



# ST. MIRA'S COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

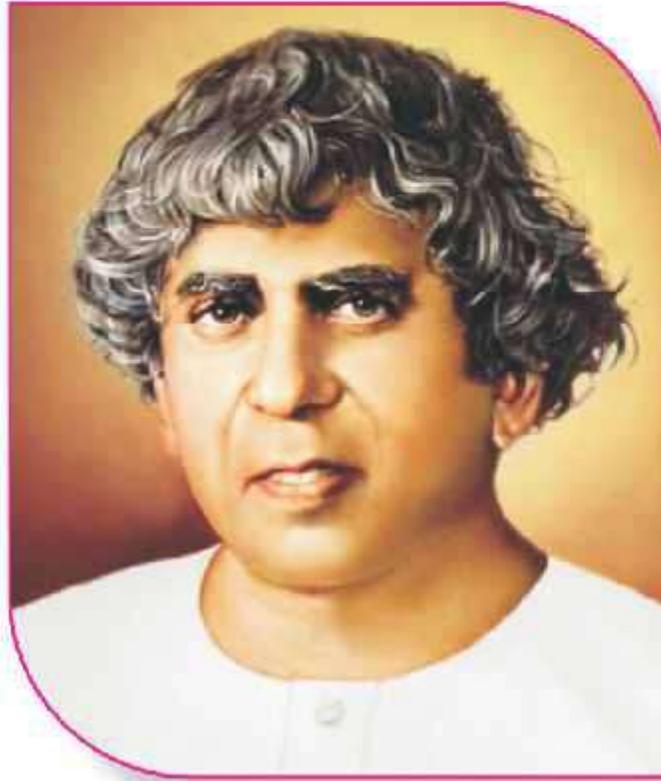


## UNRAVELLING MAGICIANS

"Where are the free spirits?"

- Sadhu T. L. Vaswani

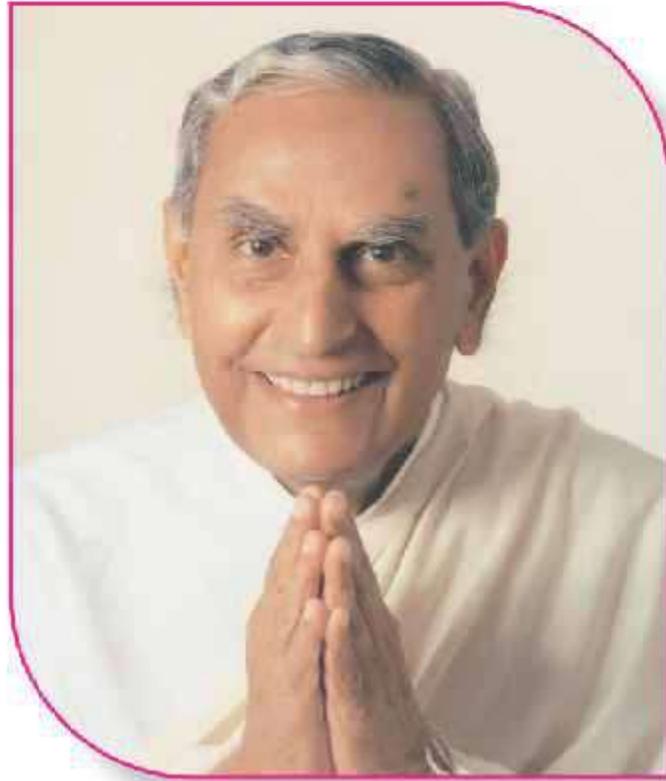




## **Sadhu T. L. Vaswani**

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

Sadhu T L Vaswani



## **Dada J. P. Vaswani**



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

**Dada J P Vaswani**





## From the Principal's Desk...



The last two years have not been easy on any of us ..each one of us in our own ways have faced our set of challenges and struggles. Through the pandemic, we have learnt lessons of survival and have come to reflect on the reality of impermanence and what really matters in the adventure called 'Life'. Last year, I was entrusted the responsibility of heading the institution and this different role shone light on new perspectives of life and living . I would like to share one reflection which stood out for me which is echoed in one of my favourite quotes by Fred Rogers "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

Years ago , in 1976, a story unfolded at the Seattle Special Olympics. For the 100-yard dash there were nine contestants, all of them so-called physically or mentally disabled. All nine of them assembled at the starting line; and, at the sound of the gun they all started off in their own way, making their best effort to run down the track towards the finish line. That is, except one little boy who stumbled and fell and hurt his knee and began to cry. Two of the children heard the boy crying. They slowed down, turned around, saw the boy and without hesitation ran back to him in the other direction .While the others contestants made it to the finish line , the two boys helped the fallen boy to his feet. All three of them linked their arms together and joyfully walked to the finish line. They finished the race together . Even though by turning back and helping the boy who fell, they lost their own chance to win the race, they had all smiles on their face because they knew they had done the right thing. And when they did, everyone in the stadium stood up and clapped and whistled and cheered for a long, long time. People who were there are still telling the story with obvious delight, because deep down we know that what matters in this life is much more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win, too, even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then. There's a part of all of us that longs to know that even what's weakest about us can ultimately count for something good.

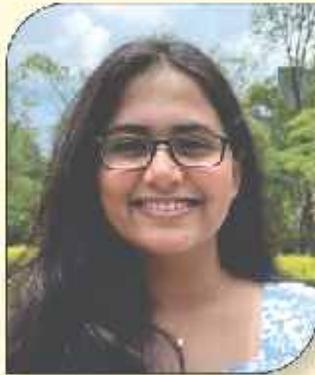
And as we enter into the glorious 60th year of the St Mira's College' existence, may we recall and reinforce the vision of our founders – simplicity, service, purity and prayer. May we learn to value our authentic interactions and come to see how life is a journey we undertake with others. We have to be willing to invest the time and energy to engage personally with other people and show interest in their lives that it may lead us to deeper connections.

The pandemic was catastrophic and the world will no longer be the same. If you and I are willing to be contemplative and reflective , we are bound to realise that we must alter the way we have been living and learn to live with each other with humility, gratitude, kindness and love ...

Dr Jaya Rajagopalan



**Unravelling Magicians**



**Maitrayee Sangitrao**



**Kajal Mishra**



**Vedika Limaye**

As you enter into the depths within, the mystery is unraveled.

- J.P Vaswani, Joy Peace Pills.

St. Mira's College for Girls has harbored and amplified potential from the day it was established in the year 1962 by the visionary philosopher Sadhu T.L Vaswani, and it was the first college exclusively set up for women. MIRAcles, the annual college magazine, is an assortment of a varied spectrum encompassing experiences, imagination, art, and so much more, which according to us is a spark of passion that all Miraites have. Therefore, when we were asked to choose a theme for this year's magazine it was as clear as the day - to celebrate the rigor and stories that stand for Mira's being a place of growth and success. The aim of Unravelling Magicians was to bring forth the reality that one shies away from. To celebrate feminism, femininity, diversity, equality, and acknowledge the casual magic in our everyday lives. With this sense of hope, honesty, and humility, 'Unravelling Magicians' was born.

This year, we proffer to you the MIRAcles logo, featuring our patron saint Mirabai, a symbol for women's freedom. The freedom that every woman on and off the cover, deserves. Let the student testimonies be proof of a woman's soul leading the world forward. To commemorate and honor these milestones, both personal and professional, we bring to you 'Mira Milestones'.

We celebrate ourselves by introducing a new sub-theme - 'Seasonal Calendar'. This year we focus on creating miracles ourselves with magic that can neither be suppressed nor denied. We acknowledge this pinnacle of individual progress and mark the struggles, knee scrapes, and mental exhaustion; view life in its totality, and celebrate the seasons of growth, love, pain, and failure equally.

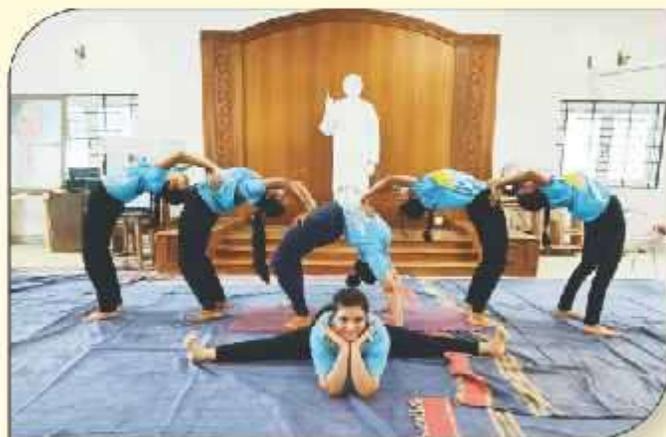
Words that flowed like poetry and painted resplendent, raw, unedited, unfiltered life-stories, Unravelling Magicians, instigated thought and conversations. The creativity that it inspired had no bounds. The student testimonies have made MIRAcles 2021-2022 one of its kind. It is through a lot of hard work, dedication, and our passion for literature that formed the base of MIRAcles, and as always, the students have presented to us their creative works, entrusting in us their labours of love.

So ladies, hold back your gowns, we present to you, MIRAcles 2021-2022.

**All our love,  
Maitrayee, Vedika and Kajal.**



## Our Sports Stars in Action





## Vibrant Campus Life



CWE's Launch of Coffee Table  
book- ZENITH

Theatre Club (Performance - Say  
Something)



Covid-19 Vaccination Drive by  
Alumni Association



St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

## St Mira's College - Toppers



**Aiman Nicole Kenneth**  
XI Arts



**Galande Geeta Madhav**  
XI Commerce



**Chinthambe Rohanti Davendra**  
XI Science



**Manasi Sonawane**  
XII Arts



**Gandhi Khushi**  
XII Commerce



**Halstead Dale Duncan**  
XII Commerce



**Sasanani Arpita**  
XII Science



**Sakina Bharmal**  
FYBA



**Reenaz Lakhani**  
FYBCOM



**Vishika Jain**  
FYBBA



**Sakshi Tingre**  
FYBBA(CA)



**George Shirin**  
FYBCSc



**Kajal Devnarayan Mishra**  
SYBA



**Khimjibai Rhea Faizal**  
SYBCOM



**Jaishree Bajaj**  
SYBBA



**Yogita Melwani**  
SYBBA(CA)



## St Mira's College - Toppers



**Menezes Rieyona Patricia Ronald**  
SYBSc



**Karu Ummesalama Shabbir**  
TYBA



**Khan Muskaan Zaffrulla**  
TYBCOM



**Zoha Sabooni**  
TYBBA



**Simran Bhatia**  
TYBBA(CA)



**Shivani Kumari**  
TYBSc



**Tasneem Rangwala**  
MA English



**Amrita Sinha**  
MA Sociology



**Aishwarya Rathore**  
MA Economics



**Naznin Banu**  
MCOM



**Vanessa Casmiro Aranjo**  
MSc

# St Mira's College for Girls, Pune

Arts, Commerce and Science

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



## *MIRAcles* **Unravelling Magicians** **Magazine 2021-22**





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St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

Unravelling Magicians

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**Dr. Snober Sataravala**



St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

## EDITORIAL

### *Defeat my Defeat*

Libyan poet Kahlil Gibran in his poem "Defeat my Defeat" ironically lists all the hardships that have the potential to destroy the human spirit. These very hurdles are transformed by an attitude of courage that charges headlong and heart first to embrace the challenges and then to rise stronger, more enriched, and more compassionate. This has been the case with St Mira's and the world.

In this issue of the magazine, we celebrate the glorious 60 years Mira's has experienced enriching so many people's lives. We celebrate the vision of our founders who believed it would be a woman's soul that would take us upward and onward. Most important we celebrate coming back to life. The life of the college is its students and to see them back on campus laughing, discussing, dancing indeed defeated any feeling that Covid had defeated us.

Classrooms came alive with debates and views, the sports ground was brimming with powerful strong girls practicing, exercising, competing and bringing laurels to their college, the cultural clubs had their events and the theatre club celebrated its grand finale in the auditorium. On cultural days the college was the loveliest with all the beautiful girls dressed as young ones should, at seminars they presented scholarly papers in person followed by intellectual question and answer sessions. Exams were written using pen and paper on campus. At the socials they danced on stage as if their hearts would burst and at the farewell they wept as if those very hearts would break and in those tears we knew all was well. For we knew the feelings of love that bind us as humans who care for each other were still strong and that is all that matters.

As Nelson Mandela says, "There are few misfortunes in the world that you cannot turn into a personal triumph if you have the will and the necessary skill." At St Mira's we strive to provide will, skill and heart.

**Dr Snober Sataravala**



## Interview with Dr Gulshan Gidwani

**(Principal of St Mira's College  
from 1999 to 2021)**

### **1) How would you define your time as the Principal?**

I am truly happy and satisfied with my tenure as Principal of St. Mira's College- the dream realization of our founder, Sadhu Vaswani.

I took over the reins of the college after having served it for over 22 years. The time when I took over was a time that called for a lot of changes in the field of education. Empowered by the vision of the founder, the constant and timely guidance of Rev Dada J.P.Vswani, and the members of the Management, and the strong support of my staff and students, I was able to dream big and achieve big. We moved from being a College that was recognized locally to being a college that won recognitions and awards at the National level, and even international level.

We became a college with many Firsts...

The first College in the city of Pune ... to volunteer for NAAC Accreditation and get a Five Star rating;

The First nonprofessional College in the State to volunteer for Academic Autonomy and introduce path-breaking courses;

The First College under the University of Pune to be Awarded the Status of the Best College;

Amongst the first 18 Colleges in the country to be awarded the status of College with Potential for Excellence.

The team spirit amongst staff and students was strong and together we wove into the fabric of administration, a balanced process that stood us in good stead when we had to take on the challenges of online teaching, learning, and evaluation and respond in a timely manner, without compromising on the interests of our students.

### **2) Is there any change in your life after you retired**

### **from Principalship at Mira's and what are some things that you do currently that make you happy?**

Change is a part of life. Yes, of course, there has been a change, a change I had prepared myself for. Passing out from the same institution several decades ago, and being inducted into the world of academics and teaching by my Guruji to lead his dream institution to fulfill his vision has been a long and self-fulfilling journey. With all the challenges a leader has to face and prepare her team to face, the journey has been the most enjoyable one. There was not a single day that I did not look forward to coming to work. Of course, I miss those days. I miss the high, positive energy of students sitting, standing, chatting, and discussing with friends. I miss the college events. I miss the high positive energy of teachers and support staff. But I also find a lot of serenity and peace in being able to devote a lot of time to doing what makes me happy rather than doing what makes others happy. I have moved on from the state of human "doing" to a state of human "being". I give more time to being with myself, with nature, with the animals, and with my family.

### **3) How would you explain the experience of Dada J.P.Vaswani as a principal and working under him?**

I did not work "under" Dada J.P.Vaswani. I worked with him and for him.

Dada J.P.Vaswani voluntarily stepped down from the post of Principal when I completed my graduation.

### **4) St. Mira completes 60 years of glory this year. What are your expectations from the college in the next 10 years? How do you feel about it?**

It has been a glorious 60 years, indeed! It is the destiny of the college to grow as an institution striving for academic excellence and at the same time inculcating in our students a strong sense of character which they will not subordinate to the pursuit of material success and competence.

### **5) What gave birth to the light and show play, Dadaleela? How would you describe that experience? (One teaching of Dada that you always imply in your life to date.)**

It was Rev. Dada J.P.Vaswani's dream and vision that students must learn from the lives and teachings of the great heroes and luminaries of humanity, and what better way to learn than by role play? It has been the experience of our students and staff and they would bear testimony to this that when they are enacting scenes from the life of the founder, the



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## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

underlying teachings get embedded in them for life. The high quality of the show in terms of scriptwriting, directing, coordinating, light and stage management, and acting, all give a 360-degree boost to their all-around development, apart from the fact that it educates and inspires the audiences that view it.

### 6) One most important thing you think you've learned from this college.

DUTY BEFORE SELF.

### 7) You were a student at St Mira's when Dada was the Principal. What was he like as a Principal and how did he guide you when you became the Principal.

As a Principal, Dada was strict but very caring. He was easily approachable and always put the interest of his pupils first. He was a strict disciplinarian, but nothing could make him cross the line of kindness. He knew each student by name.

When I was asked to take over as Principal, I was very reluctant. I was superseding many seniors who had

been my teachers. But as per the eligibility norms, I was the only one who qualified. The testing phases were too many...some extremely stressful and prolonged. Yet, while I buckled under the pressure on several occasions, my Master, Dada J. P. Vaswani kept to his part of the deal. He had not promised me a journey without roadblocks. But he had pledged his support to me. He always made me come out stronger. As per my understanding, he was not asking to me teach others what he taught me. He was actually urging me to practice what he taught me, and through my practice, become a better leader. The Message my Guru taught me for Life is a constant reminder to me. He taught me that there is more to life than being at the top. It's in how you choose to get there that the blessings never stop. He encouraged me to do my best, to overcome my fears, choose the straight and narrow, and the road less traveled, and now it is time for me to sit back and watch those seeds I planted, grow. And trust God for what's in store .....

## Monograph

### Brave women are not born in comfort zones; they are made in Fire. The story of the fierce Aung San Suu Kyi.

- Kajal Mishra and Falaqnaaz Sayyed

Aung San Suu Kyi was a Myanmar politician and opposition leader. She is a Burmese politician, diplomat, author, and a winner of the auspicious Nobel Peace Prize. She served as State Counsellor of Myanmar and Minister of Foreign Affairs for 4 years up until 2021. She was born on June 19, 1945, in Rangoon, British Burma (Yangon, Myanmar). Her father, Aung San is regarded as the father of the nation of modern-day Myanmar, and her mother is Khin Kyi. In 1972, she married Michael Aris with whom she had two children. Michael Aris died of prostate cancer in London on 27th March 1999. His request to meet his wife one last time was denied.

Her magnificence received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991. She studied at the renowned LSR college in Delhi pursuing Political Science (Hons), and at Oxford University to pursue her B.A. in philosophy, politics, and economics at St. Hugh's College and was elected as an honorary fellow in 1990. Suu Kyi joined the U.N. secretariat as Assistant Secretary, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. She spent her evenings and weekends volunteering at the local hospital helping impoverished patients in programs of reading and companionship. She became the Research Officer in the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan. She published 'Aung San' in the Leaders of Asia series of University of Queensland Press.

In 1991, NLD won 81% of the seats in Parliament, but the results were nullified, as the military government, SPDC refused to hand over the power, which resulted in an international outcry. She was detained before the elections and kept under house arrest for nearly 15 years from 1989 to 2010, becoming one of the world's most well-known political prisoners. In 1999, Times magazine named Suu Kyi one of the "Children of Gandhi" and his spiritual heir to non-violence. She survived an assassination attempt in the 2003 Depayin massacre.



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Unravelling Magicians

She chose to stay which resulted in her party's glorious victory in the country's first elections in 25 years, in the year 2015. She became the State Counselor, a title her father held before he was assassinated in 1947. Suu Kyi's leadership helped raise hope for a country that has been under the clutches of the military for a very long time. However, Aung San Suu Kyi got arrested on 1 February 2021 following a complete power seizure that returned the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) to power and instigated protests across the country. Charges were filed against her following a sentence of four years of prison beginning

on 6 December 2021.

On 10 January 2022, she was sentenced to an additional four years imprisonment on another set of charges. Recently, on 27 April 2022, she was sentenced to more than five years on corruption charges. The United Nations, most European countries, and the United States denounced the arrests, trials, and sentences as politically motivated. Her story is veiled with truths unsaid, and the power that she carries within herself is remarkable. A lady who made history and still continues to do so, Aung San Suu Kyi is a force to be reckoned with.

### Story of Naseembanu

#### Memories, Life lessons, and first beginnings.



"And suddenly it's time to start something new and trust in the magic of new beginnings..."

I am Naseembanu Nazir Patel, an ex-student of St. Mira's college, from 1986-to 1991.

Firstly let me tell you, St. Mira's college campus is a Holy campus. It's just a feeling. Till today from the moment one enters campus, they are hit with a

positive wave. I've always gotten this feeling. St. Mira's is a place where students receive education as well as knowledge about every aspect of life and learn to live life happily and joyfully.

I remember my first visit to this campus where Madam Ratna Vaswani was the Principal. She had asked me if I would be able to cope with the environment and study in an English medium college where the curriculum was taught in English. As a vernacular medium student, I had spent my whole life in a Marathi medium school and I was a bit anxious at the prospect of receiving education in the English language just shook my head in affirmation and she gave me a big smile and admitted me in this college.

Coming from very humble origins, I lacked confidence, and being in an English medium college was a huge deal. Getting into Mira's was a new beginning of my life.

The first day of my college started with sanctuary. It was the first lesson of my life. The college began on a positive note. I learned that to earn knowledge you should be a good listener and one should always be humble. Every day in the sanctuary one of my friends would sing the bhajan, which always led me to spirituality. I would like to take a moment to be grateful and say Thank you St. Mira's, for such a nice beginning.

Secondly, I remember

'Prof. Hasija who taught us Banking. He was a good teacher and the way he explained everything about banking was in the simplest of ways, He was one of the reasons why my fascination with the subject grew and because of which I cleared my MPSC exam special

I have a very fond memory of our English teacher who was Prof. Banerjee. She introduced us to a whole new



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world of drama by teaching us 'Pygmalion' by George Bernard Shaw. We were shown the movie "My fair lady" in the auditorium, It was the first time I had ever seen an English film and till today that movie remains close to my heart. In my time, a visit and speech by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the most memorable moment of my life. He visited the college with a huge smile. Being a girls' college one can only imagine the fangirling that went on. My classmates went crazy and one even asked for pictures by writing a letter to the PM office. They responded to her and sent the pictures. Apart from these moments, Dada J. P Vaswani's speeches were to always very significant I remember all our cultural activities and sports events. Mira's has a healthy atmosphere to make every girl a strong woman. The College Library was huge at my time, where I read various books written by various authors. Marathi literature was my favorite. One of my friends used to call me 'Atre' because she saw me with the book 'Karheche Pani' by P K Atre. I was a very shy student, not giving any speeches, not participating in any activities. I was never on the frontline or a front bench student, but college gave me knowledge, it

gave me the courage to look at life with a positive outlook, it gave me confidence, and taught me that being a that woman is something to be proud of. It taught me one should be strong enough to face every situation in life and that Language cannot and should not be a barrier while communicating with people.

St. Mira's paved the way in building my confidence and laid the foundation for my personal and professional growth. Mira's was the beginning of me stepping out into the world. I was a quiet student, but even as being a part of Mira's crowd, I was an observer and a learner, and Mira's taught me a lot. That's why today I am the class 1 officer in the Govt. Of Maharashtra and running my office successfully in serving as the Superintendent's land record. I wish this esteemed institution continues to fulfill the dreams and give girls who come from small roots like me the confidence and teachings to achieve success and go a long way in life. I am honored and proud to have been a part of such a great institution.

Thank you  
Naseembanu Nazir Patel

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### Mira milestones

It has taught me to voice my opinion and rebel against what is wrong fearlessly, regardless of the outcome. The values of gratitude, self-healing, positivity and meaningful friendship have helped me a lot to mature as an individual.

- Kareena Narayan TYBA

More than anything St. Mira's has taught me confidence, patience and not to give up till the end of the game. I can see my tremendous transition after joining St. Mira's.

- Laksaya G SYBA

St. Mira's doesn't fight against typical stereotypes; it grows beyond them. People think girls' colleges are filled with giddy-headed women concerned with only the next big blockbuster, cosmetics and beauty, and BOYS. When I applied here for junior college, a certain neighbor said, 'Don't get carried away in the Mehendi

contest and forget to study!' I cannot believe it! The first and most common stereotype I hear about St. Mira's is that it's filled with 'Behenji's'; girls who come from traditional families and who wear kurta-salwar and speak in honestly any language other than English. Never have I ever considered these to be negative takeaways. On the contrary, I myself have come to have a much deeper appreciation for Indian culture, acknowledging the absolute skill that it is to be a polyglot speaking English, Hindi, Marathi, Urdu, Sindhi, and a host of other regional languages, and having spiritual roots to ground one's self. Perhaps this set-up is not for everyone, but it's a gross disservice to write off everything the college does, everything the students are, and everything that they can ever hope to be, to this bizarre stereotype. St. Mira's is so much more than a girls' college; it's a sisterhood of women doing their level best to make learning accessible and riveting. I might sound defensive (which I absolutely am) but in the last few years especially since the pandemic began, I've seen a new side to this institution and I will forever be one of its most ardent advocates. Through each interaction I've had with our teachers and the brilliant people we have been



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### Unravelling Magicians

brought into contact with, the concept of living life on my own terms and doing what makes me happy has concretized into its own little haven in me. St. Mira's has been a home for my heart, and every woman who steps through its doors can expect to find the same refuge.

- Arman Chagla, MA

If there's anything that describes St. Mira's best, it is this; it is a force to be reckoned with.

- Maitrayee Sangitrao, TYBA

St. Mira's always taught me to step out of the box and dare to do what I think is right. It also taught me the importance of taking initiative and of sticking to one's decisions.

- Piyusha Pande Alumni

I am professionally pursuing a career in what I love doing- Writing! Mira's set the foundation for my first professional milestone, earning from my passion, and more than money it's the joy I earn and experience each day. St Mira's helped me realize the dreams and wishes of the 15-year-old me.

- Shiradha Gupta, MA

I've seen the magnanimous power of a woman when I first entered this college! Girls can thrive in a wide range of subjects, from the innovations of art to the practicalities of accounting. They are capable of excelling in any field that they set their mind Moreover, when a girl sets her mind to do something, nothing can stop her and, in my opinion, this is a great environment to be in.

- Sarah Kinariwala, TYBBA

I've seen entrepreneurs, toppers, businesswomen, and some outstanding leaders graduate from this college. This college is truly a catalyst when it comes to helping and fostering young women and their aspirations!

For me, it was not just a change of educational institution; instead, it involved a bigger change of moving from immense nervousness and self-doubt to being an independent, responsible, decisive, and ready to adjust in any situation girl.

- Vedika Limaye, TYBA

I wish you adieu...(outgoing memories)

Honestly speaking when I first came to Mira's I was very skeptical because I'm used to the whole Co-Ed atmosphere. I felt like it would be so weird but I couldn't have been more wrong. As each day flew by I enjoyed the college as well as made some amazing

friends. Whether it was being part of the football team or becoming an editor of the college periodical, each activity helped me enhance my personality and I will forever be grateful to this college. These are things that I never dreamed of doing back in school but here I aimed to become a better version of myself. However, I'm not really sad because I'll be continuing with my Master's degree in English right here and that makes me a lot happier.

- Chandana Roy, TYBA

This journey felt like a lucid dream. These past 7 years have changed me so much - my life took a complete turn. I walked in with zero expectations and possibly as the worst version of myself and now when I walk out I think I am the best version of myself. I grew in many ways from starting the JNK club with my friends to heading the Litwits, Organizing Kosufest for two years in a row and presenting papers in seminars, finding my love for poetry and so much more. But what is most important is the people I found when doing it all, my friends for life that I love and will cherish forever. This college gave me a second family and a new life, there are no words to describe how in debt I am to this college for that.

- Friyana Munshi, MA

The memory associated with this college is the picture of the kitten. When we were in FY, there was a cat family. I remember that cat had kittens and we used to play with the kittens when we had free PT lectures.

I also remember when we were in FY, the first lecture was free and we saw the cat roaming in the corridor We followed the cat and we reached near The Principal's cabin. She was coming outside her cabin and since we were calling the cat, we did not see Principal ma'am People who were standing behind us requested us to look up as Principal ma'am was standing When we looked up, Principal ma'am looked at us and she smiled at us. She told us that she was wondering how come so many cats entered the campus. She was laughing at us. I can't forget that moment.

- Neha Hanagandi, TYBA

The first emotion is sadness; going to college is such an exciting experience that gives one so much potential to build an interesting and enriching life, and I'm sad to leave behind all the good things that I built while I was here. Even though this is a bittersweet feeling, graduating means new adventures.

- Vedika Limaye, TYBA



## *Behold the Heart-Renderer*

### **Totems and Taboos (Shattering the Totem)**

Falaqnaaz Sayyed  
TYBA

Totem, from the ote in the Ojibwa language, refers to a thing that has some symbolic importance to a particular group of people.

Taboo is something that's banned or at least restricted, and looked down upon in societies, and frequently, the ground for such restriction is morality which may or may not come from religion. Usually, it's related to sexual acts or something that may be a social practice in different societies. In his book, Totem and Taboos, the father of modern psychology, Sigmund Freud, talks extensively about these things. Freud studied the case of Aborigines of Australia because they were pretty primitive, and totems were embedded in their society. The study of aborigines may give an early view of human society elsewhere.

Freud talks about even uncultured societies taking great precautions regarding incestuous relationships and going as far as prohibiting any sort of contact between two adults who may be related to each other. He examines that if we dive deep down, there's no rational basis for taboos or totems; Freud also states here that the only two "universal" taboos are incest and patricide, which formed the eventual foundation of modern society. Primitive and savage societies have equivalent forms of a social and religious organisation, namely *totemism*. The social border of each tribe is identified with a particular totem or animal, after which the tribe names itself, and each individual within the tribe is related in the form of social identification stronger than blood ties. The totem animal is defined as the father and guardian spirit of the tribe, and each member is under the obligation not to kill or eat it, except on ceremonial occasions. For Freud, however, the most exciting practice of totemism was exogamy, the forbidding of sexual relations between individuals sharing a totem. Seems like Mr Freud was highly fascinated by incest. He also

had controversial views on women, believing that their lives were dominated by sexual reproductive functions. In 1925's 'The Psychological Consequences of the Anatomic Distinction Between the Sexes', he even wrote that 'women oppose change, receive passively, and add nothing of their own.' To Freud, women were simply men without penises, so naturally, he introduced a stage of 'penis envy' – where a woman realises she does not possess a penis and experiences envy of the male, which accounted for much of female behaviour. Freud claimed that the only way they could overcome this penis envy was to have a child of their own – even going as far as to suggest they wanted a male child in their efforts to gain a penis.

His theory was unfairly based on a model where there was no place for femininity unless directly related to masculinity. Women were viewed as forever feeling morally inferior to men, who were said to have more developed superegos than women. This, according to Freud, was a problem that could never be resolved. Being an average living feminist, one can't help but wonder what kind of a messed up misogynist was the father of psychology. But here is another fascinating fact, Helene Deutsch was the first woman to join Freud's Vienna Psychoanalytic Society in 1918, having published the first psychoanalytic book on women's sexuality. She was one of his pupils and built upon his theories in her study of woman's psychological development, believing that women had a 'passive-masochistic sexuality' and were born only for reproduction. According to her, a young girl's lack of a penis meant she stopped identifying with her father and developed fantasies of being raped. Deutsch believed that the 'rape fantasy' was an integral part of female sexuality, and with this, the idea that a woman's personality is determined by her lack of a penis was strongly reinforced in society. Can we conclude this was a result of patriarchal conditioning that already existed? In his own time, Freud's concept of penis envy was criticised by psychoanalyst Karen Horney. Her critiques actually led to the formation of feminist psychology, and she introduced the idea that men were affected by their inability to bear children, calling it 'womb envy'. She explained that men felt envious of the 'biological functions of the female sex' (like breastfeeding, pregnancy), calling it 'males striving for achievement as overcompensation'. Horney reasoned that Freud's theory of penis envy



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made more sense when taken as a metaphor; penis envy was a symbolic longing for the social prestige and position that men experience. Thus, women felt inferior because of the freedom and social status they lacked because of their gender, not because of their literal lack of the phallus. Freud responded to her, writing: 'We shall not be very greatly surprised if a woman analyst who has not been sufficiently convinced of the intensity of her own wish for a penis also fails to attach proper importance to that factor in her patients.' According to Freud, Horney's development of the concept of womb envy was rooted in the penis envy she herself experienced. It is sad how a woman's opinion was shot down and written down in history just like that.

Fifty years after Freud, feminist theorist Jessica Benjamin released 'A Desire of One's Own (1986)', where she wrote of how the Oedipus complex only encouraged the patriarchal hierarchy. She further wrote that penis envy was not because of the lack of phallus as Freud described, but because of socio-cultural reasons – making it an irrelevant part of female sexuality. But how many of us know Jessica Benjamin? Again a woman's opinion is lost in history. Now, my reason for repeating history and narrating this tale is not to emphasise the stupidity of the 20th-century sex organ obsessed psychologists but to show how misogyny and patriarchy are so rooted even in science and probably also why people still believe in them. When the father of psychology himself says all these things, one can guess where people get the confidence to assert their misogynist, chauvinist and illogical thoughts. Taboos are a socio-cultural construct; they might exist for good reasons as well as bad; We know taboos have been a part of every society all over the world.

Now let's take a moment and just focus on the taboos that we as a society, especially as an Indian society, face on a daily basis. So many of them come to mind that one can't even fathom. It's a heart-breaking truth that mostly all of the taboos revolve around women and their sexual organs. Still, for now, I shall talk about taboos and some concerns that I deem are very problematic, at least in the 21st century. Sex, Female pleasure and Curse words. We know that society has undergone various changes over the past 200 years; maybe it is the young generational spirit in me talking, but it is high time that these things shouldn't be

considered taboo and curse words revolving around women should not be the norm. Be prepared. A huge rant ahead; I would like to support my article and argument by asking a series of rhetorical questions and throwing light on the atrocities and unfair justice that is served in the name of it being a taboo.

Why is female pleasure still considered taboo? What kind of thinking is this that a man is allowed to enjoy sex, but if he sees a woman enjoying it, then he's repelled by that woman. We live in a society where even sex is taboo, and female pleasure is something even unheard of in some places. I remember a conversation I had with my maid, her daughter was getting married, and I asked her, so what advice have you given your daughter now that she's getting married? The daughter was relatively young and had just turned 18; what shook me to the core was the maid's reply; she said that she told her daughter that at night when her husband comes, just lie still and let him do everything. Let him do whatever he wants to, even if you are scared, just close your eyes and lie there. This is the kind of advice mothers from the middle class, and lower-middle-class families give their daughters. What is this, if not the result of cultural brainwashing that happens to women in our society?

We live in a country where Hinduism is prominent. According to the Hindu tradition, the Kama is one of the four goals of human life and is also contemplated as one of the primary needs to fulfil during the stages of life. Yet, people are so unaware. Since we are talking about totems and taboos, as one knows, a Totem is something that has a symbolic meaning. The shivling that is worshipped by so many people is, in fact, the representation of sex. In actual fact, it is the phallus of Lord Shiva, and it is situated in the yoni (uterus) of Mother Parvati. A shivling, in general, symbolises the union of mind and soul. The upper part of the shivling represents the phallus or the male organ, whereas the base or the lower part of the shivling represents the yoni or the vulva. This divine and cosmic union leads to the creation of new lives. It's so ironic that it's worshipped in a country where sex is taboo. Can we not conclude that a Shivling becomes a totem that symbolises such a taboo. Why is it worshipped then? After all, a taboo is something terrible and forbidden, right?

A girl who talks about her own pleasure is considered a slut, and someone whose character is questionable. A



weak person is referred to as a "pussy", which also means the female vagina. During fights and circumstances of extreme rage, the curse words exchanged always revolve around the Mother or sister and their sex organs. We live in a society where every aspect of the female body is shamed. The female body is always the main object and target in all curse words. It's funny how women who are so strong and push out actual human beings from their bodies are considered weak. They are demeaned, no matter what they do. If she dresses too much, she's a prostitute who wants attention; if she doesn't dress enough, then she's an ugly hag who must be a virgin. Bangles are thrown at men to demean and insult. It's as if everything related to a woman is an insult in itself. Be it any religion, a woman is always supposed to be covered. Each and every element of the female body is sexualised. Her life, her dreams, her wishes, and her desires are null. They do not exist. She is nothing but a body made for the pleasure of man. He can use it as he pleases. A woman doesn't exist in herself; she is nothing without a man. She has no brain of her own. There is no such thing as her feelings and wants; Freud, who is apparently the 'father' of psychology, disregards lesbian relationships completely and considers their sexual feelings and acts as null and also goes on to relate it to a mental disease. One can conclude that being a woman is a taboo in itself. We live in a society

that's full of irony and hypocrisy. Looking at all of this, there's only one thing that comes to mind, Totems are maybe religious. Taboos are cultural. Taboos are a result of a wretched narrow-minded society. They are also the result of intolerant, toxic masculine psychologists like Sigmund Freud. Now let's turn Freud into a totem, a totem that symbolises misogyny, chauvinism, weak masculinity that's threatened by women, and patriarchy.

As long as there are people who follow Freud blindly, who follow this totem blindly, there is no room, hope or scope for change. People hold this totem in the highest regard. As long as this totem is not busted, taboos will exist. They will go on to dominate lives and societies. Sex, female pleasure and being a woman will continue to be a taboo. It's high time that we talk and enlighten people about this And ask them to wake up, wake up and look around, open their eyes to the evil that this totem is; They must realise that this totem is actually the taboo. We as a society need to ensure and make this Freud totem that's filled with all things sexist and patriarchal values a taboo. And at last, we must concede that this totem which should be taboo, needs to be shattered. The good modern society will solely be considered to have gained victory, and the progress in humanity will merely be seen when people come forward, pick up the hammer and shatter the totem.

## Unraveling Magicians

Laksaya G  
SYBA

Mostly, I perform things only that fascinate me. I make sure that my interests are meaningful and bring me blissfulness. Being an altruistic girl making people happy and my surroundings positive is something that has engrossed me since my childhood. I get pleasure out of others' joy. Music is something that soothes me from my stress or grief. Listening to some melodious songs will always be my all-time Top 1 interest. Every time I listen to it, I just fall into that world. Listening to melancholic songs will help me to

vent out my feelings. This helps me to bounce back easily from my frustration. Unfortunately, I realized it at a later date only. However, I am not a great artist. I love sketching and painting. Art makes me calm and it increases my focus on it. I started drawing mandalas a couple of years ago which taught me Patience. Sometimes a simple solo walk is also interesting. At that time, I loved observing my surroundings. The silence, the leaves and branches moving around in the air, and listening to the birds chirping is adorable. Just sleeping and binge-watching movies and series are my weekend interests. I also love to design my room. I feel bored just seeing things in the same place. I often like to change and arrange things in my room. And majorly taking care of myself mentally and physically is the best thing that I like to do.



**A CLASSIC, TRENCHANT  
MORAL TALE – A BOOK WORTH  
THE READ**

Vridhhi Shinde  
XI-A, Commerce

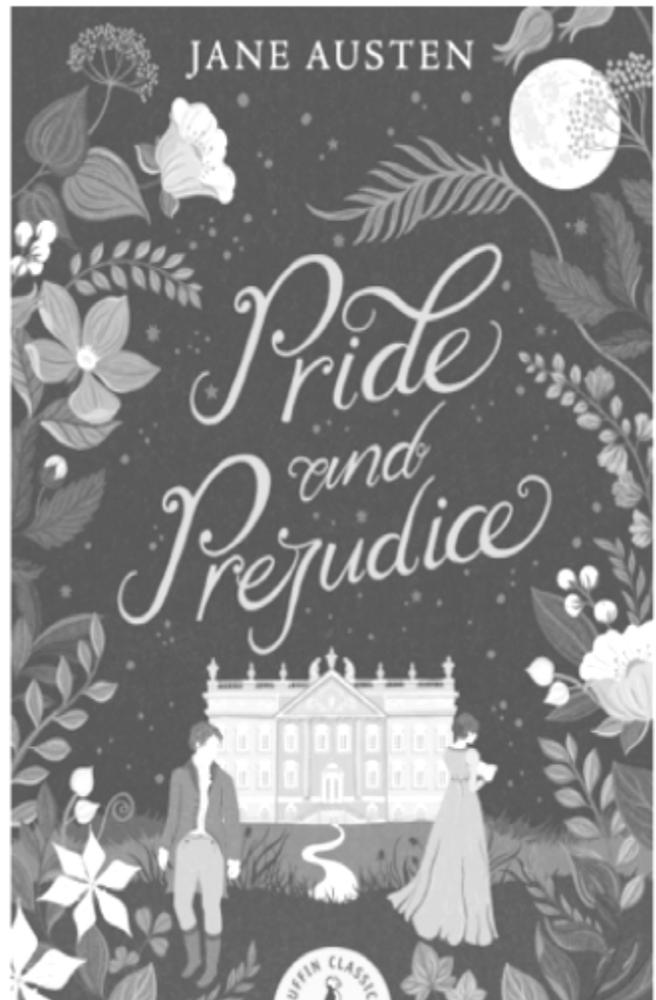
Title – Pride and Prejudice

Author – Jane Austen

Genre – Fiction, Satire, Historical Romance

As rightly said by Stephen King, “Books are a uniquely portable magic”. Whether you wish to start reading or already are an avid reader, this book must have caught your attention at least once. 'Pride and Prejudice' is a classic, romance novel written by Jane Austen, a fundamental feminist woman and one of the finest authors in the history of literature. It's a fictional, historical romance of two distinctly opposite individuals, Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy during the 18th Century.

This book walks us through the lives of Elizabeth Bennet – the second eldest of the of her siblings, quick-witted, intelligent, and headstrong girl from a humble household and Fitzwilliam Darcy – an aloof, handsome, and tsundere man from a rich household; talking of the pride of a man and the prejudice of a woman. The beginning sees the Bennets wanting to be of liking to the friendly, new people in Netherfield – The Bingleys. The protagonists meet at a ball, where Elizabeth writes Darcy off as an arrogant and unapproachable person. He stands aloof the whole night, acting like a snob, and even rejects Elizabeth for a mere dance. As the book progresses, Darcy begins to fall for Elizabeth's intelligence and wit and Elizabeth finds herself in a questionable position for her feelings for Darcy. On finding out about Darcy saving her sister from societal shame, she wonders whether she was



prejudiced about her perspective of Mr. Darcy and the way she felt about him. Through the ups and downs of this story of two warring hearts, destiny works its magic and brings in the wonders of fate, all so expected yet unexpected.

As rightly said by George R. R Martin, “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies”. Step into a multi-emotional ride with Liz and Darcy and get your hands on one of the greatest classics in the history of books. Anyone with a keen interest in literature or is wanting to dive into the beautiful world of literature, this is a highly recommendable classic. A beautifully woven romantic, witty satire that has come to the liking of all, regardless of the genre preferable, is a must-read for all.



## Finding Yourself

Dale Halstead  
Class XII B

It isn't easy being the person who follows their dreams and who follows a different path. It isn't easy knowing that you will be travelling on a different journey altogether.

While believing in your dreams is one word, achieving it is a whole different journey.

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

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

You have to let it motivate you.

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

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

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

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

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

But most importantly,  
You will find yourself!

## Me In You

Khushboo Dingreja  
TYBA

Today we live in the world of unrest – people are dying; schools, colleges, and offices function from home. our identities are lost behind the mask and we feel trapped. Everything is in chaos but despite all of this, there is the calmness that I feel, when every morning I listen to Dada's words of wisdom in the college sanctuary. His open arms protect, guide, and shield me from this immoral world. Five years ago, I entered St. Mira's College with an attitude of an infant – absolutely clueless and uncertain – just imbibing

everything around with stability in my heart, which was possible only because of the divine presence of Dada.

Dada...a simple, yet the most powerful word of this universe. The word in Hindi means 'grandfather', but for me, Dada is the brightest star in the sky – the one who is always there, the one who fulfills wishes, energy that calms one when one is exhausted, the one that guides one at every step of the way, and most importantly, he is an emotion, a feeling of joy, ecstasy, and pure bliss. There is no combination of the 26 alphabets that can describe him. He is a man that embodies patience, love, compassion, innocence, humility, and joy. I realized this the moment I was on the stage of Sadhu Vaswani Mission while playing his role in Dada-Leela. Practicing in the college auditorium was a very mechanical process but the energy reverberating in the mission was very



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empowering; it was almost similar to the feeling that of Lord Krishna when he was enlightened while lifting the Govardhan Hill. As soon as I wore that costume, I felt his divine presence in my heart; it was that moment that made me realize how a mystic feels when enlightened. Even though it was staged, I could feel the pain and agony the characters were told to depict. I could not imagine what an impact it had on him, and by extension on me. I still fail to fathom how much his sayings have changed me as an individual.

The world knows Dada's principles of simplicity, humility, prayer, and service, but I have lived these principles in that one hour of the play – be it helping the sick, showing compassion for all, feeling the

presence of God, empathizing with the hurt of man and animal alike. These incidents taught me to look at the world from another lens, and that has made me open the door to selfless service to those in dire need. Although I have played the role of Dada, it is still hard to practice all of his teachings in today's competitive world, where evils such as corruption, politics, favoritism, etc. prevail. There are times when one feels the need to cheat and get to the easy way to success, to level with the world; however, if one stays true to Dada's teachings one at a time, even the most luxurious item in the world would fail to match up to his simple yet lasting actions.

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### Our Soulful Sanctuary

Kareena Narayan  
TYBA

Many people ask me what the sanctuary in my college is...well, it has not one, but multiple answers. You see, the sanctuary is not just a place to receive valuable education; the word itself means 'shelter' or 'retreat'. In simple words, our sanctuary is a place where we all seek shelter from a bustling and cruel world, to attain inner peace and self-confidence.

The sanctuary always begins with the college song, composed by our founder Sadhu T.L. Vaswani; the song, in itself, teaches us that one needs to embrace values like simplicity and humility, to be a great personality, instead of claiming oneself as the all-round genius of everything – from academic studies to exquisite cooking. This is the place where students and teachers of all religions are united under one roof and take part in bhajans, kirtans, hymns, or nasheeds. One may not know the lyrics by heart, but it does have a soothing effect on one's ears and mind. Here is

where we also celebrate various festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Christmas, the birth anniversaries of Bade Dada and Chhote Dada, and many more.

Many a time, teachers from various departments give students a speech, either related to women empowerment, awareness about various social issues (e.g.: STDs in rural areas of our country), or announcements for various activities and projects (e.g.: NSS, credit courses, competitions, etc.). So, you see the sanctuary is not just for and by the students, but the teachers as well. Students, too, prepare presentations for their peers, promote club activities, share personal experiences and victories, or simply engage in fun activities (e.g.: riddles, hosting 'sanctuary talk shows', having thoughtful discussions, etc.).

At the end of the sanctuary, we all engage in prayer for a couple of minutes, which makes us one with the Almighty, and realize temporary life on this planet. It doesn't matter which God one prays to, as long as it is straight from the heart, and with a pure intention. In this way, the sanctuary not only inculcates good values and morals in us, but it also teaches us that we must take a few minutes for ourselves from our hassling lives, which we would be leading, once we finish college.



## Stree kal aana

Chandana Roy  
TYBA

Wow, where should I even begin? As a student and soon-to-be alumni, there are so many beautiful memories that have been made in this college. The First Year of college initially felt very new to me but as I explored the college and made friends along the way, the distance between my soul and the college disappeared. It had become another home for me. As I entered each day, the greenery welcomed me along with the cute college dog, Moti, and the moody yet not so unfriendly cat. Now here's the thing: I was not particularly into Sports but ended up giving it a try because well, you know, it's now or never. The college football team soon became my family and we always had each other's back even during classes. As each day passed, I felt closer to the institution and genuinely enjoyed going to college. It no longer felt like an unknown place. Every morning, the football team was to report early for practice and as I jogged along the

ground of our college, breathing in the fresh air seemed to soothe my soul and exercise not only my body but my brain.

When it came to classes, the environment was amazing for learning because as you looked outside you would be surrounded by trees away from the city hubbub and buildings, it always made me feel like I was in a peaceful forest full of birds. It was perfect for learning and the teachers are always there to support us and clear our doubts. Now, let us climb a few steps to the second floor. Voila! The college canteen is always packed with students waiting to try the delicious Wada Pav, Hakka Noodles, and various mouth-watering dishes. I had never seen the canteen empty; it was always packed with students waiting to eat. As you move along the corridor, the library soon comes into sight. The best place to study where one is surrounded by knowledge.

The amazing auditorium was available for various events like the Kosu fest which included cosplay and a K-pop dance competition as well. As I left for home I always turned to look back at the beautiful haven of learning. Little did I know that there would be the last time before I got to see the institute again. I have been fortunate enough to experience the first year offline and continue to hope for a time to get back to it.

## Lockdown Losses

Kareena Narayan  
TYBA

A lot has happened in the past two and a half years. A global pandemic forced us to stay indoors, limit contact, and opt for a healthy lifestyle. While it has been easy for some, it has been quite a struggle for many, especially students.

Let's start with the initial phase of the lockdown. It almost felt like a vacation – no classes, no teachers to scold, and the best part, no exams! Sounds like a dream, doesn't it? It was...I mean, it is. It was a real delight to get up late, attend lectures either outside your house or even in the bathroom, avoid house chores, and get 'modern' and tech-savvy while doing

assignments. You name it. It felt like you were being home-schooled based on your college schedule. After that, you could do whatever your heart wished – binge watch series and films, cook new dishes, work out, read, paint, play music, or a new video game – that is, until you hear a voice from one of the bedrooms, “beta, clean your room, please”; from the kitchen, “beta, please help me out in the kitchen”; from the living room, “beta, just get these things from the market”; and so on.

Yes, it's really annoying. Some students found them to be really interesting and useful, while some viewed them as a tedious job that had to be finished immediately, no matter what the end result would be. Some students also worked during the lockdown, especially in the night shift, which was more stressful than the daily routine of other students, as they had to balance their studies, work, sleep, and house chores all at the same time. Trust me when I say that they need more applause than the high wire act we watched with anticipation in circuses, once upon a



## *Mother of Dragons*

time. What stressed me the most in the second phase of the lockdown was that we had tests and multiple assignment submissions one after another, in a week, without a break.

Well, it is bound to happen with us final year students, as we need to 'learn to multitask in the corporate world, but this is not how it should work, right? Everything needs to be taken one step at a time because they say haste makes waste; if an assignment were done in haste, it would affect our grades, and if we did not do it, it would still affect our grades. Well, this is the law of nature, so as long as you are an earthling, you must 'obey' the instructions, no matter how much you criticize them in your head.

The internet has been a real friend to many of us, because it taught us various things (no matter how useless they were), entertained us with series, films, and games, helped us to stay in touch with friends and family, and kept us updated with global and current affairs. The worst moment of a student's life was when they could not connect to the internet because of a fallen tower. Oh, the horror! It would specifically be a

do-or-die case in terms of an assignment or a test deadline. The fear of getting minus marks due to a late submission was much scarier than being skeptical about facing a possible backlog, which you'd avoid at all costs, because of three major reasons: 1) you are in love with the said subject; 2) you want to impress the teacher and your classmates with your exceptional research, or 3) you are by default an over-achiever, so a bad grade would ruin your report card, as well as your reputation altogether.

Besides all the ups and downs that have been happening to us in the lockdown, the saddest part is that the final year batches of these two years did not have the convocation ceremony they envisioned, inspired by those chick flicks while growing up. No robes, no hat tossing, no 'Congrats, Grad!' balloons or cards...this is no less than a childhood nightmare. At least, now that colleges are gradually opening, I guess the current final year students will demand one, because studying, working, and handling chores in the lockdown has been a serious struggle, so we deserve this appreciation to the least.

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## **Unraveling Magicians**

Laksaya G  
SYBA

There are so many things that spring up in my mind when I think about the word "Power". My "power" is the ability to make decisions on my own, to work hard for it, and to achieve it on time. I should decide my actions in my life without asking others' permission. I believe that doing everything just for others or just by asking others will diminish my power. I am responsible for my life and my decisions and also for the consequences. I always say to myself that just wishing for something is not enough, we should work hard for it. Working for oneself is also a power. Great power is always a great responsibility. Also, I feel that my mind is my power. The way I think, the way I feel, the way I believe, and the way I react; all these come under my power. It is not power to others but just to

myself. Hurting or humiliating others is not a power, but ruling others through love is a power. Sharing love with oneself and others is the biggest power. It can be a practice of showing empathy and compassion to others. Feeling good about oneself is also a power. My strength is mainly about personal power. As a girl, I need the power to survive in this society. I should be strong enough to tell my opinion, my choice, and my decision to others. I should stand up for myself without depending on others. I try to be deliberate with everyone, telling everyone what I feel about them. It is better to be deliberate instead of showing my aggressiveness in something else. Handling emotions is very important. Another key to power is patience. Patience plays a major role in my life. It has changed me a lot in a good way. All these powers were taught and trained to me from my childhood. The magician who always helps me in my life is my Grandma. I am a strong, bold and brave girl today. This is all because of her only. Even though she is not with me today, I believe that she is watching all my powers and the way I am using it from somewhere.



## A letter to Deya- from A woman is no man by Etaf Rum

Sameeha Arifi

Dear Deya,

I hope you are in good health and happy with what you have achieved in life. I hope you are still writing, and that you have become an excellent example for your kids.

