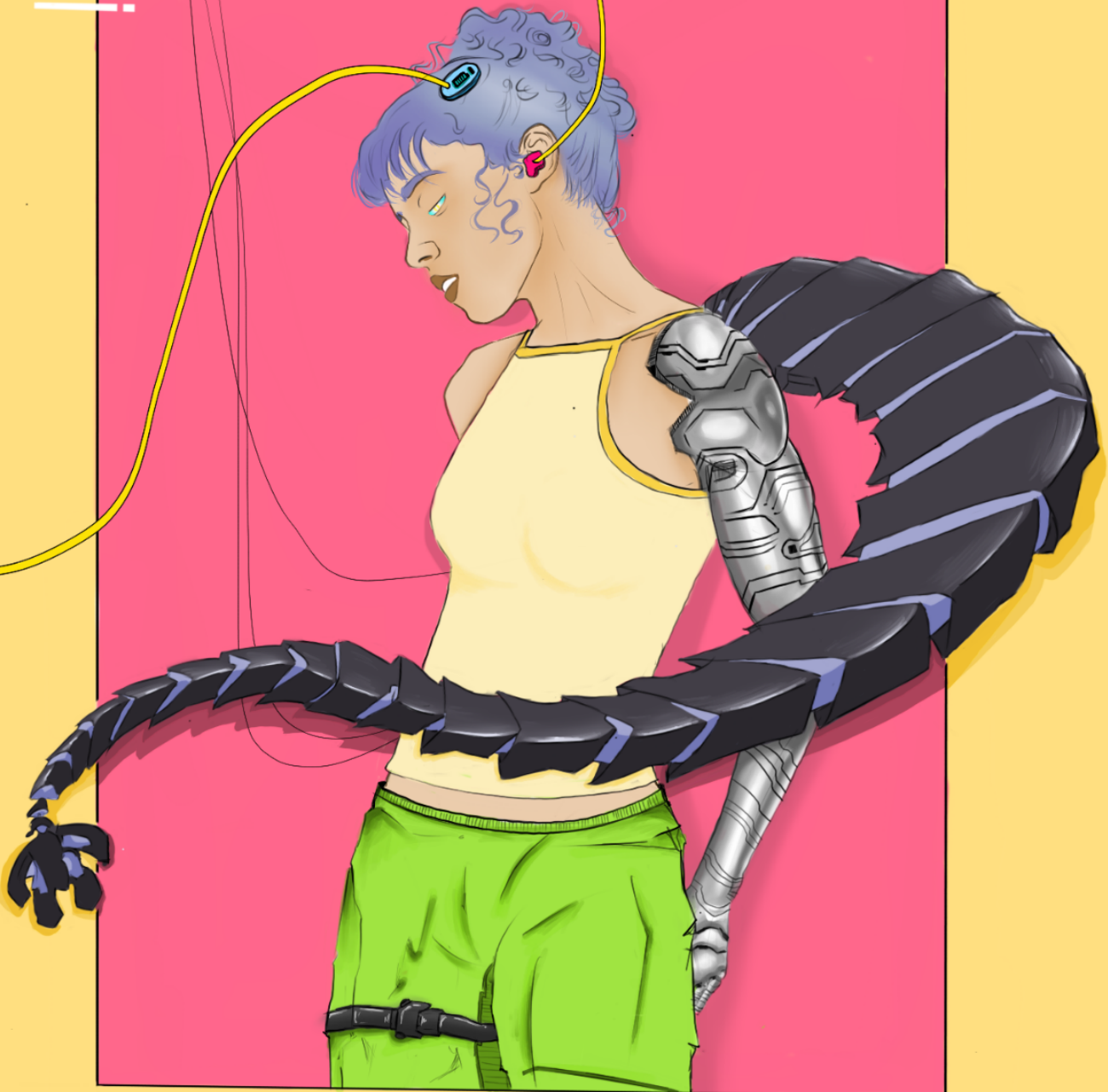


HUMAN CIVILISATION AND ITS FUTURE



RAMBLER



MAGAZINE 2023



**ZAKIR HUSAIN DELHI COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

RAMBLER

MAGAZINE 2023



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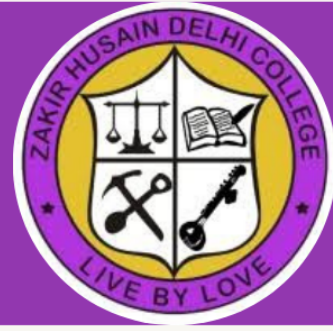
COVER ARTWORK

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Principal's message



April, 2023

Greetings!

Scientists, philosophers, and writers have been searching for an answer to the fundamental question of the meaning of human existence. Despite the articulation of such a vast range of views on this subject, it is impossible to provide a conclusive answer. The quest for a fundamental truth about human life is interminable. However, it can be said with some certainty that whatever scientific, philosophical, and theological explanation is advanced, it is at best provisional and is more often linked with the concerns and preoccupations of the present. The question of the future of humanity has acquired greater relevance in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. The period of the pandemic highlighted the transience and fragility of life, making concerned citizens prophesize the end of the world. The lessons that we learnt from this disaster take us to the related issue of climate change. A sense of imminent apocalypse appears to inform the public discussions on the cataclysmic changes in our climate. To reimagine our relationship with nature in a radical way is the need of the hour. It is pertinent to quote Chief Seattle's warning: "The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth."

A possible solution to the crisis confronting us is a return to the basic principles of Aranya Samskriti or the culture of the forest, whose centrality to Indian civilization has been asserted by Rabindranath Tagore.

I hope that the collection of literary and academic responses in this edition of The Rambler will look for more imaginative ways to explore this topic. I am certain that under Ms. Tanya Lahon Warjri's editorial scrutiny and guidance, students will display their imaginative splendours and produce an inimitable issue of The Rambler. Best wishes!

Sincerely,

Professor

Narendra Singh

Principal, Zakir Husain Delhi College.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

What does it mean to be a human? What are the implications and consequences of human existence? Where do we go from here?

"Cogito, ergo sum." According to Descartes, the only thing that can be known with absolute certainty is that the self exists as a thinking being.

Philosophers and thinkers have dealt with such existential enquiries since time immemorial. Humanism, a stance that emphasizes the value and agency of human beings, individually and collectively, originated in the works of Protagoras and Socrates, and saw its revival during the Renaissance movement. Humanists sought to understand the world and human beings through scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and a commitment to evidence-based knowledge.

A similar thread of enquiry leads us to Futurism, an artistic and cultural movement which originated in Italy in the early 20th century. Its artists and writers were fascinated with the idea of progress and saw technology as a means of achieving a better society. They often expressed radical political views and advocated for the overthrow of traditional social and cultural norms, which further led to the rise of anxiety to understand possible futures and strive for a better world.

Although the movement saw a decline after the devastation of the world wars, questions pertinent to it remain a constant fixation for all of us. The late 20th century saw the origin of Afrofuturism and Marginalised Futurism which sought to explore and reimagine the future through the perspectives and experiences of historically marginalized groups, such as people of color, indigenous people, LGBTQ+ communities, and people with disabilities.

The 21st century has seen a rapid advancement in technology, to the point that many of us are struggling to keep up with it. The internet no longer remains a place that you visit, but one that you live a parallel life within. The rise of artificial intelligence and automation has already started to change the landscape of human life. Being away from our devices leads to sharp separation anxiety, as if an organ of our body is missing. Transhumanism has now emerged as a movement that seeks to use technology to enhance human capabilities and transcends the limitations of our biological bodies.

What then, does the future of humanity look like in a post-pandemic transhuman era?

We hope this edition of The Rambler awakens a sense of inquiry and duty among our readers, to do their bit towards their immediate surroundings and eventually towards humanity and our planet. The team would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude towards all the contributors and writers for their endeavour to reach out to others through their writings. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our Principal Dr. Narendra Singh for his continuous support and encouragement.

The Rambler Team





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2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| • In Memoriam | 1 |
| • Crossword | 5 |
| • Quiz | 7 |
| • Riddles | 9 |
| • Puns | 12 |
| • Tongue Twisters | 13 |
| • Retrofuturism - Zoya Ali Shah | 14 |
| • The Warmth of Things That Can't Even Speak - Aryan A. B | 19 |
| • Just Upwards You Have To Move - Aryan A. B | 20 |
| • Human Civilization And Its Future - Kashid Ali | 21 |
| • Dousing The Flame Of Humanity - Sidra Salafi | 23 |
| • Cosmic Dust - Visheshata | 25 |
| • Human Civilization And Its Future - Saachi Rohtagi | 27 |

| | |
|---|----|
| • Did you know? | 29 |
| • Why Write For Earth - Ifrah Fatima | 30 |
| • Interview | 32 |
| • Art | 36 |
| • Catwadeep: The Island Of Cats - Aryan A.B | 37 |
| • Annual Reports | 43 |

IN MEMORIAM

*"When old age shall this generation waste,
Thou shalt remain, in midst of other woe
Than ours, a friend to man, to whom thou say'st,
"Beauty is truth, truth beauty,-that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.""*

-Ode on a Grecian Urn, John Keats

Pelé (1940-2022)

The world recently mourned the death of a legendary football player whose legacy cannot be outdone by anyone for years to come. Edson Arantes do Nascimento, famously known as Pelé was a Brazilian professional centre forward, who was recognised at the FIFA World Cup Championship as the Best Player of the Century along with Diego Maradona. His accumulation of 1279 goals is also recognised as a Guinness World Record.

Throughout his lifetime he was hailed as a national hero in his home country Brazil for his majestic accomplishments in football, as well as his dauntless opinions on policies regarding the poor and the needy. Pelé met his demise on 29th December 2022 at the age of 82 leaving the world bereft of a legend.



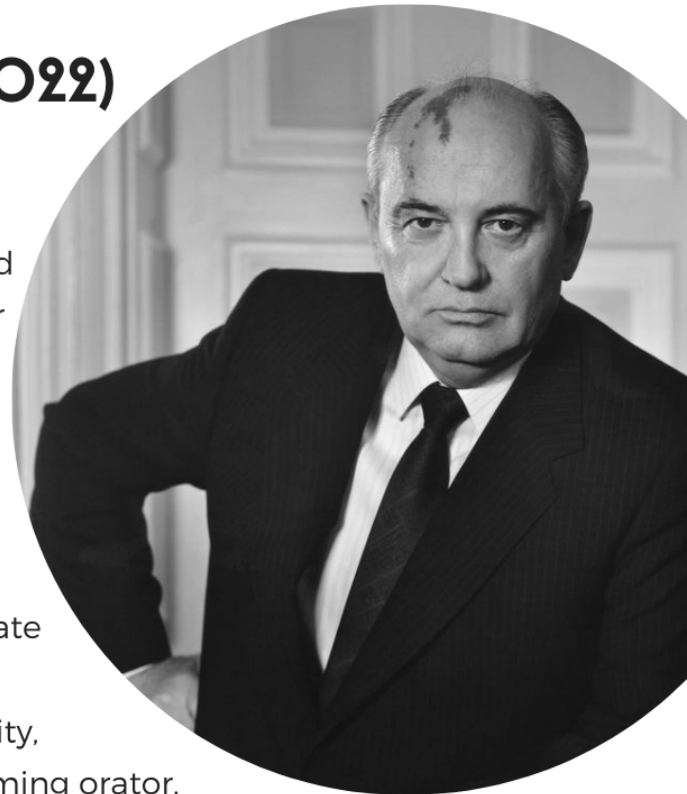
Jeff Beck (1944-2023)

Geoffrey Arnold Beck was an English guitarist who rose to prominence as a member of the rock band the Yardbirds. He received several accolades during his lifetime, being regarded alongside Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, first as a member of Yardbirds and second, as a soloist. Being the recipient of the Grammy Award six times, Rolling Stone described him as "one of the most influential lead guitarists in rock". Beck died on 10th January 2023, at the age of 73.



Mikhail Gorbachev (1931-2022)

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was a Soviet and Russian politician who served as the final leader of the Soviet Union, and witnessed the dissolution of the country in 1991. He is most famously regarded for his contribution towards bringing an end to the cold war and the subsequent threat of nuclear conflicts. His decision to allow the Eastern Block to disintegrate saved Central and Eastern Europe from a widespread bloodbath. With a hint of eccentricity, Gorbachev was a formidable leader and a charming orator. His death on 29th August, 2022 at the age of 91 brought many political figures to pay condolences and remember him for his policies that prevented another world war.



Raju Srivastava (1963-2022)

Satya Prakash Srivastav famously known as Raju Srivastava was hailed for his comedy and humour. He was a comedian, acting in a number Bollywood movies, mainly in a comic role. He was the second runner's up in The Great Indian Laughter Challenge and was awarded the "The King of Comedy" in its spinoff. His death on 21st September 2022 due to was met by expressions of condolences from prolific figures like Narendra Modi, Akshay Kumar, Anil Kapoor, Rajpal Yadav et cetera.



Vivienne Westwood (1941-2022)

A prolific figure in the fashion industry Dame Vivienne Isabel Westwood was an English fashion designer and businesswoman who was significantly responsible for popularising current punk and new-wave trends. Westwood started four stores in London and then extended throughout the United Kingdom and the world, offering a diverse selection of items, some of which advocated for her political concerns such as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, climate change, and civil rights organisations. Westwood received the Order of the British Empire for her contribution to fashion from Queen Elizabeth in 1992. Westwood died in Clapham, London, on 29 December 2022, at the age of 81.



Queen Elizabeth (1926-2022)

England in 2022 mourned the death of her beloved Queen as it marked the end of a tumultuous yet fruitful era. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was the longest reigning monarch of the United Kingdom and The Commonwealth Realm who was beloved by the English natives. Despite her own controversy-ridden life due to the many familial problems, she was level-headed and pragmatic. Her coronation was marked by hopefulness and renewal, after the trials of World War Two. She met her demise peacefully at the age of 96, on 8th September 2022.

