



Mohanlal Sukhadiya University, Udaipur
Department of English, UCSSN

LITERARY FORUM

Newsletter of the
Department of English



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PATRON'S MESSAGE

I am happy that the third issue of our department's newsletter, Literary Forum, is being brought out. The newsletter provides the students a platform to give expression to their creativity and also serves as a site to record the events organised by the department. I am happy to see that the participation of students and involvement of faculty members has increased over the period. I congratulate Dr Kopal Vats and her team for their accomplishment.

Dr Minakshi Jain

HoD, Department of English and the Patron of the Literary Forum

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

With great joy and anticipation, I am thrilled to announce the publication of the third issue of our biannual literary magazine. Beyond its role as a showcase of literary talent, the magazine also serves as a chronicle of the events held in the department. Through its pages, we celebrate the lectures, seminars, workshops, and cultural events that have enriched our academic and creative endeavours. As we prepare to share our magazine with the broader community, let us take a moment to acknowledge the tireless efforts of all those who have contributed to its creation. From the writers and artists whose works grace its pages to the organizers and participants of the events featured within its timeline, your dedication and enthusiasm have been the driving force behind our success.

With deepest appreciation and warmest regards,

Kopal Vats

Coordinator (2023-24), Literary Forum
Department of English, MLSU

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International Conference Mediations on Memory: Aesthetics and Poetics of Forgetting

**Organized by the
Department of English, UCSSH
Mohanlal Sukhadiya University, Udaipur
In Association with ICSSR, New Delhi
26-27 July 2023**

It was a heartening ode to literature when Sukrita Paul Kumar inaugurated the conference with the idea that literature expresses the 'unspeakable'/the 'repressed' that is buried in silence, especially in the case of a traumatic memory. It took quite some time before the pain of Partition could be aesthetically transmuted in literature, films and other art forms. Possibilities of reconciliation and forgiveness can also be explored only after repeated acts of remembering which is called 'active forgetting', by Nietzsche. The 'river of memory' flows both ways, and memory is not linear, was the idea expressed by Dhananjay Singh. Memory is the mechanism by which our present is indentured to our past, to borrow an idea from Freud. On the other side of the spectrum, Pramod K. Nayar discussed the contemporary projects to revive the Planetary Memory. The efforts at 'rewilding' were envisioned with scepticism since life on the planet has a vital interconnectedness. Rewilding the earth might be dangerous in the absence of the climate context and the links in the chain. A very different note was struck by Angshuman Kar who talked about the idea of 'buoyant memory', i.e., the impossibility of forgetting and the seemingly contradictory need to forget. The traumatic memories are especially buoyant.

Bill Ashcroft further reinforced the role of literature and art in moulding a future out of the past, and the present. No future is achieved unless it is first imagined, said he. Literature, thus, contains a revolutionary potential. It has the power to imagine a 'utopia'. A kaleidoscope of memory in the form of some well-known poems, including Eliot, was presented by Nicholas Birns. ...

...

Besides the two Plenary Sessions, one on each day, there were eight parallel sessions. In the course of the thirty-eight papers, presented during the Technical Sessions many aspects of the conference theme were covered: reclaiming history; uncovering resilience; material memory; post-memory; migration and memory; collective memory; folklore and memory; ecological memory; city memory; archives and memory mapping; special and narrative memory; selective/deceptive memory; prosthetic memory; palimpsestic memory; episodic memory; repetitive remembering; possibilities/ impossibilities of forgetting and reconciliation.

The Valedictory Speaker Ashutosh Mohan brought in the concept of memory callisthenics. Memory, though not dependent on temporality, has a space-time curvature, a tonality, and a musicality that he touched tangentially through a story, a few film songs and some references to literary works.

The Cultural Eve 'Yadon Ke Sur' turned out to be an enthralling experience when the students of the University Department of Music performed a Sufi song that sent the audience in semi-trance... NO MEMORY ZONE!

Pradeep Trikha
Conference Coordinator

Highlights



Highlights



International Conference Understanding Geo-centrism, Naturalism and Collectivism through Indigenous Literatures

**Organized by
Department of English, UCSSH
Mohanlal Sukhadiya University, Udaipur
In association with
Rajasthan Association for Studies in English
26-28 December 2023**

The Department of English, Mohanlal Sukhadiya University, Udaipur and Rajasthan Association for Studies in English, RASE, jointly organized an International Conference on Understanding Geo-centrism, Naturalism and Collectivism through Indigenous Literatures, from 26-28 December 2023. It was RASE's XX Annual Conference.

“Ja se jahaj...nahin/ Ja se Jameen, ja se jangal aur ja se jal” struck the keynote to the deliberations that resonated with the opposing worldviews of the civilized people and the indigenous peoples. The conference Director and head of the host department, Dr Minakshi Jain, extended a warm welcome to the guests and participants in the City of Lakes. The Key Note Speaker Kanji Bhai Patel, a renowned poet and Gujarati writer underlined the callousness of the modern world and written language that fails to connect with the beauty and multidimensionality of oral indigenous cultures. An acclaimed Hindi writer/novelist Hariramji Meena, the Chief Guest, rejected the idea of human supremacy and the popular illusion that one is born human after a long process of evolution, living eighty-four lakhs of lives. He spoke of the collectivism and naturalism that was a way of life with indigenous communities. Hariramji also talked of the consensus approach that many Tribal communities follow which is far better than our democratic government that is not even a majority rule most of the time! Dr T C Damor, former Vice Chancellor of Rajeev Gandhi Tribal University highlighted the intuitive approach to life among tribal communities and their harmonious connection with nature. Head of the Department..