I am someone who has lived your life with you, and your mother's life with her, and bits of Fareeda's life too. I am a well-wisher and someone who wishes she could talk to you, but I think this letter will do what I have wanted to do for a long, long time. Tell you about heroes. Think of this letter, as my attempt to tell you, that your mom wasn't a coward, nor is your grandmother a bad person. And with the fear of getting on your bad side I'll add, your father wasn't so bad too, at least until some time ago. This letter will also not follow the formal format of a letter with an introduction, body and conclusion, so please bear with it.

I don't like calling a female hero, 'Shero' because I think that the word 'Hero' is unisexual and is for anyone who...ahh well, I'll complete this sentence towards the end of this letter.

Your grandmother, Fareeda-

She was the product of years of worldwide culture of prioritising boys over girls. All she might have seen was how her mother regretted having her, and how she was always considered a problem, an extra. All she learned was that the only way a family is made, is through sons, men who take the family name forward. What she got in life wasn't love, but hardship and adversity. She didn't marry someone who will fill her life with love, but someone who'd come home drunk and hit her for disobeying him.

But do you know what made her a hero? It was standing strong for the sake of a better life for her, and her family. She took a beating but told him that she needed answers. That is when your grandfather sorted out his life and with her support, they saved

enough to buy plane tickets to America. It was just because of how strong Fareeda had become due to all the hardships she faced, that she could stand up to your grandfather.

Your grandfather, Khaled-

He was a victim too, you know. Not that he'll ever show it. But to be married at a young age, and to be taught that all you get to do, is work hard, earn, and feed a bunch of people, called family when you are a child yourself! That'll even want me to just have sons so that I get a helping hand and a support.

What made him a hero was the fact that he worked as hard as he could, quit drinking, and together with his wife worked towards a better life for his family.

Your Father, Adam-

He was the oldest of the four kids, and despite the fact that he wanted to become a priest, an imam, he had to give up his dream, so that he could help out his father. He didn't get the free life your mom thought every guy gets. He didn't get to choose what he wanted to do. Instead, family responsibilities were loaded on him. He set up his own store, kept on helping his father at his store, and set up a store for his younger brother too.

Taking up all the responsibilities he was given without complaining made him a hero. Although how he ended up towards the end was a lesson for everyone.

Your mother, Isra-

She dreamt. And that is the strongest a person can be. Knowing that her condition will never improve, she hoped against hope that somehow one day, she'll have a better life. She was not in the position to fight, but she did.

You might not remember this but she stayed so strong, just for you and your sisters. She tried her best to give you the life you deserved and not the life she got. Just like you, even I judged her. I thought she was a coward, that she turned out just like her mother, and Adam's mother. But she was different, Deya. She did something you'll never know about.

She took the biggest step to free you of a life like her's. Even though she risked it being the last step of her life altogether, she did it nonetheless.

She's a hero Deya, she dreamt! And she had courage. She stood up against what was wrong.

I don't like calling a female hero, 'Shero' because I think that the word 'Hero' is unisexual and is for anyone who stands strong for the sake of a better life



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for them and their family. Anyone who leaves a bad habit in order to make their, and other's lives easier. Anyone who works as hard as they can, taking up all the responsibilities they are given without complaining, to support their family, although that could be a little harmful, seeing how your dad ended up. And also, anyone who dares to dream! And has the courage to stand up against what is wrong.

A hero doesn't wear a cape or a mask. They don't look like Scarlett Johansson, Robert Downey Jr. or Chris Evans. They are everyday people, who fight and survive what life throws at them. They smile. Even when it is the hardest thing to do. They wake up every day, and we should not underestimate how hard, even that can get sometimes. They also take a break. They

do not overburden themselves. They are understanding towards others. They slow down when that is what their mind needs, and yet, do not stop to try and achieve what they want. To some extent, while they also care about others, they prioritise their own needs. A hero doesn't have to be a leader of a radical movement, nor do they have to lead their country in a revolution. They just have to take one step towards liberation.

I am happy, and proud of where you have reached in life. You did justice to your mom's death.

With affection,  
A distant admirer,  
Sameeha.

### Winter's Thaw

Arman Chagla  
MA English



The frost had set in. It had been slow-coming autumn, and by the time winter seemed to roll into the town like morning fog, it had already been frigid enough to freeze the skin of the town square fountains. People had seemed to vanish before my very eyes, hurrying home in order to light the hearth before the breath of the house was snatched away. I took a grim pleasure in knowing I had nothing and no one to return to.

I took my time in reaching the farmer's market on the

edge of town and supplemented my own meager rations from the vegetable garden with persimmons, cherries, squash, and beetroot. I longed to pick up a sack of potatoes, but the clink of two dull coins meant that I would either get the potatoes or the oil for my now-snuffed lanterns. As I made my way to the tinkers, I considered going into the forest; there would be wild game to hunt, food to have foraged, and syrup to slice from the trunks of the tall maple trees.

The tinkers were quick to sell me their wares too, already rolling down the shutters for the shop before I had to knock on the wooden counter. An old man with a bald head spotted with age, as his worker's apron was, rolled it back up.

"Seems like you're just in time, young 'un. We'd have been gone, and you'd be a moment too late in just a moment more."

I offered him a small smile as I thought to myself; I've never been in time my whole life.

On my walk home I pondered the subject. It had always been the case with me that I was either too early to too late in what looked like every aspect of my life. Broken hearts, lost loves, missed opportunities, burned bridges, and shattered hopes littered the path of my life, like once vibrant leaves turning to rot as they fell from the tree. Was I the one to blame for the way this had happened? Surely, it had been simply circumstance that led me to make the decision I felt



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was correct at the time, only to have it blow up in my face as the years went by. These memories too had left me no comfort; the sentiments of the past had deserted their posts and left the thoughts almost vacant and expressionless.

Dropping my purchases home, I set out for the woods that touched every one of the old properties this side of the town. Few chose to venture more than ten feet past the tree line. There had been, as they said, a fae's path to the old cemetery out in the woods. Folk would be lured there by the sound of rushing water and the tinkling of harps, and would never return, they said. Besides frail old grandmothers, hardly anyone still stood by the belief, but it didn't hurt to be cautious, did it?

There was a thin mist in the air, and the trunks of the trees were slightly damp and covered in a dark moss that tickled my fingers as I made my way into the thicket. The leaves were disturbed at the edges, and little creatures skittered in the corners of my eyes, pausing to look at me before turning away quietly. Before leaving home, I had snapped the tough string of the bow across my chest and a thin skein of arrows hung at my waist, tied tightly enough at the opening to not clatter against each other. I pulled on an arrow now, aiming for a pheasant plucking cheerfully at some distance, but decided against it. These might be local farmers' grazers. There would be larger game to be had deeper in the forest. The further I went in, the larger and gnarlier the trees got; extending their crooked gazes and arms towards the skies until little light made its way through. I could see the torn bases of mushrooms on these trees, and I redirected myself in search of more.

I scabbled in the underbrush for what felt like hours, old leaves sticking to the skin of my wrist and the grooves around my nails caught with mulch. The trees had been picked bare, the berry shrubs at their roots were stripped, and the game I had hoped to find had fled. There seemed to be no feast to be had this winter; the young ones must have plundered the fruits of the forest earlier in the season.

Just when I was sure that there was nothing to be found, I heard the sound of water. I carefully made my

way towards the sound and noticed something in the corner of my eye. There was a rough gate of dark wood that touched the edge of a thicket of trees. The soft tinkling touched my ears, and I peeked around before I noticed the rush of a stream not more than ten steps behind the gate. And mushrooms! Oh, I could see beautiful white bulbs peeking above the mulch at the base of these trees, and just above, a large cluster of turkey tails on the trunk of the nearest one. Before I knew it, my hands were resting on the rough gate. It took me a moment to register what I was seeing beyond the fungus.

The grave markers were so old that the stone was worn to barely more than a nub sticking out of the earth. A number of them littered the back of a looming house, and soft white motes that moved with a peculiar sense of purpose bobbed around the stretch of land.

I had to call it a house; the small church attached to the cemetery in town was nothing like this. At first sight, all I could see were the thickly intertwined branches of ivy that crisscrossed its exterior. Small stones dotted its walls surrounded by dark grout, and there was a dark green door that was open inwards. The scent of a strong herbal tea, similar to earl grey, wafted out of it. Behind it was a thick-trunked tree whose branches bobbed under the weight of sable winter apples. It loomed at least three stories high, and I wondered why it hadn't caught my eye as I had come closer when something seemed to shift in my gaze. Between one step and the next, the house vanished. The grave markers blended into the brush, and the smell of tea seemed to be snatched out of the very air. I paused for a moment.

How had I gotten here? Where in the forest had I strayed in my desperation for food, that I was faced with this vision? And, most importantly, how do I proceed? Do I scamper back to my own little hole in the ground in the town, subsisting on bread tough enough to teeth a child on, and my flickering lanterns that made that house feel even colder? Or did I step forward and take the very large amount of mushrooms and apples I could see, to fill my belly this cold month? I had a feeling that this fruit would satisfy



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more than my hunger.

Before I had a moment to consider the consequences of my theft, I had slipped past the gate and was lifting my thick skirts to cup the mushrooms I was frantically throwing into them. I had no idea how I was going to reach the apples, but my gaze traveled upwards to check where the lowest boughs were within reach. I had only just moved on to the second tree when someone stepped out from behind the house.

It was a woman, her skirts flowing and covered in what looked like tiny lavender flowers. Her hair was ebony and its length was curled into a thick knot at the base of her head while thin strands that had made their escape fluttered around her face in the soft breeze. The rush of water behind her seemed to cast a haze, and she was, in one brief glimpse, outlined by a throbbing blue pulse of energy. She appeared to have been in the middle of a wide smile when she saw me. Her eyes were the color of cold honey, a saccharine gaze sweeping over me that came to rest at the mushrooms in my hands.

"You must be famished."

Her voice seemed to echo around me, although it held the sensuous lilt of a whisper. I found myself shaking where I stood, although my voice did its best not to betray me. I itched to reach for the bow that seemed to tighten against me.

"Forgive me. I didn't mean to steal."

She lifted a hand and I was cut off, the words melting on my tongue before I could voice the rest of my pathetic excuse.

"I know why you are here. Your past has not been kind to you." Her lips puckered in the semblance of a pout, and a rage gripped me for a moment as my memories flashed before my eyes. Pain, death, and hate now tinged the edges of the pictures in red. How could she know? I hadn't even said a full sentence to her. But as my gaze met hers, my argument died in my throat. There was an understanding there that seemed to glitter like a coin at the bottom of a deep pool. I waited.

She moved like an apparition, shimmering into existence paces away from where she began, and I

forced myself to focus on her eyes. She reached down, and lifted one of the plundered mushrooms from my skirt, the back of her hand brushing my stomach. My breath quickened. The tips of her fingers were stained red. She handled the fungus with care, almost caressing the soft gills on its underside. She stared at it with loving attention as she continued.

"You are like the mushroom, my sweet. You have grown, despite the elements, on the decay of your old life. But should you want to remain, there is nothing but rot to greet your future. Wouldn't you say so?" A cold wind ruffled her hair as she peered at me.

"I would say that mushrooms grow from dead things, but they give back. They rot and decay, but they are kind to the life around them. They are part of the circle."

She quirked her lips. "Why shouldn't you break the wheel? What has the life you surround yourself with ever given you?"

I tried to think of the moments of happiness I had so desperately held onto for the last few years, willing myself into being happy where I was. They turned to ash on my tongue. When I didn't reply for a few moments, she spoke.

"I shall offer you a choice; one that I do not extend the courtesy of often."

She paused, and her pale hand with the reddened fingers rested on my cheek. A fiery touch.

"Will you give me your name?" I said, words tumbling through my lips in thinly veiled anticipation. She smiled then, teeth glistening and her eyes twinkling.

"Yes. I will give you my name, and the name of every beast under the sky and every tree rooted in the earth. And they shall know yours. Although it must be on one condition, and one condition alone. Stay. Stay with me, and I will treat you to delights that you will never find in your world outside the wood."

There was no question, and I didn't need to give her my answer. She took it in hand, as I had the mushroom. My future. My past. She leaned forward. Her lips brushed the side of my face as she whispered her guttural name in my ear, and I did mine in hers.

We walked back to the house, hand in hand.



## My Khaleesi

**Khaleesi? Queen? Oh,  
this is more than  
just that!**

**-By someone who believes she  
can be who she wants to be,  
aka, herself**

Umme Ayman Nizam Kazi  
FYBA

A Khaleesi is a term used to symbolize a 'QUEEN' in GOT (Game of Thrones.) Not having seen the series, I owe it to Google to bless me with a short and simple explanation of the term (Sorry, not sorry, I hardly watch anything outside of *Kdramas*: p)

When the topics were given, I knew I had to choose this one, but then my mind went blank, like I was in an exam. I had no idea who to choose as my Khaleesi.

The thought that I'll have to choose '*Stree Kal Aana*'-- Wherein I had to describe my thoughts due to college reopening-- as the topic tugged at my brain. And I knew I did NOT want to speak about some superficial and mixed feelings of mine for 20 whole marks!! But that's exactly what I am gonna do..... NOT

So I started having a mental breakdown, cursing at my sudden creative block. It got me thinking and thinking and thinking and thinking and thinking, so much that I could fill two whole pages of the assignment with the same recurring word-- Which I will not because I don't want to be in my teacher's bad books (And no matter how many times a teacher says that they don't care about marks, humans are fickle minded. You never know when those twenty marks go, down, down, baby. [singing in Chen's voice during Kokobop sub-chorus])

A lot of questions came to my mind. Who do I wanna be? Who am I like? Anne Hathaway? Deepika

*Padukone*? Irene from Red Velvet? Karina from Aespa? *Tzuyu* from Twice?

Many names came to my mind. All of them are beautiful, skinny, fair, slender, dainty, pretty, cute, Asian, American, African, European, Australian, et cetera. Not gonna lie, with each name popping up, my own self-love agenda got weaker.

I asked my mom for some advice and she said, "Write about me." I scrunched my face and said, "There's no originality in the subject." (Nah, I'm fine. Just some broken ribs and bones.)

However, two names stood out the most, like I found something valuable right in front of me after ransacking the whole house (brain). These two names are who I consider queens, not only mine, but of millions around the globe, and Hyperbole is NOT intended.

Hwasa (화사) and Jessi (제시) both famous personalities in the world of Kpop idol singers from South Korea (대한민국.) If one doesn't know them, they don't know what Kpop is all about. Being huge public figures, the amount of eyes on them is immense. Not all words they receive are supportive. It is nearly impossible to not receive those negative comments. So, these idols have to face slander, defamation, hate, and in some cases, death threats, almost every day. These offensive words, in the form of swords and spears pierce through their bodies, but they still go on. They still come back with huge smiles to not let their fans worry while their backs bleed a crimson red, like a warrior.

HWASA

With a heavenly voice that pierces right through the soul, this Kpop idol from the group *Mamamoo*, is known to everyone as one of the legendary idols in the South Korean idol culture, who deserves all the love and support in the world. Hwasa (화사) -- real name: *Ahn Hye Jin* (안혜진) -- has been in the idol industry from the year 2014, as a singer, songwriter, fashion model and rapper from RBW Entertainment. She has collaborated with a number of famous singers from her home country even before debuting. She has written and composed a number of songs for her



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group and her solo. She has also collaborated with Dua Lipa for a remix of her song 'Physical'. Having numerous awards in her name with her group and solo, she has achieved worldwide fame and recognition.

Despite having a long time experience of being in the public eye, she has been receiving a lot of hate and criticism. Reason, you ask? Because netizens think she is ugly, dark and, 'Not Asian Looking.' They say, "She's the *visual hole* of the group." And demand her to leave the same. (One of the most toxic side effects of giving maximum importance to fans in idol culture.) She has also been subjected to a lot of partiality and suppression by a lot of record labels that she has auditioned for in the past.

After barely making it to the debut line-up of her group, she has now received fame and success. But one thing remains constant, the hate and death threats. However, nothing and no one stops her from having her queen moments.

In one interview with a TV show, she revealed how the judgemental looks directed towards her when onstage made her so upset, that she ran back home and cried. Watching her favourite clip of Beyoncé's concert, she said to herself, "I want to be like her, I can be like her." She keeps mentioning how, she believed in herself and was confident about herself, so much that once she worked hard in a week to lose the extra kilos she had.

During one of her performance stages, in a break in between, she said, "One day, I went to do an audition and an instructor there told me, 'You're really unique and sing very well, but you're fat and not pretty.'" Just like this, she was humiliated and criticized for her appearance and looks. She then continued saying, "...but soon I found myself promising this, if I don't fit into this generation's beauty standard, then I will have to become a different standard."

There was once she mentioned how her school bullies could do nothing to her after meeting her while she was out with her group members. Hwasa constantly thanks her parents for raising her as a strong and independent individual.

"If I'm going to live like a fool and get hurt, maybe,

should I become a badass instead?" She said to herself while preparing for her solo song titled "Maria" who she accepts as her alter ego. She admitted to having a deteriorating mind which is openly metaphorized in the official music video of 'Maria' and said, "This song is for all those 'Maria's' in the world, who have been in my place."

#### JESSI

An American- South Korean rapper, singer, songwriter, Jessi (제시) aka Jessica Ho (제시카호)-- real name: *Ho Hyun Joo* (호현주)-- is one of the most influential females along with Hwasa. The aura she surrounds herself with is untouchable. 'Humble yet Fierce' as to what the netizens say.

Known for her seductive appearance, beautiful eyes, raspy voice, unique tonal quality and a whole lot of other positive stuff, she has been praised, loved and supported by many. She was born and brought up in New York and New Jersey respectively, and moved to South Korea when she was fifteen years of age.

Struggling in a new country with cultural, ethnic and language barriers, she worked hard to debut as a solo singer in 2005. She was known as BoA #2 (BoA is an OG idol of the Kpop wave, sharing her record label, SM Entertainment with EXO, SuperM, Red Velvet, etc.)

However, after releasing her second single album 'The Rebirth,' she took a break from music and left Korea to return to America. She came back as a member of 'Lucky J' and participated in the first season of Unpretty Rapstar in which she was the second place winner. In 2019, she signed a contract with PNation, a record label by Psy [Yes, yes, the Gangnam Style singer ;) ] Currently she is the MC of a program named 'Showterview with Jessi' on SBS's Mobic Channel on YouTube. She recently released

a single titled 'Cold-Blooded' with Street Woman Fighter crews and a collab single with Sunmi and Ed Sheeran titled 'Shivers.'

She holds a number of awards in her name, is hard working, talented, rich, everything one would want to be like, but she receives hate, just like Hwasa, for reasons unlike.

Being an idol, she was told to do plastic surgery by her



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previous agencies. It was the biggest change for her appearance. People called her 'Gangnam Beauty' (A slang for someone who has done a lot of plastic surgeries.) They mocked her for turning into a fierce and rebellious look from a pure and innocent one.

Despite all the hate, Jessi knew she didn't have to break down. She said that she regrets doing all those surgeries and that they looked unnatural, removing the fillers in her face as a result.

She has openly and proudly admitted to having done double eyelid surgery, Rhinoplasty (Nose Job), Lip fillers, Botox, Butt implant and Breast implant and some say the list isn't as short as this. (Jessi has denied doing more of what's mentioned.) But the point here is, the hate she receives from a bunch of narrow minded *people* (stopped myself from cursing)

"She looks fake."; "How monstrous!"; "She isn't in her right mind."; a lot of such comments made their way to her. "So what if I look fake? What's that got to do with you?" She manages to retaliate, thanks to her confident personality.

Being the queen she is, she makes sure to throw out words that offend them, the same way their words hurt her. "I realized I can never be perfect." She once said, and so, she decided to give up on caring about how other people look at her. She knew it's of no use catering to others' likes. Those who hate will keep on hating, regardless of the reason.

Just this one thought was a renaissance for her. Funny and cute, yet full of vigor and strength, one hardly has a personality like she does.

These are two women, I believe, are my Khaleesis. I want to be like them. 'Beauty and Grace, they'll punch you in the face', kind of people. Someone who doesn't care about superficial things.

Pimples, acnes, blackheads, hyperpigmentation, they come and go. There'll come a time when they will stop appearing. Irrespective of which, why should we care about those who only know how to criticize others?

Ironically speaking, every aunt or distant relative that nags you about your weight has a 9 month old pregnant husband, and every girl mocking you about

your skin problems has tons of makeup on their her face. If I come across such a person, I wish I will have the courage to answer back like my Khaleesis would, "How about you care about your husbands' abdominal balloon before commenting on me?" OR, "Let's talk after you remove all that whipping cream off your face." and walk off with a dramatic hair flip, an eye roll with my chin raised and heels clacking left and right (Wouldn't mind using a hyperbole and say '... with a thousand men asking me to step on them' but that would be ~ very dramatic.)

An eloquence in speech and style, irrespective of the flaws people link with me, I'd love to live my life like Hwasa and Jessi. To say that they're my queens is still an understatement, and to say that they're queens to millions of people worldwide is still not an over statement.

It's somehow touching and inspiring to see these women getting up while constantly being trampled on. I'd be lying if I say I don't wanna be slim or beautiful, etc. But I also want to be strong, bold, and confident and someone that makes them say, "Look at the Queen go!"

It hurts me to see how strong you have to be,  
Happy or vulnerable, every phase of yours they see.

They know how to hurt you and target where  
you're weak,

It's sad to think how seldom of the help you seek.

So I wish the universe grants its powers to you,  
And karma finds its way, making them go 'Boohoo'.

I wish life blesses you with things you were  
deprived off

Love, support and everything to make 'em frown  
and scoff.

Happy you are strong enough to show 'em you  
got sass,

Life is fair enough to give them beatings on their ass.

But God Almighty is so wonderful, he already  
knows it all,

He'll raise those who're good and the bad ones;  
he'll make them fall.



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### Humans of Pune Vivitt Chandrasekaran & Happy

Sakina Bharmal  
SYBA



“Happy, is the lone survivor of his siblings who died of a disease at birth, and I am one of only two dog-feeders in my society, Vrindavan. A few months after he was born, my younger sister and her friend brought Happy

to our parking space and would feed him there. Our mother was upset at first because she knew that people in our society wouldn't be pleased that there was a stray dog in the premises who we were feeding, just like we have done for 8 years for another stray dog Whitey. But in no time, my family grew very fond of Happy and made a proper shelter for him in our parking lot where we would keep food for him, just like we do for whichever dog comes to us.

Save for the barking, Happy was harmless. Sometimes he would follow people to and from the gate and that frightened a lot of them. The majority of them wanted him removed from the society. They called PMC and tried to get rid of him. At the beginning of this year, some people from PMC came and took him away but brought him back within a week because as per the law, you can't relocate a dog. After returning, he got hurt multiple times - being run over by a car, and injured by a bike's silencer - whether

deliberately or not, I can't say. We looked after him and his injuries, and at this point, with the help of the other dog-feeder, we decided to contact an NGO - "People for Animals" (PFA). They secretly observed Happy for a few weeks and then decided to take him away because he needed to undergo surgery for the disease that had killed his siblings. He was gone for almost 5 months and went all around Pune. He also underwent neutering, much earlier than is usually done, so he couldn't reproduce because that's what everyone in the society wanted. Happy finally returned to our society in October. PFA couldn't keep him with them anymore because in the end he was a street dog and he was perfectly healthy. My family was so happy that he had returned. We took care of him and fed him just like we used to. After his return, he had become very well behaved and his barking at night had decreased by almost 90%.

But the harassment by society members did not stop. A girl who really disliked dogs and was scared of Happy tried harming him by pelting stones at him. She destroyed the shelter we had made in our parking lot, threw away the boxes and broke the pots. PFA was constantly updated about Happy's situation and asked us if we wanted to take any action against her but we declined and let her go with a warning.

In the society meeting that month, an MLA who was in attendance was told of the "nuisance" that the dog had been creating. The society members, desperate to have him removed, made false allegations against Happy saying that he had bitten some people. I cross-checked these allegations and found out that the watchmen and store-keepers were asked to lie in favour of the society members so Happy could be taken away on the grounds that he posed a threat. Because we were just feeders and not owners, we couldn't say much in Happy's defence then. The MLA said she would have him picked up the next week. I immediately contacted the other dog-feeder who got in touch with PFA. They called the MLA and said they can't have Happy removed. A week went by and nothing happened. But one day, I heard the sound of Happy crying. I went down and saw that he had been tied in a net. I asked them why he was being taken again because I knew that according to the law, once PMC has taken a dog and gotten them neutered and



vaccinated, they can't touch them again. The workers said they had their orders from the MLA. I was alone, fighting to keep Happy there while everyone else in the society was yelling at me, abusing me.

I pleaded with the MLA to not take away the dog, that he was friendly and harmless but she said that she couldn't help it because the majority of the society was against him being there. She said she knew that a lot of higher-ups were involved in this because animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi and PFA had been in touch with them about Happy's case. At this point, I called the other dog-feeder in our society and she gave my number to the PFA head. They called me and asked me to video-record the whole situation and I did. The PMC workers took him away nonetheless but bought him back within a week. The PFA head had apparently contacted the Corporator, sent them Happy's file and said that they were not supposed to touch this dog. They had lawyers ready if need be.

For now, Happy is safe, happy, back at his home, where he belongs, and PFA has helped us ensure that.

Even now, my family - my mom, sister, grandma - and I are the only ones standing by Happy's side along with help from the other dog-feeder and her contacts with the NGOs. But all of us are now subject to verbal abuse and harassment from society members. They are furious that Happy is back, and because of me. Every week I get at least 3 calls from people telling me that I have no humanity because I'm choosing a dog's life over everyone else's safety. But they don't understand that dogs are pure and harmless. They pose no threat if we treat them with kindness and love. You give them that and they will protect you for as long as they live. I wish people would understand that. It's what motivated me to take a stand for Happy in the first place when everybody else wanted to get rid of him, and what has kept me going for 1.5 years despite all the difficulties and abuse directed at me and my family; we are fighting for the rights of a speechless being and in doing that, we are not doing anything wrong."

## A story of Dr. Sonam Kapse

Janhvi Sharma  
SYBA



"There is 'ability' in every 'disability' with exposure to the right opportunities and proper guidance when need be. In fact, I believe that we need to discontinue looking at any form of 'disability' with a sympathy-tinted lens. Instead, we need to celebrate the

distinctiveness of all specially abled individuals that uniquely sets them apart. We need to work towards being inclusive and empathetic.

A hearing impaired person may not be able to hear, but s/he is capable of everything else. I choose to focus on their abilities rather than limiting them to what they cannot do. I founded Terrasinne, Pune's first socially conscious restaurant awarded the ITC hospitality with a cause award within a few months of operation, with hearing and speech impaired individuals as my core staff at a time when the concept of socially conscious dining in India wasn't widely known. It still isn't. But Terrasinne is my effort at normalising the same.

In the ten to eleven years of my career so far, I have worked with a significant number of NGOs and it was through my experience with multiple NGOs that led me to a conclusive observation - a 'disabled' individual is often forbidden and sidelined. All the specially abled individuals that I saw there were made to sit in a room, away from everyone else and they were given



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extremely simple tasks even when they could have been trained to do more. They were forced to make themselves small, leading them to feel a sense of inferiority. Since then, bringing them out of those four walls and placing them in the foreground while training them to face the world with utmost confidence in themselves has become my foremost aim. Soon after, I made a trip to Europe. I visited a tiny, local bistro where young adults with autism were sincerely at work. I was moved. This is when I knew I needed to create an inclusive space back home in India, such as this one.

Over years of extensive research and relentless work, I founded Terrasinne with more than two hundred local farmers on board to promote local, organic food made from revived ancestral food grains such as Jowar, Bajra, Ragi etc. facilitating sustainable agriculture. This provides a way for staple Indian grains to present as a global cuisine. My two passions were combined as I started this restaurant. My love for food being one, and more importantly, my love for working with specially abled individuals being the second. Alongside, I learned the Indian sign language and extensively trained a team of individuals with hearing and speech impairment, who could communicate through sign language. However, kindness is a universal language and I have worked hard to make it my first.

Here, just as you enter, you are welcomed with warmth as my staff members sign a 'hello!' with a beaming smile. The menu card guides you how to communicate with the staff and order food as each food item is numbered. And lastly, my team thanks you with a chin touch which stands for thank you. This is how I achieved my dream of bringing these once undervalued individuals hiding amid four walls to the forefront and helping them believe in themselves by being capable of making a career in hospitality, retail, HR and so on, all on their own. Convincing their family members to let them work with us was puzzling as they never knew this new-found opportunity to be a real possibility. In spite of this, all their doubts disappeared as I confided in them, and we became a

team. Working so closely with the members of my team has made me understand that they do not need us to become independent. They need our compassion and kindness. I also encourage parabled individuals to participate in various initiatives that I have taken.

Today, I am a cancer genetics specialist and oncologist by profession as well. I have worked with WHO and the Melinda Gates foundation too. Additionally, I am the CEO of Indo-Arab and Indo-African chambers of commerce and healthcare.

I am associated with numerous NGOs striving for women and child development and welfare. I also advise Indo-Australian businesses and the Europe-India federation for young entrepreneurs.

My mother has always been my inspiration as I lost my father when I was merely a kid. My mother became a young widow and yet, without any familial support, she raised her two kids and shaped them into the best version of themselves through a thorough education. She is the reason why I have managed to build a multifaceted career, which my younger self could only dream of having. I am a mother too. And I am hopeful that I will inspire my child the same way that my mother inspires me. I am a restless go-getter. Nevertheless, juggling between so many jobs can be taxing, but each moment my child feels proud of me, I find the strength to keep going.

Being able-bodied is a privilege and yet, we take it for granted. But what is the point of this privilege if we cannot be of help to the specially abled population? We can all coexist, don't you think? I know I can, and I hope you can too.

Being an able-bodied individual and still not utilising the same to lift these specially abled individuals up is truly not the correct use of being able-bodied. We must support them so they can support us. Despite what they lack, they are whole in themselves. They do their best to understand us. But we need to work on understanding them better and in my opinion, we will only be able to do so with unending inclusivity and unwavering humanity."



## Human



-Vasudha Ramani  
SYBA

Imperfections complete all of us. Not just me but you as well. Our country has its problems to deal with too. This includes poverty too. Many of them are provided with help, however people like me go unnoticed and

although seen become invisible in the world. I am a housemaid and go from one house to another to earn a living for me and my family. I have 2 children who are 12 and 15 years old respectively. My husband works at a factory as a watchman. But, he is an alcohol addict. Every marriage has its struggles but no relationship should cost me my self-respect or violate my space. Every night my husband returns home with the smell of alcohol all over him. He can merely stand by himself. Because he is drunk, he thinks he has the authority to speak about things that he may regret later. However, if I try to handle the situation maturely, all I get to hear is his tantrums and if that's not enough

he hits me. My children are forced to witness this and I feel helpless, not knowing what to say. I feel threatened in my own house. I cannot talk to anyone about this because I am desperate and need the money he earns, for my children. However, even I must work and earn money because every time my husband consumes alcohol, not only am I the victim of domestic violence but also I lose every penny that comes into my house.

One of my "Memsahabs" senses something was wrong. She could see that I didn't talk much and hardly paid attention to things happening around me. She saw me crying too. Feeling helpless I couldn't hold anymore as it was consuming me from within.

I broke down and burst the balloon. She tried to help and even spoke to my husband. I was scared because I knew that once I am home, he will be angry at me for sharing this with one of my "Memsahabs".

That's exactly what happened.

Today, the situation is slightly better as his work hours have increased. However, history still repeats itself on certain days and I can't escape that. My "Memsahabs" do help me financially and try to support me as much as they can. However, I have made peace with the fact that the days he is good to me and my children, I will make the most of it. And on the other days, try to stay away from him to ensure my safety. Not all stories have happy endings and the bruises on my body prove that.

## A Journey of Meditation



-Ananya Niphadkar  
SYBA

I understand that the meaning and depth of my story could be confusing and questionable for some. However, I request everyone to acquaint themselves with my

story with an open mind.

My journey with meditation started when I was 23 years old. What started as a simple meditation turned my attention completely toward the non-physical realm. The situations I was confronted with, in my daily life, were totally different and somewhat strange, not only to me but to all those around me as well. For instance, I had been longing to get a Bluetooth speaker so I decided to give manifestation a shot. For about 3 nights I focused on this desire and to my surprise on the fourth day I was gifted a 'MONTBLANC' Bluetooth speaker by a then acquaintance, of mere three days, quite unexpectedly. What's more, this lovely branded speaker was far better than the one I had expected to have and was also priced much higher.



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The urge to get into meditation pops up in one's mind through various mysterious means. They can be through dreams, visions, mystical experiences, or simply because of the harsh blows of life. Whatever the reason may be, it all makes sense in meditation. My driving force was my curiosity. I noticed that almost all the cultures I had been introduced to believe in the afterlife, i.e. life after death. I grew curious about the concept then and started reading more. I discovered meditation and decided to give it a try. My initial meditations were related to manifestations and I learnt about how things came into being through the relationship between one's conscious and subconscious mind. I also started reading more avidly as I had never before. Everything started to fall in line, and situations which I had previously hoped for and seemed quite impossible, were created in fascinating ways without any effort by me. I focused more on meditation and spent more time with myself. Earlier, revenge and grudges were two things that closely lined my personality. I would constantly hold grudges against people who hurt or tried to hurt me and I would hope that harm came to them in more ways than one. Further, I constantly felt

disappointed in everything. I felt like I dragged myself through the day and I had no motivation to get anything done. I can confidently say that I have positively changed from holding grudges and being revengeful to becoming a much calmer and wiser person.

I firmly believe that we are all moved by a divine force that remains unseen and therefore I do not praise, thank or blame anyone around me. I may seem impractical to some and a few even question whether what I am doing is correct or not. Whether what I do is right or wrong, I do not know, but I like to believe that it's good.

My interests are now piqued by the occult as well as spiritism and mysticism. Topics like these provide my ever-growing questioning mind with satisfactory answers. The bliss gained through meditation is far more satisfying than any other spiritual cultivation. Now that I have begun to understand, to an extent, the occult, I do not regard things in the external world that do not match with my internal one. Knowing well that the past isn't important, and the future is certain, I choose to live moment by moment.

### A Teacher's Story



-Delna Anklesaria  
SYBA

"I remember always wanting to work in an airline. I did my post-graduation in Travel and Tourism in Bombay, and then I got what I always wanted, a job in the airlines. But my family was conservative. When my mother came to visit me, my hostel warden told her that I work late nights at the airport. Being a conservative Iranian, my mother considered this a terrible disaster. She told me to quit my job and was adamant that I come back to my hometown- Dahanu.

I spoke to my superiors about the problem, and they were understanding. I had to return my badge and uniform. But I was very disappointed. All of this happened because of my family's conservative, orthodox mindset. Even with my entire family around me at Dahanu, I felt very depressed, and it was difficult to sleep at night. For someone who had lived the life of a Mumbaikar, there was no real life for me in my hometown. There was only a school, some shops, and farms. It was difficult for me to adjust to this sluggish life in Dahanu. I spent two months very quietly, there was a sort of darkness looming over me, and I just didn't know how to get rid of it. By God's grace, someone told me about a vacancy at the school in Dahanu. They were looking for a teacher. I needed to get out of my house and desperately wanted to get back to work, so I jumped at the opportunity. As a child, I remember fantasizing about being a teacher. It was fun to correct things. I would go through my school exercise books in the holidays and draw



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markings all over them to check my own work. I was excited to be a teacher and correct other people's work. Little did I know it was not going to be all smooth sailing. My teaching journey began in 1986. I taught high school students, and some of them would be my relatives, too. My life became pretty hectic, which was a complete contrast to when I didn't have a job. Initially, I loved to read my student's work, but I'm a very particular person, and corrections and preparation became tedious. I was working for long hours and soon I stopped enjoying it.

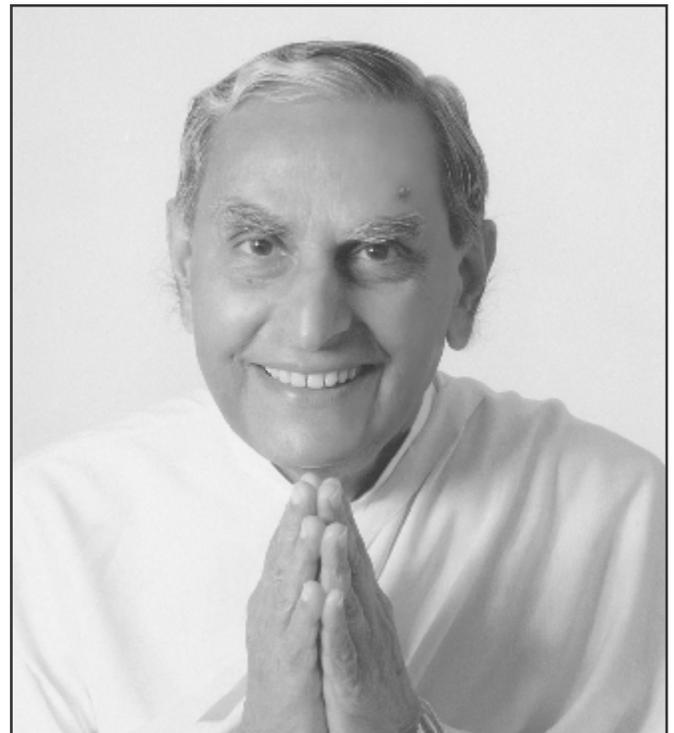
My cousins lived in Pune and I used to visit them often as a child. I loved Pune, and after almost two years of teaching in Dahanu, I got a proposal from someone in Pune. We got into a relationship, and soon we were married, and I shifted to Pune. But I was very popular in my small hometown. It was the first time they had a teacher who would sit with them when they needed it and teach them in a way they understood. My students still write to me. They're my Facebook friends and we're very fond of each other. I thought Pune would be all rosy and nice, but I didn't know what my life would be like. Living in a joint family was not easy. I had a very strong-headed husband, and most of my in-laws lived in the same building! I faced a lot of difficulties during the initial stages of my marriage. Soon I had a daughter and a dog, so it became hectic quite quickly. When my daughter joined the school, I got an opportunity to teach at that very school as a proxy teacher. The principal was fond of me, respected my work, and soon offered me a job. I think I took it because I needed the money. Every time I asked my family for any expenses, I had to provide a detailed account of what I wanted the money for. This didn't sit well with me. I needed to be independent.

Just a few days after I joined my new job, my mother-in-law had a severe stroke. I left my new job to take care of her. At the time, a friend of mine thought I was wasting my skills, so she got me in contact with the parents of a child who wanted me to teach their daughter. I never fancied tuition. I thought they weren't my cup of tea. But thank God I agreed,

because I found I quite enjoyed it, and I earned quite a lot out of it, too! Most of my fees would usually be spent off attending to my mother-in-law's sickness, but I felt satisfied with that. I was serving someone, nursing her, and she got better under my care.

A few years later, I was offered a job at my daughter's school again by the principal herself! Those were the best few years of my life. I enjoyed that period immensely. I still teach, but not at school. Though teaching is tricky and tedious work, I always understood how my students learned best and would work with that. Because of the pandemic, I put in a little extra effort because most of my students aren't motivated anymore and find it hard to focus. It's more than just teaching for me at this point. I guide my students and support them. They feel comfortable with me and trust me with their troubles and problems. I treat them like they're my children, not just my students.

After 34 years of teaching, I still think about what I intended to do and what I eventually became. Maybe this was my destiny.”





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### A letter to My Khaleesi

To Professor McGonagall,  
First floor of the Defense Against Dark Arts Tower,  
Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry,  
Scotland, Great Britain.

Dear Mrs. McGonagall,

This is a letter to remind you that I still haven't received my Hogwarts acceptance letter that I've been patiently waiting for since I was 11 years old. I know that you must be a little too busy as you haven't replied to the letters I've sent before, but I hope that you read this one and finally send me that infamous Hogwarts letter. However, the more important thing I want to say is that I adore you. The immense respect I have for you can't be described in words, but I'll try to. I never imagined that I would try to imitate the personality of a powerful witch with a long hat, hair put up in the tightest bun, dressed in a robe with the power to destroy the new students with just a glare and a soft spot for the mischievous students that reminded her of the famous Marauders. The first time I saw you in the movie, I was terrified of you. You changed from a cat to a woman, trying to stop an old man with the longest beard ever seen, from keeping a little baby at the door of someone living in Privet Drive 4. I was confused and couldn't take in much. Later, I saw you after 11 years, waiting for the first-year students. You had a powerful aura and new to this Wizarding World, everything was suspicious to me and the frown on your face did not help. I immediately thought that you were the villain, but if I thought that you were scary, I was yet to see Professor Snape. Although I like his hair.

Later, I saw your little smile while caressing Hedwig when you gifted Harry his first broomstick, Nimbus 2000. After that scene, I looked my cousin in the eye and told him that you were my favorite. My decision wavered a few times while watching the series, but when I read the books, I again joined the 'We Love Professor McGonagall' club. Your boldness and sass

were what pulled me towards you initially, but as I grew along with the books, your sternness, loyalty and the love you had for people remained with me until the very end of the book.

You are in many senses a hero to me. I remember being tense and nervous, biting my nails in the anticipation of what would happen in the battle of Hogwarts. And then your scene comes up and after using the 'Piertotum Locomotor' spell, you tell Molly Weasley that you always wanted to use that spell. I saw the child within you. I imagined an 11-year-old girl with bright eyes that were set with determination entering the grounds of Hogwarts looking around the magnificent castle and then during the battle of Hogwarts, an old but fierce lady giving us a glimpse of the same 11-year-old. That was my favorite scene throughout the series. At that moment, it felt like you were the main character of a movie and I was dying to see that movie.

When I was young, I used to think that a hero is the one who saves the world. The one with supernatural powers or the ability to solve all the problems or the one who could fight the bad guys and save the heroine. I used to dream about a hero that would come and save me from everything and keep me sheltered in his arms. He would save me everytime my mother scolded me or my friends made fun of me. I just couldn't wait to grow up and find my hero, and guess what Mrs. McGonagall? I did find my hero. It's me! I'm my own hero, and you are the first one of the many great women who made me realize that no one is going to save you. You are your own hero. And I thank you for that. I realized that you don't need to save the world to be a hero. You just have to be true to yourself. That's all that matters.

Step-by-step, I am being more honest to myself. Being a teenager is like walking on eggshells. One wrong move and you get hurt. There are so many situations when I just want to step on those eggshells properly and feel the pain. But every time I come close to losing my balance, a face comes in front of my eyes. A woman's face, who is strong, independent, smart and beautiful, inside and out. It calls me out, telling me that the future is beautiful if you want it to be. That face assures me that you can make your parents proud. You can have as many books as you want. You



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just have to work hard for it. Earlier, that face used to be yours. After some time it was some other woman who inspired me a lot. Now, I see myself as the little girl who watched the Harry Potter series for the first time. As the girl who read the books and started respecting you. As the future me who loves herself. All these forms remind me that everything I sacrifice and every time I choose myself, will be worth it.

You must be wondering why a random girl from India is writing all this? You have helped me; to a great extent to be the girl I am right now. Your willingness and strong-willed persona led me to think that I want to be someone like you, and it would take many years to acquire at least one of your qualities. So, I started acting like you after reading the Harry Potter series. That realization came crashing down on me that if I imitate you, I would never do justice to you. If I want to respect you, adore you, I would have to be true to myself. And as I have started the journey of being the girl I want to be, I've never felt so happy. Although, I would be even happier if I see an owl delivering the Hogwarts acceptance letter at my doorstep. As I am writing this letter to you, being hopeful that I get a

reply, I feel like a feather that just wants to fly away wherever the wind takes it. Maybe I should search the process of being an Animagus so that I can be a bird. Perhaps then, I could fly over there and meet the Professor who didn't even teach me anything yet gave me one of the biggest life lessons and thank her. And if you've come this far, I once again, hope that you consider accepting me. It doesn't matter that I'm average, just give it a thought.

Oh, I forgot to mention one thing; every time I see a tabby cat, I imagine it's you and greet the cat with a 'I should have known you'd be here Professor McGonagall.' or 'Is everything alright in the Wizarding World Professor?' I never get an answer, all they do is walk away or some of them growl angrily. I do hope that one day a cat would turn into you and I would finally get to meet you and learn even more things from you.

Until next time.

Thank you.

From,

Purva P. Joshi, FYBA

The girl lost in her own world.

### Who Is My Ideal Hero?

Christina D'souza  
SYBA

If I were asked this question as a child, I would have surely said that my ideal hero would be someone with great physical strength, brilliant looks, mostly a man who saves the damsel in distress from a fierce dragon or an evil witch. If I were to say it more realistically, someone who undertakes severe physical turmoil, danger, and sacrifice, to save someone. Because that's what we've been told, through fairy tales, children's stories, and movies. Growing up I've realized how narrow this concept of an 'ideal hero' was; how there is so much more to a hero; that there are so many more qualities that someone must possess to qualify as a

hero. I realized that in our daily lives we come across so many phenomenal people who are among us, and live as ordinary, normal people. If only we opened our eyes, and realized that these are the very people, who are none lesser than heroes.

I see a hero in our mothers, who have been brought up to put others first; to be selfless, caring, forgiving, putting their family's needs above their own, letting go of their passions, their dreams, and striving every day to keep her family safe, and happy. I also see a hero in those mothers who fought back for their freedom, for their dreams, and aspirations; who stood up for what they felt was right, knowing that their children were watching, and would someday walk on the same path, and would benefit greatly, if she kept striving. That being said, I see a hero in the fathers, who do the best that they can for their children, teaching them, preparing them for the world outside, keeping them safe and warm, and ensuring a better future. I see a hero in those single parents who struggle daily, to



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face society, to make their ends meet, but rarely ever compromise on their child's needs, and provide them with all, and more.

Growing up I now know that one must be kind to themselves, towards others; one must be courageous, humble, forgiving, brave, sacrificial for the better good. These are the qualities I see in my ideal hero. Physical strength doesn't necessarily come with mental strength. Power isn't always given to those who will use it wisely. In fact, growing up, I've seen most positions of power dominated by those who least deserve it. Someone who strives constantly to bring good change, to make this world, and our future better, is nothing less than a hero.

I see a hero in that young child who was ready to give up her education, but wouldn't lower her voice, fighting for our environment, and the Earth. She didn't deter against the powerful corporations and other forces who could crush her in seconds as she spoke against them, and expressed her great anger, making the world aware of how unjust and unfair we are to our Earth, and how doomed our future will be, if we didn't change our harmful ways, and kept being selfish and stubborn.

I see a hero in that old priest who spent his entire life for the upliftment and betterment of the backward classes, and fought beside them for their rights. And how bravely he spent his last days knowing that he was being punished for simply doing good, and helping others, even though it wasn't his price to pay, even though it wasn't fair.

I see a hero in that young Dalit woman who was made to face the four walls of jail, assaulted, and accused of false criminal charges, simply for standing up for what she felt was right, for using her right and freedom of speech, to protest along with other workers, and who wouldn't give up on her mission to raise her voice against injustice. I see a hero in all of those people who have lost their lives, been put in jail, accused of false crimes, and been given other unjust punishments, simply because the ruling power is afraid of such people, afraid of such heroes.

These are just ordinary people, like you and me, with no gold medals, no recognition, no prize for their bravery, but are still nonetheless, a true hero, through

and through.

I saw a hero in that child that rescued a bunch of kittens that were dumped in a dustbin in the rain, knowing that his family wouldn't stand them for long, and asked everyone that he met, everyone that passed by, whether they could provide a home for those poor creatures. He succeeded in finding two lovely homes for them, and while no one else could care less if they found a bunch of living animals in a bin, he did his bit, and felt heroic while doing so. I see a hero in that small girl that lived on the street, that barely had anything to eat, but still shared her packet of rice with a stray dog. Such heroes who realize how precious and wonderful our animals are; how blessed we are to have such angelic creatures among us, and who do the most that they can, to make this world a better place for them too, are my favorite kind of heroes.

I see a hero in our doctors that risked their lives every day, fighting the deadly Covid-19, putting theirs and their family's lives at risk, but did their jobs so beautifully. Some sadly even lost their lives; were treated as outcasts as they returned home after an exhausting day, and were welcomed with stones thrown at them. What are we doing to our precious heroes? I see a hero in all those who did their best during these horrific times to help those desperately in need, whether it be by donating blood, money, distributing food, giving out verified information or otherwise.

I see a hero in all of those people that have lost their purpose and meaning of life; who are engulfed in loss, sadness, pain, trauma, and sorrow but continue to hope, continue to wake up every day, striving to keep going and looking for the smallest reasons to be alive, to keep living, and wait patiently for their storm to be over, and for their calm to arrive.

Lastly, I see a hero in each one of us, whether we are aware of it or not. All we have to do is look deep down into our lives, and our hearts, and see how we can build this hero; how we can make that hero stronger; how this hero can make an impact, create a better future, bring about good change, and make life more meaningful, a life worth living, a hero's life.



## Time to Bring New Changes

Sharlika Chavan  
XII Arts

Today I want to share one story with you

A researcher puts five monkeys in a cage. There's a bunch of bananas hanging from a string with a ladder leading to the bananas. When the first monkey goes for the bananas, the researcher sprays all five monkeys with freezing cold water for five minutes. Some time later when a second monkey inevitably tries to go for the bananas the researcher once again sprays all five monkeys with the cold water for five minutes. The researcher then puts the water pipe away and never touches it again. But when a third monkey tries to go for the bananas, the other four attack him to prevent him from climbing that ladder. They are afraid of the punishment that may come.

Then, the researcher replaces one of the monkeys with a new monkey who wasn't part of the original experiment, and was never sprayed with water. And as soon as he touches the ladder to go for the bananas, the other four monkeys attack him to keep him from doing so. If he tries again, they attack him. Thus, the new monkey learns not to go after the bananas because he'll get attacked if he does.

The researcher then continues to replace all the monkeys one at a time, until all five of the original monkeys are removed from the cage. Each time the newcomer goes for the bananas, the others attack, even when they as new monkeys have never received punishment for going after the bananas. And thus, the new monkeys who have never been sprayed with cold water, learn not to go after the temptation of the bananas. This story tells us a lot. We have been following some useless norms and traditions for many years. They were useful in the past, but not in the present.

In the past when a mirror breaks it was considered as a misfortune. Because in that time 'Mirrors' were very expensive and people could barely afford them. So, to prevent people from wasting money on mirrors, such norms were made. Same goes for the menstrual cycle. In some rural areas so many rigid norms are there for women. In the past people didn't touch women who were going through a menstrual cycle because there could be infections, and due to lack of hygiene the germs can spread. But new technology has changed everything. We have to increase awareness about this.

In this age of science we have to make these changes for the progress of human beings. We have to speak about this in public, too. We have to do it by ourselves because no one will do it for us. So now it is time to bring new changes.

## The Real Hero

Alisha Faquih  
SYBA

Eleanor's mom was out of town on work, so, for the time being she had to stay with her grandmother. It was a weekend and having finished all her homework like every other teenager she was busy scrolling through her social media. Her grandma walked in, and asked her what she was up to? To which Eleanor replied by saying that she was going through a social

media page dedicated to the world's most renowned hero who helped bring down the most evil wizard and helped lift a spell that he had cast on the people. The word wizard might have popped a question in your head. You see, Eleanor lived in a world where normal people and wizards lived in harmony. Now that you know this, let's continue with the story. Her grandmother or grams as she liked to call her, asked her "Are you talking about Joseph?" To which she replied, "Yes, but grams, I don't understand one thing, why doesn't anybody know much about Joseph apart from the fact that he killed the wizard? I wish I knew something more." Her grams smiled and said "Well, your wish has been granted. I'm going to tell you



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about Joseph and his journey but on the condition that you'll keep it a secret forever." Eleanor was quite intrigued and she immediately agreed.

"The story begins with the wizard falling in love with a girl in his high school. He was so in love that he decided to ask her to marry him and be his wife and bear his children and have a happy family of their own. On the graduation day he was able to gear up the courage to ask her. But to his utmost disappointment the girl rejected him because she was already in love, not with another person, but with her dream of building a career and being independent. The wizard did not take this well. He was so hurt that he wanted to take revenge not just from the girl, but from every person belonging to the female gender with dreams of being independent. So, with his power he devised a spell called 'Patriarchy'. Once he cast the spell, dark clouds and the beginning of dark times took over the world. Girls were drawn out of school; women were no longer allowed to pursue higher education or have a career. Every female was forced to be a good wife, do the household chores, and not have dreams apart from having a family, and serving them. Every girl and woman was heartbroken and unhappy. The men on the other hand were given every kind of privilege that made them much more superior than females. The wizard was enjoying every single moment. He became quite rich over time, and lived in a mansion with an army of servants working for him. Now, what do you think was the solution for changing things around?" Eleanor knew the answer as soon as the question was asked, "A hero! Someone who would have: courage, determination and bravery, and moral integrity as their core qualities!"