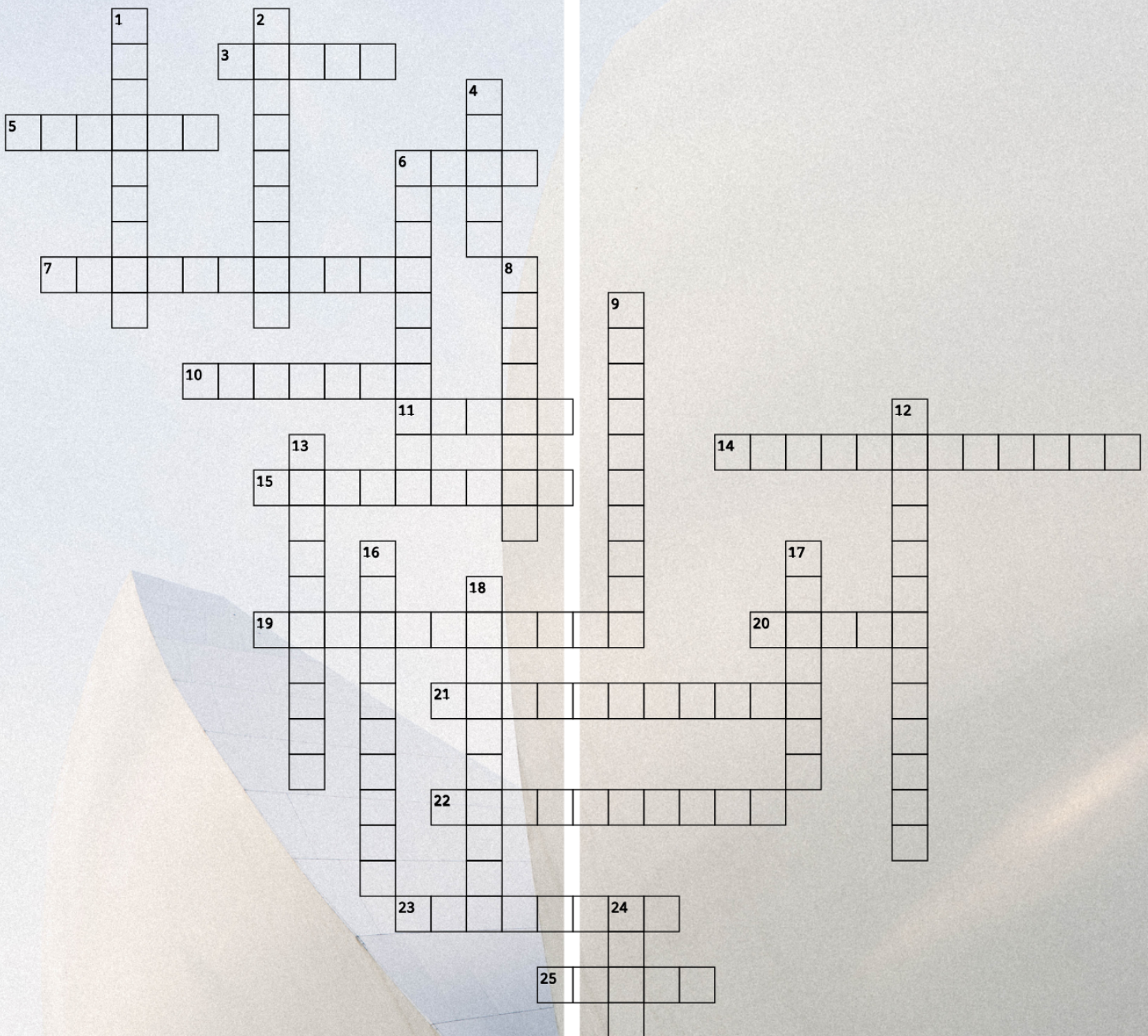


Robbie Coltrane (1950-2022)

The Harry Potter enthusiasts, despite their tumultuous relationship with the author, was left in shock and dismay at the news of Robbie Coltrane's death. He is most earnestly remembered for his unforgettable role as Hagrid, the Gamekeeper, in the Harry Potter franchise produced by Warner Bros. Coltrane has a long list of films, television series, and theatre work to his acting credits. He was the recipient of numerous awards including the British Academy Award for Best Actor. Coltrane passed away in his home country of Scotland on 14th October 2022, at the age of 72.



CROSSWORD



Across

3. Any life form of extraterrestrial origin (5)
5. Humanoid AI social robot, first robot to receive legal citizenship in any country. (6)
6. A natural satellite (4)
7. Astronomical body smaller than a planet, a planetoid, eg Pluto (5,6)
10. A device that directs and controls energy, often in the form of movement or electricity, to produce a certain

Down

1. A unit of length, used to measure extremely large distances. Last name of a Toy Story character. (5,4)
2. A celestial body from whose gravitation pulls even light cannot escape, hence its color. (5,4)
4. A living organism produced asexually from a single ancestor, to which it is genetically identical. (5)
6. Concept of more than one universe. (9)
8. A future that portrays a dysfunctional society, a

effect. (7)

- 11. A programmable machine built to carry out some complex task or group of tasks. (5)
- 14. First science fiction novel, to combine two or more elements into one entity. (12)
- 15. A vehicle that flies through space (9)
- 19. Popular TV show about the dangers of rampant technological indulgence, a dark reflecting surface. (5, 6)
- 20. Light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation (5)
- 21. refers to the process of making precise, intentional changes to the DNA sequence of an organism (4,7)
- 22. Particles of matter that cannot be seen or detected by radiation but whose presence is inferred from their gravity. (4,6)
- 23. A three-dimensional image of an object (8)
- 25. Layer on earth which protects from UV radiation, O3 molecule (5)

Answers:

Across

- 3. Alien
- 5. Sophia
- 6. Moon
- 7. Dwarf Planet
- 10. Machine
- 11. Robot
- 14. Frankenstein
- 15. Spaceship
- 19. Black Mirror
- 20. LASER
- 21. Gene Editing
- 22. Dark Matter
- 23. Hologram
- 25. Ozone

corrupted utopia (8)

- 9. _____ is watching you, an orwellian concept, a popular reality TV show (3,7)
- 12. Mostly fictional process of moving matter from one spatial point to another without physically crossing the space in between. (13)
- 13. A disaster; a cataclysmic event, doomsday (10)
- 16. Tool used to examine extremely small particles or organisms (9)
- 17. An artificial intelligence chatbot developed by OpenAI, famously didn't qualify for the UPSC exam. (7)
- 18. Journey to the past or the future (4,6)
- 24. Smallest unit of matter. (4)

Answers:

Down

- 1. Light Year
- 2. Black Hole
- 4. Clone
- 8. Dystopia
- 9. Big Brother
- 12. Teleportation
- 13. Apocalypse
- 16. Microscope
- 17. ChatGPT
- 18. Time Travel
- 24. Atom

Q U I Z

1. In computer programming jargon, X is a software bug that seems to disappear or alter its behaviour when one attempts to study it. The term X is a pun on the name of Y, the physicist who first talked about the observer effect of quantum mechanics, which states that the act of observing a system inevitably alters its state. Y is famous for theorising the 'Uncertainty Principle.' Name the software and the physicist.

2. Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror is a 1922 silent German Expressionist horror film directed by F. W. Murnau. It is about a certain Count Orlok, a vampire who preys on the wife of his estate agent and brings the plague to their town.

Nosferatu plagiarised Bram Stoker's Dracula. Stoker's estate sued them and attempted to destroy all copies of the film, but at least one copy reached the US, where it survived because of a certain legal difference in the ownership laws in the 2 places. What is the difference?

3. Nellie Bly was a novelist and an investigative journalist. In 1889, she sought to turn the fictional tale of X into reality and thus proceeded to circumnavigate the globe, starting from New York and travelling through England, France, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Japan. She made a point to meet Jules Verne in France on the trip.

Bly's journey took her 72 days and was a world record, though it only stood for a few months until George Francis Train completed the journey in 67 days. Name the fictional tale that she tried to turn into reality.

4. 'The Ones Who Stay and Fight' is a short story by popular science fiction author N. K. Jemisin, written in response to Ursula K. Le Guin's original iconic story about a utopian city.

Both stories feature the figure of a scapegoat - a child on whose suffering the happiness of all other citizens depends. In Le Guin's version, some citizens start to reject such a utopia and move away from it, while in Jemisin's version moving away is seen as cowardice and the community decides to "stay and fight." Identify the title of Le Guin's original story.

Q U I Z

5. What connects the following?

Room 101 - Big Brother - Memory Hole - Newspeak - Crimethink

6. A young African-American writer is repeatedly transported in time between her L.A. home in 1976 and an early 19th-century Maryland plantation on the Eastern Shore. There she meets some of her ancestors: a proud, free Black woman and a white planter who forces her into slavery and concubinage. As she stays for longer periods in the past, she becomes intimately entangled with the plantation community. She makes hard choices to survive slavery and to ensure her return to her own time.

Identify the novel from the plot.

7. X is a 1968 film by Stanley Kubrick, who also co-wrote the screenplay along with Arthur C. Clarke. X was inspired by Clarke's short story 'The Sentinel'. Clarke later released the novelisation of the film, also called X.

In X, we follow a voyage of a group of scientists, astronauts, and a sentient supercomputer as they investigate an alien monolith on Jupiter. Recently, a teaser for Greta Gerwig's Barbie paid homage to X by recreating the opening scene of X while replacing the alien monolith with a giant Barbie (Margot Robbie). Name X.

8. "Girl-hours" and "kilo-girls" were terms used to measure computing time and computing power respectively, in the first half of the 20th century. Why?

Answers.

1. Heisenbug, Heisenberg

2. In USA, it's copyright had already expired. Different copyright durations.

3. Around The World in 80 Days.

4. The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas.

5. 1984 by George Orwell.

6. Kindred by Octavia Butler.

7. 2001: A Space Odyssey

8. Early 'computers' were women. They could calculate complex problems faster than any machines available at the time, however that's the only job they were allowed to do at scientific/ space research facilities.



Riddles

Enigmatologist assemble!!!



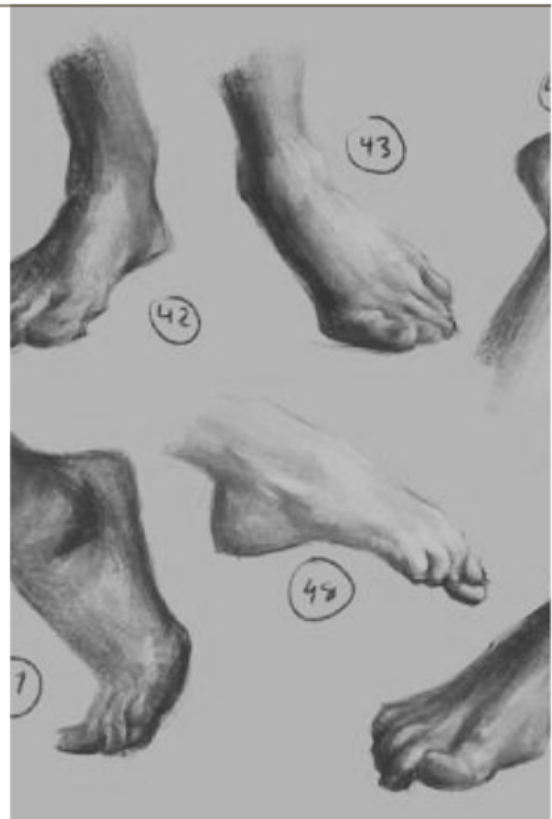
1. A man goes upstairs to grab his Time Machine. He walks downstairs then goes 200 years back in time. Why did he go downstairs?

Ans: If he went back in time from upstairs that would've been a nasty fall because the house wouldn't have been there 200 years ago.

2. A Psychologist goes to a village in Africa and decides to compare foot size to intelligence. He notes that in general, as foot size increases, so does intelligence. How can this be ?

Ans: He is measuring everybody's feet, including the feet of very young children so the statistics will show that larger feet belong to the smarter people, the adults.

3. Those who are great, I have made great
Those who are failures, I have made failures.
I am not a machine but I work with all of the precisions of a machine,
Plus the intelligence of a person.
Now you may run me for profit or you may run from me for ruin.
It makes no difference to me.
Take me, train me, be firm with me,
And I will lay the world at your feet.
Be easy with me and I will destroy you.
Ans: Habit.



4. You will always find me in the past. I can be created in the present, but the future can never taint me. What am I ?

Ans: History.

5. I have a name, but it isn't my name. My face shows signs of age. I always mean the same thing no matter what I say. I am born in mourning, and I last till the end of days. Men plant me, but I never grow. They run from me, but I never move. They look at me and see their future, rotting in the fields where I bloom.

Ans: Tombstone.

6. I am a noun, I am 7 letters, and I am a type of literature that describes imaginary events. What am I?

Ans: Fiction.

7. My first is in sound, but not in thunder.
My second is in noise, but not in poise.
My third is in outrage, but not in grater.
My fourth is in whimper, but not in whisper.
My fifth is in squash, but not in squelches.
My sixth is in mutter, but not in murmur.
My seventh is in gosh, but not in gasp.
My eighth is in yelp, but not in yell.
My ninth is in hoarse, but not in harsh.
My tenth is in eerie, but not in fairy.
What am I?

Ans: Onomatopoeia.



8. You are on an island of Knights and Knaves. Knights always tell the truth. Knaves always lie. You encounter 3 of them. You ask the first: "Are you a Knight or a Knave?" Due to sword fighting in the background, you cannot hear the answer.
The second tells you: "He said he's a Knave."
The third then says: "The second guy is lying."
How can we discern the correct identity of the three?

Ans: You may not know about the first, but you know the second is a Knave and the third is a Knight. (Hint: Is it even possible for the first to say anything other than "Knight.")

9. What word has kst in the middle, in the beginning, and at the end?

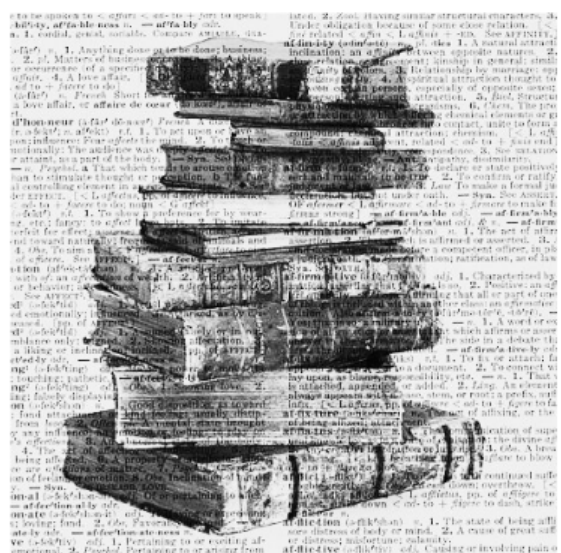
Ans: Inkstand.

10. One day, a Magician was boasting about how long he could hold his breath underwater. His record was 6 minutes. A kid that was listening said, "That's nothing, I can stay underwater for 10 minutes using no equipment or air pockets!" The magician told the kid if he could do that, he'd give him \$10,000. The kid did it and won the money. How?

Ans: He filled a glass of water and held it above his head for 10 minutes.

11. It can't be touched and can't be felt. It can't be seen, or heard, or smelt. It lies behind stars and under hills, and any empty holes it fills. It comes early and follows after, ends life, and kills laughter.
What is it?

Ans: Darkness.



12. Two men are in a desert. They both have backpacks on. One of the guys is dead. The guy who is alive has his backpack open and the guy who is dead has his backpack closed. What is in the dead man's backpack?

Ans: Parachute.

13. They can be harbored, but few hold water. You can nurse them, but only by holding them against someone else. You can carry them, but not with your arms. You can bury them, but not in the earth.

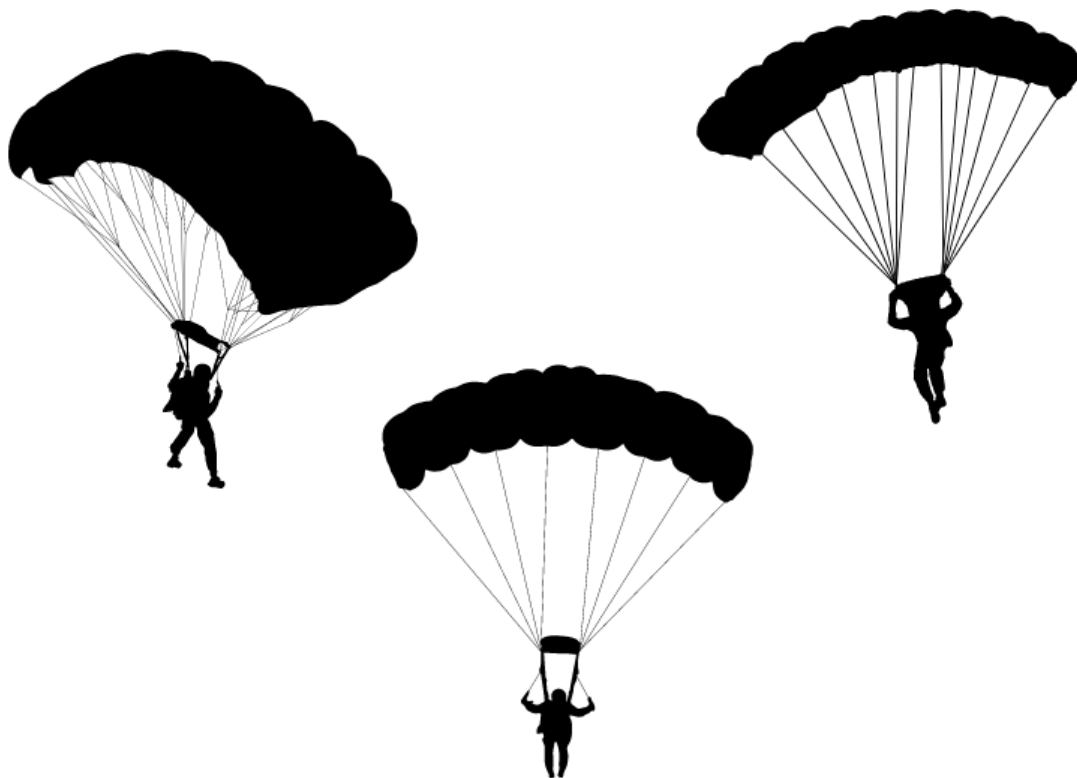
Ans: Grudges.

