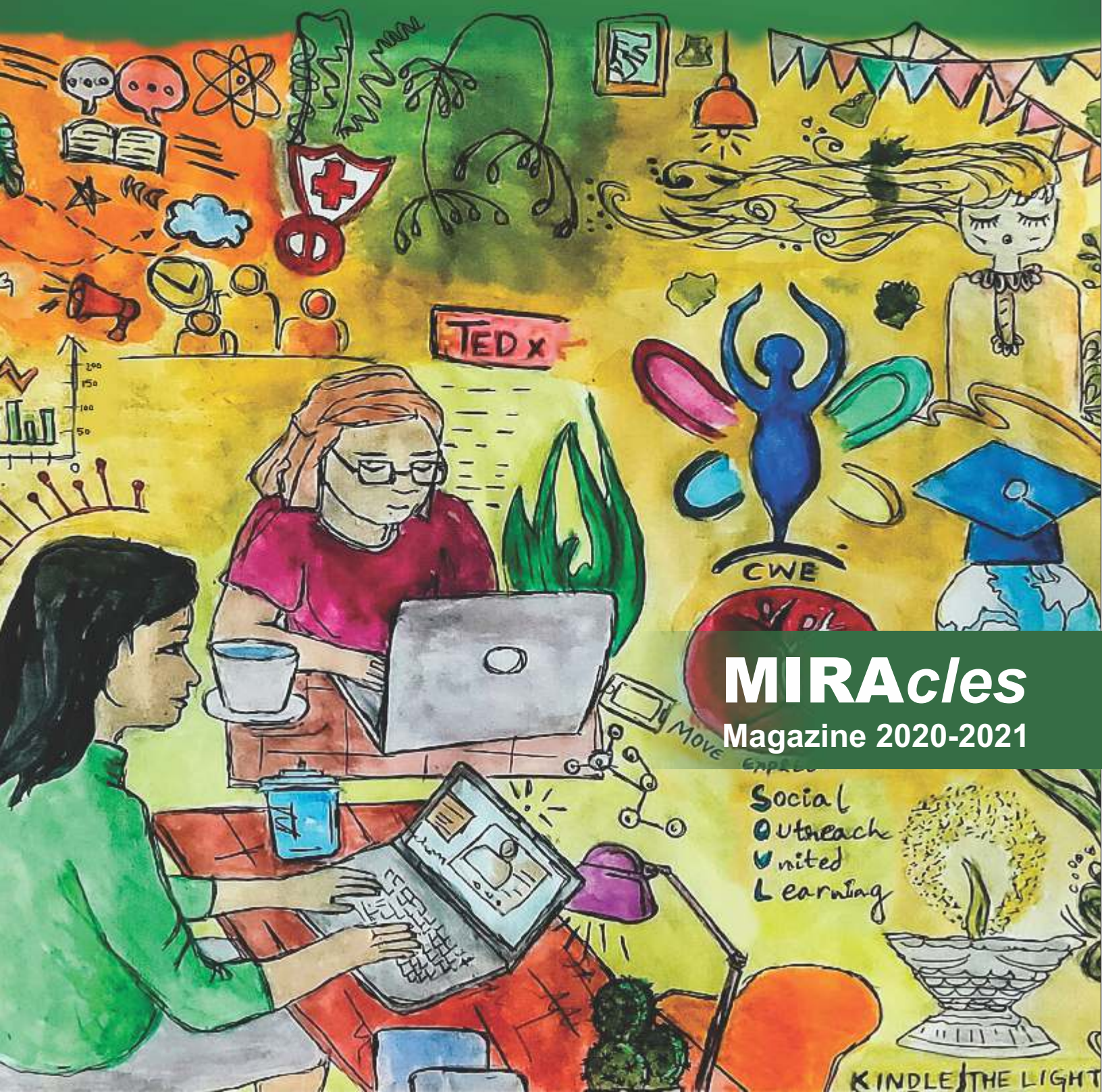


St. Mira's College for Girls
MIRACLES MAGAZINE
2020-2021
HUMAN PERSEVERANCE

Koregaon Park, Pune – 411 001



MIRAcles
Magazine 2020-2021

Social
Outreach
United
Learning

KINDLE THE LIGHT



SAINT MIRA : OUR PATRON SAINT



St Mira's College for Girls, Pune

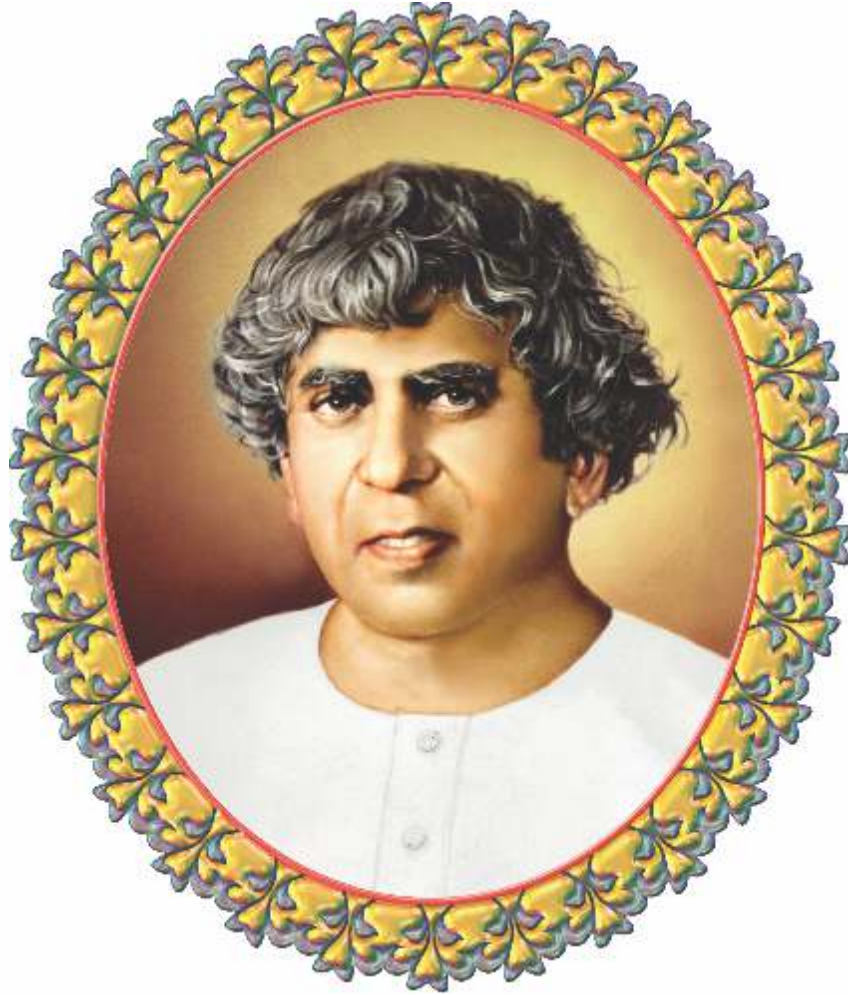
Arts, Commerce and Science

First Autonomous College under Savitribai Phule Pune University
Reaccredited "A" Grade by NAAC



MIRAcles The Mind Outside its Groove Magazine 2020-21





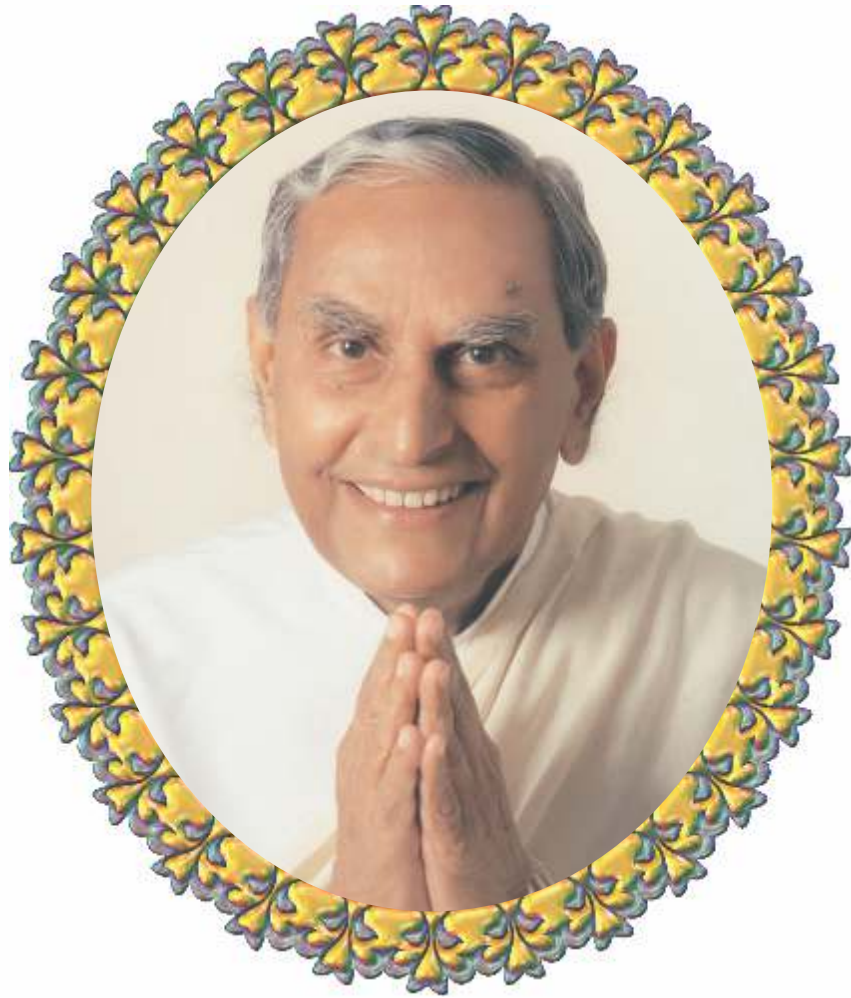
Sadhu T. L. Vaswani



Ascetics and fakirs come to mitigate human suffering; to heal us and lead us on the path. They put up with criticism; they go through many worldly trials. Some of them have even become martyrs for our sake. But they have done all this with a smile and with gratitude to God. Hence sacrifice is a great virtue.

Sadhu T L Vaswani





Dada J. P. Vaswani



Whenever you have taken up work in hand, you must see it to the finish. That is the ultimate secret of success. Never, never, never give up!

Dada J P Vaswani





From the Principal's Heart



We do not learn from experience... In reality, we all learn only if we reflect on our experience. And make amends.

Congratulations, and credit goes to all of you for having patiently gone through this long and exhausting covid phase. This final editorial has been, by far, the most difficult one for me to write. Whenever I put my fingers to the keyboard, they simply would not move. Knowing it would be my last was giving me the most horrible case of writer's block.

And then I decided to walk down the various passageways, reminiscing, and among other things, looked at the portraits of St. Mira and of our Rev Founder, Sadhu Vaswani at the entrance, and that put everything into perspective.

Like a dam-burst, it brought back all the memories of this little, petite girl's passing out from the same institution four decades ago, and being inducted into the world of academics and teaching by my Beloved Master, Rev Dada J.P. Vaswani with the strong belief that, no matter what, I would always be under his guidance and protection, with his

hand always over my head. The testing phases were too many... some extremely stressful and prolonged. Yet, while I buckled under the pressure on several occasions, my Master kept to his part of the deal. He had not promised me a journey without hurdles and roadblocks, but he had promised to be by me to put his shoulder to the plough along with me. He always made me come out stronger. As per my understanding, he was not asking us to teach others what he taught us. He was actually urging us to practice what he taught us, and through our practice, become better teachers.

History will decide and judge how good a practicing teacher I have been.

And, this decades long association with this esteemed institution made it all the more special for me. Every single day, when I was in a position to walk and climb better, I would climb the stairs of the building and I would experience the high, positive energy of students sitting, standing, chatting and discussing with friends. The high positive energy of teachers and support staff. I would catch my breath and we would exchange a bright, warm 'good morning'. I would tell myself that if energy levels were positive and high, I knew everything was right with the world.

"I consider myself lucky to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

If you Google this saying, you will find that a similar saying is attributed to Winnie the Pooh. These words of the Grand Pooh Bear must be shared.

In 1983, Benjamin Hoff wrote a book called "The Tao of Poo," which used the bear and his friends to explain the Tao Te Ching to the Western world.

Winnie, according to Hoff, personifies the principle of *Wu Wei*, which roughly translates as "effortless doing." It is a principle of harmony that teaches us that the course of our lives cannot be demanded nor rushed. You cannot make yourself find happiness—it will find you. Nor can you force yourself to love or be loved. Children develop uniquely and in their own time. As Pooh's "Little Instruction Book" wisely observes: "Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there someday."

This, of course, clashes with modern culture that assumes that everything can be willed, worked for or bought. But I stand with Pooh Bear –some things must in their own time unfold.

Right now your transition from dependence to independence and then to interdependence is unfolding. And that is tough on your moms and dads. To them, you are still the kid in the Pooh Bear pajamas snuggled on their lap, begging for just one more story. When they tucked you in with your Tigger, they could protect you from harm. But the river, while in no hurry, bends today and you begin a new, more independent part of your life.



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As hard as watching you grow up and move out is, your parents get it. They know their Winnie the Pooh. They understand what the "Little Instruction Book" is telling us when it says, "You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you." They know that you have to walk down from your corner of the staircase, up the graduation aisle and out to meet all of the people and events that will shape your life's journey.

The Message my Master taught me for Life - is a constant reminder to me of the importance of self-acceptance, honesty and allegiance to those I love and respect. If, in the process, I have ruffled feathers or made some unhappy, that is purely unintentional.

I thank you for my decades with you. I believe in you. Now leave this institution that you love, and share your goodness with the world. For as author Joseph Heller once said, and as I have advised my students, teachers and colleagues these past decades, "One **good** apple also has the ability to spoil the rest." In other words, goodness is also contagious! And you, my dears, are all very good apples.

To you, and to my entire Mira family, "How lucky **I am** to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." At the entrance gate of a University in South Africa, the following message was posted for contemplation:

"Destroying any nation does not require the use of atomic bombs or the use of long-range missiles. It only requires lowering the quality of education and allowing cheating in the examinations by the students....

Patients then die at the hands of such doctors...

Buildings collapse at the hands of such engineers.....

Money is lost at the hands of such accountants and economists...

Humanity dies at the hands of such religious scholars...

Justice is lost at the hands of such judges...

The collapse of education is the collapse of any nation."

This institution of ours has tried very hard, and most of the times succeeded in being an institute that has made a difference. Particularly to the world of women of India.

I close this message with a teacher's retirement blessing, which was sent to me by my brother from Dubai...on behalf of my entire family

A TEACHER'S RETIREMENT BLESSING

By Barbara D MacAdam

You started on this journey, so many years ago, and now it's time to leave behind dear friends you have come to know

It seems to me that this was more than just a job to you. The passion and love you have for teaching shines right through

You taught that there is more to life than being at the top. It's in how you choose to get there, that the blessings never stop.

You encouraged them to do their best, and never mind their peers,

To choose the straight and narrow, and to overcome their fears.

I have often thought how powerful your influence must be.

You turned each student's world of dreams into possibilities.

Now I pray God keeps you safe and well, wherever you may turn,

Surrounded by your loved ones, living out the dreams you have earned.

So never waste time wishing that you could have done much more....

Time to watch those seeds you planted grow

And trust God for what's in store ...

Dr Gulshan H. Gidwani



Handing over

Indeed, whatever has a beginning has an end. 22 years ago, the Managing Committee of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission entrusted me with an important task of representing them in the highest decision-making structure of the college. I stood here to accept a great responsibility as the Principal of St Mira's College, recognising it as a sign of the tremendous urge that the college had to see great change, a paradigm shift to great purpose and a declaration of possible success in all its endeavours.

It is always expected that leadership will come with a lot of challenges, but one could never have imagined that the year 2020 would bring us a global crisis. I must express that being a leader during this period was and still is very difficult and taxing. The coronavirus pandemic has been an epic test of character and determination for millions of people around the world; for us, it has been an ultimate leadership test. I would like to congratulate all my colleagues for passing this test. Your resilience and determination to serve the student body continues to thrive during this period. Your efforts in trying to ensure that we smoothly transition to the new normal did not go unnoticed.

To the students of St. Mira's, thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you, and for the support you gave us thus far. You remain our greatest asset as an institution. With that being said, "All the world's a stage". I have played my part to the best of my ability, considering my work not as a part of life, but as an expression of life!

And now, as I prepare to fold my tent, I feel a surge of great pleasure and honour in handing over the reins of this great institution to our very sincere, dedicated, devoted colleague, Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan. She is endowed with qualities of character and competence and is the right choice for leading this great institution in the capacity of Principal In Charge. Leadership, I strongly believe, is not a competition, and therefore a victory for one is a victory to all.

Dr Jaya Rajagopalan is a woman of substance, with fine qualities of the head, hand and heart. She is a person rooted in the ideals of the founder, a person with resilience, determination, and vision. During her 20 years of service to the institution, she has remained successful in delivering positive results in raising the bar for students both academically and in their mental wellbeing. She believes that the best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today, and so, she evaluates each day not by the harvest she reaps but by the seeds she plants. She started by doing what was necessary, then took up what was possible, and now, we are sure, she will be achieving the impossible!

Perfection, I always say, is not attainable, but if we all chase perfection, we can catch excellence! And so, as Dr Jaya Rajagopalan prepares to take over, I'm sure each one of you will join her in the chase to perfection! With your collective energy, enthusiasm and focus on education and learning, and her ability to take the team along, our College, I'm sure, will scale newer heights of greater excellence.

Dr Gulshan H. Gidwani



Editorial

Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind;
In the primal sympathy
Which having been must ever be...

William Wordsworth



Where might one even begin to sum up the absolute rollercoaster this last year has been for all of us? The COVID-19 pandemic changed the entire social landscape of the world we once knew while the human condition was entirely redefined these last few months, punctuated by our shared experiences. In the face of such universal despair, it was that absolute humanness that redeemed us; that need to find beauty and to offer kindness saved us from what in retrospect feels like moral oblivion. The theme of this year's magazine was a natural choice. To showcase 'Human Perseverance' was to acknowledge and pay homage to those in our corners, and others around the world who made this time of upheaval all that more bearable.

One of the largest changes was that of the nation-wide lockdown, followed by the conduction of classes online. Acclimatizing to online college came with its own ups and downs; we found ourselves home-bound, listening to our teachers on a 15-by-15 inch screen. The teachers we'd had the pleasure of once interacting with face-to-face were barred behind plexiglass. Through all of this, we were blessed to have the support of our principal Dr. Gulshan Gidwani, whose guiding hands invigorated us to keep the concept of a vibrant college life alive beyond the campus. The tribulations we found ourselves faced with were no doubt hard to overcome, but with the trust we had in our institution to back us up, we started the year early and with renewed purpose. Unleashed were we then! The anticipation of a new academic year brought with it a renewed fervency to create: student participation spiked and an outpouring of true empathetic connection served to strengthen our bond with our classmates. Various clubs rose to the occasion with play premieres, a short film collective, virtual writing sessions as well as an intra-college festival, to mention a few! The Mira Press came about, with students sending in work every month on a variety of subjects. From Zoom classes in the morning to Litwits sessions in the afternoon, our days were packed to the max.

But we'll not lie; many times we wanted to run away. We felt exhausted, yet at the same time ashamed of ourselves for not being 'productive'. The expectations got to us. The need to be constantly doing something was so strong, that taking a break felt like sinning. And when it all became too much, we confessed - to ourselves. We pardoned ourselves, we took a break, we recharged and used that crushing hopelessness as fuel. We took care of ourselves, we stopped succumbing to the pressure and rose, just like the mighty phoenix. We refused to admit defeat to a monstrous reality; we persevered.

To sum it up, we might confidently say to a year that felt never-ending: we claimed you. We owned up to every moment of you by hoping, believing and creating the reality we wished to find ourselves in this academic year. We fabricated a new world order of our very own out of the four walls of our homes, but the lessons we must learn now move beyond the classroom. The winds of time blow to the east, and a new day beckons. This note is, as Mikhail Bulgakov says, 'for some a prologue, for some an epilogue'; a start to the compilation of a year's worth of memories for some, and an end to three glorious years in St. Mira's for others. As for the future, all that we might extend to you is a well-wish and a little encouragement. When you are standing on the precipice of the rest of your lives, 'kar har maidaan fateh'.

**Student Editorial Committee,
Arman Chagla and Ummesalama Karu**



Daring Greatly and Rising Strong!!!



The Mira journey in education has traversed a long way since our founder Sadhu T. L Vaswani dreamt of an education that empowers women. The master's dream was translated into a beautiful reality by our first principal, the philosopher-saint, our beloved Dada J P Vaswani. This college has witnessed several principals after Dada and each in their own unique way have strengthened the roots of the philosophical tenets that education in Mira's stands for.

St Mira's College for Girls that began with 62 students, today stands strong as an institution catering to thousands of students in the Arts, Commerce and Science streams. Leading this phenomenal success of the institute, with an unflinching conviction in transformative education is Dr. Gidwani, our beloved principal who will be retiring from official duties, after a stupendous 43 years of service to the institution.

Dr Gidwani's courageous leadership, her willingness to explore uncharted paths and her ability to get extraordinary achievements from ordinary people has earned the college several laurels. She led the college to be the first to volunteer for NAAC accreditation and the first to get into the fast track for autonomy. Under her leadership, the college has been felicitated with several prestigious awards like College with Potential for Excellence, the Best College Award from SPPU, high rankings by the prestigious India Today, College with a 5-star rating, excellent grades at NAAC and the list is endless... I'm reminded of George Campbell's words of wisdom when I think of Dr Gidwani's leadership. "The cave you fear to enter, holds the treasure you seek."

What shines through all this, is that at her core Dr. Gidwani is a true educationist with the wellbeing of her students at the centre of her heart. With the dream of her guru, echoing in her being she has always strived to equip her students with holistic learning, where character building and making the student socially responsible and sensitive to the needs of others is as important as preparing them for fulfilling careers in a competitive global market. We salute your dedication to the cause of nurturing young minds!

Dr Gidwani is an epitome of a true leader with integrity as her anchor. For her, Integrity is courage over comfort, it's what's right over what's easy, it's practicing your values and not just professing them. A leader who has always led by example and shown her team a sense of purpose, created a deep desire to contribute, encouraged us to take risks, and to stay connected, engaged and curious. You are a leader who sat with us on the same side of the table and not across! You truly inspire us to follow in your footsteps ...

We will always remember your words "You will find success and happiness if you have one goal... there is only one... your goal is to fulfill the highest, most truthful expression of yourself as a human



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being. I know there is light inside each of you that illuminates your very being... Keep your light burning” As we bid adieu to Dr. Gidwani with a dull ache in our hearts, we also know that she will remain the guiding force for the institution for years to come.

I feel humbled and grateful to have been entrusted with the role of the in-charge principal. The path of education that has been carved by our revered founders and our principals is the way ahead for all of us. I share in this institution's dedication to caring for our students every day while providing them with a meaningful learning environment. I firmly believe that our students can use their highest potential to shape their future, consequently, the future of our community and our nation. I also strongly believe in the wisdom and strength of collaborative effort... "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." Let us all, as a team, strive to focus on advancing the culture of excellence here at St Mira's.

I know this year has been extremely challenging for all of us, I know that we all are feeling a sense of loss and we had to cancel many things you have been looking forward to. I know that there are going to be moments when it feels unbearable and harder than ever, but please continue to ask for help. Let's take care of ourselves, and take care of each other. This year also shone light on our capacity to rise up strongly and collectively in the face of adversity – every stake holder of the institution –the students, the faculty, the administrative staff, the sevaks and sevikas – all rose up to the cause of serving the values of the institution!

I cannot wait to see you all! I sincerely welcome your conversation and input during the coming year.

Looking forward to celebrate our collective successes!

Dr Jaya Rajagopalan



St. Mira's College for Girls

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EDITORIAL

And Still I Rise

The theme chosen by the student editors for 2020-21 is “Perseverance”: a perfect noun for the human spirit in the year of Covid-19. What has and how have we persevered in a year of upheaval and change?

Education has persevered as we shifted effortlessly to the online teaching mode, conducting presentations, club-sessions, extracurricular activities and exams like we have been doing it for years. The year began with a bang with the student induction programme for all the new FY students across all streams followed by the first online mentoring session. The mental health programme by the Psychology Department was all in place to address issues relating to the stress generated by the upheaval caused by the pandemic and the overpowering presence of the digital world. So to begin with, we started on time!

At Mira's we “moved our cheese”, seized opportunities. What began as an experiment in 2019 evolved with MILE, Mira International Learning Exchange: A Centre for Virtual Collaboration. 7 courses were conducted in collaboration with countries like America and Russia on topics varying from food, language, refugee literature and cinema to psychology, education and art history. Our students shone at the international “Showcase” held by LaGuardia Community College where they made presentations.

CWE received its establishment certificate of IIC (Institution Innovation Council) and REDC (Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cell) from the Government of India. It was a year of outstanding webinars. We held one session of the IAWS - Western Regional Conference that addressed the role of media and gender during the pandemic, a 3-day webinar on financial markets, 'Covid-19- The Storm in the Commercial Contracts World' and 'Application of Marathi at Three Levels', to name a few. Our culture was celebrated with pride during the Ganesh Utsav and from the 1st to the 15th of January 2021, Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan Pandharwada was celebrated. NSS activities were conducted with zeal. In a remarkably unusual way, it was business as usual.

However, two projects stole our hearts. The first was SOUL: Social Outreach United Learning. 12 girls reached out to 12 families with the NGO Aasra and taught them Spoken English over 5 months. They shared this experience with the Education Department at LaGuardia Community College in a course called “Education with SOUL” in keeping with the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals put forward by the UN. Goal 4 is right to Quality Education. The second is the amazing student editorial team headed by Arman and Ummesalama that put not only this magazine together but also collaborated on monthly periodicals and several “Showcase” editions. Brilliant girls with mighty hearts- those are the students of St Mira's who will always rise to the occasion.

This year we must say goodbye to the pillars of our college. Our principal Dr Gulshan Gidwani, the co-ordinator of the BBA, BCA, BSc section Mrs Stella Ambrose, and the COE Dr Soniya Chavan. We adore them. However, they have trained us well and will always be there to guide us as we are now led by Dr [Jaya Rajagopalan](#) (Principal in-charge) and Dr Vaishali Diwakar (COE). We assure you that their ideals and beliefs will persevere in our hearts and minds always.

Dr. Snober Sataravala



MEMORIES IN AMBER (PRINCIPAL)

Memories in Amber

The title Memories in Amber is deeply symbolic for not only does Amber preserve and embalm, it then is used in prayer. It is an acknowledgement of how important the journeys of the past are and how crucial they are to defining who we are and become in the present.

43 years of Dr Gulshan Gidwani's life, almost half a century, has been dedicated to serving St Mira's and the vision behind the Mira movement and yet that is insufficient for her. She would happily dedicate another century of her life, if she could, to the dream that a woman's soul will take us upwards, onwards and forward. This section is a heartfelt attempt to capture the essence of our multifaceted Principal through the various roles and offices she occupied over these years. We will explore her as part of the management ie the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, as an Academician, a Principal, the head of her department, a Karmayogi, the head of the office and as a teacher. There is so much more to her but this is a tiny window into that soul who has strived everyday to take St Mira's above and beyond all our aspirations. Through these voices, each and everyone of us at St Mira's stand palm to palm, heads bowed in respect to say, "Thank You".

For our Principal Manju Nichani

As part of the Management, The Sadhu Vaswani Mission

I have had the honour and privilege of knowing Dr. Gulshan Gidwani for 5 decades, in more recent times as the Principal of St. Mira's College. Gulshan has been associated with the Management of SVM for several years, so her life and that of the Mission make up the warp and weft which are inextricably woven together to produce an exquisite tapestry.

Dr. Gulshan Gidwani, an unparalleled and unassuming educationist, leaves a legacy of knowledge, dedication and unwavering principles in the hearts of all her students and teachers. She has scripted love and enduring respect in the hearts of all those who came in touch with her.

Dr. Gulshan was always guided by the vision of Sadhu T.L. Vaswani and Dada J.P. Vaswani. With Dada as her mentor, together with her vast experience, she made St. Mira's College a major force to reckon with. Today it stands tall as one of the premier educational institutions in India.

She joined as a lecturer and retired as the Principal of St. Mira's College. She was the pioneer behind Sadhu Vaswani College of Nursing and Sadhu Vaswani Institute of Management Studies. She is the Director of St. Mira's Education Board.

She did not believe that education stopped when the student received her degree. She equipped them with skills to graduate from the University of Life. She was passionate about women's education and empowerment.

Gulshan played a pivotal role in the working of the college.

Determination, grit, dedication, commitment, and hard work are her second nature. I am sure she will take these qualities with her wherever she goes and whatever she does.

May your visions and ardent leadership continue to guide and inspire us!



St. Mira's College for Girls

Beena Menon

I had the opportunity to meet and know Dr Gulshan Gidwani when I was nominated as Coordinating officer on a UGC Expert Committee. During this visit I found in Ma'am a warm and gentle friend who was a natural leader. The way the faculty, staff and students interacted with each other with such good camaraderie spoke volumes about the Principal and her administrative skills. Under her leadership I think the College has done remarkably well in all fields. She would continue to guide you all in the future also. I wish her all the very best for a healthy and content retired life.

Dr Meena Rajiv Chandawarkar,



Dr Gulshan H. Gidwani – an academician with a human touch!

I have had the privilege of being acquainted with Dr Gidwani since a few years. The first time I met her was at an autonomous college review at Chennai. During the three days that we were together, she made an everlasting impression on me. Her ever-smiling, graceful personality combined with her soft-spoken nature together with her totally dedicated academic contributions, makes her one of the rare figures in the field of higher education.

Her motivational leadership qualities were obvious when I visited her college. Blessed with the Divine Grace of Dr Sadhu Vaswani, St Mira's College has a unique spiritual aura. Dr Gidwani ably assisted by a committed team, upholds this culture and ethos, making the learning process an enjoyable and effective one. The daily prayer, the variety of activities, not very common with other institutions, lends a yeoman touch to the education process on her campus. Mention must be made of the special consideration given to a retired woman employee to help her come out of her problems. A unique outreach programme of serving roadside dogs, adopted by the college, has attracted the attention of society. 'Hands that help are holier than lips that pray'; Dr Gidwani has truly practiced what she has been preaching.

The N. E. P. – 20 highlights the importance of experiential learning and making it less stressful. It also mentions about the Gurukul system, in which there was a very close relationship between the Guru and Shishya. Dr Gidwani has successfully created such an academic ambience in her institution, where utmost respect is given to the faculty and staff together with a genuine concern for students to make their learning truly memorable. Her style of conducting the Academic Council meetings of the college is a testimony to this fact.

One has to command respect and not demand it! Dr Gidwani commands respect in her institution and academic circles. This is the most precious asset which a teacher can earn, and she has earned it. It has been a great privilege to have a friend like her.

On the eve of her retirement from the official assignment, I wish Dr Gidwani good health and happiness in life. Nevertheless, her contribution to the academic field is indispensable. May she continue to vibrantly serve the student community like a retreaded tyre, with more vigour and strength. I am confident that with her spiritual bent of mind and sacrificial dedication, she will continue to do so. I wish her the best.

**Dr Meena Rajiv Chandawarkar,
Former Vice Chancellor,
Karnataka State Women's University,
Vijayapura, Karnataka.**



St. Mira's College for Girls

Prof. P. Geetha



I am extremely happy to note that the current issue of "MIRAcle" is something special – as it is celebrating and felicitating a special person. I am honoured and I deem it a great privilege to be given a little space in this great magazine to appreciate and congratulate the excellent human being close to my heart

–Dr. GULSHAN GIDWANI.

I met her for the first time at a workshop in Bangalore on empowering women in higher education. Even before the actual meeting I had heard a lot about her dynamism, commitment and visionary ideas. Yes she is a rare personality commanding respect, affection and admiration. Whenever I came to Pune, I made it a point to visit her mostly at her office and sometimes in her home. With all pride she took me around the college that is close to her being and talked about innovative programmes and schemes. Every time she rang me up she had lots and lots to talk about her institution and her dear colleagues. Each time St. Mira's got top ranks and high ratings, she shared the exciting news with me. We also discussed about values and ethics slowly disappearing. The entire achievements of the institution are to be attributed to her sheer dedication and leadership.

Gulshan is more a personal friend to me and there were many occasions when she provided sisterly support. I cannot forget the time when she visited my son at the hospital in Pune as he was robbed and poisoned by miscreants during a bus journey from Mumbai to Pune. Her assurance was such a boon to me, away in Kerala.

Even when she was down with her ailments, she was full of thoughts about the college and worked with irrepressible enthusiasm. I am sure her junior colleagues will continue to carry on the work and legacy of Gulshan and strive with added vigour to provide quality education with high noble and moral values. She indeed had been an ideal role model to emulate and a rich source of inspiration. I wish the St Mira's fraternity all the best in this venture.

Prof. P. Geetha
(Retd from) School of Letters,
Mahatma Gandhi University
Kottayam Kerala

Latha Pillai



Dear Gulshan,

Our friendship is a quarter century 'old', or 'young' shall I say? You are such an endearing, warm and affable person, always willing to lend a listening ear or supporting shoulder to anyone in need. The leadership you provided to St. Mira's in the midst of all adversities, rigidities and limitations of the structural frameworks is truly amazing and visionary. I was always amazed at how you seamlessly juggled many fronts- college, Mission, home with elderly parents, ups and downs of your physical condition.....there was grace, poise, patience and trust. There were days when I felt just hearing your assuring voice would make a major difference to my day and you never let me down. If external beauty is something which radiates from within, as they say, then truly you are the epitome of both. Here's wishing you lots of

love, peace, happiness and good health. Hopefully we will meet soon in Pune.....enjoy your special day.

Love and prayers



St. Mira's College for Girls

Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai



As an Academician

“Vitality in a woman is a blind fury of creation”, these words of George Bernard Shaw stand testimony to the personal and professional life of Dr. Gulshan Gidwani and to the growth trajectory of St. Mira's College Pune, where Gulshan has been serving as a teacher, researcher and Principal for over four decades. I know her for almost three decades. It is most befitting that MIRAcles is bringing out a special issue on her formal superannuation from the post of Principal, paying tributes to this miraculous lady. With Dr. Gulshan Gidwani at the helm, St. Mira's visibility has grown by leaps and bounds. With its unique pedagogy and initiatives, the college stands tall as a symbol of quality higher education. I vividly remember the innovative steps and pioneering initiatives she has spearheaded in the College to get the top-most

NAAC Accreditation, that too as the first affiliated college in Maharashtra. During her tenure as Principal, St. Mira's College bagged the Best College Award from the Savitribai Phule Pune University. The College with Potential for Excellence Scheme of the UGC was introduced in the first decade of this century, and I remember that this College was the first among 18 colleges in India to get this top-most recognition. It was also the first Arts & Commerce College in Maharashtra to receive the Autonomous College status. The College has been continuously rated very highly for their star performers in the sports field. Dr. Gulshan Gidwani's heart, head and hand were always behind these success stories.

A vociferous and passionate advocate for women empowerment, Principal Dr. Gulshan Gidwani and her colleagues have been at the forefront of a large number of initiatives which made paradigm shifts in girls education.

Success has a different meaning for Dr. Gidwani. To her, success is about vision, imagination, sensitivity to big and small people, building inclusion, connectedness to a larger world experience, and giving back more to life than you take out of it.

It has been a pleasure knowing her, interacting with her and the St. Mira's community. It is my conviction that there is lot for teachers, students, and educational administrators to learn from Dr. Gulshan Gidwani! All the best to this Great Teacher and a noble Human Being!

Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai
Vice-Chancellor, Somaiya Vidyavihar University &
Chancellor, ICAI University.

Dr. Mohini Khot

Dr. Gulshan Gidwani, Principal of St. Mira's College

Dynamic is the word I would choose to describe Dr Gulshan Gidwani. In her 21 years as Principal she has brought in changes in the college in terms of expansion, diversification and innovation. It is because of her bold decisions that we became the first Arts and Commerce college in Maharashtra to be granted Autonomy. There has been no looking back: we continue to innovate and raise the bar. She is committed to the search for excellence in every sphere and is open to change.

An ideal principal who leads from the front, she endears herself to everyone who comes into contact with her by her sympathetic and humane approach. She has been highly supportive of all academic and extra-curricular pursuits of quality. She is fair and balanced. She is accessible. Everyone gets a hearing; each case is evaluated. The Faculty and Staff is given a sense of value and a sense of partnership. She has always graciously acknowledged that all accomplishments of the college have been the result of teamwork. This recognition of



everyone's contribution has endeared her to her co-workers and made them fiercely loyal to her. Crises and problems have arisen, as they do in life, but she has faced them with courage and fortitude.

In fact, one of the wonderful things about Gulshan is her unruffled calm. It is a pleasure to see her in her office – in touch with every aspect of activity, immaculately dressed and groomed, smiling, welcoming. She is always polite and pleasant but also firm.

She is an integral part of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, our parent body, and her faith and commitment to the founders, the institution, and the principles upon which it has been built is nothing short of inspiring. Perhaps this is what gives her her tremendous stamina for hard work. She never shies away from effort if it is for a good cause.

She is a good orator: her measured, precise speech immediately gains pin drop silence. She has received many awards and honours but all these rest lightly on her shoulders. As the face of St. Mira's she radiates a charisma all her own.

-Dr. Mohini Khot



Stella Ambrose

Tribute to Principal Dr. Gulshan Gidwani

By Mrs. Stella Ambrose

(Vice Principal 2002-2015

Coordinator BBA, BBA(CA), Computer Science & Junior College Science
2015-2021)

Dr. Gulshan Gidwani is a personification of all the ideals and philosophy of our Founder Sadhu Vaswani. I have been very fortunate to have gained tremendously from her for a very long period. She is extremely intelligent with a strong scientific attitude. Her brave and adventurous nature to take on challenges has led the college into the modern era and its international success. She believes strongly in the traditional constitution of prayer which has been her primary force that multiplies her time and energy for the college.

Her highest priority is the interest of the students, whom she would often warmly refer to as '.. all my daughters'. When students would show her their cups, medals and scientific achievements, her rejuvenating and supporting nature motivated them to excel even more! During times of difficulty she is a tower of strength providing them with concrete solutions, particularly well seen during the pandemic. Each student to her is personal even after they graduate. I admire her networking skills and dedication to be connected with our alumni.

Her constant mentorship and appreciation motivates the staff to be their best. Her passion for technology and digitalization has fostered an environment where every teaching faculty from the Computer Science and Computer Application sections has programmed at least one software for the college. With her techniques, areas of research, placements, sports, ICT enabled education, social service, animal welfare and many other activities are flourishing.

I am sure that all the good seeds that have been sown by her in full devotion will produce rich harvests consistently for generations to come.



St. Mira's College for Girls

Dr. Rama Venkatachalam

As Head of the Department of Commerce

From Milestones to targets
To motivation and progress
From failures and setbacks
To moving ahead and success
You stood with us
Through all these things
Your leadership is what has given us wings!!

It has been incredible experience to work under someone who is so committed and resourceful. You have shown me so much zeal and zest in all the initiatives over the years and I am so grateful. I learn from you everyday and working in your team has been an amazing experience.

A good leader sees not just who we are...But inspires us to be who we can be....

Your vision and dedication are really inspiring us to be a team

Thank you for your passion and for everything you do!!

Looking forward to your support & encouragement in all our endeavours!!

Rama Venkatachalam
Associate Professor,
Department of Business Studies (Commerce)

Dr. Soniya Chavan on the a Principal as a Karma-yogi

As Karma Yogi

As a ship needs to sail with a firm and strong hold at its helm, the same has been done since the last 22 years, by our gracious principal Dr. Gulshan G Gidwani, who has devoted herself for educating girls and seeing how it is necessary to give them the best through the new foresight of 'academic autonomy', one does admire her for being a soft spoken person as well as having leadership qualities which has taken our institute to a higher level of education.

Taking decisions at the right time and handling all types of situations for all of us whether its the class IV or the staff, she has always lent her ear to understand our problems. Having her here has been a boon, which has helped us to carry our work forward and we all firmly belief that our founder had chosen the right person to steer the ship of St. Miras College to sail smoothly even under the rough tide like the present one of Covid19 where, we thought education will be at a 'pause' situation but, her boost to all of us has made us progress whether be it examinations, soft skills or any other criteria its always made us feel – YES it shall be done, This kind of optimism can be seen in us only through her encouragement. I would always believe that I have been fortunate to work under her guidance, and would always wish her the best for her future.

From the Office

For several of the office staff, Dr Gulshan Gidwani was first Gulshan ma'am who not only taught Management as a subject during the undergraduate years at St Mira's but she was also their "best teacher". Later, as principal, she continued to teach and guide all other office members to inculcate values like kindness, consideration, respect and helpfulness. Her meticulous attention to detail and excellent managerial skills helped put into practice systematic processes that made work more efficient and productive. Some of her most admired qualities are her ability to keep her cool, her instant and wise solutions to every problem and her positive energy. Ultimately, the office unanimously agrees- what makes her an outstanding leader is her ability to inspire everyone to achieve excellence.



St. Mira's College for Girls

From an Alumni

An expression dedicated to my dearest, ever loving, caring and kind teacher Gidwani ma'am.

I thank you dear ma'am for all the valuable lessons you inculcated in me during my journey as a student and these lessons become pearls of wisdom while transacting my professional and personal life. A teacher who always valued time, a teacher who made subjects like Office Management, Marketing Management more real to life and illuminated our class room sessions through discussions, story telling, case studies and the likes. What I admired in you ma'am is your unconditional love and affection for your students, your personality has the power to uplift our spirits, come what may always soft spoken, ever smiling and happy to help persona. As a teacher you made our concepts clear and our foundation strong, be it subject wise or value education wise. At the same time you were too quick in reading my mind and you always surprised me by telling me what's going in my mind and as a mentor corrected me. I express my gratitude for all the little and big things you have done for me, my dear teacher, which have helped me in my journey. You have always motivated me, encouraged me, stood by me with your unconditional Love and affection. I pray to the Almighty to bless you and I thank God immensely for showering such a blessing, such a beautiful gift, such an amazing teacher, such a selfless sculptor who I know is ever ready at any point in time to HELP me, her students and any one for that matter who is in need. Thank You, Ma'am. Love You!

Your Student
Eliz

Dr. Gulshan Gidwani's Interview

1. Had it always been your goal to become an educator? Why/ What made you change?

A: I come from a background that had a value-scape that was richly rooted in ethics, character and spirituality. I grew up, convinced, somehow, that I was Saint Mira incarnate.

My natural instinct was towards bhajan, kirtan... and the Sadhu Vaswani mission was and is, my home. I had no ambition to pursue a career. My entire journey has been travelled on 2 wheels; The Grace of my now ascended Master, Rev. Dada J.P. Vaswani, and my surrender to His Will. I was a very shy and timid girl... who would never have imagined that she could stand up and face a class of 120 odd college students and speak to them for an hour at a stretch... but I took up the job as a lecturer in St. Mira's College, in answer to his call. I loved my students, and they loved me in return! I was happy and felt fulfilled. Teaching became my passion.

2. Has there been any specific point in your career when you wanted to give up? What made you continue?

A: Every day for the last 43 years, it is you who have kept me inspired, motivated, energised and kept me going and every day I have learned from you. And every day, I have loved my profession. There has not been a single day that I have not looked forward to coming to college with a spring in my steps, a smile on my face and a song in my heart! You are the reason why every single day I have looked my best when coming to work. And it has never gone unnoticed by you! Thank you for that!

3. How would you sum up your expansive journey in the field of education?

A: I came into St. Mira's wide-eyed, nervous, but more than anything else, enchanted. I came into St. Mira's as a student in the KG class. And now 12 plus 4 plus 43 years later, I am leaving as a student, still learning, still wide-eyed, still enchanted with what this place was, is, and can be. For an educational institution, it isn't a physical place. It isn't just the name, it isn't just the value system it represents and upholds, it isn't just a place you go to for work or for earning your livelihood. It is a place you can continue to go to whenever you think of it. Even after you have retired from it. One hears this about all important institutions, that they become almost like an archetype. Hence the word Alma Mater, which simply means, 'Nourishing Mother'. What does one get from a nourishing mother? What is it that continues to be a part of us when we leave an institution like this? Cherished memories, unforgettable experiences, valuable friendships, lifelong bonding... and, above all, an



ethos. A way of living, a way of looking at relationships, of looking at life itself!

4. What is your philosophy as an educator?

A: An educator, I believe, must firstly be a learner herself, and, more importantly, an educator must be a friend, a role model. An educator teaches not by what one speaks but by befriending someone and by walking the talk.

5. So many Miraites over the years have vouched for your virtues through their own experiences. Why do you think it's important to make student connections? How have you done so?

A: Over 43 years, time and again, when I have been walking in some street, in Pune, or anywhere in India or even abroad, I suddenly see a smiling face. A face that is looking at me beaming with the kind of joy one only displays openly with someone they look up to and love in equal doses. I seldom recollect the names I may not even be able to immediately recognise them by face, but the spark of recognition and the gleam of sunshine in their eyes puts a spring in my steps and a song in my heart! And I know they have been my students! They come up to me and remind me and I can immediately see the young college going student, in this now grown-up woman, mother, sister, working professional, sportswoman, politician, policewoman, army woman, air hostess, and so many other things. That expression, for that I would give another 43 years, many many more times, to this profession, to this institution.

Nothing I can put down on paper can equal that sense of pure bliss because it is a feeling, an intoxication above everything else, and encompasses all of the above, into something warm and worthwhile.

6. Were there any experiences in your tenure that stood out to you?

A: Actually there have been countless incidents that I recall where my small acts of kindness have made great impacts on students, which they have narrated to me, years later. I could, maybe, I should write a book, someday.

One incident that I recall is... we had a student who, according to our discipline committee, needed to be dealt with strictly. She used to write on benches, on walls, in the toilets, everywhere. I felt, contrary to the collective wisdom of my faculty, that she needed to be handled differently. So I called her to my room and asked her to choose one area in the college which she could use to vent out her expressions. Of course, she apologised profusely and said she would refrain from doing so. She was, however, back in my room a week later, saying, she would accept my offer. She wanted the canteen, 3 days and 1500 rupees. I discussed with my staff who cautioned me against giving in. But, I had a gut feeling, and I said, I would give her the money from my purse, and if she wrote something objectionable, I would get the damage corrected at my expense.

So, I went ahead, gave her 3 days, the canteen and 1500/-. You can see for yourselves the transformation in the canteen! For 15 years thereafter, I have not repainted the walls of the canteen!

7. Do you have any plans that you haven't seen fulfilled for St. Mira's?

A: I have a dream... the dream is that of seeing a MIRA UNIVERSITY!

8. What is your vision for St. Mira's (and education for women) in the future?

A: My father used to love the idea of giving back more to this world than you take, and I hope with this institution I've been able to come close to that. And if there's anything I'd like to leave with successive teachers and principals and students most of all, it is this idea, that true love is about giving, over oneself.

9. What is the next step forward for you?

A: Retirement for me is not the end of the road, it is the beginning of the open highway. I'm looking forward to pursuing all my hobbies!

10. Is there something you'd like to say to all our readers now?

A: You, My Mira family, have taken up anything that I have dared to dream... It is you who showed me that change only happens when ordinary people get involved and they get engaged and they come together to achieve one common purpose and after 22 years as Principal, I still can vouch for that. The new generation of students and staff can set their sights higher because you have been a role model that has raised the bar for them.

I have truly enjoyed and cherished working with you. Thank you for that!



St. Mira's College for Girls

For Mrs. Stella Ambrose



FOND FAREWELL....

It was in 1983 that Stella entered the portals of St. Mira's to take charge of the Mathematics Department of the college. Little did she know then that her ability, sincerity and hard work would be so valued that she would be asked to continue with her services even after her official date of retirement; this in itself speaks volumes about her indispensability and contribution to the administration and growth of the college.

A popular teacher, expert in demystifying intricate formulas and theorems to her students, Stella was appointed Vice-Principal of the college in 2002; in 2010 she took over as the Coordinator of the BBA, BCA and the B.Sc. (Computer Science) courses and has continued in this capacity till date. Stella has travelled widely, all over India as part of the team that explored the possibility of Autonomy for the college and was one of the few who had been hand-picked and trained in the administration of an autonomous college.

Mrs. Ambrose has been the IQAC coordinator from its inception in 2002 till June 2011, meticulously maintaining a record of the annual achievements of the college; she has also been part of all the major decision-making bodies of the college.

Stella has seen the college through three cycles of NAAC, making major contributions to the Self Study Reports in the form of quantifying important college data in terms of graphs and diagrams.

An inspiring guide and mentor, Stella has always been able to get the best out of her team; she has organized science exhibitions and introduced self-sponsoring student fests during her tenure; she has motivated each and every faculty member of the computer science department to prepare indigenous software that have facilitated the academic and the administrative functioning of the college.

Stella has excelled in every task that she has been assigned and played her part to perfection. Abreast of the latest in computer technology, she has used her skills to attractively chronicle the activities of the college in the annual report presented at every prize distribution function. She has been a wizard at framing the college timetable; year after year, she has handled this super human task with consideration and sympathy accommodating the needs and demands of each teacher.

Unassuming yet dignified, kind yet firm, calm yet practical, Stella has won the respect and admiration of the teaching and the non-teaching staff, the students and their parents.

Stella ma'am, as she is fondly called by the staff at St. Mira's has been a blessing to the institution and we take this opportunity to wish her the best of health and a glorious retired life...

Madhuchhanda Banerje

For Prachi Ma'am



This November Ms. Prachi Ghule retired from the post of the Vice Principal, St. Mira's Junior College after a rewarding career spanning twenty-six years! Her engaging journey at St. Mira's began with a six month stint at the Degree College against a leave vacancy. But Ma'am was back at St. Mira's for a regular post in the Junior college in 1992. Our comeback girl fondly reminisces the incident when our former Principal Mrs. Ratna Vaswani blessed her saying if God disposed her, she would be embraced by the Mira family once again!

Prachi Ma'am was an approachable teacher. The fundamentals of her mastery – Commerce, were deftly imparted to every batch she taught. It is an experienced



St. Mira's College for Girls

adage that proclaims: resilient foundations endure accomplishment, and teachers like Ma'am contribute richly in strengthening these impressionable minds. Prachi Ma'am's lessons was comprehensible and students simply loved her teaching methods. It was a common sight to see her in corridors swarmed by students with unending queries which were very patiently resolved. There was always something for colleagues to emulate from Ma'am's connection with students.

As a Vice Principal she handled the numerous concerns of students and their parents with a practiced problem solving approach. From admissions to the HSC results, the office of the VP always throbbed with activity and was only shut quiet for lunch!

As the Vice Principal Ma'am shouldered conducting HSC Board exams, Online admission process and functioning of our college as a Guidance Centre. The Shalarth, Saral Data and online teaching and learning were the new digital age encounters. She led the team Junior College, with confidence and a genuine consideration for everyone.

She received The Dr. Abdul Kalam, Best Teacher's Award and was honoured by our college for serving at St. Mira's for twenty five years in 2019.

Prachi Ma'am, it has been a privilege working with you and we pray that the love and warm wishes of the Mira family will forever remain a fragrant piece in your heart! Thank you for choosing a profession that kindles knowledge and equips the academic competence of students. Wishing you happiness always!

We bid adieu to the Lady with the Golden Heart!



For Mr Ramdhira Thakur



This year in October Mr Ramdhira Thakur-Library Attendant retired from active service. Mr Ramdhiraj is one of the pillars of strength of the college who have witnessed different stages of development of the college and contributed a lot by serving in the library for 31 years.

His dedication and devotion to the very important responsibilities of processing new books and other such reading materials will always be remembered. He repaired the library books with utmost care and perfection. Also, he had mastered the skill of affixing various labels on the reading material in the most efficient way. He was a very good team player in keeping the library tidy, well laid-out and presentable, always. We wish him a happy, healthy and peaceful retirement!



For Dr Soniya Chavan

Dr Soniya Chavan , Head, Department of Economics joined the College on 5th December, 1994 and will complete 27 years of dedicated service to the College on 30th April, 2021.

She has served the institution in many capacities - as a much loved faculty by all- teaching and non-teaching staff and above all her students, as NSS Program Officer, as Soft Skills and Placement Coordinator, as Head of Department of Economics, as Post graduate Section Coordinator, as Assistant Controller of Examinations as well as Controller of Examinations of the College and most of all- a Good Friend to all in the Mira Family.

In spite of her busy schedule with teaching and Examination work, Dr Chavan has taken time out to serve the academic community outside the College as well. She has for several years been the External Examiner for the ISC Practical Viva voce examinations conducted by Hutchings School, Pune, external paper setter,



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Economics, at Fergusson College, Pune and as Member, Board of Studies, Economics of the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's Dhananjayrao Gadgil College of Commerce, Satara. Her PhD was in the area of Urban Cooperative Banking. She has contributed research papers on themes like Microfinance, Outsourcing, and Applied Economics.

Like other faculty of the College, she has contributed selfless service to the Government of India by executing civic functions of national importance like fulfillment of duties related to Census 2011, National, Legislative and Municipal Elections, conduct of MH-CET examinations on our campus. She has been the recipient of the Best Teacher Award, awarded to her on 5th September, 2010) by the Pune Municipal Corporation.

Dr Soniya Chavan is known for her love for Economics, her sincerity and integrity. Her personality is an amalgam of conscientiousness, commitment, composure, character and caring. Behind her diminutive stature, her quiet demeanour, her soft and kind words, lies an excellent human being, exhibiting an indomitable ability to accomplish all the tasks entrusted to her.

Although her professional association with the College concludes on 30th April, 2021- the day of her superannuation; yet she will continue to be part of the Mira Family and remain in our thoughts and hearts.

At St. Mira's we never say Goodbye! Hence, we wish Dr Soniya Chavan- Farewell and shower her with best wishes for her journey towards pursuit of her passion-Research in Economics.

Penned by: Shalini Iyer

MILE: A CENTRE FOR VIRTUAL COLLABORATION

My Experience with MILE: Borders, Home and Displacement

Sakshi Gidwani
TYBA

I have been a part of St. Miras for 3 years now and while I was being regular and attending college daily, the girls around me were participating in something called "COIL". I was intrigued and wanted to be a part of it too but I let my anxiety win over and decided against it. Fortunately, I was able to get this opportunity again through the MILE course and without thinking over it, I immediately signed up for it and got selected. I was so excited and nervous to be a part of this since this course required us to be a part of interactive sessions where we have discussions with students from LaGuardia College, New York. I felt anxious because I thought I won't be able to speak or put my mind thoughts forward but once the lectures began, Komal ma'am and Elizabeth ma'am walked us through it and it was not bad. I have been able to understand everything so far and also had an epiphany about how little I knew about the refugees, migrants and borders around the world. There is so much more to this topic that we don't know of, and this course has helped me understand that.

The first interaction with the LaGuardia students that took place really boosted my confidence because they were very welcoming and I felt comfortable enough to communicate my thoughts without hesitation.

This course has been very informative and I'm very grateful to have done this. I realise just how privileged I am to not be displaced, but at the same time, I also want to be someone who helps the displaced people and does justice for them because no one deserves that.

As another student Rashida says,

We must be imbued with the value that human lives are more important than power, at all levels including that of education.

Which is why it is more imperative than ever for courses like this one to spread knowledge, awareness and understanding!



MILE: Issues of Identity in India and the US

Isha Karandikar
TYBA

Man is a social animal and desperately needs contact with other humans. We learn a lot from each other and it helps us to grow and develop. With the pandemic this year, that was one really lacking element; human connections, the sharing of stories, ideas and experiences. But nothing can stop St. Mira's from providing multiple opportunities for its girls. This year, MILE: Mira International Learning Exchange was started in collaboration with LaGuardia Community College of the City University of New York.

