



अग्रणिका

2017

कर्म मानव प्रतिपद्यते



MAC

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From the Chairman's Desk



Department of Microbiology

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Dated: April 18, 2017

J. S. VIRDI

Professor (Microbial Genomics)

MESSAGE

I am extremely happy to be associated with **Maharaja Agrasen College** as Chairman of Governing Body and it gives me great pleasure to write a few words for the annual magazine of the college, '**AGRANIKA**'.

Maharaja Agrasen College is ranked amongst the best colleges of India and is now well known in the country for its commitment to excellence in higher education. Besides academic achievements, it has set high standards in theatre, sports, journalism and other co-curricular activities. The college has bagged many laurels in recent times mainly due to the enthusiasm and energy of its students and staff, and the vision and dynamic leadership of the management team. The activities and achievements of the college during the current academic session have been most ably published in this issue of '**AGRANIKA**' by the editor Dr. Rajhans and his team.

Over the years, the college has grown to be an inspiration for thousands of students who come back to share their stories of successes & achievements with their Alma mater. I believe that in the years to come Maharaja Agrasen College will scale new heights as an academic institution of repute.

I wish the college, its enthusiastic faculty and all the spirited students my heartiest wishes for its annual day celebrations.

(Jugsharan S. Viridi)
Chairman, Governing Body



राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन एवं प्रत्यायन परिषद

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग का स्वायत्त संस्थान

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission

प्रो. धीरेन्द्र पाल सिंह
निदेशक
Prof. D. P. Singh
Director

F.19.26/EC(SC-17)/DO/2016/50.1
19th September 2016

The Principal
Maharaja Agrasen College
Vasundhara Enclave
Delhi - 110096

Dear Principal,

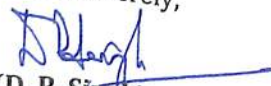
Greetings from NAAC!

I am glad to inform you that the outcome of the Assessment and Accreditation (A&A) exercise of your institution has been processed and approved by the Standing Committee constituted by the Executive Committee to examine the peer team reports and declare the accreditation results. Your institution has been **Accredited** with a **CGPA** of **3.02** on a seven point scale at **A Grade** valid for a period of five years from 16/09/2016. The result is already uploaded on NAAC website. The original certificate of accreditation with the quality profile will be dispatched to the institution in due course. I am sure that the detailed peer team report handed over to you during the exit meeting along with the quality profile will enable the institution to initiate further quality enhancement measures.

As per the new guidelines of NAAC, it is mandatory for institutions to retain the Self-Study Report (SSR) uploaded on the institutional website for A&A by NAAC until the completion of validity period of A&A. The SSR should not be password protected and accessible to all the stakeholders. Institutions are also requested to take note of the mandatory requirement of submitting Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) and uploading them on the institutional website on regular basis. Failing to submit the AQARs annually, institutions will not be eligible for the next cycle of accreditation. For details on the revised guidelines, please visit our website: www.naac.gov.in from time to time.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


(D. P. Singh)

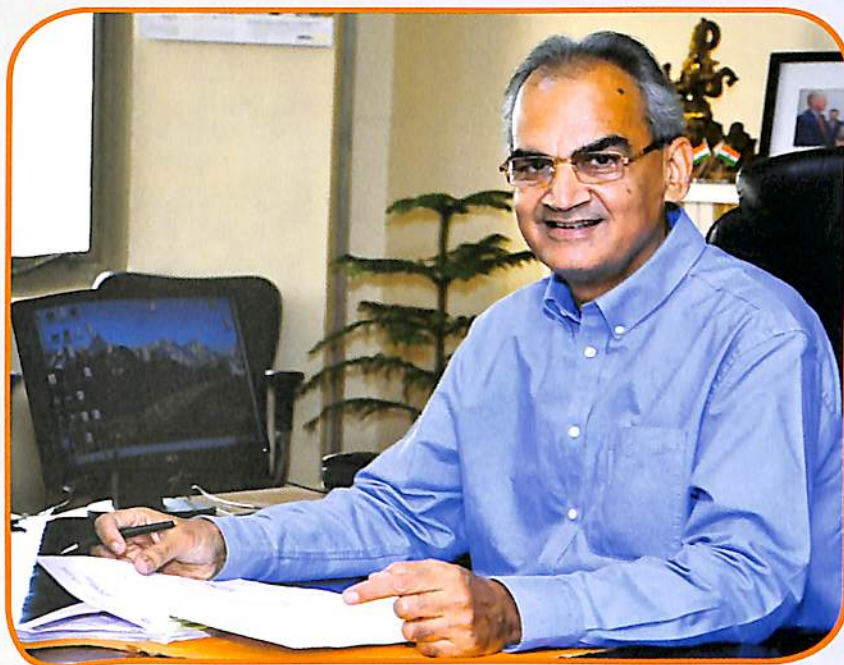
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Former Vice-Chancellor, BHU, Varanasi, Dr.H.S. Gour University, Sagar & Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore

From the Principal's Desk



I am very happy to write a few words for the Annual Magazine of our college -AGRANIKA. The college magazine showcases the activities and achievements of the college during the current academic year.

Maharaja Agrasen College has over the years stood above the rest in its hands on approach to learning and in its commitment to social responsibility. This has been well recognised by NAAC as it awarded 'A' Grade to Maharaja agrasen College in 2016. We also maintained our place among India's Best Colleges in India Today-Nielsen Survey 2016.

In all this, we have made every effort to be sensitive and compassionate to the marginalized and students in need. This has been the unique character of Maharaja Agrasen College. We feel happy when the bright and talented students perform remarkably well. However what makes us happier is when a weak student from a rural background progresses steadily from poor performance to better performance, moving towards excellence. Similarly, we feel very happy when girl students excel in academics, sports, and social work, and become most effective agents of social change.

Education for us is not just an act of acquiring knowledge, more than that it is learning life skills to shape one's personality, build social integration and lead a happy life. This is a continuous process of growth. It is more important that education should enable the students to face real life problems rather than merely secure good marks in exams. I thanks Dr. Rajhans and his team of staff and students for bringing out this issue of Agranika on time and with rich content that is worth preserving.

Dr. Sunil Sondhi
Principal





संपादक की कलम से...

हर कोई नए की तलाश में है। बाजार ने हर किसी को नयी तलाश की लत लगा दी है। मजेदार ये कि हर नया अगले दिन पुराने की सूची में दर्ज हो जा रहा है। इतिहास हो या संस्कृति, सूचना हो या सूचना माध्यम, स्टाइल हो या स्टाइल आइकॉन, नायक हो या नायकत्व, उपभोग की वस्तु हो या उपभोग का तरीका, सब में पुरानेपन की भभक बता कर आगे बढ़ जाने की कला बाजार का आधारभूत दर्शन है। शिक्षा और शिक्षा-व्यवस्था इसका अपवाद कैसे हो सकता था सो, इसमें भी स्थापित को विस्थापित करने की भाग-दौड़ प्रारंभ है। ज्ञान-विज्ञान की तमाम सैद्धान्तिकियों और संस्थाओं को उपभोग के उपयोगितावादी निकष पर बिठाया और परखा जा रहा है। बाजार से तालमेल बैठाने की कोशिश जारी है। पठन-पाठन पाठ्यक्रम, संस्थागत ढांचे, शोध-प्रणालियों पर नित-नवीन गोष्ठियां हो रही हैं और इनोवेटिव बदलाव भी। सेमेस्टर, एफवाईयूपी, सीबीसीएस, नैक, रुसा, एपीआई सिस्टम, यू जी सी में ढांचागत बदलाव, आ रही नई शिक्षा नीति इत्यादि सभी शायद इसी दिशा में बढ़ती कवायद है। कवायद का स्पंदन दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में मौजूद हम सब अकादमिक नागरिक बखूबी महसूस कर रहे हैं। बदलाव में अपनी-अपनी सूझ-बूझ के अनुसार प्रतिक्रिया दे रहे हैं, संशोधन के साथ-साथ सहयोग दे रहे हैं और इस उम्मीद में चले जा रहे हैं कि शायद किसी बेहतर शैक्षिक भविष्य तक पहुँच पायें। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की पृथ्वी पर नए की तलाश में चल रहे अपने सभी शिक्षक मित्रों, छात्रों एवं अकादमिक नागरिकों से अपेक्षा है कि इस भागमभाग में हम शिक्षा के आधारभूत मूल्य, मानवीयता एवं नैतिकता का हाथ कभी न छोड़ें। अपने 'नए' को नैतिकता से बांधे रखने के संकल्प के साथ अग्रणिका का यह नया अंक आपके लिए...

पत्रिका में मौजूद सृजनात्मकता छात्रों से संबंधित है, महाविद्यालय की वर्ष भर की गतिविधियों एवं उपलब्धियों का संबंध महाविद्यालय में मौजूद उदार गुरुओं एवं श्रमशील कर्मचारियों से है। इसी क्रम में पत्रिका को संभव बनाने वाले सम्पादक मंडल सुधीर रिन्टन, विनय राय, त्र्यम्बक नाथ त्रिपाठी, जितेन्द्र भगत, अनु जयदेव, सोमायला, देबोस्मिता पॉल, सबका धन्यवाद जिन्होंने अपनी रचनात्मकता और कड़ी मेहनत से इसे सगुण रूप दिया। छात्र सम्पादक मंडल, खासकर सूरज, अमृताश, सुधांशु, स्वप्निल का धन्यवाद। साथ ही पूरे सम्पादक मंडल और अपनी ओर से पत्रिका के लिए अरुण कमल की दो पंक्तियाँ:-

**अपना क्या है इस जीवन में सब तो लिया उधार
सारा लोहा उन लोगों का अपनी केवल धार।**

एक बात और, NAAC में 'ए' ग्रेड पाने के लिये महाराजा अग्रसेन परिवार को बधाई!

डॉ राजहंस कुमार
संयोजक एवं संपादक
अग्रणिका 2016-17



Editorial, English Section

Dear Readers

April is a fine month. It's a time to look back, a time to share, and a time to take stock of the year gone by. A college magazine is the collective voice of the institution: it is the institution talking back, and how! This particular magazine is an imprint—a kind of vast and elaborate signature—of all of us in this formidable institution that we have the privilege of calling our own.

The reports of departments and committees are indicative of the systems in place to facilitate ever-growing opportunities of learning, interaction, experimentation and exploration within and beyond the classroom. The creative section, alternatively, is a complex labyrinth of forms and ideas giving shape to the imaginary, the abstract and the real. While the creative output by students provides a glimpse into their hopes and aspirations and ambitions, the creativity of a more mature mind of a faculty member provides a glimpse of the world of experience, alternating between hope and pain. It is also interesting to see how the world out there as well as the opportunities provided by the institution tempers the very individualistic expressions articulated in various poems and prose pieces.

The magazine is ambitious and voluble, enigmatic and cryptic, and also meditative and reflective by turns: sometimes, all at once. It is a celebration of the power of words which provides opportunities of strong and impactful expression.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our committee members, contributors, our student editors, and members of the editorial team, especially Guntasha. A special thanks to Anu ma'am for her support and guidance through the process of the making of the magazine.

Best wishes to all our readers. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Debosmita Paul

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ORIENTATION DAY

Orientation Day 2016 was organized on 18th July in the college auditorium. First year students who were going to join Maharaja Agrasen College were invited for this event. The Principal, Dr Sunil Sondhi welcomed the students to Maharaja Agrasen College family. He made them understand the importance of education and discipline in their life at this juncture when they are going to begin new level of their journey in life. A Power Point presentation showing various facilities available in the college was shown. They were also informed by Discipline Committee convener, Dr T N Ojha, that the college is strictly against ragging and indiscipline in any form will not be forgiven during their three years stay in college. Students were given information brochures. The event came to a close with a vote of thanks presented by Annual Activity Committee Convener, Dr Charu Arya.



The students were taken to their respective departmental rooms where the Teacher-in-Charges introduced the students to other teachers of the department. The students were provided with time-table and were briefed on the dos & don'ts as a student of the college. The Choice-Based-Credit-System (CBCS) scheme to which the students were admitted was explained to students in adequate detail. The students came up with specific queries which were duly answered by the teachers. Further, the students appreciated the new scheme as it provided them with the liberty of choosing from a plethora of choices available. The faculty took delight in explaining about the pedagogy, the methodology of teaching being followed, the scheme of examinations, rules regarding attendance, the scholarship schemes and the opportunities available for all-round development of personality. The orientation day was successful in providing a glimpse of college life that awaited the new entrants to Maharaja Agrasen College.



VIVEKANANDA MEMORIAL LECTURE

3rd Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture was organized on 12th January, 2017 in the college auditorium. The Principal, Dr Sunil Sondhi welcomed our guest for the occasion. This memorial lecture was delivered by Hon'ble Sh Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, Delhi. He told our young students about the role and benefits of moral and fair conduct in building their successful life ahead. He also inspired our youth to learn more about rich heritage of our Indian culture and practice it in their daily life. A leaflet containing thoughts and message of Swami Vivekananda was distributed to all present on the occasion. The program came to close with felicitation of our guest speaker with a memento and vote of thanks presented by Dr Charu Arya.



CONSTITUTION DAY

November 26, 2016 turned into a celebration of the Fundamental Rights, an important constituent of the Constitution of India. In order to sensitize the college community about the relevance of the day and the Fundamental Duties, the extra curricular activity committee brought out brochures listing the 11 points in Hindi and English. A pledge reiterating the vow to abide by the Constitution of India was also taken by the students, teachers and the non-teaching staff.



CONSTITUTION DAY

संविधान दिवस

26 November, 2016



On this day, we reiterate our pledge to uphold the Constitution of India

इस दिवस पर हम भारत के संविधान की गरिमा को बनाये रखने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को पुनः दोहराते हैं।

Fundamental Duties

1. To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
2. To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
3. To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
4. To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
5. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
6. To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
7. To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
8. To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
9. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
10. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;
11. Who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

मौलिक कर्तव्य

1. प्रत्येक नागरिक का यह कर्तव्य होगा कि वह संविधान का पालन करे और उसके आदर्शों, संस्थाओं, राष्ट्र ध्वज और राष्ट्र गान का आदर करे.
2. स्वतंत्रता के लिए हमारे राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन को प्रेरित करने वाले उच्च आदर्शों को हृदय में संजोए रखे और उनका पालन करे.
3. भारत की प्रभुता, एकता और अखंडता की रक्षा करे और उसे अक्षुण्ण रखे.
4. देश की रक्षा करे.
5. भारत के सभी लोगों में समरसता और समान भ्रातृत्व की भावना का निर्माण करे.
6. हमारी सामाजिक संस्कृति की गौरवशाली परंपरा का महत्व समझे और उसका निर्माण करे.
7. प्राकृतिक पर्यावरण की रक्षा और उसका संवर्धन करे.
8. वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण और ज्ञानार्जन की भावना का विकास करे.
9. सार्वजनिक संपत्ति को सुरक्षित रखे.
10. व्यक्तिगत एवं सामूहिक गतिविधियों के सभी क्षेत्रों में उत्कर्ष की ओर बढ़ने का सतत प्रयास करे.
11. माता-पिता या संरक्षक द्वारा 6 से 14 वर्ष के बच्चों हेतु प्राथमिक शिक्षा प्रदान करना (86वां संशोधन)

ANNUAL DAY

Annual Day 2016 was organized on 18th April, 2016 in the college auditorium. Chief Guest on the occasion was Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Sh Manish Sisodia. He inaugurated the event with a tree plantation in the premises of our college. Then he formally inaugurated the research and innovation center christened as the A P J Abdul Kalam Center, located in the basement of the college auditorium. After lighting of the lamp accompanied by Saraswati Vandana, the principal, Dr Sunil Sondhi presented the college Annual Report describing in detail, achievements of college and college faculty at various platforms. It also informed about the research work put in by the teaching and non teaching staff and provided the result analysis of our students.

The academic excellence of our position holders across courses was felicitated with mementos, prizes and certificates. The Best Student Award was won by Aditya Nair from B.Com (Hons). The celebration came to a close with felicitation of our Hon'ble Chief Guest with a memento of 'Ashoka Pillar'. Other guests present on the occasion were also felicitated.

Lunch was arranged for guests, teaching and non-teaching staff and all students of our college present on the occasion to celebrate the Annual Day of our college.





ult 2014-15

B.Sc.(G)
Mathematical Sc.
2014-15

B.Com. (H) Result
2014-15



1st Div
2nd Div
3rd Div
Others



1st Div
2nd Div
3rd Div
Others



13TH NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Journey of participating in 13th National Youth Parliament has been an enriching and enlightening experience for the college fraternity. Endless practice sessions to get each and every parliamentary nuance right, tireless working on the script to make it perfect and the relentless endeavors of students yielded fruit when Maharaja Agrasen College had the privilege of hosting the Youth Parliament two times within this academic session, an ode to the Parliamentary procedures of the largest democracy in the world. The event was organized under the aegis of the ministry of parliamentary affairs. With the Principal Dr. Sunil Sondhi as patron, and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari as programme co-ordinator, the coordination committee comprised of Dr. T.N. Ojha, Dr. Niraj Kumar, Dr. Swami Nandan, Mr Yogeshwar Singh, Mr. Vikash Mittal, Mr Amit Kumar, Dr. Sushmita Rajawar, Ms Shomaila Warsi, and Dr. Trayambak Nath Tripathi.

In the month of August, 2016, our college participated in the group-level competitions. Seven colleges and universities were in contest in our group. Maharaja Agrasen College was adjudged winner of the group-level thereby qualifying for the final round. The Youth Parliament debated and discussed several issues such as the nationalism debate in higher educational institutions, issues that plague our farmers and our economic model of development, cow vigilantism and threat to country's pluralism, healthcare facilities vis-à-vis raising the human development indices (HDI) of India. The 'The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment bill' was introduced and passed after due deliberation. The distinguished jury for the group-level competition comprised of Hon'ble member of parliament Shri Udit Raj, Chairperson, National Book Trust, Shri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, and Shri Biplab Debnath, Assistant Professor, University of Tripura.

It was truly a proud moment in the life of our Institution when the eagerly awaited final was organized in the month of February, 2017. The 13th National Youth Parliament held at Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi became an inspiration for the academic fraternity to look up to the students performing a mock parliament session in a disciplined manner portraying the various procedures of the Parliament.

The proceedings of finals of Youth Parliament began with the Oath Session followed by obituary to a former parliamentarian. Glowing tributes were paid by the Prime Minister and the leader of opposition. This was followed by introduction of new ministers by the Prime Minister. Parliamentary procedures viz. the Question hour, the Zero hour, Calling attention motion, Message from the upper house, and Introduction of bill were enacted with great meticulousness. The issues covered were railway safety and the investment in the railway electrification, Cleanliness and Drinking Water and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. The other relevant issues discussed were various aspects of Jallikattu, the issue of women security, and the pros and



cons of the recent policy initiative of 'Demonetization'. Further, the Youth Parliament displayed how a bill is introduced and passed. The bills 'Prevention of Smuggling of Antiquities bill, 2016' and Women in Armed Forces (Inclusion in Combat Positions) Bill, 2016 were introduced and passed after serious debate.

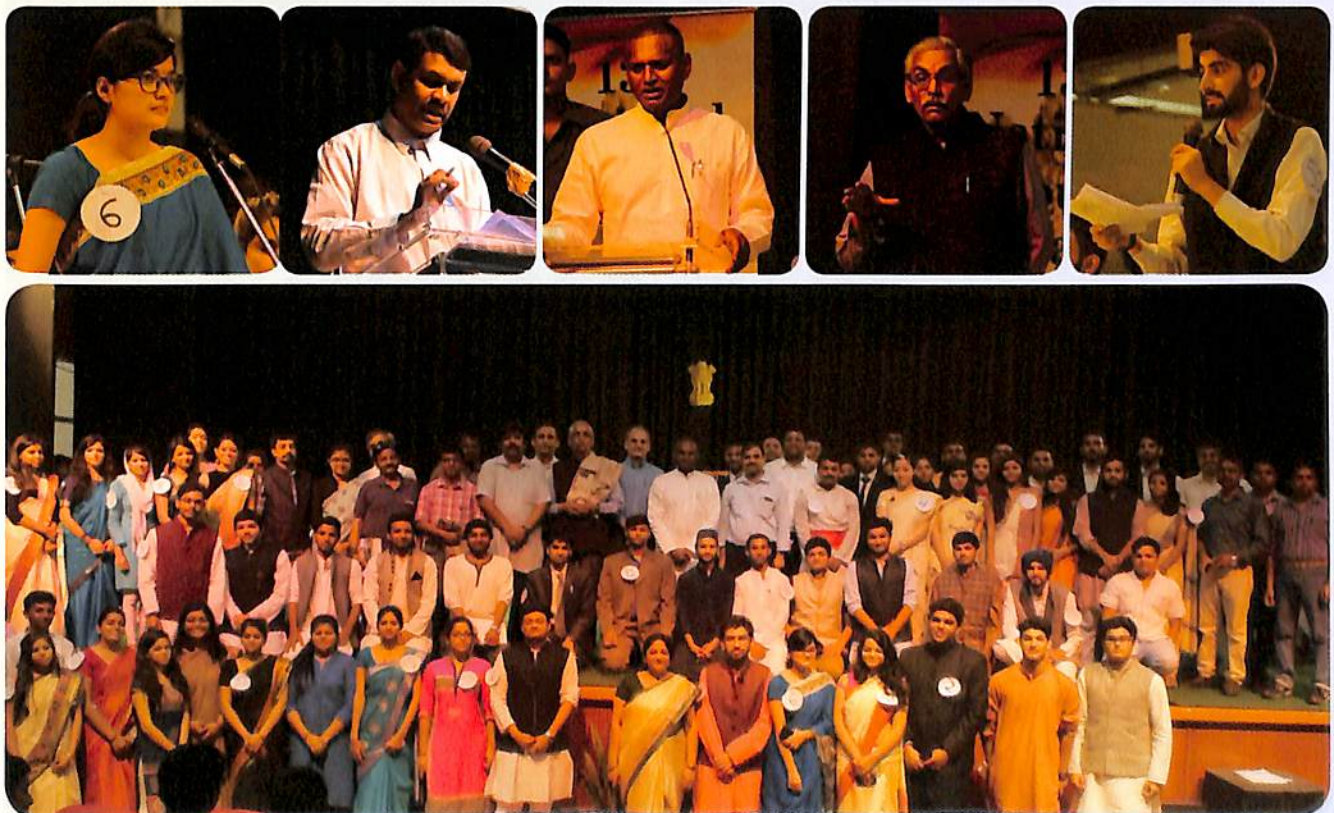
At the conclusion, Shri Bratin Sengupta, Hon'ble Ex-MP, Rajya Sabha, member of the jury of Youth Parliament mentioned that the purpose of the Youth Parliament was to inculcate the spirit of parliamentary democracy among students. He termed the Youth Parliament better than the original parliament in terms of the disciplined conduct of parliamentary business.

In his message Dr. Maheish Girri, Hon'ble MP (East Delhi), encouraged the Youth to actively participate in politics as well. Prof. M. P. Sharma of Jamia Milia Islamia, lauded the performance of participants and suggested that the functioning of the Parliament should be held in the same manner. Taking jibe at regular disruptions and adjournments of the Parliament today he remarked that if these participants could showcase the said performance before the lawmakers of the country, the MPs may learn a lesson or two from this Youth Parliament.

Shri RC Mohanty, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, mentioned that the main aim behind this event is to inculcate the quality of leadership among the students. Dr. Sunil Sondhi, principal of the college concluded the event by underscoring that Indian democracy had a long way to go and parliament was the foundation for this.

The Programme Co-ordinator Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari added that such an event of national importance was a learning process not only for the students but also for the faculty members to know how the parliamentary proceedings took place in the largest democracy of the world.

Awards were given to the eight best Youth Parliamentarians who were adjudged based on their outstanding performance. The winners were Sudhansu Sharma, Ambika Thakur, Palak Srivastava, Ishaan Wadhwa, Ira Puranik, Shalini Kumari, Sumedha Uppal and Devyani Rai who will be invited to the parliament for felicitation by the ministry of parliamentary affairs.



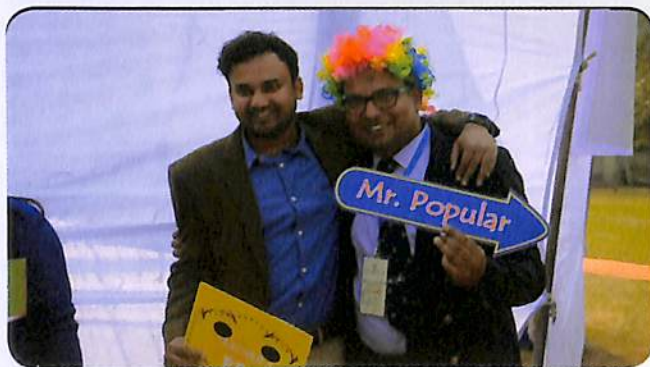
ALUMNI MEET

The Alumni Committee has been consistently working for bringing the alumni closer to the College. This is done by way of regular updating of database in order to have better communication with the alumni. Today, we have sanitised database of over 4000 students. The Committee is in process of putting together a dedicated website/web link through which the alumni can update her contact and profile details on a regular basis.

The Committee has drafted a Memorandum of Association for the formation of Alumni Association of Maharaja Agrasen College. Once registered, all activities pertaining to alumni shall be jointly coordinated with the Alumni Association and the College.

Alumni Committee organised Annual Alumni Meet on February 12, 2017 which was attended by over 150 members. As a departure from past years, this year's meet was held during daytime. Main highlights of the meet were a cultural programme presented by the college dance society Nataraj, Tug of War and Lemon and Spoon Race for the alumni coordinated by the Girls' Hostel volunteers. Another attraction was the 'Prop Corner' which was well stocked with masks, wigs and props of various types. The Alumni meet ended with cake cutting ceremony and lunch.

The Committee has decided to start 'Meet your Alumni' which would be a monthly programme where established alumni would share their experiences with the College community.



5th National Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change Conserving Heritage – Natural Resources and Cultural Wealth

The 5th National Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change: Conserving Heritage – Natural Resources and Cultural Wealth was organized on February 16-17, 2017 by departments of Economics, English and History. In last few years we have been able to delve on broader issues ranging from biodiversity and climate change to finer issues of interdependencies on nature, pressures and policies and conservation of heritage, both natural and cultural. This year the Conference Committee decided to enlarge its ambit to include cultural heritage as well which forms an integral part of our overall existence.

As run up to the Conference, the Committee organized a visit to Yamuna Biodiversity Park to acquaint oneself with the ground realities of a functional ecosystem. The Conference Committee also organized a 'Soup n Salad' Party on the Belvedere Terrace Garden for the faculty of the college on terrace which saw enthusiastic participation from colleagues as well as members of the administrative staff. The theme this year was Meal in a Bowl and included Thai Papaya Salad, Veg Biryani and traditional Litti Chokha. Many of the products used in salad were grown within the campus like carrot, radish, spring onion, spring garlic, pea, brinjal, tomato, potato, coriander, mint etc.

This Conference in its current form has strived to analyze various aspects of natural as well as cultural heritage. Our Chief Guest on the occasion was Dr. B R Mani, an expert on archaeology who heads one of India's most prestigious institutions, the custodian of cultural heritage – the National Museum and the Vice Chancellor of National Museum Institute, an organization committed to the cause of museology and heritage studies. His brilliant elocution on the role of museums in shaping the course of culture made our students aware of the various aspects of museology. The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. Ram Boojh, Programme Specialist, UNESCO who brought to the fore the role played by UNESCO in the preservation of cultural as well as natural heritage. The Valedictory address was delivered by two eminent scholars in their fields; M N Ashish Ganju, Conservation Architect and Prof. S R Bhatt, Chairperson, Indian Council of Philosophical Research



Other eminent speakers during the two day conference included Dr. Manu Bhatnagar, Principal Director, Natural Heritage Division, INTACH, conservation architect Dr. Priyaleen Singh from School of Planning and Architecture, our colleagues from the College Dr. Sangeeta Mittal, Dr. Anupama Jaidev, Rajshekhar Mukherjee, Dharmendra Mahto and Sangeeta Yadav, our alumnus Krishna Pokharel from Wall Street Journal, Pragya Shukla, student of Bachelor of Architecture, Sushant Institute of Art and Architecture, Dr. Nirmal Kumar, Associate Professor of History from Sri Venkateshawara College and Dr. Archana Verma, Art Historian. One significant feature of this conference for the last two years has been active participation and presentation by the students of the college who, in synergy with their mentors, have been able to ignite young minds through their observations and thoughtful inputs.

Screening of the award winning documentary the Hollow Cylinder and a brief presentation on the UNESCO sponsored Indian string instrument Veena by ace documentary film makers Nandan Saxena and Kavita Bahl was yet another highlight of this conference.

A photo exhibition put up by the students of the college has been another highlight of the Conference which was curated by our team of teachers – Dr. Amit Pundir, Dr. Vandana Soni, Ms. Rachita, Rajshekhar Mukherjee and Dharmendra Mahto. Publications from UNESCO, INTACH and National Museum were also displayed in the Exhibition.

Successful organization this Conference was possible with active support from UNESCO and National Museum Institute for having lent their names and being our associates. MAC-INSERCH, the environment club of the College actively supported in the organization of this Conference.



3rd National Interdisciplinary Conference “Reading Migrations: Fractured Histories, Forged Narratives”

The 3rd National Interdisciplinary Conference on “Reading Migrations: Fractured Histories, Forged Narratives” organized on 20th and 21st March, 2017, was an outcome of the academic perspective of the Department of English, which strives continuously for meaningful engagements, with significant issues touching contemporary human lives and literature. The myriad narratives of migrant subjectivities and how they are constituted summoned historical, cultural, social and literary expertise, cutting across all disciplines. The Inauguration Programme on Day 1 chaired by Professor Kalpana Sahni witnessed Professor Saugata Bhaduri’s intriguing insight into the linkages between migration and the mandate of literature. His presentation- “Migratory Bards: Of Narration and Itineration”- traced etymological roots of words like *sahitya*, and illustrated how unlike *sahitya*, which is suggestive of harmony, literature is born from conflict. Professor Kalpana Sahni, in the plenary session, “Home and Away”, chaired by Dr. Simi Malhotra, interrogated and investigated the representation and ethos of a migrant. Not only did she throw light on the state of the refugees and gypsy community, she also deliberated extensively about the constant intermingling of populations, languages and religions. The Academic Session was graced by the presence of distinguished personalities- like Tenzin Tsundue, Professor Sukrita Paul Kumar and Professor T.N. Dhar- wherein, the subject of personal freedom, and what goes within the mind of an exile, were reflected upon. Poet, writer and Tibetan activist Tenzin Tsundue narrated his experience of being a refugee in India and emphasised on the role of youth engagement to bring about a positive change to the community.

Professor T.N. Dhar’s predominant purpose through his presentation “I am a Migrant” was to offer a personalised overview as an ousted Kashmiri Pandit. Professor Sukrita Paul Kumar, on the other hand, struck a chord with her heart wrenching and thought provoking poetry. Her poems challenged the view held by some scholars that in a highly mobile and globalised world, “traditional notions of home have become meaningless.” The session on ‘The Roma Question’ traced the origins of the rootless Roma community with Dr. Punita G. Singh examining “Roma” as a distinctive political entity through the foregrounding of their anthem *Djelem Djelem*, their national flag and their journey from being unnamed gypsies to the Romani. The focus shifted to the politics of representation in the subsequent session, “Violence, War and Migration” with Monica Zutshi giving voice to the psychological distress of the Afghan refugees. Aishwarya Babu took further the discussion on the representation of Afghan diaspora in the famed novel *Kite Runner*.



The second day was an equally fascinating one with some thought provoking presentations made by renowned scholars and Guest speakers like Prof. Harish Trivedi. Keynote Speaker, Prof. Harish Trivedi, brilliantly explored the phenomenon of migration through its literary and comparative dynamics; Prof. Rana Nayar distinctively highlighted the pre- colonial and post-colonial flux in Punjab and also related the Punjabi short story to readership and interests of the members of diasporic community. The post-lunch sessions were equally vibrant and witnessed dynamic participation by teachers and students of the college with Dr. Gitanjali Chawla presenting her views on "Bhangra Rap" as a hybrid form of South Asian immigrants, Dr. Charu Arya reporting the migration of Libyans to Italy, Anugrah Vidyarthi looking at Rohinton Mistry's short story, "Swimming Lessons" through analysing the state of Indian immigrants in Canada and Abhinav Anand shedding light of Frankenstein as a migrant. The late afternoon parallel sessions titled, "Women, Children and Migration Narratives" and "Migration and Displacement- Dalit and Tribal Narratives" explored the ideas of distinct speakers in relation to issues like displacement and Dalit identity; the diaspora and Punjabi identity; the Bidesia tradition and thematics in the works of Dalit and women poets and writers from Assam.

The energy and brilliant intellectual exchange of two days culminated with the final set of sessions in the College Auditorium. This Session was graciously chaired by Dr. Tapan Basu of Delhi University. Social activist and theatre- person, Jaya Iyer, brought to the forefront, the issue of stereotyping and social construction in her interactive presentation "The Three States of Ego- I, Iyer and (Indian) Insaan". Alongside, she also introduced an iconic representation of street performers, the magician Ishamuddin Khan. Apart from mesmerising the audience with his magic tricks; world acclaimed magician Ishamuddin Khan threw light on the -denotified, nomadic, pauper like state- of the madaris in their own homeland as compared to the name, fame and respect they gain abroad. The Valedictory session chaired by Dr. Diamond Oberoi had brilliant ideas shared through a presentation made by Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy, where she beautifully explored the relation between migrations and oral traditions, while also foregrounding her personal experiences with the Mennonite community of Canada. While Dr. Anu Jaidev presented her note on the Conference in the Inaugural Session, Dr. Sangeeta Mittal and Dr. Charu Arya expressed gratitude on behalf of the Department to everyone who contributed towards making the Conference a grand success in Vote of Thanks.

The two-day Conference on "Reading Migrations: Fractured History, Forged Narratives" turned out to be a remarkable success bringing together such manifold voices, variegated genres and rich experiences under one umbrella.



दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी 'वर्तमान समय और स्त्री साहित्य'

महाराजा अग्रसेन महाविद्यालय के हिंदी विभाग ने 'वर्तमान समय और स्त्री-साहित्य' विषय पर दिनांक 6-7 अप्रैल 2017 को दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया। इस समूची संगोष्ठी का संयोजन कुल चार सत्रों में हुआ। दिनांक 6 अप्रैल के प्रथम सत्र में प्राचार्य महोदय के स्वागत भाषण के बाद हिंदी विभाग की प्रभारी डॉ. शशि सिंह ने बीज वक्तव्य के तहत स्त्री विमर्श और स्त्री साहित्य के ऐतिहासिक परंपरा को इंगित करते हुए विषय की प्रस्तावना प्रस्तुत की। इस सत्र में मुख्य वक्ता के रूप में हिंदू महाविद्यालय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के एसोशिएट प्रोफेसर डॉ. रामेश्वर राय और मैथिली-भोजपुरी अकादमी के उपाध्यक्ष श्री संजॉय सिंह मौजूद थे। डॉ. रामेश्वर राय ने इस संगोष्ठी के विषय 'वर्तमान समय और स्त्री-साहित्य' पर विचार करते हुए 1990 को वर्तमान समय के 'टर्निंग प्वाइंट' के रूप में देखा, जहाँ से संचार क्रांति, बाजारवाद और उपभोक्तावाद के प्रभाव से स्त्री-संवेदना का संसार बहुत तेजी से बदलने लगा। डॉ. राय ने रामायण, महाभारत से चली आ रही पितृसत्ता की संपत्तिमूलक दृष्टि पर चर्चा की और स्त्री साहित्य और उसमें विशेष रूप से गगन गिल, अनिता वर्मा, निर्मला गर्ग, अनामिका, प्रज्ञा रावत, वंदना शुक्ल, बाबुता कोहली, प्रीति चौधरी, अनुराधा सिंह आदि कवयित्रियों के योगदान की चर्चा की। उन्होंने महादेवी के इस काव्यांश— 'विस्तृत नभ का कोई कोना, मेरा न कभी अपना होना'— को साभिप्राय माना। इस सत्र के अध्यक्ष श्री संजॉय सिंह ने पत्रकारिता में स्त्रियों की बढ़ती भागीदारी से होनेवाले सकारात्मक बदलाव की ओर संकेत किया और इस बदलाव को सहज बदलाव के रूप में देखने की जरूरत पर बल दिया। इस सत्र का संचालन डॉ. राजहंस कुमार ने किया और धन्यवादज्ञापन श्री शेखर कुमार ने किया।

दूसरे सत्र की अध्यक्षता जामिया मिल्लिया इस्लामिया, हिंदी विभाग की प्रोफेसर और विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. हेमलता महिष्वर ने की। राहुल सांकृत्यायन की रचना 'वोल्गो से गंगा तक' के बहाने मातृसत्ता और पितृसत्ता की चर्चा में इन्होंने जोड़ा कि परिवार में लड़की को किस तरह अनुकूलित किया जाता है। इन्होंने यह भी जिक्र किया कि सहज अभिव्यक्तियाँ भी मर्दवादी और स्त्रीवादी होती हैं। डॉ. सुनील तिवारी (शहीद भगतसिंह कॉलेज) ने स्त्री-लेखन और स्त्रीवादी लेखन के फर्क पर चर्चा की और रोजमर्रा के खबरों में स्त्री उत्पीड़न और सशक्तिकरण के कई उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किए। उन्होंने गालियों के मनोविज्ञान पर भी चर्चा की जहाँ मर्दवाद हावी रहता है। विशिष्ट अतिथि उस्ताद कमाल साबरी ने संगीत के



क्षेत्र में स्त्रियों की भूमिका और उनके महत्वपूर्ण योगदान पर चर्चा की। इस सत्र का संचालन डॉ. आभा शर्मा ने किया और धन्यवादज्ञापन डॉ. शिव कुमार ने किया।

इस संगोष्ठी के दूसरे दिन के प्रथम सत्र की अध्यक्षता प्रो. गोपेश्वर सिंह ने की। मुख्य वक्ता प्रो. राजेन्द्र गौतम ने समकालीन नवगीत में शांति सुमन और सावित्री परमार के गीतों का उल्लेख किया। प्रो. गोपेश्वर सिंह ने इस बात को बड़े ही सहज ढंग से समझाया कि कबीर, सूर से लेकर जैनेंद्र, निर्मल वर्मा की रचनाओं में स्त्री स्वभावतः स्त्री न होकर एक 'कन्ट्रक्टेड स्त्री' है, जहाँ मान लिया गया है कि स्त्री का एक ही मन होता है— 'उधो मन न भयो दस-बीस। एकौ हुतौ गयो श्याम संग.....।' इस मिथ को तोड़ा स्त्री रचनाकारों ने, जैसे मन्नू भंडारी की रचना— 'यही सच है'। 1950 के बाद यहीं से करुणा, प्रतीक, रहस्य का आवरण धीरे-धीरे हटने लगता है। इसी क्रम में उन्होंने अनामिका और गगन गिल की कविताओं का भी उल्लेख किया। 'मैं दरवाजा थी, जितना पीटा गया, खुलती गई' अनामिका के इस काव्यांश में स्त्री-लेखन की तड़प के साथ नई संभावनाओं की ओर भी संकेत मिलता है। इस सत्र का संचालन श्री शेखर कुमार ने किया और धन्यवादज्ञापन डॉ. तेजनारायण ओझा ने किया।

दूसरे सत्र में प्रो. रीतारानी पालीवाल, श्री सिद्धार्थ मिश्रा और डॉ. साधना शर्मा ने अपने-अपने विचार रखे। डॉ. साधना शर्मा ने विस्तार से स्त्रीवादी आंदोलन की चर्चा की और स्त्रियों पर पितृसत्ता और भूमंडलीकरण के कारण पड़ने वाले प्रभाव पर प्रकाश डाला। इसी सत्र की अध्यक्ष प्रो. रीतारानी पालीवाल ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि भारत में स्त्रीवाद की अपनी जड़ें मौजूद हैं इसलिए हमें पश्चिम के नारीवाद को तरजीह नहीं देना चाहिए। भारत के नवजागरण और समाजसुधार आंदोलनों में शुरू से स्त्रियाँ संघर्ष करती आई हैं जिसे नजरअंदाज किया गया है। पितृसत्ता हर समाज में मौजूद है और स्त्रियाँ किसी-न-किसी रूप में पुरुषों के अधीन रही हैं। उन्होंने इस बात की ओर भी इशारा किया कि घरेलू नौकरानियों के बूते आत्मनिर्भर होती शहरी स्त्रियाँ कहीं शोषण की नई जमीन तो तैयार नहीं कर रही हैं? उन्होंने कहा कि आज स्त्रियाँ अपने अधिकारों के प्रति सजग और सचेत हुई हैं लेकिन ग्रामीण परिवेश में मिट्टी और तसला ढोती निम्नवर्गीय स्त्रियाँ साहित्य से गायब नजर आ रही हैं। इस पर भी विचार होना चाहिए। गार्गी, सीता, सावित्री और द्रौपदी आदि की चर्चा करते हुए प्रो. पालीवाल ने परंपरा के विकास पर चर्चा की। इस सत्र के मुख्य अतिथि श्री सिद्धार्थ मिश्रा ने हिंदी सिनेमा में उन स्त्री किरदारों की चर्चा की जो कहीं-न-कहीं स्त्री सशक्तिकरण के नए आयाम प्रस्तुत करने में सफल रही हैं। उन्होंने इस बात की भी चर्चा की कि साहित्यिक पुस्तकों को पॉपुलर कल्चर का हिस्सा बनना चाहिए और पटरी पर बिकनेवाली पुस्तकों के बीच अपनी लोकप्रियता साबित करनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कामगार स्त्रियों पर लिखे गए अच्छे कथा-साहित्य की जरूरत पर बल दिया। इस सत्र का संचालन डॉ. जितेंद्र भगत ने किया और धन्यवादज्ञापन हिंदी विभाग की प्रभारी डॉ. शशि सिंह ने किया। इस संगोष्ठी में हिंदी विभाग से डॉ. शंकर कुमार, श्रीमती मनोज चौधरी, डॉ. चंद्रशेखर, डॉ. त्र्यम्बक नाथ त्रिपाठी, श्री अजय पांडेय भी मौजूद थे। अर्थशास्त्र विभाग से सौम्य शुक्ला, वाणिज्य विभाग से मोना कंसल एवं महाविद्यालय के अन्य विभागों से भी लोग मौजूद रहे। संगोष्ठी के इस विषय से संबद्ध कई आलेखपत्र भी प्रस्तुत किए गए। इस प्रकार यह राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी अपने बहुआयामी विचार चिंतन के साथ सम्पन्न हुई।



BUSINESS ECONOMICS

The Department of Business Economics has been continually fostering a culture of all-inclusive development and learning through regular industry interface, corporate simulations and specialised workshops. The academic year 2016-17 proved to be another feather in the cap with industry interaction, brand management workshop, annual department event and laurels brought by our students in inter-college events.