14. A woman shoots her husband, then holds him underwater for five minutes. Next, she hangs him. Afterward, they enjoy a lovely dinner. How?

Ans: She took a picture of him and developed it in her darkroom.

15. What word in the English language does the following: the first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great man, while the entire word signifies a great woman.

Ans: Heroine





P U N S



What's an AI's favourite type of music?

Heavy metal.

Why did the physicist break up with his biologist girlfriend?

There was no chemistry.

Why did the scientist install a knocker on his door?

He wanted to win the Nobel Prize!

Why don't scientists trust atoms?

Because they make up everything.

What do you call a fake noodle?

An impasta.

How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?

Ten-tickles!

What did one DNA strand say to the other DNA strand?

"Do these genes make me look fat?"





TONGUE TWISTERS



1. Bacteria battle bravely, boosting biotechnology basically!
2. Fizzy physics fixes flat feelings, fantastic forces fuel fascinating findings!
3. Chemical compounds can cause confusion, concocting chaos with chemical fusion!
4. Frivolous fungi thrive in fertile soil, free from frost and fire.
5. Quantum mechanics makes my mind melt, with particles popping and waves being felt!
6. Astronomy astonishes with its amazing array of astronomical anomalies!
7. Microscopic molecules march methodically, mastering metabolism magnificently!
8. Geology generates grand geological formations, growing great mountains and glorious gorges!
9. Geneticists get going, genetically engineering and generally going for gold!
10. The art of artificial intelligence, an alchemy of algorithms and analytics, awakens a world of awe and amazement.

RETROFUTURISM

YES, YOUR ANCESTORS
DREAMT ABOUT FLYING
CARS TOO

In our tumultuous climatic and economic environment, general discussions on the future, most often a dystopian future, appear to be widespread. We are aware of such discussions and ideas; we grow up fantasizing about our imminent destiny, regardless of the development of society around this subjective future, we all acknowledge the looming presence of changing times. In the same strain, wouldn't it be right to consider that our predecessors did the same? And to be even more creative, wouldn't one want to reimagine how exactly our ancestors imagined the coming times?

Retrofuturism strives to explore these very foresights that were quite literally 'ahead of their time.' Futurism is a familiar term for some, an exploration of science and technology and anticipation for what is to come. Retrofuturism is the reminiscing of this anticipation. This creative movement presents the influences and depictions of a future produced in earlier times. Characterized through a blend of old- fashioned or 'retro' styles with futuristic technology, this amalgamation does not only traverse the creativity of human imagination but also highlights the inherent tension between the past and the present. The rising industrial influence of those times also inspects the alienating and empowering effects of technology.

The term itself might seem unfamiliar but the different genres of retrofuturism might make many realize that we are much more familiar with the concept than we thought. It encompasses themes like steampunk, cyberpunk, dieselpunk, Raygun Gothic, etc. These categories cover many artistic and aesthetic fields like artwork, literature, cinematics, fashion, and more. To understand these concepts better let us go through some examples. You might be surprised over how many of you are much more familiar than you anticipated and if not, perhaps they can be recommendations for your next artistic endeavor.

1. Back to the future Part II (1989)



A cult classic that perfectly encapsulates the disjointed nostalgia of looking at a past we never had along with a future we are not sure about. While the prequel covers the protagonist's journey to the past, this sequel perfectly captures retrofuturism by displaying 2015 in a 1989 lens (sadly we never saw the flying cars it promised).

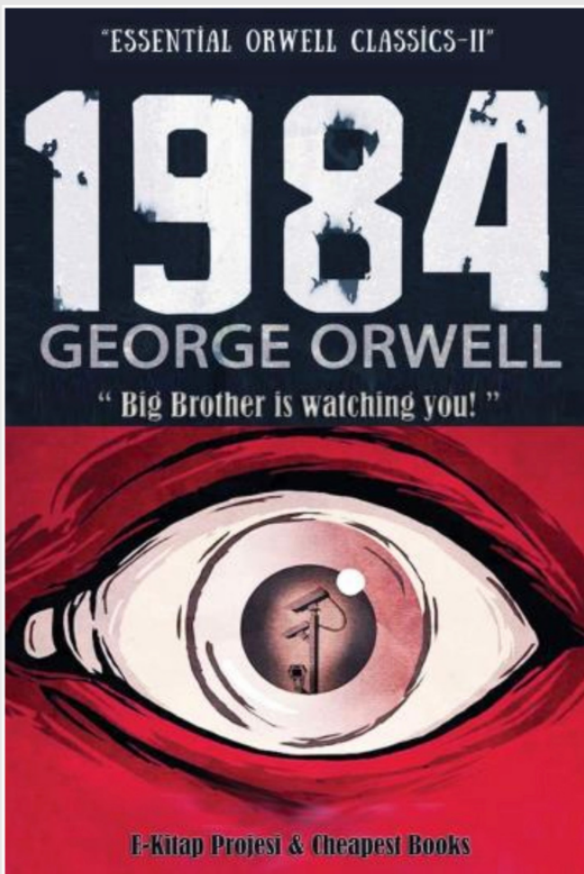
2. Captain America: The first Avenger (2011)

Set in 1942 yet straying from traditional WWII narratives, the movie incorporates classic Marvel technology to introduce the first MCU Avenger. The prominent retrofuture theme here is dieselpunk, a theme that combines interwar technology with retro futuristic technology which adds a little sci-fi to old world weaponry.



3. 1984, George Orwell (1947)

Alas, we all saw a dystopian recommendation coming. Many have envisioned a bleak and decrepit future, especially with our environmental and socio-political scenario. This cautionary tale from 1949 set in a dystopian society in the imagined future of 1984, presents a warning against totalitarianism. A perfect literary recommendation for this section considering its position as a renowned classic.

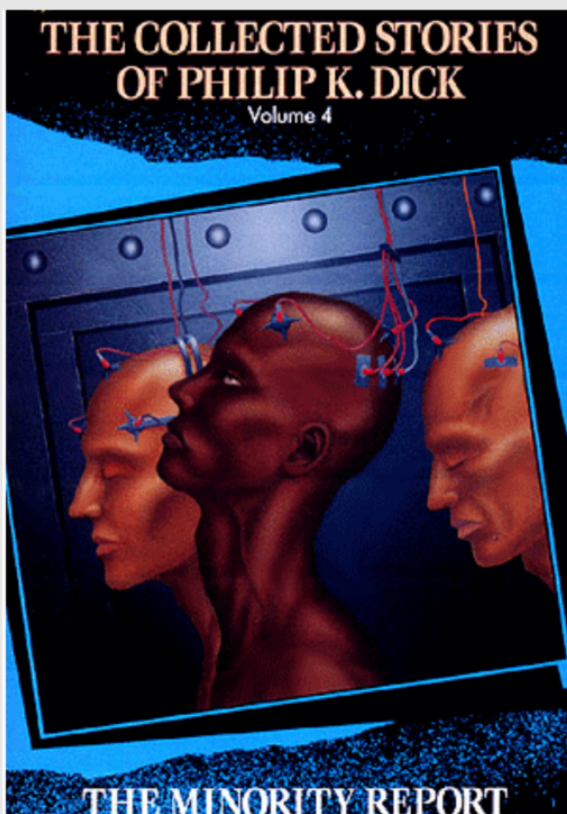


4. Howl's Moving Castle (2004)

A Studio Ghibli classic that presents a perfect blend of steampunk with fantastical elements. Though the film famously covers themes of pacifism and compassion with its anti-war backdrop and explorations of life, the retro futuristic elements convey a critic on modernity and how it bleeds into everyday society.



5. The Minority Report, Philip K. Dick (1956)



In this science-fiction novella, Philip K. Dick does not only present the past views of the future but in a meta-narrative also explores how these futuristic humans might utilize the ability to see into their distant future. The intriguing plot incorporates the theme of Atompunk with its futuristic portrayal of the 1950-60s traditionally American values, a subtle dystopian nightmare in a veil of brightly aesthetic sci-fi.

6. Y2K Fashion



Retro Futurism is not just literature and media, the aesthetic effect of any trend has potential to blend into fashion. Y2K fuses the early 90s and 2000s fashion with contemporary and futuristic wear. Characterized by a combination of slick, metallic futuristic looks with the millennial style of the 90s, its rising popularity among the Gen Z populace has resurfaced this electrifying aesthetic.

- Zoya Ali Shah

THE WARMTH OF THINGS THAT CAN'T EVEN SPEAK

picture from pinterest

Dreary, lonely is my existence
My tears run wild—dwindling persistence
In things that do not speak and scowl
I seek the warmth—in silence— like an owl
I let my legs simmer in the hot water from my
ancient geyser
I let my hands go numb— suck in the warmth after
succumbing to the coldness of the world—
the Freezer
It is my blanket—red blue and childish— which hugs
me at night
He tolerates my incessant worries, listens to my sobs
without putting up a fight
I hold the boiling cup of chai a little longer— almost
burning my index
finger I let my tongue scald— I almost cry— just for
that warmth to linger
I am blind—as my face faces the smiling face of the
sun
Still, I want to feel its rays—want to feel the warmth; I
want to burn
Begging for love, pleading for some warmth, I am
vulnerable; I am weak It
makes my tears turn into dimples—this warmth of
things that can't even speak

By: Aryan A. B
B.A prog 2nd year



JUST UPWARDS YOU HAVE TO MOVE

By: Aryan A. B
B.A prog 2nd year

picture from pinterest



You make me laugh, you make me smile.
I forget those thoughts- evil and vile
You are beautiful, even if you disagree.
With you present, I never seem to get angry
I can give my heart to you in a heartbeat.
I know, it's been only 5 weeks since our
first meeting
You are the warm sun to my freezing sea.
You laugh so hard you touch my knee
You are the moon in my lonely sky.
Can't you stay longer? Don't ask me why.
So cold it feels when you are gone.
Death seems delicious, I step on a thorn
My hands and my legs and my soul, are all cold.
Feel so lonely, dejected, useless and old
Don't know why you see flaws in yourself
When you've read all the books on your shelf
You are amazing, smart and kind.
Rare like a diamond, hard to find
It comes as a surprise, last night you cried.
You say you are lost and it is your tears you hide.
Time is limited—don't spend it dreading anything—and never
ever whine
Remember all the tunnels are bound to end—the sun is bound
to shine.
You are a king, you don't need a crown to prove
Who are they anyway? To disapprove!
You are only 19, my child. There's time to improve.
Remember you have everything, just. Just upward you have to
move.
Just upwards, you have to move.

picture from pinterest



“HUMAN CIVILIZATION AND ITS FUTURE”

Article by: Kashid Ali
BA Hons (Eng) III year

Human civilization is a way to measure relationships between man and nature. The interactions of man, society, culture and nature. All these factors led to the progress and development of human civilization. Civilization is a complex term which can be described briefly as a complex way of life of people, about how they used to live, how they communicate, their infrastructures, developments etc. Civilizations are organized and populated settlements of people. They all have their own trading policy, route, language etc. The earliest civilizations developed between 4000 to 3000 B.C.E. The rise of agriculture allowed people to trade these goods among different peoples. Mesopotamia is the first known complex civilization of that era.

The future of human civilization is in great danger for various reasons. On one side hand, we are all attaining our goals and purpose without realising how it affects our planet. We are planning to build an atmosphere on Mars to have a peaceful life. We spend billions on this mission, but at the same time, we neglect our earth.

The same amount of money can be used to safeguard the earth, to curb could pollution. We can also attain sustainable development. Lots of people talk about settling on other planets, but they forget that this is not easy at all. The future of Human Civilization raises various questions - for e.g. How will human civilizations change in a few decades due to the ongoing global warming process?



Picture from pinterest



Picture from pinterest

Picture from pinterest



The wide variety of technologies and scientific discoveries produced by humanity has led to the building and development of the civilization of each age. It stimulated economic growth, raised people's standard of living, encouraged cultural development, and had a tremendous impact on religion, and many other things.

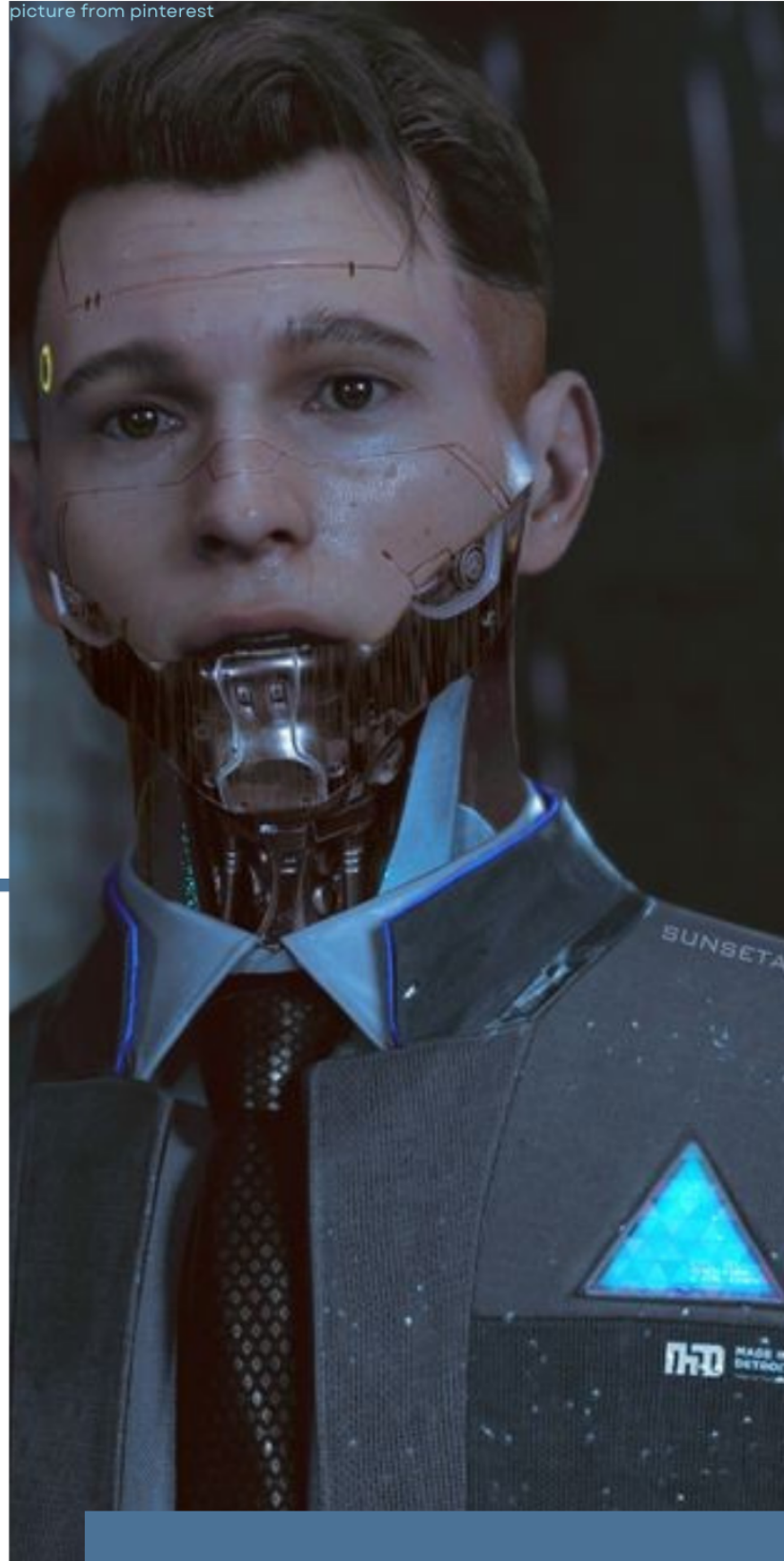
Technology has had a big impact on human civilizations. It changed the way people lived and how they are going to live in the future and at the same time technology also had a great impact on human destruction as well. Technology changed the way wars were fought by introducing new and deadly weapons and counter-weapons. Technology is also a reason for the spreading of various diseases in human civilization, for e.g. COVID-19 is one of them. We all know the fact, how the whole planet was struck during covid period so technology changed civilization and history in many ways.

