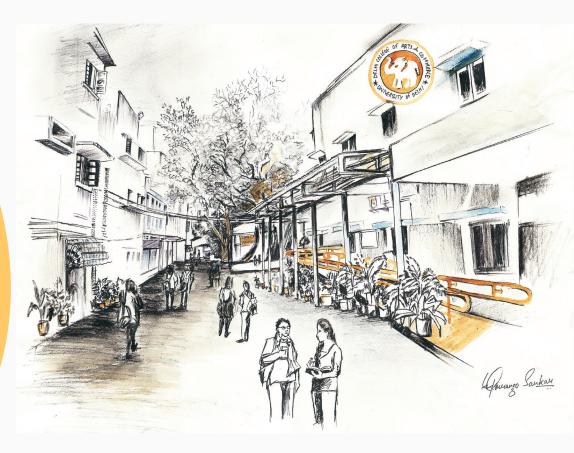


# रन्वरम् SNaram



## Delhi College of Arts & Commerce

(University of Delhi) Netaji Nagar, New Delhi – 110023



Leher, the Dramatics Society staged its annual production "Bali Aur Shambhu" by Manav Kaul.



A Prom was organised by Club for Leadership and Finance (CLIF) as a part of Ambrosia and Panghat 2020.



Prof. Dinesh Singh delivered a talk on 'Mahatma Gandhi's Contribution to Various Fields of Humanities' in January 2020.



The football team of the college.



Enactus DCAC distributed 500+ masks in the underprivileged area of Seemapuri, New Delhi.

# SWARAM स्वरम्

2019 - 20

#### FACULTY ADVISORS

Dr Smita Banerjee Dr Jyotsna Pathak Dr Sanjeeb Kumar

#### **STUDENT EDITORS**

Purusharth Chawla Mayank Mihir Satvik Tandon Ashutosh Sharma Aditya Singh Kanishq Gulati Sourav Bhattacharya Shagnick Bhattarcharya

Delhi College of Arts & Commerce University of Delhi Netaji Nagar New Delhi-110023 India Phone No: 011-24109821 Fax No: 011-26882923 Email: principaldcac@gmail.com Website: dcac.du.ac.in

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



It gives me immense pleasure to write this message for *Swaram*, the annual college magazine, brought out by the students and faculty of Delhi College of Arts & Commerce, University of Delhi. The college magazine provides a platform for talented students to showcase their creativity. It also reflects the experiences and achievements of the students; thereby giving us a glimpse of their bright future. It is also a reflection of the focus of the institution to tap the potential and unique strengths of each student.

Delhi College of Arts & Commerce attracts some of the brightest students, coming from varied backgrounds. This volume of *Swaram* epitomizes their life in DCAC during the academic session 2019 –2020. I congratulate the editorial team consisting of students and faculty advisors for putting in their valuable efforts in these times of uncertainty to come out with this issue of the college magazine. It is heartening to share the online version of *Swaram*. Hopefully we shall be able to have an e-magazine in the near future. We shall also strive towards creating newsletters of all departments of the college, following the path shown by the Journalism, English, Commerce and the NCC chapter of the college in bringing out their respective newsletters.

Wishing the editorial team all the very best for their future endeavors.

Dr Anuradha Gupta Acting-Principal

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## WELCOME



अत्यंत हर्षोल्लास एवं गर्व सहित हम आपके समक्ष दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ आर्ट्स एन्ड कॉमर्स की वार्षिक पत्रिका *स्वरम्* का 2020 अंक प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं। यह पत्रिका कॉलेज के समस्त विद्यार्थीगणों के रचनात्मक योगदान एवं संपादक मंडल के सदस्यों द्वारा सभी प्रविष्टियों के गहन संशोधन, क्रमवार संपादन तथा सौंदर्यीकरण का एक सफल परिणाम है। इस संस्करण का केंद्रबिंदु इस कठिन समय में एक विश्वव्यापी महामारी के आर्थिक, सामाजिक, और सांस्कृतिक प्रभावों पर रहा है। पत्रिका के इस अंक में न केवल इस विश्वसंकट में नागरिकों के निजी जीवन परंतु सामाजिक दिक्कतें जैसे बाजार बंद होना, लॉकडाउन के प्रभाव इत्यादि का भी जिक्र किया गया है। *स्वरम्* का यह संस्करण इस महामारी के प्रति जागरूकता एवं एक नए भविष्य की कल्पना को समर्पित कर रहे हैं।

पत्रिका का 2020 अंक इस प्रकार खास होने के साथ ही महान दलित शिक्षाविद सावित्रीबाई फुले को भी समर्पित है। सावित्रीबाई फुले दलित महिलाओं की उस बुलंद आवाज का नाम जिन्होंने अपना पूरा जीवन शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण को दिया। इसके साथ ही यह अंक राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी के 150 जयंती वर्ष पर उनके राष्ट्र निर्माण में योगदान के लिए एक

श्रद्धांजलि भी है।

स्वरम् का यह संस्करण खास है क्योंकि इस बार पत्रिका में कॉलेज के उन शैक्षिक और गैर–शैक्षिक व्यक्तियों के अनुभव उल्लेख हैं, जो इस महाविद्यालय के मूल स्तंभ रहे हैं।

इस सब के साथ साथ ही यह अंक केंद्रित है विद्यार्थियों द्वारा सम्मिलित एवं लिखित भिन्न भिन्न विषयों पर लिखे लेखों पर– विषय जैसे साहित्य, खेल, राजनीति, अर्थव्यवस्था, काव्य इत्यादि। साथ ही कॉलेज में आयोजित तमाम रचनात्मक कार्यक्रमों, विभागीय गतिविधियों और समितियों की कार्यशैली का ब्यौरा भी *स्वरम* के इस अंक को शोभायमान करता है।

हमें आशा है की पत्रिका का यह संस्करण सभी का स्नेह प्राप्त करेगा एवं पाठकों को आनंद की अनुभूती होगी।

साभार, संपादक मंडल *स्वरम्*  It is with immense gratification and pride that we bring to you this edition of *Swaram*, the annual college magazine of Delhi College of Arts & Commerce. The magazine is the result of creative contributions from students across batches and the hard work of the editorial board in collating, editing, designing, and refining the submissions.

In these tough times, the focus of the magazine has been on the economic, social, and cultural effects of the pandemic. The emphasis is not only on the lives of citizens but also on losses due to the cancellation of sports tournaments, market closure due to lockdown, *et.al.* The magazine aims to create awareness about the pandemic, its prevention, and the way forward.

This edition of Swaram is also dedicated to Savitribai Phule, a Dalit woman icon who worked for the uplifting the status and condition of women with the help of Fatima Sheikh, another humanist who taught alongside Savitribai and Jyotibha Phule. The edition also remembers 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi and the contribution of the freedom fighter in building the nation. This edition stands out as it brings forth the human face of the college with interviews from the nonteaching and non-administrative staff, who we pass by every day in college but forget to thank them for their service. Along with these, the focus is on the creative pieces by the students in the field of literature, sports, politics, economy, poetry, and achievements of different departments, committees, and societies that provide a space for students to learn and grow.

Hope this edition will be enjoyed by all and will lay the basis for many more editions of *Swaram*.

Editorial Board *Swaram*.



मुँह में स्याही भरे बैठा हूँ, कागज पे कलम टिकाए बैठा हूँ, एक उम्मीद के सपने सजाए बैठा

हूँ, कुछ बात लिखनी हैं, पर कुछ बात ना ही लिखी जाए, ये बात खुद को समझाए बैठा हूँ चीखती है मेरी कलम मेरी स्याही

बदस्तूर हसरत

से, ए दोस्त आ समा जाए खुद में, लिखदे वो कहानी,

जो ये शख्स अपने मन में समाए बैठा हैं,

हार के डर से खुद को दबाए बैठा हैं,

फिर सोचता हूँ, लिख दूँ वो बातें, वो यादें,

वो रंगीन से लम्हे, वो सुनहरे से सपने,

पर कुछ बात ना ही लिखी जाए, ये खुद को समझाए बैठा हूँ

> आदिल फरहान अनसारी बी.ए. कार्यक्रम द्वितीय सत्र

कब तक

सदियों से अब तक आखिर कब तक, छिपे है जो राज वो छिपाओगे कब तक।

लगाई है जो तुमने जात की दीवारें, चलाओगे कब तक छिपाओगे कब तक।

जो किया है जुल्म तुमने मजलूमों पर, नहीं बताओगे कब तक छिपाओगे कब तक।

और जो लगाई थी बंदिशे तुमने इल्म लेने को, अफसोस नहीं जताओगे कब तक छिपाओगे कब तक।

जो किया है तुमने सालो–साल इस्तेमाल हमारा, नजरे नहीं मिलाओगे कब तक छिपाओगे कब तक।

हाँ हम भी थे वहीं जो तुम और हम है अभी, तब से अब तक, अब से तब तक।

सदियों से अब तक आखिर कब तक।

असद अनसारी बी.ए. कार्यक्रम हाँ, मैं भी डरता हूँ

हाँ, मैं भी डरता हूँ

मैं भी अंधेरे से डरता हूँ, मैं भी किसी के बिछड़ने से डरता हूँ, किसी का साथ छूटने से डरता हूँ, इस खूबसूरत ज़िन्दगी को खोने से डरता हूँ, नए रास्ते पर चलने से डरता हूँ, कई वादें करने से डरता हूँ,

पर इसी डर मे, मैं खड़े रहने का साहस रखता हूँ, बिना थके चलना सीखता हूँ, अपनी बातो पर रहने की कोशिश करता हूँ, ज़िन्दगी काटने से बेहतर, जीना सीखता हूँ

हाँ, मैं भी डरता हूँ पर इसी डर के साथ जीना सीखता हूँ

> आदिल फरहान अनसारी बी.ए. कार्यक्रम द्वितीय सत्र

DCAC SWARAM



## भारत की प्रथम शिक्षिका

भारत की प्रथम शिक्षिका, प्रथम कन्या विद्यालय की प्रधानाध्यापिका, प्रथम किसान विद्यालय की संस्थापिका, समाज सुधारिका, मराठी कवयित्री तथा विशेषकर नारी शोषण पर विद्रोह का स्वर प्रकट करने वाली क्रांतिकारी माता सावित्रीबाई ज्योतिराव फुले को उनके 189वें जन्मदिवस पर नमन। हम सब इस बात



से भली भांति परिचित है कि उस समाज में जहां प्रारम्भ से ज्ञान की देवी के रूप में मां सरस्वती की आराधना की जाती है, उसी समाज में कभी महिलाओं को शिक्षा का हक भी नही प्राप्त था। शिक्षा तो दूर की बात, महिलाओं को कोई भी अधिकार नही प्राप्त था। तत्कालीन पुरुष प्रधान समाज में बाल विवाह, सती प्रथा, महिला शिक्षा व नारी शोषण अत्याधिक था, ऐसे हालातों में एकमात्र फुले दम्पति ने अकेले ही संघर्ष आरम्भ किया और परिणामस्वरूप 1 जनवरी 1848 में उन्होंने प्रथम कन्या विद्यालय की स्थापना की और देखते– देखते ही 1 वर्ष के भीतर इन्होंने और 5 विद्यालयों की स्थापना भी की थी। सन 1873 में सत्यशोधक समाज की स्थापना करके इन्होंने अपने दत्तक पुत्र यशवंतराव का पंजीकृत पद्धति अपनाते हुए आधुनिक भारत का प्रथम अंतर्जातीय विवाह ४ फरवरी १८८९ को सम्पन्न करवाया। जब काम विशेष था तब जाहिर है कि परेशानियां भी विशेष ही रही होंगी परन्तू सावित्रीबाई फूले जी ने उन सभी मुश्किलों को

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उनके शेर में साफ झलकता है।

हमको मालूम है जन्नत की हकीकत लेकिन दिल के खुश रखने को 'गालिब' ये ख्याल अच्छा है

प्यार तो करेंगे ही आप? करते ही होंगे। कैसे किया जाता है यह अपने पुरखे गालिब से सीखिए। कैसे नामुकम्मल इश्क के दर्द को अपनी कमजोरी ना बनने देकर अपनी ताकत बनाया जाए। नहीं तो तेजाब फेंकना कभी खुद ही की नस काट लेना तो कुछ नहीं तो दिल में नफरत भर लेने का सिलसिला मुसलसल कायम रहेगा।

अब बात करते हैं गांधी की। जनाब, सिर्फ सांस लेने और जिंदगी जीने में क्या अंतर है, यह तो बापू ही बताएंगे। आप जब भी इतिहास के बारे में सोचते हैं तो ज़हन में राजाओं के बीच युद्ध का ख्याल आता होगा। मगर गांधी की रुखसती के बाद यू ना होगा। कभी फुर्सत से बैठिएगा और सोचिएगा कि आप और पूरी आज की दुनिया पर कितना उधार है उस लाठी वाले का। और इस उधार के बदले में वह आपसे क्या मांगता है? प्यार। भाईचारा। मगर हम से वह भी चुकाया नहीं जाता। शरद जोशी एक बड़े व्यंगकार हुए, उन्होंने कहा कि हिंदुस्तानियों का उधार वही दे जो दूसरे जन्म में विश्वास रखता हो।

आज इसान अपने उसूल भूलते जा रहे हैं। शब्द अपने माने। क्योंकि हम मानवता और भाषा के इन सिपाहियों को भूलते जा रहे हैं। गांधी को अपने नोटों से निकाल कर अपने होठों पर लाइए और फिर देखिए आपकी बेजार दुनिया में कैसे रंग भरते हैं। 1869 में गालिब रुखसत और गांधी आमद हुए। क्योंकि एक सदी में गांधी भी एक होता है और गालिब भी एक।

हुई मुद्दत कि 'गालिब' मर गया पर याद आता है वो हर एक बात पर कहना कि यूं होता तो क्या होता

> हर्षित शर्मा हिस्ट्री ऑनर्स द्वितिय वर्ष

गांधी-ओ-गालिब

पूछते हैं वह कि गालिब कौन है कोई बतलाओ कि हम बतलाएं क्या

मिर्ज़ा असद उल्लाह खान (गालिब) ने यूँ सोचकर यह शेर कहा होगा कि जब भी उनके बारे में पूछा जाएगा, कोई बात चलेगी तो यहीं से बात शुरू की जाएगी। उनकी तो शान में क्या ही दाग लगेगा मगर हां, आज के हिंदी—उर्दू समाज की बदकिस्मती है कि गालिब का जिक्र होना बंद हो गया है। हम सभी ने कभी उड़ती जुबाँ में उनका नाम तो सुना है मगर वह कौन थे, किस जमाने के थे, कहां से थे, क्या कहते थे हम नहीं जानते। हाँ जब कभी किसी 'मीम' की शक्ल में किसी के ऐरे गैरे शेर को देखते हैं जिसके नीचे गालिब लिखा हो, आगे बढ़ा देने की जहमत उठा लेते हैं।

गांधी का हाल तो गालिब से भी बुरा है। भला वह कैसे? आप पूछेंगे। गांधी के बारे में तो हर कोई गालिब से बहुत अधिक जानता ही है। अगर आप ऐसा सोचते हैं तो जान लें गांधी के बारे में हम जो भी जानते हैं वह गलत ही जानते हैं। नहीं तो ''मजबूरी का नाम महात्मा गांधी'' जैसी कहावत हर किसी के मुंह पर क्यों होती? एक ऐसा बूढा लाचार आदमी जिसके पास जब कुछ नहीं बचता तब सत्य—अहिंसा का नाम जपने लगता है। और जो भी इनके बारे में अफवाह पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी कानाफूसी में चल रही है उसकी तो चर्चा ही क्या करनी। एक के उसूलों को हमने मार दिया दूसरे की जुबाँ को भुला दिया।

हिंदू मुसलमान लड़े या दो मुल्कों में जंग छिड़े जीता कोई भी हो इंसानियत हमेशा हारी है गांधी हो कि गालिब हो मगर सच यह है दोनों के कातिल है हम दोनों के पुजारी हैं

1857 की क्रांति में अंग्रेजों ने गालिब साहब को कैद कर लिया और पूछा कि उनका मजहब क्या है? सवाल किया गालिब से था तो उनसा ही जवाब भी मिला। 'आधा मुसलमान' अंग्रेजों ने पूछा, वह कैसे? तो जवाब आया कि 'मैं शराब तो पीता हूँ मगर सूअर नहीं खाता'। यह हैं गालिब। 19वीं शताब्दी में भी फिरकापरस्ती से कितना दूर, उनका मन कितना उदार। संसार को लेकर उनकी क्या सोच थी वह

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डटकर सामना करते हुए महिलाओं को पति की मृत्यू के पश्चात बाल मुंडवाने जैसे आडंबरों का घोर विरोध करते हुए 'नारी आंदोलन' भी शुरू किया तथा विधवा पुनर्विवाह पर जोर दिया। माता सावित्रीबाई को 'चार्वाक' के बाद भारत की प्रथम नास्तिक महिला भी माना जाता है क्योंकि इनसे पहले किसी भी महिला ने कर्मकांडो का इतना घोर विरोध नही किया था। सावित्रीबाई ने 19वीं सदी में महिला शिक्षा के शुरुआत के रूप में घोर ब्राह्मणवाद के वर्चस्व को चूनौती देने का काम किया। सावित्रीबाई फुले जी ने अपना समस्त जीवन गरीबों और निर्बल वर्ग को न्याय दिलाने के लिए न्यौछावर कर दिया। उनके लिए एक यूग को परिवर्तित करना व शिक्षित करना कितना मुश्किल रहा होगा इसकी कल्पना भी हमारे लिए असंभव है परंतु फिर भी उन्होंने अपने प्रयासों को कमजोर नही होने दिया। हम लोगों में से बहुत कम लोग ही यह जानते होंगे कि जिस PTM (PARENT TEACHER MEETING) को आज के अखबारों में राजनीतिक मुद्दा बनाया गया है उसकी शुरुआत भी सावित्रीबाई फूले ने ही की थी। आज वर्तमान भारत की चरमराती शिक्षा प्रणाली को फिर से आज एक बार सहारे की आवश्यकता है, तो आइए हम सब मिलकर सावित्रीबाई फुले और ज्योतिबा फुले जी को नमन करते हुए उनके सपनों को साकार करते है और भारत को एक नई दिशा की ओर अग्रसर करते है। विद्यार्थी वर्ग आगे आएगा तभी देश विकसित होगा। माता सावित्रीबाई फुले को पुनः सादर नमन व मेरे शिक्षकों को शिक्षक दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

> रुपाली बी.ए. प्रोग्राम द्वितिय वर्ष

## दिमागी बुखार से ग्रस्त तंत्र

सन् 1954 में प्रकाशित मैला आँचल उपन्यास के डॉ प्रशांत के पूर्णिया गाँव को ले कर किए गए शोध का यह निष्कर्ष है कि "गरीबी और जहालत ही रोग के कीटाणु हैं।" सम्पूर्ण भारत की दरिद्र, भूखी और शोषित जनता के जीवन का यह ऐसा सच है, जिसे सब जानते तो हैं पर फिर भी चेतना से ओझल बनाए रखते हैं। जिसका परिणाम यह है कि यह मैला आँचल और भी मैला हो कर फैलता जा रहा है। इन दिनों मुजफ्फरपुर जिले में बच्चे चमकी बखार से जझ रहे हैं। कपोषित शरीर और खाली पेट में बीमारी से लड़ने की ताकत नहीं होती इसलिए बच्चे बड़ी संख्या में मौत का शिकार बनते जा रहे हैं। बदकिस्मती से जिस धरती पर उन्होंने जन्म लिया वहाँ की व्यवस्था में इतनी संवेदना नहीं है कि बच्चे अपना अस्तित्व भी बनाए रख सकें। ऐसा नहीं है कि यह पहली बार हुआ हो। उत्तरी बिहार और पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में पिछले कुछ दशकों में चमकी बुखार से कई जानें गई हैं। भौगोलिक संरचना मुजफ्फरपुर जैसी ही है। कुछ ही समय पहले संसाधनों के अभाव में बड़ी तादाद में वहाँ बच्चों की मौत हुई हैं। साँस भर ऑक्सीजन के अभाव में घटते–तडपते बच्चे दम तोडते रहे। 2014 से अब तक हजार से ऊपर बच्चे सिर्फ मुजफ्फरपुर में ही मौत के मुँह में समा चुके हैं। किंतु फिर भी प्रशासन की नींद है कि टुटती ही नहीं । एक कप दुध या केला, पैरासिटामोल जैसी सस्ती दवाइयाँ, पेट भर अन्न तक जुटाने का कोई इंतजाम इन बच्चों के लिए नहीं किया गया। नन्ही मुडी भर ग्ड़ध्शक्कर, अन्न भी उनकी जान बचा सकता था। खाली पेट न लू झेल सकता है न लीची और न बीमारी,....जाहिर है अंततः जिंदगी भी नहीं।

