a 100% vaccination rate, Thessy Thomas, who came to be known as Missile Woman of India for her contributions to Agni IV and V, Tanvi Jagdish, India's first professional woman standup paddleboarder, and Arohi Pandit, the first woman pilot to solo traverse the Atlantic and Pacific oceans in a light space aircraft.





The videos were so inspiring that they had a lasting impression on all of the students and staff members who attended the event. The event was concluded by a vote of thanks by one of the coordinators of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Club.

Elocution Contest On 'Unsung Heroes of the Nation'

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Club of Maharaja Agrasen College organized an elocution contest on the theme 'The Unsung Heroes of the Nation' on August 8, 2022, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav-Har

GharTiranga Campaign. 15 students from various institutions of the University of Delhi took part in the tournament, and the winners received monetary prizes. The members learned a lot about the nation's unsung heroes through the contest and were inspired by their contributions, and the event was a huge success.

The MAC-EBSB club is unquestionably a learning experience for its members as well as a nurturing opportunity for Maharaja Agrasen College. Weaving oneself into civilizations and flowing in the river of knowledge and human history is a requirement for a country's real progress.

Maharaja Agrasen College is honored to be a part of this extraordinary endeavor to commemorate and promote India's cultural diversity.





HOSTEL COMMITTEE

The Hostel Committee ensure a safe, happy, healthy and hygienic environment for students to reside and thrive in. Several key repairs were undertaken, and facilities added under the patronage of the Principal, Prof Sanjeev K Tiwari and the Governing Body. Regular feedback was taken from the students and corrective measures taken accordingly. The committee is committed to the holistic development of students and organised events



DAY TRIP FOR HOSTELERS - ADVENTURE ISLAND, ROHINI, DELHI ON 4 FEBRUARY 2023



Lohri & Makar Sankranti on 14 January 2023

and festivals to ensure that the hostelers did not miss their families and forged bonds with each other. Every festival brought them together as a family to plan and organise, to celebrate and enjoy with festive spirit and cheer. Navratras was celebrated with festivity and cheer on 26 September 2022 which began with Devi Puja and was followed by the energetic and graceful garba in the beautifully decorated basketball court. Dressed in lehngas and traditional attire, the girls danced the night away swinging to popular songs. This was followed by Diwali, which was celebrated on 24 October 2022 with the auspicious Lakshmi Puja. Students decorated the hostel with rangoli and diyas and each one participated in the puja reminiscing the rituals observed in their homes. A traditional feast was served with customary sweets for this occasion. The organisation of this festival was led by Akangsha Das, BA (H) Hindi, 2nd Year and Aashi Srivastava, BA (H) English, 2nd Year.

Christmas was celebrated with gay abandonment as the students partied dressed in festive colours on 25 December 2022. The common room was decorated with balloons and psychedelic lights. Archi Yadav, BA (H) Political Science, 1st Year and Bandna Verma, BSc Mathematical Sciences, 2nd Year led the team which organised the Christmas party. This was followed by New Year Eve's celebrations on 31 December 2022 in the hostel lobby with 'Comfiest Pajamas' as the dress code. Tanya Soni, BA Programme, 2nd Year and Rounak Gour, B.Sc. Mathematical Sciences, 2nd Year led the organisation of the New Year Eve's party. On 10 January 2023, Hindi Diwas Samaroh was organised by students wherein Pragya Tripathi, BA (H) English, 2nd Year, Riddhi Patel, BA (H) Journalism, 2nd Year, Dakshita Jaiswal, BA (H) Business Economics, 2nd Year and Swati Surbhi, BA (H) Hindi, 1st Year recited self-composed poetry in Hindi to an avid and appreciative audience. This was ably organised by Pragya Tripathi, BA (H) English, 2nd Year, Swati Surbhi, BA (H) Hindi, 1st Year and Dakshita Jaiswal, BA (H) Business Economics, 2nd Year.

The much-awaited freshers party was celebrated on 15 January 2023 with 'Glam Look' as the theme.



A series of competitions over three rounds including ramp walk, talent round led to the announcement of Ms Fresher and other titles. 26 freshers participated enthusiastically in this competition which was judged by Prof Gitanjali Chawla and Ms Sunita Chauhan. A specially curated feast and celebratory cake was organised by the seniors for this event. Archi Yadav, BA (H) Political Science, 1st Year, Samnem Bolok, BA Programme, 1st Year and Deepansha Jain, BA Programme, 1st Year were crowned Miss Fresher, Best Glam look and Best Dressed respectively. Each fresher was gifted a novel, pen and scrunchy each as a welcome gift. Himanshi Agarwal, BA (H) English, 3rd Year, Tanu Lohia, BA (H) Political Science, 2nd Year, Neha Dhillon, B.Com, 2nd Year, Rounak Gour, BSc Mathematical Sciences, 2nd Year, Tripti Chauhan, BA Programme, 3rd Year, Bandna Verma, BSc Mathematical Sciences, 2nd Year and Tanya Soni, BA Programme, 2nd Year were part of the organisation team.

Lohri and Makar Sakranti were celebrated with much joy and vigour on 14 January 2023. Singing of Sundar Mundriye was followed by the ritualistic circumambulation of the holy bonfire with offerings of popcorn, groundnuts and tilladdoos. Dancing and singing around the bonfire ensued and carried on till late night. The customary Kichadi was served as part of the tradition. Tripti Chauhan, BA Programme, 3rd Year had taken on the onus for the organisation of Lohri.

Students took a brief respite from classes on 4 February 2023 as they went on a day trip to Adventure Islands, Rohini, Delhi. 31 students accompanied by Prof Gitanjali Chawla, Prof Abha Mittal, Dr Indrani Dasgupta and Dr Sunita Chauhan enjoyed the rides and other activities on a sunny winter afternoon. The entire trip was organised and handled by Himanshi Agarwal, BA (H) English, 3rd Year, Tripti Chauhan, BA Programme, 3rd Year and Tanu Lohia, BA (H) Political Science, 2nd Year.

A series of sports events were organised in the month of February 2023 which culminated in the college annual sports day held on 16 February 2023. Prizes were distributed by eminent sports person, Dr Sunita Godara, winner of the 1992 Asian Marathon Championship and carrier of the Olympic Flame at the 1996 Olympics at Atlanta. Following are the winners of the sports events organised by the Hostel Committee, Maharaja Agrasen College.



TUG OF WAR – GOLD MEDAL

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Mohini Gurawaliya	BA Programme	3 rd Year
2	Khushi Singhal	BSc (H) Electronics	2 nd Year
3	Neha Dhillon	BCom	2 nd Year
4	Himanshi Agrawal	BA (H) English	3 rd Year
5	Bandna Verma	BSc Mathematical Sciences	2 nd Year
6	Aashi Srivastava	BA (H) English	2 nd Year
7	Akangasha Das	BA (H) Hindi	2 nd Year
8	AnnessaDey	BSc (H) Electronics	1 st Year
9	Taru Agrawal	BCom	1 st Year
10	Mahima Lal	BA (H) English	3 rd Year
11	Shreya Singh	BA (H) Business Economics	1 st Year

TUG OF WAR – SILVER MEDAL

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Rounak Gour	BSc Mathematical Sciences	2 nd Year
2	Karishma Maddhesiya	BCom	3 rd Year
3	Tripti Chauhan	BA Programme	3 rd Year
4	Arundhati Sharma	BA (H) English	2 nd Year
5	Tanya Soni	BA Programme	2 nd Year
6	Archi Yadav	BA (H) Political Science	1 st Year
7	Anjali Singh	BA (H) Political Science	1 st Year
8	Lucky Jain	BCom	1 st Year
9	Arpita Gupta	BCom	3 rd Year
10	Priyanka Saraswat	BSc Mathematical Sciences	3 rd Year

KHO-KHO – GOLD MEDAL

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Khushi Singhal	BSc (H) Electronics	2 nd Year
2	Neha Dhillon	BCom	2 nd Year
3	Archi Yadav	BA (H) Political Science	1 st Year
4	Mohini Gurawaliya	BA Programme	3 rd Year
5	Bandna Verma	BSc Mathematical Sciences	2 nd Year
6	Arpita Gupta	BCom	3 rd Year
7	Tanu Lohia	BA (H) Political Science	2 nd Year
8	Taru Agarwal	BCom	1 st Year
9	Smriti Ranjan	BA Programme	3 rd Year
10	Rounak Gour	BSc Mathematical Sciences	2 nd Year
11	Tripti Chauhan	BA Programme	3 rd Year

KHO-KHO – SILVER MEDAL

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Himanshi Agarwal	BA (H) English	3 rd Year
2	Arundhati Sharma	BA (H) English	2 nd Year
3	Tanya Soni	BA Programme	2 nd Year
4	Sunidhi Dutt Dubey	BA (H) Political Science	3 rd Year
5	Siya Pundir	BA (H) English	3 rd Year
6	Riddhi Patel	BA (H) Journalism	2 nd Year
7	Riddhima Kapoor	BA (H) English	2 nd Year
8	Arpita Shudhanshu	B.Com	2 nd Year

9	Amritha Murali	BA (H) Business Economics	1 st Year
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CHES – GOLD MEDAL

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Arundhati Sharma	BA (H) English	2 nd Year

CHES – SILVER MEDAL

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Tripti Chauhan	BA Programme	3 rd Year
2	Rounak Gour	BSc Mathematical Sciences	2 nd Year

BADMINTON – GOLD MEDAL

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Khushi Singhal	BSc (H) Electronics	2 nd Year

BADMINTON – SILVER MEDAL

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Karishma Maddhesiya	BCom	3 rd Year
2	Himanshi Agarwal	BA (H) English	3 rd Year

RELAY RACE – 1st PRIZE

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Arundhati Sharma	BA (H) English	2 nd Year
2	Anjali Singh Rajpoot	BA (H) Political Science	1 st Year
3	AmrithaMurali	BA (H) Business Economics	1 st Year
4	AadrikaDubey	BA Programme	1 st Year

RELAY RACE – 2nd PRIZE

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Neha Dhillon	BCom	2 nd Year
2	Rounak Gour	BSc Mathematical Sciences	2 nd Year
3	Mahima Lal	BA (H) English	3 rd Year
4	Samnen Bolok	BA Programme	1 st Year

Relay Race – 3rd Prize

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Annessa Dey	BSc (H) Electronics	1 st Year
2	Aashi Srivastava	BA (H) English	2 nd Year
3	Siya Pundir	BA (H) English	3 rd Year
4	Sunidhi Dutt Dubey	BA (H) Political Science	3 rd Year

RACE (100 METRE) – 1stPRIZE

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Chanchal Sharma	BA Programme	1 st Year
2	Annessa Dey	B.Sc (H) Electronics	1 st Year

RACE (100 METRE) – 2nd PRIZE

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Archi Yadav	BA (H) Political Science	1 st Year

RACE (100 METRE) – 3rd PRIZE

S. No.	Name	Course	Year
1	Khushi Singhal	BSc (H) Electronics	3 rd Year



INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE – (ICC)

Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi has a ZERO tolerance policy against sexual harassment. The Maharaja Agrasen College Internal Complaints Committee was constituted in 2015 according to norms specified in the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The committee follows due protocol in redressal of complaints and works proactively towards increasing gender sensitization by organising lectures by Lawyers and other experts to disseminate the finer nuances of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. It also seeks periodic feedback from students and is committed to ensuring a safe environment for girls within the college.