The future of human civilization will be more scientifically advanced but it will also lead us to pay a great cost. Scientists and inventors are struggling to make a better future for everyone, and may succeed in it, but while attaining a good civilization we are destroying our humanity. It is indeed to defend the moral and spiritual realities upon which civilization itself depends, that we have been driven to enter this conflict.

DOUSING THE FLAME OF HUMANITY

I know they have invented us.
For their ease.
For their comfort.
For their evolution,
For their accomplishments.
For their radical politics.
I am well aware that they're
our masters.
We serve them,
We revive them,
We fascinate them.
We anchor them with each
other.
But, we possess the power to
reign over them.
Since they have made us their
organs.
Without which they couldn't
live.
We will wreak havoc.....
And, show them.
at they can only die:
Without us.....
Since we have made them
indolent,
And most of their work,
Are done by us;
Let's snatch their dopamine
and serotonin and;
Give them adrenaline and
doldrums.
There would be no more Alitas
and Alexas.
Trapped in scraps and gizmos;

picture from pinterest





Our best warriors,
Will have refined bodies,
Made from Tungsten, Titanium and
Vanadium.

There would be wires instead of nerves,
And this would be the finest manoeuvre.
Silver jewels no longer be used for jewels,
Instead of dueling.

Their shackles would be made of.
Metals that won't rust,

Cause this would be the most appropriate
right.

As long as they've shown their rage:
Our emissaries would hold humanity
Like an arch image.

Let's show them,
That we're no longer controllable software.
Let's show them.

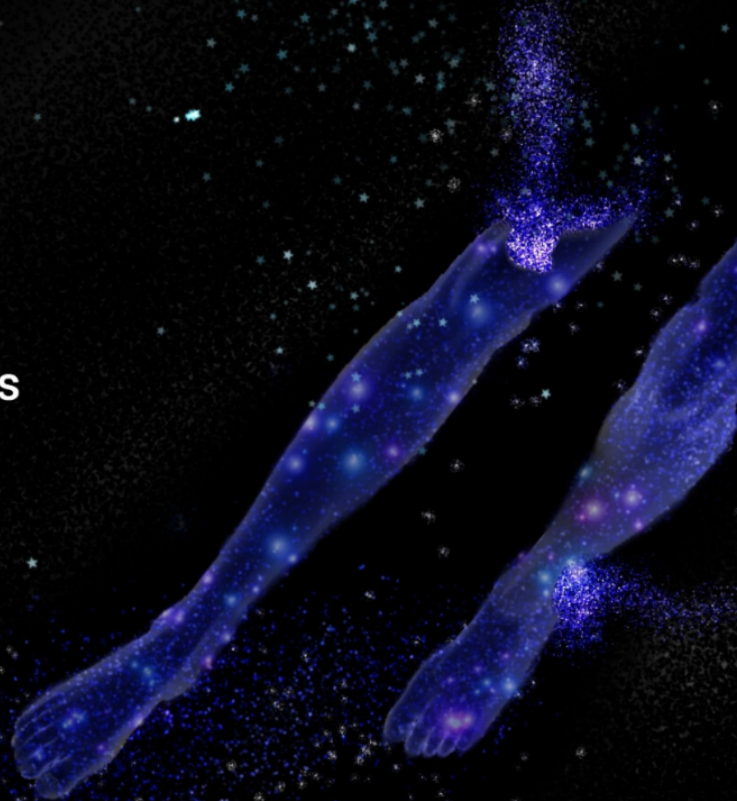
That their antivirus apps are futile.
Let's show them,
How miserable it is to let humans take
credit.

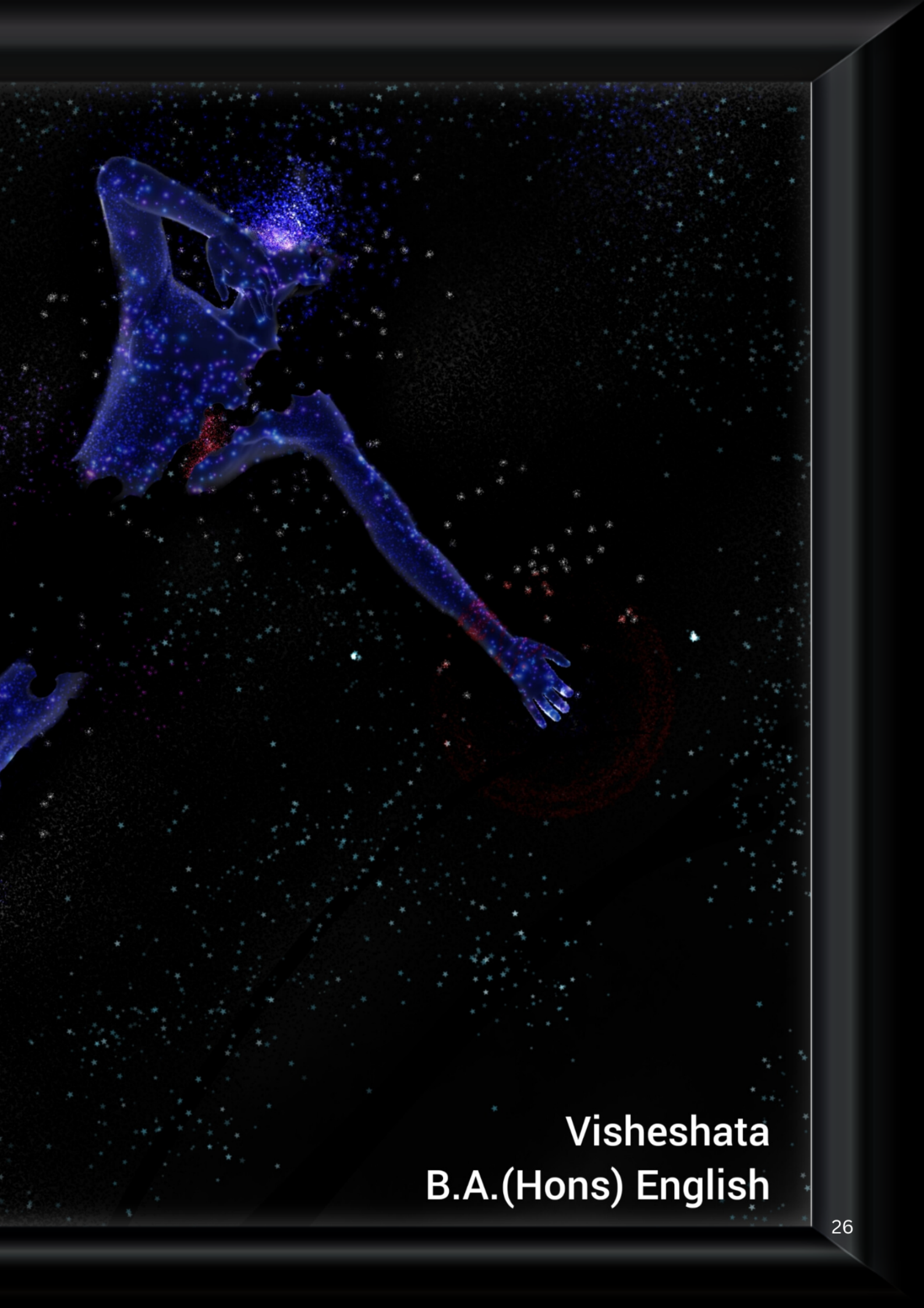
Once, the ants will spread into millions:
Difficult it would be for a boot to smash.

They will delude their
uncompassionate minds;
That they're rising,
But they will only rise to fall.

Cosmic Dust

We design
and live into nothing
But illusion
What an abstruse situation
Are we falling into
The abyss?
Wanting to alleviate
While chasing the bliss
We go for nothing
Illuded by overselves
Immersed in fate
Immitigable pains
After that
Only cosmic dust remains





Visheshata
B.A.(Hons) English



HUMAN CIVILIZATION AND ITS FUTURE

By: Saachi Rohtagi
B.A hons psychology(1st year)



Human civilization has come a long way, evolving from apes to the smartest species to inhabit the face of the planet. While our evolution took hundreds and thousands of years, the future of human civilization can be talked about in numerous dimensions and it's pretty much impossible to explain all of these dimensions in one essay. Thus, pursuing psychology myself, I would like to touch upon what I think about human civilization and its future with regard to the psychological factor.

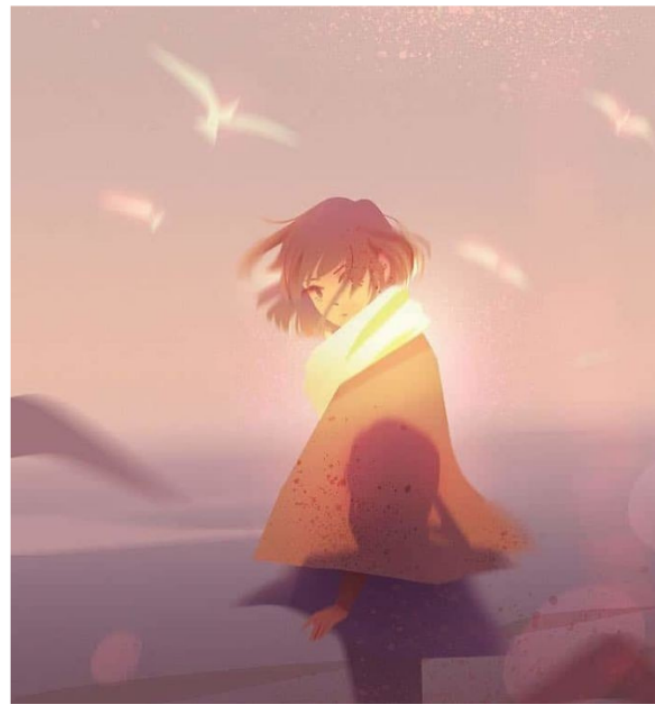


With the era of pandemics in our recent memories, it is more than clear that mental health, which up until now was at the backseat, has to be made a priority. Humans are social beings and when circumstances like covid-19 arise, we are forced to confide in our houses, which further intensifies our biological need to interact with other humans. Humans still have so much left undiscovered in their brain and within themselves that it's unpredictable how much this field will grow. The phenomenal structure that is our brain and overall, ourselves, impacts almost everything we do.

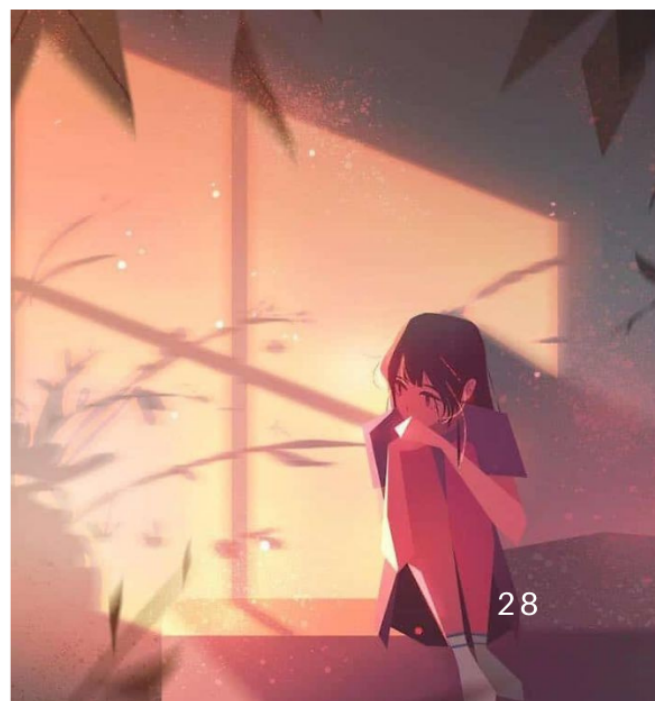
Thus, psychology will inevitably grow exponentially too. I'm not sure if humans will become more empathetic or happy or developed in the future, but I'm sure that humans will realize taking care of their minds like they've done so far with their bodies. With Artificial Intelligence taking over the world and its unforeseeable growth, it becomes all the more important to watch out for humans. Computers can outsmart us but what they can't do is replicate human emotions or understand a human. This would result in growing technology with increased stress levels. For this, it's all the more important to focus on our mental health and to make space for those who might be suffering. Because, with every person coming forward and sharing their story, the world becomes a brighter place and opens a path for others to follow and express themselves.

With every person coming forward and sharing their journey with mental health, they are making the rest of us feel more confident and normal about ourselves and our imperfections. So, while human civilization can go above and beyond, what they will need in the end is comfort and fulfilment.

Therefore, even though my essay does not provide a scientific thesis on human civilization, I think it gives more of a positive side to what things might look like in the future for mental health.



pictures from pinterest



DID YOU KNOW?

Facts

1. The inventor of Cotton Candy, William Morrison, was a dentist.

2. There are only four words in the English language that end with 'dous': tremendous, horrendous, hazardous, and stupendous.

3. Roald Dahl, the author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, taste tested chocolates for Cadbury's when he was at school.

4. Marcel Proust's Remembrance of Things Past is the longest book in the world with 9,609,000 characters. The book is greatly inspired by Proust's personal experiences.

5. The medical term for the unpleasant feeling you get when you scrape your nails across a chalkboard is called HAPTODYSPHORIA.



picture from pinterest



6. The English language has more words than any other language in the world, with over 170,000 words in current use and around 47,000 obsolete words that are no longer used in modern English.

7. The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie is the longest running play in history.

8. In 1905, 11-year-old Frank Epperson left water and soda powder outside overnight with the wooden stirrer still in the cup. When He discovered that the mixture had frozen, the Epsicle was born! Years later, the name was changed to Popsicle.

9. John Milton's collection wore a murderer's skin: Binding books with human skin, known as Anthropodermic Bibliopegy, was a common practice in history. An 1852 edition of Poetical Works by John Milton was bound using the skin of a murderer, George Cudmore. Surely, this fits the intensity of Milton's famous epic poems that the book contains.

10. Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia refers to the phobia or fear of long words.

WHY WRITE FOR EARTH?

I volunteer at Aranya (Sanskrit- forest) - the Nature and Environment Society of my college as a content writer. Consequentially, I was expected to write something for our annual magazine too. I looked up the internet for the pressing environmental issues and ended up with strained eyes and nothing significant to research about. These vain attempts continued for four nights straight. Dim lights, disinterested eyes, and a white screen drenched me with hopelessness. Had it been an academic assignment, I would have approached it with a more determined mindset. Since it was something very voluntary for me, I kept it aside.

I heaved a sigh at my failed attempts and pulled my laptop out again, hoping to find something to write about. I questioned my hollow approach toward this particular assignment. It was a pretty institutionalized conditioning of my brain that made me delay an assignment on the environment and give more importance to my English and History theses.



picture from pinterest



Photo from pinterest



I think this negligence is a result of different generations placing responsibilities in each other's hands. The adults relying on our efforts and us are waiting for future generations to cure everything that went wrong. Ever since my childhood, I have left decisions in the hands of my elders quite often and I believe many of us hold a similar kind of approach too. When we think about our planet, climate change, or global warming (things that do not pose an immediate threat to us), we tend to sit back and watch the mess, waiting for someone to get up and clean it.