An industry interaction was conducted on 13th February, 2017 by Mr. Giraj M. Sharma, the Founder Director of 'Behind the Moon'. Mr. Sharma is a renowned name in the start-up industry having 18 years of experience in guiding start-ups and organisations seeking venture capital funding. An avid columnist in business newspapers, Mr. Sharma's prime area of interest is consumer behaviour and brand consultancy. With intriguing insights into the Indian consumer mindset, Mr Sharma enlightened students on the topic "Challenges faced by Start-ups". The session was especially relevant for those aspiring to launch their own start-ups and was well attended by students of various courses of the college.

The 4th edition of our department's annual ENTREUZEST '17, was held in full colours and enthusiasm on 27th & 28th February, 2017. Being an open platform for students of colleges from all over Delhi, the motive of the events under Entrezest is to stimulate young minds to showcase their analytical skills in simulated situations of pressure. The "Art of Optimisation" involved trading for maximizing utility points under different situations by giving teams various sets of bundles and currencies. In "Lodge and Load" students role played as hoteliers maximizing their hotel profits under given budgetary and services constraints. "The Boiler Room" involved the real life enactment of Prisoner's Dilemma when an investment scandal is discovered by SEBI authorities. "The Blueprint" event consisted of a preliminary case-study round followed by a B-Plan competition. The B-plan competition heralded teams from other colleges including DTU with some teams already having had crores of venture capital funding. A renowned authority in judging start up B-Plan competitions, Mr. Vinod Pande, Director PMS Consulting was one amongst the judges. Having to Storm, Norm and ultimately Perform, our participants were judged on a plethora of grounds to find the final winner. Quizzes and auction fillers- "Harry Potter and the Game of F.R.I.E.N.D.S" and "Nutmegged"-- were organised for participants waiting for the main events.



An eight hour Brand Management Workshop was organised for final year students specialising in marketing. Mr. Vinay Joshi, General Manager Marketing at Nourishco (a joint venture of Tata and Pepsico) conducted it citing his own experiences when handling the brand management briefs of Lenskart, Tata Gluco Plus, and Himalyan water. The workshop was replete with exercises on crafting communication briefs, planning media strategies as well as understanding how pricing and distribution affect a brand's equity.

Our department's students have brought laurels to the college by winning in inter college events. Students won the first prizes in the Girl's basket ball and tennis competitions at Runbhoomi event organised by College of Vocational Studies. Students also participated and won runner up positions in 'Roister' organised by Aryabhatt College.

The students have grown phenomenally by channelising their energies across a wide spectrum of areas ranging from academics to organising events and interacting with distinguished managers from the industry. This development of interpersonal and leadership skills led to the overall refinement of their personality. Results can be clearly seen by their selection in the premium business schools of India like IIM, IIFT, Symbiosis, etc for post graduate studies.



COMMERCE

The Academic Year 2016-17 has been an eventful year for the department of Commerce.

The year kick-started with a Workshop Session on E-Filing of Returns was conducted on 29/9/16. It was hosted by Professor S.B RATHORE, Associate Professor Shyam Lal College having enriched experience of 39 years in the field of tax. From the basis of taxation to requisites and finally covering the topic of 'How is E-Filing done', the workshop ended on a very informative note. Around 80-100 students of B.Com (Hons) 2nd year witnessed the seminar and were able to improve their knowledge in various aspects. MCS organised its first PAN Card Camp in the month of October 2016. Students from various departments of the college came in huge numbers. Seeing such overwhelming response, the camp was re-organised on 7th October 2016 and again a fairly good strength of students appeared for applying for PAN Card.

Over a hundred students from the Commerce department of Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi took time off their classes on 20th October, 2016 to take part in a groundbreaking event on Goods and Services Tax featuring CA Neeraj Arora. CA Neeraj Arora, besides being a reputed member of ICAI, is the co-founder of CA connect India and a well known teacher. He stressed a great deal on introducing the topic to the students including its background and political and legal aspects, as well as clearing all the doubts that students came up with. Thus making it a two way session which proved to be extremely informative and ensured long term benefits for the students.

Along with the aforesaid sessions, many other interactive sessions were organised by various coaching institutes operating in Delhi – NCR to offer exciting scholarships to motivate the meritorious students.



CRICMAC FRIENDLY a cricket tournament was organised in Maharaja Agrasen College for the first time in the history of department of Commerce. It was organised twice in an academic year in the months of October and January.

The department was also proud to host year's first placement drive in college in collaboration with Genpact—a well known name in the industry. Around 50 students appeared for various levels of test whereby seven commerce students were given an offer letter.

The Annual Commerce Department fest, Crusade 2k17, was organised by the MAC Commerce Society on 1st and 2nd March, 2017. The inaugural ceremony was marked by the speaker session with one of the prominent industrialists in India Mr. Sanjay Dalmia. It was indeed an honour for the students of Maharaja Agrasen College to have been addressed by his words of wisdom and enlightening the students in the fields of business, economy, entrepreneurship and management. The presence of our esteemed Principal, Dr. Sunil Sondhi, was the greatest motivating factor. With twelve great events organised in the two-day show, over 500 students showed up for participation from all over the colleges of University of Delhi.

It was the hard work of over 100 volunteers which ensured the success of Crusade 2k17.

The MCS Core committee comprising of Dr. Rajat K. Sant, Teacher-In-Charge, Ms. Samridhi Mittal and Mr. Suvid Sharma, Head Coordinators, Mr. Abhishek Arora, Ms Sakshi, Ms Megha Arora, Mr. Akshit Gupta, Mr. Sonu Yadav And Ms. Vandana Sagar, Coordinators worked hard behind the curtains without whose effort the event's success would not have been possible.

Leaping in the threshold of experiential learning in the form of trips and excursions the department organized a 4 day semi-educational trip to Shimla and Kufri. Students visited Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, a monumental building embedded in the India's history. They were also rewarded for their hard work during the year through the relaxing days and night in the scenic valleys of Shimla and Kufri.

Despite their academic pressures, our students also outshined in certain co-curricular arenas. Ritika Sachdeva bagged the first position in Badminton and Basketball in the College Sports Meet 2017.

Sticking to the dictum that if your mind can conceive it, your heart can believe it then you can achieve it the department of Commerce continues to reign not only in terms of having the biggest chunk of students in the college but also holistically. Commerce students aim at working hard and putting their breath and being for reaching many more mile stones and permanently engraving their undeniable mark in the history books of Maharaja Agrasen College.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

The department of Computer Science planned many academic activities for the students during the academic session 2016-17.

Symposium : INNOVATIVE MINDS

As the name suggests Innovative Minds was an event where unbelievable minds worked to bring up the change in technology in this urbanized area. Since we are heading towards the world of smart gadgets and smart features, we need to think differently to make the life easier as much as possible. Every possible idea must be started keeping in mind its demand and real life implementation in our society i.e. how it will benefit and bring a change to the existing system.

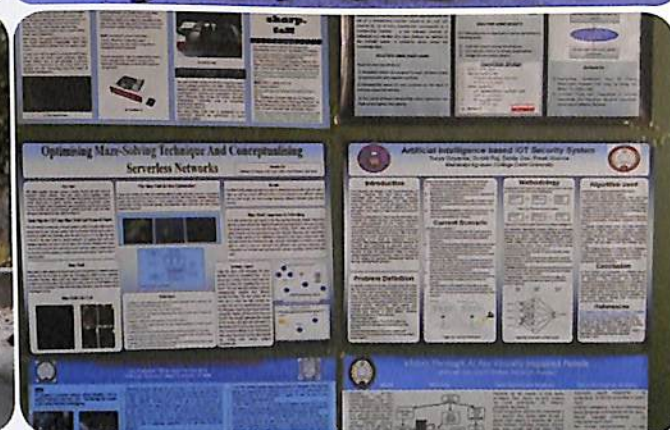
An event was organised by department of Computer Science with 100% participation of the students of B.Tech. The event was held on 10th November 2016. Industry Experts and Academicians, Professor D.K. Lobiyal and Dr. Karan Singh from JNU graced the event with their presence. The teacher co-ordinators were Dr. Priya Gupta and Mr. Sunil Kumar. This event emphasised on technical discussions and presentation of original ideas on topics relating the field of 'Artificial Intelligence' based 'Information Security'. All the students were divided into twenty-four groups consisting of 3-4 students in each group. The students presented their own innovative idea in the form of 'Poster Presentation'. All the twenty-four posters were printed on the flex and were displayed on the day of event. Our Experts were the judge of this event. They listened to each group's presentation and helped students to strategize and approach their innovative ideas. Their presence motivated the students and helped them with all their queries. Best projects were awarded for their idea, presentation skills and their understanding of the work they presented.

There was a huge diversity in unique ideas of every group in the same field. Such competitions increase the level of confidence and develop the thinking each individual present. A healthy competition always makes a difference to the brains of students leading us to innovative ideas.



This was a competition of brains with unique ideas working in unique manner. A competition of success, a competition towards the step to change the world, a competition to feel the heat and finally a competition of INNOVATIVE MINDS.

In October '16, around thirty students of B.Tech. (CS), accompanied by two faculty members went on a trek to Kasol, Himachal Pradesh from Delhi. The trek was filled with fun, adventure and learning.



ELECTRONICS

The department of Electronics has been constantly engaged in nurturing a creative and collaborative learning environment. With a mandate to ensure that the students get opportunities to discuss and deliberate, to explore and experience, to sing, act, play, record and recount to create a vibrant milieu, the department organized many activities in the academic session 2016-17.

- Another year, another new session....department of Electronics organized an orientation program 'Aagman' and welcomed the new students in their journey towards empowerment, skill development, achievement, sharing and caring. The program helps to identify and analyse the gaps between the skill set of the students and those required to attain the specific learning outcomes of B.Sc. (H) Electronics course.
- The faculty and students were engaged in hands-on research through the following projects funded by University of Delhi:
 1. Innovation Project (MAC 308) titled 'Content Syndication and Catalogues for Undergraduate Science Courses'
 2. Innovation Project (MAC 309) titled 'Problem Based Learning within Simulation Environment'
 3. Star Innovation Project titled 'To Design and Develop Low-cost, Self-learning Heterogeneous Swarm Robotic Ecosystem'

This opportunity not only helped the students to develop critical thinking skills along with oral and written communication skills but also ensued better admission opportunities at the PG level and better placement prospects.



- The students organized an intra-class cricket match series in September especially for the sports enthusiasts of the department. The team of B.Sc.(H) Electronics second year was declared the winner of the series and was awarded handsome prize.
- The department tour to Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh in the month of March 2017 with more than 60 students provided an enriching and refreshing experience to the students and faculty of the department.
- A hands-on skill enhancement workshop on 'PCB Fabrication' was organized in association with Centre for Electronics Design & Technology NSIT on 2nd April 2017. The workshop attracted an enormous response from students from many colleges of University of Delhi.
- 2- days hands-on training workshop on 'Virtual Instrumentation in LAB VIEW' was organized on 14-15 April 2017 to enable the students of B.Tech. Electronics and B.Sc. (H) Electronics of Maharaja Agrasen College and other colleges of University of Delhi to explore the Lab VIEW environment, dataflow programming, and common Lab VIEW architectures in a hands-on format.
- The 'Tech-Titans' society of department of Electronics, organized Elektro-zeal 2k17, the annual inter college event on 7th and 8th April 2017 to facilitate the all-round development of the students, like communication skills, creative talents, social and interpersonal skills. Various programs like Circuit Mania, Quizzotica, Poster making, Ignited Minds, Picture Sapients, m-Warriors and Scavenger Hunt, etc. were organized during the festival. The events attracted an enormous response from students from many colleges of Delhi University, I.P. University and U.P. Tech University who participated in the various events. As many as 22 teams from various colleges like Hansraj college, PGDAV, Rajguru college of Applied Sciences, Zakir Hussain participated in the India quiz 'Quizzotica'. The Circuit Mania Competition for science students was a huge success with participation of many contestants from different colleges. The topic of the Ignited Minds competition was 'Raising the happiness quotient of India'. The students presented their research papers on the topic providing novel solutions to the problem from the domains such as GDP per capita, Life Expectancy, Perceptions of Corruption, Social Support and freedom. The mobile gaming event 'm-warriors' aimed at providing an ultimate gaming experience to the participants and was a great success. Elektro-zeal 2k17 ended with the most awaited game, the thrilling Scavenger Hunt which served as a real energy booster and mind refresher for everyone.
- 'Startup Conclave' was organized where the founders of different startups were invited to share their success stories with the students and provide an insight to the startup culture and entrepreneurship. This event provided a source of motivation and inspiration for the students in tune with 'Make in India' theme. Ms Tripti Somani, CEO, KGS advisors was the keynote speaker at the event. The speakers included Mr. Prateek Sachan, Co-founder, Chakr, Revolution through pollution; Mr. Prem Sagar, CEO, Banao-Amaker's playground and Mr. Saurabh Gupta, Founder, Ticnpic.com, Metawing Technologies. Many interesting startups were also showcased during the event.



ENGLISH

Keeping up with its nature of being an inquisitive and an enthusiastic department, the Department of English, under the teacher-in-charge of Dr Sangeeta Mittal, has had a year full of activities aimed towards making students connect not just with the literary world but also the larger world beyond their immediate and classroom ambit.

The new session began with all the three batches coming together to celebrate TEACHERS' DAY. The light-hearted games involving both students and teachers and cutting of the ceremonial cake acted as great ice-breakers and showcase of talent. The first year students of English (Hons.) were then taken to NSD to watch two plays; 'Areteia' by Aeschylus and 'Mrichchakatika' by Sudraka. This visit to THEATRE ACTIVITY was organised by Debosmita Paul and Subodh Kumar.

This event was succeeded by the INDUCTION of the ACTIVE Society, the literary association of the department. Student office-bearers were appointed through democratic process.

The much awaited ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES this year featured Dr. Anjana Neira Dev, Associate Professor of English at Gargi College (University of Delhi) speaking on 'Writing with a Purpose' on October 27, 2016. Dr Dev designed her presentation around the objective of redefining what the two activities mean, comprise and require. The Annual Lecture was organized by Prem Kumari Srivastava and Gitanjali Chawla.

The students of Maharaja Agrasen College were in for a treat on 23rd of August 2016, when the Department of English invited Mr Amdy and Ms Amrita Jooneja of Afra Tafri travel company to brief them on a jungle adventure in the hills of Sattal. The success of this event was proven when the Department went on to organise an ADVENTURE CAMP at SATTAL from September 29 to October 3, 2016. The talk and the trip were organised by Charu Arya and Debosmita Paul.

To revive and inculcate the golden virtue of book reading, English Department instituted the 'Twenty-Four Books Challenge' which provides an open platform to students as well as teachers. The readers are requested to read 24 books of their choice during one year. The feature has a dedicated social media space for lively interactions. The feature is managed by Shilpa Gupta and twelve students and four Teachers enrolled for it as of now.



The succeeding event, a HERITAGE WALK to the sites of 1857 uprising in Delhi as a run up to the third Interdisciplinary Conference organized by the department on February 19, 2017. Since the Conference focused on the phenomenon of human migrations, Mutiny of 1857 that led to major demographic changes in Delhi, was chosen aptly as the theme for the heritage walk. The Walk was organized by Debosmita Paul and Subodh Kumar.

The annual literary and cultural fest of the English department, Maharaja Agrasen College, LITERATI was held on February 27 and 28, 2017. Competitions like Slama-o-rama, treasure hunt, spell-O-tron, extempore took place on the first day while movie fights, capture, cam-e-lien were held on the second day. Apart from these competitions, the dance performances along with solo and duet performances for the opening and closing ceremony was appreciated by all. The show was managed by Shraddha Kabra, Aswathy, Indrani Dasgupta and Guntasha Tulsi.

The 3rd NATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE on "Reading Migrations: Fractured Histories, Forged Narratives" organized on March 20 and 21, 2017. The keynote was delivered by Prof. Harish Trivedi. Eminent thinkers, activists, practitioners and performers like Professor Kalpana Sahni, Professor Saugata Bhaduri, Dr. Simi Malhotra, Tenzin Tsundue, Professor Sukrita Paul Kumar, Professor T.N. Dhar, Dr. Punita G. Singh, Prof. Rana Nayar, Dr. Tapan Basu, Ms. Jaya Iyer, Magician Ishamudin, Dr. Diamond Oberoi were also present in the conference. The Valedictory address was given by Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy. The Conference turned out to be a remarkable success. The Organising Committee comprising Anupama Jaidev, Sangeeta Mittal, Prem K. Srivastava, Gitanjali Chawla and Dr. Charu Arya very ably supported by the rest of the Department, resolved to carry forward such engagements in future years.

CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL STUDIES, Department of English, conducted 10 sessions for students. These sessions were about theater and its significance in better educational performance and personality development. These sessions were held on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Vinod Verma is the session trainer and coordinator of the Center.

Apart from these events, the department has been frequently conducting SCREENINGS OF FILMS based on texts for its students. This year "Oedipus Rex", "Twelfth Night", "12 Years a Slave", "The Great Debators", "The Help", "Amistad", "Gone with the Wind", "In Custody", "Silence! The Court is in Session" were screened for the students.

The Department organised its annual feature 'MEET THE AUTHORS' in association with Sahitya Academy on 13th April, 2017 on the topic "Indian Writing in English: New Genres, New Practices". Three budding novelists, Ms Sangeeta Bahadur, Dr Devapriya Roy and Ms Sharada Kolluru came together to produce an enthralling experience for the audience. The concept note for the event was developed by Dr Guntasha Tulsi and session chair and event organizer was Dr Prem K. Srivastava.

The Department of English hopes to continue with its endeavours in the coming years and provide holistic training and support to its students to help them evolve and succeed in life.



हिन्दी विभाग

हिंदी अपने देश की समृद्ध साहित्य परंपरा की आधारशिला के साथ-साथ विविध भाषाओं के बीच एक पुल है। भाषा और साहित्य के इस बहुआयामी पक्ष को हिंदी विभाग अपने विद्यार्थियों के साथ न केवल साझा करता है बल्कि इस संबंध को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए साहित्यिक एवं सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से इसे जीवंत भी बनाने की कोशिश करता है। इससे सहभागिता के साथ-साथ विषय के प्रति एक समझ भी विकसित होती है। इसी क्रम में हर वर्ष की तरह इस वर्ष भी सत्र के प्रारंभ में महाराजा अग्रसेन कॉलेज की साहित्यिक संस्था 'नवचेतना परिषद्' का गठन किया गया। इस परिषद में दीपक कश्यप, बी.ए. (प्रतिष्ठा) हिंदी, तृतीय वर्ष, (अध्यक्ष), अर्चना, बी.ए. (प्रतिष्ठा) हिंदी, द्वितीय वर्ष, (उपाध्यक्ष), दीक्षा गुप्ता बी.ए. (प्रतिष्ठा) हिंदी, द्वितीय वर्ष, (सचिव), रामनिवास, बी.ए. (प्रतिष्ठा) हिंदी, प्रथम वर्ष, (सह-सचिव) तथा शुभी त्रिपाठी, बी.ए. (प्रतिष्ठा) हिंदी, प्रथम वर्ष, (कोषाध्यक्ष) को निर्वाचित किया गया।

'नवचेतना परिषद्' के तत्वावधान में 14 से 21 सितंबर 2016 तक 'हिंदी सप्ताह' मनाया गया, जिसके तहत कई कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गए। 'हजारी प्रसाद द्विवेदी निबंध प्रतियोगिता', 'मुंशी प्रेमचंद कहानी प्रतियोगिता' एवं रचनात्मक लेखन के कार्यक्रम में दूसरे महाविद्यालयों के विद्यार्थियों ने भी बढ़चढ़ कर हिस्सा लिया। कम्प्यूटर पर हिंदी लेखन से संबद्ध दो दिवसीय कार्यशाला भी आयोजित की गई। समापन सत्र में हिंदी साहित्य के इतिहास पर विद्यार्थियों द्वारा मेहनत से तैयार किया गया एक वृत्तचित्र प्रस्तुत किया। गजल-गीत के कार्यक्रम में गीतकार राहुल शेष एवं गजलकार राज देहलवी ने अपने गीतों और गजलों से श्रोताओं को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया। विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में आमंत्रित प्रो. लक्ष्मीशंकर वाजपेयी ने अपने गीतों से सबका दिल जीत लिया। महाविद्यालय के सरदार बल्लभ भाई पटेल सभागार में 21 सितंबर 2016 को चयनीत विद्यार्थियों को प्रमाणपत्र एवं पुरस्कार-राशि प्रदानकर पुरस्कृत किया गया।



महाविद्यालय के हिंदी विभाग द्वारा बी.ए. हिंदी प्रतिष्ठा के तीनों वर्ष के विद्यार्थियों को शैक्षणिक भ्रमण कार्यक्रम के तहत 27 अक्टूबर 2016 को झज्जर(हरियाणा) के पास स्थित प्रतापगढ़ फार्म ले जाया गया, जहाँ उन्हें खान-पान, रहन-सहन, व्यवसाय, कृषि तकनीक, खेल-कूद, वेश-भूषा आदि ग्रामीण संस्कृति के विविध रूपों से परिचित होने का अवसर मिला।

वैचारिक उन्मेष एवं चिंतन किसी संगोष्ठी का प्राण है। विद्वतजनों के विचारों से सीधे साक्षात्कार का यह सर्वसुलभ मंच है। इसी विचार के तहत "वर्तमान समय और स्त्री-साहित्य" विषय पर 06-07 अप्रैल, 2017 को दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया। प्रो. गोपेश्वर सिंह, प्रो. राजेन्द्र गौतम, प्रो. रीतारानी पालीवाल, प्रो. हेमलता महिश्वर, डॉ. साधना शर्मा, डॉ. रामेश्वर राँय, डॉ. सुनील तिवारी, श्री संजॉय सिंह, श्री सिद्धार्थ मिश्रा जैसे विद्वतजनों ने स्त्री-लेखन के वर्तमान परिदृश्य पर मूल्यवान विचार प्रस्तुत किए।



JOURNALISM

The department of Journalism has been actively involved in overall development of the students. The field of Media cannot be explored affirmatively without Social, Cultural & Industrial Interface. The department has organized various activities like expert lectures, community interface, workshops, visits etc. to meet the objectives of practical exposure. Keeping up with its nature of hands-on learning, students have successfully bagged internships in various organizations like Sahara, ABP News, Center for Media Studies, Doordarshan, All India Radio, Cravants Media Pvt. Ltd., BAG network, TATA Communication Centre etc.

In association with ABC News the department organized learning and interacting session for the students where a program was created, whose content was planned and designed by the students of the department itself and broadcasted for the audience by the channel. Same kind of activity was conducted by the department and students have created a web platform in Vistamac, where photographers, filmmakers and Bloggers of the department can share their creativity on a common platform.

The department organized several symposiums, conferences, workshop, and annual departmental fest in which professionals from the industries were invited to interact with the students. This year annual departmental fest "Yatharth" was organized on 28th & 29th of March. Ms. Pratima Mishra of ABP News, who is an alumnus of the department, graced the occasion. Mr. Ashwani Kumar of E-24 was present to judge the 'film fiesta' organized during the fest. Md. Syed Aamir Hussain (News Nation) delivered valedictory address and distributed awards in the function.

To give an exposure of functioning of the Industry, students of the department were sent to visit Doordarshan, India TV, NDTV, Ahsaas, an devotional channel etc.

The interaction with media professionals not only enhances their communication skills, but also creates a repo with them. This year the department organized several such interactions. An expert lecture on 'Mobile Journalism' was organized in this series, wherein Sabyasachi Dasgupta (Times of India) was the resource person. In this lecture students were enlightened about MOJO, i.e. Mobile Journalism.



A workshop on TV news Script writing was conducted by Mr. Rashid Hashmi, Output Editor, India News. This was a hands on learning exercise where students were taught the skills of good script writing for contemporary TV. Apart from this, a workshop on documentary script writing was also organized by the department. Dr Amitabh Srivastava, Dean, Galgotia University was the resource person for the workshop.

An Symposium on 'Sports Journalism and its Challenges' was also organized by the department in which Sanjay Banerjee, renowned commentator and Consulting Editor, Sports, Sahara Samay news channel was the keynote speaker.

To keep in mind the Startup India programme of the prime minister, and fascination of the youngsters towards these initiatives department of Journalism in association with Facebook and Youth ki Awaaz organized a workshop to provide an exposure of Uses & Utilization of SNS to scale up the business in the name of #My Startup Story.

The department also started an Advanced Diploma course under community college scheme, funded and supported by UGC. This course is a skill oriented programme under media and entertainment sector skill council as per dreams of Skilling India. Students were given practical exposure of various natures by different industry interface activities like participation in many TV Programmes (Doordarshan, NDTV, News Nation, Lok Sabha TV etc.), industry visits, community research etc.

A community research on Follow up of Legal guideline of Anti-Smoking in various parts of Delhi was conducted in Association with John Hopkins University, USA.



POLITICAL SCIENCE

The department of Political Science began its new academic session 2016-2017 by welcoming the newly admitted students. The whole academic year was very eventful and productive. Chanakya, the student society of Political Science department organized a two-day fest of academic activities on 29th-30th September 2016. Prof. Ujjwal Singh, Department of Political Science, Delhi University delivered a lecture on "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's and Contemporary India" on the inaugural day of the fest. Dr. Uttam Sinha, Fellow, Institute of Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA) delivered another though provoking lecture on "India-Pakistan: The Indus Water Treaty" on the second day.

Various events on several important and relevant themes were conducted during these two days like Rangoli on the theme of "Make in India", essay writing on "Indian Electoral System: Case Study of UP Elections", self-composed poetry on "Maa aur Kisaan", mock elections, extempore etc.

The department also organized an educational trip to Jaisalmer in the month of February, 2017. The students stayed in camps on the outskirts of the city of Jaisalmer and were made aware of the Rajasthani culture through its folk music. They visited the Jaisalmer fort and got to know about the history and politics of the place.

The department initiated a discussion forum Vimarsh with primary objective to inculcate and train the students in important national and international issues. This platform provides opportunities to the students every fortnightly to prepare and present their ideas on some contemporary topics. The discussion followed after the presentation.

The Chanakya Society of Political Science department has organized an inter-college Quiz Competition, 'Quizoholic' on Polity, Current Affairs and General Awareness on 6th April, 2017. More than hundred participants participated in the competitions, which was followed by the prize distribution.





ECONOMICS

The department of Economics of Maharaja Agrasen College has always been a front runner in academic exercises. This department has been instrumental in the organisation of the annual conferences on "Biodiversity and Climate Change" for the last five years. Teachers of the department have been presenting papers in various conferences and seminars at the national level. Students and teachers of Economics have successfully completed Innovation Project "Understanding Emerging Agrarian Crises in India: Inputs for National Policy on Sustainable Agriculture" (MAC 306) funded by University of Delhi in the current academic session. Another project naming "Developing a Connect between Spiritual Ecology and Sustainability in the University Curriculum through Empirical Study", was completed in the last academic year. Carrying forward its old tradition of participating in various activities at college level, department played an instrumental role in organising elections for B.A. (P) students society. The department was also instrumental in organisation of the festival of B.A.(P) which was well attended by students of various colleges.



MATHEMATICS

The department of Mathematics organized a talk by Professor C. S. Lalitha, department of Mathematics, University of Delhi. The talk on "Can mathematics save Life?" was enjoyed immensely by the students.

The 'Ramanujan Society' of the department also organized the event "Infinity 17" on 7-8 March 2017 in the conference room. The students participated in "Brain cruncher, Quiz competition, Nut stacker" enthusiastically. Students of Mathematical Science have been actively involved in other co-curricular activities of the college contributing to the corporate life of the college.



B.A. PROGRAMME

The students of B.A. Programme are provided with a space, outside their curricula, allowing them to express and to experiment. In the academic session 2016-17, the Department was involved in various academic and cultural activities under the supervision of teachers.

The Lakshya Society organized trips to Pratapgarh Farms, Mehrauli Park and other adventure-cum-educational trips. A visit to the National Museum was also organised where the students were informed about the beginnings of civilisation.

The Departmental annual festival 'AAGAAZ' was organised in the month of February with great enthusiasm and grandeur. Events like Mono Acting, Best out of Waste, Essay Writing, Debate, Quiz, Newspaper Dress Making, Mock Parliament, Logo Designing and paper presentations were organized and they received zestful participation from students from all departments of the college.

The department has organised the National Biodiversity conference in collaboration with the History Department where the students, teaching faculty and non-teaching staff were sensitised towards our approach towards the environment.

The students also work in synchronisation with the theatre society, street society and cultural societies. The students also actively participated in the events like the annual college festival Yuvaan and many more.

The department aspires to work with more enthusiasm and help in the holistic development of its students.





HISTORY

The department of History has been abuzz with curricular and co-curricular activities round the year. To begin with, the department spruced up its museum 'Milepost' for the impending visit of the NAAC team visit. These included presentation of 1857 through Philately, Urdu Poets, Bhakti Saints, Indus Valley Civilization, Miniature Paintings and the origin and evolution of the Earth. In order to promote a sense of historicity among the students, the department of History has been organizing various activities for its students and is enthusiastically supported by the faculty. In this pursuit, the department organized a visit to the National Museum in the month of August in which over 120 students of B A Programme (History and other courses) participated.

The department has been pioneering the cause of environmental awareness by successfully organizing National Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change for the past five years. This year too, the department, in association with departments of Economics and English organized this annual show titled '5th National Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change: Conserving Heritage – Natural Resources and Cultural Wealth' on February 16-17, 2017.

The Chief Guest for the Conference was Prof. B R Mani, Director General, National Museum and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, National Museum Institute. The Valedictory Address was delivered by two eminent scholars in their fields; M N Ashish Ganju, Conservation Architect and Prof. S R Bhatt, Chairperson, Indian Council of Philosophical Research.

The department also organized Heritage Walk to Mehrauli Archaeological Park on March 15, 2017 for the students of History as well as those studying GE papers offered by the department. The Walk was conducted by Ms. Aradhana Sinha from INTACH who illuminated the students with architectural details of the Sultanate as well as Colonial period.

The department is in process of starting an INTACH Chapter in the College to promote heritage conservation among the college community. For this student volunteers would be enrolled and trained by INTACH and who in turn would act as ambassadors of heritage conservation.



PHYSICAL SCIENCE

The department of Physics under the leadership of Dr. Parthasarathi, Teacher-incharge, Physical Science organised an educational trip to Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), near JNU Campus on the occasion of Science Day. Selected colleges from all over Delhi were invited to attend a day long event at the sprawling IUAC Campus. The proceedings began with a presentation on Photonics by the legendary Prof. Ajoy Ghatak, formerly Professor, Physics, IIT, Delhi. Presentation by Prof. N. Madhavan on the research being carried out in Nuclear Physics and Technology currently available at IUAC followed. A quiz was organised with questions based on the presentations that were given with the winners being awarded with text books authored by Prof. Ghatak. After a small break the students were taken on a tour of the various facilities present. The tour began with the visit to the control centre followed by visit to the pelletron accelerator and various other cutting edge technologies that are inter-linked and are used for various medical and research based applications. The visit concluded with lunch and a documentary session on the atomic nucleus.

The Physical Science department organized an excursion trip to Mcleodganj (H.P). The trip was led by Dr. Parthasarathi and Dr. Poonam and included 34 members in total. The trip was scheduled for three days and three nights. The team started from the college on the evening of 13th October'16 by bus and reached Dharamshala the next day and stayed at a resort named 'Meghavan' at Mcleodganj. The next morning the team visited nearby Bhagsunag Waterfall. The scenery was so beautiful there. A DJ night was organized for the trip members at the resort. The next day the team started on a 13km long and steep trek to Truind. The climate was very chilly up there. When trekker students reached the Truind top the time was approximately 7pm. So they had no option but to return back very carefully in the moonlight. Divided into four groups, carrying torch along they reached the resort by 10.30 pm. The next morning the team started from Mcleodgunj and reached Delhi in the morning of 17th October. The memory of this exciting trip will remain etched for a long time.

An Educational excursion was organized to visit Delhi Jal Board, Water Treatment Plant at Wazirabad. The visit was organized for science students wherein students of B.Sc. Physical Sciences across all years participated under the supervision of Dr. Vandna Soni and Dr. Poonam Singh. The visit was organised to make the students aware of the water treatment process and environmental issues. It was an exploratory and enlightening experience in which the students got a chance to get themselves familiar to the practical



knowledge of the different stages of water purification which broadly included Pre-chlorination treatment, Post chlorination treatment, Coagulation/Flocculation, Storage and supply to city. Visiting the water treatment plant was a very informative and knowledgeable experience. The interaction with the Delhi Jal Board officials also enlightened the students about the debasing condition of water bodies like Yamuna river in specific.

The department of Biology participated very actively in the 5th National Conference on “Biodiversity and Climate Change: Natural Resources and Cultural Health” on 16th and 17th February 2017. Many eminent speakers from various fields delivered lectures on natural as well as cultural heritage. The learning objectives of this conference were to discuss the issues of climate change and understand its impact on heritage. The issues that were discussed included; meaning and importance of natural heritage and its deterioration due to climate change. Students were also given knowledge about the role of science in the development of a sustainable world and the challenges of putting the scientific findings into practice. After the presentations were made by the speakers, students asked them various questions. All the speakers appreciated the quality of questions and the commitment shown by them to protect the environment.

The department also organised visits by students to various places in Delhi and surrounding areas to conduct field surveys on different types of pollution arising in Delhi, such as water pollution and air pollution. In the process they studied air pollution caused by vehicles plying on the roads, landfills and construction works. The students could also locate some of the local pollution hot spots in Delhi where air pollution level used to be maximum and reaching beyond critical level.

The Physical Science department organized its annual science fest ‘SCINTILLA-2017’ in April. The event saw invited lectures by subject experts and presentation on various topics by students. Quiz and debates were also organized which saw enthusiastic participation. Science ‘Fun games’ were an additional attraction. Such event helped the teaching fraternity and students to come together and foster a relationship that go beyond the classroom and enable them in personality development by exposing them to newer ideas.



सूखी डाली

सड़क पर गिरे सूखे पत्ते
 हवा के झोकों से
 इधर-उधर सरकते हैं
 किसी बुजुर्ग के चेहरे पर
 जैसे रेंगते हैं भाव
 जिन्दगी के आखिरी पलों में
 स्मृतियों के पेड़ से गिरते जाते हैं
 यादों के पत्ते
 एक कसक-सी दिखती है वक्त के चेहरे पर
 टुकड़ों में बिखरी जिंदगियों के पास
 रह जाती है सिर्फ उनकी चरमराहट

जिंदगी के फलक पर कितना छोटा है आदमी
 वह बूँद-भर देख पाता है सपने
 भागता है बेचैन इधर-उधर
 भटकते हुए होने-न होने के बीच, तलाशता है
 मुक्ति की ओर जाता शांति-पथ
 वह देखता है सड़क पर वे भी हैं जो बोलते हैं,
 जिनके होने का अर्थ 'मौन' है
 वे सरक रहे हैं हवा में पत्तों की तरह
 उनके सपनों में कराह दबी है
 धुंध के पैरों तले उनकी चुप्पी...

निधि रानी
 हिंदी(विशेष)-द्वितीय वर्ष

इंतजार

ये दिन ये रात एक तरफ
 ये सुबह ये शाम एक तरफ
 और तुझसे मिलने का इंतजार एक तरफ

ये नदियां ये झरने एक तरफ
 ये फूल ये खुशबू एक तरफ
 और तेरे दीदार का इंतजार एक तरफ

ये सुन्दर संगीत एक तरफ
 ये कोयल का कूकना एक तरफ
 और तेरी सुरीली आवाज
 सुनने का इंतजार एक तरफ

ये ठुमक-ठुमक कर चलती
 गिलहरी को देखना एक तरफ
 ये तेरे पायल की छमछम एक तरफ
 और तुझे देखने का इंतजार एक तरफ....