... of Philosophy, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Prof Sudha Chaudhary, the renowned social scientist, writer and activist emphasized the need to learn from the tribal philosophy and worldview and not to impose the Non-tribal worldview on them. Everyone agreed that sustainable indigenous ways of life need to be adopted to counter the exploitative approach to nature.

Prof Sharad Srivastav delivered the S N Joshi memorial lecture which is a regular feature of RASE's Annual Conference. S N Joshi was a faculty member in the Department of English at Mohanlal Sukhadia University and was the founder and President of RASE. Prof Shrivastav, who superannuated from the same department a few years ago, and had been a student of S N Joshi, spoke of Joshi sir as a great scholar, teacher and an even greater human being!

Prof Hemendra Singh Chandalia, the founder and guiding spirit behind RASE, brought out The Annals of RASE, which was released during the inaugural session along with the conference Souvenir and the 2022 Journal of RASE. Several books were also released: Love and Harmony in World Literature – Editor- Dr. Sumer Singh; A Study of Tradition and Modernity in the Selected Novels of Shashi Deshpande- Dr. Chitra Dadheech; Indian Folklores: Cultural Narratives- Dr. Jayshree Singh; The Delphic Musings - L.S.Rathore and Eagle's Coin – L.S. Rathore. Prof Chandalia who superannuated in November 2023 from the department of English JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur was felicitated by RASE members and also by the members of the department of English, Mohanlal Sukhadia University. He spoke about the last twenty conferences held by RASE in various regions of Rajasthan.

In the Meet the Writer session noted writer Hariramji Meena; Dr. Sunita Ghoghara, an Adivasi novelist; and Rekha Kharadi, an Adivasi poet, spoke on the writing process and read out some of their poems while sharing their life experiences as members of indigenous communities. In a special online session Dr Geraldine Sinyey from Cameroon, Africa presented her paper and shared her life experiences.

In the Panel Discussion, on the second day, Prof Nilanjan Chakrabarti from Vishv Bharati Shantiniketan analysed Geo-centrism and Collectivism regarding the ideas of Darwin and Pascal. He believed that Tribal life is fundamentally egalitarian. Prof Dipa Chakrabarti from Amity University Jaipur spoke about the struggle of Tituba in a West Indian novel based on the famous Salem Witch Trials.

Prof Sumanbala of Delhi University spoke about the portrayal of Indigenous people in Latin American, European and African Literature. Dr Taw Azu from Arunachal Pradesh expressed the anxiety of Nyishi, Galo communities in the face of coercive tactics on...

... the part of Christian and Hindu communal forces. The Panel Moderator Prof Chandalia read out his Geocentric poem 'pahad ke bare me koi kuchh nahin kehta,' spilling the pain of the indigenous people, mesmerizing the audience.

The Kaleidoscope session had four documentaries to compel the audience to feel and think about the causes and effects of the crises faced by Dongria, Kondh tribes of Odisha in Niyamgiri; indigenous people of Australia in The Men of the Fifth World; Santhals in Santhals of Godda District; Meenas in Meenrag.

The evening of the second day had a rainbow of song, music and dance performances by the students of the host department and some of the participants of the conference. The cultural eve began with a big bang as some of the tribal students of Mohanlal Sukhadia University performed a high-pitched Bheel tribal dance!

Some 64 papers were presented in the sixteen technical sessions, during the parallel sessions on the first and the second day of the conference.

The conference scaled new heights on the third day when the participants visited the Ogana village, some 72 km away from the conference venue. Dr Khushpal Garg spelt out the purpose of visiting the villagers and asked the participants to meet them not to teach them but to learn what they have preserved and what the urban civilised society has begun to miss in their rush for material success.

He divided the participants into six groups to visit Gejvi, Gandhar, Ranpur, Mohini, Samija, and Kolar villages in the Ogana area. Having first-hand exposure to tribal rural life for the participants, the majority of whom had visited such small villages for the first time, was an unforgettable thought-provoking and, for some, somewhat disturbing experience. The huge gap between the much-publicized myth of development and the reality on the ground was in front of us all! The visit was facilitated by Gandhi Manav Kalyan Samiti and hosted by Rana Punja College at Ogana. The Valedictory Session was held in their college building at 2:00 pm, after a sumptuous dal-bati-churma lunch! Each speaker underscored the fact that the crises faced by the present civilized world can be overcome to a large extent if we are ready to introspect and relearn the lessons we have forgotten from the life practices of indigenous peoples! A note of caution was also struck by quite a few speakers reminding us not to glamorize the tribal lives or overlook the huge problems they are facing. Mr Saurabh Meena, the Organising Secretary, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, during his vote of thanks, pointed out that since the trajectory of development cannot be reversed whatever fresh start we make will have to march forward, though cautiously and carefully! A sensitive, nuanced ...

... harmonious coexistence among the diverse elements, living and nonliving, has to be chiselled before the onward march of humanity makes progress in a real sense.

Minakshi Jain
Conference Director

Highlights



Highlights



Induction Program 23-24

**Organized by the
Department of English, UCSSH
Mohanlal Sukhadiya University, Udaipur
23 September 2023**



The Induction Programme 2023 was organised to introduce the freshers to their department and to familiarize them with their seniors. The entire programme was organised and managed by a team of 2nd and 3rd year English Honours students led by the Coordinator, Literary Forum.