उदारीकरण के बाद से और भी तेजी से तीसरी, चौथी दुनिया कहे जाने वाली दुनिया सब जगह पसरती चली गई है। भारत भी दो हिस्सों में बँटा हुआ है। हर क्षेत्र 'हैव' और 'हैव नॉट्स'में विभक्त है। एक है साधन सम्पन्न लगभग एक तिहाई इंडिया, जिसने बाकी के दो–तिहाई हिंदुस्तान को अपना उपनिवेश बनाया हुआ है। उसके हिस्से के संसाधन इसी इंडिया के पास चले जाते हैं। लूट की यह हद इतने क्रूर ढंग से बढती जा रही है कि जिंदा रहने का सहज मानवाधिकार भी बडी मात्रा में लोगों से छिनता चला जाएगा। यह बडी सोचनीय स्थिति है। कुछ रोज पहले लगा कि लीची खा कर बच्चे बीमार हुए होंगे। तीसरी दुनिया के बाशिंदे समृद्ध दुनिया की चीजें हजम भला कैसे करें। जाँच पड़ताल के बाद यही सामने आया कि भूखें पेट लीची खाने से समस्या पैदा होती है। हालांकि उनमें से कम ही बच्चों ने लीची खाई थी। विश्व स्वास्थय संगठन (भट), विश्व बैंक और यूनीसेफ के आँकड़ों पर आधारित रिपोर्ट के अनुसार,

,अधिकतर अफ्रीकन देशों में बच्चों और 15 से 49 वर्ष की उम्र की स्त्रियों की पोषण की स्थिति गोरखपुर से बहुत बेहतर है। यूँ तो पूरे बिहार की भी स्थिति बहुत अच्छी नहीं है और देश भर में ही तीसरी द्निया जगह-जगह बिखरी हुई है। गोरखपुर में भी इंडिया और वंचित भारत में बँटी दोनों आबादियाँ एक साथ मौजूद हैं। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में समय के साथ और-और कमजोर पड़ते हुए भारत का आईना मुजफ्फपुर जिला बनता जा रहा है। लगभग साल भर पहले जिले के बालिका आश्रय गृह में बच्चियों के साथ अमानवीय कृत्य का जो सच सामने आया था, उसने देश भर का दिल दहला दिया था। समाज सेवा, पत्रकारिता जैसे व्यवसाय की आड़ में कुकर्मों का दुष्वक्र गढ़ा गया था, जिनकी समाज में बहुत ऊँची साख होती है। और हैरानी की बात है कि यह सब सामने आया था समाजशास्त्रीय शोध के जरिए। यह तो मानने वाली बात है नहीं कि मीडिया और प्रशासन को इतने बड़े प्रपंच की हवा न लगी हो। अब वर्तमान में भी लोकतंत्र के स्तंभों की नालायकी साफ दिख रही है। बल्कि ज्यादा उचित यह कहना होगा कि किसी के भी सरोकार में बच्चे कहीं हैं ही नहीं। तीसरी दुनिया के लोगों का अर्थात कमजोर पड़ते, पिछड़ते भारत का रहना–न रहना उनके लिए कोई मायने नहीं रखता। किसी भी बड़े दल के चुनावी घोषणा पत्र में बच्चे शामिल नहीं थे। शिक्षा और चिकित्सा जैसी बुनियादी सुविधाएँ भी देशवासियों को नसीब हों, इसकी कोई फिक्र व्यवस्था को नहीं है। विभिन्न रपटों में जिले में कुपोषण की जो स्थिति सामने आई। बहुत ही

निराशाजनक है। युगांडा, नाइजीरिया जैसे अफ्रीकी देशों से भी काफी बदतर स्थिति में यहाँ के लोग हैं। सरकारी अस्पताल और प्राथमिक स्वास्थय केंद्र एकमात्र स्थल हैं, जहाँ इन बच्चों का इलाज हो सकता था। पर 50 लाख की आबादी वाले जिले में इनकी संख्या अपर्याप्त है। जो हैं भी उनकी स्थिति इतनी लचर थी कि इलाज के साधनों का तो भयंकर अभाव था ही, इस भीषण गर्मी में पीने के लिए साफ पानी तक नहीं था। मरीज और उनके परिजन गंदा प्रदूषित पानी पीने के लिए मजबूर थे। सरकारी अस्पताल इस दो–तिहाई आबादी का एकमात्र शरण स्थल हैं और वहाँ की भी हालत इतनी दयनीय है कि स्वस्थ व्यक्ति भी बीमार हो जाए। चिकित्सा जैसी बनियादी जरूरत उपलब्ध करवाना सरकार की जिम्मेदारी होनी ही चाहिए। इसके निजीकरण से स्थिति विकराल होती गई है। सरकार के लिए निजी कम्पनियों का हित ही अधिक महत्व रखता है। इन्हीं की राहें सुगम करने के लिए आयुष्मान भारत जैसी योजनाएँ लाई जाती हैं। गरीब परिवारों को लक्ष्य बनाकर ही इस स्वांस्थय बीमा योजना की शुरूआत की गई थी। गरीबों के नाम पर बीमा कम्पनियों का व्यवसाय तो निश्चित तौर पर ही काफी फला–फूला होगा मगर क्या एक भी परिवार को इसका लाभ आज तक भी मिला? इस विकट स्थिति में जबकि सरकारी अस्पतालों में एक बेड में 3–3 मरीजों को लिटाने के बाद भी जगह नहीं बन पा रही है और डॉक्टरों की भी भारी कमी महसूस की जा रही है।बच्चों की इस अकाल मौत को रोकने में तिनके का भी सहारा क्या इन योजनाओं से मिला? पूरी तस्वीर साफ होते हुए भी लगता ही नहीं कि साफ हवा-पानी, पेट भर खाने की इनकी जरूरत का जरा भी संज्ञान सरकार ले रही हो। एक तो पहले ही 1990 के नीतिगत स्तर पर भी आम लोगों के स्वास्थय के सवाल का महत्व कम होता जा रहा है। स्वास्थय पर खर्चे की प्रतिशतता कम होती गई है। 2017 में यह जी.डी.पी की मात्र 1.15 प्रतिशत थी।

ऊपर से प्रशासन तंत्र की लापरवाही बहुत ही हैरतअंगेज है।

मीडिया ने बच्चों की इस दुर्दशा और चिकित्सा तंत्र की बदहाली को अति मुखर हो कर कवर किया। मगर सोचने की बात यह है कि न बच्चों की दशा अचानक खराब हुई और न ही चिकित्सा सुविधाओं की बदहाली कोई नयी बात है। अतः समय रहते हुए मीडिया सक्रिय होता तो प्रशासन के सोते हाथी को भी हरकत में लाया जाना संभव होता और तब ये मौतें बहुत आसानी से टाली जा सकती थीं। बच्चों के पेट में मुडी भर अनाज का होना भी इस खौफनाक मंजर को घटने से रोक सकता था। समाज के अन्य सदस्य भी इसमें सहयोगी हो जाते। भुख से होने वाली एक मौत भी राष्ट्रीय कलंक का विषय होती है। अन्न का अभाव महामारी में तब्दील हो कर दानवी ढंग से मासूस जानों को निगलने लगे। यह तो मानवीय समाज के सदस्य कदाचित नहीं चाह सकते। समय रहते मशीनरी हरकत में आ क्यों नहीं पाती? जब स्थिति ने इतना विकराल रूप ले लिया कि इमरजेंसी के स्तर पर इलाज दिए जाने की जरूरत आन पडी। उस समय मीडिया की जरूरत से अधिक मुस्तैदी से इलाज में बाधा ही पडी। निर्णायक शक्तियों को घेरने के बजाय इलाज में लगे डॉ. और पैरा मैडिकल क्षेत्रों के लोग पर ही आरोप–प्रत्यारोप का भौंडा सिलसिला शुरू कर दिया। और सारे मामले को जिस संवेदनहीनता से प्रस्तुत किया गया। उससे लोकतंत्र के इस चौथे स्तम्भ की छीजती ताकत और गुम होते मानवीय सरोकार की बानगी दिखी। हालांकि अपवाद स्वरूप चंद उदाहरण मानवीय सरोकारों के भी दिखे। माना कि दूरदर्शन एक ऐसा माध्यम है जहाँ जो दिखता है उसे ही घटित माना जाता है इसलिए उनके लिए दिखाना जरूरी होता है। ऐसे नाजुक समय में जब पल–पल जीवन पर भारी पड रहा हो, दुश्यों को संजोने और दिखाने में जिस समझदारी और संवेदनशीलता की जरूरत थी, खेद पूर्वक कहना पड़ रहा है कि उसका लेश भी शायद ही दिखाई पड़ा। कुछ स्थानीय चौनल के पत्रकार जरूर अपने कैमरे छोड़ कर मरीजों को लेकर अस्पताल भागते नजर आए।

राजेश जोशी की कविता 'बच्चे काम पर जा रहे हैं' मन को बहुत छूती है कि बच्चों से बचपन छीन लिया गया है। जब उन्हें स्कूल जाना चाहिए था, खेलना–कृदना चाहिए था, बेचारे काम करने के लिए मजबूर हैं। मानो सारे खिलौने अंतरिक्ष चले गए हों। वर्तमान स्थिति में जब बच्चे खुद ही बड़ी संख्या में दुनिया छोड़ते जा रहे हैं, समझ नहीं आता कि क्या कहा जाए। इस पर गहरा विचार किया जाना चाहिए कि विश्व में छठी बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था का दावा करने वाले इतने बड़े लोकतंत्र की प्राथमिकताएँ कैसे और कब इतनी बदलती चली गईं कि जीवन के बुनियादी सवाल उसके एजेंडे में ही नहीं हैं और मनुष्य वर्ग, धर्म, जाति, क्षेत्र, लिंग के आधार पर ब्री तरह बँटता जा रहा है। प्रचंड उपभोक्तावादी दौर के शक्ति संकेतकों के आधार पर जिसका भी खाता दबला हो, वह कुचला जा रहा है। बेतरह कुचला जा रहा है।

उदयप्रकाश की कहानी 'मैंगोसिल' बच्चों की ऐसी ही विकट स्थिति निराले अंदाज में बयां करती है। साहित्यकार की संवेदनशील आँखें पहचान लेती हैं कि गरीबी और जहालत महाबीमारियों के कीटाणू बढ़ते जा रहे हैं। इसकी गाज बच्चों पर गिरेगी। बच्चे सबसे नर्म चारा होते हैं किसी भी संकट का। और फिर जब सभ्यता इस दिशा में जा रही हो तो जो भी नाजुक है, कोमल है और अपने अस्तित्व के लिए दूसरे पर निर्भर है। उसका क्या हाल होगा, महसूस किया जा सकता है। इस लम्बी कहानी में मैंगोसिल नामक रोग की कल्पना की गई है जिसमें बच्चों के सिर बहुत बड़े हो जाते हैं। उनके मस्तिष्क द्निया भर की जानकारियों से भरे अनुभव समुद्ध मस्तिष्क हैं और वे बस दो-ढाई साल ही जिंदा रह पाते हैं। इस बीमारी का शिकार सिर्फ निर्धन, वंचित तबके के बच्चे ही बनते हैं। यह बीमारी सम्पन्न लोगों को नहीं होती। बीमारी का वर्गीय चरित्र कहानी में और जीवन में भी एकदम स्पष्ट है। जाहिर है बीमारी दी जा रही है हो नहीं रही है। इन बीमारियों का होना सभ्यता की हार है। आधुनिकता के उस दावे का पूरी तरह खोखला हो जाना है कि हर पेट को खाना और तन ढकने को कपडा मिलेगा। 'मैंगोसिल' कहानी में गरीबी और बीमारी से जुझते परिवार का बच्चा सूरी इस बीमारी से ग्रस्त है। यूँ तो उसकी बीमारी पर देश–विदेश की प्रतिष्ठित संस्थाएँ शोध करने में ज़टी हई हैं। उनके भी निष्कर्षों का भाव फणीश्वरनाथ रेणु के सालों पहले निकाले गए निष्कर्ष जैसे ही हैं। मगर अनुभव समृद्ध, परिपक्व मस्तिष्क सम्पन्न सूरी का खुद का निष्कर्ष भी यही है कि 'निश्चित ही उस रोग से उसकी मृत्यु नहीं हुई थी।'

इन निष्कर्षों के पीछे से झाँकता परिदृश्य जब इतना साफ है तो आखिर कब तक हम उनसे अपनी नजरें फेरे रहेंगे? इस चुनौती से सीधे आँखें मिलाकर इससे पार पाने का माद्दा पैदा करने के अलावा कोई विकल्प है नहीं। कम से कम मध्य वर्ग को तो इसे शीघ्रातिशीघ्र समझ ही लेना चाहिए। यदि अपने से इतर किसी 'अन्य' के लिए संवेदित होने के संस्कार हम खो भी बैठे हैं तो भी समझदारी का तकाजा कहता है कि ये पहली और तीसरी दुनिया की मौजूदा संरचना स्थायी तो है नहीं। कमजोर पड़ते मनुष्यों की आबादी तो बढ़ती जा रही हैं। इसकी चपेट में जाने से खुद को भी कहाँ रोक पाएंगे अगर अब भी कोई हस्तक्षेप हमने न किया तो।

> डॉ रश्मि रावत शिक्षिका हिंदी विभाग



#### Right, Left, Right

I turn to my right, left, and the signal switches to green. The moment I turn to the right again, a cataclysm strikes me.

The pale walls complement my skin. The heavens have turned red, and so have the bandages. Drowning in a cacophony of beeping heart monitors and honking cars, the morphine revives me.

I am 26 years old now, relying on Hephaestus's tools to pull through. A recovering addict who is like a bear with a sore head. The hallucinations were starting to get worse until I decided to knock myself out completely.

The door is locked. A framed newspaper clip hangs on the wall. No windows. The exclusive source of light is a hanging golden bulb, moving to and fro as if in mockery. Twisting my head to the right, I see red; the colour of blood and fire. I turn to my left, right away, and see my crutches lying abandoned. While trying to turn to the right for the second time, I feel a stinging sensation on my back. Have you experienced a



sudden frightful feeling of someone staring at you? A stare, extremely intense which makes your hair stand and skin crawl. As if the eyes are conscious of every single atom of your body, your buried secrets, and your next move. At that moment I see her, my closest confidante.

"Maa, where are you going?" I ask fumingly.

"Nowhere, June", she replies.

"Are you sending me to rehab again?"

"N-no...", she replies hesitantly.

Hurriedly, I get up from the bed and lose a crutch, to crash down on the floor. The thud echoed on the apartment's floor and in mother's heartbeats. She runs to rescue me, and the apartment echoes with a metallic sound, crushing the crutches and her beautiful skull.

Involuntarily, I turn to the right, and see a beam of green light becoming yellow, then red and eventually fading away.

Jaya Jaiswal English (Hons.) 1st Year

#### The Untouchable

"Why isn't he allowed to touch it?", Ram asked. Madhu, Ram's mother, born in an upper-caste Brahman family, was neither perplexed nor sure on how to make a 9-year old understand the rubrics of the caste system prevailing in India. But, she answered, "Because, he's untouchable". Ram has been hearing that word since the day he started understanding words but could never comprehend it. He has asked his mother but nothing satisfied his young mind, and his father's indifference towards his questions motivated him. Overtaken by curiosity, he asked the kid, "Why does everyone call you 'Untouchable'?". "I don't know", he replied. Ram was baffled after hearing this. He thought someone who has been called something for this long, must know what it means. And his last hope of understanding the word was diminishing.

"Have you ever touched anyone?" he asked.

"Yes."

"Who?"

"My mother and my baby brother."

"Are they alive?", Ram asked. "Of course, they're alive. What would happen to them?", the kid retorted. "No, I'm sorry. But then, why does everyone call you 'Untouchable'?", Ram asked. "I don't know, Chote Malik", the kid replied.

"Have you ever asked your mother?"

"Yes."

"Did she tell you?"

"Of course, my mother tells me everything."

This reply hurt Ram a little because his parents never told him anything, and he was a curious soul. "What did she tell you?" Ram asked. "That we were born in a lower caste, and we're inferior to you." the kid replied. Words like "lower caste" and "inferior" went over Ram's head. He has heard them being used by his father when he was angry at someone. So, he understood that these words were not used by a 9-year-old.

"Is that why you are called 'Untouchable'?"

"Yes, Chote Malik."

"But, did you choose to be born in a lower caste family?"

"It's nobody's choice, Chote Malik. Did you ask to be born in an upper-caste family?"

"I don't know."

Again, the word "upper-caste" went over him. Seeing Ram's puzzled face, the kid asked "Chote Malik, do you know what 'upper caste' means?". Ram didn't try to hide his incompetence; the kid has told him more than his parents ever did. "No", Ram said. The kid smiled heartily, and Ram hadn't seen anyone smile over a single word like "No". Ram's innocence seemed worthy of all the stereotypes. "Why are you smiling? You are supposed to tell me what it means!" retorted Ram. The kid said, "Sometimes, it's good to be oblivious about some things."

> Gitesh Chand Maurya English (Hons.) 2nd Year

#### Carrying On

On mornings like these when Shefali views the world in hues of grey, she confuses nicotine with caffeine and lets the sink overflow as she stares at her reflection in the mirror with blank eyes and a plastered smile. She feels like she is running slapdash in circles as the walls of the bathroom seem to close in on her. Emotionally exhausted, she can even feel herself shrinking as the walls tower around her, and the floor tilts dangerously, but she knows that she has to carry on. That's what her mom has done. That's what her best friend advises her to do. To carry on. It's the way of the world, or so they tell her. So, she needs to conform and blend into the flow even if every molecule of her 22-yearold body screeches as she reaches out for anti-depressant pills in her cabinet. Everybody has a coping mechanism. This is hers. The day passes by and before she knows it, she is asleep on the bed dreaming about flowers wilting. The following week is just the same, and she grimly adapts to the mundane routine of oscillating from her home to her workplace. A hazy monotony has eclipsed her life, but at least her dreams change every day - from jars breaking to birds caught in cages, and recently, abandoned homes. On Sunday evening, her co-worker Kyra rings her up to ask her to join in with other colleagues for a fancy dinner. Shefali refuses without dilly-dallying. She doesn't even conceal it with an excuse.

"You've been acting so distant lately. If there's anything wro-".

Shefali cuts her off abruptly; she's tired of people repeating the same things.

"Nothing is wrong. I'm fine."

"Are you really?"

Adorning a plastered smile, Shefali rolls her eyes. That's the thing about most people, they are curious to extract gossip. She knows that, once she tells Kyra what's wrong,



then like everyone else, she will simply tell her to get over it. To be strong. As if it's as simple as that. As if it's a puzzle that others have already solved, and Shefali is the only one with missing jigsaw pieces.

"Hey, are you still there?" Kyra asks.

"Yes." She replies as her head throbs with pain and yet for some unfathomable reason, she tells Kyra every single thing that has been eating her up from the inside. She tells her how she had wished for a utopia and to be submerged in a land of bliss, but instead, she finds herself surrounded with pain floating around her. So, who can she blame for seeing the wasp in the centre of a rose but never the rose; how she is disturbed every time she sees some chotu serving chai. How her stomach churns uncomfortably every time she views a child's name being replaced with chotu. Then, there's this old man in an ill-fitted coat who lives in an apartment next to hers waiting for his children to visit him each year as the light in his eyes grows dimmer, and they never visit him. "Stupid right?" Shefali continues blinking furiously to stop herself from tearing up, "to be getting



worked up over something like this."

"No, Ît's not. You're just..." Kyra trails off. Shefali laughs bitterly thinking how she's just the same. How they are all the same.

"Kind."

"W-what?" Shefali asks as her eyes widen with shock, and she pinches the bridge of her nose.

"You are not stupid or weak for feeling this. In fact, I think you have been strong for too long. I wish I had noticed it before. So, if you need someone to talk to, just let me know. I will be there."

"Thank you." Shefali murmurs, and cuts off the phone, finally letting her tears escape. Kyra didn't tell her she needed to get over it, and this is the first time she feels understood and accepted. She smiles genuinely while crying her heart out, and suddenly she feels better. She knows that she can carry on and catch up with the pace of the world on her own.

> Shivangi Sinha English (Hons.) 2nd Year



**—** 14 —

# A COLORFUL LANDSCAPE IS ENGULFED IN BLACK!

They're manifesting blue now, The eyes you saw the rainbow in. They're covered with red now, The hands you promised to dye yellow with. They're dark purple now, The lips you savoured pink in. The mirror's reflecting grey now, The soul you saw sunshine in. On this canvas of my life, I let you hold the paintbrush, And you made a magnificent scenery By adding those vivid colours. Oh! But then suddenly you dropped the black ink, and it splashed all over!

> Garima Bajaj B.Com (Hons) 1st year

### I'VE TRUST ISSUES

And yaa, I've trust issues,

For I would not like to be your disposable cup, Which is first sucked through, then crushed and broken, And finally disposed and forgotten. No, I would not be there for you as your tissue paper

To wipe your mouth, when you'll be done after savouring those delicious meals. I would not like to be

That touch of yours for a minute or less So it'll turn me wet, crumbled and moribund

> Aayushi Chhabra B.com (hons.) 1st year

#### Longing

Under the hibernal full moon sky She was sitting, weeping. Beside the Sweetwaters sea Gazing at the waves, Meeting the shore. She was cursing her faith For the dark endless nights of waiting and onging Waiting for her sailor Who's out for sail On a foreign land. She was sitting, hoping Beside the Sweetwaters sea To see her beloved again... She asked the waves To pass on her message To her love, That his love is bereft Without him And is craving for his touch And for his love, since he left Riverdale She's sitting, grieving. The high tides Trying hard to reach Their love, moon And she gets doleful After seeing him fail every time.

She's sitting, nonchalant Beside the Sweetwaters sea Hackneyed thoughts Makin' her dolorous Balmy ambrosia winds Caressing her debonair alluring face High tides ensorcelled her Which were in a race To reach the moon.