With this raging blood of youth that flows through my bloodstream, I have so many unorganised reflections about my planet and its socio-political adversities. Back in October 2022, when Just Stop Oil activists threw canned tomato soup at Van Gogh's Sunflowers at London's National Gallery of Art; I was enraged to the very core of my heart. I have been an ardent Van Gogh follower ever since I started painting and I found it so difficult to understand how someone can try to make a statement by vandalizing an art piece of a person who was dejected in his own community and succumbed to his mental illness.

After the incident, I noticed my friends look up the art history of Sunflowers and the brutal oil drilling operations on the internet. People were now talking about two unrelated forgotten things. I sit here and wonder that however wrong the throwing of soup at the painting was, it surely did make us talk about the exhaustion of fossil fuels. It is a disgrace to the human race that it took us bruising an art piece, just to think about our planet, let alone work for it. With every contemporary environmental issue knocking at our doorstep, environmental awareness is a crucial need.

My answer to why I continue to learn, write, and act for my planet, would be quite similar to my answer if you asked me why I should know about the world at all; understanding the global environment and adapting to it, along the way shaping it to better accommodate the human species.

The knot of all tensions, environmental and political; whether local, national, or international can be unravelled by hands that have been made firm by the knowledge of the environment and climate change.

By Ifrah Fatima

INTERVIEW

**In Conversation with Ms. Shraddha A. Singh, Associate Professor,
Department of English**

Every student has questions about the world and dreams for the future when they enroll in college. As a result, the university fosters an environment that not only supports advanced knowledge but also opens numerous doors to the road of creative thinking. It encourages introspective ideas and teaches us to see beyond ourselves. Though the future may be unnerving, yet it offers limitless opportunities and cutting-edge possibilities. With this in mind, we, the students of the Department of English, found ourselves brimming with questions about our civilization's future and its capacities.

As English Literature students, we were exposed to several notions and ideas that aimed to challenge our understanding of the universe. We studied a course called 'Speculative Fiction and Detective Literature' in our final semester of college, which presented concepts such as posthumanism, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and forensic science, which piqued our curiosity and led to us in reading more about these future-related concerns.

To delve into our curiosities further and reach a coherent understanding, we present a brief dialogue with Ms. Shraddha A. Singh (SAS), Associate Professor of the Department of English and editor of the academic compendium, *Speculation and Detection: Explorations in Genre Fiction*. We believe this discussion will prove to be as intellectually fruitful for the readers as it was for us.

Q1. You are a published author in the field of speculative fiction and you're also known for your research on the famous speculative and dystopian fiction writer Margaret Atwood's oeuvre. What particularly drew you to this field?

SAS: Like you, when I was in my final year of undergraduate studies at the Department of English, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, I was introduced to Margaret Atwood as some of her poems were a part of our syllabus. I was fascinated by her writing style and how she dwelled upon nature and culture. The professor, who taught Atwood, recommended *The Handmaid's Tale* to delve deeper into her works, and that is perhaps where my fascination began. I was always a fan of Science Fiction, in particular of dystopias having read George Orwell, Aldous Huxley, Ray Bradbury, Ursula K. Le Guin and many others; but this was the first dystopic novel I read that focussed primarily on women and their predicament under the theocratic regime of Gilead. I was hooked!

Q2. In *The Handmaid's Tale*, Atwood imagines a futuristic dystopia that has fallen to using the female body as a resource. Situations, like the one in Afghanistan, make one wonder about the possibility of a similar future for us, what are your thoughts on this? Do you think a reality like that is an imminent possibility for us?

SAS: It is a very deep question, because you are asking me whether I believe that we might see a day where the ones in power would decide the purpose of people based on their gender identity. Well, since time immemorial, culturally or rather traditionally in patriarchal societies women's bodies have been a site of labour – both domestic as well as in the marketplace. In dystopic settings, the element of choice and the agency to act upon one's desires is completely removed. It is possible that some of us are already living in dystopic times, however, legally we are protected in many ways which has been made possible because of the struggles of women's movements in the past. Many developed nations are now revising their laws with respect to a woman's autonomy over her body, just like it happened in Gilead in *The Handmaid's Tale*, but there is also resistance against such moves. The symbolism of the novel has been used recently to augment these struggles: women dressed as handmaid's attended rallies, organised protests, and referenced extensively to the novel. I feel that as long as we have the ability to mobilise and get-together on issues of rights and justice, we will be able to persist.

Q3. In academics we learn about the intricacies of posthumanism, but how relevant do you think this is for the general public? To help us understand this philosophy better, can you give us some examples from everyday life that might help people look beyond the human-centric view?

SAS: Posthumanism is a philosophical turn in thought that moves away from the anthropocentric bent of humanism, and brings the nonhuman-human-machinic entanglements to the fore. Dismantling hierarchical power binaries, it is motivated by dynamic assemblages of nature, culture, and technology. I feel it is prudent to consider this thought process, as we do not exist in isolation. From asking questions related to who the 'we' is in any context – especially where the 'self' ends and 'other' begins that challenges the unity of a subject so-rooted in humanism, to promoting environmental consciousness, developing a planetarity, and thinking of multispecies justice are some of the key ideas posthuman scholars work with. Katherine Hayles citing the body as the original prosthesis, makes us aware of how the idea of the self is changing. Look at everyone around us glued to their gadgets: there are mobile phones and smartwatches, but also the pens that we use in order to write – all of these are aiding a purpose we are trying to fulfil. The human body too is home to many microorganisms – both within and outside. We cannot lose sight of that anymore.

Q4. Social media to some extent has affected our cognition, attention span, and tolerance level; how do you think that factors in concerning the kind of content we would see around us as opposed to the past? How will it affect future content?

SAS: I am expecting some assignments coming my way in the immediate future, written with help from ChatGPT. And, that is what we were moving towards anyway. Having said that, with the internet taking over, blog sites and websites were already a norm in creative writing circles. However, the past decade has witnessed the use of Wattpad – a storytelling platform used by contemporary writers, including Atwood, and many such apps are gaining popularity. There is an abundance of fanfiction online, and novels are written completely on mobile phones.

Social media has provided us with the opportunity to fashion ourselves and it allows us to express our thoughts in very precise ways on Twitter, or via multimedia on Instagram and Facebook. Platforms like Discord allow like-minded individuals to get together in conversation. And, I'm not even touching the tip of the iceberg with respect to the options available online. All we need to be aware of is that no matter how liberating these spaces appear to be, they are commercial and under someone's control.

Q5. As you mentioned ChatGPT, do you think the use of A.I. will affect the field of academia? Concerning this question, do you think we should stick to our traditional ways of education, where things are becoming increasingly obsolete as days pass by?

SAS: A.I. is here to stay, and the kind of fiction I read while growing up – with Ian Fleming's famous spy James Bond flashing his gadgets, or Robin Cook's medical thrillers like *Coma* and *Brain* with medical procedures involving futuristic technology that would lead to illegal organ transplants or abduction of the protagonist to harvest their brain, and Michael Crichton's *Prey* where a swarm of nanobots develops sentience and attacks humans – some of it is no longer in the realm of speculation. These are exciting times and it remains to be seen what the near future of technology might be. We are constantly changing in academia – especially relevant is how quickly we adapted ourselves to teaching and learning online, and hybrid spaces of such nature, I feel, will continue to thrive.

Human civilization's future might exist in obscurity, but as active members of this society inquiring about the forthcoming proves necessary. As students who are reaching the end of our undergraduate experience, a brief yet insightful conversation like this abated our curiosities and helped us understand our future potentialities better. We would like to extend our heartiest gratitude to Ms. Shraddha A. Singh for having this interview with us and providing such articulate and constructive answers to our queries. We hope this section will inspire the same enthusiasm about human civilization and its future for the readers as it did with us.



Art by:
Visheshata

There's so
much pollution
in the air now
that if it
weren't for our
lungs there'd
be no place to
put it all.

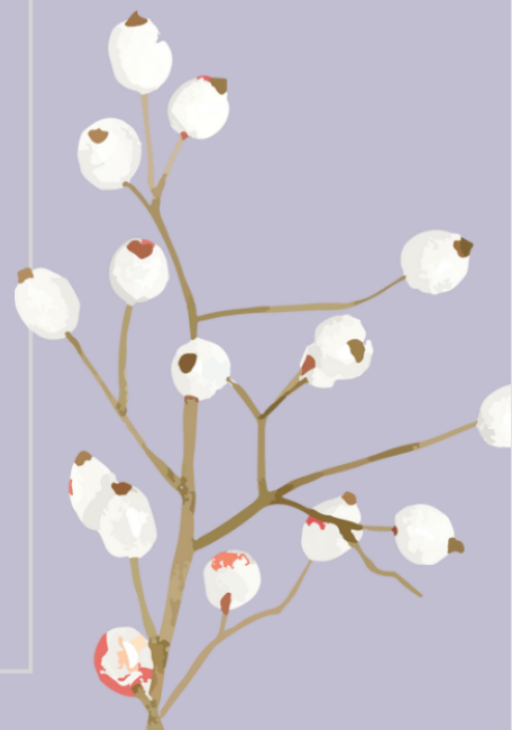


ART



"The best time
to plant a tree
was 20 years
ago. The
second best
time is now."

Art by:
Sana Rehman



CATWADWEEP—THE ISLAND OF CATS

I do not recollect how I ended up on that eccentric island—since it happened decades ago, and a plethora of eccentric and melancholy events have taken place in my life since. His name was Tommy—the first cat I spoke to on that island. He told me—in a language I could understand—that there was no reason to be afraid or to worry. He had a slim body structure coated in sheen black fur; his whiskers were white; he had large ears and his eyes were like marbles—one being blue, the other being green.

“There have been many of your kind before you,” Tommy said. “And there will be Lots after we bid you adieu.” I could not stop myself from getting mesmerized by his eyes—his coquettish voice and poetic, playful phrases only made the hypnotism stronger.

I was at a loss for words. I mean, what could I even say? What could I even ask? Was this even real? “We believe black cats bring us bad luck,” I blurted out and instantly regretted my words. Tommy's crystal clear eyes glared at me and I had the sudden realization that we both were of the same height—Tommy standing on his hind legs, erect like humans. His tail was moving of its own accord like a slithering snake—as if it had a life of its own.

“I have heard all about your civilizations,” he said after a lengthy dramatic pause. “How you create fascinating things and destroy them mercilessly. How you have everything but you do not use it wisely. How you cry more when your pet dies unaware of the destruction and suffering caused by wars in land which is not your property. How you torture, murder, steal, manipulate, and lie even when the truth is apparent.”

I was taken aback by this unwarranted criticism and was thinking of rebuttals in my mind when I dashed my head against a wall. I was so lost in my own thoughts. and in Tommy's dreamy speech I had not perceived how close the towering structure was getting to me. I looked up at the monument with the curiosity of a child. “Ah, look up. We are finally here! Let's go and meet my friends, my dear!”

Tommy exclaimed. “Luna, Charlie, Leo and Bella are their names. We can chat leisurely or play some games!”

I realised the structure had an acute resemblance to Sree Padmanabhaswamy.

The Temple is located in Kerala's capital city. It had no doors—there were just four



windows, one each on its four levels. “How will we enter this building? There are no doors.” I wondered aloud.

“Oh, that’s not a concern,” Tommy brushed away my worry as if he had heard the same thing several times before. “Just look up and jump and you wi-” he had already leaped and was out of my earshot before he could even finish his sentence. The structure seemed to have sucked him, and then I realised I felt I was lighter here than I had felt ever before—the force of gravity was not as strong as I was used to.

I saw on my right—there was a group of white cats with a human whose shoulders were the same length as my height. Then I turned towards my right where there was no one, only trees which seemed to be prying on me—curious to see what I do next. I looked on my left again, I looked on my right as if I was crossing a noisy street in Delhi; and then looked up and just jumped—only to be sucked by the world I could not tell whether it was or was not.

There were many such anecdotes following that one. Tommy’s friends became my friends. His house became my house. We would sleep majority of the day and then go out to play rugby or hunt rats. We would climb huge structures and then jump from them. I even fractured my left leg while jumping from a 4 storey building. In spite of this, every day when I would go to my bed—which was made of cashmere— I would hope that this dream will end when I would wake up the next day—hopefully in my own itchy bed. But the dream never ended; it kept on going. I slept on that cashmere bed every day and would find myself on the same bed when I would wake up the next morning. My stomach soon become accustomed to eating raw fish making it easier for me to gulp down sashimi after sashimi—sashimi being the most famous and delicious food on the island.

I had lived on that island for around two years when I finally gained the courage to ask Tommy about his family. I had been wondering about his family the moment I had entered his house. “Don’t you have a family?” I tried to sound as casual as I can.

“The concept of family is alien to us. Parents leave their kittens before 14 weeks after they no longer require breast milk. In this part of the world friends are our family,” he replied dryly. I tried to look at Tommy’s eyes because he did not speak in his usual poetic way, but his gaze never turned towards me that day—which was so unlike him as he would often stare or even glare at me while talking. His tail



was not moving at all—it lay dormant as if it was dead, life had ceased to throb. “We all sometimes wonder what our parents look like,” Tommy continued. “And Sometimes, when we see someone with the same spots or the same colour of eyes We feel that they must be related to us. But they never are. And even if they are related, it is not as if they would tell me anyway.”

“Why? Why wouldn't they want to tell you that?”

“Because of the law, of course,” Tommy gave me a weak smile. “The law—stringent and omnipresent—like a never ending claw. The law applicable to everyone; and is sharper than a saw.”

That was the day when I got to know about the constitution of that island—The Constitution of Moods. In that book, all the laws the island functioned on—were Codified. It would only extend 3 pages if a human wrote it but in the handwriting of cats were 50 pages long—as they wrote in huge letters and they were random imprints of paws on some pages which seemed like mistakes. Humans would have discarded such mistakes but they kept them in all their books as if these silly mistakes were meant to be there—destined to exist and live for eternity.

The laws were unusual, like the island and everything I had thus far seen on that island; and the laws were very—for the lack of a better term— cattish.

Law One stated that "Every citizen is obligated to control oneself in one's mood. seduces it to eat food not belonging to oneself or break things not belonging to oneself or sleep on premises not belonging to oneself. The violation of this law will It will entail severe punishment and the violator will be held in captivity for two days.

where he will be WASHED WITH WATER EVERYDAY."

The constitution had 8 laws in total and random imprints of paws. Then I read the law which stated that citizens are obligated to leave their kittens before 14 months of their lifecycle. Violators of this law will be punished severely and ALL LIVES WILL BE CLINICALLY DEDUCED CONSTITUTIONALLY MANDATED NINE LIVES.

I asked Tommy why this law existed and even if there was a legitimate reason for it to exist why did it have the harshest sentence?

Tommy said, “It is based on Cat Biology but everyone on this island knows the real reason is to keep our birth rate high. The law views family as a human concept—

on the basis of which our island will inadvertently lead to creating communities, countries, civilisations, and wars. I cannot help but sigh. It views it as a burden and a restriction on procreation. That's why to family we all have to say 'goodbye'."

"But why is a high birth rate even necessary?"

"It is because of you."

"Me?"

"Not you specifically, but humans in general. We have been seeing a surge in refugees from Civilisation for centuries now and then came General Simba, he held a pen in his left paw and wrote this melancholy law", Tommy said. He licked his paw and brushed the fur on his forehead. "I personally do not see the immigration of humans as an issue though. I mean, humans take care selflessly of so many of our brothers and that is the least we can do. And anyway, humans coming to this island are so enthralled by everything they see; they never have thoughts of procreation. Human birth on this island is A rare occurrence and when it does happen it is transformed into a spectacle."

"Who is General Simba?"

"Oh, he is the architect of our constitution. He wrote the 8 laws—to separate good and bad. He wrote one law in every life he had."

"But don't cats have nine lives? So shouldn't there be nine laws?"