The programme was organised on 23rd of September from 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM. It was held at the Bappa Rawal Conference Hall, Golden Jubilee Guest House, MLSU. The chief guest of the programme was Prof C.R. Suthar, Dean, UCSSH. The guest of honour was Prof Pradeep Trikha, former Head of the Department of English. The resource persons of the event were Dr Shahid Parvez from the Department of Visual Arts and Dr Shilpi Mohan from the Faculty of Management Studies.

The programme began with the address of the dignitaries and they were given a floral welcome. The first performance of the event, Ganesh Vandana, was performed by Mumuksha Bhavsar, a 3rd year Honours student. The freshers were then addressed by Prof C.R. Suthar. Four students— Jinal Dangi, Batul Pachisawala, Soha Ansari, and Anshika Gupta— presented self-composed poetry.

The highlight of the event was a play titled 'Many Worlds of Literature', conceptualized and written by 2nd and 3rd year students of the department. It was about the conflict between writers of different genres and ages so that the students could acknowledge the diversity in literature.

The programme was an overall success, and the students found the sessions of the resource persons enlightening as well as entertaining.

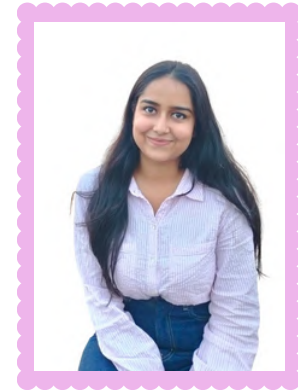
-Batul Pachisawala

Highlights



Rejoice: The Freshers' Party

**Organized by the
Department of English, UCSSH
Mohanlal Sukhadiya University, Udaipur
2 November 2023**



Rejoice: The Fresher's Party was organised by students of MA English III Sem on November 2nd, 2023. The event was conducted in the Open Theatre of the University College of Social Sciences and Humanities.

The event intended to welcome the students of MA Sem I and to give them a platform where they could introduce themselves and showcase their talent in front of their teachers and seniors.

Rejoice began at 5:00 pm and was convened by Priyanshi Karnawat, Kanak Goswami, Harshita Jain, Nishant Maharishi and Sudha Kumari. The special guests at the party were the faculty members of the Department of English. Prof C.R. Suthar, Dean of UCSSH, Prof. Sudha Chaudhary and Dr. Suresh Salvi also made a worthy presence in the span of the event.

The students of Sem I and Sem III gave their cultural performances which included singing, dancing and poetry recitation. A ramp walk was organised for all the students of MA Sem I. The ramp walk was judged by Dr. Kopal Vats and Mr. Saurabh Meena.

The following performances were done by the students:

- Nishtha - Odissi Classical Dance
- Dushyant - Self-composed poetry recitation
- Aditya - Self-composed poetry recitation
- Khushi and Nishtha - Duet Marathi Song
- Simran - Rajasthani Folk Dance
- Siddika, Rochi, Kashish, Tara, Lavisha - Group Dance
- Riya and Divyangi - Duet Dance
- Harshita and Sudha - Dance

Kajal - Solo Dance

Purvi, Mohita, Priyanshi, Linsha, Shivani - Dance

Rohan, Rahul, Deepak, Jinendra - Group Dance

After the performances, winners of the ramp walk were announced by Dr. Minakshi Jain. The first position was bagged by Nishtha and Deepak. The second position was secured by Dushyant and Jahnavi and the third position by Khushi, Lavisha and Nikhilanshu. The celebration was followed by dinner.

-Kanak Goswami

Highlights



Highlights



Workshop: Communication Skills in German Language



A workshop was organised in the duration 20-23 November 2023 at the Seminar Hall of FMS, MLSU by the Centre for Communication Skills in English and Foreign Languages being run in the department under RUSA 2.0. The title of the workshop was 'Communication Skills in German Language'. All the registered students at the centre participated in the workshop along with the guest faculty members. The key resource person for the workshop was Ms. Aditya Divya Singh, Assistant Professor in German at Manipal University, Manipal.

Guest Lecture



On January 10, 2024, Prof. Ashutosh Mohan from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi delivered a guest lecture on the topic 'Understanding Poetry' to the students in the department. In addition to this, the student volunteers of the RASE Conference organised from 26-28 December 2023 were felicitated for their sincere contribution and hard work.

Photo Gallery

Superannuation of Prof Pradeep Trikha, former HoD, Department of English



Photo Gallery

Superannuation of Mr Gopal Gothwal, Language Lab Technical Staff

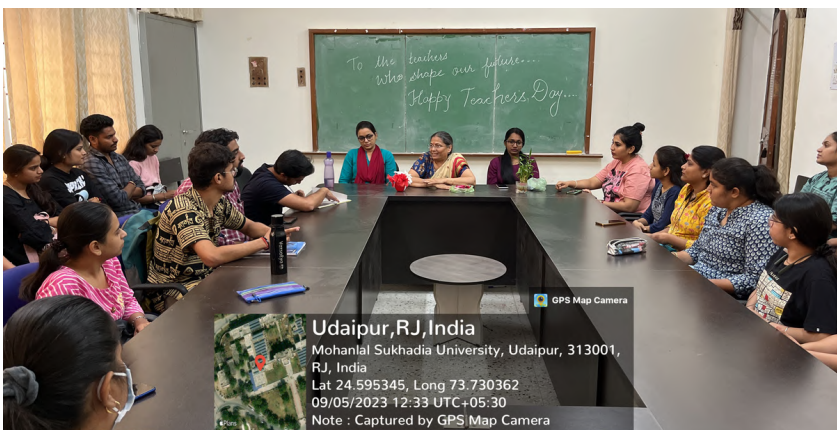


Celebration of Christmas



Photo Gallery

Teachers' Day Celebration



Teachers' Day was celebrated in the department on 5th September 2023. The Head of the Department, Dr Minakshi Jain, addressed the students and wished them success in their future endeavours.