Her grandmother was quite pleased with how interested she seemed and she continued with the story. "That is right but our hero was much more than these traditional qualities. Our hero was smart, focused more on bringing about a change rather than earning fame or credit and most importantly, our hero had the power to hold on to hope! Well, you might be wondering what happened to the girl so let's take a look at how she was doing. The girl had luckily, not yet, been married off and sent away, but her dream still lay crushed. She had to do all the house chores, but things were about to change for her. One day while she was

coming back from the market she found her path blocked by a woman who was in a terrible condition. She grabbed the girl and started talking really fast, almost like she was running out of time." Grams had stopped to take a sip of water. Curiosity was killing Eleanor and she begged her grams to hurry. Her grams quenched her thirst, and began to continue with the story. "The woman told the girl that she was the wizard's mother and she had just escaped from her son. The girl's mind was now flooded with so many questions but, above all she was wondering why on earth would the wizard keep his own mother as a prisoner? This was answered immediately by the mother. She informed the girl that she had created a weapon that would kill the wizard, and put an end to all the wrong that he had done. His mother was not proud of how her own son had misused his powers and wished to put an end to the misery he had brought to so many lives. But before she could execute her plan her son found out about everything. The weapon could not be destroyed and so he kept it well hidden, and locked her up in a room. One of the servants took pity on her and helped her escape along with the weapon. Then she stopped and produced something out of the handkerchief that she was holding in her hands like it was her own child. It was a stone in the shape of a flower, and was pink in colour. The woman said that she knew that her son casted the spell because of her, it started with her and therefore, it must end with her. The girl was to place the weapon called 'Feminism' on the chest of the wizard right where his heart beats. It would kill him and the spell would be lifted. With this she ran away as her son was in pursuit of her, and the weapon. The girl reached home with hope spreading inside of her like a forest fire. She had cooked up a plan on the way and started preparing for it as soon as she reached. She disguised herself as a man and decided to get a job as a servant at the wizard's mansion." Eleanor was shook to the core after hearing this detail and she said, "The hero was a girl!" Her grandma was enjoying every bit of her reaction. "Yes, let me continue. Once the girl started working at the mansion she learned that the wizard was successful in capturing his mother and the servant who helped her was caught and punished as well. She visited the wizard's mother and explained to



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

her every single detail of her plan. The wizard was still in search of the weapon and the girl knew she had to hurry up with her plan. So, at night when the wizard was fast asleep, the girl crept into his room. She was about to place the weapon on his heart when the wizard suddenly held her hand, and his eyes opened up like a flash of lightning. The girl was shocked. He pushed her on the ground and the weapon slipped from her hand. The weapon lay at equal distance from both of them and they started reaching for it at the same time. The girl knew she had to be swift, so she reached for the weapon first, but the wizard was on top of her, and was trying to snatch the stone from her hand. She pushed him away with all her strength. She could not lose hope right when she was so near to achieving her goal. She sprang on top of him and placed the weapon on his chest. The wizard's body turned into ashes and these rose

into the air and turned into white glowing particles and escaped from the window. As soon as it touched the sky the sun rose and the whole city was filled with light. Before leaving she left a note on the bed saying, "Do not hesitate to come to me for help if ever the need arises, and I would really appreciate it if you kept my real identity a secret."

-Joseph.  
The wizard's mother smiled while reading the note. The girl returned to her home and she finally started living her dream." Eleanor had a wide smile spread over her face but she had to ask the question that kept dancing around in her head, "But, grams how do you know the story if no one else does?" Her grandma smiled and replied, "Because Joseph is short for Josephine." Eleanor was taken aback yet again, and she exclaimed, "You are the real hero!"

### *Poesy Prodigy*

## **My Family!!**

Ishita Gaikwad  
12th Std

My mother so sweet  
She moves on every beat  
She's hardworking,  
And keeps herself neat!

My father works hard  
To make us smart  
He plays his trick,  
On every dart!

My brother so naughty  
Troublesome aussie  
He loves to play cricket,  
And always takes my wicket!

My grandmother is old  
And has become a bit fold  
She loves us load,  
On every mode!

My grandfather was great  
Like chalk without slate  
For the weak people,  
He was a golden gate!

My pet so cute  
But she's mute  
She chews up things,  
Which she loots!



## Handle Of Cradle

Tapasvi Mangwane  
Std- XI

Mother, the beauty of heaven,  
Not scared to wake up at seven.  
Secures from pain,  
Protects from rain.

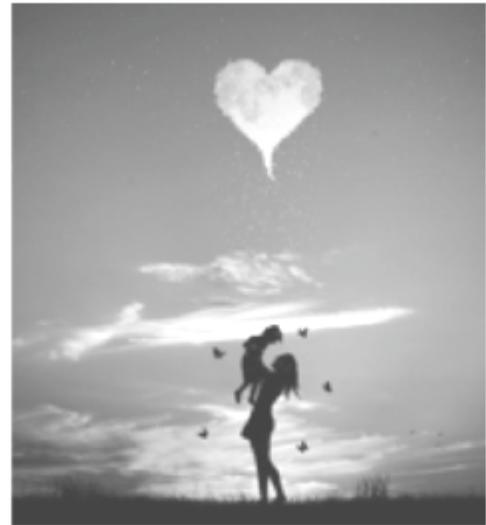
Full of love and delight,  
Enough to make any day bright.  
Thinks with logic,  
And works with magic.

Always blesses,  
With full of happiness.  
She makes the day great,  
With just a small smile like a big treat.  
I saw it was love,  
That made you come -  
whenever I'd call,  
And I thank you, for all.

## They Hope For You!

-Vanshika Daswani

If you sit by yourself talking to the moon  
Even on a sunny day it feels like a gloomy day in June,  
Take a deep breath and know that someone  
out there is praying for you.  
They don't see your faults, they only see what's true.  
You may not notice but they smile when you do  
And they too feel sad when you feel blue.  
They hope to tell you one day how much you mean to  
them,  
if you are the tree's root they want to be the stem.  
A part of them sees an old version of them in your eyes  
How you are not able to beat failure even after a  
thousand tries.  
But they believe in you more than you yourself ever  
could  
Because they don't see your faults  
they only see what's good.



## The Little Doll

Saish Gupta  
XI Arts

Little, little, little doll,  
How are you baby, barbie doll?  
Chubby cheeks with a dimple small,  
You make everything just like you all.  
Naughtiness with lots of cries,  
You call everyone to sing Lullabies.  
Amazing gestures & cute toys,  
You bring us a basket filled up with joy!  
Here you grow little older & older,  
With a big bag on your tiny shoulder.  
In the shitty dog race,  
You enter with an innocent face.  
Just as the precious time flies,  
You are in another sky.  
Deep into love with your boy,  
Till the moment, when you are taken by.  
The little princess with a high ponytail,  
Wearing a uniform with a small tale.  
Filled with courage & lots of faith,  
Does her job with the loyalty of a goldsmith.  
Having thousands of roles in her little heaven,  
She lives her life with all the colours seven.  
Just like her granny's interesting fable,  
You end your life with the same parable.



## Good Things

Soumya Biradar  
11th A

I once heard an odd man says,  
Shaping vases out of day  
Into subtle forms sublime  
"Listen son good things take time"

All my life I've thought of this  
When a task was lacking bliss,  
When the work seemed awfully tough  
And I thought I'd had enough.

So I'd give a little more  
To what sometimes seemed a chore;  
And you know, without a doubt,  
Good things always come about.

---

## From Darkness to Light

Siya Kad.  
XI Arts

One day standing at my door,  
I see the world always fighting for more,  
For things which in a second would blow,  
And they think it makes them grow.

Looking at them I wonder,  
Isn't this a big blunder,  
I wish to do anything to set myself free,  
For in this world darkness is all I can see.

I then decide to close my eyes,  
And run away from the world's lies,  
Closing my eyes I can see,  
A light inside me that will never flee.  
I wish my eyes would never open,  
To see this world so broken,  
Until one and all close their eyes,

And reopen only when they realize.

That light and darkness are two phases of life,  
Which we can only then survive,  
When the world's darkness tries its might,  
But we radiate our inner light.

---

## The Suicidal Note!

Aastha  
Std- XI

A day in life will feel as a burden,  
And you will regret all your life's decisions.  
Peace will slide out straight of your eyes,  
Leading you to think of using the knife.  
And there will be no spirit in you,  
You will struggle to breathe-minutes every few!

But then for once just think of yourself,  
Look in the mirror and try to gain some confidence!  
Now you've got to rise up and face this cruel world;  
And trust in yourself that you'll succeed someday ,  
maybe not at first, maybe not second  
but you will at least come third.  
Believe in the phrase "Happy ever after"  
And start working hard for your existence.

This phase in life will not end by itself,  
You've got to do something so the ones  
who've put you down should better regret.  
Trust me you are worth all the happiness,  
The only thing you don't deserve is suffering and  
sadness.

Now be well prepared and fight for your  
resurrection,  
Change yourself completely  
and for this world be a living inspiration.



## You're a Princess!

Fariha Irfan Shaikh  
XI C

Just as Cinderella,  
Even if you don't wear a corolla,  
You're as calm as the peace in loud chaos,  
Shining in your own Gloss.  
Somewhat Alike Ariel,  
Forget your flaw like beryl.  
Let go off the limits,  
And thrilling experiences elicits.  
Much like snow white,  
Don't hurt and fight but grow high height,  
Be a helping hand in dark as light,  
An Angel to a man in plight.  
Akin to Moana,  
Don't fear the unexplored,  
Moon will shine for you as for Luna,  
Believe to find the unconquered!  
Resembling Jasmine,  
Taking Virtues and Lessons to world and Glow  
in,  
Against the wrong,  
Making Happy Times last long.  
Similar to Rapunzel,  
Doesn't matter if hair is long or short,  
Glorious Loving Damsel,  
Happy in whatever is and lot.  
You don't really need a bloke to be a queen,  
Just rule your world with ease and please,  
Wipe out the malpractice makes world clean,  
Far off everywhere including land and seas.

## The Nightingale

Vedika Limaye  
TYBA

Gentle calls as evening falls.  
I heard a nightingale  
Far beyond the eaves it cried  
in darkness, it prevailed.  
It sang to me it's lullaby  
And I listened well,  
In shadows where it could not see,  
within it's peaceful spell.  
The sound so gently soothing  
to a heart that's troubled so.  
A song caressed my soul  
It seemed a sign, and I would know.  
That all our cares are small indeed,  
compared to many more.  
Whose pain is deeper than my own,  
whose needs go to their very core.  
Although I could not answer,  
in a way that it could see  
I thank the angel that sent down,  
that nightingale to me.

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## SEA

Anushka Khemnar  
12th Arts

Deep, deeper than the eyes can behold,  
Sinking dark and cold  
But somewhere it ends  
Outstretched and hallowed,  
At measures intense.  
On the viewer's view  
It depends -  
If a threat unthought of,  
Or beauty uncondensed.



## HOPE

Prerna Anand  
TYBCOM

Blazed by the summer heat,  
Those are the new challenges..  
Still reliving the nightmares,  
The heart skips a beat.  
The soul that never got time to heal,  
You tell yourself, "I'm sure I'll find the shade."  
In the blistering reality,  
You try searching for your fantasy..  
The dark clouds invade your space,  
The rain pours in heavily.  
Every droplet cuts you like a blade,  
You dig for all the possibilities.  
Your eyes see a hurricane at a distance,  
You ask yourself, "How long till I get past this?"  
The clouds don't seem to part ways,  
Drenched; you question your existence..  
The leafs are now falling,  
With the autumn breeze, courage seems to  
vanish.  
The rustling leaves, you are watching,  
It is the worn soul, filled with anguish.  
The strength in your eyes seems to be fading,  
You ask yourself, "Will I even get past this?"  
And when the night falls,  
Only the moon sings you lullabies.  
It's a static movement,  
You see the needle tick slowly.  
Winter was never less violent,  
You give in eventually.

Now you lay there, with a void,  
Assured that you'll never get past this.  
The cold doesn't seem to comfort you in  
anyway,  
So you close your eyes & slip into darkness with  
only 'hope' in your heart.  
We hang by a thread – Hope,  
We walk not knowing the destination..  
Your eyes see the beauty of spring,  
Every blooming flower helps you get back up  
again.  
Your heart catches speed,  
You tell yourself, "You got past it, I'm so proud  
of you."  
Slowly you now recognise yourself in the mirror,  
You've found your destination,  
It's your new self, say hello!

---

## The Divine Nature

Anuja Kusalkar  
MA

The sun never charged for its rays  
rain never counted the drops and  
the earth never said no to the load  
it's the divine nature  
booned us to stay in its shelter  
then who you and I,  
fighting for the endowment of nature  
let's be grateful to the creature  
living in our boundaries  
maintaining the authenticity  
and the richness of this heaven  
without doubt it will allow to spend  
more and more generations  
in its paradise.



## *The Business Equilibrium*

### **The Business Equilibrium**

Sheryl Rasundaram  
TYBCOM

#### **The entrepreneur I like the most Ms. Jagruti Khabiya Jain Founder of Araatrika**



#### **“Entrepreneurship not just about ideas, it's about making ideas happen”.**

From a young architect to a dynamic entrepreneur- a gifted leader with exemplary visions and ideas, a woman entrepreneur, an eco-preneur, an eco-warrior, an environmentalist, Ms. Jagruti Khabiya Jain is the entrepreneur I adore the most. She is a nature lover, and has always had a heart for nature, she practiced green architecture in Auroville and Delhi, and later she went ahead and founded 'Araatrika' in 2017 as a small social enterprise of eco-friendly products. She recognized that our greenery is fading day-by-day and it is high time to take measures to protect our environment. Araatrika means bringing light; thus, it signifies bringing green back in the nature.

All the products are called 'happy products' since they bring joy to the nature for, they are bio-degradable, and by choosing Araatrika, we choose happiness! One of the special products is the 'Happy pencils' which contain seeds to plant after they are used up, and can be disposed after using. Others include, Happy work-

from-home kits, Happy customized diaries from recycled papers, Happy clay pots, Happy colour pencils made with plant pigments and a lot more.

Every business starts small and it takes courage to even take the first step. Ms. Jagruti was courageous to turn her passion into her business which was all self-learned be it designing the products, marketing, product management she is par excellence. She started exhibiting her products in flea markets and small exhibitions. She always believes in giving her best and we see that in all her products. The sale increased rapidly and Araatrika was well established.

“Entrepreneurship creates opportunities”. Today, she not only supports more than 150 women through her initiative but also helps them understand the importance of conserving the environment. Another quality of her which I admire is that she always encourages women with various working opportunities, thus, promoting Women Empowerment through her work.

The pandemic in 2020 hit all of us hard. It had a negative impact on many businesses and to hers too, but she didn't give up. She was persistent and she came up with more and more collaborations and creative products like cookies, jaggery, tea infuser, etc., this is a great example of the quote “Every challenge is an opportunity and every opportunity is a challenge”. She has definitely brought a change which is the core element of entrepreneurship and today she is doing exceptionally well. Araatrika was selected as one of the top 100 innovators/start-ups by Maharashtra Government in 2018. Today, it is highly recognized and has reached great heights.

Her mission is to bring a revolution in the lifestyle that we live which harms the environment. She believes that each thoughtful step towards the environment counts. She says, “We owe this planet a lot of respect, we belong to this planet. Random acts of kindness is not limited to just people, they should be for the environment around us too”.

I'm so glad that I have had a chance to interview her personally and also grateful to have interacted with her more in a webinar organized by the Centre for Women Entrepreneurship (CWE) of our college. Her journey is one of the best examples of learning and knowing entrepreneurship and she is one of the best self-made entrepreneurs who has shown beyond doubt that one must never start a business just to 'make money', but rather to 'make a difference'.



## With Gratitude for another Milestone

### Personal Experience with CWE Udit Dodeja & Jaishree Bajaj TYBBA (Batch of 2021-2022)

The Centre for Women Entrepreneurship (CWE) fosters and encourages the spirit of entrepreneurship among students. CWE organizes various activities, webinars, and workshops covering a broad spectrum of topics through which it educates and trains students about various aspects of the entrepreneurial sphere. CWE recognizes young student renters and the efforts that they pour into their respective businesses, assisting and guiding them to create their standing in the world. CWE provides various opportunities to the students and encourages them to be a part of different initiatives and build a professional network. It always has the best interest of its students in mind and is continually looking to improve, for the betterment of the student renters. Some such initiatives and collaborations under CWE are TISS, REDC and IIC (Institution's Innovation Cell) which aims to develop a thriving local innovation ecosystem, establish start-up support mechanisms, establish a functioning ecosystem for scouting and pre-incubation of ideas.

For me as a student and CWE member, being part of CWE and IIC has been motivational, inspiring and has definitely encouraged and facilitated me to hone my interpersonal skills and grow professionally. The sessions and workshops organized were educational and informative. Being a part of the editorial team for the first CWE book-“Zenith” was exciting, enjoyable, and inspiring. The book featured over twenty of our college student renters showcasing their businesses.

This editorial journey challenged me to tap into my creative and journalist abilities. Overall, being a part of CWE is integral in shaping and sharpening student abilities and expertise.

In addition to the aforementioned activities and opportunities, The Centre for Women Entrepreneurship (CWE) and the IIC has been instrumental in empowering students by providing them with opportunities offered by various international organizations. One such opportunity was the YLESA (YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL ACTION) fellowship program offered by the US EMBASSY, (AMERICAN CENTER AT NEW DELHI) in association with LEAD India NGO. The mentors at CWE came across this opportunity through their distinguished network and shared it with the students who were not only motivated to apply for this coveted fellowship but also groomed for it through special sessions held before the official application rounds began. The sessions held by Rama Ma'am and Abhradita ma'am from CWE were so beneficial that 4 students from St Mira's College for Girls, Pune were selected from 600+ applicants across the country for this coveted and highly competitive fellowship program.

Jaishree Bajaj, Asmita Khule, Zainab Kapadia, and Pratiksha Punekar were the students who were selected for the YLESA fellowship program.

YLESA is an acronym for YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL ACTION, it was a year-long fellowship program that began in March 2021 and culminated in March 2022.

As a program fully funded by the US EMBASSY (American Centre at New Delhi), the objective of the fellowship was to alleviate the suffering of a society that had been adversely affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. The objective of the fellowship was fulfilled by training the fellowship members in leadership skills which they then used to serve various target groups



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within society by creating and implementing social action projects.

The training provided to the participants was holistic and they were able to learn about Systems Thinking, Mindfulness, Self-Awareness, Adaptive Leadership, Empathy, and emotional intelligence. Various workshops were conducted by leaders across the globe including associates from the prestigious Harvard Business School.

The knowledge and skills acquired by participants

were practically applied in two ways,

Firstly, the participants created and worked on a Covid 19 protection campaign during the devastating second wave of the pandemic and were able to help more than 600 people directly and indirectly.

Secondly, the participants were allotted into groups and worked on sustainable social action projects that benefited the pandemic-affected society.

Jaishree Bajaj, a CWE member from TYBBA successfully created and implemented a project that aimed at spreading mental health awareness and providing psychosocial support to Covid 19 pandemic affected neurotypical and autistic children.

Similarly, Zainab Kapadia and Pratiksha Puneekar successfully implemented projects that aimed at empowering women and children who were adversely affected by the pandemic.

The opportunity to work with the US embassy for helping so many people was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience and the CWE student members are forever grateful for our teachers in charge, who gave us this opportunity, groomed us, and supported us throughout the 1-year fellowship.



Empowering Women Through Value Based Education



## Journey of a Studentpreneur

Moksha Shah  
TY BBA

Photography has been my passion since high school. I was in 9th when I found photography as my interest. I started practicing this art more and more, as and when I got the time. I tried editing a few photos here and there, trying my hands on different angles and the essence it brings in that single click. After a lot of trial and error I got my first DSLR in 2018. I started clicking pictures of any frame that was appealing. I tried wildlife, nature, macro photography with different settings and exploring what all features a DSLR possesses. As an amateur photographer I took the process slow and was quite observant with what I did to understand the functions. One day a thought just popped up that why not try and make this interest into a business. This is where my journey as a Freelance Photographer started I started taking up contracts for ambience photography, portrait photography, product photography and many more. When I started

the journey on Instagram I did not take into consideration the number of likes and followers much as something like photography cannot be decided based on the number of likes. During this time I was acquainted with CWE (Centre for Women Entrepreneurship) I saw them conducting many activities which motivated entrepreneurs to build better. I joined CWE in 2019, since then Prof. Abradhita and Dr. Rama Venkatachalam - the two pillars of CWE, have been motivating us to take up new contracts trying out new things pushing us to explore ourselves in our respective fields, take risks and learn from them. They have also motivated us to work for our own college, take up shoots and contracts for college events.

Center for women Entrepreneurship has been integral part of my journey as a photographer. Over the years I have taken 20+ portrait/portfolio shoots, 3 product shoots, 1 ambience shoot, 1 Food photography shoot and many more shots that were out of passion.

I have worked with budding influencers, salons, fashion brands and fitness enthusiasts. After 4 years here I stand as someone who has tried many niche in the field of photography and this art keeps on motivating me to push boundaries.

## Personal Experience with CWE & my studentpreneurial Journey

Zainab Kapadia  
TY BBA

I am an alumna of St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune, and I am very grateful that I got a chance to share my experience that I have had with CWE. I am a Certified Graphologist-Handwriting Expert with a small business that goes by the name 'Graphe'. Graphology

is a science of understanding human subconscious mind through the handwriting, in other words, it is a study that analyses the handwriting to provide an image about the writer's personality, habits and much more. Unlike Astrology, Graphology is a study of the present and is not a predictive science. I strongly believe that one person can make a change and instead of waiting for someone to make the change, be that change. With the intentions of making an impact I am the Executive President for a local NGO in Pune called 'Manav', and I also, head a social project that works for gender-based violence called 'Adi Shakti'.

I remember the orientation week in the beginning of my first year in 2018, where we were introduced to the CWE club in the sanctuary and Dr. Rama Venkat ma'am was talking about how the club has been



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encouraging young women like us to pick up on entrepreneurial roles. Initially, CWE was open for only third-year students and a few second-year students. The orientation really caught my attention and I requested to be a part of the club and ma'am was very warm and welcoming about it. The club and all the professors are very motivating and ready to help the students start their entrepreneurship journey.

I completed my advance level in Graphology in 2018 and that was when I used to do free basic handwriting analysis for my friends and classmates for practice. I am the Co-Founder of Graphe which started off as one workshop on 17th June, 2019 and then became a big part of my life in no time. My partners Namrata Dhengle from Mumbai, Dhwanika Shah from Pune and I decided to officially start a page, name it down and that is how Graphe was born. We will complete three years on the 10th of July.

Prof. Abhradita Ma'am definitely played a role and influenced me to take Graphe ahead, she offered me to conduct an offline Graphology session in college for my classmates as an activity for the subject personality development. All teachers showed great interest and got their handwriting analysed as well.

CWE initiatives where professionals were invited to shed light on various topics and interaction with different entrepreneurs proved to be very inspiring for many young entrepreneurs like me. The addition of IIC helped small businesses such as mine to safeguard our work and it also enlightened us with legal aspects that go behind a successful enterprise, such as Registrations, Trademarks etc. Graphe like I mentioned was a small initiative by three college students who were pursuing different subjects and got together just to generate awareness about

Graphology. CWE was like the wind beneath our wings, it not only nurtured but also taught us how to fly and dream big. I cannot thank the club enough for sponsoring Graphe's trademark. It was a big step for Graphe and it wouldn't have been possible without the undying support and guidance that I was given by St. Mira's College and CWE.

Every opportunity that I have received here has changed my life completely. I always wanted to work for women, do something that empowers them and fight gender-based violence and atrocities. I got a chance to do so with Lead India's YLESA program which I was again introduced to by CWE. I will forever be indebted to CWE for helping me grow and become who I have today. Entrepreneurship feels so natural to me because of all the programs, sessions CWE and IIC had organised for us, even in situations like the global pandemic the club took a lead and reached out to us virtually. Graphe now also has its own certified Graphology courses and with multiple students from different walks of life. I am so proud to call myself an entrepreneur and a social entrepreneur as well. All thanks to CWE and the entire team of professors who put in so much hard work and of course love to raise every student entrepreneur up so that we can stand on mountains and walk on stormy seas. Getting featured in CWE's first edition of the Entrepreneur Coffee Table book- Zenith-Studentpreneurial Journey was absolutely rewarding. I stand appreciative for every chance that I have got to showcase my knowledge, skills, expertise let it be in form of the workshops, MiraBazaar or more.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. How does it get even better than this!

### **TEDx** **St Mira's College - 2022**

Written by -  
Sarah Kinariwala (T.Y.B.B.A)  
TEDxStMirasCollege Organiser

Riddhi Wadhvani (T.Y.B.B.A)  
TEDxStMirasCollege Co - Organiser

Ever since we saw our seniors conduct a TEDx event in our college, that was the day we knew, come what may, we too have to be a part of this impactful community. Hopefully someday, but definitely one day!

As we entered our third year, our professor, guide and mentor Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi, just mentioned about the possibility of conducting TEDx again and asked if we wanted to do it. We had to be exceedingly cautious because we had just started offline college and the risk of Covid re-emerging. We had to consider the advantages and disadvantages because this was



the first offline event in two years. But, with a positive attitude, Riddhi, Anushka, Sharvari, and I (Sarah) turned to ma'am and replied, "Yes, we will do it!" in the blink of an eye. That was the start of one of the most incredible journeys of our lives.

We quickly enrolled for our event and applied for the licence with the help of ma'am. The TED Foundation took a month to respond. We had to choose a suitable name while keeping in mind the names of previous TEDx events in order to assure the originality of the concept, we had to follow the rules and criteria, and we also had to immediately begin working on the vision we had in mind.

As soon as we received approval for a one-year licence, we set right to work on our plans. As the owner of a TEDx licence, our event had to adhere to all of TEDx's requirements. Almost everything has a rule or a recommendation. Anything you think of, someone else has already thought of, so you must be exceedingly cautious. There are rules for sponsoring, volunteering, speaking, and finding a venue.

We wanted to depict a very unique theme through TEDxStMirasCollege 2022. When we reach a specific phase in our lives, both personally and professionally we start losing the magic, the magic of new opportunities, adventures, and challenges. The goal of this event was all about inspiring people to break their comfort zones and move forward in life.

This one-day journey of exploration not only helped us find the right ingredients for rekindling the magic within us but also how to get optimal output from them, once created. The speakers too spoke about their personal journeys, stories that really resonated with the audience.

But it wasn't just the audience who learned from TEDxStMirasCollege. For the event, the organizers, the core committee and their team of 35 student volunteers gained some invaluable skills too. Right from finding the apt speakers, to tackling sponsorships (especially in the covid time) we had to face multiple obstacles that taught us some valuable life skills that will benefit us throughout our careers and lives: management and budgeting skills,

communication skills, crisis management (when reaching out to our sponsors and speakers), leadership and much more.

It took us an entire year to plan the event after a lockdown. The group divided itself into various teams that handled different aspects of TEDx, including content & creation, sponsorship, website maintenance, and brochure design.

A few valuable lessons we've learned –

1. Don't give up: We had to overcome various obstacles in order to bring this event to life, which appeared to be the end of the event at the time, but we were only able to pull it off because we kept our faith strong and didn't give up.
2. Expect the unexpected: Especially in the Covid era, there will always be something unexpected that comes your way, it's how you deal with the crisis that matters.
3. There's no one "right" way to hold an event: As long as you put your whole heart and soul into the event, nothing else matters.
4. You can never be too prepared: If you're a little over-prepared, you'll be more ready to work through any challenges that may arise.
5. Delegate responsibility: When you're organizing an event, it's tempting to want to do everything yourself. But that will make you burnout quickly and deny you the chance to utilize other people's strengths, connections, and skills. "Everybody brings something different to the table, take as much as help as you can."

In the last 10 months of planning this event, the memories we've made, the experiences we've gained, the connections we've established, the potential we've seen in our college girls and most importantly the growth we've seen in ourselves is beyond words!

And of course, the journey also made way for a hundred plan A's, plan B's, challenges, sleepless nights and so much more. The only thing common in them all was that we never took no for an answer!

We took the risk. Guess, it turned out to be magical!



## The Great Artsy

### A Restoration tale of Indian music

Rajshee Ghosh  
XI Arts

Do you still find yourself going back to that one ghazal listening and wondering how evolution has changed us culturally? How humankind changes its taste to satisfy the needs of the modern world thus turning a blind eye to history. Indian classical musicians and singers have been witnessing the threat of westernisation in music. Urban Indians are keener to modern music as they find their solace but did we get introduced to our music which is termed Indian classical music, its euphoric forms, soulful rhythm, and melodic instruments. Music is everywhere and there is no harm in listening to all, be it pop, jazz, hip hop, rock, but let's try to find out our forms of music which are gladly untouched by modernity. Indian music emerged as two distinct pillars, mainly Hindustani classical gaining importance in the north and Carnatic music in the south, these two streams influenced each other's power and elevated many ragas and tunes. Historical Traces of Indian music has still been an interesting question to solve but it can be found back to the Vedic times. Islamic, Persian, Arabic, and regional styles influenced Indian music in

many stages of evolution. Semiclassical music includes serene ghazals, qawwali, bhajans, Natya Sangeet, thumri, Dadra, tappa. These forms have been widely appreciated for their ecstasy melody, lyrics, and emotions. Sitar, sarod, tambura, sarangi and tabla, kanji, veena are the most used melodic instruments which make our roots more expressive to the world. This glorifying art is only alive based on remixes and fusions. This dying art never attracted popularity and in today's elite world it strives hard to survive. It's difficult to understand because one should be knowledgeable about ragas and talas but the cost is on us. Bragging about a playlist that can make us cool or superior doesn't define us as a drip personality because we ignored our ancient past and saw the death of art which will soon only be read in history books describing its beauty. Introducing classical music in schools can be the only basic solution that can have an impact and an intriguing effect on students. They might be bored but at least they would sense our heavenly abode musical touch. Removing the core idea that Bollywood is Indian music as our Indian music is said to be one of the oldest cultures and hardly Bollywood is a century-old can help people sense our original art. As Sadhguru proudly says, "INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC IS A SOUND STATEMENT ABOUT THE PROFOUNDNESS OF LIFE" and hence when people get engrossed, the dying art relieves itself.

### Music - My Madness, My Mantra !!!

Nandrani Mahtani  
TYBA

'Music speaks what cannot be expressed,  
Soothes the mind and gives it rest,  
Heals the heart and makes it whole,

Flows from heaven to the soul.'

- Anonymous

Life is an art, which requires cultivation and refinement to make it beautiful and worthy of living for one; for me, music seemed to be my true calling.

Being a single child, I always longed for someone to speak to me, to be my lifelong companion. I personally felt that music would help me integrate growth in my personality, which in turn, would enhance my life. I



feel grateful to my parents, who guided me at the very beginning of my journey in learning this art of music.

I was about 5 years old, when I began learning the harmonium at a prestigious music school. Learning a mere instrument, without actually singing, was seemingly very bare; so, I further learnt Hindustani classical music, and it was a match made by the music gods themselves. The combined skills of playing an instrument and singing along with the notes gave me a great sense of accomplishment.

This journey of mine continues even today, and there is never an end; it has been a wonderful learning experience for many years. Music unites all – it nourishes the mind, reignites the spirit, soothes the soul, and rouses us physically, mentally and

emotionally. This holds especially true when one dances to a wonderful musical composition.

For me, music holds my heart, makes my soul travel in every dimension of my being, and transfers my emotions in the form of various melodies. My father, a musician himself, has always been the source of my inspiration. The aura of calmness that he radiates through his voice has made me understand the importance of music, and his simple yet long lasting teachings have inspired me to step into the world of music. And I wish to never stop in this soulful journey; I wish to go ahead with a new thirst for musical knowledge everyday, and share my passion with the rest of the world.

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## Calligraphy an Art

Aditi Rahul Gade  
FYBA

Every one of us know what calligraphy or at least have an idea of what it is or have an idea about what it is. It gets me thinking as to what a to be written in this article. So, I am going to write about me, and calligraphy or what calligraphy means to each one of us, who know and don't know about it.

When I first came to know about it was just another thing that fascinated me as my hand writing is terrible, I was like OMG how can a person write something so beautiful. It got me and at that moment I said to myself that one day even I will learn this and then my hand writing will be this beautiful and no one ever say anything about my writing other than how good your writing is. But this is life and here most of the thing don't go as planned. So, my first disappointment was when I first met my calligraphy teacher and he told me

that my writing won't improve with this art. You might wonder that if I couldn't improve my writing with this then why did I learn then that is because promised my mother that I will learn no matter what. And this is how I started learning calligraphy. Trust me as beautiful and easy it looks its not that easy or beautiful to do unless you're like me who loves to create mess and get your hands dirty. And by the way, I am not the most impatient person, and this art need, a lot, I mean literally a lot of patience. Because I wrote two 200 pages books just with two letters 'A' 'B'.

Honestly, even I don't how I do but trust me I love doing it. There is obvious question why? It is because calligraphy is a very captivating art. It has the power to take you with it anywhere you want. Because it is done with a lot of focus and time so when we look at the work, we get lost in it. We try to figure out how is it so beautiful. And I think that is power of writing it just takes us with it. Make us dream, motivates us, completes us. And calligraphy just makes it perfect, calligraphic fonts and writing go hand in hand they have a relation just like dancer's and the dancer expressions. Even if the dancer is the best in world no



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one will watch it more than 20-25minutes if that dancer doesn't have a pleasant face and conveying its meaning with expressions. Just like this calligraphy makes the written content more beautiful.

Not just this even the artist has his own share of advantages by doing this art. It requires a lot of

patience so obviously it improves our concentration capacity. It needs a lot of dedication and continuous efforts which makes us perseverant. And patience, dedication, perseverance are the keys be to be successful. Like every art it gives you happy and successful life.

### Who made the first move?

Pradnya Vijayan  
SYBA

Every time I attended birthday parties as a child, my mother would receive calls from parents telling her how happy they enjoyed watching me dance. Funnily enough, being completely unaware of my inclination towards dance, that is precisely how she discovered this hobby that I'm now truly passionate about! Be it society cultural programs or school concerts, I was that kid who would be ever ready to dance when asked to. It was only until the age of thirteen that I started taking dance more seriously and took professional training.

I was attending my best friend's dance recital when I was first introduced to *Kathak*. Coming from a South Indian family, I was well acquainted with *Bharatanatyam*. Even though I did not take *Bharatanatyam* classes, I knew family and friends that were learning the dance form. I was mesmerized by what I saw at that recital. The sound patterns were created using just the feet and that accompanied the pleasant sound of *ghungroos*. Five people, ten feet, and the energy that the sound of this unity brought



was something I could not wrap my head around. And then, when my (now) *Guru* portrayed feelings and emotions without words but just on her face, I could not help falling in love with *Kathak*.

I am blessed to be in the company of people that motivate me to keep doing what I do even during days I feel I am not enough. Be it my *Guru*, my family, my teachers, my friends, even strangers. I come from a generation that seeks constant external validation for their work, and to be told that I am the reason they like watching *Kathak* now is THE highest form of reward I have ever received from anyone yet. It is during moments like these that I wonder if I chose to dance or dance chose me. And while there is a constant battle about who made the first move, I know one thing for sure- this relationship is eternal.



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**We all know that things sprout and grow; they reach their apex, then begin to dry and wither, and finally rest. The understanding of nature's cycle could be applied to many things; not just the seasons or the growth of plants, but also, relationships, one's work, the development of a child, emotions - a life in its totality!**

**- Vedika Limaye**

**MIRAcles  
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## Seasonal Calendar

### Three-wheeled Affair

#### Can Mental Health be Hydroponic?

Arman Chagla  
MA English

She hoped the little garden would make the new house a home. The past month had been one disaster after another, and she'd started texting her friends about each subsequent blunder on a WhatsApp group titled "The Garbage-Fire Chronicles™". Work had been more difficult than ever before, and her coworkers were being obtuse. She had quit her keto stretch after realizing her body wasn't getting any stronger, and her self-esteem had crashed. Her mental health had been at an all-time low, and her parents' advice of 'use your phone less' had driven her to cut short more than one call home. The last nail in the coffin of her life had been her landlord's late-night text about her needing to vacate the house. His MBA-pursuing son was coming back from studying in the United States and needed a quote-unquote 'bach-pad' of his own. Nastily, she had wondered to herself; couldn't he get a job there that he had to come back to India?

She'd been forced to pack up her, admittedly many, belongings and shift to another part of Jaipur. The house was smaller than she'd hoped, the kitchen countertop minuscule, and the shower had questionable water pressure. But she'd gotten a flat on the ground floor and it had a sprawling garden attached to the back. She had thought things would start looking up, but The Garbage-Fire Chronicles™ seemed bent on having a sequel.

To begin with, she hadn't hit it off well with the neighbors. One uncle who had been side-eyeing her from his balcony in the next building emerged from the patio of the shared complex with an oily smile on his face and an offer for help when she was moving her luggage in. On being denied (very kindly, she thought), he walked away huffing. She could hear him on the phone the next morning, conveniently within earshot.

"That new girl in the Canopy compound- she is one of those modern girls, you know. Sharma Ji, you tell me,

why would you deny the help of a hatta-katta man other than to make a point, ha? Ye toh ek- kya bolte hai, feminazi hogi!"

Uncle's wife stepping out onto the balcony had him pipe down soon after that.

Then; she had slaved away at installing all of her switchboards at every point in the house to make place for the innumerable plugs, adapters, and cables that allowed her to work from home. They had all proceeded to short-circuit at the next power surge the following week. Expensive surge protectors in place, she allowed herself to get optimistic. But a still-lit cigarette in a plastic trashcan at a housewarming party made short order of that hope and resulted in a literal garbage fire.

She had begun to give up hope, well and truly, about making her house a space she enjoyed when the idea of a vegetable garden occurred to her.

Her mother had always been fond of plants, and her home in Pune had been flooded with green. There had been large palms in the corners of every room, and the ceiling was hung with small draping money plants. When she had made up her mind, and before she could change it, she ordered several pots, pot-pans, seeds, gardening supplies, and plant nutrients that arrived at her house in a host assembled by Amazon deliverymen.

The following weekend had been extremely busy, and there was no doubt about it. She had cleared her little plot of all the fallen leaves, dead grass, and weeds that morning, before settling on the placement of each vegetable's little area. She heaved a large bag of potting mix in the corner of the garden and set about tossing handfuls of it evenly on the ground. Little critters had made their way out of the disturbed floor, and as she walked around, she could see all manners of centipedes, beetles, and little flies flitting about around her thick boots. Once that was done, the seeds soon followed. She took a break, leaning against the stone exterior and sipping on a hot cup of chai.

The high-pitched yoo-hoo's of her neighborhood aunties drew her attention. They were swaggering up to the compound wall and she could spot Oily Uncle's wife amongst the group, although she stood far back enough to not warrant questioning on the stink-eye she was giving off.



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“Hello, beta! What are you doing?”

Although it was apparent by the grass stains on her pants and the neat rows in the garden that hadn't been there this morning, she said, “I'm starting a vegetable garden, aunty.”

A little derisive giggle was followed by, “Beta, old Nadkarni tried to plant so many things here, but they never took well. They always shriveled up and dried out. He always said the soil was too stubborn.” The last word was said with the air of an inside joke.

Her own thinly veiled hope at succeeding with the garden turned to steel in the pit of her stomach. “Well, I'll make it grow. Thank you for stopping by, aunty. But I'm sure you must be getting late for your kitty party at the tapri.”

Turning away in dismissal and determination, she set about misting the fresh soil as the aunties waddled away snorting. It was a last-ditch effort at making this house work; making her happiness here work. She was sick of her joy being undercut by the world around her, and this garden would be her tiny Eden, she promised herself. A kind place, a place where she could heal what remained of her fractured mind.

And try she did.

She watered the soil regularly, even going so far as to set alarms to check often. She fed the plot plant nutrient, kept away the bugs that might chew up the little sprouts before they had the chance to grow, and kept the garden clear of weeds.

She took care of herself too. She ate the food she wanted to while clean-eating. She started a ten-step skincare routine to get the Korean 'glass skin' she had always wanted. She slapped away intrusive thoughts and avoided all the naysayers who didn't believe mental health was important.

But it had been months, and the little garden refused to yield any life. The ground was as barren as it had been when she began the ordeal, and the soil after such regular watering had turned into clay in the corners. All year she had waited for the sprouts to grow; even a measly inch would have soothed her soul. But they had stubbornly sat there in the dirt, barely looking over the furrows that separated the plants. She had checked every morning to see that the soil was damp enough, that the sun was not

obstructed in the few hours of the day where its rays touched them, that the roots were not rotting in their places. Her hopes were well and truly dashed. The Garbage-Fire Chronicles™ seemed like a never-ending book and every day was a new chapter. Instead of big problems like moving houses and work issues, meals and showers became insurmountable hurdles. She lost touch with her parents and she texted her friends once in a blue moon.

But what she finally understood after months of patience was this; you can't make things grow in an environment not fit for them. Some soils are just too toxic, some mental states just unproductive and cyclical. So, she packed up the house, took back her deposit, and booked the next ticket out of Jaipur.

Moving in with her parents was an ordeal she just wasn't ready for, but a cute apartment on a high floor was a good alternative that let her be close enough to stay in touch. There was no garden and no balcony, but she made do with a living wall of bottles upon bottles of water with plant cuttings and indoor plants.

She gave up all the effort and expectation she had put into growing her garden in Jaipur, and aside from bare maintenance, left the wall to its own devices.

She gave up the stress she had put on getting better and focused on feeling better. She practiced mindfulness, she spoke to a therapist, she got introspective. She took action to preserve and better her mental health that didn't focus on seeming better.

And better she did get.

It had been weeks after moving back to Pune when she woke up feeling more refreshed than she had ever felt in years. She rolled out of bed groggily, massaging her face before getting up and heading to the kitchen for some morning tea.

The tea leaves were furiously boiling away when she took a moment to look up at the wall. Her eyes snagged on the second row from the top.

There was a thin tendril making its way out of the money plant cutting she had taken from her mother. The root was barely white, almost translucent and its frail length extended only about an inch or so from the base of the cutting.

She smiled, peering down into her tea with tears brimming in her eyes.



### Cha(a)t Corner

#### Cha(a)t Corner

All problems are illusions of the mind

Payal Das & Saish Gupta  
XI Arts

Problems. This word just brings a drastic amount of damage to oneself and things related to it. According to the Oxford dictionary, the word problem means 'a thing that is difficult to deal with or to understand. Just a sentence, but very important. I believe that problems are nothing but illusions of the mind.

A lot of times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective.

Problems created by our minds are developed from overthinking, excessive analyzing, and paying attention to unnecessary things. Speaking, our soul has three faculties: mind, intellect & resolve, if properly coordinated can bring utmost peace & success. The mind creates thoughts, intellect analyses it, and repetition of this forms a habit i.e. resolves. So, problems are just nothing but negative thoughts which can be illusions of the mind which are most of the time very far away from real-life situations.

We should not be trapped in the illusion cage of our minds. Focusing on illusionistic problems often leaves out the actual problem. The mind unconsciously loves problems because they give you an identity of sorts. "Problems" means that you are dwelling on a situation mentally without there being a true intention of taking action. When you create a problem, you create pain.

The only thing you need to know is that you make your life hard by always being in your head. Life is simple, get out of your head and get into the moment.

#### Dream To Achieve!

ANDREA VAZ  
11th ARTS

I was just killing my time away on Instagram when my ears pricked up to the words 'Kalpana Chawla' on the TV in the next room. As if an invisible rope was pulling me, I was drawn to the next room. The TV had the National Geographic Channel with the program called 'Mega icons' on. The star for this episode of Kalpana Chawla. Mega icons is a show known for showcasing awe-inspiring personalities of our motherland, ranging from Virat Kohli to R. Rahman to Ratan Tata to Kiran Bedi. Though I don't watch TV often, this particular episode invited my attention and engrossed me for a full hour. I can gratefully say, that day I had fruitfully used my 60 minutes.

The show was narrated by her parents and close

associates. The show started with Kalpana's father, Mr. Banarsi Lal Chawla, recounting how young Kalpana would make and fly paper planes as if she were the pilot. From the very beginning, Kalpana was fascinated with stars. At night, as they slept on the roof early on, she would point at the sky and pose questions to her mother and not rest until she got a satisfactory answer.

She was lovingly called 'Muntu' at home, she didn't have a proper official name until she was enrolled in school. It so happened that when she was taken to be enrolled in school, the school authorities asked her name. Having no true first name, they gave some suggestions. Out of the suggestions, she chose the name 'Kalpana'.

Kalpana came from Karnal, Haryana, a place known for high-quality basmati rice. She never restricted herself to being a small city girl but believed she was destined for great things. She believed in herself and never wanted her father to accompany her to get her college admission, she didn't want to get admission due to her father's recommendation.

After obtaining a B.E. degree in aeronautical



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engineering from Punjab Engineering College in 1982, she was accepted for M. Sc. in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas, Arlington, and obtained the degree in 1984. She went on to earn a second master's in aerospace engineering in 1986 and a Ph.D. in 1988 from the University of Colorado Boulder. In 1988, she began working at NASA Ames Research Centre. After being recognized as a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1991, she applied for the NASA Astronaut Corps. I've heard this often that it's 30 times easier to be admitted as a freshman to Harvard than to be selected by NASA to become an astronaut, though I can't back this 100 percent. Kalpana joined the corps in 1995 and was then selected for her first flight in 1996. "You are just your imagination." She spoke those words while traveling in the weightlessness of space. She had traveled 10.67

million kilometers, as many as 252 times around the earth. Her first mission was a colossal success. Unfortunately, her second mission aboard the Columbia Space Shuttle failed and she lost her life tragically. However, she has left a legacy for years to come

Kalpana has now become a household name. She had achieved what most of us would only dream about. She is the true sense of inspiration for me. Even if I haven't opted for the science stream, where to be an astronaut having a knack for numbers is a vital requisite, I would aspire to do wonders in my field, all in the interest of mankind, and engrave my name in the glorious pages of history.

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### Life Of A Sports Person...!!

Gayatri Kiran Erande  
Commerce-12th std

Manika Bhatta, Leander Peas, Dipika Pallikal are some names of international sports-persons who were famous worldwide but unfortunately not in their motherland. Manika Batra is a world-famous table tennis player, who represented INDIA at the Olympics. Leander Peas has won the 1996 summer Olympics for tennis. Dipika Pallikal is the 1st INDIAN to break into the top 10 in the PSA women's ranking in squash. We don't know them because the sports they play are not famous in INDIA and this is a major problem in our country.

INDIA is home to hundreds of sports that are unnoticed worldwide. INDIA has produced some legendary sports persons in Orthodox games. INDIA has such a stronghold on Kabaddi in the world that INDIA has never lost a kabaddi World Cup. Kho-Kho is another game that Rural INDIA plays on a large scale. Hockey is the National sport of INDIA but if asked about 5 players in the current Hockey team. The majority of INDIANS might hesitate in answering the question. The domination of a single game in the country has led to some major problems not only to

the sport in the country but also to the sportspersons. Cricket is the single largest sport played, watched, and followed in INDIA, but not everything to blame on Cricket.

The less popular sport has led to some serious problems. The less popular sports have less infrastructure and therefore we could not produce international competition in that sport, but this is a very generic and vague problem. Many serious issues go unnoticed such as Career opportunities. To become a sports person someone has to put all his focus on the sport and it becomes very risky from a sportsman's point of view to solely rely on an unpopular game for his bread and butter. The second problem is these games are generally popular in rural areas of INDIA so players from small towns have huge engagement in sports like Kho-Kho, Kabaddi. The players are already from a small town and also if they might be left with nothing in the skill set and basically will struggle even for their bread and butter. The third major problem is injuries, injuries in these games can be life-taking even if it might sound exaggerated it is literally what it sounds. Once in a lifetime if a player gets injured, the sporting career gets tremendously affected and will again be left with the same problem addressed above.

But some sports persons had taken risks of these above problems and they gave their best in sports and made a successful life in sports. But the problem persists and the sports bodies should look into it...



## Lockdown Diaries

-Rutuja Kale  
XI- C

Everything was quite normal till 30th December 2019. But on 31st December 2019, a virus called COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China. This virus started spreading rapidly in many parts of the world. It entered India on 7th January 2020. The number of cases was increasing day by day. Lockdown was announced in all the countries. Suddenly everything stopped. Our accelerated busy life took a break. Everyone was strictly asked to stay at home.

The changes in our life due to covid were as drastic as the twists and turns in our T.V. serials. During the lockdown, not only the fear of covid but also the fear of police kept the people indoors; and some fearless ones roaming around unnecessarily were viral on the internet doing sit-ups.

Staying at home, many people discovered their hidden talents like cooking, painting, singing, and drawing. Trending lockdown treats like dalgona coffee, Pani Puri, kadhas, were almost being prepared in every household. The work from

home filled with noisy disturbances and network glitches, the multitasking of attending online classes and chatting, cheating in online exams, reeling with family, fun-filled ludo and card games, joy of waking up late, watching web series, etc. are some fun memories of the lockdown.

However, as every coin has two sides, even the lockdown showed us some good as well as bad times. We lost many of our loved ones, people became unemployed, many were going through depression, some families were not able to afford even one meal in a day, and there was grief and sadness all around. But we did not lose hope and stood strong in these difficult times. From famous personalities like Sonu Sood and Ratan Tata to the common people, everyone raised a helping hand towards society and proved that humanity is the strongest weapon for fighting against any problem.

This lockdown taught us many life lessons like the importance of life, family, friends, hygiene, humanity, caring for others, etc. It made our relationships stronger. It not only transformed us externally but also internally.

Covid isn't eliminated. The war is still on. Mask is our shield, vaccination is our armor and immunity is our sword. As said by Robert H. Schuller - "Tough times never last, but tough people do," so don't lose hope. Stay strong, Stay home, and Stay safe.

## Choices

Sakina Bharmal  
SYBA

I haven't stepped out of the garden just yet. I stand behind the sliding glass doors watching Martha, the nurse, wheels him around, occasionally stopping to say hi to the other nurses and patients. I know this scene too well; I've seen it every day, for the last 4 years. I open my handbag and retrieve the letter while my eyes stay glued to him. My chest feels tight. *I can't do this. I can do this. I can't. I can't. But I will.* I walk towards them. The sun is low and bright but I put on my sunglasses because I can't look him in the eyes. Not that he will look into mine. Martha sees me and

smiles "hello" and I nod my head in greeting. She asks me if I'd like to take him around. I've only ever refused twice or thrice in these 4 years and yet she asks me every day. I think they are required to. One day we won't want to, we will tire. I feel the tightness in my chest growing.

I grab the handles of his wheelchair and take him to the far end of the huge garden. It is quiet there, private. I sit on the grass and look at him; his head is drooping a little to his right, his face gleaming in the orange light of the sun. His blue eyes stare ahead, into nothingness. And out of nowhere I think to myself: he is not beautiful. I try so hard to rid my mind of that thought, but it lingers. I want someone to call me out for being so pathetic. But it's just me and him here, and my pathetic mind that can't stop thinking about how beautiful he used to be. *Is that why you're leaving him? A voice says inside me. Because his chiseled face is now saggy? His hooded eyes now sunken? His tall, lean body now limps in a wheelchair?* "No!" I say loudly,



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honestly. I take off my sunglasses, waiting for the tears to come, but they don't. I have never hated myself as much as I do at this moment. I feel helpless, angry, and afraid all at once and I haven't even done what I came to do. I had played out the scenario in my head over and over for weeks but sitting here next to him, I don't know what to say or do.

"I'm leaving," I say softly, after some minutes pass. I let the words leave my tongue and float in the space between us. I feel neither better nor worse after I say them, out loud, to him.

The doctors had said he could hear us, but he couldn't understand anything. Initially, I didn't really know what to make of that, so I would talk to him as if he could hear and understand me. I would pray in my heart that he could. Today, however, I hope he doesn't. It would break me if he knew what I had come to say. It would break him.

"I'm leaving," I say again. "I don't know where I will go but I can't stay here anymore." I look at him for any sign of response even though I know there won't be any. I had hoped that these words would reach him and pierce his heart, and maybe then he would finally drop his charade and tell me that he doesn't want me to go, that he loves me. But he sits there, motionless, emotionless and I feel my rage growing. I had imagined that I would hold his hand, look into his eyes, kiss his face, his lips, his eyes, his hands, and then I would take the letter – the one I had written 3 months ago – and leave it on his lap. I wouldn't turn back; I would walk and walk and walk till I was far, far away from him and this dreadful place.