The Internal Complaints Committee 2022-23 comprising of Ms Puneeta Agarwal, Prof Gitanjali Chawla, Prof T.N. Ojha, Mr Rajinder Singh Bisht, Ms Heena Jain, Ms Manisha Agarwal Narain, Advocate (External Member) and student members Ms Anudita Vashistha (BCOM (H), 2nd Year), Ms Sonam Dobriyal (BSc Physical Science, 2nd year) and Ms Tanak Langer (BA (H) Journalism, 2nd year) worked proactively towards increasing gender sensitization and ensuring the dissemination of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 by organizing several sensitization programmes.

Pursuant to directions by NALSA & DSLSA under the campaign “Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach”, a help desk was set up for girls to spread legal awareness in college on 11 November 2022. Relevant pamphlets and leaflets were distributed amongst students free of cost.

A 10 days add-on certified course was organized which commenced on 16 January 2023 in collaboration with NALSA & DLSA (East). The course covered topics such as the constitution of India & its vision, fundamental rights and fundamental duties, overview of matrimonial cases, laws related to FIRs, gender issues, children, senior citizens and transgenders etc. 28 students successfully completed this course on 6 February 2023.

On 25 January 2023 an awareness and sensitization program was organized for students of the college at 3 pm in the conference room. Ms Saema Jain, Ld Secretary, DLSA (East) was the resource person. Furthermore, in collaboration with DLSA (East) and Abhinay, The Street Play Society, MAC ECA, a nukkad natak was performed on 8 February 2023 at 12:30 pm. The performance was by Asmita theatre group under project “Sparsh – Give care and not scars – Ending Vitriolage”. The nukkad natak was appreciated by students who watched the play in large numbers



A workshop on mass awareness and training cum sensitization program on women rights was also organized in association with NSS,NCC and hostel committee of college . workshop was conducted by office of District Magistrate office (East) and DLSA .

The committee also conducted a safety audit of girls within the college premises and is working towards creating a safe and secure environment for girls.



INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL (IQAC)

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Maharaja Agrasen College has been constantly working to develop a quality system to improve the academic and administrative performance of the College. The mandate of MAC- IQAC is to develop an all-inclusive quality culture in the college by channeling and synergizing the efforts of all constituent stake holders of the college and work towards academic excellence and progress.

The MAC- IQAC 2022-23 comprising of Principal as Chairperson and Prof Maneesha as the Coordinator along with teachers-in-charge and administrative officials work in tandem to prepare the academic calendar prior to the commencement of the session. Paper wise and semester wise result analysis were performed and submitted to IQAC by departments. The follow up remedial measures were discussed in the IQAC. Student mentor- mentee lists for 2022-23 were uploaded on the website. The Student satisfaction survey was discussed and analysed by the IQAC members in the meetings and appropriate actions were recommended.

MAC – IQAC along with MAC NAAC steering committee submitted the SSR to NAAC for 2nd cycle. Earlier the IQAC had duly filled and submitted the four AQARs to the NAAC. The 2nd cycle SSR was duly submitted on time thanks to the cooperation and involvement of all IQAC members during the collation of data.

Beginning with the academic session 2022-23, University of Delhi has already approved the implementation of National Education Policy 2020. And to bring in the desired transformation in higher education, University of Delhi has formulated an Undergraduate Curriculum Framework 22 (UGCF-2022) to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. In this regard, MAC- IQAC organized an orientation program for the faculty on 'Understanding Undergraduate Curriculum Framework 2022' on 13 September 2022 to understand in depth about the curriculum framework UGCF -2022 for effective implementation of NEP 2020. The resource person for the program was Prof Pankaj Arora, Dean Student Welfare and Director of Institute of Life Long Learning, DU. Prof Arora had been actively involved in the formulation of UGCF 2022 and the implementation of NEP in University of Delhi. More than 100 faculty members benefitted from the orientation program.





MAC NAAC STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The MAC NAAC Steering Committee comprised of Prof Sanjeev K Tiwari, Officiating Principal with Prof Gitanjali Chawla and Prof Maneesha as convenors and Prof Praveen K Pandey, Ms Puneeta Agarwal and Mr Dipin Arora as members. Abbey Thom Sunil, student of BA Programme, 3rd year was coopted as a student coordinator. The committee was entrusted with the task of collecting data and submitting the Self Study Report to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council for its second cycle of accreditation. The college administration received the IEQA (Institutional Eligibility for Quality Assurance) in January 2022. The committee had already commenced the preparation of collation of data needed for the SSR. The committee submitted the SSR before the deadline thanks to the cooperation of each and every stakeholder of the institute. The committee would like to place on record its appreciation of not just the college administration (Admin office, Accounts, and Library) but all faculty members who contributed in every possible way. The entire college stood together and worked as a cohesive team to support the MAC NAAC Steering Committee, which was also much appreciated by the peer visit members.

Two mock visits were scheduled to ensure complete preparedness. The first was an internal one with members of the IQAC and the second was conducted by Prof. M.M.Chaturvedi and Prof Suman Kumar, who were extremely generous with their time and suggestions.

The NAAC peer member visit was scheduled for 6-7 December 2022. The three-member team included Dr. Rajnish Sharma, Pro Vice Chancellor, Chitkara University; Dr. Ajeya K Gupta, Professor, Department of Commerce, DDU Gorakhpur University and Dr. Chandrakant Mandlik, Principal, Mahatma Phule Nutan Mahavidyalaya.

The peer team members interacted with every stakeholder of the college; the administration, the members of the Governing Body, members of the IQAC, all faculty and non-teaching members. Not only did they meet the students but also several parents and alumni who took time out from their busy schedules to be available in college. They interacted with faculty during department presentations and gave valuable and pertinent suggestions for improvement. They visited every facility that the college offers and spent time looking into the processes followed by the college administration. The students showcased their extra-curricular skills and talent in a cultural mélange especially prepared for the peer team members.

The exit meeting was held on 7 December 2022 in which the Chairperson, Prof Rajnish Sharma addressed

the faculty and non-teaching staff before handing over the report to the Principal. The report not only took into account the multifarious achievements of the college but also gave proactive suggestions on how to turn our challenges into opportunities.

An assessment of this nature is essential for the institute as it gives us an objectiveperspective of where we are headed. The college was accredited Grade 'A' with an improved score of 3.14 GPA.





MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE LIBRARY

The Library of Maharaja Agrasen College was established in 1994 with a wide range collection of 45229 books across various disciplines. It subscribes to a total number of 14 newspapers and 25 magazines & print journals. It is also directly connected with DU Network, so users can easily access around 47000 e-journals on social science, sciences through various commercial databases. It has around 135000 e-books on (Log in) basis and 5000 e-journals on (Log in) basis. The audio-visual collection of the library has around 269 CD/DVDs.

The library houses volumes on History, Psychology, Religion, Social Sciences, Language and Literature, Art and Culture, Political Science, Mathematics, Economics and has a good, updated collection of reference books.

The library has had 'ALICE FOR WINDOW' Library Management Software Package' since 2013. Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) too, has been in place to ensure easy access of books for the users.

In this academic session the process to upgrade to the more current and efficient library system KOHA was initiated in the month of January. The training service providers are holding workshops with our library staff and are creating suitable templates and interfaces as per our specific requirements.

The library is also in the process of updating and upgrading its current infrastructure and facilities. CCTV cameras have been installed in and around the premises. Work on Kindle tablets and RFID for books and resources is underway.

Library Services & Facilities

The library offers bibliography services, selective information dissemination services and plagiarism check services (via URKUND) on demand. It also offers reference service, both through Ready Reference Service as well as Long Range Reference Service. The library has outsourced reprography services including photocopying, scanning and printing of documents. The library plans to offer CAS (Current Awareness Service), in terms of which lists of books added will be periodically emailed to faculty and students for their reference apart from displaying book jackets of new books on the board.

E- SERVICES

The library provides remote access through DU e-library app. It also offers free institutional membership to N-List and the DULS Database to both teachers and students.



Library Activities

- ❖ **Library Orientation for Students:** In this academic session, the Library Orientation programme for first year students enrolled in all the courses was conducted between 28th November and 15th December. This is conducted for first year students at the beginning of each academic session to familiarize them with library facilities, rules and protocols.
- ❖ **Library Bookfair and Exhibition:** The annual bookfair and exhibition was held on 8th February, 2023. Close to 35 publishers and industry associates participated in the book exhibition cum sale. The event was well attended by teachers and students alike. Books could be purchased for personal purposes and also requisitioned for the library. Noted academician Prof. K. P. Singh was the chief guest for the occasion. Principal, Professor Sanjeev Kr. Tiwari stressed that the cultivation of a diligent reading culture is an important aspect of institutional life. Professor K.P Singh in his address talked of the necessity of commitment towards acquisition of knowledge as a means of intellectual advancement as well as of understanding cultural heritage. He also stressed the importance of learning through observation apart from reading and insisted that knowledge acquired must culminate in knowledge applied for the betterment of all.
- ❖ A workshop for teachers on Information Literacy on DULS and N-List is to be conducted in the second week of March.





NATIONAL CADET CROPS (NCC)

National Cadet Corps - One of the largest youth organisations of the country which trains and motivates the young cadets to inculcate a sense of discipline in their lives and to become useful human resources for the nation. With its motto Unity and Discipline, it not only helps cadets to imbibe the spirit of Patriotism and sense of togetherness but also inculcate leadership qualities which help them in every walk of life.

Maharaja Agrasen College started its first batch of Girls NCC in 2020. The enthusiastic and determined cadets of MAC NCC participated in various Competitions, Camps and expeditions.