From Students' Pen...

Champagne Problems by Soha Ansari



I believe the temperature here is 36 F. Almost all of us have experienced this temperature before. You drive into a hill station and wonder how those delicate flowers thrive in such a temperature, maintaining their aroma and beauty. I have them too- aroma and beauty. There are sweater-clad tourists on the snow-clad hills. I have neither a sweater nor snow. But pity me not. As Tasneem says, I am a flower-aromatic and beautiful.

I have not seen her since the summer of 2023. She is the girl you look at and think, 'Why are only women beautiful? Why would God be so unjust to men?'

Sorry. Anyway, men are not the only people who have experienced injustice. I digress.

You also wonder, 'Would I look as pretty as her if I wore a hijab?' I would not. But if Tasneem says yes, it means a yes. Yes, I would.

The last time when I saw her, her brown eyes spelt the words 'satisfied.' A faint smile and a perfect set of innocent eyebrows. Between her eyebrows, what I saw resembled a vermilion bindi. I had always wondered how she would look in a bindi. Stunning- now I know.

To begin from the beginning, it was the 7th of May, 2023. We were outside the school campus and the excitement of the last working day was beginning to die. I was asking two of my friends, Deepika and Suhana, if I should eat my little sister's cake...

... Deepika said yes, 'because, natural selection... survival of the fittest.' Suhana said she would bake one for me.

How evergreen our group of friends,
Don't think we'll say that word again.

We were a group of girls who loved Taylor Swift accompanied by boys who loved Kanye West. Just like any other group.

'Ayushi!' Raghu said on that hot summer day, wiping off the liquids from his face. 'You're so annoying.'

We were walking our way home in the same manner the happy overly curious kids in horror movies do. Cruel Summer.

'Why Raghu!' I scoffed.

Tasneem said nothing in response to this. She just held Deepika's hand and sighed. Deepika smiled at Tasneem's bindi.

The imagery is weak, huh? It is. That is all I can remember at the moment. 2.2 degrees Celsius is too cold for me. I am just a girl.

What I can give a clear picture of is my bleeding right calf. A long deep wide slash. Dark red blood oozed out from it. Raghu pulled out his handkerchief and tied it around my calf. He got up, leaned towards me, and whispered in my ear, 'Don't f-mess with the cats.'

'Yes, sir.' I said and smiled at him. He smirked and we resumed walking. A joke shared by just the two of us.

Tasneem, Deepika and Suhana walked ahead of me, Raghu and Akshay (a big circle of friends, indeed). I did not realize until now that the route was not the usual one and Akshay had not said even a word yet. Pain makes us all lose our brains, right?

'I have to walk my whole way back now.' I spoke lazily in disappointment. With drooping shoulders, I walked a little and then turned around. Then Raghu grabbed me by my wrist.

'You're injured, Ayushi.' He said, placing his other warm but heavy hand on my...

... shoulder. He smiled as he resumed, 'We can all go to Tasneem's house and do something about your leg, Ayushi.'

I smiled far too broadly and said, 'Thanks.'

We resumed walking. It was not a very big city with many hospitals and Tasneem's house was the nearest we could have walked to.

"This dorm was once a madhouse"

I made a joke, "Well, it's made for me"

What a beautiful day to have your calf slashed by a cat!

As we continued walking in the same pattern, I looked up and squinted at the scorching sun. I blinked a little too long. The next thing I saw was Akshay's face an inch away from me. Our noses touched. I thought he would kiss me, but I shrieked. I looked down. I touched my belly and saw the knife was deep into it. I looked sideways. Raghu folded his hands and smiled innocently, standing a meter away from the platform I was sprawled on. I had never seen so much blood in my whole life.

Tasneem was on my other side. She chaotically wiped off the drop of blood between her eyebrows. Deepika and Suhana's smiling faces resembled that of the sharks' from the front. Akshay sang louder this time, plugging out the knife from my stomach and lifting it high up.

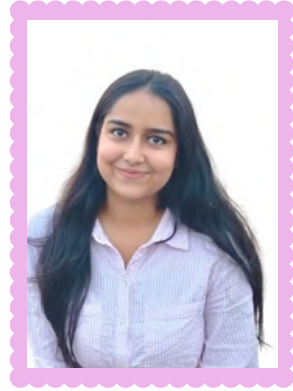
One for the money, two for the show.

With the other hand, he wiped the blood from his face. He smirked and then in just a second, screamed with a monstrous face and stabbed me over and over till I passed out. Passed away.

Writing in a mortuary is not easy. Naked in a small space writing with your blood on a paper you found accidentally in that small space. Tasneem's freezer was colder than the mortuary.

I never was ready, so I watched you go.

Through the Cosmic Eyes
by Kanak Goswami



The crimson dusk fell like sparkles on his face,
“It is time to wake”, said the moon,
He wore his silver jacket and rode through space,
Following him were the stars, the clouds and their fortune.

On his way, he stopped to announce,
“My Dear Stars! Tonight is Winter Solstice,
I give each one a task, you cannot renounce,
Dawn is all you have in ticks.”

Courage, Agony and the other stars,
Bounced back and forth on hearing the news,
What could be the task so vast?
Each kept pondering their varied views.