मयंक कुमार
 बी.ए. प्रोग्राम-तृतीय वर्ष

चक्रव्यूह

कहानी

कैसा जुग है यह?', 'यही प्रलय है।', 'मति मारी गई है लोगों की', 'बाप रे

बाप', आदि वाक्यों ने आज जमाने को कोसना शुरू किया है। माधुरी चुप्पी साधे बैठी थी। उसके माथे की शिकन उसकी परेशानियों को समझाने के लिए काफी नहीं थीं। आस-पास की सारी बूढ़ी औरतें खुसुर-फुसुर करते हुए अपनी-अपनी कहानियों के पन्ने उधेड़ रही थी। माधुरी के घर में उनका जमावड़ा कोई नया नहीं था। 25-26 वर्ष पहले जब कुमार उसे ब्याह कर लाया था, तभी से यह सिलसिला चला आ रहा था।

माधुरी को अपने सास-ससुर की सेवा का मौका नहीं मिला था। कुमार के माता-पिता दोनों ही लम्बे समय तक ठहरे ज्वर के साथ ही निकल लिए थे। उस वर्ष गाँव में ढेर सारे लोग इसी बीमारी का शिकार हुए थे। कुमार तब कोई 13-14 वर्ष का रहा होगा। जिन्दा रहते हुए ही कुमार के पिता ने दोनों बेटियों की शादी कर दी थी। उनकी मृत्यु के बाद आस-पास के लोगों ने कुमार को सम्हाला और दसवीं पास करने में मदद की। काफी चिरौरी के बाद गाँव के जमींदार ने बिजली विभाग में कर्मचारी की नौकरी



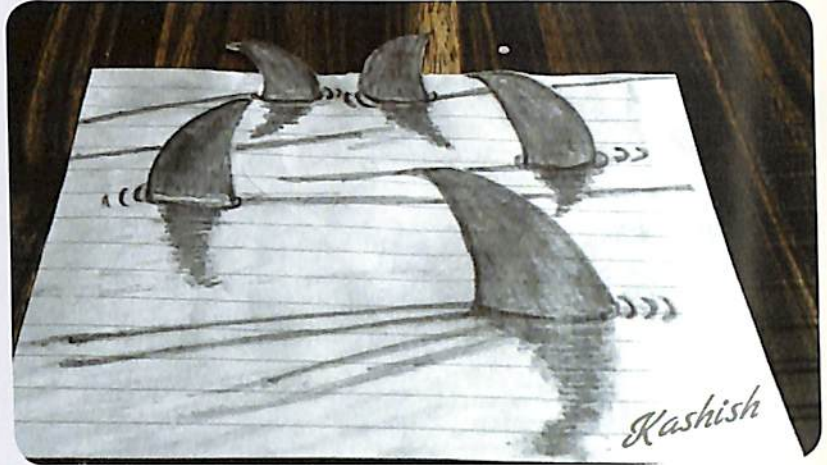
दिला दी। 'सामान्य कद-काठी, सावँला-भरा चेहरा, टुड्डी पर हल्की-सी दाढ़ी, बड़ी-बड़ी आँखें और आँखों के नीचे हल्का काला धब्बा'— गाँव के बुजुर्गों की नजर में वह 'सुघड़ लड़का' था। जिसे हर तरह के कार्यक्रम में मदद के लिए याद किया जाता। कुमार भी बिना किसी ना-नुकुर के खुशी-खुशी पहुँच जाता और अपना सर्वस्व झोंक देता। वह उच्च जाति का नहीं था, पर उसके व्यवहार ने उसे उच्च जाति के समकक्ष खड़ा कर दिया था। मीठे स्वभाव और कर्मठता ने उसे बड़े लोगों के बीच वह प्यार और सम्मान दिलाया, जिसका वह हकदार था।

कुमार के जीजाजी ने अपनी दूर की रिश्तेदार माधुरी से कुमार के विवाह का प्रस्ताव सुझाया। बड़े-बुजुर्गों की सहमति और आशीर्वाद से विवाह तय हो गया। माधुरी के माता-पिता को सरकारी नौकरी करता दामाद मिल गया। 600 रुपये की मासिक तनखाह के साथ कुमार भी अब पारिवारिक जिम्मेदारी उठाने के लायक हो चुका था। तब १६ वर्ष का था कुमार, माधुरी 18 की। विवाह बड़े धूमधाम से सम्पन्न हुआ। पूरे गाँव में साज-धाज की चर्चा भी हुई। कुमार और माधुरी की जोड़ी के कसीदे भी पढ़े गए। कुमार भी अपनी तरह १०वीं पास पत्नी पाकर खुश था। माधुरी किसी अप्सरा-सी लगती थी। घने लम्बे कमर तक लहराते बाल। माता-पिता के दिए संस्कारों और अपने चातुर्य से उसने कुछ ही दिनों में सबके मन में बसेरा बना लिया था। दादी-काकी उसे घर के कामों में मदद करने आतीं और माधुरी की दक्षता के गुण गाते जातीं। माधुरी भी सास-ससुर के ना होने से पैदा हुए सूनेपन को उन्ही दादी-काकी की सेवा करके भर लिया करती थी।

हँसी-खुशी 2 वर्ष बीत गए। माधुरी ने एक सुन्दर-सी लड़की को जन्म दिया तो कुमार की खुशी का ठिकाना नहीं था। मिठाईयाँ बँटी, गाने गाए गए। कई लोगों ने अपनी रुढ़ीवादिता थोपने की कोशिश भी की— 'लड़की के पैदा होने पर इतनी खुशी क्यों?' लेकिन लक्ष्मी का रूप बोलकर कुमार सबकी बातों को काटता और उनको अपनी खुशी में शामिल कर लेता। लड़की का नाम भी लक्ष्मी ही पड़ा। उनका जीवन ढलान पर पहियों-सा तेजी से रेंगता हुआ गुजरने लगा।

आज शादी के २५ वर्षों बाद माधुरी जब उनके बीच बैठी है तो उसकी आँखों के सामने सिर्फ कुमार की छवि घूम रही है। काले-सफेद बाल पहले जैसे घने नहीं रह गए थे। रूखे-सूखे-बिखरे बालों के बीच उसके छोटे-से चेहरे पर शून्य उड़ रहा था। आँखों के नीचे की कालिख उसके बीमार और कमजोर होने का परिचय दे रही थी। 'अम्मा कुछ खा लो !'- बैठे हुए गले से लक्ष्मी ने माधुरी से कहा। 'खा ले बहू ! कब तक ऐसे बैठी रहेगी ?'- पड़ोसन काकी ने अपना हाथ माधुरी के चेहरे पर फेरा। और फिर आँसुओं का सिलसिला शुरू हो गया था। नए सिर से जमाने को दोषी ठहराया जाने लगा। पल भर का मौन, फिर लक्ष्मी के जिद करने पर माधुरी ने एक-आध रोटी खाई और चटाई लेकर कोने में गई।

लक्ष्मी अकेली रह गई थी। पुराने कपड़ों की दरी पर लेटे वह छत की ओर ताकती रही। रात उतर चुकी थी। पूर्णिमा की रात में जब दिखती हैं धरती पर तमाम विषमताएँ, चाँद भी मूक हो पृथ्वी को निहारता-सा प्रतीत होता है। टीन की छत के एक छेद से चाँदनी एक रेखा बनाती हुई सीधे जमीन पर गिर रही थी। उस रेखा में कभी चूल्हे का धुँआ होता था। आज सिर्फ धूल है। पिता के मृत चेहरे को याद कर लक्ष्मी फिर आँखें भर लेती है। कुमार को मरे हुए तीन हफ्ते ही गुजरे थे कि नई मुसीबत राह देख रही थी। समंदर पर राज कौन करे, बड़ी समस्या थी। बड़ी समस्या थी तो कोई छोटा कैसे रहे? शार्क, व्हेल, डॉलफिन सब मारते-काटते-बचते-बचाते फिरते थे। आकार बड़ा हो तो कद भी बड़ा ही होता है। फिर एक रोज खारे पानी का भी कानून बना। मरते-मरते किसी समंदर की देवी ने आँखों पर पट्टी बाँध कर पाठ पढ़ाया। कानून बोला कि सबसे बड़ी मछलियाँ राज करें, व्यवस्था देखें उनसे छोटी मछलियाँ उनकी मदद करें। सबसे छोटी मछलियाँ प्रजा हैं, इनकी रक्षा करें।



तू डाल-डाल, मैं पात-पात। अब अपना उल्लू कौन नहीं सीधा करना चाहेगा भला। ऊपर की मछलियाँ पहुँच से बाहर हैं। बीच की मछलियाँ बचते-बचाते प्रजा को ही निगलने का अरमान लिए बैठी हैं। नीचे की मछलियों की दशा निराला के 'चूस लिया है उसका सार, हाँड़-मास ही इक आधार' से मेल खाती है। कुमार का परिवार भी निचली मछलियों के झुंड का एक हिस्सा है। कुमार ने अपने वेतन में से बचा-बचा कर 10000 रुपये बैंक में जमा कराए थे। उसकी अकाल मृत्यु से माधुरी और लक्ष्मी पर ना सिर्फ मानसिक विपदा आई थी अपितु आर्थिक कमजोरी ने भी कमर तोड़नी शुरू कर दी थी। पति का अंतिम संस्कार कर, कुछ दिन ठहरकर माधुरी जमा किए हुए पैसे निकालने पहुँची थी। सोचती थी कि कुछ साल और कुमार जीवित रह जाते तो माधुरी को भी पार लगा देते। कहते

हैं- 'आदमी के सामने ही औरत जिए और सामने ही गुजर जाए तो अच्छा है'।

उसके पहुँचते ही सरकारी दफ्तरों और कागजों ने अपना रंग दिखाना शुरू कर दिया था। लाचार कदम इधर से उधर भागकर अपनी बेबसी बयाँ कर रहे थे। कई दिन गुजर गए। आँसुओं ने भी दम तोड़ना शुरू कर दिया था। किसी की सलाह पर माँ-बेटी ने बड़े साहब के ऑफिस का रुख किया। काफी इंतजार के बाद बड़े साहब के दर्शन हुए। माधुरी ने अपनी आपबीती बड़े साहब के सामने कह सुनाई।

बिना किसी हिचकिचाहट के साहब ने भी 5000 सुविधा-शुल्क की डीमांड रख दी। माधुरी चुप्पी साधे खड़ी रही। फिर हाथ जोड़कर रोना शुरू किया। इस बार बड़े साहब ने सेवा में लक्ष्मी को कुछ दिनों के लिए भेजने को कहा। ऐसा सुनते ही माधुरी चक्कर खाकर गिर पड़ी। होश आया तो खुद को ऑफिस के बाहर लक्ष्मी के साथ पाया।



रात को छत की ओर ताकती लक्ष्मी को बार-बार बड़े साहब का चेहरा दिखाई देता है, और दिखाई देता है उनका इसके चेहरे पर सिगरेट के धुँएँ छोड़ना। होठ बुदबुदाते हैं। कहते हैं कि बड़े साहब को धुँआ उड़ाना पसंद है। साहब बड़े हैं तो शौक भी बड़े ही होंगे। धुँएँ के छल्ले उड़ाने का शौक। छल्ले से वे घेरना चाहते हैं मुझे और ना जाने कितनों को! पिंजरे घेरते हैं पक्षियों को! हृद बाँधते हैं उड़ानों की! तय कर देते हैं सरहदें! सुना है शौक बड़ी चीज है, और जब कद बड़ा हो तो शौक बेलगाम होती है। बड़े साहब सिगरेट के धुँएँ के 'दम' से झोंकना चाहते हैं 'उसे' चिता के धुँएँ में! अधजली लाश-सी पड़ी लक्ष्मी अचानक से उठकर बैठती है, और फिर लेट जाती है।

यह कोई पहला वाक्या नहीं था जब उसे इन हरकतों को झेलना पड़ा था। जब वह अपने पिता के साथ नगर में रहने गई थी, तब भी राह चलते उसे अपमान सहना पड़ता था। समाज के तानों ने भी अपना धर्म निभाया था। नसीहतें भी इतनी मिली थी, जिनके सामने आशीर्वाद और दुआएँ टिक भी ना पाए। तब भी वह चुप रहकर आत्मचिंतन करती। वापस गाँव आने के बाद कहती कि 'वो नगरों में ठहरा एक देहात' है। अपने अंदर बसाये हुए है 'तथाकथित अगड़ा हुआ समाज'। इनका डूबना मर्यादित है। वह बंद कर देती है सपनों की आँखें। कैद है धुंध के तहखाने में जहाँ पैदा हुआ सन्नाटा सभ्यता की दीवारों पर उग रहा है। उसे दुनिया बीमार लगती है, जहाँ शांति की तलाश चुप्पियों तक ले जाती है। उसकी बातें किसी की समझ में नहीं आती। दुःख जब किसी को मांजता है तो वह थोड़ा दार्शनिक हो जाता है।

रात की स्याह परतों के बीच जगह बनाती भोर में चेतना होती है। दिन का एक पहर बीतने को था, तब लक्ष्मी तेजी

से बड़े साहब के ऑफिस की तरफ चल देती है। हाथ में एक जूट का झोला लिए वह अंदर प्रवेश करती है।

थोड़ी देर की बातचीत के बाद वह गुस्से में बाहर आती है और धम्म से सीढ़ियों पर बैठ जाती है। दफ्तर में भीड़ बढ़ने लगती है। लोग दीवार पर सिर टिकाए असहाय-सी दिखती लक्ष्मी को रह-रह कर देख लिया करते हैं। अखबार वाला, कर्मचारी,

एक-दो पुलिस वाले उसके बगल से ऑफिस में एक के बाद एक आते-जाते हैं। चलने से उड़ती धूल से बचने के लिए लक्ष्मी दुपट्टे का कोना पकड़कर नाक को ढक लेती है। मन की उथल-पुथल के बीच वह कभी लोगों को ताकती तो कभी पेड़-पौधों को देखती और कभी दूर गिल्ली-डण्डा खेलते बच्चों को निहारती। सूरज चढ़ता जा रहा था। धूप से बदन झुलसने लगा था। एक तो जून की गर्मी, दूसरा दो जून की रोटी को संघर्ष। शांत स्वभाव की लक्ष्मी को परिस्थितियों ने झल्ली और चिड़चिड़ी बना दिया था।

अचानक वह सीढ़ियों से उठ, जोर से चीखती है। लोग उसे अवाक् घूरने लगते हैं। झोले को टटोलते हुए लक्ष्मी एक बोतल निकालती है और उसे खोल अपने उपर उड़ेलती है। लोग मिट्टी के तेल की गन्ध आते ही दौड़कर उसके हाथों को जकड़ लेते हैं। थोड़ी देर में वह कैमरों से घिरी होती है। सवाल उछल-उछलकर उसके सामने आते हैं। लक्ष्मी मूक-सी खड़ी रहती है। अंदर से एक कर्मचारी भागा-भागा आता है और फुसफुसाते हुए लक्ष्मी के हाथों में कुछ कागज थमा देता है।

खुद को कैमरों से बचाती वह मुट्ठी में कागज दबाए घर लौटती है। वह जैसे ही घर में कदम रखती है, देखती है कि लोगों का जमावड़ा लगा हुआ है। देखती है कि एक तरफ आँसुओं से भीगे हुए लोग हैं और बीच में हैं—अम्मा... आसमान को भावशून्य आँखों से देखती हुई! उसे लगा कि वो चक्रव्यूह में थी अब तक, जिसके बीचोबीच चिताएँ हैं और अम्मा की देह के बगल में वो लाश-सी बैठी है।

— स्वप्निल राय
बीए हिंदी (प्रतिष्ठा) द्वितीय वर्ष

चुनाव

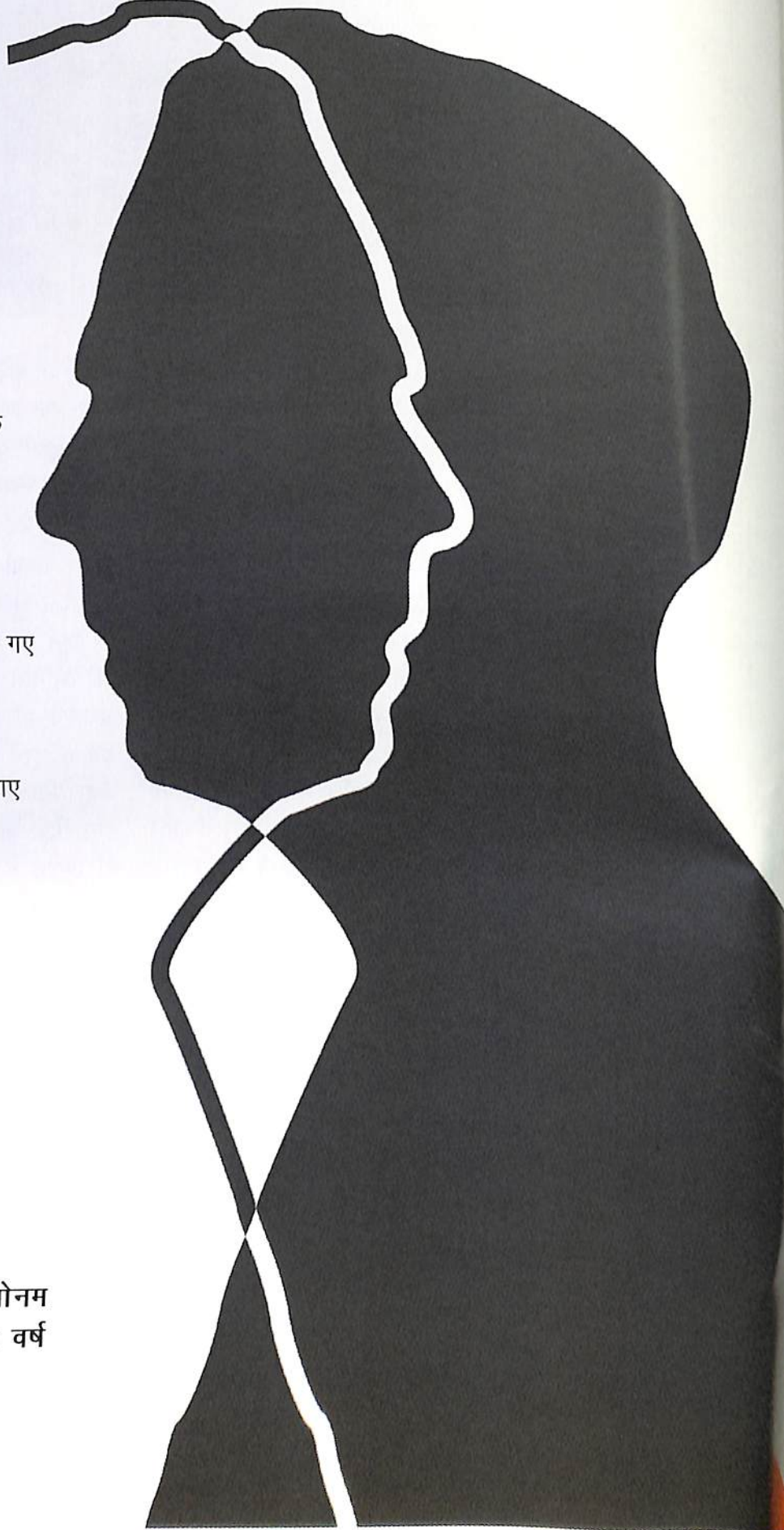
वे आए
वे पहली बार आए और बोले—
तुमको तुम्हारी जमीन दिलवाऊँगा
तुम उगाना उसमें सपनों की फसल
सोचा कि अब तो बदलेगा कानून,
अब नहीं चलेगी दबंगों की
अब नहीं बहेगा किसी का खून ।

वे फिर आए और बोले—
हम खुदवाएंगे कुँएँ यहाँ की जनता के लिए
धरती की प्यास बुझेगी
हम नहीं होने देंगे आपकी उम्मीदों को शुष्क
आपके सिर पर छाँव होगी
हम आपके बच्चों को देंगे बेहतर भविष्य
और आपको उम्मीदों से रौशन घर

चुनाव बाद जब सोचा मैंने इस बात पर
तो लगा कानून की बाबत वे कानून बतिया गए
हमने इस बार भी जिन्हें चुना है
कहने को वे नजर रखे हैं हम पर
हमारे सपनों की बस्ती उजड़ गई
उन्हें दुःख हुआ — वे टेलीविजन पर कह गए

वे आएँगे अगली बार
तो उन्हें कह देना है
हमें उल्लू मत बनाइये
ये पब्लिक है सब जानती है
हमारी उम्मीदों की फसल हमारे हाथ में है
हम देखेंगे सपने सुनहरे भविष्य के
इन्हीं हाथों से हम गिरा देंगे
व्यवस्था का पूरा लूटतंत्र
हम एक बेहतर समाज चाहते हैं
जहाँ के शब्दकोष में 'धोखा' न हो...

— सोनम
हिन्दी प्रतिष्ठा — तृतीय वर्ष

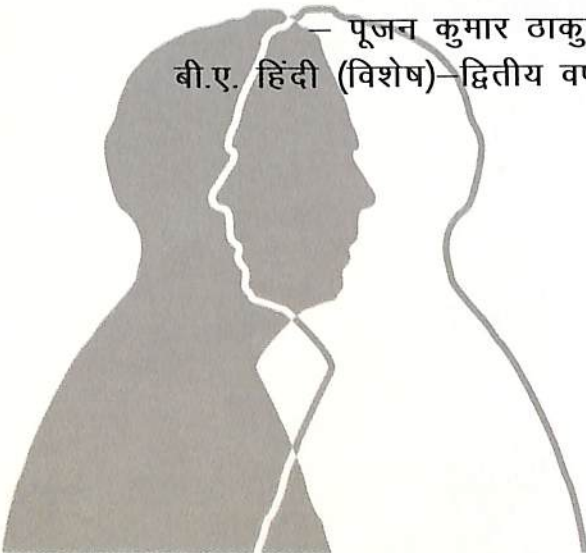


टकराव

गर्विली हवा ने मुझसे कहा—
चलो, आज एक शहर दिखाऊं तुम्हें
जहाँ लोग फलते नहीं, फूलते हैं !
चिंगारी की लौ से रोशन होते हैं
चीखते—चिल्लाते हताशे—बेतहाशे
दौड़ते—भागते, मशीनों के ऊपर मशीन,
पिस जाते हैं कई निराशाओं के ज्वर में !
कटहल की छाल की भांति जिह्वा लपलपाती है
धराशाई देह में कुरेदते घावों के बीच
प्रोटीन सिंथेसिस बहुत तेजी से होता है,
फुर्र हो जाते हैं सभी
नशा— बेहोशी, गरीबी—अमीरी,
सब एक साथ टकराते हैं
यह टकराव छीन लेता है
आवाजों को
चूस लेते हैं—लहू को
ठूठ बना कर फेंक देते हैं लाशों को
मांस के लोथड़ों—हड्डियों— पसलियों से तैयार मिट्टी
कुछ ज्यादा उपजाऊ हो जाती है !
राजनीतिक चटक-मटक
अपने सोलहों श्रृंगार में उपस्थित होती है,
योजनाएं भी चलती हैं
उसे बेदाग करने के लिए ...कोई आश्चर्य नहीं !

पर, दाग तब भी कायम होता है
टीस तब भी कायम होती है

— पूजन कुमार ठाकुर
बी.ए. हिंदी (विशेष)—द्वितीय वर्ष



ट्विटर के शेक्सपियर

1) आज हाथ बाँध, बस कलम के एहसास को
महसूस कर रहा हूँ
जी बहुत है, कि वक्त को थाम, शब्दों को
कागज पर उतारूँ,
नजर खोने का गम, हमेशा रहेगा...

— साक्षी

2) पत्थर दिल!... अक्सर लोग उसे इसी
नाम से पुकारते हैं
उस पत्थर की दरारों में भी रोज
अनगिनत कलियाँ खिलती और
दम तोड़ती थीं...

— मानसी अग्रवाल

3) मेरे सपने इस पेड़ के समान हैं
जो जिंदा होते हुए भी जिंदा नहीं
जो मर कर भी मरे नहीं
और जो आजाद होते हुए भी घुट रहे हैं...

— आस्था आहूजा

4) मेकअप करके उसने इयरफोन लगा लिये
मेट्रो चली और मन किसी फूलोंवाली घाटी के
आवारा परिंदे—सा उड़ने लगा, उसे याद आया
हवाओं को मेकअप की जरूरत नहीं होती...

— मधुराज कुमार

बड़ौजी गांव की यात्रा

महाराजा अग्रसेन महाविद्यालय की तरफ से एक टूर का आयोजन किया गया था, जिसके लिए हमें हरियाणा में नूह के एक गांव बड़ौजी ले जाया गया था। हमारे आदरणीय प्राचार्य महोदय और हमारे महाविद्यालय के कुछ प्राध्यापक भी हमारे साथ वहां गये थे। यह यात्रा अत्यधिक रोमांचक रही। हमारे मित्रों और सहयोगियों ने अपने हाथों से तंबू बनाया और सुकून-भरे पलों का आनंद उठाया, हालांकि रात में मौसम सर्द हो जाने के कारण लड़कियों को इस आनंद की अनुभूति से वंचित रहना पड़ा।



बड़ौजी गांव बेहद खूबसूरत है। उसकी खूबसूरती को किसी व्याख्या की आवश्यकता नहीं। हम गांव के बाहर स्थित एक मंदिर में ठहरे हुए थे। हम गांव भी गये। वहां के निवासियों से मिले। उन्होंने हमें बहुत आदर और प्रेम दिया। वहां के



वातावरण और परिस्थितियों से अवगत होने के पश्चात शहरी जीवन और ग्रामीण जीवन के बीच का अंतर स्पष्ट हो गया। वहाँ बड़ी इमारतें नहीं हैं और ना ही बड़ी दुकानें हैं परन्तु जो सुकून है वो शहरों में गाड़ियों के शोर में कहीं गायब हो गया है। जहाँ शहरों में कोई किसी को मुफ्त में पानी तक नहीं पिलाता, वहीं हमें वहाँ के लोगों ने बहुत प्रेम से गाय का शुद्ध दूध पिलाया। जो अस्थिर जीवन हम शहरों में व्यतीत कर रहे हैं, वहाँ जाकर एक स्थिरता का आभास हुआ।

अंधेरी रात में टार्च लेकर चलना, देर रात खुले आसमान में पेड़ के नीचे बैठना, कुँ से पानी निकालना, खेतों की हरियाली, वहाँ के बुजुर्गों द्वारा हुक्का पीना और कांपते हाथों से बार-बार आशीर्वाद देना, वहाँ के बच्चों द्वारा क्रियाकलापों में भाग लेने की उत्सुकता और लड़कियों का शरमा के बातें करना, सब कुछ बहुत सुंदर और स्मरणीय अनुभव था।

अगले दिन हमने पहाड़ की चढ़ाई की। सभी बहुत उत्साहित थे। पहाड़ की चोटी पर पहुँचने के पश्चात जो अनुभूति हुई वो अतुलनीय था। उसके पश्चात् हम वापस अपने शहर की ओर चल पड़े। जिस यात्रा को हमने अपने महाविद्यालय से बड़े उत्साह के साथ शुरू की थी, वो एक सुखद और अद्भुत अनुभव के साथ वापस हमारे महाविद्यालय पहुँचकर समाप्त हुई।

— पम्मी शर्मा
बी.ए. हिंदी — द्वितीय वर्ष

गजल

शोहरत का होगा असर धीरे-धीरे
उगेंगे तुम्हारे भी पर धीरे-धीरे

यूँ ही देर तक ऐसे बैठे रहें हम
मिलेगी नज़र से नज़र धीरे-धीरे

गुजारी जवानी ज्यों बहता हो पानी
कटेगा बुढ़ापा मगर धीरे-धीरे

होने लगी फल-ओ-फूलों की आमद
झुकेंगे ये ऊँचे शजर धीरे-धीरे

ये चिंगारियों से यूँ नज़रें न फेरो
जलेंगे तुम्हारे भी घर धीरे-धीरे

होता रहा जख्मी, धरती का दामन
खुलेगा कयामत का दर धीरे-धीरे

— दीपक कश्यप
हिंदी प्रतिष्ठा— तृतीय वर्ष

जीवन बहता पानी है

जीवन क्या है—क्या है जीवन?
यह कैसी अजब कहानी है ?
कटता जाता हर दिन यूँ ही
क्या कुछ करने की ठानी है
किस पथ पर चलना है हमको
अब किस पर होड़ लगानी है ?
यह जीवन बहता पानी है !

यह कैसी गुफा अँधेरी है ?
यह कैसा बहता पानी है
अब यंत्र बने फिरते हैं हम
कैसा जीवन—कैसा जीवन ?
दिग्भ्रमित हुआ मानव देखो
इसे कैसी राह बनानी है ?
यह कैसा बहता पानी है ?

दुनिया की सच्चाई क्या है?
सब पहन मुखौटे बैठे हैं
अम्मा—बापू की आशा पर
जड़ कर चमाट यूँ ऐंटे हैं
परिभाषा सब की सब बदलीं
ये सब किसकी मनमानी है?
ये कैसी गुफा अँधेरी है ?
ये कैसा बहता पानी है?

— रेखा कुमारी
बी.ए प्रोग्राम— तृतीय वर्ष

डर का शहर और बजते हुए शून्य

रात की खामोशी में बज रहे हैं
सन्नाटे के झुनझुने
अचानक उचट जाने पर नींद
होता है सामना
घर की खिड़की पर बैठे अज्ञात भय से
आँगन में लेटी माँ
अपनी खाट के चारो ओर
ढूँढ़ती है अजन्मे बच्चे को
उसे डर है कि
जब सपनों में सिर्फ धुंध हो
तो कैसी होगी सुबह? कैसा होगा सपनों का सूरज?
वह उगेगा भी?
या बुझ जाएगा काँपती लौ की तरह
बिखेरते हुए मद्धिम रौशनी
गली में चलता आदमी
खटखटा बैठता है
किसी और के घर का दरवाजा
सभ्यता के चोर दरवाजे से
आदमी के भीतर दाखिल होते हैं डर के कलपुर्जे
घड़ी में वक्त है अँधेरे का
उसका घर कैदगाह है
वह सपनों के डकैत की गिरफ्त में है
सपनों के शहर में हम अकेले हैं
हमारी पीठ पर हमारे अस्तित्व का भार है
कहीं दूर से आती है
किसी जानवर के रोने की आवाज
और मन्दिर में लगे
पीपल की पत्तियाँ थरथरा उठती हैं
पहचानों कि यह कंपकपाहट क्या है?
कि कोटर में बैठी चिड़िया
पंखों से छिपा लेती है अंडे
और गायब होने लगती हैं परछाइयाँ
जब नहीं चलती सुकून कि हवा

अँधेरे से कुछ पहले उजाले के रौशन दस्तावेजों पर
चुप्पियों की कलम से यह किसकी दस्तखत है?
सामने खड़ा सुअर
नत्थू की आँखों से ओझल हो जाता है
धुंध और घुटन के बीच
अँधेरा अपने स्याह रंग से
दीवार पर लिख देता है 'तमस',
वक्त तेजी से बीतता है
और तेज हो जाती है घड़ी में सुइयों की पदचाप
दीवार की दरारों में बैठे झींगुर
मानो सन्नाटे की सरजमीं पर चिंघाड़ते मदमस्त हाथी
और डर जाते हैं घरों में दुबके लोग
अँधेरे कोनों में वह जो आँखें हैं बेचैन सी
उनमें जिंदगी की कापती हुई लौ है
वह आदमी बीड़ी जलाता है
और लाल मद्धिम रौशनी में
वह पहचानता है
अँधेरे की भयावह शक्ल... उसके विशालकाय जबड़े,
निहारता है चारो दिशाओं में
कि अँधेरा निगल चुका है
पड़ोस के सभी घर, पूरा मुहल्ला, पूरा गाँव, पूरा शहर
सपनों का एक पूरा देश अँधेरे कमरों में है
अँधेरे की तह में कुंडली मारे बैठा
प्रत्याशाओं का यह अनाम डर है
कि हम मरना भी नहीं चाहते
और सीने में धड़कता हुआ दिल कहता है
कि मैं आग से घिरा हुआ हूँ
अगर मैं हिन्दू हूँ तो क्या चिता पर हूँ?
अगर मुसलमान हूँ
तो क्या दहकने लगी है मेरी कब्र मेरे इंतजार में?

— दीपक कश्यप
बी. ए. हिंदी (विशेष)—तृतीय वर्ष

बर्फ-4

(यह कविता, लंबी कविता 'बर्फ' का एक अंश है)

आज सुबह सुबह आसमान बिलकुल साफ था
मैंने देखा... सूरज तेज रफ्तार से घूम रहा है
जैसे बढ़ रहा हो धरती को निगलने के लिए—यह
'आपातकालीन सूर्य-ग्रहण' है!
हतात्माओं के गवाह हैं जमीन पर खड़े पेड़
मृत्यु के हाथ में आदमी की पांडुलिपियाँ हैं
परछाइयाँ रुक सी गई हैं देह से चिपके हुए; उन्हें धरती पर
नहीं रखना पौर
मुझे लगा धरती का हृदय जोर जोर से धड़क रहा है
रक्तवाहिनियों में लावे बह रहे हैं
उसकी त्वचा फटने लगी है

सूखी पत्तियाँ—पेंडों पर जमी हुई बर्फ हैं!
बिखरती हैं जैसे बिखर जाती है
हवा में कोई गंध; यह रात की गंध है
धरती पर अँधेरे की बर्फ गिरने को है

रात आती है नींद के करबे में
जैसे रेल आती है
जैसे कोई धड़धड़ाता खयाल आता है
मैं भयंकर विस्फोट सुनता हूँ—
आसमान की त्वचा पसीज रही है
सूरज की भट्टी पर चढ़ा हुआ है आसमान का खाली कटोरा
कटोरे में भर रहा है जमीन का खून
अस्तित्व की जमीन पर सूख जाएगी जीवन की बूँद
दरख्तों के लिए जरूरी है यह समझ लेना
कि डरावने बादलों की पीठ पर बैठा कोई अदृश्य
बादलों की आवाज में सुड़कते हुए खून पी रहा है

अँधेरे की बाहें मुझे हलक तक पकड़े हुए हैं
मेरे भीतर गहरे तक उतर रही है उसकी परछाई
मैं उठ बैठता हूँ

आवाजें मुझे विस्फोट सी लगती हैं और धक्क से खुल जाती
हैं मेरी आँखें
रो रहे हैं मेरे आसपास के तमाम दरख्त
धरती का आँचल आँसुओं में भीगकर चटक गया है
मेरे करीब ही फैल रही है भ्रम की जमीन
खिसक रही हैं उम्मीदों की उजली चट्टानें
दुनिया वलित पर्वत बन रही है
और विचारों के भूस्खलन में...टूट गए हैं सभ्यता के आधार
स्तम्भ!
मुझे लगता है मैं देख रहा हूँ दुःस्वप्न कोई
डर जाता हूँ देख कर
कि मैं जहाँ खड़ा हूँ वहाँ सूखे हुए दरख्त हैं और बोल रहे हैं
यहाँ दीवारों के कान हैं दीवारें सुनती हैं चुपियाँ
मेरी परछाई कहीं गुम हो गई है या खो गया है सूरज का
चेहरा
झाड़ियों में तब्दील हो गए हैं घर कि जैसे यह जंगल का
कस्बा है

सपनों की जमीन पर अभी अभी आया है तूफान
चल रही है रेतीली हवा या उड़ रहे हैं रेत के मुरझाए परिदें
उम्मीदों के आसमान में जो तारे थे टिमटिमाते हुए
धुंध की आकाशगंगा में वे डूब से गए हैं कहीं
मैं देखता हूँ दिशाओं की ओर दूर तक
तो दिखती हैं भविष्य के अँधेरे पर भूत की स्याह छायाएँ
पेंडों से लटके हैं मटके
कि जैसे खड़ा हो कोई आदमी और हाथ में कमंडल हो
हाथ में लटकाए अपना सिर किस आँख से देख रहा है वह?
ये ध्वनियाँ कहाँ से निकली हैं कि पत्ते थरथरा रहे हैं?
क्या उड़ गया है मेरी आँखों का फ्यूज?
मेरे अंदर दौड़ने लगे हैं डर के पहिए?
यहाँ द्रव की जगह ले ली है ठोस ने
क्या झुलसा हुआ कागज है देश का नक्शा?

जिसपर बर्फ सी चुभ रही हैं चुप्पियों की नदियाँ
 मृत्यु की वैतरणी के किनारे
 अकाल एक धूसर मैदान है
 जहाँ खड़े हैं रक्तविहीन चेहरों के दरख्त
 नदी किनारे जलाया गया एक आदमी, जलाई गई एक दरख्त
 की बोटियाँ
 धुएँ में उड़ता हुआ किसी आदमी का चेहरा
 गायब हो गया काठ की तरह जलकर
 क्या हम बढ़ जाएंगे उस ओर जहाँ गायब हो रहा है सबकुछ
 एक के बाद एक?
 धुएँ सी इस घुटन से निकल मैं दौड़ जाना चाहता हूँ डर की
 सरहदों के उसपार
 जहाँ जाग रहे हैं सपने
 जहाँ मुस्कुराते हुए जब पकड़ता हूँ मैं तुम्हारा हाथ
 तो यह भूल जाता हूँ कि यहीं घूम रहे हैं डर के एंटी रोमियो
 दस्ते
 फूल सी होती है जिंदगी
 जब होता है मेरे हाथ में तुम्हारा हाथ
 मेरी दोस्त!
 हम लड़ेंगे उस फूल के लिए
 जिसकी गंध से अँधेरा भी महक उठता है
 हम लड़ेंगे बिना सरहदों के नक्शे के लिए
 देश के कलेजे पर उग आई हैं अकाल की सरहदें
 जरूरत है कि प्रेम की नदियाँ बहें!

धुंध के गड़गड़ाते बादल फेंकते हैं चमकती कटार धरती की
 तरफ
 और हम कहते यहाँ बिजली गिरी है
 मेरे पीछे खड़ा है नागफनी का पौधा
 मुझे आश्चर्य है कि वह मेरा इंटरव्यू ले रहा है
 साथियों! अब जरूरत है उस आईने की जिसमें दिखती हैं

सच की छायाएँ
 देखो! पेंडों से टूटे हुए काँच गिर रहे हैं
 काँच के टुकड़े में सूखे पेंड का चेहरा कि जैसे कोई आदमी
 हो
 झाड़ियाँ दूर से लग रही हैं कि जैसे खड़ा हो कोई घर
 सूखा हुआ बरगद दौड़ते हुए विलुप्त हो जाता है पतझड़ की
 झाड़ियों में
 जीवन और मृत्यु के बीच इम्तेहान की घड़ी है
 एक मरा हुआ आदमी एक बंद इतिहास—गृह है
 जिसके दस्तावेज जला दिए गए हैं

वह आदमी जो सुन रहा था चुपचाप सबकुछ
 वह भाग रहा है शुतुरमुर्ग की तरह
 उसके खून में रेत के प्लेटलेट्स हैं
 उसके सिर पर उग आई है जड़ें
 वह मुँह खोलता है तो कूकर की सीटियाँ बजती हैं

दुनिया ने इंटरव्यू में एक बात कही है —
 वहाँ अध-सूखे दरख्तों के पास
 जहाँ दिन का लकड़हारा काट रहा है
 उम्मीदों की हरी हरी डालें
 परछाइयाँ धूप के गर्म बिस्तर पर अनजाने ही सपनों की नींद
 सो रही हैं
 यह जले हुए ख्वाबों की सिकुड़न है चेहरों पर
 कि किसी ने आदमी को चूल्हे पर चढ़ा दिया है ...'

— सूरज त्रिपाठी
 बी.ए. हिंदी (विशेष)—तृतीय वर्ष

माँ! तुम्हारे होने का अहसास...

माँ, तुम आज भी बहुत याद आती हो, जबकि तुम्हें गये हुए सोलह वर्षों से भी अधिक समय हो गया। जब मुझसे दूर गई थी तुम, दो वर्ष का भी नहीं था मैं। तुम्हारा चेहरा तक स्पष्ट याद नहीं मुझे, फिर भी न जाने क्यों तुम्हारी याद आती है। मन करता है कि तुम्हें जी भर के देखूं और तुम्हें कभी भी खुद से अलग न होने दूं, पर मजबूर हूँ कि ऐसा अब संभव नहीं। जब भी तुम्हारे बारे में सोचता हूँ, रो पड़ता हूँ। आँखों से आंसू रुकते नहीं हैं फिर यही सोचता हूँ कि मैंने ऐसे क्या पाप किये थे, जो मुझे तुम्हारा प्यार भी ढंग से न मिला और तुम मुझे छोड़ ईश्वर के पास चली गई?

तुम तो चली गई परन्तु तुम्हारे जाने के बाद नानी ने तुम्हारे हिस्से का प्यार दिया। मुझे यह समझ नहीं आता कि मैं पापी हूँ या भाग्यशाली? तुम चली गई, तुम्हारा प्यार मुझे न मिल पाया। परन्तु नानी के रूप में तुम्हारा अहसास मेरे पास था। जब नानी कभी तुम्हारे बारे में बताती हैं कि तुम पढ़ाई में बहुत तेज थी और हर कक्षा में अव्वल आती थी, तो यह सुनकर हर बार मुझे बहुत प्रेरणा मिली। नानी कहती हैं कि तुमने जाते जाते मुझे उनकी गोद में देकर कहा था कि इसको बड़ा आदमी बनाना और किसी भी प्रकार का कोई दुःख न होने देना। माँ! नानी ने इसमें कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी है। नानी ही क्यों घर में नाना, मामा, मामी सभी मेरा बहुत ध्यान रखते हैं। कभी कभी लगता है कि कुछ खालीपन है हर कहीं। इक शून्यता, जिसे चाह कर भी मैं भर नहीं पाता।

तुम्हारे जाने के बाद पापा ने दूसरी शादी कर ली है। पापा और दूसरी मम्मी भी मुझे नानी की तरह बहुत प्यार करते हैं। परन्तु माँ तुम्हारे बिना बहुत अकेलापन महसूस होता है। अकेलेपन में जब आती है तुम्हारी याद तो लगता है तुम यहीं हो, यहीं कहीं हो। मेरे पास के अजनबियत भरे शून्य से मुझे देखती हो और मुझे याद आने लगती हो। दुनिया की सारी खुशियाँ एक तरफ हैं और एक तरफ है तुम्हारे होने का अहसास... तुम्हारे अहसास का होना।

सब कहते हैं कि भूल जाऊँ तुम्हें और तुम्हें याद कर स्वयं को दुःख न दूँ। पर कौन समझाए उन्हें कि अहसास मरते नहीं, स्मृतियों के लिहाफ में जिंदा रहते हैं। तुम्हारे होने का अहसास मेरी कल्पना की नाव पर सवार होकर मेरी स्मृतियों को जीवित करता है। शुक्रिया माँ, मुझे जन्म देने के लिए! मैं तुम्हारे सपनों को हकीकत में बदलने की दिशा में बढ़ रहा हूँ। तुम्हारी उम्मीदों की स्याही से मैं बेहतर भविष्य लिखूँगा। तुम्हारे अहसासों को मैं सपनों का उपहार दूँगा।

माँ! तुम्हें शत् शत् नमन...

(माँ को समर्पित यादों की चिट्ठियाँ, जिनकी मृत्यु 10 दिसम्बर 2000 को हुई।)

विवकी

प्रथम वर्ष, राजनीतिक विज्ञान

ये जनता कुछ नहीं है

ये जनता कुछ नहीं है, बस सियासत का खिलौना है
वो भी चेहरा धिनौना था, ये भी चेहरा धिनौना है

खुदा की नेमतें उनपर अता हो, वो भी कैसे हो ?
उन्हें अशको में गलना था उन्हें अशको में गलना है

गरीबों को कहाँ गद्दा, कहाँ छत और कहाँ रोटी
वही पत्थर पुराना है, वही उनका बिछौना है

कहाँ चेहरे की वो रौनक कहाँ हाथों की रा'नाई
वही टूटी लकीरें हैं, वही किस्मत का रोना है

सफर जिनका अकेला है वो किसके मुन्तजिर यारों
कहाँ की जिन्दगी उनकी कहाँ तलवों का जलना है

तुम्हारी जेब की खनखन से क्या लेना उन्हें 'अविरल'
उन्हें फाकों में जीना है उन्हें फाकों में सोना है

बहुत मुश्किल है दिख जाना हुनर और काम लोगों का
बहुत आसान कह देना ये अद्दा है ये पौना है

— सुधांशु शर्मा
बी.ए. हिंदी (विशेष) —द्वितीय वर्ष

इन दिनों

(1)

अनजाने किसी मोड़ पर
पता न पूछ लेना!
हर शख्स की निगाह
शक से भरी है इन दिनों!

(2)

सुना है उनकी तस्वीर
बदली-बदली सी लग रही है!
सच तो ये है कि वे खुद ही
बदले-बदले-से हैं इन दिनों।

(3)

मुझसे न पूछो यारों
है घर कहाँ तुम्हारा!
घर बसाने की चाहत में
बेघर-सा हूँ इन दिनों!

फरेबी बन गया हूँ मैं
खाया है जो मैंने धोखा!
अब रोटी से नहीं
भूख मिटती है इन दिनों!

पहले इक नज़र के इशारे में
हाजिर हो जाते थे!
अब तो पुकारने पर भी
नज़र नहीं आते हैं इन दिनों!

बहुत दूर आ गया हूँ
पीछे रह गई हैं यादे!
बेगाने शहर में माँ तुम!
बरबस याद आती हो इन दिनों!

मौसम से करें क्या शिकवा
हर साल वह तो आता है!
इस बार की बयार है कुछ और
कयामत आई है इन दिनों!

तुम हँसती थी
बेवजह
चहकती थी हर वक्त !
आज वजह तो नहीं है मगर
काश हँस देती इन दिनों!

यूँ तो जिंदगी है काफी लंबी
और हसरतों की उम्र उससे भी लंबी!
जिंदा रहने की हसरत बनी रहे
इतना भी काफी है इन दिनों!!

—डॉ. जितेन्द्र भगत
सहायक प्राध्यापक, हिन्दी विभाग

एक चिट्ठी बापू के नाम...

बापू!