I did MILE through the Political Science Department under the guidance of Mrs. Veena Kenchi. Our course was titled 'Issues of Identity in India and the US' and we focused on caste, race and language. We recorded videos and shared them with our international peers. I always enjoy interacting with foreigners. It led to breaking a lot of stereotypes and an exchange of ideas. It also led to an understanding of the issues that we, as a collective human race, face globally. I realized that these issues need to be tackled via discussion and conversation. That is the real importance of such programs. They open dialogues and the best solutions often come from the same.

The most important and amazing thing I learnt is that at the base of all the labels and everything, we are all humans. It's as simple as that. And even if there are differences and uniqueness, that makes us even more amazing and beautiful as a species. It's very important to sustain this uniqueness because that is what makes us humans at the end of the day.

The course was a real eye-opener in this case. It taught me a lot more than I thought it would.

My Experience with MILE: Whose Thali is This?: A Study of Food Cultures

Kasinam Dabi
TYBA

It was an amazing experience to be a part of the MILE course. We interacted with people from a different country! As for my personal experience, we shared a few similarities in terms of food and the culture around it. Our teachers were really helpful throughout the whole session and it was amazing to see the response from their side too. I am grateful for the fact that I could be a part of this course. I have learnt a lot and also expressed a lot in a very healthy and friendly vibe that was fostered among the students. Making videos about food and explaining how it was that we share the same food types with them was fun, as well as telling them know more about my culture. I'm very thankful to my teachers for letting this happen and giving me a chance to be a part of it.



MILE: Mental Health and Resilience through a Cultural Lens

Umme-Aiman Rampurwala

TYBA

It feels like it was just yesterday... I don't have enough words to share the excitement that overflowed in me throughout this wonderful cultural exchange. I can say that it was one of the most unforgettable and fruitful experiences.

Although it was quite challenging- as it was my first time to understand another culture first-hand, it made it more fascinating. This opportunity provided a space to deeply understand the real meaning of global acceptance. An indisputable advantage of the MILE course was the topping interactive sessions with the students of LaGuardia and their coordinator, Kyoko. They were super friendly, welcoming and open to listen to our stories. While we discussed many things, one thing I was particularly taken by was their love for Indian cuisine; that's where the summit of fun began. We were all so excited.

It goes without saying the time spent was very useful; I gained a learning experience as we had to read a lot to write an article about how our own cultural views on Mental Health and Resilience and leave the platform open for them to comment their views about the same. We also had to share our own experience through a photo essay exploring if there was a new interpretation about our own journey. In the process, it helped us to identify the protective factors that contributed to our resilience and mental health in an ecological model; I realized that it's possible to combine learning virtually about two different cultures simultaneously.

Moreover, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, it was a great change and a new way of reflecting on the importance of knowing how different cultures view Mental Health but also to explore and acknowledge the similarities between them.

It was one hundred percent worth it and I will always hold on to those moments.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

Over My Garden Wall

Chrislynn Rodrigues

FYBA

There used to be trees outside my bedroom window. The trees were huge and the birds had beautiful nests on their branches. My sister and I particularly loved the hummingbirds, mainly because of their tiny stature, bright colours and long beaks. We also liked the squirrels, bulbuls and crows.

One fine day, I heard a hummingbird tell a sparrow that the woodcutters were here and that they were going to lose their homes. The sparrow scowled and struggled to come to terms with this horrible piece of news. The hummingbird helped him calm down. The word spread quickly and the birds were upset and chirping with sorrow. I was shaken. The thought of losing one's home all of a sudden made me sad. My family too wasn't pleased with this information.

The woodcutters arrived; the birds, squirrels and insects began to move and fly around anxiously. The fellers chopped down their homes ruthlessly. The hummingbirds, crows, sparrows, bulbuls, squirrels, butterflies and moths began to cry, they were screaming in agony.

The trees were cut. The birds lost their homes. The squirrels moved to new homes.



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A few leaves have grown since the felling of the trees. The new leaves tell me that the birds will return and set up their homes once again without knowing what the future holds for them.



From My Bedroom Window

Christina D'Souza
FYBA

Laying down in bed after a long day, as I look out of my window and see a full moon shining so gently, lighting up the entire room with soft moonlight, as the stars fill up the sky making the night so beautiful and divinely, I hear the rustling leaves of the trees as the cool wind blows right into my room. On such a peaceful night as this, as I look out of my window, I see a soft golden glow at a distance in my garden. I climb out of my window and jump gently onto the green grass with my bare feet. I cross the little bridge which now has creepers growing on either side, with splendid purple flowers, shaped like bells hanging around in the tangle of the creepers. I can hear the gurgling of the creek below, rippling and sparkling under the moonlight. As I near the glow, I see the most beautiful sight, I see golden butterflies with intricate designs on their wings, fluttering around my garden, leaving each of the flowers that they sit on with a glow of its own. The trees around me start to light up too, with tiny little fairies placing magical fruits on them. I then see a gorgeous creature, that looks somewhat like an antelope, with silver antlers and a pearly white shiny body, with glittery hooves, sipping water from the nearby pond. As it looks up at me, I feel a calming sensation soothe my body.

The secret garden is now flourishing, and anyone who enters, for a while forgets their sorrows and worldly pain.



A Birdy Affair

Ananya Niphadkar
FYBA

The lockdown was officially announced in India on 24th March 2020. It happened to be 8 days after my 12th board exams which left me with nothing but impotent plans and a lot of time to myself. I live in the suburbs of Pune, and my locality is lush with beautiful trees. With quite a scenic view outside my window, I sat down by myself and did something I very rarely do, observe. Five minutes into my attempt at trying to observe the outside world, I felt as though it were a complete waste of time. I was ready to give up and go back to doing nothing. However, just then I noticed this beautiful red-beaked, green coloured parrot poised on the tree looking magnificent and that, my friend, was the beginning of what I like to call my birdy affair. Since then I, very diligently, sat down every day and stared out of my window in hopes of being able to watch this beauty of nature. I had always heard birds chirping in the mornings but never really paid much heed to it. Now I love to bird-watch; I even got out an old pair of binoculars my mum owned so that I could have a closer look at these beautiful creatures. Earlier, I had hardly noticed any bird other than crows and an occasional kite. Now, however, my horizon has expanded and I know that I am neighbours are parrots, common mynahs, crows and also a very interesting bird with an extremely long hook-shaped beak, whose name I am yet to find out. Thanks to this lockdown I got to engage myself in something so relaxing, yet so entertaining and amusing. I am waiting for the effect of the pandemic to reduce a little more after which I plan to go out and observe many more of these little creatures. I have already added the first entry to my 2021 bucket list - nature walks and bird-watching!



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What Do I Notice From My Bedroom Window?

Nishita Rawtani
FYBA

My room is frigid, both physically and figuratively, leaving my toes numb and my head vacant. Shifting on to my right side, the threadbare blankets on my bed rustle; it's the only sound I've heard in a while. How long have I been here? As my dry eyes follow the four icy blue walls, a small shimmer of gold bounced off of the windowsill, diverting my attention from my silent misery. Shuffling in my bed, pulling my body up, my eyes tumbled to keep up with the sudden interest I had found in the warm light. There. My neighbour. Colour in his cheeks and fairy lights in his hands; he throws his head back to let out a roar of a laugh. My room remains a vacuum. The joy must be infectious as his company laughs along with him, it's as if their joy heats their room. Not mine.

Some Thoughts

Sakina Bharmal
FYBA

The Janata Curfew and Social Distancing inspired some thoughts that I translated into snippets.

i. Today I heard something that I hadn't in a while -

The sounds of quiet, peace and birds singing,

That I had last heard in a bird sanctuary,

Where the birds flew from tree to tree, carefree.

Today I heard the sound of my breathing,

And I felt aware of being alive;

That I wasn't just dreaming:

That this was in fact, real life.

Where our greed for comfort and luxury

Has wreaked havoc to such a degree

That hearing the sounds of birds has become a novelty,

And the sound of traffic, machines and speakers, our reality.

ii. Confined to my house, I've been thinking long and hard

About how this planet of people is gradually turning into a graveyard.

And it's not just people, animals, trees and birds that are dying,

No.

It is humanity too, and that thought is terrifying.

All the avarice, the selfishness, the hunger, the plunder

Has led us to go under.

iii. The streets are empty as are the supermarkets.

People who've slept on streets and people who've walked on red carpets

Are equally afraid, helpless and prone

To this epidemic that has grown

Into a pandemic. Thanks to us, our stupidity and foolishness.

iv. Few months or a year from now,

We may have the cure or we may all die.

It's a virus today, maybe war or a calamity tomorrow.

But if we survive somehow,

We must tread carefully on this concrete surface we've built

For below it lies something entirely beyond our control - Mother Nature.



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All Of The Rose Thorns

Arman Chagla
TYBA

All of the
Rose thorns that
Maim and maul
Are spears to the weak, and
Needles to the strong. So,
Charge the battlements,
Heed the call,
Armed to the teeth, we
Go to war;
Love in the balance
And blood on the sword.
When the champions meet,
Red runs the stream.
If one is to live,
Then let it be that
Each to their own's
Sanctuary is seen.
Offered be the chalice,

For it is water that breaks the stone. At
Long last do we rejoice
In the arms of our
Very own heart's homes;
Every breath easier than the
Last as
Yesterday's trials settle in our bones;
Long will they remain,
Our memories of righteous hate. But
Verdant life grows where
Ever it may,
Ruins overtaken by the heat of the
Sun's rays. So,
Tear down every bastion of cruel belief
As the shadow looms lean,
Lest we be
Enraptured by the rose, as the
Shrike might have been.

AFTER HOURS

Mental Well-being Programme

Yashada Dixit
TYBA

St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune came up with a brilliant way to ace the mental health of its students while fighting the stigma around it. In 2019, after a survey revealed that almost 71% of its students suffered mental health issues, the college introduced a 3-tier 'Mental Health Well-being Program' that involved awareness sessions, prevention (counselling) and intervention (therapy) where individual and group sessions have been conducted for the students. The program has been coordinated by Mrs. Pooja Jain, an in-house counselling psychologist and assistant professor on campus.

The awareness sessions focused on various common issues that we, the students face in maintaining our mental health like stress, anxiety and depression. These sessions have gone a long way in helping the students understand mental health and identify problems, symptoms and behavioural patterns that lead to instability. Most importantly, they have empowered the students with simple techniques of coping and managing their mental health. The sessions have also gone one step ahead and thrown light on how to identify symptoms among peers and ways of providing support to one another.

During the difficult times of the Covid 19 pandemic, these sessions took place on online platforms like Zoom undertaking current issues like suicide and exam stress.

“The session on exam stress was quite insightful as to what stress is, how it can look like, how we can deal with it, how to befriend it and so on. It helped us understand what grounding is and how it can be a helpful tool in managing stress. But above all, it was the feeling of togetherness, the strength of sharing, the strength of



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feeling and of the acceptance, which is rare to get” said a student of the third year.

“The awareness session on suicide helped a lot in understanding why suicide takes place and how it's not a choice. With a total of 1,39,123 suicides recorded in India in 2019 alone, we discussed the myths and stigma around it and unshackled the reality behind it. It helped us understand what a person with suicide goes through every day, how we can identify signs and what we can do to support them and make them feel better. I think this was very important since very few people actually know what to do in such situations and fewer can even identify them!” said another student.

The Mental Health Well-being Program has not only built competent and resilient students but is also paving a way for a society that nurtures one another and promotes a healthy and happy community!

The Mira Press

Simran Bhatia
TYBCA

A writer is only as good as her words can be... But, to become a good writer, it's not just words that one needs. There are more ingredients that brew a fine writer- a spiced-up imagination, a dollop of inquisitiveness, a big fat appetite for criticism & a flavourful tempering of expression!

Being a content manager by profession, I can solemnly understand the importance of initial exposure & mentoring in this enthralling journey. They say, “A non-writing writer is a monster courting insanity.” In other words, every aspiring writer should be encouraged to write more in order to accomplish their aspirations.

In this regard, I ardently appreciate the presence of a marvellous platform like The Mira Press, wherein you are not only given the privilege of getting your content published before a huge audience, but also bent into shape & mellowed as a writer.

The Creators' Team is a beneficial & productive space where we collaborated on every single aspect under the guidance of our editors. Right from choosing the topics pertaining to intriguing & wondrous themes every month, to brainstorming ideas & notions on various article topics & distribution of work among the team, the Creators' Team has grown & glimmered together to breathe life into the student's brainchild: The Mira Press. As interactive & fun as this experience was, it also inculcated within us virtuous values like empathy, integrity, dedication & discipline.

As we bid adieu to our college life & our soul-stirring experience with The Mira Press, we share this piece of our heart & pass on the baton to our juniors to unleash the budding writers within themselves & to meet a better version of themselves with every edition of the press.

Centre for Women Entrepreneurship - CWE

Zoha Sabooni
TYBBA

My first thoughts when I joined the Centre for Women Entrepreneurship Club was that I'll get a chance to gain some knowledge, have fun activities to be a part of and it would also be a great addition to my resume. But CWE had much more to offer. It not only enhanced my knowledge but has indeed uplifted my personality. In the process of being an entrepreneur, I overcame my biggest fear of public speaking. I've been presented with opportunities to host online events, and gain confidence in myself as an individual. In addition to this, one of the major benefits of joining CWE is the mentoring and guidance that you get from teachers. The faculty of CWE is like a solid rock behind you. The teachers have always inspired us to do our best and strive to achieve excellence in the business world. The guest lecturers were like no other. The webinars organised by CWE added so much value to our decision to choose entrepreneurship as a career, and gave us a sense of assurity and a green signal that our dreams could actually be turned into reality.



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Lit Wits

Shreya Bhide
SYBA

2020 – 21 was an interesting academic year. I don't think any of us really could have predicted how long this pandemic would last and judging by the way things are going now, I'd say we have a long journey ahead of us. This also has come to mean college and all its surrounding activities happen online.

When in late July we had our first online session of Lit Wits, everybody had very mixed feelings and what followed were a series of meetings discussing what might work and what we could actually make happen and when nobody showed up to our games session, we were forced to re-evaluate everything we had planned.

Turns out, everybody was just looking for some semblance of normalcy and a way to interact with people without the pressure of 'playing.' And so that is what we gave them. We hosted an online poetry appreciation session, and it was very well received! It was just students presenting their own work and talking about what inspired them. They requested another session just like it and with that everything got kicked into high gear!

What followed were perhaps the two most amazing years of my life! Don't get me wrong, they were highly stressful but there was something almost surreal about it. The theme for the month of September was Stories. And so, we went around celebrating stories in all forms: Poetry, Podcasts, Prose, Flash Fiction, Music even. We had sessions every Friday and Saturday and it was worth looking forward to. October rolled around quicker than I'd anticipated and since 10th October is World Mental Health Day, we decided to dedicate the whole month to talking about mental health through various forms. We collaborated with the Theatre club to screen the play 'Log Kya Kahenge?' to raise awareness about mental health and its portals in different scenes of society and how they can be harmful. We even had a special session with Yash Daiv about media scrutiny and what that can do to a person.

I think, at least in terms of LitWits, this year has been better than we ever thought it'd be and that is the highest compliment I can give considering 2020 disappointed everybody.

The Mira Debating Society

Sameeha Shoeb Arifi
FYBA

In the beginning, I was scared and sceptical about being a part of The Mira Debating Society. I didn't know if I would fit in. But I didn't feel like an outsider at all!

I participated in a debate organized by Symbiosis, and I was very nervous about my write-up, but the encouragement and the guidance I received from them made it easier for me. The topic was, "The world has become a fragile place" and I wanted to speak in favour of the topic because I really felt that the world has become fragile, but I ended up speaking against the motion and first I had to convince myself, that the world isn't as fragile as we would think. Thankfully, by the end of it, I was confident and believed that we are instead getting stronger. I became positive. And during the entire preparation, I had someone to go to with all my doubts and concerns.

I felt very welcome and happy! The club brought out the best in me. I felt like a part of the family. It has been an absolute pleasure and a great experience to be a part of the society, and I look forward to doing a lot more.



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The Mira Manch-queens

Aditi Patil
TYBA

I had always been interested in acting and theatrics and when the opportunity to participate and learn more about it was presented in college, I eagerly took it. It was one of the best decisions I had ever made. It was in this theater course that I met some of the most amazing women in my life. Being a part of this course and then the theatre club was made possible with the dedication and efforts of these women.

Witnessing the whole process of the Mira Manch-queens from the start was an amazing experience. Seeing the leaders put in so much effort to keep the club an active and safe place for everyone is really something worth respecting.

The sessions held by them with so much planning and nervousness of whether they would be good, if people would enjoy it were a number of worries but they did a fantastic job every session and made it so comfortable. We also had so many fun and social activities.

The girls participating in the sessions felt safe enough to share so many things; like how the pandemic was causing them stress, or how online college has affected them all because everyone made sure to be sensitive and kind towards each other which felt so good to experience. Everyone in the club from leaders to members has done an amazing job of keeping it all together to give everyone a space to share their opinions to give them options and so much more.

One of the biggest challenges in my opinion for the club was to adjust to this “new normal” of having everything online. To plan interactive sessions online and that too when we hadn't even once met physically because of the pandemic. The first time we saw each other was online and to make something fun and satisfying out of this was something that was made possible by the club members- it was great to meet so many queens!

Every member in the club has contributed in many ways towards it and I am grateful to be a part of such a beautiful and awesome club.

Baazigar

Sakshee Uttekar
TYBA

My experience in being a part of Baazigar was one of the most memorable events as I participated in two events '*Dum Laaga Ke Haisha*' & '*Master Chef Mira's*', which was held on the online platform. Such events encouraged me to keep myself energetic, positive, calm, innovative and to behave as an optimistic person. To begin with, I was not interested in participating in the event because it was being conducted online; how could it work? But later I realized that in my last year of graduation, I should take part in events to keep my college memories alive. In this pandemic, everyone should stay healthy and fit. '*Dum Laaga Ke Haisha*' motivates girls to do day-to-day exercise & '*Master Chef Mira's*' gave one inspiration to cook delicious and healthy food. I would like to thank the college for conducting events like “*Baazigar*”. Kudos!



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Green Club

Titiksha Padir
TYBA

I love nature. Trees, hills, watching the sun rise is among my favourite pastimes. So, when Komal ma'am announced about the Green Trek, in the sanctuary, it seemed like a brilliant way to spend my Sunday morning. It was an initiative of the Green Club. A trek to Parvati along with making the hill a little more beautiful by cleaning it was the perfect combination.

I signed up for it immediately and so did many other girls. Three teachers, and we girls, met at the base of Parvati at 7 am on the decided day. Everyone was very excited. The college had collaborated with Adar Poonawalla and they provided us with gloves and masks. It was sad to see how much plastic people had left there but we all started cleaning with great enthusiasm. Some of us cleaned and the others collected it. The teachers also worked with us, which was very encouraging. We started at the base and went up. By the time we reached the hilltop, we had collected many bags. The process of cleaning was fun! We clicked pictures, jumped over branches, joked, laughed. I didn't know cleaning could be so enjoyable. The teachers were also very friendly and relaxed. It was very rewarding to see the hill cleaner as we walked back down. The Adar Poonawalla truck collected the bags from us and took them away for disposal.

I went for this Green Trek in my second year, and even though it was over a year ago, I still remember what a great time I had! It was a nice and fun way of contributing my part in preserving and caring for nature.

Gender Champions

Vasudha Ramani
FYBA

I'm not really sure if every college gives their students the chance to be a part of so many co-curricular activities and clubs as well as promotes social participation among the students, in order to make them active members of the society, apart from academic knowledge. Now that I am a part of this club, where it's all about trying to bring equality in the society for not just the women, but also for all other suppressed communities including LGBTQA+. I thank the college for giving me so much exposure in such a short span of time and letting students experience different layers of society and how it works. Ever since I have been a part of this club, I am confounded by the new ideas I come up with. It gives me the confidence to raise my voice against the wrong and try to spread awareness among people. The different people who come in for the guest lectures- the knowledge that I gain from them is something that blows my mind and I feel delighted to be a part of this and the teachers encourage the students a lot. This is something that I came across for the first time and I find this initiative of our college quite different from that of other colleges.

The college is already preparing its students by giving them opportunities on various platforms where they are heard and the efforts are appreciated.

All in all, being a part of this club has encouraged me to push my boundaries of thought and also given me the confidence to write and express- that which I probably wouldn't have done before. It makes me explore myself and society at the same time.

Now, I have written quite a few articles for this club and this gives me the eagerness to write more about many other themes apart from what I am a part of.

In the club, we organize different activities every month and this way we also get to interact with all the students from our college. It includes not just the FY's but we are able to listen to the views of the students studying in their MA too.

I will always be grateful for this platform and the club and especially the college because it gave me the inspiration to become the prolific explorer in whatever I do as I met such talented seniors and my classmates. It's wonderful to be here.



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JNK Club

Geetanjali Lachke
TYBcom (A)

As everything was online for the first-year students due to Covid-19, not only were they introduced to the JNK Club through a zoom meeting but the sessions were online too. The students were introduced to the club and they got to know the members but it is quite upsetting that we didn't get to spend time together in our club-room and make new friends.

Connecting on deeper levels and exploring cultures together is what JNK Club is all about. JNK is a family and I feel sorry that we couldn't build those relations with the new members due to the given situation.

The online sessions were quite challenging but we had a good time through the activities that were conducted. For video or other screenings the network problems persisted but the members were quite understanding and patient.

The club members shared videos on Whatsapp and shared art as a part of the Kawaii and Chibi Week; it was surprising to see such amazing artists in the group. They shared their artworks, cute stickers, GIFs, memes and other creations. Youtube channels and other fun videos were also shared in the group chat.

The introduction and first few sessions were well received but soon the number of members attending the sessions dropped drastically.

There was an overload of screen-time and after spending a day in front of them attending lectures, the members didn't feel comfortable to attend a session in addition to their lectures. The committee members too faced the same issues with planning and executing sessions. Even through this, the committee members worked hard. We loved the process of making creative PPTs and came up with interesting ideas. The meetings were always full of innovations and laughter and we were happy to conduct whichever sessions could happen.

FINDING HAPPINESS IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19

Lockdown - Breaking Or Bonding?

Kareena Narayan
SYBA

The coronavirus lockdown was initiated by the Government of India, on 18th March 2020, to save the countrymen from succumbing to this fatal cold to disease. Since then, the people have been told to stay in their houses, and continue to do so until further notice by the Government.

Due to this lockdown, and everybody being in the house, one is meant to be spending quality time with one's family; even the very well-known celebrities of the film industries - both Bollywood and Hollywood - are sharing their views and opinions on being together with one's family, and learn various home activities such as cooking and baking, as well as teaching one's parents new things such as using the social media wisely.

The first few weeks of the lockdown were quite bearable for most families, until it was further extended for the proceeding two months. One can clearly observe that people are becoming really impatient by the second, either due to financial shortcomings, or limited food supplies, or the tantrums thrown at home by children or old people. They usually retort by saying things like - "You just know how to throw a tantrum in the house when I'm in a tight situation", "You are always stuck to that blessed device when we need you for an important thing", "Don't do anything at all; just sit pretty, while I slog over here in the kitchen", "You don't



realise it now, but later, you'll recall all of my annoying 'orders'", "You are one ungrateful brat; you don't know what stress I'm going through!" and so on.

This is the current situation of the adults; they have, by now, aced in saying hurtful things to others in frustration, but at the same time, they do not realise how it can really scare a child, especially when one says things like, "You talk back to me like this once again, and you'll be so sorry". Whether it is a five year old child or a twenty-five year old independently working adult, everyone gets hurt when their parents are stressed or angry at petty things due to various reasons. And the worst part is when they try to express their views to their parents, they retaliate by saying "You better not say anything, keep your nonsensical opinion to yourself". Such a parental attitude makes most children rebellious, it often leads to fights, and finally, the silent treatment. For the children, it is just going to their rooms and not talking to their parents for a while.

Right now, the parents are too frustrated and stressed out to even ponder over how to become their children's best friends, and actually keep their secret instead of gossiping about it to long-distance relatives or their friends. For that, both parents and children must have good communication, mutual respect, love and understanding. Once they gain each other's trust, they can open up about their problems and their 'biggest, darkest secrets', and in turn safeguard the others'. When learning new things, one should be patient and listen carefully to each other, and if something goes wrong, together the parents and children must find a solution. That is what is keeping the police force and medical staff going - trust, respect, familial support and gratitude for their services to discipline the public, and curing the corona virus victims, respectively.

We must understand that even though the situation is very intense, we must not forget that a bad environment at home leads to the destruction of the entire family. Everyone has needs some naïve, some serious; but it is we, who must keep a cool head and figure out how to meet those demands, even with the most minimum of resources, and be happy with it. All these little things and actions are the building blocks of mending broken relationships, as well as the foundation of making strong bonds.

The Good in the Bad

Kelly Colaco
TYBA

A lot can happen in a year, but in my 21 years of life, I think the most definitely happened in this one year.

While scrolling through Instagram the other day, I saw a post that said that if the COVID-19 pandemic or the quarantine did not happen, we would be very different people. For me this statement is mostly positive. I did feel the struggle of staying at home and having a lack of in-person interaction I had with people I was so used to meeting every day. But what happened eventually is that I was also kind of forced to see myself and examine where my life, mindset and my health was. When I look back I realize how often we get so caught up with our life that we so easily forget to look at ourselves and see where we are heading as people. That for me was the most positive thing to happen.

I started regularly exercising last March. In a way, that motivated me to start taking better care of myself as a whole. I started taking more care of my skin, my hair, my mental wellbeing and in a lot of ways I feel like I kind of understood things in a deeper more meaningful way.

For instance, I realized that when I did initially start working out, I was coming from a place of insecurity and dislike toward my body, I always felt in a way, that being fitter than what I currently was would make me happier. I realize now that it's so important to focus more on being stronger and healthier than being thinner or heavier. Our body is a huge reason why we are alive, and in a way taking care of it and treating it right is a way of saying a than kyou. I tried to focus on my mindset, although I do have to admit that that is one thing I still struggle with so much. It is so easy for us as human beings to fall into a state where we struggle to see good in a



situation. What I learnt is that the first step to this is just being grateful for all the good things we have happening for us. It can be our loving and supportive family, it can be achieving something you worked really hard, it can be celebrating every small win and being proud of yourself for the times you kept pushing when you felt like giving up. It is so important to continuously hold yourself accountable for your thoughts and at least try to pull yourself out of a negative mindset.

I am not saying that I am perfect or that I am completely happy with where I am. What I am trying to say is that I am proud of taking the first step to go where I want to be. I feel like the hardest part about something new is always about the will or even the courage to start somewhere. So while writing this, I am asking you to start: start working towards your dreams and ambition. I want to say that it's even okay if you do not know where you're heading. Start working towards a goal of being a better you. Everything else will align. Even if you're scared of failure, I assure you that you will learn so much that everything else will seem clearer. Life is not as free currently as it once was, but that does not mean that our lives have to be that way either. It really is up to us; do we wish to see the good and be grateful for it, or are we more focused on the negative? Because I promise you, one of these is never going to really take you anywhere.

Life Goes On

Sriradha Gupta
TYBA

Waking up every morning to read the quote - "Light it up like Dynamite" can't give me any more energy and positivity. A mug of hot chocolate, cold breeze and a sunrise - a combination that you must try. It's all the little things that count. It's all the moments you live and not breathe. It's all about living the moment to its fullest.

Today we're all caught up in the race of time for marks, internships, money, followers and whatnot. Completely forgetting that it's not followers that will be with you but your family and friends, it's not marks that will be with you but the things you actually learnt. The fast-paced generation we are, need to slow down. We're diverting from our track. We're all forgetting the importance of doing small things. Marks are definitely important because they'll get you a job; education is more important it will help you grow as a person.

We're forgetting our priorities. We have kept earning money at the apex and self-love at the rock bottom when it must be the vice-versa. Getting a 6-figure salary when in your 20s is cool and definitely commendable but if it is at the cost of a person's emotional and mental health then it's definitely not ideal. Prioritising self-love and one's own mental health is definitely much spoken about these days but is it really accepted when people incorporate such a behaviour? If so, then why is it that someone having an anxiety attack has to apologise but someone with fever doesn't. Let's all be a little more sensitive.

It is all complicated. What is to be prioritised? What is to be actually done? What should I do? What should I not? What's right? What's wrong? Everyone is confused. This confusion leads us to think rationally. Rationality discourages emotions and denying what you feel and what you wish to do is the most regretful thing you will do to yourself. Why are we all doing things we will soon regret?

Why not just sit back for a while and breathe and reflect on what is exactly that we wish to do? What makes us smile? What makes us complete? Is it the rains? Or the chirping of the birds? Or playing the guitar? Let's just think. Stay where we are for a while. Let's accept and embrace our true selves and pursue what makes us happier. Money can be made anytime, memories can't be made once the moment is gone. Cherish the moment you are in. Live it to your fullest. Life goes on.



Hand Embroidery

Renuka Dattatray Bhil
TYBA

I started doing hand embroidery at the beginning of the second year of college. I took the hand embroidery credit course, and that's when I found out that I really liked doing this. I started doing hand embroidery on pouches, t-shirts, jackets, etc., and I also started doing embroidery wall hoop art, which is actually an interesting thing to do. After that I created my own page on Instagram and that's when I started getting orders from my friends. I spent hours and hours doing hand embroidery during the pandemic; it gave me a sense of peace and I didn't even get bored. It is an enjoyable art form, and the support and appreciation that I got on my Instagram page was overwhelming. This is what kept me busy all day during the pandemic.

Happiness

Siddiqua Firfiray
SYBA

Most others would call it coping but for me, this lockdown has been a life-changer in the most positive way.

Since the very first day, I had decided that I wanted to invest my time in doing something productive, more importantly-creative.

I started off with a fitness routine. I watched videos online and grabbed ideas from there. Then, I combined various exercises from different training circuits. Starting off with a routine of over thirty different exercises, I started shortlisting and sticking to the more important and core ones.

I am a football player and to be staying at home for a long period meant that I had to find an alternative to keep my body active.

I am already into my seventh week of the fitness regimen and continue to stick to it religiously. Several friends have taken inspiration from me and asked me the secret behind my consistency.

Well, I believe that we need to train our minds before we train our bodies. Motivation is what gets you started; discipline is what keeps you going.

To utilise my time well and keep my mind occupied, I have taken up poetry during this period as well. I am now a part of seven different writing platforms where I share my poems, thoughts and motivational quotes with people across the world. Many of them seem to love my writings and more importantly, I feel proud of my work!

I have also been looking into various internship programs and found a few interesting ones. I applied for two internship programmes in the past couple of days, which are yet to begin. I hope to gain experience and knowledge through these courses, if given the opportunity.

Once the lockdown is over, I am sure that I will be able to look back and say that I indeed utilised my time well.

LORD OF THE RINGS

The Fellowship Of The Ping - 2020: When Online Became The New Typical

Kumud Poptani
TYBA



'The world was not ready for Covid-19' would be an understatement to describe whatever that began to unfold in 2020. The year went "Wham! Smash! Bam!" on all of us and if you were a student you'd know that it went an extra "Boom! HAHAAAAHA". None of us had ever imagined that we would have to study through a screen. The generation which is embarrassed to show face to mere one or two people on video calls, which if they do, they keep fixing their hair while changing angles, had to suddenly switch on their videos and pretend that it was a normal day in their institution. Well, we all know how that went and is going. Like most people, the thought of some fifty odd students looking at my video and looking at me in my comfort zone, made me more self-conscious and it already felt exhausting. Even if I knew that they were the same lot I go to college with every day, the same teachers from whom I love being taught, did not get me over this feeling. All of this was followed by a daily routine of being on mute and keeping my video off which very evidently created a barrier between me and the things I wanted to learn. In the beginning, it was fun to know how easy it had become to get attendance which was my way of being ungrateful for the level of understanding and kindness that our teachers have always shown to us because I also knew that all my cousins had to switch on their videos compulsorily. The truth is, I had never seen so many educators being so considerate about a student's mental state and personal comfort and I promise I'm not trying to get on anyone's good side. As the days passed, I realised that I hadn't studied and learnt a single thing this semester and I usually made a point to pay attention in classes, regardless of whether there was a test on what was being taught, before everything went virtual. Now it was the opposite; I was only studying for tests and exams. I had never been so clueless about the syllabus or what was being taught, but that happened in this semester. The amount of guilt and disappointment I felt with myself was enough to question my self-worth. At that point in time, I realised that everything does have a flip side, at least an online world does have a flip side. There was a surge of people talking about taking care of themselves because literally, everyone was going through it. It was this online world, and this sense of what I was going through being "normal", that it created an "all okay, don't worry" feeling for me. This little awareness of the whole population going through a similar experience one or the other way was all I needed. It has been almost a year since studying online from our comfort spaces and I have realised that we are privileged, have convenience, are only human, that there never is a wrong feeling, everyone has their own speed, kindness costs nothing and that no matter how much you want, a whole semester won't be cancelled!

The Two Cell Towers

Rashida Jeewanjee
MA

2020 and the present, while imparting unexpected "lessons", have also ingrained in us a unique sense of humour as we adapt to the new mode of education. I think we can safely call it the – 'online, economical and lying in bed waiting for lunchtime also scrolling through social media periodically kind of learning system'!

For me, the most hilarious scenes unquestionably are the ones when students fail to realize their mics are on. We can hear frustrated mums yelling – "Is this the way you study? Kya zamana aa gaya hai!", and music playing in the background of a friend who is completely unaware of the crime they've committed. Another nutty moment is when professors inquire why students are unwilling to share their bright, beautiful faces with the class. The innocent culprits pretend their camera is broken or mysteriously disconnecting or they are using a device that was made before webcams were a thing! It's hilarious because 99% of the time that's not the case – they've just not brushed their hair or dressed appropriately or are eating and are practically in a mess! Let's not even get into the dress-code aspect. It's a secret everybody knows that only the upper body is lucky enough to get the right apparel for a meeting.

What intrigues me most is how many pets want to attend lectures! It's as if nothing can stop them from getting their own degree. While their owners on the other hand, on whom the money has actually been spent, try exploring their devilish creativity and rename themselves as "Reconnecting...". Well, one spelling mistake



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and it's going to be Judgement Day for them! I bet everyone, especially the curious folk, enjoys viewing their mates' interesting profile pictures of Harry Potter or cats or some Korean band and recognize intruders or random visitors in the class. Their hawk eyes also catch all the crazy stuff in the chatbox which is ideally supposed to be a direct message.

Finally, our technologically challenged professors. It's time to admit that we have all struggled to keep a straight face when sometimes the boss of the class is clueless, absolutely in need of our expert advice on the how's of "this goddamned thing" in their words, actually called 'screen sharing' or the entire online process in general!

The Return of the Ring (Tring Tring!)

Hargun Kaur Anand
SYBA

Whether we'd like to admit it or not, online education has now become an integral part of the study culture and it is here to stay. However, online classes come with their own set of drawbacks (and advantages) which need to be rectified before considering any future changes in the education system.

As a student who has experienced online classes for almost a year now, I think I am qualified enough to point out a few cons of online education. First things first, we must become cognizant of the fact that the tools necessary to attend online classes (mobile phone, laptop and a good internet connection) are a privilege in a country like India. At a time when numerous people have lost their jobs, investment in expensive electronics is a far cry for many.

Secondly, let us look at the toll our eyesight had to pay during this pandemic. Many of my classmates have complained of red, watery eyes after a day's worth of being perpetually glued to their electronic devices. Even after our classes are over, we cannot simply let go of our laptops because there are assignments that need to be completed on time, which again requires the use of blue light devices.

No matter where this development in technology takes us, there are certain experiences which it simply cannot replicate. The interactions that one has in offline classes, the friendships one makes and the thrill of bunking lectures are simply irreplaceable.

However, no matter how terribly I miss attending my offline lectures, I have to admit that online education has proven to be a boon in many ways. It has given students access to quality education from the comforts of their homes. With no travelling, the time saved can be spent on engaging in hobbies long forgotten. In fact, I believe that we all deserve a pat on the backs for having grown as individuals and staying resilient despite the challenges we've faced along the way.

THE MIDAS TOUCH

The World Has Become A Fragile Place

Namrata Datta
TYBA

Waxing Eloquent 2021 - Symbiosis Elocution And Debate Association
Runners - Up

FOR

Right now, all of us are peeking through the small windows on our device screens, sitting in our bedrooms



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instead of standing on a dais in the auditorium. Isn't that enough to signify how fragile the world has become? A very pleasant evening to everyone. I am Namrata Datta from Team 3, here to present my views FOR the notion.

The world we live in today is very similar to a battlefield – ridden with wars of all forms - be it economic wars, race wars, religious wars, health wars, political wars or even class wars. And wars structurally destroy societies and humans – making them vulnerable, helpless and fragile. The World Economic Forum states and I quote, “There are ominous signs of growing turbulence around the world.” And the biggest example for this is the previous year – 2020, that witnessed a series of happenings all around the world proving how fragile the planet has become. On January 8 2020, Iran shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane flying to Kyiv killing all 176 passengers on board – families who had nothing to do with the ongoing political war but were mere victims of selfish mind sets. Australia faced its worst ever natural disaster, the bushfire that killed over a billion wild animals showing the devastating side of nature. The Beirut Blast of August 4 that killed over 200 people just because of improperly stored ammonium nitrate. The deadly wildfires that erupted from California to Washington state, burning millions of acres and displacing hundreds of thousands of people since mid-August. And the pandemic that brought the world's movement to a halt for nearly a year now – that shows us in a new light our vulnerability, the impossibility of protecting ourselves perfectly through prediction and control – factors we thought were enough to make us invincible.

And it wasn't much better before that too. The number of civil wars has doubled since 2001 - jumping from 30 to 70. The number of people killed in these armed conflicts has increased tenfold since 2005. And there are more refugees and internally displaced people around the world than at any time since the Second World War. The rising prevalence of conflict, crime, terrorism and deepening geopolitical volatility are contributing to ripples of fragility.

The Oxford Dictionary defines 'fragile' as something that is “easily broken or damaged or weak and uncertain” and the constant chaos is making the world just that place. Despite the so-called attempts at healing the planet, unrest prevails every moment. The world is being damaged every passing day as it becomes a fragile place, almost as if ready to collapse.

And fragility isn't merely about civilisational threats, but also existential ones. Beyond doomsday proclamations about mass extinction, climate change, viral pandemics, global systemic collapse and resource depletion, we seem to be seized by a process of losing the qualities that make us human. The dystopian future scenarios of the world ending are nothing worse than the conditions in which most humans live as their day-to-day reality. Although my worthy opponents have argued or might argue that there are people trying to save and heal the world. But how long? How effective? Is it enough or too little too late? How long will the world pretend to heal itself when it's actually burning even more day by day? People are losing hope and empty words are not enough to sugar coat and cover up the vulnerability the society of the world and its inhabitants are facing.

Who is to blame? That is the subject for another debate.

What are we to do? Stop being in denial and accept the precarity of our existence...only then maybe we can do something about it.

Just like the saying goes “Life is fragile, like the dew hanging delicately on the grass, crystal drops that will be carried away on the first morning breeze”.

I rest my case. Thank You.



The World Has Become a Fragile Place

Sameeha Shoeb Arifi
FYBA

AGAINST

William Arthur Ward once said, “The pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist expects it to change, the realist adjusts the sail.” Good Evening respected judges, teachers and my dear friends.



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Today, I stand here to firmly oppose the motion.

The world has become a fragile place? Well, I don't think so. In fact, the world has become stronger than ever.

But what we have done is just focused on the negatives. We need to start focusing on the positives just as enthusiastically as we focus on the rainbow after the rain.

The COVID-19 pandemic has radically changed the world, so much so, that we have all emerged braver, kinder, and stronger than before. Countries gave access to resources to other countries in need, companies started producing items in demand on a larger scale and people started sharing even more generously.

We bonded more than ever with our families, did household chores together, and learnt a lot about each other. Even in acute isolation due to the virus, there were heartwarming incidents where neighbors who never had time for each other, now started leaving food packets on each other's front door.

Unfortunately, negative news sells better!

It isn't easy to look past through the mist of negativity, but when you do, the horizon carries a beautiful sunrise. Start by turning off the news for a minute. Close every tab, log out of your social media accounts, and power down your devices.

Let's focus on the wins rather than the losses.

During the wildfires on the west coast, it was remarkable, how quick people were to step up and help out! Or whether it's the people who rallied to get bottled water to the communities in need or the firefighters who came in from other cities, or different countries altogether. In the face of overwhelming tragedy, humans still come together to remedy the situation.

And as for the world, all it has ever done is made progress. According to a survey by the world bank, the share of the population living in extreme poverty has fallen considerably between 1987 to 2013.

The rate of decline in child labour, approximately a 40% reduction from 2000 to 2016, according to the International Labor Organization, is nontrivial and worth celebrating.

Child mortality has fallen by more than half since 1990 according to UNICEF.

Death in childbirth is rarer, maternal mortality declined by 43 per cent between 1990 and 2015, according to the World Health Organization.

We are getting stronger with every passing day!

Rights are being exercised or demanded, even children are stepping forward to speak against anything that seems wrong! Like, Autumn Peltier, Ridhima Pandey, Isra Hirsi, and of course, Greta Thunberg!

During the pandemic, all over the world, people have done the best they can to improve the lives of others. From those in the entertainment industry who have released their work early, free, or in a new format, to the celebrities reading children's books on video.

I wouldn't call our world fragile knowing that we have lived through the stone ages, the ice ages, plagues, the Cholera pandemics, the Spanish flu, the World wars!

So now tell me, a world with less poverty, less pollution, more empathy, more brotherhood, less carbon dioxide, a purer environment, more freedom of speech, more awareness, more strength, is this a fragile world? NO!

When it comes down to it, there are always helpers emerging from the crowd. Look for the helpers or better still be the helper!

I wouldn't give up on the world easily, and would like to end with a quote by Ernest Hemingway, 'The world is a fine place, and worth fighting for.'

Thankyou.



Kusumagraj

10th Dr. Shamarao Kalmadi Memorial State Level Elocution Competition : 2020 - 21

Ummesalama Karu

TYBA

Winner

When I was in school, I could not speak Marathi fluently; I understood it perfectly yet speaking was a major issue. Then one day, our Marathi teacher who was bilingual taught us कणा by Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar, popularly known by his pen name – Kusumagraj – and my approach to Marathi changed. So today, just as a good-luck charm, I read कणा again, and like an epiphany I realised its relevance. These times are testing times, and these times have affected our mental health negatively. Today, all we need is a person who can pat us on the back and assure us that everything will be okay, someone who can truly help us, not just by providing material help but by motivating us to live this life, to fight these life-battles courageously. Just like in कणा, we need someone like the teacher to tell us “नुसते लधा!”

After reading कणा, I took a step towards understanding Marathi literature and found out that a whole new world was waiting for me. Even though I never really got to reading many of his works in Marathi, his translated works are enough for any reader to show the kind of impact his writing would have had in that time period – in fact, its impact is felt even today!

Every year on the 27th of February, the Marathi language, like a crown is adorned with different jewels, but the central, most precious stone is the work of Kusumagraj, and it is due to his contribution to Marathi Bhasha Diwas is celebrated on his birthday.

Vi Va Shirwadkar, in a career spanning five decades, wrote sixteen volumes of poems, three novels, eight volumes of short stories, seven volumes of essay, and six one-act plays! And this is just the information available on the internet. Who knows what treasures his unpublished writing has to offer? One of his most famous plays – Natasamrat - is being performed even today, after so many years. In fact, it would not be wrong to say that Natasamrat made a great actor like Sri Ram Lagoo a highly acclaimed personality.

Not that his work doesn't speak for itself, but the entire world has appreciated his skill. He has prestigious awards like the Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan and the Jnanpith Award to his name.

And before you say – so what's so special about him? Isn't he just another one of the popular, critically acknowledged writers? No! He wasn't just a writer. Kusumagraj was actively involved in social work and believed in working for the well-being of the underprivileged. He worked towards uplifting the Adivasi communities and even initiated the Adivasi Karya Samiti which provided education and medical help to the tribal communities. Additionally, the Kusumagraj Prathishthan which is involved in various activities including the building of libraries for children is named after him as a memorial.

For all those who think that literature and art can't bring about a change in the world – tell that to Kusumagraj. According to Vishnu Sakharam Khandekar, who published the anthology Vishakha, Kusumagraj's words displayed the social discontent but retained the optimistic belief that the old world was giving way to a new one. His writing carried the message of freedom during the Quit India Movement of 1942. His works reflected the changing society, a reflection of the Indian Freedom Struggle Movement and in the post-Independence era he became one of the pioneers of what we



today know as Dalit Literature.

When you're given the opportunity to speak about such a celebrated personality, a five-minute speech can definitely not do it justice. Yet, sometimes only a few lines can convey a range of emotions. Hence, I would like to end by saying a few lines in Marathi as a token of my appreciation to Kusumagraj –

दिलेले तुम्हीं खूप काही अजून आहे माझ्याकडे
शब्द आणि शब्दांच्या पत्तीकडे ...

प्रत्येक अक्षरात काहीतरी नवीन शोधतो आहे.
जगण्याचे किती तरी अर्थ अजून ही उलगडतो आहे.

Thank you.

NANI KE NUSHKEY

Dancing with the Daffodils

SOURCE TEXT

Kelly Colaco
TYBA

TRANSLATED TEXT

This is a picture of my late maternal grandfather Francis Baptista, or as we lovingly called him- Papa. We have a number of pictures of Papa, but not many of them make me smile and fondly remember the memories I have of him like this photograph does.

This picture was taken in the year 2005 on one of our yearly family trips to St. Stanislaus Villa in Khandala, Lonavala. We had decided to go for a picnic one day and were on our way to the picnic spot when we decided to stop for some water and refreshments. We happened to stop at a place that was surrounded by this beautiful field which was covered with these small, beautiful yellow flowers. While the rest of us were too busy to notice the flowers, my grandfather was intrigued by these flowers and went and had a closer look at them. He walked into the field and lay down on the grass and looked at the sky with this smile on his face. My godfather clicked this picture of him, and till date, it's difficult to look at this picture and not get a tad bit emotional.

Papa always had an eye for noticing the beauty in small things which no one would otherwise see. He was artistic and observant; he collected stamps as a hobby and even maintained a book of his collected stamps and often kept things that we would carelessly throw out and create something new and beautiful out of them. He had a tough life growing up-he lost his father at the age of 18, and being the oldest child he had to work really hard to support and help his mother and his younger brothers and sisters as well as provide for his own wife and family. I guess that is what made Papa really see the beauty in the small things. If it wasn't for him that day, we would have probably missed out on this beautiful spot and the joy the photographs of that day bring us to date.

Papa was a tough man, and we always saw him that way. However, what makes this picture so special to me is how happy, blissful and carefree he looks in this picture. Papa always loved nature, and he looks as though he is one with nature in this picture. His face doesn't hold the worries of a provider; he doesn't look worried or burdened or anxious. I truly believe that this joy comes from a feeling of happiness one experiences from deep within. This photograph reminds me of the bliss William Wordsworth talks about in the last stanza of his poem 'Daffodils'-

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye



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Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the Daffodils.

This photograph reminds me that it is not always the big luxuries or huge amounts of money that will make you experience inner happiness- it is often something we have to look around and find in the creation of God. The flowers surrounding my grandfather remind me that while we are so tiny and insignificant in this universe, we are never too small to bring joy into the lives of other people. There is always joy in the little things around us, we just have to really notice them.

We lost Papa in April of 2011 at the age of 74 due to kidney failure and other complications. Doctors told him ten years before that that his chances of surviving weren't great due to complications with his health, but he was a fighter- he fought and lived to see the birth of his third and fourth grandchild, he lived to see his son get married and he lived to see his children successful, happy and settled in life. He lived a good life and fought the hardest against all the difficulties he came across in life. He bore the responsibilities of adult life at the age of 18. He truly taught us to never give up in life and keep fighting because mental as well as inner strength and resilience will help you overcome anything. He was such a great help and support to his three children and went above and beyond to help them in any way he could. He played a big role in the lives of his grandchildren and we love and treasure him with all our hearts.

I somehow believe that maybe this picture also reminds us of the happiness and smile Papa always gave us through the small things he did for his family.

When I look at this picture, I somehow imagine him looking this happy and blissful in heaven- finally void of all the difficulties of earthly life, and filled with the sheer bliss of eternal life.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

One of the main reasons for choosing this particular source text is the personal meaning and value behind this photograph. One of the difficulties I faced during the translation process is translating the photograph into words itself. I found it a little difficult to correctly and properly put the thoughts, emotions, feelings and sentiments behind this picture into words. I felt a responsibility and pressure to do the photograph and emotions justice especially because it had a special meaning for me. It was also about honoring grandfather's memory

Another difficulty was that the photograph is almost fifteen years old and hence I had to enlist the help of my mother to confirm certain aspects about that particular day. The process was definitely a little harder than I imagined because it required a number of attempts and editing to bring it a point where I felt comfortable with how I had presented my translated version of the photograph.

This particular assignment also made me think deeper about this picture as I realized how much it encouraged me to somehow relate it to aspects of my grandfather's life as well as finding a personal and philosophical interpretation of the photograph itself.

I definitely feel like I did my best to translate the photograph into words but I also truly feel like I won't be able to ever completely express the sentiment behind the picture.



Hug in a Mug

Sriradha Gupta
TYBA

COLD AND COUGH

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of milk
- a piece of ginger (½ inch)
- sugar or jaggery
- 1 pinch black pepper



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Step 1: In a container, add 1 cup of milk, grate a ½ inch piece of ginger and black pepper.

Step 2: Boil it till the ginger gets soft.

Step 3: Add sugar or jaggery as per taste (not mandatory).

Step 4: Filter it.

Note- Sip at it while it's hot.

DO NOT CONSUME WATER AFTER YOU DRINK THIS FOR A MINIMUM 30 MINUTES.

*For adding jaggery, let it cool down for a while and mix it manually till it dissolves.

COUGH

Ingredients :

- ½ spoon ghee
- 2 pinch turmeric
- a cup of milk
- sugar or jaggery

Step 1: Heat ½ spoon ghee

Step 2: Add 2 pinches of turmeric

Step 3: Mix it for 2 or 3 seconds

Step 4: Add to it a cup of milk

Step 5: Boil it till the quantity is reduced to half

Step 6: Add sugar or jaggery as per taste

Note- Drinking this mixture twice or thrice during a day is recommended.

DO NOT CONSUME WATER AFTER YOU DRINK THIS FOR A MINIMUM 30 MINUTES.

*For adding jaggery, let it cool down for a while and mix it manually till it dissolves.

PERIOD CRAMPS

Ingredients :

- 10 to 12 tulsi leaves
- one cup of water
- half or 1 teaspoon honey
- jaggery

Step 1: Take 10 to 12 tulsi leaves.

Step 2: Wash them in water.

Step 3: Add one cup of water to the container and boil it till the quantity of water is reduced to half of what was originally taken.

Step 4: Filter the mixture.

Step 5: Add ½ or 1 teaspoon honey/jaggery (as per taste).

Note - Sip at it and not consume the drink at once. Drinking this twice a day is recommended.

COLD

Ingredients :

- ½ spoon ginger juice
- 1 spoon honey

Step 1. Add ½ spoon of ginger juice + ½ or 1 spoon honey (Quantity of honey can be increased or decreased as per taste.)



*Honey can be avoided but it might lead to blisters on the tongue.

Note- Consume the mixture just before sleeping, Do not prepare it in advance. Do not consume water or anything else over it. Warm milk or tea is advised in any case.

COUGH

Ingredients:

- 1 pinch-black pepper
- ½ or 1 spoon honey

Step 1. Add 1 pinch-black pepper + ½ or 1 spoon honey (Quantity of honey can be increased or decreased as per taste.)

*Honey can be avoided but it might lead to blisters on the tongue.

Note- Consume the mixture just before sleeping, Do not prepare it in advance. Do not consume water or anything else over it. Warm milk is advised in any case.



Naak Tocha

Tehreem Khaku
TYBA

I've always felt different my whole life, but there's one person who is almost like my twin. I am her doppelganger. When I look at her I know exactly how I'll look once I grow old. It's scary sometimes to see your future self. I think, my grandmother is the coolest. Yes, she's conservative; but she tries to move with the generation. I remember, last year around February, I convinced my parents to let me get a septum piercing. It was scary, not the needle- but the opinions I would receive from people, especially from my family. I was terrified to show my face to anybody and started making excuses to not meet anyone. But then one day my grandmother remembered me and I had no choice but to visit her, I couldn't break her heart. I started making up statements in my head, trying to justify why I got the piercing while walking to my grandparent's house. I remember the look on my grandfather's face, it was somewhere between disgusted and confused. My grandmother came up to me, a 5-foot lady with her walking stick, she looked at my nose and asked me 'Naak tocha?', and I just nodded in response. I was surprised by her next move.

She took my face in her hand and kissed my nose.

She went on to tell me that her mother had a septum piercing too, but during the 1900s septum nose rings weren't available, so they use to tie a thread around the piercing. I think she saw a little bit of her mother in me. She forced me to grow my hair, at least till my hip because her mother had really long hair and when I mean long- I mean knee length long. I know that at some point in life, her beautiful soul will be taken from me. Nobody will call me 'Nakti' (her nickname for me because I have a squeaky voice). One day, I won't get to talk to her for hours on end while she's busy knitting a sweater for me. She's taught me how to be kind when my heart wants to be cruel, to be giving when I have the least placed in my hands, to be compassionate towards others and to keep secrets locked inside my stomach and that sometimes it's ok to lie if it eases the other person's heart.

This is my love letter to her; if I ever told her all this in person I might choke up and never complete my speech. At least through this, she'll know that she changed one person's life.



MUSINGS IN THE ARMS OF MORPHEUS

Waking Up

Aishwarya Jaydeep
FYBA

I gaze out of my window in amazement. How the blue night is sparkling due to the glimmering moonlight. Quite poetic and mesmerizing. Another year is about to pass by so swiftly. Unnoticed, unchecked, in the blink of our soft morbid eyes. The world - is changing. It always is, the only thing different this time is that it is waking up. Slowly turning and squirming in its bed, ready to get up.

People are ready to accept each other and revisit love in all its glory.

We are standing with each other with a sense of common brotherhood shared in our hearts.

We are ready to fight for humanity and spread humaneness, to make it evident through our actions. The world is waking up and it is happy to embrace everyone regardless of sexualities, races, or gender.

Girls are playing soldiers and boys are running fashion shows. People are showing gratitude towards health workers, sanitary workers, police officers and public administrators for protecting them in the gravest of times. And we have learnt empathy and kindness. We have reconnected ourselves to friends lost and families forgotten. We have endured so much and yet managed to remain kind and in love with our existence.

The world is waking up because we as people are waking up. Maybe it's time for me to sleep.

What do I think of before I go to sleep?

Alisha Faquih
FYBA

Every night before I fall asleep, I think about the struggles and blessings of being a girl or a woman.

At the time when I was 8, I visited an orphanage where I came across girls of different age groups, but the one thing that was common among all of them was that they were brave. Many of them were left to the care of the orphanage because their parents weren't ready to have a girl as their child. Nevertheless, those girls managed to find happiness. Even though their family gave up on them, it didn't stop them from building their own family with the other girls. They had the courage to have big dreams and the passion to make them come true. These girls taught me that no matter what life throws at you, if you have enough courage then you can make anything happen.

I think about how I am truly blessed to be a part of this generation where, there are constant initiatives taken to empower women, to help them have a voice of their own, to encourage them to fight for their rights and their freedom, to feel free to express themselves without being ashamed, and making them feel comfortable in their own skin regardless of their shape, size or colour. I also think about all those women and girls who still receive unfair treatment in all spheres of life and I hope that one day they can turn the whole situation around and free themselves from the oppression that they face every single day.

Lastly, I think about a day when I can go from being a 'nobody' to being a 'somebody.'