Just then the magnanimous Moon declared,
“All you Stars have to pick one continent each,
Earth awaits you in her glory fair,
Get there and explore her culture rich.”

I give Asia to you dear Courage,
Agony receives the African world,
Who wants Europe asked the Moon in rage,
Hypocrisy first flinched, then came forward.

Like archangels, descended the three fair stars,
Hypocrisy to the west, Agony to south,
Courage then took abode, to the Eastern far,
Clueless, blank with no one to reach out.

...

India outshone the Asian world,
From Himalayan peaks to the golden forts,
From Bihu to Pongal to Baisakhi onward,
Each community holding strong it's port.

“How beautiful is the Ghoomar!”, Courage exclaimed.
And the kalbeliyas dancing with matkas on their crown,
Pagdi, chooda, bajubandh are theirs to proclaim,
Each thread joining the royal culture of brown.

Hypocrisy reaches The Great Britain,
Jack of all, master of none.
They enjoyed the most powerful reign,
Captured lands and goods but no heart they won.

Then comes Agony waving from the African planes,
Dwelling in the luxury of islands and their beautiful tribes.
The blacks were unique people with distinctive names,
“Chi” is who they worshipped, not the European Christ.

The whites took it all away from them,
Made all indentured labourers and slaves,
They are “White man’s burden”, the Britishers claim,
And Christianity’s the only haven safe.

Agony speaks with her eyes filled,
Why is humanity struggling so intensely?
She sparkles some stardust on the African fields,
And blesses it to forever be free of misery.

The three stars meet at North Pole again,
Hypocrisy ashamed, Courage elated and Agony in strain,
They take a ride back to the starry lane,
The Moon welcomes them with his arms open.

Agony narrates her experience first,
Followed by hypocrisy, lastly Courage.
The Moon first swells up with mirth,

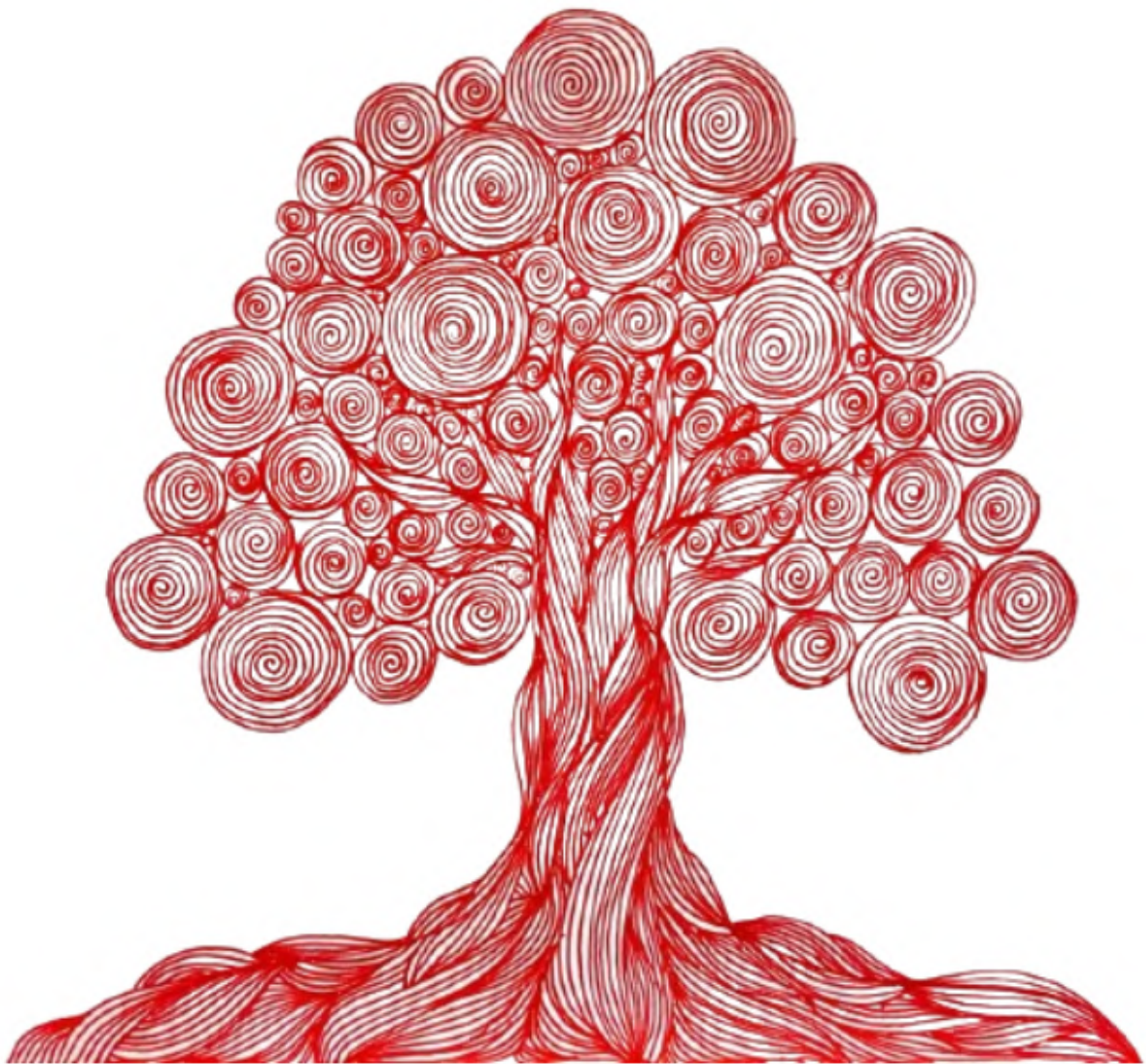
...