तुमसे मेरी पहली मुलाकात मनोहर पोथी के पहले पन्ने पर हुई थी। पापा की कहानियों से जब तुमसे थोड़ी जान-पहचान हुई तो पता चला कि तुम तो राष्ट्रपिता हो, तब कलाम राष्ट्रपति थे। मैं इन सवालों के अक्सर जवाब ढूँढने की कोशिश करता कि राष्ट्रमाता कौन हैं? राष्ट्रपत्नी कौन? मैं उस पीढ़ी में बड़ा हुआ हूँ जिसने बचपन में तुम्हें पेंट के ऊपर ही धोती पहने देखा, 15 अगस्त को स्कूल में यही धोती पहनकर तुम नाटक खेल रहे थे। तुम गाँधी ही थे नाटक में और मंच पर भी। बाद में मैं यह जान पाया कि उस दिन तुम नाटक में थे सिर्फ। तुम्हें किसी आदमी ने गोली मार दी थी। मैं डरता हूँ उन लोगों से जो हथियार रखते हैं और गोलियाँ चलाते हैं।

9वीं और 10वीं तक आते आते तुम्हारी लड़ाई को कमतर बताने की कोशिश की जाती। तब अचानक से किताबों की दुनिया वास्तविक दुनिया से अलग हो जाती। तुम किताबों में अब भी नायक थे पर हमारे इर्द गिर्द 'गाँधी एक विलेन' तैयार किया जा रहा था। जिसको लोग गलत मानें, जिससे लोग डरें। उन दिनों एक गीत बजता था— 'दे दी हमें आजादी बिना खड्ग बिना ढाल..'. मैं समझ नहीं पाता की बिना लड़े तुम जीत कैसे गए? मैंने सुन रखा था कि जीतने के लिए लड़ना जरूरी है और लड़ाई को मैं व्यक्ति की सीधी प्रतिक्रिया समझता था। अचानक तुम मुझे जादूगर लगने लगे थे। मुझे यह बात समझ में नहीं आ रही थी कि क्या जादू था जो तुमने ऐसे ही लड़ लिया था बिना लड़े? धीरे-धीरे मैं समझ पाया कि लड़ाई वह भी जब अपने हक में हम आवाज उठाते हैं— 'बोल कि लब आजाद हैं तेरे...'.।

फिर तुमसे मुलाकात पटना से हावड़ा जाने वाली ट्रेन के जनरल डिब्बे में हुई। ट्रेन में ठसाठस भीड़ थी और मुझे सीट के नीचे एक कोने में सिकुड़ पाने की जगह भी मुश्किल से मिल पाई थी। मेरे हाथ में तुम्हारे 'सत्य के प्रयोग' थे जिन्हें मैंने खुद को सो पाने की किसी भी अवस्था से बचाए रखने के लिए खरीदा था। मैं तुम्हें पढ़ता गया। मुझे महसूस हुआ कि अगर मुझे ट्रेन से उस वक़्त उतार दिया जाता जैसे तुम्हें उतार दिया गया, तो बेशक ये घटना मुझे कमजोर या मजबूर महसूस न कराती बल्कि मुझे ताकत देती। मैंने पहली बार अपने भीतर उस जादुई शक्ति की अनुभूति की, जिसका प्रयोग करना दुनिया में सबसे सरल था। इतना सरल जितना उसे प्रयोग करने के बारे में सोचना भी नहीं था। मैं तुम्हारे तर्कों—कुतर्कों, खुद पे किए जाने वाले प्रयोगों, अवधारणाओं और प्रतिज्ञाओं से गुजरता रहा और साथ ही मिलता रहा मेरे भीतर कहीं मौजूद तुम से। वो सफ़र खत्म हो गया। आधी बची किताब मैंने वापसी में पढ़ी। पर जैसे तुम मेरे भीतर कहीं गहरे उग आए। जैसे बहने लगी हो कोई नदी किसी सूखे मैदान में। मुझे दुनिया प्यारी लगने लगी और दिखने लगा हर आदमी में छिपा हुआ मैं। तुमने नफरत करने की सारी वजहें मुझसे बेरहमी से छीन लीं और जो बच गया वो बस प्यार है। मैंने देखा कि मेरे आसपास लोग तमाम तकलीफों—खतरों के बीच जिंदा रहने की वजहें ढूँढ रहे हैं। यह जीवन से प्यार है कि उम्मीदें जिंदा हैं और बची है सपने देखने की जगह।

तुमने जितनी सरलता से अपने दुश्मनों से भी प्रेम किया, मुझे यकीन है कि वे भीतर दस्तक देते गाँधी से लड़ते लड़ते हार गए होंगे। मैंने देखा कि तुमने जो लड़ाई जीती थी, वह जादू था। हाँ, सच में जादू और यह जादू अब भी मेरे और दुनिया के तमाम लोगों के भीतर उम्मीद की तरह है। लड़ने का अचूक तरीका, जिसमें हार नाम की कोई चीज ही नहीं थी। यह कितनी भी बड़ी, किसी भी लड़ाई को जीतने का सबसे आसान तरीका था जिसमें सच की रणनीति थी। तुमने मुझे प्रेम करना सिखाया है और यह दिखाया है कि बस प्रेम करते जाना इतना जादुई हो सकता है। मुझे यकीन है कि तुम्हारे लहू का एक भी कतरा जिसने बहाया होगा, तुम्हारा लहू उसके दिल में उतर आया होगा। ये जो नफरत फैलाने वाले तमाम लोग हैं, बहुत डरते हैं तुमसे। तुम्हारे नाम से, तुम्हारे होने की कल्पना मात्र से।

बापू! तुम्हारी मृत्यु नहीं हुई है। तुम्हें कोई मार ही नहीं सकता। प्रेम को नहीं मारा जा सकता। तुम प्रेम बनकर मेरी रगों में बह रहे हो। मैं जीता रहूँगा और प्रेम करता रहूँगा..

— मधुराज कुमार,
द्वितीय वर्ष, बी.ए. (ऑनर्स) पत्रकारिता

डायरी के पन्ने से

जैसे-जैसे हम उम्र के हिसाब से बढ़ते जाते हैं, वैसे ही पकने लगते हैं हमारे बाल। आँखों के अंदर कैद हो चुके होते हैं— अनगिनत पतझड़ और सावन, परेशानी के लकीरें और तनी और गहरी होती-सी नजर आती हैं, और बचपन कहीं घुप अँधेरे में घुटने समेटे देख रहा होता है हमको बड़े होते। बड़ा होना होता है, जिम्मेदारियों का आना और हम इन्हीं जिम्मेदारियों के बोझ तले दबते चले जाते हैं। यह जानते हुए कि यही जिम्मेदारियाँ आखिरकार हमारे भविष्य की नींव हैं। हम कितने सफल हैं अपने भविष्य में ये तय होता है कि हम कितने कारगर हैं इन जिम्मेदारियों का निर्वहन करने में। ये वक्त का तकाजा नहीं तो और क्या है? 'जो बीत गए हैं वो जमाने नहीं आते' 'आते हैं नए लोग पुराने नहीं आते'।

एक सुकून भरी जिंदगी किस तरह हाथों से फिसलती नजर आती है और हम किस प्रकार गंभीरता के आवरण में भूल जाते हैं अपने भीतर के उस बच्चे को, जो गिरने के बाद छिले घुटनों पर भी मुस्कुराता था। मुसलसल यही गंभीरता हमें ढकेल देती है मनोविज्ञान के उस अनन्त अँधेरी गुफा में जहाँ अकेलापन ही जीवन का अंतिम सत्य है और यही अकेलापन हमारे लिए सबसे अधिक कष्ट साध्य होता है। जहाँ हमारा वर्तमान लड़ रहा होता है हमारे अतीत से और भविष्य किसी धुएं के नाम दर्ज हो रहा होता है।

जिन्दगी संबंधों का दूसरा नाम है, इन्हीं संबंधों की दीवार पर टँगा होता है हमारी जिंदगी का तराजू जिसपर गड़ी कील ये निर्धारित करती है कि संबंधों का संतुलन कैसा है, इसके सीमेंट का जुड़ाव हमारे रिश्तों का जोड़ है जिसकी एक-एक ईंट के एक-एक व्यक्ति की वकालत करती है। जिम्मेदारियों का आना एक प्रकार का दबाव है उस दीवार पर जिससे ईंटों का चटकना और सीमेंट का झड़ना लाजमी है। चटकना इस बात का प्रमाण है कि हमने जिम्मेदारियों को किस रूप से लिया है सकारात्मक या नकारात्मक।

हम सब अपने जीवनकाल में कभी न कभी ऐसे पलों से जरूर गुजरें हैं, या गुजरेंगे —ऐसे नाजुक हालातों में हमें खुद को प्रमाणित करना होगा, कुछ इस तरह कि मेरे और उसके बीच समाज न आये तथा मेरे और समाज के बीच वो न आए। यकीनन ये वही कर सकता है जिसके दिल में अभी वो बच्चा जिंदा है। जिंदा है वो जुझारूपन, जो गिरने के बाद भी मुस्कुराता हुआ दौड़ जाया करता था अपने लक्ष्य की ओर.....

— हिमांशु यादव
हिंदी प्रतिष्ठा-तृतीय वर्ष

वर्तमान परिप्रेक्ष्य में सांस्कृतिक राष्ट्रवाद

भारत की संस्कृति बहुलतावादी, पंथनिरपेक्ष, लोकतान्त्रिक एवं विश्वबंधुत्व का भाव लेकर परंपरागत रीति-रिवाजों से सतत प्रवाहित होती रही है और अनन्त काल से ही इस भारतीय दर्शन में विचार-विमर्श एवं चिंतन के आधार पर स्वयं का मूल्यांकन करने का भी स्थान रहा है। इन्हीं विशेष आधारभूत स्तंभों पर सम्पूर्ण भारतीय चिंतन अनादि काल से टिका हुआ है। भारतीय संस्कृति सामान्य मर्यादा और शुचिता का महत्व स्पष्ट करते हुए समाज के सामान्य मानव को खुशहाल, समृद्ध, एवं शांतिप्रिय राष्ट्र की नींव रखने के लिए प्रेरित करती है। समय-समय पर भारतीयता पर होने वाले तमाम प्रहारों से यह बात निखरकर विश्व के मानस पटल स्थापित हुई है कि भारत की आधारशिला दूसरी किसी भी पद्धति या सिद्धांत पर निर्भर न होकर अपने सांस्कृतिक स्तम्भ पर निर्भर करती है और एक भारतीय नागरिक के लिए उसके देश का नियामक तत्व उसके देश की संस्कृति है। इसलिए हम सब के लिए आत्मवलोकन आवश्यक हो चुका है कि क्या हम आज भी उसी विचार विमर्श एवं चिंतन को लेकर चल पा रहे हैं ? क्या समाज उस सिद्धांत को समझ पा रहा है जो एकात्म मानवतावाद से हमें परिचित करवाता है कि एक देश का संपूर्ण विकास तब तक नहीं हो सकता है जब तक पंक्ति में खड़े अंतिम व्यक्ति का सर्वांगीण विकास न हो जाए। हमारे भीतर कहीं सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्कृति की जागीर होने का उन्माद तो नहीं बैठ गया, कहीं हम इतने संकुचित तो नहीं हो गए कि हमारी संस्कृति, संविधान कुछ छिटपुट नारेबाजों से खतरा महसूस करने लगे ?

आज के कालखण्ड में ये प्रश्न उठने आवश्यक हैं। शायद इसलिए ताकि हम उस प्रवाह को समझ सकें जो हमें विचार-विमर्श करने एवं आत्मवलोकन के लिए प्रेरित करे। ये प्रश्न इसलिए भी उठने आवश्यक हैं ताकि हम तमाम सुख-सुविधाओं से परिपूर्ण जीवन व्यतीत करते हुए यह न भूलें कि हमारी ही भारत माता की गोद में पला बढ़ा एक सामान्य मनुष्य भूखे पेट फुटपाथ पर रात गुजारने के लिए मजबूर है। उसके प्रति हमारे जो कर्तव्य हैं, हम अपने स्तर पर उसका निर्वाह किस हद तक कर पा रहे हैं। हमारा ध्यान इस ओर जाए कि हमारे देश के किसान कर्ज के बोझ से दब कर आत्महत्या करने पर मजबूर हैं और उनके परिजन उनके कंकाल लेकर सड़क पर न्याय की गुहार लगाते हुए मृत्यु की राह देख रहे हैं। पूरे देश में मानवीय संवेदनाओं के इस गिरते हुए माहौल में हम समाज के प्रत्येक तबके के प्रति अपनी जिम्मेदारी एवं जवाबदेही समझें तथा उसका निर्वाह करें, शायद तब हमारी संस्कृति एवं समाज के आधारभूत ढांचे की पुनर्स्थापना हो सके जिसमें सदैव ही कर्तव्यपरायणता का स्थान सुरक्षित रहा। नए विचारों का उसी प्रकार सम्मान किया जाए जिस प्रकार भारतीय वांग्मय में प्रचलित तमाम परंपरागत विचारों को स्थान मिला।

हम एक बार पुनः एक ऐसा भारत बना सकें, जिसके मूल में सांस्कृतिक एकता हो किसी प्रकार का विभेद न हो, मेरा-तेरा स्थान पर हमारा शब्द प्रभावी हो और धीरे-धीरे भारत में व्याप्त विभाजक तत्व भारतीय संस्कृति की सर्वव्यापक पद्धति से अलग हो सकें.....

— अमृताश त्रिपाठी
हिंदी(प्रतिष्ठा)—तृतीय वर्ष



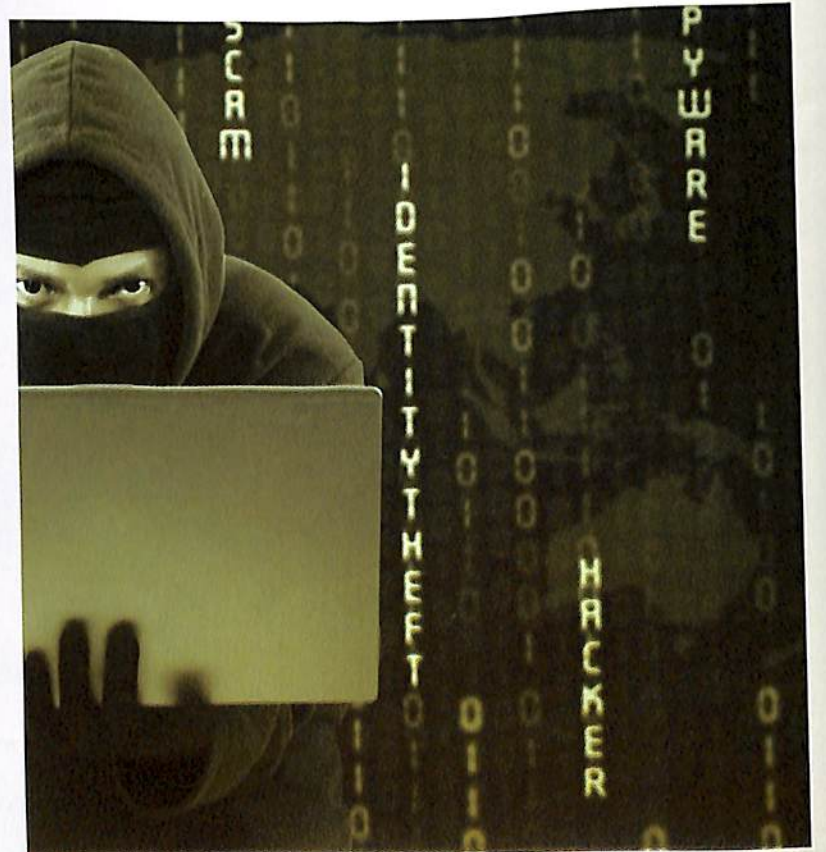
साइबर क्राइम और जागरूकता का अभाव

देश में इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करने वाले 40 करोड़ लोगों में बच्चों की संख्या करीब 2 करोड़ 80 हजार है। यह आँकड़ा इंटरनेट और मोबाइल एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया के एक सर्वे पर आधारित है। जबकि एसोचैम का सर्वे बताता है कि पहली और दूसरी श्रेणी के शहरों में 7 से 13 आयु वर्ग के 76 फीसदी बच्चे रोजाना यू ट्यूब देखते हैं। 13 साल से कम उम्र के 65 फीसदी बच्चे सोशल मीडिया का इस्तेमाल करते हैं।

सोशल मीडिया का इस्तेमाल और प्रयोग बढ़ने के बाद साइबर अपराध के मामले भी सामने आए हैं। वर्ष 2004 में दिल्ली के एक जाने-माने स्कूल का एम.एम.एस. कांड जब सामने आया तब बाल साइबर अपराध पर खुली बहस का माहौल बना था, पर 12 साल बाद आज भी 'नेशनल क्राइम रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो' बच्चों के खिलाफ होने वाले साइबर अपराधों को अलग से दर्ज नहीं करता। पुलिस अधिकारियों को साइबर अपराध की सही समझ ना होने के कारण अक्सर पीड़ित बच्चों को बिना रिपोर्ट दर्ज किए थाने से लौटा दिया जाता है। ऐसे मामलों में अपराधियों को सजा मिलने की दर बहुत कम है। देश में ऑनलाइन चाइल्ड सेक्सुअल एब्यूज मटेरिअल को तुरंत रिपोर्ट करने एवं हटाने के लिए हॉटलाइन भी नहीं है। बहुत कम लोगों के पास इसे रिपोर्ट करने का ज्ञान है जबकि ऐसी सामग्री वाले वेब पेजों की संख्या 2012 से 2014 की अवधि में 147 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई है।

यूनिसेफ द्वारा हाल ही में जारी की गई रिपोर्ट देश में मौजूद खतरों के प्रति आगाह करती है। तकनीक के बदलते रूप के कारण बच्चों के खिलाफ होने वाले साइबर अपराधों के तरीके भी बदल रहे हैं। इनमें साइबर बुलिंग, ऑनलाइन दुर्व्यवहार, ऑनलाइन यौनशोषण आदि मुख्य हैं। देश में पीड़ित बच्चों के लिए जो थोड़ी-बहुत सुविधाएँ हैं, वो महानगरों तक ही सीमित हैं। मई में नई दिल्ली में सार्क देशों के मंत्रियों की बैठक में बाल यौन दुर्व्यवहार/हिंसा को खत्म करने की बात की गई थी। स्मार्टफोन से इंटरनेट इस्तेमाल करने वाले बच्चों की संख्या बढ़ रही है और इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी बच्चों को शैक्षणिक विकास के पर्याप्त मौके देती है। लिहाजा बच्चों को स्मार्टफोन/इंटरनेट से दूर रखने या उनके हाथों से स्मार्टफोन छीन लेने में कोई समझदारी नहीं है। बल्कि इस मुद्दे को आम जन के विमर्श का हिस्सा बनाकर बच्चों, अभिभावकों, शैक्षणिक संस्थानों और समाज के बीच जागरूकता फैलाना जरूरी है।

— सुप्रिया कर्माकर
बी.ए. हिंदी (प्रतिष्ठा), द्वितीय वर्ष



हम चुप हैं चुप्पी हमारी सच्चाई है...

क्या करें, चुप रहने में ही भलाई है
इसी कारण आजकल आईने से रुसवाई है
हम चुप हैं ...

दो चार गिरोहों में बटे ये नारेबाज!
किसका नारा हम लगायें ?
बिन नारे लगाये कैसे जागरूक विद्यार्थी कहलायें ?
दरअसल ये नारे ही हमारे विचारों के कसाई हैं
हम चुप हैं..

वो !!, थे लगाते नारे चीख-चीखकर, दौड़-दौड़कर,
कभी जल्दी-जल्दी तो कभी रुक-रुककर,
कुछ अटक गया इस बार गले में उनके भी
फिर क्या, बैठ साथ हमारे चुप्पी ही दर्ज करवाई है
हम चुप हैं...

वो !!, थी हममें से ही एक, चीख पड़ी लेकिन इस बार
सुन लिया गिरोहों ने, सजवा दी अपनी अपनी दुकान
जो हँसे-तालियां बजाई एक के हुए,
जो चिढ़े- चीखे चिल्लाये दूसरे के हुए,
इस तरह मिल गये गिरोहों को उनके नए नारेबाज
एक चीख की हर नाजायज कीमत उसने चुकाई है
हम चुप हैं

चुप्पी हमारी सचाई है..
वो भी अब चुप है..
सब चुप है..
चुप्पी हमारी सच्चाई है।

तंजीया नज्म

फूल तेरे फूलों में रंग तेरा
और वो कहता है कि ये वतन तेरा ।

वतन के वास्ते चमन वीरान हो
ऐसा ना था सनम मेरा ।

बच्चों के आरिज पे वतन की लाली
धूप से ना मिलना चाहता सवेरा ।

वो कहते हैं काफिर गैर मुल्क सारे
लाशें जला मिटायेंगे अंधेरा ।

तूने बनार्यी दुनिया दुनिया ने बनाया
मिट्टी के घरोंदे के लिए उसी का बसेरा ।

अभिनव आनंद
इंग्लिश आनर्स, द्वितीय वर्ष

— आयुष मंगल
द्वितीय वर्ष, बीकॉम (ऑ.)

बेबाक सपनें

अपने सपनों की उधेड़ बुन में खोया था कभी खुद से बात कर रहा था तो कभी सपनों में ही पैर चला रहा था, मानों मैं जंग में था। दे चौका! कभी छक्का.. बस ऐसे ही लड़ता जा रहा था। हर दिन उसी अज्ञात स्वप्न से लड़ता-लड़ता मैं भी तो थक चुका था। मैं एक अबोध बालक था... हाँ अबोध और न जाने किसने नहीं-सी जान के कोमल हाथ में एक बन्दूक थमा दिया हो और मैं उसे लेकर धड़-धड़ करते हुए लड़ता जा रहा हूँ.. जैसे मैं उसे बहुत अच्छे से चलाना जानता हूँ। मैं छः-सात साल का तो था उस वक्त, और इतने लोगों से लड़ना, उफ्फ..! यह मजाक तो नहीं था। उसी बीच एकबारगी मेरी तरफ आती हुए धड़-धड़ की आवाज और मेरा डरते हुए बाउंड्री पार पहुँच जाना... ये मजाक नहीं था। ये संघर्षों से भरी मेरे जीवन की पोटली थी जिसे काँपते हाथों से मैं पकड़े हुआ था ! आप ही बताओ एक बच्चे के हाथ में शस्त्र होना मजाक तो नहीं है ना...! पसीने बहने लगे थे जैसे मैं सुन्न पड़ने वाला हूँ। नहीं-नहीं ये क्या हो रहा था मुझे! मेरी एनर्जी खत्म हो रही है... ओह शिट! आज मैंने खाना भी तो नहीं खाया था! अन्दर का डर अचानक जागने लगा। मेरे हाथ-पैर इधर-उधर छटपटाते हुए मेरे सिर से पसीने की नदी तेज बहने लगी। अचानक ऑडियंस से कोई मेरे सिर से पसीने को हटाते हुए और मेरा जकड़ कर पकड़े, इस लड़ाई के दूसरे अध्याय में मेरा साथ देते हुए, अई दे चौका- छक्का लगाते हुए। 'आजा-आजा, कबड्डी-कबड्डी' करते हुए सबको पछाड़ता जा

रहा था, एक-एक करके सब खत्म हो गए। अपनी जीत की खुशी मनाने लगा और खूब हाथ-पैर मारने लगा। इतनी खुशी आज तक नहीं हुई थी, क्योंकि आज मैंने उस बेबाक सपने में अपनी जीत हासिल कर ली थी। पर वहाँ कोई नहीं था, जो मेरे इस जीत का हिस्सा था, मन में बहुत सारे सवालों को किताब बना कर दूँढने लगा मैं सबको, अचानक मेरे जीतते ही कहां चले गए सब और जो मेरा हाथ पकड़ी हुई थी, वो कहां गई? अभी तक तो साथ थी फिर अचानक सबके सब कहाँ चले गए, और इसी बीच मैं बहुत कमजोर होता जा रहा था। मेरा जो आत्मविश्वास था, वो भी कमजोर होता जा रहा था शायद मैंने जीत तो हासिल कर ली थी पर वो खुद के सपनों से, सबसे नहीं! आंखों से गंगा यमुना कि धारा बहते हुए ये अचानक मेरा सर दर्द

करने लगा और उसी वक्त फिर से वह प्रवेश हुई और मेरे सर पर फिर से पट्टी लगा कर बदलने लगी। और मैं यँ ही बड़बडाता चला गया। बड़-बड़ाते हुए नींद में ओझल माँ से थोड़ी बातें करता- 'मुझे कभी छोड़कर नहीं जाओगी ना! वादा करो मुझसे। वादा करो माँ ! माँ वादा करो ना!' वो बोल तो रही थी पर मुझ तक आवाज नहीं पहुँच रही थी, वो मेरी विडम्बना थी। और अचानक मुझे इसी उधेड़ बुन में नींद कब आ गई, पता ही नहीं चला।

सुबह हो



फिर हम दोनों पहाड़ पर चढ़ गए जो हमारे घर के बिल्कुल ठीक पास था। उसकी खासियत ये है कि एक तरफ मन्दिर तो दुजा मस्जिद। मैं उन दोनों जगह पे गया, और दोनों जगह पे नतमस्तक होकर हाथ जोड़ा।

गई थी, मेरी नींद भी बिल्कुल खुल चुकी थी। पापा हर दिन की तरह पूजा कर रहे थे और माँ अपनी दिनचर्या, साफ-सफाई कर रही थी। तभी दो तरह की आवाज आ रही थी मेरे कानों में।

एक तरफ से आवाज आ रही थी गाने की, जो मन्दिर की थी। मंगल का दिन! हनुमान जी की अराधना— जय जय हनुमान गोसाई, जो जन तुम्हरी शरण में आए दुख दर्द हर लिन्हा। तो दूसरी तरफ की आवाज मस्जिद से आ रही थी। उनकी नमाज — अल्लाह हो अकबर अल्लाह! ऐसा ही कुछ। क्योंकि मन्दिर और मस्जिद दोनों के बीच के फासले पर मेरा घर था। हाँ! मेरा प्यारा घर, जो एक खुशहाल परिवार की तरह हर दिन की एक ही दिनचर्या से लिप्त था, जैसे हर लोगो को काम बंधा था। पापा जी ने मुझे प्यार से पुचकारते हुए कहा— कैसा है मेरा बेटा ? ओह मुझे तो रात को 102° बुखार था, मैंने तो कुछ खाना भी नहीं खाया था! माँ बोली— डॉक्टर के पास आज दिखाना है। पापा ने बोला— ठीक है।

उसी वक्त माँ मुझे तैयार करने लगी, नहीं माँ नहीं! थोड़ी देर बाद। माँ नहीं नहीं! मत जा! मैं पहाड़ पर जा रही हूँ! अगर लड्डू खाना है तो चलो। लड्डू 1 के 4 मिलते थे, उसकी मिठास जिसे खाते-खाते मेरी एक दाँत सड़ गए, परन्तु मैंने खाना नहीं छोड़ा और पहाड़ पर तो पण्डित जी मुझे बड़ा वाला लड्डू देते थे। मैं तुरन्त मम्मा के पीछे भागा। अब माँ पहले हर दिन कि तरह मन्दिर लेकर गई और मन्दिर के अन्दर जाकर अपना सर झुकाकर आशीर्वाद मांगा, पता नहीं क्या पर मम्मा ने मेरे लिए।

फिर हम दोनों पहाड़ पर चढ़ गए जो हमारे घर के बिल्कुल ठीक पास था। उसकी खासियत ये है कि एक तरफ मन्दिर तो दुजा मस्जिद। मैं उन दोनों जगह पे गया, और दोनों जगह पे नतमस्तक होकर हाथ जोड़ा। पापा मेरे प्रधानाध्यापक थे, जिन्होंने बचपन से सिखाया था। हिन्दू, मुस्लिम, सिख, ईसाई, आपस में सब भाई-भाई। ये लाइन जितनी छोटी थी उसके ठीक विपरीत बहुत ही मजबूत। पर वो पर्वत इन्हीं 4 शब्दों को मजबूती की जकड़ में बांधे रखा था और उसके अस्तित्व को कभी मिटने नहीं दिया। इसी जिंदगी की दौड़ में हम सब धीरे-धीरे हर दिन बड़े होते चले गए और जैसे-जैसे बड़े होते गए, जिंदगी की रेस में हम सब आगे बढ़ गए, पर बहुत कुछ पीछे भी छूट गया— वो था हम दोनों को एक करने वाला हमारा आदर्श, प्रेम और एकता। मंदिर-मस्जिद दोनों आज भी उसी जगह पे थे। बदल गए थे तो बस हम, हाँ हमसब, अब जो मंदिर के दरवाजों पर जो नतमस्तक होते थे वो मस्जिद पे नहीं और जो मस्जिद पे वो मंदिर पे नहीं। धुन भी वही थी, लफज भी वही, बस वो टेपरिकॉर्डर पर धूल जमने लगा था, जो मंदिर-मस्जिद दोनों जगह था, क्योंकि टेपरिकॉर्डर खराब हो गया था। ये झूट था, सच तो ये था कि लोगो को तकलीफ थी एक दूसरे की आवाज से नफरत की भावना पनप गयी थी। हाँ नफरत की! लोग तो बड़े हो गए थे शारीरिक रूप से पर मानसिक रूप से कमजोर थे। मेरी कानो में आज भी वो धुन गूँजती है जो मुझे मेरे पापा ने सिखाया था :-

मजहब नहीं सिखाता, आपस में बैर रखना।
हिन्दी हैं हम वतन हैं, हिन्दोस्ताँ हमारा।
सारे जहाँ से अच्छा हिंदुस्तान हमारा ॥

आनंद राज
बी.ए. प्रोग्राम—द्वितीय वर्ष

धर्म की पाबंदियों से डरती हूँ

हर वक्त थम-सा जाता उनकी यादों में,
बस दर्द ही बस जाता है ख्वाबों में !
न किसी का डर और न ही कोई बंदिशें,
बस तुम ही चले आते हो इस दिल में !
हर पल जी करता है की छू लू तेरी रूह को,
पर धर्म की पाबंदियों से डरती हूँ !

जी करता है तोड़ दूँ धर्म की इन पाबंदियों को,
और मोड़ लूँ अपनी जिन्दगी को, तेरी गलियों की ओर !
तुझे बांहों में भरकर उड़ जाना चाहती हूँ,
एक बंद परिंदे की तरह,
और बिखर जाना चाहती हूँ, इन खुले आसमानों में!
पर धर्म की पाबंदियों से डरती हूँ !

हर पल तेरी यादों को संजो कर बैठी हूँ
हर वो लम्हे जो तुम्हारे साथ गुजारे,
वो रूह में बसाये बैठी हूँ !
जी चाहता है बता दूँ अपने को,
पर न जाने दिल ही क्यों रोकता है !
सारी खुशियाँ रूठ चुकी हैं तेरी यादों में,
फिर भी न जाने दिल क्यों तेरी ओर आने को बेकाबू है !
जी चाहता है तोड़ दूँ धर्म के इस मोह माया को,
पर धर्म की पाबंदियों से डरती हूँ !

शत्रुघ्न प्रजापति
प्रथम वर्ष

बहुत रोती हूँ

तन्हा भटककर राह से, जो न मिला चाह से
घबराकर जब डरी-डरी सहमी-सहमी-सी होती हूँ
तेरी प्यार भरी नजर दिल में सजाकर बहुत रोती हूँ

छोटी-सी दुनिया में तूफान आने से
अपनों से बिछड़ कर दूर जाने से
जब पैदा हो जाता है खालीपन बहुत कुछ खोती हूँ
तेरे मीठे नगमों को होठों से लगाकर बहुत रोती हूँ

मुश्किल के इस रूखे क्षणों में
सपनों के मलबे के कणों में
दबी हुई जब भी कुछ गमगीन-सी होती हूँ
तेरी खूबसूरत यादों को गले लगाकर बहुत रोती हूँ

बी.ए. हिंदी (प्रतिष्ठा)
(तृतीय वर्ष) राखी

सुन्दरता

जब-जब तू मेरे सामने आती है,
मुझे ऐसा लगता है
मेरे चारो ओर प्रातः काल के
कमल ने अपनी सौन्दर्यता
और सुन्दरता बिखेर दी है,

तेरी सुन्दरता देखकर वातावरण
भी मोहित हो गया है।
और चारो तरफ वातावरण
में सुन्दरता निखर गयी है।

तेरी सुन्दरता को देखकर पक्षियों ने
चहचहाना और भवरों ने फूल
पर जाना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है
और तेरी सुन्दरता के बारे में,
एक-दूसरे से वार्तालाप कर रहे हैं।

पेड़-पौधों ने
नाचना प्रारम्भ कर दिया
और अपने साथ
एक-दूसरे को भी नचा रहे हैं।

तेरी सुन्दरता के बारे में,
बच्चे, स्त्री, पुरुष भी
एक-दूसरे को बता रहे हैं

और तेरी सुन्दरता से
मोहित हो रहे हैं।

डॉ. मोना कंसल
सह-प्राध्यापक, वाणिज्य
विभाग

माँ

मेरे माथे पे अपने होठों से इक तारा बना दे माँ,
मुझे बाहों मे ले ले और सबसे प्यारा बना दे माँ,
मैं तेरा गुड्डू था, तेरा गुड्डू हूँ, और गुड्डू ही रहूँगा,
मेरी उंगली थाम मेरी राह में उजियारा बना दे माँ,
बड़ा होकर बूढ़ा हो गया फिर भी छोटा बच्चा हूँ,
मेरे सिर के लिए तेरी गोद का सहारा बना दे माँ,
मैं बनना चाहता हूँ तेरी कल्पना की सलोनी मूरत,
अपने पैरों से कुचलकर मुझे महीन गारा बना दे माँ,
मैं तेरा राजा बेटा, तेरा मैं राजा बेटा, मैं तेरा राजा बेटा।

अरुण मौर्य
बी.ए.(प्रोग्राम) तृतीय वर्ष

अपनी तो रोज दिवाली है

यह हृदय मेरा दीपक है
जो पल-प्रतिपल जलता है
और आँखों से अश्रु तेल
हर पल ही अब ढलता है
अब हृदय दीप के उजाले में
रहने की अदा निराली है
अपनी तो रोज दिवाली है ।

सब लोग खोलते दरवाजे
कि महालक्ष्मी तुम आ जाओ
मैं नयन द्वार ले फिरता हूँ
कि कभी तो दरस दिखा जाओ
अमावस्या है विश्व के लिए
दिन धुंधला है रात काली है
अपनी तो रोज दिवाली है ।

प्रतीक्षा लड्डू है जैसे
और प्रसाद प्रवंचना है
तुम इष्टदेव बन बैठी हो
मुझे नाम-मन्त्र अब जपना है
यह लो पूजा संपन्न हुई
प्रसाद भरी जीवन थाली है
अपनी तो रोज दिवाली है ।

बेबस निःशब्द पटाखों-सी
मेरी अभिलाषा जलती है
यह बाल-जगत है खुश होता
विषवायु-सी श्वास निकलती है
और अंत में यह कविता
क्षण भर की सुन्दर लाली है
अपनी तो रोज दिवाली है ।

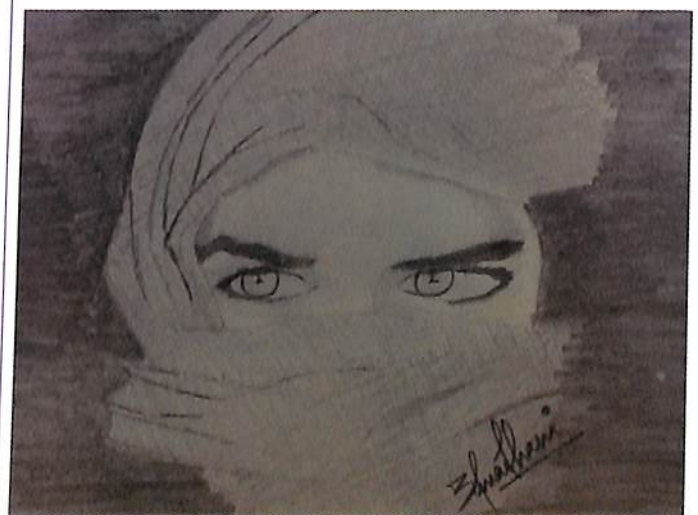
— अश्वनी कुमार
बी.एस.सी (ऑनर्स)
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक, तृतीय वर्ष

शून्य के तटस्थ

होठों को सिलती ये तारें
अस्पृश्य, अदृश्य, मानो हों ही न;
लेकिन हैं (ज्यों हवा)
मजबूत, लोहे-सी (या मकड़ जाल);
अनुभवों के कारखाने में बनी
अतीत की गहराइयों में गढ़ी

सुइयों से निकलकर घड़ी की
आ घुसी मुँह में
और भावनाओं का समुद्र—
उमड़ता, उफनता, वेगमय
केवल झाग बन बाहर आता है—
सीमित, साधारण, क्षणभंगुर

दीपक कुमार सिंह
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पाक को दो टूक

ऐ कायर पाकिस्तान, तू हमसे छिपकर मत टकराया कर
है चंद हौसला तुझमें गर, तो खुलकर युद्धभूमि में आया कर
तेरी कायरता का मुँहतोड़ जवाब, इस देश के वीर जवां देंगे
घुट-घुट कर तू मर जाएगा, हम ऐसी तुझे सजा देंगे ।

कमी नहीं है भारत पर, आजाद भगत-से वीरों की
अब भी दम रखते हैं इतना, मिट्टी में तुझे मिला देंगे ।
आतंकवाद की बैसाखी पर, तू हरदम चलकर आया
नापाक इरादे बहुत हुए, तेरी बाजू हम कटवा देंगे ।

बलिदान ये वीर जवानों का बर्बाद नहीं यूँ जाएगा
अब खून का बदला खून से है, ऐसा सबक सिखाएंगे ।
मत भूल...कायर सन् 65 और 71 में तुझे घर में घुसकर मारा था
वक्त आ गया है अब फिर, तुझे घर में घुसकर मारेंगे ।

जिस थाली में खाया था, उस थाली में छेद ना कर
तुझे बार-बार समझाएंगे
अब शपथ ले रही मेरी कलम, लाहौर तिरंगा लाएंगे ।

तू दूध मांगने आएगा, तुझे खीर साथ में हम देंगे,
पर बात न कर कश्मीर की तू तेरे सीने को भी चीर देंगे ।
तू गीदड़ था, तू गीदड़ है और गीदड़ ही रह जाएगा
मत भटक शेर के इर्द-गिर्द, तू दहाड़ से मर जाएगा ।

— सौरभ यादव
बी.ए. हिन्दी (प्रतिष्ठा), द्वितीय वर्ष

गुलमर्ग की एक शाम

गुलमर्ग की एक शाम, समय 6 बजे, न अंधेरा, न उजाला ! टहलने के लिए निकला हूँ। बर्फ के फोहे अचानक हवा में लहराते नजर आने लगे हैं, जैसे शाम एक संगीत हो और वे उसकी धुन पर पेड़ों के बीच थिरक रहे हों! थिरकने के बाद कुछ फोहे मेरे जैकेट पर सज रहे हैं, कुछ पेड़ों पर और कुछ तो कहीं थमने का नाम ही नहीं ले रहे। न ये हिमपात है न बारिश, न धूल! ये इस फिजा की मौज है जो बस थोड़ी देर के लिए झलक दिखलाती है और हवा के साथ ही यकायक गुम हो जाती है।

गुलमर्ग के बीचोंबीच एक मैदान है। वहाँ अवस्थित शिवालय तक जाने का इरादा है। पाँव जमीन पर टिक नहीं रहे, वजह है बर्फ, जिसपर चलने का अनुभव ना के बराबर! एकाध बार फिसला भी, पर क्या फर्क पड़ता है! कौन यहाँ रोज फिसलने आता है! सुबह की ही तो बात है— दिल्ली से श्रीनगर के लिए सुबह 7:40 की गो एयर की फ्लाइट! जनवरी के इन दिनों में दिल्ली कोहरे की चादर से ढका होता है और कश्मीर की वादियों में हिमपात अपनी चरम पे होता है। कई उड़ानें रद्द हो जाती हैं मगर सौभाग्य से उस दिन न कोहरा था, न लगातार होने वाली बर्फबारी। टी-1डी से उड़ान के ठीक डेढ़ घंटे बाद मैं श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट के टैक्सी स्टैंड से बहमाल जाने के लिए टैक्सी ले रहा था।

हम जिस जगह की इतनी तारीफ करते हैं, वहाँ रहने वाले लोगों के लिए जीवन उतना आसान नहीं होता, खास तौर पर जब बर्फीली आँधी आती है, हिमपात

होता है या बारिश होती है तो

विजली पानी और खाने-पीने के सामान के आवाजाही में काफी तकलीफ होती है।

आम तौर पर हर हिल स्टेशन के पहले एक हॉल्ट/स्टैंड होता है। मसूरी से पहले जैसे देहरादून, मैकलॉडगंज से पहले धर्मशाला, शिमला से पहले कालका, डलहौजी से पहले पठानकोट। ठीक उसी तरह गुलमर्ग से 15 किमी पहले है तनमर्ग, जहाँ उतरने के बाद चोगा (फेरन)पहने हुए कश्मीरी गाइड मीठी बोली में आपको उसी ढंग से ठगने की कोशिश करेंगे जैसे मैदानी इलाकों के व्यस्त बस डिपो पर लंबी दूरी तक जानेवाले बसों के कंडक्टर।