**“The best bridge between despair
And hope is a good night's sleep.”**

Manasa Pantula
FYBA

When I get to my bed, I usually plug in my earphones and listen to songs for some time and then gradually I am drifted away by the good/ bad things that happened that day. I smile remembering the good incidents that happened. I worry about the embarrassing situations that occurred and think about how I could handle them in a better way if I have to encounter the same in future. I think about my mom. Sometimes I cry thinking about the sacrifice she did for me and for my brother. I think about my late dad. I think about the good memories I had with him. And I imagine how life would be if he is still with this us. After these kinds of thoughts in a particular order, I realise the songs are being played for my ears which were made deaf by my series of thoughts. I stop the music. Put my phone on charge and try to sleep. But again, my thoughts drive me away. I again somehow start thinking about expenses, future plans, office work, fitness and all manner of random stuff. I forcefully close my eyes. Trying to think about nothing still gets me distracted by a few thoughts and somehow, I go off to sleep.

I wish I could go to sleep only with gratitude every day.

To Surviving

Sameeha Arifi
FYBA

The most philosophical I get is usually before sleeping. If I was a scientific person, I'd probably figure out, with I would've figured out quantum physics by now. What I have recently been thinking about is, how everyone is out and about blaming 2020 for being the worst year.

This year made some of us face the worst fears we hold in our hearts. We lost some people who we never thought we would, we faced depression, anxiety, and a lot more; that too alone. We had to learn how to manage everything on our own. While some of us were stranded alone, the other lot was stuck with family for a lot more time than they were used to. Having to stay away from loved ones was because of the love we have for them, to keep them safe from any and all harm we could do by going near. Basically, it sucked.

But what this year did was let us know how we can survive on our own, how to appreciate people around us and how to be thankful for what we have. We learnt many things that earlier we only wished we could, because of the time constraint. We learnt how to do our own household work and how to live independently. We had enough time to learn so much more about our family. We were away from people, but yet, we grew close to them.

We learnt to live with what we have and to appreciate it.

Thinking, or more like hoping, that 2021 teaches us to be happy, I drifted into a sound sleep.

Old

Sakina Bharmal
FYBA

Today is one of those days in my youth
I have sat contemplating the future,



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And to my horror and dismay,
 I sit here today,
 Not thinking about the dream job, the perfect house, the loving partner, the happy life,
 But that which is absolute and certain,
 The gruesome thing I will one day become - an old woman.
 Every strand of my dark brown hair
 I so fondly swank will one day turn silver, grey, white.
 Wrinkles will replace the crinkles on my face as I laugh if I will,
 And my almond eyes will be concealed under the wrinkly eyelids.
 Lines will permanently set on my face as its muscles atrophy; my cheeks sagging,
 And I'll look into the mirror and not recognise the creased, hollow face staring back at me.
 I'll be hesitant to leave my house, or the old age home I'll be sent to,
 Afraid not that I'll fall, afraid that everyone around will be oblivious of me;
 Now I'm a charmer; heads turn my way and eyes linger on me as I pass by;
 But the look of pity and disgust in the eyes
 Of passerby's
 When they'll see me- a hoary woman, doddering on her walker-
 How will I bear it?
 I'll be reduced to an object, a burden.
 All my life's achievements will have gone in vain
 As I'll sit before my life's curtain
 Watching the scenery falling apart,
 With no one to share the pain.
 Dears will have departed through death or abandonment,
 And lone I'll be left to live out the numbered days.
 On a hospital bed, machines breathing for me,
 I'll be alive but dead;
 Dying in the company of strangers, or worse, no company at all.
 So I pray death comes early to me before I become helpless, hideous and disfigured.
 Having achieved everything in life, what will be left to live for- love, companionship, kinfolks?
 Self, I say.
 Better live for a good time than a long time.
 A lifetime will have passed me by,
 And I hope when I die,
 What I do remember amongst everything else is
 My Self;
 What I was, what I became, what I am.
 So tonight is one of those nights in my youth
 I have lain contemplating about the future,
 And it's with delight and content I say,
 Beauty wears, relations break, and everything in life blurs,
 But what you will always see and remember is -
 Yourself; the person you were at heart,
 And everything else will cease to matter.



Stream of Unending Thought

Leoum Jessica Joshua Shetty
FYBA

As defined by psychologist William James, the thought process is a 'stream of consciousness' that flows from one thought to another. It flows from one continuum and leads into another. A slow but gradual process that causes the mind to think of unending scenarios in one stretch of time. As living beings, we have a tendency to think things; and in some instances, even overthink them. Our minds may go on an overdrive anywhere at any given time. But this flow of thought catches us unawares and I've experienced it when I have nothing to occupy my time, especially right before I fall asleep.

As I lay my head on the pillow ready to sleep, the softness of its texture calms my exhausted body. I quickly pull up my blanket and feel the warmth of it slowly engulf my cold unsuspecting feet. The warmth of this thick cloth and the cold of my body causes a slight reaction that brings shivers down my spine and goosebumps on my skin. I rub my hands together and reflexively, put them on my cheek and feel the heat enter my skin.

I look up at the ceiling and close my eyes as my body awaits the much-needed rest I so dearly require. But sleep does not come. So I decided to reflect on what I did the entire day so that my mind drifts off into a chasm of blissful rest. I start with my morning routine and how I went about it; being satisfied with the results, I then went on with the activities I performed in the afternoon; which then lead to the events of the evening. Pleased with the contents of the day, I decided to count sheep since I recall learning that sleep refuses to come in the presence of an active mind.

But, a tiny detail of that day caught my attention. I had just attended a Board meeting of a remarkable organization but, I felt the shame of performing so poorly. My mind went through different scenarios through which I saw myself presenting the case studies more accurately and without falling short of words; which I am prone to on several occasions of nervousness. And then, my mind scanned the imagery of the conference room and I saw a typewriter, maybe a few decades old and I wondered to myself how odd it was to see an old typewriter in a modern architectural unit. And then, my mind wandered into an abyss of the number of hands that must have typed out letters, or maybe love letters during the World Wars.

And then, I thought of the many mothers or wives who felt the pain of losing their husbands or sending off their sons off to warzones, with the fear of never being able to see them again. At this point, my heart ached for these women I had never heard of or seen before. Then my thoughts wandered off to ways through which these women must have earned their living in the absence of the bread-winner of the family.

Right then, my mind drifted towards one of the YouTube videos I had come across about women in the Wild West who had played a significant role in improving the economy, even though their only occupation was through the means of prostitution.

Another thought struck my mind as I considered this occupation as a result of human trafficking but, it baffled me as to why the women in the wild West were open to such a profession. Then again, it was the situation of that time that forced them into such work.

Then, I remembered the few cases I had read about human trafficking; and also the case study I had done on an ex-commercial sex worker. It was a truly sad story and I felt my heart break for those who were being exploited in inhumane ways. My mind secretly wished for a world with no pain, and especially the complete alleviation of violence and human slavery.

Then to lighten up my mood, I thought about Christmas and how it brightens up the atmosphere with the birth of Christ; then, wreaths and tinsels and the various Christmas themes serenaded my mind as I struggled to plan a set theme for my decorations this year. I thought for a moment about who must have celebrated the first Christmas; not the Nativity story but, the first carol and decorations. I realised that I had a book on the history of Christmas with some recipes for Christmas pastries in my library somewhere.

And then, the New Year celebrations zipped past my mind and for a moment, I reflected on all the unexpected circumstance the world was faced with this year and my personal experience of being stranded in another country far from my family for most of the year. My mind tried to unravel the future, the thought of the following year brought a chill down my spine. I found myself scared and uncertain for the very first time. But, I laid it all down and mentally surrendered next year into the Almighty's hands.



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And then, I thought of slender hands and calloused but, strong hands. On that note, I need to get a manicure and pedicure before Christmas.

"But wait, how did I get to this point? Manicure and hands. I started with... I don't remember. I'll need to rewind. Oh yes, I was thinking about my day. But, in my mind, I had already finished the New Year celebrations. Within these seven minutes, I thought about everything I needed to think of apart from falling asleep; and I thought of hands twice. And all those feelings were definitely a by-product of my unending stream of thought.

But oh well, on that note, I must fall asleep because tomorrow is a new day and a new beginning and I need to get buy a new pair of leggings. Thinking of which, do they manufacture woollen leggings because this weather is really getting on my nerves..."



Comatose

Shreya Bhide
SYBA

A thousand brilliant suns
Could not find me,
Hidden away in the lingering shadows
Of the dark night.

Silences filled with the essences
Of the white fruit.
As the walnut reminisces,
Tasting the sweetness of joy.

I can but watch from my dark corner,

Watch as the world goes by.
Without a light,
To this world I'm a foreigner,
Would it just be better to die?

But tomorrow night,
Return? She might.
Tip-toeing into the house.
Bringing with her; illuminating light,
My sunshine, she is my Dawn.



ON THE WINE DARK SEA



An Ode to Our Furry Friends

Jhalak Hemnani
FYBA

We live in a dog-eat-dog world. Everyone is chasing fame and money with increasing ruthlessness. In this time and age, finding compassion in an individual is as rare as finding a needle in a haystack. No one seems to care about making a change by speaking up for the voiceless and the less fortunate.

Some days, I feel like I was a stray dog in my previous lifetime because the connection I feel with those babies is inexplicable. Ever since I was a little girl, I have been immensely attached to stray dogs. I would always feed them, tend to their injuries and try finding them a home to the best of my ability.

My biggest drive in life is being rich and powerful enough to establish farms in every city that will provide a loving home to all the stray dogs that weren't fortunate enough to find one. My heart breaks every time I see a furry little baby lying helplessly on the street, suffering through the hot summers, the windy monsoon and the chilling winters. They deserve mountains more than just one meal a day to survive because they provide us with the most unconditional love. Being voiceless, they suffer so much. Unlike us humans, who have done everything possible to ruin this planet, stray dogs have only made this world a better place by wagging their tails at us and making us feel extremely appreciated. It is our responsibility to make this world a better place for them. I want to make my dream turn into a reality with such fervour, that some nights I cannot fall asleep thinking about how much better this world will be when I make that change happen.



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Heart-Beats

Sherin Ann George
FYBA

I have always been completely fascinated and absorbed in music, which eventually developed into a strong, lively passion for singing. All of my life, or at least ever since I can remember, I have enjoyed singing. Luckily for me, music has been an integral part of my life one way or the other as my parents and siblings have been musicians. Although I was always passionate about music, at the same time, I was an introvert so I never had the confidence to perform solo as I always felt like I was not good enough. So as a result, I always joined the choir groups both in school and church so I could stay connected to music in some way. It was much later when I joined a nursing college that I joined the college choir again. In college, we had a formal selection process for selecting students for the choir. I was very nervous and thought of skipping it, but my friends really insisted that I should at least give it a try. I went in for the process and my teacher who was selecting us loved my voice and asked me to lead the choir students from my class. In that experience of leading the choir was how I started gaining the confidence to sing.

Later I got many opportunities to sing and perform for the college and win various prizes at the college level and in intercollege competitions. That is how I started my journey towards pursuing music more seriously but after nearly 2 and a half years in that college, I couldn't sing for almost 6 months because of a serious medical condition. I got really depressed because I had to discontinue the course in the 3rd year of my college. Then I ultimately had to leave that and come back to Pune. But the confidence I had gained there really helped me come back to singing; music helped me heal in that phase of depression. I had to restart my life and my studies here- it was very tough but singing is something that still keeps me going and really helps me to look beyond all the worst times and look forward to a better tomorrow.

Today I am so happy as each day I try working on myself as a singer and try getting better each day and learning new instruments. That has become an integral part of my life; it's difficult for me to imagine my life without music.

A Little Self Love Goes a Long Way

Zainab Borsadwala
FYBA

At times, before going to sleep I think, what my life would be like if I was not the way I am today? Would people stop giving me strange looks? Would I be able to find bottoms of my length, sit comfortably in a public place without worrying if my legs would bother someone passing by, wear heels without looking like a 'lamp-post', not bang my head almost every place I go, not have to look down miles and miles to talk with other people and a lot of other things? Because ***I'm a girl and I am tall.*** All these questions come up from what I've heard people say about me because those are my real-life struggles. There was a time when I felt terrible about it because I was different. But over the years, I've realized; yes it's different, it's unique and everyone isn't blessed with such a beautiful height. Love and accept yourself the way you are and give yourself the best treatment, because the way you treat yourself sets standards for how others will treat you.

Bust a Move

Pradnya Vijayan
FYBA

While I enjoy making handmade cards and gifts for my loved ones, and occasionally pen my thoughts onto paper and seldom play with brushes and colours, I relentlessly move to the sound of music with each



passing moment.

For as long as I can remember, I have been dancing. Every time I attended birthday parties as a child, my mother would receive calls from parents telling her how thoroughly they enjoyed watching me dance. Strangely enough, that is in fact how she discovered my inclination towards this form of art. I would take every opportunity to rise and shine and would never shy away from dancing. Whenever the teachers would begin preparing us for the Annual Day with a dance item, I would spend all my free time at home practising the steps in front of the mirror while singing gibberish lyrics to such an extent that everybody at home would have learned the complete dance routine!

Some habits never seem to change. Reciting bandishes whilst doing household chores and dancing them in between conversations, such is my bond with the art of Kathak. It is a means of communication that allows me to say things I cannot otherwise articulate in words. It lets me leave my troubles behind. It is what always lets me be myself, it is liberating and gives me peace of mind. It's a place where I feel the most confident about myself. And while life has its own way of showing us our destination, I will never let dance leave my hand in this journey upwards.

The Rising Tide

Ritwika Kanungoe
TYBA

Rising was the tide against the ones in power; the ones who dressed not in diamonds but emeralds, that spoke of the wealth they hoarded but elegantly. Rising was the wave that would come crashing down on the ones that were in power, not the visible faces, the ministers, presidents of nations, but the ones underground. The ones who dressed in slacks and casual button-downs and looked pathetically unassuming. Rising was the song that was being sung for years, whispered at the beginning, the people too scared to sing a fraction of a decibel louder. The song that is now sung loudly but behind closed doors, by people dressed to fight in leather thick enough to hide the trauma that they've had to endure for years.

The tide will rise to its highest tonight, it will cause men, women and children, sparing no one who aligned themselves with the powerful cruelty. The waves will destroy lives and livelihood, the blood that will be spilt tonight will be washed away come tomorrow morning. The song will crescendo tonight, it will reverberate throughout the empty streets, the voices will echo off walls crying their victory, 'Let there be light, let there be peace'.

SHEROES

Love in the Underworld

Kareena Narayan
SYBA

Her childhood spent in fields and flowers,
As her mother protected her from evil powers.
She would bloom florets in meadows, by day;
And sit by the waterfalls, viewing the nymphs play.
The Other Side was cold and dark,
While Aidoneus felt in his heart, a tiny spark -
Admiration and affection towards his betrothed sweet;



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Up there, she was Kore; for him, his sweet Persephone.
 He had abducted her forcibly, for sure;
 But vowed to keep her safe and secure.
 For she was destined to be his Queen
 From the Maiden of the meadows so green.
 They strolled along the River Styx;
 His loving gaze on her was fixed.
 He was in awe when she stood timidly courageous
 When she met his three-headed canine, Cerberus.
 He admired her with his words, actions and lips,
 Making her heart do a hundred flips.
 She showered him with flowers, making him smile,
 Which turned the dead atmosphere fertile.
 He painfully let her go, one day,
 Back to Demeter, the goddess of hay.
 But not before feeding her pomegranate seeds;
 So that their mystic union lasts and succeeds.
 She returned to him eventually,
 Filling his hostile heart with warmth and ecstasy.
 Such is the cycle of seasons known -
 Through the enchantment of Hades and Persephone.

My Own Shero

Siddiqua Firfiray
 SYBA

We're in a pickle and positivity is pouring in from all sides. The pandemic has kept us all indoors; contained and restrained. Although restrained only from going out, we're living inspirationally and moving about. There are thousands of forces, billions on the frontline, people behind the scenes, individuals risking their lives out there. We have a lot to be grateful for and if I would fail to mention all of our heroes except for one, I would be doing them a great injustice.

We can only hope to get ourselves out of the situation we're in. We need to stay in a strong state of mind to fight through this pandemic, with a lot of love, patience and hope- which only comes from a family. I am grateful for having them and will always remain so.

Heroes, or should I say sheroes, across the globe have pulled up their sleeves, put on their gloves and masks, and taken up the job of saving lives. I have walked on the thin string of hope and taken inspiration from various sources. Inspiration surrounds us; it is all around us, and cannot be overlooked. Yet, the strongest form of inspiration comes from within.

What power does inspiration hold if it's not implied? No matter how much someone can inspire you, only you have the power to inspire yourself. I have been able to do that and therefore I can say that I am my greatest inspiration, I am my hero.



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The Heroes of My Life

Namrata Datta
TYBA

The Shero of my life
Is the lady in the kitchen
Waking up at dawn
To take care of her family.

The Shero of my life
Is the lady in the office
Working harder than all
To prove the patriarchy wrong.

The Shero of my life
Is the lady carrying bricks
As strongly as she carries her kids
To make sure they don't sleep hungry.

The Shero of my life
Is the lady that chose books
Even after leaving them for years
To fulfill her long lost dreams.

The Shero of my life
Is the lady that fought back
With everyone that downed her
To stand tall and firm on her feet.

The Shero of my life
Is the lady that still lives
And didn't succumb to death
Which everyone wished for.

The Shero of my life

Is the lady that smiles
Despite her half burnt face
That was destroyed by evil.

The Shero of my life
Is the lady that is the strongest
And bears all the pain
To give life to a new bud.

The Shero of my life
Is the lady that dreamt
To give all rights to her daughter
And made those dreams come true.

The Shero of my life
Is the lady who's like a candle
That burns herself all her life
Yet illuminates the whole world.

The Shero of my life
Are all the ladies out there
Fighting their own wars
Going through their own battles
Each and every day
And still don't give up hope
To keep going till the last
So that they make a better place
For the other Heroes
To win their fights.

The Woman Within Me

Padmavathi Ramakrishnan
TYBA

I'm 5 feet tall, 59kgs and a not-so-fair girl, and yet I'm alluring. My face is filled with pimple marks, acne, and also some stupid black dots which I don't know about, and yet I'm beautiful. I don't fit into the 'ideal' figure of 36-24-36 and frankly I don't know what my figure looks like (I guess, maybe, like a potato), and yet I'm sexy. And my hair? It's not straight, silky, or smooth but rather rough, super curly and always messy, and yet I'm pretty. And my personality? I'm not quiet but rather very loud, I'm not graceful; I'm always clumsy and frequently keep tripping over things. I can't handle a saree nor can I handle a gown. I love wearing pyjamas and loose tops and yet I'm cute and attractive. I love riding bikes and that's why I love racing, and trust me- I'm pretty fast and I do overtake my male friends. I never played with Barbie dolls nor owned any pink dolls, and I'm a phenomenal girl.

Often, people call me bossy and aggressive because I don't follow what they say. I have even been told to act 'womanly'. But I don't really know the true meaning of 'being womanly' (I would rather be myself than being something I don't know). I don't understand the concept that a man can't have a screaming match nor



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do I understand the point of those debates discussing whether or not I should work late at night. And I also don't understand how I become less of a woman because I make a few dirty jokes!

I'm a strong girl but this doesn't mean that I need to have 6 pack abs and amazing biceps. Yes, I'm emotional and cry even for the smallest of the small things, but this doesn't mean that I'm not courageous or bold; I am. I'm the heroine of my own story and I don't need any hero to protect me, save me, or love me because I can do it all by myself. The one thing that I have learned in life is that no matter how much love and support we get from outside, we can only be happy when we learn to love and accept ourselves. All of us have flaws and no one is perfect, and I believe that we are not meant to be perfect.

I proudly say that, "I'm IMPERFECTLY PERFECT."

To have a perfect shape and size? I'm not a geometric figure, I'm me! I'm a human being and most importantly I'm a phenomenal girl. And when someone says I'm not beautiful like them, I smile back and say, "thank you but I'm beautiful like me!"

A heroine might need a hero but 'Sheroes' don't. And I'm a Shero! And I proudly quote Maya Angelou, "I AM A PHENOMENALLY PHENOMENAL WOMAN, THAT'S ME!"

ALPHABET SOUP

Meadows of Asphodel

There is Elysium,
Then there's Hell,
But have you heard about the
Meadows of Asphodel?
A place with neither good nor bad,
A place that just is,
No excitement neither dread,
Like soda without its fizz.
No risk,

No fun,
All of life's experiences undone.
When you've seen the world,
In its glory and in its obscurity,
And lived through all of the stress and strife,
That life unfurled.
I'd rather prefer Elysium or even Hell,
Because is life even worth living,
If you're going to the Meadows of Asphodel.

Shreya Bhide
SYBA

The Search

Dale Halstead
Class XII Commerce

It isn't easy being the person who follows their dreams. The person who follows a different path. It isn't easy knowing that you will be travelling on a different journey altogether. Where believing in your dreams is one word, achieving it is a whole different journey.

I know you're scared. I know you think that you might mess things up. That you are not fit enough; that having a talent so rare and beautiful will never be worthy. I know you would rather take off running the other way than letting yourself be rejected again, simply because people never believed in you; in your authenticity or in your value.



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But instead of seeing it as a disheartening thing- I want you to embrace the unknown. Of venturing into a path that you will create and not follow.

You have to let it motivate you.

And when it comes to following your dreams, I want you to know that believing in your passion will not be easy but it will never be this hard too.

Because that's the thing- life will happen to you. It will weather you but it will never defeat you. You just have to know your purpose and believe in it with ruthless conviction. You have to be your biggest fan even if you feel like you're not a shining example of your success.

You have to keep going. So keep going. Fight for yourself. For your dreams. The only thing that made you wish upon a shooting star.

You will have to do hard things. You will break and rebuild. You will find your break-through. You will find your resilience. You will push towards the person you want to be and the life you always envisioned. Because when you're a dreamer among realists, you don't give up, you won't settle. You keep fighting. You keep dreaming.

You believe that somehow you'll find that you belong somewhere.

But most importantly,
You will find yourself.

Song of a Thousand Survivors

Sneha Alex Thuruthy

TYBA

PAST—YEAR 2019

The woman in a lab coat walked towards her colleague. She was curious to see what the scientist was working on. He had told the management that he was working on a life-changing experiment. But he never gave a clue to anyone as to what it was.

The dark-skinned man was looking into his microscope and taking down notes. He then looked at the rat that he kept caged in his lab and observed the specimen. Experiments on animals were frowned upon, but he didn't care about that. He was an insane scientist who believed that for the greater good, it would be the most helpful thing.

The woman didn't understand what was going on. The white rat was acting a little different than the others that were kept in that lab. She walked closer and leaned forward to get a closer look. Bewildered, she wanted to make sure that what she was seeing was the right thing. So, she looked in through the microscope and backed away suddenly, gasping in fear.

“What. Is. That?” She asked him. Her voice trembled at the wild smile she saw on his face.

“A little... experiment of mine. Isn't she a beauty?” He looked at her expression. “Wait! What are you doing?” He exclaimed loudly when he saw her pulling out her phone.

“Calling the cops.”

PRESENT—YEAR 2049

The sixteen-year-old Ryn peeped out of her room when she heard some footsteps cross her bedroom door. She saw a shadow cross the hall and move to her brother, Esai's room. She followed the shadow on her tip-toes, making sure not to make any noise.

As she was making her way through the hall, she whispered to herself, “One last time. One. Last. Time.”

She came to a stop in front of Esai's door. Ryn pressed her ear to the door and tried to listen in to what was



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happening. It seemed like all the forces were against her today because out of all the days she eavesdropped on their conversations, it was today that she put too much weight on the door and it opened up on her. She stumbled inside and the two people turned to look at her.

This was the fifth time in her life that she had seen her brother after he locked himself inside his room. Though his features were not seen as they were hidden in the darkness, she knew it was him. He never made an appearance outside because his genes started mutating rapidly like the thousands of infected people who lived in the Fractured City.

She didn't know what had happened, but somehow her older brother had been infected. Since he was the son of one of the Elite families, their parents never sent him away thinking of what would happen to their reputation.

"What are you doing here?" Esai hissed as he saw his sister standing.

"I- I was passing by," she stuttered.

"I'm sure Mom must have told you that eavesdropping and spying on other people are done only by the people who are not from Paragon Island, right?" She saw the fury blazing in his eyes as he said that. So, she nodded.

"Then get out!" He barked, and scrambling, Ryn was about to leave when she was stopped by a hand on her shoulder.

"Wait," she heard a cold, deep voice instruct. She stayed rooted in her spot and didn't try to move at all. She heard some shuffling and then her brother speaking.

"Let her go, Klay."

"No, she knows too much. If the authorities come to know that I have been here, they will forget about the law made twenty-seven years ago and execute everyone including you. It was made to keep us away from the Elites."

"She won't tell anyone." She heard a slight panic in her brother's voice.

"I'm sorry, but she needs to come with us." The man in the black clothes said. Ryn still couldn't see his face.

"No, no. I'm not going anywhere with you." She protested. She tried to leave once again, but she felt him cover her mouth with his coarse and calloused hand.

"You're coming with us, away from this privileged world."

She squirmed for some time, but her struggles quietened down after she felt something prick her arm.

When she woke up next, she saw that she was lying on a bed. With great horror, she realized that she wasn't in her house. Then she remembered what had transpired in her brother's room. She got up and walked towards the only window in the room. She realized that she was in the Fractured City.

Ryn looked out in awe. It wasn't like any other place she'd ever seen. It had harsh edges, dirty metal, spikes and looming towers which were nothing compared to the ones in Paragon Island. She had never been able to see beyond the high-rise towers of her island. Compared to this, Paragon Island gave luxuriant vibes. Where she would see people in high-end designer wear strolling around the streets, this section of the Isles of Elysium had poor people. She never understood why they were kept separated from the main island of Paragon Island. Even though it was massively different and visibly poorer than Paragon Island, it held a beauty that was hard to comprehend. A type of rustic and natural beauty that was missing in the fast-paced Paragon Island.

Isles of Elysium was the only place inhabited in the whole world. It was divided into three islands: The Paragon Island, the Fractured City and the Forbidden Island. Ryn's family, the Blackwells belonged to Paragon Island, the place where the Elites lived.

According to her history textbook, sometime in 2019, a deadly virus named COVID-19 spread across the world. There were vaccinations, but something still caused various degrees of genetic mutations in the masses. The Isles of Elysium was the only safe place left. All Ryn knew of the three islands was what her mother had told her when she was young. She was forbidden from going to the neighbouring islands of Fractured City and Forbidden Island. Her mother had terrified her while describing the people from there even though the servants in their place were from the Fractured City. These servants were given vaccines so that their infection



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wouldn't be spread to the Elites

The door creaked open behind her, and she turned to see her brother walk in. It was the first time she saw him in the light. She let out a loud gasp at the sight.

"What happened to you?" Ryn asked Esai. One side of his face was drooping in such a way that his left eye was remained shut.

He looked away, conscious about the way he looked. His sister had seen him, looking his best, when she five. He was seven years older than her. He had a habit of going away for some time without telling anyone and without his security. He had returned after a long time, but things had never been the same since. He stayed locked in his room. Their parents never let Ryn play with her only brother.

"Nothing," he replied.

She was terrified to touch him because she had heard rumours that whatever this infection was spread easily. That was why every person from Paragon Island was forbidden to visit the other two islands of the Isles of Elysium.

Gathering all the courage she could, she put her palm on his cheeks. He flinched under her touch not used to feeling someone get close enough to him to touch him.

"This doesn't look like nothing, Esai." She started firmly. She was never there for him for the last eleven years, and she felt guilty for abandoning him at her mother's orders. Maybe she should have rebelled more. "Please, tell me what happened. You can tell me anything."

He sighed loudly and looked at his sister. "When I was eleven, I found a way to skip school. I used to come to a place far away from Paragon Island. One day, I saw a truck with a large shipment coming in. There was a line of security guards standing and forcing people to do something. When I got closer, I realized that I was in the Fractured City, the very place our parents used to tell us to stay away from. I went closer and saw that they were being vaccinated against their will."

Ryn tilted her head and looked at him in confusion. "But aren't the vaccines supposed to stop the infection from spreading?"

The door opened behind her brother, and the man she now knew as Klay walked in. "The government mandates the vaccines for all of us in the Fractured City. But we think there is some foul play."

Ryn saw Klay's two different eye colours; one was grey, while the other was brown. That must be his symptom. "But they said that the infections are controlled because of the vaccine. This is why they have made it compulsory for everyone to other than the people at Paragon Island to take the vaccines."

Klay shook his head. Then turned around to leave, asking Esai and Ryn to follow him. The hallways they walked in were old. They went down the stairs into the basement. The floorboards were creaky and made noise with each of their steps. It was quite different from the ones on their island. They came to a stop in front of an old, rickety door. Klay opened it and walked inside. The siblings followed him and saw an old man laying on the bed.

"Bubba, Esai Blackwell is here and so is his sister, Ryn." Klay said.

The old man pulled out his hand from under the dirty blanket. Ryn gasped as she saw his hand with no fingers. "Ugly, isn't it?" He asked her when he saw her looking at his hand.

Ryn didn't know what to say. So, she kept quiet.

"This is my grandfather. He is kept here in hiding because he is the only one who knows the truth about what happened thirty years ago during the COVID-19 outbreak. There were many assassination attempts, but he escaped every single one of them. This is the only safe place for him."

Klay's Bubba said, "In 2019, there was an outbreak of a deadly virus. But what came after the outbreak was deadlier. The vaccinations... There was something in those vaccines that started causing problems in people. It felt like it was working for some time. Then, one by one, all the governments started to fund it. But after a few weeks, complications started arising. People lost their eyesight and hearing. Children were born with various congenital malformations. There were people who were worse off. But many died. It left only a few million people alive. And the number of these people were still going down. The government started executing



people who developed acute symptoms to the vaccines as a way to stop the further spread of infection.

“I was there when it all happened. My son died because of the vaccine. Many others lost their family due to this. This raised the suspicions that there was a higher power at play. After months, it was found out that this virus was one created in the labs of an institute that was funded by all the first-world countries. Protests, riots, rebellions began, but there was no response from the governments. They made no move to stop the vaccines. In the end, it wiped out a majority of the population with every land infected with whatever disease was going around. Many escaped. The only place left were these three islands that were far away from the mainland. The rich inhabited the mainland which is now called Paragon Island. With their money, they were able to develop their part. The rest of us are left here in the Fractured City. We have no money, no resources. We make do with all that we get from the environment. The Elites ensure that we are given the vaccines every year. It makes us submissive to them. We believe that they make us like this so that we are separated from the Elites on Paragon Island.”

Ryn couldn't believe what she was hearing. She knew all about the virus that caused them to move to the Isles of Elysium. But she never knew about the rest. Her textbooks never spoke of such things. All they said was that the Impures in the Fractured City were vaccinated to contain their infection. Gathering enough courage, she asked the old man, “How do you know for sure that the vaccines are causing this?”

It was Klay's turn to speak now. “There were rumours that there was one baby who didn't get the vaccination by mistake, and that baby was healthy with no problems. No one believed that. It was my younger brother. A few that saw him realized that what we were given was the problem. That started an underground rebellion which led to fights during the vaccination drives. They killed my brother when he was four to make sure that people would think that a baby born without any defects was just a rumour. And it worked until your brother made an appearance here.”

Ryn looked at her brother who had his head held down. “I had tried to stop the guards from vaccinating an old woman. By mistake, I was injected. A few weeks later, my face started to change. Mom and Dad felt that I was infected. But that wasn't true. I had been coming here for years and nothing happened to me. I kept myself away from everyone. Being an Elite meant that our parents' reputation was at stake. Again, rumours started that I was infected. That was how I met Klay. He had come in search of me to see if the rumours were true because I was the living proof that the problem was the vaccinations that were being distributed in the Fractured City. I promised to help them. The last time you caught us was the day I planned to get inside the lab that produced these serums. Dad is one of the people producing the serum.”

Ryn was shocked to hear the truth from her brother. The whole of Paragon Island was manipulated by the authorities into believing that the people from the Fractured City were the cause of the infection when it was the government itself. Her father himself was involved in this and knew the truth.

She knew she had to do something to make this right. So, she volunteered, “I will go and do it instead, Esai.”

He shook his head rapidly. “No. No, you won't. It's dangerous.”

“It's more dangerous for you to go into the labs because they will think you are infected right at the security check. I can get in using Dad's access pass.”

Esai was going to argue again, but Klay interrupted him. “She's right, Esai. If it was possible for people like us to get in, then I would have destroyed it a long time ago. We need the access pass to get in the storage that holds the vaccines.” Reluctantly, her brother agreed.

Later, after a lot of planning, Ryn was taken back into Paragon Island that same night. Many people from the Fractured City joined them in wooden boats. It was different to sit in a wooden boat instead of the lavish yachts her family owned like many other Elites.

From what she had heard from Klay talking to her brother, they were planning to start a rebellion in the streets to distract the civilians while she sneaked into the laboratory. They tied their boats under a bridge that was not in use. There were no guards here, and so, they were safe. Ryn was led by Esai and Klay through the streets towards the building that mass-produced the problematic serum.

As she was slipping in through one of the tiny windows that was left open, she heard thousands of voices



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sing something. She could only hear a few lines, but they were something that caught her attention.

It's been a long
A long time coming
But I know a change gonna come
Oh, yes it will
It's been too hard living
But I'm afraid to die
'Cause I don't know what's up there
Beyond the sky

She walked in after using her father's access pass and saw that majority of the people, just like they hoped, had gone to see what was happening. So, the building was deserted. She helped the others get in so that they could help destroy the serum that began the mass infection.

They saw the room where hundreds of them were stored in the refrigerators. One by one, they took the boxes out. She stood there with a smile, and her brother put his arm around her shoulder.

Klay moved in front of the Blackwell siblings and smiled. "Thank you. Your help with your father's access pass was the reason we could do this. This won't cause a major change in the system, but it's still a beginning. We have a long, difficult path ahead of us to fight the injustice done to us. But this was the push we needed to show the Elites that we can fight back when they hurt us."

"We are glad that we could be of any help. Where will these boxes go?" Esai asked.

"The Forbidden Island. All the medical waste from Paragon Island is dumped there. Because of the fear of infection, no one risks going there. We will throw these vaccines there too." Klay explained.

Ryn realized that there were a lot of things she didn't know about. She smiled softly at Klay. Then, curiosity got better of her and she asked, "What was that thing they were singing?"

A bright smile grazed Klay's face. "My grandfather taught us that song. It was one of the songs that were used to fight social injustice when he was young. People forgot all about it. But he taught us that so that it could be our strength. It was sung by a man named Sam Cooke. It's called A Change is Gonna Come."

Ryn and Esai went out and stood on the streets. They listened to the song that was being sung by the hundreds of people who were the victims of the manipulation by people like their parents. They would no longer be the victims. They were the survivors. They also knew that this song would be the song of the revolution that began today with the destruction of the serum.



Dreams

Suniti Pingte
FYBA

Raima was a person with big dreams and high aspirations. She wanted to do something big in her life and therefore decided to pursue a career in writing. As years went by and she grew up, she realized that her financial conditions were going from bad to worse. Seeing the conditions at home, she thought of giving up on her dream of being a writer and gave a thought to finding a proper job. Raima was very hardworking and determined towards her studies. While she was pursuing her career in Arts in the English language, she started searching for jobs so that she could earn money and give some amount of money as a contribution from her side to the household.

At the age of 22, she finished her education and found the job of a professor for herself with her expected income in Mumbai. Though she had given up on her dream, she always had a wish of writing a book and so she used to write little articles in her diary whenever she got time. She soon became friends with Sanmit who



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worked in the college as an Economics professor. He was just 3 years older than Raima. As time passed by they went on to become great friends and then best friends. Sanmit got to know about her dreams and wished to do anything he could for her.

Two days later after their conversation, he found a diary on Raima's desk. He read the diary and found out how passionate Raima was about writing and how beautifully she wrote. Sanmit met Raima and expressed his thoughts about her articles. Sanmit wanted her articles to be published in a magazine! Raima was anxious after listening to Sanmit but later agreed to Sanmit's suggestion. Some days later, her articles were published in a Magazine called Maya which was specifically for ladies. And then on Raima went to write articles and books.

The love and passion Raima had for writing, gave her certainty of what she wanted to do and become; a writer. Though she had given up on being a writer, she never gave up on writing. Though she had taken up a job, she also continued writing but the only problem here was her confidence. Pursuing dreams aren't easy, willpower, support and passion, all these three things are equally important. She just needed someone to be her backbone and support her and this is what led her towards pursuing her dream of becoming a writer.

Children of Artemis

Isha Karandikar
TYBA

The seeds for Advanced Bionics Movements were sown just before the Second World War. No one person can be credited for the start of the Movement. A cult of sorts was very invested in mixing electronics with the human body and a lot of big names contributed and supported the research. In fact, Hitler was one of them.

People thought bionics would help them overcome the one thing that everyone fears the most. Death. Probably prolonging human life is the one thing that science wants to achieve the most. Thinking about how many possibilities would be unlocked if we just cracked death is mind-boggling.

The pioneers of the Advanced Bionics Movement were waiting for the right time to come to the light. They prepped people up by introducing technologies like IVF, Test Tube babies, bionic limbs, pacemakers etc. Seeing the success of all these technologies, they found new investors and subjects for the research. The research had downsides too. Deaths. Hundreds and thousands of innocent deaths.

Around 2016 or so, they wanted to make perfect babies by altering the genes. Babies who would top in studies, workplaces. Golden Children. It was easy getting surrogates for that. Homelessness was constantly on the rise and women needed the money they were paying. The experiment was a success but at the cost of a lot of deformed babies who were put down.

When 2018 hit and tensions among nations increased, the US and other developed countries invested in a special project. The project was started by a very famous scientist, Dr. Maura Green. National security was a big question in front of the nations and World War Three was apparently looming overhead. The project hit a break when in 2020, Coronavirus hit. The Governments pulled the money out of this project, declaring it illegal.

The whole world went on lockdown. Economies started failing and a lot of research facilities had to be shut down. People started losing faith in the Movement because 'if they can't fix a common flu virus, how are they going to beat death?'

But a quarter of the faction persisted. They knew they had a lot of scope after the virus was cured. They gave their all to the research. And made a lot of progress too. It was easier to get people to volunteer by making fake promises of a cure or a vaccine. It was also easy to hide the bodies among the Covid deaths.

Their first step was body modifications. Bionic enhancements that worked well. People are weirdly obsessed with horns, tails and weird coloured eyes. As soon as the lockdown lifted, people ran behind these



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modifications like crazy. By 2022, seeing people in the streets with horns and tails was a very normal sight.

The scientists involved cracked a very easy tactic that many people miss. As long as you make the product available at lower rates, more people buy it and you make more money than just the population that would be able to buy it if the product was too costly.

The money went ahead to fund other research. As 2025 came around, cancer was cured. Brain transplant was possible along with memory preservation. The good thing was that these treatments were made available at a very low cost. So, everyone could afford them.

The project that Dr. Maura Green had started in 2018 was still going on in the background. It was a very important and very expensive project.

Project Artemis.

In Greek mythology, Artemis is the goddess of the hunt. A near-perfect warrior and killer.

15 female babies were born on 12th February 2018 named after 15 goddesses. They were more than just the perfect babies. They were stronger, sturdier and smarter than any other human. They were monitored since birth. Put through rigorous training once they reached 10 years of age. Their whole purpose was to be spies and killing machines for the nations. Together they were called Children of Artemis. Just like the myth goes, they hunted down monsters and high-class criminals. Or what their Governments told them were high-class criminals.

People were terrified of the Children of Artemis. They were the most efficient killers anyone had ever seen. But they kept peace in the nations and maintained the Utopia that was created thanks to science.

Everything started to shatter around 2028 when the Governments and the big Corporations started using biotech for spying and collecting data. The first sign of this was when the lead corporation, The Mech-Tech forced a developing country's people to get their DNAs recorded. They wanted the genomes of these people to experiment further and to find out if they can control humans.

At the turn of the decade, the year 2030, one child of Artemis falls for her prey. A doctor named Ashley Maxwell. She was part of the Movement but stepped down and went into hiding when she found out the true intentions of the heads of the Movement.

The Children of Artemis were very compassionate and had a very strong moral compass. So, when Ashley confides in the warrior what the Movement is all about, aka World Domination, and how it has already started in smaller countries, it did not sit well with the warrior. Suddenly, they were killing the same people they had sworn to protect.

And all because the Governments had lied to them. Their masters were the real monsters.

She started gathering all her other sisters. It proved to be a little harder because they were all over the world and had trackers in their arms. But Ashley helped her in removing the trackers.

The warrior's name is Athena, Goddess of War Strategy and Wisdom.

Now, in 2031, she can't help but be proud as she stands before the bruised and mangled body of her creator, Dr. Maura Green. The first step in correcting the wrongs of the Advanced Bionics Movement.

"I created you." Maura gasps, "You are who you are because of me." Athena chuckles humorlessly, her gun pointed between the doctor's eyes.

"And that's why it's my job to right your wrongs, Mother." She spits before firing the shot.

I let out a huge sigh as I watched the scene unfold before me. Watching one of the brilliant minds die like this, doesn't sit well with me but she was a monster. Just like all the other people that will die soon.

We try not to interfere with human affairs much. We learned our lesson after the Helen of Troy incident but when humans start destroying our beautiful creations and get a God complex, we have to step in. Time to fix this so-called Utopia before these dumbasses self-destruct. Or worse, actually cure Death. Hades will lose it and then literal hell will break loose.

I am the Goddess of the Hunt. I hunt monsters. So, that's what the Children of Artemis will do now.



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Haunting Beauty

Shruti Satish
FYBA

The first thing that I notice from my bedroom window is the beautiful yet eerie cemetery that is bang opposite my eye level. Many of my friends have asked whether I get afraid or even ask me if I've spotted ghosts; I always answer no to both questions. Often, I spend my mornings looking outside my window and just observe and take in the graveyard. It will be around 7 am, the weather is chilly, the sun has just risen, the silence is peaceful and everything feels surreal. As I am looking into this ethereal view, I am reminded of a quote; "There is no death, there is only a change of worlds". Ever since I was a child, I had always been fascinated by graveyards and found them hauntingly beautiful. When we were moving into our new house, I made it a point to get a room that had the said graveyard as a view.

To get to see crows and bats hover around the crosses, peacocks flocking and walking on graves, listening to hymns being sung by priests and loved ones as they say goodbye to the departed, the heavy silences by mourners who felt that they had so much more to say to the dead, the elevated energies and presences that can be felt; all of these nuances that I observe from my window; I will always find amusing and intriguing.

A Soulful Connection

Kanishka Joshi
FYBA

To me, passion and dance go hand in hand. It has been 10 years now that we have held each other through thick and thin. I was introduced to it just as a hobby but with passing time it turned out to be the greatest motivation for me.

The art of dance is something that rules the kingdom of my emotions. It is one such place where I can be myself completely. I can give up all the artificial layers to my feelings and let them sway with my body. Dance connects me to my own soul. It creates a fairyland where nothing is right or wrong. It comes very naturally to me as a companion for a lifetime. I feel so deeply about dance because it has taught me something with every newly learnt step. It helps me relax and enjoy myself to my heart's content. It inspires me to learn more every day. I cannot imagine my day without a swirl here and there. It is something that gives me peace like nothing else could and maybe like nothing ever can. It is my closest friend, my greatest critique and my permanent companion in every sense. No words may ever be enough to express what it means to me and how it has taught me to be human.

A Staircase for Rescue

Snehal Darwatar
FYBA

It was Friday afternoon, I had an argument with my sister for not letting me hang out with my friends, and I ran towards my room with tears in my eyes and sat near a window to peace myself out.

I wish there should be a staircase attached to my window that can help rescue me from my problems, where I can live all my dreams and fantasies. I can roam around without bothering about the time, I can wear dresses of my choice without any restrictions, I can keep my hair open & dance on 'Nagada Sang Dhol' (song from movie Goliyon ki Raasleela Ram-Leela), I can eat all day, all time without caring about the perfect body size, I can talk with boys as long as we want without having fear to get noticed by others, I can make



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friends of every gender without getting judged, I can achieve success without getting hatred.
And after having my own good time, go back to normal life.

Hoping that everything can be as beautiful as my imaginary world, I penned down my feelings in a stanza...

'Darkness Throughout
But the Ray at the End...
Breaking the Stereotypes
That Causes Pain.'



Her

Sriradha Gupta
TYBA

Her frame is delicate,
but her resolution is firm.
You may try your best to trap her;
She'll not be trapped because you tried,
She'll stay behind for she respected.
Testing her patience is playing with fire,
Suppressing her is only because of the
frail ego you possess.
She's strong than you could imagine,
She's braver than you could ever be.
If it's not expressed doesn't mean
it doesn't exist.
She is wild.
She is strong.
She will bounce back.
She trusted you only to fall,

She will trust herself to rise high.
She is at the peak.
She is ready to fall down only
to fly even higher.
She is not alone.
She is not weak.
She is powerful.
She is the Queen.
She is the Magic.
She is the Power.
She is life.
She is an adventure,
She is peace.
She is the world you won't dare to explore,
For your cowardice would be exposed.



Inner Desire

Naina Gaikwad
SYBA

Every cloud has a silver lining,
And so the stars are shining.
Don't wait for the next moment girl,
Do it just now and shine bright like a pearl.
The Lord has given you a chance to live,
Live the life to its fullest as there's limited time,
A time to prove your heart sublime.
There would be many to drag you to do wrong,
But a very few to sing a song along.
Don't get away with their flattery,
It will just ruin you into slavery.
Lead your life to the best,

And God will do the rest,
Set your mind free of thoughts,
But choose some among the lot.
Thoughts that set your dreams on fire,
Fulfill it without going hay-wire.
Dreams that never let you sleep,
Until you've taken a great leap.
Show the world you are not weak,
You can do what you seek.
The ocean is incomplete without you,
Come dear, complete it with that single drop,
Unto you lies all my hope.



Of Daydreams and Difficult Questions

Delna Anklesaria
FYBA

Life isn't what I want it to be. That's the one thought that occupies my mind every night before I fall asleep. I hate that I'm not where and who I want to be. The hardest thing for me to do is to accept that I can't just jump into my favourite book and change the course of my life forever. So I imagine I'm the main character in a 19th Century period piece. I live in a beautiful mansion in the countryside and learn to respect the literature and the arts. I imagine grand balls with music and dancing, large libraries and priceless pianofortes, corsets and hats, and it hurts to think I can never have any of it. So I convince myself that I was born in the wrong era at the wrong place, that there was a glitch in the system, and I landed up where I am.

I know these thoughts are a little selfish because my life isn't terrible. My life is perfectly adequate, and yet I long for more. But thoughts are all they are, imagination running wild. It's a little ironic that I regularly lose myself in my thoughts but would be utterly lost without them. Well, after forcing myself to understand that my life cannot be magical in the literal sense, I ask myself what I can do with what I've got. "How can you give yourself some purpose in life?" Sadly, every time I ask myself this, the dreaded question, "Who am I?" surfaces, and I brush it away as fast as it had appeared. I worry that life is too plain, that I'm aimlessly existing as my days pass by and nothing I do really matters. So I go back to daydreaming, imagining, and hoping it would help quiet my mind.

UTOPIA: 2031

Kumud Poptani
TYBA

I have never really sat and thought or even told someone about how tumultuous my life has been. If you see me today sitting here on this teakwood European style sofa, you would laugh at my face and tell me that there is no way, a difficult life even exists. Ironically, back in 2021, I never thought that an ideal life exists, but you know what? I was proved wrong, and at the same time, I am the evidence to prove YOU wrong. Today, unfairness, stereotype, difficulty to accept self and toxicity are mere words and phrases. The kindness movement hit an all-time high back in 2029 and I wasn't sure if it was a part of a conspiracy or propaganda like everything else had been since forever. The world which I see today has better people, respect for opinions and understanding that after all, we are all just humans. Everything seems easier now, the faces are happier, we love our environment and don't judge people for who they are; we don't need activists shouting and begging people to understand a cause, empathize with a certain group of people and just value someone's suffering. No one today is too rich or too poor; everyone is living a comfortable life. You see, the moment people leave the umbrella of selfishness, not only one person, many people get affected by it; society lives a cohesive life and the barriers of money, understanding, empathy and realisation have taken a backseat. Back in the day, ignorance had been a huge problem, be it to the government, environment or the self; the kindness project takes care of that. Of course, it has been a long process and to change the way a person's mind works isn't that easy of a task but it fulfils because we help each other to do that and it's an ongoing process. Nothing divides us, and religion which was a huge part of leading our lives or making us have to lead a certain way, does not exist; and this was the last thing I thought was possible. This world is everything you want it to be but all you have to do is be self-aware of your feelings and your lifestyle simultaneously being aware of other people's suffering. Don't get me wrong, we still go through personal struggle and difference in opinions but we choose to work it out and consider all the parties involved in an action, like a small family. Do you wonder how we do this with such a huge population? Well, first things first, the population isn't all that huge as it was in 2021 or 2025, the greed, the hate and toxic world ate one-third of the population in its own ways in the form of viruses, lynching, mental health problems leading to several suicides and deaths. Our society is divided into groups as it should and we all know our basic principles as we should. To be honest, I wouldn't want to live in any way else possible. This is utopia and I'm who I wanna be.



St. Mira's College for Girls

The Room that I'm In

Siddiqua Firfiray
SYBA

The room that I'm in,
I've been in here for days.
It has now put me in a daze.
The room that I'm in,
I'd usually love to spend time.
Now if I'd leave, would it be a crime?
The room that I'm in
Reminds me of important things.
Of but a caged bird with wings.
The room that I'm in,
My place of dwelling, love and hope.
Where I have always learnt to cope.
The room that I'm in,
Tells me to be grateful in life.
Demands my courage and my strife.

The room that I'm in,
Speaks of hard work and grit-
Does not want me to ever quit.
The room that I'm in,
Wants to see a part of me.
What would I live to be?
The room that I'm in,
Shelves knowledge and books,
Mirrors beauty and looks.
The room that I'm in,
Holds my future in its walls-
My triumphs and downfalls.
The room that I'm in,
Forges windows of sunshine
To join the venture of mankind.

Jewel Tones

Arman Chagla
TYBA

There once was a ship on the high blue sea,
Captained by a pirate as kind as can be.
The Queen Dido tossed and turned on the tall waves,
Carried on starch white sails as wide as anyone e'er saw
With a big steering wheel made of dark rosewood,
And a figurehead of a lion with an open maw!
But one fine day did the captain see
The churning of dark water that can only the signs of a hurricane be.
He called to his sailors,
'Secure the oars, bind the barrels and stow the feed!
All of them were up and running about
But there was one who did not complete the deed.
He was the youngest of the slap-dash crew,
A young man that was not yet twenty-and-two.
He ran for the mead and the bread and the meat,
Tying them down for when the storm tossed the men from where they stood,
He overlooked the crate of cheese that slid between the men's feet;
This was the crate that struck the captain and finished him, for good.
To be bereft on the high sea without a leader was no fate a crew ought to meet
But as kind as the captain was, the men were certainly fleet.
They hurried to appropriate the man's belongings with haste,
From his pilfered wardrobe to his vanity case,
A little pinch here, and to his personal wine stores, a little taste.
That was, until they came to a door in the wall trimmed with lace.
Assuming it was another hoard of fanciful clothing,



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They brushed off that conquest as being rather boring.
 But the youngest of the men, the same that we knew,
 Had an inkling the captain was rather rich, and so
 He plundered the personal effects, his soul he gave in lew;
 Until he came upon a store that made his heart hitch.

Cartons upon cartons were piled one upon the other,
 With one large chest hiding just under another.
 He thought there was a treasure to behold, so
 One step at a time, up the stairs he came with the chest,
 What was the true extent of the wealth in the box, he never told.
 But he took for himself one of many colored gems each, and one for all the rest.

His crewmates blessed him, they kissed his hand,
 For the kind gift he gave them when they finally reached land.
 Benevolently, he smiled, when he slipped the gem in one's pocket,
 For one he made a ring as a gift, a third found a dangling earring of gold,
 a fourth had a red jewel welded into his peg, the other received his in a locket.
 However grateful they might have been, the fates of these gifts were that they were finally sold.

The gems travelled the world as no man had,
 But wherever they went, they drove their possessor mad.
 For it was a feat of human strength to bear the temptation
 And the whims of men were wild, their constitutions weak.
 The gems wreaked their havoc from Barbados to Bangladesh no less than a contagion,
 Threatening the sanity of those whom they would seek.

Yet kindness was the virtue that no man yet had weighted,
 Our old sea captain was the only possessor these gems had not baited.
 And so, over the years they went out of sight,
 In the hands of those who believe they will endure and
 Withdrawn by those that craved their might.
 Awaiting the chance to have a new heart to lure.

THE ASSIGNMENT ARCHIVE

The HydraX Project

Draw near, my friends; come stand by me;
 Bear witness to a tale of woe and greed.
 As the crow flies, let this telling be swift,
 For the wicked await their judgement scrift.

Our story begins at the turn of
 The year 2025 that ground us in its quern.
 The world's voice began to cry and plead, contaminated was
 The fresh water that we would need.

The chemicals we forced down the throat of the Mother
 Had come for our very lives to smother.
 The river-source lay rotting and still,
 Foaming and diseased Adam's ale our true bill.

Arman Chagla
 TYBA



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Governments united stood strong,
 Their resolution would their people prolong.
 But the heat of their environs fueled the flame
 Of hysteria; widespread, violent and untamed.

The HydraX project was then launched,
 A venture in which most allowed their hope to be ensconced.
 To depend on the might of the oceans deep,
 Vast and fulfilling was the pool they'd reap.

Drawing on the saline flow was their goal,
 Into the engines parked in the shoal,
 Evaporating the ichor into gaseous gold
 To be harvested pure from the atmosphere's hold.

Mammoth was the undertaking to parch the thirst of a planet,
 The nations united were thrown by the economic gambit.
 Well-meaning efforts to deliver failed,
 But the wealth of private corporations, the divide scaled.

Stations were built and production began,
 Fueled by the means of the businessman.
 Water now was free for the people,
 No one foresaw how soon the system would be in upheaval.

While we rejoiced in our innovation,
 Big corporates were plotting new methods of dislocation.
 Ships of the air made their formal approach,
 Onloaded were the prole, lives and families left in the lurch.

For years, the harvesters would troll the skies,
 Slurping up clouds to have aqua materialize.
 Landing only for a moment to fuel,
 And surrendering their water to the worker's rule.

Day in and day out, we workers toiled,
 Our lives lost, yet our hearts rejoiced,
 For saving the world fell to our lot,
 Quenching the thirst that humanity's avarice wrought.

Yet the harvesters our own world became,
 With friendship and kindness, a semblance of society we'd reclaim.
 And as it goes, many fell in love,
 Living their lives together in the blue above.

As many did, so did I.
 I found my wife, my love, the light of my life.
 We wed in the heart of the ship we called home,
 The IHS Sappho; where we set our vows in stone.

The work was hard, the days were long,
 But with my Vivien, the hours jogged along.
 She navigated the cloud cover and I steered the craft,
 Gliding over the world on steel motors that lay aft.

Many years we sailed the vault azure,
 We lost good friends and many we knew.
 Our lifeblood watered the stones of their machine,
 Our bodies crushed, the gears between.

But to the tycoon-tyrant below,
 We were motor-fodder for the cogged beast, our souls in escrow.
 The demands to deliver increased,



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With the promise of benefits, our palms were greased.

So we set to burning the midnight oil,
Praying to see the fruit of our toil.
Yields were raised and clouds were razed,
Yet the exigencies of the company remained unphased.

Only at a fueling stop were the blinds from our eyes drawn,
Casual gossip between strongmen alerting us to the con.
“Did you hear what they're charging for the water these days?”
“It'll be a kidney with which the common man will soon pay!”

Confusion marred the faces of those present,
An inquiry offered a conclusion most unpleasant.
The HydraX project was a capitalist scheme,
The proletariat was living in an idealist dream!

The aqua vitae we farmed did not reach the poor and the weak,
It was still muddy streams and the trickle of charity they seek.
While the rich squandered the luxury of health,
Many found themselves breathing their last breath.