But I can't move a muscle. I can't feel my hands or my feet; just a mounting anger. "Why won't you get better? Why won't you show me a single sign of acknowledgement? Do you not yearn to touch me? Does your heart not race when I'm near you anymore? Your pupils don't dilate like they used to, when you see me. What have you become?" I say breathlessly. I get up and pace around. Then I kneel in front of him and place my hands on the arms of the wheelchair. I look right into his eyes. "I fought and fought to keep you alive even when the doctors said that you wouldn't wake from the coma. But you did, and that gave me hope. And so I kept you alive again when the doctors said that even though you were awake, you would be in a persistent vegetative stage. But I didn't believe them. As long as you were alive and awake, I was hopeful you would recover. You had to; you had fought against all the odds. You were the only one who survived the crash." *Hope is such a cruel thing, painting illusion after illusion of a better future.* "But it's

been 4 years now, and you haven't gotten better. And you know what? They said they want me to decide again about what to do. They want to know if I want to keep you in this condition till you die naturally or if I'd like them to stop your artificial nutrition and hasten the process. They asked me if I, the person who has kept you alive for 4 years, would now want you dead!" Tears stream down my face and fall on his lap.

"And my answer is the same as what it was 4 years ago: no. I don't want you dead. But—" I break off, not knowing how to say the next words. I take his hands into mine. "But I can't be

around you either. It's too much and it's been too long." I say with resignation. The weight hasn't lifted; it sits heavier than ever on my chest.

His life was cut short in the blink of an eye. So much he would never get to see, know, experience, complete. All snatched away so cruelly. And he left me the burden of knowing all that he wanted in life, from life, as I lay in his arms. So I did it all for him. Every place he wanted to visit, food he wanted to try, skill he wanted to learn, I did. I read him all the books he never got to read, and watched all his favorite movies together. I did it all, for him. And I thought I did it out of love. But I've come to realize that it may have been guilt that drove me. He opened his world to me, told me his wishes, desires. And he only told me. He told me that he's only told me. How then, could I have gone on about my life knowing that the one I love, who was very much alive, didn't get to live the life he wanted? No, how could I go on about my life knowing that the one I love, *who I had kept alive*, didn't get to live the life he wanted?

"I've spent these last 4 years living my life for you. But if I go on any further, I will grow to resent you and myself. Just like you, I had dreams too. And I didn't get to live my life how I wanted to; neither the one I imagined with you, nor the one I had imagined for myself, long before I had met you. I lived your life for you, but who will live mine for me? With every passing day, all I can think about is the time I've lost and the chances I've missed because I was either clinging on to the past we shared or fantasizing a shared future. But I can't continue living in versions of us that used to exist or never will."

The person I fell in love with has been long gone. It's exhausting to love the memory of someone. But it's more exhausting to live one life for two people. It all feels so real now. I had lived with these thoughts for so long, they were starting to eat me up from the inside. But I couldn't tell anyone because they sounded



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ridiculous even to me. *I chose this; I did this to him, to me*, I would think, and so I felt I deserved every bit of the pain.

"I also know that I will never be able to move on in my life if I stay here. Everything reminds me of you." Everywhere I go, memories of him haunt me and the love and guilt bring me here, back to him. "As long as I'm here, I will never stop thinking about you."

"And I had promised to love you forever so I'm keeping my promise. I'm leaving you while I still love you." I feel a pain growing in my chest as I fight back tears. "All those years ago, I was selfish to not let you die because I wasn't ready to deal with the fact that you wouldn't be

alive anymore. I will never be ready for that. But I've paid the price for my selfishness. And we have both suffered because of it. Which is why." I take the letter and keep it in his lap. "I'm relinquishing my rights as your medical power of attorney. I won't make a decision about your life this time." I get up and stand in front of him. "I will never forgive myself for any of this, but I hope you will." I want to touch him so badly, but I know if I do, my resolve will weaken, and I will never be able to leave. I take one last look at him. His eyes have lost their sparkle but they're glinting in the light of the setting sun. I close my eyes and think back to the first time I had seen him, 9 years ago. *He is standing with his friends, his disarming smile not faltering. He takes his fingers through his unkempt hair when his wandering eyes meet mine. He smiles a wide, boyish smile and I think to myself 'he is so beautiful'. I open my eyes and drink him in. He is so beautiful.*

Always was, always will be. I turn to leave before I realize there is one last thing I have to tell him. "I will meet you again when I'm buried next to you in the ground." I wipe away the single tear that threatens to fall from my eye.

I start to walk away as I leave him sitting there, alone. My legs feel heavy but my heart feels much lighter. It takes every ounce of courage to not turn around and go back. I keep walking till I see Martha. She sees me and looks around me to see where he is. I keep walking, and don't stop when I pass her. I never liked her much. I hated the look on her face when I came in everyday for the third month in a row; a look that said *I didn't expect you'd come, most people stop after the first few weeks*. I wanted to scream and tell her that I am not most people, he is not most people. He is my whole world. And I will come every day till I die. Now, walking away from here all I can think about is how tomorrow, during the tea-break at 7 PM, she will stand with the other nurses and have the same look on her face from all those years ago. "She stopped coming," she will say smugly, and some other nurse will chime in "they always do." I hate that they are so sure and so right about this. How they know from years of experience that we will always abandon them. And I hate that I thought I would never be that person.

But right now, while I hate myself for all the wrong choices I made that led me here, as I get into my car and look at the building in my rear-view mirror as I pull away, I know I made the hardest decision of my life today. And I don't hate myself for it.

### A Full Circle

Janhvi Sharma  
SYBA

"When I grow up, I want to be just like you," said Smita to Mohini, her grandmother. Mohini smiled softly and replied, "I hope to live long enough to see you grow, Smita" Smita was called Choti at home. Choti, as though to convey that she was small and fragile. Sure enough, being the youngest of four siblings, she was treated in such a way that she came with a "handle with care" warning.

Smita visited her grandmother regularly. One quiet summer afternoon, she asked her grandmother to narrate her life story as they rested under the shade of a neem tree. "I'm as ancient as this tree. Where do I even begin?" Nani Maa thought to herself. But she could not dishearten Smita, and so she decided to proceed with her story.

"Well, I was born and brought up in a completely different time, you see? I was married by the time I was your age. There had to be a "man of the house" in each family, but like you know, Grandpa left us at a young age. I was devastated. But I needed to rise from this as the nurturing of four little lives relied on me. I transitioned from a grieving widow to a single mom trying to make ends meet and finally, to an unconventional "woman of the house." It most



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definitely didn't come easy to me. I worked on the farm all day long, came home to stitch clothes for my customers, spent time with the kids, worked on an aata (wheat) chakki (grinder) relentlessly and distributed freshly triturerated aata to nearby shops to provide for my family. Like I always tell you, no job is ever too small. I welcomed every opportunity with open arms. However, irrespective of what you do, judgment always follows. My own extended family criticized me. They questioned me- "You are a working lady? What will your in-laws think? What are you teaching your daughters?"

I chose to never doubt myself. I knew what I had to do for myself and my kids. And I did exactly that and might I tell you, today, I feel thoroughly content with the life that I have thus far lived." Smita was left as speechless as a stone. As the youngest, all the elders made decisions for her. She was never given a chance to express herself. Her abilities were concealed and her words unheard.

She felt as though a switch had flipped within her, leading her from darkness unto light as the warm rays of the sun touched her face lightly, passing through the shade of the tree above her. She realized how much women are actually capable of. Amidst her speedy train of thought, she mustered some words and said, "Nani Maa, thank you for telling me your story. You inspire me to believe that one day, I will follow your footsteps and feel as proud of myself as I feel of you. I'm lucky to be your granddaughter."

"I believe in you, my Smita." replied Nani Maa.

This instance proved to become monumental in Smita's journey of defining herself. As the years passed by, she graduated with a degree in finance and soon, began a job in an accounting firm as the head of the department. But her parents, being a product of their time, decided to get her married at twenty three. She had to move her entire life to a new life she had never experienced. She had to make a home in a place that was unknown to her. But she was optimistic about this change. Just like her grandmother, she always welcomed and embraced change like an old friend. After the wedding rituals took place at her childhood home, she left with her husband and in-laws to build a life of her own, bidding goodbye to her past life, like her new life was the only one she had ever known. The daughters of the house were taught exactly that in those times. This practice had been around since ages. Within the first few months of

living with her in-laws, she was subjected to verbal abuse. Her husband was away from home due to his work. He only visited Smita once every six months. But their love was strong enough to sustain months and months at a stretch, apart from each other. Smita was asked to quit her job post-marriage by her in-laws. When she resisted, they sought physical violence, which went on for years. It wasn't until she got pregnant with her first child that she realized she needed to free herself from the clutches of "What will others say? Will I let my family down? Will I make it out alive?" Her in-laws demanded a boy child from her. It was when she was due to give birth that she realized that she cannot let an innocent life be born in an environment that she herself was trying to run away from. She had her husband's support and that was enough for her. She took a leap of faith and moved to yet another place unknown to her. However, that time, the decision was hers and she made it her home. She had to learn how to live from scratch. She gave birth to her son and the following week, took up multiple odd jobs to make ends meet, a lesson she learnt early on in life, from her Nani Maa. She worked tirelessly and felt prepared to bring another life into this world. She hoped for a daughter, and a daughter was born to her.

She brought them up, all by herself, as her husband could not always be around due to work. She taught them to be selfless and to do good without expecting anything in return. She taught them to respect themselves and everyone around them.

Life, as we know, would not stop challenging her and another obstacle arose. Smita had to fight a long battle to prove that the home she built from scratch belonged to her as the paperwork was not to be found. It took her many years to prove herself, but she did so as she recollected how her Nani Maa, after the partition, had to relentlessly fight for the land that she owned. As a family, they only needed each other to survive. However, when her kids wanted to know about their grandparents, Smita understood them. Her heart was forgiving. The couple invited them to spend some time with their children and get to know them. Her in-laws were not empathetic to Smita, but they loved her kids unconditionally and she did not let herself get in the way of her kids receiving that kind of love only their grandparents could give them. What Smita looked forward to the most, though, was for her kids to meet their great-grandmother. One such summer break, Smita was reunited with her Nani Maa,



but this time, with kids of her own.

Her kids did not leave their great-grandma alone. But one afternoon, she and her Nani Maa found themselves sitting in a comfortable silence, under the same neem tree that they sat under as a ritual earlier. It felt tremendously familiar. Nani Maa recalled the moment and said, "Life has truly come a full circle. You grew up to be just like me. And I couldn't be prouder." As emotional as this moment was, Smita focused on taking every bit of it in before the kids could interrupt them, but shortly after, the kids came running in and asked to hear more life stories of their mum and her

grandmother.

"Choti" stands tall today. Just like the tree she once sat under along with her Nani Maa. "Choti" is a much bigger person than anyone who surrounds her, and yet, she will not make even one person feel small. She underwent a metamorphic journey that transformed her from a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly.

Indisputably, Smita is a spitting image of her Nani Maa, and yet, she is her own person too. She is my mother. I am Janhvi, Smita's daughter, and when I grow up, I want to be just like her.

## Nightshade

Delna Anklesaria  
SYBA

"The post has arrived."

Sybil ran down the mighty staircase leading to the entrance hall of her house. She almost tripped over her heavy maroon skirts when she neared the bottom, but steadied herself in time. Her deep brown hair was disheveled, and she hadn't waited to get entirely presentable before leaving her room.

"Slow down. We don't want you hurting yourself before tonight." Dorothea Milburn, a tall, perfectly regal-looking woman, was holding a stack of letters in one hand, disinterestedly sifting through them. Sybil stood before her mother, irritably rolling her brown eyes and sighing impatiently.

"Don't rush me, Sybil," Dorothea said as she held out a letter to her daughter. Sybil eagerly snatched it from her grasp. She would have recognized that handwriting anywhere.

"It's from Charlie," she smiled, tearing the carefully placed wax seal apart. She folded the letter open and began to read it. "He's back in town. And he's going to attend my birthday celebrations this evening!"

Sybil could no longer hold her excitement in and took

deep nervous breaths as she read the rest of the letter. "He wishes to have a private moment with me."

"Do you know what this means, Sybil?" Dorothea said, raising an eyebrow. Sybil nodded and placed her palm on her stomach as she began to laugh. "I had a feeling this would happen," said Dorothea. "But you must think of what you'll say to him."

"Think! Mother, I've loved Charlie since I was fifteen." Sybil was in the process of placing the letter back into the envelope when something inside it caught her eye, making her frown.

"What's all this fuss about?" Sybil's brother, Sirius, gradually descended the staircase, a questioning look on his face.

Sybil showed him the letter as he approached them.

"Well?" she said, waiting for his opinion. He examined the letter.

"Oh. He's back, is he? That's good." Sirius handed her back the letter. Sybil looked at her mother, bewildered.

Sirius turned, but Dorothea blurted out, "He's going to propose!"

Sirius swung around abruptly, eyes wide. "What did you say?" His gaze shifted between the two of them, hardly daring to breathe.

"He's going to propose to me." Sybil took a step towards him, "Isn't it obvious?"

"Oh!" Sirius composed himself, and ran his fingers



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through his hair, panting lightly. "That's wonderful, Syb." "

Sybil glanced at her mother again as Sirius left the room, straightening his collar. "What's the matter with him?"

Dorothea shrugged and disappeared into the library, leaving Sybil to her thoughts. She climbed up to her room and closed the door behind her. Settling on the edge of her bed, she pried open the envelope one more time and pulled out a second piece of parchment, much smaller and unkempt, compared to the first. Her eyes scanned the page once in a hurry, and she gaped at its contents. Her delicate fingers began to tremble as she read it again, slowly.

Darling Syb, I hope you will keep an open mind. You must disregard all that I

She heard a sudden knock, and Sirius barged into her room. Sybil could not help but stare at her brother, astonished.

He noticed her holding the letter and rolled his eyes, "How many times are you going to read that?"

"As many times as needed for it to settle in." She was glad he didn't realize that it wasn't the same letter. She stood, shoved the letter under her pillow, and rubbed the sweat off her palms on her gown.

"I just came here to ask-" Sirius said, and he began to walk around the room, rearranging the little ornaments on her dressing table. "If you are going to accept him." He looked at her earnestly. "I'm very glad for you, by the way," he added.

Sybil stared at him, a little taken aback. "Are you really?"

"Of course, I am. What a silly thing to ask." He clenched his jaw.

Sybil scratched her nose. She wondered if he could feel the tension in the room just as intensely as she did. She nodded, "I might."

"Might?" Sirius shot her a look.

"Yes, might. What's it to you?" She tilted her head.

"Nothing, of course. Just curious," he said. Sirius then

proceeded to awkwardly straighten the covers on one side of her bed. "Right then," he said, and hesitated for a moment, nodding stiffly before walking out of the room.

Sybil held a hand to her chest. Her knees buckled, and she fell to the floor, soaking her cheeks with endless tears.

After what seemed like a few hours, Sybil rose and decided to completely immerse herself in preparing for her party. She tore at her clothes till she stood in nothing but her corset and undergarments and waited for her lady's maid to bring her the new gown she had ordered to be made. She paced the room, pressing her temples to ease the faint headache she felt coming on, and that was when she heard a soft knock.

"Miss Sybil, I've got your clothes for the evening," said a soft treble voice. "Thank you, Amara. You can leave it on the bed. I'll do it myself."

Amara walked in slowly, wondering what she had done wrong to be dismissed. She neatly placed the gown on the bed and turned to Sybil. "They've made a mistake, miss. If I remember correctly you ordered a deep purple. They've made it completely black." Amara looked guiltily at the ground.

"That's okay. I think I'd much prefer black for tonight, anyway."

Amara left quietly, and Sybil got to work. She dressed up as elaborately as she could- picking only the finest jewels to adorn herself with and staining her cheeks and lips with red. When she was done curling the tips of her hair, she looked absolutely grand. The gown perfectly highlighted her sharp features, and she stood in front of her wood-paneled mirror for a few minutes, wrestling with her thoughts in total silence before deciding to leave.

"Oh Sybil, you look beautiful." Dorothea embraced her daughter and Sybil pretended as if she was getting suffocated till her mother let go.

"Is Sirius coming?" she said and looked around for a sign of him.



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"Of course. He's just pulling the carriage around."

Sirius, dressed in his finest dinner coat, was already seated in a dark corner of the carriage when Sybil and Dorothea climbed in. He was picking at his cuticles, and his once well-kept, clean nails had been bitten down to the bed. He smiled shortly at Sybil and looked out of the window once the carriage began to move. They were traveling to the town hall which had been graciously offered up for celebrations whenever one of the townspeople turned of age. Sybil narrowed her eyes at him,

"You're being awfully quiet."

Sirius ignored her, but she could see his knees bouncing from the corner of her eyes. Dorothea furrowed her brows and placed a hand on his knee.

"He's just nervous for you," she smiled at Sybil.

"I thought I was the one who ought to be nervous." Sybil raised her chin and caught her brother's eye. She had never seen him so preoccupied before. Sirius tore his gaze away from her and focused on the seemingly boundless green fields outside the carriage. The sun was growing old, and Sybil noticed the pinkish-gold rosy hue it was casting on Sirius's face, making his identical soft brown hair glisten. He had never looked this beautiful before, even in his unsettled state.

Sybil sat with her shoulders back and avoided conversing with her mother for the rest of the trip. They reached the town hall shortly after. It looked more like a small four-story stone castle, with the most magnificent turrets that overlooked a lake on the other side. Their guests had already started to roll in, and they were greeted by a few of Sybil's friends at the entrance. Sybil entered the hall with Dorothea, and the melodious sounds of Debussy, played by only the best musicians in town swept over them. She waltzed past the crowd, and the faint smell of champagne filled her senses as she scanned the room for a sign of rust-colored hair. She was intercepted every now and then by someone enthusiastically wishing her all the joy in the world for her twenty-first birthday, but she carried on without getting distracted by the formalities.

"Sybil!"

A handsome young man in uniform was dodging the crowd to walk up to her, a radiant smile on his face. Sybil was instantly captivated by his light green eyes and felt a sense of euphoric delight, almost forgetting her troubles.

"Charlie," she smiled. Charlie grinned back at her and gestured towards a lonely door at one end of the hall. They interlaced arms, and he guided her to a quieter room behind the door. Sybil felt instantly shy, much unlike her usual demeanor. Charlie seemed to lose some of his confidence as well. He gently slid the glove off her arm and kissed her wrist. When he let go, Sybil skittishly rubbed her collarbone, holding her palm over her chest. She strolled around the room and surveyed the different paintings on the wall, but she could feel Charlie's intense gaze on her. She turned to him and he tried to hide his rapid, shallow breaths.

"You look-" he laughed softly. "I thought you detested jewelry. You don't look like you." "I don't feel very much like myself tonight," she said curtly.

"I assume you know why you're here."

"It's my party," Sybil said, avoiding his gaze.

"Syb," he said in a sincere voice. "I need to know," he licked his lips. "Will you?"

Sybil told herself to count five beats before answering. Everything in the present moment blurred. Her entire life flashed before her eyes in the first two beats, she remembered every moment of her childhood up to this point. Every moment she spent with her family, especially Sirius. And in the next two, she pictured her future, with Charlie and without him. She looked up at him for one moment, with a fierce, steel-eyed expression on her face.

"I will. Yes."

Charlie led Sybil out of the room and she noticed her mother looking at them anxiously. She smiled coyly as they walked to the front of the room. Charlie cleared his throat to get everyone's attention. The pianist stopped his piece midway and everyone's



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voices died out, filling the room with an eerie, suspenseful silence. Sybil saw Sirius standing among his friends, one of his hands held a champagne glass and the other was in his pocket. He had a dangerous fiery glint in his eyes as he stared at them. Sybil tried to smile at him, to communicate with him through her eyes.

“Good evening,” Charlie's voice rang out. “I won't bore you with a long speech, I know Sybil herself would hate one on her special day.”

Everyone laughed.

“I do have an announcement, though.” Charlie took Sybil's hand in his. “I have asked Sybil to marry me, and she has accepted.” His smile grew, as did the murmur from the guests. “We are engaged.”

Everyone raised their glasses. Sirius raised his higher than the rest, and his mouth broke into a gentle smile for Sybil, completely avoiding Charlie. Charlie turned to face her and produced a belladonna flower from behind his back. “I heard it was your favorite wildflower.” Sybil took it from him, absently brought it up to her nose, and inhaled its bittersweet scent. Dorothea was approaching them, a satisfied and proud expression on her face. Just when Sybil was about to go look for Sirius, her friends swooped in on her, congratulating her and wishing her luck. They all wanted to know what she thought of the charming Charlie, and whether the proposal was romantic.

“As romantic as it could have been,” she replied.

She freed herself from the probing questions and went looking for Sirius. One of his acquaintances told her that he had left the hall. She removed a piece of paper from her pocket and climbed the stairs of the castle, careful not to damage her lace and satin skirts. By the time she reached the third floor, all she had found was empty dust-covered rooms, dimly lit by the receding rays of the sun. She was panting by the time she reached the top most room in one of the towers. The door was open, and she walked over to the window. The lake looked like magnificent diamonds shimmering in the distance, and she could see a few

swans floating on the water, gentle ripples forming around them.

Sybil inhaled the salty air and rested her palm on the low windowsill. She bent out of the window and her eyes followed the roughly tiled path from the lake to the tower she was in. Her hand slipped and her eyes widened as she caught sight of the most horrific thing she had ever seen. There, on the ground below her lay Sirius, limbs bent at awkward angles, in a pool of his own blood that soaked his soft hair. Sybil stood stupefied, shocked to the core, and released what she had been holding. The belladonna that Charlie had thoughtfully gifted her landed near Sirius's head, and an untidy, ink-blotted piece of paper fluttered to the floor beside him.

It read

Darling Syb, I hope you will keep an open mind. You must disregard all that I have written in the previous letter. I will propose to you tonight, as I'm sure you've already figured out. We must marry because the advantages of this arrangement can be seen plainly by anyone. But the truth of the matter is that Sirius and I have been in love with each other for a long time now. I love you, Syb, you know I do, but I could never love you the way you want me to. Hiding is the only option for people like me, and I could never openly be with Sirius, however much we both yearn for that. If you understand, and if you are willing, this is the only way to avoid arousing the suspicion of others. And it is the only way Sirius and I can be together forever.

If you do not wish to be a part of this, I would completely understand. But please do not betray our secret to anyone. I wanted to be completely honest with you because our marriage will be a ruse, and a tremendous sacrifice on your part. If you do wish to help us, all you have to do is agree to marry me.

Charlie.

p.s. don't tell Sirius about this just yet.

Sybil felt a drop of water fall on her cheek, and the sky began to mourn as the day finally came to a close.



## My experience with the 62nd IMUN Conference

Nidhi Brijendra Nath  
XIIth Arts

I would like to share my experience with the 62nd IMUN online conference. This IMUN was an amazing and enriching experience for me. I was representing Burkina Faso for Mental health action plan-Promoting care and treatment in the WHO2, since it was my very first IMUN, I had put a lot of time and effort into understanding the rules of procedure and various other things that happen in a committee session.

I only got to know about IMUN's existence as an extracurricular because of my school. Anita D Cunha madam had guided and supported me and my parents to understand about the conference. The conference that I attended has helped me to become a brave and confident girl, who can express her opinion without fear of being criticized by all, especially since this was my first time participating in an event where using English is the mandatory.

Before detailing Day 1, we had to submit the Position Paper to the community for the country we were representing. This was a very interesting part for me as this was the first time I had visited another country's government website to understand the details about the country. This exercise gave me the insight of Burkina Faso's economy, geographical details, and challenges in the country along with the continued improvements made by the government in the country.

On day 1, we had an introduction to the procedure that had to follow during the conference; we were introduced to the 'chair' and 'co-chair' in charge that would be monitoring the committee during the two days. We started with the discussion on the topic, Mental Health Action Plan-Promoting Care and Treatment. We had a general discussion followed by the module discussion based on the points delegates were asking. It was quite a good discussion, however, I did not participate in it earlier as I wanted to

understand how things were happening. I participated in one of the general discussions where I shared the challenges people were facing in Burkina Faso. This gave me the confidence to have myself prepared for day 2. We all ended the day by forming a group of members who would collate points from all the delegates to prepare a draft resolution document.

On day 2 all the delegates debated on the draft resolution that was prepared by the group which we had submitted to the Chair. We also had general and module discussions, and this time I made sure I participated in them and shared my view on mental health. We ended up collating acknowledgements from all the delegates on the final resolution document that we needed to submit.

If there is anything I would want to add, it would be-

-If anyone signs up for an IMUN, we need to make sure we do proper research by referring to the country's government website. This will provide us with any information about the country that we are representing.

-I feel the 1st worst thing is not even participating once throughout the debate out of fear. If we are hesitant to talk then we would not get the confidence to share our thoughts with every delegate.

-Since we now have IMUN online, everyone should be giving it a try because it's easier to overcome our fears when speaking in front of a camera and it is a good place to start.

-Most of the delegates are new to this forum and all are at the same level of experience. There are many opportunities to learn from for everyone.

The conclusion I got was that participating in this event was new and exciting for me because I had never been involved in an event that was formed like this. I highly recommend people who may be reading this article to sign up for it. If you think that you are afraid, there is nothing wrong with trying something new. Not only did it improve my quality, but also added connections from delegates from all over the world, even my committee group on social networks is still active a few days after the conference. One more thing that I would like to share is that I did not win an award, however this experience itself was a reward for me which I will keep with myself forever.



## Adventures Of The Literati | Season 2

Snehi. K. Kotak  
12th Arts

Adventures Of The Literati, a Literary Arts venture held an Online Literary Festival (Season 2) on 27 and 28 of November 2021 to kindle a love for Literary Arts among students and connect authors, readers, and like-minded people. An initiative of our student Ms. Snehi Kotak from 12th Arts EM. Her journey began when she started writing at the early age of 14 and went ahead to get it published with The Times Of India NIE, apart from writing articles and conducting Interviews she aimed at something higher - her love for writing and literature made her curate a Literary Arts Venture, Adventures Of The Literati. Snehi found Adventures Of The Literati amidst the lockdown in 2020 (when she was 16) and lead it with the best of efforts, the agenda of curating the festival was a gentle call for everyone sharing similar interests in Literary Arts. The D-Day arrived, they held the 1st ever Season virtually in November 2020, which was inaugurated by actor / author / poet Divya Dutta. The panel was graced by renowned guests like Mr. Harinder Sikka (Author of Calling Sehmat (Raazi) and Vichhoda) and Mrs. Vaishali Mathur (Publisher at Penguin Random House), Mr. Deepak Dalal (Author of Ladakh Adventure and The Snowleopard Adventure), Mr. Shatrujeet Nath (Author of Vikramaditya Veergatha Series), Mrs. Mandakini Mathur (Founder of Devrai Art Village), Mr. Vikram Bhagwat (writer of Ek Shunya Shunya) to name a few.

As they believe in keeping alive the roots of our Indian tradition, culture, and values in mind they inaugurated Season 2 of the Festival by playing "Saraswati Vandana" as an attribute to Goddess Saraswati - Hindu goddess of learning, arts, and cultural fulfillment, as she symbolizes universal intelligence, consciousness, and knowledge, Starting the 2 Day Festival, guests on the first day discussed the following -

1. Writer / Voice Artist Benaifer Mirza (being in conversation with Founder / Director Snehi Kotak) -

Art Of Voice and Words, where she briefed her experience of writing articles and recording audiobooks and mentioned the career opportunities and the road map to it.

2. Author Deepak Dalal - Exploring Wild India, where he shared how beautiful and interesting watching birds, wildlife and nature is. He also mentioned that he writes books only to create a bond between the reader and wildlife, birds, beauty of nature, and if he manages to do so, his work is done.

3. Graphologist Shreya Shah - Workshop on Importance Of Graphology, where she explained the importance of writing in this digital era and how handwriting and signature define one's personality.

4. Author / Filmmaker Harinder Sikka (being in conversation with CNN Journalist Ashish Mehrishi) - War Heroines Of India, where he shared his journey of penning down the stories of real-life war heroines, 'Sehmat Khan' and 'Bibi Amrit Kaur' (protagonists of his books, 'Calling Sehmat and 'Vichhoda') and much more beyond that. He also mentioned revealing Sehmat's real pictures in the coming future.

5. Poet Sunil Kaushal, Poet Gauri Dixit, and poet Pragya Bajpai (being moderated by Emcee Priyanka Sarode) - Poetry Slam, where the discussion revolved around the feelings and thoughts of a poet which we enjoy in the form of their poetry, which was followed with Poetry Recitation by the poets and audience.

6. Founder, Bookaholics Book Club Jigna Malwankar - Building Of A Book Community, where she shared her insights on how to build a book community and how her daughter inspired her to read more and also became the reason Bookaholics was born.

First Day was concluded here with a happy, satisfied, participating audience.

Starting with another day of the Festival, guests on the second day discussed the following-

1. Author Alka Joshi - Workshop on How to Write a Bestseller, where she shared her experience of penning down 'The Henna Artist' and 'The Secret Keeper Of Jaipur' and guided the budding/amateur writers on how and from where they can start, what to keep in mind and what to avoid.

2. Author Shatrujeet Nath (being in conversation with Emcee Priyanka Sarode) - Alternative Mythology, where he shared his perspective and much deeper



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insight into the plot, character, narrative for an amateur writer.

3. Author Khyrunnisa A. (being interviewed by teacher Sunita Sinha) - were mentioned how one should overcome writers' block and how it can affect one's work. On a personal note she also stated how her love for the environment and nature made her write a lot of animal stories.

4. Author Kavita Kane (being in conversation with Author Pakhi Gauba) - Portrayal of Women in Mythology, where she advised the budding writers to first read and understand the genre followed by carrying out strong research on what they want to write (specifically from which era) and lastly to do justice to all the characters.

5. Founder Edudrone - We Connect Kajal Chhatija - Making of an Anthology, where she shared the entire procedure to execute an Anthology right from plotting the idea, approaching people to write,

editing, publishing, and also shared her experience of how lockdown inspired her to work on something as good as this.

Another Day and the Season 2 of the Festival was concluded with vote of thanks by Ms. Snehi Kotak where she thanked her Parents and Mr. Harinder Sikka for always encouraging her and having her back, her teachers' and St. Mira's College for supporting her and joining on very short notice. Her team – Sneha, Shruti, Trupti, Priyanka for believing in her and walking the journey along. Mandalamantra by Yamini, Dhru K creations, and Creative Corner for being Gifting Partners, Edudrone - We Connect for being Education Partner, Share A Book India Association, and Bookaholics Book Club for being Community Partners to the festival. She also extended heartfelt gratitude to the Speakers of both the days for believing in Adventures Of The Literati and the audience for participating with much enthusiasm.

### The Ghost of Something Unattainable

Zainab Shabbir Kagalwala  
S.Y.B.A.

I stood on the bridge above the dark, brooding waters of the Stave River. Standing there, letting the cool drops of the rain bounce onto the river and drizzle me with mist elated me. For some people, the river was a curse—a cause for all things sinister and evil. For me, it was a getaway.

Today marks the 1st month since I was cast out of my own home. I raised my hand as if giving a toast, "Cheers!" I said, "To a month of dwelling on the streets". The rain pounded down in thick, fat rivulets drenching my hand-me-down varsity jacket, its weight heavy on my shoulders. I shifted my balance from one foot to the other, juggling the keys of my motorcycle in my hands. The miniature Captain America bobblehead was going bonkers on the keychain. I clasped my palm around its tiny head to

keep it from wobbling.

With another burst of showers, the urge to wriggle out of my uncomfortably soggy jacket increased and I was momentarily distracted from the keys hooked on my thumb. I doubled over and scratched my shin malevolently. I was relieved of the nagging feeling of 'something crawling under my skin', but it lasted only a minute. As I straightened up, the keys slipped from my grasp and spiraled down the edge of the bridge. The keys plummeted deep down, hurtling the sullen waters with an echoing p-dunk.

The weight of my sodden jacket on my bony shoulders felt ever more substantial and harrowing. I stopped moving and stood impossibly still under the drizzling skies. I stripped down to my tee and jeans, and plunged headfirst into the river, following the spot I had seen my keys drown. The water hit my pinched face like an icy slap. I swam, flinging my hands in fast, swift movements; each stroke building the momentum to dive lower into the water. My spine pulsed with adrenaline and I slumped deeper and flailed my arms, but there was nothing to hold on to.

My thighs rubbed against one another inside my damp jeans. Something about the rippling river unnerved me. I fought through the unease and



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searched for my keys. After a moment's wait, I saw it glinting on the riverbed, glowing like plankton. Longing to hold the familiar chunk of metal in my hands, I wiggled faster, putting all my energy in a butterfly kick. It lay right there, the butt of the key peeking from underneath the river floor. I dug into the silky, silt-like surface, scrambling for my keys. My finger hit something hard instead and it seemed to go all the way inside, half immersed into the ground. I couldn't hold my breath any longer, and I pulled out of the water gasping for air. I had to go back inside, but I would need a tank to unearth that object.

Racking my brain for an idea, I ended up at Kimmy's Swim Couture 3 blocks away from the Stave. With a 10 dollar note in my pocket, I was skeptical that I could purchase even half of a pair of swim goggles. The rain had almost come to a halt now; patches of my clothes had already dried in the heat of the warm sun. Outside the storefront, the sign on the door read, "Please leave your footwear outside!"

Pools of water started filling in through the little holes on the sides of my Crocs. I left them to drain upside down atop the shoe rack. As I pushed open the door to the shop, cold jets of air pushed their way out of the AC vents. A bell on the door tinkled as I entered, awaking the woman knocked out on the counter. She squeaked in surprise and hastily began to straighten her hair and wipe the sleep out of her eyes.

"Oh," she said. "I didn't see you there, come on in dear." The woman was plump and short, with elfish features and a small round face. She spoke in a soft, sing-song voice. "Would you like a cup of tea or coffee, maybe? Before I could give an affirmation, she trotted away further inside the maze of the store. I wandered around the neon swimwear section and as I was about to touch the smooth fabric of the costume, the plump woman, Kimmy, waded in with a tray of coffee.

"That would look ravishing on you, dear. Would you like to try one in your size?" "No, I'm not here for the costumes... I was looking for something more like... An oxygen tank?" "An oxygen tank? What, the ones those deep-sea divers use?"

"Uh, yes. That one."

"We don't have professional diving equipment here, dear. Maybe you would like to try something else

instead?" She mused. "How about our latest line of designer swim caps or some goggles for those dazzling eyes of yours?"

"No, no. I... do not need any of those."

"Oh well, can I do anything else for you, pumpkin?"

"No, that's alright." I turned, reaching for the door.

When I looked back through the glass windows of Kimmy's Swim Couture, the woman was nestled into her leathery chair, her heavy-lidded eyes half-shut and her head lolling.

\*\*\*

I stood before the bridge, unsure of what to do. I could take a lap, the river wasn't shallow but it wasn't too deep either. I steadied myself, puffed my mouth—my free of cost oxygen reservoir—and dived in. This time, it didn't take me too long to reach the bottom. The water didn't feel as chilly either and so I swam fast, going all the way down. When I got to the riverbed, I worked quickly; first—trying to loosen the soil around the object and then scraping away the muddy remains. The metal object shimmered at the base of the river, the streetlamps making the light dance around the object, reflecting off its smooth texture.

A vessel of some sort lay in a crater at the brim. It was light-weighted, enough that I could lift it and myself. After I broke out of the water, I was breathless. Beads of water rolled off the vessel's waxy finish. In hindsight, it appeared like an ordinary pickle jar but when I lifted it to the lamp's luminescence; I saw that the body of the jar was inscribed with designs of little crows and crowns.

I was shaken to my core. Shivering, I set the vessel down on the curb, too horrified to open it and see what was inside. It felt empty; the metal was what was heavy to hold. What if this vessel was like Pandora's Box story? And when I opened it, succumbing to the enigmatic pull of the object, deathly, fatal things came out? I didn't want to think about this. I was about to leave it there, give up the search for my keys, and trudge all the way home until I realized that if someone else found this deserted jar and were dense enough to open it—mankind would be doomed for all eternity. Pandora had done enough; we didn't need more diseases and pandemics. I picked up the jar and sped down the streets before anyone could spot me.



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My motorcycle was safely parked down a secret alley, besides this was RiecheFields- people didn't steal here, they robbed. And my motorcycle? Didn't make the cut.

\*\*\*

I fell asleep in my makeshift inflatable bubble outside Frank's Coffee House. I found Liz, the street cat, purring beside me when I woke up. I gave her an apple and ripped open a granola bar for myself. A filling breakfast later, I unearthed the vessel that I had tucked in the duvet of the bubble. I ran a few searches on my phone but nothing with the keywords 'abandoned antique vessel' popped up and so I stretched my arms and crawled out of the tent. It was silent outside, and even at 6 in the morning, it looked like the dead of the night. The sun was in a lazy mood too; only a shaft of pale sunlight shone through the thick clouds.

I tucked my sheets inside the seam of the bubble, zipped up the entrance, and worked my way down the Public Library. There was no one there, only the new librarian Debby sat at her desk, the blue light coming from her PC reflecting in her black-rimmed glasses. Debby was around my age, with a pixie cut and blue highlights woven through her hair. She emanated nonchalance, but she and I had been friends since forever. The library was her great-great-great-grandfather's and every offspring of the Celeste's had sat at the desk of RiecheFields only library for generations.

When I walked in she gave me a slight upward nod which screamed "Sup?" except I didn't imagine it and no her lips did not quiver. I sat at one of the computers and scrolled through some archives dating back to the 1980s when one particular result caught my eye. I scrolled up hastily, my heart pounding in my rib cage. I clicked it open and the face of a twenty-something boy with a group of his guy friends, smiling for the camera, dripping wet and with fishes in their hands loaded on my screen. The guy in the center held a pickle jar. I zoomed in and though I couldn't see any of the inscriptions clearly, I could see the carvings on the jar and they seemed almost identical to the patterns on mine. I read through the article and the boy, Jamarion, and his friends from university had gone on a fishing trip when Jamarion's phone slipped into the water and he had to swim down to get it. There in the

creek of a tributary, he saw an object peeking out. He went to get it and it turned out to be a full-fledged jar. They gave it to the authorities handling the Creek Bridge jurisdiction. After a few days, it was reported that after careful examination only a parchment of paper was found inside the jar and it had a drawing on it with rust-hued ink of a crown with a small crow etched next to it.

I didn't get it. Whatever it was, I didn't understand. There was obviously a pattern here, but jars? How significant could those be? I pulled up other relevant articles, but this was the only one that stated the finding of a jar, others just mentioned the sightings of old diaries and stashed letters in abandoned mailboxes.

I went back to the bubble. Liz was nowhere to be found, she hadn't even squirmed her way inside the bubble which was surprising since all she ever did was either rummage for apple pie leftovers from the garbage cans of Frank's Coffee House or invade my home. I got out the tucked in jar and stared at it for a long time. Gran would make me pickles each summer when she was still alive. Every year, after the last day of school I could expect to come home to a jar of dried lemons in the balcony, the rim wrapped with linen-basking, cooking in the scorching heat. She and I would feast on the sweet lemon pickle, licking our lips after every mouthful. I missed her. Mom and dad had given me to her when they couldn't handle me anymore. Mom used to work a taxing job as a journalist- and she had to be on her feet 24/7. Pop was in the Navy, they didn't have time for me. After having me, they moved out of RiechesField- to a town further away, in the heart of the city. Gran took me in, Gramps having left Earth a long time ago. But after her, I lost the house and got kicked to the streets. The owners wanted their old house back- Grandpa and Gran had had it on a lease agreement, and so it wasn't mine to keep. My parents didn't know. They knew that Gran passed away but they never showed up or called.

I've done everything ever since then. Fix up this bubble outside of Frank's, get a part-time job at Frank's waitressing... he's been really nice to me. He gave me the job, with an upfront wad of cash so I could fend for myself. He even offered to let me sleep inside the coffee house, close up after the last bunch of customers left, clean up, and work... Then I bought



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the bubble with my first paycheck

my BTS. So, I crash outside in my little fortress now. The fresh air, Liz, the dumpsters, the closing shops, the fast cars, the night streetlights—all of them became mine. I still clean up after closing hours for Frank though, I get the extra cash and Frank gets to graffiti all he wants.

So now I work two jobs- waitressing at Frank's and then mowing the lawns of all the rich uppersiders. I'm saving up for an actual place to stay now... and swimming school.

\*\*\*

I knew where I had to be the minute I woke up at daybreak. I asked Frank if he'd cover my shift and I could do this in the evening.

"Sure, Sam. Where are you off to? Satchel and all..."

"I have to check something out at the artifacts office." His temple creased. "I'll explain later. Bye." "

"Okay. Get back by 3."

"It's a deal."

I picked up a banana from the pantry and fixed up a Nutella 'which to-go. The artifacts office was downtown; I had a few dollars to spare so I rode the bus from Bellevue to Irving Boulevard.

The artifacts office was in shambles. The bus left a haze of dust behind it as it screeched away to hopefully a more developed place. Half of the building was swamped with muck, vines, wild growth, and shrubs. The other wing looked freshly coated with paint, but it still gave off an old, rustic vibe which was on purpose I guess.

The front desk had a man in his thirties seated on a swivel chair, with a notepad and a set of headphones hanging around his neck. A laptop lay open in front of him, but it seemed new like he had barely gotten an opportunity to use it. When I came in through the push-open doors, he began typing frivolously at his keyboard. For a split second, he looked like he was having an aneurysm. I backed away, but the jar in my backpack rattled next to my phone, reminding me what I had to do and I stepped up. The man at the desk looked up, his eyes hidden beneath bushy brows.

"Hi, this is Sam Richards. I called up earlier for Mr Taios Simone?"

"Ok. Let me just buzz you in."

"Alright. Thanks."

"Just enter into the room on the left. Oh, and knock thrice. Mr Simone has a hearing disability." \*\*\*

Mr Simone had a helluva hearing disability. Thrice, I had to tell him my name, which is monosyllabic. Then, five times where I came from and twice again what I had come in for.

"I wanted to speak to you about this particular vessel that I stumbled upon recently," I repeated, shrilly. I placed the jar on his table. Mr Simone's eyes lit up the minute he took it all in. He seemed to figure out what I had come to him for after all.

"This right here is a relic. You have done right by bringing it to me. We will be checking in with the Artifacts Headquarters in Arizona. Thank you so much. We appreciate this."

He set his brawny hands on the jar speckled with mud and seaweed.

"Hold on one second, Mr Simone. I have other questions for you."

"Go on," he said, sipping on some tea.

"Do you think there is any connection between the jar found in Creek Bridge and the one I have right here?"

"First of all miss, this is not a jar. It's an urn. And to answer your question, I don't think urns are of any vitality to you common folk. It is for us, collectors, and treasurers of antiques and artifacts."

"Yes Mr Simone, but do you think---"

"Thank you for bringing this in. Charles will show you out."

"Excuse me, sir; you can't just throw me out without answering me first."

"I very well can, Tam."

"IT'S SAM and no you cannot. I will report you to the authorities immediately."

"Hahahaha. If anything, I should be calling them on you, Tam. Now please, I have my job to get back to."

\*\*\*

Tears welled up in my eyes as I sat down on the poky seat of the Flying Fish Bus. I had lost the jar. The urn.



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Whatever. Could I get it back? Probably. Would I get it back? Nope. After what Mr Simone had said I felt angry at myself. I tried to be this girl who could get anything. But, I had just felt dejected after some old, cruel man in an artifacts office kicked me out. I wanted to slap myself across the face. I should've taken the urn back from his selfish hands- demanded he hand it over to me right away or I would... I would sprint so fast he wouldn't even be able to see me much less hear me run.

I got to Frank's at 1 o'clock sharp. Frank was busy waitressing, customers had been a little thick lately especially since Binging Bay closed down and Frank was getting business, more than he'd ever got in the past few years. I rang up Debby.

\*\*\*

Debby donned a leather jacket and new-wedged boots when she got off her motorbike at the Stave. The blue nuances of dye in her hair matched that of the sky so perfectly that I had to tell myself to shut my jaw, which had almost dropped down to the ledge.

"Oh my God, Deb! You look amazing."

"Yeah, I know. You can get yourself together before you tell me why you called me here." "Um, ok Motor Girl. I guess you don't know how compliments work."

She wiggled her eyebrow at me. Her eyebrows were perfectly arched. Like the peak of a mountain, they seemed to be reaching for the sky (here, her temple) in the quest for something loftier. It was astounding to see her eyebrows shoot up to meet her hairline.

"This close," I said to her, pinching my index and thumb together.

"I never know what you're talking about."

"I found an urn two days ago at the bottom of this river."

"Yeah, ok. Sure you did, Ms Urnearther."

"I'm serious. I just got back from the artifacts office. The man said it was a relic. I came to the library yesterday to look up some stuff about ancient vessels found at the bottom of the river bed."

"What? Damn and I just got to know about this?"

"I didn't know what to tell you. I thought it was just an antique pickle jar."

"Um..."

"It looked like it. Not my fault."

"So, what do you want to do now?"

"I think the urn is important. I don't know how or why. The man seemed extremely eager to get his hands upon it and asked me to leave everything immediately. Something just seems fishy here."

"I think I can help you. Come on."

\*\*\*

Debby's motorbike was so fast that when she stepped on the accelerator, I felt like I was going to fly away and be sacrificed to the winds. I clasped the bar behind the bike tightly, my fists turning a ball of white.

"Chill out girl!" Debby shrieked.

"Easy for you to say," I murmured. But the change was good; even I had to admit that. From slow to working sometimes to I can push it the rest of the way- this bike was a vroom fest. Never had I ever had a chilling-to-the-bone experience before.

"Sams, are you good? You look sickly." Deb turned sideways, her eyebrows doing the thing again. "Just keep going."

"Ok, but you best not throw up on me."

\*\*\*

Three and a half freaking miles later, Debby slowed down and pulled up in front of a vintage farmhouse. When I got down from the bike, I had a wedgie, my legs were wobbly, and my head spun. I had to stop and sit down by the curb to stop my insides from churning. Debby held her helmet, Celeste's family symbol of a celestial key carved on its side, on her hips and looked tenderly at the cottage.

I took my phone out and texted Frank that I'd be late. He texted me an 'Are you okay? Call if you need anything' message and I hit send on 'yes, and yes'. We had to jump over a white-coated fence because the lock wouldn't budge. I felt strongly that this was breaking and entering but I thought too soon. Deb extracted a pair of bronze keys from the pocket of her bomber jacket. She wasn't telling me anything- about what this place was or why she'd brought me here, but I decided against pushing her for answers. I traipsed along behind her and into the musty farmhouse. The



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interiors were dark but little beams of sunlight poured in from where the curtains didn't draw close. She led me upstairs, over creaky wooden floorboards. Upstairs there were three rooms on each side with a wide strip of a milieu in between. We entered the second room on the left. Paisley wallpaper covered the walls and even though the adhesive had worn down in a couple of spots and the wallpaper was peeling, the room still had a minimalistic charm to it. Deb knew her way around this house like she had been here a couple of times, but she wandered with a far-off look in her eyes like she didn't come here often.

"So, um... what are we doing?" I asked, just to break the ice.

She tiptoed across the room, sidestepping boxes and picture albums strewn over the floor. Her wedges left little footprints in her wake, and I made my way to her.

She dropped down on her knees and sat cross-legged. She emptied several albums from the carton nearest to her and started flipping through them.

"My great-great-great-grandfather used to go on these expeditions with his restoration group. He knew a great deal about relics and antique objects, this house was his. His wife and he settled down after restoring it. They legally purchased it but after his death, his son moved to the countryside and this house was left for occasional summer retreats or barbecue dinners. Then it became more and more difficult to host events here, weekends in this farmhouse turned to occasionally showing up for keeping it alive to rarely stepping into the place. I found the keys to this house in our attic one night, and I asked my dad about it and he said I could keep them and visit the manor when it seemed to fit sometimes after I close up the library, I come out here- as an escapade."

"So is that why we're here right now? An escapade?"

"No, silly. My great-great-great-grandfather left behind a lot of pictures and documents on the houses he restored and his findings. I thought we could look up the jar you found and that news article- link them in some sort of way to understand better what those urns really are and---"

"And why Mr Simone is after them." I finished.

"Exactly." She blew out a puff of air. "Now get down

here and help me look." \* \* \*

When we got through the last album, it was pitch dark outside. The time on my phone flashed 9:30 p.m. and Frank had sent me 8 texts already and called thrice. Just as I was about to text him back, his call came through.

"I'm with Deb at her farmhouse and I'm safe.

Okay. No, I have not eaten yet.

We'll catch a bite from Henny's.

No, don't wait for me...

Thanks, Frank.

Yup, Bye."

"Okay, look. Here, Gramps Sanders is with his restoration society at Clove Harbour where they found this trove. It doesn't show the findings inside, but focuses right here." Deb's long, black-painted nail tapped the top left corner of the trove in the photo.

"A crown and a crow! Just like the one Jamarion found."

"But that still doesn't explain anything."

"We're definitely missing something. Should we look through his research journals once more?"

"We've already been through those several times, Sam."

"Hold on, how close is Clove Harbor to Creek Bridge?"

"It's only 3 or so miles away."

"And isn't the Creek Bridge built over an ancient civilization?"

"So is Clove Harbor, and RichField, even the Grove... all of it is ancient. Why?"

"A lot of families in these places are the descendants of a rich and exclusive lineage, like you, the Deramores, the Vanderbilts, Labouteillers. And all of you have your unique symbols, linked to your lineage."

"The Celestes have the Celestial Key, the Delamores have the Oaktree, Vanderbilts have a crescent moon and Labouteillers have the open palm."

"Exactly. So what if the crown and the crow are family symbols?"

"Oh, I never thought of that... We could look it up."



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I pressed the search icon next to the query box and instantly multiple pages of results popped open on my phone.

"Deb, you will not believe this."

"We'll call them in the morning, there is a contact right?"

"Yup."

I took the beige couch in the living room and Deb took the chaise longue across the room. Moments after hitting the sofa, I sprawled out wide and Deb and I fell fast asleep. A rooster went off at the crack of dawn, and we woke up with a start. Even before chugging down a cup of coffee, Deb dialed the number from the website into her phone.

I waited impatiently on the arm of the couch while Deb got the 411 on the McNulty's.

"Okay, Mr McNulty. I will let you know as soon as possible." Deb said and hung up with a sigh. She looked at me and practically shrieked. "Girl, get up and off that couch. We're getting you that urn back!"

\*\*\*

Deb rode her motorcycle to Irving Boulevard. In the early sunrise, the artifacts office looked like an otherworldly building left in the middle of a lonely district.

We went inside. Charles manned the desk and was currently scarfing down a goblet of orange juice. When we walked in, he looked up and his eyes widened.

"Visitors at the break of dawn? Today must be a good day."

"Hello, Charles. Will you buzz us in for Mr Simone? We have something we would like to show him."

"That's alright, Miss. Just barge in, it's not like he hears the phone anyway."

"Good Morning Mr Simone." I sang, going slightly off-key.

"I told you, Miss Tam, the urn stays in the Artifacts Office. It's not yours just because you found it at the base of some river." Mr Simone scoffed.

"Mr Simone, I have a legal permit to take the urn back from you."

"What was that, dear?"

"The McNulty's have the official papers of the heirloom which has belonged to their family for generations."

"Now, Mr Simone, if you would be so kind as to return the urn or face penal charges over seizing private possessions." Deb pulled up the legal documents sent by McNulty's secretary this morning. Mr Simone looked like he was about to have a heart attack. His sharp, pointy ears had perked up like a cat's and he twitched his mouth upwards. He slammed down his hands on the timber desk as if giving in to defeat.

"Charles!" He yelled through the open door. "Give these girls the urn from the vaults." "Coming right up, sir", Charles called back from his desk.

\*\*\*

At Frank's, Deb and I told him everything that had happened and he seemed too awestruck to even respond. He just gawked at us until Deb said she was starving. He fixed Deb and me a mayo-and beet sandwich- one of the best in all of Riechefields. Until evening swept by, the three of us hung out at Table 5, Frank and I occasionally excusing ourselves from the convo to attend to the customers. But even then, it was hands down one of the happiest days I had had since Gran passed.

The next day, a call on my phone came through, interrupting my coffee and serving an hour at Frank's. When I picked up, a deep voice cut through Flaws blaring from the speakers.

"Hello? Is this Sam Richards I'm speaking to?"

"Yes?"

"This is Viola, Mr McNulty's secretary, and I'm calling to let you know that the McNulty's would personally like to thank your friend and you for finding their lost family heirloom and returning it and have hence invited your friend and you for dinner at the McNulty mansion in Greenwich. He wants you to know that he will be sending a ride to your address the day after to pick you up."

I squawked so loud that Viola on the other line had to make sure I was still there and alright. I couldn't contain my glee. I rang up Deb immediately after and told her all about the McNulty's wanting to meet for



## St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

Unravelling Magicians

dinner. At the McNulty mansion!

She hung up, so excited that I had to check if it was the Deb-indifferent-Celeste I knew that I had called.