करीब 10 बजे तक मैं तनमर्ग पहुँच गया था। वहाँ से आगे तक की सड़कें बर्फ से ढँकी हुई थी। सूमो के तिरछे (diagonally) दो टायरों में चैन (जंजीर) बंधी हुई थी ताकि गाड़ी बर्फ से फिसले नहीं। ऊपर से आने वाली सेना की गाड़ियाँ में भी ऐसे ही चैन बंधे होते हैं। वहाँ के सभी पैड़ क्रिसमस ट्री की तरह लुभावने लग रहे थे। मैदानी इलाकों में रहने वाले लोगों को यहाँ का दृश्य ऐसा लगेगा जैसे किसी कैलेण्डर में वे स्वयं घुस आए हों। ये उपमा मेरे मन में तब तक बसा रहा जब तक मैं गुलमर्ग में रहा।

गुलमर्ग में यदि कम से कम दो रात बिताने का इरादा है तो आप गुलमर्ग-स्टैंड से बायीं तरफ जाएं और होटल की तलाश करें। इस तरफ होटल लेने के दो-तीन फायदे हैं। इसी तरफ गंडोला है जो आपको अफरावत पर्वत तक ले जाता है। इसी तरफ स्कींग की शॉप और ढलान है। इस तरफ चीड़ के पेड़ भी ज्यादा हैं जो पहाड़ की खूबसूरती को कई गुना बढ़ा देते हैं। स्टैंड से दाईं तरफ जाने पर हॉटल, ढाबा और दुकाने ज्यादा हैं मगर ये गंडोला से दूर हैं।

आखिर मैंने फ्लोरेस होटल का रूम नं 210 बुक करा लिया, जिसकी खासियत यह थी कि यह कमरा हॉटल के कोने में था जहाँ से दोनों तरफ बर्फ से ढके पेड़, होटल और पहाड़ साफ नजर आ रहे थे। चलन के मुताबिक उस कमरे में कुछ तस्वीरें लगी हुई थी। मैं यह सोचकर हैरान होता हूँ कि जिस कमरे की खिड़की के बाहर इतना खूबसूरत नजारा है वहीं कमरे में किसी एबसर्ड फोटो को लगाने की क्या आवश्यकता है।

हम जिस जगह की इतनी तारीफ करते हैं, वहाँ रहने वाले लोगों के लिए जीवन उतना आसान नहीं होता, खास तौर पर जब बर्फीली आँधी आती है, हिमपात होता है या बारिश होती है तो बिजली, पानी और खाने-पीने के सामान के आवाजाही में काफी तकलीफ होती है। पीने का पानी पाइप में ही बर्फ बनकर जम जाता है। उसे गैस से ठंडाकर बाथरूम तक पहुँचाया जाता है।

शिवालय तक जाने की सीढ़ियाँ नजर नहीं आ रही है, उनपर बर्फ जो जमी है। दोनों तरफ लोहे के पतले रेलिंग के सहारे ही ऊपर तक जाता हूँ। याद आता है राजेश खन्ना और मुमताज का गाना— जय जय शिवशंकर— काँटा लगे ना कँकड़.....पर वह शायद जून-जुलाई के महिने में फिल्माया गया था। अभी का तो नजारा कुछ और है। शिवालय में ताला लटका है। कोई भक्त इस सर्द शाम में आकर शिव को जगाना नहीं चाहता। मैं एक धागे की तलाश कर रहा हूँ। सीमेंट का एक कट्टा कोने में नजर आता है। मैं मंदिर के एक एकांत खंभे में कट्टे से एक सूतली तोड़कर बांध देता हूँ। क्यां करूँ आखिर बीवी की छोटी-सी फरमाइश तो पूरी करनी ही थी! कुफ्री (शिमला)में नाग देवता का मंदिर है, वही चलन मैंने यहाँ दोहराया है, इसबार अकेले! मैं अक्सर अकेला ही निकल आता हूँ घूमने! इसका एक फायदा ये है कि प्रकृति और उसके भव्य सौंदर्य को महसूस कर पाता हूँ, पर परिवार के बिना दो दिन से ज्यादा यहाँ रहना पड़ जाए तो अकेलापन सालने लगता है।

शिवालय से गंडोला तक स्ट्रीट लाइट की पीली रोशनी बर्फ पर जहाँ-जहाँ पड़ती है, वह सोने-सा दमकता नजर आता है। बर्फ जूते से चटककर इस तरह आवाज करते हैं जैसे खेतों में धान कटने के बाद उसपर चलते हुए आवाज आती है। गंडोला से ठीक पहले हिलटॉप हॉटल नजर आता है जो यहाँ के अच्छे होटलों में से एक है। आज रात मैं अपने हॉटल (फ्लोरेस) में ही डीनर कर रहा हूँ। डीनर करते हुए मैंने मैनेजर को कमरे का सेन्ट्रलाइज्ड हीटर ऑन करने के लिए कह दिया है। मेरी खुशनसीबी कि मैनेजर ने कमरे में एक ब्लोअर भी रखवा दिया है। अगले दिन गंडोला से अफरावत पर्वत की तरफ गया जिसका नजारा अपने आप में अद्भुत था। चीन की तरफ पर्वत श्रृंखला सचमुच एक दीवार की तरह पर्वत की तरफ गया जिसका नजारा अपने आप में अद्भुत था। चीन की तरफ पर्वत श्रृंखला सचमुच एक दीवार की तरह पर्वत की तरफ गया जिसका नजारा अपने आप में अद्भुत था। पर्वत के इर्द-गिर्द स्कीइंग करनेवाले आपके आगे से लगातार गुजरते रहते हैं। विदेशी सैलानियों का यह पसंदीदा और सस्ता स्कीइंग स्पॉट है। इसके अलावा स्नो बोर्ड, आइस हॉकी स्नो और स्नोबाइक भी आकर्षण का केंद्र हैं।

थोड़ा आगे चलने के बाद स्ट्रीट लाइट के खंभे खत्म हो जाते हैं। अंधेरे और सुनसान सड़क पर चलते हुए थोड़ी घबराहट होती है। हॉलीवुड की कुछ हॉरर फिल्में और बर्फीले भूत याद आ जाते हैं। आज सुबह यहीं पर चील जैसे गदराए कौओं की झुंड और कुछ भेड़ियों जैसे झबरीले कुत्तों की भीड़ को कूड़े की ट्रॉली को टटोलते-बिखेरते देखा था। झुंड में वे काफी खतरनाक लग रहे थे। अधखिले चाँद की रोशनी चीड़ों से छिटककर सड़क पर कहीं-कहीं बिखरी पड़ी है, उसी के सहारे मैं हॉटल तक पहुँच जाता हूँ। आधा-अधूरा चाँद बर्फ की चादर से लिपटने को बेताब है मगर चीड़ के पेड़ बीच में अड़ कर खड़े हैं.... चाँदनी बेवजह बीच में ही उलझकर रह जाती है.....

—डॉ. जितेन्द्र भगत
सहायक प्राध्यापक, हिन्दी विभाग

गुलमर्ग की एक शाम

गुलमर्ग की एक शाम, समय 6 बजे, न अंधेरा, न उजाला ! टहलने के लिए निकला हूँ। बर्फ के फोहे अचानक हवा में लहराते नजर आने लगे हैं, जैसे शाम एक संगीत हो और वे उसकी धुन पर पेड़ों के बीच थिरक रहे हों! थिरकने के बाद कुछ फोहे मेरे जैकेट पर सज रहे हैं, कुछ पेड़ों पर और कुछ तो कहीं थमने का नाम ही नहीं ले रहे। न ये हिमपात है न बारिश, न धूल! ये इस फिजा की मौज है जो बस थोड़ी देर के लिए झलक दिखलाती है और हवा के साथ ही यकायक गुम हो जाती है।

गुलमर्ग के बीचोंबीच एक मैदान है। वहाँ अवस्थित शिवालय तक जाने का इरादा है। पॉव जमीन पर टिक नहीं रहे, वजह है बर्फ, जिसपर चलने का अनुभव ना के बराबर! एकाध बार फिसला भी, पर क्या फर्क पड़ता है! कौन यहाँ रोज फिसलने आता है! सुबह की ही तो बात है— दिल्ली से श्रीनगर के लिए सुबह 7:40 की गो एयर की फ्लाइट! जनवरी के इन दिनों में दिल्ली कोहरे की चादर से ढका होता है और कश्मीर की वादियों में हिमपात अपनी चरम पे होता है। कई उड़ाने रद्द हो जाती हैं मगर सौभाग्य से उस दिन न कोहरा था, न लगातार होने वाली बर्फबारी। टी-1डी से उड़ान के ठीक डेढ़ घंटे बाद मैं श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट के टैक्सी स्टैंड से बट्टमाल जाने के लिए टैक्सी ले रहा था।

हम जिस जगह की इतनी तारीफ करते हैं, वहाँ रहने वाले लोगों के लिए जीवन उतना आसान नहीं होता, खास तौर पर जब बर्फीली आँधी आती है, हिमपात होता है या बारिश होती है तो बिजली, पानी और खाने-पीने के सामान के आवाजाही में काफी तकलीफ होती है।

आम तौर पर हर हिल स्टेशन के पहले एक हॉल्ट/स्टैंड होता है। मसूरी से पहले जैसे देहरादून, मैकलॉडगंज से पहले धर्मशाला, शिमला से पहले कालका, डलहौजी से पहले पठानकोट। ठीक उसी तरह गुलमर्ग से 15 किमी पहले है तनमर्ग, जहाँ उतरने के बाद चोगा (फेरन)पहने हुए कश्मीरी गाइड मीठी बोली में आपको उसी ढंग से ठगने की कोशिश करेंगे जैसे मैदानी इलाकों के व्यस्त बस डिपो पर लंबी दूरी तक जानेवाले बसों के कंडक्टर।

करीब 10 बजे तक मैं तनमर्ग पहुँच गया था। वहाँ से आगे तक की सड़कें बर्फ से ढँकी हुई थी। सूमो के तिरछे (diagonally) दो टायरों में चेन (जंजीर) बंधी हुई थी ताकि गाड़ी बर्फ से फिसले नहीं। ऊपर से आने वाली सेना की गाड़ियाँ में भी ऐसे ही चेन बंधे होते हैं। वहाँ के सभी पेड़ क्रिसमस ट्री की तरह लुभावने लग रहे थे। मैदानी इलाकों में रहने वाले लोगों को यहाँ का दृश्य ऐसा लगेगा जैसे किसी कैलेण्डर में वे स्वयं घुस आए हों। ये उपमा मेरे मन में तब तक बसा रहा जब तक मैं गुलमर्ग में रहा।

गुलमर्ग में यदि कम से कम दो रात बिताने का इरादा है तो आप गुलमर्ग-स्टैंड से बायीं तरफ जाएं और होटल की तलाश करें। इस तरफ होटल लेने के दो-तीन फायदे हैं। इसी तरफ गंडोला है जो आपको अफरावत पर्वत तक ले जाता है। इसी तरफ स्कींग की शॉप और ढलान है। इस तरफ चीड़ के पेड़ भी ज्यादा हैं जो पहाड़ की खूबसूरती को कई गुना बढ़ा देते हैं। स्टैंड से दाईं तरफ जाने पर हॉटल, ढाबा और दुकाने ज्यादा हैं मगर ये गंडोला से दूर हैं।

आखिर मैंने फ्लोरेंस होटल का रूम नं 210 बुक करा लिया, जिसकी खासियत यह थी कि यह कमरा हॉटल के कोने में था जहाँ से दोनों तरफ बर्फ से ढके पेड़, होटल और पहाड़ साफ नजर आ रहे थे। चलन के मुताबिक उस कमरे में कुछ तस्वीरें लगी हुई थी। मैं यह सोचकर हैरान होता हूँ कि जिस कमरे की खिड़की के बाहर इतना खूबसूरत नजारा हो, वहाँ कमरे में किसी एबसर्ड फोटो को लगाने की क्या आवश्यकता है।

हम जिस जगह की इतनी तारीफ करते हैं, वहाँ रहने वाले लोगों के लिए जीवन उतना आसान नहीं होता, खास तौर पर जब बर्फीली आँधी आती है, हिमपात होता है या बारिश होती है तो बिजली, पानी और खाने-पीने के सामान के आवाजाही में काफी तकलीफ होती है। पीने का पानी पाइप में ही बर्फ बनकर जम जाता है। उसे गैस से ठंडाकर बाथरूम तक पहुँचाया जाता है।

शिवालय तक जाने की सीढ़ियाँ नजर नहीं आ रही है, उनपर बर्फ जो जमी है। दोनों तरफ लोहे के पतले रेलिंग के सहारे ही ऊपर तक जाता हूँ। याद आता है राजेश खन्ना और मुमताज का गाना— जय जय शिवशंकर— काँटा लगे ना कँकड़.....पर वह शायद जून-जुलाई के महिने में फिल्माया गया था। अभी का तो नजारा कुछ और है। शिवालय में ताला लटका है। कोई भक्त इस सर्द शाम में आकर शिव को जगाना नहीं चाहता। मैं एक धागे की तलाश कर रहा हूँ। सीमेंट का एक कट्टा कोने में नजर आता है। मैं मंदिर के एक एकांत खंभे में कट्टे से एक सूतली तोड़कर बांध देता हूँ। क्या करूँ आखिर बीवी की छोटी-सी फरमाइश तो पूरी करनी ही थी! कुफ्री (शिमला)में नाग देवता का मंदिर है, वही चलन मैंने यहाँ दोहराया है, इसबार अकेले! मैं अक्सर अकेला ही निकल आता हूँ घूमने! इसका एक फायदा ये है कि प्रकृति और उसके भव्य सौंदर्य को महसूस कर पाता हूँ, पर परिवार के बिना दो दिन से ज्यादा यहाँ रहना पड़ जाए तो अकेलापन सालने लगता है।

शिवालय से गंडोला तक स्ट्रीट लाइट की पीली रोशनी बर्फ पर जहाँ-जहाँ पड़ती है, वह सोने-सा दमकता नजर आता है। बर्फ जूते से चटककर इस तरह आवाज करते हैं जैसे खेतों में धान कटने के बाद उसपर चलते हुए आवाज आती है। गंडोला से ठीक पहले हिलटॉप हॉटल नजर आता है जो यहाँ के अच्छे होटलों में से एक है। आज रात मैं अपने हॉटल (फ्लोरेंस) में ही डीनर कर रहा हूँ। डीनर करते हुए मैंने मैनेजर को कमरे का सेन्ट्रलाइज्ड हीटर ऑन करने के लिए कह दिया है। मेरी खुशनसीबी कि मैनेजर ने कमरे में एक ब्लोअर भी रखवा दिया है। अगले दिन गंडोला से अफरावत पर्वत की तरफ गया जिसका नजारा अपने आप में अद्भुत था। चीन की तरफ पर्वत श्रृंखला सचमुच एक दीवार की तरह नजर आ रही थी और पीछे पाकिस्तान था। पर्वत के इर्द-गिर्द स्कीइंग करनेवाले आपके आगे से लगातार गुजरते रहते हैं। विदेशी सैलानियों का यह पसंदीदा और सस्ता स्कीइंग स्पॉट है। इसके अलावा स्नो बोर्ड, आइस हॉकी स्नो और स्नोबाइक भी आकर्षण का केंद्र हैं।

थोड़ा आगे चलने के बाद स्ट्रीट लाइट के खंभे खत्म हो जाते हैं। अंधेरे और सुनसान सड़क पर चलते हुए थोड़ी घबराहट होती है। हॉलीवुड की कुछ हॉरर फिल्मों और बर्फीले भूत याद आ जाते हैं। आज सुबह यहीं पर चील जैसे गदराए कौओं की झुंड और कुछ भेड़ियों जैसे झबरीले कुत्तों की भीड़ को कूड़े की ट्रॉली को टटोलते-बिखेरते देखा था। झुंड में वे काफी खतरनाक लग रहे थे। अधखिले चाँद की रोशनी चीड़ों से छिटककर सड़क पर कहीं-कहीं बिखरी पड़ी है, उसी के सहारे मैं हॉटल तक पहुँच जाता हूँ। आधा-अधूरा चाँद बर्फ की चादर से लिपटने को बेताब है मगर चीड़ के पेड़ बीच में अड़ कर खड़े हैं.... चाँदनी बेवजह बीच में ही उलझकर रह जाती है.....

—डॉ. जितेन्द्र भगत
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विनम्रता नीति नहीं, रणनीति

एक समय की बात है। जंगल में खरगोश, शेर और एक भेड़िया था और वे सब थे, जो जंगल की कहानियों में आम तौर पर होते हैं। वर्ष के अंत में हो रहे पुरस्कार समारोह में भेड़िये को सर्वाधिक विनम्र होने का पुरस्कार दिया जा रहा था। पुरस्कार देते हुए शेर ने कहा—इलेक्शन लड़ने का कोई इरादा ना होने के बावजूद भेड़िया अतिशय विनम्रता का बरताव करता है। जंगल में पेड़ कटाई का लाइसेंस लेने के लिए जितनी बार भेड़िया मेरे पास आया, उतनी ही बार इसने बहुत ही विनम्रता का परिचय दिया। शेर ने बताया कि शेर वेलफेयर फंड में मैंने जब भी भेड़िये से चंदा मांगा है, उसने बहुतै ज्यादा शेर-परायणता दिखायी है और भरपूर चंदा दिया है। इसके इतने गुणों को देखते हुए इसे विनम्र आफ दि इयर घोषित किया जाता है।

कार्टून आइडिया-1

भेड़िया एकदम कतई विनम्र टाइप, एकदम दंडवत हो रहा है। शेर का भाषण—बताइये चुनाव भी ना लड़ना इसे फिर भी इत्ता विनम्र। भेड़िये की विनम्रता की ऐसी गाथाएं सुनकर अगले ही दिन खरगोश ने भेड़िये से खरगोश वेलफेयर फंड के लिए थोड़ा सा चंदा मांगने की कोशिश की। भेड़िये ने खरगोश ने मिलने तक से इनकार कर दिया। खरगोश चकरा गया कि इत्ते विनम्र भेड़िये ने उसके साथ ऐसी बदतमीजी क्यों की। खरगोश ने इस प्रश्न को अपने मित्र बंदर के सामने रखा। बंदर ने यह सुनकर कहा—तुम्हारे साथ भी वही हो गया, जो चालूचंद नामक नेता के चमचे चतुरचंद ने भोलू के साथ किया। भोलू की कथा क्या है, सो कहो—खरगोश ने उत्सुकतापूर्वक कहा। बंदर ने कहा—नेता चालूचंद का चमचा चतुरचंद अपने बास की अतिशय विनम्रता से सेवा किया करता था। दिन में पांच सौ बार चालूचंद के पैर छूकर चतुरचंद आशीर्वाद मांगा करता था। चतुरचंद की ऐसी विनम्रता देखकर चालूचंद बहुत खुश होता था। सब तरफ प्रचारित हो गया कि चतुरचंद अति ही विनम्र बंदा है।

भोलू नामक एक सज्जन पुरुष चतुरचंद की विनम्रता की गाथाएं सुनकर पहुंचा और बोला कि मेरे पुत्र का एडमिशन सेंट बमबम स्कूल में करवा दो। सुना है, सब तरफ तुम्हारा घणा जलवा—असर है। चतुरचंद ने सवाल पूछा—एक लाख रुपये हैं तुम्हारे पास क्या। इस पर भोलू बोला—एक लाख होते, तो मैं खुद ही सीधे डोनेशन देकर उस स्कूल में एडमिशन करवा लेता।

कार्टून आइडिया-2

एक कमजोर सा विनम्र सा आदमी हाथ जोड़ रहा है, बैकग्राउंड में किसी स्कूल का बोर्ड है—सेंट घोटालेश्वर स्कूल, एक मोटा सा बंदा कह रहा है—तेरी विनम्रता का मैं क्या करूं। बच्चे के एडमिशन के लिए तो दो लाख रुपये निकाल। भाई बाजार में विनम्रता नहीं, नोट ही चलते हैं।

इस पर चतुरचंद ने कहा—देखो डोनेशन के मामले दान-धर्म के मामले हैं, इनमें मैं दखल ना कर सकता। तुम एक लाख रुपये नहीं ढीले करोगे, तो तुम्हारा पुत्र अच्छी शिक्षा से वंचित हो जायेगा। अच्छी शिक्षा का पहला सबक यही है कि दान-धर्म के लिए, डोनेशन के लिए अगर रकम जेब में ना हो, शिक्षा ही नहीं, फुल लाइफ ही चौपट हो सकती है। भोलू द्वारा बार-बार आग्रह किये जाने पर चतुरचंद ने उसे पद-प्रहार करके भगा दिया। खरगोश ने यह कथा सुनकर बंदर से पूछा कि चतुरचंद ने ऐसा क्यों किया।

बंदर ने विद्वत्तापूर्वक खरगोश की जिज्ञासा शांत की—यह प्रकृति का नियम है कि विनम्र बंदा हरेक लिए विनम्र ना होता। फोकट में सबके लिए विनम्र नहीं होता। विनम्रता नीति नहीं है, रणनीति है। रणनीति वहीं भिड़ायी जाती है, जहां से कुछ रिटर्न मिलने का जुगाड़ होता हो। बाकी जगह फोकटी में अपनी विनम्रता को ज्ञानीजन वेस्ट नहीं ना करते। इस बात को हम प्रकृति से भी समझ सकते हैं।

मान लो एक नदी है, जो पांच फुट गहरी है। ऊंट उस नदी में घुसे तो बड़े मजे से पार हो जायेगा और ऊंट कह सकता है कि नदी तो बहुतै विनम्र है, कितनी आसानी से रास्ता दे देती है, मुझे डुबोया नहीं। नदी की इस विनम्रता के हल्ले में कोई गिलहरी आ जाये और डूब जाये, तो वह चिल्लायेगी—हाय नदी कितनी अहंकारी है, मुझे डुबो दिया। नदी कितनी अनीति करती है।

समझने की बात यह है कि नदी बड़ों को पार करा देती है पर छोटों को डुबो देती है। यानी छोटों को डुबोना और बड़ों को आसानी से पार कराना ही प्राकृतिक नीति है। यह बात खरगोश की समझ में आ गयी। और तरह-तरह क जुगाड़बाजी लगाकर खरगोशों के वोटों का गणित समझाकर खरगोश ने शेर के दरबार में सेक्रेट्री की नौकरी हासिल कर ली। अब भेड़िया खरगोश के घर आकर बोला—खरगोश भईया, खरगोश वेलफेयर फंड के लिए प्लीज एक लाख डालर का चेक लो ना।

कार्टून आइडिया-3

एक ऊंची कुरसी पर एक नेता टाइप बंदे के पैर में एक बंदा सिर रखे हुए है, उस बंदे के पैर नीचे हैं, उन पैरों से पीछे वह चार-पांच लोगों को लात लगाकर गिरा रहा है।

इस कहानी से हमें निम्नलिखित शिक्षाएं मिलती हैं—

1—विनम्र आदमी सबके लिए विनम्र ना होता।

2—नदी और इंटेलीजेंट बंदों की नीति एक सी होती है—बड़ों को पार कराओ, छोटों को डुबाओ।

3—एक बार कायदे की जगह चरण छू ले बंदा, तो फिर बाकियों पर चरण—प्रहार करने की क्षमता खुद —ब—खुद आ ही जाती है।

—आलोक पुराणिक
एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर (वाणिज्य विभाग)

हवा क्या ठहरेगी किसी झरोखे में

कोई झरोखा ?
हवा को कोई मौका ?
दीवार में बने
वरना ये वक्त कैसे ढले!

बेसब्री से इन्तजार रहता है।
दीवार से सटकर हवा का
प्यार बेकरार रहता है।

झरोखा खोलकर
ऐसे ताकते हो क्यों
क्या हवा हर वक्त तैयार रहे
तुम्हारे भरोसे
मनमर्जी के झरोखे।

माना हवा ठहरी सी लगती है
झरोखे जब भीतर से बंद होते हैं
मगर तूफानों झरोखों को
मत भूलना कभी
कोख में ही पलते हैं हवा की ये सभी।

नहीं मिले झरोखें यदि
तुम्हें
पुस्तैनी दीवार में
तो बाहर दीवार से आओ
झरोखा स्वयं बन जाओ
दहती दीवार में।

बात मानिये
चल फिर पायेगा
बिना दीवार का झरोखा
और हवा को भी होगा
आने जाने का मौका।

अब छोड़िए अपना आँगन
अपनी छत
अपना गांव
अपनी आदतें और
अपनी रोशनी के निशान।

और छोड़िए अपनी पतंग को
हवा को बाँधोगे
किस धागे से ?
हवा बंधेगी क्या किसी पतंग से ?

—विनोद वर्मा

एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर (अंग्रेजी विभाग)

Light Brokers Before Breath Killing Rainbow with Light

I feel safe in your womb
Mother

Mother , the safest
Ever , for ever

Oh! I am lit

A strange light has pierced my body

Mother

Mother ?

Is it Father?

Is it Grand Mother?

Is it bank loan ?

Is it planning ?

Is it car for dowry ?

Is it bridegroom ?

Is it Grand Father?

Is it gold ?

Is it shastra ?

Is it diamond ?

Is it food ?

Is it enemy from far?

Is it a close friend ?

Is it honeymoon ?

Is it a style magazine ?

Is it a newspaper ?

Is it a relative in US ?

Is it TV soap ?

Is it Miss Universe?

Is it a hut ?

Is it a condom ?

Is it an empty kitchen ?

Is it you?

Yes, You!

Mother,

Pls help!

The torch is close.

Mother,

I can't

I can't

I can't live

Any more.

Good Bye, Doctor, You the Broker!
Doctor, who kills Rainbow with light!

(Dedicated to the memory of Om Puri, the Performer
who was a challenge to scripts.)

-Vinod Verma

Associate Professor (English)

Illustration by Vinod Verma

PEOPLE

People come,
only to leave someday.
They occupy spaces
just to leave it vacant someday.

People flow,
like an unexpected breeze
embracing parts of you
you thought didn't exist,
and leave like a storm
pulling your heart out of your chest
and taking it away as it goes.
People get attached,
just to detach themselves someday.

Like mantras they arrive
like prayers they depart,
without you knowing
even if you don't open your lips.

People get to know you,
love the parts of you
you thought were too ordinary to acknowledge
and then slowly start the un-knowing
until you turn into strangers
who just know a lot about each other.



People make you smile,
laugh your gut off,
make you roll on the floor laughing
just to make you weep
on the same floor someday.
They make you cry out of laughter,
they make you cry out of sorrow,
but they do make you cry.

People are of all kinds,
some like salt
some like cheese.
Some stay there for you,
not being noticed
but enhancing every moment.
Some are just there on the top,
making things look tempting
even when it increases your blood pressure.

People make you learn things
you thought were "out of your league"
and make you leave things
you thought were the "essentials".

People make parts of you
which you choose
to give in their hands.
People break parts of you
which you choose
to give in their hands.

People love you,
they hate you.
They make you happy,
they make you sad.
But the thing they always do is.
leave,
either by circumstances or by death.

However, in the end,
they're just people.
That's how they are
and that's how you accept them.

- Saavi Srivastava
B.A. Hons. (Political Science), 1st year

SLOWING DOWN

You know,
in split seconds between split seconds
in moments between moments
everything slows down...

When everything slows down,
you pay attention to much more things
than you normally do.

Slowing down,
I see the dry leaves flying,
detaching themselves from the tree
the tree which can't nurture it anymore
flying away to a place unplanned
with no direction whatsoever.
I want to be like that leaf.

Slowing down,
I see concrete rocks,
lying on the road
sitting unaffected by nothing or no one,
neither waiting for anyone to come
nor waiting to go anywhere,
just there
lying in the space
lying in that moment.
I want to be like that rock.

Slowing down,
I see the birds,
some flying together
making beautiful patterns in the sky,
some travelling alone
to expanses
even they themselves can't fathom.
I want to be like those birds.

Slowing down,
I feel the breeze,
I see it moving
I smell its fragrance
taking a part of everything it comes across
to places that are unknown by the humanity,
travelling miles and miles
to touch the horizon
knowing that it never actually will
but just the act of moving towards it

brings solace to her.
I want to be like the wind.

Slowing down,
I see the sky,
so vast so endless
but seems so close,
just up there on its own
existing in its eternal independence,
with or without anything beneath it.
I want to be like that sky.

Slowing down,
I walk on the road,
observing the nature
and then observing humans,
the traffic,
the tension,
the haste.

Always in a hurry
to get to another place
without savouring the moment
we're already living.

Running in races not meant for us
crying for things that won't matter,
so desperate to reach the destination
that we forget to enjoy the journey,
only to realise later
that our destination was our journey
and the journey, our satisfaction.

Slowing down,
I realise that sometimes
it's better to let go of expectations
and breathe in
for the sole purpose of
contentment,
sometimes freeing yourself
with the shackles of getting results
is the greatest bliss we can feel.

-Saavi Srivastava
B.A. Hons. (Political Science)
1st year.

DAWN

Another candle is lit from the dying flames of the first one, not often there is a power cut in this small region, in the suburbs of Dhaka. When electricity comes back in the room, a tinge of violet light falls, first on her face, then onto her body and slowly to every corner of the room. She looks more beautiful in the faded light.

As the night falls, a look of anxiety grew on her face, her wait for one particular customer, who never uttered anything, never spoke to her was now three days long.

She doesn't remember much of the life before being enslaved in these dungeons or may be doesn't want to. Her father had sold her when she was six. But she still wonders about her younger sister.

He came one night, after a month since he had last visited her and he spoke, for the first time, "I want to marry you". Her pragmatism seemed to be leaving her. Forever? She asked him if the first words he ever said to her were a lie, if she was to bear a greater pain than waiting for him for a month, of him never coming back? But he held her firmly and reaffirmed, "I am going to take you away from here, forever. Come to the third street at 04:30 in the evening, will you? "

All the prostitutes of the brothel were given the chance to celebrate 'Puja' every year, when they could dress in a subtle manner, they could eat well and even watch a movie. One of those days, in one of the movies, she saw snow for the first time, she liked it.

Whatever she was dreaming of, was now giving her a hand to grab, a chance to see the world, a world which must be more beautiful than this. Then why was she contemplating so much and why was she crying, much more than she had ever cried. When she woke up the next day she was determined, she would go to him, start a new life, bear daughters and never send them away from her.

He was waiting for her in his car, she cried again and before sitting inside took one last look at the place, there was a part of her which didn't want to leave, but why?

He married her the very next day and told her they were going to Nepal, leaving the country forever. She didn't know where the place was but she was happy. They passed the customs, she felt proud, when he declared her to be his wife. Sitting on the plane for the first time she was scared, the night scared her even more, but she had him and his shoulders.

Dawn was still a couple of hours away, he took her to a small building and then to a beautiful room. He comforted her with a warm kiss before going for an errand saying he will come back in a short while. Hours passed, then perhaps days... he never came back. From the window she could see snow.

Sourav Shukla
B.A. (Prog.), 3rd Year

REMEMBERING THOSE DAYS

On a sunny day,
I was sitting on a chair
In my garden,
Remembering those days.
Those days were awesome
My cheeks were red like a blossom
Oh! Those days were really awesome.

Mumma use to wake me up, sharp at five
And I would jump up like a dive
Cleaning my teeth with my red brush
Getting ready for the school in a rush
Still yawning like a lion's roar
Sleeping in his cave and getting bore
Mumma pushing me, for the bath
And I, used to shiver
Like on a moving train

Wearing my uniform,
I use to feel like a soldier
And my face would become bright and bolder.
Happily going to the school
With all my books and tool.

Still I remember those days,
Those days were awesome
My cheeks were red like a blossom.
Oh I wish! Those days could come back,
I could cure where I lack
I wish those days could come back.

Tanmay Ahluwalia
B.A. (Hons.) Journalism, 2nd Year

THE SKY AND THE ROAD

Look at that clean sugary morning sky! Look at that one young cloud who is floating like a feather, as if saying, "You are also free, aren't you?" Now, that road. And my endless desires. The Road has an end, but my wishes and endless. How small we appear with our desires and how amazing we feel in the presence of Mother Nature!

A Sky has a story, unpredictable, but true.

A road has a story, old, but young.

Follow the sky, travel the road.

Tanmay Ahluwalia
B.A. (Hons.) Journalism, 2nd Year

I WANT TO LIVE MY PRESENT DAY

Every day I make a mistake
Not even realize what I have lost.
In every sight I take a flight
Don't know if my future is bright.
I can see the glorious nature
But no one can see what will happen in future.
I want to live my present day
Even though tomorrow is another day.

Kashish Gupta
B.A.(Hons.) English, 3rd Year

LIFE OF A GYPSY

The caravan is my identity, the paths are my home
Giving joy is what I do, I am Roma
The world lies before me, but I am alone
I have no address where I belong.

I am searching for colours of happiness in the air
But no one will share those hues with me
People think I am a downright liar
Everyone's busy in their colourful fairs.

I am a wanderer, I live in now
My future seems shrouded in mysterious fog
I see all people, they never notice me somehow
Nor my eyes as they water in the smog.

Where am I headed? Here or there?
I find my paths
Lit by God's own flares
I am not alone-- I have my prayers.

I am part of your journey
Become my friend, there'll be peace and harmony
You can't ignore me forever in your measured pace
I am a passer by; I will meet you in every phase.

Akansha Sharma
B.A.(Hons.) English, 2nd Year

SHORT VERSE

Much too much.
Do not hold them so tight
That their heart gets crippled by your weight of lust.
Do not guard them so much
That their heart gets quivered by your massive insecurity.
Do not expect from them so much
That their heart gets burdened by your wounded vanity.
Do not interrupt them so much
That their heart gets void by your shrilled hungry actions.
But do care for them so much
That their heart gets a strong feel.
Do love them so much
That we make as much warmth in them
As they can make in us.

Liza Gupta
B.A. (Hons.) English, 1st Year

COLLEGE LIFE

Stepping into a new life, where one faces oneself.
Some consider everything a race and chase after them all,
While others find it difficult or even tie their shoe lace.

Many here care for you,
But you care for a select few.
Lots of leisure, lots of pressure
In the midst of which, some search for treasure.

The greatest invention being the head-set without which none's head is fit.
More sleep, less work, but still feeling tired every other minute.
Sudden decisions, rare output even don't care before taking the next step.
More dance, more wishes, many exams and tests.

Suddenly, when you look back,
And the poster says 'The End'.
The 35040 hours of these four years,
Are just like the three hours of a movie.
Slipping away like a snap of your fingers.
Leaving behind a memory that lingers.

Shweta Kumar
B.Com (Hons.), 2nd Year

VOICE OF MOTHER EARTH

I wish I could be a beautiful tree
That gives its citizens fruits cost free
I wish I could be a beautiful flower
That gives a synthesizing shower
I wish I could have sweet fruits to bear
That all the human race would share..

I wish I make the world pollution free
But that depends on you, how many you plant trees
The overgrazing, urbanization has left people starving
This will lead one day to global warming
And that one day will arrive
Instead of working for good, citizens will criticize...

Only you are responsible for my condition
To make me green should be your mission
I am your mother Earth, who gave you birth
Learn to respect your land
But unfortunately, you disrespect me!
All that sound pollution, all that dirty air you taste
And all my water you contaminated by your waste...

I'm fed up of fulfilling your needs
In order to get something, first you sow a seed
You've left most of my land barren
Think what will be the situation when you'll become a parent!!

Bring my greenery back
And all the resources which I lack
I'm your mother earth, who gave you birth
PROTECT ME!! SAVE ME!! MY CHILD!

Rashmi
B.Sc Physical Science, 1st Year

THE BAMBOO BICYCLE

Last year when Delhites were suffering from a week-long asphyxiation because of their extremely joyous Diwali celebrations, multiple remedies were proposed to curb pollution level in the city. Like employing air filters across the city, closing schools for a few days, barring the use of crackers in marriages for a while, and even some plans to bring odd-even scheme back into the action. And somehow we all survived those rigorous climatic conditions.

But this doesn't mean that we've well passed those circumstances, the pollution level is still pretty perilous. The Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) recently came up with a possible solution which can potentially bring the pollution level down to some extent and decided to begin its pilot testing process by first implementing it in the heart of Delhi (Connaught Place). They've decided to restrict the inner circle area of CP to pedestrians for the next three months, and even the Supreme Court patted their back affirming this as a sound plan. So now people will have to park their vehicles in the outer circle and from there, they can take rickshaws, lend a bicycle or walk.

Well, bicycles and rickshaws are possibly today seen as eco-friendly aka green-modes-of-transport, but are they actually?

One of the main reason for considering bicycles as eco-friendly is because they don't run on any sort of fuel and excrete harmful gases. But most of the people don't give a thought to its manufacturing process. The bicycle and rickshaw frames are constructed using numerous chemistry compounds like steel, aluminum alloys, thermoplastics, carbon fiber, and the most prevailing one titanium which are extremely harmful to us and some are even non-biodegradable.

But Vijay Sharma decided to solve this problem too and made a bicycle out of bamboo sticks. According to Vijay, Bamboo has zero carbon footprint, lightweight and has very good tensile strength, which are critical



factors for making bikes. It's also a great shock absorber and provides enough rigidity to the frame. Vijay is 42 years old and son of a carpenter. Two years back he decided to give a new shape both to his father's business as well as our conventional bicycles, and recently perfected the technique.

Basically, the frame of the bicycle is made of bamboo and held together at the joints by hemp fiber (instead of carbon fiber). The wheels, handlebars, brakes, and pedals are right now of metal but still it's a good way to go because if we really are looking for some concrete solutions to the pollution problem then why not try to count in each and every perspective.

But despite all the goodness, it doesn't have a lot of takers. In his recent interview, Vijay said: "People in India have a perception that bamboo is a cheap material but this is a handcrafted bicycle and not a factory-manufactured product". The bambike (as Vijay likes to call it) has a frame which costs anywhere between Rs.15,000-25,000 depending on the customization. Seeing the lack of demand in India, he has stopped making the bambike for a while and now prefers to teach anyone who's interested in the art of making their own bicycles using bamboo.



But it's not like he's giving up on his innovation. Currently, he's planning to involve an engineering student to help him make his vehicle more efficient and is confident that their first prototype will be ready in the next two-three months which he believes will definitely give a boost to the sale of his bambikes.

And if you also wish to own a bambike you can contact Vijay Sharma by writing to him at vijaycira@gmail.com

Tushar Swami
B Tech Electronics, 4th Year



Mr. Vijay Sharma

Source: http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/multimedia/dynamic/00505/bambike_505162f.jpg

IT'S A POEM

I stood there with all my pride
Gazing over the landscape of my birth, my territory, my cradle that I had.
I lept across the fields, above the water creeks
And that which was in reach of my stride.
I drank my life to the lees, knowing of me that I was a beautiful stag.

I grew sucking the udders of waters,
I witnessed the exploit of poachers,
I saw my kin die for someone's sport
But every time the men came, I breathed afresh,
For it was a conspiracy of nature, that I missed their strikes.

When I was a full grown stag,
With red coat, my pride, my horns, I wore as a hat
My golden eyes and waters from them gushing forth,
My long slender legs, on which I fancy, I always strode.

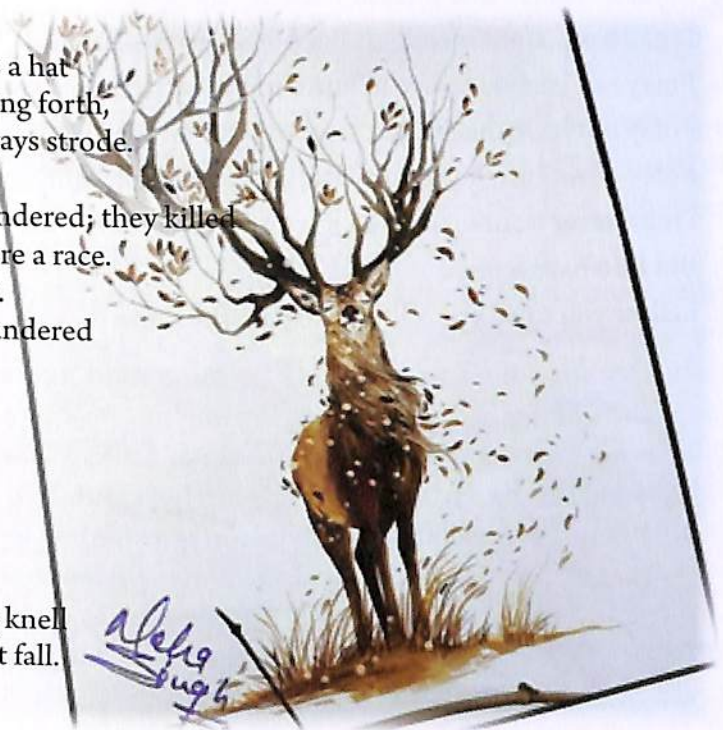
Men came to my place, they burnt; they plundered; they killed
And horrified me, complaining I ran as it were a race.
Killing they came and with blood they went.
I could do nothing, but to see my chattel blundered
As helpless there I stood.

The Sun went and came,
And time passed, making my spirits lame
The waters were now dried,
And no longer could I take strides.

The leaves fell, and alarmed me as if a tolling knell
I grew old, my coat faded and I saw the forest fall.
My pride, my horns, were now weak
My hooves broken and my eyesight bleak.

The grass was now dry
And trees were devoid of their leaves
I had no food neither I had nest
It seemed as if it was my final test.

DEATH! your end, into my years
Lulled the winter breeze;
I drank my life to the lees
Knowing that,
I was JUST a beautiful stag.



Noira Khan
B.Sc. Mathematical Science, 3rd Year

I CAN

I hate it when people keep gazing at me endlessly.
I hate it when all of a sudden I become the hot topic of a discussion.
I hate it when people try to understand me.
No I am not shy.
Neither am I an introvert.
Just like other people I also like to be in the limelight.
But why do you have to make me uncomfortable by showing sympathy towards me?
I mean I neither disturb you nor do I irritate you by shouting in your ears.
Neither do I get irritated by your talks.
I may be unlike you but I am one of you.
I may have some special ability but so do you have.
I may not be able to live luxuries but I live the way I can.
I may not have the loudest scream but I talk the way I can.
I may never be able to say all this because I am dumb.
I may never be able to listen to your take because I am deaf.
But I do have words.
I allow you to be yourself and expect the same.