The ground became littered with the dashed hopes of long years,
Finally, it seemed, the smoke had cleared.
The roots of the poisonous tree were reaching post-haste,
Winding their way around the world lain to waste.

Yet a new dawn approached with the racing of minds,
The rage had powered the gears with which the IHS Sappho truly winds.
As the ship weighed anchor, one soul on land remained,
My Vivien, sweet Vivien, her journey made.

She hopped from barge to rail as she journeyed west,
At only the foot of the Federation council, she'd come to rest.
When at last her questions were heard,
With no answer or even acknowledgement, she was spurred.

She withdraw from the council with motive in her eyes,
But one step out of the building had the lawmen marking her up for size.
They hauled her to the station with no sentiment but contempt,
Her treatment in their lock-up left no cruelties exempt.

Four months and eight days has my wife been held,
And I, Captain René Clark, will not yield until this foul injustice is impelled
To cave to the force of the might of good men,
Will I rest, only and only, then.

For is it not we ourselves who saved us from desolation?
Their coin is their only salvation.
For even the executioner's men will agree,
They too have family in the airsea.

These exploits are the colour green,
Tainting the palms of those hands clean
With the filth that only hegemony breeds,
Sullyng what may have been borne as good deeds.

And so, brothers, sisters, and kinsfolk alike,
I ask that you call for the freedom of my wife!
If we may behold the webs of this complex dark,
Only then will our arrow of revolt find its true mark.

It may seem no matter if only one of us weeps,
But it is the final crop of freedom we will all reap!



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Let us ring a black bell for those sitting in the high seat,
Kinsfolk, I repeat, come dream with me!

A Note on Worldbuilding:

Since the poem is set in a dystopian universe, and one that I hope we are never brought to behold, it only felt right to offer a few words on the worldbuilding of this narrative. The poem is set in the fictional year of 2031 when humanity has faced a severe water crisis; the freshwater sources of the world are contaminated by waterborne pollutants and are deemed unsafe for consumption. The united governments of the world decide to undertake what comes to be known as the HydraX project: a venture that draws saline water from the ocean and artificially evaporates it at an unnaturally high rate in order to obtain and synthesize fresh water. Initially, stations are set up in coastal areas by the government, but as both demand and the urgency of supply rise, the project is handed over to private corporations to expand production. Water is distributed free of cost to all strata of society. Behemoth airborne carriers are created, harvesting moisture from the upper straits of the atmosphere, with crews ranging from 100-400 technicians who are overseen by the captain. These technicians are held in high regard; both due to their long and arduous jobs as well as their service to their fellow citizens.

The protagonists of our tale are Captain René Clark and her wife, Vivien; the navigator of the IHS Sappho. A routine fueling trip for the ship results in the knowledge that the water these airborne technicians believed was being fairly distributed, is now being charged for and hoarded in their year-long absences. Vivien takes it upon herself to go to the Federation Council that deals with all matters of water in this enterprise, and upon her questioning, is detained under false charges of sedition and fraud. Her wife, the captain is the voice of this narrative, appealing in some form of mass media to both her fellow harvesters and the citizens below for their support in order to liberate her wife.

This narrative, although superimposed upon a choice of dystopia, is one that we all as readers recognise in the world that we currently live in. The brave and the knowing who raise their voices in the face of injustice are often dealt with cruelly and dubiously, outside of public knowledge. While it might be a stretch to call it 'the way of the world', as a writer and a questioning individual, I must reluctantly come to swallow the bitter truth; while society exists, there will always be those with power and those without. It is simply the ethical imperative of the latter to maintain the best common interest against their looming adversary.

Bellum Cordibus Vestris

Shreya Bhide
SYBA

Hello Player! Welcome to the official walkthrough of our new game, Bellum Cordibus Vestris which is Latin for War Of Hearts.

Bellum Cordibus Vestris is an adventure style game with four levels in total. Each level has an important item that you have to collect in order to move forward. The fourth and final level is the boss level in which you will use said collected item to vanquish the enemy and win the game.

You, the player, play as Princess Althea who has to save the Angel Cassiel from the dark cave of Mount Odigo which is made entirely of lead which dampens the Angel's celestial powers. You must also face a formidable enemy in battle and fight for your right to be the truest version of yourself.

Now that we have learned about the basic premise, let's begin the game.

PRELUDE

When you begin the game, you first have an option to customize what you want Princess Althea to look like and what combat skills she has. You start with one combat skill now which becomes your strength and as you move along you get to develop the other based on the choices you make. You have three main options when choosing combat skills.

1. Hand to hand combat



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2. Archery
3. Sword fighting

I am choosing archery for the sake of this walkthrough because I find that archery is really useful in level one and helps get through it faster. As for everything else, we can always develop it along the way.

We are now taken to a cut scene that tells the story of Althea and Cassiel. The Angel Cassiel is the patron angel of the downtrodden and oppressed. She decided to pay Althea a visit because even though Althea is a princess, in the Kingdom of Zatirani, people like Althea, were considered sinners and were stoned to death if they were caught. Althea was gay. She locked herself in her room for days on end unwilling to face the brutal reality of the outside world. The angel Cassiel felt bad for her and would visit her every night to ease her pain. As the days went on, Althea and Cassiel fell in love with each other.

One fateful night, King Fergus, found out about Althea and Cassiel. Filled with rage he stormed into Althea's room to kill his own daughter, only to find the angel calmly sitting there and his daughter missing. The angel has transported her to a safe place using her powers. Unable to kill an immortal angel, King Fergus binds her in handcuffs made of pure lead which renders her powers useless. He then traps her in a cage in the Cave of Mount Odigo which is guarded by a Ferocious Ice Spitting Dragon.

Meanwhile, Princess Althea wakes up on a remote deserted island.

This is where our gameplay begins. We wake up on the island, already equipped with a bow and a quiver full of arrows. Our first quest is to locate the altar of Bellona, the Roman goddess of war. The Altar is located on the northwest side of the island inside the dark forest. At the altar, you will find a spear. Take the spear with you, it will prove to be useful later.

Our next quest is to find an offering for the goddess Bellona. This is quite easy. There are numerous animals to hunt. Here you can try to develop your other skills before beginning level one. Once you have finished with the offering, Bellona will bless you and you will receive a map to Mount Odigo and to the pieces of Bellona's armour that you have to collect along the way in order to defeat the Dragon.

Now we head East, towards the docks to get off this island and reach the Island of Anazitisi where Mount Odigo is located. There is a ship at the docks which we will use to sail through the Serpent Sea to the Island of Anazitisi.

CHAPTER ONE: TYPHON'S CHILD

As we begin level one, it is imperative to remember that you need to have one eye on the map at all times and it is incredibly easy to get lost at sea which will result in you wandering the seas until your health is fully depleted and you will die. There are limited food and water supplies on the ship. These will enable you to replenish your health. Use them wisely. If your health becomes null, you will die and the game will restart from your last checkpoint which is at the beginning of each level.

Steering the ship takes a little getting used to but it is very easy once you get the hang of it. Once you have a good handle on the boat, begin heading west toward the Island of Anazitisi. As we go deeper and deeper into the sea, it gets more and more turbulent.

At this point, flying venomous serpents begin to fly into your ship. Have your bow and arrow ready. Each serpent dies with a single arrow to its head. After killing a few smaller serpents, we come face to face with the big one.

Blocking your path you will find a fifteen-foot tall, nine-headed Hydra. Its belly is emanating a golden glow. That is where your first item is. Bellona's sword.

Now the thing to remember with The Hydra is that if you chop one head off, two more will grow in its place. To kill The Hydra, you have to chop off its one immortal head. But you have no idea of knowing which it is.

We have to remember that our goal is to simply obtain Bellona's Sword. There are three ways you can go about this:

1. In the traditional way to kill The Hydra, you begin beheading it one by one and cauterizing every wound to prevent regrowth. Once it is dead, you can cut open its belly and obtain the sword.
2. Another way is to let The Hydra eat you and you obtain the sword once you reach its belly and then kill it from the inside.



3. The third way is to blind The Hydra using arrows and then stealthily approaching it and cutting its belly open using the spear and obtaining the sword. This will not necessarily kill The Hydra but it will damage it enough for you to get away and reach the next level.

Now that we have obtained Bellona's Sword, we can steer the ship toward the Island of Anazitisi.

CHAPTER TWO: IMMORTUOS

Once we dock at the shore, the first thing to do is collect the rest of the supplies in the ship and put them in your backpack. There is a chance we might not find food and water along the way and could die of starvation without it.

With our supplies stocked, we begin our journey toward Mount Odigo. According to the map, we have to head northeast toward The Valley of Immortunos. As the name suggests, the valley is filled with undead creatures of all kinds. This is the best place to develop all your combat skills. There are 3 types of undead creatures that require 3 different types of combat skills to defeat them. We have:

1. **The Abominations:** An Abomination is basically a zombie. These guys need to be beheaded in order to be killed. Defeating them will require sword fighting skills. If you successfully defeat them, you develop that skill.
2. **The Osseuses:** An Osseus is a skeleton and it is too strong to be broken by swords or arrows. The only way you can defeat them is by engaging in hand to hand combat. Attacking the joints and breaking them away from the body kills an osseus. Fighting an osseus develops your hand to hand combat.
3. **The Dilitirios:** A Dilitirio is a decaying monster that spits poison. Locally known as 'The Spitter', dilitrios are the most dangerous undead creatures in the valley. They need to be killed from a distance. An arrow to the heart kills them instantly. Alternatively, two arrows anywhere on the body will also kill them. Fighting them develops your archery skills.

Now that we know all about the creatures in The Valley of Immortunos we can attempt to cross the valley.

When we approach the valley, nothing is growing anywhere near there. No chance to get food or water until we reach the other side. Now when we reach the valley, The map shows us a straight wide path that leads to Bellona's Helmet. On closer inspection we notice a crooked and narrow path that also leads to where Bellona's Helmet is on the other side but on the way there, a black dot can be seen on the map. That dot is the goddess Hecate's Temple.

The narrow path may be longer but it's worth the time. At the temple, there are two consumable potions. One is a Health potion and the other a Lava potion. Put both the potions in the backpack. If at this point you have very low health, you can consume the health potion and save the supplies for later. **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES CONSUME THE LAVA POTION. IT WILL KILL YOU INSTANTLY.** Another thing to note is that, if at this point all the slots in your backpack are full, and you have no place to keep the potions, you can discard the spear.

After this little easter egg detour, we continue on our journey to obtain Bellona's Helmet. This journey isn't very difficult if you are vigilant and quick with your fingers. Please note that we do encounter more undead monsters on the narrow path than the wide path but that is just the developer's way of making the easter egg harder to find.

When we reach the mouth of a tunnel, the level gets a little trickier. The tunnel is the only way to exit the valley and it is lit only by the occasional flaming torches which unfortunately we cannot pick up. Now, this tunnel has several sub tunnels and it is very easy to walk into the wrong one and either get lost in the maze of sub tunnels or die by falling into poison pools. I recommend that you manually save the game before entering the tunnel. Due to the minimal visibility, this part of the level requires extra attention. Also, keep an eye on the map and remember we have to keep going northeast and not north.

There is nothing to fight in this part of the game. We have to just keep going. And remember to jump over poison pools.

When we arrive at Bellona's Helmet, it feels like a dead end. It is kept on a pedestal and there is a stone wall behind it. Once we pick up the helmet and equip it, the pedestal lowers and the walls part to reveal an exit.

CHAPTER THREE: TELONIO TERRITORY

We now find ourselves in a semi-wooded area known as the Telonio Territory and from over the treetops, Mount Odigo is visible. Our destination is not very far away. Telonio Territory is home to the family of goblins known as the Telonios.



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These purple goblins are about three foot tall but are master thieves and super quick. In order to defeat these goblins, you have to use hand to hand combat. Archery and Sword Fighting is possible but it slows you down which results in the goblins stealing from your backpack. In case of the goblins, it is not necessary to kill them you can merely swat them away and this will prevent them from stealing your stuff.

On the map, our quest is to find Magissa's Cottage, which is on the other side of the Telonio Territory. We have to keep heading northeast. This level is all about stealth. We have to get through the territory with the least amount of goblins noticing us. The thing with goblins is that the more goblins notice us and we swat away, the more they increase in number around us. If there are too many, in the end, it becomes harder to escape with all our items intact.

Telonio Goblins sense distress so we have to make sure we cause as little distress as possible. For this level, your map will be pinned on the upper right-hand corner of your screen. You will see small red dots on it which represents the goblins and a green dot that represents you. Try to steer clear of big clusters and find isolated paths. The placement of the goblins is random every time and hence there is no distinct path.

Once we reach Magissa's Cottage, our new quest is to forge weapons. Inside her cottage we have to look for three things:

1. Bellona's Shield
2. Glass Spheres
3. Lava potion

At this point, to make space, you can finish all your food and water supplies, you have no need for them anymore.

Once we have all three, we head to the crafting table in the cottage and combine the glass sphere with the lava potions to create firebombs.

****EASTER EGG ADVANTAGE:** Those who took the easter egg route, can now use the second lava potion to combine it with either Bellona's Sword to create a Flaming Sword.

Once our weapons are crafted, we head west towards Mount Odigo. The entrance of Mount Odigo is our final checkpoint. If you die inside the cave, the game will restart back here.

CHAPTER FOUR: DRACONIS

Once inside, the entrance seals behind you and you come face to face with a 30 foot tall Ice Spitting Dragon.

There is a health bar at the top of the screen which is the Dragon's health and a health bar at the bottom of the screen which is Princess Althea's (Player's) health. This level is based completely on one on one fighting. There are no escapes, no easy routes to win this. The princess has to win the old fashioned way by defeating the beast and freeing her beloved.

The dragon is particularly difficult to beat. It can take a couple of tries. It is much easier to beat the Ice Dragon if you have the Flaming Sword.

Once the Dragon dies, the screen goes black. The gameplay is over.

FINAL CHAPTER: BELLUM CORDIBUS VESTRIS

This is the final cut scene of the game. We see a vast barren land. On the right end, we have King Fergus and his vast army and on the left end, we have an entire army of angels clad in their golden armour headed by Princess Althea.

We see a conflicted Althea being consoled by Cassiel. Althea does not wish to fight her father but she must do this, not just for herself but for those who come after her. She must stand for what is right so that the generations that come after her may not face the same fear and strife that she did. This is a sacrifice she chooses to make.

The camera pans back to the battlefield. A loud battle cry is heard and both the armies charge towards each other.

And end credits roll.

Thank you for playing Bellum Cordibus Vestris.



Caelum Infernum

Harleen Kaur Grewal
SYBA

Welcome to Caelum Infernum. In the year 1994, a sin never before followed through with, had been committed. The Pure race and The Evil race had copulated. The seed was sown and out sprung a third race, The Mixed Bloods. These children were the grey matter in a world so black and white, but someone did not wish to let the hybrid race sustain. Only one sect can win, and your warrior must fight to protect your sect from extinction.

Choose your warrior.

Edward.

Maya.

Elizabeth.

James.

You have chosen **Maya**. Good choice!

Are you ready to enter the universe, Maya?

YES, I AM / NO, I QUIT

YES, I AM

All the best, Maya.

Transitioning to Level 1.

Remember: "Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless in facing them." -Rabindranath Tagore

Transition to Level 1 complete.

Maya found herself in the middle of a silent forest, surrounded by fauna wherever her eyes looked. Usually, she'd feel at peace in a place this serene, but she was alert and gladiatorial. Before her stood a cloaked man, a man she knew by the name Lucifer. The Prince of Hell, tall and brooding, was ready to penetrate a long, black dagger into Maya's heart. Upon closer inspection, Maya saw that the dagger was not black at all, but rather filled with an ebony liquid that swirled maliciously inside it.

"Why are you here, Lucifer?" Maya asked, detestation dripping from her voice like venom.

Lucifer said, tightening his grip on the dagger. "I do not wish to stay for long, my child. I am here to fulfil your destiny and it would be wise to complete that task without delay."

On Maya's right, a gleaming, silver sword materialized from thin air. It was doused in the golden embers of a fire that danced across the long blade. It had a single diamond at the hilt with the insignia of the laurel wreath carved around the precious stone. It was the Flaming Herculean Sword of Angel Aziraphale, the one given to him by The Almighty Herself to protect the Garden of Eden.

Use the Right Arrow Key to manoeuvre Maya to the Flaming Herculean Sword.

Press "Enter" to arm Maya.

Remember: If Maya loses the sword before she completes Level 1, she can no longer carry the sword on to Level 2. Hold onto it, soldier!

Maya tightened her steel grip onto the strongest sword in the universe as she assumed a defensive stance, staring into Lucifer's ebony eyes challengingly. She took a deep breath, preparing to fight the devil himself. Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless in facing them.

Lucifer lunged towards Maya first, hurling the pointed dagger towards her, but Maya was quick to block it with an angled sword. She forced the dagger to circle down, giving her the opportunity to plant her foot firmly against Lucifer's chest and shoved him back. Maya took pride in the short stagger of Lucifer's feet before she decided to take advantage of his slightly distorted senses.



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She attacked him this time, the Flaming Herculean Sword slicing through the air towards Lucifer's neck to behead him, but he was quick to duck and took a step back. He tried to push the dagger from underneath Maya's line of vision this time but to no avail. Maya jumped back immediately, swinging her sword to leave a deep gash on the left side of Lucifer's torso. He bled black, gory liquid pouring out of that wound as the devil hissed in pain. Maya smirked in triumph as Lucifer fell onto his knees, clutching onto the bleeding damage under his rib as he groaned in pain.

Congratulations, Maya! Triumph is yours!

Level 1: complete.

Maya used the tip of her sword to pull Lucifer's gaze up to hers. Arrogantly, Maya said, "Task complete, Lucy Loo."

With one final lopsided grin, Maya started to walk away from the devil. She swung her sword merrily as she walked, proud of how she won against the devil, the Prince of Hell. There was a skip of joy in her step as she trotted in the direction of her home, but she didn't make it very far.

A searing pain shot through her entire body, the source of it being her vertebral column, the tissue that separated the vertebral column and the heart, and her heart itself. Lucifer had stabbed her in the back. The very dagger that he defended himself with was now plunged into her heart. The darkness in the dagger had started to seep into every single vein of her body, replacing her blood with unholy dross.

Choking on the blood that was now clogging her throat, Maya turned around to face her perpetrator, only to see that his ebony eyes were glossed with unshed tears. He sniffled, resting his hand on her cheek as she struggled to breathe. "I am sorry, my child. I am so, so sorry."

Transitioning to Level 2.

Remember: "Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair." -Anonymous

Maya found herself standing in the midst of chaos on a battlefield. Around her, she saw Hera fighting Pluto valiantly. Proserpina had enchanted vines around Hades' neck, which refrained him from breathing. Mahesh, in all his agitated glory, fought against Abizou, as the Jewish demon tried to infiltrate the god's heart with evil. The thunderous lightning bolt of Zeus clashed with the sword of Raavan. Athena bravely defended herself against Hel's conjured weapons. Seth struggled to shield himself from constant attacks of Poseidon, while Vishnu fought Kaitabha, his own creation.

She turned to look forward after watching The Pure fight with all their might and saw Lucifer charging at her like a red-eyed bull.

The sides were clear. She knew who wanted the Mixed Bloods dead.

Transition to Level 2 complete.

Maya was standing exactly where the coryphaeus would have stood thousands of years ago in the Theatre of Dionysus. She always imagined it to be full of life, Greeks everywhere, excited for the play to begin, seeing all shades of happiness, but today, it was in ruins. Time was withering the old structure away, stealing chunks of its life from a future that was yet to come.

On either side were The Pure and The Evil; not all of them, though. Athena, Proserpina and Mahesh stood on her right, while Pluto, Abizou, Hel and Seth stood on her left. Her dream had shown her the truth of which side wanted her alive and which side was thirsty for her blood.

Attention! The side Maya attacks in her first move will automatically be the enemy for Level 2. Maya must defeat the side she chooses to slay.

Tightening her grip on the Flaming Herculean Sword, Maya swung the weapon at Hel, almost slicing her arm, but Hel conjured a shield in time to protect herself. She had chosen to favour The Pure race. The enemy was decided.

"Charge!" Athena's voice boomed through the empty mountains of Greece, echoing back as the battle began.

Hel charged at Maya with a ginormous axe, aiming at Maya's head, but the young girl was quick to jump out of the axe's way and fell to the ground. Hel seemed to ignore the girl she had attacked and was walking



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past her in the direction of Hera. Hera's power didn't seem to suffice for the strength she needed to fight Abizou. Athena was struggling to handle Seth, and Proserpina was losing to Pluto.

You have earned a new weapon, The Amaranthine Quiver And Bow!

Advantages: blessed by Apollo during the battle of Troy unlimited supply of arrows enchanted by the nymphs to weaken celestial beings unbreakable hilt

Maya nestled the Flaming Herculean Sword back in the scabbard attached to her hip and armed herself with the Amaranthine Quiver And Bow. She knew well that any of the Pure blood would not be able to fight off Hel too, so she aimed her first arrow at Hel. The pointed arrow sliced through the air and plunged itself into the Norse Goddess's shoulder. The conviction in her stride faltered, and the blessing of the nymphs caused Hel to fall onto her knees, enfeebled.

Maya was quick and stealthy to shoot Abizou, Pluto and Seth with the Amaranthine Arrows, and within a matter of seconds, the Evils were abased before the warriors of The Pure sect.

Congratulations, Maya! Triumph is yours!

Level 2 complete.

"Where are the others?" Maya demanded an answer from the fallen warriors, glaring down at them patronizingly.

Pluto laughed mirthlessly in his weakened state as a response to Maya. Mahesh was enraged. He snarled, "She asked you a question. You answer it."

"Torture us. Kill us, even. Your question will always remain unanswered." Abizou growled.

Mahesh's anger knew no bounds now. He roared an outraged cry and thrust his trident at Abizou, but the spike of the trident never made it into Abizou's body. A strong breeze blew and the physical forms of the fallen warriors disintegrated into thin air.

Transitioning to Level 3.

Maya's world, the only thing she has ever known, was starting to fall apart before her very eyes. The Pure faction from Heaven and the Evils from the Underworld were using petty means to battle a war outside the field. Famine had swept over the world. The Mixed Bloods were losing their lives to epidemics. The planet was swept with tsunamis, earthquakes, cyclones, and disease. Resources were depleting. The air was poisoned. The world was on the brink of political war. The Mixed Bloods were ready to kill each other in the name of supremacy and the greater good.

What was this greater good? Was it world domination? Was it a total dictatorship? Was it wealth? Was it privilege?

What was this greater good?

The greatest good, as Maya felt, resided in the twinkle of a puppy's eyes, in the first cry of a newborn child, in the comfort of a mother's embrace, in the warmth of the sun's rays, in that one line of a poem that hits home, in dancing in the rain all alone. How will this greatest good ever be lived if this war between the right and wrong was not put an end to? For how long can she see her people, her world that she loves with all her heart and soul, die?

"I will love you if I never see you again, and I will love you if I see you every Tuesday." -Lemony Snicket.

That night, Maya threw down the gauntlet. She sent a call for war to The Evils. She will fight them for the lives of her people, even if that may result in her own death.

"Challenge accepted."

Transition to Level 3 complete.

It was time for war. Both factions stood in the very forest where it all began, where Maya fought Lucifer, where the first procreation of the Mixed Bloods occurred, they were in the forest outside the gates of the Garden Of Eden.

Boom.

The goblet drums of the heavens were pounded heavily as the warriors of The Pure and the Evil factions



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prepared to hear from the Almighty. The grey clouds in the skies parted to let the light of the Almighty's voice touch the earth.

"Pay heed, children." Her voice was sultry and dulcet. "If every last one of the enemy perishes, triumph is yours. If not, we revive the course. And know that there is no wrong or right. Even as the Almighty, All-Knowing, one can't tell which is black from white."

The skies became dense again, the sunlight lost in the clouds. The warriors now prepared themselves for war, gripping tightly onto their weapons as they faced each other. This was the final battle. Only one side could win and one had to die.

"Fight with all your might, Good Ones! Fight for what is right!" Zeus's voice thundered across the expanse of the battlefield, fading into the distance like a strong gust of wind.

The goblet drums were pounded again, and the sounds of trumpets blowing filled the air. The war had begun. With a sonorous battle cry, both sides charged at each other. Maya had Lucifer to face, and my, was she glad to face the man who stabbed her heart with evil. She had waited long enough to take her revenge, and the opportunity was at her doors.

"You chose the wrong side, Maya." Lucifer seethed as they gauged each other's body language in anticipation of the next move. "You've been blindsided."

"Nothing that you say matters to me, Lucifer. I win or I die trying, but I will make sure to kill you before I meet my maker." Maya seethed, deciding to be the one who makes the first move.

She pulled her sword out of its sheath and thrust it directly at Lucifer's heart, feeling the dire need to defeat him in the same way he hurt her in that very forest. An eye for an eye. Lucifer was quick to defend himself with indestructible vibranium cuffs which helped him slow down the thrust of the sword and also helped him stumble back to avoid the injury.

Lucifer swung his sword at her in attempts to injure her severely, not kill her, but Maya was agile enough to dodge that move. Lucifer was proud to see his child grow to be such a fine swordsman and an even finer tactician. He couldn't say that he raised her well, but had he got the chance to, he would trade the world to contribute to his child's growth. The least he could do now was save her life.

As The Pure were taking a bludgeoning at the hands of the Evils, Maya noticed how every attack that came from Lucifer was half-hearted, as though he was trying to elongate this battle. He was waiting for something to happen.

She noted, as she plunged her sword in his direction. "You're going easy on me."

Lucifer skillfully blocked the blow with a laugh. "I would never hurt you, my child, but there are a few who would, given the chance."

"Stealthy, sly evils are always out for the blood of my kind, aren't they?" Maya mocked as she tried to incise Lucifer's Achilles tendon.

Lucifer jumped to give a slip to the attack. He repeated, "You've been blindsided."

Maya had started to lightly pant now, finding it highly difficult to fight against Lucifer. That made her realize that Lucifer lost against her the last time on purpose. It was his plan all along.

"You know, for a battle, there's an awful lot of talking going on here--"

The words disappeared in Maya's throat as a burning pain invaded her senses. She had been stabbed in the back. She saw Lucifer's eyes fill with horror as he dropped his weapons, lunging forward to support her. Through the agony, she gripped onto his arm with one hand, using it as leverage to turn around in order to slay her attacker.

Much to her dread, Hera stood behind her, the dagger that she had stabbed Maya with held tightly in one hand. Maya did not recognize this Hera. This wasn't her motherly figure who had led her into war like a true queen. The goddess who stood before her was a betrayer.

Attention, Maya! Seems like you forgot about the Ebony Blood of Power from Level 1. It gives you the special ability to choose a special power for the final battle. Take your pick!



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- *Energy manipulation.*
- *Defensive shield against every attack.*
- *Double the strength of your weapons.*

Which do you choose?

Defensive shield against every attack.

Great choice, Maya! All the best!

Maya's glare could have slaughtered hundreds with the resentment towards Hera and the Pure race shooting out of her eyes like daggers. She reinstated her hold on the Flaming Herculean Sword and swung it at Hera with all her might. Seconds after, the Goddess's head toppled onto the ground and her body followed.

With hatred buzzing through her veins, Maya let out a loud cry as she abandoned her sword for Lucifer to take care of. She pulled out arrow after arrow from the Amaranthine Quiver and shot every single warrior of the Pure race with them, resulting in their instant weakening. Her anger knew no bounds as she retrieved her sword again and hurled herself in their direction, beheading these monsters who called themselves gods with guttural screams of agitation.

Congratulations, Maya! Triumph is yours!

The Mixed Bloods have been saved.

Level 3 complete.

That night when Maya returned home, battered, bruised and beyond exhausted, nothing had changed. The epidemics still took lives. Malnourished children still begged for a future. Mother Nature still swept away whole cities in anger. The world was still at war.

For the first time, Maya questioned her love for her people. For the first time, she asked herself, "Was this worth it?"

Source Text: *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare (Act 1 Scene 2 Line 331)

Caliban's cussing words for Prospero:

This island's mine, by Sycorax my mother,
Which thou takest from me. When thou camest first,
Thou strokedst me and madest much of me, wouldst give me
Water with berries in't, and teach me how
To name the bigger light, and how the less,
That burn by day and night: and then I loved thee
And show'd thee all the qualities o' the isle,
The fresh springs, brine-pits, barren place and fertile:
Cursed be I that did so!

Vyomi Gidwani
TYBA

Translated Text:

Caliban worshipped Prospero as a father when he first came to the island and helped him, but he turned on him and treated him with cruelty. Now he's really annoyed with this double standard of Prospero and hence



used cuss-words to vent out his anger against Prospero.

Caliban (angrily) says to Prospero that- “I am the only native human inhabitant of the island, and since my mother Sycorax's death, I have been wronged by you and you took control over me and my native island. During your initial days on this island, you treated me as your own child. You took great care of me and used to give me water with berries in it. I, who am an illiterate, was taught by you about these beautiful celestial bodies: Sun and Moon. You taught me the stories behind the twinkling stars and why can't we see it during day time. All these things made me fall in love with you and that's when I started decoding about this Island for you. Being a native of this Island, I let you know about the features such as fresh springs, brine pits, barren and fertile places and other wonders of this island so that you could use them. But now I feel that I was stupid and cursed to reveal the secrets of my island.”

From the tone of this text, we can infer that Caliban is angry at Prospero because he was exploited and used by him to serve just his own purpose. He who should be the actual king of that island became a servile slave and was treated with disdain. **Now, Caliban actually wants to repossess what he has lost to Prospero: his Island.**

Translator's Note:

The primary reason for my choice of this text 'The Tempest' by Shakespeare, was out of my conversation with one of my friends, who actually studied Shakespeare during his Young India Fellowship at Ashoka. Unlike him, who initially presented his arguments in favor of singular perspective — that is, if there is something out there then it serves only one purpose and that we as humans should figure out that universal perspective for things and reasons around us. But I believed that there could not be an objective experience or interpretation. When it comes to text, especially poems or great plays, they transcend space and time. And that's where I started thinking about why the plays by Shakespeare are still read by people across the world. Why is it still worth reading those texts? My curiosity to figure out the answer to this question of whether a text can transcend space and time brought me to the choice of 'The Tempest'.

The only challenge that I faced while translating this scene from the Tempest was to figure out the character's (or more importantly Shakespeare's) perspective and thoughts behind that dialogue. Did I do justice to the source text? I can't be sure of that as I'm thinking of the word "island" literally as a fictional island, but what if Shakespeare would have thought of an Island to represent something real? I haven't read The Tempest but only discussed it under a different spotlight before. But I simply cannot think of one single answer on why The Tempest was written and that's why maybe I could not justify with the words such as an "Island" or even with the character of Caliban.

On one hand, The Tempest was written just after England had begun its colonial experiment in Virginia; English colonists initially befriended the native “Indians” in order to learn how to survive in the new land; then violently turned against them.

On the other hand, The Tempest was written 2 years after a notorious shipwreck of English colonists headed to Virginia; their ship had been caught in a huge hurricane, and they spent ten months stranded on Bermuda, an uninhabited island near the Caribbean.

So what could've been going inside the mind of Shakespeare, no one knows.

Some of the other translations that I came across during my research were: A Tempest by Aime Cesaire; The Mock Tempest, or The Enchanted Castle, written by Thomas Duffett; Beach Blanket Tempest by Denis Watkins; and The Sea Voyage by John Fletcher.



Is it Fair and Lovely?

Saloni Kullar
TYBA

Fair & Lovely Advanced Multivitamin is a face cream with the hero ingredient of multivitamins, which are understood to work from within to give skin a blemish-free glow along with a smooth and soft texture. Women today want more skin quality led benefits like a radiant glow, skin that is free from blemishes and imperfections. While this new aspiration of skin that has visible radiance, it is also strongly associated with the quality of skin itself. Fair & Lovely offers its consumer a high-definition glow - which comprises of skin clarity, more radiance, and skin that is free from imperfections. Infused with Multivitamins - Vitamin B3, C, E and B6 and Niacinamide, it brightens your skin, reduces inflammation and hyperpigmentation and smoothens overall skin texture.

Fair & Lovely's beauty transformation is linked to the hero ingredient of multivitamins which are understood to work from within to give skin a blemish-free glow along with a smooth and soft texture.

Women today want more skin quality-led benefits like a radiant glow, skin that is free from blemishes and imperfections. While this new aspiration of skin, has visible radiance, it is also strongly associated with the quality of skin itself. Fair & Lovely offers its consumer a high definition glow – which comprises skin clarity, more radiance and skin that is free from imperfections. This glow is qualified to be the equivalent of laser treatment in clinical studies. Keeping in mind the ever-changing consumer, we with they offer a range of variants from the leading Advanced Multi-Vitamin Cream to Ayurvedic Care Cream, BB Cream, Sun Protect, Winter Glow & Anti Marks Cream.

Additionally, the brand has a strong emotional connect with consumers, and they consider it to be the mentor that gives them the confidence of beauty, empowering them to fulfil their dreams.

Fair & Lovely's brand purpose is 'to inspire women to create their own identity' supported by a strong 'brand do' through the Fair & Lovely Career Foundation which gives women access to scholarships, education and career guidance.

Translators Text

Fair and lovely is a multivitamin advanced formula that has been promoting 'skin-securities' since 1975. This formula will solve all your problems. Women today, assuming they weren't as attractive before, will now attract the male masses, as this is the key to their success. A skin whitening cream that includes bringing you motivation to go out in the sun, giving you possible skin cancer in the process because it deprives the skin of producing melanin which is a necessary substance to protect you from the wonderful UV rays of the sun.

Fair and lovely has the villain ingredients that will blow your mind, including Palmitic acid, Stearic acid and titanium dioxide, healthy ingredients for your skin that outshine all the other vitamins present in them. It is simply infused with these vitamins only to remove blemishes since society demands flawless skin.

Enjoy applying this miracle product to your face as your skin burns with glory. Women only need this



product for healthy glowing skin as diet and exercise simply don't play roles here. It will give you the famous "white glow" that will make you confident and successful in your life. The cream packaged in pink to make sure one doesn't mistake it for being a men's product, since there are designated colours of sex, and it believes in the power of stereotypes. As the package suggests, being dark-skinned is unacceptable, however, this cream shall transform you and you shall smile and shine.

Additionally, the brand captivates its consumers connecting their emotions and self-esteem to the product, as it believes brainwashing is the key to the victory of capitalism.

Fair and lovely brand purpose is to "create a cohesive identity of fair-skinned women" supported by a strong 'brand do' campaign that is simply meant for promotion, profits and popularity. In all 'fairness', buy this 'lovely' product at your own expense.

Translators Note

Fair and lovely is a product that first came out in 1975 and became a popular product among the female population. It rose to fame with the promise of giving a radiant glow to one's skin and remove blemishes. It is only in the late 2000s that people started questioning the actual implications of the product. As a child, I used to see this advertisement on television and I'd see what a miracle worker it is. They would show this lady have her problems solved by this one cream, where it made her successful and popular. Now seeing this product as an adult made me realise that it is poison. This product is a minor sign of the British who left their post-colonial standards of beauty which we have been blindly following for centuries. Products like these only reflect a larger picture of a white supremacist society.

Since I have always... felt strongly against this, I thought of doing a blunt, satirical translation of what the advertisement promotes the product as. This advertisement came to me like an epiphany, since we were granted the flexibility to choose from a wide variety, including advertisement and pictures. I felt it would be apt to take this up, as the current #Blacklivesmatter movement made me think of bringing something along its lines into the light. Racism and colourism have been a trend in our society for a very long time. It is only now in 2020, due to this movement that the product has decided to remove 'fair' from Fair and Lovely.

The process of translating this was challenging. I had difficulties translating my thoughts and emotions of the advertisement without getting carried away. There were times I felt I was going too far with the satire. I almost was writing a review rather than a translation. It was difficult to frame proper sentences to translate the advertisement along with satire. I also had to go back and forth between the actual advertisement and my translation to make sure I was not missing out on anything else and giving justice to the actual advertisement. Overall, however, it was a fun process.

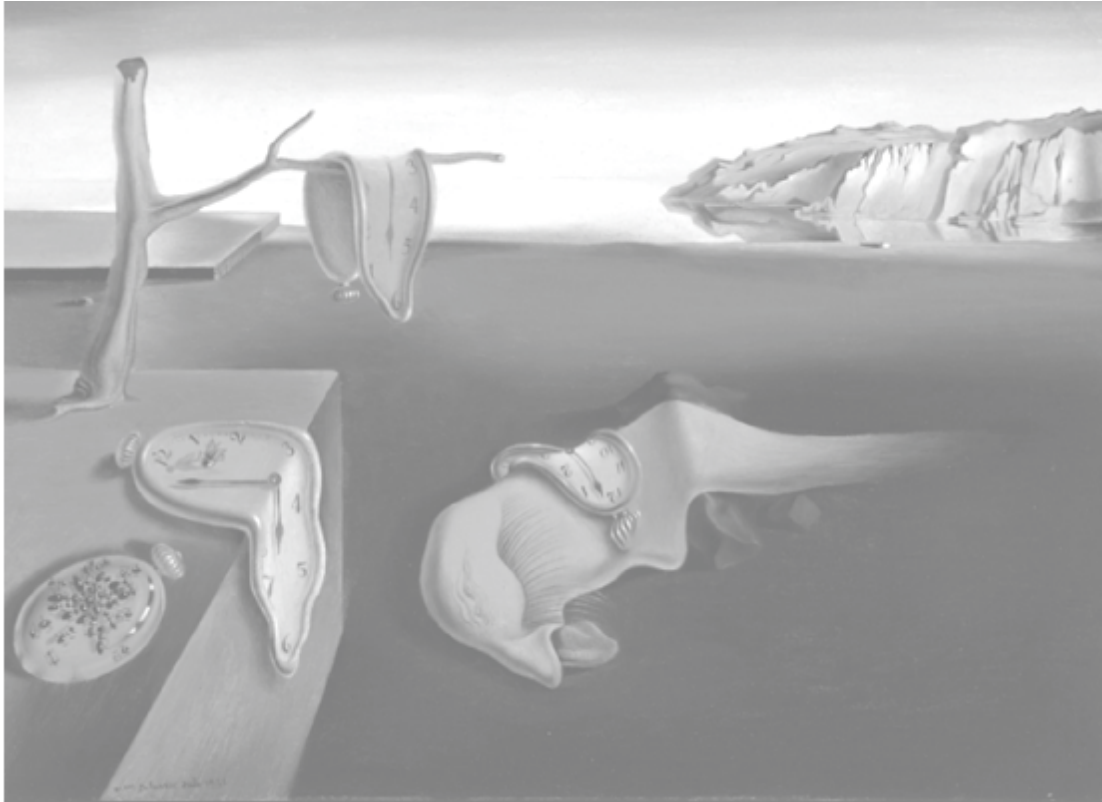




The Persistence of Memory

Shreshtha Pattadar
TYBA

Source Image:



The Persistence of Memory by Salvador Dalí

Translation:

Marvelling at extraordinary masterpieces I walk through the gallery
When a painting as small as a workbook Captivates me. What an enthralling landscape!
A melancholic sky; The horizon in transition From cobalt blue to dull yellow
And the ocean devoid of colour. On the extreme right; Twilight draping the desolate, rocky mountains
With light shades of ochre and grey Mirrored in the tranquil waters. The shadow of something beyond the scene
Wrapping the shore with an eerie brown cape. But what are those objects? Strange, amoeba-like objects on the shore.

I must take a closer look at it. My head whirled in confusion. This is nothing like an ordinary

landscape! What are these distorted, soft, melting figures? Clocks? No, pocket watches. The largest watch on the bottom left; Shiny gold rim and sky blue dial
Time stopped at six past fifty-five And a housefly near the 1'o clock mark. Dripping, rather, being pulled down by the inevitable Gravitational force of the Earth
Struggling to hold on to a cube. A wood-brown, well defined, solid cube That looks like a table. Here's another watch; An elongated, stretched-out watch
Faded silver rim, covered with dust Hanging lamentably Like a discarded scrap of cloth From the branch of a tree. A pale, grey olive tree, sans leaves
And all but one of the branches Ruthlessly cut off. Standing upright On top of the solid cube!

Oh! Another distorted pocket watch Lying lazily



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in the centre of the painting. But what is this horrifying creature! A pale-skinned, deformed face, no body lying peacefully to its right. Look at these eyelashes! Long, delicate eyelashes It must be a female. Between her wrinkled forehead and resting eyelid is a nose With something dirty brown oozing out of her nostril; A tongue! Her neck, flexible like rubber Stretched out over a pile of rocks Gradually fading out. Upon her cheeks rests comfortably With its silver rim sparkling in the glow of twilight The distorted watch Hugging the demon to sleep.

An orange object has been distracting me; A glistening, oval, orange object on the bottom left Next to the watch on the solid cube. Oh, another pocket watch, turned upside down. Smaller than the others, but solid in shape. But, it is invaded by ants! Large, black, glossy ants At least a dozen of them Trying to penetrate into the watch And venture into the unknown.

I take a step back to absorb everything. Just then, I see behind the tree A rectangular, sharp-edged, metal plank on the shore Independently existing in the background Unbothered with all the chaos in the foreground. In front of the plank is a rock, tiny and grey Relaxing alone at the end of the day. What a relief to see something natural and usual

Translator's Note:

The Persistence of Memory painted in 1931 by Salvador Dalí is a well-known symbol of Surrealism which involves painting illogical scenes and creating strange creatures from everyday objects that allows the unconscious to express itself. The painting has been in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City since 1934.

Dalí's masterpiece is comprised of a wide range of elements, each of which has its own independent significance. However, the complex themes and the juxtaposition of imagery distracts most viewers and they miss out on the universally significant themes such as the role of memory, relativity of time, and the universal truth that nothing lasts forever. Therefore, the painting has been translated into a poem to deliver the essence of each and every element of the painting. The narrator has been characterised in a way to bridge the gap between those viewing the painting and those reading its translation. This poem attempts to cover sequentially the entire roller-coaster experience of viewing the painting which begins with the narrator walking through the Museum of Modern Art and being spellbound by seeing the masterpiece from afar. It ends with the narrator satisfying herself with an explanation, although she acknowledges that there are still a lot of unsolved mysteries in the masterpiece. The unconventional style of the poem is a reflection of the unconventional elements of

After a series of unending mysteries! Just then, a minuscule, white, oval item Right in front of the gigantic mountains Catches my eye. Is it a pebble, or an egg? Must be an egg. As insignificant as the other articles Neither a definite shape, nor a definite context.

What does it all mean?

Why are insignificant items randomly thrown in? To ruin such a mesmerising landscape? Only now my eyes fall upon the title; "The Persistence of Memory" The Persistence of Memory Depicting the imperistence of memory In a world full of illusions. The pleasant memories Which we want to retain for eternity

But keeps slipping out of our hold Just like this watch on the solid cube. The memories long forgotten Like the worn-out watch, hanging From the dead olive tree. The heart-warming memories Which comfort us in our sleep? Just like the watch in the centre Warmly covering the creature's cheek.

And those strange but vivid memories, Ingrained into the depths of the mind That makes us who we are. And we, like those black, glossy ants Try to break the barriers And solve the unsolved mysteries of life Just like I try to solve The unsolved mysteries of this painting.



the painting. The use of casual phrases and expressions has been done to translate the impromptu, unfiltered thoughts of the narrator when she sees the masterpiece for the first time. The uneven length of the stanzas and the number of syllables is a deliberate attempt to translate the emotions of uncertainty and confusion in the narrator's mind. Thus, even the structure of the poem translates the essence of Dalí's masterpiece and the emotions experienced while observing it.

At the end of the poem, the connection of the title of the painting only to its most obvious theme (memory) is perhaps a major drawback of this translation, as the reader's perspective might narrow down to a single theme. However, it was necessary because the translation of a viewer's experience of the painting would be incomplete and abrupt without a translation of the viewer's understanding of the painting since understanding is also a part of the experience. Therefore in the last line of the poem, the translator has tried to make it clear that the narrator has understood only a single aspect of the painting and not the entire masterpiece, thus giving the reader liberty to interpret the translation in his or her own way.

Although all efforts have been made to translate the painting as accurately as possible, it is not guaranteed to have justified the exact experience of viewing the original painting. This is because the painting is a visual medium of art, and some of its essence may have been lost while translating it into a completely different literary medium. Secondly, the painting like most other forms of art is highly subjective, especially because of its surrealistic nature and generates a different experience for different viewers. However, despite these limitations, the translator has attempted to give the entire experience of viewing the masterpiece through the artistic narration of the atmosphere, interplay of colours, imagery and emotions. Therefore, perhaps, this poem can be considered as a closely accurate translation of Salvador Dalí's "The Persistence of Memory".

The Road Not Taken

Isha Karandikar
TYBA

Source Text:

The Road Not Taken

-Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;

Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Translated Text:

The Road not Taken

I reach the crossroad where the path breaks into two roads. I am very familiar with the clear path.



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The path that most people take. It leads to a beautiful river bank. It's one of the most serene places I've ever been to. It is also an easy hike.

But the other path has always fascinated me. Both the paths look so tempting and appealing but I always find myself thinking about the other possibilities.

'Why go on a path which ends where I don't know? What if I get lost and never find my way back? What if it is not beautiful?'

"Hi, there!" A voice makes me look away from the untrodden path. A woman stands beside me decked in winter clothes and with a huge grin on her face. She looks familiar but I can't place my finger on it. She has brown eyes and shoulder length brown hair. She looks happy but has worry lines marking her forehead. Her eyes twinkle as the sun reflects off of it much the same as mine do. There's a hint of uncertainty and worry there too.

"Uh... hi." I say with a small wave.

"Are you here for hiking too? I don't see a lot of people on this trail." She says, pointing at the way I was looking at.

"I don't generally go that way. Actually, I've never been there. I go down that path. It leads to a very beautiful river bank." I point at my usual path.

"Oh yeah! I've never been on that road." She mumbles, following my finger, "How about I'll be your guide down the path you haven't taken and next time we meet, you can be my guide down the path I haven't taken?" She smiles excitedly at me. I look at her uncertainly. It's not good to venture out with a stranger in the woods but there's also something about her that makes me want to follow her. I feel weirdly safe with her.

"Okay, I guess. If you promise you won't murder me, that is." I chuckle, trying to lighten the mood. She laughs, throwing her head back. It's a very musical sound.

"Yay!" She cheers before taking my hand and pulling me along. I stumble a little behind her.

"Slow down." I snap after my foot gets caught in a twig.

"Sorry." She apologizes with very sad eyes. I sigh, nodding at her.

"It's okay..."

I look around taking in the change of scenery. The trees are closer here and denser. There are some berry bushes and tall trees. Yellow leaves litter the floor and make a crunching sound under our feet.

"You look worried. Is everything okay?" The woman asks.

"Yeah... Just... You sometimes have to make some tough decisions and it makes you wonder if you have chosen all the wrong roads." I mumble, looking down. My mood darkens as the doubt clouds my mind again.

"Oh... So, what do you do?" She asks, making me look at her with wide eyes. She could be a bad person and I should not tell her anything about myself. But my brain betrays me,

"I am the Senior Editor of a publishing house." I hear myself saying. I mentally face palm. What is wrong with me? I shouldn't be telling her anything. Why do I feel so comfortable with her?

"Oh! That's great! I am a Senior Editor too." Her eyes twinkle, and she looks relieved.

"It's so hard." I shake my head.

"So hard. Telling people that their work won't do in the market."



St. Mira's College for Girls

“Where did you graduate from?” I ask her.

“Oh... That was so hard. We didn't have the money to send me to an actual university. So, I had to give up my dream to go to Cornell University and had to do it from the community college.” She explains with a sad look. I was in the same shoes after school. I didn't have the money either but I decided to take a loan and pursue my dreams anyways.

“I am a Cornell graduate. I took a student loan. I am still paying off my debt.” I snort, “But it was worth it. The experience makes the crushing debt seem like nothing.” A smile makes its way on my face as memories run through my head of my friends and I in college.

The path we are walking on gets a little rocky and uneven. I feel the road sloping upwards a bit. But the scenery is still so beautiful. The trees are even taller now. If I strain my ears a little, I can hear the river in the distance. But I can't see it.

“I had a great time in college too. Made friends for a lifetime. It was a little harder to get to where I am now with the community college tag but I learned a lot along the way. So, it was worth it, I guess.” She smiles.

“I have always wanted to open a Publishing House of my own. And I have a chance to do that right now but I also have a job offer to work for one of the best publishing houses in the country. I am so confused. I mean there's safety in a job but there's joy in doing what I want.” I sigh, looking down at my feet.

“Hey... I'm sure you'll figure it out. And I am sure both the paths would be beautiful. I mean we both started out the same, took different paths but look where we are...” She waves around us and I realize that we are on a hill. It looks down on the entire forest and into the city beyond. It's breathtakingly beautiful. The river is on the right and I can see it now. It looks as serene as always and brings me the same amount of peace. The only additional perk is that now I can see on the other side of the river too. I never knew just how far the forest goes.

My mind wanders off to the rash decision I took today, taking the other path and meeting this person who is so similar to me. We were dealt the same hand by the Fate. We both chose different paths but we are in the same place right now. We are both successful and have had our own share of fun and joy. They were different and maybe gave us different values, memories and all the other big things that make a person but we are both happy and satisfied with where we are in life.

I turn to the woman beside me to see her smiling and looking up at the sky. It has darkened all of a sudden and it looks like it would start raining soon.

“We should go back. The weather doesn't look very good.” She says. I nod and we start our journey back home.

“What is your name? I mean, we shared our life stories, I guess we should get each other's names too.” I ask once we reach the crossroad. She gives me a wise smile that makes her look older than she is. She starts to change. Small changes but quite noticeable. She glows a bright golden, making me close my eyes, letting out a gasp.

When I open my eyes, I am in my bed in my room. It was all a dream... None of that was real... I switch on the table lamp and catch my reflection in the mirror. I smile when I realize the meaning of the dream.

Maybe it doesn't matter what path I choose. There's no good choice or bad choice. They are all just choices and how I use them is what makes the difference. And no matter what route I take now, I am always going to wonder what would have happened if I had taken the other road.

It was me. I was the other girl. The 'Me' who took the road not taken.



TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

The poem 'The Road Not Taken' by Robert Frost is one of his most popular works. It was published in 1916. It was the first poem in the collection Mountain Interval. The poem is largely interpreted as being about the road that wasn't taken.

Robert Frost's writings have always been way deeper than they appear to be when we first read them. The poems 'Neighbors' and 'Birches' serve as some examples.

I chose this poem because Frost is one of my favourite poets and this poem really resonates with me. The translation method has been chosen because the deeper meaning in Frost's writing can be captured better in a story. I have tried my best to capture the true essence and meaning of the poem in my translation attempt.

It was very hard to decide what to do for the translation. I had to do a lot of research on creative translation because I have never heard of it before. The biggest problem I had was keeping the tone and the mood of the story as sombre as the poem's. I think I did a fair job but with a little more in-depth study of creative translations, I could do better.



La Béatrice

Sneha Alex Thuruthy
TYBA

Dans des terrains cendreaux, calcinés, sans verdure, Comme je me plaignais un jour à la nature, Et que de ma pensée, en vaguant au hasard, J'aiguissais lentement sur mon cœur le poignard, Je vis en plein midi descendre sur ma tête Un nuage funèbre et gros d'une tempête, Qui portait un troupeau de démons vicieux, Semblables à des nains cruels et curieux. A me considérer froidement ils se mirent, Et, comme des passants sur un fou qu'ils admirent, Je les entendis rire et chuchoter entre eux, En échangeant maint signe et maint clignement d'yeux :

-«Contemplons à loisir cette caricature Et cette ombre d'Hamlet imitant sa posture, Le regard indécis et les cheveux au vent. N'est-ce pas grand'pitié de voir ce bon vivant, Ce gueux, cet histrion en vacances, ce drôle, Parce qu'il sait jouer artistement son rôle, Vouloir intéresser au chant de ses douleurs Les aigles, les grillons, les ruisseaux et les fleurs, Et même à nous, auteurs de ces vieilles rubriques, Réciter en hurlant ses tirades

publiques?»

J'aurais pu (mon orgueil aussi haut que les monts Domine la nuée et le cri des démons) Détourner simplement ma tête souveraine, Si je n'eusse pas vu parmi leur troupe obscène, Crime qui n'a pas fait chanceler le soleil! La reine de mon cœur au regard non pareil, Qui riait avec eux de ma sombre détresse Et leur versait parfois quelque sale caresse.

—Charles Baudelaire

Beatrice

In the ashen soil, burnt, without greenery, As I once complained to the nature, As I wandered aimlessly in my thought, Slowly I sharpen the dagger on my heart, In the broad daylight descending on the head, I saw A dark and thick storm cloud, That carried a herd of vicious demons, Similar to the cruel and curious dwarves. They began to gaze at me coldly, Like passers-by who discuss a fool they admire, I heard laughter and whispers amongst them, By exchanging many signs and many winks:



St. Mira's College for Girls

“Let us contemplate at leisure this caricature
And this shadow of Hamlet imitating his
posture,
The hesitant look and the dishevelled hair. Isn't
it a great pity to see this bon vivant, This pauper,
this histrion, this jester without a job, Because
he knows to play his role skillfully, To want to be
interested in the song of his sufferings The
eagles, the crickets, the brooks and the flowers,
And even us, the authors of his ancient woes, To

recite his public tirades screaming?”

I could have (my pride as high as the mountains
Overlooks the clouds and the cry of the
demons) To simply turn away the sovereign
head, If I had not seen among their obscene
company, Crime that did not stagger the sun!
The queen of my heart with the peerless gaze,
Who is laughing with them at my dreadful
distress And giving them at times a lewd caress.

-Charles Baudelaire

(Translated by Sneha Alex Thuruthy)

Translator's Note

It has been an honour and a pleasure to help in translating this poem taken from the book “Les Fleurs du Mal” (“The Flowers of Evil” in English), published in 1857 by the famous French poet, essayist, art critic and translator – Charles Baudelaire.

There were a few words where I had a little difficulty translating. In the fifth line of the poem, “vis” has two possible meanings. “Vis” can be the infinitive verb “voir”, which means “to see” conjugated in the indicative simple past tense (“passé simple de l'indicatif” in French). “It can also be the infinitive verb “vivre” which means “to live” conjugated in the indicative present tense (“present de l'indicatif” in French). The first impression gained on reading the beginning of the poem is that the speaker sees a dull and dead landscape. Hence, I used “saw” as the meaning for “vis”.

In the sixth line, “funèbre” literally means “funeral”. But in the poem, “un nuage funèbre” cannot be translated as “a funeral cloud”. Taking the feelings of the speaker and the atmosphere of the setting he is in, I took the liberty of translating it as “a dark cloud”. This is not a perfect translation, but at least it expresses the mood of the speaker.

In the sixteenth line, I have kept “bon vivant” as it is because it is used in the exact same way in English. It means “a person who devotes themselves to a sociable and luxurious lifestyle” in both French and English. I have used “histrion”, in the seventeenth line, just like in the original French text, because it means “a stage actor” in both the languages. In the same line, the original meaning of the phrase “en vacances” is “on vacation”. But taking into consideration the context of the poem, I have translated it into “without a job” because a person who does not have a job seems like he is on a vacation.

Finally, “domine” is the conjugated form of the verb “dominer” that has two meanings – “to dominate” and “to overlook” in the twenty-fourth line. According to the context, I used “overlook” because our pride can be as tall as the mountains and overlook the clouds rather than dominate the clouds.

While translating, I did try my best to preserve the original essence of the poem that was intended by the poet, Charles Baudelaire. I do hope that my English translation has succeeded in transmitting both Baudelaire's somber mood and complex sensibility.



FOND FAREWELLS

B.Sc. Computer Science Department

“At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lit the flame within us.” – Albert Schweitzer

DEAR STELLA MA'AM.....you are the one who has lit the flame within us.

This is our small way of letting you know how much we have loved you and your contributions for all of these years. The department and our work would never have been so excellent without your guidance and vision of service.