...

Then calls the three of them on stage.

“My dear stars! Surrounding the space,
Look here! These three have done a worthy deed”,
The spectators had pride on their face,
As the Moon congratulated each one with a magical seed.

“Brace yourselves for another task tomorrow,
Now you all may have a good day’s sleep”,
Dawn’s Sun came up from the eastern hollow,
And the three stars went to sow their magical seed.



Art by
Dr Bhanupriya Rohila

Do What Your Heart Says!

Written by Goutam Suthar

Edited by Dhairya Aganihotri



Veenu: Didi, next week I'll move to the college.

Is everything alright, Veenu?

Veenu: yes Didi. I didn't say I was nervous.

Okay, tell me. What happened?

Veenu: Didi ... actually ... I'm afraid. What if something goes wrong? What if I couldn't make it?

Why do you think so? This is the first time when you're going out of your home. When I moved in my first year, I was also afraid. Then, friends, classes, assignments, and a new environment all got settled quickly. Have faith in yourself! Everything will be fine.

In Japan, people don't say good luck! Their advice is always to do your best. I say the same to you. Veenu, do your best! I know you can and you will.

Veenu's college environment is a completely different one from her village where she was born and brought up. Veenu opted for English literature as a part of her undergraduate program. She has always been interested in literature and is quite good at it.

As classes started, for some reason, she has been having difficulty mingling with other college students.

Veenu, how are you doing? (on call) ...

... Veenu: I'm good. How are you, Didi?

I'm good too. Tell me how is the college? Have you had the opportunity to meet some of your friends? Have you spoken to the professors?

Veenu: Didi, it's hard. I don't feel I belong here. They are different. I'm no match for them.

Listen, Veenu! I can understand what you feel. Take your time, but do make friends across disciplines. You must be the first person to say hi or hello. That's what you learn while in college, the Fine Art of Human Relationships. You're never alone. Make that first move.

Veenu: Thank you, Didi!

Okay! Good night. I'll call you later.

As the days roll on, Veenu tries to talk to other students in the cafeteria and library everywhere.

Hi... My name is Vрати. What's your name?

Veenu: Veenu

I have seen you in the class. It's been more than a week. You don't talk to anyone. Let me introduce you to the gang.

My school friends Sneha, Tanvi, Aditya and he is... we don't take him very seriously. You can call him Mr. Unknown. "Excuse me! Danish, Danish is my name. Nice to meet you, Veenu. Don't listen to this silly girl."

Danish: Guys, it's our first catch-up. Let's go out somewhere. There is a new cafe opening in the city.

Tanvi: Yeah, I saw it this morning when I came to college. Let's go!

Veenu: But we have the class at 10 am.

Vрати: Veenu, you're in college. Don't be so serious. Just chill! College life R-AIR TE GIA, enjoy karo (Make the most of your college life).

Veenu: But...

Vrati: I don't know... you're coming with us!

At first, it was hard for Veenu, perhaps she believed it was not the right thing to do, but by the end of the year, it became a kind of routine. They used to travel to the city. They used to go to movies. She hasn't done anything like that ever before in her life. Veenu is so happy.

"You're in college. You don't have to be very serious. Just chill!" She heard the same lines everywhere and from everyone in the college. Somehow, it made her totally convinced by the end of the year that maybe college studies are not that important. You can afford to enjoy yourself and not bother about the marks.

Veenu barely managed to pass the 1st year exams, but it didn't affect her. Not even an ounce! There was a time back in school. She used to work hard for every mark on the paper. It was like everything. There has been a change in her attitude.

During one of the events at the college, a speaker was sharing her journey as an entrepreneur, "back in college, it was hard to be alone. I used to cry." She says. "But I knew I'm here to fulfill my dreams. Nothing is more important than that. Many people have advised me not to take things too seriously. But I didn't listen to them. It was all what my heart says. When you're in college today, I advise you to follow your heart's desire. Everyone has that tiny inner voice. Don't listen to the naysayers."

The event ended. Everyone has left the hall, but Veenu is still there. Her eyes are filled with tears. Trying to hide her face. Doesn't want to show it to anyone.

"I entered this college to pursue my dreams. I picked the subjects I wanted to study. During all my school days, I worked hard, just because I can live my dreams and now when I have this opportunity, how can I be so reckless? I have been suppressing my inner-voice."

"I'm going to be a beginner again. I'll never listen to anyone today onwards. I'll work hard and fulfill my dreams."

In that one moment, everything changed!

Breakfast became lunch and the Library became a workstation.

Still, people were advising, "enjoy college life." She didn't listen. Now, it was all...

... what the heart says!

Gradually, Veenu met some people who were also passionately working towards their dreams.

"This world is entirely different! From the one I have experienced. Everyone is working hard to achieve their dreams. They are excited and they enjoy what they do, every bit of it! Moreover, they have a great deal of care for others. They want me to work hard and do something good in life." she said.