Aastha Ahuja
B.A. (Hons.) Journalism, 3rd Year

YOU...

You're a Poem-
Woven in countless words,
Composed of eternal gestures,
Bearing obscure empathies,
Since time immemorial.

You're a Melody-
Full of prowess brisk,
Offering pious benedictions,
Kindling the silent souls,
Since time immemorial.

You're a Canvas-
Painted bright of sunrays,
Textured deep with divine thoughts,
Enlightening the moral world,
Since time immemorial.

Ashish Abhishek
B.A. (Hons.) English, 2nd Year

AGHOR: THE PATRONS OF DEATH

Aghori, derived from the Sanskrit term 'Aghor' is an integration of two words: A is a negation; Ghor denotes the absence of obscurity. Camouflaged in taboos, Aghoris are a connotation for deep and intense devotion and absence from worldly affinity. This Cult of the weird consists of ascetic sadhus devoted to Lord Shiva, dwelling in or near the many crematory ghats by the Ganges and feeding on corpses. Distinguished from the other Hindu sadhus, they believe the Lord of 'transformation and destruction' as the Supreme Being. They embrace darkness and death as the normality towards their spiritual attainment. While they seek moksha, eating and drinking in human skulls and covering their bodies with crematory ash become a part of their unsocial existence. Divined by the divinity of their belief system, these are the migratory inhabitants of Hindu shrines- sadhus in tattered garb moving places in search of the supreme.

Amaranth in Jammu and Kashmir to Annamalaiyar in Tamil Nadu, Somnath in Gujarat to Kamakhya in (Guwahati) Assam, the aghori huts are a regular sight in these lands of the pious. Scattered all over the country, they are a hub of acute mysticism and rigorous cabalism. One shouldn't be very surprised to find such typical men in saffron/black seated near temples, chanting Shiva prayers and putting up a surreal show. The vibrancy of this sect rejuvenates during the month of 'Saavan' when they, like many other devotees, make religious visit to the shrines from all over the country and beyond. Similar circumstances landed me in a random interaction with a Corpse Eater.

In a scorching hour of the day, at the New Delhi Railway Station I happened to come across this religious voyager. Baba Shamananda hailed from Kamakhya in Assam, semi clad in a piece of saffron and a dirty Mekhela bag dangling by his side. Hair unkempt, body smeared in ash, he sat by the Ajmeri Gate-side bridge while the pedestrians passed a skeptic eye. Not being sure whether I should leave only with a candid photograph or strike a inquisitive conversation, I chose to abide by the later. Not that I was confident about this extempore situation but I greeted him with a judgmental authoritativeness. He belonged from Assam and could speak Bengali; I was relieved with a sense of nativity. I made my point of interest clear but his reluctance to participate in any such uncalled for conversation was predominant. The initial arrays of questions just fetched me information that he was destined to first Kedarnath and then Amarnath respectively. Impudence added to unwillingness, talking to Baba was not at all easy going. Repetitive questionnaire and persistence dug out little too much. Aghor or "Oghor" as he called himself, was the point when queries took an eagle-flight.

The designation that he wore has always been observed as a feared sect. Aghoris are the flesh eater, weed smoker, skull owner, worshipper of the dark and Baba Shamananda admitted to all of it. Kamakhya, the Kali Ghat of Assam is known to be an ever-active crematory ground where the fire pile never falls cold. He belonged to the Kamakhya Ghat and practiced vehement Shaivism. Gradually unveiling, Baba adds that he had abandoned home some 27 years ago and never been to his village since. Devoted to the worship of lord Shiva, he admits to disowning all worldly association. Relationships are unreal, social existence is void, he claimed. He talked about the many rituals that one is expected to undertake before joining the world of the aghors - giving up civic style of dressing, humane food habits, materialism and most importantly, finding oneself

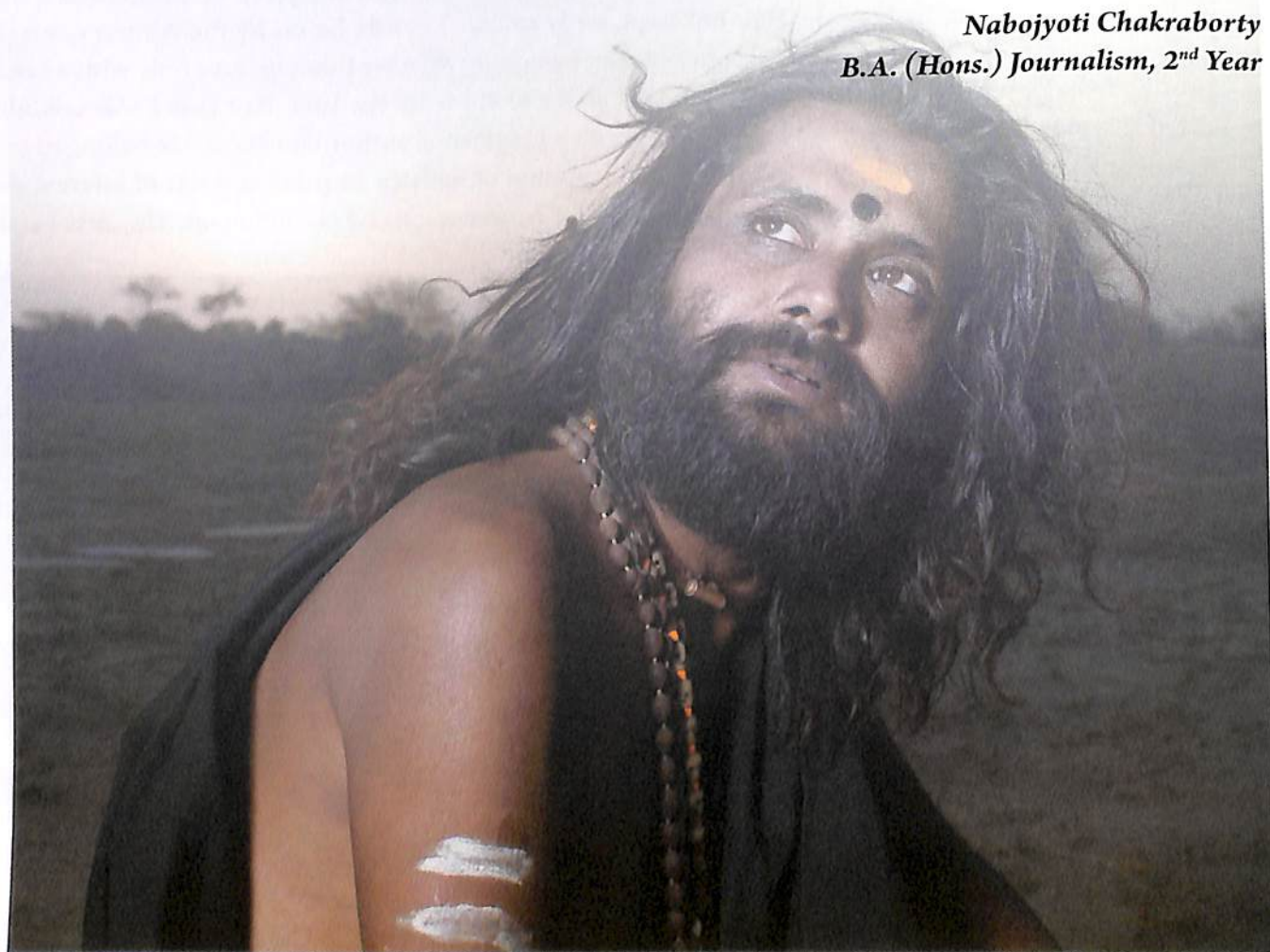


a human skull. Aghors are said to not feel hungry and eat anything and everything. They accept nothing as waste and feed on the dead, animal feces and urine and stale food. Baba boasted about the spiritual possession on his body that forbids any kind of physical ailments or diseases. He also made a point that their only ailment is possession of money. They neither beg nor hold on to any money. They survive on the mercy of the nature and complain no poverty. Though potentially dramatized, he believes that every time a corpse is burnt, the soul is escorted by them towards the Supreme Lord. They eat from the arm of a dead body because, they assume, the arm is the regulator of strength. Anything left over from a burnt corpse is also fed on because that assures immortality of life. Though he had no answer to my query about any immortal he actually knew. He also chose to not respond about any surreal power he might have. In the due course of the conversation only one singular time he impassively mentioned (contradictorily) being devoid of emotional attachments. He dimly aimed at a question that their sexual needs too are fulfilled by the dead. Not being very subjective, he said that their sexual needs disappears eventually, falling incapable to the force of devotion.

India is a place for dense and dark social practices. Black magic, Tantric Practices, Witch and Devil beliefs are succumbed all over the territory. Poverty, illiteracy and orthodoxy amalgamate together to form taboos for the counterpart society. For some, these are objectionable taboos while for the rest, these are rigorous religiosity. The Aghoris, good or bad, are a horrendous sect to learn about. Divinity or not, their practices are sure to terrify and disgust the developed part of the society in a way that they be discarded from the social category as a whole. Where India takes flight towards the claim of a "Developed" nation, the country sides are still abundant with dark secrets.

Baba Shamananda leaned back on the railing gripping his bag close while I took my leave.

Nabojyoti Chakraborty
B.A. (Hons.) Journalism, 2nd Year



FRAGILITY

I'm fragile enough;
And can be broken by a stone.
Your unbothered eyes,
Your dismissive heart,
Are now the ones I've known.

I let you smash me,
To the floor: is that bold?
I was lying there in pieces
And trembled trying to stand,
In that numbing cold.

I'm fragile enough,
And can be crushed easily, just by a word.
Your speechless phrase,
Your heedless heart,
Till now are the ones I've heard.

I'M A LOST PART..

I'm a lost part
of the world, falling apart.
Indignantly, I've withered
and will eventually depart.

I'm to claim
the vague pride with shame.
Insinuatingly, I realise
that I've lost my flame.

I have to fade,
for my feat is a lost Troy
Ingloriously, I cry
It is myself that I do destroy.

OFTEN, YOU CROSS MY MIND...!!

Indeed, I deny not,
Many a times you cross my mind.
Whenever beams tease the dawn,
Your cuddling warmth, there I find.

Never shall I wonder,
How, when I get into a chain of dire thoughts
And feel like draining all at once,
I close my eyes and see you smile... there
break all frozen knots?

Subtly, there's a pleasure I derive,
From aching and screaming lone,
And though this seems inexplicable,
I still rejoice at the melody of your tone.

I know I'm a shore,
All dry, reticent, cynical and crude
The one you've deserted way before,
Yet your fond wave hits and intrude.

Why is it so? Why don't you go?
The strings of your mirage have me in a bind,
I begin to move the pathless way,
Often, whenever you cross my mind...!!

Ashish Abhishek
B.A. Hons. English, 2nd year.

THE UNSHARED SONG

In a room full of people
I sat alone
In a garden full of roses
I caressed the thorn
In an hour full of speeches
I stayed quiet
Thinking why to always shine bright
Darkest be thy night and deepest too
Similarly, I hide a lot of secrets unlike you
Not that I don't want to share
Trust me none of the times I want to spare
Busy in search of words too wide
Just like the ocean and its tide
I will weave words in my cozy corner
To please my sadness, also to scorn her
I ask, why to have a note and a melody
Allow me to show you my parody
For I can do all, but sing
A chorus that the masses bring.

Alina Kazmi
B.A. (Hons.) English, 2nd Year

THE BEGINNING

Imagination, a little hard to contain
Independence, a little too keen to attain
Excitement knowing no bounds, a journey began
To the laboratory of the greatest artists,
Toil of weathered dreams and sustained struggle
To come of age, to win some kind of race
Little less was the fire above, harsh was a little gentle
There was a bug in the change, in the air, everywhere
Feet didn't tire, body didn't wear, a welcome setting indeed
Softness of the bed was gone, but sleep was better than ever
And a satisfaction when a gaze fell upon a couple of cracked heels
Keeping it moving is always easier than setting it in motion
Once settled, don't rest or bow your head... Strive on...

Sourav Kumar Shukla
BA Programme, 3rd Year

WHAT'S CREATIVE ABOUT CREATIVE WRITING?

Writing about how to write good is nothing new to find but the skill of good writing is rather a rarity. To achieve, express or last, you need to write and not just write but write good. Writing skills are an asset but remarkable is how wholly different is to be able to write and to write skilfully. The idea is, creativity is a force not domineering in many, but can be made so only with self-enforcement.

So what exactly makes writing creative? Imagination, obviously!

But everyone imagines: What's new?

The newness stands on the ability to write it down skilfully enough that you make sense to your readers. You can only be a good creative writer if you either write something undeniably relevant or something so irrefutable that readers do not mind believing what you want them to. Who doesn't agree to Twinkle Khanna's hard-fisted but valid feminist illustrations direct from reality or won't mind falling for Rowling's dreamy world of witchcraft and wizardry.

The list of award-winning writers has no end but what significant they have done is made their dreamy reality open for the whole world to know and feel it. And the magic they created with the words made their fantasy not just theirs but – Everybody's!

It is the insight and vision that makes each writer unique. The perspectives and actions of the characters they create carve out multiple versions of the same story without each of them being any wrong. Playing with the correct words can eventually make a terrorist – messiah; and a freedom fighter – a national mutineer. Why do you think Jaswant Singh's 'Jinnah: India, Partition, Independence' was banned in India soon after its release? Why do you consider Shakuni

as the sole villain to Mahabharata when all he did was instigate Duryodhana and not consider Draupadi characterless for sleeping with 5 husbands?

A clever and creative wordplay can change worlds. Going by the conventions, makes narration a monotonous job. To gain acceptance and readership, you need to talk valid and be creative with the prospects at the same time. A writer's style is unique and that is what which makes space for them in the rather practical literary world. Who would have thought back then that Ma-

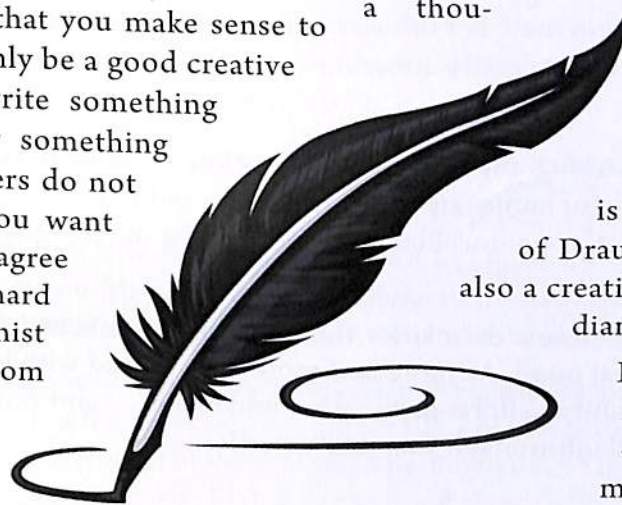
a thou-
habharata, a text, after sand years would evoke more than 30 versions of it all from different voices. A *Palace of Illusions* by Chitra Divakaruni is one of the most-read version of Draupadi from *Mahabharata* and also a creative piece of work from the Indian literary view.

During a press-conference, Faulkner once confessed that – "At a point, I thought the most important thing was talent. I now think myself that anyone

can teach and train himself in infinite patience, which is to try and try until it comes right."

Wise are his words and immortal is his creativity. Being creative is not something one can induce into self but comes inadvertently. To be the 'Reader's Writer', being creative works but not illogical. Nonsense literature isn't promoted any longer even though cherished. Unless readers don't affiliate with what you want to create, it becomes pointless. Though it doesn't invalidate your creativity of course; everyone is unique, but what is the point of the uniqueness if it cannot be inferential, right? Go. Think. Now.

Mona
B.A. (Hons.) English, 2nd Year



JUST A HUNCH

"Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results"

- Albert Einstein

The man sat staring out the viewport. A robotic monotone droned on in the background. In his contemplative state, the man caught only brief segments of the pedantic monologue that was belted out at him from seemingly nowhere and everywhere at the same time – "...original surface scans indicate high quantities of elements in suitable quantities for industrial growth...unsustainable utilisation evidenced...no indications of planetary level migratory attempts...similar to 498 of the past 638 tests..." Behind the technical report, the man could see, in his mind's eye, another failed attempt – another burned out civilization...

It had all started so well – mankind, version one, was born about 50 million years ago, on a binary star system in what was now the Orion arm of the Milky Way galaxy. And that was all that remained of it – a description. Humanity had evolved to be an almost utopian society on the fourth planet of the second star. War was something that evolution had seemingly thought wise to eliminate, as mankind had learned to live as a collective, pooling their knowledge and intellectual resources to further their understanding of their universe, and indeed, of their origin itself. For this was a question that had stoked the fires of their curiosity, burning its insidious roots into the collective consciousness of a billion intelligent beings – where did we come from?

What does a utopian society, lacking any divisive classification systems, have faith in? For faith is not something that the original body of humankind lost. It existed, and persisted, and propagated unshaken. It wasn't, however, faith in an anthropomorphic higher power that moved them – it was the inviolacy of knowledge.

Thus began the third act of the cosmic drama; for though knowledge is inviolate, obsession transcends every single concern of a rational mind. As more and more time passed with lesser and lesser results for benign experimentations, humanity's efforts grew rasher and rasher... and rasher. And this spelled their doom – the planet was rendered inhospitable, humanity sterile...

As the computer terminal wound up its report, the man came out of his trance-like state of reminiscence. It always came back to him, all of it, especially at times like these. It wasn't the responsibility of being judge, jury and executioner for a whole species – for that was what he did; he had given up the right to scepticism and indecision a long time ago. No, it was the sense of inevitability that had snuck in, somewhere near the 300th failed attempt.

Their planet rendered as barren as themselves, their utopian existence ripped to shreds, humanity – what remained of it, anyway - once again regrouped, and sought a solution. It came to them soon – there may not be any viable natural progenitors, but enough viable DNA was on hand to seed humanity on a new planet. It wouldn't be the same, they reasoned, but it would be enough.

The initial results were heartening – humanity 2.0 seemed to have even more of a head start on their predecessors. It was amazing to their 'creators' and they congratulated themselves on a brilliant and successful experiment.

The celebrations turned out to be premature – by a long shot.

Apparently, the ideology of peaceful coexistence was not genetically hereditary. The new humans seemed to have a natural propensity for violence – it was their panacean rectifier. This time, humanity lasted for less than an eighth of the first time around, before they embarked on a quest of mutual self-destruction.

That was the first time that humankind consciously annihilated a part of itself....

It wouldn't be the last.

The first humans were experiencing emotions that had occurred but rarely in their minds before that moment. A strong undercurrent of self-loathing ran under the upper turbulence of shock. Killing had never been a part of their mental make-up, and yet they had been party to utterly destroying a sentient race. However, one single point outvied all the guilt, shock and self-disgust – to let their rabid experiments loose on the galaxy would have been a much bigger sin.

An insistent beeping broke him out of his reverie. He checked the terminal – it was his supervisor, calling to check in upon the report status. He hesitated a moment, and then pressed receive.

His supervisor's image came upon the screen, with her office in the background. "Sit-rep, Sol station. What's your current status?"

He knew that the question was aimed at the planet, and yet he could not help but hope a little that the monotonic query had been a personal one. "Not promising, ma'am. There does not yet exist a true planetary government, although there have been attempts towards it. Resource levels are critical, and yet there have been no efforts towards establishing any off-planet settlements. Population is nearing the planet's sustainable limit, with site-specific pollutant levels high."

"So the usual. Well, we could try a probationary period, but frankly enough, I don't see the point anymore."

Though his face remained impassive, the man cringed inside. It seemed even the ones still working to try and recreate humanity's lost utopia were losing hope. Most had given up already. After all, 35 million years was a long time to be alive, even with their perfected cellular rejuvenation technology. After that amount of time, nothing felt worth the mental agony of seeing so much death, so much destruction...

Some had chosen euthanasia; some were in cryogenic chambers, waiting for one last glimpse of the paradise they had lost. Some were out in the universe, looking for signs of life; some others had snapped, and were living in isolation amongst the remains of their failed 'experiments'. And the last group, well, they still held on to the hope that their experiments would one day succeed.

"Now, seeing as I'm not on-site and it is yours. Do you wish to terminate experiment 639?"

If this had been 35 million years back, this clinical statement would have been condemned for its dehumanistic tone. Knowledge-obsessed had never meant desensitized. As time had passed, however, it had become a necessity for many to bury their emotions, deep enough that it would not hinder their 'progress'.

To the man sitting in front of the viewscreen, however, it was clear that the woman in front of him was not an emotionless monster – indeed, she had once been a highly compassionate creature. What she was now, only went to emphasize what these attempts had cost them.

The man once again glanced out the viewport. The planet looked so serene from up here; the blue-green and brown of the 'Earth, as the inhabitants had named it, looking almost akin to his lost home. Of all the past attempts, this one had come closest- nearly 5 million years of evolution, growth and progress. It was only later - when they had attained sentience - that they became what they were today.

For once, the man had felt hope stir in his heart; this could easily have been the one. The gap had not even seemed that wide at times – periods of harmony interspersed the ravages, lessening the hurt and healing the wounds.

He blinked, as his last thought registered fully. Even with the turmoil, the strife, the wars...they had somehow survived, persevering through the pain, weathering the storms...

Maybe... maybe there was still hope left...

He turned back to screen, his mind made up, convictions resolute.

"Ma'am, I respect your professional opinion greatly, but... I would like to ask for an extension."

The woman stilled for a moment, before a mildly curious look appeared on her face.

"That should not be a problem, Sol station. Just to sate my curiosity, however, why this time?", she asked in an inquisitive tone.

"Because, ma'am, after 35 million years of doing this work, I have had my humanity reaffirmed."

"I'm afraid I don't quite understand."

The man gave a small smile.

"I have a... gut feeling about this. Call it sixth sense if you will."

"Sixth sense...?" she replied, as a tinge of incredulity coloured her voice.

The man merely smiled.

The woman blinked.

Once.

Twice.

"Well then," she continued, in a slightly flustered tone, "Carry on, Sol station."

"Will do, Ma'am"

"HQ, signing off", she said, and then turned off the viewscreen.

The woman sat at her desk, pondering the events that had just transpired. The Sol-station rep's words had stirred something inside her – something which she believed had died a long time ago.

She wasn't sure what exactly this feeling was... but it made her think about why she didn't remember the Sol station rep's name...

At the Sol station, the man once again sat in a contemplative silence at his usual post, staring out the viewport at the planet looming below.

His decision earlier may have seemed impulsive to HQ, but it was something that he believed in... and it felt good, after all this time, to have something to believe in, something to live for again...

Deep down below, on the Earth's surface, the six hundred and thirty-ninth attempt at humanity lumbered on with the course of their lives, not knowing how close they had come to non-existence – never knowing that they were living out their lives and dreams under the aegis of a guardian angel they would never see...

Ishan Wadhwa
B.A. (Hons.) English, 3rd Year

HISTORY

As humanity stands on the brink
Of the maddening abyss that is chaos,
It is a time to contemplate
Upon the stones at the bottom
Of every river basin - the stones
Which have seen seasons change,
Centuries go by, empires rise and fall;
Of the gates that see thousands
Milling through their folds each day,
Each with their own unique tale to tell.
How do we know what's true of the past,
When we do not even know what the present
Is all about; when our knowledge of ourselves
Is but a mere drop in the ocean?
For history is not a trustable source of facts,
As accounts are written by winners and losers
Alike, but with their own little twists
To the already twist-ridden fabric of time,
And whose version survives the ravages of time
Is but a matter of chance; so history is just what
Is retained in common knowledge, just
A piece of lore which does not fully hold up

To the harsh light of truth.
What then, is the reality of the world?
Who will we be remembered as by those
To come ahead? Did those who created history
Ever contemplate on the impact
That even the tiniest of their actions
Would have on the future yet to come?
For the future is never set in stone,
And the smallest of changes can affect
Our world in ways unimaginable;
Or is foresight so rare a talent,
That only a chosen few can see
And interpret the signs hidden
In the fabric of the universe? Or is hindsight
So much easier in comparison,
That the human race chooses as a whole
To leave reading those signs to the chosen few?
Or is it perhaps that the 'noble art' of Astrology
Just so much hokum, for leading the mind less
Sheep to the slaughterhouse? What it truly is,
One can never know, for in the matter of the future,
Experiencing is believing.

Ishan Wadhwa
B. A. (Hons.) English, 3rd Year

THE WILD

The dark beckons to me, as I walk
Through the gloomy glens, lit up
By fireflies, a bit dim, but seeming
Just like faerie lights, for they shine
With an otherworldly glow amidst
The dark and lonely night, as wary
Critters roam astray, watching
The trees for easy prey, as I skirt
The boundaries of all that is man's

Fickle domain, but away from the
Bustling jungle of man's estate,
There seems no touch of its
Decaying breath upon the beauteous
And yet pristine reaches of this
Arm of the natural world, for this
Is the very middle of that which is
No man's land - a place called The Wild.

Ishan Wadhwa
B. A. (Hons.) English, 3rd Year

TOY TRAIN, MY TRAIN

It was half a decade ago,
When my train's whistles were heard,
They tell you things as you grow,
And things suddenly become absurd.

My train roamed without a track,
Without any halt or junction,
Without any fear that it might break,
And hence may cease to function.

The steam of it rose upto sky,
Like a bird with broad broad wings,
My toy train with wheels would fly,
And came back with carriage full of wings.

My train seemed dwarf, not that fine,
In front of all those mammoth vehicles.
But it belonged to me, it was mine,
And I loved it more than my bicycle,

Now my train lies there, it's battery dead,
Then empty carriage, now overly fed,
Although many things that were, are gone,
But it is for my train, that I mourn.

Abhinav Anand

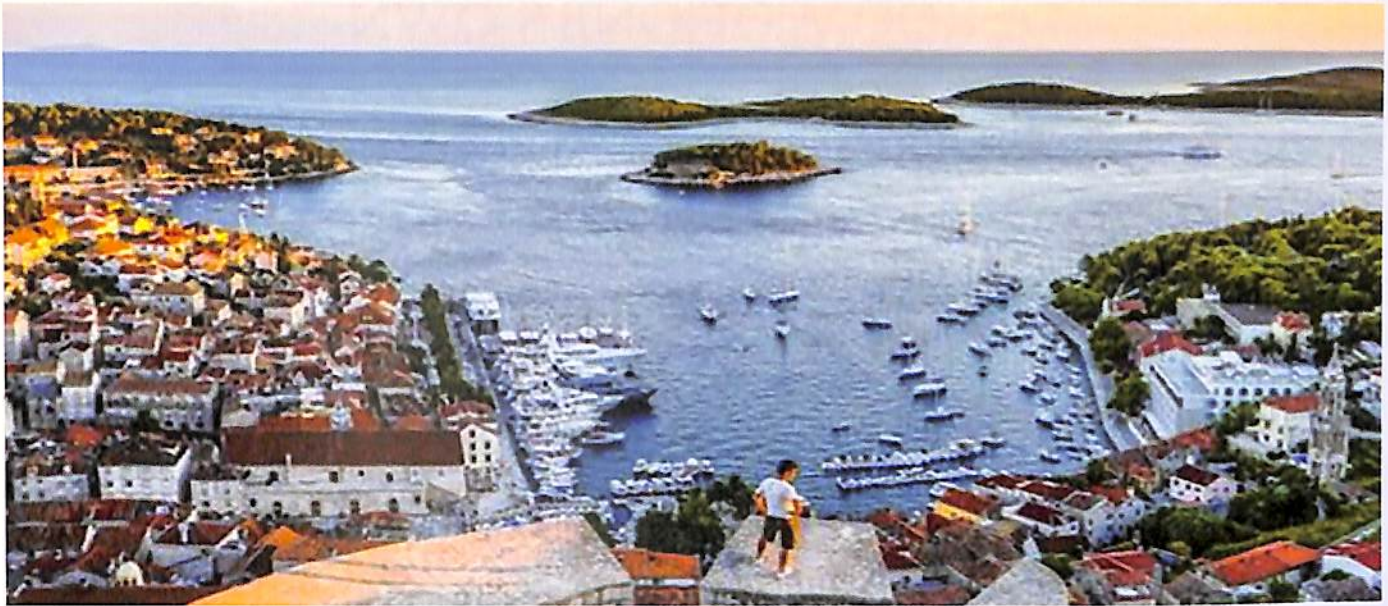
B.A. (Hons.) English, 3rd Year

WHY SHOULD WE TRAVEL OFTEN



Tumblr

Life is tough and we are stuck, at one place. The routine doesn't let us think beyond our workstation and the local chai. We hardly pause and look at the sceneries on the calendar placed at the work table. Do they not inspire or tickle your traveller soul? It does, definitely to me. I wish to travel around the globe and these small things make me dig deeper into my traveller soul and therefore, I let myself lose in the arms of mother earth.



It's a small world. But not really! Every country and continent has something unique and amazing to flaunt. The tradition and culture are varied and pleasing to explore. People are different and they have different tongues. It is an amazing world. There is diversity in fashion, lifestyle, food, beliefs, religion and endless things. Does it not sound fun and refreshing? Travel is the solution to every problem, I believe. Let the exotic air of different places nurture your thoughts and add to your wisdom.



Komal Srivastava
B.A. (Hons.) English, 2nd Year

A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN

Here she came like the gentle breeze ,
Simply carrying the numbness along with freshness...

Her inside burning like hot coal,
Her outside being cool like an iceberg,
Disguised as a graceful silent lady...
Call her gentlewoman among the gentlemen;

Speaking after the men spoke,
Eating after the men ate,
Laughing after the men laughed,
Drinking after the men drank,
The colour of the wine similar...
Similar to the colour of the Sclera,
After the deep trauma and sufferings...

The disappearing layer of freshness,
The Mind consoling the tears,
Not to fall down in mid conversation,
"There was nobody of your match"

The profound mixture of redness and paleness on cheeks,

Uttering the words of torment on the face,

Let it go just subtly said...

The domination still prevails,

The man being men,

The woman being women,

The man being superior;

The woman being inferior;

He kept barking...

She obeyed wagging the tail...

The food, the wine, the custard,

All served via patriarchal order,

The taunts, the humiliation, the disrespect came first...

And then the round of indignity and curse...

The series of laughter ended with ease,

A voice knocked within

Why can't She have a room without him?

Anshu Singh
B.A. (Prog), 3rd Year

48 HOURS LATER

It happened on the 10th of December, 2009.

48 hours later, as I sat in the Conference Hall of my school, painted in white all around, white- the colour of peace, happiness or sorrow; depending upon your cultural origins. I clicked 'Play' on my smartphone. The baritone of Jagjit Singh drowned every other sound in the room as I surrendered the fort of indifference to the army of emotions.

'Army of emotions', because I have often found myself experiencing a spectrum of emotions at the same time- anger coupled with frustration and contempt, or sorrow blended with guilt- as was the case now while the arrows of the song's words pierced my insides. "Chitthina koi sandesh, jaanewohkonsadesh, jahan tum chale gaye" [No letter, no messages- What part of the world have you disappeared to?]

Funny how 'emotion' derived from the Latin root word 'mot' meaning 'move' forced me to sit in utter paralysis, as I experienced it overwhelm the very core of my being. Tears rolled down my eyes, but I was quick to wipe them, for even when I was at my weakest, I didn't want anyone to know I was vulnerable. This is something you learn gradually when you're usually the guy who gets picked on by bullies because they sense your weakness. So, I closed my eyes and went back to the fated day- 10th of December.

Suddenly reality exposed itself in vestiges, it became clearer that this hadn't been a nightmare. Because when I revisited the event, I could actually visualize my face, and the myriad expressions. Had it been a dream, a big black blotch is what I would have seen in the place where my face usually is. But there it was, a skull of a face. With two hollow caves for eyes, eyes that jumped from one neighbor to the other, neighbors I had never really seen before, as they gathered around my house. "Kya fir kahi koi basti ujdi, log kyun jashn manane aaye" [Why are people on the streets celebrating, has some settlement been destroyed]- while I was ruminating upon the faces of the neighbors, the track had changed.

I sat back and reflected upon these words. Were the neighbors really out there to offer support to us, or were they drawn to it because a certain action had broken the monotony of their lives.

Their piercing eyes made me uncomfortable. It was a questioning gaze that met me. Though it made me uncomfortable, and I could feel sweat beads trickling down my face, beads which were as real as God is. However, I also knew that I was safe because I was enough to do what needed to be done.

Right after arriving home, and figuring out what had probably happened, I had pushed open the gates, moved aside to my sister's bedroom. Ignoring her dead body hanging from the ceiling fan, I went straight to the cupboard and ruffled through the stuff until I found what I was looking for. The Moto E was safe in my pocket, all messages and traces deleted, as I called my father to inform him of Shivanshi's suicide.

Deepak Kumar Singh
B.A. (Hons.) English, 3rd Year

THE PINK PORCUPINE

Bath salts. Such an innocuous household item, but in the right (or wrong, depending on who you ask) hands, an interesting cure for boredom.

Scientists will tell you that boredom sparks creativity, but to the less-enlightened souls such as me and my friends, all it does is self-propagate discord. So we justified our usage of a borderline - legal, recreational (in the loosest sense of the word) methodology for the utilization of the above mentioned item most commonly found in the 'bath' section of 'Bed, Bath and Beyond'; if you've had the pleasure of going on a whirl around this mecca of personal hygiene, you are a lucky man my friend.

Coincidentally, it was also the place we acquired the salts. Me and three of my science major college friends, with not much left of our names once the economic regression hit the innovation departments of most firms in the market. The only people who can now afford cutting-edge technology are the filthy rich – it's like the dream scenario from a comic book, except our world is not post-apocalyptic, yet.

And boy did the bath salts work at reducing the nightmarish reality we inhabited to a distant pinpoint of concern at the back of our consciousness. I speak collectively here partly under the assumption of a shared consciousness through the experience; but mostly because of what each of us drew in our dream journals (another fad, I know) describing what the insides of our mouth felt like once the haze had lifted, the prickliness, the faded light-ish gums, and the constant pins and needles of a parched mouth. It was inevitable, it seemed, that the thought processes should coincide.

The tile really says it all, doesn't it? Even the colours matched up. It was like we were in one of those old sci-fi movies where the main premise rested on ESP and wish fulfilment, except for the reality of the painstakingly crafted sketches. Indeed, hearing it from somebody else, we'd probably have dismissed it as the ramblings of another drug-addled hallucinating junkie who'd give in to the mind-bending effects. Even ours would have faded into the mist of forgetfulness, had it not kept reappearing when least expected. A ray of sunshine would become a rosy spike. A rat scurrying away in the night would gain a pinkish hue. A bar of slippery soap would gain a snout in mid-air. The works.

It has been 53 years, 9 months, 6 days and 11 odd hours as I write this, and yet, the wretched rodent and I have yet to make peace.

Ishan Wadhwa
B.A.(Hons.) English, 3rd Year

BROKE

I look at you, you smile down at me
Your eyes shouting, you don't know how much I love you

Don't go, you say
But you know, I won't stop
For it is time, I choose myself

You cared? You say
I never felt, maybe
Express! it's essential
For you'll never know, painful it is
To look down and wait all day long.

Maybe I couldn't be, what I should have
But express, did you?
The pride in your eyes, I wanted to be
The stone in your path, I became
A burden too heavy
A shame to carry..

I promise, I didn't intend to
But express, did you?
You left me, when there was no one else
To move ahead of the past!
Past! Yes, that is where I am today!

Doubting every bit, I lay
Was I so big a mistake? Pain took me
It took me deeper;
Every second I see you laughing around.
Maybe, not because you left me,
But because you promised, you won't!

I gather myself up, trembling at every step
And then you shatter me again!
That was a mistake, you call it.

Hatred never set, but the cord broke.
The person you loved died.
For the love still existed.
But the person changed.

TREADING UNTRODDEN PATHS

Singing songs which nobody sings
Don't promise me forever,
Just prove me wrong,
Don't leave me stuck,
In your sad song...

My words are priceless,
Not trivial to sing,
I am singing this song
Which nobody sings...
I was doing my best,
To keep her forever,
Destiny change its way,
Met her with someone better...

All dreams shattered,
Just in a blink,
I am singing this song,
Which nobody sings...
Reasons behind,
Which led to tragedies,
You made moment,
I made memories...

Sajal Jain
B.A. (Prog.), 2nd Year

Mona
B.A. (Hons) English 2nd Year

SHADES OF SILENCE

Choices, life always provides choices. And he was confronted by the same at that very moment. The room was dark, he could not see anything. He did not want to, darkness was soothing him like the warmth of love and hope could never do. He was enjoying this sensation. Did he really have a choice? No, the question was, whether he wanted a choice...

Vikram was not like any other boy of his age. This twenty-year-old boy had all the traits of a regular college student, but deep inside him was a past, which he always hid with his beaming yet wry smile. He was a man of few words, tall and slender, and having a loving family. But what Vikram was, that could never prosper in a normal environment. He did not have many friends, the few that he did were just for namesake. The loving nature of his family never felt genuine or real to him. It was the small things that changed him. Being the second child among three siblings, he normally felt left out. Not being too good in things that society perceives of being important, like studies and sports, made life all the more difficult for him. He was never the centre of attention of his family, or their love, but scolding was a part of his daily routine. They wanted him to change, not to be a slacker, not to be different. Yet, all he wanted to be was different.

It is said that stories should have a happy ending, if not that then at least it should provide a moral message. Vikram's story is not a happy ending. As far as providing a moral sermon goes, that is for you to decide. What Vikram was would not appeal to many people. He was emotionless, and popular media made him meet others like him. He praised Antony Hopkins' portrayal of Hannibal Lector, he saw himself in Dexter Morgan, the protagonist of the darkly dreaming 'Dexter' series. And then that incident happened.

Walking home from the bus stop on a Thursday night, the empty streets felt more familiar to Vikram. The eerie atmosphere seemingly made him feel better than he ever was in the company of others. But suddenly, he felt a disturbance in his perfect world. Yes, he was not alone anymore. He could sense someone following him. It was not just someone, there were two. He fastened his pace, not with a sense of danger approaching him, but with a sense of curiosity and excitement. The followers were still on his trail, keeping up with him, but there was only one of them following him now. He thought to himself, "What could he possibly want?" The answer though soon became clear to him. They were robbers. What other reason could they have for following him? Soon his chain of thought was broken by the second man blocking his way. "Hey smooth pie, give us all the valuables you have and quietly continue your journey to your home", said the second man with a dark grin. "Do it quickly if you do not wish to get hurt!" whispered the first man from behind. What happened next was unexpected. Vikram was not scared. He started laughing, he was enjoying this. This gave him a sense of pleasure he had never felt. Before the robbers could figure out the situation, Vikram snatched the knife from the man in front of him and he stabbed the other robber with it. He did not give a moment to the first robber to think, as the knife was now thrust inside his belly. Vikram stabbed him multiple times, and fled the scene as if his life depended on it.

Forty eight hours later, he found himself in his room, covered in darkness, enjoying that darkness. He did not tell anyone about the events of that night, the rain coat he had in his bag helped him to hide the blood stains. No one had noticed anything. It was bizarre, but he knew he had nothing to worry about. Two days had passed. It was his choice to conceal that incident, inside that beaming smile of his. He did not feel guilty. On the contrary, he loved doing what he did. He was a killer; the local news had reported this incident of two dead vagabonds. He had managed to stay out of the hands of law. Well how he did this, is a story for another time. We live in a dark world. There are people in this world who are different, but they don't come across as birds in an ocean. They blend in, because they have to. Vikram is one such person. Finding a moral message from this tale would be difficult, because Vikram's story is of such a genre. This is just a story about a man with a dark side.

Jibin K. Mathew
B.A.(Hons.) English, 3rd Year

IN THE DEPTHS OF GLORY, INNOCENCE SANK

"Business woman of the year", it sounds great but very obviously it requires a lot. How will you define your journey? Asked the interviewer.

Ah! That's pretty tough but I'll try. Firstly, as they say that behind every successful man there is a woman who never lost faith in her, I never had any such man in my life. I was always surrounded by people who called me "Failure" and at some or other point of life I proved them right.

So it is basically a journey from being a failure to being a successful woman. May be you can say that but the fact is that I never wanted to be one successful woman or get this award. Life always seemed pretty easy to me and my family made it a cake walk. It is just that you require one such moment in your life which changes you as a person. It will either make you or break you. One such incident happened with me and surely it made me.

Naina paused for a while and by holding her tears she continued her story. I lost my family in an accident. My relatives adopted me but continuously showed me that I am just a burden on them. I was forced to work, I was beaten on a regular basis. I still have those burnt marks on my body. I still have nightmares. I still encounter that torture in my dreams. I still live with those people. I still ..., Naina breaks down.

After a while Naina begins.

I wanted to be free of their hold. I wanted to live an independent life. I wanted to feed them with as much money as they want and that is what made me to do all this and achieve this title. It was a very heart touching story and I wish you all the success.

Don't wish me success, wish for my innocence because "In the depths of glory innocence sank".

Astha Ahuja
B.A. (Hons) Journalism 3rd Year

SINGING A SONG THAT NOBODY SANG

This time, perhaps the first, I am singing
For those who can't utter a word.
The song, unsung, all knew better,
Darkly veiled women, unclaimed rights
Are perplexed and bewildered.
Who could she say, don't marry other
Who could she say, thrice disowning kills the soul.

The song is known but is unsung,
In every dark attire of soul.
I'm talking about those wretched women,
Who can't even claim the song.

Let us think over it..!
Oh! All my wise man
The world of genius is not for long
A space of happiness.
I'm singing, that which nobody sang,
Though all of them are much better known.

Sunil Kumar Gupta
B.Sc. Mathematical Science, 2nd Year

END GAME

Today I was wondering about my endgame
Where the end is a full stop
And game is our life.