Your enthusiasm and cultivation have helped us grow into a 16-year-old tree. The fruit of your upbringing is a well-set department today!!!

When we try to quote your qualities, the list is endless. You are kind, very patient and calm, a good listener, the best advisor, a selfless motivator, a positive thinker, a strong support system for the whole college, our counsellor, an updated tech-savvy person, inspiring, innovative with new ideas, and.... most importantly an incredibly good human being from within.

You respect and trust people to make right decisions, boost our confidence, identify our qualities, and give us the right chance to explore!

You were always dedicated to your task, sincere to the core, simple in life, able to remain calm under pressure, and never yielding to anger.

Your prayers always have given a spiritual touch to our work that blessed us a lot.

Your ever smiling face and sweet words win everyone's.

All the activities, may it be Science Exhibition, Teklogica or a Conference we have seen a great admiration in your eyes for all of us and our students!

Ma'am, you are an exemplary co-ordinator, whose place cannot be substituted, and we are so lucky to have had you as our Coordinator, Stella Ma'am!

In mathematical language, you are an optimal solution to all our problems who taught us to work under pressure fulfilling all the constraints ! Working without you is simply difficult and unimaginable.

Thank you, ma'am, for being YOU. We will miss you ma'am.

From

B.Sc. Computer Science Department

ST. Mira's College for Girls,

Department of Economics

As we open the book of memories today, a sense of belongingness engulfs us while reading the word 'ECONOMICS'. A beautiful woman draped in saree, with a big smile on her face, holding her books, flashes like pictures of home in front of our eyes and we are taken back to the day we first started entering Mira's!



St. Mira's College for Girls

She ruled our hearts like an undefined queen on her quest for the world. Be it her fun lectures or her impeccable knowledge, she never failed to amaze us with her legendary talents. The numerous records and recognition that she brought to our college all becomes materialistic in front of her.

Her down to earth nature, the accuracy of her subject, the wisdom oozing out of her eyes and the composed state of mind, makes her one of the best teachers and there is no better reason that we believe in her.

She made her subject an emotion and feeling so strong that whenever we hear 'Sonia', an emotion surges through every student like a cool breeze on a sizzling summer day. She is not just an inspiration to the aspiring economists but she is the role model for many and inspiration for all. She taught us that it's never too late to achieve one's dream and passion. She taught us to handle stressful circumstances with a calm and stable state of mind. She taught us to enjoy the present moments which shall eventually lead to a beautiful tomorrow.

She has served the college in the direst situation and has gained so much of respect and yet she is humble. She has proven that there can't be an "opportunity cost" for her and that's her success. The moment we knew she was going to retire the entire department was shocked and we students considered ourselves lucky because we were 'the privileged ones' to be her last batch!

When we pass out and when our juniors take over, we shall recite all those amazing moments we spent with her. We will sing all the tales how she ruled our hearts like a champion.

Most teachers retire with a past but she retired with a HISTORY!

Thank you for such an outstanding and heartening journey!

With lots of love and respect,

Dept of Economics

DEPARTMENT OF BBA and BBA (CA)

DEPARTMENT OF BBA and BBA (CA)-Tribute to our **beloved Stella Ambrose Ma'am**

Department Members – Mrs. Amrita Basu, Mrs. Rekha Kankariya, Mrs. Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi, Mrs. Deepali Agarwal, Mrs. Monika Rajguru, Mrs. Kajal Jaisinghani.

“Thank You for the Endless Motivation, Patience and Persistence” dear Stella Ma'am.

Optimism, Humour, Integrity, Humility, leading by example, listening, being compassionate, inspiring, Resourceful. These are just some of the words that best describe our beloved Stella ma'am. It has been a truly enriching experience to work under a superior who is also a mentor and guide who nurtured us.

Ma'am has touched many lives with her patience and calmness. Her positive attitude has inspired us and taught us nothing is impossible if we look at the problem from a different point of view. Over the years that we have worked with ma'am, she has always brought the best out of us.

The College has been always a second home for us as we always felt a sense of belonging and security. This would have not been possible without the presence of the motherly figure always standing behind us to support us in hard times and also encouraging us for our good work. “Thank you” will be an understatement to the love and support that we have received from Stella Ma'am. You will be dearly missed but we know we can still reach out to you at times when we are lost.

We want to wish you happiness at the beginning of this new phase in your life, so do what best you do and keep spreading love.



St. Mira's College for Girls

मेरी माँ

मेरी माँ ने मेरे जीवन का
लक्ष्य खुद से जोड़े,
मुझे पालने से उसने
अपने कई सपने छोड़े
कई बार बादलों को छूकर
उसी ने बरसाया मेरे लिए पानी,
हाँ, मेरी माँ के आँचल में लिखी है
मेरे जीवन की कहानी

निवृत्ती शर्मा
FYBA (B)

कोरोना महामारी के चलते...

पुरखो की हवेलियों पर
लगाए हाथोसे ताला।
महलो की अंधी दौड़ में
घर को भूले घरवाले।
आज क्या मुंह लेकर जाए
पूछे गांव की चौपालें।
इसीलिए मुंह ढक कर आए
शहर पर गर्व करने वाले ।

जान्हवी राजपुरोहित
१२ वी ब कॉमर्स

खयाल

उस दिन मन में उस पेड का खयाल आया...
जब वो बहुत छोटा सा था तब था उसको लाया।
बच्चों और बड़ों ने बहुत प्यार था उसको बाटा...
अमर तो हमेशा उस पेड के फल खाता।
मैंने भी काटे हैं जिंदगी के कई पल उसके साथ...
कई बार तन्हाइयों में की है उससे बात।
गर्मियों की छुट्टियों में पूरा दिन कट जाता था उसके
आसपास....
गली के बच्चे उसी के निो बैठकर खेलते थे ताशा।

आज शहर के लोग आकर उसे बेरहमीसे रहे थे काट...
सभी लोग बोल पडे लेकिन सुनी ना हमारी
एक भी बात।
कहा उन्होने इस जगह अब बनेगा मॉल...
लेकिन किसी ने कान न दिया क्योंकि सब का
खून रहा था खौला।
उस दिन मन में उस पेड का खयाल आया...
जब वो बहुत छोटा सा था तब था उसको लाया।

जान्हवी राजपुरोहित
१२ वी ब कॉमर्स



चलो आज कुछ नया सीखे

मेघा सामंत
SYBA (A)

धर्म-जातियों को भूल एकत्र होकर
दो पल की जिंदगी को साथ जीना सीखें,
चलो, आज कुछ नया सीखे।

टूटे रिश्ते को जोड़कर,
सारे मन-मुटाव दूर कर,
खुशी-खुशी जीना सीखे
चलो, आज कुछ नया सीखे।

किताबों से तो हम काफी ज्ञान प्राप्त करते हैं,
आज उन किताबों से पढे सभी जानकारीयो को,
अपने दिनचर्या में उपयोग करना सीखे,
चलो, आज कुछ नया सीखे।

रोज घर पर बैठकर दो वक्त का
खाना खाते है हम,
आज घर के बाहर बैठे भूखे
बच्चों की भूख मिटाना सीखे,
चलो, आज कुछ नया सीखे।

कार्य न होते हुए भी खुद को,
व्यस्त बतलाते है हम,
आज उन सभी कार्यों को बाजू में रखकर,
प्रकृती और खुद के साथ समय बिताना सीखे,
चलो, आज कुछ नया सीखे।

कौन है ये इंसान?

प्रेरणा पिल्ले
SY Bcom.

कौन है ये इंसान?
जो करते है हमारी सुरक्षा
कौन है ये इंसान?
जो लडते है हमारे लिए,
देश के लिए मर मिटना
क्यों लगता है इन्हें आसना।
सेवा वो करते है दिन हो या शाम।
डरती होगी कोई माँ,
याद करती होगी एक दुल्हन।
रोता होगा कोई बच्चा,
सहमी सी होगी एक बहन।
सेवा करता है वो इंसान,
देश के लिए लडता है वो इंसान।
नींद नहीं, ना कोई सुख
ना प्यार, ना परिवार का सुख
दुसरे को खाना देना
दुसरे की मदत करना
हमेशा मैं छोडकर,
दुसरे को पहले देखना।
हमेशा देश प्रेम का गीत गाना,
कौन है ये इंसान?
इतनी हिम्मत, इतना हौसला
इतनी ताकत, इतना जसबा
कौन है ये इंसान?
हम सबकी रक्षा करता है ये इंसान।



जिंदगी के रंग

प्रा.शितल जाधव(पुणे)
हिंदी विभाग प्रमुख

जिंदगी के हर रंग में रंगना जरूरी है
सुख दुःख की छाया में पलना जरूरी है
इन्सानियत और कर्मठता का भेद तुम यहाँ जानोगे
अपनी सामर्थ्यता का पाठ तुम यहाँ दिखलाओगे
रह रह कर जिंदगी उसी मोड पर ले आयेगी
तुम थकना मत पुनः नये संमल्प को धारण कर
कर देना जिंदगी को नये रूप आकार में परिवर्तित
जिंदगी का नया रंग फिर से कुसुम पल्लवित कहलायेगी
अपने सुखद नये रंग में केवल स्वयं को ही न ढाल
औरो को भी इसमें कर शामिल दे उनको भी नया अकार
नव नव रंगों में ढलने से कुसुम होंगे पल्लवित अनेक
मिटती जाएगी दूरियाँ मनुष्य से मनुष्य तक के फासले अनेक
फिर लगने लगेगी यह रंगो की दुनिया न्यारी
सबसे प्यारी सबसे सयानी मीठी सी जिंदगानी।

बारिश

स्नेहल दरवटकर
FYBA (A)

झूम रहे हैं पेड सारे
उन चलती हवाओं से।।
रोशन हुआ ये काला आसमान
उन गरजति बिजलियों से।।
परेशान है जो लोग
इस मुश्किल दुनिया में,
उन्हें भी मिला सुकून
उन बादलों के बरसने से....!

हिंदी साहित्य के नागार्जुन

रित्विका जगदाले
T.Y.B.A

नागार्जुन का जन्म सन १९११ की जेष्ठ पूर्णिमा को हुआ था। जन्म स्थान ननिहाल (सतलखा, जिल्हा मधुबनी, बिहार) है मूल पौत्रकवास स्थान, ग्राम तरौनी है जो दरभंगा (बिहार) जिला में पडता है।

पिता का नाम गोकुल मिश्र था और उनकी माँ का नाम उमा देवी, नागार्जुन जब छः वर्ष के थे तब ही उनकी माँ का देहान्त हो गया। नागार्जुन जी के पिता रुढीवादी, संस्कारहीन, अशिक्षित, लापरवाह, घुमकड और कठोर व्यक्तिमत्व के थे और उनकी माँ सरल हृद्य, ईमानदार, परिश्रमी एवं दृढ चरित्रवाली महिला थी। नागार्जुन के गाँव में उस समय संस्कृत अध्ययन की परंपरा थी। अतः संस्कृत पाठशाला में प्राचीन पध्दतीसे शिक्षा शुरु हुई नागार्जुन जी की। इस प्रकार बचपन में ही पिता के लाचारी के कारण घूमने की आदत पड गयी और बडे होकर घूमना उनके जीवन का स्वाभाविक अंग बन गया। घूमने जाने का जो गुण बाल्य काल में ही शरीर के अंदर प्रवेश कर गया। वह रचना की तरह ही विकसित और पुष्ट हो गया। तेरह वर्ष की उम्र के आस पास प्रथम वर्ष की परीक्षा देकर गाँव के ही पंडित अनिरुध्द मिश्र से संस्कृत के छन्दो का व्यावहारिक ज्ञान प्राप्त किया और जा पहुँचे बनारस संस्कृत में उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त करने हेतु। वही शिक्षा ग्रहण करने के प्रख्यात मैथिली कविवर पंडित सीताराम झा से उन्होने भाषा, छंद, अलंकार का विशेष ज्ञान प्राप्त किया। १९३६ से लंका के विख्यात बौध्द शिक्षण संस्थान से जिसका नाम विद्यालंकार से बौध्द शिक्षण प्राप्त किया इस संस्थान में संस्कृत के माध्यम से व्याकरण और दर्शन के अध्यापन के साथ-साथ पाली भाषा के माध्यम से बौध्द धर्म एव बौध्द साहित्य का अध्ययन करने लगे। नागार्जुन के बौध्द संन्यासी बनने के पिछे बौध्द धर्म समझने की उत्कट अभिलाषा थी न कि वैराग्य भावना। हिन्दी में पहला उपन्यास रतिनाथ की चाची १९४८ में छपा, १९५२ में वलचनमा, भारतीय किसानो में जगती हुई चेतना का



संवाहक है। हिन्दी कविताएँ और छोटे मोटे निबन्ध-हंस, कौमी बोली, दीपक, नया साहित्य, लोक युद्ध, विशाल भारत, धर्मयुग, सामाहिक हिन्दुस्थान, आजकल आदि में बराबर छपते रहे। सन १९४९ में मैथिली काव्य संग्रह चित्रा का प्रकाशन मैथिली काव्य संसार के लिए नया युग लाया। सन १९५३ में हिन्दी का पहला काव्य संग्रह युगंधरा छपा इसके बाद से हिन्दी कविता के अनिवार्य बन गए नागार्जुन अब तक वे हिन्दी काव्य के महत्वपूर्ण अंग बन चुके थे।

उनकी अन्य रचनाएँ हैं। नयी पौध (१९५३), बाबा बटेसरनाथ (१९५४), दुखमोचन (१९५७), वरुण के बेटे (१९५७), उग्रतारा, कुंभीपाक पारो, आसमान में चांद तारे, (अपने खेत में तालाब की मछलियाँ, आखिर ऐसा क्या कह दिया मैंने-कविता संग्रह) बाल साहित्य कथा मंजरी भाग १ और २ भाग, मर्यादा पुरुषोत्तम, विद्यापती की कहानियाँ (व्यंग-अभिनंदन) (निबंध संग्रह-अन्न हीनम --) (बांग्ला रचनाएँ-मैं मिलिट्री का पुराना घोडा) हिन्दी अनुवाद है।
उन्हे हिंदी साहित्य में पुरस्कार भी मिले हैं।

१ साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार १६९-६९ मैथिली में, पत्र हीन नग्न गाछ के लिए

२ भारत भारती सम्मान (उत्तर प्रदेश न्हिदी संस्थान, लखनऊ द्वारा)

३ मैथिली शरण गुप्त सम्मान (मध्यप्रदेश सरकार द्वारा)

४ राजेन्द्र शिखर सम्मान १९९४ (बिहार सरकार द्वारा)

५ साहित्य अकादमी की सर्वोच्च फेलोशिप से सम्मानित

६ राहुल सांकृत्यायन सम्मान पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार से हिन्दी आकादमी पुरस्कार

नागार्जुन आधुनिक हिन्दी साहित्य के शीर्षस्थ साहित्यकार है। वे एक ही साथ कवि, आलोचक, कहानिकार, उपन्यासकार आदी के रूप में कार्यरत रहे हैं।

नागार्जुन के साहित्य की विशेषता यह है कि प्रगतिशीली साहित्य की विषयवस्तु और उनकी वर्णन शैली में विविधता के कारण एक अनोखा तथा आकर्षक स्वरूप दिया। उन्होंने पौराणिक आख्यान और पात्रों से लेकर खेत-खलिहान, नदी पान पाटी हो अहने भेग से पानिकीन मतिना के रूप को स्थापित किया प्रगतिशील कविता को कभी भुलाया नहीं जा सकता। नागार्जुन के काव्य की एक महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता यह है कि उनकी कविता स्थान विशेष की न होकर पूरे हिन्दी प्रांत की और पूरे देश की कविता है। नागार्जुन मुलतः मैथिल भाषा है। यात्री नाम से मैथिली में कविता भी लिखते थे। मैथिली की अपनी कविताओं पर वे साहित्य अकादमी के पुरस्कार से सम्मानित भी हुए।

जिन्दगी का इम्तिहान

मुश्किलोंसे भाग जाना आसान होता है।
हर पहलू जिन्दगी का इम्तिहान होता है।
डरने वालों को मिलता नहीं, कुछ जिन्दगी में
गम की अंधेरी रात में,
खुद को न यूँ बेकार कर,
सुबह जरूर आएगी।
तू बस थोडा इंतजार कर
न पूछों की मंजिल कहाँ है?
अभी तो बस सफर का इरादा किया है,
न हारेंगे हौसला उग्र भर
किसी और से नहीं, खुद से कहा किया
मुश्किलोंसे भाग जाना आसान होता है।

हर पहलू जिन्दगी का इम्तिहान होता है।
हर पल पर तेरा ही नाम होगा।
तेरी हर कदम पर दुनिया का सलाम होगा
मुश्किलोंका सामना हिम्मत से करना,
देखना इक दिन वक्त भी तेरा गुलाम होगा।
मंजिल उन्हीं को मिलती हैं,
जिनके सपनों में जान होती है।
सिर्फ पंखोंसे कुछ नहीं होता, दोस्तों
हौसलों से जिंदगी में उडान होती है।
मुश्किलोंसे भाग जाना आसान होता है।
हर पहलू जिन्दगी का इम्तिहान होता है।

शालीनी
S.Y.B.A



प्रेम

जो जो येतो जन्माला
त्या कुणास चुकला नाही
प्रेम असा हा भाव ज्याला
कुणीच मुकला नाही!

वैष्णवी दरेकर
(T.Y.B.A)

प्रेम हा शब्द ऐकताच अनेकांच्या मनात आपला प्रियकर किंवा प्रेयसी येईल पण प्रेम हे फक्त आपण एखाद्या मुलावर किंवा मुलीवर करतो का? आपल्या या जगात आपली आई आणि रक्ताचे पाणी करुन आपल्याला सुख देणारे आपले वडील हे आपलं पहिलं प्रेम नाही का...

एखादी व्यक्ती कितीही कोरडी असली किंवा अगदी कठोर, क्रूर जरी असली तरी त्या व्यक्तीच्या मनात आईबद्दल प्रेम, आपुलकी, जिवाळा असतो किंवा असावा. आपले आई बाबा तसेच आपले बहीण भाऊ देखील आपल्या मनाच्या अगदी जवळचे असतात. आपण त्यांच्याशी कितीही भांडलो, त्यांच्यावर रुसलो, रागावलो बोलेनासे झालो तरी तुम्ही सांगा आपण त्यांचा वाढदिवस कधी विसरतो का? त्यांच्यावर देखील आपण प्रेमच करतो ना.. त्यांच्या आवडीची कुठली गोष्ट आपल्याला दिसली तर चटकन आपल्या डोळ्यासमोर त्यांचा चेहरा येतो आणि नकळत आपल्या मनात त्यांच्या विषयी आठवण जागी होते.

जसे भावा-बहिणींचे तसेच आप्तेष्ट, सगे- सोयरे यांचे. आपण कितीही मोठे झालो तरी आजीचे लाडू, मामाचा गाव, मावशीचे लाड, माया हे सगळं हवे-हवेसे वाटते हे पण प्रेमच ना! हे प्रेम आजीने नातवंडांसाठी केलेल्या लाडवात गोड चवीचे आहे, तर मामाच्या गावातल्या अंगणात आंबा, पेरु आणि गुलमोहराच्या रुपात आहे, आत्या-काका यांच्याशी खूप खूप मारलेल्या गप्पांमध्ये दडलंय तर कुणाची खोडी काढली म्हणून मावशीने पिरगळलेल्या कानात आहे.

ही सगळी आपुलकी, माया आपल्याला आत कुठेतरी सुखावत असते समाधानी करत असते. मग आयुष्यात येते ते गुलाबी मन अस्वस्थ करणारे, वाट पहायला लवणारं असं.. गुलाबाच्या कळीसारखं हळूहळू उमलत असलेलं प्रेम ते कधी अगदी वेडं असतं तर कधी समजून-उमजून केलेलं असतं कधी क्षणभरासाठी असतं किंवा कधी जन्मभरासाठी. हे प्रेम कधी आपल्यालाच धडा शिकविणारं असतं तर कधी आयुष्यात न संपणारा गोड अध्याय असतो.

प्रेम लुटावे प्रेमाने
प्रेमच जतन करावे
कुणासाठी जरूर या
प्रेमाच्या गावा जावे!

ओळखीच्या माणसांवर आपण नकळतपणे प्रेम करतच असतो, त्यांचे विचार आपल्या डोक्यात सहजतेने येतात, पण एखाद्या कुत्र्याच्या पिळाला बघून त्याला मायेने कुरवाळावेसे वाटणे, एखाद्या गोड गोजीरवाण्या बाळाला कडेवर घ्यावेसे वाटणे हे सुद्धा प्रेमच ना.. लहान मुलांच्या शाळेत त्यांच्या शिक्षकाचा २-४ वर्षांच्या मुलावर आपल्या मुलाप्रमाणे प्रेम करतात. बस, ट्रेन मध्ये रोज भेटणाऱ्या काकूकडे हसून बघणे ही सुद्धा आपुलकीच ना?

कॉलेजमधल्या शिक्षकांबरोबर अतुट जोडलेले नातं तिथल्या मावशी काका यांचे रोजचे कष्ट पाहून त्यांचे केलेलं कौतुक ही पण प्रेमाची आणि आपुलकीचीच रोपं नाहीत का ?

आपल्या धावपळ आणि दगदगीच्या काळात आपण हे प्रेम व्यक्त करणे विसरून जातो. पण प्रत्येक वेळेला ते व्यक्त करण्यासाठी कुठेतरी लांब जाणं, महागाची वस्तू आणणं असं काही नाही. रात्री वडील दमून आले की, तुमचे पाय दाबून देऊ का, एवढे विचारून बघा त्या पित्याच्या डोळ्यातून टचकन पाणी येईल. आईला चहा, कॉफी ती न सांगता देऊन बघा.. खूप आनंदी होईल. आपल्या भावा-बहिणींसोबत मॅगी खात गप्पा मारुया खरंच निखळ आनंद मिळेल. बायकोला, बहिणीला रात्री खूप दमलीस का ? खूप कामं करतेस तू घरातली, ऑफिसची असं म्हणून बघुया, आपल्या कामाची समोरच्या व्यक्तिला जाण आहे. हे एकून तिचा थकवापळून जाईल. नवऱ्याला भावाला तो किती छान दिसतोय किंवा तुझ्या हातच्या सकाळच्या चहाने माझी दिवसाची सुरुवात उत्तम होते असे म्हणू या, त्यालाही छान वाटेल, असे म्हणतात की आपण किती खूष आहोत यापेक्षा आपल्यामुळे किती लोकं खूष आहेत हे बघावे

असो इच्छा नसो तरी ही
कायम अथवा क्षण भरही
प्रत्येकाच्या नशिबी फुलतो
प्रेमाचा गुलमोहर!



चारोळी- संकलन

आभाळाच्या सावलीला उन्हाचे भय....
 अन झाडांच्या मुळाना पाण्याची सय...!
 कळ्याफुलांना स्पर्श नको, हर्ष हवा फुलण्याचा....
 न बोलताही देतो जणुं, मंत्र नवा जगण्याचा...!
 सरस्वती तू, तू जगदंबा, जनी सोयरा बहिणा....
 तुझ्याच रूपे रुजे मराठीत भावभक्तीची वेणा...!
 तूच जिजाऊ, तूच सावित्री, तूच विदुषी, दुर्गा अरुणा....
 काळ वेगळा तरी धुरंदर तुझा लढाऊ बाणा...!
 इशकाची तू लावणी फक्कड, तु वीरश्रीचा पोवाडा....
 वैभवशाली अमुची बोली अंगणी मौक्तिक सडा...!
 नऊवारी पैठणी सोज्वळ भर्जरी, कुंकू कपाळी....
 मर्दानीही मुलुख राखण्या टिळा लाविला भाळी...!
 गे तुला वंदिती माय मराठी ज्ञानेश्वर तुकया....
 तुझ्या प्रवाही सत्कारणी ही पडो माझीही काया...!
 सत्य चकित्सक बघण्यासाठी विज्ञानाचा डोळा....

आकांक्षा अशोक टोपे
(T.Y.B.A)

कालसुसंगत जगण्यासाठी भाव नसावा भोळा...!
 झुळुकला जरी वारा तरीही सुख लाभते जिवा....
 पाण्याचाही जीव कसनुसा, तोही शोधितो गारवा...!
 वसंत फुलतो आणि खुलवितो रंग जीवनाचे....
 उल्हासाने, उत्साहाने मग मनमोरही नाचे...!
 चिवचिव चोचीत जेव्हा उमलते सकाळ....
 आभाळाच्या भाळी झुलते बगळ्यांची माळ...!
 वडीलधारे झाड असावे आशीर्वादासाठी....
 कृतार्थतेने त्याने घ्यावे फाळाफुलांना पोटी...!
 किती किती रूपे तुझी, तुझ्याविना जग नाही....
 असो कोणताही दिस, तुला सदाचीच घाई...!
 थांब क्षणिक जराशी, तुझी तुलाच भेटायला....
 तुझी तुलाच ओळख, जग तुझे सावराया....

चुक कोणाची?

-अल्फिया सत्तार मडकी

पूर्वीचे पुणे आणि आजचे पुणे यात खूप अंतर आहे, असं आपली थोर मंडळी नेहमी म्हणत असते. कारण आता पुण्यात नऊ वाजले नाही की, लोकांची वर्दळ आणि वाहनांची वर्दळ सुरु होते. कोणी कामाच्या ठिकाणी तर कोणी शाळा कॉलेजला जाण्याची घाई करत असतो आणि मी सुद्धा याला अपवाद नव्हतेच.. सकाळचे साडेदहा वाजत होते आणि मी माझ्या कॉलेजला म्हणजेच सिम्बायोसिस कॉलेजला जाण्यासाठी पुणे स्टेशनच्या बसमध्ये चढले. ट्राफिक मुळे बस हळूहळू पुढे सरकत होती. बस आता गुंजन टॉकीजच्या स्टॉप वर येउन थांबली. लोक पटापट बस मध्ये चढू लागले, तेवढ्यात एक व्यक्ती बसमध्ये चढली आणि सगळ्यांच्या नजरा त्याला रोखून बघायला लागल्या.

एक पस्तीस चाळीस वर्षांचा पुरुष त्याचे कपडे मळकटलेले, चप्पल तुटलेली, केस अस्ताव्यस्त आणि चेहरा तर जणू त्याने अंघोळ केलीच नाही असा.. त्याचा तो अवतार पाहून क्षणभर मला देखील वाटले की, तो कोणी भिकारी असावा. पण पुढच्याच क्षणी जे घडले ते आश्चर्यचकित करणारे होते. त्या माणसाने कंडक्टर कडेच तिकीट मागितले कंडक्टरने मात्र भुवया उंच करून पैशाची मागणी केली आणि सगळ्यांना आणि मला सुद्धा वाटले की, त्याच्याकडे कुठले पैसे असतील उगाच तिकीट मागतोय'. पण सगळ्यांच्या अनपेक्षितपणे त्याने खिशातून पैसे काढून कंडक्टरला दिले आणि तिकीट घेतले. सर्वांचा भ्रमनिरास झाला खरा ,पण तो ज्या सीट जवळ उभा होता त्यावरील स्त्रिया त्याच्याकडे रोखून पाहत होत्या आणि कंडक्टरला त्याला बसमधून उतरवण्याची मागणी करत होत्या.

हा वाद सुरूच होता त्या अनामिक माणसाला चढून फक्त पाच ते दहा मिनिटे झाली असावीत आणि सर्वांच्या मागणीला ग्राह्य



St. Mira's College for Girls

धरत कंडक्टरने त्याला अभद्र भाषेत उतरण्यास सांगितले.तो उतरण्यास तयार नव्हता.. तो फक्त एवढेच विचारत होता की, 'हा स्टॉप पुणे स्टेशन आहे का?' त्याने उतरावे म्हणून कंडक्टरने खोटे बोलत त्याला पुणे स्टेशन ऐवजी बंड गार्डन जवळ उतरवले. सर्वांच्या वादात तो गडबडला होता आणि हे पुणे स्टेशन आहे हे ऐकून तो लगेच बस मधून खाली उतरला. त्या तो बसमधून उतरताच सर्वांनी सुटकेचा निश्वास सोडला.

वरील प्रसंग कदाचित सर्वसामान्य वाटत असावा पण त्यावेळी माझ्यासारख्या सोळा वर्षांच्या तरुणीच्या मनात मात्र वेगवेगळे विचार पिंगा घालत होते. प्रत्येक जण त्या वेळी बसमध्ये कदाचित विचार करत असेल की, 'बरं झालं त्याला उतरवलं'. पण मी मात्र माझ्या वेगळ्याच विचारात गुंतलेले होते. त्या व्यक्तीचा गुन्हा काय होता? हेच मला कळत नव्हते. आपल्याकडे नेहमी म्हणतात की, 'व्यक्तीच्या पेहराव्यावरून त्याची ओळख ठरवायची नसते. इंग्लिश मध्ये यालाच म्हणतात की, 'Don't judge a book by its cover'.

पण हा सुविचार या प्रसंगात पूर्णतः चुकीचा ठरला. कदाचित त्या वेळी लोकांच्या मनात त्याच्या अवतारावरून हा विचार आला असू शकतो की, तो कोणी चोर किंवा भिकारी आहे. पण तो चोर कसा असू शकतो? हा प्रश्न माझ्या मनात होता. एक सुजान नागरिकाचे कर्तव्य असते की, बस मधून प्रवास करत असताना तिकीट मागून घ्यावे. आणि मी माझ्या वयाच्या तरुणांना अनेकदा अभिमानाने सांगताना पाहिले आहे की, 'बसमध्ये गर्दी होती म्हणून मी विनातिकीट प्रवास केला'. म्हणजे आमच्यातील काही तरुण नागरिकत्वाची मूलभूत कर्तव्य पाळत नाहीत. पण त्याने ती पाळली होती, तरीही त्याची बस मधून हकाल पट्टी करण्यात आली, असे का?

चूक कोणाचीच नव्हती असेही नाही आणि चूक एकाचीच होती असेही नाही. या प्रसंगाचे वेगवेगळे पैलू पाहायला मिळतात ज्या दृष्टिकोनातून आपण या प्रसंगाला पाहू त्यानुसार वेगवेगळ्या व्यक्ती गुन्हेगार ठरतात. कधी बसमधले लोक गुन्हेगार ठरतात, कधी त्याचे स्वतःची रहाणीमान, तर कधी आपली मानसिकता.

माहीत नाही त्यावेळी माझ्या मनात खूप सारे विचार आले आणि मी माझ्याच विचारांत इतके गुंतले की, शेवटी चूक कोणाची? हा प्रश्न निरुत्तर राहिला. आज या घटनेला खूप दिवस झाले. त्यावेळी मी अकरावीला होते आणि आता फर्स्ट इयर ला, पण तरीही आजही ही घटना मला आठवली की माझ्या मनात तोच प्रश्न उपस्थित होतो की, शेवटी.. चूक होती तरी कोणाची?

मराठी भाषा सुंदर आहे कारण...

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माझ्या महाराष्ट्राची अमृतवाणी, तुळजाभवानीची तलवार
आम्हां मराठ्यांची शान, सह्याद्रीचा कणा आहे मराठी..

याच माझ्या मातीत जन्मले, कित्येक रणधुरंधर,
ज्ञानोबा-तुकोबा संत थोर ठेविले अनमोल रत्न,
जगाशी उध्दरण्या रचिले ग्रंथ-गाथा मराठी...

साक्ष इतिहासाची विजयी सलाम,त्या रणसंग्रामाला
त्रिभुवनी या किर्ती असे जगले शिवराय,
तो अमुचा धर्म मराठी..

देशाचं सामर्थ्य, संस्कृतीचा आदर, थोर वारसा,

निर्मख संस्कार भिरभिरती अशी नजर क्षितीजापल्याड,
अभिमान आम्हांशी बोलतो मराठी..

आपुलकीचं माहेरघर, शब्दांचा भांडार,
जगण्याची स्फूर्ती अलंकाराने सुसज्ज,
श्रृंगाराने नटलेली विविधता म्हणजे मराठी..

कलेचा, इतिहासाचा, संत-सेवेचा,
शतकानुशतके जपलेला ऐतिहासिक ठेवा
समृद्ध असेल उदयाही तितकीच,
म्हणून माझी सुंदर माय मराठी..



मुलगी आहे म्हणून..

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हसायचं खेळायचंय, बागडायचंय मला
या विश्वात रमायचंय मला
मुलगी आहे म्हणून थांबायचे नाही मला
मुलांच्या नाकावर टिचून जगायचंय मला
मन मुराद नाचायचंय मला
मुलगी आहे म्हणून थांबायचं नाही मला
आई बाबांच्या कष्टाचे सोने करायचंय मला
आई वडिलांचं नाव मोठं करायचंय मला
मुलगी आहे म्हणून थांबायचं नाही मला
संकटांना सामोरी जायचंय मला
वादळांना अडवायचंय मला
मुलगी आहे म्हणून थांबायचं नाही मला
शूरवीर जिजाऊ व्हायचंय मला
पतीव्रता सावित्री ही व्हायचंय मला
मुलगी आहे म्हणून थांबायचं नाही मला
इंडियाचा बेस्ट व्हायचंय मला
भारताचं नाव मोठं करायचंय मला
मुलगी आहे म्हणून थांबायचं नाही मला
मुलगी आहे म्हणून थांबायचं नाही मला.

पितृ महती

अस्मिता बेडलवार
F.Y.B.A

चार ओळीत व्यक्त होईल,
असे व्यक्तिमत्व म्हत्त्व नाही तो.....
कर्तव्याला झुगारणे,
कदापि माहीत नसणारा तो.....
सिंहा सारखा बेडर तटस्थ होऊन,
संकटांना समोर जाई तो.....
आकाशासारखी माया करी,
पण कदापि न दाखवी तो.....
आयुष्यभराच्या कुटुंबाचं,
भरणपोषण आजन्मी चिंता वाही तो.....
आपल्या जीवन पथावर,
दिपस्तंभासारखा आहे तो.....
म्हणूनच म्हणावेसे वाटते,
आपल्या जीवनाचा शिल्पकार असे तो.....
ज्याचे नाव पिता, पालनकर्ता,
असा सर्वस्व तो.....

घोषवाक्ये

वैष्णवी दरेकर
T.Y.B.A

हंड्यावर हंडे सात, त्यावर मांडली परात,
कोरोनाला हरवायला,
बसा आपापल्या घरात
मंगळसूत्राच्या २ वाट्या सासर आणि माहेर,
सगळ्यांनी मास्क घालूनच पडा घराबाहेर,
शंकराच्या पिंडीवर बेलाचं पान ठेवते वाकून,
रोजचे व्यवहार करा सोशल डिस्टंसिंग राखून
शिरा बनवायला तूप, साखर, वेलची व रवा आणला जाडा,
रोगप्रतिकारक शक्ती वाढवायला प्या आयुर्वेदिक काढा
ताजमहल, कुतुबमिनार बनविणारे कारागीर होते ग्रेट,
लक्षणं दिसली कोरोनाची तर डॉक्टरांना भेटा थेट
काळे मणी, सोनेरी मणी घरभर पमरले,
कोरोनामुळे सगळे इतर आजार विसरले
चिमणीला म्हणतात चिऊ
कावळ्याला म्हणतात काऊ
आपण घरीच सुरक्षित राहू,
विनाकारण बाहेर नका जाऊ.

आयुष्य (स्वरचीत कविता)

कोमल संजय जाधव
F.Y.B.A

आयुष्य हे असे जगावे
जगता जगता सारे विश्व भुलावे
जीवन हे मिळत नसते सहजासहजी कुणाला
ज्यास लभले हे प्रकृतन तो भाग्यवंत
निराळा॥१॥

जीवन जगणे हा तर स्वप्नांचा मेळावा
स्वप्नपूर्ती असे एक खरा आनंद सोहळा
हर्ष, प्रमोद, सुख-समाधानाचा रचे मनोरा
जगण्या देई नवी उर्मी कल्पनेचा किनारा ॥२॥

जनी अनुभवला हार जिंकण्याचा खेळ
अन् जुळवून घेतला या क्षणांशी मेळ
संपवता संपवता तथा हे आयुष्य संपवले
आदर्श हे जग मात्र कधी ना भुलावे ॥३॥



मराठी भाषेच्या रक्षणाची गरज आहे का?

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माझ्या मन्हाठीचा बोलू कौतुके

परि अमृतातेहि पैजा जिंके

ज्ञानेश्वरीतल्या या ओवीत मराठी भाषेचा गोडवा सांगताना ज्ञानेश्वर महाराज म्हणतात, मराठी भाषेची गोडी अशी अवीट आहे, साक्षात अमृतही फिके पडेल या नवल नाही. खरेच मराठी भाषेची गोडी ही मराठमोळ्या लोकांनाच कळायची! मराठीपणाचे कवच घातलेल्या पण पाश्चात्य संस्कृतीचे अनुकरण करणाऱ्यांना मराठीची थोरवी काय कळणार ?

प्रत्येक राष्ट्राची स्वतःची अशी राष्ट्रभाषा असते आणि त्या राष्ट्रातल्या लोकांची स्वतःची अशी मायबोली असते. आपल्या भारताची राष्ट्रभाषा हिंदी आहे. पण महाराष्ट्राची मायबोली ही आपली मायमराठी आहे. अनेक साहित्यकांनी कवींनी मराठी भाषेची साहित्यसृष्टी अतिशय समृद्ध केली आहे. इंग्रज आपल्या देशातून गेले, पण इंग्रजी भाषा ठेवून गेले. स्वातंत्र्यानंतर पन्नास वर्षे इंग्रजी भाषा आपली पाळेमुळे घट्ट रुजवू पाहते आहे. आणि आपली मराठी भाषा तेवढीच दुरावली आहे.

मराठी बोलणे हे आज अशिक्षितपणाचे लक्षण मानले जाते. मराठी माणूस मराठी माणसांशीच इंग्रजीतून संवाद साधू लागला आहे. शाळा, महाविद्यालये किंवा मोठ्या संस्थामध्ये गेल्यावर इंग्रजीतून बोलणे ही गरज समजली जात आहे.

मराठी व्यक्तीने मराठी व्यक्तीशी भावनांची देवाणघेवाण करताना इतर भाषा उसनवार घेतली तर अपेक्षित आपुलकी कशी निर्माण होणार ? लहान मुलांच्या तोंडून आई हा पहिला शब्द ऐकताना त्या मातेला जी धन्यता वाटेल ती मम्मी या शब्दामुळे नक्कीच वाटणार नाही. पण असे अनेक शब्द आहेत की त्यांना मराठीत काय म्हणतात हे देखील आपल्याला माहित नाही. आपल्या सोयीसाठीच आपण इंग्रजाळत आहोत. लहान मुलांपासून ते मोठ्यापर्यंत प्रत्येक इंग्रजाळत आहेत. मराठीची अशी दयनीय स्थिती करून आपण आपल्यावरच अन्याय करत आहोत. महाराष्ट्रात राहून आपण मराठीचा तीरस्कार करतो. इंग्रजी शाळेत मुलांना शिकविण्यात आई-वडिलांना अभिमान वाटू लागला आहे. काळाच्या ओघात मराठीचे स्वरूपही बदलते आहे. महाविद्यालयीन युवक, भंकस नको मारु यार त्याने जाम पकवलं यार, अशा प्रकारची बोली भाषा वापरून मराठीपणाच्या अस्सलपणाचा न्हास करू पाहताहेत. ही आपली मराठी नक्कीच नाही. रिमिक्स हा मराठी भाषेच्या विटंबनेचा आणखीन एक नवा आविष्कार, जुन्या मराठी गाण्यांमध्ये हिंदी, इंग्रजी शब्दांची सर मिसळ करून आम्ही मराठीला आंतरराष्ट्रीय दर्जा दिला म्हणत तीला आणखीन खाली पाडायचे, मराठी भाषा ही इतकी कवडीमोल आहे का ? स्वतःला मराठी म्हणवणारे आपण आपले मराठी पण खुलपणाने कसे विकू शकतो ? आपल्या प्रत्येक गोष्टीचा अभिमान असलेले आपण मराठीची का अवहेलना करतो ? मान्य आहे काळाप्रमाणे माणसाला वागावे लागते, पण इतके पण नाही. काळाची गरज म्हणून आपण बहुभाषक होण्याची गरज आहेच. हे अमान्य करता येणार नाही. या सगळ्या भाषा आत्मसात कराव्याच, पण नुसत्या वर वर म्हणून त्यावरही प्रभुत्व मिळवा. पण त्याबरोबरच अत्यंत संपन्न असलेल्या आपल्या मराठी भाषेचा सन्मान करा. मराठी साहित्याची गोडी स्वतः ही चाखा नव्या पिढीलाही वाचण्याची सवय लावा. सगळ्यांनीच दैनंदिन जीवनात मराठीचा नीट वापर केला तरी खूप झाले. अर्थात मराठी भाषा संकटात आहे. तिचे रक्षण करण्याची वेळ आली आहे असे चहूबाजूंनी ऐकू येते. पण भीती बाळगण्याची अजीबात गरज नाही. खेड्यापाड्यांत रुजलेली, संत-महंतांच्या लेखणीतून पसरलेली ही भाषा नवे नवे शब्द आपल्या कवेत येत अधिकच संपन्न होत आहे. म्हणून म्हणावेसे वाटते:

लाभले आम्हास भाग्य बोलतो मराठी
जाहलो खरेच धन्य ऐकतो मराठी
धर्म, पंथ, जात एक जाणतो मराठी
एवढ्या जगात माय मानतो मराठी.



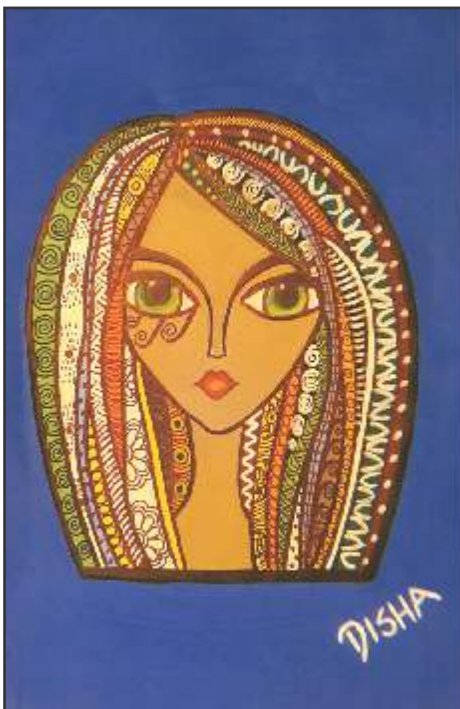
CREATIVE CANVAS



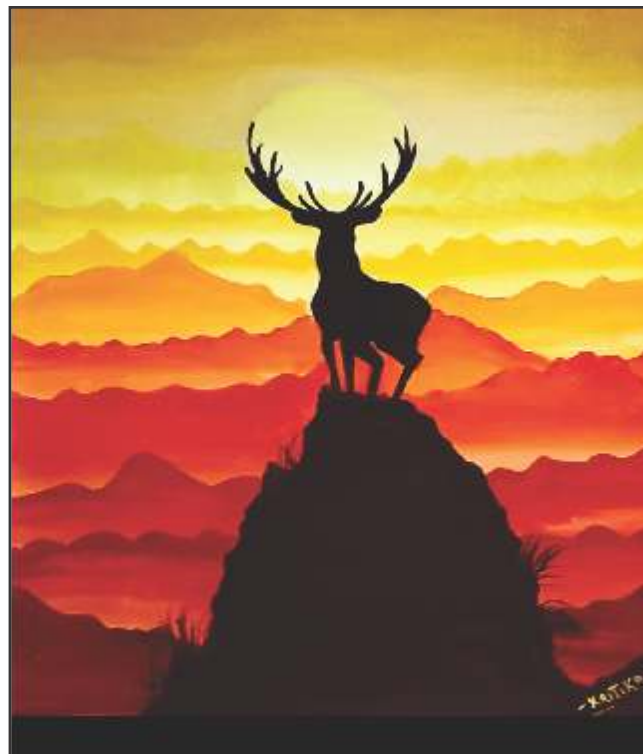
Mitali Mehta (FYBA)



Mitali Mehta (FYBA)



**Disha Daryanani
FYBA**



**Kritika Sharma
TY BBA**



Suchandra Bhattacharya



Suchandra Bhattacharya



Anushka Jadhav (SYBA)



Beautiful Boy



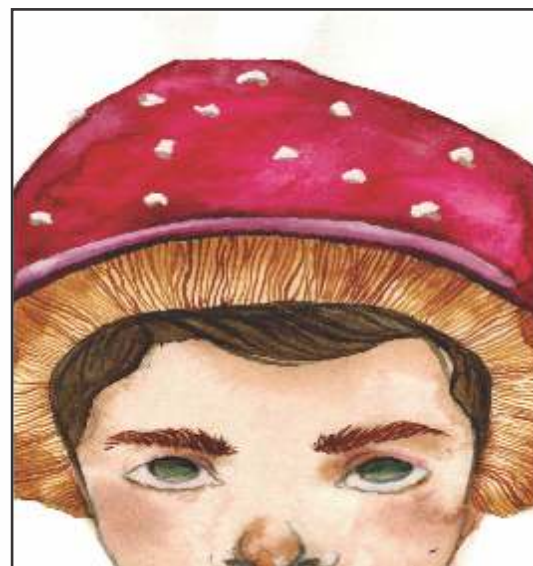
Shruti Gupta
11-C



Kritika Sharma
TY BBA



Elizabeth Thomas
Syba



Arman Chagla



St. Mira's College for Girls



Preksha Porwal (TYBA)



Priya Pandey (TYBA)



Disha Daryanani (FYBA)



Ishani Mujumdar
12th Arts



Chrislynn Rodrigues
FYBA



Chrislynn Rodrigues
FYBA



St. Mira's College for Girls



Yogita Melwani (SYBCA)



Kareena Narayan (SYBA)



Priya Pandey (TYBA)



Natasha Fernandes (TYBA)



St. Mira's College for Girls



Kareena Narayan (SYBA)



Preksha Porwal (TYBA)



Preksha Porwal (TYBA)



Yogita Melwani (SYBCA)



ALL ABOUT US



International Yoga Day



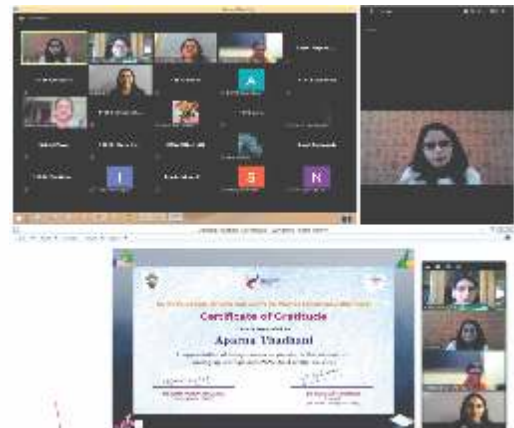
IAWS Western Regional Conference on Gender, Media and Pandemic



Tree Plantation



EBSCOhost Database Online Training 23rd Oct 2020



Fueling Up Startups and MSMEs



ALL ABOUT US

OUR PARENT BODY

The Sadhu Vaswani Mission is a world renowned humanitarian service organisation with an international presence across four continents. Founded originally in Hyderabad-Sind before the partition of India as the Brotherhood Association, it was renamed after its revered founder Sadhu Vaswani when the Sindhi community was forced to leave Pakistan. Sadhu Vaswani chose to make Pune his headquarters, and from here the Mission and its activities have grown by quantum leaps. Today, the Sadhu Vaswani Mission is a non-sectarian institution which believes in the unity of all religions and reveres the Great Ones of all faiths. The Mission serves all sections of society with no prejudice relating to caste, creed or community. Its service activities today embrace several spheres that influence people's lives - social, educational, medical, environmental and spiritual.

The Sadhu Vaswani Mission is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable corporation. The objects of the Trust are:

- (i) To spread the message of brotherhood, unity and harmony.
- (ii) To promote cultural and spiritual development by starting centres of training in concentration, character building and social service.
- (iii) To provide triple training of Head, Hand and Heart through education in Arts, Fine Arts, Commerce and Management Science, Health Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Home Science, Teachers' Training, Law, Veterinary and other areas of education to meet the needs of the time.
- (iv) To serve the poor and sick, irrespective of caste, colour or creed. The members of the college management committee, are:

(v) Dada J. P. Vaswani	Mrs. R.A. Vaswani	Ms. Krishna Kumari Thadani
Dr. Basant Ahuja	Ms. N.T. Jotwani	Ms. Piya Uttamchandani
Mr. Mohan Chainani	Mr. Prakash Sadhwani	Ms. Rajni Ahuja
Dr. Gulshan Gidwani	Ms. Gulshan Dudani	Ms. Renu Wadhwa
Ms. Nuri Vaswani		

The family is served by a dedicated team of staff members - teaching as well as non-teaching - who all work in a spirit of total devotion to duty and love for the student community.

For the Mira Management, Education is not a commercial enterprise, but part of its highly idealistic programme of service to society. Therefore, no capitation fee is charged for admission to any of its courses. Every paisa received from the students, every rupee received as grant from the government, is scrupulously accounted for. We have come a long way since our inception, when we began by adding one class each year, with the pre degree course - a small group of eager learners and a handful of dedicated teachers and staff who did not even expect remuneration for their efforts! Today, the college is veritably the jewel in the crown of the prestigious and exclusive Mira Family of nine institutions located across India in New Delhi, Baroda, Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Jaipur.

The Mira Movement's headquarters is located in Pune, and the institutions flourish under an enlightened and supportive management headed by none other than Dada J. P. Vaswani, a world-renowned spiritual leader and messenger of India's spiritual heritage.



St. Mira's College for Girls

It is no coincidence that the Sadhu Vaswani Mission chose to make Dr. Gulshan H. Gidwani, Principal of St. Mira's College, the Director of the Mira Education Board, to oversee the functioning of all the Mira institutions across the country. She has proved to be dynamic and energetic and has led from the front to translate her vision for the college into reality. But then, as now, the stars in our eyes remain. Our vision, our ideals are still fresh in our minds. And we are determined to strive for them.

Year after year, hundreds of young and bright-eyed students enter our portals. In each one, we see the potential that we can draw out— for that is what true education is. To each one, we offer the best that we are capable of, for that is what the MIRA ideal is all about.

Our courses keep abreast of the changing times. Our young charges are tomorrow's citizens. We ourselves are growing, evolving. But our ideals remain the same. Nor have they grown old or faded. Ever fresh, ever constant, our sights remain focused on the dream and vision on which they were founded. For we truly believe that perfection is not a destination, but the journey; excellence is not a goal, but a process. And this perfection, this excellence is what we aspire to! To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.

AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONOURS:

During the year of Covid the greatest achievement by the college and students is working hard, celebrating life and ensuring that everything continues smoothly in a time of great upheaval. However we must acknowledge that despite it all we have set the bar high and still strived to succeed in whatever we put our mind and spirit to.

RESOURCE PERSON:

- Dr. Vaishali Diwakar was invited to deliver Savitribai Phule memorial lecture on 'The contribution of Savitribai Phule to Gender Equality' by Tumkur University, Karnataka on 4th January 2021.
- Dr. Vaishali Diwakar was felicitated by ICA- International Cultural Artefact film festival. She also gave a cine talk on film analysis as a part of this film festival. Youtube link: https://youtu.be/6H11gdm_ZLE
- Dr. Vaishali Diwakar was invited to conduct a workshop on Sociological analysis of films by the Department of Sociology, S. P. College, Pune.
- Dr. Vaishali Joshi was invited to conduct a session on 'Portrayal of Gender' a workshop on 'Gender in everyday life: Breaking the boundaries' on 8th February 2021 organized by the Department of Sociology and the Department of Chemistry of Modern College, Ganeshkhind, Pune.
- Dr. Vaishali Joshi was invited as a resource person to conduct a session on 'Culture: Symbolic Transformations', on 24th March, 2021, in a workshop on 'SET-NET Preparation' organized by Dattajirao Kadam College, Ichalkaranji.
- Dr. Arwah Madan was invited as a resource person for a webinar "Challenges to Development in times of the COVID-19 Pandemic" on Sept 2, 2020 by Symbiosis School of Economics.
- Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare was invited as a resource person for 'Certificate Course in Public Policy' from 7th Sept to 10th Sept 2020 at S.P. College, Pune.
- Dr. Meenal Sumant delivered a guest lecture on 'Monetary Policy in India' for 'Certificate



Course in Public Policy' at S.P. College, Pune; on 10th September 2020.

- Dr Sangeeta Deshmukh, along with her students was invited to deliver an online programme on various forms of Literature. The programme was organised by Deodhar Library, Navi Mumbai on November 10, 2020. The programme was much appreciated by viewers and organisers.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLICATIONS OF BOOKS, RESEARCH PAPERS AND ARTICLES:

Dr. Vaishali Joshi is participating in a collaborative research with Miloon Saryajani, an a journal in Marathi focusing on women's issues and gender equality. The research involves a review of the journal's 30 years' contribution in facilitating social transformation towards an egalitarian society.

Dr Snober Sataravala was awarded the Tata Research Grant on Partition.

Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh published a research paper titled, "A Study of Customers' Perception of Efficiency and Effectiveness of Waiting Line Management in Private Hospitals in Pune City" in UGC Care Group I Listed Journal

Asst. Prof Rajni Singh and Ms. Priya Bajaj published a research paper titled, "A Study on Impact of Technology on Service Delivery in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pune" in UGC Care Group I Listed Journal

Asst. Prof. Deepa Krishnamurthi presented a Research Paper titled "Matrices over Non-Commutative Rings as Sums of Fourth Powers" at the 86th Annual Conference of the Indian Mathematical Society, an International Meet IMS 2020 organized by Department of Mathematics, School of Advanced Sciences, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore from 17th December to 20th December 2020.

Paper/Chapter Publication - Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi published a Chapter in the book *Managing Human Resource in Cross Cultural Organisations, A study of Workforce Diversity and its Impact on Employees*, K. G. Publication, New Delhi, July 2020. ISBN No - 978-81-939741-5-5

Rekha Kankariya got the first award at the international level write up competition on Post COVID Paradigm Shift in Teaching, Learning and Evaluation organized by Foresight College of Commerce (FCC), Pune & St. Vincent College of Commerce, Pune in association with Confederation of Indian Universities

Elizabeth Varkey's paper "Representation of Female Disability in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Black" was published in a book titled *Empowered Women, Ennobled Humans: Enabling Dignity and Equality*. Varkey also co-edited a book titled *Defenses of Clay: The Book of Job*.

International Publications - An article by Sawani V, titled, "Charlie Chaplin: The Walk That Talks" highlighting the body language of Chaplin's walking style appeared on the official website of Chaplin, published by Chaplin Office, Paris The article can be viewed on

<https://www.charliechaplin.com/en/articles/324>

National -Reflective writing by Sawani V titled "Lipstick Under My Mask" published by IASE (Institute of Advanced Studies for English, Pune) & CDH (Centre for Digital Humanities, Pune) in an Anthology named *Rewriting Human Imagination* against the background of Covid 19 pandemic. Formally appointed as one of the Reviewers for the same Anthology

State Level Publications - A short story by Sawani V titled "Sakura"- the cherry blossom, based on Japanese socio cultural milieu and characters published in renowned Marathi Diwali Edition named *ShabdaShivar 2020*

A travelogue series focusing the socio cultural aspects of countries like Vietnam, Hongkong, Macau & Singapore published in online bulletin *The Wire Marathi - 2020*, Co - Writer - Sawani V



SWAYAM/ FDPS:

Dr Snober Sataravala, Suhaile Azavedo, Komal Tujare, Ekta Jadhav, Swatee Sarwate, Devinder Kaur. All successfully completed online FDPs and Refresher courses with Swayam.. Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare, Dr. Meenal Sumant. Rajni Singh, Shanti Fernandes and Deepa Krishnamurthi completed several FDPs and refresher courses. All obtained outstanding results.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Documentary Film, "Samantar" based on the feminist classical vocalist Neela Bhagwat was honoured at ICA(International Cultural Artifact) International Film Festival, Pune in the category of Special Screenings on 19th January 2021. Director of the documentary, Sawani V was also invited as a guest for Cine Talk based on her film.(Film Speciality – Presented by Sarisha Arts, Pune – The only all women film production team, Sawani V- Founder, Director Sarisha Arts, Pune -)

Documentary Film based on endangered languages titled , 'They are Dying' selected in 22nd Madurai Film Festival 2020, Thrissur Film Festival, Chennai 2020 & at Film and Folklore Festival, Trinanad and Tobago (Country in the Carribean) 2021. Subtitles and Research – Sawani V

A realistic short film based on the plights of the sugarcane cutters - right to education, child labour, unemployment, medical film scams, labour migration, superstitions titled, 'Sakharshala' (Sugar School) selected in Madrid Indie Film Festival (MADRIFF – 2021), Spain. Creative Head, Research, Subtitles, Actor – Sawani V. (Media Coverage - Pune Mirror Daily, Maharashtra, Pune Edition- 7th May 2021)

Rekha Kankariya got the third position in the 1 minute Surya Namaskar competition held on 29th August 2020, organized by Department of Physical Education and Sports, St. Mira's College for Girls.