\*\*\*

If you thought Deb's farmhouse was enormous, then I will have you know that the McNulty mansion was Deb's farmhouse times 4. Acres and acres of land stretched out on both sides flaunting a post modern, Victorian manor splashed with kempt, green pastures and rolling fields of primrose and honeysuckle. Deb and I stared at the stretch of the estate, our mouths open, and our senses dumbfounded. It's almost as if I had cooked up this little, too-good-to-be-true fantasy in my bubble one night, dazed by insomnia. But it was real. Deb was here with me, donning silver boots with trinkets the shape of celestial keys dangling from the sides. She wore a matte gray cashmere sweater with black jeans and just one long blue feather earring fell to her shoulders from her ear lobe. I wore something out of the ordinary too. Deb asked me to; she practically put me at the end of a sharp knife to borrow something from her wardrobe.

A chaperone at the entrance led us inside to a breathtaking, wide-set dining room. A black cedarwood table was positioned in the middle of the dining space, resembling an oasis amid the desert. Lush chairs made out of the same wood, down to the texture and feel were placed opposite each other, in pairs of two. The timber chairs gleamed in the soft, ochre light and the flame from the gilded candelabras danced in the wind making its way through the multi-paned wood frame

windows. The McNulty's were a small, tight-knit family of four. The mother, Mrs McNulty, was a polished, elegant woman in her early forties; the father, Mr McNulty, a cheerful, elite man in his late forties and their two children- a charming boy around Deb and my age and a sweet, impish girl in her tweens.

Dinner was marvelous. They had vegan lasagne; Mr McNulty was on a strict diet regimen, with quinoa and ice-berg-lettuce, topped with diced tofu and a steaming pot of red Thai curry. Noodles, crisp and dry, were served in a platter along with the quinoa salad and a large ceramic kettle held fragrant jasmine tea, which on command, was poured into matching

china cups sculpted with tiny lilacs and tender rosebush. Stuffed at the feast's sight, I drank little sips of the invigorating jasmine tea to get me warmed up. We exchanged bits and pieces of information, Deb drilling down here's to the very core. She hates small talk, a shame because all I ever did was make small talk. When she refused to elaborate, I discreetly nudged her with my elbow- urging her to open up. When she finally did open up, my head was in my hands; my body sulked and cheeks fully pink.

"Sam aspires to compete in the Olympic swimming championships one day." "Oh is that so?" Mrs McNulty commented, sounding genuinely interested.

"That is lovely Sam," Mr McNulty exclaimed, nodding his head in approval.

"That's cool Sam, I hope when you do win the Gold and we can all rendezvous for dinner in whatever State the Olympics will be held in." Ian toasted, raising his glass and clinking mine. He grinned widely and then winked at me. Not that that meant anything, I'm sure. That was just his flattering charm bubbling all over the place. The young girl, Elli, chided "That's awesome," in her cute, teensy voice and then returned to trying to get her noodles to stay on the plate and not topple over outside. To shift the attention from me and back to the McNulty's, I asked them what their business was. I was piqued to know what it was the McNulty's did that had made them this rich. I also needed a few ideas for building my grand empire someday.

"The McNulty's have forever been interested in homes and the upkeep and maintenance that go into them. Deb, after Viola spoke to you via email, I knew that the Celeste name couldn't have been a coincidence. So I did some research and found that your great-great-great-grandfather and mine were in the same restoration society. It was the both of them who had started this tradition of restoring houses which then my grandfather turned into our family business and yours began to outsource celestial bronze for construction."

"That's true. Now we not only advise families and couples on home décor and design, but we also provide them with the latest, high-tech home automation software. That's our main focus now." Mrs



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## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

McNulty continued.

“That is so great to know Mr and Mrs McNulty. I know this might not be the best time but would the McNulty's be willing to partner with the Celestes again?”

A long moment passed before Mr and Mrs McNulty started snickering.

“Deb, you really are quite the pusher huh? Viola tells me you did quite leave an impression on her too. And as for the business part, I would love to re-establish contacts with your father. Just ask him to hit me up whenever he's in Greenwich.”

“Absolutely, sir.” Deb looked pleased with herself. A sly smile gave away her satisfaction. \* \* \*

When we left the McNulty's from Greenwich, the whole family came outside to see Deb and me off. Mrs McNulty hugged us and said it was lovely meeting the two of us. Mr McNulty shook hands with us and wished Deb and me luck for our future. Ian shook hands with us too and Elli gave each of us a fist bump.

Descending the flight of the marbled stairs, I skidded down the last two and Ian swooped in to help me regain my balance. From the corner of my eyes, I could see Deb holding back a laugh. I managed a sheepish thank you and trotted away to the Limousine, arm hooked into Deb's. However damned I may be, at least this was as worse as it could get. No one in the world could possibly mess up more.

When we sat in the car, Deb turned toward me, the smile on her face lighting up entire galaxies. I hugged her and she hugged me back, and for the rest of the way back home we kept smiling and squeezing each other's hands.

\* \* \*

I pushed my way inside Frank's at 9:00 a.m the next morning. Some customers had already made their way in and lounged on the chairs of the cafeteria. I swung my apron around my waist and began taking orders. Frank was re-shelving the new stock when I entered the pantry.

“Heeeey, Salmonella! Whatchu doing so early?”

“It's 9 o'clock, Frank. Where else would I be if not here?”

“Okay, Sammy pants. By the way, there's a parcel for

you in the back.”

The parcel sure did have my name on it and the correct address, but who in RiecheFields did I know who would send me a parcel? I unwrapped the brown packing and tore open the cardboard box. An envelope lay inside the box, bulging because of whatever was inside it. I unsealed it and a credit card fell outside. My full name- Samantha Richards was emblazoned in bold on the front with the CVV still unscratched. A letter, folded in half lay at the bottom of the box.

Dear Sam Richards,

Your friend, Deborah Celeste, told us what happened when you found the urn at the bottom of the Stave River, took custody of it and your first visit to the artifacts office. Deb convinced us of inviting both of you to dinner to check things out and confirm for ourselves. After dinner yesterday, Mrs McNulty and I are nonetheless assured that you have done a noble and honorable act. We wish to repay you for your kindness and prompt action in ferreting and restoring the McNulty's lost heirloom and have come to the decision to help you out with your dream of competing in the Olympics swimming championships. We offer to shoulder the entire tuition fee for your programme at Swimming School. Viola has already accredited a total amount of 20 thousand dollars on the credit card attached with this parcel for whatever materials you need for college. If you accept this offer and the amount, we will be forever grateful to your friend and you. We await your response.

Thanking You,

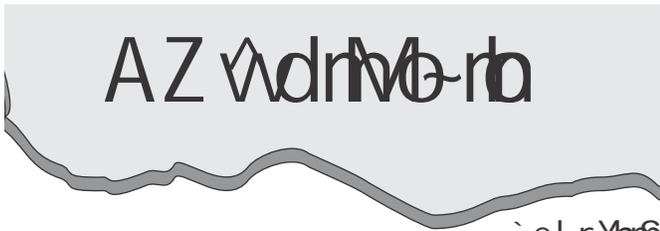
McNulty's.

\* \* \*

The evening that followed, I stood outside the storefront of Kimmy's Swim Couture; a wave of excitement flooding over me like the ghost of something unattainable. When I entered, the bell twinkled and Kimmy peeked from behind a heap of dismantled mannequins with sequined, shiny swimming costumes beside them. "I'm looking for a costume in size 18 Medium, a pair of swim goggles and a designer cap to go along with it," I said, sauntering in.



### Marathi



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SYBA

\_bmObS`PrO` {` \$Ed`aUOadZnx`w`\_w`\_S`  
A{Ve` C`grmr` ArtU` gH`aE`H`\$AemadZm`°` bP` H`n`  
Arnd,` -avbb` dZr`o`E` r`gr` {`b`h`o`Arnd,` \_r`E` r`E` m`E`H`n`  
m`H`H`V`na`m`Ca`a`U`Z` H`n`H`S`A`r`h`r`g`S`r`\_b`n`A`m`e` m`  
H`b`O`A` m`\_r`o`r` {`d`U`V`E`r`\_S`\_`r`A` m`g`\_Y`d` H`S`n`g`P`b` -w`  
Arnd,` \_ar` {`d`^`n`r`A` m`a`\_w`\_S`n`g`S`r`V`m`x`e`\_w`\_S`\_`o`r`g`r`  
{`X`r`\_a`d`Z`m`°`\_Arnd,`\_r`r`A`r`i`d` H`b`O`A` n`E`e` v`z`m`Z`y`a`v`  
\_S`\_`r`E` m`\_r`d`\_m`Z` P`r`i`o`r,` Arnd,` \_J`\_r`E` r`E` m`\_X`V` H`E`  
b`n`h`b`o`

\_bn`E` r`E` m`\_J`\_E`H`S`a`H`a`V`Z`r`o`Y` O`r`d`b`S`E` r`E` m`\_S`Z`  
{`e`H`E` r`g`r`a` I` w`H`r`J`d`g`b`S`V`a`n`o`n`M`H`S` V`V`o`r`o`r`b`m`  
h`o`S`n`h`a`v`m`r`E` r`E` m`\_w`h`V`\_j` m`\_V`a`b`S`o`m`r`M`V`X`e`\_w`  
\_S`\_`Z`m`H`\$`d`b`S`Arnd,` E` m`b`J`M`V` r`a`P`r`e` m`H`b`O`A` m`  
\_r`d`\_m`Z`\_r`g`S`r` {`i` r`E` m`\_w`o`\_bn`E` r`E` m`\_S`Z` I` w`H`r`  
{`e`H`S`r`b`m`\_l`i` r`o`S`Arnd,` Z`{`Z` A`r`i`d` a`r`a` P`r`i`o`r,` H`S`r`M`  
V`a`n`o`r`r`h`E`.

g`X`a`a`d`Z`n`x`e`\_w`\_S`\_M`\_r`K`o`b`b`r`\_w`h`V`:-  
Z`\_r`H`a`\_S`\_!!`\_r`\_`el`r`X`n`S`S`y`B`M`r`M`{`d`U`V`E`r`  
H`b`O`\_r`g`H`H`M`V`V`M`\_w`h`V`K`b`r`a`r`i`n`o`

à 1) a`d`Z`m`\_S`\_`V`w`o`b`Z`m` {`V`a`\$`A`r`d`l` r`Z` H`n`H`n`N`S`  
Arnd,` A` r`z`o`V`w`h`{`d`a`S`i`w`h`r`o`Arnd,` V`a`n`o`m`A`r`z`S`r`  
{`i` V`r`a`

Ôra: b`b`Z`n`i` {`V`a`\$`A`r`d`S`\_b`m`d`r`d`S`E`E` m`d`J`m`Z`m`  
A`r`d`S`A`r`i`n`o`\_b`n`A`g`S`r`o`V`S`\_`a`E` b`i`°`\$`h`r`\_w`e`\_g`J`a`  
A`r`i`d` H`a`U`A`m`U`g`W`J`W`W`\_A`g`V`r`o`A`r`i`d`A`m`V`h`n`  
A`g`r`i`V`h`o`m`\_J`\_V`r`J`r`d`r`\_r`i`o`S`M`\_A`g`r`o`H`m`g`v`g`S`r`V`  
A`g`r`o`A`m`\_A`n`o`b`\_A`m`r`E` m`r`E` r`S`Y`o`A`V`A`g`m`V`h`M`o`V`a`B`H`S`  
g`S`r`A`g`m`V`H`S`n,` S`S`E` m`\_g`m`M`\_H`n`H`M`Z`m`b`m`d`r`d`  
J`W`U`m`V`g`d`\_A`r`i`n`o`\_b`m`d`r`i`r`r`A`r`d`S`.

à 2) V`a`n`o`r`{`h`o`r`d`A`g`S`r`o`V`S`\_A`r`i`d`H`S`r`d`r`o`S`

Ôra: \_r` {`X`d`g`^`a`E`H`S`\_A`g`V`o`V`o`m`A`m`e` m`a`r`e`a`H`b`V`r`  
\_r`i`m`b`m`h`o`S`g`S`r`o`V`S`g`r`e`M`V`U`a`O`d`r`o`E` r`o`b`r`\_r`o`h`r`d`  
n`z` K`D`Z` {`b`h`m`b`o`g`e`d`m`H`S`V`o`\_J`\_V`V`\_r`i`g`r`e`V`r`h`o`m`  
A`r`i`d`\_A`e`n`a`l`H`a`r`\_H`n`\_V`a`\_b`{`V`\_A`g`V`o`X`g`S`h`U`O`O`r`m`  
\_Z`m`I`\_m`d`M`a`\_V`M`\_J`\_V`o`H`S`r`A`\_i`v`A`\_n`g`S`S`V`\_A`g`V`M`  
V`a`H`S`r`o`r`o`n`g`S`E`n`Z`o`r`d`r`{`S`M`M`\_V`o`r`H`h`X`r`o`C`V`a`d`V`o`  
Z`r`o`S`\_b`b,`O`r`d`S`\_A`r`i`d`\_A`g`M`a`d`V`h`r`\_b`{`V`o`

\_bm`{`h`o`r`g`\_H`S`r`\_d`r`o`S`\_o`m`\_O`m`A`Z`w`d`\_g`S`\_V`o`A`r`i`r`  
\_j`\_U`r`\_O`\_b`r`o`S`\_r`\_g`S`r`m`M`H`S`\_A`J`S`\_r`\_g`e`\_m`g`e`\_m`  
J`\_V`r`e`a`\_b`{`h`o`A`r`i`p`g`r`S`y`S`n`\_J`\_r`\_r`E`H`O`d`i`\_M`\_j`\_U`  
\_b`n`a`U`r`a`r,`\_A`J`\_S`y`B`H`S`\_Z`m`g`Z`\_b`{`h`V`o`g`d`E`H`S`h`r`V`H`n`  
Z`r`r`\_E`H`\$`\_V`\_H`S`V`\_O`g`S`A`r`i`n`o`m`V`a`r`m`M`J`\_W`\_X`g`V`r`o`\_V`g`S`  
B`V`a`S`\_V`\_g`o`m`r`o`V`o`\_A`g`o`H`r`\_r`o`V`o`S`V`o`r`A`\_m`r`M`V`M`  
K`S`S`A`r`i`p`\_H`a`U`\_r`o`b`S`H`S`\_V`o`Z`K`Z`\_O`r`i`\_a`h`U`Z`\_b`h`Z`  
R`e`l`b`r`o`S`m`o`n`M`S`V`a`\_E`\_r`E`m`Z`\_S`M`A`r`d`S`o`\_a`h`U`V`M`\_Z`m`  
r`V`A`\_r`o`n`E`\_l`h`M`e`h`r`d`m`V`o`m`r`h`\_r`{`b`l`\_r`d`g`e`\_H`S`

à 3) -X`o`\_o`n`g`S`E`n`Z`{`d`f`m`V`w`H`S`n`\_V`A`r`i`n`o`

Ôra: \_r`d`g`r`A`\_m`A`m`i`v`M`\_X`o`\_h`r`o`M`A`g`V`r`o`A`r`i`r`\_V`o`\_r`o`H`S`  
A`g`V`S`\_J`\_V`r`o`r`E`\_m`a`d`e`\_H`a`r`o`A`Z`w`d`z`E`\_A`\_m`A`m`i`v`M`  
\_X`o`\_K`S`V`\_O`r`i`n`i`\_E`\_r`z`S`a`\_a`h`r`a`n`U,`\_S`Y`B`A`\_M`V`r`h`o`U`  
g`r`o`Z`\_O`r`i`n`o`e`r`\_N`o`e`r`\_r`o`H`S`n`\_w`r,`o`r,`n`E`Z`r,`\_v`m`  
A`r`o`r`h`o`V`r`i`M`E`\_r`z`S`a`V`z`o`l`\_r`i`M`o`b`m`r`a`l`H`n`S`V`r`h`o`U`  
g`r`o`Z`\_O`r`i`n`o`

-X`o`\_h`m`\_r`z`d`r`A`\_m`O`r`d`Z`M`A`{`d`^`r`A`\_`^`n`h`\_A`r`i`p`\_A`g`S`\_b`m`  
a`h`U`m`V`A`r`i`n`o`\_r`d`g`r`A`\_m`i`\_m`i,`\_k`r`z`m,`\_A`m`i`v`M,`\_g`\_O`E`\_m`  
g`d`\_r`S`y`o`\_X`o`\_h`m`h`o`M`A`g`V`r`o`\_V`o`\_r`d`g`m`\_Z`g`Z`v`\_E`\_r`A`\_m`  
A`r`o`y`O`A`\_m`{`a`p`W`\_Y`o`\_d`h`r`o`U`m`\_Y`o`g`o`m`h`o`M`A`g`V`r`o`  
M`S`b`o`A`g`V`M`\_A`r`i`d`\_r`i`o`r. -X`o`\_h`m`Z`g`J`\_r`i`m`h`\_A`r`i`p`\_O`g`o`  
a`r`i`r`Z`S`a`{`X`d`g`\_h`m`h`o`r`a`M`A`r`i`n`o`\_J`\_h`m`\_X`o`\_A`m`U`\_p`d`\_H`a`m`b`m`  
h`o`m`\_A`r`i`d`\_E`\_r`g`r`A`\_A`m`U`\_g`H`a`E`\_H`V`Z`C`^`S`h`m`b`o`h`d`S`

à 4) V`w`A`\_m`A`m`i`v`M`\_X`o`\_o`n`g`S`E`n`Z`o`b`{`g`\_o`b`{`g`\_S`h`b`o`l`  
V`a`r`E`\_r`o`n`h`S`g`\_r`o`d`b`n`?

Ôra: \_r`A`\_m`A`m`i`v`M`\_a`v`\_X`o`\_P`r`i`o`r,`\_M`S`b`e`\_d`r`E`\_r`  
T`r`i`g`i`\_Z`\_J`b`o`r`o`U`\_J`\_n`a`V`\_C`^`r`a`Z`\_D`S`r`\_a`r`i`n`o`a`V`b`A`\_m`  
A`m`i`v`M`\_h`o`r`o`S`n`U`\_T`r`i`g`i`\_Z`\_O`r`i`n`E`\_A`\_r`e`r`g`m`\_Z`n`h`a`m`\_r`  
r`o`V`..{`S`Z`\_S`g`\_n`i`\_r`a`\_r`d`o`U`\_V`o`\_O`g`m`\_V`r`o`r`h`E`\_m`{`T`\_r`a`v`Z`  
O`S`/P`o`\_K`D`Z`\_n`i`m`Z`i`\_n`C`\_Z`Z`o`^`a`r`\_K`o`r`a`E`\_b`Z`\_o`A`J`\_X`r`





## पिंजरा

अनुजा गांगुर्डे  
(11th rts EM<sup>2</sup>)

देवा आता तरी उघडू दे  
आमच्या घराचे दार,  
पुन्हा एकदा उंबरठा  
करू दे ना पार.  
आता ऐकायचे आहेत किरसे  
शाळेतल्या मित्रांचे,  
खूप झाले लाड  
आजी आजोबांकडून आम्हा नानवांचे.  
भरपूर होते इच्छा-  
जावं आणि करावी मज्जा मरती,  
परंतु या कोरोनामुळे,

ती स्वप्नच राहतात नुसती.  
खरंच, मित्रमंडळीबरोबर  
छान होतो अभ्यास,  
आणि त्यात भर म्हणजे  
कळतात काही गोष्टी खास.  
पुन्हा खावेसे वाटतात  
डबे एकमेकांचे,  
आठवणीत आहेत 'ते' क्षण  
आम्हाला जिवलगाने.  
परीक्षा रद्द करूनही  
का घेत आहेस परीक्षा?  
काय केलंय तुझ्या लहान लेकरांनी  
कशाबद्दल देत आहेस आम्हाला हीशिक्षा?  
खूप आहे तुझे उपकार,  
फेडता नाही येणार उधारी,  
पण एक अजून इच्छा पूर्ण कर ,  
उरू दे ना घराची पायरी!

## विचार

अनुजा गांगुर्डे  
(11th rts EM<sup>2</sup>)

कशाबद्दल लिहू कविता,  
सुचतच नाही.  
कवितांशि वाय करू तरी काय,  
कळेनाच काही.  
मम्मीला विचारलं तर म्हणाली  
विषय असावा 'आई'  
बहिणीला विचारलं तर ती म्हटली,  
'कविता लिहवू माझी तार्ड.'

मग विचारलं मी पप्पांना,  
म्हटले 'लिह माझ्यावर,  
चांगली माझी स्तुती कर';  
हे सर्व ऐकून, आलंकीहो प्रेशर माझ्यावर!  
शेवटी सुचलं, 'लिहिते माझ्या  
सध्याच्या मनःस्थितीबद्दल,  
मगच घडेल या सर्वांना  
कवितेची अद्दल.'  
एकच कविता लिहून,  
विषय सुचेनासे झाले,  
पण याच कवितेला बघा  
दीडशे लाईक्स आले!



## एक विस्मरणीय दिवस

Durga Daundkar  
SYB

असं म्हणतात माणूस आणि प्राणी यामध्ये फरक एवढाच आहे की प्राण्यांना बोलता येत नाही आणि माणसाला बोलता येते. खरंच प्राणी हा माणसापेक्षा जास्त हुशार असतो. एकदा जीव लावला की तो घरातलाच एक सदस्य आहे असे वाटते.

घरी फक्त मी, बाबा आणि आई. मला आणि बाबांना कुत्राखुप आवडतो. खरंतर बाबांनमुळेच मला प्राण्यांची आवड निर्माण झाली. मी लहान असताना सुद्धा बाबांनी एक कुत्रा आणला होतं पण मी शाळेत गेले की आई त्या कुत्र्याला कुठे तरी लांब सोडून देई आणि मग मी रडतं रडतं खुप जिवाच्या आकांताने त्याला शोधून घरी परत आणायचे.

मी नववीला असताना खुपचं हट्ट केला की आपण आपल्या घरी एक कुत्रा आणायचा का? आई नको म्हणत असतानाही मी आणि बाबांनी एक कुत्र्याचं पिल्लू घरी आणलं. ती मुलगी होती म्हणून तिचं नावं जुली ठेवलं. लान्राडोर होती ती. मला लान्राडोर खुप आवडतात. पांढरा रंग, डोळ्यांमध्ये चमक आणि डोळे एवढे काळे होते जणू काय काजळच लावलं आहे. आम्ही दोघे खुप धमाल करायचो. एकत्रच जेवण करायचो, एकत्रच झोपायचो, मी तर तिला ती लहान असताना बाळा सारखं कडेवर घेवून फिरायचे.

तिच्यामुळेच मी आईपण काय असते ते अनुभवलं. आमचं नातं खुप वेगळेच होतं, कधी बहिणी- बहिणी तर कधी मुलगी- आई. बाबा तर सर्वांना म्हणायचे आमची जूली माझी दुसरी मुलगी आहे. भराभरा दिवस गेले आणि आला तो क्षण जेव्हा ती आई होणार होती. मला तर खुप मजा येत होती तिच्या पिलांसोबत खेळायला, त्यांना जेवण भरवायला. पिलांचे डोळे 9 दिवसा नंतर हळूहळू उघडतात. मी तर त्याचं दिवसाची वाट बघायचे. पाच वर्षे कशी निघून गेली काही कळालच नाही.

आणि अचानक एक दिवस असा आला की त्या वेळेचा, त्या क्षणाचा मी कधी विचारच केला नव्हता. कधी वाटलंच नाही ती माझ्यापासून

कधी लांब जाईल ते. जुलीच्या काही पिलांचा मृत्यू ही माझा डोळ्या समोर झाला तेव्हा जास्त काही वाटले नाही पण जेव्हा माझ्या डोळ्यांसमोर माझ्या जुलीचा मृत्यू झाला मी तर अगदी स्तब्ध झाले होते. थोडावेळ मन खुप शांत होतं पण अचानक खुप रडायला आले कारण मी कधी विचारच केला नव्हता असही कधी होईल. आई बाबांना ही खुप त्रास झाला. मला तर खुपचं कारण मी चौवीस तास तिच्या सोबत असायचे. घरात दिवसभर मी एकटीच असायचे पण तिच्यामुळे आधार वाटायचा. असं ऐकलं होत की जवळचं माणूस दूर गेल्यावर खुप त्रास होतो, पण त्या वाक्याचा अर्थ आता समजत आहे. कुठे तरी वाचलं होतं मी, की कोणत्या ही गोष्टीची सवय करून दयायला किंवा कोणतीही गोष्ट विसरायला 21 दिवस लागतात, पण आता 1 महिना पूर्ण झाला तरी तिची आठवण येणं काही थांबत नाही. घरी येणारा प्रत्येक जण विचारतो तुमची जुळी कुठे आहे? आई त्यांना म्हणते की मामाच्या घरी सोडलं आहे काही दिवस. असं वाटतच नाही की ती आम्हाला सोडून गेली आहे. काही जण विचारतात की तुमची जुली दिसत नाही, सोडून दिलं का तिला? हा प्रश्न ऐकताच खुप राग येतो, मनात विचार येतो की त्यांना विचारावे की, तुम्ही तुमच्या पोटच्या मुलाला रस्त्यावर सोडून घाल का? मला तर समजतच नाही, असा विचार तरी त्यांच्या मनात कुठून येतो? जात जरी प्राण्याची असली तिची तरी स्वतःच्या हृदया सारखं सांभाळलं आहे तिला. खुप आठवण येते तिची. माझासाठी तर असा एकही क्षण नाही की तिची उणीव मला भासत नाही. मला आठवतं मी 10वीला असताना गणपती बसले तेव्हा घरात खुप भयानक प्रकार झाला आणि जुलीनेच आम्हा सर्वांना वाचवले. म्हणूनच आजही मी माझ्या मनाला तेच समजावत आहे की ती मला सोडून नाही गेली तर कुणास ठावूक आजही तिन आमच्या जिवासाठी स्वतःचा जीव गमावला असेल! कुठलं तरी मोठं संकट घेवून गेली! मला जर देव भेटला ना मी नक्की विचारेन त्याला की नेहमी तो आपल्या जवळच्या व्यक्तीला लांब का करतो? मला माहिती आहे ती परत नाही येणार पण मला तिला विचारायचं आहे की एवढ्या लवकर सोडून का गेलीस मला? पाच वर्षे सोबत होतो आम्ही पण तरी असं वाटतं की आता कुठे प्रवास सुरू झाला आणि एवढ्या लवकर संपला!

थांबते आता येथेच! कारण आठवणी खुप आहेत! शब्दात सांगता येणार नाही आणि वाक्यात आठवणींची मांडणी करता येणार नाही. पण खरंच कोणतंही नातं असाचं असावं जिकडे शब्दांची गरज लागत नाही. काही नाती न बोलता ही आयुष्यभर सांभाळता येतात.



## कोरी पाने भरताना

Kshitija Itraj  
FYBA

दूरवर उभ्या त्या झाडांपाशी नभ हे येऊन स्थिरावते  
पाहत बसता राजावरती मन हे वेडे सुखावते

हिरवे रान, धुंद वारा उभी ठाकली कातरवेळ  
ऊन सावली, पाऊस वारा कुणा समजला रम्य खेळ

सडा पडावा रंगांचा हा तांबूस छटा ही अंधरली स्पर्श होता  
संध्येचा हिरवी धरणी ती बावरली

थांबून जावे सारं काही निसटून सांज जाताना  
शब्द सापडी आपसूक मला कोरी पाने भरताना

## अंतरीची ओढ

संस्कृती गायकवाड  
TYBA

ही ओढ मजला घेऊन जाते

आठवणीत तुझीया...

हे स्वप्न माझे शोधते

तुजला आसपास रे...

हे धुंद वारे करुनी जाते

मन बावरे मन बावरे....

ही ओढ मजला घेऊन जाते

आठवणीत तुझीया...

शोधूनी ना सापडे स्वप्नाची

पहाट रे...

शोधू कशी तुला रे

शोधू कशी तुला रे...

सांग ना रे माझ्या वेड्या मनाला

आठवणीत तू तूच सोबती असावे...

उन्हात तू सावलीत तुझीया विसावे..

हा पावसाळा

तुझ्या सवेमी

होवूनी चिंब

तुझ्या मिठीत असावे...

हिसांज माझी

तुझ्या कुशीत विसावी...

हिओढ आता सोसवेना मला रे

हा दुरावा आता नकोसा मला रे

ने ना सख्या रे...

हिओढ मजला घेऊन जाते

आठवणीत तुझ्या रे.

शोधू कशी तुला रे

शोधू कशी तुला रे...

## आई

- आद्रता जाधव

आई आहे तर सगळं आहे  
 आई नाही तर काही नाही  
 घर सुटतं पण आठवण कधीच सुटत नाही,  
 जीवनात आई नावाचं पान कधीच मिटत नाही,  
 सारा जन्म चालून जेव्हा पाय थकून जातात,  
 शेवटच्या श्वासाबरोबर आई हेच शब्द राहतात!  
 स्वामी तिन्ही जगाचा... आईविनाभिकारी..  
 आ म्हणजे आत्मा  
 ई म्हणजे ईश्वर  
 आत्मा व परमात्मा यांचे एक रूप  
 ती 'आई'

## कोरोनामुक्त रुग्णाची आत्मकथा

काल आहे वैयान्या  
 करा आता फैसला  
 वाढविण्या हौसेला  
 झुंजं देतं जे कोरोनाला ॥  
 अकारण न ओलांडा उबंरठा  
 सोडूनका घोसला  
 वाढविण्या हौसेला  
 झुंजं देते आहे कोरोनाला ॥  
 ओळख-कोरोना  
 प्रसाराच्या तऱ्हा वेगवेगळ्या  
 नादिसे उघड्या डोळा

उमजले नाही मूळ, गोतावळा ॥  
 जो बाधित याने झाला  
 सगळे देती त्यास इस्पितळाला  
 चला यमराज खुणावतो त्याला  
 गौऱ्या, लाकडे गेल्या नदीला ॥  
 आस दाखल करून गेला  
 बाहेर काढतो खाटेला  
 बिछाना जाळून टाकला  
 स्वच्छ धुतले घराला ॥  
 मनी काहुर माजला  
 लढा जीवन मरणाचा झाला  
 आस कोसो दूर गेला  
 अवघा दोलायमान झाला ॥  
 न घाबरता परिणामला  
 डॉक्टरने हात यशात घातला  
 नमुना नर्सने घेतला  
 दंडवत या देवदूताला ॥  
 नोकर चाकर घरी सेवेला,  
 ना येई कोणी कामाला  
 करती डॉक्टर-नर्स मुकाबला  
 देती प्राधान्य सेवेला ॥  
 जिगरबाज सफाईवाला  
 मृत्यू उभा दिसे पडोपदीला  
 तरी सफाई घदोघडीला  
 शब्द नाही शब्दकोशात स्तुतीला ॥  
 सूर्य निघे विश्रामाला  
 पशु-पक्षी वळती परतीला  
 दक्ष पहारा मृत्युचे घराला  
 सलाम पोलीसाच्या अविरततेला ॥  
 यश प्रायत्नांच्या पराकाष्ठेला  
 जसे चाळणीत भरावे जलाला  
 जीव टाकला प्रेताला  
 वंदन त्या देवदुताला ॥  
 नाही घालत भीती कुणाला  
 अनुभव कथनाला  
 पाळा सूचना, आदेशाला  
 आता वाचवा अधोगतीला ॥



## देशासाठी काहीतरी करायचं

Devaki Deshpande  
SYBA

का बरं आयुष्यातील यशासाठी झुंजायचं ?  
का नाही देशासाठी काहीतरी करायचं ?  
देशाला पुन्हा स्वातंत्र्य मिळवून घायचं,  
परसंस्कृतीच्या गुलामगिरीतून सोडवायचं,  
देशासाठी काहीतरी करायचं !  
का त्याच-त्याच मार्गी चालायचं ?  
इंग्रजीला फेंदाडून लावायचं,  
देशासाठी काहीतरी करायचं !  
का वर्चस्व आपण स्वीकारायचं ?  
न्याय मिळण्याप्रती लढायचं,  
देशासाठी काहीतरी करायचं !  
का नाही थोडं स्वार्थी व्हायचं ?  
स्वदेशाच्या हिताचं मनात आणायचं,  
देशासाठी काहीतरी करायचं !  
आपल्यातल्या भिन्नतेला शक्ती मानायचं !  
सारे मिळून तिरंगा नि भारतमातेला वंदन करायचं !  
देशासाठी काहीतरी करायचं !

## नृत्य

- कनिष्का जोशी  
SYBA

भूमिला त्या वंदन करूनी  
साधनेचा शुभारंभ नृत्य  
नुपूरांना त्या गुरु मानूनी  
प्रार्थनेची सुरुवात नृत्य  
हृदयात दडल्या प्रत्येक भावनेला  
जे केले अर्पण ते नृत्य  
मनात वसल्या प्रत्येक विचाराचे  
जे झाले दर्पण ते नृत्य  
संगीताची सांगड घालता  
हस्तांमधूनी उमटते नृत्य  
भावनांची जोड मिळता  
नेत्रांमधूनी वाहते नृत्य  
कायेच्या त्या हालचालींचा,  
मनाच्या त्या चंचलतेचा  
असा अद्भुत मेळ नृत्य  
स्वतः मध्ये हरवूनी,  
स्वतः लाच शोधण्याचा  
असा अनोखा खेळ नृत्य  
पर्वताप्रमाणे घट्ट अन् खंबीर  
प्रत्येक काळात साथ देते नृत्य  
अथक शिक्षणानंतरही जे उरते  
असा अथांग सागर नृत्य  
ताण तणाव सर्व विसरता  
मिळणारे ते समाधान नृत्य  
त्या समाधानाच्या पलीकडल्या  
आनंदाची व्याख्या नृत्य



## भारतीय संस्कृतीला आपलं देणं!

यशश्री दहाड  
SYBA

बॅचलर पदवीच्या पहिल्यावर्षात आम्हाला MIL (Modern Indian Language) म्हणून नवि न विषय (कोर्स) अनिवार्य केला. त्यात मराठी, हिंदी, सिधी, इ.भाषा होत्या. असं पाऊल शिक्षण शासनाने का बरं Cmbb असेल? असा विचार पटकन मनात चमकून गेला. आता ह्यामागची संकल्पना अशी होती की, भारतीयभाषा ज्या संपत चालल्या आहेत त्यांना जोपासण्यासाठी, आणि पुढील पिढीपर्यंत पोहोचवण्यासाठीची ही धडपड आणि हे प्रयत्न. हेसमजताच आपण भारतीय, महाराष्ट्रीय, हिंदू आहोत की नाही? ह्याच गोष्टींचं अस्तित्व आहे की नाही? असंवाटू लागलं. कारण स्वभाषा, स्वसंस्कृती, स्वपरंपरा जपण्यासाठी शासनाला हे अनिवार्य करावं लागत आहे. जे खरं तर आपलं कर्तव्य आहे, आपल्या भाषेला आणि संस्कृतीला आपला देणं आहे!

हेड्यालं भाषेच्या बाबतीत. त्याव्यतिरीक्त खूप अशा गोष्टी आहेत ज्या संपत चालल्या आहेत, यांना आपण जपायला हवं. पण तस न करता आपण परकीय, पश्चिमात्य संस्कृतीचं अनुकरण करू पाहातो. आपल्या संस्कृतीला, परंपरेला आपण फारसंअनुसरत नाही, पण तिच गोष्ट जर परकी यांनी किंवा पश्चिमात्य लोकांनी त्यांच्या पद्धतीने सुधारून सादर केली, तर मात्र आपण त्याचा अगदी उदोउदो करतो.

योगच बघा ...योग हे भारतीय असून त्याचं उगम हे भारतातल्या प्राचीन संस्कृतीत आहे. अनादी काळापासून ऋषी, मुनी, देव, देवता योग साधनेचा वापर करून मोठमोठे तप करायचे. ऋग्वेद हा मानवी इतिहासातील सर्वात प्राचीन आणि पवित्र ग्रंथ आहे, योग हा वैदिक साहित्याचाच भाग आहे, जो जवळ जवळ पाच हजार वर्षा पूर्वी संपादित केला होता. आता ह्याच योगचं.. योगा (Yoga) झाला, आणि तेच चर्चेत आहे. तसंच आयुर्वेद ...आपल्या प्राचीन चार वेदांमधला एक महत्वाचा वेद. आयुर्वेद हेआत्म - चिकित्सक वि

ज्ञान आहे. ज्याच्या माध्यमातून तुम्ही दैनंदिन आहार, सुदृढ जीवन शैली, मालिश किंवा औषधी जडी-बुटी यांचा वापर करून निरोगी आयुष्य प्राप्त करू शकता. ह्या अमुल्य ठेवा विषयी जेव्हा परकियांना समजलं तेव्हा ते आयुर्वेदाला स्वीकारून त्याचा उपयोग करू लागले, मग आपणही करू लागलो.

खाद्यसंस्कृती बदल तर बोलायलाच नको! आता दिवस भाजीभाकरीने सुरु होण्याऐवजी ब्रेडबटरने सुरु होतो. चपाती, पुरणपोळी, आमटीभात, इ. हे सगळं तर शरीराला आता जड झालंआहे, पण पिड्ड्या, बर्गर, फ्रॅंच फ्राईज मात्र पोट भरून खाल्ली जातात. जे अधिक जास्त शरीराला खातं, शरीरासोबत आपल्या मानसिकतलाही खातं असं मला वाटतं. कधी वाटलंच तर आपण सिंहंगडावर जाऊन झुणु काभाकर, कांदा-भजी खाऊन येतो. पण हे कितपत योग्य आहे? भारतीय वेशभूषेविषयीसुद्धा काही वेगळंचित्र दिसत नाही. साडी, कुर्ता, धोती, चुडीदार, इ. सगळेजुने झालेत. आता वनपीस, फ्रॉक, जीन्स, इ. सगळे वापरली जाते. आता लोकं गुढीपाडवा साजरा करत नाहीत, न्यूईयर साजरा करतात. आता साने गुरुजी यांचं 'श्यामची आई' हे पुस्तक वाचल जात नाही, जे.के.रोलिंग यांचं 'हॅरी पॉटर' (Harry Potter) वाचल्या जातं. आता भरतनाट्यम्किंवा लावणी केली जात नाही, ब्रेक डान्स आणि हिपहॉप केला जातो. आता शास्त्रीय संगीत नाही तर पॉप, के पॉप, आणि रॉक म्युझिक ऐकलं जातं. अजूनही अशा खुपकाही गोष्टी आहेत, अगदी कुठलीही मनात आणा कुठेनाकुठे पश्चिमात्य किंवा परकियांचा प्रभाव, वर्चस्व जाणवतं. मला असं वाटतंकी, हा दोष कोणाचाच नसून जागति कीकरणाचा आहे. मी असं म्हणत नाहीयेकी हे चुकि चंआहे, पण मग मी असंही म्हणत नाहीयेकी हेबरोबर आहे. आपल्याला आपल्या कर्तव्याची जाणीव व्हायला हवी, एक भारतीय म्हणून आपल्या भाषेप्रती, संस्कृतीप्रती, आणि परंपरेप्रती. ह्या विचारांमधे आणि मानसिकते मधे बदल होण्यासाठी आपण प्रामाणिक प्रयत्न करायला हवेत, का करावेत? तर, आपलंअस्तित्व जपण्यासाठी, जोपासण्यासाठी आणि वि कास घडवून आणण्यासाठी. कारण जिथे बदल होतो, तिथेच विकास होतो आणि मगच इतिहास घडतो. आणि वि कास जर झाला तरच आपली संस्कृती शाश्वत राहिल व आपलं देणं फिटेल. धन्यवाद !



## महाराष्ट्र राजा

- कुसाळकर अनुजा  
MA

रुधिर सांडतो, दैत्य मारतो  
रक्त काढूनी, शत्रू कापतो  
सुवर्ण भारताच्या इतिहास  
पानांवर भगवा फडकवितो  
तो महाराष्ट्र राजा

ज्ञान सांगतो, संस्कृती जपतो  
काळ्या आईला दैव जाणतो  
गुरा-जनावरांची पूजा करतो  
स्वाभिमानाचं गोंदण उराशी बाळगतो  
तो महाराष्ट्र राजा

भाळी ठसठशीत हळदीचा मळवट  
अन डौलदार मिशातला रंजित रुबाब  
शत्रूनं तलवार टाकावी न  
शृंगारानं नजर टाकावी एवढा धारदार  
तो गर्व! न्यारा तो महाराष्ट्र

पिळदार बाजूत जायबंद झालेला शत्रू  
की मुठभर मावळ्यांच्या जाळ्यात  
अडकलेला मुघलांचा राजा अन  
अटकेपार गर्जलेला मर्द मराठ्यांचा गाजा  
इतक्यानं ही जो थांबला नाही  
तो महाराष्ट्र राजा

त्रिखंडात उसळलेलं एकमेव वादळ  
भूमीसाठी लढणारा अन भूमीसाठी जळणारा  
या भारतभूमीचं विलक्षण मांगल्य  
अर्थात महाराष्ट्र राजा!

## सावित्रीची लेक

- दिक्षा भोले  
SYBA

चार भिर्तींचा पिजंरा ओलांडून

मी झोपघेते आकाशात

तू पाहिलेले स्वप्न आई

मी जगते प्रत्यक्षात ॥1॥

महाविद्यालयात जाऊन

उच्च शिक्षण घेते आहे

तु दाखविलेल्या वाटेवर

प्रामाणि कपणे चालते आहे ॥2॥

अज्ञानाच्या तिमि रातून

ज्ञानाच्या तेजाकडे जात असताना

आठवतेस तू मला

चिखलगोठे झेलताना ॥3॥

कालचे तुझ्यावर बरसणारे दगड

आज पुष्पहार झाले

ते मजवर कौतुकाने वर्षताना

मी हर्षा ने व्हाऊन गेले ॥4॥



## Hindi

### पौराणिक धारावाहिक

हेतल गिडवानी  
FYB (B)

क्या आप जानते हैं पौराणिक का अर्थ क्या है? पौराणिक यानि पुराण संबंधित या जिसका उल्लेख पुराण में हुआ हो, प्राचीन काल से चलता आ रहा हो। जब भी पौराणिक धारावाहिक का नाम आता अनगिनत धारावाहिक के दृश्य जैसे आँखों के समक्ष आ जाते हैं। आज कल के युवा पीढ़ी पौराणिक धारावाहिक कहा देखता है। बल्कि हमे अपनी पौराणिक कथाओ पर गर्व होना चाहिए। आओ चलो हम कुछ आपने पौराणिक कथाओ पर नजर डालते हैं।

रामानंद सागर द्वारा निर्देशित रामायण भारत में प्रसारित होनेवाला पहला पौराणिक धारावाहिक है। 25 जनवरी 1986 से चलती आरही है हर रविवार आधे घंटे के लिए आता था। लिम्का बुक ऑफ वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड में सबसे ज्यादा देखे जानेवाला पौराणिक धारावाहिक का वर्ल्ड रिकार्ड भी प्राप्त हुआ था।

बी. आर. चोपड़ा की महाभारत, रामानंद सागर की श्री कृष्ण, जय हनुमान, ॐ नमः शिवाय, देवो के देव महादेव, उपनिषद गंगा, धर्म क्षेत्र, कर्मफल दाता शनिदेव, टि लिटल कृष्ण, राधा कृष्ण, सिया के राम, मीरा, विष्णु पुराण, कही-सुनी, विश्वामित्र, मेरे साईं श्रद्धा और सबूरी, सूर्यपुत्र कर्ण और अनगिनत हैं। इन सबकी अलग गाथा, अलग सीख है। प्राचीन होते हुए भी वह पौराणिक धारावाहिक की गाथाओं में अर्वाचीन काल में भी प्रेरणा दायी है। इन पौराणिक इन सबकी अलग गाथा, अलग सीख है। प्राचीन होते हुए भी वह पौराणिक धारावाहिक की गाथाओं में अर्वाचीन काल में भी प्रेरणा दायी है।

इन पौराणिक धारावाहिक से हम हमारे धर्म से जुड़ा हुआ महसूस करते हैं। आज कल संयुक्त परिवार के अभाव के कारण एवं पति पत्नी दोनों व्यवसायिक होने के कारण बच्चों में जो बुजुर्गों से

संस्कारों का नियमित सिंचन होताथा उसका अभाव होने लगा, यह प्रौराणिक धारावारिसे वह संस्कारों की पूर्ति होती है। बच्चों में और बड़ों में जो अनगिनत नविन समस्याएं एवं पशुओं का उद्भव होता है जिसका निवारण इन धारावाहिक से मिल जाता है।

पुराण की गाथा जटिल और गूढ़ होती है। हम जब पुराणों को पढ़ने जाते हैं तो उसकी गूढ़ता और विषय के प्रति हमारे सूक्ष्म ज्ञान के कारण हममें रुचि कम हो जाती है। परंतु पौराणिक धारावाहिक में विषय का नाटकीय रूपांतर कर मनोरंजन के माध्यम से उसे प्रस्तुत करने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है। कई बार इस प्रयत्न में मूल गाथा का अपभ्रंश हो जाता है। श्रद्धा और सबूरी जैसे गुण जीवन में क्या काम आ सकते हैं, बच्चों एवं बड़ों को यह पौराणिक धारावाहिक से समझ आ जाता है।

चाणक्य नीति से जीवन में जो सीख मिलती है वह सरल भाषा में बताया है। आज के प्रसंगों को ध्यान में रखकर नारी शक्ति और प्रेरणा स्रोत धारावाहिक बनाए जाते हैं, जैसे महाकाली अंत ही आरंभ है। जिसमें एक सुंदर वाक्य है कि नारी यदि शंका त्याग दे तो स्वयं शंकर बन जाती है। इससे स्त्रीओं में आत्मबल की जागृति होती है।

2013 में सिधार्थ कुमार तिवारी की बनी हुई महाभारत की बात करें तो सिद्धार्थ कुमार तिवारी ने 4 वर्ष के अनुसंधान एवं गहन अध्ययन करके, 400 व्यक्ति उत्पादन क्षेत्र में थे साथ में 200 व्यक्ति ग्राफिक्स पर, देवदत्त पटनायक सलाहकार एवं -लेखक सलिम खान, संगीत निर्देशन अजय अतुल, इरमाईल दरबार और एक्शन डायरेक्टर राम शेखी के सहयोग से यह धारावाहिक प्रस्तुत हुआ और उसमें जो द्रोपदी का पात्र दिखाया गया उसने सबके हृदय में अपना एक स्थान स्थापित किया। शक्ति, बुद्धि तेजस्वी, शौर्य, सुंदरता, शालीनता एवं अनगीजत गुण उस पात्र में दिखाये गये। एक पौराणिक धारावाहिक को प्रस्तुत करने के पीछे पौराणिक काल की वेषभूषा, आभूषण, कपड़ों पर किये जाने वाली सिलाई बुनाई, घरों एवं महलों के अनुरूप बांधकाम गहनों और कपड़ों का अध्ययन, कलाकारों को संस्कृत का अध्ययन और उच्चारण का विशेष पाठ और कई सारी सुक्ष्मता जो प्राचीन होकर भी अर्वाचीन काल में अभिरुचि बढ़ाता है।



## वरिष्ठ और संगणक

हेतल गिडवानी  
FYB(B)

वरिष्ठ और संगणक दोनों ही अपनी अपनी जगह अपनी विशेषताओं से पूर्ण है। संगणक का प्रयोग पीछले 20 वर्षों से शुरू हुआ है। आज के युवाओं एवं बच्चों के लिए संगणक का उपयोग सहज एवं स्वाभाविक है। किन्तु वरिष्ठ के लिए यह एक चुनौति है। चाहे सरकारी कार्य हो या बैंक संबंधी कार्य, दूर देश में रहते परिवार जनों में विडियो कॉल या पत्र व्यवहार यह सब के लिए संगणक का प्रयोग किया जाता है। कई सारी तकलीफ़ इस सहायता से दूर हो जाती है। पहले वरिष्ठों को अपने नीजी कार्यों के लिए राह देखनी पड़ती थी कि कब कोई उनकी सहायता के लिए आए और उन्हें ले जाए उम्र के साथ शारिरिक एवं मानसिक तकलीफ़ होती है।

संगणक की सहायता से उन्हें यह सब तकलीफ़ों में राहत मिलती है। आज मकान व संपत्ति कर, पानी कर, बीजली का बिल, पोस्ट-ओफिस एवं बैंक से संबंधित सभी कार्य संगणक की मदद से घर बैठे ही हो जाते हैं। - संगणक के अनगिनत लाभ वरिष्ठ को भी होते हैं परंतु उम्र के आखिरी पड़ाव यह नई शुरुआत करना आसान नहीं है। आजकल की भागदौड़ भरी जीवनशैली में उनको यह सब तकलीफ़ी बातें वरिष्ठों को सिखाने के लिए पर्याप्त समय नहीं होता है या यह भी कह सकते हैं कि सभी अपनी-अपनी डफ़ली अपना-अपना राग करने में व्यस्त हैं। कईबार तकलीफ़ी जानकारी जल्दी न सिखने के कारण और बार-बार आती चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए मानसिक रूप से तैयार न होने के कारण वरिष्ठ अपने आप को असहाय महसूस करते हैं। कईबार थोड़ी सहायता मिलने के कारण वही संगणक वरिष्ठों का सबसे प्यारा मित्र बन जाता है। अकेलेपन में, बीमारी में यह संगणक सहारा बनता है।

मैं एक अनुभव साझा करना चाहूंगी। मेरे पिताजी जो 80 वर्ष के हैं। कुछ वर्ष पूर्व उन्होंने अपने पौती से संगणक चलाना सिखाया तो उन्हें 65 वर्ष के बाद इस संगणक की मदद से बचपन के मित्र के साथ मुलाकात हुई। अब वह अपने सारे कर एवं बैंक के काम संगणक की मदद से घर बैठे करते हैं और अपने अनुभव से दूसरे वरिष्ठ को प्रेरित एवं शिक्षित करते हैं। उन्हें लगता है कि वरिष्ठों को अगर थोड़ी सहायता मिल जाए तो यह अत्यंत उपयोगी बन सकता है, और मैं पूरी तरह उनकी बातों से सहमत हूँ। आज वो जितना जानते हैं

उससे मैं थोड़ा ज्यादा जानती हो सकती हूँ पर हररोज बदलती टैकनोलोजी में अपने आप को कदम से कदम मिलाकर चलने में मुझे अपने बच्चों की सहायता की आवश्यकता पड़ती है। मैं आशा रखती हूँ कि हर कोई अपने घर में आसपास के वरिष्ठों से विनम्रता से पूछे की उन्हें संगणक से लगती कोई आवश्यकता है? उन्हें सप्ताह में एक दिन अपने पास बिठाकर और कुछ निर्देश जो वह आसानी से समझ पाएं उन्हें लिखकर संगणक से परिचित करवाए। हमें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि समय सदा बदलता रहता है- आज हमारी, कल तुम्हारी।

## कौन है ये इंसान

-प्रेरणा पिह्ले  
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कौन है ये इंसान  
कौन है ये इंसान?  
जो करते हैं हमारी सुरक्षा  
कौन है ये इंसान?  
जो लड़ते हैं हमारे लिए  
देश के लिए मर मिता  
क्यों लगता है इन्हें आसान।  
सेवा वो करते हैं, दिन हो या शाम।  
डरती होगी कोई माँ,  
याद करती होगी एक दुल्हन।  
रोता होगा कोई बच्चा,  
सहमी-सी होगी एक बहन।  
सेवा करता है वो इंसान,  
देश के लिए लड़ता है वो इंसान।  
नींद नहीं, न कोई भूख  
ना प्यार, ना परिवार का सुख  
दूसरों को खाना देना।  
दूसरों की मदद करना  
हमेशा मैं छोड़ कर,  
दूसरों को पहले देखना।  
हमेशा देशप्रेम का गीत गाना,  
कौन है ये इंसान?  
इतनी हिम्मत, इतना हौसला  
इतनी ताकत, इतना जसबा  
कौन है ये इंसान?  
हम सबकी रक्षा करता है ये इंसान।



## संगीत की दुनिया

मरियम तोहफाफरोश  
FYB(B)

सदियों से हमारे जीवन और सांस्कृतिक में संगीत की एक विशिष्ट भूमिका रही है। संगीत हमारे जीवन को कुशल मंगल और प्रेरित बनाती है। यह संगीत सरिता की दुनिया इतनी रंगबिरंगी होती है की हमें वह पूर्ण रूप से मंत्र-मुग्ध कर लेती है। संगीत का हिरसा बनना और उसका लुत्फ उठाना हमारे शरीर-मन और आत्मा के लिए सदुपयोग माना जाता है। किसी भी भाषा में प्रस्तुत गीत-संगीत हमारे जीवन को आनंदित कर देते हैं। संगीत की यह विभिन्न रंगों और तालों वाली दुनिया हमारे जीवन में सुमधुरता लेकर आती है। आज कल के समय में तो संगीत का महत्व बहुत ही जरूरी माना गया है, क्योंकि रोज के बेरंगी दिनचर्या के चलते-चलते हमें अपने मन को जगाने के लिए संगीत का हाथ पकड़ना पड़ता है।

वरना हमारी जिन्दगी बिना किसी मतलब की लगने लगती है। संगीत हमें जीवन के छुपे हुए रंग दिखाती है। हमारी सच्ची दोस्त बनकर हमारा साथ नहीं छोड़ती। किसी कठिन परिस्थिति में गिर जाए तो वे हमारे मन को मित्र की भांति सुख देती है। इसलिए मानसिक या शारीरिक विकास के लिए हमें संगीत की दुनिया को सीने से रखकर अपनी दुनिया का हिरसा मानकर खुशहाली के रास्ते बनाने चाहिए। यह ही हमारी सच्ची मित्र है और सीख देने वाली माता भी है। क्योंकि उसके साथ हम खुश ही खुश रह पायेंगे। सचमुच संगीत ही जीवन को सार्थक बनाने वाली और तृप्त रखने वाली औषधि है। संगीत नहीं तो मनुष्य कोई भी काम या पल को खुश और शांति से नहीं जी पायेगा। अंत में संगीत की दुनिया का हिरसा बनकर मनुष्य जाति सफलता का मार्ग जल्दी तय कर पायेगी। क्योंकि संगीत इंसान को अपने पीड़ा को भुलाकर संगीत के अपने हिरसे का लाभ उठाकर खुद तो सही मार्ग पर चलाने की ताकत देता है।

## जिंदगी

-प्रेरणा पिल्ले  
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ये तेरी जिंदगी है  
ये एक जिंदगी है  
क्यों खेलता है तू इसके साथ  
ये तेरी जिंदगी है  
जीना है तुझे,  
क्यों इसे मिटा देना चाहता है मेरे यार  
ये तेरी जिंदगी है यार!