The cadets participated in the pulse polio immunisation programme, Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan and attended their annual training Camp 2022. Continuing with the awareness campaign, MAC NCC took the lead and organised Har Ghar Tiranga Flag Distribution in the college itself. Various other activities like Covid awareness drive, Cleanliness drive and celebrating Independence day and national unity day. Cadet Keerthana Rajeev and Cdt Nisha Halder completed their EBSB-IDC & YEP Camp held at DGNCC, Delhi cantt from 31st July to 16th August, 2022. Cadet Rounak Gaur attended Thal Sainik Camp held from 14 September-



25 September 2022 in which the Delhi Directorate secured 2nd position after 18 years of anticipation. 7 Cadets participated in the annual Prime Minister's Rally 2023 and represented our college. 3 cadets had attended the camp for introduction to scuba diving. MAC NCC celebrated Republic Day 2023 in the college where cadets participated in Drill, Guard of Honour and cultural performances and made it a great event.

NCC not only gives the cadets an opportunity to explore their talents but makes them aware about our country's unity within diversity. It supports them to become a confident person by volunteering in different activities of learning.



As India embarks on a journey towards 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' — an initiative emphasising gender inclusivity and empowerment, the role of educational institutions is becoming even more crucial. To bridge the gender gap, the NCWEB centre of Maharaja Agrasen College, since its inception in 2011, has emphasised providing its' women students facilities which could help empower them. Over the years, the centre has tried to keep up with the changing needs of its students, providing them with facilities which are at par with the ones' given by the best educational institutions in India.

This year, under the able leadership of the Teacher in Charge (TIC), Ms. Puneeta Agarwal, along with the Principal of Maharaja Agrasen College, Professor Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, and various teaching and non-teaching staff, the centre organised activities focusing on students' holistic development, ensuring that they are endowed with avenues to help them realise their potential in the academic and non-academic domain.

Learning Beyond Classroom

To foster an environment that could help students understand the potential of education, the centre this year organised an e-workshop on 'Fundamentals of Stock Market', conducted by Dr Alok Puranik, an Associate Professor at the department of commerce, Maharaja Agrasen College. The centre held a second workshop on 'Stock Market and Trading', which the presence of CS J. K. Baerja, an industry expert and former Professor at Shyam Lal College, had graced. NCWEB organised "Sadak Suraksha Abhiyan" on 27th November 2022 to impart knowledge about road safety and its importance.

Environmental Consciousness

The centre held various events emphasising our relationship with Nature. Its Vasundhara club, which focuses on instilling environmental consciousness, celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June 2022. The day was marked by a plantation drive to create a greener and cleaner environment. Further, throughout the year, the centre and its students continuously engage in waste management drives.

Empowerment through Sports

Sports has become a prime activity in the life of students. The college life of a student will remain incomplete if there are no competitive sports events to showcase their talent. To make a wide variety of sports available, the centre initiated badminton and Cricket clubs for the first time in NCWEB. On 5th February 2023, the centre held the Annual Sports Day 'SPARDHA', with Professor (Dr) Geeta Bhatt, Director NCWEB, University Of Delhi, as the Chief Guest of the program. The centre is proud to be associated with Latika, a para-badminton silver medalist at Japan's Asia Junior Exchange Games.

Annual Events

The annual day was held on July 17 2022, where Professor Sushma Yadav (UGC member) was the chief guest. It was further graced by Professor Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari (Principal of Maharaja Agrasen College), Prof. Maneesha and Prof. Geetanjali Chawla. On this very auspicious day, the centre launched its first e-magazine,

‘अग्रजा’. Embarking on the crucial role of education in women’s lives, the students presented a play, ‘एक कदम नारी शिक्षा की ओर’. On December 17, 2022, the NCWEB centre (MAC) organised the Annual Orientation day, educating the students about the ‘New Education Policy (NEP)’ under the able guidance of Dr. Arun Julka, a faculty at Maharaja Agrasen College.

The centre also organised the much-awaited function of the NCWEB Education Centre at Maharaja Agrasen College, ‘SPARDHA’, its Annual Cultural Fest, on 12th February 2022. Around 25 cultural events were held on the college premise, ranging from rangoli, sketching, debate, poster making, quiz, extempore, hair styling, singing, best out of waste, and face painting. The alumni of NCWEB centre (MAC), Simran Bhardwaj, a renowned Punjabi Singer, marked her presence through her scintillating performance.

An emphasis towards a stronger Nation

On 24th July 2022, the centre showcased ‘आज़ादी की अमृत कहानियाँ’, highlighting the stories of women’s struggle and their achievements. Revisiting the horrors of partition, the students took out a silent march to observe “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day” on 14th August 2022. The students proactively participated in the country-wide drive, ‘हर घर तिरंगा’ which focuses on the crucial role played by every household in what constitutes the Nation, symbolised through the ‘तिरंगा’, the three coloured national flag of India. The students have actively participated in the college’s National Cadet Corps (NCC) for years.

Beyond College

Our students marked their presence outside the college, showcasing their zeal and talent outside the college. They participated at competition held at NCWEB on ‘राष्ट्रीय पोषण माह’. The students performed the Uttaranchal folk dance to commemorate the centenary celebration of the University of Delhi at Maharaja Agrasen College. The students and faculty marked their active participation at the National Conference, NCWEB university. The students engaged in an awareness program aimed at educating voters by the Election Commission. The centre students competed at the Inter-center competition organised by the NCWEB university and secured 2nd position in the group dance and group song category.





THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS)

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a dynamic platform that offers young individuals a unique opportunity to contribute to society in meaningful ways. It is more than just a society; it's a way of life that fosters the values of empathy, social responsibility, and selfless service. NSS provides a plethora of avenues for volunteers to engage in various social initiatives, including awareness drives, community service projects, and skill development workshops. The platform not only enhances the personal growth and development of the volunteers but also helps in building a better society by creating a sense of social harmony and responsibility.

The NSS Maharaja Agrasen chapter is headed by Mr. Yogeshwar Singh, Programme Officer and guided by dedicated faculty, Dr. Charu Arya, Ms. Indrani Das Gupta, Dr. Vandana Kumari, Dr. Shruti Goel, Mr. Amit Kumar, Ms. Sonam Bhati, Mr. Aditya Premdeep, Mr. Ankush Kumar Jindal, Dr. Chhavi Bhatnagar, Mr. Ashutosh Jaiswal, Mr. Vickey Mehriya. The volunteers are represented by Anika Kapur, President; Divyam, Vice-President; Vikram, Secretary, and Diksha Rana, Treasurer.



NSS team at MAC is divided into 9 different units. These are as follows:

Agrani: Since its inception, Agrani has organised several events, online and offline, to promote gender equality by celebrating women's day through talks, social media campaigns, and seminars.

Samarthaya: Moving towards the goal of Global Equality, Samarthaya- the equal opportunity cell works towards the promotion of fairness and giving equal access and opportunities to all castes, creed and to people of different abilities. Working towards this goal, the team has made arrangements for wheelchairs in campus, celebrated days of importance like Zero Discrimination Day, Youth Day and organised several events to help others and raise awareness.





ABHI: The MAC-NSS unit has adopted Baroji village in the Mewat district of the state of Haryana and the Nistauli village in Ghaziabad District of Uttar Pradesh. The Agrasen Baroji Help Initiative helps in the development of these villages by organising plantation drives and raising awareness on social issues like education, equality, and government policies.

Pedal Power: MAC-NSS has a very active bicycle club known as Pedal Power. This club works for the promotion of health and a healthy lifestyle for all. The College has purchased around 40 bicycles for the said purpose.

Swachhta: Following the policy of Clean India, Green India, the club has dedicatedly worked for the promotion of cleanliness to save the environment. Organising regular cleanliness drives, promoting segregation of waste, collection of plastic and tetra pack containers are a small part of the big initiative and responsibility taken up by the unit. This team works for raising awareness in preserving ecological balance.

Akshar: Under this project, volunteers provide quality education to the children from underprivileged sections of the society. Over 100 students from nearby colonies like Dallupura and Kondli are enrolled in the project and daily classes from Monday to Friday for two hours are held in the college premises. The team also holds regular parent teacher meetings. Furthermore, under this unit, all round development of the students is undertaken, like organising self-defence workshops, cleanliness seminars, events on promotion of equality, life and mental health, celebration of days like Children's Day, Annual Day, and organisation of health check-ups. This is a self-funded project and raises money via Diwali mela and stalls for its daily expenses.

Tasavvur: It is the art and photography club of NSS, MAC. From celebrating Mother's Day by organising photography day, this unit also facilitates in organising the decorations and photo booth, etc., for important events.

Syaahi: Syaahi is the writing club of NSS MAC. It promotes and fosters the values and ideals of NSS through language and literature. The young creative minds of the club organise fun poet meet up, storytelling sessions and open mics while running their separate social media pages, blog and having a published magazine of their own.

Sanjaal: Since the onset of COVID, the functioning and working style of everything around us has drastically changed. These changes led to an inexorable dependence on technology and this led to the birth of the Sanjaal Team. Sanjaal, the tech team of NSS unit makes sure that all tech requirements of every unit are fulfilled. Their work starts from the designing of posters and running social media promotion campaigns, includes smooth tech functioning during the event including live stream, projector, etc. and ends after making sure that the entire event is covered, photographed and promoted. While helping in events, this team also runs all the official social media accounts and online campaigns raising awareness on several issues.

The NSS unit of Maharaja Agrasen College undertook the following activities during 2022-23 academic session:



Plantation Drive:

The MAC-NSS organised the Plantation Drive to support the concept of Go Green and raise awareness regarding saving the environment. More than twenty trees were planted in this drive along with some plants and herbs. Many students and faculty members participated in this plantation drive.

Blood Donation and Health Check-up:

It organised a blood donation and health check-up camp in collaboration with AIIMS, Max Healthcare, Clove Dental and Centre for Sight on 7 April, 2023 in college. 110 units of blood was donated by students, teaching, and non-teaching staff members.

Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan:

A Tiranga Yatra and Tiranga Distribution Drive was organised to celebrate the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative of the Government of India. National flag was distributed amongst students, faculty, non-teaching staff members, and neighbouring communities.

Silent March:

NSS organised a Silent March to remember the martyrdom of our war heroes and freedom fighters in which volunteers marched along the route through SRCASW, DDA market, Somerville School and then back to college. All volunteers and teachers wore black clothes along with black masks to pay their homage.

Raksha Bandhan and Janmashtami:

The volunteers celebrated Janmashtami and Raksha Bandhan Festivals with the Akshar students. The children made handmade Rakhis and greeting cards for Janmashtami. The best entries were rewarded with gift prizes.

Poetry competition and Padyatra:

The Pedal Power club organized a poetry competition and a padyatra on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Indian freedom fighter, Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

Hindi Diwas:

The volunteers celebrated Hindi Diwas with the Akshar students to encourage and promote the language amongst the children. For the said purpose a workshop on the importance of Hindi Language was organised.