OUR STUDENTS HAVE HAD THEIR SHARE OF SUCCESS AS WELL!

AWARDS AND LAURELS

Inter-collegiate Event Winners /Achievers:

Garima Kundu, SYBA A won first prize in Inter-collegiate debate competition, organized by KES Shroff college, Mumbai under the banner of Arthagyan Ecofest 2021. She spoke against the farm laws 2020.

Ms. Ayushi Dubey(SYBA ECO SP) won Ms. Arthagyan Award 2021 in 'Arthgyan Ecofest'- an intercollegiate competition organised by KES Shroff College, Mumbai. She won prizes in the events like Diagram making, Debate and Write-up competitions under 'Arthgyan Ecofest' Ms. Rhea Fazal Khimjibhai (SYBCOM B div) won third prize in diagram making competition in 'Arthgyan Ecofest'- an intercollegiate competition organised by KES Shroff College, Mumbai.

Sheryl Rasundaram SY B.Com student specialising in Business Entrepreneurship has been awarded the First Prize at the National level Virtual PowerPoint Presentation Competition -E-PRASTUTI. This competition was organized by S.S. Jain Subodh P.G.Mahila Mahavidyala, Rambagh,Jaipur in 2 rounds on Jan 16th & 23rd, 2021.The topic of her Presentation-Women Entrepreneurship-Ms.Jagruati Khabaya Shah of Araatrika(Social Eco Enterprise).

Research by Students:

Four students that is Ummesalema Karu, Arman Chagla, Sriradha Gupta and Gitanjali Lachke to submitted research proposals for the Tata Research Grant on Partition. Ummesalema was awarded the grant of Rs 30,000.

Sae Gaikwad, TYBCom has published a Research Paper under the guidance of Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh on 'Comparative Study of Customer Expectations and Preference between Small Scale and



Large Scale Web Streaming Services'.

Fida Khan was selected as a Research Intern for the Three months internship program by Cultural Bridge- a Berlin-based Institute.

Beyond the College Sphere:

Ruve Narang, MA English, is the Content Head at Reliance Animation (ADAG Group). She plays a pivotal role from ideation to execution of Intellectual Property (I.Ps.). Ruve has worked on several series like Golmaal Jr. on Nickelodeon, Pandeji Pehelwan (ETV), Smashing Simmba (POGO), etc. Ruve also helms the animated adaptation of the blockbuster Simmba starring Ranvir Singh, produced by Rohit Shetty as the Associate director. Currently, the animated series airs on POGO channel.

Aarjavee Raaj, MA English, is starring in a Telugu film shot in Hyderabad titled *Vivaha Bhojanambu*.

Sheba Biju from F.Y.B.Com(C), won the 1st position in the National College Level Essay Writing Competition, organized by Andhra University and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trust.

Ummesalama Karu from T.Y.B.A.(A), English Special, secured the 1st position in the 10th Dr. Shamarao Kalmadi Memorial State Level Elocution Competition organized by Kaveri College of Arts, Science and Commerce.

Sheryl Rasundaram from S.Y.B.Com, was awarded the 1st Prize at the National Level Virtual PowerPoint Presentation Competition – E-Prastuti, organized by S.S. Jain Subodh P.G.Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Rambagh, Jaipur on the topic “Women Entrepreneurship”.

Aishwarya Jagtap was from TYBCS, roll no.-5602, was awarded the 2nd Prize in PPT Competition organized by K. K. Wagh Arts, Commerce, Science and Computer Science College.

Sameeha Shoeb Arifi (FYBA, roll no.:2209) and Namrata Datta (TYBA, Eco Spl, roll no.: 4832) were awarded the 2nd position in Waxing Eloquent Debate Competition organized by Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce.

Akshara Patil from SYBCS, Roll no.:5627, was awarded the second position in a Poster Competition organised by Sarhad College of Arts, Science and Commerce.

A Special Mention:

The students of the TYBA English Special headed by Sriradha Gupta raised 2.5 lakhs to support a fellow classmate who lost her mother to covid and was struggling to save her father also critical due to covid. The alumni also through a fund raiser donated over 1 Lakh to the college.

COLLEGE NEWS

The academic year 2020-21, despite the impediments of the digital medium, was a still year that celebrated the talents of the students . Here goes a quick round up of the college activities for this year:

I. Our Quality Initiatives:

The various special programmes which form a part of our quality initiatives during the academic year include the following:

- The College in collaboration with ArtSphere and The Art Therapist Colab (TATC) has



St. Mira's College for Girls

introduced a post-graduate diploma in Dance Movement Therapy.

- The College in collaboration with Just Being Centre has introduced a post-graduate diploma in Mindfulness Based Counseling–Listening with Embodied Presence.
- The College in collaboration with Swasti Institute for Learning and Development has introduced a certificate course in Organizational Development and Change Management.
- **Online Support group sessions: (only for students of the College)**

The pandemic posed various challenges and preventive practices like quarantine and social distancing may not be easy or even mental health friendly for all. Launched on March 22, 2020 the Online Support program was an extension of the ongoing mental wellbeing programme introduced last year by the College. An online form was shared with all the students to understand their mental health needs and readiness for online support groups/sessions. More than 700 students requested online support and interaction with the college counselor. The objective of these sessions was to create a safe space to discuss students' needs, challenges and personal distress associated with preventive measures like quarantine and social distancing. These sessions also helped in identifying students at high risk for mental health concerns and reached out to them through telephonic counselling. Focused group sessions of 90 mins were conducted for every class to address psychological concerns. The College counsellor met students from each class virtually and discussed topics like: mental health care-ideas and suggestions, dealing with lack of motivation, examination stress- prolonged gap, anxiety and depressive thoughts: sharing these feelings and navigating and boundary setting with family members, partners, and social media.

- **Mentoring sessions** for all the students across all streams have been introduced, where teachers conducted sessions during the year for a group of students assigned to them.
- **Student Induction Programme (SIP)**

The SIP was organized from 07th September to 12th September 2020 for all the first year students across all streams. It was organized by the Deeksharambha - SIP committee, headed by Ms. Elizabeth Kanade and supported by Dr. Sangeeta Deshmukh, Ms. Veena Kenchi, Dr. Meenal Sumant, Ms Monika Rajguru and Ms. Shubhangi Jagtap. The programme commenced with Sanctuary, followed by the Principal - Dr. Gulshan Gidwani's address introducing them to the great saint and founder of the College - Sadhu T. L. Vaswani. Dr. Gidwani motivated students to harness their inner abilities and strengths to cope with the trying pandemic situation. The final year students celebrated Teachers' Day by reciting shlokas, dedicating songs and gratitude speeches to teachers, poem recital by a student Maitrayee Sangitrao and sharing of experiences about the College and teachers. The inaugural session was attended by the Vice-Principal, Dr. Shalini Iyer, BBA-BCA Co-ordinator Mrs. Stella Ambrose and the faculty.

The first day of the SIP commenced with a session by Dr. Shalini Iyer, the Vice-principal who introduced the students to the parent institution – the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, the founder of the college – Sadhu T. L. Vaswani and his successor Dada J. P. Vaswani along with their contribution to the Mira Movement in Education, a glimpse into the College, its motto – “Kindle the Light” and the mission statement - “Cultivating Human Soul with the Triple Training of The Head, The Hand and The Heart” and the principles of the college. The students were briefed on the different streams available for the Graduate and Post Graduate programmes, autonomy status granted to the College, subjects offered, choice-based credit system and credit courses, details of the examination pattern; internal and external examination; regular and backlog exam rules, re-verification and revaluation. This was followed by a session on LMS-Moodle and Mentoring, conducted by Dr. Snober Sataravala; Head, Department of English, which included an introduction to LMS-Moodle covering aspects like procedure of logging-in, log-in id, user name and its importance. Dr. Snober introduced the students



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to Mentoring, mentor – mentee list was shared with the students followed by a question-answer session. The session concluded with a presentation by a group of students from the Department of English on the College magazine, The Mira Press, The Mira Debating Society, The LitWits Club, Japanese and Korean Club and Mira Manch Queens. This was followed by a screening of a video on Responsible Citizenship.

On the second day of the SIP, in-keeping with the theme 'We and Our Environment', Ms. Rajni Singh, a member of the Green Club, oriented the students on the activities of the Club. This was followed by an interactive session by Ms. Rajni Singh and the other members of the Club - Ms. Jyoti Chintan and Ms. Komal Tujare, sharing information about Ecofriendly Ganesh Festival, Newspaper Bags Making Workshop, Hand-made Rakhi Making Activity, Jumble Sale, Kaho Na Pad Hai campaign, Green Trek at Parvati, and a briefing on the proposed activities for the year 2020-21. The students got an opportunity to showcase their environmentally friendly creations - recycled paper, a hut made of broomsticks, showpieces made of coconut shells and the like. At the second session Ms. Suhail Azavedo, from the Department of English provided details of the Credit, Diploma and Certificate Courses launched by the College aimed at skill and employability enhancement, nurturing entrepreneurship and leading to academic enrichment. Dr. Sangita Deshmukh, Head Department of Marathi briefed the students about the activities of the Department like Marathi Day Activities, Declamation competition, Ganapati Celebration, Marathi plays, Poetry reading, One-act plays and Slogan writing competition and showed a video showcasing the performances of the past students. In the last session the students were assigned to mentors, mentoring groups were created on whatsapp and mentoring sessions organised. These sessions aimed at interactions between the mentor and the mentees, among the students, making students aware about the college system, group counselling and guiding the students relating to their personal, family, financial and academic issues.

The theme for Day 3 was 'Experiencing the Joy of Giving'. In the first session Dr. Vaishali Joshi, Department of Sociology emphasized the significance of social outreach as an inseparable part of higher education, essential for enhancing sensitivity towards social issues like gender discrimination, women empowerment, sexual harassment and menstrual hygiene, education for children and the deprived sections, river cleaning, care for stray animals, fund raising for social cause and mental health. Dr. Joshi briefed the students on the various extension and social outreach activities undertaken by the different departments in coordination with NGOs like Mitti Ke Rang, Jivit Nadi Foundation, Deepgriha Society and Spherule Foundation, Saare Jahan Se Achha and Helplife and Aasra. The session concluded with an inspiring video on 'Help Us Green Foundation' – treating temple waste and making incense sticks, incense cone, vermi compost, bio-degradable thermocol. During the second session the NSS Programme Officers, Dr. Sandhya Pandit and Ms. Manjita Kulkarni oriented the students about the NSS activities, the NSS logo and motto, qualities required, academic and personal advantages of participation in NSS. Images of NSS activities undertaken during 2019-20 – like tree plantation, summer internship programme, cleanliness drives, swachha wari, blood donation camp, organ donation awareness, river cleaning drive, and a special winter camp were shared. Two of the senior NSS volunteers shared their experiences and the benefits of NSS. This was followed by a session on Responsible Citizenship by Ms. Veena Kenchi, Head Department of Political Science and Public Administration. The session commenced with a survey on the topic, followed by types of responsible citizens, screening of a clip from the movie 'Rang De Basanti'. The day concluded with Ms. Swati Sarawate, Placement Cell Coordinator, giving details like the objectives of the placement cell and its activities like internships, pre-placement activities, guest lectures, skill development workshops, process of placement, on-campus and off-campus drives. Valuable feedbacks from employers like WIPRO Global and KPMG were shared.



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The theme for Day 4 was 'Safety on Campus: A Step towards Holistic Development'.

Dr. Geeta Bora, Founder of Spherule Foundation, a Social activist and a Social Entrepreneur, the awardee of Samaj Sevi Ratan and Sahitya Academy Award interacted with the students on the journey of the work undertaken by the NGO – Spherule Foundation in diverse areas like menstrual hygiene, child abuse, sexual harassment, gender equality, education, hunger eradication and anemia. Dr. Bora familiarized the students with the different programmes undertaken by the NGO like Hidden Hunger (emphasizing on nutritious food), Planet 50-50 (gender equality); distribution of sanitary napkins, GGA education programmes and the Instashala project for government school. Considering the background of the current pandemic, a session on the safety measures during COVID19 was conducted by Ms. Veena Kenchi, Head, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, followed by screening of videos on the topic. The next session consisted of a presentation by the TYBCOM students – Ms. Ravina and Ms. Himani who provided information to the students about the webinars organized by the Accountancy Department under Digital Warriors consisting of Video Making with renderforest; Hands-on training with excel; and the like. Ms. Ekta Jadhav, Director, Physical Education in her Yoga session practically demonstrated some simple asanas explaining the posture and importance of each asana followed by basic pranayama and musical meditation. Against the backdrop of COVID 19, where mental health has gained prime importance, Ms. Pooja Jain from the Department of Psychology and a Counselling Psychologist conducted a session on mental wellness, explaining the importance of empathy and openness towards mental wellbeing. Ms. Pooja elaborated on the 'Full Time Mental Well-Being Programme' run by the College and explained its three levels - awareness session, voluntary group therapy session and individual counselling sessions.

Theme for the Day 5 was 'Safety on Campus: A Step towards Holistic Development'. The Librarian Ms. Devinder Kaur oriented the students about the library sources, e-resources, digital library, braille collection, e-books, audio cassettes, journal subscriptions, magazines, newspapers, databases, year books, book exhibitions, reading room, information services, online library access with webopac, etc. Subscriptions to online databases like N-list and Ebscohost useful for student projects and the facility of accessing the library resources through college website in the current scenario was also emphasized. Ms. Karishma Parekh, the President of the alumni association interacted with the students about the various activities conducted and sponsored by the alumni association like alumni meet, international women's day, 'Kaun Banega Accounting Wizard?', yoga credit course, sports day, webinars and other initiatives. This was followed by an introduction to the Civil Service Guidance Cell by Ms. Veena Kenchi and the activities undertaken by the Cell guiding students regarding civil service examination, in association with the Unique Academy. Details of the credit course on civil services, availability of resources and a dedicated whatsapp group for civil service guidance cell were also shared with the students. Ms. Swati Sarwate, Placement Cell Coordinator answered queries related to internships and placement. The feedback session gave an opportunity to the students to seek answers to their queries related to various courses and activities organized by the College. Mrunali (BCOM), Vaishnavi (BCA), Vasudha (BA), Bhavya (BA), Sanjana (BCS), Andrea (BBA) were the students who gave a feedback and appreciated the efforts of the teachers. Dr. Dimple Buche introduced activities of the Department of Accountancy like credit course on Tally 9 and Commando training, industrial visits of the department, student research, internships with CA firms, inter-college competitions, social outreach programmes, certificate course in community engagement, etc.

'Celebrating Culture' was the theme for the final day, which commenced with the auspicious 'Shankh Naad' by Sharvari from TYBCOM followed by audio-visual performances like semi-classical dances, Marathi prayer, monologue on 'Jijabai guiding Shivajiraje', a wonderful dance performance on the



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song 'Dil Hai Chhotasa', Marathi lavani dance and Ganesh Vandana. Students recited self-composed poems dedicated to teachers and importance of positive attitude, a speech dedicated to mothers and a performance on a classical vocal-bandish 'Aaj Sham Mohalino'. The SIP concluded with feedback by the students.

- **MILE**

Mira International Learning Exchange: A Centre for Virtual Collaboration arose out of its rewarding interaction with LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York and its programme titled COIL: Collaborative Online International Learning which “allows faculty partners in different parts of the world to develop a shared curricular project and engage their students using online tools (synchronous and asynchronous).”

MILE: Objectives/Vision and Mission

To promote cross-border communication and exchanges of knowledge

To be part of a process that encourages tolerance, respect and sharing

To introduce potential ideas that could lead to other virtual collaborations

To open up new horizons in global teaching and learning

To connect teachers across the world to enhance research

Outcomes of the MILE courses for participating students

Comparing issues, policies, and beliefs across cultures; Exploring global ethics (e.g. ethical tourism, COVID-19); Exposure to and engagement with divergent perspectives; Critical reflection on how various participants view the world; Providing or receiving international peer mentorship; Serving as cultural informants; Addressing and receiving feedback from international peer audience; Writing collaborative academic papers

MILE Courses 2020-21

The MILE courses are primarily for advanced and passionate learners and this year the college has provided a vast repertoire of multidisciplinary courses for students to choose from. At the beginning of the year the Political Science Department collaborated with the Language Department at LaGuardia, NY to study issues of Identity and Language. The Sociology Department collaborated with the Anthropology Department at Laguardia, NY to study the politics of food. In the second half of the year the college ran 5 MILE courses. The English Department and the Political Science Department collaborated with the English Department, La Guardia and Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, Russia on the course “Angels and Demons”, the Sociology Department collaborated with the film department at LaGuardia's. The English departments at Mira's and LaGuardia's collaborated on refugee literature and did a shared lecture with the Miami University Ohio who is in residency in the Luxembourg campus. The two psychology departments of St Mira's and LaGuardia's collaborated on “Mental Health and Resilience through a Cultural Lens”. The Department of English collaborated with the Department of Education on a course titles “Education with SOUL” training students to be teachers sensitive to difference. Truly the world has become our oyster opening up wonderful opportunities for cross border cultural exchange and learning.

II. Green Initiatives

The Green Club is a voluntary initiative of the College comprising faculty and students aimed at sensitizing the students about the 3Rs - 'Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle' by employing a two-pronged approach of advocacy and engagement. It believes that the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step and this small step towards environment conservation will eventually have a cascading effect on the neighbourhood.



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The following activities were conducted during 2020-21:

- **Webinar on Rebooting Mother Earth**

This was organised on 27th June 2020, which saw participation from faculty and students from across India - including representation from U.P., Rajasthan, Manipur, Karnataka, Punjab, M.P., Gujarat and Maharashtra. The event commenced with the reading of a welcome message from Principal Dr. G. H. Gidwani, followed by an introduction to the Green Club by the Vice Principal Dr. Shalini Iyer. The first session conducted by Mr. Siddharth Naik, a consultant on solid waste management focused on the need to transform from a linear to a circular economy, essential for replenishment of the resources to enhance sustainability. He gave simple solutions that can be adopted for waste management like three-way segregation of waste, waste management in a residential society and lifestyle changes. This was followed by Mr. Niranjan Upasani, a sustainable Lifestyle Coach speaking about rebooting earth after the pandemic and reiterated the valid arguments marshalled by Mr. Naik. He emphasized on moving from consume to conserve in order to protect and preserve mother earth.

- **My Green Bappa 2020**

The event organized from 22nd August-2nd September 2020 aimed at encouraging students to celebrate the festival in an eco-friendly way, by focusing on three main aspects of Ganesh celebrations: Ganesh idol-making, Ganesh decorations and Ganesh visarjan practices. To encourage people to celebrate the festival in an eco-friendly manner, pictures and a brief write-up on celebrating Green Ganesh festival expressed by the students was shared on Instagram page of the Club. The programme also included a workshop on geo-tagging of photos for the students on 27th August, 2020.

- **Green Club Introduction**

On 8th September 2020, the Club organized an orientation session for the participants of the Student Induction Programme, to explain the objectives and activities of the Club and the pressing environmental issues.

- **Workshop on Mask Making**

This was conducted by Ms. Ravina Jagtiani, currently a student of final year BCOM, on 21st December 2020, which included a demonstration on Embroidery, Painting, Stitching, mask making out of waste cloth along with tips on using sequence, painting, etc. to make a beautiful design for the mask.

- **Skill Development of Effective Waste-Management Practices in Environment**

Staff and students of the College attended a webinar jointly organized by SPPU Research Foundation and the Australian Institute of Water Sciences on 18th January 2021. Dr Nitin Karmalkar, V.C. SPPU, an expert in Environmental Science gave the opening address, followed by observations made by Dr Shaligram, former COE and CEO SPPU Research Park Foundation. Prof. Phil Bell of the Australian Institute of Water Sciences spoke about skill development and environmental opportunities in the field of waste water treatment, solid waste management, e-waste management, bio-medical waste management, air pollution management.

III. Centre for Women Entrepreneurship (CWE)

The CWE is an initiative of the Department of Business Studies and Department of BBA. With the onset of the new academic year, the Centre for Women Entrepreneurship (CWE) initiated several prestigious associations like - Setting up of an Institution Innovation Council (IIC), Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cell (REDC) on the basis of an Establishment Certificate from the MoE, Govt. of India. The Centre organised the following activities with an aim of creating an



environment for promoting and stimulating the spirit of entrepreneurship:

- National Level FICCI FLO Workshop on 'How to start a business' from 25th September, 2020-28th November, 2020, to empower women students by providing them with insights into the practical aspects of enterprise development.
- Webinar on “Entrepreneurial Process and Social Entrepreneurship” on 31st October, 2020, by Mr. Sujay Dixit, VP, Incubation and excellence, TISS, which focused on the fallacies of entrepreneurship, essentials of successful Social Entrepreneurship and the Holy Grail of Social Entrepreneurship: a merge of Social Process and Social Purpose.
- Workshop on Problem Solving and Ideation' on 11th November 2020, by Ms. Manjiri Latey – proprietor, Earthwise and director, Athletic Initiatives Sports Management, LLP, Pune. The workshop focused on the inherent quality of ideation in women, ways to harness brainpower, problem-solving techniques, connectivity of the brain through creativity and importance of clarity of solutions, internal resources and self-teachings.
- Inauguration of Start-up Club in College on 24th November, 2020. On this occasion, a catalogue comprising a profile of 40 budding entrepreneurs from a wide spectrum of businesses like fashion designing, baking, online classes, handmade crafts, graphology, handmade jewellery, vegan food, and the like was formally released followed by a session on “Experiences relating to a new start-up”.
- Inauguration of the IPR Cell on 30th November, 2020 at the hands of Advocate Shailendra Pathak. A skit on an overview of various Intellectual Property Rights along with their types was presented followed by an explanation of concepts like Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Geographical Indication, Trade Secrets, etc., with the help of examples like Google, Coca-Cola, Yahoo, Starbucks, McDonald's, etc.
- A Webinar on “Identifying Intellectual Property Component at Early Stage of Innovation” was organized on 3rd December, 2020. The speaker of the session Adv. Ganesh Hingmire, an Intellectual Property enthusiast and founder of the Great Mission Group Consultancy (GMCC), Pune, elaborated on the fundamentals of IPR, present scenario of IPR and empowerment of women through IPR. The types of IPs and IPRs were explained along with its significance in daily life with the help of examples of products that we use, the patent related to text messages and software like Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Workshop on “Design Thinking, Critical Thinking and Innovation Design” was organized on 11th December, 2020, which was conducted by Mr. Tejas Shyam, an award-winning educator and corporate consultant. The Workshop focused on four main points namely “What is Design Thinking”, “How is Design Thinking important to us”, “How to come up with distinct innovative ideas” and “What are the different tools for refining ideas”.
- A session on 'Entrepreneurs on Campus' organized on 6th February, 2020, saw a participation of ten students sharing their experiences about their start-ups, starting from ideation, the challenges faced and future plans.
- A Webinar on “Will Digital Currency Empower the RBI”, by an eminent speaker Mr. Shailesh Dhuri, Chief Executive Director at Decimal Point Analytics, a finance professional, was organized on 5th March 2021. Mr. Dhuri emphasized on important aspects like Artificial Intelligence in transforming human life, Blockchain Technology, Private Crypto Universe, CBDC and impact on employment in India.
- A webinar on “Fuelling up of Start-ups and MSME's” was conducted on 6th March, 2021 by Ms. Aparna Thadani - the co-founder of the AK's Training academy and a faculty from ACCA (The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants). The speaker highlighted the financial



aspects of starting a venture and significance of managing fixed and working capital for enhancing the efficiency of a business.

- Adv. Ganesh Hingmire, an IP enthusiast and founder of Great Mission Group Consultancy (GMCC), highlighted the significance of IP and management of IPR in start-ups during a Workshop organised on 18th March, 2021 on “Intellectual Property Rights and IP Management in start-ups”.

IV. SANCTUARY

The College aims at women empowerment through value-based education as believed by our founder Sadhu T.L. Vaswani. The day begins with an effort to cultivate the soul, a visit to the Sanctuary, a special place where we spend a short time devoted to prayer, reflection, introspection and narrations on the **ART OF LIVING**.

Important Days

Tribute is paid to noble souls of humanity and important dates and events are commemorated:

- **International Yoga Day:**

On this occasion on 21st June 2020, the Department of Physical Education and Sports conducted online yoga, pranayama and meditation sessions for all the students and faculty. Under its Physical Fitness @ Home Program two batches were conducted on a daily basis during the semester for the benefit of students and faculty from 27th July, 2020 which included different types of workouts such as Cardio training - Aerobics, Zumba, Strength Training of Hands, legs and Core muscles, Suryanamaskar, Yoga- Meditation, Pranayama practice, Tag Exercise Stretching Exercise, etc.

- **International Day of Peace:**

The UN General Assembly has declared 21st September 2020 as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace by observing 24 hours of non-violence. This year the theme was 'Shaping Peace Together'. In a session organized by Mrs. Anita D'cunha, the students engaged in discussions on the lives of various peace activists like Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, highlighting the significance of peace and the adversities faced by all the peace reformers to instill the value of peace in the people.

- **Gandhi Jayanti:**

Students of the Department of Politics and Public Administration along with their faculty Mrs. Anita D'cunha celebrated the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, including discussions on the role of Mahatma Gandhi as a Father of the Nation. A video depicting the values of unity in diversity and strength is oneness was prepared by the students showcasing the participants dressed in traditional outfits representing various states/regions and its respective language.

- **Youth Day**

On 12th January 2021 the Departments of Politics and Public Administration, NSS and Student Welfare jointly celebrated the Youth Day as a mark of tribute to the great Youth icon of India, Swami Vivekanand. On this occasion, the students attended a live telecast of the valedictory function of the National Youth Parliament Festival and were inspired by the speeches of the three national winners of this festival. Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressed the participants on the relevance of Swami Vivekanand's teachings in the present context and stressed on the importance of the concept of - 'Jan Sewa se Jag Sewa' elaborating the idea of Rastra Sewa se Antar-Rashtra Sewa. The Prime Minister emphasized that the cycle of developing individuals to institutions and from creation of institutions to individuals is a great strength of India and urged young leaders to participate in politics and focus on personality development and team building. Eighty students along with their faculty Ms. Veena Kenchi, Dr. Sandhya Pandit and Mrs. Hasina Shaikh attended this programme.



- **Guru Nanak Jayanti:**

On 24th November 2020 students of TYBBA celebrated the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. The programme included an insight into his teachings, a bhajan, a skit on "The Value of Life" based on the Guru's teachings and a special prayer dance, followed by the Miss Punjabi Kudi 2020 pageant displaying photos of students dressed in Punjabi attires.

- **Special Sanctuary in connection with Dada J. P. Vaswani's 102nd Birthday**

A virtual sanctuary was organized on 1st August, 2020, to observe beloved Dada J. P. Vaswani's 102nd birthday. Dada's birthday on 2nd August is observed as Global Forgiveness Day. The Moment of Calm – is a Global Forgiveness Moment observed at 2 pm across the world, for in forgiveness is Dada's vision of a world transformed- into a sacred realm in which we heal and achieve peace of mind. The Sanctuary was organized to express our heartfelt gratitude towards Dada and most of all for the gift of his eternal presence in our lives. The Sanctuary began with a beautiful Anjali bhajan offered in her melodious voice by Sakshi Gulwani. Principal Dr. Gulshan Gidwani who is blessed to get Dada's guidance and affection, shared her thoughts. Dr. Shanti from SVM shared her memories of beloved Dada. This was followed by screening of the videos by our students sharing their memories of beloved Dada. Some of our faculty members, Ms. Elizabeth Kanade, Ms. Meenakshi Wagh and Mrs. Anjali Kale paid their tribute to Dada. In all our College endeavours we seek Dada's blessings and one of them is our college magazine – a platform to showcase our achievements, share our ideas and an opportunity for our students to learn professional skills of processing and editing. The college magazine was released at the hands of our student editors, Ms. Khadija Lokhandwala and Ms. Ayushree Nair. The most enlightening moment of the program was to listen to Dada through a short video of a Question-Answer session. As we gathered the jewels of thought from Dada, the only feeling that overwhelmed us was gratitude. The program ended with a reminder and request to observe the Moment of Calm on 2nd August at 2pm.

- **Dada J. P. Vaswani's 2nd Mahayagna**

To commemorate Dada J. P. Vaswani's 2nd Mahayagna (12th July, 2020) the library published a webpage including some of his poetry, stories and links to open resources.

- **Sadhu T.L. Vaswani's 141st Birthday Celebrations**

During this occasion, the College conducted a special Online Sanctuary on 23rd November 2020, which commenced with a Noori bhajan rendered by Sakshi Gulwani. Our Principal, Dr. Gulshan Gidwani revisited the ideals of Sadhu T. L. Vaswani and urged everyone to observe 25th November as a Meatless Day. On this occasion, she also announced the launch of 'SOUL' - Social Outreach United Learning that is taken up by the college to connect to society in times of the pandemic. Dr. Shanti narrated incidents from the life of Sadhu T. L. Vaswani that transformed him, as a result of which he decided to contribute to the enhancement of the society. She also emphasised that Animal Care is the need of the day today. Volunteers of our college's Animal Rescue Group – Kashmeera, Moksha and Rajsee shared their experiences about the work undertaken by them and about their love and passion towards animals. We also had Pooja, Sushmita and Uzma sharing their understanding and experience with regards to ideas and thoughts of Sadhu Vaswani. This was followed by a video of Dada J. P. Vaswani wherein he spoke of Sadhu T. L. Vaswani and his love for animals. He urged vegetarianism and love for animals followed by a song motivating all to take the one day pledge. Ms. Ummesalama Karu compered the programme and presented a vote of thanks to all the present dignitaries.

This year offerings to revered Sadhu T.L. Vaswani were made by the students of the College in the form of an audio visual compilation. The video was based on the memories of theatre performances, traditionally acknowledged as '*Dada Leela*' – a creative depiction of the life and teachings of Sadhu



T.L. Vaswani on stage. The video consisted of images and interviews of all the essential dimensions associated with stage performances – script, direction, lights, make –up, drapery, back stage, voice over artists and recording sessions. Dr. Gulshan Gidwani, Principal, College shared her views on the rich and divine culture of staging Dada Leela. The video was conceptualized and directed by Ms. Sawani Vinita. The video editing was shouldered by Apoorva Mutalik with Maitreyee Sangitrao as production in charge. The video was posted on different modes of Social Media and screened in the college virtual Sanctuary as a part of Dada's 141st birthday celebrations on 25th November 2020.

54th Mahayagna of Sadhu T.L. Vaswani

A documentary on Sadhu T.L. Vaswani was screened to commemorate the mahayagna day.

Festivity Galore

- The first digital Ganesh Utsav was celebrated by the College on 28th August 2020, which was hosted by the Marathi department comprising of Shanknaad, Abhang singing, Classical dances, one act play, Atharvashisha pathan, Green club activity presentation and Ganesh Aarti.
- *Janmashtami was celebrated on 13th August 2020 through an online mode based on dance and singing performances by the students based on the life of Lord Krishna.*

V. Extension Activities

• Project SOUL – Department of English

On the 22nd November 2020, 20 degree college students under the guidance of alumni (successful young online teachers) - Maryam Shaikh, Shazia Laljee, Swaruti Tamang, Freny Daruwalla and Uzma Sayyed, co-ordinated with an MA student Khadija Lokhandwala to launch SOUL. The alumni conducted a training session on how to make online teaching more effective, physical and relevant. The vision of SOUL is that each student will function as a *didi* or a mentor to a child and by extension the family. The project started with children living in Ishrat baug, near Undri, under the aegis of the NGO Aasra. Students of St Mira's College teach the children Spoken English to eventually make them employable, in addition to being there to listen, support and empower them. The students of St Mira's began taking class in November 2020. The experience was so enriching that in March 2021, the students of LaGuardia community college New York who are studying education collaborated with the College to do a joint course "Education with SOUL". Apart from exploring the "dangers of a single story", issues of discrimination, gender and sexuality they joined St Mira's for many synchronous sessions one being teaching the children at Aasra.

- On 2nd September 2020 in co-ordination with its Social Outreach partner Spherule Foundation, three volunteers started internship on linking e-content to the app-Insta Shala. A tree plantation drive was undertaken on 6th February 2021 at City of Child, Kasurdi Village residential school of DeepGriha and on 12th March, 2021 a book donation drive of academic books of Standard 10th, 11th and 12th was undertaken for the students of DeepGriha.

• CRSA India

The second wave of COVID 19 saw people running from pillar-to-post to fetch medical resources for their loved ones. Keeping in mind the need of the hour, three students of the College - Taarini Das, Urvi Shetty and Karuna Das, volunteered to help India heal through social media, by launching the COVID Resources Students' Association. The CSRA has a team who provides genuine, well researched and verified information collated from different social media platforms and websites, which is made available on a spreadsheet. The team helps in the verification of the data collected from their members through GMeet from 10am to 10pm on a daily basis. The team receives requests through their social media handles and also their main Instagram Page-@CRSA India.



- To facilitate the process of online education, two pre-owned mobile phones were donated to two students.
- The students wrote slogans on Covid-19 awareness, which was published in Kesari News Paper and was broadcasted in Aakashwani, Pune.

VI. Webinars

• Department of Sociology

A National webinar on Gender Implications of New Education Policy 2020 in India, was organized by the department which was conducted by an eminent feminist scholar, Prof. Vibhuti Patel. The webinar covered a highly relevant and timely discussion on a significant aspect of NEP by emphasizing the need for all-inclusive education and to comprehend the NEP in its totality and in gender-specific context.

• Department of Psychology - Mental Well-being Awareness Webinars: (For all degree college students)

Against the backdrop of the impact of COVID-19 on mental health of students followed by guidelines issued by the UGC stressing the significance of preventive measures to help students cope with mental health, the College organized a series of Mental Well-being awareness sessions - an extension of the ongoing full time Mental Well-being program of the College. An online survey was undertaken to seek student responses relating to mental health concerns during lockdown, which indicated increased anxiety, depressive thoughts and interpersonal conflicts with family members as major concerns. Following this a webinar series was announced on 23rd April 2020 for which approximately 310 students from various colleges across the country like Trivandrum, Visakhapatnam, Ghaziabad, Patna and various cities and towns of Maharashtra enrolled. The first session on 25th April, 2020 focused on practical skills and ways to manage anxiety, the second session on 27th April, 2020 aimed at building healthy Social Connections with peers and family members and the final session on holistic Well-being and Mindfulness. The session covered various mindfulness techniques and exercises by the psychologist. The feedback submitted by the participants indicated that practical insights and conflict resolution skills enabled them in improving their relationship with parents and identify unhealthy relationships with peers and social media.

• Department of English

6th July 2020 an international webinar in collaboration with LaGuardia community college, New York was organised to introduce the teachers to the idea of collaborative online international teaching. Dr Olga Aksakalova was the keynote speaker.

• Department of Economics

A PG student's webinar on the theme 'Revisiting SDGs in the context of the Pandemic' was organized from 5-6th March 2021. Prof. Swati Vaidya from the University of Mumbai elaborated on Goal 8 of SDGs - the goal of productive employment and decent work, by addressing the critical challenge of generating gainful employment and achieving decent work conditions in India in the COVID19 situation. Prof. Renu Jogdand, from the University of Mumbai presented the challenge of attaining Goal 2 – Zero Hunger, using a case study approach, Prof. Renu highlighted the fact that the challenge of hunger is not limited to developing and poor countries, but it has manifested in developed countries like the USA too. On the basis of various databases and research studies, Prof. Arundhati Agte put forth the argument that women have experienced disproportionate disadvantage due to the pandemic in terms of worsening gender pay gap, increasing gender violence and more adverse health and poverty outcomes. Dr. Saili Belsare discussed the challenges of healthcare in the context of Goal 3- Good Health for all. She explained that the goal of good health is a multi-faceted goal including Maternal Mortality goals, Infant Mortality goals, freedom from



addiction, etc. She touched upon various aspects of the health care challenge in India including paucity of funds for other diseases due to covid related public health expenditure, approach towards medical education and ethics in health care.

- **Department of Business Economics and Banking organized the following webinars:**

A webinar on "Demystifying Indian Securities Market" was conducted on 21st December, 2020, by NSE faculty-Mr. Anand Sharma, currently working as Deputy Manager in the Inspection Department of National Stock Exchange of India Limited, elaborated on the important avenues of investment - stock market and mutual funds.

A three-day Webinar on 'Introduction to Financial Markets: Exploring Job and Self-employment Opportunities' from 24th-26th, 2020 was conducted by Ms. Suchitra Kashalkar, a former BSE Institute Trainer with more than 14 years of experience in banking and corporate sector. The webinar covered the concepts of Financial Well-being; Financial Investment and Planning, working and operations of Mutual Funds as well as the Equity Market, an overview of the job and self-employment opportunities and live demonstrations of the stock market trading and evaluation of equity shares and mutual funds. Two Alumni, Ms. Deepali Chanchalani and Ms. Gracy Norton emphasized the importance of a course on Financial Markets and its role in securing employment as well as in future career progression.

- **Department of Business Studies organized the following webinars:**

A webinar on "A Leader is a Dealer in Hope" for SYBCOM students was conducted on 19th September 2020 by Mr. Venkatraman, Sr. Manager at Deepak fertilizer and Petrol Chemical Corporation Ltd., giving details of the role and qualities of a Manager especially in motivating the staff of an organization to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.

A webinar on "Stress Buster Art Techniques" for the FYBCOM students was conducted on 9th November 2020, by Mrs. Richa Jain, a Freelancer Artist, Pune, which familiarized the students with simple anxiety and stress buster art forms like zendoodling.

A webinar on "Vedic Mathematics Tricks" for FYBCOM students was conducted on 21st September 2020, by Ms. Medha Tisgaonkar, a Vedic Mathematics Expert and faculty at EURO School, Pune, brought to the fore simple multiplication and division rules for large numbers, which help in enhancing student Aptitude.

"Email and Blog Writing Skills" was the theme of a webinar organized for the SYBCOM students on 30th September 2020 by an Alumni-Ms. Anuksha Sachdev, a Senior Analyst in Custody Research and Reconciliation Services.

A webinar on 'Power up your Resume with IBM Skills build Certificate by Words Maya' was conducted for the TYBCOM students on 22nd October 2020 by Mr. Harshad Bhagwat, CEO of Words Maya Empower & Quot (a venture in partnership with IBM Skills Build Programme).

On 26th June 2020, a webinar on "Post COVID Job Scenario and Interview Skills" was conducted for the TYBCOM and BSC students in collaboration with PIBM (Pune Institute of Business Management), by Mr. Parijat Pushp, Talent acquisition head - Mahindra insurance Brokers limited), and Mr. Ramanpreet (Chairman -PIBM). It aimed at equipping students with contemporary ways of presenting themselves and their resume during an interview.

- **Department of Accountancy organised following webinars:**

The Role of Intellectual Property Rights for Academia was organized in two sessions – 27th June 2020 and 04th July 2020 for the faculty.

A webinar on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 was conducted by the TYBCOM students on 18th July 2020 under the aegis of the Law Club as a peer learning initiative.



“COVID-19: The Storm in the Commercial Contracts World” was a subject matter of the webinar organised on 10th August 2020, as a Law Club initiative for the TYBCOM students conducted by Lawyer Deepti Dole.

A webinar on "Old Tax Regime or New Tax Regime - Decoding Optional Tax Slab introduced in Budget 2020" was organized on 26th July 2020 for teaching and non teaching staff

A national webinar titled, “Practical Guide to Saving and Growing Your Money - The Personal Financial Planning Way” was conducted on 20th July 2020 for the TYBCOM and SYBCOM, by Mr. Vishal Gada of the Financial Planning Academy.

A webinar as a skill building session was organized on 01st March 2021 for SYBCOM and TYBCOM students specializing in the subject Costing to give them an insight into the application of costing techniques and cost analysis which enabled the students to know preparation of Cost Sheet for Bakery Products.

- **Department of Marathi**

It organized a Webinar on “Marathichi Trividh Rupe” by Dr. Dattatreya Tapkeer on 17th August 2020. A debate on National Education Policy was also organized comprising of Panel Experts like: Prof. Milind Joshi, President, Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, Pune, Dr Manjusha Kulkarni, Ex-Director(Language) Mantralaya, Mumbai, Prof. Dr Megha Uplane, HoD, Education and Extension, SPPU, Pune, Prof. Dr Tukaram Rongate, Ex-HoD, Marathi, SPPU, Pune and Prof. Praksh Pawar, Vice-principal, Fergusson College, Pune and Mr. Sunil Sinkhede, Asst. Director, Akashwani, Solapur.

- **Department of Education**

A webinar on “Challenges for Colleges Under National Education Policy 2020” was conducted on 25th September 2020, by Dr. Lalita Vartak.

- **Department of History conducted the following webinars:**

A webinar on 'Unlock Tomorrow - Importance of IELTS and Upgrading Your Skills for students across all streams was conducted on 29th August 2020 by Mrs. Piale Mukherjee, British Council Certified Trainer, Ace Coach and Speaker, Ahmedabad. The session covered the entire process of IELTS, the four different sections tested on and the benefit of giving this exam, apart from the importance of enhancing the skill sets to attain global competitiveness.

- **Department of Computer Science organized the following webinar:**

A National Webinar on “Strategies to Crack GRE/GMAT/IELTS/TOEFL&SAT Counselling” was organized for the TYBSc (CS) students in association with Imperial Overseas Education Consultant. Mr. Ankur Rupani (Training Head; Sr. Counsellor), Mr. Akshay Bhandari (Lead Counsellor- Europe), Ms. Dr. Srivathsa Vaidya (Counselling Head-Pune) covered topics like GRE, GMAT, TOEFL and IELTS exams, and the structures and strategies for appearing for these exams.

- **Department of Physical Education and Sports organised the following webinars for students and faculty:**

A Webinar on “Diet and Nutrition” was conducted by Dr. Rashida S. Karu (Consultant Dietician & Sports Nutritionist) on 4th August, 2020.

A “Resistance Training” webinar with practical session was conducted by Ms. Sapna Yadav (Physical Education Teacher, Vikhe Patil School, Pune) on 18th August, 2020.

Ways to achieve and maintain a “Healthy Lifestyle in the Pandemic situation” was a subject matter of the webinar conducted on 18th September, 2020 by Dr. Mahesh Deshpande (Assistant Professor, CACPE, Pune).

A Webinar on “Reminiscing Everest” by Mr. Umesh Zirpe, (Shiv Chhatrapati Awardee and also the Founder Director of Giripremi Institute of Mountaineering) was organized on 2nd November, 2020.



“Practical session on Power Yoga and its Benefits” was conducted by Dr. Manali Deo, (International Level Yoga Coach, Player and Referee, Founder Director Mind and Body Yoga Institute, Pune) on 16th October, 2020.

A webinar on “Mental Health and Physical Fitness during and after Covid-19 Pandemic” was conducted by Dr. Yogesh Bodake (Assistant Professor, Chandrashekhar Agashe College of Physical Education, Pune) on 03rd March, 2021 under the program Fit India Movement and Physical Fitness @ Home.

- **Department of Politics and Public Administration organized following webinars:**

A webinar on Hiroshima Day was conducted by Ms. Naineeka Rathod of the Sandesh Japanese Language Services, Pune, which aimed at recalling the history of Hiroshima and the phoenix jump by Japan towards a developed nation to instill hope in the minds of the students and power to face future challenges. The speakers for the session were - Dr. Shizo Habino, Dr. TADA Masami, Ms. Haruka Kabayama from Japan. Mr. Chandrashekhar Rathod coordinated in establishing communication between the department and the Japanese delegates.

- **Library**

The College Library organized a webinar for students on 'Searching the EBSCO Databases' on 23rd October, 2020, which aimed at training the users with skills to access the subscribed databases and locate the required information in minimum time. The professional trainer Mr Gaurav Datey from EBSCO Inf. Services India Pvt. Ltd, imparted training to 281 students across different streams..

A webinar on 'Features and Functions of EBSCO Databases' was organized for the faculty on 27th October, 2020.

- **Junior College**

On 25th September 2020, Mrs. Shirin Jinnah and Mrs. Pallavi Gandhi organized a webinar for the Commerce students of Class XII, by inviting Dr. Deepika Chaddha to speak on the topic Balancing life with Accounts. The speaker explained the different terms in Accounts citing day to day instances.

VII. Inter Disciplinary / Inter Departmental Student Enrichment Programmes

The Department of English and Psychology collaborated with Deepika Padukone's NGO TLLF-The Live Love Laugh Foundation. Students at 4pm on Friday 20th November, parents 4pm on 21st November and teachers at 5.30 pm on 21st November engaged in focus groups discussions as part of a research project to understand the mental health of students during the pandemic

The Department of Economics, Business Economics and Banking organized a Poster-Making Competition on the themes “Covid-19 and Education”, “Covid-19 and Women” and “Covid-19 and Indian Economy” on 12th February, 2021. It also organized an Intra-collegiate Article Review Competition on the theme Farm Bill. This Competition, based on newspaper articles, was held on 13th February, 2021. Current economic issue of the Farm Bill was the theme. The competition was conducted in English as well as in Marathi.

It should be Nagasaki Day Day was observed on 9th August 2020 by the Departments of Politics and Public Administration and History. Four short videos were screened to enable students to analyse the ill-effects of nuclear warfare, followed by a discussion by Dr. Sandhya and Ms. Veena about the historical and political aspects of the bombings. The session concluded with a discussion on nuclear warfare and an interactive session with participants by the TYBA students: Ms. Pooja Yadav and Ms. Ummesalama Karu.

Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat (EBSB)

With an objective of making Unity in Diversity a reality, the UGC initiated the Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat (EBSB) Programme, which focuses on strengthening inter-State relations and creating a bond



between them.

From July-August 2020 the Department of History under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Dekho Apna Desh' initiative of the Ministry of Tourism of India organised the screening of three webinars, aimed at promoting the uniqueness of India as a nation held together by a rich cultural legacy and heritage – both tangible and intangible, to the students of Indian Culture and Heritage. The webinars screened included:

- An Epic Called India – A Land of Myriad Stories' – screened on 13 July 2020 – attended by 55 students.
- Ladakh – Explore the Unexplored' - screened on 20 July 2020 – attended by 25 students.
- Exploring Pondicherry's French Quarter: French Connections' – screened on 08 August 2020 – attended by 25 students

A session on Historiography and Research Methods in History with special reference to Primary and Secondary sources was conducted for the students from 10th-11th August 2020, with the help of three videos - 'How to read a document: Source identification', 'Analyzing a historical text' and 'Avoiding mistakes in Historical Essays'.

As a part of the Dekho Apna Desh series initiatives by the Ministry of Tourism, the Department screened two webinars on 17th and 18th August, 2020 - on 'Lesser known stories of India's struggle for Independence' for the second year BA students and the other on 'Cellular Jail: Letters, Memoirs and Memories' for the final year BA students as a part of the Independence Day celebrations. Through the first webinar the team Storytrails introduced the students to the contributions of the known and lesser known freedom fighters of India, which brought the students closer to the strength, grit and determination of the people of that generation to fight for their land and how strong their feeling of nationalism rose. The second webinar on 'Cellular Jail' exposed the students to the different types of sources and how the Cellular Jail played an important role in India's struggle for independence. They realised that this structure was symbolic of the sufferings and heroic struggle of the freedom fighters of India.

On 27th August 2020, an Orientation and Demonstration session was organized for the TYBA and Class XII students on 'Study of Numismatics as a Source of History', enabling students to appreciate the process of studying coins as a source of information and the different aspects of the period that can be gathered from the details of the coins.

Display of Egyptian Artefacts was shown to the students of FYBA on 26th October 2020, with an objective of giving them a glimpse into the culture of that period. The students were mesmerized with Egyptian period paintings on papyri and their sculptural and architectural wonders of the busts of Tutenkhamen, Cleopatra, the Pyramids, obelisk, etc.

On 24th November 2020 a webinar on celebrating World Heritage Week was organized on the themes Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility, which included screening of three short videos by INTACH on the rich heritage of our country – 'Stories set in Stone – Jaisalmer'; 'Art Conservation and Restoration at INTACH' and 'The Story of Chanderi'. This was followed by a discussion on the need to conserve our heritage structures and the dying arts and crafts to help our artisans in a pandemic.

April, 2021 – T.Y.B.A. students made presentations on rare and not so popular heritage structures in India with special emphasis on its architectural features.

- **The Civil Services Exam Cell** jointly run by the Departments of Politics and Public Administration and History coordinated with the Dept of Economics, Business Economics and Banking in organizing a Guest Lecture on “Banking and Other Competitive Examinations”. The



session was conducted by The Unique Academy, Pune with the objective of introducing students to various career options after graduation. Mr. Buge, highlighted the importance of the evolving banking sector and the career opportunities in this area, followed by details on various Bank exams and process of preparation. Mr. Buge also introduced students to SOs which requires specialization in other non-economic fields like IT, Law, HR, Marketing, Hindi, etc. The highlight of the session was an interaction of the students with the Speaker's brother, Mr. Pradip Buge, Chief Manager, UCO Bank, Hong Kong, who guided the students on the practical aspects of working in a bank, ways to achieve hierarchical succession and prospects in international branches. More than 200 participants attended this online session.

VIII. Vibrant Campus Life

● Amor – Celebrating Love

The Cultural Committee organized “Amor” - Celebrating Love on 17th February 2021, as a source of recreation in the midst of the pandemic. It commenced with a Saraswati Vandana, followed by a beautiful poem dedicated to Meera. The program was a feast of melodious songs, Bollywood Dance performances, a Lavani with its regional flavour and a crisp Stand Up comedy.

● E-merge - Let's merge electronically

On 1st August, 2020, the Computer Science department in coordination with the Cultural Committee hosted this event aimed at celebrating the ideals of Love and Peace on the occasion of Dada J.P. Vaswani's 102nd birthday. It included a dance competition - Unlock your moves in Lockdown, singing competition - Computer Science ke Sur and a stand-up comedy - Hasi ke Fuware. The faculty who judged these events were Mrs. Sangeeta Deshmukh, Ms. Komal Tujare and Mrs. Ashwini Kulkarni. First prize for singing was won by Ms. Andrea Belsher (TYBCS) and second Prize by Ms. Gurpreet Kaur (TYBCS). First prize for the dance competition was bagged by Ms. Vaibhavi Chavan (SYBCS) and 2nd Prize by Ms. Riddhi Kawde (SYBCS). Emerge Online Instagram Art Competition had over 100 registrations from different institutes under the aegis of Sadhu Vaswani Mission which covered topics like - Moment of Calm, Education in Covid -19 and Women in Covid -19. This competition was judged by Mr. Sunil Sarwate who studied design as one of his subjects at IIT Mumbai and Mr. Anupriyam Arora from NID (National institute of Design). The judges were inspired by Dada J. P. Vaswani's moment of calm motto. The role of an educationist and a woman during COVID 19 was depicted through different stories on instagram. The first prize for Moment of Calm was bagged by Ms Shainy Misal and second prize by Ms Manshree Kalahapure. For Women in covid -19 the first prize winner was Ms. Shreeja Mahale and second prize winner was Mr. Chinmai Kulkarni. In the event Education in covid -19, Ms Riddhi Gorde won the first prize and Mr Pranjali Pawar won the second prize.

● Marathi Day Celebrations:

The Department of Marathi observed the Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan Pandharwada, by organizing activities like Workshops, Story Telling activity, Book exhibition by Library, Article writing activity, One act play screening on Savitribai Phule.

● Constitution Day:

On 26th November 2020 an image of the book display arranged in the College library was shared with the Junior College students during their celebrations. Resources related to India's Independence available on National Digital Library of India was shared with the faculty and students via email.

IX. General Knowledge Test

An online GK test was conducted during the year due to the outbreak of Covid-1. This test was conducted in both English as well as Marathi in which a total of 127 students participated. The test comprised of 30 questions on mathematical aptitude, logical reasoning, general knowledge, current



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affairs and English language.

The result of the GK test is as follows:

Ist Prize - Ms. Sejal Shinde FYBCOMB (Trophy and certificate)

IInd Prize - Ms. Karishma Suhandha FYBCOMB (Certificate)

IIIrd Prize – Ms. Silvia D'souza FYBCOMB (Certificate)

GK Quiz Result (Marathi Medium)

Ist Prize – Ms. Vaishnavi Darekar TYBA (Certificate)

X. Career Counselling and Placement Cell:

Online Placement Orientation Sessions for the final year post-graduate and under-graduate students across all streams were conducted by the Cell in which two hundred and ninety-one students participated. The students were informed about the Cell, its functioning through placement coordinators and placement student representatives, the placement opportunities and drives undertaken on and off-campus. A webinar was organized in collaboration with PIBM (Pune Institute of Business Management), on “Post COVID Job Scenario and Interview Skills” on 26th June 2020, to address one of the major roadblocks related to students careers arising due to COVID-19. In this session, Mr. Parijat Pushp, Talent Acquisition Head, Mahindra Insurance Brokers Limited and Mr. Ramanpreet, Chairman, PIBM, guided the participants about the need for the right kind of value addition to their profile and their resumes while facing an interview in the current scenario. Students across all streams of three-year Degree Course attended a National webinar on “Strategies to Crack GRE/GMAT/IELTS/TOEFL&SAT”, conducted by Mr. Ankur Rupani (Training Head and Sr. Counsellor) Mr. Akshay Bhandari (Lead Counsellor- Europe, Trainer), Ms. Dr. Srivathsa Vaidya (Counselling Head-Pune) who covered the structures and strategies for cracking these exams. The IMS learning centre offered a 10-Day Free Access to IMS's Placement Training Program from 12th-23rd August 2020 comprising two Live Online Sessions, 30 Hours video, 75 Sectional Tests, 60 Chapters and Tests, 10 Full length mocks for the students. Approximate 120 students from different streams enrolled for same. The talent and acquisition team of Amdocs comprising of Prajakta Mody, Joy Patra and Nikhil Padale conducted a profile building session for 200 students on 10th September 2020 focusing on building a successful CV, boosting LinkedIn profiles, and the art of online interviews. Organising placement drives is an important activity of the Cell. This year a number of companies virtually visited the College for this drive like Ubisoft, KPMG, Northern trust, WIPRO, L&T Infotech, Infosys, Cognizant, Knowledge Solution India, etc.

XI. Alumni Meet:

The Alumni Association and the College Committee organised following activities during June to December 2020: Three esteemed alumni Dr. Sunita Adhav, Principal, Modern Law College, Pune; Ms. Kirti Singh, HR Project Manager VMware Bangalore and Ms. Mihika Bhanot, International Image Consultant and Entrepreneur in a webinar titled 'Entrepreneurship for Tomorrow' organized on 17th June 2020, shared their insights with the College students on career challenges; expectations from employers and ways to face interviews with a positive attitude in the face of Covid-19. The Association partnered with the College in its Social Outreach Programme by donating Rs. 22,000 to Deep Griha Society, an NGO at Dhole Patil Road, Pune to help needy students face the challenges of Covid-19. In an event organized from 13th November to 21st December 2020 on the occasion of Diwali, the alumni shared their inspiring stories of kindness and gratitude with a selfie in traditional wear celebrating Diwali on Facebook and Instagram.