She was sitting, edaciously Beside the Sweetwaters sea Waiting for the valediction Of this endless darkness Under the hibernal full moon sky.

> Swati Thakur English (Hons) 1st year

## Happy World Environment day (?)

You're murdered every day and your children die a thousand deaths but Happy World Environment Day.

We just desecrated your lands but Happy World Environment Day.

With a laced pineapple, we just blasted a mother with her child into nothingness but Happy World Environment Day.

We dried up the Arab Sea and made our water bodies a solidified history but Happy World Environment Day.

We just signed a treaty to save you so you better thank us.

And Happy World Environment Day.



We have big guns and toys and with that, we drill holes into you, but Happy World Environment Day.

We just killed your children for our clothes and bags, but they died a noble death – if that makes you feel better, and Happy World Environment Day!

We're magicians somewhat like Mandrake – we turn forests into deserts and ice into water. Happy World Environment Day?

But don't think we don't care. We cut trees to hold placards that say 'SAVE THE TREES'. We write poems like these so you see we do care. We laugh at those who worship trees. Do they even know how to say Happy World Environment Day? We're like the prodigal son, just hope we return to you. If not, we'll keep saying "Happy World Environment Day."

> Aryaman Kumar Political Science (Hons.) 2nd Year

#### Human Race

Are you happy in this modern world?

Where grass seems greener on the virtual side, And the transitory moment seems more priceless than the actual real-time.

The present quest for dazzling silvers is blinding the whole generation.

In the world of rushing people, gadgets are closer than blood relations.

This vicious web of nuclear arms, ammunition and greedy men is bringing the whole humankind to an end.

Seems oblivious of the presages, that destruction is knocking our doors.

Alas! Just give it a thought and rack your brains, Is there any more hideaway left for our escape? No, I couldn't find one...

Because it's better not to dehumanize for an unworthy human race.

Riya Gupta History (Hons.)

1st year

#### Tell Them

You need to stop shrinking to fit places you have outgrown Next time, when they tell you which colours to use in your canvas Tell them, you'll let it remain blank – Blank for possibilities. Tell them, when it's time to paint You'll throw out the paintbrushes, smear your fingers in hues of contradictions & splatter it across the canvas. Tell them, you'll rip off the painting. Just like that deconstruct, until You find the right colours to begin once again.

> Shivangi Sinha English (Hons.) 2nd Year

### Reality: A Life Game

Life in a big world With diverse people From every walk of life. Still under the same sky But much aloof from each other Even minor things got varied worth. Taking their turns, Joy and sorrow are just condiments



To spice up this life game. At one moment you are Ready to attack And the next second at the defence front. This life game got multiple players Their decision and priorities Define the next move. For some, the city lights Mean prosperity and riches, But for some, it's just a livelihood. Some got big mansions -Even big enough to accommodate four -And some just get adjusted in a tiny room With no leg space for even three. Not all of them enjoy sunbathing on beaches. As some tirelessly work to ripen their pitches. Few welcome unseasonal rains as a time for Relishing Tea, pakoras and the breeze. Simultaneously others pray for it. To not blow away their only roofs. Food is an exquisite delicacy for few. While some satiate themselves with dry chapati and salt. We are still under the same sky But much aloof. In the game, No one got their allies. It's one's own, just a stand-alone existence. Wondering what's next? It got its name as "Reality"

A library full of books with no

readers. Still, some choose streetlights To educate themselves for becoming A bit better. Even 24 carat isn't enough for a few Still, some are elated to put on a city gold. Few thrifts a thousand on Just a few jeans and cigarettes While some pay their rent, food and fees And save remaining in the rice boxes. Same things, still different meanings Same race, still diverse lives. Under the same sun in different positions. Lavish for a few And struggling impoverishment for some Money stands tall though. Overshadowing the ones beneath, Guiding some blindly to the dark While others guard themselves. This reality always breaks my heart.



Not dreams. The only thing that is uniform for all is Staying on the same ground. But adversity isn't the same for all. As still under the same sky. But the sunrise and moon Do differ for all.

> Riya Gupta History (Hons.) 1st year

### Vita & Virginia

You tell me my mind is magnetic; it is a sun — all-consuming

I've swallowed it whole; it is stuck in my throat I now speak of nothing but you.

There is a dangerous love inside of us; the veins have come to quiver

The blood is staining the walls; the claw-marks are on the furniture

And now there is too much to clean before someone comes over.



But god, the nights have so many stars to show me And I want to be everything that makes you feel infinite; so, I will remember my name again No longer will I write poetry about how sad I am.

We have the money and the room at last; this is the year for fiction

But I hope you know that I'll come back to this; I was only born yesterday I am still a child of six.

You reek of art and sunshine; I shall diminish you no longer.

I know you wanted to save me.

Vita, I've filled my pockets with too many stones already.

Satvik Tandon English (Hons.) 2nd Year

Undesirable violence Fumes over the air, With the imprint of Abnormal rage and pain; I switch on the news Only to switch it off. Yearning for peace, I see pools of Bloodstream Down the streets, Watching the Blazes of fire Cover vehicles, Hearing gunshots Take over people's lives, With breeze covered with Unheard wails and mum phobias My eyes are rolled in with Hate only to be Manipulated by fear. With a powerful tempestuousness in the wind, We watch the rest too End up as weapons In the sport of politics

Undesirable Violence



Between the Cultures and religions Clasping away Opportunities. For all I know, Humans built religion, Religion built humans. And Humans murdered Religion, And Religion murdered Humans.

> Khushi English (Hons.) 1st year



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#### Abolishing The 'English' Fine

Back in my school-days, we had what then seemed like an innocuous tradition, our teachers wanting us to imbibe English resorted to imposing a monetary fine whenever any of us would be found speaking in the native language (Hindi in my state). Anyone blasphemous enough to ask for a pen or pencil in Hindi from a friend (let alone talk in that language) would be required to pay the amount of five rupees in a donation box (which one would have otherwise used to buy a tangy chooran or orange ice candy outside the school). The stakes were high, and the most obedient (read sycophantic) students not only paid the fine when they committed the crime but also complained about other students found chattering in Hindi. "Ma'am, Rohit here just talked in Hindi!"- the entire class would gaze towards Rohit as if he was the most vicious creature that ever breathed. The fines were collected, and at the end of the month, a special gift would be purchased for the student whose top-notch accent and vocabulary we were supposed to emulate. Sure, the teachers all did it in bona fide to make us cogent speakers of the language but seen in retrospect, the entire tradition points to a far more insidious problem. As the recent debate on languages escalates, it is also crucial to explore the threatening aspect of monolingualism of an already foreign language.

English is no more the language of our colonisers and has been domesticated to an extent that our speech phraseology oozes with a mixture of English and our native tongue. Yet, the pompous status of English still prevails widely and has managed to bind us in a state of neo-colonialism. The so-called English



medium schools have pedestaled English, thereby reinforcing its image as the elitist language. The practice such as the above, of imposing fine on speaking one's native language does more harm than good as it instils a fear, which one comes to associate with their native language. While

most of my classmates did manage to converse in English and enunciate words like 'water' as not 'woter' but 'vaw-tuh' (not realising then that every country has its way of accent with words), but the students not fluent in English grew more despondent. Unable to articulate their opinions (in English) on the subject being discussed, they preferred to remain tacit for fear of being judged by their supposedly more polished classmates.

With practice as such, many students thus come to identify their native languages as a sign of boorishness, rusticity and in the long run even their own culture. Post-colonial critic Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o in his semi-autobiographical essay "Decolonizing the Mind" mentions how a culture which embodies the moral and ethical values of a community is carried by a language. When a child is made a 'traitor' to his language by instilling the hegemony of English, it also divorces him from an experience of learning.

India is a multilingual, multicultural and diverse nation and while the language of English helps in fostering communication, here and globally, its hegemonic monolingualism also severely punctures the wheel of a multilingual society. "Iss Desh mei Angrezi zubaan nahi, class hai Raj," exclaims Saba Qamar's character in 2017 film Hindi Medium, a statement not far from the truth in a country where we are too quick to judge a person by his accent and speech.

The pedagogy of English medium schools should teach English by not elevating it to a status of boasting, which is an activity like imposing a fine for not speaking it does. This is not an argument against English (which my medium of writing ironically shows) but against its imperialism. As Thiong'o's quotes, "What is wrong in a country or the world is not the existence of many languages, but their being made to relate to each other in terms of hierarchy."

In the final act of Hindi Medium, Irrfan Khan, in his speech quotes, "English is India and India is English." Is it a blatant hyperbole? Or the film is already pointing towards a linguistic-dystopia where a single language will soon come to take over and overshadow a nation's diversity?

> PARTH PANT ENGLISH (HONS.) 3rd Year

#### AN UNFINISHED TEMPLE - A DREAM THAT NEVER CAME TRUE

He treated the world as a platform for erecting shrines and covered it with temples of Kedaresvara, Rameshvara, Somanatha, Kala, Rudra, and other gods, and thus Bhoja made the world worthy of its name.

- Udaipur Prashasti of the Paramara Kings

The King mentioned in the above text taken from an inscription is Raja Bhoja, a name which still lives on in the name of the state capital of the region he ruled a millennium ago. He was a great patron of arts and literature whose legacy, unfortunately, remains short of his visionary site -The Bhojeshwar temple. Some ancient texts such as Prabandhacintamani and the aforementioned Udaipur Prashasti mentioned the ruins of an un-



finished temple some 28 kilometres away from Bhopal whose grandeur and power potential was sadly never reached.

Bhojpur is still a popular site for Bhopalis. A good number of Shiva Bhakts visit the place on Mahashivratri, and Madhya Pradesh's government holds cultural events here as well. However, the construction of the temple remains unlike the actual vision of it. The temple was supposed to be gigantic. The temple, today, consists only of a great sanctum which is 65 feet square with the linga inside it and in front of it is a jagati (platform). The temple walls, built of blocks of dressed sandstone, have three balconies which are quite unusual for temples of that time. The doorway itself is huge, around 33 feet high which is almost six times the height of an average person. Another unusual aspect of this temple is the absence of Shikhara but the presence of a low roof of a pyramidal shape called samarana. The ceiling has intricate carvings like at every other major temple of that period and the way it was supported shows the different techniques were used to construct this temple. Only the front wall has any sculptures; the other three walls have

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no sculptures except for the balconies mentioned above. The absence of other temple buildings of the time like mandapa is also peculiar to the temple. These peculiarities and some ancient architectural texts have made some scholars proposing that the temple was a svargarohana-prasada (temple made in the memory of someone ascending to heaven) or a funerary monument.

This goes without saying that the construction of such a big temple required large amounts of raw materials and vast manpower. An idea of it can be gained from more than 1300 mason marks including some names on various parts and the quarries east of the temple. The marks of masons are also a part of a variety of remains found here particularly because the temple was never completed. Other remains of this category include the ramp used to transport huge stone blocks, worksites, and architectural sketches on stones. King Bhoja was also not an irrational dreamer who thought of a huge temple just because he wanted to. He compiled an extensive architectural treatise known as Samaraganasutradhara which means he was aware of the construction practices, limits, and features of that time and he still initiated the project which proves that building such a large temple was far from impossible.

The size and height, if completed, could have easily rivalled the Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur. Some scholars even say that it was supposed to be 1.5 times larger than the temple at Thanjavur,, making the planned height of the temple over 100 meters. Around the same size of the famous Qutub Minar, a tower built almost two centuries after the end of the reign of King Bhoja. Why did the construction abruptly stop? We do not know? The temple sadly could never be completed because of the gradual reduction in power of the Paramara dynasty, but the remains constantly tell us the story of a king who wanted to be remembered, who wanted a legacy.

> Sarthak Sharma HISTORY (HONS.) 3rd Year

#### Sports & COVID-19

Sports has always been considered a crisis– proof industry. It has never really been affected other than the times of war but now, amidst the pandemic, this industry too is among those that have been hit the earliest, hardest and perhaps most visibly.

The lack of sports is indeed an emotional blow to a lot of fans and followers across the globe but what makes the case worse is the financial loss it has incurred on the fraternity. Estimated to be over a hundred billion dollars industry worldwide, the sudden disappearance of sports has created a depression in revenues that spirals further resulting in hundreds of thousands of job cuts. These jobs are not just that of the high-paid athletes playing the games but also include people who count on sporting events for employment. With no ticket sales, no broadcast, and no sponsorship, the industry is facing major challenges in every way. Athletes, sporting clubs, broadcasters, franchises, and even vendors have been left in the lurch like the rest of the world. Flagship events and major leagues and tournaments have been either cancelled or postponed, such as Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, Euro Cup 2020, NBA, major European football leagues, Formula One Motor Racing. The Wimbledon Championship was also postponed by the United Kingdom, being cancelled for the first time since World War II.

The NBA, as an example, has lost revenue from its major televising contracts. The NBA makes almost half its 9 billion dollars revenue through media and is expected to lose a majority of the said revenue. Disney, which owns ESPN and AT&T is NBA's current media partner paying 24 billion dollars for the rights to air NBA games until the 2024-25 season. It is estimated that if the season remains suspended until the playoffs in April, Disney will be losing its total advertising revenue for this year. In spite of the cancelled season, the league has been playing their matches over the gaming platform, NBA 2K, and streaming the simulations on Twitch. Also, people around the league are pitching into the aid and assistance for the hourly employees affected by the suspension of the season.

Similarly, it is estimated that Europe's top five football leagues: England, Spain, Italy, Germany, and France, are expected to lose billions within the scenario, where major clubs will be losing a majority of their stock values and also will be negotiating to cut back their multi-million cash crunch for the upcoming season and the respective transfer windows. Amidst the economic crunch, big teams such as the Spanish-Catalonian giant, FC Barcelona had decided to give up to 70 per cent of their salaries including those of players like Lionel Messi to produce income for the daily workers associated with their sporting club. The German team Borussia Dortmund had also announced that the club would reserve its stadium to treat COVID-19 patients.

The pandemic has hit India's sporting structure too. Apart from cancellation of various leagues and competitions, the Indian Premier League commonly known as the IPL was postponed indefinitely by the BCCI. IPL, whose brand value in 2019 was estimated around 7 billion (according to Duff & Phelps) and the event which according to BCCI contributes billions to the GDP of the Indian Economy lead not only to a loss of capital but creating a major setback at different levels of



the organisation; players, sponsors, boards and even the Government.

Also, according to a Japanese firm, with the postponement of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the anticipated flagship event of the year, Japan faces an estimate of 6 billion dollars in losses due to the delay. They are hoping that the games would not be cancelled next year because that would mean the pandemic would still not be under control. As this has never happened before, the governments, the teams, the agents, and in fact everybody is trying to learn and adapt to the situation.

One of the things that sport does best is to bring people together in proximity at such times of crisis. Unfortunately, bringing people physically together is the exact opposite of what is required right now. Sports industry was genuinely helpful at the start of this outbreak, showing how serious the virus was. It had an alert response to the virus as witnessed in a Champions League match in Milan held in February. The event was proclaimed as a biological bomb after being linked to one of the deadliest outbreaks, cancelling all the future events. Therefore, Sports shutting down was emphatically the right thing to do.

Despite the setback, the sports world has been active during this pandemic. Teams and athletes are donating and raising money for charity with some even selling branded face masks for Coronavirus related causes. Despite not being able to play, teams have found ways to engage with their fanbase (online) modelling social distancing.

John Oliver rightly pointed out on Last Week Tonight, "There is clearly a desire to restart sporting events. The question, though, isn't why sports should come back but how that can safely happen. Because to do it responsibly would be a mammoth undertaking. To do it irresponsibly, however, turns out to be pretty easy." So, as eager as we may be to resume, we need to take time to understand and make sure that we get this right by slowly phasing sports back in with tailored approaches that take into account each sport while understanding the level of contact and robust systems of testing and tracing required. The top European football leagues such as the Premier League, La Liga and Serie A, setting an example of how to phase back, have resumed their remaining fixtures of the season with a 'no in-person attendance' format, streaming the matches over various platforms. Apart from the vacant stadiums, new rules have been implied to assert the level of contact. Players outside the pitch are mandated to wear masks and maintain physical distance, also being penalised if not followed.

Since this human and economic catastrophe and the industry-wide impact could last long, streaming giants and gaming platforms are likely to increase their user-base and be the sporting salvation during this pandemic.

> Mayank Mihir English (Hons.) 3rd Year

#### NATHAVATI ANATHVAT: The One Who Stood for Herself

"A kshatriya woman's highest purpose in life is to support the warriors in her life: her father, brother, husband and sons." tutors a sage to Draupadi's brother. From behind the curtains Draupadi retorted "And who decided that a woman's highest purpose was to support men?" These lines from Chitra Divakaruni Banerjee's The Palace of Illusions sheds light on the character of Draupadi. Draupadi has always been a favourite of authors, her portrayal a battleground when it comes to retellings of the Mahabharata. The myriad retellings attempt to correct the mythology by a strong portrayal of an otherwise weak woman in traditional sense or the mainstream narrative. This article tries to highlight the strength of character displayed by Draupadi in the toughest of times especially the dicing game and the way in which she stood up for herself when nobody else did along with presenting her character as imagined by Divakaruni in The Palace of Illusions and the Star Plus television adaptation.

After Yudhisthira loses Draupadi in his last bet against the kingdom and Duryodhan's wife Bhanumati, Duryodhan sends an usher to convey his order to Draupadi calling her to the assembly. Draupadi refuses and uses her wit, asking usher to return and question the Kuru sabha that if Yudhisthira had lost himself before wagering her in a bet, how he could still stake her in a bet. Divakauni's Draupadi, in *The Palace of Illusions*, here quotes from the *Nyayashastra* and says, "If perchance a man lost himself, he no longer had any jurisdiction over his wife."

Duryodhan was surprised to hear Draupadi's questions as, Mehendale argues in an essay, published in Journal of Oriental Institute, because he thought by hearing that her husband had lost her and that she was not a queen anymore, she would breakdown but by asking such a question and returning the usher, not following the orders, she had shown that she still considered herself to be free. Alf Hiltebeitel in his essay "Draupadi's Questions" brings forth her refusal to accept slavery and her choice to consider herself a free woman until she receives an answer from Yudhisthira whether he staked "self or me" first.

Draupadi after being dragged into the

court, challenges all the well-learned, shastraknowing males to answer her questions. Angered by the treatment she received at the hands of Dushasana, who pulled her hair and dragged her into the sabha, she questions all the male warriors including the patriarch Bhishma on the practice of their idiosyncratic Dharma, adding if it is their knowledge of individual Dharma that allows these stalwarts like Bhisma. Drona, Vidura and Yudhisthira to let a woman be dragged and disrespected in the hall (society). Here in this moment. Draupadi becomes every female, unapologetically voicing their concerns, unabashedly questioning an all-male assembly when patriarchy was deeply rooted in the society. Draupadi reminded the sabha with equanimity of her position not only as a daughter-in-law of the Kuru clan but also as a woman. She delivered a monologue citing the concerned Dharma of an individual. Being the only one who was looking for answers in that assembly, she attempted "to transform the situation of ordered violence into one of discussion" as pointed out by Kevin McGrath in his essay "Speaking of Truth". The sabha was unable to resolve her query and bowed down their heads in silence. Panchali is often praised for her role as a woman speaking not only for herself but representing all women of her times, "I have shed tears of all women in this world, in the assembly today" one hears her saying after the disrobing sequence in the 2013-14 television adaptation of the Mahabharata by Swastik Productions aired on Star Plus.

Shilpa Prasad in her article "Exploring Draupadi with a Feminist Lens" published on the online platform Feminism in India writes, "She spoke up for herself in full awareness of the consequences of such boldness and wittily explained the ideas of right and wrong to the kings when she was wronged. The role of quiet suffering and submission is the one she rejected." While Draupadi is praised for her wit, knowledge and legalities of issues, her understanding of Dharma and voicing her concerns in a male dominated society, some critics have criticized her for these qualities. Iravati Karve in her collection of essays on Mahabharata as Yugant: End of an Epoch writes, "Draupadi was standing there arguing about legal technicalities like a lady pundit when what was happening to her was so hideous that she should have only cried out for decency in the name of the Kshatriya code.

Allowing their daughter-in-law to be dragged before a full assembly, dishonouring a bride of their own clan in the hall of men, was against all human, unwritten laws that quibbling about legal distinctions at that point was the height of pretension". Karve adopts a conservative approach to view Draupadi. While Krishna's voice emerges as a strong force not submitting to the patriarchal notions and orders in that assembly, Karve wants her to submit to the same male forces that dragged her into the assembly neglecting the cause of the action which was not Panchali's questions but jealousy and egoist approach of the Kauravas towards their cousins. Calling her questions "foolish" and "terrible", that had put the Dharamraj into a "dilemma and unwittingly insulted him", her position "desperate", Karve ignores the fact that it was Draupadi and her wit as a "lady pundit" that enabled her to free her husbands and kingdom from impending slavery when given a boon but Yudhisithira lost the kingdom in the final challenge bringing upon his brothers and Panchali an exile of thirteen years. Karna, remarks on Draupadi's decision to free her husbands and kingdom, "Like a boat she saved the Pandavas when they were about to drown in a sea of disgrace."