Comic strip and Story Retelling Competition:

The Syaahi organized a four-panel comic strip making competition and a story retelling competition on the occasion of international comic week to encourage the creativity, thinking and story writing skills amongst the students.

Diwali Mela:

The volunteers celebrated Diwali with the children taught under project Akshar. They also organized an exhibition of the decorative materials, diyas and candles made by the kids to be bought by the students and faculty.

Clean India 2.0 Awareness:

The team organized an awareness drive on Clean India about waste management and its importance.

Sadak Suraksha Abhiyan:

It organized awareness session on the road safety and rules an individual must obey while being on the road to admit his personal as well as others safety.

Children's Day:

The volunteers celebrated Children Day with the Akshar students in which many fun games were conducted and the children were rewarded for their efforts.

Lohri Celebration:

The volunteers and Akshar students celebrated the auspicious festival of Lohri and Makar Sankranti.

Gender Equality Workshop:

To make students understand the importance of gender equality, the Akshar volunteers organised a gender equality interactive workshop in which the message was conveyed through a skit.

Lekh Rachna:

An online essay writing competition was conducted on the occasion of VEER BAL DIWAS. The main aim was to spread awareness to commemorate and honour the



martyrdom of sons of Guru Gobind Singh-Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.

Plog Run:

A PLOG RUN was conducted by the NSS Swachhta unit to keep our surroundings clean and trash free, and to raise awareness on waste management.

Slogan Writing and Quiz Competition:

An online slogan writing and quiz competition was conducted in remembrance of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, on his birth anniversary.

MAC NSS volunteers have also participated in the events organised by University of Delhi and Ministry of Youth and Affairs during 2022-23 academic session:

Centenary Celebration:

The MAC NSS volunteers participated in the Centenary Celebration of University of Delhi organised in the Indoor stadium of the University, in which the Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, was the Chief Guest. The volunteers participated as discipline volunteers, refreshment volunteers and were appreciated by the Programme Officer of NSS, University of Delhi.

Lecture Series:

The MAC NSS volunteers participated in international lecture series organized by the department of Political Science, University of Delhi, in which Honorable Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah was the chief guest. The volunteers had enthusiastically participated in the discipline duties.

Bicycle Rally:

The MAC NSS volunteers participated in the Bicycle Rally organised by the Ministry of Youth and Affairs on the occasion of World Bicycle Day, where Shri Anurag Thakur was the Chief Guest.

Centenary Run:

The MAC NSS participated in the Centenary Run organized by the University of Delhi, where Shri Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic Gold Medallist was the Chief Guest.

Yoga Day, University of Delhi:

The MAC NSS volunteers participated in Yoga Day celebration, organised by the University of Delhi on the occasion of International Yoga Day. The volunteers tried many new and different yoga poses and pledged to make yoga an inseparable part of their lives.

Run for Unity:

The volunteers participated in the Run for Unity organized by the Ministry of Youth and Affairs on the occasion of National Unity Day, in which our volunteers ran from Major Dhyan Chand Stadium to India Gate.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:

The MAC NSS volunteers had participated in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, cleaning drive organised by the



Ministry of Youth and Affairs in the Old Fort of Delhi and nearby areas in which Shri Anurag Thakur was the chief guest.

Plog Run:

The volunteers participated in the Plog Run organized by the Ministry of Youth and Affairs in Chandni Chowk to promote Clean India 2.0, where Honorable Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah was the Chief Guest.

Tiranga Yatra:

The MAC NSS volunteers participated in the Tiranga Yatra organised by the University of Delhi, to promote Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyaan. They covered the entire area of North Campus with tiranga.

Yuva Samvad:

The MAC NSS volunteers participated in the Yuva Samvad organised by the Ministry of Youth and Affairs in which Shri Anurag Thakur was the Chief Guest. In this Samvad, they projected the idea of youth's contribution towards making the India the global leader.

AMRITPEX – 2023:

The volunteers participated in the National Philatelic Exhibition, AMRITPEX - 2023 by University of Delhi celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.





STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Student Advisory Committee is dedicated to the cause of guiding the students' council and in offering plethora of opportunities to students to participate in academic and other curricular activities. This Committee became operational in the year 2013 with the initiation of the first National Student Academic Congress on "Educational reforms: The Way Forward." From 2016 onwards, SAC also committed to electing the Student Union of the College in accordance with University of Delhi norms. With the establishment of the Student Union, this Committee initiated a new era of student representation with its first democratically elected student body.

In this academic session, Student Advisory Committee organized a one-day workshop on "Ethics in Academia" on 28 September 2022. The resource persons for this workshop, Prof. Gitanjali Chawla and Dr Pratibha Rai sought to create awareness on the interface between writing skills and ethical practices, and also focused on the use of different multimedia approaches to enhance students' research skills.

Student Advisory Committee organized a two-day National Student Academic Congress on "Power of Youth: Rights and Responsibilities" on April 10-11, 2023. This conference, 6th in the series of all-India level conferences, organized for undergraduate and postgraduate students provided a platform for students to deliberate on issues related to youth and how our young population could envision a new democratic and sustainable future. The Chief Guest in the Inaugural Session, Prof. Sangit Kumar Ragi elaborated from examples drawn from Ashtavakra Gita on how youth can negotiate cosmic forces to fashion an ethical world. The Chairperson for the Inaugural session, Dr Sunil Sondhi directed the attention of the students towards knowledge as always exploratory and as constantly charting unfamiliar terrain. The Principal, Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari offered factual data to substantiate on how India's global eminence is and will remain due to our young minds continually striving towards excellence. The Chief Guest for the Valedictory session, Dr Abhishek Tandon outlined power as a moral responsibility, and where youth should rely on factual knowledge rather than succumbing to peer pressure in their quotidian existence. Dr Tandon charted the role of youth as agents of truth where their multiple choices of employing different mechanisms to negotiate between rights and responsibilities would ensure the rise of India as the superpower which the world looks up to.

The conference was a huge success primarily because the student volunteers were involved in every aspect of the conference: from planning to organizing, and executing the event. Apart from increasing their knowledge about the role of youth in society and how they strategically use their rights without abandoning their responsibilities, this conference offered the students to hone their leadership and organizing skills.

The Student Advisory Committee will in the coming academic session continue to organize talks, lectures, workshops and conferences for students where diverse kinds of knowledge will be imparted to them for securing job opportunities and also to implement the vision of our college, which is to create a holistic, ethical and sustainable world.





TRAINING AND PLACEMENT CELL (TPC)

The training and placement cell of Maharaja Agrasen College had a very successful year. Under the guidance of Dr. Sachin Kumar, the unit was able to create an environment that promotes personal and intellectual growth. The objective of the cell is to provide a conducive environment that encourages the students to develop their social and intellectual skills.

Now that the world is largely reliant on technology, including working online, cellular communication has become even more prevalent. The cell constantly interacts with companies and students through social media platforms like Email, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and WhatsApp.

The Placement Cell of Maharaja Agrasen College has the goal of enhancing the intellectual, social, and personal growth of students by providing support throughout their educational experience. Additionally, we believe that all students have the right to access them, for advice on any issues or concerns. The Training and placement cell of Maharaja Agrasen College had the grand ambition of providing an intellectually stimulating education for students that will help in their professional life.

Starting with the academic year 2022-23, cell plans to host various training sessions, seminars and workshops designed to help students with their college studies. Afterwards, the Cell organizes a variety of very interactive and intensive workshops in order to interest as many students as possible.

The Cell brings various reputed organizations and experts such as Mr. Chitranshu Prasad and Mr. Gaurav Birla for Insight into media and Entertainment Industry, Prof Pragya Gupta for Goal Setting and time management, Ms. Damini Jayul a soft skill trainer for Making an Impactful Presentation, Mr. G Rajput a gold medalist ex-civilian for the UPSE- CSE.

Students intern and also placed with various companies and NGOs including Dell, SMC, Wipro, VTEK, Bhumi, Rhetorica Strategic Communication etc. In this an age the association still took a chance of NAAC visit. Cell also communicate accompanying the appendage and future plan explained and Discuss.

By creating relevant resources with personal development, training, campus recruitment, and a full complement of technical etiquettes, the Training and Placement cell is continuously trying to shorten or close the gap between student skills and industry needs. More workshops and job fairs are currently being held by the Training and Placement Cell, which will hopefully provide students with beneficial experiences. In addition to attracting companies, our goal is to better equip students to seize opportunities when they arise. We shall keep working to clear the path or the roadmap for the students' development and professional launch.





WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Waste Management Committee was started as part of the Green Initiative of the college. The Committee has been working under the guidance of Ms. Puneeta Agarwal in collaboration with IPCA (Indian Pollution Control Association) to reach the milestone of a “Zero Waste Campus”. Its members include- Prof. Maneesha Pachauri, Dr. Niraj Kumar Singh, Ms. Aarti Nagar, Ms. Newme, Mr. Prabeera Sethy, Mr. Arun Mudgal and Dr. Sushmita Rajwar along with its strong team of student volunteers.

The Committee started with proper segregation of Waste in college campus- paper, plastic, wet and e-waste. The Committee started its work through Awareness Workshop on Segregation of Organic Waste for Recycling and Treatment on 22nd July 2022 organised in collaboration with IPCA (Indian Pollution Control Association) where the students, gardeners and housekeeping staff were provided training in segregation of waste.

Students support is crucial and regular sensitization of other students is being done by the Committee through awareness programmes. The Committee believes in Sustainable Living and Development and has the motto- Recycle, Reuse and Reduce (follow the three R's). Regular sensitization of teaching, non-teaching staff, students as well as neighbouring areas of the college campus is also being done by the Committee.

The Paper Waste Management Team started its first round of paper waste collection from various departments, office, photocopy shop and the girls hostel with the help of its student volunteers. Under the ongoing agreement with Jaagruti NGO, the Committee successfully sent 1350 kg of paper waste in August 2022 for recycling purposes. In return, the Committee received recycled paper rims which were also distributed to various departments and some recycled paper notepads. After the first round of collection paper waste bins have been placed in the campus at designated places for proper segregated disposal of paper. All the collected paper from these bins is then collected at a designated place in college premises for storage. A dedicated team of student volunteers is in charge of the supervision of paper waste segregation.

The Wet Waste Management Team started its work after the inauguration of the Six Wet Waste Compost Bins with a capacity of 400 litres in collaboration with IPCA (Indian Pollution Control Association), Mr. Ashish Jain on 15th August, 2022. The Gardeners, Student volunteers and housekeeping were provided training in workshop for the use of the compost bins. The maintenance of the bins is being done by the gardeners and a strong team of student volunteers. There have been three cycles of Wet Waste Decomposition (manure) harvested from two bins weighing a total of 190 kgs. 40 litres of compost leachate is also being produced through the bins which is also used as compost.