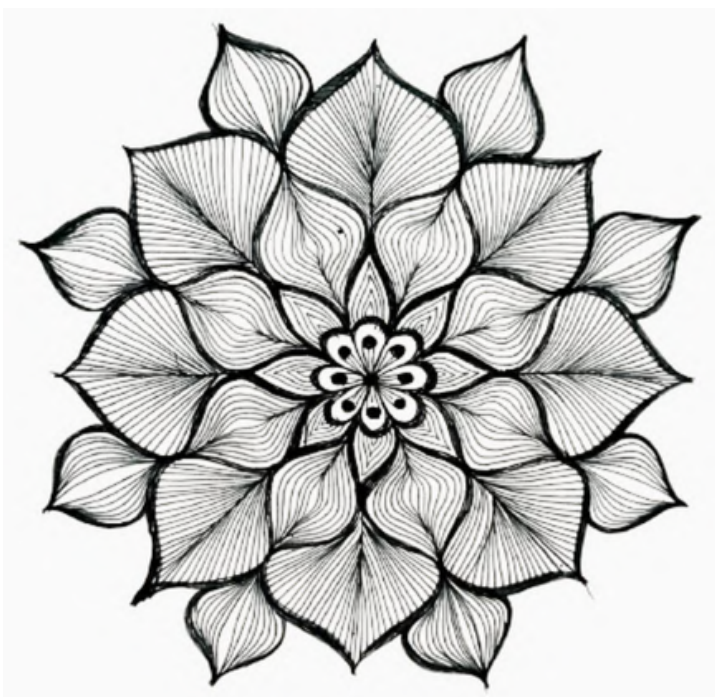
It strengthened Veenu's belief in herself.

Every day, she wakes up with a big smile and there is no step back. It's simple to eat, sleep, breathe, study and repeat. By the time Veenu graduated, she had been placed in a global tech firm. It brought joy at home, and college, among friends everywhere!

But what made her even happier than any other thing in the world is what she thought of herself, "I'm able to become what I am today is because of education and the people who inspire me to work hard, not to be afraid to make mistakes and learn from them, to believe in my dreams."

"I will try... I will try to contribute something ... something in the education sector. I don't know what it is. I'll figure it out." Veenu says.

Do what your heart says!



**Art by
Dr Bhanupriya Rohila**

Winter's Discerning Whisper
by Insiya Attari



The gentle breeze with a misty blue
A crimson flush the winter brings
Only in embrace of December long overdue
I notice warmth and all warm things

The falling drops from the blades of grass
I stare at the iris as the flower blooms
Only in the nostalgia of all that's passed
I notice love and peace that looms

The knowing smiles and the forming clouds
Emerging slowly from between our lips
In the midst of little gestures that talk aloud
I notice touch and smallest bursts of bliss

The serene beauty in the evening hues
I feel winter sit beside me by the flames
Soft echoes in a void leaves shades of blue
I notice whispers of my grandma's name

The creeping sadness of all that ends
As the last of green takes its final breath
With a cup of tea my thoughts descend
I notice life only in the presence of death.

Devotion toward Dream
Written by Goutam Suthar
Edited by Dhairya Aganihotri



Dina is a hard-working student. He is in class 10th and very good at football. Dina is well aware of the importance of education in life. He studies hard for board exams and performs excellently. Plus, he was selected for the district U-16 football team because of his performance in the inter-school tournaments.

He has two opportunities in front of him. One is football and higher studies, the other one. Dina is puzzled between the two things. But it's time to decide between them.

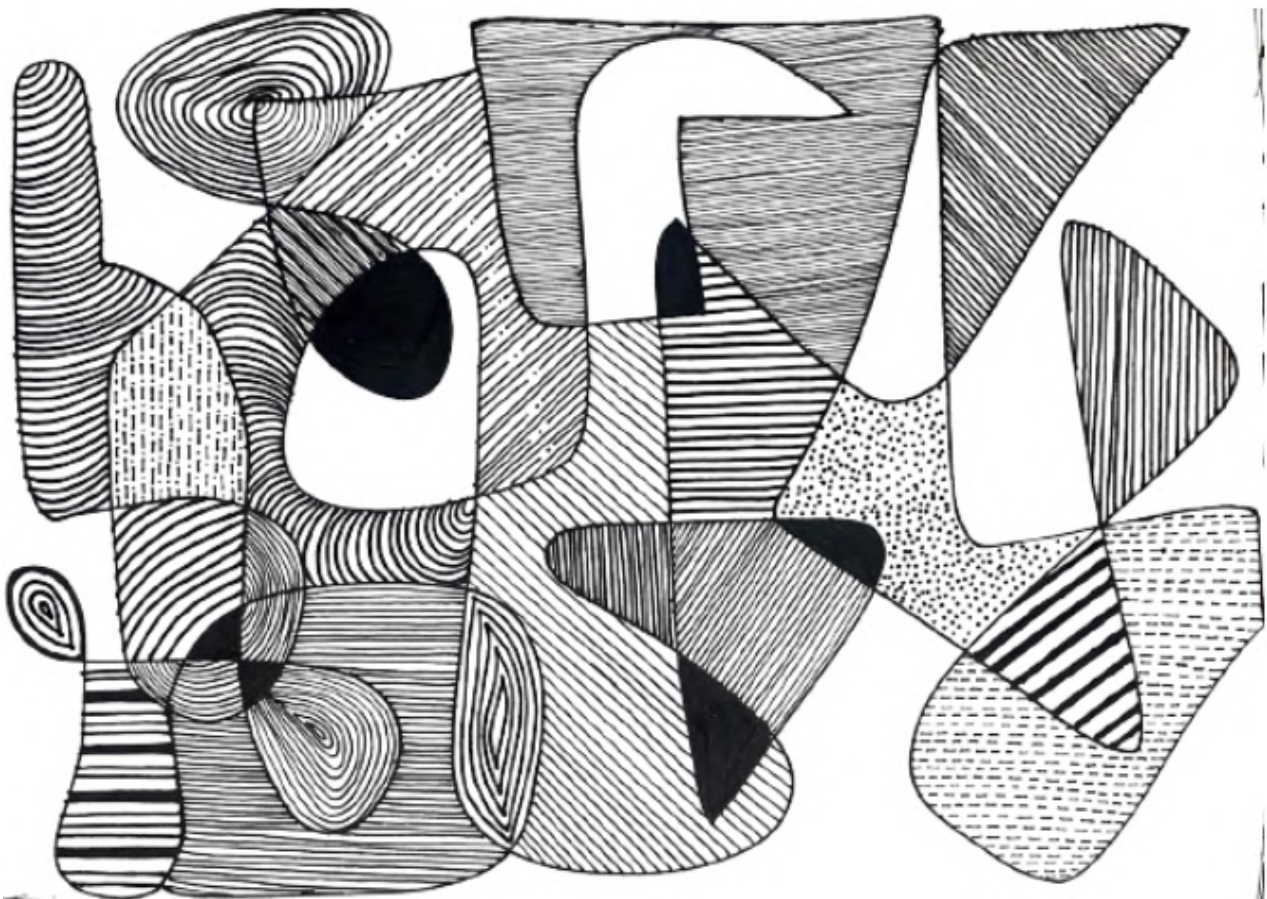
He asks his teachers, coaches, and mentors for guidance. Ultimately, he decided to pursue football full-time. He devotes more time to football. Day by day, Dina's performance improves on all levels. Right after a year, he gets selected for the U-19 national team. Dina's home is filled with happiness. His friends congratulate him on his success and inspire him to do his best in the tournament.