Pradeep Bhattacharya in his essay, "Panchkanya" talks about the use of knowledge by Draupadi not only in course of the dicing game but also in working of the kingdom. He mentions that Panchali used to give Pandavas advice in the political matters, kept an account of wealth, a track of Yudhishtra's tours, made arrangements for his trips, checking his retinue and other requirements herself. Draupadi emerges as one of the strongest voices from within the Indian Mythology who not only refused to submit to her circumstances but also used her knowledge and wit to come out of her situations, not only saving herself but her husbands, becoming a queen of all women of her times, providing a strong voice of justice and registering her protest within a patriarchal society.

> Purusharth Chawla ENGLISH (HONS.) 3rd Year

#### Donald Trump and "Deep State": A New Side of American Politics

With US President Donald Trump gaining a lot of global attention because of his controversial statements and the unique position he seems to take on various issues, and the idea of a "Deep State" seems to fascinate political enthusiasts.

The notion that there is an unseen bureaucracy that holds the reign of power is an interesting perspective in the context of the United States. The term "Deep State" was rarely used in American politics until Breitbart News used it in 2016 and later, was often evident in President Trump's tweets. It has often been used to refer to the state of affairs in Turkey, Egypt, and sometimes Pakistan. The adoption of the term has been quite flexible, encompassing the Justice Department, the Media, the Democrats,



and the FISA courts. In other words, it is used by the unelected leftist officials currently opposing to thwart the current administration's policies.

The prevalence of a Deep State does not come as a surprise at first, taking certain significant events into consideration. For instance, in the aftermath of the 2016 elections, Twitter accounts that purported to represent Trump opponents embedded in the executive branch proliferated. Alternative government accounts popped up for nearly every government agency, ranging from the Federal Election Commission to the Labor Department and the National Parks Service. For people believing that there is a conspiracy to unmake Trump's Presidency, these accounts serve as substantial proof that they are right.

The primary concern that might come to one's mind is how Trump himself perceives the idea of a "Deep State" and his way of dealing with the same. To him, the Deep State is a secret community of military and intelligence officers secretly manipulating the White House politics and is run by former leaders of intelligence agencies under President Obama, coupled up with unknown sinister forces still resilient within the Justice Department. If it is really true that an "internal resistance" is gradually gaining the

power to dilute his policies, he has every right to be concerned.

The narrative of "Deep State" and a strong belief that Trump's enemies are conspiring together as part of a coherent subversion is a powerful message that allows the President to assure his supporters that the entire establishment is against him and there is an urgent need to reform the existing framework of American protocols that have been discriminatory in adopting his controversial approach.

While it is an established concern that there exists a secret power that poses a threat to Trump's policies and aims to destabilise "American democracy" at large, there also exists a completely parallel argument. It sees this concern as Donald Trump's paranoia and in fact, a strategy to cover up for the errors in his administration, proclaiming the entire narrative of "Deep State" to be a myth in American politics. Opponents of the notion of "Deep State" also argue that the references made by Trump and his administration that highlight its existence, are too small and minor to "harm" American democracy.

Some argue that Trump came into office with the vision to completely reform the current model of a government and considering that, changing the status quo is difficult and this is only the pushback that he is facing, in the process of transforming the culture of government. There is yet another side to the issue: the argument that Americans are bereft of good explanations for the often bewildering turn of events in a highly polarised and charged political environment, and have thus resorted to a straightforward interpretation: conspiracy.

The two sides of the entire narrative, i.e. the one believing in the existence of a Deep State and the other completely refuting such claims, have received considerable recognition in the form of debates and discussions on various media platforms, involving public and political figures. However, the reality of a gradually perpetuating sentiment against the current administration still remains a mystery, owing to uncertainties, disoriented claims, and a clash of interests of the various stakeholders in the matter.

> Karan Pawani ECONOMICS (HONS.) 3rd Year

#### Dream Big, Fly High

It isn't a hidden fact that one can achieve absolutely anything if they genuinely believe that they can! From scientists to models everyone has had their share of struggles and problems but what kept them going was their dream: whether it is about dreaming to research for their nation or appear in the front cover of Vogue magazine. Everyone has different interests and so the ways



they reach the pinnacle of their desired fields are also different. Then what is it that keeps them so devoted and dedicated? It is the roadmap to their dreams. The first step is dreaming big. But then what's next? It is the proper planning that plays the most crucial role to achieve what one wants. No one can give the solution on a platter as to how they became successful in life. It is us who will have to face the challenges and deal with them in our unique ways. There's a plethora of opportunities and ideas to choose from. Choose what's best for you! Do not try to imitate others. An eagle shelters itself from rain by flying above the clouds, unlike the other birds which hide in their nests or trees. What works for you may not work for the others and vice versa. Learn to be content with what you are doing. Develop the most fairy-tale-like dream. A dream that may not sound significant to others but for you, that's the beginning of something exciting. It's an adventure where you explore and learn so much. Imagine the most exotic journey to accomplish your dream. This also works as motivation. One can always remind oneself of why they started! What is that they imagined! Remind yourself how worthy all of it will be if you achieve what you aim- THE BIG DREAM!

Remember how Thomas Alva Edison was told that he was too stupid to learn anything. What happened next? He invented the bulb! He became the reason we all can see efficiently during the night and do all our chores. What if Edison decided to quit on his experiments to develop something that bizarre? But he did not. He was so firm with what he wanted. He didn't give up dreaming big! There are so many other examples too. Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Vincent Van Gogh, Oprah Winfrey, Helen Keller, and many more!

Every one of us faces rejection at some point or the other, but we should never let ourselves ponder over negative emotions. Such emotions can be overpowering for sure, but they can never defeat someone who knows what they aspire for!

Every nation which was once colonised had a dream! People of that nation dreamt of independence, no matter how tough the conditions were. They did not give up on their BIG DREAM. A dream to gain independence. Late APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India could have never made it to such a renowned position or won so many awards if he thought that his family conditions would never become better. He wasn't from a well off family, but despite that, he continued to imagine a different world for himself. He didn't let the hardships come in his way towards achieving his 'big dream'.

It is rightly said, "You never really lose until you quit trying". Thus don't quit on that BIG DREAM. It is only when you imagine a world



from your eyes will you be able to make it a better one! If you deeply want to soar high in the sky, then learn to Dream big! Dream big because it's worth taking all the pain and hardships. DREAM BIG, FLY HIGH!

Khushi Singh HISTORY (HONS.) 3rd Year

#### Lessons We Can Learn From Coronavirus & THE WAY FORWARD

The world is composed of 195 countries that are demarcated by boundaries on the map. Despite this, the world is a gigantic global village that is connected by technology, telecommunications, interdependent economies, and efficient transportation systems. As a result, an economic crisis in a country (especially established and emerging superpowers) affects all the interconnected economies. The repercussions are felt globally.

A novel coronavirus (Covid-19) believed to have emerged from Wuhan. China, has spread uncontrollably and has affected more than 188 countries in the world. More than 10.2 million people (as on 28 June 2020) have contracted the virus. The governments and international organizations are battling to contain the spread by imposing lockdowns, requesting citizens to practice social distancing, and taking every other precautionary measure. All this has a cost to it - the economic cost. Recession is imminent and according to experts, the situation at present is worse than the 2008 crisis. These are unprecedented and uncertain times and tension is palpable all around. However, there are some valuable lessons which this crisis presents and we must imbibe and act on them so that we emerge stronger, transformed, and better prepared.

The one thing which people have realized is that they only need essentials to survive. Everything apart from this is nothing but, us, humans being lured by their never-ending wants and desires. Lockdowns around the world have forced shopping complexes, restaurants, and cinema halls to be shut and disrupted global supply chains. This has made the availability of every non-essential commodity virtually nonexistent. People are grateful as long as they are able to get bare-minimums such as - groceries and vegetables. In the future, I feel we all should be conscious of what we buy and whether those items are required.

Physical and mental well-being are vital for any life-form to function effectively. The pandemic has highlighted the inadequate healthcare infrastructure around the world. Lack of healthcare professionals and support staff, shortages of hospital beds, insufficient ventilators, and PPE kits, initially, are all matters of grave concern. All these issues should be enough for us to prioritize health over anything else. Once we emerge from the coronavirus crisis, governments

should constitute task-forces to bring out the inadequacies in the present healthcare systems and take necessary actions to enhance and improve healthcare infrastructure. This would ensure preparedness in case a situation like this occurs in the future.

As a result of being confined to their houses, people are getting more time to enjoy and spend time with their loved ones. Working parents now have time to interact and indulge in activities with their children. With the chaotic and monotonous routines of people coming to a halt, they are finding new and creative ways to keep themselves entertained and busy. Whether through pursuing a new hobby and showcasing it on social media,



cooking new recipes and baking cakes, reading novels, or binge-watching shows, people are engaging in activities for which they did not 'seem' to have time before. Many have started to appreciate the small things around them, such as - watching sunsets and enjoying the clear blue skies. I hope they are able to squeeze time for these activities even when the situation becomes normal and they return to their old routine.

Some nations, leaving politics behind, are making sincere efforts to unite in this grim situation to battle this deadly virus. Scientists around the world are collaborating and racing against time to find a cure for the virus. Over 100 countries have joined or expressed interest in joining the 'solidarity' trial by WHO to assess the relative effectiveness of various drugs under clinical trials in treating the illness. Nations are stepping forward in creating relief funds, the proceeds of which shall be used to coordinate global efforts in mitigating the impact of the virus and aiding other nations in dire need of funds to combat the virus. Moving ahead, this world unity is crucial as this is in the best of interest of communities, and even nations in the long run.

Lastly, the utmost important lesson is that life

#### The Fallacy Behind the Made Up Truth

How do I take off a mask when it stops being a mask when it is as much part of me as I am?

Elliot Alderson (Mr Robot) asks himself this question as he finds himself drowning in the realms of the realities he created in his mind. He cannot differentiate what version of him is real or made up until he realises he himself is a construct of his imagination.

Our reality is a social construction made up of our thoughts and influences and so aresociety, gender, language, religion and God (Not the idols, but the idea of God), education and many more. The idea behind social construction is simple: if you will for something enough, it exists. Throughout generations, we have made this complicated reality by joining strands of our version of expectations and truths. It is as true as imaginary numbers in mathematics. The Matrix Trilogy does a good job of explaining how reality works; how it is a construct in our mind ruled and guided by other forces of our construction, which in our case- the society created by people in power. An argument can be made whether our worst construct is God or society... both lead to give in to the destruction of humanity in the worst narrative possible. But what do you do when the construct which people themselves created goes corrupt because of them? Our reality has become a broken Looking Glass. We look into it and deform ourselves accordingly in search of perfection and order that does not exist in any construct. The powers governing our reality have turned malicious. Power corrupts us to the extent that we can't differentiate between pigs and humans in the Animal Farm our reality



is. Toxicity in our society runs so deep that it is normalised to the extent that people make it a part of their daily life to ignore it and move past it. Society is a monster whose Frankenstein

is us, humans, through time. The monster keeps evolving, devouring us at a slow pace in darkness of hatred, self-doubt, depression and consumption in the name of religion, nation, gender, relationships, money and more; while we stay the same scared, incompetent scientist. The recent situation of our country is the biggest example of the hoax we are living in. While people scourge people in the name of religion, the upper-class society and people in power maintain front hiding the dreadful situation of the economic, social and psychological fall down of our country. In a world, wherein sexual abuse is seen but unnoticed until a candlelight march is inducted; global warming is considered a fallacy but gender binary is verity, perhaps our reality is



closer to doom than our planet itself.

The question is if reality is a construct created by us, why can't we change or improve it? Are we so far lost in the matrix that we can't fix our own shortcomings? Why is creating something as minute as a safe place for all people irrespective of superfluous labels of a nation, gender, religion, caste, race and et al, impossible? Why do I need to identify as a 'brown Indian Hindu Dalit woman' instead of just 'Human'? What do we do and where do we go after we realise the world where we live in, is a lie; a ticking doomsday clock? In this, dare I label, 'cis heteronormative white phallic lie controlled by power and wealth', we need to be our own Neo but how do we break this incomprehensible construct?

> Tanushka Ranjan English (Hons.) 2nd Year

is fragile. No matter what feats mankind may have achieved or how scientifically advanced it may have become, we are inconsequential objects in this vast, boundless universe. Well, after all, who had thought a microscopic object could wreak havoc and make the entire world kneel before it? Not only this, but India's east coast also faced



Cyclone Amphan which caused a lot of damage and destruction to both lives and property, Delhi and surrounding areas experienced 2–3 low– intensity earthquakes within a short span of time leading researchers to predict an impending high– intensity earthquake and the worst locust swarm attack in decades. Perhaps, all this is nature's way of telling us to mend our ways and to let the Earth breathe again. Pollution dropping to its lowest level in decades, rainbows blessing the skies for us to admire and birds flocking to beaches are glimpses of an alternate, much beautiful world had we not been selfish enough so as to pursue heedless development and growth.

In the end, I earnestly hope that normalcy returns at the earliest and we emerge victorious by abiding by these invaluable teachings.

Until then, stay safe and healthy!

Vedant Bansal B.Com (Hons.) 3rd Year

# Silence of the Unquiet River

'Northeast' of India makes one think about the centre and the otherness. A region that consists of the highest number of diverse cultures in the country and that can be vouched to have extravagant and diverse literature too. Most of its literature reflects on the ideas of national identity, the experiences being at the margins, the political turmoil, diverse cultural and geographical settings, and the insecurities vis-a-vis alienation, racial composition, dispossession, corruption, and neo-colonialism. However, it would be equally a mistake to see this part of the literature as only 'conflict literature'. Many works also reflect on the themes of love, nature, nostalgia, human relations, myths, and tribal folklore. Ambit all this lies many significant works by the women writers like Mamang Dai, Mitra Phukan, Temsula Ao, Indira Goswami, Easterine Kire, etc. of this region and one such is Jahnavi Barua whose works can be characterized by drawing from lived experiences, remarkably insightful, personal struggles and complexities of human relationships. This can be seen in the light of a recent novel penned by Jahnavi Barua Undertow.

A poignant story set at the riverside of the soul of Assam: the Brahmaputra is about a mother, Rukmini, and her 25-year-old daughter, Loya, who have evolved themselves in their unique ways. The novel reflects on the different yet similar equations Loya has with the ones that Rukmini had- a close, loving, attached, insecure, and faithful relationship.

The novel is divided into three chapters: 'The Wedding', 'The Yellow House' and 'Homecoming'. Each chapter signifies developments in the lives of different characters and also the city Guwahati where the story is majorly based.

Undertow which literally means an underlying aspect of something beyond its appearance is aptly justified by the novel by bringing out the inner selves of the characters and their lives. The novel brings out localized yet universal themes of parenthood, professional and political aspirations, the idea of a family and kinship and parent-children relationship. Thus, one can see the social, cultural, and political facets intertwined and influencing each character's life in some way or the other.

The novel has a postmodernist touch, a nuanced and sentimental manifestation, complexity of characters, and the socioeconomic factor too. Also, the novel has a social realistic touch to it. Moreover, it distinctly describes the terror-stricken situation of Assam which was like a 'normal' situation for the people there and how young boys from the middle class and upper-middle-class families would join this extremist group-ULFA that reflects the most pertinent problem of terrorism of Assam that was at its height almost 10–15 years back. Barua describes it like:

"The situation of terror: mourning of protest, had been announced. The city was to be suspended: no one would leave home, no offices or schools or shops would open, no vehicles would be allowed on the streets, and those that chose to defy the bandh would do so at their own risk."

The novel is written using the third-person narrative technique and stream of consciousness, like: "...human body-they were fragile, Rukmini stood a living testament to that impermanence. People disappeared, Loya had decided she would keep the peace: concede, appease, compromise in conflict- not in the passive manner of Rukmini's but with more grace and energy."

Moreover, there is a frequent personification of nature and metaphors of nature like, "...the river looked sleepy in the afternoon sun. Its waters, so much in a hurry, were quiet, they heaved slightly."

Also, there is romanticizing of nature and the city like: "...the stars like 'glittering cold fire', enchanted about the sky on a clear night."

River Brahmaputra forms an important element of the novel that would personify the mood of the people. For instance, to describe the stable and calm mood of Loya in the early morning like: "River lay sleeping under its blanket of mist. Some days, as she finished and the mist lifted, she stopped a while to watch the river awaken- shy, tentative, vulnerable- the river was never more alluring than at that time."

One can also see a brief history of Assam about Ahoms, Yandaboo treaty, under-appreciated Lachit Borphukan, and a beautiful description of Guwahati.

The tone of the novel has a tinge of nostalgia, the romanticism of nature, the interiority of expressions, guilt, and apprehension for situations in the past and self-reflection of their relationships and Assamese culture.

Rukmini's family is seen as a conventional Indian conservative family who would put restrictions on the daughter, the woman who needs to maintain that "Lakshman Rekha". Gradually the reader realizes that Usha, Rukmini, and Loya come out as radical characters in their unique ways and determine a lot of things in the story.

In the latter half of the novel, Torun, Rukmini's father, is seen opening up about how he had always been in a difficult position between Usha and Rukmini and would tend to comply with Usha and could never bring peace and compatibility in the problematic relation between daughter and mother. Also, Torun repeatedly saw Usha in Loya. Sometimes he would think about the changing culture like the disappearance of "Assam-type houses" and disc music.

Loya is also seen being stuck between her mother and a problematic household in which she grew up. Also, the interactions between Torun and Loya amidst the friction due to their generation gap, eventually leading to their selfrealization and they bring out the better selves of each other and end up creating a space of comfort for each other unknowingly.

One can also see the reflection on the phase of old age and kinship like in Torun's life. Even after having his daughter Rukmini and his son, what Torun has as his immediate family after Usha died, are the people who have been working in his house for so many years and how their livelihoods have been dependent on this "Yellow House". They have their own stories to tell and they are the ones who make Loya feel more at home that her family members had failed to give all her life.

What Barua does, in the end, is an uncalled jerk to the story that makes the reader leaves startled and this is where Barua makes the reader see the uniqueness of her writing and how she intricately joins the dots in her novels and keeps the reader wondering what just happened.

> Paramita Baishya English (Hons.) 3rd Year

#### WHAT QUARANTINE HAS MADE ME REALIZE

I guess the most trending hashtag right now is "Quarantine" and people are sharing how they are spending their time at home across all media platforms. From celebrities to footballers and mothers to grandmothers, everybody is posting about their own sweet/sour quarantine. So, here I am, giving you a sneak peek into my quarantine days and what I've realised during these lazy days spent at home.

Every alternate post that you click on is based on the quarantine and it is the only time when the entire feed feels relatable. Whether it's memes, videos, or photos, everything is just the same. You're just done with anything and everything possible during this time. Whether it's Netflix, Bingo, or challenges on social media, there is nothing left to do now. I can bet that



everybody's screen time just on their smartphones has surpassed their all-time records, and they are consistently maintaining it. If I don't count the time spent on my laptop or Television, even then my screen time is close to 10 hours/day because somebody invented smartphones ten years ago to entertain us now. Houseparty and Ludo King are the most used applications and to such an extent that their servers crash ten times a day. Oh no, I guess you've deleted Houseparty, right? So, it's back to FaceTime and Google Duo, I guess. Anyways, going out to the balcony feels like going for a walk and clicking pictures of the sky, and the sunset feels like standing at Nariman Point. I'm sure you all have been through the same, but let's take a look at what I've learned and realised during this period, which is why I started writing this in the first place.

Our family craved for our presence at home. Yes, that is true. All the time that we spent out of our houses socialising with hundreds of people at college, they have made us sideline our family to a great extent. Even for the older generation, their loved ones always wanted more family time. So here it is, we have all the time to spend peacefully with our families and revive some old memories.

It is the best time to reconnect with older friends who you stopped talking to or who became just an acquaintance. There is no better opportunity than this quarantine to speak to those who you once cared for and loved. Try it and who knows your long-lost friend becomes your best buddy once again.

All the workout challenges accepted, but this might be the best time to start your fitness journey. Yes, the home workout is essential. I've always been someone who felt that without going to the gym, there is no fitness. But all you ever need for fitness is the will to do it and not the equipment to do it. Home workouts might be boring, but it certainly livens up your otherwise boring day. Try it yourself, start with 50 pushups and 50 squats a day and you'll feel fitter, fresher, and brighter the next day.

This might just be the best and the most appropriate time to start your own business or follow your passion. Yes, I'm talking to all those young entrepreneurs and aspiring actors or artists or bloggers who felt that they are not worth it. This is the time when you can decide a path, make a plan, and implement it once everything is back to normal.

And, well most of us are already doing it, but sleeping like you're the happiest person in the world is the best thing that anyone can do right now… In times where there is not a lot of work or problems at college/office, keeping the lights out and calling it a night feels more impressive than ever. The bliss of sleeping without anything on your mind is the best past time ever so sleep well, but don't sleep the whole day.

These were some of the things that I realised, and I'm sure you would relate to most of them even if you never thought about it. For sure, I don't like staying at home for this long, but it is the need of the hour so that we can roam around freely in the coming days.

STAY HOME, STAY FIT, KEEP READING.

Shaurya Srivastava Economics (Hons.) 3rd Year

### IN GANDHI'S WAKE: IN Praise of the Mochi

'Truly sir, in respect of a fine workman, I am but, as you would say, a cobbler.' – Commoner

'But what trade art thou? Answer me directly.' – Marullus

'A trade, sir, that I hope, I may use with a safe conscience; which is, indeed, sir, A mender of bad soles.'

Julius Caesar' written by Shakespeare, the Bard of Avon.