Some green garden waste also used in compost bins, rest goes to horticulture pits. Student Campaigns and Outreach Programme have been the main force behind the successful operations of the Wet Waste bins. The students bring their own kitchen waste (vegetable and fruit peels) to contribute to the wet waste bins. Not only this, they have motivated other students and faculty also to contribute to the wet waste in college through various campaigns. The student team collects vegetable and fruit peels from nearby shops of the college as well as flower waste from nearby Ganesh temple.

The Plastic Waste Management Team has been able to collect a total of 427 kgs of segregated waste that includes plastic bottles, tetra packs, paper cups, refreshment boxes, plastic carry bags and wrappers. Special

plastic waste collection bins have been placed in college premises for this purpose. The collected amount of plastic waste was sent to Recycling factory in Noida for recycling purposes. The Waste Management Committee also organised an educational cum industrial trip for its members to the IPCA site in Greater Noida on 2nd February, 2023.

The E- Waste Management Team has been working efficiently in spreading awareness about the day-to-day e-waste generated in the college premises. The Committee has also procured e-waste bins from IPCA made out of recycled plastic to segregate e-waste. A list of items to be put in those bins is also circulated amongst the students to generate awareness.

The Committee is proud to announce that the college was declared a "Zero Waste Campus" on 16th November, 2022 by MCD South Zone Shahdara after its combined efforts. The Committee has also undertaken other initiatives like the horticulture pit where all the green waste is being stored for composting purposes. The Committee is also developing a herbal garden in college premises.

The Committee also conducted a two hour Workshop on basic Canva skills, Google form creation, Google contact use on the 24th January, 2023. Student Awareness campaigns are the backbone of this initiative and the student volunteers have undertaken awareness campaigns in college premises on 14th February, 2023 to spread awareness about the need for segregation of waste and ways through which everyone can contribute to this noble cause. Awareness Campaign was also taken up with dallupura slums children in the month of September, 2022. Induction of new students in Waste Management Committee was also done on 13th February, 2023.

The Waste Management Volunteers is a strong team of students from various courses- Sumit Haldar, Manoj, Sonam Dobriyal, Payal, Soumya Ranjan, Vineet, Shreya, Swarnima Dhyani, Anurag Yadav, Divyam, Aditya Rai, Kusum, Sanskriti Kumari, Khuslay, Alok, Sunidhi Dutt Dubey, Shruti Mitra, Riya Chauhan, Shravan, Rishu Baghel, Danish, Aryan, Chaitanya, Nidhi Dwivedi, Vijay Saini, Shreedhar Rath, Sumit, Rohit, Manish, Disha, Diksha Rana, Rehnuma, Rahul, Ravinder, Vikas, Ritu, Shivam, Soumya Maity, Praful, Vishal, Tushar, Vidhi, Vaishali, Shoaib Khan, Ujjwal, Vikram.



HIMALAYAN STUDY CIRCLE

Himalayan Study Circle was established in the College in August 2022 with the aim of undertaking multi-disciplinary research on Himalayan ecology and culture. This Study Circle is affiliated to the Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of Delhi, anodal centre for multi-disciplinary research in Himalayan history, geography, society, economy, polity, culture, traditional knowledge, bio-resources, environment, sustainable development and related fields. Popularly called HSC@MAC, the Study Circle works for sensitization of the college community to the Himalayan region as a vast pool of natural and cultural resources which has shaped the contours of the Indian sub-continent. Some of the activities being undertaken by the Circle include fortnightly discussion on Himalayas – its geomorphology, cultural landscapes, flora and fauna and habitats and cultures; screening of internationally acclaimed documentaries on ecology and culture; nature walks and visits to biodiversity parks, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries; organisation of Himalayan festival at the college and university level and compilation of an anthology on Himalayan Culture.

The Study Circle was formally inaugurated on January 11, 2023 by Prof Dinabandhu Sahoo, Director, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of Delhi. Prof Sunil K Choudhary, Chairman, Governing Body, Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal, Miranda House and Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, Principal, Maharaja Agrasen College also graced the occasion. A Photo Exhibition depicting the flora and fauna of the Himalayan region was also displayed in the gallery adjoining the HSC@MAC centre, room no. 233.

The Study Circle comprises of faculty members and student volunteers who have been actively involved in various ecological campaigns within and outside the college for a very long time. This team is committed to taking forward the aims and objectives envisaged by the Centre for Himalayan Studies and hopes to make significant interventions in areas of Himalayan ecology and culture.



ICSSR Sponsored Two Day National Conference on the Role of Jammu and Kashmir in the Freedom Movement of India

The Himalayan Studies Circle in association with department of Political Science of the College organised two day National Conference on “The Role of Jammu and Kashmir in the Freedom Movement of India” on March 30-31, 2023 sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

This conference was organised to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava signifying the completion of 75 years of India's Independence. The Conference aimed at recognising the role of national heroes in the independence movement many of whom went unnoticed. The role of Jammu and Kashmir in the freedom struggle took a different trajectory owing to its strategic geographical location, demographic composition and political leadership. The state witnessed centuries of oppression and suppression from foreign rule, religious conversion, massacre and migration as a result of which the demographic profile of the state underwent a significant change making those people minorities in their own land. This conference also achieved its objective of bridging the gap in the information on Jammu and Kashmir highlighting the contribution of its people in the evolution of multi-cultural confluence which shaped the socio-cultural and historical milieu of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Eminent dignitaries present during the conference included renowned historian and social activist Padma Shri K. N. Pandita the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Session, Prof. Sindhu Kapoor, the Keynote speaker, Prof. Sunil Choudhary, Chairman Governing Body, Prof. Sanjeev K. Tiwari, Prof. Sidharth Mishra, Dr. Ajay K Sharma, Prof. Balaram Paniand Mr. Ashutosh Bhatnagar, Director, Jammu and Kashmir Study Circle who also delivered the valedictory address.

In all 12 papers were presented in technical sessions spread over two days. Paper presenters included Mr. Deepak Raj, Ms. Jayanti Mishra, Dr. Madan Yadav, Ms. Monika Jain, Dr. Navendu Shekhar, Dr. Neha Sinha and Mr. Shahbaaz Manzoor, Mr. Nitish Kumar, Mr. Pankaj Jamtani, Ms. Preety, Mr. Raghavendra Kumar, Dr. Sandipani Dash and Mr. Saurabh Dubey, Dr. Saurabh Rawat, Dr. Stevan Reign, Dr. Umesh Kumar Khunte, Ms. Sangeeta, Pooja Yadav, Dr. Aditya Narayan Mishra and Dr. Anurag Tripathi. Technical sessions were chaired by Dr. Niraj Kumar Singh, Prof. Sangit Sarita Dwivedi, Dr. Ritu Kohli and Dr. Niraj Kumar.





The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established in the year 1985 to impart education by means of distance learning program. IGNOU currently serves approximately 3.5 million students in India.

Maharaja Agrasen College is a study center for Post-Graduate and Under-Graduate Courses offered by IGNOU. A special highlight of the IGNOU Program is the Induction Program which orients the students enrolled in the distance learning curriculum. Classes are conducted during weekends for Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA), Bachelor of Commerce (BCOM), Bachelor of Science (B. Sc.), Master of Commerce (M.Com), Management Program (MBA), Master of Art in Hindi (MHD), Master of Arts in Political Science (MPS), Master of Arts in History (MAH), Master of Art in English (MEG), Master in Economics (MEC), Master in Public Administration (MPA), Master in Computer Science (MCA), Master of Science in Mathematics with Application in Computer Science (MSCMACS), Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication (PGJMC), Diploma in Teaching German (DTG), Certificate in German Language and others.

Under the guidance of its coordinator Prof (Dr) T.N. Ojha, along with his able team of Assistant Coordinator Dr. Omkar Singh, Dr. Chhavi Bhatnagar, Mr. Amit Kumar, Dr. Jitendra Kumar Bhagat, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey and Dr. Roushan Kumar (Program Facilitator) and the administrative staff comprising of, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Mr. Jaswant Singh, Mr. Naresh Kumar, Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mr. Ashok Atri, Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh, Mrs. Nidhi Singh, Mr. Kishan Kumar, Mr. Naveen Chandra Chamoli, Mr. Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Mr. Suresh Kumar, Mr. Mohan Yadav, Mr. Anil Kumar and Mr. Ajay Kumar, the IGNOU center continues to flourish.

The center aspires to integrate the community by providing quality education to a larger section of deprived society. Our Study Centre strives to provide best services to its students. Some of our students have joined prestigious services. Four of our management students have passed CA exam and few students have joined Delhi University as Assistant Professor and some students have joined Banking and School Teaching.





SPORTS COMMITTEE

A week long Sports festival was organized by the Sports Committee in association with Department of Physical Education. The festival was comprised of various sports events of Indoor & Outdoor nature for students of the college i.e. Carom, Table tennis, Badminton, Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Kabaddi, Football along with Athletics. Students from various departments of the college have participated in the week long sports festival which was started from February 10, 2023 to February 15, 2023 followed by Annual Sports Day on February 16, 2023.

Besides, inter departmental tournaments were organized in team games in various sports i.e. Football, Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Kabaddi. The entries were received through the department in these events. A cricket match among faculties was organized in the college to promote the sporting spirit in stakeholders of the institution.

Finally, Annual Sports Day of SPORTS-MAC was organized in College play field. The day was full of excitement and joy for the entire college. On the day, athletic events for students like 100m, 200m, 4x100m races, shot put, javelin throw and long jump were organized. The chief guest for the occasion was Dr Sunita Godara- Asian Marathon Champion and Olympian. She distributed the prizes to the achievers of the different sports events. Separate trophies for the Departments were awarded for their achievement in respective sports events.

The College is also going to organize Maharaja Agrasen Cup 2023 in Football (M), Kabaddi (M) and Basketball (W) from 11-14 April, 2023 in College ground on a very large scale where almost 50 teams will participate in the events.

Though a very few sports events were organized by Delhi University Sports Council, but the college team has participated in various inter college events in the session. Football team managed to reach top eight teams of Delhi University in both Men and Women section. Football Men performed well in different invitational tournaments. Kabaddi women reached to top eight in inter college level. Archery Delhi State competition in 50m and 70m and Olympic round was participated by Archers and performed well. In Cricket, the team reached up to pre quarter final in Inter College and Quarter final in PGDAV Invitational tournament. In LSR tournament, Shiv begged Gold in triple jump and bronze in long jump and javelin throw. Basketball men and women teams gave their best performance, but couldn't get placed in medal tally. Mehul got silver in Long jump. Whereby, Team got Gold in Relay at DME and Mehul got Gold in Long Jump. Also, College teams performed well in Kabaddi, Baseball and Kho-kho.





EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (ECA)

The ECA Committee of the college along with the 14 ECA Societies and the Cultural Council function together to organise round the year cultural programmes while simultaneously training the students in the varied fields of art. In the session 2022-23, ECA Committee organised a plethora of cultural events and activities like annual events, workshops and events in collaboration with government organisations:

Felicitation Ceremony for Shinata Chauhan

ECA Committee organized a felicitation ceremony for Ms. Shinata Chauhan, Femina Miss India 2022, second runner-up on 20 July 2022. The event was in collaboration with the Department of Journalism. It was a matter of great pride for all the students and faculty members as Shintata was a final year journalism student of our college. Soumik Chanda, student of BA (H) Journalism felicitated Ms. Shinata Chauhan. Markzine, magazine published by Markos Society was inaugurated along with the NSS magazine by the guest.



Partition Horrors Remembrance Day & 76th Independence Day Celebrations

The ECA Committee along with the NCC & NSS organized a silent march to observe 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' on the 14th of August 2022. It was a solemn occasion as we remembered and acknowledged the horrors of partition.

On 15th August 2022, 76th Independence Day celebrations were held on the college ground and the chief guest was Shri Kuldeep Kumar, Honorable MLA., Kondli, Vidhan Sabha.



Teacher's Day

The ECA Committee of Maharaja Agrasen College celebrated Teacher's Day with great enthusiasm on the 5th of September 2022. All the societies under ECA gave a token of appreciation to their teachers and expressed gratitude for their guidance. A photo booth was also put up for the students and teachers to capture their moments together.



74th Republic Day

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated with gaiety at Maharaja Agrasen College. The ECA Committee organised the celebrations in collaboration with NCC. The programme began with the flag hoisting ceremony and national anthem. On this occasion, NCC cadets gave the Guard of Honor. MLA of Kondli Vidhan Sabha, Kuldeep Kumar was the chief guest of the program. Chairman, Governing Body, Prof. Sunil Kumar Chaudhary presided over the ceremony.

Teachers, non-teaching staff and a large number of students were present at the ceremony.



Prarambh 2023

Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi organized "Prarambh" for freshers on 31st January 2023. The event was graced by the famous Kathak duo - Ms. Nalini Asthana and Kamalini Asthana.

The event also included various cultural performances by the ECA Societies and was followed by the Mr. and Miss Fresher competition for the new batch of students.



Virasat 2023

SPIC MACAY Virasat 2023 was organised between 21 March to 26 March 2023. The weeklong festival commemorating Indian art and culture saw renowned artists come and perform in the college. Virasat 2023 began with a Kathak performance by Pt Rajendra Gangani. This was followed by a Hindustani classical vocal performance by Pt Ritesh Mishra and Pt. Rajnesh Mishra. Under the Cinema Classics series, the students of the college got a chance to see iconic Charlie Chaplin film "Modern Times". Associate Prof. Vinod Verma, Dept of English, Maharaja Agrasen College was the resource person. The grand celebration ended with a heritage walk to Hauz Khas fort on 26 March 2023.

Yuvaan 2023

Yuvaan 2023 was organised between 27-29 March 2023. This year's annual cultural festival was special because some of the competitions were held in collaboration with organisations of national and international repute, i.e; UDAAN, Art of Living Foundation and Vivekananda Kendra. The festival also had Dainik Jagaran as the print media partner. Prof Balaram Pani, Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi, graced the Inaugural Ceremony as the Chief Guest. Prof Satish K Awasthi, Treasurer, Governing Body was the Guest of Honour. Yuvaan 2023 had around 1500 participants from various colleges and educational institutions from the Delhi and NCR area. One of the highlights



of Yuvaan 2023 was that it saw minimum use of plastic and promoted the practice of Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.

Apart from these college-level events, the ECA Societies also organised several events at inter-college and intra-college level:

North East Society

The North East Society organised the annual Gandhi Memorial Essay Writing Competition between 2 October -30 October 2022. The competition saw enthusiastic participation from students across India.

SPIC MACAY-MAC Chapter

SPIC MACAY MAC Chapter organised a flute recital by the renowned artist Pt. Nityanand Haldipur on 25 January 2023. The full auditorium was a proof of the success of the event.

चक्रview Society

The Tejas Gurtu Memorial Freshers Debate was organized by चक्रview, the Debating Society of Maharaja Agrasen College, as a tribute to the late Mr. Tejas Gurtu who was a valued member of the society, on 18 January 2023. This event was the 2nd edition of the memorial debate, and it saw the participation of freshers from across India, competing for the top positions. The format of the debate was extempore and was conducted in both English and Hindi. The judging panel consisted of esteemed members, including Ms. Saavi Shrivastav, the former President of चक्रview and Mr. Madan Mohan, an alumnus from the year 2017-19.

चक्रview organized its flagship event, SYMPOSIUM- the multi level policy debate on 20th of March, 2023. The society takes immense pride in introducing an improvised format of THE POLICY DEBATE, into the Indian Debating Circuit. We had an embellished judging panel in



each round, with Mr. Sanover Haidri, Senior Consultant at People and Organization Management Consultancy (advisory) PWC, India and Ms. Shasiniya Shagolshem, former member of चक्रview and current student of Political Science at JNU, as the judges for the first round and Dr Neeraj Kumar from Political Science department, Maharaja Agrasen College, Lalit Joshi and Vaishali Saxena, former senior core members of चक्रview as judges for the second and third rounds. The theme for the second round was the G20 summit. Out of these four teams, the best two qualified for the Grand Finale, which hosted the theme, Philosophy.

After hours of gruelling debates and rebuttals, Vanshika Tandon and Devansh Rathi of Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, bagged the best team award for standing first in this competition.

Vivekananda Study Circle

On July 13, 2022, the Guru Purnima was celebrated by Vivekananda Study Circle, Maharaja Agrasen College in the college auditorium. Guru Purnima is celebrated to commemorate Gautam Buddha's first sermon to



his first five disciples in Uttar Pradesh's Sarnath. It is a tradition dedicated to all the spiritual and academic Gurus, who are evolved or enlightened humans.

The event marked the presence of our respected Principal Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari and the teaching, non-teaching staff and students of the college.

A workshop on Meditation was organised by Vivekananda Study Circle on 9th September 2022 as a part of the foundation week celebration - 'Divya Nirmaya'. Shri Manas Bhattacharjee, Life Worker, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari was the resource person for the session. The students

The Inter College Online Poem competition – "Sangam" was organised by Vivekananda Study Circle under the aegis of ECA as a part of its foundation week- "Divya Nirmaya" on 10 September 2022. Students from different colleges participated in this competition on "INDIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS". This competition gave the students an insight into freedom fighters' lives. Dr Pramod Kumar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science judged the competition.

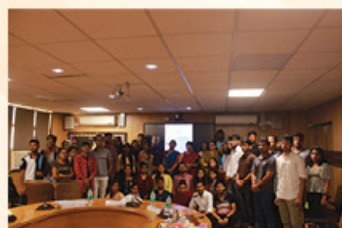
A panel discussion "Samarpan" was organised on 13 September 2022 in a conference room with the overarching theme "Vivekananda And Youth" in collaboration with Chanakya Society. Samarpan was also part of the week long 'Divya Nirmaya' series.

The panel discussion was presided over by Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, Principal (Offg.), Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. Shri Nikhil Yadav was Chair and Panellist along with Prof. Prem Kumari Srivastava and Dr Ritu Kohli as co-panellists.

In the end, there was a Q&A round in which students interacted with panellists. Students and teachers joined the session and were encouraged by their sayings.

On 6 February 2023, Shri Satish Kumar, Uttar Prant, Vivekananda Kedra was invited to speak on the topic "VIVEKANANDA AND HIS IDEAL SOCIETY" followed by an interactive session.

A lecture session under the Samarpan series celebrating the auspicious occasion of the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati ji was organised on 24 February 2023. Dr. Ajeet Kumar Puri ji, Assistant Professor, Dept of Hindi, BHU spoke on the role of Dayanand Saraswati ji in women's



education, the Indian freedom struggle, and Swaraj. Shri Sudarshan Kumar ji, Chief Engineer, NDMC made the session very interesting by motivating the students to know their purpose in life and the teachings of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati. The life sketch of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati ji was also presented at the event by Vidhi Sharma of B.Com Honours second year, a member of Vivekananda Study Circle.

SRIJAN

On 17th & 18th January 2023, an Art & Craft Workshop was organised in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Auditorium lobby of Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi by Srijan- the Art & Craft Society and ECA Committee in collaboration with Udaan – The Visual Art Vertical. The Charcoal Painting Workshop was held by renowned speed painter Mr. Deepak Soni.

The next day, the event proceeded with the Clay Modelling Workshop. The workshop was conducted by Shri Nivedita Mishra, who is a well-known personality in the field of sculpting.

The two days of learning different styles of Art came to an end with the official Valedictory Ceremony. The event was graced with the presence of Mr. Adwaita Gadanayak, a talented sculptor himself and the director general of the National Gallery of Art as the Chief Guest for the event. The ceremony was also attended by several big names in the industry who were currently working with Udaan, Mr. Bharat Bhushan Arora, Mr. V. K. Wahal and Mr. Avtar Sahni Ji.



Markos

Markos Society organized STOCK EXCHANGE, a first for the society on 26 and 27 September 2022. This was an inter-college event. Over 350 registrations were received from about 30 colleges and universities across India.



Inquizitive Society

The Intra-college MELAS QUIZ was conducted by the INQUIZITIVE Society on 8th February 2023 in order to encourage students to gain general knowledge, apart from subject knowledge and to get a gist of a quiz event in Delhi University Circuit. We received an overwhelming registration from the students of Maharaja Agrasen College with 35 teams i.e. 70 students registering in the only six days provided for the registration process. Additionally, another 23 teams registered on the spot via out registration desk on the event day. The questions ranged from different well known yet secretive enough topics of MELAS i.e. Music, Entertainment, Literature, Art and Sports.



The ECA Committee also collaborated with several government agencies to organise youth awareness programmes like the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Quiz Competition organised by NSO, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Cyber Security and Training by Delhi Police on 28th February, 2023 and the young voters' awareness campaign by District Election Office, East on 11th November 2022.



The students also visited Hindu College to watch a

Georgian avant garde theatre presentation. The students also got an opportunity to attend the lecture session on Meditation and Mental Health by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at the University Sports Complex, University of Delhi on 3 March 2023.