XII. The Student Council

The college has an active Student Council comprising 14 members, constituted as per the Savitribai Phule Pune University norms representing students across all streams. It organized an



intra-stream fest – Baazigar 2021: Let The Games Begin from 15th-19th March, 2021. In Hasee Toh Phasee (standup comedy – parody of 90s Bollywood movie) Ms. Simran Bhatia from TYBCA secured the first position. Zainab Kapadia, Zoha Sabooni, Moshah Shah and Rajsee Sarwate from TYBBA secured the first position. Golmaal (mad-ads – for the product 'Fevicol'). Under Dum Laga Ke (one-minute fitness tests) Haisha Urvashi from SYBBA secured the first position in Dynamic Ploughs, Suchandra Bhattacharya from TYBCom secured the first position in Jump Squats and Amrita Pal from FYBA secured the first position in Sit-Ups. In Can-Waah! (digital poster – Coming back to College / Normal vs New Normal) Bhavana Chulani from FYBBA, Sumaiya Shaikh from FYBCOM and Sejal Chakranarayan from TYBBA secured the first, second and third positions respectively. In MasterChef Mira's (colour and ingredients-based cooking competition) Jennifer Daniel from SYBA and Nidhi Sharma from FYBBA both secured the first position, while Ashmira Shaikh from FYBCOM secured the second position. Shero Apna Apna (cosplay – dressing up as a woman who inspires you) was won by Priyanka Chaurasia from TYBA. These events were judged by – Dr. Dimple Buche, Dr. Manisha Pimalkhare, Ms. Rajni Singh, Dr. Snober Sataravala, Ms. Suhaile Azavedo, Ms. Komal Tujare, Ms. Anjali Kale, Ms. Swatee Sarwate, Mrs. Anitha Menon, Ms. Kajal Jaisinghi and Ms. Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi.

Dr. Meenakshi Wagh

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Dr Snober Sataravala (HoD), Suhaile Azavedo, Komal Tujare, Elizabeth Varkey
Junior College: Sawani Antarkar, Neena Dutta, Ayesha Shaikh

Despite it being a year of upheavals the English Department began it with a bang! The students enthusiastically joined the online lectures, started their various clubs and refused to let anything dampen their spirits.

- **Talks and Guest Lectures:**

An FDP titled “An Introduction to COIL- Collaborative Online International Learning” was held for the college on 6th July 2020 along with faculty from La Guardia Community College, New York to introduce the concept of virtual collaborative learning. Filmmaker Aditya Kriplani conducted a scriptwriting workshop on Sunday 9th August 2020 which the department opened up to the whole city in keeping with its practice of having at least one open public lecture for the city. Sushmita Jha, an alumni of the college and the English Department currently working with Pune Times guided the students on 21st November 2020 on how to write an article which is part of their skill based course. Mr. Yash Daiv, Chief Sub-Editor at Times of India, joined the Reading Sorority of the LitWits Club to discuss 'Media Trials and Brutality' in the context of Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn. The Alumni came in full force including Uzma Sayyed, Freny Daruwalla, Swaruti Tamang and Shazia Lalljee to conduct a workshop on how to make teaching online interesting. All are full time teachers with Stones2Milestones.

- **Field Project: SOUL**

One of the positive outcomes of the pandemic was the discovery of the world of online teaching that does not know impediments like borders, religion, race or gender. If somebody needs to learn we are willing to teach. We believe that teaching unites people and in this difficult time the need to reach out and come together and be there for each other is even greater. Over the past two years students



of the English Department worked with the physically challenged girls at HELPLIFE, the underprivileged children at Aasra and students in the college who need help with Spoken English. In the year of the pandemic we decided to continue mentoring and teaching them online. 17 of our students taught 17 families who are part of the NGO Aasra. It has truly been a rewarding experience. The student coordinator of SOUL is Khadija Lokhandwala and the alumni coordinator is Maryam Shaikh

SOUL: Objectives/Vision and Mission

1. To be a mentor or a *didi* to those who wish to be part of the programme
2. To be part of a process that encourages tolerance, respect and sharing
3. To imbue the participants with confidence and self-esteem
4. To open up new horizons in teaching and learning
5. To ensure the participants gain competency in Spoken English
6. To impart soft skills that will help enhance the participants' career readiness

Research:

Teachers

Dr Snober Sataravala was awarded a research grant by Tata Trust on Partition on "Safe Passage and Shelter during Partition of India: Exploring Oral Histories to Understand the Minorities Connect". Dr Sataravala continues to peer review for the International journal Indian Journal of Gender Studies (SAGE) and has applied to be a PhD guide. Komal Tujare has registered for her PhD and the title of her research is A Study of Gender Conditioning in Contemporary Children's Literature in India.

Students

The Dept of English along with the research committee guided four students Ummesalama Karu, Arman Chagla, Sriradha Gupta and Gitanjali Lachke to submit research proposals for the Tata Research Grant on Partition. It is a great feather in our cap as Ummesalama was selected to be a part of the "Tata Trusts - Partition Archive Research Grant". As part of the research process she will be introduced to The 1947 Partition Archive's team as well as be instructed on how to access and work with the oral history content library. In addition, she will receive an amount of Rs 30,000 as a grant for her month long research which begins 15th May 2021.

● **Student Enrichment:**

Intra-department:

The SYBA A class created a semester long series of wall newspapers titled 'The Mira Mirror' covering news from in and around the campus with diverse themes. The students also collected and posted pandemic stories on their Instagram page titled 'Humans of Pune'.

The department prides itself in its experimental alternate ways of teaching through performances and creative assignments which truly enrich the students' learning experience.

● **Extra-Curricular Activities:**

The Debate Club was reconvened for the entire college by the Department of English. The college Debate Club was created in 2017- 18 to hone the talents of young debaters from all streams. The club was beneficial to the students as it introduced them to trending topics, extempore debates with rebuttals, the formal aspects of competitions, dos and don'ts of good debating.

The LitWits club of the department along with the JNK faction of the club went virtual with all



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activities under the guidance of student coordinators Shreya Bhide, Harleen Kaur and Geetanjali Lachke. In addition to orientation sessions, the club hosted 'Art Appreciation August', a month-long celebration of artists and poets of the college. 'September Saga' hosted sessions on drabble, dribble, sudden fiction and flash fiction. 'Mental Health Awareness October' hosted screenings, awareness sessions, audio stories and sharing of content on the Instagram page of the club. The club also introduced 'Unwinding Fridays' where students gather together virtually and listen to Spotify playlists or participate in guided meditations, and 'LGBTQ Fridays' which offers the virtual platforms of Zoom and Instagram to students to give voice to their desires and conflicts.

The Theatre Club called itself the 'Mira Manch Queens', headed by Isha Karandikar and Sriradha Gupta (TYBA), and had two performances. The first play they performed was 'Melissa McHiney McNormous McWhale' on 11th July 2020. However, the second play was a blockbuster as it was scripted by the student parodying Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and titled it 'The Shrew-Up'. It premiered on 29th August 2020. The Club opened for all the college students on 13th September 2020. As the club is divided into departments, each getting its own head from the Core 13, they held a lot of activities. The Music Department held a Music Week where the members of the Manch Queens posted their covers of the songs. On 4th October the club held an open-to-all workshop on "The Art of Watching Films"; guest speaker was film maker Prantik Deshmukh. In collaboration with The LitWits, they screened the play '*Log Kya Kahenge*' (done by our students) along with a discussion on Mental Health so as to launch the Mental Health Month. After that, the Costume Department held a Cosplay workshop in collaboration with The Mira Press before the club launched a cosplay competition for the college. The Mira Press also did a Showcase on '*Log Kya Kahenge*' and 'The Shrew-Up' where the Core 13 submitted their articles, noting their Theatre experience'. 'The Shrew Up' has been uploaded to the YouTube channel of the club. Now, the club has launched a Short film initiative in collaboration with The Mira Press. It will go on till March 2021, when the films will be screened and uploaded on the YouTube Channel.

The Magazine Committee consists of students Arman Chagla and Ummesalama Karu who started a whole new feature which is the monthly periodical titled "The Mira Press", which seeks to touch upon common interests as well as project student voices on subjects they're passionate about. The themes they deal with range from mental health to entertainment, literature and mythology to science and innovation, to name a few. In addition, they publish various Showcase Editions that highlight the activities undertaken in college, all of which are up on the website. The Showcases present the talent of Miraites, outlining projects such as Divergence, the student-driven short film collective, along with taking you behind the scenes of the virtual play 'The Shrew Up'.

The periodical was launched on the 18th of July 2020, and has been published monthly, while the showcase editions are released as exclusive projects on a bi-monthly basis. Students across the country tune into each month's launches, and appreciation for such relatable content has only motivated the continuation of this venture. The undertaking would never have been possible without the encouragement of our dear principal, Ms. Gulshan Gidwani, the aid of the teachers from the English department, and the feedback from the student demographic itself.

- **Movie Screenings:**

This year the department got its own smart board and hence audio visual aids became an intrinsic part of their teaching with too many to name.

- **Contribution of the Dept to Corporate Life of the College:**

Dr Snober Sataravala is the editor of the magazine, coordinator of the theatre club, on the IQAC committee and responsible for Category II i.e. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation. She is also



coordinator of MILE: Mira International Learning Exchange- A Centre for Virtual Collaboration which is an initiative by the English Department to catapult the college into global collaborations with La Guardia Community College, NY. Under the criteria of consultancy she contributed to the college not only as peer reviewer for IJGS but was invited to record a lecture on plot for a MOOC initiated by "India Lost and Found" started by Amit Pasricha. Suhaile Azavedo is part of the magazine committee, college website committee, prize distribution committee, additional credit course committee and aids the IQAC Criterion Category II i.e. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation. She is the coordinator of the College grievance redressal cell and the coordinator for the Annual Sadhu Vaswani Intercollege Debate Competition. Ms. Komal Tujare is a member of the Green Club of the college. She is the coordinator of the LitWits Club. She is also a member of the Magazine Committee, the Grievance Cell and aids in the IQAC Criterion on Student Support and Progression.

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DEPARTMENT OF MARATHI REPORT

Dr. Sangeeta Deshmukh (HoD)

Asha Bhavakar (Junior College)

- **Guest Lecture Series**

02 July, 2020- Guest lecture on Ar`df` Arđu`i`rdgrH\$g\$ by Ms Priyanka Palkar, our student Alumini.

03 July, 2020- Guest lecture on Ar`H\$M\$Z Arđu`i`rdgrH\$g\$ by Dr. Shobha Patil Retd. HoD Marathi, Magar College.

06 July, 2020- Guest lecture on M`rmaArđu`Ar`grmE` - AnZ`m`OJ`E`m`X`er by Dr. Sarita Somani, Casual Announcer Aakashwani pune.



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17 July, 2020- Guest lecture on **अभ्यास म्हणजे शिकण्याचा मार्ग** by Priyadarshani Patil, Prop. of Sanskarvarga.

03 August, 2020- Guest Lecture on **अभ्यास म्हणजे शिकण्याचा मार्ग** by Dr. Varsha Todmal, HoD Marathi, Garware College.

10 August, 2020- Guest Lecture on **अभ्यास म्हणजे शिकण्याचा मार्ग** by Ms. Rajshree Kokate our student Alumni.

- **Workshops-**

07 January 2021- Workshop on **अभ्यास म्हणजे शिकण्याचा मार्ग**, by Ms. Saroja Pandit, Anchor, Shrigoda, Ahmednagar.

12 January 2021- Workshop on **अभ्यास म्हणजे शिकण्याचा मार्ग** by Prof. Rupali Awachare, T.J College, Pune.

- **Student Enrichment**

Inter-college

1. 05 January 2021 – Online Story Telling Competition Certificate of Participation – Alfiya Madki, FYBCom.

Student's Contribution:

April 2020 -Slogan writing for Covid-19 Awareness. Published in News Papers and aired through Aakashwani, Pune.

Cultural Programme :

28 Aug 2020 - On the eve of Ganesh festival.

Online Storytelling session :

14 January 2021 -In connection with Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan Pandharwada.

Play Screenings

5 January 2021 - One act play screening on Savitribai Phule.

1. **18 September 2020** – Debate on **NEP**, Panel Experts were
 - i. Prof. Milind Joshi, President, Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, Pune.
 - ii. Dr Manjusha Kulkarni, Ex-Director(Language)Mantralaya,Mumbai.
 - iii. Prof. Dr Megha Uplane, HoD,Education & Extension, SPPU, Pune.
 - iv. Prof. Dr Tukaram Rongate, Ex-HoD, Marathi, SPPU,Pune.
 - v. Prof. Praksh Pawar, Vice-principal, Fergusson College, Pune.
 - vi. Mr. Sunil Sinkhede, Asst. Director, Akashwani, Solapur.

First College in Maharashtra to organise Debate on NEP.

- Contribution of Dept to Corporate Life of the College
 1. Editor for Marathi Section of College Magazine.



2. Cultural Committee Member.
3. NSS Advisory Committee Member
4. Member of Intra Collegiate Competition Committee.
5. Member of Debates & Competitions (College level)
6. Member of Student Induction Program.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Vaishali Diwakar (HoD), Dr. Vaishali Joshi, Ms. Manjita Kulkarni
Junior College: Mrs. Jyoti Joshi

Talks and Guest Lectures

- Dr. Sneha Gole, the course coordinator for Gender and Culture certificate course conducted an orientation session for the girls who enrolled for the course on 11th August 2020. She explained the rationale and the modules of the course. She also highlighted the pedagogy as well as assessment of the course. The course commenced from the 28th August 2020.
- An orientation session on 'Who is a Digital Nomad and Remote Internships' was delivered on 17th September by Mr. Amit Jain from MKR. He talked about life during the pandemic and explained his experiences of nomad life and networking with people. He also explained the possibilities of online internship at MKR and in general. He encouraged students to join the internship programmes and to look at it as an opportunity to give back to society.
- Sneha Gole conducted a session on Sexual Harassment at Workplace on 2nd September 2020. She elaborated on the Law for sexual harassment at workplace, the background of and the need for the law.
- An interesting lecture on 'Sociological View on Food was organized 25th September 2020 by Rituparna Patgiri, New Delhi. Rituparna mainly spoke on the sociological connotations of food, how food cultures develop over a period of time, various sociological perspectives on food and the global implications on food and food industry. She also explained how food creates identity and distinction in the society.
- A session was organized on how to use oral history methods in social research on 18th October 2020. The session was conducted by Geeta Seshu, a feminist journalist. She discussed the way she has used the oral history method in the documentary she made on a renowned journalist, Sabita Goswami. Dr. Triveni Goswami Mathur also elaborated on her experience with her mother as a journalist and the process of documentation for ethnographic film.
- A session by the editor of the first feminist magazine, Miloon Saryajani, was organized on 7th October. This session gave a review of the journey of the magazine for the last 30 years. Dr. Geetali, the editor, explained the ideology behind starting this initiative way back in 1990s by a very prominent feminist activist Vidyatai Bal.
- The Department of Sociology had organized a guest lecture by Mrs. Shailaja Deshpande (Founder & Director of Jeevitnadi Living River Foundation) on 29th October 2020. She has been working in the field of environment since 2011. This lecture emphasized on urban development and



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its impact on rivers. When any city starts developing and growing, it puts stress on natural resources. She also explained how the growth of Pune city is on the threshold of being a Smart city. She also showed a short documentary on Pune's infrastructure (A road to Nowhere). This guest lecture was an eye opener.

- The Department of Sociology and ICC on the occasion of International Women's Day organized an online session on “Gender Violence and the Judiciary System in India” by Advocate Rama Sarode (Legal Consultant and Activist) on 9th March 2021. At the beginning of the session the speaker narrated various cases of gender violence in India especially related to women. She also emphasised on women rights in the space of justice delivery. She also spoke about the women related norms and especially Section 498A of the IPC which deals with cruelty against women and rise in domestic violence cases in India. She then drew the attention to the Priya Ramani Case against MJ Akbar in the wake of the #Metoo movement.

- The Department of Sociology organized a lecture on “Lakir ke is taraf” based on Narmada Bachao Andolan by Shilpa Ballal on 24th March 2021. This helped the students to relate to the topic of social movements in their course. The discussion began with topics like motivation to make a documentary on such issues, songs as a medium of resistance, understanding the plight of the Adivasis, to emotional turmoil faced by the villagers whose life savings went underwater. This session made us realize that the Adivasi community is far more advanced in their skills of living and society in general, that their self discipline is far greater than any other community in India. It was an interactive session thus students got a chance to share their opinions and understanding about the Andolan, on the documentary which was shown to them before. It was an eye-opening lecture for all the students. The session made students question our position of privilege, and how it brings a freedom of choice along with a responsibility of making choices for those who don't have such freedom. Leaving us with a final question, Development- but at what cost?

- The Department of Sociology had organized a guest lecture on “Disposal of Sanitary Pads and its alternatives” on 26th March 2021. Soniya Murthy (project lead at TARA) and Rajasi Kulkarni Diwakar were the speakers of this session. In this session the speakers gave information on the body structure of a woman, her menstrual cycle and its structure. It also discussed Sanitary pads and their effects on our health and body, and how it is harmful for the environment as well. The speakers explained the use of the Menstrual cup and videos were shown and explained how it is a healthy alternative for pad. Students found it very useful information and the lecture cleared many doubts about the use of a menstrual cup.

Public events

- Dept. of Sociology, St. Mira's College for Girls organized a National webinar on gender implications of New Education Policy 2020 in India on 19th September 2020. The webinar was conducted by an eminent feminist scholar, Prof. Vibhuti Patel. The webinar covered a very relevant and timely discussion on a very important aspect of New Education Policy. It emphasized the need for all-inclusive education. The webinar highlighted the need to comprehend the new education policy in totality and in gender-specific context as well, to understand its implications on women, their education, and their employment chances.

- Dept. of Sociology conducted a session as a part of the IAWS Western Regional Conference (25-28 Nov) on 28th November 2020. As a part of this session, an online vibrant panel discussion was conducted on the role of media on gender construction during and post pandemic, gender citizenship, invisibility and further marginalization of women. Papers on the topics related to Media, Gender and Pandemic were presented by the students and media practitioners.

Contribution of Dept to Corporate Life of the College



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- The anti-ragging committee, RTI Committee, College Development Board, Purchase Committee, Cultural Committee, Sanctuary Committee, Research Coordination Committee, NSS, IQAC, COE.

- The department has initiated The Gender Championship Programme for the college students. The Gender Champions initiative is a medium to spread awareness amongst the students regarding the concepts of gender equality, patriarchy and gender related issues. Through this programme activities like spreading awareness regarding gender issues, writing competitions, lectures by feminist scholars, feminist film festivals, poster competitions will be organised throughout the year. The identified gender champions will conduct these programmes for all students in the college across streams and classes.

This initiative was started with a Creative writing competition. The aim was to bring about a critical thought process among the students and to encourage them to speak more about gender issues. In connection to this we had an enriching Short films discussion wherein we discussed 3 short films driven by the topic of gender equality. Through this we could listen to the views and opinions of our students which helps us in formulating our future activities

Additional courses:

- **MILE**

1. The department organized an additional course as a part of the MILE programme on **Food Cultures and Politics of Identity** in collaboration with Laguardia Community College, NY.
2. The department organized second additional course as a part of the MILE programme on **Explorations of Choice in Context** in collaboration with Laguardia Community College, NY.

- **Certificate course on Gender and culture**

The department conducted a three months 'Undergraduate Certificate Course in Gender and Culture' in collaboration with the Women's Studies Centre, SPPU from 28th August 2020 to March 2021.

This Course seeks to

- Introduce participants to gender perspective, specifically to the sector of gender,
- Culture and media so as to enable them study/ work in this field further
- Introduce students to writing research/ field report

The course focused on

1. Culture: Gender Perspectives
2. Studying Cultural Practices: Ways of reading
3. Studying Cultural Practices: Ways of seeing
4. Untangling contemporary cases/issues: Gender, culture and politics
5. Field/ Research work

For College News •

Teachers

- Dr. Vaishali Diwakar was invited to deliver Savitribai Phule memorial lecture on 'The contribution of Savitribai Phule to Gender Equality' by Tumkur University, Karnataka on 4th January.



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- Dr. Vaishali Diwakar was felicitated by ICA- International Cultural Artefact film festival. She also gave a cine talk on film analysis as a part of this film festival.
Youtube link: https://youtu.be/6H11gdm_ZLE
- Dr. Vaishali Diwakar was invited to conduct a workshop on Sociological analysis of films by the Department of Sociology, S. P. College, Pune.
- Dr. Vaishali Joshi was invited to conduct a session on 'Portrayal of Gender' at a workshop on 'Gender in everyday life: Breaking the boundaries' on 8th February 2021 organized by the Department of Sociology and the Department of Chemistry of Modern College, Ganeshkhind, Pune.
- Dr. Vaishali Joshi was invited as a resource person to conduct a session on 'Culture: Symbolic Transformations', on 24th March, 2021, in a workshop on 'SET-NET Preparation' organized by Dattajirao Kadam College, Ichalkaranji.

Collaborative research

Dr. Vaishali Joshi is participating in a collaborative research with Miloon Saryajani, a journal in Marathi focusing on women's issues and gender equality. The research involves a review of the journal's 30 years' contribution in facilitating social transformation towards an egalitarian society.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan (HOD), Ms. Sharmin Palsetia, Ms. Pooja Jain
Junior College: Revati Pandhare

The Department of Psychology has sustained one of its kind **Mental Well-Being Program** this year which has received an enthusiastic response from the students, faculty members and media. The program has a 3 tier structure which includes awareness sessions, group therapy and individual counseling.

Guest Lecture-

A virtual guest lecture on 'Industrial/Organizational Psychology- Career and Beyond' facilitated by Ms. Shamika Khatawkar, Human Capital Consultant, Deloitte, Pune was conducted on 17th April, 2021.

Virtual _Field Visits-

A virtual field visit to Mukhtangan de-addiction center was organized for students of SYBA on 27th August 2020, a virtual visit to Schizophrenia Awareness Association (SAA) was organized for students of SYBA on 3rd September 2020 and a virtual visit to KEM TDH Centre was organized for students of SY and TYBA on 7th November 2020.

Research Projects and Paper Presentations, Resource Person-

Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan has published a paper titled 'Attitudinal and Perceptual Dimensions of Body Image in Adolescents' in Journal of Indian Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health



(JIACAM) 2020; 16(4):142-163.

Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan was invited as a resource person by Connecting NGO to conduct an online session on Impact of Body Image Issues on Mental Health on 7th November, 2020. She was also invited by Just Being Centre as a resource person to conduct a session on Counselling Theories on 19th and 20th December, 2020.

Ms. Sharmin Palsetia was invited as a resource person by Swasti Institute of Learning and Development to conduct an online workshop on Construction of Psychometric Assessments on 25th and 26th June, 2020.

Ms. Pooja Jain was invited as the speaker at the Yellow Club to conduct a webinar on ways of managing mental health in Covid-19 for 12th grade students of Kendriya Vidyalaya Ernakulam, Kerala on 19th August, 2020. She was invited to conduct a Career Guidance Webinar by LIC India and ASKGEO Knowledge series on 12th July, 2020. She was invited by Yuva for their Friday Baatchee session on managing mental health and maintaining work life balance for their team on 23rd October, 2020. She was a resource person for Innerwheel Club of Dondaicha to deliver a session on Creating a Safer World for Women on 18th October, 2020.

Counselling-

The students were informed and orientated about the facilities provided by the Mental Well-Being Program especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students Enrichment-

As a part of student's enrichment we provide various internship opportunities to our students.

Post-graduate, Certificate and Extra-credit Courses-

1. Post-graduate Diploma in Dance Movement Therapy- St. Mira's College in collaboration with ArtSphere and The Art Therapist Colab (TATC) has introduced a post-graduate diploma in Dance Movement Therapy.

2. Post-graduate Diploma in Mindfulness Based Counselling- Listening with Embodied Presence- St. Mira's College in collaboration with Just Being Centre has introduced a post-graduate diploma in Mindfulness Based Counselling- Listening with Embodied Presence

3. Certificate Course in Organizational Development and Change Management- St. Mira's College in collaboration with Swasti Institute for Learning and Development has introduced a certificate course in Organizational Development and Change Management.

Contribution of Department to Corporate Life of the College-

Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan- Co-ordinator- IQAC, Member of Exam Committee, Anti-Ragging Committee, Sports committee, Grievance Redressal Committee, Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) Committee

Ms. Sharmin Palsetia- Coordinator of Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) Committee and Placement Cell- Placement Officer for B.A. students. Member of Consultancy Committee. Ms. Pooja Jain- Coordinator, Mental Well-Being Program, Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) Committee

Department of Psychology at St. Mira's College for Girls collaborated with LaGuardia College, NY and organized a two-credit course on Mental Health and Resilience through a Cultural Lens under the MILE initiative. Course coordinators were Dr. Kyoko Tomaya from LaGuardia and Ms. Pooja Jain at St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Hasina Shaikh (HoD)

- **Workshops:**

On 12th August 2020, Mrs. Priya Kale conducted a workshop on “Careers in Education”. On 25th August 2020, Dr. Gargee Mitra conducted a workshop on “Mind Mapping”. 18th September 2020, Dr. Sunanda Roy conducted a workshop on “Cooperative Learning”. On 25th September 2020, Dr. Lalita Vartak conducted a webinar on “Challenges for Colleges Under National Education Policy 2020”.

On 11th November 2020, the department celebrated National Education Day and the speaker was Mrs Mumtaz Shaikh

- On 26th February 2021, Mrs. Priya Kale conducted a workshop on “Models of Teaching”.
- On 12th April 2021, Miss Zoya Iqbal conducted a guest lecture on “ICT in Education”.

- **Contribution of Dept to Corporate Life of the College:**

Mrs. Hasina Shaikh is Coordinator for Student Development Cell, NSS Advisory Committee member. She attended a two day International Webinar organized by H.G.M. Azam College of Education, Pune.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Veena Kenchi

Mrs. Anita D' Cunha (Junior College)

- **Research and Faculty Improvement**

- **FDPs, Webinars and Workshops:** Ms Kenchi did a number of FDPs and attended several webinars and workshops on e-Content Development, Moodle Learning and Management Systems, Research, Modes of Online Teaching using ICT Tools, Gender Concerns in Education and Strategies & Challenges in Higher Education during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

- **Student Enrichment**

- **Hiroshima Day-** 6th August 2020- This webinar was organized in association with Sandesh Japanese Language Services, Pune. The goal of this webinar was to remember the past of Hiroshima and elaborate on how Japan rebuilt itself into a developed nation. The speakers for this webinar were- **Dr. Shizo Habino, Dr. TADA Masami and Ms. Haruka Kabayama from Japan.** The programme was conducted by Ms. Naineeeka Rathod of Sandesh Japanese Language Services.
- **Independence Day Celebrations-** 15th August 2020- As a part of the 74th Independence Day Celebrations, the Political Science students of XII Arts had prepared 4 videos as a tribute to founding fathers and freedom fighters for their sacrifice, selfless service and compelling will. Under the guidance of their teacher, Mrs. Anita D'Cunha, Harshita Masand from XII Arts EM coordinated the making of all the 4 videos.



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- **International Day of Peace-** 21st September 2020- An online programme was organised by Mrs. Anita D'Cunha on this day, declared by the United Nations General Assembly as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace by observing 24 hours of non-violence. The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace was 'Shaping Peace Together.' The students then engaged in an active and spirited discussion on the lives of Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and many other peace activists.
- **Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations-** 1st October 2020- The students of the department enthusiastically celebrated the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in an online event organized by Mrs. Anita D'Cunha. The students indulged in an energetic discussion about the role of Mahatma Gandhi and also presented speeches and poems regarding the occasion. A National Integration Video was made by the students for this occasion where many students were dressed up in traditional outfits representing various states/regions and had spoken in regional languages of the respective state/region depicting unity in diversity and the strength of oneness.
- **Guest Lecture on- 'UBUNTU'** -- 19 October 2020- The department organized a guest lecture by Mrs. Godeliva Rodrigues on the topic, 'Reaching to success through Ubuntu'. She is an Educator, Psychologist, Counsellor, Social worker, Ubuntu Facilitator and NLP Practitioner. The session was organized by the department to encourage and motivate all and to become positive towards everything and be more focused especially required during the **pandemic**.
- **Inter-departmental Activity**
 - **Nagasaki Day-** The Department of Politics and Public administration and the Department of History organized an online inter-departmental session on the occasion of Nagasaki Day on 9th August 2020, to remember the past of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and discuss how Japan rebuilt itself into a developed nation. There were four short videos shown to the students with discussion by Dr. Sandhya and Ms. Veena about the historical and political aspects of the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Students of the TYBA, Ms. Pooja Yadav and Ms. Ummesalama Karu, discussed the idea of nuclear warfare on this occasion.
 - **Constitution Day- 26th November 2020-** The Department of Politics and Public Administration with the National Service Scheme enthusiastically celebrated the day online on Google Platform. Ms. Veena, Dr Sandhya, Ms. Manjita conducted activities like- Collective Reading of the Preamble to the Constitution, Collective Reading of the Fundamental Duties of Citizens of India and Screening of the Documentary- Samvidhaan. The SYBA students of Dept of Politics and Public administration attended the live screening of Prime Minister Narendra Modi speech on this occasion.
 - **The Civil Services Exam Cell** jointly run by the Departments of Politics and Public Administration and History organized the following activities for candidates aspiring to clear Civil Services Examination-
 - **Guest lecture** on "Banking and Other Competitive Examinations" (10th July 2020) was organised by the Dept of Economics, Business Economics and Banking In association with the Civil Services Guidance Cell, In collaboration with The Unique Academy, Pune with the objective of introducing students to various career options after graduation.
 - **Movie Screenings:** '*Second World War*', the documentary was screened for the students of SYBA for enriching their understanding of the world situation of 1945. The students of politics were then able to analyse the global order since then, which is a major section of their syllabus. (August 2020)



- **Contribution of Dept. to Corporate Life of the College**

- Ms. Veena Kenchi coordinated the Student Induction programme for all first-year students jointly with Ms. Elizabeth Kanade.

- **Faculty Achievements:**

- Ms. Veena Kenchi delivered lectures on “Policy Making and Implementation” and “Politics of Public Policy in India” at the Certificate Course on Public Policy organized by Dept. of Politics & Public Administration, SP College, Pune (AUGUST 2020) and participated in a Panel Discussion organised by the NSS department during the Yuva Saptah celebrated on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda in January 2021. The topic of discussion was- “Swami Vivekanand and today's youth”.

- **Mira International Learning Exchange (MILE) - Issues of Identity in India and US (Oct- Nov 2020):** The students of the Department of Politics and Public Administration enrolled for a MILE credit course, Issues of Identity in India and US, which included international collaboration and exchange between students from different universities and colleges. 30 students of the Department of Politics and Public Administration collaborated with the LaGuardia Community College, New York to study various issues of identity, including caste, race, religion and language, pertaining to India and the US. Ms. Veena Kenchi and Dr. Maria Savva (LaGuardia College) coordinated this MILE programme.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dr. Sandhya Pandit (HoD)

- **Talks and Guest Lectures**

29th August 2020 - Webinar on 'Unlock Tomorrow - Importance of IELTS and Upgrading Your Skills' for all students – by Mrs. Piale Mukherjee, British Council Certified Trainer, Ace Coach and Speaker, Ahmedabad. 54 participants were guided through the entire process of IELTS, the four different sections tested on and the benefit of giving this exam. Mrs. Piale also guided the students on ways to enhance their skill sets and prepare for the future against the background of the global pandemic of Covid-19.

4th March 2021 - T.Y.B.A. - Guest Lecture on 'History of Hindustani Classical Music' by Dr. Vaishali Joshi, Dept. of Sociology, St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune – to introduce the students to the rich culture of India in a performing art like Music which is a part of their syllabus. The lecture helped students understand the nuances of Hindustani Classical music and the tradition and contribution of different gharanas to Indian culture.

27th March 2021 - T.Y.B.A. - Guest Lecture on 'Indian Cinema in the Pre-independence Era' by Ms. Neelima Dhakad, Dept. of History, Government College, Betul - was organised. This topic is Ms. Dhakad's Ph.D. research work and therefore she brought out the greatness of the contribution made by the varied people in the field of Indian Cinema. The lecture included interesting stories behind the making of a few movies, the role and contribution of women to the making of Indian cinema

6th April 2021 – F.Y.B.A. – Guest Lecture on 'Legacy of Ancient Greek Architecture' by Dr. Vaishali



Latkar, Conservation Architect, Department of Conservation Architecture, Sinhadgad College of Architecture, Pune. Dr. Latkar introduced the civilization to the students through its geography. She brought out how the topographical features of this region supported the development of this rich ancient culture and brought out the technical architectural details used by the Greeks in creating such long-lasting classical buildings like the Parthenon.

● Student Enrichment

Intra-department–

July - August 2020 - The Department of History under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Dekho Apna Desh' initiative of the tourism ministry of India organised the screening of three webinars. This was done to promote the uniqueness of India as a nation that is woven by diverse threads held together by a rich cultural history. The following webinars were screened:-

1. 'An Epic Called India – A Land of Myriad Stories'
2. 'Ladakh – Explore the Unexplored'
3. 'Exploring Pondicherry's French Quarter: French'

10.08.2020 and 11.08.2020 – T.Y.B.A. – A Session on Historiography and Research Methods in History with special reference to Primary and Secondary sources was conducted for the students. 3 videos, 'How to read a document: Source identification', 'Analysing a historical text' and 'Avoiding mistakes in Historical Essays', gave the students a complete idea of the basics of identifying sources and the significance of reading sources correctly.

17-18 August 2020 - The Department of History screened 2 Webinars. One on 'Lesser-known stories of India's struggle for Independence' for the SYBA and the other on 'Cellular Jail: Letters, Memoirs and Memories' for the TYBA students on 17th and 18th August 2020 respectively as a part of the Independence Day celebrations. These were a part of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' series initiative by the tourism ministry of India. The first webinar team, Storytrails, drew on the contribution of the different known and lesser-known freedom fighters of India. The second webinar on 'Cellular Jail' covered the different types of sources and how the Cellular Jail played an important role in India's struggle for independence.

27.08.2020–An Orientation and Demonstration for T.Y.B.A. and 12th standard History students on 'Study of Numismatics as a Source of History' was conducted. This activity helped the students understand how to study coins as a source of information, the different aspects of the period that can be gathered from the details of the coins.

26.10.2020 – F.Y.B.A. – Display of Egyptian Artifacts, were shown to the students virtually, of a personal collection to give them a real-time feel of the culture of the periods which they are studying. The Egyptian period paintings on papyri, the sculptural and architectural wonders of the busts of Tutankhamen, Cleopatra, the Pyramids, obelisk, etc., all mesmerised the students.

24 November 2020 – Webinar and Discussion for celebrating World Heritage Week by the Department of History. Its theme was Shared Cultures, Shared Heritage, Shared Responsibility. The students were shown three short videos by INTACH on the rich heritage of our country – 'Stories set in Stone – Jaisalmer'; 'Art Conservation and Restoration at INTACH' and 'The Story of Chanderi'. This was followed by a discussion on the need to preserve and conserve not only our heritage structures but our arts and crafts and our artisans, especially relevant against the backdrop of the global Covid-19 pandemic which has affected the lives of many artisans in India.

April 2021 – T.Y.B.A. students made presentations on rare and not-so-popular heritage structures in India with special emphasis on their architectural features. Through this, the department



contributed to the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat activity of the college.

Inter-department–

8 August 2020 - The Department of History and the Department of Politics and Public administration organized an online inter-departmental session to commemorate the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day on 9th August 2020, to remember the past of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and discuss how Japan rebuilt itself into a developed nation. There were four short videos were shown to the students with discussion by Dr. Sandhya and Ms. Veena about the historical and political aspects of the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Students of the TYBA, Ms. Pooja Yadav and Ms. Ummesalama Karu, discussed the idea of nuclear warfare on this occasion.

● **Movie Screenings**

Screening of two documentaries on 'The Egyptian Civilization' by the BBC titled 'Discovery of Tutankhamen's Tomb' and 'The Rosetta Stone', and a documentary on 'Rise of the Roman Empire' for the F.Y.B.A class. For the S.Y.B.A. students, a Documentary on 'The French Revolution' by the BBC and a screening of the movie 'Modern Times' by Charlie Chaplin to bring out the conditions, problems and difficulties faced by the labour class as a result of the Industrial Revolution. These helped students understand how heavy mechanization had a devastating effect on the livelihood of the people at large. The movie 'The Book Thief' –set against the horror of the Holocaust; a documentary on 'Hitler and Nazism', a documentary on 'History of the Cold War' and 'Fall of the Berlin Wall' were also screened. For the T.Y.B.A. class, screening of the E-PathShala module on 'Pre-Historic Cultures in India' to help them understand the different developments that took place in the different stone ages, and 'Mysteries of 5000 Years old Mohenjodaro' to show the excellence of town planning and drainage system accomplished by the Indus Valley people.

● **Contribution of Dept. to Corporate Life of the College**

Dr. Sandhya Pandit is in charge of the Academic Calendar Committee, a member of the Curriculum Design and Compilation Committee and is appointed as the NSS Programme Officer. She was appointed as a Judge for the intra-departmental student fest “Baazigar - Let the Game Begin” for the event 'Da-bangg (Musique Concrete) on March 17, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS ECONOMICS

Dr. Shalini Iyer, HoD, Business Economics, Dr. Arwah Madan, Dr. Meenakshi Wagh
Dr. Soniya Chavan, HoD, Economics. Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare, Dr. Meenal Sumant
Ms. Amrita Narke, Junior College: Dr. Bindu Nair and Ms. Bincy Devasia

● **Talks and Guest Lectures:**

The faculties and the students of SYBA (ECO GEN) celebrated World Population Day on July 11, 2020. The faculties Dr. Shalini Iyer and Ms. Amruta Narke explained the importance of observing World Population Day and elaborated on the current status of the population in the world and India. The Librarian of the college; Ms. Devender Kaur showcased all the available resources of the Library – hard copies as well as digital resources on Demography and Population Studies. She also elaborated on the different ways of availing library resources.

The Dept of Economics, Business Economics and Banking; in association with the Civil Services



St. Mira's College for Girls

Guidance Cell and in collaboration with The Unique Academy, Pune organized a lecture on “Banking and Other Competitive Examinations”. Introducing students to various career options was the objective of the lecture. Mr. Pravin Buge, Career Counsellor, The Unique Academy guided the students on Banking as a Corporate Career and other career avenues. He elaborated on the entire process of the banking exams, the required preparation, the system of papers and the marking system. This was followed by the interaction of the students with Mr. Pradip Buge, Chief Manager, UCO Bank, Hong Kong. He narrated his hands-on experience of working in an international branch.

A webinar on "Demystifying Indian Securities Market" was organised on 21st December 2020, by NSE faculty- Mr. Anand Sharma, currently working as Deputy Manager in the Inspection Department of National Stock Exchange of India Limited.

A Lecture Series on “Development Economics” was organized by the Department of Economics on 22nd and 23rd February 2021. This lecture series aimed at making the students aware of the development process of the four countries China, South Africa and Brazil along with India. Students of TYBA, TYBCOM and MA participated in the event.

Dr. Meenal Annachhatre, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, SPPU; introduced the students to the development experiences of East Asian Countries; She further elaborated on the causes for impressive growth in these countries which is known as the East Asian Miracle and the causes for the fall of these economies i.e. East Asian Crisis. She analysed the impact of the East Asian Crisis in detail. On the second day, the guest speaker detailed the various aspects of the Latin American Crisis. She elaborated on the economic conditions like inward-looking trade policies, large informal sector, high inflation, high indebtedness, in Latin American countries and discussed the severe impact of these crises.

An online workshop on Personal Financial Planning was organized on 24th, 25th and 26th February 2021. Mr. Mayne introduced few significant terms in the financial markets like types of stocks, buy, sell and hold strategies, top-down and bottom-up approaches, and value investing. The students were also briefed on calculating and analysing Ratios, Financials, DDM (Dividend discount models) and Technical Analysis, as well as the indicators of profitability like Return on Equity (ROE) versus Return on Capital Employed (ROCE) with reference to a few companies listed on the major Indian stock exchanges. Mr. Mayne then dealt with the two important components of Personal Financial Planning – Budgeting, including emergency fund and loan management. The significance of understanding behavioural finance while making a financial plan was also highlighted. Highlighting CFP as a growing career option at the national and international level, The speaker also introduced other career opportunities in the financial markets.

The Department of Economics organised an Alumni Interaction on Friday, 12th March 2021. Our alumnus, Ms. Hennashka Israni of BA Economics 2013 batch and MA Economics 2015 batch spoke on progression to the Masters' Program, career goals, career path after a major in Economics. She discussed the importance of - INDIA i.e. I - Identification of Skill Sets; N - Nurturing our skills; D – Development and I - Investment in activities and in career building. She touched upon career options open to students of Economics major like teaching, research, policy analysis with think tanks and other organizations like the UN and answered the students' queries, relating to funding, sponsorship for higher studies abroad, career progression, etc.

The Department of Business Economics and Banking organised a workshop on 25th March 2021 on “Mutual Fund Investments”. Mr. Himanshu Mayne, CFPcm, Founder and CEO of Infinite Financial Academy and CFO, Infinite Financial Planners briefed the participants on the varied concepts relating to Mutual Funds like types of Mutual Fund schemes, Units, Net Asset Value (NAV), Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) and its formula, Systematic Transfer Plan (STP), Systematic Withdrawal Plan



(SWP), etc. The second part of the session emphasized the practical aspects like how to read, analyse and understand the Fact Sheet of a Mutual Fund before investing.

An online Orientation lecture was organised by the Department of Economics for the research students of first-year MA Economics. Dr. Arwah Madan, Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare, Dr. Soniya Chavan guided the students on their research projects. Dr. Arwah Madan guided the students regarding choosing their research topic, literature review, hypothesis and time-bound, step-by-step research, etc. Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare gave practical tips for their research projects.

- **Contribution of Dept. to Corporate Life of the College**

The faculty are represented on important College Committees like IQAC, Examinations, Website, Research, Prashnamanch, Credit Courses, College Magazine, Green Club, General Knowledge, Annual Prize Distribution, Forgiveness Pledges, Library.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Dr. G. H. Gidwani (HoD), Dr. Rama Venkatachalam, Ms. Jyoti Chintan, Ms. Rajni Singh, Ms. Shanthi Fernandes, Ms. Deepa Krishnamurthi.

Department of Business Entrepreneurship:

- **A peer-to-peer knowledge sharing session** by seven PGDBM students of IMDR, Pune was organised by Dr. Rama Venkatachalam on 23rd September 2020. The webinar was attended by more than 80 students of SY B.Com & T Y B.Com BE students. The webinar highlighted internships and their role in building your resume, different platforms for Internships and the services offered by them, benefits & myths of internships followed by a detailed discussion on the platform **Internshala** with a demo of how to register and explore the different options of certificate courses and internships.

- **A Story Telling** Zoom Session was organised by Dr. Rama Venkatachalam on 2nd September 2020 for TYBCom Business Entrepreneurship students. The resource person, **Mrs. Geetha Kutuwan** who comes from a small village in Tamil Nadu with no business background, started an entrepreneurial career by selling minimal variety in dress materials from the south, took part in over 150+ exhibitions, and gradually established a brand **-Southern Attire!** which is serving 3000+ customers across Pune and PAN India, inspired the students to pursue their entrepreneurial passion overcoming all challenges. Her knowledge and hard work have been a great influence on young minds.

- Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan from the Business Studies Department organized a webinar on the subject **“A Leader is a Dealer in Hope”** for SY B Com students on 19th September 2020 on Google meet Interface. The speaker was Mr. Venkatraman, Sr. Manager at Deepak Fertilisers and Petrol Chemical Corporation Ltd. Mr. Venkatraman discussed the leadership role of a manager in a firm. The lecture gave insights to the students regarding the role & qualities of a manager. He also elaborated how a manager motivates the employees in the organization to work more efficiently.

- Dr. Rama Venkatachalam organised a webinar in collaboration with CWE-IIC on **“Journey of an**



Event Entrepreneur". The resource person, Mrs. Anuja Abhyankar, the founder of Red Carpet & Royal Wedding, explained to Entrepreneurship & CWE students, the qualities needed to become an event organizer like good observation skills, excellent interpersonal skills, street smartness (situational awareness), out of the box thinking, creativity, management skills and knowledge of latest technology to name a few. She said the mantra of her success was "my team, my strength". Mrs. Abhyankar shared a case study on her experience of a big-fat wedding where 23,000 people were invited.

Department of Mathematics

- The Department of Business Studies (Mathematics and Statistics), Asst. Prof. Deepa Krishnamurthi organized a webinar on "**Stress Buster Art Techniques**" for F.Y.B.COM students through Zoom on 9th November 2020. The resource person was Mrs. Richa Jain, a Freelancer Artist, Pune. The main aim of the webinar was to familiarise students with simple stress buster art forms like Zen doodling, which help in releasing any stress and anxiety.
- The Department of Business Studies (Mathematics and Statistics), Asst. Prof. Deepa Krishnamurthi organized a webinar on "**Vedic Mathematics Tricks**" for F.Y.B.COM students through G-Meet on 21st September 2020. The resource person was Ms. Medha Tisgaonkar, a Vedic Mathematics Expert and faculty at EURO School, Pune. The main aim of the webinar was to familiarise students with simple multiplication and division rules for large numbers, which help in enhancing their aptitude.

Department of Business Communication

- Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan organised a webinar on the subject "**Email and Blog Writing Skills**" for SY B Com students on 30th September 2020 on Google meet Interface. The speaker was Ms. Anuksha Sachdev, an alumna. She works as a Senior Analyst in Custody Research and Reconciliation Services.
- Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan organised a webinar on the subject '**Power up your Resume with IBM Skills build Certificate by Words Maya**' for TY B Com students on 22nd October 2020 on YouTube. The Speaker was Mr. Harshad Bhagwat, CEO of "Words Maya Empower." This venture is in partnership with IBM Skills Build Programme.
- Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan organized a webinar on "**English Grammar Skills**" for S.Y.B.Com. Business Communication students on 2nd March 2021 through Google meet. Mrs. Komal Tujare, in-house faculty from English Department enlightened the students with the skills of English grammar. She spoke about Clauses, Types of Clauses, Phrases, Idioms, which are commonly used in business communication. She also discussed how simple sentences can be converted into paragraphs. The session was very interactive, and the students answered all the questions posed by the speaker.
- Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan organized a webinar on "**Resume Writing Skills**" for S.Y.B.Com. Business Communication students on 8th March 2021 through Google meet. Mr. Thomas Kuriakose, Corporate Trainer and Consultant enlightened the students with the skills of writing a Resume. He spoke about the difference between CV and Resume, Types of writing a resume and AIDA theory to be applied for drafting a resume. Students actively participated through Questions & Answers.

Department of Marketing and Business Administration

- Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh organised a two-day webinar titled, "**Content is Fire, Social Media is Gasoline**" which was conducted on 23rd & 24th September 2020 via Google Meet Platform. The webinar was conducted to introduce students to practical aspects of social media advertising and



research. On Day 1, Mr. Siddharth Khopkar spoke on the topic “Social Media as an Advertising Platform”; and on Day 2, “Social Media Research”

- The Department of Business Studies (Commerce) organised a Webinar titled “**Trends in HRM**” on Saturday, 26th September 2020 for the 120 students of SYBCom & TYBCom Business Administration & Marketing. The resource person was Ms. Wilma Fernandes, Senior Manager, Talent Engagement COE at Atos Syntel. The event was coordinated by Asst. Prof. Shanthi Fernandes.

- A webinar on “**Fundamentals of Mutual Fund selection**” was organised by Asst. Prof. Shanthi Fernandes, Department of Business Studies through Google Meet on 13th March 2021 for M.Com. Capital Market & Financial Services students. The resource person, CFP Himanshu Mayne, owner, Infinite Financial Academy is a Wealth Coach, Life Coach, Certified Financial Planner and a Motivational Trainer. He explained the concept of Mutual Funds, Growth in Mutual Fund Investments, benefits, types, differences between SIP, STP and SWP, Net Asset Value and how Mutual Funds are redeemed, and returns are taxed and also read the Fact Sheet with illustration followed by a question & answer session.

- A webinar titled, “**Worth the Difference: Impact of Advertising and Branding**” was conducted on 19th March 2021 via Google Meet Platform. Eighty students and one faculty attended the webinar. The webinar was conducted to introduce students to practical aspects of advertising and branding. Mr. Ramkrishna Vinayak Vhatkar spoke about advertising, branding, positioning, enlightening the audience with his experience of a start-up and its functioning. Mr. Vhatkar illustrated through practical examples from corporates. The session turned out to be power packed with questions and discussion. The event was coordinated by Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh.

- A webinar on “**Trends in Digital Marketing**” was organised by the Department of Business Studies in collaboration with the Institution's Innovation Council, Centre for Women Entrepreneurship, through Google Meet on 21st March 2021 for T.Y.B.Com. Business Administration and Marketing students. The resource person, Mr. Dipak Jadhav, a Digital marketer, explained the concept of digital marketing with its eight elements, six strategies, representation of the business in engaging themselves in various channels from highest to lowest through a graph chart and various Digital Marketing portals which will help in different areas through a demonstration by taking a digital tour to few websites, which was followed by questions & answers. The event was coordinated by Asst. Prof. Shanthi Fernandes.

- An online competition titled; “**Smart Marketer**” was conducted from 26th March to 6th April 2021 via Google Meet Platform for FYB.Com 'B' students. Around 100 students participated in the competition. The main objectives of the competition were to introduce students to practical aspects of advertising and branding; to act as a motivational tool for driving revenue, encouraging a change in process, as does competition in the workplace; to encourage collaboration and problem solving and to understand and imbibe characteristics that better define the attitude of the modern sales representative as well as the way modern sales teams are structured. The competition focused on the evaluation of creativity, salesmanship Skill sets, presentation and handling questions from the audience. The sessions turned out to be power packed with creative ideas and enthusiastic presentations with lots of questions asked and points of view discussed.

- A Webinar on “**Financial Planning: An Investor Awareness Programme**” was organised by the Department of Business Studies in collaboration with CDSL and Infinite Financial Academy for the TYBCom and MCom students on 15th May 2021. The resource person, Ms. Shweta Camma, explained the significance of Financial Planning with the impact of inflation, various asset classes, mutual funds and an overview of the Stock Market. Asst. Prof. Shanthi Fernandes coordinated the event along with CFP Himanshu, Infinite Financial Academy.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY

**Dr. Gulshan Gidwani- (HoD), Ms. Elizabeth Kanade- HoD,
Accounts Department, Dr. Ms. Meenakshi Wagh, Dr. Mrs.
Dimple Buche, Mrs. Deepanjali Mazumdar, CA Vikas Maloo,
CA Jeenal Mistry, Gilbi John and CA Pratik Neve**

Internships

Two students Anjali Baghel and Shirin Pathan of SYBCOM received an internship with a CA firm B K Kothari and Associates.

Digital Warriors

Students were taught how to use Renderforest for making videos by their peers; hands-on training on the application and power of Excel was organised for students of all streams.

Social Outreach

- 6 students of SY BCom volunteered at Spherule Foundation to upload academic content on their app "Insta Shala"
- On Saturday, 6th February 2021, the faculty and students (3 students and 1 alumna) of the Department conducted a tree plantation drive at the residential school –'City of Child' of DeepGriha Society at Kasurdi Village on Solapur Road, Pune. The team was involved in purchasing 5 mango saplings and 10 coconut saplings and planting them on the school campus.
- Students of TY BCOM A, B and C divisions contributed to purchase and donate academic books for the students of DeepGriha residential school.

Dr. Dimple Buche was invited to be a mentor at the Faculty Development Program on E-Content Development Delivery and Evaluation for Commerce teachers organized by UGC HRDC, Savitribai Phule Pune University from 3rd August 2020- 7th August 2020.

Research

Dr. Dimple Buche contributed a research paper titled "Use of Digital Pedagogy in Education during the Pandemic in Pune City: Impact and Concerns" in the International Research Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies.

Mrs. Deepanjali Majumdar presented a paper at an International Conference and completed a Swayam course on Income Tax.

Contribution of the Dept. to the corporate life of the College:

Ms. Elizabeth Kanade, Dr. Ms. Meenakshi Wagh and Dr. Dimple Buche are the members of the Examination Committee. Ms. Elizabeth Kanade is a member of the Academic Council and the IQAC. She is the placement coordinator for the Commerce stream; the Student Council Coordinator, the Student Induction Programme Coordinator and handles the Float decoration and RathYatra. Ms. Kanade also handles the NSS Accounts. She is also a member of the College Magazine Committee along with Dr. Ms. Meenakshi Wagh. Ms. Meenakshi Wagh is the coordinator of Prashna Manch. Ms. Deepanjali Muzumdar is the coordinator for the Retail Analytics Credit Course (MOU with TCS). She is also a member of the Green Club and handles Inter-Collegiate Competitions. Dr. Dimple Buche is the coordinator of the Alumni Committee. She is also a member of the NSS Advisory Committee along with Dr. Ms. Meenakshi Wagh. Dr. Dimple Buche is the IQAC Co-Coordinator.



DEPARTMENT OF BBA and BBA(CA)

Course Coordinator – Mrs. Stella Ambrose

**Department Members – Mrs. Rekha Kankariya, Mrs. Deepali Agarwal,
Mrs. Amrita Basu, Mrs. Monika Rajguru, Mrs. Abhradita Chatterjee
Nahvi, Mrs. Kajal Jaisinghani**

Guest Lectures:

- **Webinar on Marketing - 30th Jun 2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic will not stop us from learning and growing so a Marketing Webinar was organized by the BBA and BBA (CA) Department and was open to the students of BBA, B. Com and BCA to provide them insights on the importance and impact of Marketing and Sales during the lockdown. The facilitator was Ms. Aparna Kapoor, a National Agency Director specializing in Market Analysis, Account Management, People Management and Sales Strategy Development and also an alumnus of St Mira's College.

- **Webinar on Careers in accounting and finance, in association with “Financial Planning Academy” on 6th July 2020.**

The speaker for the webinar was Mr. Tanuj Poddar, Director of Financial Planning Academy. Mr. Poddar is associated with the BFSI industry with 18+ years of experience in the field of finance. The main objective of the webinar was to apprise the students about career opportunities in the field of accounting and finance. The webinar was very helpful and informative to all the participants. It gave a depth of the BFSI sector in India and also about new opportunities for the students with open doors despite the pandemic. The webinar was attended by 190 participants from the BBA, B. Com and M.Com courses. The session ended with a Question-and-Answer session and a vote of thanks.

- **Webinar on Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on finances of an NGO on 25th August 2020**

The main theme of the Webinar was to educate the students about the financial management of an NGO during the pandemic. The webinar also aimed to equip the students with an understanding of the tough times and challenges being faced by NGOs who have been reaching out to the needy and deprived during the pandemic. Mr. Jaspal Godara, the founder and CEO of Prayaas Corps, provided rich insights into the topic. He dwelt upon the sources of finance in the pre-COVID-19 situation and the post situation. The session kept the participants highly engaged and interested in its narratives. The Webinar not only provided insights into the financial management of an NGO but also imbibed the values of service, empathy and compassion in the students.

- **Webinar on “Will Digital Currency Empower the RBI” - 05th Mar 2021** through online platform Zoom. The BBA and BBA (CA) Department collaboration with the prestigious Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics conducted this insightful webinar. The session was conducted by the esteemed guest speaker Mr. Shailesh Dhuri, Chief Executive Director at Decimal Point Analytics, a finance professional, with more than thirteen years of experience in Fund Management, Trading, and Research. The discussion revolved around a few important aspects covering Artificial Intelligence in transforming human life, Blockchain Technology, Private Crypto Universe, CBDC and impact on employment in India.