Often, when I am whizzing past dusty roads on the way to college or home, I notice a diminutive man sitting in a corner. He is surrounded by black boots, with a few rolls of polish and some implements. His face appears sweaty and the eyebrows are knitted focusing on some great task. He appears uncaring towards the many sights and sounds around him. He is tucked away, working hard at his task, not obliging the world around him with even a glance.

I stare at him, hoping to draw his attention but he refuses to acknowledge anything or anyone other than his broken boots. Appearing transfixed, as if he has found some Divinity in them.

Such men are rare. Completely given to his trade, he has found a treasure chest in those boots. Understandably, the affluent urban dweller will find it a bit odd for someone to associate such single-minded determination with footwear; something which they discard and embrace again within a few months.

Yet, it is fitting that on Gandhi Jayanti we should gain a lesson from the ignored cobbler. Did not the Mahatma want Swaraj for Indians to be selfdependent and self-sufficient? Did he not want the country to be filled with citizens who have instilled in them a determination and purpose for an ideal greater than their own immediate needs and greed? Is not the Indian Constitution founded on the ideal to strive for excellence?

Who can be a better beacon for us than the Mochi? Like the silent strength of the Earth and Nature upon being heedlessly crushed, he endures the onslaught of heat and cold, disrespect and abuse, poverty and stigma bravely. We require a list of creature comforts to commence any work. An A.C, plushy chair, expensive equipment. Often we are unable to get started on a task without watching an inspirational movie or reading a self-improvement book and make laborious efforts to get started rather than actually getting started.

Well, readers, the Mochi has no Robin Sharma or Joseph Murphy to inspire him. He is his own inspiration. He draws strength to master his craft day in and day out from a deep reserve of necessity. Unlike us, he has no weekends off. By self-invocation, he forgets that he is a poor, limited, and bound individual and dives into his craft.

We live in dual realities. Ease of living, technological marvels, and inventions have mushroomed. The laptop on which I am typing, the phone on which you are reading my writing, the electricity and satellites that power the globe, the shrinking of the world into our fists are all the new wonders of the world. Though the standard of living has unquestionably rocketed, the standard of life has seen a perplexing crash. Let us all think; despite the 21st century being the best time to live, why is there so much sorrow in the world? Countries ready to wipe out civilizations with nuclear weapons, mutual ranked among them. By the time we have a cure for Ebola, 10 new life-threatening diseases crop up. Human raping of Nature, brutally decimating her lands, forests, oceans, and life is only increasing. Religious enmity has become such a deep-rooted evil that it is becoming impossible to stop it. There are glaring socio-economic inequalities. The rich only get richer and the poor only get children, as F. Scott Fitzgerald correctly observed.

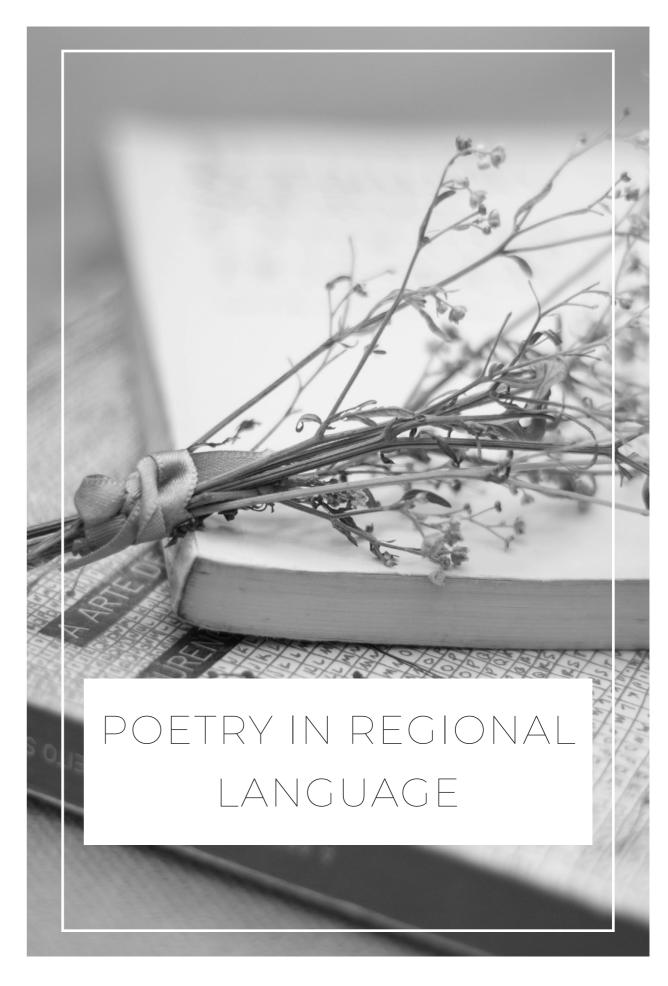
The solution to these societal problems is surprisingly simple to explain. The society is nothing but a reflection of you and me as individual beings. So if all of us are hedonistic consumers, fellers of trees, venom spewing bigots then why crib about 'society' and the 'world'. Yudhishthira had faith that the world is a beautiful place, full of good, noble, and honest people. He said it was impossible to find even one bad soul in the world. Duryodhana believed that the world was a bad place filled with evil fellows given to anger, lust, and greed. He said it was impossible to find even one good soul in this world. Why is it so? Because what these two characters are describing is not the world. It is their own selves that they see reflected in the world. So we must be the change that we want to see in the world.

The Mochi is to be respected and admired for his abilities and qualities; namely perseverance, singlemindedness for work, being unaffected by those objects that hold the capacity to derail him. He is the living embodiment of the fact that happiness or contentment is not contingent on externalities. He has internalized these beliefs by default as he has no choice. We have the choice to internalize these by design. We are not wood or stones as much as we would believe to be. Let us not wish our lives away. Let us not think our lives away. Let us not waste our lives away. Let us have higher goals pillared on collaboration, inspiration, nation-building, and serving of humanity.

So let us unite and fulfill the Mahatma's dream.

The next time you feel ineffectual, fearful, or finite, go out and watch the Mender of Bad Souls, you will not be dejected.

> Aryaman Kumar Political Science (Hons.) 2nd year



#### पाऊस

धीमा पाऊस पडतो आहे आणि मी बेषुद्ध चालत आहे माझे षरीर ओले झाले पण मन तरी कोरडे आहे

वर काळे मेघ पाहाताना माझा पाय डबक्यात गेला जरी झालो अस्वच्छ आता मन माझे लख्ख झाले

अजून कळले नाही कुठे जायचे दिषाहीन एैहिक सुगंध पण आहे कदाचित जगण्याचा अर्थ सदा पूढे जाणे नाही

परंतु फक्त असणे आहे

## Rain

In a mild downpour I am walking insensibly My body is already wet But mind remains arid

Looking up at sombre clouds I stepped down into a puddle Although sullied now I feel internally cleansed

I roam yet without purpose Alike this earthly scent May be to live is not To always go ahead

But just to be.

VAIBHAV NIRAPURE ENGLISH (HONS.) 2ND YEAR

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বাডি থেকে বেরিয়ে সকালে, গিয়ে বসলাম আমি নদীর ধারে। বেশ সুন্দর চলছিল হাওয়া, মসৃণ সূর্যের আলো লাগছিল গায়ে কাছে জলের ছলছলানী শুনতে লাগছিল দারুণ সাথে মিশ্রিত আরো কত আওয়াজ -বাচ্চাদের খেলা, পাখিদের ডাক, পাশের মন্দিরের ঘন্টার আওয়াজ, আর এর মধ্যে ভেসে উঠা এক প্রৌঢ লোকের বাণী। সে বলে, "কি গো খোকা, দুটি পয়সা দিয়ে জাবে নাকি ওপারে?।" "না গো কাকু ", বললাম আমি, শীঘ্রই আবার বাডি ফিরে পডতে বসতে হবে যে।

কিন্তু এক ঘন্টা হয়ে আসলো, বাড়িতে ফিরলাম না যে! এখন গেলে বকবে না তো মা? মা যদি বলে, তাহলে বলবো "কোনো ব্যাপার নয়, একটি ঘন্টা আরো পডে নেব"

এবার ওঠি তাহলে, বাডিতে এবার যেতে হবে। মন তো চায় যে এই নদীর কাছে গাছে হেলান দিয়ে নত হয়ে বসে থাকি কিন্তু অদৃঢ় ভবিষ্যৎ এর জন্যে খাটতে হবে নতুর্বা বয়ে যাবে সময়, ঠিক এই নদীর ধারার মতন

## The River

Got out in the morning, And I went to the river. The wind was nice, And just as pleasant was the light of the sun As I enjoyed listening to the moving water near me And to countless other sounds of civilization and nature Of children playing, of birds chirping, The sound of temple bells ringing. And within all this, comes a voice. Says the voice: "O khoka, care for a boat ride to the other side?" "Not now", I say. I have to get back home. I have got work to do. But time passes on without realisation, And I still find myself sitting there. Would my mother scold me now? If she does, then I'll tell her, "Don't worry. I'll study for an extra hour." I have to get up now. I have to go home. I want to stay here, but I cannot. The future is uncertain, and I'll have to work hard, Lest the world gets ahead of me, like the ever-moving flow of river. And I remain sitting by this bank and never get to move from here. But don't I want to be here? And I really had no answer....

> Shagnick Bhattacharya HISTORY (HONS.) 1st Year

A lot of voices are unheard, and a lot of feelings are unsaid. Why not speak our hearts out, isn't it liberating? My aim is towards mapping these voices. Humans of DCAC was to give a voice and platform to all who want to express themselves, creating a community of fellow DCACians to know each other.

This endeavour, Humans of DCAC started in 2017 when I started talking to people and writing down everything. Slowly it saw a large number of people pouring in to read and present themselves. People could read and relate to it. It started gaining a lot of appreciation after many individual and group posts. Humans of DCAC aims to reach each and every DCACian out there whether a student, staff, janitor, or guard, etc. It's not a society, but a community of DCACians coming together to share their stories. It is a positive initiative and uplifting. I'm glad it happened and no matter what happens later, I'm sure these stories have taught people something and made them feel they're 'not alone'. The two portraits that follow are of familiar faces that we encounter in the college campus but may never have spoken to or engaged with. It's a small step towards that endeavour.

> SUDARSHANA SONOWAL HISTORY (HONS.) 3rd Year

DCAC SWARAM





#### KAILASH (GARDNER)

My name is Kailash. I come from a small village called Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan. My parents were engaged in farming and herding which are the only sources of income for the family. We are five brothers and three sisters. We live happily in a kutcha house. I used to play kabaddi with my friends and never went to school. I also helped my father in farming.

I got married at a very early age of 17. It was an arranged marriage. I have two sons. Both of them are studying.

When I turned 30, I thought of doing something else so I came to Kota in search for a job. I worked at Dhaan Mandi for 10 years and earned Rs. 3 for each bag, I lifted on my shoulders in the hot sun. After that, I started working at Sanganer Farm House where I enhanced my knowledge of plants and flowers for 9 years.

When I came to Delhi, I got a job at Teerth Ram Hospital, Mori Gate.

I started working in DCAC in 2017. Now, I'm working on a contractual basis, but I hope to get a permanent job someday. The atmosphere of the college is very peaceful. Students and staff are also very nice. Bindeshwar Ji, our head, is a gem of a person. He is very kind and honest. He is always ready to help us anytime.

In this old age, I earn for my children. I've lived my life somehow, but I don't want them to go through the pain and sufferings that I went through. At that time, my father had passed away, and there was no awareness about formal education so I didn't study much. Now, I want to see my children successful and happy in their lives.

I notice the small pleasures and happiness of life. Life consists of a cycle of happiness and sadness. They go hand in hand. Even with a small ray of hope, we can defeat any failure but if we have a negative attitude towards life, then nothing will seem possible. Failure marks the importance of success in our life. If we do not fail, we will stop learning. Life is a beautiful journey and it's only up to us to pave our way through this beam of light. A life without sadness doesn't give us any sort of inspiration to move forward.



#### KRISHNA (SECURITY GUARD)

I was born in Bishanpura, Bihar. I did my matriculation from Baldev Ucch Vidyalaya. I have two brothers and sisters. My parents are farmers. During my school days, there was no road connectivity and electricity. It was hard to study. During heavy rains, there was water logging, so we used to pack our books in polythene bags to protect them.

I came to Dhanbad to work in a shop, but I came back home after one week, as I didn't get any food. Then, I also worked at a factory in Jharkhand where we were given discarded milk to drink.

I gave an interview for a security company in 1990 but was rejected as I was very thin. I used to travel by train to Patna every time. I got to know about security jobs. I didn't fear rejection. As soon as one enters the training they give one a small amount of money. The company used to secure the walls so that no one could escape. They trained us all day long in the harsh sun. Some would flee and for a moment I thought of running away as well but the importance of money came to my mind as this was my only shot in life. Finally, I got the job in my fourth attempt in Patna. I got married in 1994. It was a love marriage. I met my wife at work. But our parents didn't agree so we ran away. I didn't let my wife work as a guard as it's a tough job. I love her unconditionally.

I worked at the Commonwealth Games in 2010. I came to DCAC in 2016. Some students get angry as soon as I tell them to show ID cards or ask them what their purpose of visit is. It's my job and it's my bread. There are some rare students who patiently listen to me. The staff is very nice. Being here day and night, guarding this college is the only job I have.

I have faced many struggles in my life, but I didn't stop working hard for a job as I didn't want to do farming even when we have farm lands in Bihar. Even after how little I earn today, I'm still happy and settled in life.

My message for students is that everyone faces troubles in their lives but never stop until you achieve what you want to. Also, people don't respect women. They worship the Devi but don't treat the women as Devi.



#### Experience 1

The Government of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a nationwide lockdown, limiting movement of 1.3 billion population of India as a preventive measure against the 2020 coronavirus pandemic in India.

COVID-19 outbreak led you to stay indoors. With our hectic life schedules, we barely get time to spend with our families. Almost everyone is going through a rough phase and finds it challenging to deal with the sudden lifestyle change.

Most of the time people love to spend their days outdoors but now as we have to spend most of our time indoors, we can constructively utilize our precious time.

Other than studying, I involve myself in household chores like cleaning my room, helping with other small chores. I don't cook often so I thought it is a great time to be a part of it. It takes some effort to cook food, the first twothree days of the quarantine I threw tantrums, gradually it became entertaining when all the family members work together to cook. You can share your knowledge of cooking.

When you have to stay at home all day, you can make the time enjoyable with family members around you. So, I began with an hour of exercise and yoga every day in the morning with my family. It improves our immunity and makes our body less susceptible to diseases. Also, it is fun listening to our parents' life stories and experiences. Sometimes I even call all my friends.

I started reading novels as an ideal mental exercise, listening to music and holy hymns, practising my dancing skills and played indoor games with my family, I feel Ludo is the best game to keep everyone entertained during quarantine life.

To live a balanced life through this time, use your time wisely, instead of feeling stressed and anxious one should try to rediscover our true selves so that we can walk as a new person into a healthy world with new experiences and challenges. Stay Positive!!

> Kashish Amarpuri B.A. (Prog.) 1st Year

#### Experience 2

My experience during lockdown is not something very different from others. We all are in the same boat, getting affected by it in some or the other way. To fight against this pandemic, our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced a nationwide lockdown.

This lockdown has just changed our lifestyle and we all have tried our best to cope with it. According to what I think this is the collective 'Karma' of humankind. The lockdown also indicates how humans are dependent on each other whether economically, socially or culturally and nothing could be a better time than the lockdown to realize the interdependency of people that we take for granted.

Quarantine led me to learn cooking and many other things that I was not able to learn or do because of my busy schedule earlier. My mother and I both learnt several new dishes and we enjoyed cooking them. I made my quarantine productive by enhancing my communication skills as well as my writing skills and read novels to improve my reading skills. I also had my



online classes. I tried my best to keep fit so in the morning I workout for an hour and then listen to some soothing songs which are considered to be good for the mental health.

My family and I used to entertain each other by playing several indoor games or by watching movies. All of us who are able to be with our families in this lockdown should be thankful that we all are safe in our homes with our loved ones. We should also show our gratitude towards the people who are working for us to keep us safe and prevent this situation from getting more catastrophic.

> Priyanshi B.A. (Prog.) 1st Year

#### EXPERIENCE 3

It's been a long time since we all have been stuck at home. It is a difficult time for everyone. For me, this experience has been very unexpected, it has been difficult for me to stay at home all the time and not being able to go outside. This lockdown has affected most of the people mentally especially some who live alone and find it difficult to pass time. Luckily, I still live with my family and I have realized that I have grown so close to my family in the past two months that when all of this will be over, I will miss and cherish the moments spent with them. I have tried to make most of everything available to me at home. I have learnt a lot of new things. Firstly, I feel so happy and confident that this time led me to use and learn through different apps such as Zoom, Skype etc. for online classes. These apps and technology have been available to us for a long time but we never felt the need to avail its benefits. I have learned to cook from my mother and we had baked cakes and cooked new recipes. I also started reading some novels that were kept aside because I did not have time to read them earlier. Sometimes I sketch and paint as well. Earlier I used my time to watch movies and series on Netflix but now I do not as I have got bored of watching movies and sitting in front of a screen all the time. My daily routine consists of helping my parents in cleaning, mopping and doing the dishes. I have started to talk to my friends with whom I used to talk very less because of our busy schedules. At evenings I sit in my balcony and notice the sky is clear and one can notice the stars too because of the pollution levels gone down. Sometimes I work out with my sister and feel better. At night playing games with my family has become more of a ritual. However, my sleep cycle has got irregular. It is very difficult to be at home all the time. Sometimes I get a little upset about what has happened and sometimes I feel that this is all a dream. But during the lockdown, I have also learnt to be grateful for everything I have. I learnt to give importance to the things that are beyond materialistic aspects. Being positive is very important at this time and I have to say that social media has helped me to stay motivated and positive as we can connect to many people who are going through the same thing. I can't wait for all of this to be over and return to the normal.

> Apoorva Bhatia B.A. (Prog.) 1st Year

#### EXPERIENCE 4

On 29th March, the first Sunday after the lockdown began, I woke up early and sneaked out for a quick run. I hate running but the urge of moving and watching the city still half asleep was a big thing, especially under the given situation. I did not think about it much. I guess I just wanted to fool myself into believing that everything is normal. Eventually, it became crystal clear how crucial it was to stay at home, my well—being is not the only thing that mattered but my responsible behaviour of physical distancing and staying at home was important to not put others at risk too, which would compromise the already weak and burdened healthcare system of the country.



From questioning reality to several conspiracy theories became a normal thing when you spend the whole day sitting alone with your thoughts. I decided to limit my daily dose of news to a few selected sources and to discuss it only with a few informed people. I self—isolated myself from baseless opinions and avoided small talk over the virus — something that I realized was necessary for my mental stability.

My daily routine consisted of an hour of reading a credible newspaper in the morning, a news update on television around 6 pm, and sometimes talking with my friends. I should also mention this of ignoring the various WhatsApp forwards on this matter.

Once I ensured to keep my home safe (from germs and misinformation), I started working on my routine like never before. I finally started getting up early, eating a healthy breakfast and exercising every day. Most importantly, the excuse "I don't have time" did not have its validity. I had time to read all the books I had earlier bought and never read, watched all the movies on my watchlist, and expressed my creativity through writing. It felt like if I do not do these things now, I might never get the time again.

#### EXPERIENCE 5

Some days can be harder than others and it is just fine to take care of ourselves in different ways. I call my grandma every day, and I wonder why I did not use to do it before. She is also trying to survive the lockdown, scared and bored. So I asked her to guide me over the phone while cooking, and I got to learn a lot and this made me remind myself why I need to stay at home because I want the lockdown to end soon so that I can meet her, she can cook me a proper meal and I can hug her.

It is not an easy time and uncertainty can keep you up longer than usual at night but one needs to realize that nobody is alone in this situation and learn to take care of the things that matter to us with better consciousness.

But every time I find myself getting overwhelmed, I remind myself of all the instances when I wished for more time. I have been trying to make the most of these days with things that bring me joy — from trying out recipes, to working out, and having conversations with people whose voices I haven't heard in a long time (thanks to the technology).

Lockdown is to an end now. How has my life changed? Well for one, I'm washing hands frequently. But Lady Macbeth would have learnt a trick or two about it from the numerous WhatsApp videos. There are fewer clothes to wash and iron. Mealtimes are a family affair with the entire family sitting down together. Household chores have become jobs. There were shortages of essential commodities in the supermarkets initially, but now the madness has subsided and there is no shortage of such commodities. Supermarket queues and delivery times are longer though. Masks, gloves and hand sanitiser have become scarce and valuable.

in conclusion, I'd like to say that the virus is a known unknown. The situation is evolving rapidly. We are taking very tough decisions. Some assumptions will hold, and some will not. We will have the ability to change things as we go. In a country of 1.3 billion people, to do things that we have done requires tremendous courage.

> Sahil Rao B.A. (Prog.) 1st Year

Lockdown! The entire world had come to a standstill. It reminded me of my childhood game 'Statue' — only that it just got into a seemingly endless loop.

When coronavirus information had just started to pop up on the news, it was nothing more than a laugh, providing content for memes on Instagram and jokes in college; it didn't seem like anything of significance at all. Just a bit of banter. Even the news played it down, and it was thought of as just another illness that would come and go. At the same time, the rest of the world got on with their lives, unaffected, and relatively unconcerned.

When the situation had started gaining some importance, I had assumed that if it were of any major significance, people would not be joking about it. While most of my friends adopted an 'if you do not laugh, you will cry' approach,

I started taking it more seriously, which made me worry about the coming days, weeks, and months.