दुख हो या कुछ बात  
बता दे मुझे, मैं हूँ तेरे साथ  
क्यों बोलना पाता तू  
क्यों मुझे अपना समझ ना पाता तू,  
मुश्किल सभी की जिंदगी में है  
उनसे हार जाना क्यों चाहता है मेरे यार  
ये तेरी जिंदगी है यार!

डरना नहीं, कभी हारना नहीं  
ये एक ही जिंदगी है,  
उससे निराश तो होना नहीं  
वादा है तुझसे  
सुनूंगी मैं तुझे  
समझूंगी मैं तुझे,  
क्योंकि ये तेरी जिंदगी है यार  
ये बस एक जिंदगी है यार!



## वरिष्ठ और संगणक

अलिफिया बी.टी.  
FYB(B)

संगीत यहाँ ऐसी चीज है जिसे सुनकर लोगों के मन और हृदय को शांति और सुख प्राप्त होता है। यदि अगर संगीत हमारे जीवन में नहीं होता तो सूर क्यों होता; हमें पता ही नहीं चलता। संगीत का मतलब है की गायन, नृत्य और संगीत यह एक बहुत अच्छी चीज है। हमारे जीवन में हम सभी लोगों को संगीत सुनने की आदत हो चुकी है। जीवन में कोई एक मनुष्य नहीं होगा जिसे संगीत नहीं पसंद होगा। जब हमारा दि न अच्छा नहीं होता या फिर हमें कुछ भी काम करने का मन नहीं होता तो संगीत की धुन सुनकर हमारे चेहरे पर एक मुस्कान सी आ जाती है। हम अपने आसपास सब कुछ अच्छा महसूस करने लगते हैं। जीवन में खुश और व्यस्त रहने के लिए संगीत सबसे अच्छा तरीका है। इस व्यस्त भीड़-भाड़ और भ्रष्ट संसार में जहाँ हर कोई हर एक समय एक-दूसरे को हानि पहुँचाना चाहता है; हमेशा अपनी पढ़ाई के समय पर संगीत सुनना पसंद करती हूँ। और विशेष रूप से अपनी परीक्षा के समय पर संगीत मुझे पढ़ाई के दौरान मेरे एकाग्रता को बढ़ाने में काफी मदद करता है। और यह वास्तव में मुझे काफी अच्छा परिणाम भी देता है। आज के जमाने में लोग पहले के गीतों को नया बनाकर और भी अच्छा बनाते हैं। संगीत को

लोगों को पहले इतना महत्व नहीं दिया था। लेकिन अब जो लोग संगीत सुनना पसंद करते हैं, संगीत की एक-एक पंक्ति यों को गाकर संगीत को बहुत सारे भाषा में बनाये गए हैं। लेकिन न हिंदी संगीत मुझे सचमुच बहुत अच्छा लगता है। जैसे की पुराने जमाने में संगीत मन को शांति और सुख देता है। बहुत बार ऐसा भी होता है की एक गाना बार-बार सुनते जाए और ऐसे ही ध्वनि की प्रशंसा करते रहें। आज कल के जमाने में लोगों को संगीत ही अपना जीवन बना दिया है। लोग कि तना भी काम करते होंगे पर अपने रैंडिओ में कहीं ना कहीं संगीत चलता ही होगा। जैसे हमारी दुनिया है जिसे हम सब एक साथ रहते हैं जैसे ही संगीत की एक बहुत अनोखी और प्यारी दुनिया है। की अगर कोई उस दुनिया में रहने लगे तो समझे उसका जीवन खुशहाल और सुखी हो गया। मुझे आज भी याद है जब मैंने पहली बार संगीत सुना था तब से लेकर आज तक मुझे संगीत इतना पसंद है की मैं अपना पूरा दिन संगीत सुनाने और उसके साथ-साथ उन पंक्ति यों को अपने जीवन में उपयोग कर सकूँ और अपनी जिन्दगी में सधुआर ला सकूँ।



St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

Unravelling Magicians

## **ALL ABOUT US...**

**MIRAcles**  
**Magazine 2021-22**



ALL ABOUT US...

Our Parent Body

The Sadhu Vaswani Mission is a world renowned humanitarian service organisation with an international presence across four continents. Founded originally in Hyderabad-Sind before the partition of India as the Brotherhood Association, it was renamed after its revered founder Sadhu Vaswani when the Sindhi community was forced to leave Pakistan.

Sadhu Vaswani chose to make Pune his headquarters, and from here the Mission and its activities have grown by quantum leaps. Today, the Sadhu Vaswani Mission is a non-sectarian institution which believes in the unity of all religions and reveres the Great Ones of all faiths. The Mission serves all sections of society with no prejudice relating to caste, creed or community. Its service activities today embrace several spheres that influence people's lives - social, educational, medical, environmental and spiritual.

The Sadhu Vaswani Mission is registered as a 501(c) (3) tax exempt charitable corporation. The objects of the Trust are:

- To spread the message of brotherhood, unity and harmony.
- To promote cultural and spiritual development by starting centres of training in concentration, character building and social service.
- To provide triple training of Head, Hand and Heart through education in Arts, Fine Arts, Commerce and Management Science, Health Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Home Science, Teachers' Training, Law, Veterinary and other areas of education to meet the needs of the time.
- To serve the poor and sick, irrespective of caste, colour or creed. The members of the college management committee, are:

- **Dada J. P. Vaswani**      **Mrs. R.A. Vaswani**      **Ms. Krishna Kumari Thadani**      **Dr. Basant Ahuja**
- **Ms. N.T. Jotwani**      **Ms. Piya Uttamchandani**      **Mr. Mohan Chainani**      **Mr. Prakash Sadhwani**
- **Ms. Rajni Ahuja**      **Dr. Gulshan Gidwani**      **Ms. Gulshan Dudani**      **Ms. Renu Wadhwa**
- **Ms. Nuri Vaswani**

The family is served by a dedicated team of staff members - teaching as well as non-teaching - who all work in a spirit of total devotion to duty and love for the student community.

For the Mira Management, Education is not a commercial enterprise, but part of its highly idealistic programme of service to society. Therefore, no capitation fee is charged for admission to any of its courses. Every paisa received from the students, every rupee received as grant from the government, is scrupulously accounted for. We have come a long way since our inception, when we began by adding one class each year, with the pre degree course - a small group of eager learners and a handful of dedicated teachers and staff who did not even expect remuneration for their efforts! Today, the college is veritably the jewel in the crown of the prestigious and exclusive Mira Family of nine institutions located across India in New Delhi, Baroda, Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Jaipur.

The Mira Movement's headquarters is located in Pune, and the institutions flourish under an enlightened and supportive management inspired by the ideals of none other than Dada J. P. Vaswani, a world-renowned spiritual leader and messenger of India's spiritual heritage.



## St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

Unravelling Magicians

It is no coincidence that the Sadhu Vaswani Mission chose to make Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan Principal Incharge. She takes over from Dr Gulshan H. Gidwani, the Director of the Mira Education Board, who still guides the college as she oversees the functioning of all the Mira institutions across the country. Dr Rajagopalan has proved to be as dynamic and energetic as her predecessor and has led from the front to translate her vision for the college into reality. But then, as now, the stars in our eyes remain. Our vision, our ideals are still fresh in our minds. And we are determined to strive for them.

Year after year, hundreds of young and bright-eyed students enter our portals. In each one, we see the potential that we can draw out—for that is what true education is. To each one, we offer the best that we are capable of, for that is what the MIRA ideal is all about.

Our courses keep abreast of the changing times. Our young charges are tomorrow's citizens. We ourselves are growing, evolving. But our ideals remain the same. Nor have they grown old or faded. Ever fresh, ever constant, our sights remain focused on the dream and vision on which they were founded. For we truly believe that perfection is not a destination, but the journey; excellence is not a goal, but a process. And this perfection, this excellence is what we aspire to! To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.

### Awards, Achievements and Honours

During the year of Covid the greatest achievement by the college and students is working hard, celebrating life and ensuring that everything continues smoothly in a time of great upheaval. However we must acknowledge that despite it all we have set the bar high and still strived to succeed in whatever we put our mind and spirit to.

#### RESOURCE PERSON:

- Deepa Krishnamurthi: Gave a research talk titled "Matrices over non-commutative rings as sums of  $p$ th powers" at Symposium in number theory organized by Bhaskaracharya Pratisthana, Pune on 3rd August 2021.
- Mrs. Shanthi Fernandes was the resource person for a webinar titled "Introduction to Behavioural Finance" at Parul Institute of Commerce, Parul University, Gujarat on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2022
- Ms. Pooja was invited as a resource person to facilitate a workshop on "Young Adulthood" on 11th November, 2021 as a part of the training program on Mental HealthCare across Lifespan by Youth for Mental Health, Delhi.
- Ms. Pooja was the guest speaker for "Break The Bias" women's day event organised by JITO, India on 8th March, 2022.
- Ms. Pooja was invited as a resource person for "Mental health awareness session" organised by SVIMS, Pune on 23rd April, 2022.
- Dr. Arwah Madan was invited as Resource Person, FDP on Research Methodology, Anand Vihar College for Women, Bhopal, (Affiliated to Barkatullah University, Bhopal)
- Dr. Arwah Madan was invited as Subject Expert, PhD Admission Process at the Symbiosis International University and Baburaoji Gholap College (SPPU), Sanghvi Pune.

#### PAPER PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLICATIONS OF BOOKS, RESEARCH PAPERS AND ARTICLES:

- Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan has published a paper titled 'Quality of Life among Police Personnel: The Role of Occupational Stress Job Satisfaction' in Indian Journal of Psychology 2021. ISSN-0019-5553: 119-126.



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- Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan has published a paper titled 'Body Appreciation: Through the Lens of Positive Psychology' in Indian Journal of Positive Psychology 2021. 12(4), 299-302 ISSN-p-2229-4937, e2321-368X
- Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan has published a paper titled 'Dance Movement Therapy for the Elderly: A Holistic Approach' in Indian Journal of Gerontology. Vol 36, No. 2, 2022, ISSN 0971-4189.
- Ms. Sharmin Palsetia attended and presented a paper titled 'Measurement of Leadership Effectiveness: A Pilot Study' in a national symposium on Current Researches in Applied Psychometrics organized by Rabindrik Psychotherapy Research Institute Trust (RPRIT), Kolkatta on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.
- Ms. Sharmin Palsetia attended and presented a paper titled 'Measurement of Leadership Effectiveness: Development and Standardization of the Scale' in 31<sup>st</sup> Convention of National Academy of Psychology (NAOP) from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.
- Dr. Rama Venkatachalam co-authored a paper with Dr. Netra Neelam of SCMHRD entitled 'A Critical Analysis of the Social Business Model of Kala Raksha: An NGO with a Purpose of Women Empowerment. In Search of Business Models in Social Entrepreneurship' (pp. 65-84). Springer, Singapore.
- Dr. Rama Venkatachalam co-authored a paper with Ms. Geetha Rajan entitled 'Locomotive Ergonomics: An Analysis for Effective Stress Management of Indian Railway Loco Pilots' International Journal of All Research Education and Scientific Methods (IJARESM), ISSN: 2455-6211 Volume 9, Issue 7, Impact Factor: 7.429.
- Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh published a Research Paper titled 'A Comparative study to understand lifestyle differences in & amongst working women and non-working women & its implications for service marketers' in Vol. 36, No. (VII): 2021, Kalyan Bharati with ISSN: 0976-0822, Impact factor 5.90.
- Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan published a Research Paper titled 'A Study of The Changes in the Buying Behaviour during the ongoing Covid 19 – Pandemic' in Vol 8 Issue 8 Journal. No: 63975 2021, JETIR with ISSN: 2349-5162, 7.95 Impact Factor.
- Ms. Komal Tujare from the Department of English published a research paper titled 'Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Has Finally Let Down Her Hair!' in the SCOPUS listed journal *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature* issue 60.1 available through John Hopkins University Press.
- Dr. Arwah Madan published a paper in the Journal Juni Khyat titled 'Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Community Involvement in India: Towards Sustainable Community Development', March 2021

### Research Project

Dr. Rama Venkatachalam is the co-investigator for an ICSSR funded Minor Research Project of Rs.4,00,00 entitled 'Assessing the Antecedents of Building Resilience in Social Enterprises: A Comprehensive Study on Enterprises in the area of Women Empowerment through Craft Revival'. This is a collaborative Research with Prof. Salwan of IIM Indore as the Project Director and Dr. Netra Neelam of SCMHRD Pune as co-investigator.

### SWAYAM/ FDPS:

- Mrs. Sharmin Palsetia completed a FDP on HR Analytics- Practical Applications from 12<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 organized by Swasthik Consulting Services, Banglor
- Ms. Rajni Singh Successfully completed the two-week Refresher Course in Commerce and Management organised by Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College under the PMMMNMTT, ministry of Education from 25th June to 8th July, 2021.
- Mrs. Shanthi Fernandes successfully completed the two-week Refresher Course in Commerce and Management organised by Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College under the PMMMNMTT, ministry of Education from 25th June to 8th July, 2021.



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- Mrs. Shanthi Fernandes completed the five days National Level Online Faculty Development Workshop on Education 4.0 from 10th July 2021 to 14th July 2021 organised by the Progressive Education Society's Modern Institute of Business Studies (MIBS) Pune.
- Ms. Pooja completed one year course in Narrative therapy organised by Dulwich Center Foundation, Australia and Children's First, India from April 2021- April 2022.
- Ms. Pooja completed a certificate course in Queer Affirmative Counselling Practices from July 2021- August 2021 organised by Mariwala Health Initiative, Mumbai.
- Dr Snober Sataravala completed an FDP on English for Competitive Exams.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

- Dr. Deepa Krishnamurthi completed Ph.D in Mathematics from Savitribai Phule Pune University with Thesis titled "Matrices over Maximal Orders in Cyclic Algebras as sums of kth powers" on 4th February 2021.
- Dr Hasina Shaikh completed her PhD in Education. Her thesis was titled "Development of Training Program for Social Skills and it Effectiveness".
- Dr. Rama Venkatachalam has been appointed as University Nominee -BoS (Department of Commerce), Symbiosis College of Arts & Commerce, Pune
- Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh is appointed as University Nominee -BoS (Department of Business Administration), Moderns College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Ganeshkhind, Pune
- Under the guidance of Dr. Arwah Madan, Ms. Anita Phapale was awarded PhD on Feb 11, 2022 for her thesis titled "Analysis of Employment of Disabled Persons in Nashik Municipal Corporation Area"

### **OUR STUDENTS HAVE HAD THEIR SHARE OF SUCCESS AS WELL!**

#### **AWARDS AND LAURELS**

##### **Inter-collegiate Event Winners /Achievers:**

- Ms. Kajal Yadav, Ms. Komal Yadav and Ms. Sneha Chavan from TYBCom were the Runners Up in a Team Event- National Moot Court Competition organised by BMCC on 26th March, 2022 and have received a Cash Prize of Rs. 5000/-
- Ms. Ishshah Isabel Mathew from TYBCom has been awarded the Best Advocate Prize at the National Moot Court Competition organised by BMCC on 26th March, 2022 and has received a Cash Prize of Rs. 2000/-
- Ms. Sanjana Shah has won the Second Prize in the Alfaz Kvyu Pratiyogita organised by School of Education & Research, MIT ADT University
- Ms. Shana Shaikh has won the Second Prize in the Intercollegiate Economics Poster Competition organized by The Club, Miranomics, St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune
- Ms. Nikita Kamble has won the Third Prize in the Intercollegiate Economics Poster Competition organized by The Club, Miranomics, St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune
- Ms. Shruti Rajguru from TYBBA(CA) stood First in Grab the Opportunity Competition organized by Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

##### **Research by Students:**

Nine students presented academic papers at the two-day students' seminar, 'Women in Theatre: Reclaiming Space' organised by the Department of English, St Mira's College for Girls, on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2022. Second year M.A. student Khadija Lokhnadwala wrote a paper titled 'Tamasha as a form of liberation' and Friyana



Munshi's paper was on 'Dan Actors in 18th and 19th Century'. First year M.A. student Ummesalama Karu wrote a paper titled 'Rudali\_Grief as the liberator'; Arman Chagla wrote a paper titled 'Breaking the Glass Curtain' and Isha Karandikar's paper was titled 'Transgender Representation in Theatre'. TYBA student Maitrayee Sangitrao wrote 'Until the fat lady sings and dances' and Isha Bhagwat wrote a paper on 'Feminist analysis of roles portrayed by women'. From the SYBA, Zainab Kagalwala wrote a paper titled 'Use Of Theatre By Transnational Arab And Muslim Women To Reflect Their Traumas' and Kanchanpriya Bhujbal's paper was titled 'Feminism of the 1970's on stage'

## COLLEGE NEWS

The academic year 2021-22, as usual, was a year brimming with a plethora of exciting events. Here goes a quick round up of the college activities for this year:

### I. Our Quality Initiatives:

The various special programmes which form a part of our quality initiatives during the academic year include the following:

- The College in collaboration with ArtSphere and academic consultants The Art Therapist Colab (TATC) introduced a Post Graduate Diploma in Dance Movement Therapy.
- The College in collaboration with Just Being Centre introduced a Post Graduate Diploma in Mindfulness Based Counseling–Listening with Embodied Presence.
- The College in collaboration with Ashwaas introduced a Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Music Therapy.
- The College in collaboration with ArtSphere ran a **Certificate Course in Introduction to Psychology**.
- The College in collaboration with Ashwaas ran two batches of a Certificate Course in Introduction to Music Therapy.
- The College introduced an extra credit course on Listening Skills for TYBA Psychology special students from 28-31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. It was conducted by Ms. Sandy Dias Andrade, Founder, Director, Just Being Centre, Pune.
- A credit course of 15 hours (1 credit) on DIGITAL MARKETING was conducted across all streams from Dec 2021 to Jan 2022. There were 48 participants who successfully completed the course and were awarded certificates from the Institute, Rigel. The course was very well received by the students.
- **Online Support group sessions: (only for students of the College)**

The Mental Well-being Program of the College initiated Grief Support group sessions in August 2021 to help students navigate feelings of loss and grief during Covid-19. The aim of these sessions was to provide students with a safe space to talk about the grief and loss that they have experienced in their personal, social, and academic lives. Five sessions were scheduled every Wednesday online from 12:00-13:00 pm starting from 4<sup>th</sup> August and continued till end of September 2021. Sessions were facilitated by in-house full-time Psychologist, Ms. Pooja Jain and were conducted over zoom. 41 students registered for the sessions and attended online grief and loss support group sessions.

- **Mentoring sessions** for all the students across all streams have been introduced, where teachers conducted three sessions during the year for a group of students assigned to them.
- **MILE**

Mira International Learning Exchange: A Centre for Virtual Collaboration arose out of its rewarding interaction with LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York and its programme titled COIL: Collaborative



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Online International Learning which “allows faculty partners in different parts of the world to develop a shared curricular project and engage their students using online tools (synchronous and asynchronous).”

### **MILE courses**

The MILE courses are primarily for advanced and passionate learners and this year yet again the college has provided a vast repertoire of multidisciplinary courses for students to choose from. At the beginning of the year the Political Science Department collaborated with the Language Department at LaGuardia Community College, NY to study issues of Identity and Language. In the second half of the year the college ran 5 MILE courses. The English Department and the Political Science Department collaborated with La Guardia to study “Cancel Culture”. The latter also collaborated with LaGuardia Community College, New York to study various issues of identity pertaining to India and the US. The Sociology Department collaborated with the Department of Social Psychology at Laguardia, NY on “Exploration of Choice in Context: II”. The English departments at Mira's and LaGuardia's collaborated on “Deconstructing Colonialism. The Sports Department of St Mira's and LaGuardia's Chemistry Department collaborated on “The Chemistry of Sport”. The Department of English collaborated with the Department of Art History at La Guardia Community College and Burrough's Community College, NY on a course titles “Art and Inequality” training students to be teachers sensitive to inequality. Truly the world has become our oyster opening up wonderful opportunities for cross border cultural exchange and learning.

### ● **Student Induction Programme (SIP)**

The SIP was organized by the Deeksharambha Committee, from 18<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 for all the first year students across all streams. The programme commenced with the Sanctuary, comprising of the college song, bhajan and invocation followed by thought for the day. The Vice- Principal, Dr. Shalini Iyer, welcomed the students and encouraged them to be positive and optimistic in times of a pandemic. This was followed by the installation of the Student Council for the current year through an oath ceremony under the guidance of Ummesalama Karu, the University Representative of the College. The Mira Manch Queens produced, directed and presented an online-theatre performance followed by an interesting online game show for the students of FY. On day two the students were introduced to the College culture with a briefing about the Sanctuary—a daily prayer meeting through singing of the College song, bhajan, invocation and the thought for the day. The Principal In Charge Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan in her welcome address familiarized the students with the principles of the College and emphasized the significance of College life and time management. Dr. Shalini Iyer, the Vice Principal introduced them to the parent institution, Sadhu T. L. Vaswani—founder of the college, inception of the college and its motto, mission statement, faculties, rules and regulations. This session also gave information about the admission procedure, examination system, credit system, the concept and importance of autonomy and the code of conduct. This was followed by a student group discussion based on videos on the theme unity in diversity. In the next session student club coordinators explained the activities of Theatre Club, College Magazine, Mirapress, JNK Club, Litwits Club and Debate Club. The students were informed about MILE, mentoring, the different Credit Courses, Certificate, Diploma, Academic and non-academic Courses, the Green clubs and CWE, real-life stories of student entrepreneurs, active as home bakers and jewelry designers, Mirabazaar. The theme for day three was “Experiencing the Joy of Giving” which covered imparting information on Social Outreach Programs, NSS activities, Responsible Citizenship and Internship programs organized by the College. The day commenced with the Sanctuary followed by a session by Dr. Geeta Bora, Founder of Spherule Foundation-an NGO. Dr. Bora explained different activities undertaken by her Foundation in the spheres of Menstrual Health and Hygiene, Women Empowerment, Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH ACT), Gender Equality and Malnourishment and the current projects of the foundation-Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Program (WEEP), School Menstrual Hygiene Program (SMHP), and Moontime, a book for girls on menstruation to break taboos and myths. Other social outreach activities like Jivitnadi Foundation, Deepgriha, Pratham, Mitti ke



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Rang, Aasra, Helplife, Centre for Mental Health Services, Zensar CSR, Saare Jahan se Achha and Animal Rescue Activity, the Government Young Initiative Network-an important avenue for social internship, NSS activities were introduced to the girls. A session on Internships, the Placement Cell and Responsible Citizenship was conducted. The latter involved citing examples of irresponsible behaviour like littering, using mobiles while driving and breaking traffic signals and explained different aspects of responsibility like adhering to rules, respecting the rights of others and using freedom in a responsible manner. The day concluded with a Fun session-like quiz, games and Bollywood-based fun activities. The theme for day four-28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was Safety on Campus-A step towards Holistic Development. It commenced with a yoga session, prayer and its importance. A demonstration of some simple asanas followed by a session on basic pranayama and musical meditation. The importance of and objective of the two schemes run in the College under the Earn While Learn Programme was explained to the girls. The next session Know Thyself dealt with the importance of knowing oneself to enable decision making. A video on "Secret behind the last words of a Dying Man" by Gaur Gopal Das was shown to the participants. An interactive session on mental wellness was conducted by explaining the importance of empathy and openness for mental wellbeing and elaborated on the three levels of the 'Full Time Mental Well-Being Program' run in the college. The theme for day five-29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was 'Building Bridges to walk along'. The day began with Sanctuary followed by an Orientation session by the Librarian who explained the library resources and facilities. The facility of accessing the library resources through college website was also explained. Dr. Soniya Chavan, former HoD, Department of Economics, COE and Alumna of the College interacted with the participants and the students were introduced to the activities of the alumni. Students were oriented on extracurricular activities and intra collegiate events at like TEDx, EXDOUS and TECHLOGICA and encouraged to participate. This was followed by a quiz on branding. Sanskar-A fest for celebrating Indian Culture and Ethos was organized by senior students on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### II. Green initiatives

The Green Club is a voluntary initiative of the College comprising faculty and students aimed at sensitizing the students about the 3Rs - 'Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle' by employing a two-pronged approach of advocacy and engagement. The Following activities were conducted during 2021-22: The Club in coordination with the NSS Department organised a Panel Discussion on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 on Eliminating the Use of Plastic. Ms. Rashmi Tiwari in her lecture on 'Sustainable Fashion' organized on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021, guided the students on sustainable living by highlighting the essence of sustainable fashion and waste management at household level. 90 students across all streams benefitted from this session. 16 students participated in a poster competition organized on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022 on Go Green for Sustainable Living to exhibit their talent on the importance of Sustainable living. The winner was Ms. Babita Mukhiya from SYBCom. A webinar on Sustainable Gardening was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 by Dr. Arwah Madan, which highlighted the meaning of sustainable gardens and various practices related to sustainable gardens such as stages of composting, small steps toward saving a green environment and different ways of creating homemade manure. A documentary titled 'Screening Green' was screened for 65 students of FYBCOM on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with an aim to sensitize them towards environmental concerns and to enable them to learn to live sustainably. An episode titled 'Frozen Worlds' from the Netflix documentary series Our Planet was screened followed by a discussion. It was an assignment-centered initiative where participants were asked to submit a write up on conservation of nature.

### III. Centre for Women Entrepreneurship (CWE)

The CWE is an initiative of the Department of Business Studies and Department of BBA.

The Institution Innovation Council (MOE, Govt. of India) of the College established in October 2020 under the aegis of CWE received the annual performance star ranking of 3.5, as a non-technical College with great potential



for promoting Innovation, Entrepreneurship and IPR. This year 2680 colleges from India participated in the Annual Performance Ranking. The following events were organised by the Centre to promote and stimulate the spirit of entrepreneurship among the students of the College:

Workshop on opportunities in Baking was organized on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021, conducted by Mrs. Melanie Andrade, owner of the famous Fat Cat's Café, Pune. An Orientation Session for students and faculties of the Institute by Innovation Ambassadors (IA) was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021, with an objective to develop knowledge and create awareness on various aspects of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & IPR. The topics varied from Pre-incubation and Incubation, Design Thinking and its five model-Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype, and Test, Entrepreneurial and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). Mrs. Shubhangi Patil shared her successful journey from a homemaker to an Inventor and Patent holder of processed food- 'Walnut Ragi Soup' in a session titled - "My Story-Motivational Session by Successful Innovators" on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

A Workshop on "Entrepreneurship and Innovation as a Career Option" was organized on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021, which was conducted by Dr. Sangeeta Kamath (Founder and managing partner of Step Upp Advisors LLP). A "Motivational session by a Successful Entrepreneur" was organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021. The speaker Mrs. Mrunalini Makhale, a Fashion designer, CRAZYPETALS described her challenging task of establishing her business and emphasized on retaining brand image by carving a niche in the hearts of the customers without compromising with quality. Ms. Devyani spoke on "Attitude and Behavioural Development" on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in a session she shared her adventurous journey of commercializing her passion of mud therapy by making and selling small pots, cups and bottles. The session gave insights to participants on creating consumer centric products through observation of the needs of the market. Ms. Manjari Sharma, alumna IIM Calcutta in her session titled "Journey of Farm Didi" on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022, narrated her journey from a corporate person at Kearney to FarmDidi aimed at empowering rural women and providing employment to women farmers for their financial empowerment-a challenge in itself. Through this session the the students got insights into growth of women centric entrepreneurial journey, guidance and motivation to work hard, encouragement to pursue one's passion and ways to stay motivated to achieve one's dream while uplifting the society as well. Dr. Chitra Ganesh Desai, a professor and Head Faculty of Computational Science NDA spoke on "Technology Transfer in Data Science" 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Through lucid examples the speaker explained the inter-connectivity between Big Data, Data Science, Data Analysis and Data mining and enlightened the participants on technologies like Machine Learning, IOT, data storytelling and tools like SAS, Spark, Tableau, WEKA etc. and its use in Data Science. She focused on the applications of Data Science and the various entrepreneurial opportunities that can be explored in the field of Big Data and Data Science. Launch of the Coffee Table book-ZENITH was organized on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. On this occasion Ms. Pooja Anand, Corporator, Khadki Cantonment Board, Ms. Kalyani Sardesai, Journalist, Author and Corporate Trainer and Ms. Padmaja Shastri, Journalist spoke about women financial empowerment through entrepreneurship, taking failure in one's stride and choosing business and life partners cautiously and enhancing the problem solving skills imperative for budding entrepreneurs. The student entrepreneurs featured in the book shared their entrepreneurial journey with the audience.

#### IV.SANCTUARY

The College aims at women empowerment through value-based education as believed by our founder Sadhu T.L. Vaswani. The day begins with an effort to cultivate the soul, with a visit to the Sanctuary, a special place where we spend a short time devoted to prayer, reflection, introspection and narrations on the **ART OF LIVING**.

#### Important Days

Tribute is paid to noble souls of humanity and important dates and events are commemorated:

- **International Yoga Day**



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The 7<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day was celebrated by the College in an online mode, as per protocols provided by AYUSH, Govt. of India. This year the theme was "Be with Yoga, Be at Home", in which a total of 205 students along with the staff participated actively. It commenced with a brief introduction of Yoga and its importance in daily life, followed by Yoga Pyramids Demonstration and a practical session on different Yoga postures and concluded with a Pledge.

- **Hiroshima Day**

On this occasion the Departments of Politics and Public administration and History organized an online inter-departmental session with an objective to remember the phoenix jump of Japan to rebuild itself into a developed nation and analyse the impact of nuclear armament. Videos were screened on the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

- **Nagasaki Day**

On 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Ms. Naineeka Rathod-certified Japanese language teacher, in a guest lecture organised by the Department of Politics and Public Administration, focused on various career opportunities available for students in Japan.

- **Independence Day**

A guest lecture by Col. Dutta was organised on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to commemorate the Independence Day, which included a discussion on the concept of Patriotism and its need in India, various aspects of Nationalism and importance of fundamental duties of citizens.

- **Democracy Day**

It was observed on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 by the Dept of Politics and Public Administration, Electoral Club and NSS jointly. Discussions were on the origins and merits of democracy followed by a screening of the documentary-Age of Democracy.

- **International Day of Peace**

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 a video was screened followed by a discussion on thinking creatively and collectively helping each other recover, build resilience, and transform our world into one that is more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable and healthy.

- **Constitution Day**

The Department of Politics and Public Administration in coordination with the Electoral Club celebrated this day on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 by conducting some activities like-Collective Reading of the Preamble of the Constitution and Fundamental Duties of Citizens of India and Screening of the Documentary-Samvidhaan. Junior College students performed a skit highlighting the importance of Gender equality.

- **International Day of Persons with Disability**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 the Department of Physical Education and Sports organized an interactive session by Shri. Suyash Jadhav-an Arjun Awardee. This lecture aimed to motivate and encourage the students to participate in various fitness and sports activities.

- **Human Rights Day**

It was celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 by screening a documentary and videos on The UN Youth for Human Rights for the PG students followed by a discussion, with an aim to create awareness about their rights.

- **Electoral Day**

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the Department of Politics and Public Administration, Electoral Club and NSS jointly



organised an online programme, to discuss the important role of voters followed by a demonstration of the online registration process.

### **Reading Day**

It was celebrated on 19th June 2021 in remembrance of late Shri PN Panicker-the father of the 'Library and Literacy Movement', in Kerala, to encourage reading.

- **National Librarian's Day**

To mark the birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan- the Father of Library Science, the Library organised a Book Display from 11-21<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

- **Hindi Day**

To mark the adoption of Hindi as an official language of the Union, a book display was undertaken from 11-25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 showcasing different Hindi literature genres.

- **Reading Inspiration Day**

This was celebrated on 14th October 2021 to mark the birth anniversary of our former President, by screening a documentary on Dr Abdul Kalam, a talk on 'Reading' by Mrs Swatee Sarwate and book talks.

- **Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan Pandharavada**

It was celebrated from 1-15<sup>th</sup> January 2022, aimed at conserving the splendor of the Marathi language, showcasing Marathi collection on different genres.

- **World No Tobacco Day Pledge**

This was observed on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021 which saw participation from students, faculty, non-teaching staff and Class four employees.

- **World Environment Day**

It was observed on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Following activities were undertaken to mark this day:

Two videos were screened by the Jeevit Nadi Foundation- 'The Story of a River' and 'Importance of Tree Plantation' followed by a discussion. Vaishnavi Kshirsagar a students shared the idea of planting a tree on birthdays of each family member. She has so far planted 300 trees in her garden and also planted one more on this occasion to mark the World Environment Day. Teaching and Non-teaching Staff were encouraged to clean their email inbox.

- **Shiv Swarajya Din**

It was celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by conducting following activities: Two videos were screened to pay homage to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the second depicted the Leadership Lessons exhibited by this great King. A film on 'Fort Raigad' – was screened followed by a live telecast of the Shiv Swarajya Din Sohala organised by COEP, Pune. Students, faculty and non-teaching staff were a part of the celebrations.

### **Sanctuary/Mulya Pravah Committee**

#### **Dada J. P. Vaswani's 3<sup>rd</sup> Mahayagna and 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday celebrations**

On this occasion the college organized a series of programmes. A Special Sanctuary in connection with Mahayagna was organized on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The program commenced with chanting of Sri Shankaracharya's Nirvanshatakam, followed by student presentations and faculty paying homage to beloved Dada. The highlight of the program was Dada's upadesh, an opportunity to listen to Dada and his enlightening speech. Anjali Week was celebrated through declamations contests organized by the Hindi, Marathi and English Departments on from 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The declamations began with a melodious Anjali Bhajan. In connection with Dada J.P. Vaswani's 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebrations a Special Sanctuary was organized jointly by the College, SVIMS and SVCON. The



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program began with a presentation of the beautiful Mira bhajan followed by Didi Krishna Kumari's enlightening speech. The college magazine was released at her hands. Seva programs of all the three institutions were announced. The program ended with Dada's illuminating upadesh and the closing prayer.

The Mulya Pravaha Committee which aims to provide students with life skills, organized a session on "KEEPING CALM NO MATTER WHAT" by BK Monica Gupta on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021, which enlightened the students about the techniques of cultivating solution-oriented mindset, convert dreams into goals and goals into reality. She brought to the fore various sources of distractions like gossip, comparison and jealousy which affects the ability to enjoy life. Monica Didi referred to the negative thoughts as RAT (Reoccurring afflictive thoughts) and to counter the RAT, we need a CAT (Counter affirmative thought). The session concluded with guided meditation.

A special session on 'Gita Gyan' was organized on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and conducted by BK Rajiv Gupta. It aimed at giving insight into the teachings of Shri Bhagvat Gita both as a spiritual and practical manual. The Committee organized an interactive session on 'Why ethics and human values matter' on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021, facilitated by Dr. Ivan John, Sophia College, Mumbai. The session highlighted the need to understand that ethics and values are not universal as they emerge in a culture and are not permanent. More than just learning, practicing ethics and values is more important. Dr. John stressed the need to develop a more open and tolerant world view which would allow space for diverse values and cultural standards.

In connection with International Meatless Day, a video-making competition was organized for students. The Committee received 23 videos depicting the importance of vegetarianism, spreading the message of love for all creations and compassion. An online session was organized on the topic, 'Vegetarianism as a way of life' on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in connection with the birthday celebrations of our Revered Founder, Sadhu T.L.Vaswani. The programme started with rendition of melodious Mira Bhajans followed by our Revered Dada J. P. Vaswani's Upadesh video. Didi Krishna Kumari, guided the audience regarding the work and belief of our founder and how we could adhere to his teachings in our daily lives. In a panel discussion Darshana Muzumdar an Animal Activist and Madhavi Kolte from Jeev Bhavana discussed the importance and need of Vegetarianism in our life. She brought to the fore the brutalities inflicted on animals by the food industry through varied examples. Ms. Madhavi, spoke about the relationship between Animal Agriculture and Environment, its impact on health and sustainability and a historical perspective about how Indians eat and its impact on the environment. The discussion was followed by an announcement relating to social service and Meatless Day Pledges and Screening of three shortlisted videos made by students in connection with Meatless Day.

### **Special sanctuary in connection with Sadhu T. L. Vaswani's 56th Mahayagna.**

This was organized on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022, which commenced with singing of two Nuri bhajans penned by Sadhu Vaswani. Sadhu T. L Vaswani once said, "To defend the weak, to guard those that are below us in the scale of evolution, is to grow in the nobility and strength of life." In line with these teachings, St. Mira's college conducted many seva programmes in connection with Sadhu T. L. Vaswani's Mahayagna. The social service activities were announced. The special sanctuary ended with Dada's upadesh video and a minute's prayerful silence in memory of our revered founder.

### **Festivity Galore**

- *Janmashtami was celebrated on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022 through an online mode with dance and singing performances by the students based on the life of Lord Krishna. An online quiz on the Life and Teachings of Lord Krishna was organized which saw participation from students as well as faculty.*

### **V. Social Outreach and Extension Activities**

- The College students along with IDOBRO and INFINITY RISE FOUNDATION conducted the Youth



## St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

Unravelling Magicians

Empowerment Program by UNICEF on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 to create five million young warriors for Covid 19 across the globe.

- Volunteers of the BBA and BBA(CA) Department along with FarmDidi team, were involved in promoting 100% natural and authentic food products handmade by women farmers from rural India at exhibitions-Deccan Hospitality Fest and PUWO Shopping Fest and TedxStmirasCollege held in Pune during 4-6<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Students from TYBBA and TYBCA volunteered for the Yellow Ribbon NGO Fair in collaboration with Majhi Maitrin Charitable Trust (MMCT), associated with the Ishanya Foundation from 8-10<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Creativity Mall, Pune.
- The Department of Sociology organized an Orientation session on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 on Toxic Free Lifestyles, by Mr. Niranjan Upasani-Director, Jeevitnadi Organization, aimed at highlighting the significance of eco-friendly products. The College has continued its collaborations with various NGOs and organisations and conducted extension activities during the year, which helped in promoting teamwork, social awareness and social- community sensitivity among the students. A total of 1277 students participated in 14 extension programmes along with NSS activities. These activities help in promoting teamwork, social awareness and social- community sensitivity among the students.
- Department of Economics organized a guest lecture by Dr. Sujata Khadilkar on Sustainable Cities and National Smart Cities Mission in India and a webinar on Investor and Financial Literacy on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 by Ms. Daksha Gogia, a financial expert and trainer in financial literacy. On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Department also organized a PowerPoint and Video Presentation on the occasion of Women's Day by orienting the students about #breakthebias global agenda about equality and inclusiveness.
- College students assisted in online academic coaching in English and Mathematics from Class 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and also prepared study material for these subjects. This was an initiative by the Department of Commerce in coordination with DeepGriha Society-NGO during September 2021-February 2022.
- The Department of Psychology collaborated with NayiDisha Resource Center and LifeAsia to develop national services on their online platform-a national directory of Service Providers for individuals with Autism and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 the Department of Sociology in association with Jeevitnadi Living River Foundation, undertook a cleanliness drive of the Mula Mutha river.
- The Electoral Club, Department of NSS and Department of Politics and Public Administration collaboratively celebrated Voters Awareness Week from 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December 2021. This comprised of an AV orientation for the students, online registration of new voters and awareness activities.
- In December 2021- Department of Education prepared short educational videos for the students of the NGO-Kafila Foundation in Kashmir.
- From 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 under the guidance of the Department of English, the students coached the village students of Ambral, Panchgani-Satara in spoken communication targeting employment.
- The Department of Psychology collaborated with Nayi Disha Resource Centre and LifeAsia in an outreach program to develop a National Directory of Service Providers for Individuals with Autism and Intellectual and Developmental Disorders in February and March, 2022. The Department also collaborated with Global Opportunity Youth Network (GOYN) for Project Umang to provide psychosocial support to women in Pune from January, 2022 to April, 2022
- On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 the Student Council conducted an activity in collaboration with Deepgriha Society with an intention of spreading love and joy among the community.



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

- 23rd February 2022 The Department of English distributed rice, toor dal and sugar at Saheli HIV/AIDS Karyakarta Sangh.
- From 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the student volunteers along with Farm Didi were involved in promoting 100% natural and authentic food products produced by women farmers from rural India in exhibitions.
- TYBBA and TYBCA students volunteered for the Yellow Ribbon fair in collaboration with Majhi Maitrin Charitable Trust at Creaticity Mall.
- Ms. Kanishka-a student of SYBA was selected for a 3-month Impact Evaluation fellowship by Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions Private Limited (HESPL), which included telephone-based surveys.
- On 16th March 2022 the Department of Accountancy organized a Workshop on “CCI- Sustainability (Corporate, Community, Individual); Waste segregation and disposal” by Mr Sathya Natarajan. This was followed by an awareness drive conducted by students in different parts of Pune City to understand the awareness levels of females regarding types of wastes and its disposal with special reference to the Red Dot Campaign.
- CRSA-From 19<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021 thirty five students volunteered as COVID Warriors.

### VI. Webinars

- **Department of Economics**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021, the Department in association with Unique Academy Pune, organized a webinar on “How to Prepare for Banking/ SSC/Insurance Exams during Graduation”. Ms. Mayuri Sawant, Faculty, Unique Academy guided the students on the time frame required for preparation, various options and career ladders available after graduation and a Study Plan.

The Annual PG Seminar was organized on the theme “30 Years of Globalization” from 25-26<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Ms. Ninawari Ware, Asst. Prof. Economics, ILS Law College, Pune presented an overview on the theme. Ms. Veena Kenchi, HoD, Department of Politics and Public Administration, of the College discussed the changes in the administrative structures and political frameworks, the ideologies that surround Globalization. A Research Paper Competition was also organized on the theme comprising of fifteen participants.

- **Department of Business Studies organized the following webinars:**

The Department organised a webinar on 'Understanding Basics of Research in Business' on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021, conducted by Dr. Netra Neelam, Professor and Deputy Director, Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resources Development (SCMHRD), Pune. It covered the concept of research and research design. A webinar titled “Line art as Stress Buster” was organised for the FYBCOM students on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It was conducted by Mrs. Richa Jain, a Freelancer Artist, Pune, who familiarised the learners with simple stress buster art forms like Zentangle, Warli painting. A webinar on 'Trends in Digital Marketing' was organised for the TYBCOM students specialising in Business Administration and Marketing on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. It was conducted by Mr. Dipak Jadhav, Founder of Monkey Owl Digital Academy, which gave practical insights through demonstrations on a good website and its strategy and WordPress for the creation of websites and Google Analytics. On 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, a webinar titled, “Marketing of Mutual Funds- A Financial Services Product” was organised for the TYBCOM students specialising in Marketing and Business Administration. It was conducted by Mr. Himanshu Mayne-CFP, which focused on various considerations involved in selling Mutual Funds and the challenges associated with selling an intangible product.

- **Department of Accountancy organised following webinars:**

A Webinar on 'Online Share Trading', was organized for the SYBCOM students on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, where the



speaker Mr. Gilbi John shared the skills required for Online Share trading. 31 students enrolled and completed a 36-hour Course conducted by the Western India Regional Council, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in association with Savitribai Phule Pune University from 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021. A webinar on Demystifying Forensic Accounting: Discover, Analyse and Report was organized for the SYBCOM and TYBCOM students on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022, which was conducted by CA Jyot Baxi and CA Bharat Jeswani. It provided an insight on forensic accounting, skills required by a forensic accountant, career avenues, the accounting skills to investigate fraud and other hidden irregularities in transactions by taking into consideration Fraud risk management and investigation methodology.

- **Department of Computer Science**

An Expert talk on technology transfer in Data Science for BSc and MSc Computer science faculty on 26th Feb 2022.

- **Department of NSS** organized a Webinar on Effect of NEP 2020 on Youth Empowerment and Sports Development on 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021.

### **VII. Inter Disciplinary / Inter Departmental Student Enrichment Programmes**

- **Department of English**

The students of the SYBA A class collected stories of human struggles and joys for their Instagram page titled Humans of Pune.

- **Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat (EBSB)**

With an objective of making Unity in Diversity a reality, the UGC has initiated the Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat (EBSB) Programme, which focuses on strengthening inter-State relations and creating a bonding between them. The Department of Marathi organized a session on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 highlighting the importance of Pandharpur Vaari-an annual yatra-a procession on foot involving carrying the padukas of Saint Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram to Pandharpur temple.

### **VIII. Vibrant Campus Life**

- **TedxStmirasCollege - 05 Mar 2022**

The College hosted the 3rd edition of tedx with a bang after a long hiatus of covid break. An audience of 100 participants and other members of the organising Team came together on Saturday to celebrate the sharing of ideas at the third annual TEDx event in St Mira's College for Girls, with the theme "Magic Of Risks" organised by Sarah Kinariwala and co-organised by Riddhi Wadhvani. The audience was filled with representatives of local businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, as well as artists, musicians and students from local high schools and colleges.

- **Marathi Day Celebrations:**

Department of Marathi observed the Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan Pandharwada, by organizing activities like Workshops, Story Telling activity, Book exhibition by Library, Article writing activity, One act play screening on Savitribai Phule.

### **IX. General Knowledge Test**

The Annual General Knowledge Quiz was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in an online mode. This test was conducted in both English as well as Marathi in which a total of 105 students from all streams participated. The test comprised of 30 questions on mathematical aptitude, logical reasoning, general knowledge, current affairs and English language. The result of the GK test is as follows: 1st Prize - Ms. Preksha Chhajed TYBA

II<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Ms. Kashish Gulati FYBBA, III<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Ms. Manisha Rajpurohit SYBCOM



### **X. Career Counselling and Placement Cell:**

The Placement Cell and Life Skills Committee organized a soft skills session on 'College to Corporate' for the final year students to groom them for the corporate world. It was conducted by Dr. S. Jayaraman (Director –ISB&M - Bangalore) on 10th August 2021. A soft skill session on Resume Crafting and Interview Skills was conducted by the Cell and hosted by VIPApplicant's EduPeer on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. Mr. Hitesh Sharma, CEO, VIPApplicant, Ms. Sravanthi Marriwada, Lead, Product Development Department, VIPApplicant and Mr. Aviral Mathur provided the demo of the AI enabled software and discussed about the future of the work world, PPP model of cracking interviews, tips to be industry ready and a hands-on demo to craft an AI enabled resume. Interested students were given an opportunity to register with EduPeer to benefit from crafting resumes with the help of the software. On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022, Ms. Pooja Kashid, HR consultant, AllScript, Pune-based MNC spoke about the significance of work ethics in a session titled Professional ethics at Workplace organized by the Cell in collaboration with the Code of Conduct Committee. Students from all streams participated in a soft skills session on How to crack Aptitude, organized by the Cell and conducted by Prof. Anupama Tadarmala- Associate Dean and Dy. Academic Coordinator on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The most important activity of the Cell has been to initiate the process of placement drives with various organizations like KPMG, Cognizant, Accenture, UpThink, Northern Trust, TCS, WIPRO, Vodofone, Incubexpert, SYSTOOLS, Ticklinks, Cognizant, Capgemini, Deloitte.

### **XI. Alumni Meet:**

The Alumni Association organised following activities during the year: Ms. Mihika Bhanot, alumna BBA, was invited for a farewell party of final year students organized on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021. She encouraged students to be a part of the Alumni Association. The Association organized an orientation session for the first year students by briefing about the Association, and alumni faculty recollected sweet memories of their college days. Ms. Pariche Mehta and Divya Kukreja, BBA Alumna conducted a three-day online workshop on makeup and hairstyles, from 31<sup>st</sup> January-02<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, aimed at creating self employment opportunities. The workshop received an overwhelming response and it was broadcast live via the Alumni Association's facebook page. The workshop concluded with information on Certificate Courses on Makeup and Makeover and training and internship opportunities. The Association organized a two-day Vaccination Drive in the College premises during COVID-19 in association with Pune Municipal Corporation comprising a staff of six medical professionals from 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for the College students aged 15-18 years. This initiative was supported by PMC Corporator, Shri Rajendra Wagaskar and Mrs Vanita Wagaskar and was graced by an alumna, Mrs Prachi Alhat, a PMC Corporator. 238 beneficiaries availed of the first and/or second dose of Covaxin along with faculty members of the College and their family members under the Staff Welfare initiative. In order to ensure the conduct of the vaccination drive, data was collected from the needy students through google forms.

### **XII. The Student Council**

Student Council 2021-2022 organised an array of activities which made our campus life vibrant and meaningful. Outreach programme for Deepgriha society, teachers day programme, organised games during Student Induction Programme, celebrating India festivals, volunteering in events organised by departments and Alumni Association. It was a year filled with activities.

**Dr. Meenakshi Wagh**



## Department Of English

**Dr Snober Sataravala (HoD), Suhaile Azavedo, Komal Tujare, Elizabeth Varkey Junior College: Sawani Antarkar, Ayesha Shaikh, Neena Dutta**

After two years of e-learning, the English Department was the first to get the students back on campus with the Theatre SEC setting the tone for another amazing year.

- **Talks and Guest Lectures:**

23rd July, 2021 A guest lecture on “Study Abroad – Writing Statements of Purpose”, was conducted by Ms Revathi Shivakumar of Revadmissions, Mumbai. 14th October, 2021 Elizabeth Varkey held a talk on academic writing to help the students write papers for a future students' seminar. The guest speakers were Sawani, Kelly Aliano, Suchetana Banerjee, Ananya Parikh.

23rd December 2021, Nidhi Gandhi interacted with the students on “Suicide Awareness: Myths and Fallacies”.

2nd January 2022, alumna Maryam Shaikh shared her insights with the SOUL didis on storytelling as a technique to teaching English.

A feather in the department's cap was the guest lecture by Japanese American poet Kimiko Hahn whose poetry the students were also studying.

- **Field Project: SOUL, JLF and Theatre**

Just like every other year, the Department of English attended the Jaipur Literature Festival, albeit virtually. On the 27th of April the SYBA English students visited the playhouse called 'The Box.' SOUL: Thirty students taught students at the Ambral village in Panchgani and at Aasra: a low income area in Pune.

### Research:

### Teachers

Dr Sataravala and Suhaile Azavedo peer reviewed for the journal *Confluence*. Komal Tujare published a research paper titled 'Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Has Finally Let Down Her Hair!: The Feminist Evolution of Rapunzel from the Nineteenth Century to the Twenty-First Century' in the journal *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature* issue 60.1 listed under Scopus.

### Students

The Dept of English guided nine students to present papers at the seminar “Women and Theatre: Reclaiming Space”. The topics varied from “ Evolution of Representation of Transgender Women in American Theatre” to “Use of Theatre by Transnational Arab and Muslim Women to reflect their Traumas.”. Prof Sinha did the honour of judging the papers. The prize winners were Ummesalema Karu and Isha Karandikar.

- **Student Enrichment:**

### Intra-department:

The students of the SYBA A class collected stories of human struggles and joys for their Instagram page titled Humans of Pune.

The department prides itself in its progressive ways of teaching through performances and creative assignments



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

for all round development of the students.

- **Extra-Curricular Activities:**

The Debate Club (created in 2017) was reconvened with a new core committee for 2021-22 consisting of Juweria Qureshi, Christina D'souza and Rinita Adhikary. They coordinated debates on- "Should the Telling of Fairy Tales Stop", "Social media influencers are the new age role models", "Sustainable Development : The solution to environmental damage is now economically damaging."