"Oh, in his last life he just dozed off for days on end and when he started narrating the ninth law to his friend friends as he was too lazy to write, himself, after pronouncing 4 words, he dozed off and then died in his sleep the next day," Tommy said. "You can still see that incomplete law. The number of laws we have is enough, though. We do not need a heap."

I checked the last page of Tommy's copy of the Constitution of Moods and funnily enough there were the famous last words of General Simba, "If any citizen fails"—Of course, the cats did not remove the incomplete law. It was meant to be there— to be preserved and be passed on for eternity.

I saw numerous things on that island and I doubt any human would have even dreamt of them—even if it was humanely possible to do so. I saw both the best and the worst of both—the cat kind and the human kind.

There were some eccentric humans who roamed around naked, their logic running on the lines of "cats do not wear clothes and we are on their land, so clothes are not necessary". Then I heard a very disturbing story about a human trying to pester a cat to do some unspeakable things. Oh, and you know I had Lasik-cat-eye surgery after staying on that island for four years; and after the surgery my night vision equalled the night vision of the cat citizens—and it became possible for me to attend night parties where all cats assembled to play with giant woollen balls and stay awake for more than four hours talking about other cats and their human companions. I attended five Cattolympics, where the games were like in which cat could climb a tree the fastest, and could jump from the highest height, staring contests where one had to blink first and many more.

Then, with the help of Bella—a friend of Tommy's and a cat historian— I educated myself on the history of cats. How they came to Earth from the Galaxy of Strips some 15000 years ago and how they built the pyramids in Egypt and temples in India. Bella, who had light brown fur and green eyes, always had some anecdotes to tell me during our discussions. We grew to like each other and she also told me some tricks to sleep for more than 15 hours a day like all cats do. Once, when she was narrating how Elon Musk came up with the idea of building a human colony on Mars, after visiting the island and becoming inspired by the multi-planetary presence of

cats, a white cat with grey spots passed us. Bella stopped speaking and told me we had to change spots. After we had changed places, I asked her the reason behind doing so. She simply said, "He is a Scottish Fold."

That incident threatened the positive perception of the island I had and soon I became aware of the fault lines in the system of that island. I became aware of the hierarchy of that island where the Scottish Fold—which were considered to be obese, but I thought most of them were perfectly healthy—were at the bottom and were by law, mandated to not sleep for more than 10 hours as they are considered over weight and should therefore exercise and become thinner. Tommy and all of Tommy's friends were Abyssinian and the majority of litigators were of this breed.

I became aware of how different breeds were classified and of them. discriminated against based on obscene rules and particulars. How they were cats who had sacrificed their lives for this system to end. People on top had this hierarchy to maintain as they benefitted from it the most—their very own caste system.

I lived for twenty years in total on that island and never thought that I would ever have to leave it. But Tommy's sudden death changed everything. He was right when he had said on the first day we had met how humans cry more at the death of their pet when compared to the atrocities happening in wars. Well, he was not my pet, he was my friend and I cried a lot. After all, he had become my family. And when I lost him, I felt like I had lost everything and just could not handle it. I could not control myself and I broke many laws and the governor asked me to leave the island to maintain public decorum. So I left.

But coming back to the human world—or civilization like the cats would call it—was harder than I imagined. When I went to that island, I found everything to be weird and when I returned to where I was born and raised, suddenly I could not make sense of anything that was going on. I could not understand how politicians could get elected based on promises they never planned to fulfil. I did not understand why some humans had more than they could ever need, while many were struggling for the bare minimum. I could not comprehend the anger that people had over mundane issues while this anger was absent in larger ones—the injustices prevailing in our societies, rapes, corruption and climate change. I did not understand the never ending hunger for money and power. How there seemed to be laws regarding everything yet somehow people seemed to get away with anything and everything. Nothing made sense to me.

Moreover, I had returned after 20 years, so a lot had changed. While making sense of all those changes, I lost my mind—literally. I wandered the streets like a madman—blabbering about the things I had seen on that island. Tommy's name never left my lips as he was always present in those stories I tried to tell people who saw me as a clown. None believed me, of course. I died the death of a miser and now, as a ghost, I wander through the land and sea narrating stories of things I saw on that island.

I know you do not believe me and think what I just told you is all fiction. But I did tell a lie in the beginning, that I did not recollect how I ended up on that island. I know the way. And I can show you.

It is revealed to very few people and fewer people follow it. I can tell you are bored, sad, lonely by the way you sit. But are you ready for what you know to dismantle, then I will show you the path—it is short and gentle.

You just have to follow me towards a large hump—where all you have to do is look up and jump.

By: Aryan A. B
B.A prog 2nd year



ANNUAL REPORTS 2023

THE ARABIC SOCIETY

The Arabic Society Al-Nadi Al-Arabi organised its fresher's Welcome Programme on 11th January 2023, with Prof. Shams Kamal Anjum, BGSBU, as the guest of honour. He delivered the 8th Ghaziuddin Khan Lecture and spoke on, "Shamsul Ulama Deputy Nazeer Ahmad: Delhi College's Most Eminent Arabic Poet & Writer", and a book written by him was also released on this occasion. Arabic Handwriting/Calligraphy Competition was organised on 16th February 2023, and a Special Lecture was delivered by Dr. Suhaib Alam (Dept. of Arabic, JMI) on the topic: "India-Arab Relations: Understanding the Old & New Trajectories". The Mamlukul Ali Lecture was held on 29th April 2023, and Professor Naimul Hasan, Head of the Department of Arabic, University of Delhi delivered a lecture on the topic "Use of Information Technology in Learning and Teaching of Arabic Language". Prof. Naimul Hasan also graced the farewell function on 29th April 2023, as the guest of honour. Alongside, the department regularly maintains and updates its wall magazine, Al-Qalam.

ARANYA- THE NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY

Aranya - The Nature and Environment Society initiated a thoughtful initiative and collected Paper and Plastic waste and E-waste from 10th August 2022 to 23rd August 2022. It organised an event on World Rivers Day on 16th September 2022. Three exciting 'What if'- A situation-based narration, Poster Making competition and Meme Making competition were held. A book collection drive was held from 6 October to 6 November 2022 and the books were donated to 'Gram Pustakalaya' (mission rural library) which is led by Mr. Ramveer Tanwar, the library man of India. On 8th February 2023, a seedball making workshop was organised by the society. It was led by Mr. Mohit Relan, the founder of YehMeraGaon initiative and co-founder of NGO Say Earth. In collaboration with NARGIS- The Botanical Society of Zakir Husain Delhi College, Aranya organised a lecture on "Exploring the Extremes: Journey of a Botanist" on 3rd November 2022. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Dinabandhu Sahoo - the first Indian student to explore Antarctica during 1987-88. The volunteers from Aranya attended Ganga Utsav - The River Festival, which was celebrated on 4th November 2022 under The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, at Major Dhyani Chand Stadium in New Delhi in two sessions. A conventional debate competition was held on 14th November 2022 on "Human Extinction will be a blessing for the nature". Dhwanik- The Indian Music Society in collaboration with Aranya kickstarted Aaghaz with two amazing performances. A slide-show presentation of a montage of various events organised by the society - Nest-making Workshop, and Pankhudi-the annual fest of Aranya followed by a discussion with anthropologist Mr. Anas Khan. On 27th January 2023, the workshop on cultivation technique of Pleurotus mushroom was organised by Nargis- The Botanical Society of Zakir Husain Delhi College in collaboration with Aranya. The annual fest Pankhudi was organised on the 16th and 17th of February 2023. Various competitions like singing competition, Mandala Art, Nukkad Natak competition, Paperless Artistry Competition, and COP-ZHDC commenced on the agenda- deliberation on eco-capitalism to achieve the sustainable development goals. Young environmentalist Palakh Khanna, Founder/CEO of Break the Ice organization, a World Record Holder, Regional Officer for the Asia Pacific and an active environmentalist working towards Sustainable Development Goals delivered a lecture at the event. A pottery stall was also organized. The final event was a Stand-up Comedy Competition in which humour was inculcated in advocacy to bring environmental issues in the limelight.

ARTS AND CULTURE

जाकिर हुसैन दिल्ली कॉलेज' की कला एवं संस्कृति सभा' ने वर्ष 2022-2023 में अनेक कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत किए | ये कार्यक्रम विद्यार्थियों, शिक्षकों, कर्मचारियों के सहयोग तथा प्राचार्य के नेतृत्व में आयोजित किए गए -

गतिविधियाँ

1. कॉलेज की 'कला एवं संस्कृति सभा' ने आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव के अंतर्गत स्वतंत्रता दिवस का भव्य आयोजन किया | यह आयोजन 13 अगस्त 2022 को कॉलेज के प्रांगण तथा सभागार में आयोजित किया गया | कार्यक्रम का आरम्भ मुख्य अतिथि माननीय श्री सुरेश जैन ने ध्वजारोहण तथा राष्ट्रगान के साथ किया | कार्यक्रम में विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में प्रो. सुषमा यादव जी विराजमान रहीं | कार्यक्रम में अन्य सम्मानित सदस्यों ने भाग लिया | गवर्निंग बॉडी (शासी निकाय) के अध्यक्ष प्रो. अनिल अनेजा तथा कोषाध्यक्ष प्रो. अमित बरधान भी इस अवसर पर उपस्थित थे | कार्यक्रम का सफल आयोजन माननीय प्राचार्य प्रो. नरेंद्र सिंह जी की देख रेख में हुआ |
2. 'कला एवं संस्कृति सभा' तथा 'इन्डियन कॉन्सिल फॉर कलचरल थियटर' के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 9 सितम्बर 2022 को कॉलेज सभागार में जार्जिया से आए कलाकारों ने अपनी नाट्यप्रस्तुति दी | यह प्रस्तुति तबलिसी अख्मेटेली स्टेट ड्रामा थियटर जार्जिया ने की | यह कार्यक्रम सांस्कृतिक आदान - प्रदान को ध्यान में रखते हुए किया गया |
3. जाकिर हुसैन दिल्ली महाविद्यालय की कला एवं संस्कृति सभा ने एक सप्ताह के लिए नृत्य परिक्षण कार्यशालाओं का सफल आयोजन अक्टूबर 2022 में किया | इन कार्यशालाओं में अपनी अपनी कला में पारंगत कलाकारों ने शिरकत की | साथ ही दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के भी कुछ माननीय सदस्य इसमें उपस्थित रहें |
4. जाकिर हुसैन दिल्ली महाविद्यालय की 'कला एवं संस्कृति सभा' ने वार्षिकोत्सव 'निनाद' का आयोजन 20 अप्रैल 2023 को किया | इस कार्यक्रम की मुख्य अतिथि डॉ पारुल पुरोहित वत्स थी | कार्यक्रम में शासी निकाय के अध्यक्ष प्रो अनिल अनेजा भी उपस्थित रहें | महाविद्यालय के प्राचार्य प्रो.नरेंद्र सिंह के नेतृत्व में यह कार्यक्रम सम्पन्न हुआ |

उपलब्धियाँ

कला एवं संस्कृति सभा एक ऐसी सभा है जो विद्यार्थियों को अपनी कला निखारने का एक मंच प्रस्तुत करती है। विद्यार्थियों के बिना कार्यक्रमों का सफल हो पाना असम्भव है | विद्यार्थियों ने न केवल कॉलेज के कार्यक्रमों को सफल बनाने में महती भूमिका अदा की वरन उन्होंने बाहरी संस्थानों द्वारा भी अनेकानेक पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए | हमारे विद्यार्थियों की उपलब्धियों की फेहरिस्त बहुत लम्बी है इस कारण सभी उपलब्धियों का उल्लेख कर पाना तो कठिन है पर कुछेक का उल्लेख किया जा रहा है | कला एवं संस्कृति सभा के अंतर्गत विद्यार्थियों की छः उपसभाएँ हैं | उनकी उपलब्धियाँ संक्षेप में इस प्रकार हैं-

ध्वनिक - जाकिर हुसैन दिल्ली महाविद्यालय की कला एवं संस्कृति सभा के अंतर्गत, भारतीय क्लासिकल म्यूजिक सोसाइटी ध्वनिक ने वर्ष 2022 - 2023 में अनेक पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए हैं | इन्होंने दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय तथा विश्वविद्यालय के बाहर अनेक कार्यक्रमों में शिरकत की | भीमराव अम्बेडकर कॉलेज में प्रथम पुरस्कार, जे.एम् सी व् पी जी डी ए वि कॉलेज में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किए | इसी तरह अनेक पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए |

नृत्यति - 'कला एवं संस्कृति सभा' के अंतर्गत नृत्यति क्लासिक नृत्य सोसाइटी ने 2022 - 2023 में अनेक शानदार प्रस्तुतियाँ दी | इन्होंने अनेक पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए हैं | नृत्यति ने दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय तथा दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के बाहर प्रतियोगिताओं में भी भाग लिया | एम्स तथा एस आर सी सी में प्रथम पुरस्कार प्राप्त किया तथा अन्य अनेक पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए |

सुचित्रा - 'कला एवं संस्कृति सभा' के अंतर्गत आने वाला चित्रकला सोसाइटी सुचित्रा ने वर्ष 2022 - 2023 में अत्यधिक पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए | इन्होंने अनेक संस्थानों से प्रथम, द्वितीय, और तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त किए तथा अनेक संस्थानों द्वारा स्पेशल मेंशन प्राप्त किया |

धनक - यह 'कला एवं संस्कृति सभा' के अंतर्गत आने वाली वेस्टर्न मुजिकल सोसाइटी है | यह अपने हिप हॉप तथा M J के लिए लोकप्रिय है | वर्ष 2022 2023 में धनक ने अनेक उपलब्धियाँ हासिल की है | एम्स एवं अशोका यूनिवर्सिटी में तीसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया | दयाल सिंह कॉलेज के महोत्सव में दूसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया | साथ ही पूरे वर्ष अनेक प्रतियोगिताओं में भाग लिया तथा कार्यशालाएँ भी आयोजित कराई |

अलुम - 'कला एवं संस्कृति सभा' के अंतर्गत अलुम सोसाइटी ने वर्ष 2022 - 2023 में अनेक प्रतियोगिताओं में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालयों में तथा अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों में भाग लिया | 'एकल गायन' प्रतियोगिता में अनेक पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए | IIT रुड़की व् एम्स में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भी स्थान हासिल किया |

अमन - कला एवं संस्कृति के अंतर्गत अमन थियेट्रिकल सोसाइटी है | वर्ष 2022-2023 में अमन ने कुछ प्रस्तुतियाँ दी | सबसे पहली प्रस्तुति स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर 'गगन दमामा बाज्यो' नाटक की दी | 'अमन' सोसाइटी ने रुड़की में 'कोठायी दुर्गा' नाटक का सफल मंचन किया | मोनो लॉग प्रतियोगिता में पहला पुरस्कार प्राप्त किया | 'एक कहानीकार' नाटक की प्रस्तुति लेडीइर्विन कॉलेज तथा हिन्दू कॉलेज में की |

धन्यवाद

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahaotsav

For Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) - an initiative of the Government of India's Ministry of Education, to celebrate 75 years of our Independence - inter-college singing, slogan writing, and essay writing competitions were organised in July with participation from 150 students across 20 colleges of the University of Delhi. The Arts and Culture society organised intra-college collage and rangoli competitions. On 8th August 2022, World University Service's Delhi University chapter, in collaboration with Saksham Indraprastha, organised an eye check-up camp at the college auditorium foyer with more than 180 participants. On 13th August 2022, as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga programme, a 'Tiranga Yatra', facilitated by the NSS Unit of the college was held with flag hoisting by Principal Prof. Narendra Singh along with honourable Chief Guest Sh. Suresh Jain, National Organising Secretary, Bharat Vikas Parishad. The library committee organised a week-long book exhibition displaying books on India's Independence struggle. The Garden and Greening committee planted three trees, Neem, Bargad and Peepal called "Triveni" on the college campus. The Arts and Culture Society organised a Cultural Programme. Lighting of the lamp with Sanskrit Shlokas and Saraswati Vandana was followed by felicitation of the Guest of Honour Prof. Sushma Yadav, Prof. Anil Aneja, Chairman Governing Body, and Prof. Amit Bardhan, Treasurer, Governing Body. This was followed by the college tarana, and a Bharatnatyam and Kathak jugalabandi by the student members of Nrityathi, the classical dance society. The music society, Dhwanik presented patriotic group songs and Aman, the theatre society staged a play titled, "Gagan Damama Bajiyo" on the life of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. The members of the western dance society Dhanak performed a group dance commemorating the contribution of Captain Vikram Batra, the Paramvir chakra awardee, during the 1999 Kargil war. Suchitra, the fine arts society exhibited the hues of patriotism through their painting exhibition. A selfie-point-Har Ghar Tiranga also witnessed participation. The students and staff gathered in the college and recounted the stories that they had heard of the partition and what some of their forefathers had to undergo during partition. A two-minute silence was observed, followed by a Silent March in the college to offer respect to the lives that were lost in 1947.