- **Webinar on “Fuelling up of Start-ups and MSME's”- 06-03-2021** through online platform Zoom. The BBA department collaborated with AK's Training academy and a session was conducted by Ms. Aparna Thadani - the co-founder of the AK's Training academy and a faculty from ACCA (The



St. Mira's College for Girls

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants). Ms. Aparna Thadani focused on the financial aspects of starting one's venture. The primary focus of the webinar revolved around differentiating between fixed capital, working capital and how to keep the business running for a longer period by managing both the capitals of the business in an efficient manner.

Workshops conducted:

'Managing Oneself to Manage Everything Else' - 01st Oct 2020 The workshop 'Managing Oneself to Manage Everything Else' was organised by BBA-BBA(CA) Department to help students to understand the importance of managing oneself to reach great heights to create a more balanced and peaceful life. The workshop helped the students to introspect and to tap their inner potential. It was indeed an engaging session that spoke about the different levels/aspects of an individual and how by focusing on the level of Spirituality, one can attain true peace which will help us overall to balance the other outlooks of ourselves, like physical, mental and emotional stability. The session brought light to the fact that one needs to learn to be satisfied and work with whatever available, without judgments and believe in the greater power. The session was concluded with a relaxing meditation séance.

Field Visits:

- A virtual visit of an NGO Sare Jahan Se Achha was conducted on 18th Feb 2021, to understand the functioning of an NGO as per the curriculum.
- A virtual visit of the Daund Sugar Factory was conducted on 24th Mar 2021 to give them an insight into the process of manufacturing of Sugar.

Faculty Development Program

International Faculty Development Program on Research Made Easy from 18th May-23rd May 2020: Tips, Tools and Technologies was conducted at an International Level and was coordinated by Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi from BBA Dept with overwhelming participation of 165 participants across India, Bangladesh and the Middle East. The program was hosted on the Zoom Video Communications platform. The inaugural ceremony was graced by the Principal of St Mira's College for Girls, Pune, Dr Gulshan H Gidwani; Vice Principal, Dr Shalini Iyer, IQAC Coordinator, Dr Jaya Rajagopalan; Course coordinator, Mrs Stella Ambrose; CWE Co-ordinator, Dr Rama Venkatachatachalam and other in-house faculty members. The overwhelming response called for conducting double sessions. Some of the sessions were: Research Mantra – Brahmahstra for Research, Measurement of Scale and Hypothesis and Review of Literature, Collection of Data and "Goodness of Data" by Prof. Brijesh Singh from SJB Institute of Technology, Bangalore; "How to write a review of Literature" by Dr. Geetha R, HOD, Department of MBA, DSTM, Bangalore; How to design a Questionnaire? by Dr Mamatha J, HOD of Department of MBA and Research Centre of SJBIT, Bangalore; Data Analysis Methods by Dr. Praveen Sinha, Associate Professor from Dayananda Sagar Academy of Technology and Management, Bangalore; "Publish or Perish" by Dr. Ramananaiah G, who is associated with SJBIT, Bangalore; Intellectual Property Rights and How to use Mendeley Desktop for Reference; Management System, IPR conducted by Dr Anand Siddapa who is the Director of Academics at CEP Global and hands-on experience on How to use Mendeley Desktop for Reference Management System by Prof. Brijesh Singh, department of MBA, SJB Institute of Technology, Bangalore.

National Level Faculty Development Program on "E-Content Development" - from Wednesday, 8th July 2020 to Saturday, 11th July 2020. Some of the sessions were: **Video editing tools [OBS: Open Broadcast studio/openshot video editor]** by Dr. Rupali Memane from Arihant College, Pune where the participants learnt about recording their videos and preparing e-content and also learned about editing their videos as per their requirement; **Working with Learning Management System (LMS) [CANVAS Instructure]** by Mrs. Mrudula Jadhav. The session was very useful as the



St. Mira's College for Girls

participants learnt that Canvas LMS is a scalable platform that can be used by educational institutions of all sizes and types, from individual classrooms to large universities with a blended or fully virtual learning environment; **Website design with WordPress** conducted by Mrs. Rupali Memane. In this session participants learnt how to design a website without using any programming language; **Cisco WebEx and Whiteboard feature in detail** by Mrs. Mrudula Jadhav where participants learnt how to use the WebEx application for online teaching and the use of the whiteboard in this application.

Faculty Enrichment

- Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi has been re-appointed as an External Invigilator at the CBE (Computer Based Exam) centre for ACCA with effect from June 2020 and was appointed as an External Examiner for TYBBA HR projects viva-voce for MMCC college held on 23rd Sep 2020.
- Mrs. Rekha Kankariya was invited as a paper setter for SPPU 2020-21 Term 1 examination held in April 2021, for the following subjects: BBA Sem 3 Banking and Finance, M.Com Sem 4 Recent Advances in Banking and Finance in India. She participated in an International Level competition organized by Foresight College of Commerce (FCC), Pune & St. Vincent College of Commerce, Pune in association with the Confederation of Indian Universities and also in the 1-minute Suryanamaskar and Asanas Competition in the Fun, Fitness Challenge organized by Department of Physical Education and Sports, St. Mira's College for Girls.

Faculty Development Programmes attended

Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi, Kajal Jaisinghani, Rekha Kankariya, Monika Rajguru and Amrita Basu did multiple faculty development programmes to keep themselves updated with the latest trends in their respective fields, some of which included: Case study Analysis in Teaching, Modes of Online Teaching using ICT tools, Research Methodology, E-Content Development, Statistical Analysis of Quantitative Data using Advanced Excel for Research Scholars, Effective curriculum Delivery under BBA-CBCS(2019) pattern, and Moodle Learning Systems. Some of the workshops attended was the GCNI 4th Gender Equality Summit on the theme of COVID and New Gender Equations: 'Adversity to Opportunity'; "Implementation and Evaluation of Experiential Learning in Business Exposure & Projects for BBA & BBA(IB) under 2019 CBCS pattern"; FICCI FLO WORKSHOP in association with Sleepwell Mattress on "How to start a Business"; "How to crack NTA-NET/SET"; "Orientation for Exams" organized by MES Garware College of Commerce; and the "One-Day Orientation Workshop on the Functioning of Internal Complaints Committee of Higher Education Institution" conducted by KES Shroff College, Mumbai.

Counselling

SVIMS Orientation for Master of Business Administration on 20th March 2021.

A career counselling session was organised for TYBBA students on 20th Mar 2021 by SVIMS to equip final-year UG students about the possibilities, processes and requisites for MBA admissions. The main focus was on the significance of higher studies, how the admission process works, Various government and minority scholarships, and guidance for the preparation of financial and academic documents.

Student Enrichment

On 24th November 2020, the students of TYBBA celebrated the birthday of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanakji virtually, by giving an insight about Guru Nanakji's teachings and a brief background of his personal life. A peaceful Shabad/bhajan that followed the Introduction created an atmosphere of serenity. To put light on self-esteem and self-worth, a skit on "The Value of Life " based on the teachings of Guru Nanakji was enacted live by the students. Further ahead a special prayer dance was performed to highlight the theme of the occasion. Then the most awaited segment, the Miss Punjabi Kudi 2020 pageant was announced. Girls dressed in Punjabi attires sent their pictures as entries to the contest which was then displayed to the audience.



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course Coordinator: Mrs. Stella Ambrose

**Anjali Kale, Swatee Sarwate, Ashwini Deshpande, Gitanjali Phadnis,
Anitha Menon, Smita Borkar, Shubhangi Jagtap, Vrushali Paranjape,
Alka Gadakh, Swati Pulate**

• Talks and Guest Lectures

The Department of Electronics – B.Sc. (CS) organised a video conferencing lecture for B.Sc. (CS) and M.Sc. (CS) students on the topic “CHIPS – How they are made?” The lecture was conducted online using the virtual platform GMEET on 17th July 2020. The guest speaker was Dr. Prasanna Khare who is a worldwide assembly and test business operations manager at GLOBALFOUNDRIES, New York. An IIT Mumbai alumnus, Dr. Khare has a PhD in Solid State Electronics from Arizona State University.

The Department of Electronics, BSc (CS) organised a guest lecture by Dr. V.P. Labade of Fergusson college for S.Y.B.Sc.(CS) students on simulation software used in designing electronic circuits. The lecture was conducted online using the virtual platform GMEET on 7th July 2020.

The Department of Electronics, BSc (CS) organised a guest lecture for F. Y and S.Y.BSc(CS) students on Robotics and Intelligent systems conducted by Dr. Umesh. N. Hivarkar, Director & Principal Consultant, Engineering Analytics COE. The lecture was conducted online using the virtual platform GMEET on 15th April 2021. The lecture aimed to generate curiosity among the latest automation in the industry involving robots

A guest lecture on “Jobs In Top IT Companies And Career Opportunities” was hosted on 5/5/2021 for students of the Computer Science Department(B.Sc.(CS)and M.Sc.(CS)) by Mr. Rahul Maheshwari who is a Solutions Engineer –Cloud Architect at Google and founder of LinuxSocials. The lecture aimed to provide knowledge of different technologies and platforms which are necessary for job opportunities in today's scenario.

• Intercollegiate Competitions

S.Y.B.Sc.(CS) students Nikita Shinolkar (Project Name: Single Axis Solar Tracking System), Vaibhavi Chavan (Project Name: Automatic Hand Sanitizer Dispenser) and Avantika Ghanta (Project Name: Dual Axis Solar Tracker) participated in a national-level model making competition held by Pratibha College of Science, Pune

• Workshops

With an increasing number of states and countries closing institutions of learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IQAC and the Department of Computer Science organised a two-day faculty development program (FDP) for the junior and senior college faculty of St. Mira's College for Girls. The two-day webinar on “Modes of Online Teaching using ICT Tools” was held on 4th and 5th May 2020.

• Workshops (Skill based for students)

The Electronics Department - BSc Computer Science of St Mira's College for Girls in



St. Mira's College for Girls

collaboration with 'Mechatron Robotics' organised a 5-day virtual workshop for the students on 'Arduino and its application with Sensors' from 4th to 8th September 2020 for the S.Y.B.Sc (CS) students. The main objective of this workshop was to familiarise the students with Arduino and how it can be interfaced with sensors for the application of a smart system, smart home, or for IoT purposes. The trainers for this workshop were Ms. Karmaan Bhatia and Mr. Omkar Varma, who guided the students very patiently in the online mode. 22 students from S.Y.B.Sc. (CS) participated in the workshop which was spread over five sessions. By the end of the workshop, the students were not only familiar with the basics of Arduino and its application with sensors but were also able to construct moderate-level projects.

- **Placement**

On 26th June 2020, a webinar on “Post COVID Job Scenario and Interview Skills” was conducted in collaboration with PIBM (Pune Institute of Business Management), by Mr. Parijat Pushp, Talent acquisition head - Mahindra Insurance Brokers limited), and Mr. Ramanpreet (Chairman –PIBM) The aim of the webinar was equipping students with modern ways of presenting themselves and their resume for interviews. Mr. Pushp and Mr. Ramanpreet gave several insights on changing requirements in today's scenario. Students of TYBSC attended the same.

St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune hosted a National Webinar on “Strategies to Crack GRE/GMAT/IELTS/TOEFL Counselling” for students of the three-year Degree Course in association with Imperial Overseas Education Consultant. Speakers at the Webinar were: Mr. Ankur Rupani (Training Head; Sr. Counsellor) Mr. Akshay Bhandari(Lead Counsellor- Europe; Trainer) Dr Srivathsa Vaidya (Counselling Head- Pune). The Webinar covered a wide range of topics which included GRE, GMAT, TOFEL and IELTS exams, and the structures and strategies to keep in mind while appearing for them. A total of 34 students from B.Sc.(CS) attended the same.

IMS learning centre offered 10-day free access to IMS's placement training programme from 12th to 23rd August 2020 with live online sessions; 30 hours of video tutorials, 75 sectional tests, 60 chapter & tests, and 10 full-length mock tests for St. Mira's students. TYBSc students participated in the same.

Students of B.Sc. (CS) were selected in companies like Infosys, TCS, Deloitte, Concentrix, Mphasis, Ubisoft, and Capgemini.

- **Staff Achievement:**

Swatee Sarwate received the best teacher appreciation award by Lions Club, Pune; she participated in several seminars and webinars- “Assessment and Accreditation – A revised framework for autonomous colleges” organized by the government college of Arts and Commerce; “Documentation for Data Validation & Verification (DVV) and Peer Team Visit (PTV) NAAC” organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Mahatma Phule Mahavidyalaya Kingaon, Aurangabad. She also participated in several faculty development programs like “NIRF Ranking System ” organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), S. B. Jain Institute of Technology, Management & Research; and “E-content development and delivery” by Kamala Nehru Mahavidhya Nagpur and Modern college of ACS Shivaji Nagar.





DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS

Department Activities:

“International Yoga Day” was celebrated on 21st June 2020. The Department of Physical Education and Sports conducted online yoga, pranayama and meditation sessions for all the students and staff members. **“Physical Fitness @ Home Program”** was started during the lockdown for the students and all staff members from 27th July 2020. Two batches of fitness sessions were conducted daily all through the semester. The fitness batch included all kinds of workouts such as cardio training- Aerobics, Zumba; Strength training of hands, legs and core muscles; Suryanamaskars, Yoga- Meditation and Pranayama practice; Tag exercises and stretching exercises, etc.

“National Sports Day” was celebrated on 29th August 2020. The Department of Physical Education and Sports conducted a Fun- Fitness Challenge Competition from 22nd August to 27th August 2020 for all students and staff members. The competition culminated in an online **Guest Lecture and Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Fun- Fitness Challenge Competition** by Mrs. Rekha Bhide (Arjun Awardee, former Olympian-Hockey) on 29th August 2020

The online **Health Check Up** of all girls like BMI, Anthropometric Measurements- WHR was conducted for all the F.YBA, BCom, BBA, BCA students by the Department of Physical Education and Sports.

Guest Lectures:

On the occasion of Independence Day, 15th August 2020 the Department of Physical Education and Sports organised an online **Guest Lecture** on **“The Relevance of Independence in India Today”** – Mr. Shriram Shinde (Veteran Journalist and Chief Instructor of Arooz Academy) for all the students and staff members.

Workshops

19th April to 25th April 2021- the Department organised a workshop on **“Acrobatic Rock and Roll”**- by Swapnil Londhe (Indian Coach, International player) to motivate girls in this pandemic and make them active through dance. The activity was organised for all the students of the college.

Sports Performance of our girls

Junior College Results

1. **Sheetal Bhagat**- XI MM Participated in the Junior National Athletics Competition held at Guwahati
2. **Vaishnavi Jawale** - XII MM Participated in the Junior State Athletics Competition.
3. **Team Event**- District level Don Bosco Football Invitational Competition- Gold Medal.

Senior College Result

1. **Nikita Punekar**- (TY BCom) Third place in the Maharashtra State Rifle shooting competition.
2. **Girija Bawaskar**- (FYBA) Third place in the District Athletics competitions, Pune.
3. **Diksha Dhumal**- (FYBA) Participated in the District Athletic competition, Pune.
4. **Anushka Sarde**- (SY BCom) won the Gold medal in the District Powerlifting Invitational Competition, Pune.



ST. MIRA'S COLLEGE FOR GIRLS, PUNE
DEPARTMENT OF NSS

Annual Report: List of Regular Activities of 2020-21
(COVID-19 Pandemic Year)

● **COVID-19 Awareness 2020 - 30th April 2020**

NSS Department of St. Mira's College actively participated in an "Awareness Creating Programme". The College organized/participated in the following activities throughout this period.

1. Total 94 volunteers attended training in English or Marathi. 56 students attended training in Marathi and remaining 38 attended it in Hindi.
2. 14 videos creating awareness about the Corona virus were uploaded on YouTube by 12 NSS volunteers and a total of 15 posters, digital and handmade, were made by 14 volunteers.
3. Almost all the volunteers took the pledge to stay at home and to create awareness about the Corona virus.
4. Around 70 NSS volunteers and 2 POs downloaded the Arogya Setu App and uploaded required information.
5. 70 volunteers registered themselves as Corona Warriors either on the NSS web portal or using the Telegram App
6. A total of 69 volunteers made 1176 masks and distributed these masks to needy people in the vicinity. Sai Kachare made a remarkable contribution by making 600 masks and distributing them to hospital staff through Bharat Forge. Another NSS volunteer Pooja Saini too made 100 masks single handedly and donated them.
7. 59 volunteers made approximately 9.880 litres of hand wash/sanitizer at home
8. 70 volunteers adopted 371 families to create awareness about the Corona virus. Volunteers either went from door to door or contacted these families on WhatsApp or by phone. All the families were informed about the symptoms of Corona, precautions to be taken, and were surveyed with respect to health issues, use of masks and hand wash etc. They were told to download the Arogya Setu App
9. An online meeting was conducted on 20th April 2020 to orient students about the Corona virus. Total 22 volunteers attended the meeting and supported the drive.

● **The following activities were conducted by the NSS Department:**

- The celebration of the 6th International Yoga Day on 21st June 2020 with 148 students.
- The inaugural session of "Swachha wari- Swasthya wari - Nirmal wari- Harit wari- Virtual Wari" on 29th June 2020 with 50 students,
- A webinar titled 'Supercharge your Life' on 3rd July 2020 with 40 students.
- Swachha Waari, Swastha Waari, Nirmal Waari, Harit Waari session in July 2020 with 80 students.
- A valedictory function - 'SPPU-NSS Wari 2020 Valedictory Function' on 7th July 2020 with 50 students.



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- The 'No Tobacco Pledge' on 21st July 2020 with 50 students and 20 staff.
- Dada's Vision of Education and its relevance in Today's Times' on 24th July 2020
- The special Sanctuary organized for revered Guru Dada J. P. Vaswani's 102nd Birthday' on 1st August 2020 with 60 volunteers
- The 'NSS Spit Free India Movement – Pledge for Life' on 12th August 2020 with 60 NSS volunteers
- An **Organ Donation Awareness Campaign Week** was held from 13th August to 20th August 2020 in which the following activities were conducted:
 1. The 'Inauguration of Organ Donation Awareness Week' on 13th August 2020
 2. Fir Zindagi – Life Starts' on 14th August 2020
 3. An 'Orientation on Organ Donation' on 15th August 2020
 4. Digital Poster Making and Slogan Writing' – on 16th and 17th August 2020, 35 volunteers made about 85 posters in order to reach out to their friends, families and society at large.
 5. Awareness creation among College Staff and Non-Teaching Staff' on 18th August 2020
 6. Inspiration Talk to motivate for Organ Donation' on 19th August 2020 with 40 students
 7. Creating Awareness through Social Media platforms' on 20th August 2020
- A webinar titled “Shikshak Parv” on the NEP 2020 by the Ministry of Education on Wednesday, 16th September 2020.
- NSS Day Celebration – a Guest Lecture on “Safety and Precautions for the Family during Covid Times” was conducted on 24th September 2020 with 75 students A cleanliness drive was conducted on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on Friday 2nd October 2020 with 80 students
- A Fitness drive on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti was conducted on Friday 2nd October 2020. 50 students participated in this fitness drive.
- In the **Majha Kutumb, Majhi Jababdari** programme from 15th September 2020 to 25th October 2020, the following activities were conducted:
 1. Handwashing Demo and Precautions for Family during Covid-19 was conducted on 9th October 2020. More than 86 students were present for this session
 2. Yoga with Family
 3. Guest Lecture on Safety and Precautions for Family during Covid-19 was conducted on 24th September 2020
 4. Poster Making
- For the **Jan Andolan Campaign on Covid 19** held from 16th to 25th October 2020, the NSS Department conducted the following activities:
 1. Pledge Taking by Faculty, Staff and Students' on 16th October 2020
 2. Digital and Creative Hand Made Poster Making' from 17th– 21st October 2020
 3. Awareness creation among College Staff and Non-Teaching Staff' on 19th October 2020
 4. Creating Awareness through Social Media platforms' from 20th – 25th October 2020
- Swachha Survekshan 2021 Intercollegiate competitions saw the participation of 17 NSS students.
- National Unity Day was celebrated on 31st October 2020 with 50 students
- Vigilance Awareness Week – Satark Bharat, Samridha Bharat was celebrated from 27th



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October to 2nd November 2020

- Anti-Corruption Integrity Pledge for Organisations was conducted on Tuesday 27th October 2020
- Integrity Pledge for Citizens was conducted
- A Guest Lecture on Anti-Corruption Awareness was conducted on Monday 2nd November 2020.
- Mission Begin Again was celebrated on 22nd October 2020
- To celebrate **National Education Day on 11th November 2020**, the following activities were conducted:
 1. A Webinar on 'National Education Day – Its Significance in today's Life'
 2. Elocution by Students on the importance of literacy and education. Four students participated in this session, compered by our very own third year B.A. student Namratta Datta. 85 students from the NSS and the Department of Education were present for both the activities organized.
 3. 'Each One Teach One' - 40 students of the Department of Education participated
- To celebrate **CONSTITUTION DAY 2020** on 26th November 2020, the following activities were conducted
 1. Collective Reading of the Preamble to the Constitution.
 2. Collective Reading of the Fundamental Duties of Citizens of India
 3. Screening of the Documentary- Samvidhaan.
- The **NSS INAUGURATION PROGRAM** was held on 28th November 2020
- **A Voters List campaign** was held on 5th and 6th Dec and 12th and 13th Dec 2020 during which a total of 40 students from BA and B.Com registered online
- **Fit India Thematic Campaign was held from 1st Dec to 30th Dec 2020 (Fitness ka Dose-Aadha Ghanta Roz) was held on Friday 4th December 2020**
- **Maajhi Vasundhara 2021** was held from 1st to 15th January 2021, during which the NSS Department conducted the following activities:
 1. Harit Shapat Pledge – Orientation Session
 2. Kitchen Garden from Kitchen Waste – Lecture cum Demo Session
 3. Segregation of Household Waste and Converting Wet Waste into Organic Compost – at Home and in the Neighbourhood – Lecture cum Demo Session
 4. Rainwater Harvesting - Lecture
 5. Towards a Plastic Free Home – Lecture cum Demo Session
 6. Best Out of Waste – Demo Session – Lantern and Basket Making
 7. Short video screening on the need for segregation of waste - 'Mera Baba Desh Chalata Hai'
- **Yuva Saptah** was celebrated jointly by the Departments of Politics and Public Administration, NSS and Student Welfare from 12th to 18th January 2021. An online session conducted was attended by 80 participants wherein a panel discussion was held on the following topics –
 1. Views of Swami Vivekanada and Today's Youth by Ms. Veena Kenchi'



2. The Changing Mindset of Today's Youth by Mrs. Pooja Jain.
 3. Disposal of Plastic Waste through video sessions
 4. Clean and Healthy India – Contribution of the Youth
 5. Display of Books on Swami Vivekananda by the Library
- **Parakram Diwas Celebration** was celebrated on Saturday, 23rd January 2021 during which the NSS Department conducted the following activities:
 1. “The Contribution of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to the Freedom Struggle of India” – a lecture by Dr. Sandhya Pandit
 2. The Flame that Burns Bright- India's Struggle for Independence, a documentary screening
 - **NATIONAL VOTERS DAY CELEBRATIONS – 25TH JANUARY 2021:** Two programmes were organised by the college on the occasion of the National Voters Day 2021
 1. Poster making and Slogan Writing
 2. Awareness Programme
 - **Covid-19 Vaccination Awareness Campaign** held through January and February 2021
 - For the **Road Safety Awareness Campaign** held from 18th January to 17th February 2021 the following activities were conducted: An E -Quiz on the Rules to be followed while riding or driving on the roads; Poster making and Slogan writing competition (handmade and by using technology); Road Safety Pledge (15-02-2021) and screening of Road Safety Awareness Campaign videos
 - A **Guest Lecture on Cyber Security Safety Awareness** was held on 2nd March 2021, Tuesday. 63 Students and the staff participated in this Session on Cyber Security. This session was very informative for both the staff and the students to understand why we need to protect our information and how and not fall prey to cyber fraud.
 - On **International Women's Day – 8th March**, a Guest Lecture by renowned advocate Rama Sarode was held on 'Gender Violence and Judiciary System in India'
 - **AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV at Aga Khan Palace, Pune – 12 March 2021:** On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' program was launched with a heritage walk from the Aga Khan Palace on 12th March 2021. Five NSS volunteers from St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune – Pooja Kotambe, Sherin George, Christina D'Souza, Chetana Thorat and Zainab Nagarwala participated in this event and learnt a lot about the contribution of the freedom fighters and the significance of India's struggle for independence.
 - **NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN – A Webinar on De-addiction of Substances** was conducted on 23rd March 2021.
 - **Poshan Pandharvada** was held from 16th March to 31st March 2021
 - **Yoga for Good Health** was held on 26th March 2021 where 25 volunteers actively participated in the live practical session demonstrated by an NSS volunteer Sai Kachare under the guidance of the director of Physical Education, Mrs. Ekta Jadhav.
 - **TASTE VS WAIST – Importance of a Balanced and Nutritious Diet** was conducted on 30th March 2021
 - Awareness Campaign through Social Media Platforms was held on 31st March 2021



JUNIOR COLLEGE REPORT (2020-2021)

Arts, Commerce & Science

The Junior College conducted all the college activities with enthusiasm and our spirit and endeavours could not be intimidated by the Corona pandemic which shattered the world and made us realize our vulnerability!

It is in these challenging times that people strive for solutions and we at St. Mira's were no different. We excelled in academics, conducted various activities, webinars, vlogs, floated our YouTube channel, took part in competitions and yes we never missed physical education as well! We achieved the whole shebang despite being Online.

We began with the Independence Day Celebration, the students of Political Science XII Arts celebrated Independence Day digitally on the 14th of August, 2020. The students dressed up in Swadeshi, the dress code for the day! Creative e-posters and e-invitations were made by Gracey Gaware. A spirited discussion was carried on the topic, "Our patriotism is only restricted to celebrations on Independence and Republic Day." Sakshi Singh prepared a video on the same topic, Gracey Gaware, Sandhya Parihar and Harshita Masand were the prominent speakers. Various videos were posted as tokens of appreciation for our soldiers, doctors, nurses, civil workers and policemen. These videos included colourful face painting, artworks and rangolis, insightful narrations and poems, melodious songs and innovative electronic cards prepared by the students expressing their heartfelt gratitude towards the true superheroes of our nation.

International Student Exchange Sessions – U.S.A & Europe

Session 1 - U.S.A. – An international student exchange virtual session based on the topic, "Practical Implications of SOP" was arranged on Tuesday, 25th August 2020 for Class 12th Arts EM and on Wednesday, 26th August 2020.

Four students from Dallas pursuing different careers namely nursing, engineering, doctorate, animation and graphics interacted with the students and exchanged their SOP's. Practical tips were suggested for Indian students to apply in foreign universities. The students also shared their sample SOP's for feedback via mail. Texas, Dallas (U.S. Residents) based Chitale family -Kavita Chitale, Akshay Chitale, Asmita Chitale and Anuja Chitale shared their views and visions.

Session 2- Europe – An international student exchange virtual session based on the topic, "Practical Implications of SOP" was arranged on Saturday 29th August 2020 for Class 12th Arts EM and 12th C.

Two students from Italy pursuing different careers namely Shubhashree Date and Gaia, from United World College of the Adriatic (2018-20), Italy interacted with the students and exchanged practical ideas, suggestions and real life experiences with Indian students to help students apply to foreign Universities. The initiator and facilitator of the session was the from the department of English, Sawani.

The Vighnaharta blessed us in celebrating the Ganesh Utsav on 29th August 2020 by presenting a Virtual Exhibition. The exhibition was blessed by our dear Principal Dr.GulshanGidwani. As a part of the celebrations the following events were organised and presented:



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Lord Ganesh Idol Making: from the available eco-friendly materials at home. Lord Ganesh Mantra: written in Calligraphy. A Quiz on Lord Ganesh and its celebrations which was conducted on 25th August 2020, through online Google forms with timeline. A staggering 111 students participated and 42 showed their creative skills at Idol Making, 12 students participated in Mantras and 57 students took part in the Ganesh Quiz. The event was organized by Ms. Revathi Pandhare (in-charge), Ms. Bindu Nair and Ms. Bincy Prakash.

With the blessings of our revered founder Sadhu T.L. Vaswani and our beloved Dada J.P. Vaswani we sailed through these tough times that taught us that it's a Teacher who can make a difference and not the classroom! To honour teachers on Teachers Day, 5th September 2020, a programme was organised online 12:30pm. and presented by the students' of all the three streams and attended by our beloved Principal Dr. Gulshan Gidwani, Vice-Principal Mrs. Prachi Ghule, Supervisor Mrs. Suvarna Deolankar, the entire Teaching Staff of Junior college and the Class Representatives of all the classes. The hosts were Harshita Masand, Khushi Gandhi and Akshita Kumar. The students prepared and compiled videos of all the classes where students recited poems, speeches, articulated cards, dances, skits and songs for their teachers. We teachers were heartened that even a grim pandemic could not stop our students from expressing their heartfelt gratitude for us! The programme was organised coordinated by the Ms. Bindu Nair, Ms. Jyoti Joshi and Ms. Jyoti Salehittal

Student You Tube Channel – Literary More Launch

On the occasion of World Literacy Day, 8th September 2020 the first of its kind Student YouTube Channel named 'Literary More' was launched by the Junior College. The initiator and facilitator of the channel is Sawani. The channel supports a democratic approach towards learning and creating – of the students, by the students and for the students. A creative and production team with a view to promote new learning methods and provide a digital platform for student expressions of integrated skills, team work, brainstorming, to develop student community support systems was formed. The channel launch along with the trailer release specifying the aims and objectives of the first student channel was formally announced and launched by the Principal, Dr. Gulshan Gidwani. The students initiated regular uploads on the created link

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCp7EqHwUVcmKAKCxGMcuyAQ>.

Guest Session – Challenges of the Cyber World

A virtual guest session, “Small Talk Big Insights” was arranged on 12th September 2020. An IT professional, Mr. Siddharth Shetty was invited as the guest speaker. The presentation made by the guest was very insightful. The session was an eye opener for the participants as it highlighted the advantages, disadvantages, challenges of Big Data users and usage in the Cyber World. The session was organized by Sawani V for classes 12th EM & 12th C

The Hindi Diwas Celebration was organized by our Hindi Department on 15th September 2020. Mrs. Vibha Rathod welcomed our Principal and the chief guest for the event. Janhavi Rajpurohit sang a melodious Mira Bhajan. A few words to appreciate the uniqueness of the Chief Guest Ms. Hiroko Auzaki, from the Japan Foundation Western India are that she addresses us in chaste Hindi!

Ms. Auzakis spoke about her Hindi learning experience and how deeply our culture enriched her. A fun filled informal questionnaire on Hindi was conducted by Mrs. Vibha Rathod and was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. Dr. Suvarna Pundle proposed the final vote of thanks.



Interclass Group Discussion Competition

An interclass Virtual Group Discussion competition (semi final round) - was arranged on Saturday 19th September 2020. The new venture provided a platform for free expression for the pupils on the topic, "Social Media Language Tolerance in Formal Education." English language teachers Sawani V and Neena Dutta were the evaluators for the semi final round.

Participants were shortlisted for the Final round conducted on Saturday, 26th September 2020. An external evaluator, Lumbini Shill was invited as the judge. The results with E certificates were declared -Winner – Mouktika Suikuchi (12th C), Runner Up 1 – Karishma Narayanan (12th C), Runner up 2 – Tanisha kadam (12th Science). The initiator and facilitator of the event was Sawani V. The creative student team 'Literary More' also contributed to the event.

On the occasion of the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 12th students of Political Science organized a virtual programme on the 1st of October, 2020 underlining the life, journey and values of the Father of Our Nation. A captivating e-invitation was made by Maithili Deshmukh and Geetika Talreja prepared a creative three dimensional greeting card. Mrs. Anita D'cunha gave a power point presentation on Mahatma Gandhi. Sakshi Sarangi offered Gandhiji's most cherished bhajan- 'Raghu Pati Raghav Raja Ram' and rendered an inspiring speech in Hindi on the ideals and principles of Mahatma Gandhi. The students presented an exclusive video titled 'The National Integration Video' wherein they dressed in traditional outfits representing various states/regions and spoke in regional languages portraying our unity in diversity! The programme was coordinated and compiled by Tanya Varghese and Harshita Masand. The event was organised by Mrs. Anita D'cunha.

On Gandhi Jayanti, our facilitators Mrs. Shirin Jinnah, Mrs. Bincy Devasia, Mrs. Geetika Bhati also organised an Essay writing competition on 1st October, 2020. The Topic was – "Reasons why Mahatma Gandhi should be respected and revered in the 21st century."

The 70th Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas was proudly celebrated by St Mira's College for Girls through a programme organised and conducted by the Political Science Department of the Junior College. The programme began by Mrs. Anita D'cunha highlighting the significance of India's Constitution; which is the largest written constitution in the world. The PREAMBLE was recited at sharp 11 am as declared by our Hon. Prime Minister Mr.Narendra Modi. Students spoke on SOVEREIGNTY; SOCIALISM; SECULARISM; DEMOCRACY; REPUBLIC; JUSTICE; LIBERTY; EQUALITY and FRATERNITY. Students were made aware of Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Constitution of India and to spread awareness about its architect Dr. B R Ambedkar. A resilient JAI HIND! reverberated in all hearts.

Joining forces with St. Mira's Library, the Junior College participated in the Reading Inspiration Day Celebration to revere our cherished former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, a Teacher of Teachers and the People's President! After the keynote addresses by Dr.Devinder Kaur and Dr.Snober Sataravala students shared the benefits of reading and how a book moulds minds! Among the Musing Miraites were our little gems, Harshita Madan who commented on a novel by Mitch Albom, Janhavi Rajpurohit chose to speak in Hindi on our heartland's son Munshi Premchand and Dale Halstead put up charismatic videos on how she loved Hogwarts, Harry Potter and his friends with the spellbinding music at the background! Inculcating good reading habits in students for holistic development is the soul of our library and we thank them profusely. The students were steered into



the reading affair by Ms. Neena Dutta.

Every year Shri Ram Chandra Mission, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan & The Heartfulness Education Trust organizes an Essay Writing Competitions and invite our students because we are an institution where academics and moral nurturing amalgamate. The topic this time: "Thought pollution - root cause of all ills." 22 students participated eagerly in the essay competition and they would be awarded cash prizes and E-merit Certificates. The teachers who facilitated the competition are Ms. Binsy Devasia, Ms. Pallavi Gandhi and Ms. Pooja Sadhwani.

St. Mira's College for Girls, Junior College conducted a host of webinars, debates, competitions and discussions for students. we used the online platform dexterously after orientation sessions from our Computer department. Mrs. Shirin Jinnah and Mrs. Pallavi Gandhi conducted a webinar for std XII Commerce students and invited the Speaker – Dr. Deepika Chaddha Ma'am to speak on the Topic – Balancing life with Accounts on 25th September, 155 students attended the webinar and it was an enriching experience to have Dr. Deepika Chaddha explaining terms of Accounts citing day to day instances.

A guest lecture by Dhanashree Surana (CA) was organized by Mrs. Prachi Ghule and Mrs. Jyoti Salehittal on 21.8.20. It was a guidance lecture for the students to appear for C.A exams. The lecture was motivating and the queries regarding opting for the career as C.A. were cleared by the speaker.

A Presentation on the topic of Benefits of E-commerce during coronavirus pandemic was organised by Mrs. Jyoti Salehittal and the students of classes XII A and B. Another presentation on the topic of Women Entrepreneurs in India was also organised by Mrs. Jyoti Salehittal for the students of classes XII A and B.

A Virtual Session on 'Career Counselling in Law' was conducted by Ms. Neena Dutta. The guest speaker for the session was a young and budding Advocate Neha Wadekar, who spoke at length about careers in Corporate and Commercial Laws, Intellectual Property and Arbitration Laws and the much in demand Cyber Law. She provided valuable tips on how to crack CLAT and recommended prestigious Law colleges after graduating.

Our students seized trendy Vlogging and compiled Lockdown Diaries in two parts which were video blogs on various accomplishments during the rather intimidating lockdown on the restless teens! Dale Halstead made enticing bottle lights, while Riya Baretto, Janhavi Rajpurohit churned icicles and frankies, Sonjal Chikane demonstrated the benefits of yoga poses and Yashita Makhija doodled away. Diksha Rohida's trendy alphabet styles, Rishita Sarkar's colourful eye makeup and Lakshita Tanwani's indoor décor were ingenious and the girls scripted, shot and edited these vlogs. Ms. Neena Dutta assisted these budding professional vloggers.

On The International Day of Peace, 21st September, the Political Science Students of XII Arts EM students expressed their views and spread the message of peace. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace by observing 24 hours of non- violence. The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace was 'Shaping Peace Together.' Harshita Masand articulated her thoughts by composing a poem titled, 'The Call of a Mother' written on behalf of Mother Earth. Sakshi Sarangi, Gracey Gaware suggested measures to establish peace in the world. Mrs. Anita D'cunha spoke on Mother Teresa and Mahatma Gandhi.

'Reaching to success through Ubuntu' was a session organised by Mrs. Anita D'cunha and the



St. Mira's College for Girls

guest invited was Mrs. Godeliva Rodrigues, an Educator, Psychologist, Counselor, Social worker, Ubuntu Facilitator and NLP Practitioner. The theme focused on finding our true selves although everything in the world changes and evolves.

A Workshop was organised and conducted by Mrs Ritu Bhargava and Mrs. Geetika Bhati, (Science & Commerce) for the XII Std. Students of Maths (Sc. & Comm. Stream) on “Calculations Made Easy with Logarithms.” The three –day workshop was conducted on 12th Sept. '20, 14th Sept. '20 & 15th Sept. '20. Students responded enthusiastically during the live sessions. Practice sessions were set for the students daily. The motive of the workshop was to equip the students with the skills to deal with difficult calculations, multiplications, divisions, roots etc. faced during practicals or while solving various statistical problems. The notes and recordings of the sessions were shared on Google Classroom.

Guest Session – Conservation and Love for Wildlife

A virtual guest session on the topic, “Into the Wild” was arranged on 24th October 2020. An avid wildlife enthusiast, adventurer, forest border, photographer, trans Himalayan expeditioner, friends with 580 bird species with her current journey with mammals, Tejashri Kale from Pune was invited for a rendezvous session. Careers in wildlife adventures, photography, forest birding challenges, nature conservation tips were highlights of the interactive session. The nature photographs of a variety of bird species and a few mammals shared in the session invigorated the spirits and instilled environmental values amongst the participants. The session was organized by English facilitator - Sawani V for classes 12th EM & 12th C

Sadhu T.L. Vaswani's 141st Birthday Celebrations

This year offerings to revered Sadhu T.L. Vaswani were made by the students of St. Mira's College in the form of an audio visual compilation. The video was based on the memories of theatre performances, traditionally acknowledged as 'Dada Leela' – a creative depiction of the life and teachings of Sadhu T.L. Vaswani on stage. Dr. Gulshan Gidwani, Principal, St. Mira's College for Girls shared her views on the rich and divine culture of staging Dada Leela. The video was conceptualized and directed by Sawani V. The video editing was shouldered by Apoorva Mutalik with Maitreyee Sangitrao as the production in charge. The video was posted on different modes of Social Media and screened in the college virtual Sanctuary as a part of Dada's 141st birthday celebrations on 25th November 2020.

Guest Session on “Novel based Films”

A guest session was arranged on 5th January 2021 on the occasion of National Screenwriter's Day specifically for Std 12th Arts Marathi Medium. Writer, Director and Producer - Dhananjay Bhawalekar shared his viewpoints on “Novel based Films.” The session ended with Q & A and the students gained basic knowledge about selected technicalities of film adaptations based on novels. Sawani V was the facilitator of the session.

The Marathi department organized a guest lecture on 22nd September. Prof. Bobade from Modern College, Shivaji Nagar spoke on the new Marathi textbook, pattern and activities devised to enhance learning.

From 1st to 15th January the Marathi Bhasha Saverdhan Panhdaravada was celebrated. Activities like poetry recitation, writing inspiring poems and expressive stories were contributed by the



St. Mira's College for Girls

students. Famous stories were also read aloud and performed with élan!

Disha More of 12th MM accomplished the Namasmaraan Lekhan, she wrote the pious line, Hare Ram Hare Krishna Dada Shyam Dada Shyam ten thousand times!

The Don Bosco Junior College Madonna Fest 2020-2021 was a celebration in which St. Mira's Junior College topped the tally with 118 points and was sixty points ahead of the runner up! Our students had taken part in all six categories for online and offline events. Last year more than 35 colleges had participated in the Don Bosco Madonna Fest and St. Mira's Junior College had bagged the first position in the Fest's first season. In the Performing Arts category our students Zainab and Anushka stood first for the Singing Duet performance, they used the acoustics of the echo effect of an empty classroom to achieve the appealing edge. In the Group Dance our college girls stood 2nd their theme was - Celebrating the gift of Life. In the Solo Dance performance portraying Gratitude, Erika Shaw stood 2nd while the 3rd rank was accorded to Janhvi. In the Fine Arts category Sanjana Deshmukh stood 1st and Sanjana Kale stood 2nd in the Rangoli Competition based on the Pune Metro. The Nail Art competition on our national pride, the peacock delicately perched itself on the nail enamel claiming the 1st position which went to Riya Harris. Sakshi Gupta stood 2nd for creating a landscape in the Face Painting competition. In the Literary Arts category our quizzers Janhavi Rajpurohit and Ravija Pasalkar were the proud Runner's up in the Quiz competition: Mind It. The college's prize winning essayists for Earth Crusaders were Harshita Masand who ranked 1st and Janhavi Rajpurohit 2nd. At Sports Centre the St. Mira's Junior College team were crowned winners of Football Girls. Turning the grim lockdown situation into opportunities to vent surging talent defined the success of our students and the teachers who facilitated them.

Another successful year passed by and though it was an inimitable year in more ways than one we ensured that we Kindled the Light of learning, humility and love in every one of us. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest therefore it pays to be a lifelong learner... from this academic threshold to the next here's St. Mira's Junior College signing off!

STUDENTS DEVELOPMENT CELL ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Hasina Shaikh

This year due to the Pandemic, the Student Development Cell department was unable to undertake any scheme by the Savitribai Phule Pune University. The student Development Cell organized program in collaboration with NSS to observed Dakshta Week and celebrated National Education Day. The Student Development Officer oriented students for competitive examinations like MPSC, UPSC and with the help of a competitive exam cell ensured that 9 students appeared for the common entrance exam for competitive examinations on 20th March 2021.



LIBRARY REPORT

Mrs. Devinder Kaur (Librarian), Anandmayi Chounde, Madhuri Ghandat, Asha Hingmare, Seema Ghule, Jyoti Napte, Ramdhiraj Thakur, Sakhu Bai and Chhaya Pawar.

St Mira's College offers a spacious library, computerized, up-to-date and rich in its collection of books and journals. It stocks necessary study material for preparing for various competitive examinations like the MBA, CAT, GMAT, TOEFL, NET/SET, UPSC, MPSC, etc. Material on interviews, group discussion, personality development, soft skills etc., is a part of the reading resources. Collections on/by our revered founder Sadhu T L Vaswani, our spiritual leader Dada J P Vaswani, religion, philosophy, biography and self-help are maintained to support the institution's mission of imparting value education to the students.

The library caters to the reading requirements of the following categories of members: All bonafide students at the college, ex-staff and students, members of the parent body, sister institutes and visitors are welcome.

Workshop and Training Programmes Conducted:

- User Orientation Programmes which were a part of the Student Induction Programme for FY Degree College students, was conducted on 11th September on Google Meet 2020. This Programme introduced the students to the library, its rich –print and e-resources and services available for them.
- State-wise Online Awareness on Access to e-Resources' under 'N-LIST Programme' on 15th September 2020 for our college students. The same was organized by INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. During this session account creation, access-related issues, e-journals, e-books, publisher sites & platforms were demonstrated.
- 'Searching the EBSCO Databases' on 23rd October 2020. This training was to equip the users with skills to access the subscribed databases to find the required information in minimum time. Total 281 students from different streams & levels participated in the training. The professional trainer Mr. Gaurav Date from EBSCO Inf. Services India Pvt. Ltd imparted the training. It was conducted on the CISCO WebEx Platform.
- 'Features and Functions of EBSCO Databases' on 27th October 2020. The programme was attended by 20 faculty members from different streams. It was conducted on the CISCO WebEx Platform.
- 'Leveraging Access to E-resources of St Mira's College Library: A Webinar for Students' on 12th February 2021 which focused on e-resources available under NLIST, Databases, TOCs, and New Arrivals, including Online Catalogue.
- A Training session on "Research with EBSCO Databases for Dance Movement Therapy topics" was organized for students of PG dip in Dance Movement Therapy on 10th April 2021



Day Celebrations:

- World Population Day- 11th July 2020-The librarian participated in the celebration organised by the SYBA class along with HOD-Economic-Dr Shalini Iyer and lecturer- Ms. Amruta Narke. Resources like Population Census, Year Books, Government Sites, UNESCO, etc. were explained to the participants. Also, a drive link enriched with population-related institutes, statistical data, govt., sites among others were prepared and shared with students
- Librarians' Day: On 12th August 2020 the library compiled various online resources like Popular E-Books on <http://www.gutenberg.org/>, [resources from National Digital Library of India, SPPU](https://www.natlib.gov.in/) and <https://www.hathitrust.org/> which were shared with faculty and students.
- Hindi Divas: The library displayed its Hindi Collection from 10-24th September 2020. The display covered different genres to name a few- Reference Sources, Biographies and Religious literature. To mark the importance of the day and stimulate reading, the lists were also shared with students via emails.
- Reading Inspiration Day: St Mira's College celebrated 'Reading Inspiration Day' on 16th October 2020, to mark the birth anniversary of our former President, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam (15th October). The keynote speaker- Dr. Snober Sataravala delivered a speech on the inspirational advice given by Dr. Kalam in one of his addresses. Students' testimonies based on reading were shared by the speaker. The alumni expressed the strong role of reading in their lives including professional lives. Nine Miraites from different classes voiced their opinions on different books via videos and coming live on Google Meet. The following books were talked about: What Can I Give, Demian, Mati, Pankh Aani Akash, Black Beauty, The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto, Poems of Nirala, The Diary of a Young Girl, The Harry Potter Series, Shyamchi Aai and The Turning Point and a video entitled 'Reading Bells' was presented by the students at the junior college.
- Constitution Day- 26th Nov 2020: On this day a book display was arranged, and an image was sent to Junior College, which was mentioned during their celebrations with students.
- Resources related to India's Independence available on 'National Digital Library of India' were intimated to the faculty and students via email.

Book Displays: Throughout the year various Book Displays were arranged on National and International days of importance and anniversaries of great personalities of humanity; World Population Day, Reading Inspiration Day, Teachers' Day, Dada J P Vaswani, Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, to name a few.

Apart from the above-mentioned activities following e-services were provided to users during the Pandemic:

- Ready Reference-Subject Guides of E-books with Links of standard publishers namely- Oxford Univ. Press, Springer, Cambridge, Taylor & Francis and service provider-E-library under NLIST-programme.



- Mahayagna: In remembrance of Rev. Dada J P Vaswani on his 2nd Mahayagna (23rd July 2020) library published a webpage that included some of his poetry, stories and links to open resources: <https://sites.google.com/view/dadavaswani2nd-mahayagna/home>
- Free access to E-books of Harvard Business Publishing by EBSCO Information Services India Ltd.
- Free access to e-books collection as a trial by Pearson India Education Services
- Full text of Journals-Human Capital, Sadhana, Management Accountant, Indian Journal of Marketing, to name a few.
- Access to E-papers subscribed by the college. <https://www.rarebooksocietyofindia.org/> was shared with the Department of History

Services and Facilities provided throughout the year: The rack location of each book is available at a click of the mouse; images of book covers, book summaries and keywords have been uploaded in an online catalogue; faculty members are provided Current Awareness Services which includes -Table of Contents of journals and new additions to the library collection via college website; regular monthly display of books on birth anniversaries of eminent personalities and important occasions; the Library maintains a blog: (<http://www.miracollegelibrary.blogspot.com>); [the Digital Repository/Library provides access to e-resources such as: - previous years' question papers, syllabi, news clippings, etc.](#)

“MAY I HELP YOU?” is the motto of our library staff who are ever willing to teach, encourage and assist users.

IN MEMORIUM

Our Beloved Bhandari Sir



Mr. Balkrishna Bhandari worked at St. Miras college from 2003 onwards teaching the students of the college Self defense. In addition he was always there to guide our NSS students during their camp. Every summer vacation he conducted special self defense training camps in college. His aim was to train girls to protect themselves in adverse situations and succeeded in training more than 1 lac students.

Sir was awarded 7th Dan Black belt for successfully completing the KUKKIWO's 7 th Dan Taekwondo Promotion Test from World Taekwondo Association, Korea in the year 2018-19.

Bhandari sir emphasized women empowerment throughout his life. He even launched the Maharashtra government's initiative "Swayamsiddha" for women. He has also written a book,



St. Mira's College for Girls

Women's Self-Defense: Heó Anó Heó.

He was awarded the following prestigious award-

Dist sports award from Pune Dist sports office; Shiv chhatrapati puraskar- From Govt of Maharashtra; Late Bapu Gaikwad Best Sports coach award from Pune Municipal Corporation at the hands of the Mayor Mr. Murlidhar Mohol.

Sir was a disciplined and dedicated person and always encouraged our students. It was only because of his guidance and support our students were able to play at the State, National and International level. He along with our students have brought many laurels to our College. He spent his entire life in the service of our institution. By nature, Sir was a simple and down to earth person. He had a positive attitude to life and was always willing to help and guide. He was a dedicated coach who gave his entire life to the field of sport.

He will be missed immensely.

A gap which can never be filled.

With deep sorrow in my heart and on behalf of our College and entire sporting fraternity, we bid goodbye to Bhandari Sir.

May his soul Rest in Peace

-Suvarna Deolankar





Malan Maushi

One was habituated to see the smiling wizen face of tiny Malan Maushi as she sat guarding the Principal's door. She was fiercely loyal and yet sweet, gentle and kind. For over 40 years she served the college as a peon but her special devotion was towards the Principal, Dr Gulshan Gidwani. The year her beloved Principal was to retire Malan Maushi left her physical body and moved on. She is greatly missed by everyone in the college.



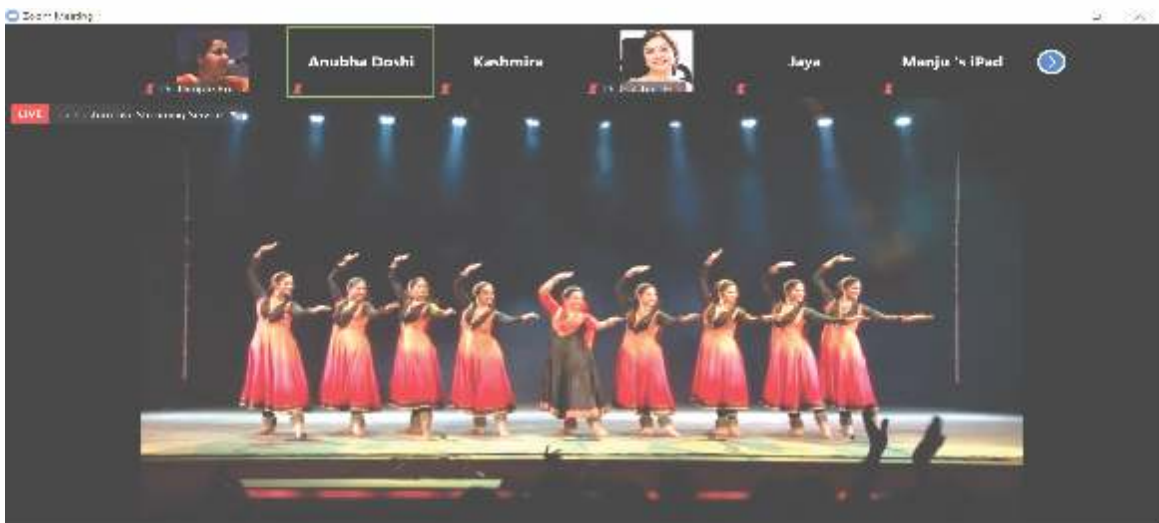
ALL ABOUT US



Student Council 2020-2021



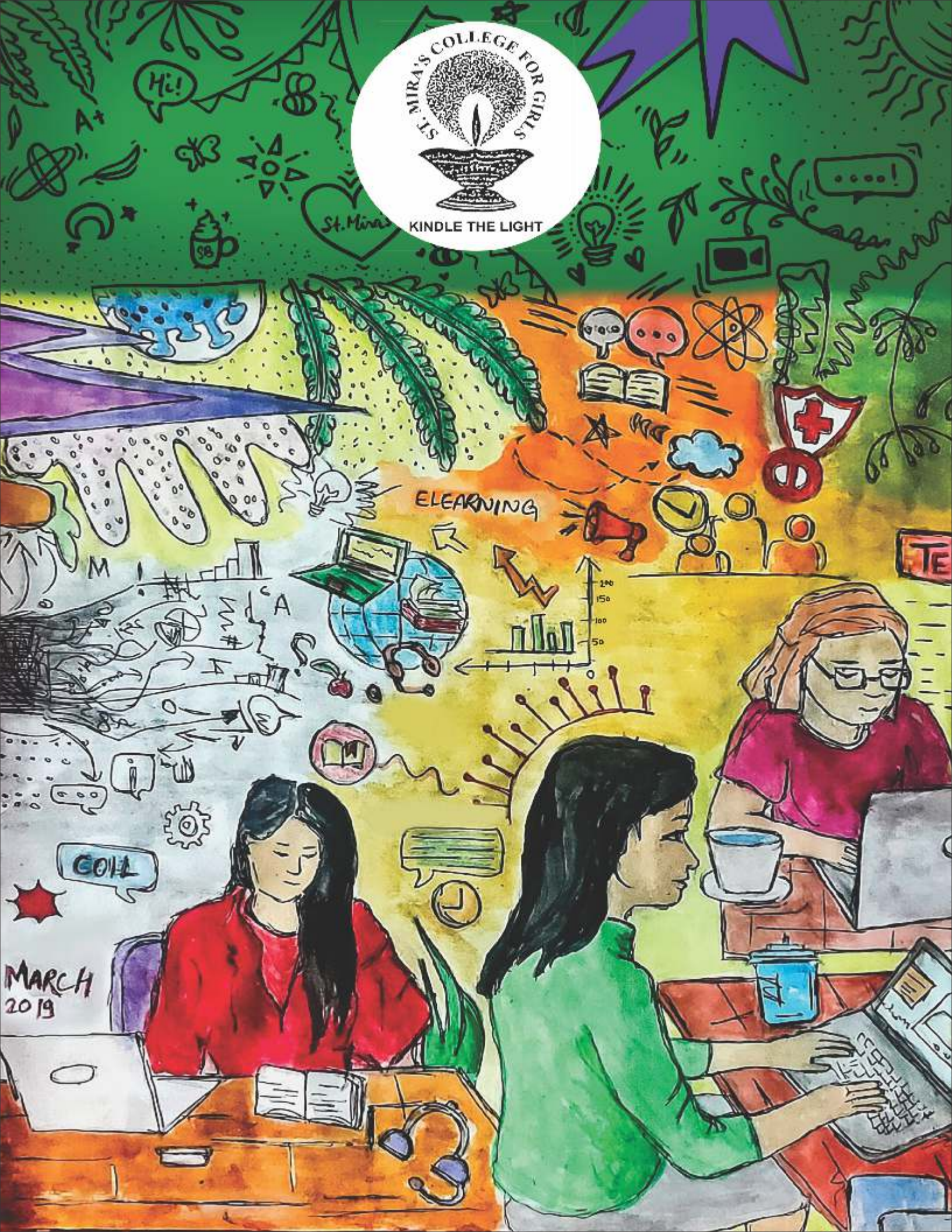
MILE



Fund Raiser Alumni Association



Webinar on Hiroshima Day



ELEARNING

GOAL

MARCH
2019