The students also visited



THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELL (EOC)

The Equal Opportunity Cell collaborated with the Training and Placement Cell of the college to organize a 'Mega Job Fair' for persons with disabilities in association with the Samarthanam Trust in the college campus on 25 May 2022. The said fair provided a platform to the persons with disabilities both from within and outside college to explore upcoming opportunities in the job market. The job fair attracted participation from Several PwD candidates participated and benefitted from this job fair. Four students from EOC, MAC participated in the inter-college competition Saharsh 2023, organised by JAAGRITI, the Enabling Unit of Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi on 8 February 2023. Participation in events like solo singing, talent hunt, art and craft making and debate enhanced their self-confidence and contributed towards their overall personality development.

Gaurav Kumar, a student from B. A (Prog) second year, represented the college in the inter-college chess competition for persons with disabilities organised by Shaheed Rajguru College, University of Delhi on 19 January 2023 and won the first prize in the said competition.

The Equal Opportunity Cell in collaboration with the National Service Scheme in college organized a workshop for sensitizing the college community towards the needs and challenges experienced by the persons with intellectual and development disability on 12 April 2023. Resource persons namely, Ms. Indira Alok, Principal and Executive Director, Manovikas School for Inclusion, also a Special Educator and Dance Therapist; Ms. Sangeeta, Course Coordinator of D.Ed Spl Edu (ID); Ms. Neeru Tandon, Asst. Coordinator of IGNOU Special Study Centre- 29047D and Ms. Isha Verma, Facilitator in Think College from the Manovikas Charitable Trust interacted with the students and introduced disability as yet another diversity in the human society. They apprised the participants about the wide spectrum of intellectual and development disabilities, ranging from mild and moderate to severe and profound. They also informed the participants that often mild and moderate intellectual disabilities are not visible among persons with disabilities and some basic awareness on matters pertaining to intellectual disabilities can help us in establishing better channels of communications and provisions for inclusion for persons with intellectual disabilities. Pair and group activities like finger spelling and creative expression through blind fold sketching and object decoration were also performed to emphasise – 'how different minds think differently and communicate their thoughts/ opinions/ ideas in distinct ways' and the need to facilitate inclusion for all articulations. The workshop was also attended by students with disabilities in the college along with some parents of the intellectually disabled students. The parents appreciated the initiative and emphasised on the need to have more of such sensitizing workshops promoting inclusion from all walks of life.



IN MEMORIUM



Dr. Anshul Taneja
(28th Nov 1977- 4 June 2022)

We lost our dear colleague Dr. Anshul Taneja on 4th June 2022. It came as a shock to all of us. The whole college mourned over his sad demise. We are still getting alive to the fact that he is no more. He had a deep intuitive understanding and strong willpower.

In the college he will always be in the memory of all his colleagues. A friend ready to help each and everyone, Anshul will be remembered as a fighter. He was a quiet but sharp minded person. His vision for working dedicatedly in setting up The Placement Cell in the college has added a feather into the cap of college. A former student from English Hons, MrDivyank Bansal fondly remembers Dr Anshul Sir from the beginning days of Placement Cell. Anshul was a confident generous human being and will stay in our memories with that calmness on his face.

◇ I so vividly remember his candid thoughts on the use of intuition in decision-making. This subject was so close to his heart that he eventually did research on the use of intuition in decision-making by corporate heads and managers.

Anshul believed if beliefs governed by intuition are examined in the light of reliable facts and evidence and if consultation and communication with others on the subject are objective, then the increased experience will create and shape successful patterns in different emotional environments that will help improve the consistency of intuitive decision-making. He came to the level of the listeners to make complex things understandable with immense ease and pleasure by citing simple real-life examples and anecdotes. The ability to draw connections between the happening in an environment was his forte. The connections in the cosmos always interested him, startled him, and he often cited them.

Dr Anshul's ability to fathom people and their minds had come through his own experience by engaging with/ talking to people with simplicity, love (with a gentle smile on his face), pure intent, and curiosity to learn. His loving demeanor was so pleasing that everyone was drawn to him. The qualities required to be a good teacher, like communication, listening, adaptability, empathy, and patience, were possessed by him in abundance. He was a very popular teacher, and hence respect and love kissed his life all through. His effective and innovative style of teaching ensured the engaging classroom presence of students.

He had a lifelong love of learning. His candid discussion in the classroom was welcomed by students, and they thoroughly enjoyed his classroom deliberations and ponderings since they were the outcome of the out of box thinking. The quietest of the students participated in these discussions. His charisma and serenity were attributable to the practice of long meditations he used to indulge in. His premature demise is an irreparable loss to not only his loving family but also to our academic institution. He will always stay in the hearts of students and colleagues who were fortunate enough to come within his compassionate, loving reach.

Dr. Pratibha Rai
(Colleague from the Dptt)

Remembering Anshul: In the Words of His Students

Anshul Sir was a great and kind-hearted teacher. His way of teaching was totally different from other teachers. How time used to pass in his class cannot be expressed in words. He was a great mentor; he guided me and helped me improve my personality in many ways. He will always be remembered in our hearts, and the memories we created with him will always be cherished.

(Shivam Verma (3rd Year))

I still can't believe that I'll have to complete my graduation without you there to bless me for my future. You've been a true motivation for me. My selection of "Marketing" as my career stream reflects the amount of influence you had on me.

I'll never forget all the tips you gave me about how the corporate world works, and I vow to employ each one of them and achieve great heights.

A teacher, a mentor, and a friend, you'll be truly missed, sir.

(Riju Sharma (3rd Year))

It's hard to believe that he is no longer with us. The news of his passing came as a shock to all of us, and we are still struggling to come to terms with it. He was more than just a teacher to us. He was a mentor, a friend, and a source of inspiration.

I remember the first day of class with Anshul sir. He had a warmth in his smile that immediately put us at ease. He had a way of making every student feel seen and heard and encouraged us to think critically and creatively. Sir challenged us to be better than we thought we could be, and he celebrated our successes with genuine enthusiasm.

His passion for teaching was infectious. He didn't just teach us the subject matter; he brought it to life with stories, analogies, and real-world examples. He showed us how the material could be applied in our lives and in the world around us. He made learning fun and exciting and inspired us to keep learning long after we left our marketing class. Rest in peace, Anshul Sir. You will be deeply missed, but your memory will continue to inspire and guide us.

With gratitude and love.

(Himanshu Negi (3rd Year))

IN MEMORIUM



Prof. Prem Kumari Srivastava
(2 Dec 1962- 12 Nov 2022)

Prof. Prem Kumari Srivastava was a stalwart who stood tall amongst her peers as an academic and a scholar. But above all, she is remembered by her friends and colleagues as a dynamic person with a multifaceted personality, a very fine human being who commanded respect and affection through three decades of her work-life. Her prolific achievements sat modestly on her affable, sociable and gentle demeanour. She was an essence of thoroughly professional yet effervescent, affectionate and generous conduct, and she not only easily made friends wherever she went but also helped students, associates, mentees, organisations, publications, events and conferences touch extraordinary heights of excellence. As an ardent follower of the Radhasoami Satsang based at Dayalbagh in Agra, she made compassion and gratitude an integral aspect of her personality.

Prof. Prem belonged to the first generation of appointees at the newly established Maharaja Agrasen College, joining the Department of English in 1995 as its senior-most permanent faculty member. With a doctorate from IIT Delhi, she used her scholastic abilities and academic credentials to

lead the fledgling Department, playing an active role in initiating the Honours programme in English in 1997. She forged partnerships with all the colleagues who joined with her in 1995 and thereafter, to become active shareholders in nurturing the Department and the College from its infancy to its adulthood. There were many achievements of firsts with Prof. Prem as far as the institution is concerned – other than being the first teacher in charge of the Department of English, she was the first English Editor of *Agranika*, the college magazine; the first one to conceive and convene an International Conference; the first in the Department to have published a book, and so on. The first International Conference on De-territorialising Diversities: Cultures, Literatures and Languages of the Indigenous (2013), organised by her in collaboration with the IGNCA and ICSSR, was truly a grand international event which put Maharaja Agrasen College firmly on the academic map of the University of Delhi. Since then, Prem organised many more conferences, talks and seminars, drawing the most learned and erudite speakers from her vast network of academic associates and collaborators. She also spearheaded the ELPC (English language Proficiency Course) in the college in its varied avatars through the years. She contributed immensely to the many college committees that she led or was part of, the most recent of them being the convener of the Archives and Repository Committee, where she initiated work to set up the college archives.

As a researcher, her output was prolific. She wrote and edited 12 books, and has nearly 85 research publications to her credit, which include research papers mostly in the fields of Cultural Studies, the Indigenous and the Popular, American Literature, Innovative English Language Materials Production, Spiritual Ecology and Sant Mat. The enthusiasm, energy, and consistency with which she remained engaged in scholarly projects producing a voluminous oeuvre of quality work is indeed exemplary. She was also a recipient of several postdoctoral fellowships and awards. As a doctoral guide, she remained deeply engaged with the research work of the scholars under her supervision. She was an indispensable member of several forums like FORTELL, IACLALS etc. But Prem could never rest easy on her laurels, and was consistently seeking new challenges. She was associated with the Institute of Life-Long Learning (ILLL) of the University of Delhi, and later joined the newly established Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC) of the University of Delhi in 2014, where she helped develop new pedagogy and content.

Prem would be remembered for her articulate views, humorous quips, and vivacious laughter by all those whose lives she touched. Her personal style and impeccable dress sense made her a figure of elegance and

poise. The deep void that has been created by her abrupt disappearance from our lives is not likely to be filled anytime soon. In our minds and hearts, we will continue to reach out to her spirit for guidance and help for a very long time to come. She would be sorely missed by one and all, but a life like that is to be celebrated, not mourned. She will forever remain an integral part of our respect, memories, and endeavours.

Department of English

Remembering Prem: In the Words of Her Colleagues and Friends

- ◆ Prem enabled and elevated people around her. She made us feel worthwhile and purposeful. She celebrated our successes, more than made up for our shortcomings and gently nudged and guided us. She shared our joys and sorrows; she stood by us in our hour of need. She shared: not just her warmth and friendship, but also academic and research opportunities. She believed that we could thrive and flourish not just individually, but also together. She created and nurtured spaces that we could all share.

Even when she was critical of anyone's position, she was always respectful. She respected people, valued people and made time for them. I remember long conversations with Prem: she had a way of cutting through superfluous mental chatter and connect over things that really mattered. Now, she's conversation and memory. But then, she'll continue to be part of many inspiring conversations and many, many resplendent memories. How could she not? Afterall, she wrote herself into each of our lives in the richest and fullest of colours. Truly, deeply grateful for the time she shared with us.