Luckily for me, I could reach home in time, and words cannot explain the ordeal we faced to get my brother back home from Hong Kong. I



realized the value of family, of my sisterly love for him, and as soon as he stepped in, our house was home. The laughter, the smiles on my father's face, and the tears rolling down my mother's eyes were all testimonial to how tough things had got.

The next few days just zipped past as my brother and I were engrossed in playing all our forgotten board games. It seemed as if childhood days had returned. I was full of joy as finally, the entire family was close. Soon, we were relishing my father's cooking amongst our joyous pillow fights. Time and space were interspersed with card games and the classic board games of Monopoly and Ludo. Slowly, I started missing going outdoors. Initially, I used to think that the phase of



lockdown would soon pass. The world was catching up slowly, but surely. Online classes were announced. which at first seemed a draconian thing. However, eventually, I started enjoying them due to the newly—gained experiences of learning online. Technology added a new dimension to the learning experience. It was eerie initially, but before long I realized I was getting addicted to it. I took part in various webinars not only organized by my college but also by those of my mother's college. A tsunami of knowledge invaded me, but in some corners, I felt useful and powerful. The phrase 'Knowledge is Power' finally had its meaning to me.

The knowledge I gained during lockdown also made me feel that I was not wasting time, and as a result, I felt less guilty about watching Netflix and talking to my friends for hours together. My brother, in the meantime, was approaching the end of his final term. He felt that all his dreams of parties and fun in his last semester are gone. To give him some respite, I planned with my parents to provide him with a surprise after his final online exam.

We managed to find some balloons and sparkle decorations leftover from my birthday celebrations and decorated the room. It turned out to be beautiful. Simple, but quite impressive. The cake that my mother and I had baked turned out to be so delicious that my brother was amazed and delighted. The icing on the cake was the surprise 'Zoom' meeting my father had planned, and we were virtually joined by so many happy faces of my grandparents, uncles, and aunts. Oh, it was a day to remember! My DSLR camera had woken up after its prolonged slumber of 3 years. It was unzipped of its case, and the forgotten

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photographer in me had sprung to life.

The next morning, I got up at dawn and was happily clicking pictures of the plants in my balcony. There were so many settings in the camera that were yet to be explored. Eventually, Google and YouTube became my friends, and soon I enrolled myself in an online photography course. I kept startling myself and felt happy about it. One thing led to another, and soon I joined an online community of photographers on Facebook. I was enjoying the new role thoroughly.

Meanwhile, the Indian economy was not doing so well. I could sense my mother's nervousness and her whispers to my father and realized something was awry. My brother



explained to me that our income had fallen to zero, but our expenses remained stable. It was a scary thought. I started praying to God to end this situation soon. The very next day, Unlock 1.0 was announced, and I was shocked at the speed at which God had heard my prayers!

The lockdown is ending, but still, I do not know whether I am happy or sad. It's a mixed bag of feelings but a balanced one, I hope.

> NAVYA LAMBA B.A. (Prog.) 1st Year



### Ambrosia & Panghat 2020





The opening ceremony of Ambrosia & Panghat 2020, was graced with the presence of Shri Virender Singh Kadian, MLA from Delhi Cantonment constituency. After the lighting of the lamp ceremony in the presence of the chief guest, the Principal and senior professors, the Chief Guest, the Principal, the Student Council Advisor and the President of the Student Council addressed the gathering. The music society of the college performed the Saraswati Vandana and the competitive events began after that. The last day of Ambrosia & Panghat 2020 had Dr Hariom, an IAS officer and renowned Ghazal singer perform some of his enthralling self composed ghazals and a few others. He was warmly welcomed by our Cultural Convenor, Dr Sujeet, along with his fellow musicians. This year, at Ambrosia & Panghat 2020, the Student Council and CLIF Society organised a prom night to lift the morale of the students. In this, there were several competitions and fun games to entertain participants. Several prizes were given out as well to the best performers.

#### DCAC SWARAM

Virender Singh Kadian, MLA, Delhi Cantonment, was invited as the Chief Guest at Ambrosia & Panghat

Abhijeet Pandey, Students' Union President 2019-20.



Dr Hariom performing on the last day of Ambrosia & Panghat 2020.



Dr Hariom performing on the last day of Ambrosia & Panghat 2020.



Dastgah, the Music Society of DCAC, performed at the inaugural ceremony of Ambrosia & Panghat 2020.

### G.D.S.C./D.C.A.C. Alumni Meet 2019-20



Regsitration Desk for Alumni Meet outside the Administrative Block of the college.

To take a walk down the corridors of nostalgia, G.D.S.C./D.C.A.C. Alumni Association organised its annual meet on 23 February this year. The event was inaugurated by the chief guest, Mr Sanjay Bhatia, IPS. The meet started traditionally with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest and was followed by Saraswati Vandana. The occasion was graced by a large number of Alumni and their family members ranging across various batches, and from different parts of the country and even beyond. Speaking on the occasion, the principal underlined and praised the achievements of the alumni in diverse walks of life. He felt that it was a matter of great pride for the institution that its alumni are holding positions of responsibility in various Government organisations, PSUs, MNCs and academic institutions. Many of them are successful entrepreneurs in providing and creating jobs. He praised their contribution towards the growth of their alma mater and emphasised the need for further strengthening the linkage between the Alumni and current students.

It was followed by a motivational speech by our chief guest, Mr Bhatia, who through his words allowed us to look into his past which was a great source of inspiration. A video was played that took us down the memory lane representing each society that makes DCAC what it is today. The office-bearers of the Alumni association welcomed the alumni and their family members and appreciated their zeal to assemble.

The Inaugural session was followed by lunch near the canteen area. Great bonhomie was observed everywhere with old students reliving their old memories with their batch-mates, seniors and juniors. Many of the current students were also seen interacting with their seniors and learning from their experiences. In short, the ambience was convivial with people seen chatting and dancing in groups.

The event witnessed active involvement of the alumni, and a number of commendable suggestions and proposals came up. It was decided to strengthen the link between the current DCAC students and the alumni for the support of the alumni in the areas of training, placement and career counselling which would really benefit the students.

The Meet ended with the promise to meet again and everyone bid an emotional farewell to each other and their beloved campus.



CLICKS (THE PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY)

The photography society's 'photowalk' to India Gate, Delhi.

CLICKS was established in 2010 by two students Laveesh and Rudransh. It was created to provide a platform for students who wanted to do Photography and shared a common passion for the same. Every year the society organises multiple photo-walks, trips, and sessions to encourage learning. We have been fortunate to be featured on media platforms like So Delhi and DU Express as one of the top 5 Photography Societies of Delhi University. Over these past years, we have managed to increase the strength of the society to 60+ members. We have organised 6 photo walks throughout the year along with collaborations.

Total photo walks: 6

1. Rail Museum

- 2. CR Park Durga Puja
- 3. Lodhi Garden
- 4. India Gate Light Trails and Panning Chandni Chowk (Old Delhi)
- 5. Zoological Park Delhi

We also conducted a street photography Photowalk-cum-workshop with Shweta Malhotra in Chandni Chowk where photographers from other societies were also present. Conducted a video shoot along with some other photographers at the NGO: The Bodhi Tree, Faridabad. Our members covered the event of Losar: The Ladakhi New Year.

Ambrosia & Panghat 2020: We organised our annual Photography exhibition Drishya' 20 showcasing the pictures clicked by the members. We held the following events on all 3 days of the event:

Day 1: Individual Photography Competition

Day 2: Group Photography Competition

Day 3: Workshop with the Photographer Sourabh Madan We are proud to have launched VISION's second edition our annual magazine on Panghat which was met with positive feedback. The magazine showcases the talent of our members, what they learnt during their time in CLICKS and other sections like travel, food, fashion photography.

A Photo trip to Jaisalmer was organised in October where the members were able to do street, desert and architecture photography.

Achievements of the members:

Dhananjay Yadav, 2nd position at Dyal Singh

Prakhar Varshney, 3rd position at Lady Shri Ram College

Dhananjay Yadav, 1st position at Kamla Nehru College

Rahul Raj, 1st position at College of Vocational Studies NCC Fest

Namrata Khera, 1st position at Dyal Singh College

Dhananjay Yadav, 3rd position at Miranda House

Dhananjay Yadav, 2nd position at Globalshala

Sarvagya Agarwal and Prakhar Varshney, 2nd position at Lady Shri Ram College

### DASTGAH (THE MUSIC SOCIETY)



Dastgah Acapella group performing at Maitreyi College.

Dastgah was established in 2015 by a group of students who wanted to create a platform for everyone to display their musical prowess and learn from other people by performing in competitions with colleges throughout the country, especially in Delhi university. Since then our society has moved from strength to strength, from having one group competing in a few competitions to having 3 full-fledged groups, namely our fusion band, western acapella and Indian classical choir.

Dastgah Achievements WESTERN ACAPELLA 2nd position - Pulse, Aiims 1st position - Ram Lal Anand college 2nd position - Maitreyi college WESTERN SOLO by Augustoo 1st position - IIIT Delhi 3rd position Gargi college By Bharat Maheshwari 1st position - SSCBS 2nd position - Jesus and Mary college 2nd position - Hansraj college 2nd position - Zakir Hussain college INSTRUMENTAL CATEGORY (Shrey Gupta) 1st position - VMMC 2nd position - AIIMS (Indian Instrumental solos) 2nd position - AIIMS (western instrumental solos) 3rd position - ARSD College 1st position - Shiv Nadar University

Special Mention - PGDAV College 1st position - Maharaja Agrasen College. Furthermore, Shrey has been going live regularly with Mr Ehsaan Noorani from Shankar Ehsaan Loy. He mentioned his name in an article with EastMojo. He has been live with the famous Bollywood singer Ash King (Fame: Te Amo, I Love You), in talks of doing a collaboration with him. He recently did a collaboration with the famous Bollywood singer Shalmali (fame: Mai Pareshan, Balam Pichkari) Covered a song 'Mai Ne Meriye' which got posted by one of the upcoming music producers, Lost Stories, on his Instagram account. BAND 2nd position - symbiosis 1st position - PGDAV.

Ambrosia & Panghat 2020: This year marked the third edition of Panghat, making it another successful fest, comprising the best talents that the DU circuit has to offer. The inaugural ceremony of Panghat commenced with the lighting of the lamp by Shri Virender Singh Kadian, MLA, Delhi Cantt (Chief Guest) "Dastgah"- The Music Society of DCAC sang the "Ganesh Vandana", one of their own composition to begin with the ceremony.

CONCORD: Dastgah held its third rendition of Concord, the collection of the music events in Panghat. 4 competitions were held in total in a variety of domains of music inviting the pristine talent of the music circuit of Delhi University to showcase their prowess. 3 group competitions were held, having about 100 participants each group event, with teams being selected after careful consideration in regards to composition, stage presence, technicality and many more aspects. Along with the group events, 1 solo event was organised, having 15 of the best classically trained singers. These were handpicked from a group of 40 students, who had applied for a chance to perform at our college. "Battle of bands", the band competition invited full-fledged bands to perform their original music, rivalling that of professionally trained musicians, having diverse genre influence on Day 1. With some astounding diversified composition, they lit the stage on fire, making it the finest beginning of the event. "Cadence", Western Acapella Competition showcased the upcoming Acapella groups of the DU circuit, performing their arrangements of classical and pop music, using only their voices to generate some unbelievable sound. "Delhi University" is one of the flag bearers of making Acapella a mainstream activity, and we are proud to contribute towards that goal as much as possible. Western Solo, was the first time our music society hosted an event of this type. The number of participants was quite overwhelming. Talented artists from different colleges came up and performed with such great passion and emotion throughout. With varying tonality and vocal control, the singers surely contributed immensely in making this an exhilarating experience. Many performed their rendition of famous soul, blues and pop songs.

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#### DRIFT UP (THE DANCE SOCIETY)



Drift Up performing their Western dance choreography at a college event.

"Sometimes we need to lose some battles in order to win the war." The saying promptly goes with the journey of Drift Up, the Western dance society of Delhi College of Arts & Commerce. The society has had its share of ups and downs and it is paving its way to reach the heights of success and glory. The love for dance brought a few students together to restart the society in the year 2018.

In the year 2019, Devansh Agarwal, a student from B.A. programme, was elected as the President and Erom Jasmine, a student from English Honours, was elected the Vice President along with four other, very talented, core members. Throughout the year, the society focused on different dance forms and continued working hard. Three esteemed choreographers, Mr Agam Anand, Mr Anuj Singhdan and Mr Aman Singhdan were hired to train the members in unique dance styles so that the society could be different from others. Along with some very popular dance forms like locking, house, hip-hop, etc, Dance Hall which is very new in Indian culture became a part of the members daily dance routines. The team got selected at various outstation colleges including Chitkara University, Himachal Pradesh, MIT Pune and IIT Guwahati. The society also performed at various colleges under the University of Delhi. Apart from competing, the society organized various events in college. Drift Up organized a group dance competition named Taaradhin at the annual cultural fest Panghat. There were a total of 76 registrations that were received for the event out of which 15 teams qualified to compete. Various prestigious teams participated in the competition including Mood Indigo winners for the stage - Misba; Mood Indigo winners for street - Spardha; VDefyn who were the winners at Rendezvous, fest organized by IIT Delhi; the teams from Indraprastha University and many others. The society did not win many titles but is definitely on the right path to reach for the skies!

#### English Debating Society



The English Debating Society held another successful edition of Mukalma in February 2020.

The English Debating Society is driven by a constant will to engage in discourse that helps in the evolution of new ideas, questioning of existing ones and in the reshaping of narratives. It strives devotedly towards fostering an environment that is inclusive of all identities and creating safe spaces, which the society believes to be an indispensable precondition towards engaging in meaningful discourse. The society not only holds regular mocks between the members but also organizes cross-mocks between institutions to hone skills to perfection. The members of this society participate in debating tournaments in the capacity of debaters as well as adjudicators. The Fourth Edition of Mukalma, the annual flagship Parliamentary Debate of the Debating Society of DCAC, was hosted by the society from February 1 to February 3, which saw the participation of over 200 students from an array of institutions all over India. Mukalma '20 was a success not only in terms of its participants. The tournament also awarded total cash prizes of over INR 81,000.

Achievements:

Debating Achievements:

Debate.2020.

3. Aryan Sharma, Anmol Sharma and Ayush Verma were Semi-finalists at the Symbiosis Parliamentary Debate, 2020

Debate, 2019

Dyal Singh Parliamentary Debate, 2020

Debate, 2019

2019.

Adjudicating Achievements:

1. Rhythm Bhatia was the 3rd Best Adjudicator at the Symbiosis PD, 2020 2. Nitya Nasa was the 3rd Best Adjudicator at the IITD Fresher's PD 2019, and Anmol Sharma broke

as an adjudicator at the same.

3. Anmol Sharma and Ayush Verma broke at the GGS Fresher's PD, 2019

4. Aryan Sharma and Rhythm Bhatia broke at the KMC Fresher's PD, 2019

5. Aryan Sharma and Anmol Sharma broke at the SRCC Fresher's PD, 2019

6. Rhythm Bhatia broke at the CBS PD, 2019

7. Rhythm Bhatia broke at the Amity PD, 2019

8. Supratik Mitra and Aakrit Sharma broke at the Lloyd PD, 2020. The Debating Society had a brilliant year, managing to accomplish a barrage of achievements that

were unfortunately cut short owing to the abrupt cancellation of tournaments because of the pandemic.

- 1. Anmol Sharma and Ayush Verma emerged as Winners at the Lloyd Asian Parliamentary
- 2. Anmol Sharma was a Semifinalist at the GGDSD Rotaract Parliamentary Debate, 2020
- 4. Aryan Sharma, Anmol Sharma and Ayush Verma were Semi-finalists at the Amity Parliamentary
- 5. Aryan Sharma, Anmol Sharma, Rhythm Bhatia and Ayush Verma were Quarter-finalists at the
- 6. Aryan Sharma, Anmol Sharma and Ayush Verma were Quarter-finalists at the CBS Parliamentary
- 7. Ayush Jha, Prerna Kala and Aakrit Sharma were Pre-Quarter finalists at the KMC Fresher's PD,

#### Leher (The Drama Society)



Leher, the Dramatics Society of DCAC performing at the NSS Annual Fest, 2020.

Leher - The Dramatics Society of Delhi College of Arts & Commerce completed yet another year of success. The plays are written by society and directed by the core team. Carrying on the legacy of its founders' undying will to persevere in good spirits no matter what the outcome is, Leher, this year too prospered towards the path of immense appreciation and earned name and fame in Delhi University Theatre Circuit.

Annual Street Production "UNDERGROUND ARMY" - The play highlights the issue of Manual Scavenging in India. It was written and directed by members of society. Performances were selected in the Atelier Festival and performed at Dilli Haat. Got Selected in Manthan Festival where we performed at a slum area in Vasant Vihar. Got selected in Maitreyi College and performed in their annual festival. Performed in Asia's largest festival 'Mood Indigo' at IIT Bombay. Performed at "Aadya" The NSS fest of DCAC.

Annual Stage Production "Bali Aur Shambhu" by Manav Kaul - The play is about a beautiful relationship between two old men who meet at an old age home. From sulking to loving, their bond was like a rollercoaster experience. The play was directed by the core team members of the society.

Platform Performances - Selected at Atelier festival and got a chance to perform at Sri Ram Centre of Performing Arts. Got selected at Delhi Technological University and Jesus and Mary College to perform in their annual festival, finals. With this, the society also organized "Nukkad Leela". The annual street play festival, which was an event under the annual cultural fest of DCAC Ambrosia & Panghat 2020, and played host to various different colleges in the same. Session 2019-20 above all was an excellent one for Leher, where all experiments were rooted with abounding love for theatre and a common intent of spreading awareness.

#### MAKTUB (THE POETRY SOCIETY)



"We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race and the human race is filled with passion. Medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life but poetry, beauty, romance, love - these are what we stay alive for." - John Keating, Dead Poets Society

Maktub which literally means "it is written" both echoes and resonates with the voice of the bilingual Poetry Society of Delhi College of Arts & Commerce which began in the year of 2018. The society was established by Prateek Gangwal. Being the youngest society, Maktub has vested its own mark in a comparatively shorter time frame. The society conducts regular sessions of poetry meetings where free expression flows in verses and prose. We conduct discussions of celebrated poets with their most affluent works. The beauty of words is celebrated not only with its appreciation but by rendering the member's own thoughts into them. The members of the Society participate in many slam poetry competitions each year in both English and Hindi. The society believes that in a world where communication is shrinking, the need to express what has been repressed only heightens.

On March 4 2020, Maktub - The Poetry Society of DCAC curated it's second poetry slam event 'Riwayat' as a part of 'Ambrosia & Panghat 2020', the annual cultural fest of the college. Riwayat was those who believe in the magic of words. This year Maktub organized two sub-events under Riwayat. Sing No, Speak James - The English poetry slam and Riwayat, The Hindi poetry slam judged participation from various colleges and absolutely diverse people sharing one common love- Poetry. Some great books by legendary authors were also gifted along with a personalized token of appreciation respectively in English. Alok Suman and Hemadri bagged the first and second position and the third position was shared by Reena Vashisth and Vishwajeet respectively in Hindi.

introduced with the idea that celebrates the art of storytelling and it takes pride in giving a platform to by Delhi-based artists, Aparajita Deb and Kushal. The event saw an overwhelming response and to each and every performer. Ambuj, Mansi and Juveria bagged the first, second and third position

Maktub, the Poetry Society hosted another successful edition of Riwayat, annual poetry slam.

#### STYLUS.INC (THE FASHION SOCIETY)



Stylus, inc, the Fashion Society of DCAC at Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi.

The fashion society of our college, Stylus.inc is one of the most reputed and successful fashion societies in the circuit. Confident and aspiring models from the college are a part of this society which choreographs shows on social awareness and raises their voice on topics like breaking the stereotypes and rape culture in a very unique and creative way. With the constant support of the cultural heads and the president, the society is paving its way to success. The team has performed in a number of prestigious colleges and has won many accolades as well. It has been performing in the North Cap University for the past 2 years and also bagged the second position in the World University of Design.