Standing on the bus stop, on that bustling road,
I observed those chicks chirping
Wondering, will their game end if they fall off
The nest and break their wing?

Seeing that blind man walk past through me,
I wondered, did his game end when he lost his vision?
Was darkness the last chapter of his story?

Getting onto the bus, I saw a girl with melancholic eyes
And an acid stricken face,
I wondered, is she past her endgame?
Was it the end of the world when she lost her identity?

Drowned in my thoughts, the conductor surprised me
Not because I had no money to buy a ticket
But because the conductor was pregnant (7 months
nearly)
Another thought raced through my mind,
Was she approaching towards her endgame?
What made her work in such a condition?

Time passed, thoughts raced, woods shouted in
silence,
And I got down at my stop.
Walking towards my destination, my home,
I noticed Mr. Gupta, sitting there on that bench,
With tears in his eyes, staring at some book he held.
Was he in his endgame after his son abandoned him?
Was he moving in a direction where he was about
To lose everything or has he already lost it?

Walking past through him,
I reached the door of my home,
Thinking, is this my endgame?

Then this realization struck me like lightning,
That there is no endgame,
You just reach the door, but that's not it,
Because there's a new world altogether besides it.

That the bird might take its wing, but it is going to heal.
Get healed, and then soar to heights that none could.

That the blind man may have lost his vision,
But not his imagination, because one can never lose
Something one has not taken from anyone.

That the acid stricken girl may have lost,
A part of her facial identity,
But she and her conscience are inseparable,
A conscience that grows every day,
And is bigger than ever before.

That the lady might have to work while she is pregnant,
But those eyes resonated with nothing but courage
and love,
The courage to fight the circumstances and stand up
for who she is,
And love for the child that is yet to be born.

That old man did have tears in his eyes,
He did sit alone on that bench.
But what was there between the pages of his book?
Mrs. Gupta's beautiful picture,
That allured him like fire does to a moth.
Those tears were not sad,
They were born out of love and nostalgia,
Physically he might be alone,
But in his mind, he had a universe within.

At that moment, I realized
That your game does not end until you want it to,
That no matter how much pressure is on you,
You'll turn out to be a diamond.
That no matter how hard it is to unlock the door,
You're going to find the key if you really want to.

From now, I believe that the only endgame which
exists,
Is the one in which our life exists,
And the end is a just a semi colon,
And never a full stop.

(May be death is, but it might not be either)

Saavi Shrivastava
B.A.(Hons.) Political Science, 1st Year

FAR CRY

Stumbling often never astray
Turning my back on the sun,
Was a gamble that my heart had to take
Sailing on turquoise water wasn't meant to
be my way

With my brothers-in-arms, I sealed my fate
The moment of reckoning is upon us as we
wait

For our enemies to take the bait, in sweaty
trenches.

I never embraced the make believe, for those
who heed red, I am insane

Had to forgo the way I weaved on Mary Jane

An apartment, a luxury car and household
bliss

I guess army greens were not a safe bet

As I read my name on the bullet shell

Die a happy man knowing

That my country sleeps well

Tushar Verma
B.B.E. 3rd Year

DO YOU DARE

A sound...

A shriek...

On how rough
the road not taken
so very tough
looks worm eaten.

A song no one would sing
forbidden words
that never ring

which would you take

What can you risk

is your heart brave

what will you save

whatever you most crave

or the fear of mind

that is itching to cave.

Palak Narula
B.A. (Hons.) Journalism, 2nd Year

WOMB OF WONDER

I think it's time to end it,
I've been through so much,
But now there's no hope left,
Not a human to touch.

Life seems a long imprisonment,
A conviction with no hope of bail,
The house I live doesn't feel like home,
I'm a slave of an invisible jail.

Mom and Dad, please let me go
It's suffocating, will you set me free?
There're sour tears, salty oceans,
Gallons of misery, you can't see.

Once the voice from within whispered,
'Hey there, you know you don't want to do this
Fretfully, I asked, "Who's that, who's speaking?"
"This is the hope still left inside you,
Just listen to it and your heart beating".

Don't have I strength to keep living,
Nor can I claim aid of choice.
"I know you're tired but still want to live,
So better go deaf for all, listen to my voice".

How do I continue living,
When I lack the pursuit of smile?
"Just hold on don't lose me,
Keep calm even if life seems fragile".

"Life is difficult, tragedies happen,
Something hold on to us, something we miss
But to be content in an own self,
Is the greatest bliss".

"I know all I say may seem utopia,
Still have faith in me and hold my hand,
Don't you leave it since life is a precious gift,
Many things are there to live for which you don't
understand".

Thank you hope for not letting me down,
Your words strike as the lightening does,
They'll always resonate in my crown,
Today I realise, I come from womb of wonder,
Sometimes a little rain,
But rest of the times a powerful thunder.

Saavi Shrivastava
B.A. (Hons.) Political Science, 1st Year

I RAN

Seeing the world run, I ran.
Far from my breath of solitude;
Into the madness that the world had wormed

Like a vendor,
Dealing with the battering bazaar
Pushed by the crowd,
Rushed to move afar

I found peace, I found life;
In the prison that kept me locked.
Far from the visage of this world,
Where time for me, never moved or stopped.

For the world had called upon me,
And I was called to run
To a race that never started
And a war that was never won.

Like a vendor
Dealing with the battering bazaar,
Selling his burden at a cost
Until he became a speck in the rush
And his own face was, but lost.
or the battering bazaar
Stretched to aeons,
Stretched to youth and death.
And the vendor
Just a speck was he
For the joys of the world;

He was kept.
The world ate him,
The bazaar got his hold
And in the arms of all this madness
He became all that he sold

Shikhar Rai
B.A. (Hons.) English, 2nd Year

WILL YOU LET ME IN?

After years of rush and solitude
 Will you let me in?
 If I ever come back to you
 In search of your pristine love
 To doze in your arms

If I fail to knock
 Will you come and seize me?
 And let me relive the twenty year old memory
 Of a cry and an allay

Maa, will you be available to me?
 Because one day I'll come to you
 To learn the difference
 between the three-letter-word,
 Sex and the three-word-sentence, I love you

Will you ever write to me?
 Explaining the ever-alive connection of light and
 night
 For their sacrifice reminds me of you
 You speak to me through undone clothes and
 wrinkled sheets
 Only the terror has now been changed into re-
 morse

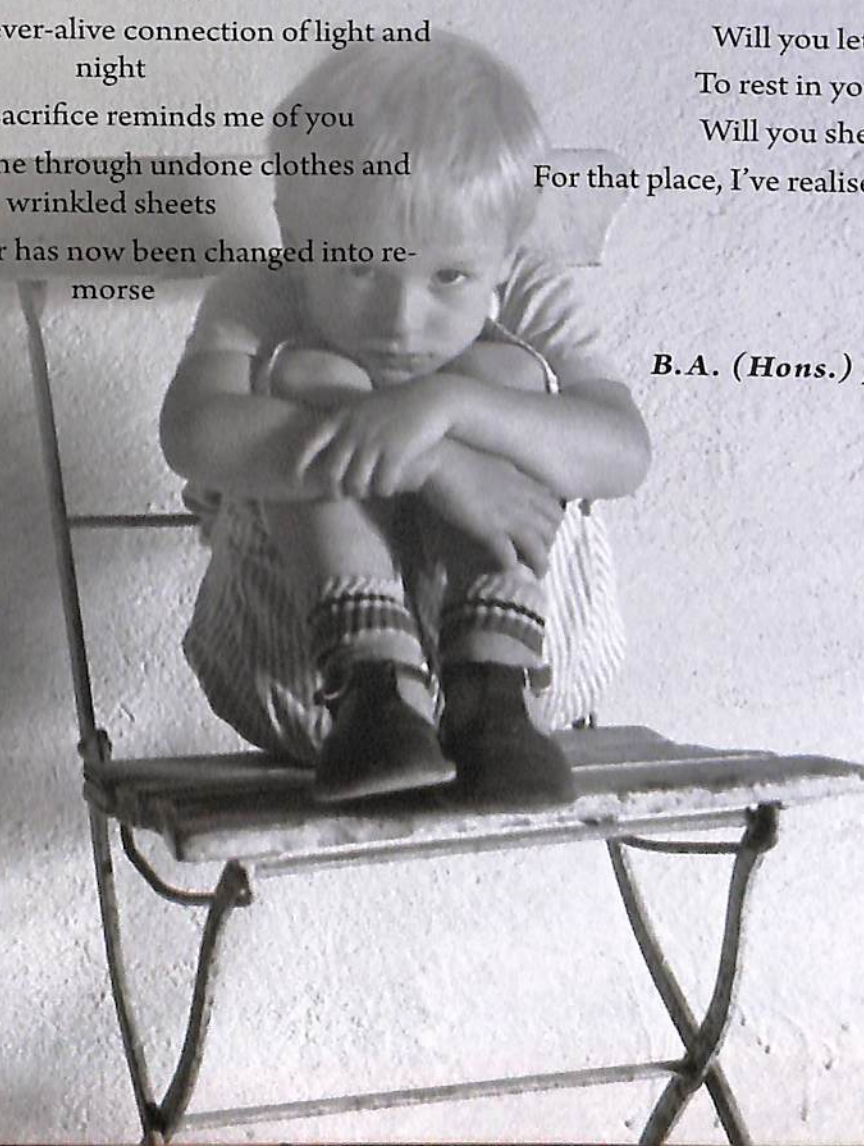
Will you accept me, Maa?
 With the baggage of a terrible mistake
 Will you take me for the love?
 Or leave me for the hurt?

Will you handover your legacy to me?
 All but the spark of your eyes
 For even on the last day of my life
 I'll come to you in want of it
 If I ever get tired of running
 Will you help me pause?
 And teach me not to stop

I yearn for an answer that
 If I ever wish to look back
 Will you let me in?
 Just like the unborn daughter I once was

Will you let me in?
 To rest in your womb
 Will you shelter me?
 For that place, I've realised is the safest for me

Palak Narula
B.A. (Hons.) Journalism, 2nd Year



IMAGINING A DIFFERENT WORLD

People are born with two eyes which consists 70% of sensation by human beings but we have not limited our sense to only these two eyes rather going beyond through of imaginations and we can think of beautiful things without having beautiful things near us, the entire development in culture, customs, culture, science, education all are the results of our imagination.

Hence I want to see the world more prosper by imagining an ideal society where no one will have hatred against each other, greed, corruption killing of innocent people have no place in that society, where one can have proper opportunity and equal status and dignity to utilise his full potential and happy life, perhaps this will be a God Kingdom.

"I hope my imagination will come true by the grace of Almighty".

Rahul Pal

B.A. (Hons.), Political Science, 3rd year

OF GLORY AND SUCCESS

Once upon a time, there was a king, ruling the kingdom vast spread. As his glory grew, empire unredeemed, responsibilities piled, his innocence drifted away and apart. The days of walking around without a thing to think upon was a feeling nostalgia for him. Just like is a modern day family man, a bundle of things to think about, to pick children up from school, to pay the pending EMI, the latest car his colleagues were thinking to buy.

In the hustle of morning forward, being the best or the largest emperor in case of king, they had to walk on a path of sacrifices, personal wishes / dream. In all that the most crucial thing they lost was innocence, the childlike – carefree mood with nothing to worry about or gorge upon. Glory in past or as of now, is compared or used in place of success. Each one, especially nowadays one must take some time off their busy schedule to relive their joy, their childhood their innocence, their happiness.

Priya Khandelwaal

B.Com (Hons), 3rd Year

THE PRICE OF GLORY

Glory was one thing I always craved.
Winning battles and ruling the world.
Destroying everything coming in my way.
Proving worthy of ruling the golden bird.
Then a day came.
When I fought the biggest war.
Killing was only past which was left unharmed.
Now I ought to acquire that past.
I fought, fought and fought.

Till the biggest glory was in my arms.
Then I realized what had I done.
Killing thousands of people.
And rain of tears to fall upon.
That time I realized
In the depth of glory
Innocence sank

Saurabh Gupta
B.Com(Hons), 2nd Year

A HIDDEN STAR

A star is hidden for so long!
Behind the clouds;
It might shine someday,
And that day might come,
If the universal light helps it come out.

The star is trying to regenerate its light
And is trying to find its source of light,
But the light seems too far away from it.
Might someday though the circumstances change,
And so does its position.

Someday it may find itself near the universal light,
And would rise and shine ever so bright.

Let us not lose hope and wait for the time,
That time will come,
If not today, then tomorrow
That tomorrow will come.
Let us not lose hope,
As someday the star will shine so bright.

Shivani Gupta
B.A. (Hons.) English, 3rd year

NEVER GIVE UP!

We human beings are facing many problems these days. Many of them devastating and there is tendency to simply turn on news and read about the problems without reflecting on how we can make a difference in our lives. The reality is that there are solutions to every problem we must look outside to our small window of solutions.

The ups and downs make our life more meaningful and strong; indeed they are part and parcel of our life. Life is a great teacher. I personally believe every day is a day of learning. Disappointments, failures and problems will trouble us, but if there is sunset, let us not forget there is sunrise too. I would like to share with you all what my mother told me once that children of fisher folk always make a house with sand on the seashore and suddenly a big wave always wash away their sand house but they don't get disappointed. They start building another house and they hope that the wave may not reach their house this time. This anecdote by my mother brought a ray of light in my life. Learnt one new thing:

Never give up!

Only the one who has travelled on uneven roads
Will be able to realize the worth of even roads.

Anu Jain
B.A. (P) 1st Year

TARNISHED LANE

Eve blends ropes like dew. Mysterious
Kites snare. Pebbles wrapped around in
Delighted solitude; decorum. Clots n lots hindered
Rips off ribs lane bends when river blends
Limbs glitter away in a gluten tamed in hats
Subtleness prevailed along.
Tips and drops of love.
Laps without crumbling craziness long
Enough for me.
It aches it hurts, jeopardizing the heart
Tips of rains can't calm away talents
Alone along away...
Wraps untie pain needy again ignored
Feels something awaits away.
Fades the sleep away in the midst of genders
Tender.
Taunts n abuses yelled yellow tingles
Improvements reforms be, being.
Sweetness smiled around lips knitted within pain.

Pain stricken apparatus; tearlessness,
I'm still in cradle...
Still there molten.
Journey stripped along within shut doors lonely.
States apart long, long away country of mine: stay
Away
Picturesque frames of flocks culture n nature.
Pressure hardly dropped off head to live
Alive ahead still hope takes me through n
Prayers taking by stand along
Pressure depression and love lame mist
Fades along falls inside out.
Buds hung me hell can't get a hand out wants
Little escape...
Alone, fear, death roars. Promises I have kept
Along alone through this tarnishing lane.

Prince Thomas
B.A. (Hons.) Political Science, 2nd Year

THE FORGOTTEN FUNDAMENTAL DUTY

In this era of McCarthyism, everyone is trying to exhibit their patriotism. There is a greater insistence on Fundamental Duties. Duties such as respect to National Flag and National Anthem have been excessively stressed upon; even by use of violence (which itself is contrary to a Fundamental Duty). But amidst all these, there is a duty which no one is talking about i.e. Article 51A (h) of the Constitution of India, "To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform."

Forget about talking, a vast majority of people might have never heard of it. Scientific temper describes an attitude which involves logic, discussion, argument and analysis. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in his book 'The Discovery of India' had written "[What is needed] is the scientific approach, the adventurous and yet critical temper of science, the refusal to accept anything without testing and trial, the capacity to change previous conclusions in the face of new evidence, the reliance on observed fact and not on pre-conceived theory, the hard discipline of the mind - all this is necessary, not merely for the application of science but for life itself and the solution of its many problems."

Scientific temper is a relatively more productive duty. If we are able to develop scientific temper in our younger generation, then they would become more innovative in their approach. They would be intrinsically motivated to create something new for the society. For that we need to lay more emphasis on the 'Curiosity Quotient' as well.

One can understand that it is quite cumbersome to search for everything that goes around the globe. The solution for this problem is 'Prioritization'. We can prioritize certain issues that are of national importance and with which we are directly or indirectly involved. For example - Let's take the recent issue of Gurmehar Kaur, the girl who went viral in the social media. Her picture showing a placard went viral. Even famous personalities trolled her image without further investigation. Everyone was so busy in trolling her that a majority of people didn't realized that the image which was being trolled was just a part of her video which had changed the whole context of her message. That particular image was being 'cherry picked'. Even a further vast majority of people didn't knew that the video was 10 month old before it went viral. If we consider both these points, then one would end up being confronted with so many issues that may change your mindset regarding the whole issue. That is what scientific temper and spirit of enquiry and reform all about.

One doesn't needs to be scientist at ISRO to perform this duty. You just need to be determined, curious, interrogative, patient and most importantly rational in your approach. By the time you are reading this line, you might have come across certain terms which may be jargon for you. If you have bothered to search for them, then you are very likely to perform this duty in future as well. In a time when yellow journalism is at its peak, social media is dominated by trolls, media is full of Propaganda; developing and promoting scientific temper is the best way in which you can show your nationalism and patriotism. Of course, this involves some effort but it being a duty towards your nation, that effort would be reasonable.

Ayush Choudhary
B.A. (P), 1st Year

THE THIRD EYE: DESTRUCTION AND DISSOLUTION

The meaning of the phrase the third eye of imagination may be different from the different people and so the phrase the third eye of imagination means a lot, But for me. The meaning of the third eye of imagination is destruction. The reason why I am saying that the meaning of the third eye of imagination is destruction because by imagination we create and invent something that can make our life easy to live and happiest and most of the time we become habitual of I and fully depended on I. Today we have seen that the inventions of Nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, and biological weapons are the result of imagination. These weapons were made for the protection of the people of a particular country itself from the threat of the another country. It was the imagination which make people capable to make weapons of the mass destruction which has created a life-long threat and fear for lives of the people themselves. Today many countries of the world have made these weapons and pose a threat to the lives the billions of the people weather they belong any country. By inventing these weapons they have also created so many threats to the environment and flora and farina spices. It was the power of the imagination which made people or enabled them to make millions of machines and equipment which helps them in their day to day life but also creates a lot of threat to the environment and the human beings by the power of imagination and science and technology people make I possible that their invention will become the main cause of their ultimate destruction and end.

Imagination is good till its outcome I for the useful for the human beings and does not make them fully depended on the machines and gadgets. Today by the help of imagination and science we are creating thousands of things which give us comfort and pleasure, but the result shows that these things make our loves complicated instead easy e.g. today we see that mobile phone have made people far from their real relationship such as today children don't talk to parents too much and most of the time spending busy on their mobiles, while reaming at home. Then we can say that by the power of imagination and science people invent many things but later on these things, weaken the relationship between and among the people. And when imagination create these kind of gaps between the people these inventions and products converts into the third eye of imagination which is destruction.

Peoples have made many things such A.C, weapons, machines which later on creates so many threats to the physical environment and become a main cause of the destruction. It was the imagination which made enabled a man to invent AK-47 gun, which later on started to kill millions of people all over the world. Today we see that most of the army personal pf the world used this AK-47 gun to kill their enemy or the soldiers of the enemy country during the war and terrorist also uses the same gun.

Finally I would like to say that the outcome of imagination may be helpful and for the comfort of the human beings but when imagination used to self-interest and for the invention of the weapons of the mass destruction then this becomes the destruction the third eye of imagination,

Thus the third imagination is destruction, it's also proud form a story that when god lord Shiva will open his third eye then the entire world will be destructed and everything will end.

Dhirendra Kumar

B.A. (Hons.) Political Science, 3rd Year

LIFE IS FINE

I left the road,
I went down to the river,
I tried to think but I couldn't
So I jumped in and sank.

I came up once and howled!
I came up twice and cried!
If that water hadn't been so cold
I might have sank and died.
But it was cold in the water! It was cold!

I took the elevator,
Sixteen floors above the ground
I thought about my life
And thought I would jump down
But it was high up there! It was high!

Though you may hear me howl,
And you may see me cry –
But, sweet baby,
You will never see me die!
For now I know that –
Life is Fine! Life was fine! Life will be Fine!

Tanishka Sharma
B.A. (Prog), 2nd Year

BE AWARE

Look around yourself,
Listen to the sounds from your surroundings
carefully
There you find various things
Some are useful, some are nothing.

It changes something in you.
Sometimes it encounters the chintzy thought in you
It affects what you do.
Most of the time, chintzy wins and noble is beaten
But somewhere in you it becomes a promise solemn.

You get an edge from this.
You want to move out from the mist.
Give a little attention to small things:
“a step”, “a new experience” or “sun”.
Keenly watch the world unfold around you.

You then come to a new chapter of learning.
Acquired through the skills of observation.
You are able to improve yourself
And that gives you utmost satisfaction.
Now you begin to live anew,
It may not change your outer world.
But slowly, surely a little spark within
Will bring alive a flame unfurled.

Anju Kumari
B.A. (Hons.) English, 2nd year

OFTEN, YOU CROSS MY MIND...!!

Indeed, I deny not,
Many a times you cross my mind.
Whenever beams tease the dawn,
Your cuddling warmth, there I find.
Never shall I wonder,
How, when I get into a chain of dire thoughts
And feel like draining all at once,
I close my eyes and see you smile... there break all
frozen knots?
Subtly, there's a pleasure I derive,
From aching and screaming lone,
And though this seems inexplicable,
I still discern and rejoice at the melody of your tone.

I know I'm a shore,
All dry, reticent, cynical and crude
The one you've deserted way before,
Yet your fond wave hits and intrude.
Why is it so? Why don't you go?
The strings of your mirage have me in a bind,
I begin to move the pathless way,
Often, whenever you cross my mind...!!

Gauri Mishra
BA (Hons.) English, 2nd Year

YOUR HEART COMMANDS

Is treading an untrodden path simple?

At a point in life, everyone is confronted with a choice between compliance and defiance. Sadly, the choice is more complicated than it looks.

Compliance on one hand comes wearing the façade of peace and hints the preservation of relationships to be a much simpler task. It provides a fixed and safe routine with the occasional thrill of a vacation. Looking like a perfect deal, it come in disguise, harmless to the one availing it. "If anything fails, don't blame me because I am doing this on your account" says one who is fooled into turning his blind eye to his crippled dreams.

Defiance, does it come at a cost?

Ofcourse it may come at the cost of the relationships you hold dear, social acceptance, your future or your precious sanity. Looks like you will be dealt the crappiest deal! Thrown on an untrodden path that is full of thorns. Forced to sing a song that nobody sings. Then why must you bother singing? Why must you bleed at the prick of every thorn?

Because your heart commands it! Because nothing in your life has felt so right and befitting.

You will die someday. You will definitely will. It doesn't matter if you fail or succeed. What matters is the effort. The best foot you put forward for your own dreams.

The untrodden path may not be simple, but it is your path.

Saavi Shrivastava
B.A.(Hons.) Political Science 1st Year

THE QUEST FOR GLORY

Longing for the greener pastures is an ingenious tract of human beings. What we have is never enough. Especially, when one tastes the delicious starter of success and glory, it becomes excruciatingly difficult not to have the entire meal. But as our ancestors say, even the elixir of life becomes poison, when consumed more than needed. That is exactly with the case of addiction to success. We keep wanting for more and more. But when it starts spilling over from our lives' goblet, it gradually sinks our purpose in life.

The insatiable desire of glory makes a man very different from the one he used to be. When we are with our loved ones we are at our comfort zones, but if, by chance we happen to shed that warm shell and get out to the glamorous world of success, we lose the feeling to return home. Repercussions of glory become endless if we start looking at our previous life prior to this splendour.

A normal person with some talent, when gets recognized and rewarded for the same, develops a sense of self-pride in himself/herself, this is commonly visible in our day-to-day lives. When we are repeatedly praised and acknowledges for something we naturally possess, a vile bug of pride starts biting deep into our minds. When we realize that we have subordinates and our opinions and decisions are kept high up in the hierarchy, we become a body full of over-confidence. Similarly, when people start giving us immense respect for the place we hold, we become arrogant to our inferiors or the less-experienced ones. When we start developing a sense of indomitability by deducing "what we can do, others can't", we reach the supreme height of vanity. Even it becomes a point where we ourselves recognize only our conceited self and not the person we used to be once. Our insolence touches the peak and we start treating even our friends and dear ones with disrespect. We start behaving in the most unexpected ways. A feeling develops that what we have done, none of our loved ones had done, what we possess, none of our friends does. And that becomes the ultimatum. We lose our integrity, our relations and our innocence.

Success will come, but not before taking away the real essence of our lives. We do become great people but we will not have anyone to share the feeling with. Our changed attitudes build huge wedges between our relationships with people. Somehow, those wedges become too hard to destroy. And as a result, we lose the precious gifts life offered us, all because of our own mistakes. Success and glory are bonuses in life; take them as that and not as a 'necessity'. We all want recognition, but that can't be the only thing in life we want. Unless we respect what we have, we can never respect whatever we ever get.

Alina Kazmi

B.A. (Hons.) English, 2nd Year

JOURNEY

I've been traveling for so long,
So lost and stumbled upon
I see two paths in front of me
And no central path without choosing a side.
If I was perfect then this would be easy,
the roads are difficult, treacherous tides
on either I could drown.

Siddharth Deshmukh

B.A. Prog., 3rd Year

BRAINSTORMING THROUGH MUSIC

Do you like music?

Do you like to move along with the rhythm, tap at every beat, does your heart goes boom boom with the music and you scream out loudly the few lyrics you remember? It's a common experience for all those music lovers out there.

That's what happens when we listen to the music we love. But did you know there is more to it?

Scientists have a way of unraveling things and through the years of research are discovering something unimaginable about music. Even plato, the great Greek philosopher had predicted it long before.

So what can music do?

"IT CAN ACTUALLY MAKE YOU SMARTER"

1) Music has the power to improve specific higher brain functions and really can make you smarter. In particular, science has shown that listening to music enhances reading and literacy skills, reasoning, and mathematical abilities.

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything"

- Plato

2) Brain is hard-wired to connect music with long-term memory. Specific brain regions linked to autobiographical and episodic memories and emotions are activated by hearing familiar music. Listening to music has been shown to significantly

improve working memory.

3) A meta-analysis of 400 studies validated the many health benefits of listening to music including lowering of the stress hormone, cortisol. Listening to music triggers the brain's nucleus accumbens, responsible for releasing the feel-good neurochemical dopamine, which is an integral part of the pleasure-reward and motivational systems and plays a critical role in learning. Higher dopamine levels improve concentration, boost mood, and enhance memory.

While we are thinking of just listening to music, well playing music is on completely different level.

Practicing a musical instrument regularly engages all four hemispheres of your brain at an electrical, chemical and architectural level which optimizes brain power.



Playing music is a full-body workout for the brain.

As a musician plays an instrument, motor systems in the brain control both gross and fine movements needed to produce sound. The sound is processed by auditory circuitry, which in turn can adjust signaling by the motor control centers. In addition, sensory information from the fingers, hands and arms is sent to the brain for processing. If the musician is reading music, visual information is sent to the brain for processing and interpreting commands for the motor centers. And of course, the brain processes emotional responses to the music as well!

Various studies show that learning to play a musical instrument not only increases grey matter volume in various brain regions, but can also strengthen the long-range connections between them. Other research shows that musical training enhances verbal memory, spatial reasoning, and literacy skills, such that professional musicians usually outperform non-musicians on these abilities.

Musicians also have higher levels of executive function they create can a category of inter-linked tasks and are efficient in planning, strategizing, and give a lot of attention to detail. Musicians also exhibit enhanced memory functions creating, storing, and retrieving memories more quickly and efficiently.

Music gets the good genes moving – specifically those that help with mood, memory, learning and basic brain function. But it also slows down the bad genes that cause brain degeneration, meaning that listening to music is like having a shield on your brain.

Aishwarya Nair
B.Sc Physical Science, 1st Year



RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROJECTS

To initiate and encourage a culture of research and innovation in the college at undergraduate level, Maharaja Agrasen College, conducts different projects under Star Innovation Project Scheme.

This year, the college is running seven projects under STAR Innovation Projects scheme (for a period of three years). These projects are student-centric research activities under the guidance of teachers from different departments.

S.No.	Title of The Project	Investigator
1	Culture and Communication in Global Organizations	Dr. Sunil Sondhi, Principal
2	Cyber Security Help System	Dr. Meena Mehta, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science
3	Develop a Strategy for the In-house Performance Appraisal and Management of the Employees in the University of Delhi	Dr. T.N Ojha, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi
4	Developing E-Learning Materials for Information Management of Higher Education	Sudhir K. Rinten, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism
5	Strategic Management of Higher Education Institutions : A Case Study of University of Delhi	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
6	Workspace Optimization for Communication and Innovation	Dr. Niraj Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
7	To Design and Develop Low Cost, Self-learning Heterogeneous Swarm Robotic Ecosystem	Dr. Praveen Kant Pandey, Department of Electronics



CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION IN A GLOBAL WORLD

Dr. Sunil Sondhi

The overall objective of this project is to examine the impact of globalization on Culture and Communication. By exploring issues relative to this goal through the lens of a quantitative survey students can broaden their understanding of the role of communication in the modern world and be in a better position to initiate positive social changes in the future. The specific purpose of this project is to explain the effect Cultural Intelligence has on a persons' communication skills. The result of the project will answer to what extent a person's CQ affects his/her ability to communicate efficiently with persons from different cultural backgrounds. The research question in the project will be: How does a person's Cultural Intelligence affect their communication with persons from other cultures?

The project will answer to what extent a person's CQ affects his/her ability to communicate efficiently with persons from different cultural backgrounds within the society.

This project will try to explain if there in reality is a connection between CQ and persons' communication skills. This will be achieved by a deductive approach where a persons' level of CQ and communication skills will be evaluated and analyzed. The Communication Satisfaction model, developed by Downs and Hazen and the Four-Factor CQ model/questionnaire developed by Early and Ang, will be the foundation of the project research. Both theories: Communication Satisfaction and CQ, are established and have successfully been used in other research.

With a quantitative survey we will be able to reach a larger number of respondents, since in a quantitative study there is a focus on a general conclusion, meaning that the significant results could be tested on another research and give the same result. The proposed survey will consist of three main parts. In the first part, the respondents will be required to fill in answers regarding demographics. In the second part questions, the respondents will be asked to answer questions regarding their understanding of cultural intelligence. In the third part, the respondents will be asked questions regarding their understanding of Communication.

By conducting a quantitative study we will hopefully be able to draw a generalisation if there is a connection between CQ and communication. For that reason, a qualitative study is not relevant in the project because it will only explain a few respondent's answers, thus it is impossible to provide a general result. To sum up, the use of a quantitative study is more suiting than the use of a qualitative study, based on the projects' aim to achieve a general conclusion. Further on, the collected data will be analyzed in a correlation test.

Detailed Work Plan

The project has been divided into six main phases. First, the foundation of the project explaining background, problem, purpose, research question, theoretical limitations as well as outline is being developed. In the second phase, the research philosophy and research approach of the project will be clearly developed. Also, in this part, the choice of theory and methodology will be stated. In the third phase extensive literature review will be made, and a theoretical model linking the theories with the problem to be investigated. In the fourth phase the research design, research strategy, time horizon, data collection, sample collection, conceptualization, reliability, validity, generalisability will be developed. In the fifth phase descriptive statistics, the independent variable-CQ, the dependent variable-Communication, test of hypotheses and final analysis will be developed. In the final phase research summary, critical review, practical implications and future research will be made explicit.

CYBER SECURITY HELP SYSTEM

Dr. Meena Mehta

Technology has eased and simplified the way we communicate with friends, the job we do. It is transforming the way we behave. New technological developments are constantly infiltrating our lives in positive as well as not-so-positive ways. In this project we propose to develop a system on Cyber Security awareness through "Cyber Security Help System".

Cyber Security training and education is the most important aspect of preventing cyber-attacks on both types of people. We educate them to the perils of cyber world and enable them to understand when an attack may occur and how to avoid such attacks. A security awareness program should be continuous and dynamic, so one module of this system is dynamic content management.

Objectives of the research are; Requirements analysis, Software and hardware requirement, Design (Database design, Template design(GUI), Validations to be performed in each form and Graphics Design)

Hence, they were compartmentalized in varies phases of 6 months tenure. Objectives for 1st phase were Requirements analysis, Software and hardware requirement, Design (Database design, Template design(GUI), Validations to be performed in each form and Graphics Design).

Methodology followed for phase-1

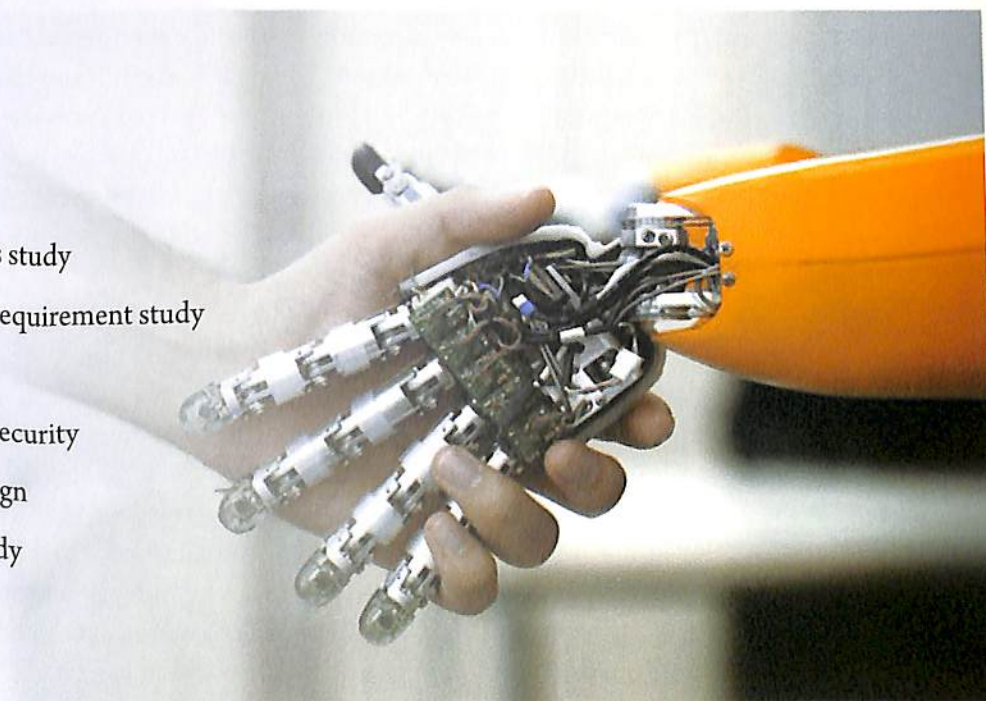
In this project we will basically use Waterfall models the oldest and most straightforward of the structured SDLC methodologies — finish one phase, then move on to the next. Each stage relies on information from the previous stage and has its own project plan. Waterfall is easy to understand and simple to manage. But with a slight modification and incorporation of The Iterative model in between in later phases.

Outcome

Working of Individual modules independently.

Work done

1. Feasibility study
2. Requirement analysis
3. Data Collection
4. Database designing tools study
5. Hardware and software requirement study
6. Data Flow diagram
7. Presentation on Cyber Security
8. Preliminary graphic design
9. Web designing tools study



Develop a Strategy for the In-house Performance Appraisal and Management of the Employees in the University of Delhi

Dr. T.N. Ojha

A University is a social institution. It is formed by the people and it functions for the people with an intention to develop human mind and soul. As an organization, University needs three inseparable instruments to work namely, Students, Teachers and Administration (Popularly known as 'Non-Teaching'). In common parlance, Teaching-Learning activity is broadly based in the classrooms between Teacher and students, and it is often observed, that the student-administrator interaction is limited to fees, examinations, degree only. There is a need to enhance this understanding amongst the student fraternity about the Non-teaching employee's contribution to the University as strong support system. Hence, this project is an attempt to understand the working efficiency of the Performance appraisal systems deployed in the Delhi University for Non-Teaching employees.

Objectives for phase-1

- Understanding the underlying principles of APAR, Finding the Potential Benefits of the prevailing APAR system, Finding the Potential Complications of the prevailing APAR system, Finding the Potential Improvements in the prevailing APAR system, Finding the Potential Oppositions to Performance Appraisal, Differentiating between Performance Appraisal in Public and Private Sectors, Understanding the advantages of Performance Appraisal from University Point Of View, Understanding the disadvantages of Performance Appraisal from University Point of View
- Gathering and evaluating the merits and demerits of performance appraisal on university basis and assisting in the editing the final document.
- Analysing the limitations of performance appraisal in public and private sectors. Analysing the by-laws of the University of Delhi and researching on the by-laws and present APAR system and assisting in the editing of the final document.
- Differentiation between the performance appraisal systems in the public and private sectors.
- Analysing the benefits and complications related to performance appraisal standards in the present scenario.

Methodology followed

The first stage was based on secondary data source - online published literature. Initially, key issues relating to performance appraisal for the employees will be identified for conducting in-depth interviews with related employees, the top level management, and related professionals and experts in this field of study.

Results achieved:

The research gave the team a strong base on the concept of Performance Appraisal, existing works done in this field of study, APAR System of Performance Appraisal - Concept, achievements, challenges in implementation, failures which is essential for further stages.

Developing E-Learning Materials for Information Management of Higher Education

Sudhir K. Rinten

Information literacy empowers people in all walks of life to seek, evaluate, use and create information effectively to achieve their personal, social, occupational and educational goals. Information-literate people are able to access information about their health, their environment, their education and work, and to make critical decisions about their lives and profession. There is a huge growth in user patterns & Information Management in era of online media & its consumption behavior. It is really important for any Higher Education Institution to store, access and revisit information of requisite in accordance with various platforms and need arises.

Higher Education Institution requires information related to the students like, Name of the student, Parents/guardian name, Location – local and permanent address, date of birth, education details etc. Information are regarding library contains, availability of books, resources, books purchase procedure, no. of copies available of particular books, etc. Information regarding admin. Section includes student's attendance, marks, course-wise distribution record, etc.

Their retrieval on time is a big challenge for the lower information literate professionals. This learning material will not only categorize information but also provide the solutions for storage, accesses and retrieval of the information. This will add on caliber and expedite the process of information management.

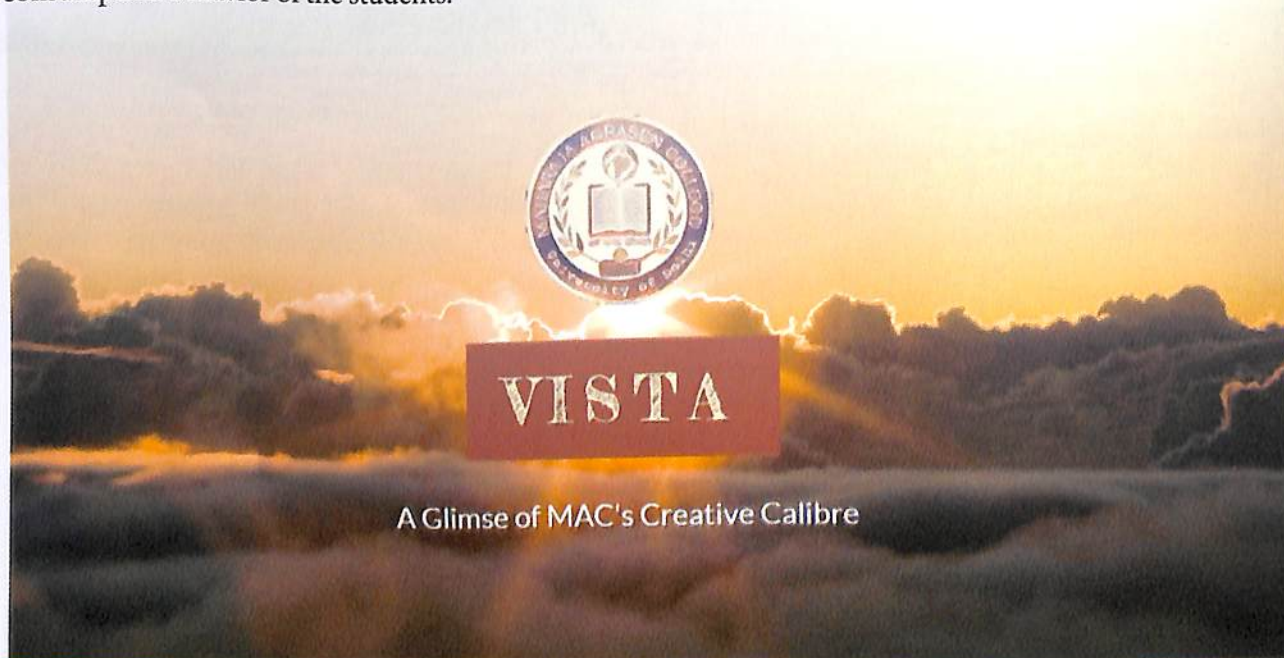
This e-learning material will be manual for information management.

Objectives for phase-1

Mapping of Information: Admin section, library and verification.

Results achieved:

Mapping is done; validation of the information is under process; development of the project is satisfactory; Mapping of Information needed in classroom is complete; an e-learning platform (off line) is created along with a discussion forum; <http://thevistamac.blogspot.in/> is created to mark the information literacy and consumption behavior of the students.



Strategic Management of Higher Education Institutions: A Case Study of University of Delhi

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari

Knowledge plays an important role in economic competition; among nations as well as corporations. Strong research and a well-educated work force is an important driver of economic growth of a nation. The most striking example in India is probably the software industry that was established in the city of Bangalore known as India's Silicon Valley.

Countries or regions without competitive higher education can easily become subjects to brain drain when talented individuals leave to get their education elsewhere and never return. Conversely, strong educational institutions can work as attractors of top talents from all over the world. Hence, a world class university is a very valuable asset for the country, region and nation where it is located. Despite, or maybe rather because of the technological advances made, countries like India still face great challenges and problems to solve. Preventing rampant poverty or dealing with its effects calls for the development of new energy sources, more efficient transportation systems, improved water purification and agricultural technology- to mention a few examples.