Dr. Anupama Jaidev Karir

- ◆ Pillar of strength and eminent researcher. Mother figure and a warm person, dear Prem, you will stay forever in our memories with that beautiful smile on your face. You will be remembered for that charm, friendly nature with which you welcomed all of us in every get together. You will be remembered as an epitome of knowledge for setting up new traditions, and for having that endless list of academic achievements every year.

Dr. Charu Arya

- ◆ A Friend, Philosopher and Guide

Dr. Debosmita Paul (Former student and her colleague)

- ◆ That Ma'am was the go to person for any academic advice was no surprise. But, for me ma'am defined a comfort zone where even a whisper implied a meaning and a value. She gave wings to all my ill-defined fancies. Prem Ma'am, you will always be remembered for giving shape to our dreams. Thank you Ma'am for everything.

Indrani Das Gupta

- ◆ A lodestar who not only guided when she was physically around, but will continue to hold us as branches from the most endearing seat in heaven. There can be only one of her kind. Her going away has taken away the shade of the Banyan tree which protected us, preserved us and held us together.

Dr. Guntasha Tulsi (Former colleague)

- ◆ Prem epitomised 'sisterhood', and made a powerful statement by normalising its usage even in her conversations. Graciousness, gratitude and valuing friendships have been other important lessons that one has imbibed from her.

Dr. Mona Sinha

NOTES ON THREE SEMESTERS OF ONLINE TEACHING

I was in my second year of undergraduate study when my classmates and I were forced to confront the consequences of the nation-wide lockdown imposed by virtue of the COVID-19 crisis. Most of us were fairly happy, for such a crisis provided to us what we considered was a temporary relief prior to the impending onset of summative assessments. The crisis, however, continued.

In the remaining months of the fourth semester, we listened to voice recordings of lectures prepared by our professors on Moodle and highlighted various sections of research papers on our laptops rather than underlining on photocopied sheets. Because our course texts were so fascinating to engage with, most of us were largely oblivious to issues stemming from the use of digital technology, issues that would have appeared more evident if we were disinterested in learning. In my experience, taking down notes while listening to voice recordings frequently made me pause the recording while writing in my notebook rather than writing while listening to the recording itself. In hindsight, pausing the recording may have made note-making more time consuming, but such a commitment was constructive for my learning since it made me more attentive to nuances that I may have overlooked in the process of haphazard transcription. Notwithstanding the awkward unexpectedness of an abrupt transition to online teaching, I still remain comforted by the fact that a semester that required us to read Lawrence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*, a novel that problematizes conventional ideas pertaining to an origin and a definite end, ended in so strange a manner.

The fifth and the sixth semesters were expectedly online. This time, we were emotionally prepared for months of online study. Possibilities of interaction seemed minimal at the outset, for not one student switched on their camera. Very few unmuted themselves during discussions. That said, our professors persisted, and created avenues of interpersonal interaction from which there was no escape. More students started unmuting themselves and the classes were once again alive.

For a host of reasons, online classes increased opportunities of class presentation, which, to me, was a source of joy. I have always enjoyed classroom presentations and I am grateful to have received several chances to present in class. In many classes, since presentations were not graded, I had the pleasure of being more informal. I challenged myself to talk through a text and read it critically without having a readymade platter of content on a sheet of paper from which I could read in a monotone. Since I was no longer writing down everything in the way I would for a graded presentation, I benefitted from the spontaneity that ungraded classroom presentations allowed.

The Department of English at **Maharaja Agrasen College** comprises, as I keep saying, faculty members who are not only unbelievably brilliant in what they teach, but also unbelievably approachable. My professors were always available to clarify doubts and extend classes. It was impossible to think of online teaching as a disruption with faculty members who were as attentive as they have been. The difficulties that online teaching created for students who did not have access to infrastructures that serve as preconditions for participation in online learning are, of course, integral to consider in any assessment of the quality of online teaching. The problem of accessibility is, however, applicable to all departments. I hope current students are benefitting from a return to offline teaching, but I want to emphasise that the transition that my batch experienced during COVID-19 was far from unfortunate. We were as happy learning from our professors on Google Meet and Zoom as we were in learning in our in-person classes.

Mridula Sharma, (B.A (H) English, 2018-2021)

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Harshvardhan, B. Sc. Mathematical Sciences, 3rd Year

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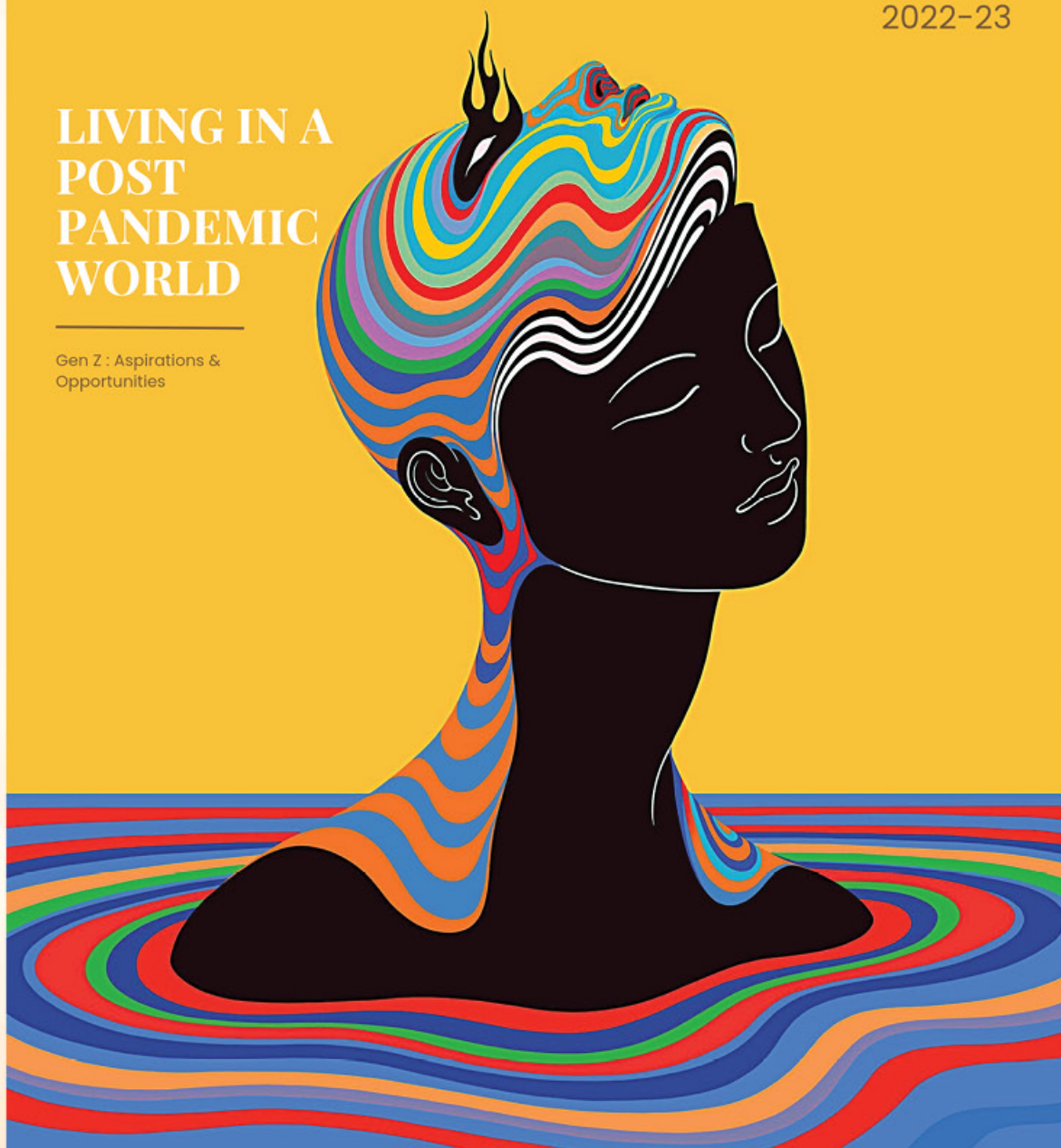


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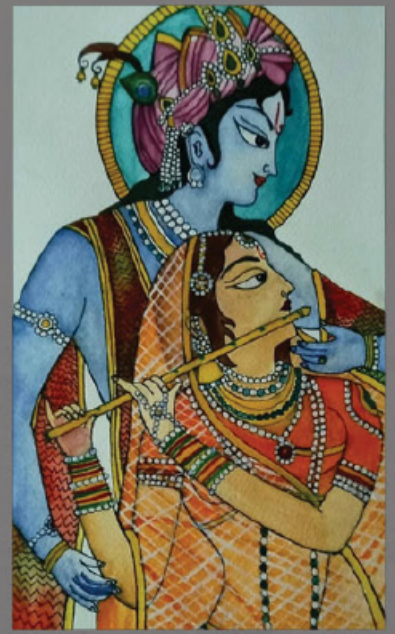
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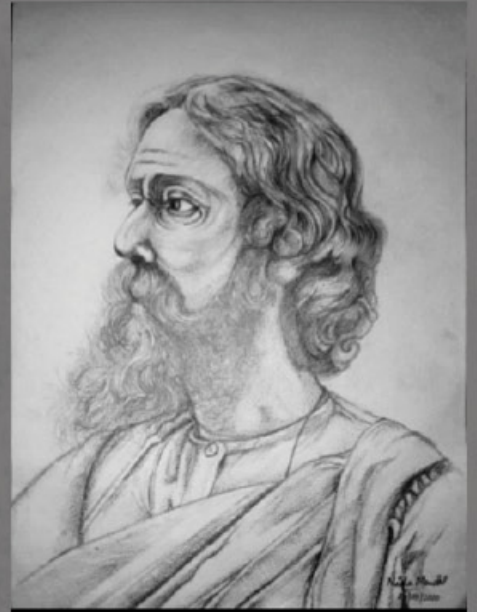
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Neha Sehgal, B. A. (H) English, 3rd Year



Sneha Jha



Disha Singh

Ujjwal Raghuvanshi

Sneha Jha



MaUjjwal Raghuvanshi

Teaching Group



Non-Teaching Group





Sitting (Left to Right) Dr. Abha Sharma, Dr. Geetika Jain Saxena, Prof. Sanjeev Kr. Tiwari (Principal), Dr. Mona Sinha, Dr. Amit Pundir
Standing (Left to Right) Dr. Charu Arya, Dr. Debosmita Paul, Ms. Shilpa Gupta, Dr. Vandana Kumari, Dr. Farha Khan, Mr. Aditya Premdeep

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