The LitWits and the JNK clubs went virtual under the guidance of the student coordinators Delna Anklesaria, Haripriya Praveen and Dhvani Joshi (LitWits); and Nyati Bansal, Saheen Shaikh and Sarayu Khandekar (JNK). In addition to icebreaker sessions, the club hosted anime screenings, a new podcast channel : 'Wallflowering with LitWits', a session on 'Insecurity Kills all Beautiful' and several creative writing events.

The Theatre Club, the Mira Manch Queens, headed by Harleen Kaur Grewal, Shreya Bhide and Kareena Narayan (TYBA), performed their first play *Who Killed Julius U Celestino* on 12th September 2021. It was scripted and filmed by them. They also ran a podcast titled "Dissecting the Media" and ended the year with an on-campus show of "Say Something" on 29th April 2022 for which they printed and sold tickets.

The Magazine Committee consists of students Kajal Mishra, Maitrayee Sangitrao and Vedica Limaye who worked hard to capture moments around the campus and brainstorm ideas to create this exciting magazine. A special thanks to Gayathri Nair who designed the Miracles Logo.

The Mira Press (launched in 2020-21) continued releasing theme-based e-periodicals on the College website. The students planned and executed everything and promoted their activities on their Instagram page "Skittish Scrolls", YouTube channel, and on the College website <https://www.stmirascollegepune.edu.in/magazine3.php> The 4 core members of the Mira Periodicals Club 2021-22 are Isha Bhagwat, Chandana Roy, Gayatri Nair and Vasudha Ramani.

- **Movie Screenings:**

This year the department got its own smart board and hence audio visual aids became an intrinsic part of their teaching with too many to name.

- **Contribution of the Dept to Corporate Life of the College:**

Dr Snober Sataravala is the IQAC Coordinator, magazine editor, theatre club coordinator and the coordinator of MILE: Mira International Learning Exchange– an initiative to catapult the college into global collaborations with La Guardia Community College, NY. Suhaile Azavedo is part of the magazine committee, college website committee, prize distribution committee, additional credit course committee, aids the IQAC Criterion Category II i.e. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation, the coordinator of the College grievance redressal cell, and the coordinator for the Annual Sadhu Vaswani Intercollege Debate Competition. Ms. Komal Tujare is the Criterion In Charge for Criterion V under IQAC, coordinator of the LitWits Club and the JNK, and a member of the Green Club, the Magazine Committee and the Grievance Cell of the college.



## Department of Hindi

सेंट मीरा कॉलेज फॉर गर्ल्स, पुणे  
हिंदी विभाग की गतिविधियों का वृत्तान्त  
(सन 2021-2022)  
प्रा. शितल जाधव -  
(हिंदी विभाग प्रमुख, वरिष्ठ महाविद्यालय)  
प्रा. विभा राठोड  
(हिंदी विभाग प्रमुख, कनिष्ठ महाविद्यालय)

डॉ. सुवर्णा पुंडले (हिंदी विभाग, कनिष्ठ महाविद्यालय)

विद्यार्थिनी प्रतिनिधि पूर्वा राउतल (द्वितीय वर्ष कला शाखा)

सन 2021-22 के शैक्षणिक वर्ष में हिंदी विभाग में विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया गया। इसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार से दिया जा रहा है

- 1) अतिथि व्याख्यान (Talks and Guest Lectures)
  - i) दिनांक 6 अगस्त, 2021 शुक्रवार के दिन हिंदी विभाग की ओर से 'हिंदी नाट्य साहित्य की विकासयात्रा' इस विषय पर हिंदी अतिथि व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें प्रमुख व्याख्याता के रूप में मॉडर्न कला, वाणिज्य एवं सायन्स कॉलेज के हिंदी विभाग के सहायक प्राध्यापक, डॉ. असीर मुलानी जी को आमंत्रित किया गया था। इस कार्यक्रम में महाविद्यालय की तृतीय वर्ष कला शाखा की हिंदी विषय की 15 छात्राएँ सम्मिलित हुईं। कार्यक्रम का संयोजन हिंदी विभाग प्रमुख सहायक प्राध्यापक शीतल जाधव जी ने किया।
  - ii) दिनांक 9 अगस्त, 2021 सोमवार के दिन हिंदी विभाग की ओर से 'एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत' उपक्रम के अंतर्गत 'जागतिक आदिवासी दिन' के उपलक्ष्य में 'हिंदी साहित्य में आदिवासी जनजीवन का यथार्थ' इस विषय पर हिंदी अतिथि व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें प्रमुख व्याख्याता के रूप में अंबिकाबाई जाधव महिला महाविद्यालय, वज्रेश्वरी, जि. ठाणे के हिंदी विभाग के सहायक प्राध्यापक, डॉ. गंगाधर शेषराव चाटे जी को आमंत्रित किया गया था। इस कार्यक्रम में महाविद्यालय की तृतीय वर्ष कला शाखा की हिंदी विषय की 14 छात्राएँ सम्मिलित हुईं। कार्यक्रम का संयोजन हिंदी विभाग प्रमुख सहायक प्राध्यापक शीतल जाधव जी ने किया।
- 2) छात्र संवर्धन (Student Enrichment)
  - 1) 30 अगस्त, 2021 सोमवार को हिंदी विभाग की ओर से कृष्ण जन्माष्टमी के अवसर पर छात्राओं द्वारा कृष्ण भक्ति पर आधारित गीत, नृत्य, कृष्ण से संबंधित तथ्यों की जानकारी तथा 'प्रबोधनकार मीरा' नामक नाटिका का आयोजन किया गया।
  - 2) 14 सितम्बर, 2021 को हिंदी दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में हिंदी विभाग की ओर से 'राजभाषा हिंदी की गौरवशाली गाथा' इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया था। इसमें प्रथम, द्वितीय एवं तृतीय वर्ष कला शाखा तथा प्रथम वर्ष वाणिज्य शाखा की छात्राएँ सम्मिलित हुई थी।
  - 3) दृश्य-श्रव्य माध्यम (Movie Screenings)
    - 1) 23 सितम्बर 2021 को हिंदी विभाग की द्वितीय वर्ष कला शाखा की छात्राओं को 'मन्नू भंडारी की कहानी 'एखाने आकाश नाड़...' पर आधारित फिल्म 'जीना यहाँ' दृश्य-श्रव्य रूप में दिखाई गयी।



2) 27 सितम्बर 2021 को हिंदी विभाग की द्वितीय वर्ष कला शाखा की छात्राओं को 'मन्नू भंडारी की कहानी 'यही सच है' पर आधारित फिल्म 'रजनीगंधा' दृश्य-श्रव्य रूप में दिखाई गयी।

4) प्राध्यापक उपलब्धि

26 मई, 2021 बुधवार को सहायक प्राध्यापिका शितल जाधव जी ने आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव के सुअवसर पर अंबिकाबाई जाधव महिला महाविद्यालय, वज्रेश्वरी, ठाणे के द्वारा आयोजित 'आजादी के पचहत्तर साल और हिंदी साहित्य में अभिव्यक्त मनुष्य जीवन' इस विषय पर एक दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी में विषय प्रवर्तन के रूप में सक्रीय सहभाग लिया।

## Department of Marathi

मराठी विभाग वार्षिक अहवाल  
डॉ. संगीता देशमुख (मराठी विभाग प्रमुख)  
श्रीमती आशा भावेकर ( कनिष्ठ महाविद्यालय )  
व्याख्यान (Guest Lecture)

मराठी भाषा संवर्धन पंधरवडा निमित्त शनिवार, दिनांक 22 जानेवारी 2022 रोजी तंत्र युगात मराठीचे अढळ स्थान या विषयावर व्याख्यान आयोजित करण्यात आले.मॉडर्न महाविद्यालयाच्या मराठी विभाग प्रमुख डॉ.निशा भंडारे यांनी उपस्थित विध्यार्थिनिंना मार्गदर्शन केले.

कार्यशाळा (Workshop)

एस.वाय.बी.ए. च्या विध्यार्थिनिंसाठी शनिवार, दिनांक 28 आणि सोमवार,दिनांक 30 ऑगस्ट 2022 रोजी सूत्रसंचालन कार्यशाळा आयोजित करण्यात आली. या कार्यशाळेत सरोजा आनंद पंडित यांनी मार्गदर्शन केले.

टी.वाय.बी.ए. च्या विध्यार्थिनिंसाठी दिनांक 11 ते 14 ऑक्टोबर 2021 दरम्यान ग्रंथ, नाटक, चित्रपट समीक्षा या विषयावर कार्यशाळा आयोजित करण्यात आली. मॉडर्न महाविद्यालयाच्या डॉ. वैजयंतीमाला जाधव यांनी कार्यशाळेत विध्यार्थिनिंना मार्गदर्शन केले.

विध्यार्थी गुणवत्ता विकसन ( Student Enrichment)

गुरुवार दिनांक 22 जुलै 2021 या दिवशी दादा जे.पी.वासवानी यांच्या 103 व्या जन्मदिनानिमित्त कथाकथन सत्राचे आयोजन करण्यात आले यामध्ये विद्यार्थिनिंनी दादाजींचे विचार व मूल्य संस्कार प्रकट केले.

एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत या संकल्पनेअंतर्गत महाविद्यालयात आषाढी एकादशी पंढरीची वारी या उपक्रमाचे आयोजन गुरुवार, दिनांक 29 जुलै 2021 रोजी करण्यात आले. भक्ती गीत आणि संवाद अशा स्वरूपात पार पडलेल्या या उपक्रमात मराठी विभाग प्रमुख डॉ. संगीता देशमुख यांनी वारीचे स्वरूप आणि महत्त्व या विषयावर विद्यार्थ्यांशी संवाद साधला. एस.वाय.बी.ए.ची विद्यार्थिनी दीक्षा भोले हिने वारीविषयी अभ्यासपूर्ण माहिती दिली.



सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम ( Cultural Program)

मराठी भाषा गौरव दिनानिमित्त सोमवार दि. 28 फेब्रुवारी 2022 रोजी महोत्सव कला-संस्कृती साहित्याचा हा सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम सादर केला.

ईशस्तवन, महाराष्ट्र संस्कृती दर्शन - मराठी साहित्य, कला, खाद्यसंस्कृती, वेशभूषा ,सण-समारंभ, वेशभूषा, मराठी बोली, इतिहास अशा विविध पैलूंवर प्रकाश टाकणारी विद्यार्थिनीकृत चित्रफित, नाटिका, गवळण, लावणी नृत्य, एकपात्री प्रयोग काव्य वाचन, अभिमान गीत अशा वैविध्यपूर्ण सादरीकरणाचा समावेश होता.

विभागाचे महाविद्यालयीन कामकाजात योगदान (Contribution of Dept to Corporate Life of the College)

वार्षिक अंकाच्या मराठी भागाचे संपादन

सांस्कृतिक समिती सदस्य

राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना सल्ला समिती सदस्य

आंतर महाविद्यालयीन स्पर्धा समिती सदस्य

विद्यार्थी प्रेरण कार्यक्रम समिती सदस्य

समाजसेवा उपक्रम समन्वयक

## Department of Sociology

Dr. Vaishali Diwakar (HoD), Dr. Vaishali Joshi, Ms. Manjita Kulkarni

Junior College: Mrs. Jyoti Joshi

2021-22

The department of Sociology organised a session on Sarthi Internship on 29<sup>th</sup> July, by Mr. Sanjay Dalmia, the CEO and founder of Openlinks foundation, a non-profit based in Pune since 2016. The mission of the foundation is to make education fun and relevant by using project based learning, art and active classrooms and promoting development of life skills in students and to help teachers by providing them with learning outcomes, activities, case studies, worksheets, lesson plans etc. This has encouraged a few Sociology students to take up Sarthi Internship.

A documentary screening titled "Lakeer ke iss taraf based on Narmada Bachao Andolan" was organized on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. The 85-minute documentary film by Ms. Shilpa Ballal sheds light on the Sardar Sarovar project and enables viewers to understand the situation through the lens of the disadvantaged villages, who were compelled to leave their ancestral property and witnessed the submergence of their homes, lands, cattle, etc .



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

A public lecture on “Understanding Popular Culture” by Anil Jaybhaye was held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The lecture helped all to trace the concept of popular culture and explained the interdisciplinary nature of Popular Culture and the links between popular culture and Colonialism and Capitalism. Another guest lecture was organized for 12<sup>th</sup> standard students on Gender Equality on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Mr. Pradhan from Mamta Foundation (NGO), which works in the field of women and child health care in the rural areas of Varanasi District, was invited. He shared his experiences with the students while working in the rural areas and also spoke about gender discrimination.

A guest lecture on “Urbanization Process and City Development” was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 by Mr Anil Jaybhaye. The speaker differentiated between urban and rural life in terms of structure, function and characteristics. There was also a session on “How to write a research proposal” by Dr. Vandana Palsane on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 which explained the main concepts of research, literature review methods and how to write references in research.

On 7th January 2022, Dr. Ivan John conducted a lecture for SY students of the department. A detailed explanation of the Gender Spectrum and Sexuality was given by Dr. John. On 10th January 2022, Sneha Gole from the Savitribai Phule Pune University was invited by St. Mira's College to deliver a lecture on the topic of Gender Studies. She introduced the audience to the courses Gender & Culture and Gender & Development and explained the importance of the courses in contemporary society.

A guest lecture was organized on “Exploring the World of Media” on 16th February 2022 by Dr. Triveni Mathur which focused on the core essence of Media and its usage. This was followed by a lecture series on 'Globalization and Labour' from 4th to 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022. Dr. Vandhana Palsane, senior faculty and former HOD, Sociology, Siddhivinayak College, delivered the first lecture on 'Changing nature of work in the context of globalization' on 4th April, 2022. The second lecture on 'Challenges of organizing the unorganized' was conducted by Dr. Kiran Moghe, an active member of CPM and founding member of Janavadi Mahila Sanghatana, on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

A guest lecture was organised on “Women's Movement in the post 1990s” which was delivered by Dr. Sneha Gole, WSC, SPPU. Dr. Gole explained and elaborated on the challenges faced by women's movement in the light of Mandal Aayog, Babri Masjid Demolition and Globalization. Another guest lecture titled “Counter Hegemonic Identities” by Zameer Kamble was organised on 25th April 2022. It was extremely informative and students got to know and learn a lot about alternate identities.

### **Under outreach MoU with Jeevitnadi Foundation**

The department organised a guest Lecture on "Consequences of The Urban Development on Water Resources" on 30th July, 2021 by Niranjana Upasani, Jeevitnadi Foundation. The session focused on the importance of sewage treatment plants and water conservation. An Orientation on the topic “Toxic Free Lifestyles” was then organised for the students on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Mr. Niranjana highlighted the importance of eco-friendly products and how to search for alternatives through various platforms.

AS part of the NSS Department's Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav- Festival of Indian Rivers, the students of Sociology participated in a cleanliness drive. It was a community participation drive for cleaning of the Mula Mutha river in Bhaironallah Smashan Bhoomi in association with Jeevitnadi Living River Foundation on 12th December 2021, Sunday.

### **Under academic collaboration following activities were conducted**

A state level workshop on Cinema, Culture and Society was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in collaboration with Dattajirao Kadam Arts, Science and Commerce College, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur as part of the Academic Collaboration between the two colleges.

Under academic MoU, Dr. Vaishali Joshi delivered a lecture on 'Gender, Media and Culture' on 18th December



2021 at Dattajirao Kadam College, Ichalkaranji. This session was organized under faculty exchange as part of academic collaboration between the two colleges.

A joint public lecture was hosted in collaboration with Dattajirao Kadam Arts, Science and Commerce College Ichalkaranji. Dr. Arjun Jadhav who is the Head of Sociology Department at Dattajirao Kadam College was the Guest Speaker for the day. The program was held on Friday 24th September 2021. The concept of Denotified Tribes was explained in detail and Dr. Jadhav gave many diverse examples about the existence of different tribes, their occupations and the post independence law that came into force in 1953 which decriminalized or Denotified these tribes.

### **Additional courses:**

- **MILE:**

Sociology Department at St. Mira's College has collaborated with the LaGuardia Community College in New York. The faculty and students from the two partner institutions jointly worked on the theme, 'Explorations of Choice in Context'. The research investigated the choice and decision making within the broader framework of discussion on Individualism-Collectivism and Independent – Interdependent Self. The project looked at choice as shaped by social locations and biases based on social locations such as race/ethnicity, gender, caste and class. By understanding the social context of choice, the project aimed at developing an understanding of social diversity and also of various forms of social inequality. It revealed how our everyday living is a process of internalization of constraints on one hand and of constant negotiations and creation of space on the other hand.

## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

**Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan (HOD) & Principal Incharge, Ms. Sharmin Palsetia, Ms. Pooja Jain**  
**Junior College: Revati Pandhare**

The Department of Psychology has sustained a one of its kind **Mental Well-Being Program** this year which has received an enthusiastic response from the students, faculty members and media especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has a 3 tier structure which

includes awareness sessions, group therapy and individual counseling.

### **Workshop-**

A workshop was organized for SYBA and TYBA psychology special students on Art and Mental Health facilitated by Vaidehi Chiwarwar, Practicing Therapist, Mumbai on 24<sup>th</sup>, February 2022

### **Guest Lectures-**

A guest lecture was organized for SYBA and TYBA psychology special students on Community Mental Health by Malvika Fernandes, Project Coordinator, Project Mumbai-Smiling Schools on 10<sup>th</sup>, February 2022.

A guest lecture was organized for SYBA and TYBA psychology special students on Understanding Careers in Research facilitated by Dr. Shazia Perween, Senior Therapist, Safe Stories on 20<sup>th</sup>, February 2022

### **Virtual Field Visits-**

A virtual field visit to Connecting NGO and NIPD-NIMHANS on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, Mukhtangan de-addiction Center on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, Schizophrenia Awareness Association (SAA) on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and KEM TDH Center on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 was organized for the students of SYBA.

### **Research Projects and Paper Presentations, Resource Person-**

Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan published a paper titled 'Quality of Life among Police Personnel: The Role of Occupational Stress Job Satisfaction' in Indian Journal of Psychology 2021. ISSN-0019-5553: 119-126.



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan published a paper titled 'Body Appreciation: Through the Lens of Positive Psychology' in Indian Journal of Positive Psychology 2021. 12(4), 299-302 ISSN-p-2229-4937, e2321-368X

Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan published a paper titled 'Dance Movement Therapy for the Elderly: A Holistic Approach' in Indian Journal of Gerontology. Vol 36, No. 2, 2022, ISSN 0971-4189.

Ms. Sharmin Palsetia attended and presented a paper titled 'Measurement of Leadership Effectiveness: A Pilot Study' in a national symposium on Current Researches in Applied Psychometrics organized by Rabindrik Psychotherapy Research Institute Trust (RPRIT), Kolkatta on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

Ms. Sharmin Palsetia attended and presented a paper titled 'Measurement of Leadership Effectiveness: Development and Standardization of the Scale' in 31<sup>st</sup> Convention of National Academy of Psychology (NAOP) from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

### Counseling-

The students were informed and oriented about the facilities provided by the Mental Well-Being Program especially during the pandemic.

### Students Enrichment-

As a part of student's enrichment, the department provides various internship opportunities to students.

### Contribution of Department to Corporate Life of the College-

Dr. Jaya Rajagopalan- Principal In-charge

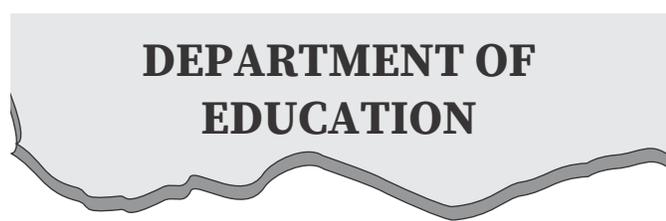
Ms. Sharmin Palsetia- Coordinator of Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) Committee and Placement Cell- Placement Officer for BA and MA students. Member of Criterion 3- Collaborations.

Ms. Pooja Jain- Coordinator, Mental Well-Being Program, Member of Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) Committee

### Social Outreach-

Department of Psychology collaborated with Nayi Disha Resource Centre and LifeAsia in an outreach program to develop a National Directory of Service Providers for Individuals with Autism and Intellectual and Developmental Disorders in February and March, 2022

Department of Psychology collaborated with Global Opportunity Youth Network (GOYN) for Project Umang to provide psychosocial support to women in Pune from January, 2022 to April, 2022



### Mrs. Hasina Shaikh (HoD)

- **Workshops:**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022, the UGC Life Skills Committee and the Department of Education jointly organized an orientation program on Career Assessment Test for 12<sup>th</sup> Standard Arts, Science and Commerce students. **Miss Saba Shaikh**, a Career expert from Pearl Academy,

oriented 262 students on the importance of selecting the right career and attempting a career assessment test. She cleared several doubts regarding selecting and appearing for the career test. Students appeared for the career assessment test on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, **Dr. Archana Chaudhari** from MIT conducted a one day workshop on Models of Teaching for TYBA students.

- **Contribution of Dept to Corporate Life of the College:**

Mrs. Hasina Shaikh is Coordinator for Student Development Cell. She conducted sessions for B.Ed students from Adarsha College of Education, Pune



- **Social Outreach Program:**

In the first week of December 2021, the Department of Education conducted a week-long activity with Kashmir based NGO 'Kafila Foundation'. Students prepared short Educational videos and forwarded to the NGO where students up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard are taught various subjects. These videos were shown to the students at the NGO.

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**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS  
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**Ms. Veena Kenchi and Mrs. Anita D' Cunha  
(Junior College)**

**Research and Faculty Improvement**

Ms. Veena Kenchi was invited as a resource person for the PG Seminar conducted by the Dept. of Economics, St.

Mira's College for Girls on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The PG Seminar was on the theme- 30 Years of Globalisation and the session conducted by Ms. Veena was titled- "Politics of Globalisation".

**Student Enrichment**

A guest lecture was organised by the Dept. of Politics and Public Administration 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Ms. Naineeka Rathod, a certified Japanese Language Teacher who has undergone three comprehensive Japanese Language Teachers Training programs, was invited. This lecture focused on various career opportunities available for students in Japan.

A guest lecture was held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in which Col. Dutta discussed the concept of Patriotism and its need in India. He interacted with the students on the various aspects of Nationalism and reiterated the importance of the fundamental duties for the students.

The Department of Politics and Public Administration with the Electoral Club enthusiastically celebrated Constitution Day on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. There was Collective Reading of the Preamble to the Constitution, Collective Reading of the Fundamental Duties of Citizens of India and Screening of the Documentary-Samvidhaan. The Std XI students also performed a skit enhancing the importance of Gender equality.

The International Day of Peace was celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 in which Mrs. Anita D'Cunha inspired the students to think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better from the pandemic, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier.

Human Rights Day was celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 through a Documentary screening conducted for the PG students creating awareness about their rights followed by discussion in the class. The UN Youth for Human Rights videos were screened for the students.

**Intra-departmental Activity**

The Department of Politics and Public administration and the Department of History organized an online inter-departmental session on the occasion of Hiroshima Day on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The goal of this inter-departmental session was to remember the past of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and discuss how Japan rebuilt itself into a developed nation.

Democracy Day was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Dept of Politics and Public Administration, Electoral Club and NSS jointly organised an online programme for the students on the origins and merits of democracy. The documentary Age of Democracy was also screened for the students.

Electoral Day was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 jointly by the Dept of Politics and Public Administration,



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

Electoral Club and NSS. Dr. Meenal and Ms. Veena discussed the importance of the role of voters in democracy and demonstrated the online registration process on the Election Commission website.

### Movie Screenings

"Second World War" documentary was screened for the students of SYBA for enriching their understanding of the world situation of 1945.

### Social Outreach

**Ms. Kanishka-** SYBA Div A, roll no-2862, selected for a 3-month fellowship by Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions Private Limited (HESPL). It was an Impact Evaluation Fellowship which included surveys which were largely telephone-based. This fellowship added a great value in terms of social sector experience and hands on job learning for Kanishka.

### Contribution of Dept to Corporate Life of the College

Ms. Veena Kenchi Coordinated the Student Induction Programme for all first-year students jointly with Ms. Elizabeth Kanade.

Mrs. Anita D'Cunha coordinated the compulsory Credit Courses- 1. Human Rights Education and 2. Introduction to Constitution for the Post Graduate students of the college.

Ms. Veena Kenchi coordinated the compulsory Credit Course- Democracy, Elections and Governance for First year Students of all streams. It is a self-paced online course on Moodle.

### Mira International Learning Exchange (MILE) - Issues of Identity in India and US

The students of the Department of Politics and Public Administration enrolled for a MILE credit course, Issues of Identity in India and US, which included international collaboration and exchange between students from different universities and colleges. Students of the Department of Politics and Public Administration collaborated with the LaGuardia Community College, New York to study various issues of identity pertaining to India and the US.

The collaborative learning aimed at enhancing student understanding of caste, race, religion and language. It aimed at inculcating a global perspective about diversity and discrimination. Ms. Veena Kenchi and Dr. Maria Savva (LaGuardia College) coordinated this MILE programme.

### Mira International Learning Exchange (MILE) - Angels and Demons: Cancel Culture

The students of the Department of Politics and Public Administration in collaboration with the Dept. of English enrolled for a MILE credit course, Angels and Demons: Cancel Culture, which included international collaboration and exchange between students from different universities and colleges. Students of the both the departments collaborated with the LaGuardia Community College, New York to study various issues of Cancel Culture including glorification and demonising of individuals in today's globalised world. The collaborative learning aimed at enhancing student understanding of Cancel Culture, use of social media and the impact of easy trolling and forwarding messages in a global cyber world. Ms. Veena Kenchi, Mrs. Suhaile Azavedo and Mr. Andre Anteliz (LaGuardia College) coordinated this MILE programme.

### Student achievements

**Ms. Jui Kulkarni-** TYBA Div A, roll no- 4978, 14th August 2021- received the First Prize in an Online Inter-collegiate PowerPoint Presentation Competition organised by the Dept. of Political Science, VPM's Joshi Bedekar College (Autonomous), Thane. The topic of her presentation was- Women Political Leadership: Global to Local – Challenges and Opportunities. She will receive a Cash Prize of Rs 1000/- and a Certificate from the College. She received 1st prize among 24 students' participants.



## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

### Dr. Sandhya Pandit (HoD)

#### Talks and Guest Lectures

16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 – Webinar on 'History of Hindustani Classical Music' by Dr. Vaishali Joshi from the Dept. of Sociology. The idea was to introduce students to the rich culture of India performing arts like music which is a part of their curriculum.

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – F.Y.B.A. – Guest Lecture on 'Legacy of Ancient Greek Architecture' by Dr. Vaishali Latkar, Conservation Architect, Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women, Pune. The lecture introduced students to the nuances of architecture and why Greek architecture is known as Classical architecture.

#### Field Visits

7<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 - T.Y.B.A. - Virtual Field/Museum Visit - Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of museums have gone online and given access to view their exhibits in the virtual world. The students chose to visit an Indian Museum, the National Museum, New Delhi since they studied Indian Culture and Heritage this semester. The students got to relate to the miniature paintings, sculptures, artists' work that they had studied as a part of their curriculum. They were also able to visit the Harappan Civilization Gallery and see the original bronze sculpture of the 'Dancing Girl' that was excavated by archaeologists. They also visited the Musical Instruments Gallery there since the students study Classical Music as well. They also visited 'Shaniwarwada' in Pune as the students study Pune as a tourist destination and the heritage structures in Pune and India at large.

#### Student Enrichment

##### Intra-department–

15.07.2021 – An Orientation and Demonstration for T.Y.B.A. History students on 'Study of Numismatics as a Source of History' was conducted which helped students understand how to study coins as a source of information, the different aspects of the period that can be gathered from the details of the coins.

4.08.2021 – A session on Historiography and Research Methods in History for T.Y.B.A. students were conducted to familiarise them with the research methodology of History.

26.10.2021 – F.Y.B.A. – Display of Egyptian Artefacts, shown to the students virtually, of a personal collection to give them a real-time feel of the culture of the periods which they are studying. The Egyptian period paintings on papyri, the sculptural and architectural wonders of the busts of Tutenkhamen, Cleopatra, the Pyramids, obelisk, all mesmerised the students.

30.10.2021 – F.Y.B.A. - Demonstration of Egyptian Hieroglyphic Script and its decipherment and its equivalent language today.

04.02.2022 – T.Y.B.A. - Demonstration of 'Bharatnatyam Dance Mudras' was made by our very own student Bhakti Rajarshi who is a trained classical Bharatnatyam dancer.

April 2022 – T.Y.B.A. students submitted presentations and assignments on rare and not-so-popular heritage structures in India with special emphasis on their architectural features. Through this, the department contributed to the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat activity of the college.

#### Movie Screenings

F.Y.B.A. – Screening of two documentaries on 'The Egyptian Civilization' by BBC titled 'Discovery of Tutankhamen's Tomb' and 'The Rosetta Stone' to help them understand the archaeological process of excavation and how the richness of the ancient Egyptians came to light with this discovery.



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

S.Y.B.A. – Documentaries on 'Biography of Louis XV – King of France', 'Napoleon Bonaparte – The Strategic Genius' and 'The Russian Revolution' were shown to the students to help them understand the landmarks and development of events in European history better.

T.Y.B.A. – Documentary on 'Discovery of Indus Valley Civilization' was screened for these students to help them understand the rich culture, town planning and heritage of our ancient past.

### Inter-department–

Hiroshima Day - 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021- Department of History with the Dept. of Politics organised a documentary screening session for the SYBA students to observe 75 years of the bombing. It was today in 1945 that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a Japanese city killing 80,000 people instantly. It was important to sensitise the students to the horrors of the use of atomic weapons. 55 participants were present.

Nagasaki Day- 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021- A Guest lecture was organised by the Department of History with the Dept. of Politics - Ms. Naineeka Rathod, a certified Japanese Language Teacher conducted this session. This session was organised to make the students aware of how Japan bounced back like a phoenix post the atomic bombings and the tremendous developments made by them. This lecture also focused on various career opportunities available for students in Japan. 52 participants were present.

### Contribution of Dept to Corporate Life of the College

Dr. Sandhya Pandit is in charge of the Academic Calendar Committee, Co-ordinator of the Curriculum Design and Compilation Committee and is appointed as the NSS Programme Officer. She was a Class teacher for one term and is also a mentor to the FYBA students.

### Teacher Activities: Dr. Sandhya Pandit

17.02.2022–Invited to deliver the Phadke Memorial Lecture at the MES Abasaheb Garware College, Pune to their UG and PG History special students. This was to acquaint the students with the rich heritage and culture of Pune city where they would be spending the next 5 years of their life.

March, 2022 – Appointed as Moderator for HSC Board Exam of March 2022

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

**Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare, HoD, Economics; Dr. Meenal Sumant, Ms. Amrita Narke,**  
**Junior College: Dr. Bindu Nair and Ms. Bincy Devasia**

### Talks, Guest Lectures and Webinars:

A guest lecture to mark the inauguration of its Club\_MiRaNomics was held by the department on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The guest speaker, Dr. Sujata Khadilkar, Head of the dept of Economics at S.K. Somaiya College, Mumbai, spoke about “Sustainable Cities and National Smart Cities Mission in India”. On Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021, an Investor Awareness Programme on Financial Literacy in collaboration with Board Of Industry Academia Partnership (BIAP) was organized and Ms. Diksha Gogoi, Trainer for Investor Education addressed the students.

A guest lecture was organized with KES Shroff College Mumbai on the topic “Revival of the Indian Economy: A Bankers' Perspective” on September 17, 2021. The guest speaker was Dr. Kalyanlaxmi Chitta, Manager, Union Bank of India, a Banker by Profession and an Economist at heart.

In association with Unique Academy Pune, a webinar was organized on “How to Prepare for Banking/



SSC/Insurance Exams during Graduation” on 23rd December 2021. Ms. Mayuri Sawant, Faculty, Unique Academy guided the students on the time frame required for preparation, and various options and career ladders available after graduation.

A Two-Day Lecture Series on Development Experiences of India, China, South Africa and Brazil was organized on February 4th and 5th, 2022 for all TYBA and TYBCOM students. Ms. Arundhati Agate; Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, S. P. College was the guest speaker.

The Club\_MiRaNomics in association with Friday School of Economics, KES Shroff College, Mumbai organized a Panel Discussion on Budget Analysis 2022 on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Panelists Dr. Somnath Vibhute, Principal, St. Gonsalo Garcia College, Vasai and Dr. Avinash Shendre- Head, Dept. of Economics, Pragati College, Dombivali gave insightful interpretations of the budget.

The Annual PG Seminar was organized on the theme “30 Years of Globalization” on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2022. Ms. Ninawari Ware, Asst. Prof. Economics, ILS Law College, Pune presented an overview on the theme. Ms. Veena Kenchi, HoD, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, St. Mira's discussed the changes in the administrative structures and political frameworks, the ideologies that surround Globalization. A Research Paper Competition was also organized on the theme. A total of fifteen entries were received.

### **Student Enrichment:**

#### **Inter-Collegiate Competitions:**

Club MiraNomics organized an Intercollegiate PPT presentation competition on the theme 'Noble Laureates in Economics' on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. Ms. Shweta Natu, Assistant professor, Department of Economics, Kaveri College and Dr. Soniya Chavan, Former Head, Economics Dept, St. Mira's College were the judges at the competition.

Club MiRaNomics organized an Intercollegiate Economics Poster Making Competition on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 with Impact of Globalization on Women, Labour, Environment and Agriculture as the themes. 25 participants from various colleges participated.

Club MiRaNomics organized an Intercollegiate Economics Article Review Competition on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021. 17 students from various colleges participated in the competition.

#### **Contribution of Dept. to Corporate Life of the College:**

Faculty members are represented on important college committees like IQAC, Examinations, Prashnamanch, Credit Courses, College Magazine, General Knowledge, Annual Prize Distribution.

The department successfully conducted a 4 credit/ certificate course in Quantitative Economics from October 2021- March 2022.

#### **Faculty Achievements:**

Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare received a Ph.D. Guideship approval from SPPU in 2021-22.

Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare was invited to deliver a guest lecture on “An Introduction to Game Theory” at Garware College of Commerce, Pune on 5th April 2022.

Dr. Manisha Pimpalkhare successfully completed a Ten-Day Capacity Building Programme on "Exploring the Facets of Research" conducted by ICSSR from 18th August to 30th August 2021.

Dr. Meenal Sumant successfully completed an Executive Development Programme in 'Hands-on with



MS Office Essentials' conducted by Ramanujan College, Delhi; from 19th July to 3rd Sept 2022

**Students' Achievements:**

Ms. Muskan Gupta, TYBA Economics Special, published a paper "Privatization in India" in International Journal for Research in Applied Sciences & Engineering Technology (IJRASET) Vol. 10, Issue II, Feb 2022.

Ms. Ayushi Dubey, TYBA Economics Special, was felicitated as Best Student at the 19<sup>th</sup> Pune Book Fair 2022. Besides, she won 3 titles - Star Performer, All-rounder of Arthgyan; Campus Ambassador of Arthgyan 2021; Intercollegiate Eco Fest of KES Shroff College, Mumbai.

**Department Of Business  
Economics & Banking**

**Dr. Shalini Iyer, HoD,** Dr. Arwah Madan, Dr. Meenakshi Wagh

**Talks, Guest Lectures and Webinars:**

A Peer Buddy Session was organized for the final year commerce students specializing in Banking and Finance on the topic "Key Aspects relating to Stock Markets" on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021. CFP Himanshu

Mayne, CEO of Infinite Financial Academy and co-founder of Infinite Financial Planners coordinated the session with six CFP aspirants as peers. The session provided exposure to different aspects of the stock market and decision-making skills required for stock market investments.

A guest lecture was organised for the TYBCOM Banking and Finance Specialization students on the topic 'Practical Aspects of Paying and Collecting Banker' on October 8, 2021. The guest speaker was Dr. Kalaynilaxmi Chitta, Manager at the Union Bank of India.

**Industry-Academia Interface:**

An Industry Academia Interface was organized with CFP Himanshu Mayne, CEO of Infinite Financial Academy and co-founder of Infinite Financial Planners on the topic "Mutual Funds Made Easy" on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**Interaction with Alumna:**

An interactive session titled Education, Career and Beyond was organized on October 9, 2021. Our alumna, Ms. Pooja Sakate, Cluster Manager, Legal, Bajaj Finance, Pune was the guest at the occasion. Ms. Pooja shared the difficult path that she has walked to reach where she is today. The Interaction with Alumna Ms. Pooja on Education, Career and Beyond was emotional, motivating as well as inspiring for everyone.

A lecture was organized on the topic 'Careers Opportunities with RBI' on October 16, 2021. Our Alumna, Ms. Nanda Choudhari, Assistant Manager, Reserve Bank of India, posted at Bengaluru was the guest at the occasion. Ms. Nanda was selected as Young RBI Scholar while pursuing graduation which was a turning point to explore opportunities with RBI. She is working with RBI for over eight years now. Ms. Nanda Choudhari spoke of the opportunities at the RBI and the complete selection process in detail along with the salaries, allowances and benefits for the positions at RBI.

**Workshops:**

One week workshop on "Advanced Excel" was organized from 21st to 26th February 2022 for students across all streams. It was conducted by Ms. Radhika Patel, CFP and Certified Excel Trainer, Infinite Financial Academy. The workshop covered basic functions and advanced tools of Excel like Advanced Filter, Macros, etc. Training on important tools such as Linking external data, Power Query, Page Setup,



What if and Creation of Dashboard was provided.

Three-day workshop on “Mutual Funds and Personal Financial Planning” was organised from 8th to 10th February 2022 for the final year BCOM students specializing in Banking and Finance. The resource person was Mr. Himanshu Mayne, CFPcm, Founder and CEO, Infinite Financial Academy and CFO, Infinite Financial Planners.

### **Contribution of Dept. to Corporate Life of the College:**

The faculty are represented on important College Committees like IQAC and related Criteria, Examinations, Prashna Manch, Credit Courses, College Magazine, Website and Research.

The department has introduced a 100-hour Certificate Course in Stock Markets and Investment in the year 2021-22; the first course began in January 2022.

### **Faculty Achievements:**

Dr. Arwah Madan was invited as Resource Person, FDP on Research Methodology, Anand Vihar College for Women, Bhopal, (Affiliated to Barkatullah University, Bhopal)

Under the guidance of Dr. Arwah Madan, Ms. Anita Phapale was awarded PhD on February 11, 2022 for her thesis titled “Analysis of Employment of Disabled Persons in Nashik Municipal Corporation Area”

Dr. Arwah Madan was invited as Subject Expert, PhD Admission Process at the Symbiosis International University and Baburaoji Gholap College (SPPU), Sanghvi Pune.

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Dr. Rama Venkatachalam (HoD), Ms. Jyoti Chintan,  
Ms. Rajni Singh, Ms. Shanthi Fernandes, Dr. Deepa  
Krishnamurthi.**

### **1. Department of Business Entrepreneurship**

Dr. Rama Venkatachalam organised a webinar on '**Understanding Basics of Research in Business**' on 18<sup>th</sup>

September 2021. The Resource person was Dr. Netra Neelam, Professor & Deputy Director, SCMHRD, Pune. She explained the concepts of research and research design.

Dr. Rama Venkat, organized a workshop on 'Government Initiatives On start-ups' on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, for S.Y. BCOM students. Ms. Shivani Sinha led the workshop to make the students aware about the Government schemes for entrepreneurs such as Start-up India Scheme, Make-in-India Scheme etc.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh conducted a workshop on 'Business Planning' for Centre for Women Entrepreneurship to introduce to the participants the strategic approach towards business plan and provide hands on experience to help them learn the essentials of effective business plan, strategizing and major pitfalls in planning and execution.

### **2. Department of Mathematics:**

Dr. Deepa Krishnamurthi organized a webinar on “Line art as Stress Buster” for F.Y.B.COM students on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The session was conducted by Mrs. Richa Jain, a Freelancer Artist, Pune, who familiarised the learners with simple stress buster art forms like Zentangle, Warli painting etc.

### **3. Department of Business Communication:**



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan organized a Guest Lecture on '**Recent Trends in Communication**', spokesperson being the college alumni- Miss Sneha Singh. This session enlightened the students on how communication in the corporate world plays a huge role in shaping their career prospects.

#### 4. Department of Marketing and Business Administration:

Asst. Prof. Shanthi Fernandes organised a webinar on 'Trends in Digital Marketing' for T.Y.B.Com. Business Administration and Marketing students on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. Mr. Dipak Jadhav, Founder of Monkey Owl Digital Academy, gave practical insights by demonstrating the working of a good website and its strategy. Participants learned concepts like WordPress, Google Analytics, etc

On 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh organized a webinar on "**Marketing of Mutual Funds- A Financial Services Product**" for T.Y.B. Com Marketing and Business Administration. The Resource Person, Mr. Himanshu Mayne- A Certified Financial Planner, focused on various considerations involved in selling Mutual Funds.

Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan organized a visit for FY BCom Marketing students to **Phoenix Mall** on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The learners got practical insights on how sales associates interact with the prospects to generate sales.

#### Staff Achievements:

**Asst. Prof. Jyoti Chintan:** Successfully completed the **Two-Week Refresher Course in Commerce and Management** organised by Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College under the PMMMNMTT, ministry of Education from 25th June to 8th July, 2021 and participated in the **Five days National Level Online Faculty Development Workshop on Education 4.0** from 10th July 2021 to 14th July 2021 organised by the Progressive Education Society's Modern Institute of Business Studies (MIBS) Pune.

**Asst. Prof. Rajni Singh:** Successfully completed the **Two-Week Refresher Course in Commerce and Management** organised by Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College under the PMMMNMTT, ministry of Education from 25th June to 8th July, 2021.

**Asst. Prof. Shanthi Fernandes:** Successfully completed the **Two-Week Refresher Course in Commerce and Management** organised by Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College under the PMMMNMTT, ministry of Education from 25th June to 8th July, 2021 and participated in the **Five days National Level Online Faculty Development Workshop on Education 4.0** from 10th July 2021 to 14th July 2021 organised by the Progressive Education Society's Modern Institute of Business Studies (MIBS) Pune.

#### Internships:

**Ms. Prerna Pillay** from TYBCom Business Administration has successfully completed a one-week Internship as a Business Development (Fund-Raising & Strategies Development) Intern at JMES, Nagpur. **Ms. Prerna Yadav** and **Ms. Kirti Nagdev** from SY BCom Business Communication has successfully completed 3 months Internship as a (HR intern) at Tagrem India Private Limited, Pune.

#### Collaborative Activities:

**Social Outreach initiative** for an **NGO-Deep Griha Society** initiated by **Department of Accountancy** and undertaken jointly by the **Department of Accountancy and Department of Commerce** for T.Y.B.Com. and M.Com. students between September 2021 to February 2022.



### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY

**Ms. Elizabeth Kanade- HoD, Dr. Ms. Meenakshi Wagh, Dr. Mrs. Dimple Buche, Mrs. Deepanjali Mazumdar, CA Pratik Neve, Ms. Reshmi Alphonso and Mrs Komal Raisinghani.**

#### **Webinars and Workshops:**

The following webinars were organised: '**Online Share Trading**', for S.Y. B Com students on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Mr. Gilbi John shared the do's & don'ts and skills required for online share trading; **Demystifying Forensic Accounting: Discover, Analyse and Report** for S.Y.B. Com and T.Y B.Com students on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 conducted by CA Jyot Baxi and CA Bharat Jeswani. Forensic accounting, skills required by a forensic accountant, career avenues, the accounting skills to investigate fraud and other hidden irregularities in transactions by taking into consideration fraud risk management and investigation methodology were the topics covered.

The following courses and interactive sessions were organised: The Western India Regional Council of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in association with Savitribai Phule Pune University conducted a 36-hours course titled **Skill Enhancement Course, Train Earn and Learn** for T.Y. B.Com students from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Thirty-one students successfully completed the course; A career guidance session on **CMA US** course by CMA Jasleen Raheja, alumna, on 18<sup>th</sup> December, gave insight into the globally recognized course, its eligibility criteria, the subjects, the mode of exam, the time duration, the work experience required and preparation strategies; An interactive session - **Demystifying Budget 2022 for You and Me** was organised on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for final year B.Com students and PG students specialising in Advanced Accounting and Taxation. CA Pratik Neve founder of Zest Learning and author of TAXMANN's Cracker for CS Professionals and CS Executive level led the conversation with Adv Sukrut Deo; and **E Filing of Returns for Salaried Employees** was organised on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for final year B.Com students and PG students specialising in Advanced Accounting and Taxation. CA Pratik Neve, founder of Zest Learning and author of TAXMANN's Cracker for CS Professionals and CS Executive level, spoke to 100 students on the use of the new e-filing portal introduced by Income Tax Department on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The following workshops were organised: **Innovative Teaching Skills in Business and Taxation Laws**, organised jointly by the Dept. of Accountancy, St. Mira's College and the Dept. of Business Law Ness Wadia College, Pune on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021 for faculty under SPPU orienting teachers of BCOM and BBA to create an interesting and interactive classroom environment in the subject of law; **E-Registration of a Company** organised by the Dept. of Accountancy for the students of SYBCOM on 6<sup>th</sup> September to familiarise them with the process of e-registering a company; **Digital Warriors**, a three-day buddy learning workshop for UG and PG students by T.Y. B. Com students who had successfully completed the Western India Regional Council, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's "Skill Enhancement Course, Train Earn and Learn". Kajal Yadav, Sneha Sumant, Sachi Singh, Komal Soni and Anita Choudhari conducted sessions for thirty nine students who attended the workshop.

The Department signed an **MOU with ICAI, Pune Chapter** on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The MOU is an academic collaboration towards professional development of the students and faculty. The first collaborative activity was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 for SY and TY B COM students. The ICAI dignitaries highlighted the variety of roles that are played by CMAs and lifelong employment ensured for CMAs. The second collaborative activity was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022- Orientation session for Certificate in Accounting Technicians (CAT) by ICAI New Delhi officials wherein, CMA R.K Jain, Director, shared details of the course- syllabus, time frame, practical training in SAP and GST filing, personality development that the students will undergo as a part of the course. 5 students have enrolled for the course after the session.



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

### Field Visits:

38 students of TY BCOM Costing Specialisation visited **Mapro Food Park, Wai** on 26th February 2022 to understand the nuances of processing industry and nature of losses involved and the cost accounting method. On **3rd March 2022** they visited **Utopia**, a cold press oil processing unit, Kalyani Nagar, Pune in the offline and online mode to understand the nuances of the oil processing industry and to get insight into oil extraction.

### Research:

**Faculty:** Mrs. Deepanjali Mazumder peer reviewed the several journal articles for UGC Care listed journals, Shodhsanghita and Yash Publications.

### Student Enrichment:

**An Orientation for Moot Court** participation by Mansi Sail, alumna of 2018-19 batch and moot court winner, was organized on 19th February 2022, for the current team participating in the BMCC National Moot Court Competition. The team consisting of Sneha Suman, Kajal Yadav and Komal Yadav were declared runner up at the competition and won a cash prize of Rs.5,000. Ms. Ishshah Isabel was adjudged as Best Advocate and won a cash prize of Rs.2,000.

### Staff Achievement:

Dr. Dimple Buche was invited as a resource person to deliver a session on "Referencing Methods in Research Publication in Quality Journals" at IFEEP-4 at Indira College of Commerce, Pune, on 11th November 2021.

### Extra-Curricular Activities:-

Mrs. Deepanjali Mazumder attended a national e-conference on 'Impact of Covid-19 in Social, Economic and Educational World' on 25th October 2021 organised by Shri L.P. Raval College of Mass Media and Management Studies, Mumbai and an international research e-conference on 'Thriving in Digital Era-Innovation in Business, Science and Technology' on 13th November 2021 organised by OIM Oriental Institute of Management, Navi Mumbai.

### Outreach Activities:

The **Social Outreach** activity of academic coaching was started at DeepGriha Society on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Due to COVID-19, the children of DeepGriha were out of mainstream learning; 25 student volunteers assisted them through online academic coaching across all 4 centres of DeepGriha in English & Mathematics from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Standard.

### Extension Activity:

A workshop on "CCI- Sustainability (Corporate, Community, Individual); Waste segregation and disposal" was organised on 16th March 2022 by Mr Sathya Natarajan. Students conducted an awareness drive in different parts of Pune City to understand the awareness levels of women regarding types of wastes and its disposal with special reference to the Red Dot Campaign.

### Contribution of the Dept. to the corporate life of the College:

Ms. Elizabeth Kanade is the Internal Auditor Academics, member of the Academic Council, IQAC, Student Council Coordinator, Student Induction Programme Coordinator and audits NSS Accounts. Dr. Meenakshi Wagh is Member Committee- Criterion I and Criterion VII, Member of Mulya Pravah Committee, Coordinator- Pransha Manch, Coordinator- Moment of Calm pledges. Dr. Dimple Buche is Assistant IQAC Coordinator, Member- Criterion VI, Alumni College Committee Coordinator.



## DEPARTMENT OF BBA and BBA(CA)

**Course Coordinator – Mrs. Rekha Kankariya**

**Department Members – Mrs. Deepali Agarwal, Mrs. Amrita Basu, Mrs. Monika Rajguru, Mrs. Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi, Mrs. Kajal Jaisinghani, Mrs Jyoti Amate, Mrs. Annapoorni Pillai,**

### Guest Lectures:

#### **Workshop on Industrial 4.0 Revolution- 30th**

**July, 2021 :** This was in collaboration with ICAI BUSINESS SCHOOL, the resource person was Prof. Arun Prasad of IBS Pune. The speaker talked about the industrial revolution powered by steam, electricity, IT, and cyber-physical steams and discussed the last three industrial revolutions and how they impact us.

**Guest lecture on Recent Trends in HRM - 2nd Sep, 2021 :** A webinar was conducted by Dr. Nishant Kahdelwal, from SCMS, Pune for SYBBA and TYBBA-HR specialization. In the session, he highlighted the challenges faced by HR in the Industry with various examples.

**Guest Lecture on Telling A Data Story, 09th Oct, 2021:** Conducted a webinar in collaboration with the prestigious institute Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics, Mumbai, on data analysis through statistics titled Telling A Data Story for the BBA-BBA(CA) students.

**Guest lecture on CAREER ORIENTATION, 16th Oct, 2021:** A webinar was conducted by Mrs. Mayuri Gangarde, Senior software engineer (Accenture). She gave a brief introduction about how job seekers must prepare themselves by grooming their personality, enriching their communication skills, and definitely building their academic acumen, time management skills, interview skills, and goal setting.

**“YOU ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE TO MAKE FIRST IMPRESSION”, 08th Feb, 2022:** The session was organized for BBA-BBA(CA). The session was conducted by Prof. Mahesh Renguntwar (IM C/ISB/Symbiosis/NMIMS) from ISBM with the objective to impart knowledge on First Impression Management.

**Basics of Stock Market and Stock Analysis 21st March, 2022:** The resource person was Dr. Shweta Jain, Associate Professor, IQAC Coordinator, and Research Head, Pratibha Institute of Business Management, Chinchwad. She discussed the IPO book-building process, the significance of stock indices, investment analysis, and fundamental and Technical Analysis of stocks.

### Workshops Conducted:

**ICICI StockMIND Season 9, 4th Aug, 2021:** A workshop on the StockMIND Season 9 was conducted by ICICI Securities Ltd. for the SYBBA and TYBBA students. The speaker was Mr. Shubham Chourey, Marketing Manager at ICICI Securities Ltd., Participants were enlightened about the StockMIND competition, the meaning of stocks, its trading mechanism, and how this was a brilliant opportunity for the students to get an experience of the stock market through a virtual simulation platform.

**Analysis of Financial Statements and Revised Schedule III Format for the Financial Statements Date: 7th Sep, 2021:** A workshop on the Financial Statement Analysis was conducted by Ms. Radhika Kesarkar (alumni) for the SYBBA and TYBBA students. Ms. Radhika Kesarkar enlightened the participants about the Financial Statements and their revised format as per Schedule III Companies Act, 2013.

### Faculty Enrichment

**Mrs. Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi** has been re-appointed as an External Invigilator at the CBE (Computer Based Exam) centre for ACCA with effect from June 2021 and was appointed as an External Examiner for TYBBA and SYBBA HR projects viva-voce for MMCC college held on 11th August 2021.

Mrs. Rekha Kankariya was appointed as External Examiner for Viva-voce examination for TYBBA Finance at BMCC on the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th June 2021 and for Project viva voce of PGDBF and Backlog BBA at BMCC on 24th, 25th, and 26th Feb 2022. She was also invited as a paper setter for SPPU 2020-21 Term 2 examination held in June 2021, in the following subjects: M.Com Sem 4 Recent Advances in Banking and Finance in India, Recent Advances in Banking and Finance (External).



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

**Mrs. Amrita Basu** was appointed as an External Examiner at Garware College for BBA and BBA-IB for subjects of Microeconomics.