The society bagged the first position in Campus Law Centre, Delhi University. It has showcased its talent in a number of other colleges like JIMS, Rohini and Manav Rachna, Faridabad. Along with its achievements in other colleges, it hosted its own fashion event in our college, the team of Stylus hosted a beautiful fashion event, FALAQ 2020 which was a huge success. 15 teams from eminent colleges participated in this event which was a part of the cultural fest of the college, Ambrosia & Panghat 2020. The team of Stylus is excited to explore different colleges and is currently focusing on learning more about costumes and including variation in its shows. Some of the colleges in which stylus performed are as follows

1) The Northcap University, NCU Haryana 2) Delhi Technological university 3) World University Of Design – second runners up 4) JIMS Rohini sector-5 5) CAMPUS LAW CENTRE, DU - First position 6) Manav Rachna, Faridabad 7) IIT. Delhi 8) IIMS Rohini sector-3. 9) Kalindi college 10) Panipat institute of Engineering and technology

#### 11) Shiv Nadar University.

## विवक्षा (हिंदी वाद-विवाद समिति)



दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ आटर्स एंड कॉमर्स की नवनिर्वाचित हिंदी वाद–विवाद समिति, "विवक्षा" ने कॉलेज के वार्शिक सांस्कृतिक पर्व "पनघट'20" में द्रितीय संसदीय हिंदी वाद–विवाद प्रतियोगिता "तर्कमंच'20" का आयोजन किया। तर्कमंच के प्रथम संस्करण का आयोजन कॉलेज की अंग्रेजी वाद विवाद समिति के साथ मिलकर करा गया था, किन्तु इस वर्श मात्रा 9 लोगों से गठित "विवक्षा" ने, हिंदी भाशा की धरोहर को आगे बढ़ाते हुए, तर्कमंच को कामयाब बनाया। "विवक्षा" की संरचना एवं अध्यक्षता डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ जर्नलिज्म के नमित गुप्ता ने वर्श 2019 में करी। "विवक्षा", दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ आटर्स एंड कॉमर्स की हिंदी वाद विवाद समिति है । इसका उद्देष्य हिंदी भाशा तथा साहित्य को जीवित रखते हुए बच्चों में गहन सोच का जागरण करना है। विद्यार्थी जीवन का असल अर्थ सीखना मात्र नहीं, अपितू अर्जित ज्ञान का प्रयोग असल जीवन में करना है। इसी ओर हमारी समिति विभिन्न विशयों जैसे सामाजिक, राजनैतिक, आर्थिक, ऐतिहासिक देष–विदेष इत्यादि पर अपने विचारों को तर्कपूर्ण तरीके से प्रस्तुत करने का तथा उन पर विचार विमर्ष और चर्चा करने का अवसर प्रदान करती है। साथ ही "विवक्षा", बच्चों के आत्मविश्वाष को बढाने में भी सहायता करती है, उनमें जिज्ञास् प्रवृत्ति का जागरण होता है। मुख्य रूप से हम दो तरीके से वाद विवाद प्रतियोगिताओं में हिस्सा लेते हैं – पारम्परिक एवं संसदीय।

तर्कमंच प्रतियोगिता. पिछले वर्श की भाँती. दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में होने वाली संसदीय वाद–विवाद प्रतियोगिताओं से अलग थी क्यॅंकि संसदीय हिंदी वाद–विवाद प्रतियोगिता में करनकपबंजपवद प्रतियोगिता को तर्कमंच द्वारा ही जोड़ा गया था. जिसके तहत प्रतिभागियों ने निर्णायक बनने की भी भूमिका निभाई। प्रतियोगिता मुख्य रूप से दो दिवसीय थी, जो कि 3 और 4 मार्च को हुई, जिसमें 22 दलों ने भाग लिया जिसमें कुल मिला कर 70 प्रतिभागी थे। प्रथम दिन सर्वप्रथम कर जमेज हुआ, जिसके उपरांत सभी दलों के संसदीय वाद विवाद के तीन दौर बारी बारी से हुए। इनके मध्य में भोजन का भी प्रबंध था। अंततः जो 8 दल और 12 कर सर्वाधिक अंकों से उत्तीर्ण हुए वे अगले दिन की प्रतियोगिता में पहुंचे। अगले दिन क्वार्टर फाइनल, सेमी फाइनल और फाइनल हुए। यह तीनों दौर एलिमिनेटर थे। तर्कमंच में विश्वविद्यालय के कई हिंदी भाशा के धुरंदर एवं बुद्धि जीवियों का तार्किक मंथन देखने को मिला।

प्रतियोगिता को सफल बनाने हेतु जबलपुर से, राजस्थान हाई कोर्ट में वकील, ब्साज श्रेनदबजपवद के डायरेक्टर, अमेय पांडेय एवं पटना से, ब्छरून से पासआउट, पटना विश्वविद्यालय से रस्ड कर रहे, संदीप कुमार ने मुख्य निर्णायकों की भूमिका निभाई।

तमाम सहयोगियों की मेहनत का परिणाम यह रहा कि अनेकों समितियों और प्रतिभागियों द्वारा षुभकामनाओं एवं बधाइयों की झडी लग गयी, इसके साथ ही तर्कमंच'21 के लिए भी प्रोत्साहन मिला। इस प्रतियोगिता ने "पनघट" की षोभा को चार गुणा बढा दिया। और इन सभी का श्रेय आदरणीय प्रधानाचार्य, सांस्कृतिक समितियों के संयोजक, डॉ सुजीत तथा छात्र संघ के सलाहकार, डॉ संजीव, पनंघट'20 की कार्यसमिति एवं विवक्षा, डी०सी.ऐ०सी० के प्रत्येक सदस्य को जाता है।

प्रतियोगिता में पुरस्कृत प्रतिभागी कुछ इस प्रकार से थे :--

- सर्वश्रेश्ठ दल :- गार्गी क्रॉस षहीद भगत सिंह टीम के खुषबु एवं रंजीत कुमार
- 2. द्वितीय सर्वश्रेश्ठ दल :- मिरांडा हाउस टीम के मिली प्रभात भारद्वाज एवं षिल्पा
- 3. प्रथम सर्वश्रेश्ठ निर्णायक :- सौरभ सुमन एवं हैप्पी सौरभ (रामजस)
- 4. द्वितीय सर्वश्रेश्ठ निर्णायक :- सारथी (षहीद भगत सिंह ईवनिंग)
- 5. तृतीय (सांत्वना पुरस्कार) सर्वश्रेश्ठ निर्णायक :- षगुन (जमिया मिलिया इस्लामिया)

Members of the Hindi Debating Society

#### PRAKRITI (THE ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY)



Harsh Garg, a Prakriti volunteer, prepared a poster on the need to wear masks in public spaces.

Prakriti is recognized by the Department of Environment NCT Delhi. Its vision is to play an important role in the creation and maintenance of the Clean and Green world. The following activities were conducted this year: A plantation and cleanliness drive was conducted in August 2019. Members of Prakriti and NSS volunteers surveyed the college campus and identified areas where trees could be planted.

1. An awareness workshop on River Yamuna organized by the Department of Environment, Delhi Secretariat on November 6, 2019, at Delhi Secretariat. Kanishq and Akash participated in it. The workshop outlined the role of water bodies in sustaining living beings.

2. A talk on E-Waste was held on October 21, 2019, in collaboration with the NGO Sharp. NSS facilitated in organising this talk. The talk educated students about the nature of e-waste and the modalities concerning its disposal. Dr Amrit Kaur Basra introduced the students to the University's policy of e-waste disposal.

3. Prakriti organised a competition on the theme of 'Creating Best out of Waste' during AADYA, the cultural festival organised by NSS on February 17, 2020.

4. A painting event was organised on February 28, 2020, at the college premises. Participants painted the logo of Prakriti on the selected wall of campus. An interactive session on the water harvesting unit of college was also held.

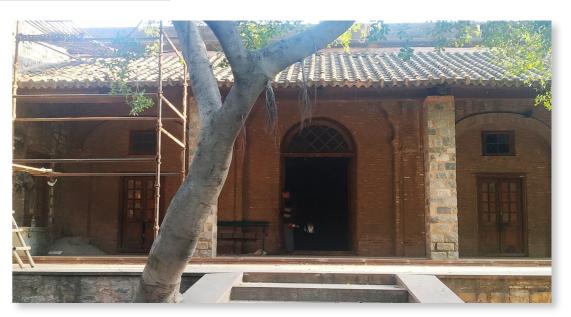
5. To commemorate Earth Day a poster was released on April 22, 2020.

Activities organised during the Covid-19 Lockdown period:

1. Prakriti organized an online photography competition on the theme of lockdown in May 2020. Thirty-six entries were received and three selected entries were given cash awards through Paytm.

2. Harsh Garg, a Prakriti volunteer, prepared a poster on the need to wear masks in public spaces. This poster was made during the unlocking period where various government agencies stressed on the need for social distancing. The poster was shared through social media.

#### Department of History



Entrance to Thomas Metcalfe's mansion - INTACH Field Visit to Qudsia Bagh in February 2020

The Department of History conducted many activities during the academic year 2019–20 which are as follows:

Students and teachers participated in a college heritage volunteer workshop as part of INTACH Heritage Education Programme which was attended by Sourav Bhattacharya, Harshit Sharma and Udit Narayan Barman accompanied by Dr Amrit Kaur Basra in January 2020. A project report on Qudsia Bagh was prepared and submitted to INTACH.

The Department of History also organized a day's trip to some places of historical importance in Delhi. Teacher-in-charge of the department, Mr Lakhan Lal Meena aided by teachers Mr Awadhesh Kr. Sah, Dr Nand Kishor, Mr Krishan Joon and Mr Pritam Kumar Gupta facilitated the trip and visited Shanti Van, India Gate, Firuz Shah Kotla, and Humayun's tomb. The trip enhanced historical understanding of the students and acquainted them with tangible past and importance of preserving heritage.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



A panel consisting of Prof. Satyaki Roy, Prof. Saumen Chattopadhyay, Prof. Apoorvanand, and Prof. Geetha Nambissan discussing Privatisation of Education.

The Economics Department of Delhi College of Arts & Commerce organized various events during the academic year 2019-2020. The Department celebrated its annual festival, Quest: Montage of the Best, on 21st February 2020. Renowned economist Prof. Surajit Mazumdar from the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University delivered the keynote address on the economic slowdown and budget 2020 and set the tone for the remaining events. A panel discussion was organised where eminent speakers from various universities deliberated on the perils of neo-liberalisation and privatisation of education. The panel comprised of Prof. Apoorvanand (Delhi University), Prof. Geetha Nambissan (Zakir Hussain Centre for Educational Studies, JNU), Prof. Saumen Chattopadhyay (Zakir Hussain Centre for Educational Studies, JNU), and Prof. Satyaki Roy (ISID). Events were also organised like Allocatwist, based on resource allocation, and Pratishodh which revolved around socio-political challenges. Others were Cambrioler: the fun treasure hunt, and Groove, a dance event. The event saw participation across several colleges.

The student council of the Department also organized a refreshing picnic to Nehru Park on 13th February 2020. The Department invites scholars and academicians every year to deliver relevant and enriching talks.

This years' two-day webinar, entitled 'Beyond the Corona Conundrum' on 15th and 16th June 2020, comprises a series of lectures. Eminent speakers provided their views upon a range of issues focused on specific paradigms of the economy. Prof. Pami Dua's presentation on the Monetary Policy Committee system of the Reserve Bank of India started the event. The next speaker was Dr Amita Prasad, the chief of the Inland Waterways Authority of India who presented the same. The second day began with Mr Gaurav Karnik, EY's leader for realty in India, who talked on deep dive into the role and linkages of the real estate sector in India. This was followed by Prof. Asmita Kabra from the School of Human Ecology, Ambedkar University, who revealed hyper globalization as a reason for precarity in the modern world, relating it to the plight of India's migrants during the Covid-19 crisis. The day was signed off by Mr Rishab Gulati, the Managing Editor of NewsX and a former DCAC alumnus, who gave us an international dimension to the crisis. The sessions closed off with a O&A session and saw enthusiastic involvement from students across India, making it a veritable success.

#### Department of English



A panel of Himadri Roy, Niharika Banerjea, Umasankar Patra, Dhiren Borisa and Vqueeram Aditya Sahai graced the opening event of Pantheon 2020 themed Spectrum: Alternate Sexualities and Literature.

The department organised the following events:

Movie Screening - Singin' in the Rain (9 August) The film screened was Singin' in the Rain, directed by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen, and starring Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Debbie Reynolds. The session began with an introduction-cum-history of the Musical genre by our faculty Dr Smita Banerjee.

Seminar on 'The Truth of Literature at the Present Time' with Professor Jyotirmaya Tripathy (16 August)

Professor Jyotirmaya Tripathy elaborated on the various issues regarding accountability of what is termed as 'Literature' and escapist fiction.

Elections & Team Recruitment (20 August)

The elections for the posts of President, General Secretary and Treasurer were held on 20th August, 2019. Purusharth Chawla and Gitesh Chand Maurya were elected through unanimous decision as President and General Secretary respectively, and Khushi was selected as the new Treasurer for the academic session.

Movie Screening - Life is Beautiful (23 August) Another movie screening was organized by the Club on 23rd August, 2019. The movie screened was Life is Beautiful, directed by Roberto Benigni and starring Benigni & Nicoletta Braschi followed by an active discussion on the technical aspects and the Holocaust and related literature.

Freshers' Party and Orientation (26 August)

A party was organised to welcome the batch of 2022 on 26th August, 2019. The theme for the party this year was 'I Can't Believe I Wore That!'

Women in Translation Month Celebration on Instagram (August) The department celebrated Women in Translation Month all through the month of August to bring light to the various women translators who are regularly overlooked by the mainstream academia. Many members contributed to this online celebration by submitting self-translated poems and short stories.

Book Club Meet (6 September)

The Book Club organised a discussion around Mahasweta Devi's collection of short stories titled Breast Stories in celebration of the Women in Translation Month on 6th September, 2019. Poetry Reading Session with renowned poet Akhil Katyal (9 September)

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (CONTD.)

A poetry reading session was organised on 9th September by the core team. The guest poet invited was Akhil Katyal. He read from his latest collection How Many Countries Does the Indus Cross.

Movie Screening – Fandry (17 September)

The Film Club of ELA put together another screening-cum-discussion on 17th September, 2019. The film screened was Fandry, directed by Nagraj Manjule and starring Somnath Avghade & Rajeshwari Kharat.

Seminar on 'The Task of a Translator' with famous writer & translator Arunava Sinha (26 September) An interactive seminar was organised on 26th September, 2019 to discuss the challenges faced by translators in today's time. The guest speaker was Arunava Sinha who translates modern Bengali fiction and nonfiction into the English language.

Seminar on 'Modernism: A Synoptic Genealogy' with Sumanyu Satpathy, former Professor, Deptt of English, University of Delhi (4 November)

A seminar conducted by Prof. Satpathy on Modernism tracing the development and the seminal texts of this 20thcentury movement.

Launch of the third edition of the newsletter 'The Carrel' (4 November)

The third edition of the biannual newsletter of the department titled The Carrel was launched on 4thNovember, 2019. This edition of The Carrel invited an exploration of a diverse array of retellings of history and mythology. Featuring answers from the likes of Ashwin Sanghi, Sharanya Manivannan, Devdutt Pattnaik and Pooja Sharma, the newsletter also reviewed books that attempt to retell mythology, as well as offered insights into the importance of history and mythology in our lives.

Talk on 'British Literature of the 18th Century' with Shaswat Panda, Assistant Professor, University of Keonjhar, Orissa (31 January)

A talk was organised on 31st January, 2020 on 18th Century Literature. Sashwat Panda was welcomed as the speaker who helped the students place the literature of this era into its socio-political context by developing on the major events of the century and their impact on the writings that were produced.

Book Club Session with Amitabha Bagchi (4 February)

The Book Club put together an interactive session with famous writer Amitabha Bagchi on 4th February, 2020 who discussed at length his latest book Half the Night is Gone which is this year's DSC prize winner.

ELA Festival Pantheon 2020 (14 February)

As is the tradition, the highlight of the academic year was the annual literary festival of English Literary Association, 'Pantheon.' This day-long festival was organised by the different teams of the department and several colleges participated and visited. The theme was 'Spectrum: Alternate Sexualities & Literature.' Well-known personalities such as Niharika Banerjea, Himadri Roy, Vikramaditya Sahai, Dhiren Borisa and Umasankar Patra participated in the panel discussion. Events such as Street Play, Poetry Slam, Face Painting, Treasure Hunt, Debate and Football were also organised. The festival was closed with the announcement of the results of the competitions and a thank you note by the president.

Webinar on 'Old & Middle English Literature: An Overview' with Dr Animesh Mohapatra, Assistant Professor, Deptt of English, DCAC (27 April)

A webinar was organised on 27th April, 2020 in which faculty member Dr Animesh Mohapatra gave an overview of Old and Middle English Literature, delineating important texts and events that defined the beginning of English.

Webinar on 'Comparative Literature: Concepts & Trajectories' with Dr Sayantan Dasgupta, Associate Professor, & Head, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University (14 May)

Another webinar was organised on 14th May, 2020 where guest speaker Dr Sayantan Dasgupta drew attention on the ensuing studies on Comparative Literature emphasising its importance as an emerging field.

Webinar on 'The illusion of empowerment: Politics of assimilation & involution in contemporary diasporic writings' with Dr Uma Javaraman, Associate Professor, Centre for English Language Communication, National University of Singapore (23 May)

The final webinar was held on 23rd May, 2020. Dr Uma Jayaraman, Associate Faculty, Centre for English Language Communication (CELC), National University of Singapore, was invited as the speaker. She touched on varied aspects of Diasporic writing including the criticism they receive within their frame of work.

#### Department of Journalism



A panel of Ms Suhasini Haider and Ms Sevanti Ninan graced Scoop 2020 to discuss the construction of reality by media, moderated by Ms Akriti Kohli, Faculty member.

The Department of Journalism at Delhi College of Arts & Commerce is ranked amongst the top institutions/colleges for mass communication and journalism in the country. The Department of Journalism has strived to realize the premier goals of excellence and knowledge by providing our students with the interface between the media industry and academics by inputs from eminent media personalities and renowned journalists. The Department of Journalism organized its annual festival SCOOP on 28th February 2020. The festival opened with a panel discussion on the construction of different realities by the media. Two esteemed members of the media fraternity, Ms Suhasini Haider and Ms Sevanti Ninan were the panellists for the discussion moderated by a faculty member. The second event of the festival was an engaging interaction between Mr Shahbaz Ansar and Ms Manisha Pande who joined us to talk about "the absurdity of Television News". Their interaction was filled with satire and humour. The 3rd Sumegha Gulati Memorial Debate was the third event of the day and was sponsored by Ms Alka Gulati, Mr Jai Kishan Gulati, and Mr Rishabh Gulati and saw the participation of a team of talented debaters. Critique, the annual department newspaper, a student initiative, was released by the guests.

In collaboration with the Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media, Bengaluru, the Department organized a panel discussion on 'Traditional Media in the age of Twitter'. The panellists included eminent names from the industry such as Mr Dakshina Murthy, Mr Saikat Dutta, Ms Aditi Shah, and Ms Shalu Yadav. There was an interactive session towards the end where the students engaged on a range of issues with the panellists. This year the Department also organized a trip to the Rashtrapati Bhawan for the students of the first year. The trip comprised a guided tour of the museum, architecture of the Bhawan, milestones of the freedom struggle and contributions, and achievements of former Presidents among many other historical insights. The Department of Journalism takes pride in the overall excellence achieved and the positive change brought in our student's lives. We will persevere to better our accomplishments in the following years.

#### Department of Political Science



The Department of Political Science attending an interactive seminar in the Mutli–Pupose Hall of the college.

The Department of Political Science organized various activities during the session 2019–2020. These activities gave the students an opportunity to express themselves and interact with people from various colleges of the university. Here is a list of the activities:

1. Screening of "Breaking Free", a documentary directed by Shridhar Rangayan (6 September 2019) Some 30 students of the college attended the screening. To complete the registration process, the students decided to paint their faces to show support to the Supreme Court Judgement on Section 377. The movie screening was followed by a discussion.

2. Voters Awareness Drive (11 September 2019) The department organized a voters' awareness drive to familiarize students with the relevant information on the voting process for the college elections. The students got a live demo of the voting process. Approximately, 70–80 students participated in the drive.

3. Seminar on "Theoretical aspects of Democracy", by Professor Shefali Jha (16 September 2019) The seminar was a widely attended event of the semester. Students from the disciplines of Political Science, History, English and those studying BA Programme got the opportunity to hear one of the leading experts on the subject, Prof Shefali Jha, and learn from her. Prof. Jha welcomed and answered questions from the audience as well.

4. Fresher's Meet (27 September 2019) The department organized a fresher's party to welcome the first-year students. The event included performances by the students of the department, aimed mainly to foster the spirit of friendliness among the different batches.

5. Intra-Department Sports Day (15 November 2019) For the very first time, this year the department organized a sports day. Participation was open only for the department's students and faculty. Games like cricket and volleyball were played, with the teams comprising both boys and girls.

6. Seminar on "How to Crack UPSC", by Unique Shiksha, Karol Bagh (31 January 2020) The seminar was attended by students from all departments of the college. The session was interactive, it helped the students understand the process of Civil Services Examination and various strategies to ace the examination. Approximately, 220 students participated in the seminar.

7. Seminar on "Leadership and Governance", by Dr Smita Tripathi, University of Plymouth, UK (5 February 2020)– The seminar was organized with the objective of helping students understand the concepts of leadership and governance and to encourage them to become leaders in the fields of their chosen activities. The session included a presentation by the speaker, followed by a discussion on the theme. Dr Rajesh Kumar moderated the session.

#### Internal Complaints Committee/Gender Sensitisation Cell



A Panel consisting of Advocate Sourabh Mishra and B. Bhavana Rao, moderated by Dr Vinita Gupta Chaturvedi on 'Media, Gender and Human Rights' was organised in October 2019.

#### 1. SESSION

A session on "The Sexual Harassment of Woman at Workplace, Prohibition and Redressal Act 2013" was organised in the college on 20th of September'20. Ms Barsha Mishra of The Rights Mission was the guest speaker of the event. The discussion touched on various topics like gender, sex, gender-based violence and about the act.