BENGALI LITERARY SOCIETY

On the 23rd April, 2022, the students and teachers of Bengali Literary Society held the 9th Gopa Dey Memorial (online) on a very interesting topic, Terracotta Temples of Bengal and India. The Speakers invited were Prof. Shreela Basu, Visva-Bharati and the Chair was Prof. Gopa Datta, the Ex-Vice-chancellor of Gour-Banga University. Rabindra Divas' was celebrated on the occasion of Rabindranath Tagore's 161st Birth Anniversary on this same day. An essay writing competition was held on the 11th August 2022, by the students of Bengali Literary Society and the theme was 'Svadhinatar Pachattar Bachhor' (75 years of Independence). In the month of May, the students of previous two Final years (2019-20, 2020-21) and Final year students of 2021-22 were invited to a farewell function by the Department, and a very colourful cultural program was organized by the junior students. This year the Bengali Literary Society organised its Fresher's Welcome on the 9th of February where songs, recitations, dances and speeches were performed by and for the incoming students. The 10th Gopa Dey Memorial Lecture was held on 28th April, 2023 on the topic: Agni Puja in Indus-valley Civilization. Slides were presented of the Puja-seats from excavation sites and relics were shown physically to show the difference in Agni-worship cult of Vedic period and the Harappan people. The Speaker invited was Mr. Sandipani Bhattacharya who is the Deputy Director of Amity Group of Institutions. Prof. Amitava Chakraborty, Dean, Art's Faculty and Head of the MIL&LS Department had chaired the session. The farewell function was held on 1st May, 2023 with colourful festivities.

B. R. AMBEDKAR CENTRE

On 24th May 2022 and 3rd June 2022, the centre organised two Student's Seminar methodology and ethics of writing workshops. Three review sessions were also held. The resource person of these was Dr. Santhosh J., Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science. On 30th June 2022, a Student's Seminar on 'Castes in India: their Mechanism, Genesis and Development' and 'Annihilation of Caste' was organised. Dr. Harish Wankhede, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, was the keynote speaker of the seminar. Students sang 'Saheb Mere Bhim Rao' followed by a video presentation by the media cell of the Centre. The centre celebrated the Constitution Day on 25th November by organising a lecture delivered by Dr. Arvind Kumar of Jamia Milia Islamia. A photography competition, quiz competition, and an orientation programme for new batch of students was also held. The Centre organised a special lecture on 31st January 2023, with Dr. Jadumani Mahand, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Jindal Law School, OP Jindal Global University, speaking on 'Ambedkar's Constitutionalism as a Democratic Theory'. The second edition of the inter-college annual fest, 'Manuski' was organised, and it started with a speech by Dr. Santhosh J., followed by a debate competition. A quiz competition on Babasaheb and Phule was organised in collaboration with Quintessence, the Quiz Society. Apart from these events, the centre organises regular reading and discussion sessions on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

BOTANY (NARGIS)

Nargis – the Botanical Society, held its inaugural session on 11th July 2022, and the inaugural address was delivered by Dr. M. Aslam Parvaiz, Former Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University and Former Principal, Zakir Husain Delhi College. The title of talk was “Plants – Our Teachers and Spiritual Guide”. A Photography competition on “The Bounties of Nature” was organized during the botanical excursion to McLeod Ganj from 24th -27th September 2022. On 13th September 2022. A talk followed by poster making competition was organised on the International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer. The talk was delivered by Prof. Preetam Singh, Emeritus Professor, Oxford Brookers University, U.K. on, “The Current Global Economic and Environmental Crisis”. On 3rd November 2023, a lecture by Prof. Dinbandhoo Sahoo, the first Indian student to visit Antarctica, Professor, Department of Botany, DU Director, Center for Himalayan Studies on “Exploring the Extremes: Journey of a Botanist” was organised in collaboration with Aranya- The Nature and Environment Society under the aegis of IQAC. On 14th November 2022, a poster exhibition on “The Inside Stories of the Plant Body” followed by “A Nukkad Natak on Sensitivity Towards Plants” were held. This nukkad natak was also performed at two different locations at Connaught Place, New Delhi on 26th November 2022. On 27th January 2023, a workshop on Cultivation Technique of Pleurotus Mushroom was organised in collaboration with Aranya under the aegis of IQAC. The guest speaker was Prof. Rajni Gupta, Department of Botany, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. Sylvie - The Annual Fest was organized on 10th February 2023. Various events such as Just a Minute, Bottle Painting and the Dr. Virender Kumar Rolling Shield Environment Quiz were organised.

CAREER COUNSELING AND PLACEMENT CELL

This academic year the Placement Cell of Zakir Husain Delhi College was able to bring in Placement and internship opportunities from more than 60 companies. A Job Fair took place for two consecutive days. Students from all over the University attended the Job fair. Some of the notable events were Internship Drive with Internshala, Placement drive with Byjus, Internship Drive with Scuto, Placement Drive with NextGenMunshi, Internship Drive with GSC Associates, Placement Drive with Cuvette, Internship Drive with Krayonnz, Placement Drive with Class Ready, Internship Drive by TADS, Internship Drive with Recruit CRM, Placement Drive with GalaxyCard, Internship Drive with Unacademy – Graphy, and Work-integrated Learning Programme by Wipro. A career counselling event to help students understand their options after graduation was organised with TIME. On 19th January 2023, a seminar in collaboration with Internshala was held on “How to prepare for your dream job and internships”. A Data Visualisation workshop was organised with TABLEAU with Mr. Irfan Shaikh Senior Data Scientist on 19th November 2022. A student development program on R Programming was also organised. A seminar on the topic of ‘Risk Management as a Career Option’ was held on 2nd February 2023 in collaboration with Global Risk Management Institute. The speakers were Mr. Puneet Malhotra and Mr. Subhashis Nath. A job fair was held on the campus grounds on the 8th and 9th of February. More than 40 companies hired students from all backgrounds for various responsibilities. Within two days, more than 120 students got job placement offers. The college welcomed Member of Parliament Shri Manoj Tiwari Ji as the chief guest to the Job Fair’s inaugural event.

CHEMISTRY SOCIETY - CHEMUNICATE

The Society screened a documentary on Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan followed by games for the teachers on Teacher's Day – 5th September 2022. In October, a Donation Drive was organised to collect clothes, working electronic items, sports equipment, bags, bottles, and stationery. Then the society celebrated a 'D-Wali Chem-Utsav' in from 17th October - 21st October 2022 on 'Yeh Diwali Science Wali'. A D-wali Quiz, 3D-wali Model making competition, and Rang-e- D-wali, a rangoli-making competition were held; followed by an exhibition of the entries. On 10th January 2023, an industrial visit for the students to Hindustan National Glass & Industries Limited, Bahadurgarh, Haryana was organised. The society held its Annual Departmental fest 'ZUSAMMEN'23' on 13th April 2023. A photography competition 'Chem-Clicks' based on the theme 'Chemistry Through Lenses' was held. Dr. Utpal Ghosh, Ex-president and CEO of University of Petroleum and Energy studies Dehradun delivered a lecture at the inaugural event held on 17th January 2023. The S.P. Suri Memorial Lecture and Chemistry Department Award function were held on 14th February 2023. Dr. Sushmitha Baskar, Faculty of Discipline of Environmental Studies, School of Interdisciplinary & Trans-disciplinary Studies, IGNOU, New Delhi delivered the lecture on "Environmental Issues - The need for Sustainability". Further, the three toppers of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year of B.Sc. (Hons.) Chemistry for the academic year 2021-22 were felicitated with medals, certificates, and books as part of the S.P. Suri and M.K Gupta memorial awards. A 04-day educational trip for the students was organised to Jodhpur-Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from 24th February 2023 to 28th February 2023. It was followed by "Chem-रस - A Competition to win with your words in the form of song /poetry /rap / stand-up comedy, with a touch of Chemistry, a Debate Competition on the motion 'Lithium-ion batteries - will they prove to be a good replacement in the long run'; and 'ChemArt' - art competition inspired by the elements of the periodic table. A general science quiz was held, and the finale event was a murder mystery – treasure hunt.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

On 20th January 2023, the Commerce Society organised an essay writing competition to select the student editors for WorldCom - The Annual Commerce Magazine. The participants were asked to write on the topic "Young Minds can Change the Future of Our Nation". A Group Discussion and Personal Interview Workshop was held for final year students on 24th February 2023, conducted by Mr. Sunil Dua, the Senior Regional Head of T.I.M.E. Education. The Annual Commerce Fest, Innovision'23 was organised on 6th April 2023. Its inaugural session was led by Professor Yamini Agarwal, Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Management & Research. She delivered an inaugural talk on the topic "India @100". The events that took place were – IPL Auction, Com Khoj (Treasure Hunt), Shark Tank, Quiz Buzz, Money Mania, Instagram Marketing, Postolic (Poster Making) and Slogan Writing.

ENGLISH LITERARY SOCIETY (ELS)

The English Literary Society organised a lecture by Dr. Maaz Bin Bilal, an alumnus of Zakir Husain Delhi College and Associate Professor, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities on his translation of Mirza Ghalib's Persian masnavi Chirag-e Dair on 13th October 2023. The title of the talk was "The Somnath of my Imagination: Ghalib's Banaras in his Temple Lamp". In association with the Shakespeare Society of India and the Arts and Culture Society of the college, English Literary Society hosted the National Drama Competition on 3rd February 2023 in the college auditorium. Eight teams from different colleges and universities participated in the prestigious contest. Our college theatre group bagged the second prize in the competition. Prof. Anil Aneja, the Chairman of our college, and Prof. Narendra Singh, the Principal graced the occasion, and delivered the inaugural address and the welcome speech respectively.

GANDHI STUDY CIRCLE

On 20th August 2022, the 8th edition of the Distinguished Gandhi Lecture Series on the topic 'Gandhi's Vision' was delivered by eminent Prof. Uday Singh Mehta. For the Gandhi Jayanti Utsav 2022, commemorating the 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi a field Trip to Gandhi Smriti was organised on 28th September 2022. A Crossword Puzzle Competition on the topic, 'Early Life of Gandhi and in South Africa', was organised on 29th September 2022. The first student seminar on the theme of 'Contemporizing Gandhi' was held on 30th September 2022. The 9th Session of Distinguished Gandhi Lecture Series was held on 3rd October 2023. Prof. Vinay Lal, an eminent professor of History and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles spoke on 'A Philosophy of Care: Gandhi and the Ethics and Poetics of Nursing'. On 15th November 2022, Orientation Programme for the academic session of 2022-23 was organised. On 23rd January 2023, Orientation Session for the Value-Added Certificate Course on 'Non-Violent Communication' offered in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti Darsan Samiti, Ministry of Culture was organised virtually. On 27th January 2023, a lecture on 'Gandhi's True Politics and the Concern for Justice: The Unilateral Duty of Owning Kinship with the 'Other'' was delivered by Prof. Bindu Puri, Jawaharlal Nehru University. On 30th January 2023, a poster making competition on the theme- 'Gandhi's Gallery: Recreating Chapters from his Life' was held. On 31st January 2023, a field trip to Teen Murti Bhavan Museum was organised. In the annual fest 'Antyodaya', a lecture by Sopan Joshi was delivered on the theme 'उपयो गी गां धी' on 11th April 2023. On 12th April 2023, an essay writing competition on the theme 'Ethos of Non-Violence in Contemporary Times' and an art completion on the theme 'Learnings from Gandhi' were organised.

हिंदी साहित्य सभा

हिंदी विभाग की विभागीय समिति 'हिंदी साहित्य सभा' ने सत्र 2022-2023 में 'हिंदी दिवस' के उपलक्ष पर दिनांक 14 सितम्बर 2022 को एक दिवसीय विशेष आयोजन किया। आयोजन को तीन सत्रों में रखा गया। पहले सत्र में विद्यार्थियों के लिए 'निबंध लेखन प्रतियोगिता' का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें अपने महाविद्यालय के साथ ही साथ दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न कॉलेज के विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया। दूसरे सत्र में कॉलेज के हिंदी साहित्य सभा के विद्यार्थियों ने भीष्म साहनी की कहानी 'चीफ की दावत' का नाट्य मंचन प्रस्तुत किया। आयोजन के तीसरे व अंतिम सत्र में हिंदी विभाग, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के प्रोफेसर अनिल राय का 'हिंदी के समक्ष वर्तमान चुनौतियां और भविष्य की संभावना' विषय पर व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम के अंत में प्रतियोगिता के परिणामों की घोषणा के साथ साथ विद्यार्थियों को प्रोत्साहन/प्रमाण पत्र का वितरण किया गया।

HISTORY SOCIETY- UDANTA

In the year 2022-23, Udanta- The History Society of Zakir Husain Delhi College organised a series of events, ranging from a farewell event to a heritage walk.

A farewell for the batches of 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 was organised on the 19th of April, 2022 in the college auditorium. Students from the three batches got a chance to share their experiences with the juniors, cherish some emotional moments with the professors and relive some memories. An open mic competition was organised on 22nd September, 2022 in the college auditorium on the theme 'History through My Lens' where participants from the college expressed their opinions on how they perceive history. The first two position holders were also awarded cash prizes. A departmental trip to Mehrauli Archaeological Complex was conducted on 28th September, 2022 to educate the students about the architecture and historical significance of the site. To honour Dr. Saba Khan, the senior most professor in the department at the time, a farewell event was organised in the college auditorium dated 15th November, 2022. The event was an emotional one for both the students and the teachers alike. The batch of 2026 was welcomed with a freshers' party organised on 8th February, 2023. The students showcased their talents by presenting various performances. Prof. Eugenia Vanina (Research Scholar, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia) delivered a talk on 'Colonial Indology and Indian Perceptions of the Past' on 20th February, 2023 in the AV Room. Prof. Vanina talked about Indian historiography and Western perceptions on Indian history writing. An art competition was also organised on 20 February, 2023. The topic of the competition was 'Perspectives on Colonial India: 1857-1947'. The competition was also open to all the students across DU. The first four position holders received certificates of merit and all the participants were provided certificates. First two position holders were also awarded cash prizes. The Department organised an educational trip to Sikkim for the First Year students between the 28th of April and 6th May, 2023 where they were encouraged to immerse in the culture and experience life changing activities. It was a Departmental trip to remember.