**Mrs. Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi , Mrs. Monika Rajguru and Mrs. Kajal Jaisinghani** attended a webinar on “Teaching Techniques in Covid Era to Make Online Classes Interactive” organized by ICAI Business School Pune on 13th August 2021.

**Mrs. Rekha Kankariya** attended an online Workshop on Syllabus implementation of TYBBA CSBS Pattern 2019 organized by Ashoka Centre of Business & Computer Studies, Nashik held on 6th Aug 2021.

**Mrs. Rekha Kankariya** attended a National Level Workshop on Innovative Teaching Skills in Business and Taxation Laws jointly organized by St. Mira's College for Girls and Ness Wadia College of Commerce on 7th Aug 2021.

**Ms. Kajal Jaisinghani and Mrs. Amrita Basu** attended a three days Workshop on how to write Research Proposal for M.Phil and Ph.D Admission from St. Joseph's College of Arts & Commerce, Satpala, VIRAR-401301– 27th to 29th September 2021.

## Faculty Development Programmes attended

Mrs. Rekha Kankariya attended One week FDP on “Confluence of revised guidelines of IQAC – NAAC to AUTONOMY and Bringing Excellence in Autonomous Institutions – Achieving CGPA 3.5 and beyond”\* in Maharashtra from 29th May to 3rd June 2021 organized by Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan, Maharashtra and Deccan Education Society's Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce, Pune.

Contribution of Department to Corporate Life of the College

**Mrs. Rekha Kankariya** is a member of the Exam Committee, IQAC, Academic Council, Admissions Committee, Purchase Committee, Magazine Committee, CWE, Feedback Committee, Grievance Redressal Committee, and Anti-ragging Committee. Mrs. Amrita Basu is a member of CWE, Student Council, Alumni Association, and InterCollegiate Event Committee. Ms. Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi is Co-coordinator of CWE, Website Committee, Social Media Coordinator, Social Outreach Committee, Sanctuary Committee, Magazine Committee, Tedx coordinator. Mrs. Monika Rajguru is a member of the Student Induction Program, Student Council Committee, and CWE. Ms. Kajal Jaisinghani is the coordinator of Placement Cell for BBA, a member of the CWE and Cultural Committee, and Coordinator of meatless day forms for BBA-BBA(CA). Mrs. Deepali Gupta is the coordinator of the Placement cell for BBA(CA), a member of Green Club, and the Criterion 1 committee.

## DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Course Coordinator: Mrs. Gitanjali Phadnis  
Anjali Kale, Swatee Sarwate, Ashwini  
Deshpande, Anitha Menon, Smita Borkar,  
Shubhangi Jagtap, Vrushali Paranjpe, Swati  
Pulate, Alka Gadakh**

### ● Talks and Guest Lectures:

An Expert talk on technology transfer in Data Science for BSc and MSc Computer science faculty on 26th Feb 2022. Event Coordinator: Mrs. Shubhangi Jagtap.

### ● Staff Achievement:

**Swatee sarwate** : Attended a FDP from SWAYAM on Integrating Education technology into teaching through NITTTR Chennai and another FDP on “Improving assessment through Bloom's taxonomy and rubric” under open education for better word by (UNESCO). Completed a foundation course in international certified career coach by Mindler, Career Explorer certification by IBM, and Certification in virtual youth counselling session by BOSCH. Attended an International E-Conference on advances in Nano Technology organized by Vaagdevi college and National Webinar on AI as an enabler for teachers in implementing NEP-2020 in Higher Education organized by ATSS's IICMR, Pune



**Alka Gadakh-Kalhature:** Attended 4 Days Online FDP on “Implementation of T.Y.B.Sc.(Comp. Sci) Syllabus CBCS Pattern 2019” conducted between 8th Oct to 12th Oct 2021. Attended a Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Assistive technology for enhancing learning and Inclusive education, concept recent trends and research challenges organized by IIT Bhubaneswar and VIT Vellore, a workshop on "Staitica -2021" organized by Hislop college, Nagpur, and a Workshop on Education 4.0-Role of Education technology

**Shubhangi Jagtap:** Attended National Webinar on Research, Innovation, and Ranking By MHRD Innovation Cell on 11th August, 2021. Attended webinar on Quality In Education: New Dimensions and Directions on 9th October 2021. Attended 4 Days Online FDP on “Implementation of T.Y.B.Sc.(Comp. Sci) Syllabus CBCS Pattern 2019” conducted between 8th Oct to 12th Oct 2021.

**Smita Borkar:** Attended 4 Days Online FDP on “Implementation of T.Y.B.Sc.(Comp. Sci) Syllabus CBCS Pattern 2019” conducted between 8th Oct to 12th Oct 2021. Attended a one week online Faculty Development Program on “Artificial Intelligence” organized by department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Dr. D Y Patil School of Engineering from 24th May 2021 to 28th May 2021.

**Vrushali Paranjpe:** Participated in online FDP on Python with Data Science on 8th August, 2021. Participated in five days national level faculty development program on statistical analysis using SPSS from 18th Jan 2022-24th Jan 2022 Completed 10 days certificate course cum workshop on technical writing with Latex 1st Feb -10th Feb. Participated in a national level workshop on Introduction to R programming from 3rd Feb -5th Feb 2022. Completed one week international faculty development program on Big Data Analytics 7th -15th Feb 2022.

**Swati Pulate :** Attended 4 days Online webinar on “ E-Content Development” from 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm organized by St. Mira's College for Girls Pune

**Anitha Menon** Attended National workshop on “Electronics Devices and its Application” organized by the department of Electronics, Shri Shivaji Science and Arts College, Chikli on 6th August 2021 from 10 am to 4 pm. Attended one week Short Term Training Program AICTE sponsored “Next Generation Wireless Technologies: 5G and beyond” held from 16th to 21st August organized by Indo Global College of Engineering, Abhipur, New Chandigarh. Presented paper “Study of Light Pipe in Room Illumination” in the International Conference on Smart Technologies and Applications 2022, organized by Ramco Institute of Technology on 11th and 12th March 2022.

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## DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS

### Department Activities:

“International Yoga Day” was celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. The Department of Physical Education conducted online and offline yoga, pranayama and meditation sessions for all the students and staff members.

“Azadi ka Amrit Mohotsav- FIT INDIA Freedom Run 2.0” was organised on 14th August 2021, Walking/ Running

till Osho Garden and back (2 kms) to create awareness of healthy lifestyle through Fitness among the students and staff members.

An online Zumba Session was conducted on the occasion “National Sports Day” on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021, our Alumni Varsha Gupta, a Professional Licenced Zumba Instructor, took the session to create awareness of fitness through zumba and dance activities.



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

21 days Suryanamaskar Challenge was conducted on the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mohotsav. 75 Crore Suryanamaskar from 11th Jan to 31st Jan, 2021 for all the students and staff members.

Annual Sports Day was organised by the department on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022. After two years all the students enjoyed sports activities on the college campus and checked their ability in various individual as well as team events.

International Olympic Day- 23 June, 2021 On this Occasion the department organized Olympic Quiz for all the students. This quiz tested knowledge about the Olympics Competitions and created awareness of the Olympics among everyone.

### Guest Lectures:

Due to the pandemic, everyone worked online and postural problems were commonly seen so on 14th July, 2021 a guest lecture was organised for staff members on Workplace Ergonomics- by Uma Karnik- Agarkar a Physiotherapist.

On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disability- An “Interactive session with Shri. Suyash Jadhav- Dedicated and successful journey towards the achievement of Arjun Award” was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021. This lecture was conducted for all the students and staff to motivate and encourage them to participate in various fitness activities and sports.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 a guest lecture on “Effective Asanas for Women's Health (PCOD/PCOS)” was organised by Dr. Manali Deo (Gharpure), Founder Director, Mind and Body Yoga Institute Pune and International Level Yoga Coach, Player and Referee)

A guest lecture on “The Secret of Fitness- India's Pride, Marathon Man and Guinness World Record Holder - Ashish Kasodekar” was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 by Mr. Ashish Kasodekar, (Long Distance Runner, Long Distance Cyclist, Basketball Player, Travel Entrepreneur, Guinness World Record Holder).

### Field Trip

A trek to Sinhagad was organised on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 by the department for all students to help improve physical fitness, mental fitness and social behaviour as well as to keep our environment clean and hygienic. There was a cleanliness drive on the fort and students collected plastic bags, wrappers and plastic bottles etc.

### Sports Participation Report 2021-2022

This year our sports students participated in 17 different Intercollegiate Sports Competitions i.e.- Badminton,

### Medal Tally for 2021-2022

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL	Participated
<b>International</b>	-	-	-	-	
<b>National</b>	-	-	2	2	3
<b>State</b>	2	02	-	4	3
<b>Zonal</b>	1	6	-	7	12
<b>Dist/Inter-collegiate</b>	12	19	18	49	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	15	27	20	62	



Basketball, Table tennis, Football, Volleyball, Yoga, Athletics, Kabaddi, Power Lifting, Cross Country, Fencing, Judo, Kho-kho, Handball, Hockey (trials), Cricket (trials). And 3 girls participated in National Level competitions, out of them two won bronze medals in power lifting competitions. Three girls participated in State level competitions and 12 students participated in Zonal Level competitions.

### Degree College Sports Report

#### 2021-2022

#### 1. Inter Collegiate Badminton Competition held at Pacific Sports Complex, Hinjawadi, Pune from 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 & 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

1. Ms. Zindu Ranade	T.Y.BCS	5647
2. Ms. Vaibhavi Joshi	F.Y.BCom	3081
3. Ms. Sonali Ghogare	TYBCom	4484

#### 2. Inter Collegiate Basketball Competition held at Bharti Vidyapeeth, Katraj & Ness Wadia on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 & 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

1. Ms Shweta Singh	F.Y.B.B.A.(CA)	12145
2. Ms. Sanika Punjani	F.Y.B.B.A.	22140
3. Ms. Shrushti Gaikwad	S.Y.B.B.A. (CA)	12043
4. Ms. Riya Bhalerao	S.Y.B.A.	2670
5. Ms. Khushi Pagare	F.Y.B.B.A.	22145
6. Ms. Rikshita Pillay	F.Y.B.Com	3286
7. Ms. Harshali Daundkar	T.Y.B.Com	4653
8. Ms. Lakshika Thawani	F.Y.B.A.	2417
9. Ms. Moksha Parmar	T.Y.B.B.A (CA)	11961
10. Ms. Pooja Pardeshi	F.Y.B.Com	3097
11. Ms. Nishtha Chulani	F.Y.B.B.A	22155
12. Ms. Abha Patwardhan	F.Y.B.A.	2216

We won the First Match with Nowrosjee Wadia College (17-12)

#### 3. Inter Collegiate Table Tennis Competition held at Symbiosis College, S.B.Road, Pune on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

1. Ms Tupe Mayuri	M.A.	6041
2. Ms. Shaikh Saniya	F.Y.B.B.A.(CA)	12114
3. Ms. Joshi Ojaswini	F.Y.B.A.	2475
4. Ms. Harshali Daundkar	T.Y.B.Com	4653

**Third Place  
Bronze Medal**

Our College Team secured Third Place in the overall Championship of Table Tennis.

#### 4. Inter Collegiate Football Competition held at B.M.C.C. College, Pune held at 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

1. Ms. Nishtha Chulani	F.Y.B.B.A	22155
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## St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

### MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

2. Ms. Pooja Pardeshi	F.Y.B.Com	3097
3. Ms. Vaibhavi Parte	F.Y.B.Com	3417
4. Ms. Yogita Chattiyar	F.Y.B.B.A.(CA)	12159
5. Ms. Janya Dudia	F.Y.B.A.	2241
6. Ms. Kaynush Chindhya	F.Y.B.B.A	22113
7. Ms. Aachal Sasanani	F.Y.B.B.A.	22135
8. Ms. Khushi Pagare	F.Y.B.B.A.	22145
9. Ms. Yukti Makhija	F.Y.B.A.	2245
10. Ms. Priya Jadhav	F.Y.B.SC	5417
11. Ms. Priya Sharma	F.Y.B.B.A.	22163
12. Ms. Harshal Rapol	F.Y.B.A.	2220
13. Ms. Anjali Godse	S.Y.B.A.	2652
14. Ms. Harshita Masand	F.Y.B.A.	2233
15. Ms. Aadirenu Shinde	F.Y.B.Sc	5408

#### 5. Inter Collegiate Yoga Competition held at Abasaheb Garware College, Pune on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

1. Ms. Kajal Yadav	T.Y.B.Com	4606
2. Ms. Soni Komal	T.Y.B.Com	4662
3. Ms. Kiran Choudhary	T.Y.B.Com	
4. Ms. Shana Shaikh	F.Y.BBA (CA)	
5. Ms. Sarita Paliwal	F.Y.BBA (CA)	12154
6. Ms. Sakshi Tandale	F.Y.BBA (CA)	12116

**Second Place  
Silver Meda**

Our college team secured Second Place in the overall Championship of Yoga.

#### 6. Inter Collegiate Volleyball Competition held at CACPE, Gultekdi on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

1. Ms. Anisha Narayan	T,Y.B.B.A (CA)	11951
2. Ms. Joshi Ojaswini	F.Y.B.A.	2475
3. Ms. Moksha Parmar	T.Y.B.B.A (CA)	11961
4. Ms. Harshal Rapol	F.Y.B.A.	2220
5. Ms Tupe Mayuri	MA	6041
6. Ms. Riya Bhalerao	S.Y.B.A.	2670
7. Ms. Shravani Jore	S.Y.B.B.A (CA)	12031
8. Ms. Sakshi Yelmar	T.Y.B.B.A.(CA)	11922
9. Ms. Tanu Singh	F.Y.B.C.S	5433

#### 7. Inter Collegiate Athletics Competition held at Indrayaninagar Sports Complex,



**Bhosari on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 & 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

1. Ms Punam Dube	M.Com	6659	(Javelin Throw)	21.41 mts	<b>Gold Medal</b>
			(Discus Throw)	24.22 mts	
2. Ms. Anushka Sarde	T.Y.B.Com	4251	(Hammer Throw)	22.40 mts	<b>Silver Medal</b>
			(Discus Throw)	20.00 mts	
			(Shot Put)	6.00 mts	
3. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawle	F.Y.B.A.	2480	(800 mts)	2.45 min	<b>Silver Medal</b>
			(1500 mts)		Participation
4. Ms. Punam Choudhari	T.Y.B.Com	4679	(100 mts Running)	13.73	<b>Bronze Medal</b>
			(Long Jump)	4.56	<b>Bronze Medal</b>
			(Triple Jump)	10.15	<b>Fourth Place</b>
5. Ms. Madhu Kadam	S.Y.B.B.A. (CA)	12018	(Long Jump)	3.80 mt	
			(Triple Jump)	8.39 mt	
6. Ms. Diksha Dhumal	S.Y.B.A.	2665	(Long Jump)	3.85 mt	
			(Triple Jump)	7.98 mt	
7. Ms. Joshi Ojaswini	F.Y.B.A.	2475	(Hammer Throw)	19.28 mt	<b>Bronze Medal</b>
			(Shotput)	6.30 mt	
8. Ms. Rakshita Pillay	F.Y.B.Com	3286	(100 mt Running )	16.08 sec	
9. Ms. Manisha Choudhary	F.Y.B.Com	3003	(800 mts)	3.30 min	
10. Ms. Ghanashree Pawar	F.Y.B.Com	3288	(800 mts)	3.80 min	
11. Ms. Afreen Shaikh	F.Y.B.B.A (CA)	12164	(200 mt Running)	32 sec	
	F.Y.B.A.	2300	(200 mt Running)	36 Sec	
13. Ms. Girija Bawarkar	S.Y.B.A.	2710	(100 mt Running)	14.81	5 <sup>th</sup> Place
			(200 mt Running)		4 <sup>th</sup> Place
14. Ms. Rani Dubey	F.Y.B.B.A (CA)	12169	(400 mt Running)	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	
15. Ms. Sneha Chavan	F.Y.B.Com	3422	(Javelin Throw)	13.65 mt	4 <sup>th</sup> Place
16. 4X400 mt Relay					
a. Ms. Punam Choudhari			b. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawale		<b>Silver Medal</b>
c. Ms. Manisha Choudhary			d. Ms. Afreen Shaikh		

Four students selected for the Zonal Competition

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Punam Dube      | 2. Ms. Anushka Sarde   |
| 3. Ms. Vaishavi Jawale | 4. Ms. Punam Choudhari |

**8. Inter Collegiate Kabaddi competition held at Abasaheb Garware, Pune on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



## St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

### MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

1. Ms. Sanskruti Tawade	F.Y.B.Com	3250
2. Ms. Shital Mahadik	T.Y.B.Com	4257
3. Ms. Vruksha Waghmare	F.Y.B.A.	2299
4. Ms. Sai Kachare	T.Y.B.Com	4220
5. Ms. Sneha Chavan	F.Y.B.Com	3422
6. Ms. Sapna Surag	S.Y.B.Com	3861
7. Ms. Rutuja Kawade	T.Y.B.Com	4279
8. Ms. Pranita Talekar	F.Y.B.Com	3245
9. Ms. Shravni Indalkar	T.Y.B.Com	4095
10. Ms. Pooja Salunkhe	F.Y.B.Com	3511
11. Ms. Aparna Thorat	F.Y.B.A.	2409
12. Ms. Kajal Yadav	T.Y.B.Com	4606

#### 9. Inter Collegiate Power Lifting Competition held at Poona College, Pune on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

1. Ms. Anushka Sarde	T.Y.B.Com	4251	Silver Medal
Lifted Weight -230 kg			
2. Ms. Joshi Ojaswini	F.Y.B.A.	2475	Silver Medal
Lifted Weight -160 kg			
3. Ms. Diya Varindani	F.Y.B.B.A	22159	Silver Medal
Lifted Weight -180 kg			
4. Ms. Lakshita Thawani	F.Y.B.A.	2417	Bronze Medal
Lifted Weight - 105 kg			
5. Ms. Khushi Pagare	F.Y.B.B.A.	22145	Silver Medal
Lifted Weight -110 kg			
6. Ms. Priya Sharma	F.Y.B.B.A.	22163	Bronze Medal
Lifted Weight - 130 kg			
7. Ms. Janya Dudia	F.Y.B.A.	2241	
Lifted Weight -110 kg			

5 Students selected for Zonal Competitions:

- |                         |                       |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ms. Anushka Sarde    | 2. Ms. Joshi Ojaswini | 3. Ms. Diya Varindani |
| 4. Ms. Lakshita Thawani | 5. Ms. Priya Sharma   |                       |

#### 10. Inter Collegiate Fencing Competition held at Abasaheb Garware College, Pune on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

1. Ms. Sakshi More	T.Y.B.B.A.	21926
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a) Epee Event

**Silver Medal**

b) Foil Event

**Bronze Medal**

She was selected for the Zonal Fencing Competition.

**11. Inter Collegiate Cross Country Competition held at Shahu College & S.P.P.U., Pune on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.**

1. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawale	F.Y.B.A.	2480	
2. Ms. Manisha Choundhary	F.Y.B.Com	3003	
3. Ms. Ghanashree Pawar	F.Y.B.Com	3288	<b>First Place</b>
4. Ms. Rakshita Pillay	F.Y.B.Com	3286	<b>Gold Medal</b>
5. Ms. Pallavi Adhagle	F.Y.B.Com	3309	
6. Ms. Sai Kachare	T.Y.B.Com	4220	

In Overall Championship, the college secured First Place and Vaishnavi Jawale was selected for the Zonal Level.

**12. Inter Collegiate Judo Competition held at Ness Wadia College, Pune on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

1. Ms. Joshi Ojwasnini	(84 kg above)	F.Y.B.A.	2474	<b>Gold Medal</b>
2. Ms. Kiran Baghel	(44 kg weight Category)	F.Y.B.Com	3498	<b>Silver Medal</b>

Both were selected for Zonal Competitions which will be held at Nashik.

**13. Inter Collegiate Kho-Kho Competition held at Siddhivinayak College, Karvenagar, Pune on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021 & 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

1. Ms. Afreen Shaikh	F.Y.B.B.A.(CA)	12164
2. Ms. Sarita Paliwal	F.Y.B.B.A. (CA)	12154
3. Ms. Sanskruti Tawade	F.Y.B.Com.	3250
4. Ms. Sonali Ghogare	T.Y.B.Com	4484
5. Ms. Rutuja Kawde	T.Y.B.Com	4279
6. Ms. Shital Mahadik	T.Y.B.Com	4257
7. Ms. Anisha Narayan	T.Y.B.B.A.(CA)	11951
8. Ms. Riya Rajput	F.Y.B.Com	3004
9. Ms. Kahkashan Shakil	F.Y.B.Com	3456
10. Ms. Muskan Kumar	F.Y.B.A.	2306
11. Ms. Disha Vishwambhar	T.Y.B.Com	4246
12. Ms. Shruti Math	F.Y.B.Com	3411

**14. Inter Collegiate Cricket Competition held at Azam Campus on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021.:**

1. Ms. Mayuri Tupe	M.A. I	6041	Participated for Selection trials
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**15. Inter Collegiate Handball Competition held at C.A.C.P.E. Gultekdi, Pune on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.**



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

1. Ms. Harshali Daundkar	T.Y.B.Com	4653
2. Ms. Rani Dubey	F.Y.B.B.A.(CA)	12169
3. Ms. Vishakha Sonawane	F.Y.B.A.	2434
4. Ms. Akanksha Pathak	S.Y.B.Com	3873
5. Ms. Nishtha Chulani	F.Y.B.B.A	22155
6. Ms. Riya Bhalerao	S.Y.B.A.	2670
7. Ms. Lakshika Thawani	F.Y.B.A.	2417
8. Ms. Priya Sharma	F.Y.B.B.A.	22163
9. Ms. Joshi Ojaswini	F.Y.B.A.	2475
10. Ms. Madhu Kadam	S.Y.B.B.A (CA)	12018
11. Ms. Sonali Ghogare	T.Y.B.Com	4484
12. Ms. Janya Dudia	F.Y.B.A.	2241

Two students selected for Zonal Level Competition

- a) Ms. Madhu Kadam      b) Ms. Riya Bhalerao

### 16. Inter Collegiate Hockey Competitions (Trials) held at Modern College, Shivajinagar on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

1. Ms. Anuska Mhaske	T.Y.B.A.	4798
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She was selected for the Inter-Zonal Competitions.

### 17. Inter Zonal Hockey Competitions held at S.N.B.P Chikhli on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.2021

1. Ms. Anuska Mhaske	T.Y.B.A.	4798	<b>Silver Medal</b>
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The Pune City Team secured Second Place in Inter Zonal Hockey Competitions.

### 18. Inter Zonal Fencing Competition held at Abasaheb Garware College, Pune on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

1. Ms. Sakshi More	T.Y.BBA	21926	Participated
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### 19. Inter Zonal Judo Competition held at K.T.H.M. College Gymkhana, Nashik on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

1. Ms. Joshi Ojaswini	F.Y.B.A.	2474	<b>Silver Medal</b>
2. Ms. Kiran Baghel	F.Y.B.Com	3498	Participation

### 20. Inter Zonal Cross Country Competition held at B.D. Kale College, Ghodegaon, Ambegaon on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

1. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawale	F.Y.B.A.	2480	8 <sup>th</sup> Place
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### 21. Inter-zonal Athletics Competition held at Indrayaninagar Sports Complex, Bhosari from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

1. Ms. Poonam Dube	M.Com		<b>Gold Medal</b>
Javelin Throw			



2. Ms. Anushka Sarde	T.Y.B.Com	4251		4 <sup>th</sup> Place
Hammer Throw				
3. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawle	F.Y.B.A.	2480	( 800 mt Running)	4 <sup>th</sup> Place
			4X400 mt Relay	<b>Silver Medal</b>
4. Ms. Punam Choudhari	T.Y.B.Com	4679	100 mt Running	6 <sup>th</sup> Place
			4X100 mt Relay	<b>Silver Medal</b>

**22. Pune District Amateur Athletics Association Cross Country Race 2021 held at Bloomingdale International School, Narayangaon, Dist. Pune on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

1. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawle	F.Y.B.A.	2480		<b>Bronze Medal</b>
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She got selected for Maharashtra State Cross Country Competition.

**23.. Maharashtra State Cross Country Championship 2021 held at Raja Ramrao Mahavidyalaya, Jath, Sangali pon 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

1. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawle	F.Y.B.A.	2480		Participation
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**24. Pune District Power Lifting Championship held at G-99, Fitness Academy, Pune on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

1. Ms. Anushka Sarde	T.Y.B.Com	4251		
a) Junior (Equipped) weight Category		76 kg		<b>Gold Medal</b>
Bench Press - Lifted weight		65 kg		
b) Junior (Unequipped) Weight Category		76 kg		<b>Gold Medal</b>
Bench Press- Lifted wight		60 kg		

She got selected for State Power Lifting Competition.

**25. Maharashtra State Power Lifting Championship held at Aurangabad on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

1. Ms. Anushka Sarde	T.Y.B.Com	4251		
a) Junior (Equipped) weight Category		76 kg		<b>Silver Medal</b>
Bench Press - Lifted weight		57.5 kg		
b) Junior (Unequipped) Weight Category		76 kg		<b>Silver Medal</b>
Bench Press- Lifted weight		60 kg		

She got selected for National Power Lifting Competition 2021, which will be held at Goa.

**26. National Level Bench Press Competition 2021 held at Fatorda Stadium, Madgaon, Goa on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

1. Ms. Anushka Sarde	T.Y.B.Com	4251		
a) Junior (Equipped) weight Category		76 kg		Fourth Place
Bench Press - Lifted weight		60 kg		

**27. Inter Zonal Handball Competitions held at A.W.Otur on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**



## St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

### MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

- |                     |               |       |                     |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|---------------------|
| 1. Ms. Madhu Kadam  | S.Y.B.B.A(CA) | 12018 | <b>Silver Medal</b> |
| 2. Ms. Ria Bhalerao | S.Y.B.A.      | 2670  | <b>Silver Medal</b> |

They secured Silver Medal in Zonal Competition.

#### **28. Pune District Classic Power Lifting Competitions held at Vadgaon Maval, Pune on 26th & 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

- |   |   |       |                     |
|---|---|-------|---------------------|
| 1. Ms. Anushka Sarde<br>(Junior Under 84 Kg )             | T.Y.B.Com<br>Total Weight Lifted 265 kgs    | 4251  | <b>Gold Medal</b>   |
| 2. Ms. Diya Varindani<br>(Sub-Junior Under 76 Kg weight ) | F.Y.B.B.A.<br>Total Weight Lifted 270 kgs   | 22159 | <b>Gold Medal</b>   |
| 3. Ms. Ojaswini Joshi<br>(Junior 84 Kg Plus Category )    | F.Y.B.A. (B)<br>Total Weight Lifted 255 Kgs | 2475  | Fourth Place        |
| 4. Ms. Priya Sharma<br>(Sub-Junior Under 63 Kg)           | F.Y.B.B.A.<br>Total Weight Lifted 150 kgs   | 22163 | <b>Participated</b> |
| 5. Ms. Lakshika Thawani<br>(Sub-Junior Under 76 Kg)       | F.Y.B.A.(B)<br>Total Weight Lifted 160 Kg   | 2417  | <b>Bronze Medal</b> |

Diya and Anushka got selected for Maharashtra State Power Lifting Competition which will be held in Mumbai.

#### **29. Inter Zonal Power Lifting Championship held at SSGM Science, Gautam Arts & Sangivani Commerce College, Kopargaon, Ahmednagar on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.**

- |                         |             |       |              |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|--------------|
| 1. Ms. Ojaswini Joshi   | F.Y.B.A.(B) | 2475  |              |
| 2. Ms. Lakshika Thawani | F.Y.B.A.(B) | 2417  | Participated |
| 3. Ms. Priya Sharma     | F.Y.B.B.A.  | 22163 |              |

#### **30. Maharashtra State Classic Power Lifting Championship held at Kamgar Kalyan Mandal, Dadar, Mumbai on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

- |   |            |       |                   |
|---|------------|-------|-------------------|
| Ms. Anushka Sarde<br>Junior Under 84 Kg Weight Category<br>Total weight Lifted 260 kg           | T.Y.B.Com  | 4251  | <b>Gold Medal</b> |
| 1. Ms. Diya Varindani<br>Sub-Junior Under 76 Kg Weight Category<br>Total weight Lifted 272.5 kg | F.Y.B.B.A. | 22159 | <b>Gold Medal</b> |

Both selected for National Classic Powerlifting Competition which will be held at Kerala

#### **31. All India Inter University Judo Competition held at Chatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

- |                    |            |      |               |
|--------------------|------------|------|---------------|
| Ms. Ojaswini Joshi | F.Y.B.A(B) | 2475 | Participation |
|--------------------|------------|------|---------------|



**32. Pune District Athletics Competition held at Indrayani Krida Sankul, Bhosari on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

1. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawale	F.Y.B.A.	2480	(1500 mt Run)	<b>Silver Medal</b>
			(800 mt Run)	<b>Bronze Medal</b>
2. Ms. Manisha Choudhary	F.Y.B.Com	3003	(1500 mt Run)	<b>Bronze Medal</b>
3. Ms. Girija Brawkar	S.Y.B.A		(100 mt Run)	Participation
			200 mt Run	Participation
4. Ms. Diksha Dhumal	S.Y.B.A.		Long Jump	Participation
			Triple Jump	Participation
5. Ms. Rakshita Pillay	F.Y.B.Com (B)		100 mt Run	Participation
6. 4X100 mt Relay				
a) Devika Burad	b) Girija Barawkar			
c) Diksha Dhumal	d) Rakshita Pillay			<b>Bronze Medal</b>

Ms. Vaishnavi Jawale selected for State Athletics Competitions.

**33. Classic Powerlifting National Championship held at Townhall, Alleppey, Kerala from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

1. Ms. Anushka Sarde	T.Y.B.Com	4251		<b>Bronze Medal</b>
(Junior Under 84 Kg-Bench Press)		Total weight Lifted 270 kg		
Overall Rank= 4 <sup>th</sup> Place				
2. Ms. Diya Varindani	F.Y.B.B.A.	22159		<b>Bronze Medal</b>
Sub Junior Under 84 Kg Bench Press		Total Weight Lifted 277.5 Kg		
Overall Rank =4 <sup>th</sup> Place				

**34. Maharashtra State Athletics Championship held at Indrayani Krida Sankul, Bhosari from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

1. Ms. Vaishnavi Jawale	F.Y.B.A. (B)	2480	(1500 mt Run)	Participated
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## Department of NSS

### Dr Sandhya Pandit and Manjita Kulkarni

The Department of NSS conducted the following activities to raise awareness and hosted celebrations to mark significant events and days through the academic year 2021-22 which were enriching for the students: Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav, April 2021; Virtual Photo Exhibition on freedom fighters and places of historical significance, April 2021; COVID-19 Vaccination

Mahotsav, 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021; CRSA Work, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021; 'World No Tobacco Day Pledge', 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021; World Environment Day, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021; Shiv Swarajya Din, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021; Maze Gaon Corona Mukta Gaon, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021; 7<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021; Panel Discussion on Eliminating Use of Plastic, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021; Tokyo Olympics 2020, July 2021; Swachha Wari- Swastha Wari-Nirmal Wari-Harit Wari, 22<sup>nd</sup> July



## St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

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2021; Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav - Singing of Rashtragaan, 05<sup>th</sup> August 2021; Webinar on Effect of NEP 2020 on Youth Empowerment and Sports Development, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021; Social Service Activity at Aundhe and Dongargaon, Khandala, 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021; Swachchata Pakhwada; 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021; Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav - Rainwater Harvesting and Water Restoration - Catch the Rain, 09<sup>th</sup> August 2021; Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav - Fit India Freedom Run Campaign 2.0, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021; Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav - Inaugural Address by Governor of Kerala on Webcast of SPPU, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021; Poshan Maah – 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021; International Democracy Day, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021; NSS Day Celebration, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021; Mazi Vasundhara Pledge, October 2021; Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav Cleanliness Drive on Gandhi Jayanti, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021; National Unity Day, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Vigilance Awareness Campaign, 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021; Constitutional Day celebration, 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021; Voters Registration, 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021; Self Defence session, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021; Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav - Victory week Celebration (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1971 war) visit to the War Memorial, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021; River Cleanliness-as a part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav; Worlds AIDS Day, 1<sup>st</sup> December; Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav- Rangoli and Patriotic Song Writing activity – 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav - Constitutional Day Celebration, 15<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021; Savitribai Phule Birth Anniversary Celebration, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2022; Swami Vivekananda's Birth Anniversary Celebration - Yuva Saptah, 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022; Suryanamaskar's program under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav- Tagline- "Surya Namaskar For Vitality", 14<sup>th</sup> January on Makarsankranti; Celebration of National Girl Child Day under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022; Celebration of National Voter's Day, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022; Voters' Pledge of SPPU; Participation in the 30<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of National Commission for Women Celebration, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022; Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav - International Women's Day on the theme Gender Sensitization and Gender Discrimination, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022. NSS Valedictory Programme, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022.

## Junior College Activities

This academic year gave the Junior College no respite from a very restrictive Covid-19 and, yet, the retorting spirit of the students and teachers was, to quote Oprah Winfrey, "Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new centre of gravity. Don't fight them just find a new way to stand."

**Day Celebrations Reading Day**, organised by the Library, was celebrated on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Junior college

students participated enthusiastically in the Poster Making and the Reading event. Nibedita Paul, Akshata Ghobale, Dania Vora, Gayatri Erande, Mayuri Ashtage, Shramika More, Shreya Bari, Erika Shaw, Devyani Pillay, Snehi Kotak, Vaishnavi Yadav, Devshree Karat, Zainab Shaikh, Renee Simon, Roohi Musani contributed elaborately to the topics: Covid Appropriate Behaviour and Covid 19 Vaccination.

**Hiroshima Day** was observed by the Junior College, on Google Meet, on 9<sup>th</sup> August in honour of the civilians who lost their lives to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to promote peace. Mrs. Anita D'Cunha, gave the introduction and stressed the significance of the day. Nicole Kenneth Aiman introduced the Guest Speaker, Miss Nainika Rathod, who spoke about the war and the bombing of Hiroshima Nagasaki. Ms. Veena Kenchi shared a video related to the bombings of the two cities. Pratiksha Chordiya proposed the Vote of Thanks.

India's 75<sup>th</sup> **Independence Day** was observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, virtually, to pay tributes to the struggles and lives of the people who gave us our freedom. The programme was arranged by the 12<sup>th</sup> Arts EM and MM, Political Science and their teacher, Mrs. Anita D'Cunha. The opening address was delivered by Mrs. D'Cunha, the sanctuary-by the coordinator, Nicole Aiman, and a serene and prayer service led by Rosalin Jiji. There were various art works, speeches, songs, and recitations contributed by the students to express their love and patriotism for their Motherland. The Guest Speaker, Col. Rajiv Dutta spoke on nationalism and patriotism, distinctly bringing out the difference between the entities and explaining the need for nationalism. The programme ended with a dance performance by Ashmeet Kaur Oberoi, and the vote of thanks was given by Anushka Khemnar.



The **International Day of Peace** was observed on 21st September 2021 by the 12th standard Political Science class. This day is honoured around the globe to uphold the ideals of peace, by observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. The theme for this year's celebration was 'Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World'. An introduction was given by Mrs Anita D'Cunha who spoke on the significance of the International Day of Peace it was followed by an informative video on the topic. The students participated in a discussion putting forth their views on peace. The event concluded with a video of Mother Teresa accepting the Nobel Peace Prize to inspire and motivate the students.

**Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti** was celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> October as a mark of our indebtedness to Gandhiji and Shastriji (who share the same date of birth). Mrs. Anita D'Cunha initiated the proceedings by playing Gandhiji's loved bhajan. Students researched on the life of Gandhiji, 'The Early Life' was illuminated by Krishna Soni and Donna Anthony, 'In South Africa' by Mayuri Ashage, Reshma Salve and Jui Naravne. 'The Return from South Africa till 1948' by Sara Shaikh and Janhavi Angal. An explained documentary on Shastriji was put up by Nibedita Paul and Roohi Musani. Mrs. Neena Dutta summed up the event.

**Ganesh Utsav** was celebrated on 18 September 2021. This festivity began with the *Ganesh Vandana* performed by Mira Wagh from XII Arts EM. The students of XII B presented a virtual tour of the *Ashtavinayaka Yatra* bringing out the religious, social and cultural significance of the event. Students brought out the glory of Lord Ganesha by drawing beautiful *mehendi* designs on a hand paper cut out with Lord Ganesha as the principal deity. This *Utsav* was facilitated by Mrs. Revathi Pandhare, Mrs. Bindu Nair and Mrs Bincy Prakash.

**Constitution Day** was celebrated virtually on Friday 26th, November by the Political Science students of XI Arts EM. Mrs. Anita D'Cunha gave an introductory speech and stated the significance of the Constitution. The traditional lamp was lit and was followed by the imperative facts of the constitution which were shared by Arpita Chaudhari. A PPT presentation was shared by Sanskruti Ingale about the values of the constitution and the right to freedom of religion. A skit on domestic violence was presented by the students highlighting constitutional benefits to oppressed and helpless people. Anagha shared information on the fundamental duties. Namra Tamboli gave a brief account of the historical background of the constitution followed by a speech given by Tejaswini Dahatonde in Marathi. Purvi Dixit made posters and other art displays. The Preamble was read, followed by a quiz organised by Andrea.

**Adventures of The Literati**, a Literary Arts venture held a Virtual Literary Festival on 27 and 28 of November 2021 to kindle love for Literary Arts among students and connect authors, readers and like-minded people. An initiative of our student Ms. Snehi Kotak and her love for writing and literature made her literary arts venture: *Adventures of The Literati*. Snehi founded it during the lockdown in 2020.

A heartfelt **Shraddhanjali** was offered to the first CDS General Bipin Rawat, Mrs. Rawat and all the men who lost their lives in the call of duty at our sanctuary. *Shaheedon ko Naman* was offered by the Principal, Vice Principal, degree and junior college, faculty and students. The nation mourned the incident and at St. Mira's we offered floral tributes, lit candles, Sara Shaikh and Nidhi made a short video on the life of General Rawat tracing his professional career and incredible life.

The **Christmas Celebration** for the year was organised by Mrs. Rewati Pandhare, Mrs. Bincy Prakash, Mrs. Jyoti Salehittle and our students. Nibedita Paul anchored the joyous event and compiled videos depicting the life of Jesus Christ and his teachings with a video titled, Christmas Story. Renee Simon led the prayer followed by Bible reading, Christmas carols, the Season's messages and Greetings, the vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Rewati Pandhare.

On **Vijay Diwas**, 16<sup>th</sup> December, a visit to the War Memorial, Southern Command, Pune was organised to offer gratitude and *Shraddhanjali* by the students and the teachers of our junior college. This visit would forever be engraved in their memory as they carried home deep reverence for the men who were killed in action during the '71 operations.

A tribute to the *Unsung Heroes* of our freedom struggle was the theme proffered for **The Republic Day**, Dr. Bindu Nair and Mrs. Bincy Prakash organised an event to not only celebrate our 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day but to make the students aware of the sacrifice and patriotic fervour of the nation's unsung freedom fighters who had richly contributed to our flourishing democracy. Students sang patriotic songs, gave speeches and made videos on the



# St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune

## MIRAcles 2021 - 2022

occasion of our national celebration.

**Marathi Bhasha Samvardhan Pandharvada** was celebrated from the 1st to 15th January. The extensive literary event was organised by Mrs. Asha Bhavkar. On 1st January songs, dances and one act plays were presented by the students. On the 3rd Marathi poems were recited and on 4th January for the literary celebration, Dr. Sujata Shenai, Assistant Professor at MMCC was invited for an informative lecture. The topic of a lecture was on the famous poet, Shanta Shelke and her life works. Dr. Sujata Shenai shared poems, life experiences and Shanta Shelke's thoughts on literature and the meaning of life. The *Pandharvada* was a salute to the richness of Marathi language and culture.

To commemorate the **Marathi Divas** on 27th February Mrs. Asha Bhavkar arranged an event in the college library, the true abode of Mata Saraswati. Anuja spoke on the prominence and depth of Marathi language, the Librarian, Mrs. Devinder Kaur read dialogues from Kusumagraj's, *Natasamrat* and Mrs. Asha Bhavkar read a few Marathi poems. Students also made posters to honour the day.

**The International Women's Day - Stree and Shakti** was celebrated on 8th March. The Principal

Dr. Jaya Rajgopalan, Vice Principal Dr. Shalini Iyer, Junior College Vice Principal Dr. Suvarna Deolankar, Junior College facilitator Mrs. Vibha Rathod and other junior college teachers blessed the event with their presence. The dress code was traditional Indian. Ms. Anita D'Cunha paid a tribute to the commendable women of India who are our strength. The faculty were honoured with rose saplings, a special mention to Rachael for making the invitation and Saisha for compiling all the work done by the students. Anagha Joshi performed a mono act and Rachael and Anuja guided the students to make amazing bookmarks for their teachers. Students also made a PPT on the glorious history of our college, our past principals and their efforts. It was continued with brief videos on history of Razia Sultana, Anandi Gopal Joshi, Kalpana Chawla, Rajmata Jijabai, Savitribai Phule, Ahilyabai Holkar, Kiran Bedi and Lata Mangeshkar. The poems: 'Empowered women empower women' and *Stree bolte mi...* were captivating.

### Extra-Curricular Activities (2021-22)

The students of 12<sup>th</sup> Arts EM presented the recording a virtual drama titled 'House Arrest' on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021. The drama reflected the atmosphere and the challenges faced by the citizens during the pandemic. The conceptualizing, scripting, editing and direction was done by the students under the guidance of Sawani V. The play will be a part of *Literary More*, the only student YouTube Channel facilitated by Sawani V and supported by a team of students of academic batches. The final video of the student YouTube channel, *Literary More* was published on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 titled – “Not Literary Less!!!” The presentation is an audio visual account of the series of events unfolding the journey of active learning of English Language & Literature for more than a decade. The director-facilitator, Sawani V aimed at guided and encouraged the students to continue the creative journey.

### Co-Curricular Activities (2021-22)

The students of Std 12<sup>th</sup> Arts EM actively participated in a virtual Group Discussion session titled – “Web Series – Nuisance or Novelty?” on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021 organized by English facilitator, Sawani V. Prof. Ashima Dhawan, UAE resident was present for the occasion and gave her inputs.

The students of Std 12<sup>th</sup> Arts EM presented their reviews in a Film Review Presentation session on 16<sup>th</sup> October organized by English facilitator Sawani V. Neha Ray, Research Scholar in Film Adaptations was present for the event.

### Student Exchange

The students of Std 12<sup>th</sup> Arts EM presented their SOP's (Statement of Purpose) in an exchange programme with a student from Flame University, Arwa Lokhandwala on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in a virtual session. The thought processes while creating comprehensive SOP's were exchanged by the young minds with a practical approach.

### Guest Session

“Let us Learn English” with Dr. Ganesh Mudegaonkar - a virtual guest session for the non-English medium students that provided relevant guidelines for Std 12<sup>th</sup> was organized by English facilitator, Sawani V. Dr. Ganesh Mudegaonkar is a YouTuber with 13,000 subscribers and is well known for his easy and simplified methods. A special YouTube video on the topic was uploaded by the guest for the Miraites.

### Faculty Achievements (2021-22)

Sawani V compered for the felicitation ceremony of Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Ambassador, Ex High Commissioner,



NHRC, Member organized by *Samvaad*, Pune. The event marked the achievement of receiving the Gujarat Sahitya Akademi Best Book Award for Dr. D Mulay's book '*Maati Pankha ani Aakash*.' Hon. Uday Samant, Minister of Higher and Technical Education; Hon. Dr. Nitin Karmalkar, VC, SPPU and writer Hon. Dr. Sadananad More, senior writer and scholar were present for the occasion. Sawani V's realistic short film (Creative Head, Research, Subtitles, Actor) based on the plights of the sugarcane cutters - right to education, child labour, unemployment, medical film scams, labour migration, superstitions titled, 'Sakharshala' (Sugar School) officially selected in Madrid Indie Film Festival (MADRIF - 2021), Spain; The Cinekid Screening Club, Amsterdam (2021); Mysuru International Film Festival (2021), 23<sup>rd</sup> Madurai International Documentary & Short Film Festival (MIDSFF-2021). The film was declared Winner at Indo French International Film Festival (IFFI - 2021) and CHINH, India Kids Film Festival (2021) and quarter finalist in 22<sup>nd</sup> APORIA International Village Film Festival (2021), South Korea. The documentary film based on endangered languages titled, 'They are Dying' selected in Vindhya International Film Festival (VIFFMP 2021), Madhya Pradesh. Dignitaries from Maldivian Government invited Sawani V for creative cultural exchange meet for a tenure of ten days. This promoted fair relations between two Asian countries, India and Maldives. Sawani V represented India and had the privilege to meet Maldivian National Awardees - writer, artist (painter), poet, diplomats, politicians, historians, entrepreneurs, media advisors.



### STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CELL

#### Hasina Shaikh

St. Mira's College formalized Student Aid so that maximum students can get the benefit of completing their education. We have scrutinized the process by verifying the documents of the students and giving aid to those who are deserving. This policy benefits students from the student aid fund. No student is ever turned away from a Mira Institution for want of money. This year 31 students benefitted from the student aid fund.

The Department of Student Welfare initiated the **MIRAS MED FEM HEALTH PROGRAM** for students on health and hygiene. Dr. Geeta Parwani conducted 03 interactive sessions on Menstrual Hygiene for FY students.

**Savitribai Phule Mahotsav** was celebrated On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022, by conducting an online seminar and a Poster Making Competition on the life of Savitribai Phule.

**Tribute** swere offered to the singer Lata Mangeshkar by all the students and staff of the College.

The Department of Student Welfare organized a **Nirbhay Kanya Abhiyan** workshop from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 with an objective to develop confidence among girls and become fearless women. This year the workshop was both online as well as offline mode. 20 girl-students from Christ College were invited to attend the Nirbhay Kanya Abhiyan Workshop. In total there were 70 students in the online and offline mode.

The first session on Self-Defence was conducted by Miss Maya Khadka on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022. She holds a black belt in Karate. She introduced simple techniques of self-defence which the girls can use to protect themselves in regular situations like bus travel. Ms Khadka demonstrated, with the help of volunteers, some very useful self-defence actions which the girls have to learn through regular practice. She stated that self-defence exercises must be practiced on a regular basis and not remain at a workshop level where most participants forget it very quickly.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, a second session on Harassment of Girls and Women at Home was conducted by Mrs Shakuntala Bhalerao, a social activist. She introduced the session with the help of a documentary film and then discussed the ways through which the harassment and exploitation is done. The students actively participated in the discussion and shared their experiences. The third session was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 by Mrs Alka Joshi, a social activist, on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace. At the beginning of the session, she narrated two stories regarding women security that to an impressive discussion. Mrs. Alka Joshi explained how violence against women is deeply rooted in the patriarchal structure. She further stressed the need to build support groups of youth to bring in change at social level.



## Library Report

**Mrs. Devinder Kaur (Librarian), Anandmayi Choude, Madhuri Ghandat, Asha Hingmare, Seema Ghule, Jyoti Napte, Karuna Gawali, Ravi Mataprasad, Sakhu Naik and Chhaya Pawar.**

St Mira's College offers a spacious library, computerized, up-to-date and rich in its collection of books and journals.

It stocks necessary preparatory material for various competitive examinations like the MBA, NEET, JEE, GMAT, TOEFL, NET/SET, UPSC, MPSC, etc. Material on interviews, group discussion, personality development, soft skills etc., is a part of the reading resources. Collections on/by our revered founder Sadhu T L Vaswani, our spiritual leader Dada J P Vaswani, religion, philosophy, biography and self-help are maintained to support the institution's mission of imparting value education to the students. All bonafide students at the college, ex-staff and students, members of the parent body, sister institutes and visitors are welcome to access the library.

### **Workshop and Training Programmes Conducted:**

**A 'State-wise Online Awareness on Access to e-Resources'** under 'N-LIST Programme' on 25th June 2021 for our college students, organized by INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. During this session account creation, issues related to access, e-journals, e-books, publisher sites & platforms were demonstrated.

An online webinar was organized, on Zoom, by the College Library on 30th June 2021 as a **Faculty Enrichment Initiative**; it aimed to promote quality online teaching-learning; to facilitate the accessibility of subscribed E-resources right into the LMS and to strengthen the Key-indicator 2.3 Teaching-Learning Process of NAAC Criterion II by the application of ICT resources and use of digital resources for making learning more creative and dynamic.

**'Library Orientation Programme'**, as part of the Student Induction Programme for FY Degree College students, was conducted online on 29th September 2021. It introduced the students to the library, its rich, print and e-resources and services available for them.

**'Leveraging Access to E-resources of St Mira's College Library':** A Webinar for students focusing on e-resources available under NLIST, EBSCO Databases, TOCs, and New Arrivals, including Online Catalogue, was organized on August 11, 2021. A total of 96 participated in the programme.

The following training sessions were conducted: **"Choose Right Articles for Assignments & Finding Case Studies with EBSCO Resources"** on 1st September 2021 on the virtual meet ZOOM platform. A total of 106 students from different streams & levels participated in the training; **"Research with EBSCO Databases for Music Therapy Topics"** for students of 'PGD-Music Therapy' on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021. A total of 10 students and 01 faculty participated in the training; **"Research with EBSCO Databases"** for students, on 15 November 2021 on ZOOM platform. It aimed to equip students with searching skills to access required information from databases namely- Academic Search Elite, Master File Elite and Literary Reference Centre. A total of 38 students participated in the training; **"Leveraging Access to E-resources of St. Mira's College Library"** on 29 November 2021 on ZOOM platform; **"Research with EBSCO Databases for Dance Movement Therapy Topics"** for students of the 'Post Graduate Dip in Dance Movement Therapy' course on 12 December 2021 on ZOOM platform. A total of 07 students participated in the training session; **"Research with EBSCO Databases for PG Students"** on 28th January 2022 on ZOOM Platform. This training was aimed to equip students with searching skills to access the required information from databases.



### Day Celebrations:

The virtual celebration of '**Reading Day**' on 19th June 2021, commemorated the annual remembrance day of late Shri P N Panicker- the father of the 'Library and Literacy Movement, in Kerala. We undertook various activities to motivate all to read and spread awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic. To mark the birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan- the Father of Library Science, the Library held a Book Display from 11<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> August 2021. This day is celebrated as the "**National Librarians' Day**" in India. The exhibition was visited by 16 faculty members. To mark '**Hindi Divas**', the adoption of Hindi as the official language of the union under Article 343 in 1950, books were displayed for a fortnight i.e., 11/09/2021 to 25/09/2021. The Book Display showcased different genres from our rich Hindi collection. A total of 18 faculty registered their presence. **Reading Inspiration Day** was celebrated on 14th October 2021 to mark the birth anniversary of our former President. Screening of a documentary on Dr Abdul Kalam, a talk on 'Reading' by Mrs Swatee Sarwate, book talks by 16 Miraites were part of the celebration. Event was attended by 252 participants. '**Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan Pandharavada**' was celebrated for a fortnight i.e., from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. With the aim to conserve the splendour of the Marathi language, the exhibition showcased Marathi collection on different genres. This arrangement attracted the students and faculty alike. A total of 36 students and 13 faculty registered their presence.

**Book Displays:** Throughout the year the library displayed books on National and International days of importance and anniversaries of great personalities of humanity: World Population Day, Indian Constitution Day, International Women's Day, Teachers' Day, Dada J P Vaswani, Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, to name a few. A total of 1823 books were displayed and 601 users visited the exhibitions.

**Provision of Previous Years' Question Paper** on the online catalogue by searching the term 'linkqp' for the link <http://114.143.146.202/w27/w27SimpleSearch.aspx>

**Help to Visually Impaired Students:** Library arranged writers, organised the seating arrangements and supervision for 10 visually impaired students of std XI for their Term End, ABT, and Annual Exams.

**Services and Facilities provided throughout the year:** The rack location of each book is available at a click of the mouse; images of book covers, book summaries and keywords have been uploaded in an online catalogue; faculty members are provided Current Awareness Services which includes -Table of Contents of journals and new additions to the library collection via college website' the Library maintains a blog: (<http://www.miracollegelibrary.blogspot.com>); the Digital Repository/Library provides access to e-resources such as: - previous years' question papers, syllabi, news clippings, etc.

**Pune Book Fair 2021-22:** Two students- **Ms Ayushi Dubey-TYBA and Ms Priya Garg** got felicitated at Pune Book Fair on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in coordination with the Library.

**"MAY I HELP YOU?"** is the motto of our library staff who are ever willing to teach, encourage and assist users.



## All Our Young Achievers



Ted X: Magic of Risks at St. Mira's



Student's Seminar Women in Theatre: Reclaiming Space