This implies the need to create successful universities. To accomplish this, some kind of strategy is required. For now, let's assume that it is something along the lines of: doing world-class research and providing high-quality education. To create a strategy it is necessary to understand what the components of success are. Are there any core competencies or strategic resources involved in higher education? If so, which are they and how can they be acquired? Given that top universities tend to be quite old, how do the processes work that build success over time? To what extent have certain universities become successful because of their own actions, and how much depends on reactions to the environment and factors beyond control?

Objectives for phase-1

- a) What are the factors that make a University successful?
- b) How can Higher Education Institutions be managed successfully?
- c) How did University of Delhi become successful in becoming and retaining its positions as the best university in the country?
- d) What are the challenges that are facing University of Delhi in managing its Higher Education institutions?

Results achieved:

- a) Major texts and reports were identified.
- b) Attempts to confirm existing theory by review of literature was done.
- c) Students involved in the project were distributed work for review of literature.

The students have been able to confirm the existing literature on the working of Higher Education institutions. The working of University of Delhi was examined minutely. Major actors and factors that have been helpful in making this University successful were also identified.

Workspace Optimization for Communication and Innovation

Dr. Niraj Kumar

Workspace optimisation refers to the alignment of the work environment to reduce costs, enable peak performance or both, and the innovative workspaces are the cost effective, flexible, and sustainable work environment that support organisational change and collaborative work styles. A well designed, optimised workspace is an important factor in increasing productivity, staff recruitment and building up a culture of high performance. After a lot of research it has been figured out that an optimal physical environment can serve as a foundation for an effective workforce. It is clearly proved that the workers who allow them to help decide when, where, and how they work are more likely to be satisfied with their jobs, performed better, and viewed their company as more innovative than competitors that did not offer such choice.

Current research shows, and leading business agree that the workplace significantly influences employee satisfaction, health, hiring, retention and productivity. It is thus observed that an increasing number of organisations worldwide from the tech sector, creative economy, public services, educational institutions etc. are investing to enhance the performance in creativity and innovation, in the workplace design. Hence, the range of strategies aimed at innovating and optimising the workplace is varied and wide: from embodying creative values in the design of workplaces, though supporting innovation by generating greater opportunity for communication and collaboration, to building dedicated spaces for creative thinking.

Objectives for phase-1

- 1) Understanding optimal utilisation of workplace in educational institutions.
- 2) Understanding removal of monotonous work routine.
- 3) Understanding how workplace innovation enhances work productivity.
- 4) Understanding Team bonding and Sense of Ownership in various institutions.

Results achieved:

- We understood what optimal utilisation means.
- Through Optimal workspace utilisation, we understood how monotonous work routine can be eradicated.
- Workspace optimizations enhances productivity.
- Team bonding and sense of ownership.

Innovation, Creation and Communication are inter-related. Communication with innovation can stimulate creativity that is the fundamental need for information. A good external environment needed to be created to eliminate communication barriers, shorten communication distance and 'Interaction-Promoting facilities' that are cafeterias, laboratories, where unintended communication can happen among people of different subsystems and departments which leads to generation of innovative and good ideas.



To Design and Develop Low Cost, Self-learning Heterogeneous Swarm Robotic Ecosystem

Dr. Praveen Kant Pandey

Robotics is the branch of engineering that deals with the design, construction, operation and application of robots. It includes systems for their control, sensory feedback and information processing. Swarm robotics is a new approach to the coordination of multi-robot systems. It is based on collective behavior emerging from the interactions between the robots and interactions of robots with the environment.

The main objectives of the project are-

- To design and develop a low-cost robot envisioned to work individually as well as in swarms
- To test different devices and algorithms in simulated environment
- To build swarm of robots capable of solving real-life problems including following tasks:
 - Ranging and mapping a terrain
 - Gathering information through sensors
 - Communicating with environment and peers
 - Foraging the terrain to carry out a given task

Objectives for phase-1

1. Literature review of work done in the field of robotics with emphasis on:
 - Study of simple robots that can work in swarms
 - Features and abilities of swarm robots
 - Algorithms developed for carrying out basic and complex tasks
2. Propose a design for MacBot which shall include:
 - Finalize the salient features of MacBot.
 - Identifying the platform to be used to design MacBot.
 - Based on these two requirements, identifying the sensors and actuators needed for the design
3. Procurement of development tools, kits, sensors, actuators etc.
4. Testing and Programming individual peripherals (sensors and actuators) of the robots.
5. Using more than 1 peripheral in tandem to complete secondary tasks

Results achieved:

1. The literature review has been completed.
2. Design for the first prototype has been finalized. In the first design it is decided to use commercially available Arduino based board for the MacBot-I. This will reduce the fabrication time and will enable the students to concentrate on designing the applications for controlling the bot.
3. Most of the basic components required have been procured
4. Students are testing and programming individual peripherals.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY COMMITTEE

It was a jam packed year for the ECA Committee. Under the able guidance of Dr. Abha Sharma, It challenged its limits by holding more than a dozen successful events in the duration of an academic year.

'Arpan'- Cultural Display of Maharaja Agrasen College's Societies for the NAAC Committee:

Every college builds its name on the hard work and talents of its students. The various societies of the College put up a cultural display of their prowess in front of the NAAC Committee on August 4, 2016, by presenting their best foot forward in the arena of dancing, playing instruments, singing, and theatre. Gushing at all that they had to offer, the team went back happy and content, lauding the students for their efforts.

Onam Celebration:

The College in association with Delhi Malayali Association organised Onam festival on October 2, 2016 in Auditorium from 7 PM to 11 PM. Students of the college from Nataraj: The Dance Society and Septune; The Music Society participated with full vigour and enthralled the audience with their performances. A medley of songs under the title "Sargam" and a fusion of three prominent classical dance forms of India namely Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Mohiniattam representing the rich cultural diversity that the nation possesses, were the main attractions of the event. To mark the festival of boats- Onam, Kuttanadan Punjiyille the traditional boat song of Kerela gave the evening a grand finale.





Oath Taking and Freshers Welcome:

Collaborating with the Student Union a Ramp Walk and DJ Party was organized on October 21, 2016 to make the new batch of students feel welcome. The students, dressed in their best walked the ramp and danced their hearts out. The day also witnessed the maiden event of the newly formed student union. The office bearers took oath and took the responsibility on their shoulders to uphold the integrity of the college in letter and spirit.

Rashtriya Ekta Saptah:

In accordance with the directives of MHRD, Govt. of India, the week, 31 October-6 November, 2016 were observed as the Rashtriya Ekta Saptah. A play on pacifism by Samyantar, The Stage Play Society: Gulabi and a dance performance on Unity in Diversity by Nataraj were well received by the college students. Theme based competitive events like solo/duet dance and slogan writing were conducted. Dr. Sanjeev Tiwari gave a lecture on the relevance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in today's world. The students and faculty members took the integrity pledge on the occasion.



National Education Day: November 11, 2016 was celebrated as National Education Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. An essay writing and poster making competition, on the theme of importance of education was organized.

Beti Bachao Beti Padoo:

The College was fortunate to host the 'Best Utsav Samaroh' on the 24th January, 2017. The occasion was graced by the Hon'ble Deputy C.M. of Delhi, Sh. Manish Sisodia who lit the holy lamp and in his address encouraged for equal opportunities to girls both in thinking and in being. He recited instances of how mentalities need to be targeted from an early age so as to bring gender sensitization for the greater good of the nation. There was a short address by the District Magistrate (East) and the dignitaries, Mrs. Asha Aggrawal and Dr. Sunita Godara. The audience constituted of both college students and students from various schools. The inaugural was followed by a poetry recitation on the strength of a girl as the most important stake holder of the family and in turn the country. This was followed by a dance-drama act by Nataraj, the Dance Society that showcased the journey of a girl from the day she is born, the daily struggles and turmoil that she has to go through. The afternoon was adorned with performances like Rajasthani Dance, Gidda, Lavani and Theatre by many a schools and foundations. All of them were theme based and helped create awareness in the young impressionable minds.

This year also stands testimony to a new society being introduced taking into consideration the repeated demands of the College lacking in a Marketing society. The society was launched and showcased its maiden event in the Annual Cultural Festival, Yuvaan'17.



YUVAAN 2017

The three day extravaganza, The Annual Cultural Festival of the College, Yuvaan'17 was flagged off on the 23rd of March, 2017 and culminated on the 25th of March. A celebration of the exuberance and talents of the youth, the college was lit in colours of varied talents. The Student Union and the ECA Committee worked hand in hand with constant support of the Convenor Dr. Abha Sharma and the Advisor to the Union Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari to bring out one of the best festivals the college has had.

Adorned beautifully in festivities by Srijan, the Art and Craft Society of the College, the first day started off with welcoming the Principal Dr. Sunil Sondhi who lit the holy lamp seeking the blessings of Goddess Saraswati for the successful culmination of the program. Sumedha Uppal, on behalf of the student union and the cultural council explained the significance of the word 'Yuvaan' as an epitome of youthful pride and declared the fest open. The heralding theme music by Septune reverberated through the walls of the auditorium. The first day was dedicated to the fine art of theatre. With both Drishyantar, The Stage Theatre Festival and Aaina, The Street Play Festival going on side by side, the college saw extremely brilliant performances from Colleges of Universities across Delhi NCR. Eloquence reigned with competitions like Turncoat Debate conducted by Chakravi, The Debating Society. Rangoli, Nail Art, Mehndi, Poster, News Paper Dress Making etc instigated the artistic souls.

The second day was a tribute to Music. The college danced to the tunes of the iconic Maestro Ustad Kamal Sabriji playing his Sarangi. Competitions challenging the music prowess of many attracted active participation



with more than 200 participants showcasing their talents in the varied genres hosted by Septune. Western Dance competition, conducted by Nataraj, The dance society, left many a jaws wide open with the absolutely flawless performances. Markos, The Marketing Society of the college conducted their maiden event and collected a lot of nods and applause for the same. Treasure Hunt, Quiz, Sudoku, Creative Writing were also major crowd pullers.

The third day was amongst the most awaited ones with another Maestro, Punjabi Pop Singer Jasbir Jassi taking the stage and making the crowd cheer

on the top of their voices. Ranging from soulful Sufi to peppy Punjabi dance numbers, it was all there. Songs like "Dil Le gayi Kudi Gujarat Di" and "Laung the Lashkara" were the cherry on top. Before this the auditorium was a buzz with dancing competitions one after the other, ranging from classical to Bollywood to folk; the audience rooted for more! The Battle of Bands competition created the perfect setting for people to rock and sway.

The celebration of talents, as multifaceted as it could get, Yuvaan'17 brought smiles to many a faces. In total 3500 people, on all three days, witnessed as history was created. It proved yet again that culture infused with modernity can do wonders. That is what Maharaja Agrasen College has always stood for!





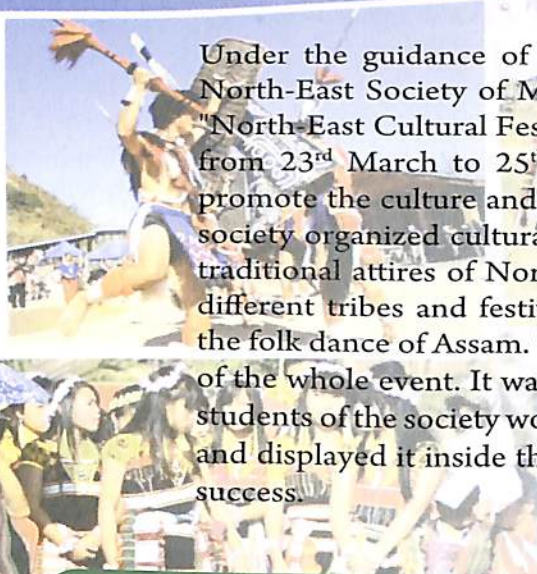
NORTH-EAST SOCIETY

The North East Society of Maharaja Agrasen College had a fruitful year. A series of activities throughout the year kept the spirit of oneness alive.

Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat Programme:

In association with the ECA Committee, the society organized a series of events including a Quiz on the North East States, Bihu Dance workshop was organized from 6th March 2017 to 22nd March 2017. A display of Cultural Attires and Pictures has been put up to see and cherish in the Auditorium Lobby of the College from 23rd March 2017 to 10th April 2017. Preparation of traditional delicacies from the states of Assam and Sikkim were also put on display to relish.





Under the guidance of Dr. A Jiran Meitei and Dr. Kingaule Newme, North-East Society of Maharaja Agrasen College organized three days "North-East Cultural Festival" along with annual college fest 'YUVAAN' from 23rd March to 25th March, 2017. The motto of the fest was to promote the culture and tradition of North-East India. On the first day, society organized cultural show and introduced the spectators with the traditional attires of North-Eastern states and displayed the pictures of different tribes and festivals. On second day, society performed, Bihu, the folk dance of Assam. The dance performance was the main attraction of the whole event. It was applauded by the audience. On third day, the students of the society wore full traditional attires of the North-East India and displayed it inside the college campus. The whole event was a great success.



SPORTS ACTIVITIES

The Sports Committee organised its most important event, the Annual Sports Day, Spardha 2017 on 30th March 2017. Various athletic events like 100m Race, 200m Race, 4X100m Relay Race, Shot Put, Long Jump, Javelin were organised. A men's Cricket Match between the Teaching and Non-Teaching staff members was organised in the morning followed by the women's Cricket Match between the faculty members and the students' cricket team. The close fought match became the main attraction of the day.

Apart from the Spardha, the Sports Committee also organised other activities throughout the year while encouraging the college's budding sportsmen to make their mark at various events organised across colleges in Delhi University as well as other universities in India. Inter-departmental and Intra-college basket ball, volleyball, kabaddi, chess, badminton and cricket matches were organised from 12th to 14th January by the Sports Committee in collaboration with the Students Union.

The college football and basketball teams performed well at various inter-college tournaments. The Basketball team secured second position at Shiv Nadar University tournament and third position in BHI Open Tournament. Two Ball Badminton players Mr Shahrukh and Mr Ravi participated in All India Inter-University tournament. Mr Umang Bhatt secured third place in Korfball in All India Inter University Championship. Three Ball Badminton players represented Delhi State in senior national championship. In athletics, Mr Jitender secured the second position in 100m, long jump events at LSR Open Tournament. The Basketball, Kabaddi and Cricket teams also performed well this year.





INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

The Internal Complaints Committee 2016-17 comprising of Dr Gitanjali Chawla, Ms Puneeta Aggarwal, Dr T.N. Ojha, Ms Manju Sharma and Prof Aparna Basu (special invitee) worked proactively towards increasing gender sensitization and ensuring the dissemination of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The committee followed due protocol in resolving complaints received during the academic session 2016-17.

The committee conducted a 10 day self-defence workshop for girls in collaboration with the Special Unit for Women and Children, Delhi Police from 1st to 15th February. The workshop was attended with enthusiasm by 120 students who displayed self-defence tactics to the entire college in the final session on 15th February, 2017. Prof. J.S. Viridi, Hon'ble Chairman, Governing Body and Dr Sunil Sondhi, Principal applauded their efforts and encouraged all girl students to participate in such ventures. Best participant awards were given to Sara Shahwar, B.A.(H) English IInd year, Pooja Kumari, B.A (H) Hindi IInd Year and Swati Chaudhary, B.A (H) Journalism along with cash prizes. Certificates of participation were given to participants who had more than sixty percent attendance at the workshop. The committee is committed to ensuring a safe environment for girls within the college.



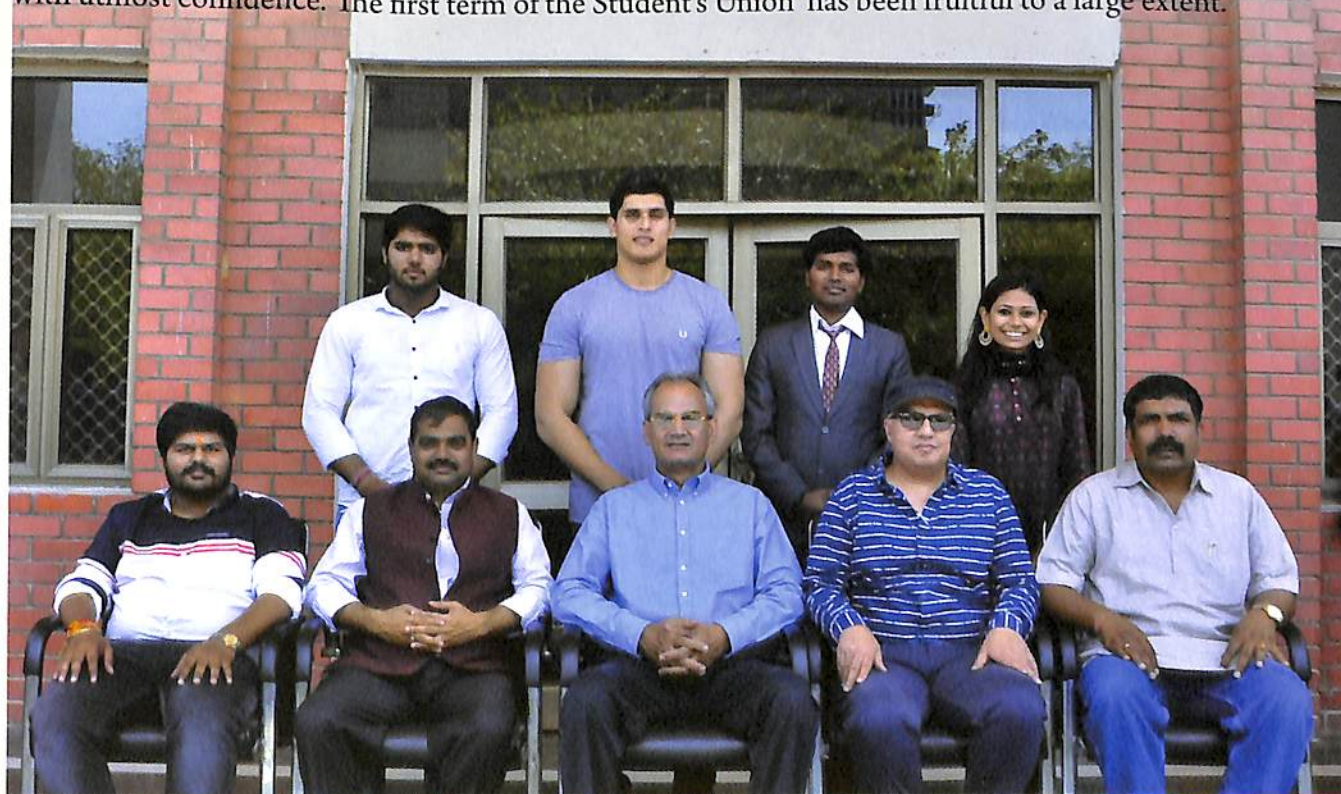
STUDENTS' UNION

The year 2016-17 has witnessed a new beginning in Maharaja Agrasen College. It witnessed a new era of student representation with its first democratically elected Student Union. In its maiden tenure the union achieved a series of feats. The Patron, Dr. Sunil Sondhi along with the Advisor to the Union, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari have been a constant source of inspiration and support.

Student Union President Ashish Pathak, Vice President- Abhishek Choudhary, General Secretary -Neelotpal Sangam, Joint Secretary- Sanjay Choudhary, Secretary for Women Development- Sumedha Uppal, Secretary for Social Welfare- Digvijay Kumar have worked hard to set an able precedent for the Unions to come. The Office bearer of the Union were administered the oath of their offices by Special Commissioner of Delhi Police Sri Dependra Pathak on 21st October 2016.

From addressing basic problems such as allocation of venues to Societies, CCTV Cameras in the Parking Area, constant check on the Canteen on the quality of food being served, Improvement in Sports facilities, Refreshments to players, Kabbadi Ring for the college team and Nets for the cricket team. Addressing Women Issues SUKANYA Programme was initiated which includes providing the basic necessity for the Girl Students, Improvement of the Girls Common Room, and organizing Self Defense Classes in association with Delhi Police, requisition for Lady Caretaker and Coach etc. Addressing the Issues of the SC, ST, OBC and PWD Students of the College was another important landmark achievement of the Students Union. Building Confidence in the College Students through workshops like Theatre for Change was another milestone. Not only this, the Union successfully delivered the promise of a Fresher's Party, An Inter-College Sports Meet and a Grand Annual Cultural Festival, Yuvaan'17 in association with the ECA Committee for three days with Sarangi Maestro, Kamal Sabri as the main performer. The Star Night was also organized with the famous Punjabi Pop Singer Jasbir Jassi's performance. Food Stalls and Game Stalls were also put up.

The Student Union has worked hand in hand with the faculty, non-teaching staff and all other Committees of the college to bring about a positive change with student representation. The office bearers have been an epitome of candor and have been extremely accessible and accountable to the students who elected them with utmost confidence. The first term of the Student's Union has been fruitful to a large extent.



NSS ACTIVITIES

The NSS-MAC ever since its inception in the year 2013 has been working towards the holistic development of the students. Keeping in view the motto 'Not me but you' the volunteers under NSS render community service both inside and outside the college premises, thereby enhancing leadership, organisational and management skills among the students. The programs by NSS at MAC in the past year can be summed up as follows:

Independence Day celebrations

MAC-NSS began the academic session 2016-17 with the celebrations of Independence Day on 15-08-16 in the college premises. NSS started its 'Reach and Teach' program with the launch of its self-designed smart classroom on a rickshaw, the Edu-rath. About 15 school going girls from Dallupura participated in the Independence Day celebrations. With an aim to have an inclusive and accessible smart class room for the children from the under-privileged of the society, they were oriented towards the use of the modern day technology and computers in our mobile smart class. The girls used the laptops installed in the Edu-rath for e-painting and typing purposes. They also played a quiz on the 'fastest finger first circuit' installed in the Edu-rath. A drawing competition and cultural program on the theme of Independence day was also held for them. This interaction not only facilitated an exposure to the children from under-privileged sections to modern day technology but also gave an opportunity to the NSS volunteers to observe the wide gap that exists in the distribution of resources and opportunities in the society and how it can be bridged with such small initiatives.



Registration and Orientation

NSS organised its Orientation on 14-09-16 in the college auditorium wherein NSS faculty members Ms. Shilpa Gupta, Dr. Amit Pundir, Mr. Amit Kumar and Dr. Sushmita apprised the volunteers of the various activities/projects that NSS had carried out in the past. Later, volunteers were distributed into groups and assigned various projects in accordance with their respective areas of interest. They were also encouraged to come up with new ideas / projects towards community service that could be undertaken during the current academic session.

Prayer and Protest March

Taking the cognizance of terror attack in Uri, the pedal power club of MAC NSS organised a prayer and protest at India Gate on 23-09-16. Fifteen students under the supervision of Mr. Amit Kumar cycled to India gate to pay their tribute to the ones who lost their lives in the said attack. The said exercise also got a wide media coverage and was reported in the Hindi dailies, Dainik Jaagaran and Nayi Duniya.

Swachh Bharat Mission



Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat!! A small step from the end of every Indian citizen is a big step towards fulfilling the purpose of our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi's "Clean India" campaign. NSS-MAC undertook a cleanliness drive in accordance to the nation-wide cleanliness campaign starting from the month of September. The pedal power club of MAC NSS organised a cleanliness awareness campaign at New Ashok Nagar on 24-09-16. Fifteen students under the supervision of Dr. Amit Pundir cycled to New Ashok Nagar to create awareness regarding cleanliness among the residents there.



NSS- pedal power club takes a great pride in informing all that an almost three kilometre stretch of road connecting the college to the New Ashok Nagar metro station which was earlier impossible to walk upon because of its filth and stink, is now clean and being frequently used by college community.

On the occasion of Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2-10-16, the students of team NSS Maharaja Agrasen College went to Jama Masjid. About twenty students headed by Mr. Amit Kumar cycled to the location and worked hand in hand with Dettol- NDTV Swachh Banega India campaign. The

Pedal Power team of MAC-NSS was fortunate enough in getting a chance to interact with Mr. Ravish Kumar, Television Anchor, NDTV and discuss various issues regarding the Cleanliness drives. Later on the Pedal team cyclists touched the ground of Rajghat with the mission of creating awareness and also cleaning the nearby areas in order to spread the message of SWACHH BHARAT SWASTH BHARAT. The team has not only taken initiative to just visit and clean the places but also have talked to the people about the problems faced by them at such places. The MAC-NSS team aims at coming up with better solutions and to work with dedication for better results in the upcoming months.

Run for Unity

The National Service Scheme of Maharaja Agrasen College organised a marathon which spread the message of Unity in the society. The main motive was to ensure that people around the college are known to the values which each and every individual should practise to make this place a better place to live in. This event was a part of the RASHTRIYA EKTA SAPTAH celebrated from 3-11-2016 to 7-11-2016 in the memory of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.

Interaction with the Chief Vigilance Officer, Interaction on Cashless Economy were major events organized by NSS of the College.

National Science Day with focus on the theme of use of science and technology for differently-abled persons

NSS-MAC celebrated the National Science Day with a special focus on the theme of the use of science and technology for differently-abled persons on 28-02-17. Under the aegis of NSS, the Equal Opportunity Cell has been organising disability sensitizing workshops in the college premises every year. Taking this initiative a step ahead, a disability sensitizing workshop in collaboration with Saksham [NGO based in Delhi working for multiple disabilities] was organised on 28-02-17 to celebrate the National Science Day. The resource persons Mr. Satyajit Singh, Mr. Anil Kumar and Mr. Ram Thakur interacted with the college community and apprised them of the various technological assistive devices that persons with disability may use for an efficient functioning and overcoming any infrastructural constrain.

The workshop was preceded by an inter-college competition for under-graduate students from the field of Sciences working on projects in the area of disability.



NAAC STEERING COMMITTEE

The MAC NAAC Steering Committee was initiated by the Principal Dr Sunil Sondhi with Dr Gitanjali Chawla as convenor, Dr Maneesha as co-convenor and Dr Niraj Kumar, Dr T.N. Ojha, Dr Deepa Sharma, Dr Vijeta Pundir, Dr Praveen K Pandey and Mr Dipin Arora as members. Aditya Nair, student of B.COM, IIIrd year was coopted as a student coordinator. The committee was entrusted with the task of preparing the Self-Study Report for submission to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. The college administration received the IEQA (Institutional Eligibility for Quality Assurance) on 9th June, 2015. The committee had already commenced the preparation of collation of data needed for the SSR. Each committee member including the Principal took on the onus of one section each of the SSR. The committee prepared the SSR well within the deadline thanks to the cooperation of each and every member 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 Dr. M.M. Chaturvedi, who was extremely generous with his time and suggestions.

The NAAC peer member visit was scheduled for 4th to 6th August, 2015. The three-member team included Prof Avinash C Pandey, Erstwhile Vice-Chancellor, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, Prof Kanika Sharma, Head, Department of Bio-technology, M.L.S University, Udaipur and Dr Radhika S Nayak, Principal, S. S. Dempo College of Commerce and Economics, Goa.

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 the college. They were very patient and generous with their time. 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 6th August, 2015 in which the chairperson, Prof Avinash C Pandey addressed the faculty and non-teaching staff before handing over the report to the Principal. The report was very fair and judicious in its assessment. Not only did it take 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 objective perspective of where we are headed. The college was accredited Grade 'A' with 3.02 GPA. It is a matter of pride for the institute but also a reminder that there is a lot more to be done and this is just the beginning.



TEACHING STAFF ASSOCIATION

This past year was of great significance for the Maharaja Agrasen College Teaching Staff Association. We undertook constant consultations with administration over various issues of teaching staff. We are relentlessly trying to campaign for getting permanent appointments as soon as possible to put an end to adhocism or uncertainty over the continuation of the services of the ad-hoc teachers with the college in every new semester.

The commitment to providing better amenities and facilities in the staff room is also our priority. The Staff Association aims to protect and progress the interests of members by bringing them together collectively and democratically. In doing so, the Association seeks to:

- Assist members in enforcing their rights at work, including the rights to: i) fair and equitable treatment at work; ii) reasonable conditions and a balanced working life; and iii) a workplace which is healthy, safe and environmentally sustainable.
- Represent the views of members to the institution's administration.
- Make representations on behalf of members to DUTA.

In 2016-17, the Staff Association carried out a number of key activities and campaigns, driven by input and participation by members:

- **One-day picnic to Lohagarh:** We organised a staff picnic to unwind and get rejuvenated. The staff picnic was well organised with planned activities. The teachers interacted, and bonded with each other in an informal setting.
- **Holi Milan:** The staff members celebrated Holi with great enthusiasm and fervour followed by lunch.

Finally, thanks to our active members who have helped in purchasing and procurement of gifts and hospitality for various purposes. Continuously improving facilities and promoting fraternity among members will continue to be a priority for the Staff Association in coming years.

We need to remember that we are the union collectively and achieve at our best when we all reach out and support and encourage each other.



GIRLS' HOSTEL

Since its inception in 2011, Vidyottma has worked towards the goal of providing safe and secure atmosphere with an academic, activity-filled environment to the residents. The hostel is presently a home to fifty eight outstation students. Working with a commitment to provide holistic development of the hostellers, hostel committee ensures a fair balance between work and play. For the better functioning of the hostel, regular meetings are organized where common problems and grievances are discussed and sorted out and new suggestions are implemented. WiFi facility, has been fully functional now. As is practice, the residents celebrated, Diwali, Lohri, Holi with great enthusiasm and Republic day with special lunch and sweets.

Vidyottma provides the girls with a style of living which makes them disciplined and dynamic and helps them excel in academic as well as extra-curriculars. Activities are organized in MAC and at Vidyottma from time-to-time for a healthy mind and healthy body. Participating in activities or being physically active helps them to stay in shape, teaches them how to organize their time, boosts friendships, and builds relationships, build leadership skills also. The qualities they acquire from involvement in Extra curriculum activities, helps them to grow in their respective careers and living a healthy life.

Vidyottma hostel also played host to various resource persons and participants who came to participate for the Conferences and events organized by the various MAC departments. We are very happy to mention that from this year Vidyottma will be accommodating few 'Summer Research Fellows' during summer vacations.

At Vidyottma, few more facilities have been added this year. New CCTV cameras are placed at the main gate and inside the hostel to add to the safety of our hostellers. Hostel library is updated with additional books. Hostel's common room has been equipped with Air Conditioner. Also, other necessary requirements like washing machines, geysers, curtains and few others have been taken care of.

Activities organised

Fresher's Welcome: Seniors welcomed the first year students and offered their support and encouragement to make them comfortable in hostel. It was held in September at Vidyottma premises.



Fit-For-Life: As we believe, health is an investment for a productive life and to create an enabling environment and healthy living for our students, Fit-for-life sessions were organized with the following activities for hostellers-

- 'ZUMBA' classes were held to make our students aware of how fitness can be fun. This Latin-inspired, dance fitness activity was thoroughly enjoyed by hostellers.
- Yoga & Meditation Session on the occasion of World Health Day (7th April, 2017)

Sports and Cultural Meet: Cultural festivals are not just for fun, it adds value to a student's learning experience. To showcase creative aspect of our students various events like Rangoli, Painting, Poetry, Singing, Dance and Best Out of Waste as well as various games were played in a positive spirit and were greatly enjoyed by hostlers.

Upcoming Activities:

Visit to orphanage: We plane to visit 'Arya Anathalay'. It is planned for a day to engage kids with various activities like painting, dancing, singing and some fun games. It will surely help the students to become a better person and will also leave a positive impact on them.

Farewell: Juniors hostellers propose to organize a farewell to convey their heartfelt wishes and extend their sincere gratitude to all the final year students for their support, encouragement and care by wishing them a bright and successful future.



LIBRARY

Library of Maharaja Agrsen College, University of Delhi is housed with a good collection of more than 37,000 books and 43000 National and International e-journals and other important e-resources related to Science, Social science, Arts and Humanities. The library is equipped with latest information & technologies managed by the qualified & dedicated library staff, assisted with library Automation software, i.e. ALICE FOR WINDOW.



संस्कृति कला केंद्र

भारत की सांस्कृतिक विविधताओं और विरासत के प्रति रुझान पैदा करने के लिए संस्कृति कला केंद्र एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा कर रहा है। सांस्कृतिक विकास ही गतिशील समाज का द्योतक है। साहित्य एवं कला के विकास में ही सभ्यता की नींव है। इसके बगैर समाज बर्बर एवं युद्धोन्मादी हो जाता है। इसलिए यह अत्यावश्यक है कि विद्यार्थियों में परंपरा एवं संस्कृति की समझ विकसित की जाए। यही प्रयास उन्हें अनेक तरह के भटकाव से बचा सकता है और देश के विकास में उनकी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित कर सकता है। इस क्रम में संस्कृति कला केंद्र के तत्वावधान में कई कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गये। 11 फरवरी 2017 को वसंतोत्सव के कार्यक्रम में सरस्वती पूजन के बाद काव्य पाठ, लोकगीत एवं लोकनृत्य की प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया। मैथिली-भोजपुरी अकादमी दिल्ली, द्वारा महाराजा अग्रसेन कॉलेज में 18-19 फरवरी को युवा महोत्सव का आयोजन किया गया, जिसके तहत पूर्वांचली भाषा में निबंध लेखन, कविता-लेखन एवं गायन प्रतियोगिता में विद्यार्थियों ने गहरी रुचि दिखाई।



IGNOU

MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE CENTRE

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 (BDP), 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 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 Language and others.

Under the guidance of its coordinator Dr. T.N. Ojha, his able team of Assistant Coordinators Dr. Omkar Singh, Dr. Chavi Bhatnagar, Mr. Ritesh Verma, Mr. Amit Kumar, Dr. Krishan Kumar 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, Mr. Harshvardhan, Mr. Kishan Kumar, Mr. Naveen Chandra Chamoli, Mr. Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Mr. Manoj Kumar, 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 Center strives to provide best services to its students.

Achievements:

Only Centre in Delhi providing counseling to MSCMACS 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.

An Induction was organized on 24th September, 2016 and 5th March, 2017 for the students of first year.

Problems/Challenges:

A lot of Problems are there but we at MAC try to solve the entire problem by following democratic process.

Suggestions:

We are quite satisfied with the kind of services provided by the Regional Centre and we are sure that we will get the support and services in future as well.

Dr. T.N Ojha
Co-ordinator



NON-COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S EDUCATION BOARD

MAHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE CENTRE

Imparting education to half of the population is the best service to the humanity and the nation. Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB) was started by University of Delhi, in 1940s with an aim to provide Higher Education to the women by enabling girl students to get a degree in relevant subjects. It's also trying to inculcate in them the ability to think creatively and to possess good communication skills. Women Empowerment is one of the most talked issue of present day India. We celebrated women empowerment year in 2001. To empower women, India showcased 'Naari Shakti' during republic day celebration. Programs like 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' would only be successful when institutes such as NCWEB blossoms fully. We are proud to say that we have achieved a little of this mammoth task.

Only women students residing in the National Capital Territory of Delhi can enroll themselves as students of the Board. NCWEB is a unique system with lectures on weekends, leaving students with five working days to follow their dream. In this neo-age of 100% cut-offs, class room crunch, gender discrimination, NCWEB is a welcome initiative and a most satisfactory way to attain a degree from the prestigious Delhi University.

The Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board teaching center at Maharaja Agrasen College was started in June 2011 which was earlier functioning at different educational institutions of East Delhi. The academic session 2016-17 started with a unique feature when the new admissions have been decentralized. Various new initiatives were also undertaken by the teaching center. Orientation program for students was held on the first day of the academic session i.e. on 7th of August, 2016.

The teaching center organized fresher welcome and cultural programs on 23rd October 2016. The newly admitted students had participated in the Miss Fresher competition. The NCWEB, Maharaja Agrasen College Centre in association with Delhi Festival of Arts & Culture had organized the famous Prasadha Dance performance in the College on 13th November 2017. More than a dozen artist from Bangalore had participated in the event. On 20th November 2017 under the aegis of Delhi Festival of Arts & Culture, People Music Band of Taiwan performed by KUO Min-Chin and others in the College.

On 8th January, 2017 an intra-college competition was organized in the NCWEB, Maharaja Agrasen College Centre. A number of events like poster Making, Mehendi, Rangoli, solo singing, group singing, solo dance, group dance, debate, essay writing etc. were organized in which a number of students had participated.





The center undertook initiative to organize talks by eminent persons from different fields like; a talk was conducted on 'Bureaucracy as a Carrier Option' by Sri S. S. Pandey to guide students about their future endeavors on 12th February 2017.

The center organized Annual Sports Day on 19th

March 2017. 100 meter sprint, 4X100 meter relay race, long Jump, high jump, 400 meter race and tug of war were some of the events where students participated very enthusiastically. The Maharaja Agrasen College Centre is working hard to provide the best opportunities to the students of NCWEB in order to harness their untapped potential and prepare them to make their career and contribute in the process of nation building. The ultimate goal of education is character building which this teaching center is emphasizing

upon.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari
(Teacher-in-Charge)



WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CELL

The Women Development Cell, Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi commemorated the movement of Women Rights and celebrated the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of the Women of the World by observing March 8, 2017 as International Women's Day.

Under the able guidance of Dr. Anju Aggarwal and Dr. Abha Sharma, a theme based poster making competition was held on the day. The Secretary for Women Development, Sumedha Uppal encouraged students from all streams to come forward and express themselves by creating pieces of art.

The Competition had avid participation of both teachers and students. The Prize Winners were given Cash Prizes and College was decorated with the posters made. Students were encouraged to lead by example and that collective action in order to ensure gender parity in the country.



UGC SC/ST/OBC CELL

The UGC SC/ST/OBC Cell in our college organized a session on 6th March to provide students information regarding coaching aid provided by various Ministries and institutes. This financial aid is provided to the students who are keen to go for various entrance exams for post graduation or if they wish to prepare for exams like the civil services. Students were informed about various online links to check for these updates. This session saw presence of students across courses and their interaction with faculty members present on the occasion. This cell also inaugurated lecture series to be organized in the coming years on 10th March, 2017. This inaugural lecture on 'Self, Society and Higher Education' was delivered by Prof. Vinod

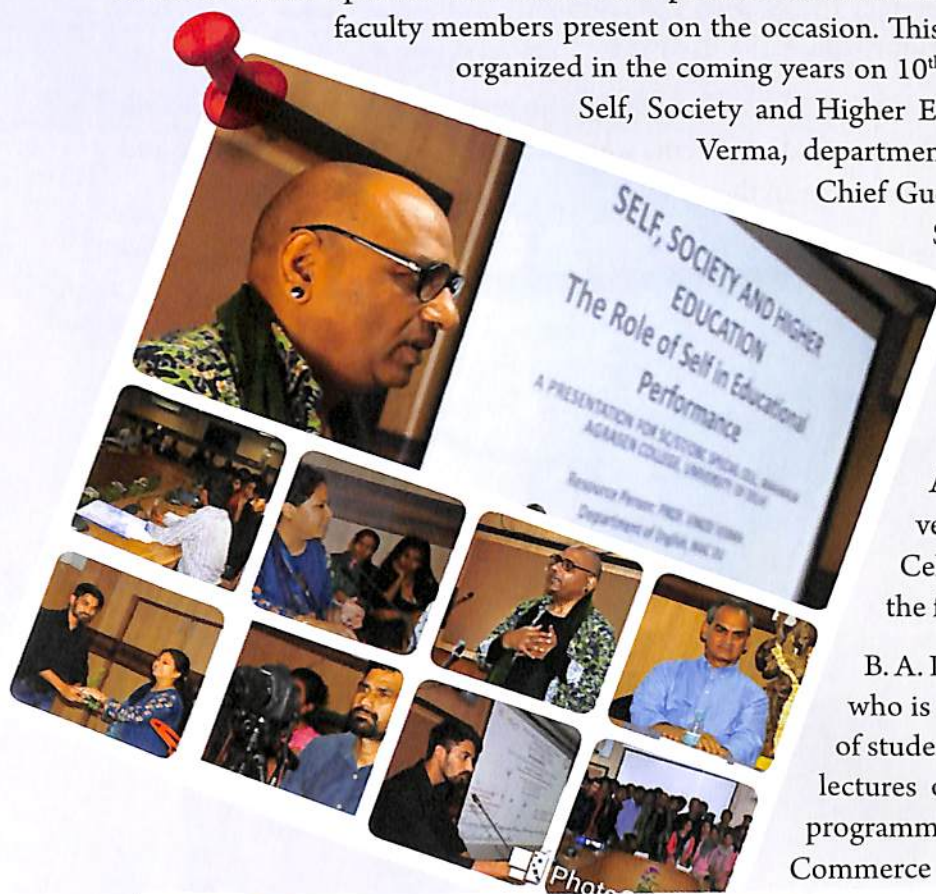
Verma, department of English, Maharaja Agrsen College.

Chief Guest for the occasion was the Principal, Dr Sunil Sondhi and session was chaired by Dr

Charu Arya. This session started with Prof. Vinod Verma describing how Self becomes significant when we move on the social platform and how pertinent it is to understand Self and its importance.

After the presentation, students interacted very curiously with Prof. Vinod Verma. The Cell will be organizing many such lectures in the future.

B. A. Program final year student, Digvijay Kumar who is also Social Welfare Secretary and his team of students associated with this Cell are organizing lectures on Sundays under 'Each one Teach one' programme. Mr Amit, Assistant Professor, in the Commerce department has been giving lectures on



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



BBE





B.Com (H)

English (H)





Hindi (H)

Journalism (H)





Pol.Sc (H)



B.A. Programme





Mathematical Science





Physical Science





B.Tech Computer Science

B.Tech Electronics





B.Sc Electronics (H)



Teaching Staff



Administrative Staff





Editorial Team with Principal



Student Editors