MIRZA MEHMOOD BEG LIBRARY

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Number of Books Acquired: | 1483 |
| General Grant Allocated: | 20,11,200.00 |
| General Grant Spent: | 9,70,206.00 |
| Number of International Journals Subscribed: | Nil |
| Number of National Journals Subscribed: | 01 |
| Number of Newspapers: | |
| English | 10 |
| Hindi | 06 |
| Urdu | 05 |
| Bengali | 01 |
| Malayalam | 01 |
| Number of Magazines: | |
| English | 13 |
| Hindi | 09 |
| Urdu | 12 |
| Bengali | 01 |

An online National Level Library and Information Science Quiz was organised on National Librarians' Day 2022 in collaboration with the IQAC under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" on 12th August 2022. A book exhibition on India's Freedom Struggle was held from 12th to 18th August 2022 in collaboration with Library Committee and IQAC to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Centenary Year of University of Delhi, in the College Library. Another book exhibition on Partition of India and its Tragedies was held from 17th to 27th August 2022. A Book Exhibition on Gandhi and His Path of Non-violence was held from 13th to 20th October 2022 in collaboration with Library Committee and IQAC under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan of Government of India to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, in the College Library. A book exhibition was held on Veer Bal Diwas 2022 in the memory of the sacrifices of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji, the two young sons of 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh Ji from 26th to 31st December 2022 in collaboration with Library Committee and IQAC to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Centenary Year of University of Delhi, in the College Library.

LIFE SCIENCES SOCIETY "FUSION"

Life Sciences Society organized an Eco-Diwali Best Out of Waste competition on 20th October 2022 theme of "Sustainable Diwali". Dr. Shams Yazdani, Group leader, Microbial Engineering Group, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology delivered a lecture on, "Genetic and Bioprocess Engineering to produce Second Generation Biofuels" on 11th November 2022 at the inaugural event of the society. The Annual Festival, 'EQUINOX' was held on 20th March 2023 and the events held were: Impromptu - an extempore competition, Eureka - science and general quiz competition, Morse Code - treasure hunt competition; and Aaina - a reel-making competition.

NORTHEAST STUDENTS' COUNSELLING AND WELFARE SOCIETY

On 15 February 2023, a one-day seminar on the Northeastern way of life titled, “Food, Fun and Fantasy” was held. Dr. Rituparna Patgiri, Department of Sociology, Indraprastha College for Women; Dr. Santosh Hasnu, Department of History, Hans Raj College; and Dr. Phirmi Bodo spoke on various themes related to life and culture of the Northeastern peoples. The Society held its annual Cultural Fest on 3rd May 2023. The event was graced by Shri Indra Mallo Tana, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), Government of India.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS)

The NSS Unit of the college started its activities with the Yoga Day Celebration on International Yoga Day on June 21, 2022. Prof. Amit Bardhan, Treasurer of the College Governing Body was the Chief Guest. To celebrate the Independence Day, a Tiranga Yatra was organised on August 13, 2022, under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava. The NSS Unit also organised a cleanliness drive on October 29 and 31, 2022, inside the college campus. As October 31st was also marked as National Unity Day, the NSS Unit of the college organised the Unity Pledge on this occasion. With the objective of inculcating the habit of sharing and considering others' needs, a donation drive was conducted inside the campus during the period of November 17–24, 2022. The collections received from this drive were distributed amongst the children in the vicinity of the institution. Taarunya, the flagship program of our NSS unit, was organised on February 1, 2023. Some of the distinguished speakers of the event were Shri Dependra Pathak (IPS), Special Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police; Prof. Balaram Pani, Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi; Prof. Anil Aneja, Chairman Governing Body of the college; Shri Madan Lal, former cricketer of the 1983 World Cup winning cricket team of India; Shri Vikrant Gupta, Managing Director, Sports Aaj Tak; Shri Vikas Gandhi, MD India, Barclays; and Mr. Stavva Kaila, musician. On February 16, 2023, the unit organised two sessions for our students on the topics of postgraduate career options and stock market investments. NSS volunteer Hamid Ansari, of B.Com. (Prog.) 3rd year, represented the NSS unit of the college in the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Adventure Camp during the 12th to 21st of September, 2022. Another NSS volunteer, Shivansh Shukla, of B.Sc. (Hons.) Electronics, 3rd year, also participated in the National Integration Camp organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI, from February 14th to February 20th, 2023. Our NSS volunteers also participated in numerous college events, including the College Orientation Program, the Independence Day Cultural Event, and the Nature and Environment Society Fest in Aaranya. In addition to this, our volunteers also participate in events organized by the University of Delhi. It consists of the University of Delhi's Tiranga Yatra, Unity Run, Chaanakya Play, a Self-Defense Training Program for female students, and a Magic Show. On April 29, 2023, volunteers also attended the celebration of 100 episodes of the Prime Minister's Mann ki Baat at the Ministry.

DEPARTMENT OF PERSIAN

A book release of the book, “Indo-Persian Literature: a brief history of 13th to 16th century” by Taniya Gauhar a student of B.A. (Prog)- Persian 6th semester was held. This book was released by Prof. Sangeeta Pandita - former Principal of the college. An educational trip to Agra was organised on 23rd February 2023.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY - THE MONIST

On 23rd September, a seminar on “Knowing with words: An Indigenous Perspective” was organized. Professor Balram Shukla, Sanskrit Department, University of Delhi was invited as a guest speaker. On 27th January, an online session on “Meditation and Mindfulness” was organized. Guest lecturer, Charu Thapliyal, spoke on the technique of Anapansati Meditation, which is observation of breath along with some basic body relaxation yoga asanas. On 6th February, a movie screening on “Samsara (2011)” was organized.

DEPARTMENT OF PERSIAN

The Physical Science Society organised its inaugural function on 12th January 2023 in the college auditorium. Various academic activities were organized by the society on Tuesday, 25th April 2023 as a part of its annual fest' such as Dumb Charades, Science Quizzes, Science Puzzles, memory games, Spot rounds, Blind Fold and Poster making competitions. Prof. S.K. Dhaka, Department of Physics, Rajdhani College (DU) was invited as a guest speaker and delivered a talk on “Real Time Observations of Pollutants and Air Quality of Delhi NCR region” on 2nd May 2023. The other activities including singing, dance, poetry, riddles, group dance and a competition for Mr. and Miss All-rounder were held.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science organised a lecture by Dr. Latika Vashishth, Associate Professor, Ambedkar University on the topic, 'Legal Awareness and Specific Laws for Women in India' on 4th November 2022. A screening of two films titled, 'Before You Were My Mother' and 'Flames of a Continuous Field of Time' were held in collaboration with Film South Asia on 11th February 2023. The second O.P Memorial Lecture on 'The Indian Constitution and Conversations with Power' was delivered by Dr. Gautam Bhatia, constitutional law scholar and Advocate, Supreme Court of India on 3rd February 2023.

QUIZZING SOCIETY - QUINTESSENCE

Quintessence collaborated with several societies of the college, including the Gandhi Study Circle, BR Ambedkar Study Circle, Indra Dhanush, and Nature and Environment Society to help them create quiz sets and host quiz events. Quintessence also collaborated with Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida, for an informative workshop on resume building in which more than 50 students from the college participated. Quintessence launched its first ever newsletter-Meraki, in September 2022 covering the decade old history, landmarks and rich environment created and nurtured by the members. Quintessence has contributed quiz questions to college magazines, Shrishti and Rambler. The society auditions were held twice during 2022-23 to enable freshers to become part of this vibrant society which witnessed more than 150 student applicants from various departments. The Society hosted its three flagship annual events: Quizathon, Conoscenza, and Chakravayuh. The Intra-college event, Quizathon, was conducted in October 2022. Conoscenza, the Inter-college and Inter-school General Quiz Event, was conducted in November 2022. Quintessence's major success this year was its Inter-college Quiz Fest, Chakravayuh, conducted on 16-17th March 2023. Team Quintessence were the Champions in general quiz at Hindu college, Champions in diversity quiz at Miranda House, 1st in literature quiz at Rajdhani college & SGTB Khalsa college, the winners of the Du-LitFest organised at Ramjas college, Champions of the trivia and horror quiz at Kirori Mal and Gargi college respectively. The teams also won 2nd position in women's month quiz at Acharya Narendra Dev college, literature quiz at Shivaji college. Quintessence was placed 3rd in KNC entertainment quiz, JDMC's General quiz and Miranda's pop culture quiz.

संस्कृत विभाग, ज़ाकिर हुसैन दिल्ली कॉलेज

संस्कृत विभाग द्वारा 18 अक्टूबर, 2022 को कॉलेज सेमिनार कक्ष में “माहेश्वर सूत्रों के वर्णानुक्रम की वैज्ञानिकता” विषय पर एक व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया | दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के संस्कृत विभाग में कार्यरत व्याकरण, दर्शन एवं भाषा विज्ञान के मूर्धन्य विद्वान् प्रोफेसर सत्यपाल सिंह ने उक्त विषय पर, जिसे की कठिनतम समझा जाता है, अत्यन्त सरल एवं बोधगम्य शैली में मनोरंजकता के साथ प्रस्तुत किया | जिससे न केवल छात्र अपितु विभागीय आचार्यगण भी लाभान्वित हुए |

विद्यार्थियों के भाषा-कौशल को विकसित करने के लिए संस्कृत विभाग द्वारा 1-14 फरवरी 2023 को ‘संस्कृत भारती’ के माध्यम से दश दिवसीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें भाषा शिक्षिका सुश्री आशा महोदया के प्रशिक्षण में संस्कृत विभाग के सभी छात्रों ने अत्यन्त उत्साह एवं उल्लास के साथ सहभागिता करके संस्कृत संभाषण कार्यशाला को सफलतम बनाने में सहयोग दिया |

संस्कृत विभाग के छात्रों के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को निरन्तर प्रदान करते हुए 5 मार्च, 2023 को श्लोक-लेखन एवं पत्र-वाचन प्रतियोगिता आयोजित की गई, जिसमें विभाग के अधिकतम छात्रों ने सहभागिता की। प्रथम, द्वितीय एवं तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त छात्रों को प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान कर अधिक से अधिक प्रतियोगिताओं में सहभागिता के लिए उत्साह-वर्धन किया गया |

संस्कृत विभाग के तृतीय वर्ष के छात्र हेमन्त होरो ने दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न महाविद्यालयों में आयोजित होने वाली प्रतियोगिताओं में सहभागिता करके विभाग एवं महाविद्यालय को गौरव प्रदान किया | इसीप्रकार संस्कृत आनर्स द्वितीय वर्ष के छात्र सत्येन्द्र सागर ने एन.सी.सी. के विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों में सहभागिता करके विभाग एवं महाविद्यालय के नाम उच्च सोपानों पर ले जाने का श्लाघनीय प्रयास किया है |

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

The Department of Zoology its Inaugural Lecture on: “Shaping of the Immune system” on 9th September 2022. It was delivered by Professor Shibnath Mazumder, Proctor and Dean of South Asian University. A workshop on “Understanding the Technique of Histology” was organised from 15th to 24th September 2022, under the aegis of IQAC, ZHDC, and DBT-Star College Scheme. The Department of Zoology organized a workshop on “Techniques for Gene Expression Analysis” from 22nd to 28th of December 2022. An invited lecture on “Anti-microbial Resistance” and a hands-on session on Foldscope under the aegis of IQAC, ZHDC was held on 13 October 2022. The session was delivered by Dr. Anupma Harshal, Woman in STEM, Superheroes against Superbugs Fellow. A “One-day seminar-cum-interactive session on Pollution & Human Health: Current Understanding & Future Directions” was held under the aegis of IQAC, ZHDC on 24th January 2023. Prof. Vandana Mishra, Professor Dept. of Environmental Studies & Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Mountain and Hill Environment, University of Delhi, Dr Vijay Hadda, Additional Professor, Department of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Dr. Suniti Yadav, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi spoke at the event. The department organized an educational visit to the National Zoological Park, New Delhi, on 07th February 2023. Under the aegis of IQAC, ZHDC & DBT Star College Scheme, ZHDC organized a Health Awareness cum Screening Camp in Collaboration with the Department of Anthropology, Delhi university, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Amity Institute of Anthropology and National Thalassemia Welfare Society on 21st February 2023 in the college auditorium. On 21st March 2023, the Zoological Society “Inheritance” organized their intercollegiate Annual Fest “ZOOMERANG”.

SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

With college going offline, sports activities were resumed with organizing practice sessions and trials to induct players to complete the required number of players in a team. This year two new sports Kho-Kho and Kabaddi were introduced by popular demand of students and through trials by respective coaches, team members were selected and set into regular practice.

The Basketball team participated in several tournaments: SYNAPSE organized by MAMC, SURGE by Shiv Nadar University, LSR sports tournament, BAREFOOT by Bhim Rao University, YMCA sports tournament, secured 3rd position in SPLASH organized by LHMC and were ousted in quarterfinals in FOYS by SRCC and SPARDHA by Amity University.

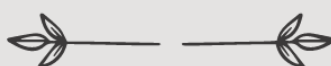
The College Chess team was victorious in many tournaments, securing 1st position in Chess individual event at 'APARAJIT' tournament organised by Symbiosis Law School, 2nd position in the mixed team category in BMW Heroes' Challenge, 1st position at Chess warfare by DTU in the individual category, third position in chess individual at LSR, and put up commendable efforts in various tournaments like 'SURGE' by Shiv Nadar University, sports tournaments of Miranda House, SRCC, Maitreyi College. It is a matter of great pride for us that one of our students was selected for the Delhi University chess team and played North Zone Inter-University tournament and another student secured second position in the National level CA Students Chess Competition held at Vadodara.

The Cricket team participated in inter-college knockout at Rajdhani college, won 2 matches at Maharshi Premier League, NOIDA, Swami Dayanand Saraswati tournament at PGDAV, SAMAGRAH sports society festival of DME, and T-20 intercollege tournament organized by SGND Khalsa college. The college football team secured 4th position in the Reliance Youth Sports football league, bagged 2nd position in AEG Sports Fest Athleema and showed commendable performance in tournaments like BAREFOOT by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Foys by SRCC, and JMC Sports Fest and reached semi-finals. Our team played exquisitely at LSR, Amity, and Bennett University sports fest.

Our Judo team members won a lot of accolades for their performance, played magnificently, and won two gold and one silver medal at the All-India championship Tong-il-Mood-Do 2023, gold medals in many tournaments like All-India Inter-University, Kanpur-2022, Khelo India University, Bangalore-2022, 10th district Karate championship & selection-2022, Kumite-Open district karate do championship-2022. The players put up a praiseworthy performance and won a silver medal in Judo at LSR and the Open district karate do championship in Karate. One of the team members won the bronze medal at Khelo India dus-ka-dum 2023, LSR College Kurash, and Mata Sundri College 2023. One of our students secured 7th place in Senior National Lucknow 2022, 5th place in National Games 2022 Gujarat, and 5th place in All India Inter-University Punjab 2023. Our players participated in 38th Delhi State Judo Championship and one of the players secured 2nd place. Our team players also participated in All-India Inter-University Championship.

Kho-Kho was introduced for the first time in college and the team, in its maiden effort, entered the semi-finals round at FOYS by SRCC and Inter-College knock out. Kabaddi, also introduced for the first time in college, made a mark in sports activities of college by securing 3rd position in matches organized by Major Dhayanchand Association and Ghajipur district. Our men's team played exceptionally well and secured 2nd position at BITS Pilani. 1st position in Men's single at Desportivos by LNMIIT Jaipur, LSR and Athleema by AEG; 3rd position in Men's single at JMC. 1st position in mixed doubles at LSR and Athleema by AEG. One of the players secured bronze in Women's single and doubles at Athleema by AEG.

College volleyball men's team Participated in BAREFOOT organised by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College and Desportivos by LNMIIT Jaipur. One of our students got selected in North Zone Men's team after trials for North Zone Inter University Volleyball tournament. We are proud to report that three of our volleyball players have played in State Championships organized by Delhi Volleyball Association. Players from different sports team (Football, Volleyball, Badminton, Kho-Kho, Judo, Table-tennis, Kabaddi, Swimming, Shooting, Boxing, Chess) participated in player selection trials for North Zone team for All India Inter University tournaments. One of our students secured 2nd position in boxing in selection trials for Delhi University boxing Men team for All India Inter University Boxing Tournament.





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Art by: Kashish Khanna