During the tournament, Dina performs exceptionally well in the warm-up matches. It boosts his confidence. But, in the very first match, he gets injured very badly. He can't even walk properly. "In this condition you can't play in the tournament," the doctor advises. "But doctor, I can't rest... I must go," Dina says, almost on the verge of crying. "It'll take at least a year for you to get back on the ground," the doctor adds further. Dina's heart is shattered. He doesn't know how and what to react. A lot of people advise him to leave the sport. He thinks of quitting football many times. But somehow he can't forget his love and passion for the game. It means everything to him!

One day, his coach Umesh sir comes to visit him at the hospital. "Boy! Don't give up your dream. You told me you want to play football at the highest level. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose, but don't let it destroy your passion..."

... for the game. Ups and downs are a part of life." Umesh sir says. Dina feels something that he hasn't felt ever before in his life. "See you on the ground!" and Umesh sir leaves. After a severe leg injury, everyone assumed Dina would leave football, but he comes back and surprises everyone at the academy.

Soon, he not only adapts his previous agility but also improves dramatically. Consequently, he is selected for the national U-19 football team next year. He becomes the highest goal kicker of the tournament that year, breaking several other records at the national level. Dina smiles and reminds his coach's lesson: "it's important to love the game and accept the ups and downs that you get on your way towards victory."



**Art by
Dr Bhanupriya Rohila**

Last Night's Dream

By Samiksha



I live there where fiction becomes reality,
And sometimes I pray to the Almighty.
The dream from the last night, where I was on the night flight.
people surfing on the waves,
While my guitar thriving in the caves.
and I wonder, Do they hear my voice,
if they hear me, will I ever be their choice?

Earn Your Freedom

By Samiksha

I used to brag about university life, definitely not gonna be like school to my mom. She used to tell me it would not be all fun and exciting but that went unnoticed as usual, only until I got to taste the reality of freedom.

Now university makes me a little bit overwhelmed. Even though it's freedom on the one hand from the other perspective it is also instability, responsibility, and tons of anxiety.

How do I see freedom now?

Freedom is the power to act, speak, or think as one wants. Freedom doesn't come to you in inheritance. We should be worthy of the power ourselves, and that needs to be proved time and time again.

“Great power comes with great responsibility”. Are you capable of taking responsibility for yourself? Let’s take a simple example, I want to live alone on my own terms. So these are some questions my parents asked me. Can you cook? Are you earning? Can you travel alone? Can you even wake up on time? Do you have the motivation to get out of your bed in winter when you catch cold? Can you not run away when you see a damn lizard!?

It’s not that I can’t do all those things, I have tried some of them. Like traveling alone, which I never did. But I am a smart girl, did not get scammed until now in the big and new city. It all boils down to your mindset, your thoughts matter. At first, I was terrified, I didn’t know anything about public transportation. Never have I ever been lost in an unknown city, still I am surprised to see my resilience, bravery, and optimism. How I got lost and freaked out in an unknown city on my way to university twice and thrice, still reaching the destination without any major harm and scams.

The mindset that makes you worthy enough for freedom.

Be independent and stop expecting spoon-feeding from your loved ones.

You have to adapt the mindset that you are capable of tackling yourself. I am not asking to go and start making money for yourself. Obviously, that is one of the milestones but not that early.

Make a list of the areas that make you dependent on others, those are exactly the loopholes robbing you of your freedom. Free yourself from those shackles, don’t rely on others. Start with small things, maybe like cooking, cleaning, waking up on time, and staying on top of all the deadlines and most important thing is that get to know your documents properly beforehand if you are planning to leave your home.

Your parents, friends, and family members have their own life. Their feelings matter, how much they love you and support you, there will be this one day over and none of them will be able to stand beside you. Then don’t sit and cry over them.

Art Display



Sadaf Sakka



Kriti Sikligar



Sadaf Sakka



Kriti Sikligar