2. PANEL DISCUSSION

IQAC in association with I.C.C. and G.S.C. had organised a panel discussion on 18 October'19 on 'Media, Gender and Human Rights' moderated by Dr Vinita Gupta Chaturvedi. The panellists were Adv. Saurabh Mishra who is an advocate on record of Supreme Court and B. Bhavana Rao who is an assistant professor of the Department of Law, Galgotia University. The discussion gave insight into the constitutional acts pertaining to domestic violence and sexual harassment and movements. 3. WEBINARS

a. The I.C.C. with G.S.C. under the aegis of IQAC had organized on the topic "Understanding Gender Equality: Legal issues and concerns" on 17th May'20. The guest speaker was Dr Anu, professor, Faculty of Law, the University of Delhi who threw light on the general misconceptions that revolve around the word "gender", gender–based prejudice, sexual harassment law and legal redressal mechanisms.

b. I.C.C. and G.S.C. with IQAC had organized a webinar on "Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013" on 18th May'20. The guest speaker was Adv. Saurabh Mishra, Advocate on Record, Supreme Court. The session was about the act and elaborated on the important clauses under the act. The webinar ended with an interactive round and vote of thanks delivered by the Presiding Officers.

#### NSS



Newspaper Dressing Competition was organised as a part of Aadya 2020, the Annual Fest of NSS, DCAC.

On 21 June 2019, the Fifth International Yoga Day was celebrated with the theme of climate change. It was celebrated with our Gurus.

The NSS voluneteers set up Admission Helpdesk from during June-August 2019 to guide the applicants through the admission process.

The major activities of the NSS are listed below – NSS Orientation NSS Unit DCAC organised orientation program on 5 September 2019. The new volunteers were introduced to NSS: it is working and philosophy. The students were introduced to the major projects of NSS DCAC. Swachh Bharat Summer Internship (SBSI) 2.0– Eight NSS volunteers joined the Swachh Bharat Summer Internship (SBSI) 2.0, an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in association with Ministry of Youth, Affairs and Sports. The project revolved around Solid Waste Management with a special focus on SWM–2.

Mission Indradhanush – The volunteers of NSS DCAC, through Mission Indradhanush, an initiative of the Health Ministry, Government of India, went door to door in the slum areas of Atmaram Dairy Complex (ARD) to spread awareness about the free vaccination drive of the Government against the 7 diseases.

Blood Donation Camp – NSS Unit DCAC organized a blood donation drive. It saw immense support from the students on campus. Students of DCAC are truly heroes for someone. Spread the warmth. E-Waste Seminar– The NSS unit of the college organised an informational and interactive talk on e-waste management so that students could develop an awareness about the hazards of e-waste. Workshop on road safety A workshop on Road Safety was organised by the NSS to make the students cognizant of the need for the same.

Celebration of NSS's 50 years – NSS completed 50 years as an organization on 24 September 2019. Project Arts and Crafts marked the day by spreading awareness about the latest rules for the plastic ban.

Aadya – Annual Cultural Fest: The Annual Cultural Festival of the NSS AADYA 2020 was organised inter college. The festival gave NGOs an opportunity to showcase their achievements.

#### NCC



NCC, DCAC Volleyball team won a gold at a tournament at Kirorimal College, University of Delhi.

The National Cadet Corps plays a vital role in transforming the youth and giving them multiple opportunities in the field of sports, leadership, communication skills, and also gives exposure to the defence forces.

DCAC NCC always strides towards character building of Cadets. DCAC NCC organized events like blood donation camp, cleanliness drive, awareness rally and tree plantation.

The following cadets participated in the various camps: Cadet Narpat (AITSC, Para-slithering) JUO Raman (Advanced Leadership Camp) JUO. Chandra Prakash (Para-slithering) Cadet. Rahul Raj (Para-slithering) Cadet. Yuvraj Tyagi (AAC, Skiing Basic Course) Cadet. Sachin Bharadwaj (AAC, 2nd cadre of AITSC)

CPL. Mrinal

In addition to this the following Cadets, under the guidance of the college ANO, were given rank panels on the basis of their performance. The names of the rank panel are – SUO. Nishkarsh Malaviya JUO (Admin) Raman JUO (Training) Chandra Prakash CHM. Sishetty SGT Sumit Chaudhary

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#### SC/ST & OBC CELL



SC/ST Cell celebrated the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule with a talk by Dr Sunil Sardar.

The cell organized the following programmes to fulfil its mission to enable marginalized students and incubate a culture of dialogue and discussion on issues of subaltern society.

1. Admission Help Desk SC/ST and OBC Cell put up a help Desk during the time of admissions (for the academic year 2019-2020) to help new students in understanding the admission process and any other guidance needed. Many Students along with Teachers volunteered themselves for the same.

2. Interaction with Students and Orientation to SC/ST and OBC Cell: An interaction with Students and Orientation to activities conducted by the SC/ST and OBC Cell was held on 3 October 2019. New members joining an institution fills it with new enthusiasm and energy to go ahead and work together to achieve goals. A meeting was organized to welcome the new members(students) of the college and had a discussion to chart out the future events of the cell.

3. Five Days Awareness Programme on Socio-Economic Issues: A five days awareness programme for students was organized (personality development programme) by the cell on "Socio-Economic Issues of India" (11-15 November). The session began with the introduction to important SocioEconomic issues of the nation by the faculty members of our college. The Speakers elaborated on the various issues and aspects of contemporary socioeconomic matters like Poverty, Education, Unemployment, etc. The five-day session ended with a lively discussion among teachers and students.

4. Celebration of Birth Anniversaries of Important Social Reformers and Icon:. This is the new initiative taken by the SC/ST and OBC cell to celebrate the birth anniversaries of the important social Reformers and Icons, who worked to abolish the discrimination and unfair treatment to people based on caste and gender. Under this series, cell organized various talks, discussions and floral tributes. Following are the details for the same:

a. Discussion and a Floral Tribute (15 November 2019): A Discussion and a Floral Tribute to Birsa Munda was organized on 15 November 2019 in the college, Birsa Munda was an Indian tribal freedom fighter and folk hero who belonged to the Munda tribe. He spearheaded a tribal religious millenarian movement that arose in the Bengal Presidency (now Jharkhand) in the late 19th century, during the British Raj, thereby making him an important figure in the history of the Indian independence movement. His portrait hangs in the Indian Parliament Museum. He is the only tribal leader to have been so honoured.

b. Talk on Savitri Bai Phule with Dr Sunil Sardar: A talk was organized on 3 January 2020 on Savitri Bai Phule. Dr. Sunil Sardar was welcomed as the speaker. He talked about the life struggles of Savitri Bai Phule and Jyoti Rao Phule and threw light on the important role they played in improving women's rights in India. He highlighted the fact that the first Indian girls' school in Pune, 1848 was founded by this couple. Savitri Bai Phule is regarded as the first female teacher of India and mother of Indian feminism. He focused on how Savitri Bai worked to abolish the discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender. She is regarded as an important figure of the social reform movement in Maharashtra.

c. Talk on Jan Nayak Karpuri Thakur (24 January 2020): A talk and floral tribute was organized on Jan Nayak Karpuri Thakur on 24 January 2020. The guest speaker was Prof. Virendra Narayan Yadav, Head of Hindi Department and Dean of J.P University Chapare. He touched the varied life aspects of Karpuri Thakur. He emphasized the fact that Karpuri Thakur was a man of substance. He was a freedom fighter, educationist and chief minister of Bihar (twice). He actively worked for the upliftment of the backward, lower castes and classes. He was very humble and approachable to people, that is why he was called, "Jan- Nayak". All the students, teachers and other staff members attended the programme.

d. A Discussion and Floral Tribute (25 February): A celebration of the birth anniversaries of Rama Bai, TIlka Majhi, Guru Ravi Das, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Baba Gadge Maharaj and former President of India Mr.K.R Narayanan was organized on 25 Feb 2020. Many of our esteemed faculty members along with the students shared the stage and presented their views in the form of stories, write-ups and poetry on social reformers. It was a great success.

5. Webinar on "The Vision and Mission of Bharat Ratna Dr B R Ambedkar for a better Society, Nation and World" with Dr Parmod (15 May 2020): A webinar was organized with IQAC on 15 May 2020. Dr Parmod Kumar, Associate Faculty of IGNOU, was invited as the speaker. He drew attention to the vision and mission of Dr B.R Ambedkar. He talked at length about Dr Ambedkar's life, works and the relevance of his teachings in present times for the betterment of the nation.



Comania organised WTF: What the Food as a part of Aadya 2020.

#### Mercado:

Mercado is the Marketing Cell of DCAC. They organised Linchpin: Treasure Hunt- Mercado hosts its treasure hunt at the Annual Fest of NSS DCAC, Aadya.

#### Rokda:

Rokda is the finance and investment cell of DCAC. Online Courses

The cell conducted a certified online course on 'Financial Markets & Investment Strategies' which aims to cover a wide range of intriguing topics. Immuno Trade and Bid Bash Rokda hosts 2 major events, 'Immuno Trade' and 'Bid Bash' in collaboration with NSS DCAC at its annual fest - Aadya 2020.

Finmix and FinSight, monthly and weekly initiatives respectively were launched online.

Orientation and Recruitment Rokda kick starts the year with Rokda Hunt, where participants have to find their

way through the clues and riddles hidden across the college campus.

#### Comania:

Comania is the Commerce society of DCAC. They organised WTF: Where's The Food at Aadya 2020, the Annual Fest of NSS DCAC.

#### Club for Leadership, Innovation and Finance:

The following activities were organised by the cell during the year 2019–20: BUCK-SHOT: The Club for Leadership, Innovation and Finance hosted a fun event BUCKSHOT in collaboration with NSS DCAC at its Annual Fest, Aadya 2020. PROM: The club organised a prom night which was open to all the students of the college during Ambrosia and Panghat 2020.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### Enactus



Project Taleem of Enactus DCAC aims to provide education to refugee children.

In the course of the past two years, Enactus DCAC successfully launched two projects in collaborations. These are Project Taaleem and Project Saahas. Both projects are aimed at creating a sustainable business model keeping in mind the social-economical and environmental aspects.

Project Taaleem • We aim to revolutionise the lives of the refugee children by imparting primary education in a community-driven model where the teachers are identified from within the community itself. Our NGO Partner Katha trains and certifies these teachers. The project began with two centres in Shram Vihar and Shaheen Bagh. This year we have successfully expanded to 6 new centres across Delhi, NCR through collaborations with various NGOs like Vidya NGO, Gali Patshala, Human Welfare Council and Ujala. Since the Project began the enrolment rate increased by 30% with 20 new refugees and 300 new internally displaced children coming to our centres.

Future Plans: We plan to expand Taaleem further by inculcating a digital curriculum with technology like Augmented Reality, digital card for online curriculum and an application-based system to integrate all our centres. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) will be inculcated in our curriculum under Taaleem for holistic growth. Many organisations working in this field have been contacted.

Project Saahas: This is an initiative for breast cancer survivors. Canfem: We have fabricated a patented cotton-based prosthesis made of recyclable cotton, which has been approved by AIIMS and is sold under the brand name Canfem. It has proved ideal for cancer survivors since it provides the perfect shape and body weight to the patient and is better than alternatives available in the market. Canfem has been approved by AIIMS and Tata Memorial who are willing to sell it. Hospitals like Apollo Hospital, BL Kapoor and Max Hospital will also start selling our products soon. The Ministry of Health, Government of India, is ready to support us in our sales. In addition to this our product, Canfem, has been pitched to some well-renowned investors for CSR funding.

During 2019-20 we successfully collaborated with various brands and are in talks with some more. Clovia, a marketing company, will sell our product through their channels thereby expanding our consumer base and the channels through which the product will be available. Brands like Zivame, Pretty Secret are interested in selling our products. Enamor is already ready to help us with the design of our product. Women are still afraid of talking about it to their families about their personal health issues. We have successfully spread awareness about the early symptoms of breast cancer across various communities

In March 2019 Enactus DCAC organised an event in collaboration with Roko Cancer to spread awareness and talk about cotton-based prosthesis. Renowned doctors attended the event. Members of Enactus DCAC also participated in more than 25 B-plans in this tenure in renowned colleges like IIT Roorkee, IIT Delhi, IIM Kozhikode, TISS etc. We were awarded the following positions: IIT, Delhi: 1st and the 2nd position. Kirorimal College: 3rd position.

Activities organised during the Covid-19 Lockdown period: The global pandemic, Covid-19 did not stop us from assisting marginalised communities. The entrepreneurs of Enactus DCAC, understanding the need of the hour, manufactured masks in a short period of time. Thereafter, Enactus DCAC successfully organised three drives to distribute them to the most vulnerable communities in Delhi NCR, 700 masks were donated to Hon. Atishi Marlena, 500 masks were donated to the Cabinet Minister of Delhi, Hon. Rajendra Pal Gautam and 100 masks were donated in collaboration with the Delhi Police. They further donated them to the needy. Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on various sectors, Enactus DCAC conducted live sessions in a series 'ImpactUs' on the same along with various experts of specific fields. They were organised over a period of 1 month to spread knowledge and make the people understand each industry better.



The Placement Cell stands committed and dedicated to providing the students of Delhi College of Arts & Commerce a thriving platform to engage with leading multinationals in the corporate world and leading organizations in the social sphere. Being active throughout the year, student representatives and teachers who are a part of this cell have managed to collaborate with more than 40 companies to get over 80 students placed with offers extended from Global firms like EY, KPMG, Wipro, TresVista, FIS in a plethora of job profiles: finance, accounting, sales, research and audit among others.

4.2 LPA	10 LPA		
• Average compensation offered to students in 2019–2020	• Highest Compensation offered in 201 2020		
Companies and Comp CTC (L			
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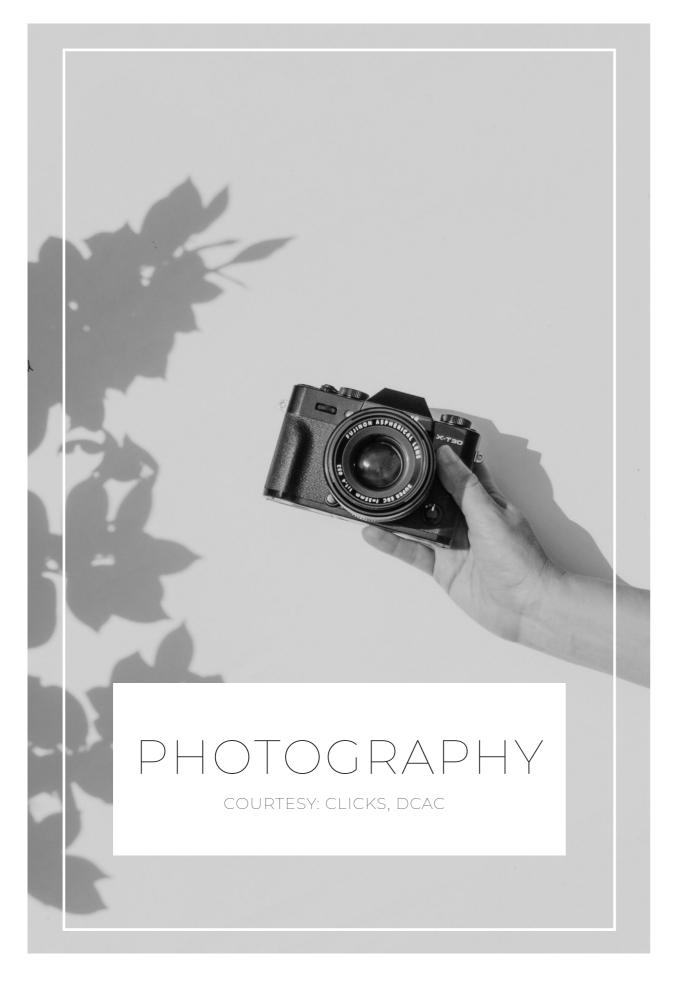
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PLACEMENT CELL

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Orientaion programme of the Placement Cell of the college.







VANLAL DUATA (BA PROGRAMME)



Varun Taneja (ba programme)



Ishita Joshi (history hons.)

DCAC SWARAM





#### Namrata khera (ba programme)



### Prateek batra (b.com hons.)



LALIT (POLITICAL SCIENCE HONS.)



Prakhar Varshney (English Hons)



Sukalpa sarkar (b.com hons.)



Mallika Sachdev (ba programme)



Dhananjay Yadav (pol. SCIENCE HONS.)



Sumit Swaroop (B.Com Programme)



Shubham Raj (economics hons.)



Tanishka kapur (English hons)







Rohit Kumar (b.com HONS.)



Kapil Mehrolia



Vamika Garg (history hons.)



Harshvardhan Singh (ba programme)



ARYAN GUPTA (B.COM HONS.)



Uplabdhi kamboj (English hons)



Sumit Swaroop (B.Com Programme)

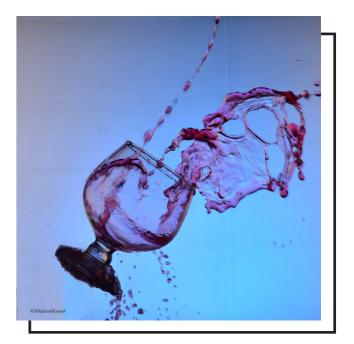


Raza Ali (journalism hons.)



Saumya agrawal (journalism hons.)

#### DCAC SWARAM



### Nikulansh kapoor (journalism hons.)



Agrima Gulati (Journalism hons.)

# OFFICEBEARERS 2019–20

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Project Head (Taaleem) and NGO Collaboration Head – Prashant Yadav

Project Head (Saahas) and NGO Collaboration Head – Saakshi Thakur

Research and Development Head and B – Plan Head — Twinkle Theraja

PR and Social Media Head – Mansi Gaur

Community and Logistics Head – Disha Khattri & Ahaan Khasana

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE/ GENDER SENSITISATION CELL

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Members – Dr Shilpa Chowdhary, Dr Santosh Bharti, Dr Chaitanya Kumar, Mrs Sunita Sharma, Mrs Poonam Rani, Paramita Baishya, Roopambica Tripathy, Sahil Singh Budhwar, Mrs Monika Arora.

G.S.C. Presiding Officer – Dr Nalini Goyal Members – Krishanu, Parneet Kaur, Yashvendra Singh.

# EDITORIAL $\top \Box \land ee$



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Dr Jyotsna Pathak Assistant Professor Dept. of English



Dr Sanjeeb Kumar Assistant Professor Dept. of Hindi



Kanishq Gulati BA (PROG.) 2nd Year



Purusharth Chawla ENGLISH (HONS.) 3rd Year



Mayank Mihir ENGLISH (HONS.) 3rd year



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Shagnick Bhattacharya HISTORY (HONS.) 1st Year



Aditya Singh B.COM (HONS.) 1st Year



Sourav Bhattacharya HISTORY (HONS.) 2nd Year



CALLFOR WRITE-UPS

Your compositions (Poems/Articles/Stories/Art Works etc.) are invited.

1. Your compositions must be original. All compositions will be checked for plagiarism.

2. Name, course and year should be clearly mentioned while submitting the composition. Original pictures of the contributor can accompany the content. Common property images with clear mention of the source can also be used.

3. The writings for submission should be in English, Hindi, or regional language. Original short pieces in regional languages with English translation are also welcomed.

4. The writings should be typed and only the soft copy in the typed version will be accepted.

5. The contributions should be emailed to the following email address - dcacswaram.mag@gmail.com.

6. In case of any queries, contact us through the above-mentioned email address. You may also contact

Dr Smita Banerjee

Dr Sanjeeb Kumar

Dr Jyotsna Pathak

Looking forward to your contributions Editorial Board *Swaram* 

कॉलेज पत्रिका का संपादक मंडल स्वरचित लेख, कविताओं, कहानियों एवं कलाकृतियों को २०२० – २१ के अंक में सम्मिलित करने के लिए आमंत्रित करता है।

1. रचनाओं को भेजने से पहले कृप्या ध्यान दें कि वह स्वरचित हो।

 अपनी रचनाओं में अपना नाम, कोर्स एवं कक्षा, विषय एवं वर्ष साफ–साफ लिखें। यदि आप किसी तस्वीर का प्रयोग कर रहे हैं तो ध्यान रखें कि वह किसी सार्वजनिक इंटरनेट स्रोत से हो।

3. अंग्रेजी अथवा हिंदी के अतिरिक्त आपका लेख किसी भी क्षेत्रीय भाषा में हो सकता है। यदि आप ऐसा लेख संपादकीय मंडल को भेज रहे हैं तो उसका अंग्रेजी अथवा हिंदी अनुवाद सम्मिलित करना अनिवार्य है।

4. आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि आप अपनी रचनाएँ केवल निम्नोक्त ईमेल पर भेजेंः dcacswaram.mag@gmail.com एवं रचनाओं की हार्डकॉपी न भेजें।

5. अपने प्रश्न एवं आशंकाएं उर्पोक्त ईमेल पर भेजें। अथवा निम्नलिखित शिक्षकों को संपर्क करें:

डॉ स्मिता बनर्जी

डॉ संजीव कुमार

डॉ ज्योत्स्ना पाठक

आपके लेखों का प्रतीक्षार्थी संपादक मंडल *स्वरम्* 



Riwayat, Poetry Slam 2020.



Shahbaz Ansar and Manisha Pande talked about "the Absurdity of Television News" at Scoop 2020.



Stylus.inc created awareness about Child Abuse and Rapes through their fashion shows.

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Department of English invited Delhi-based poet Akhil Katyal for a poetry-reading session.



Street Play during Patheon 2020.



2019-20

Delhi College of Arts & Commerce University of Delhi Netaji Nagar New Delhi–110023 India Phone No: 011–24109821 Fax No: 011–26882923 Email: principaldcac@gmail.com