



THE BHAWANIPUR
THE BHAWANIPUR EDUCATION SOCIETY COLLEGE

ORATEUR



A Special Magazine Issue By:



THE DEPARTMENT OF
JOURNALISM &
MASS COMMUNICATION

"OM"

dyauḥ śāntirantarikṣaṃ śāntiḥ pṛthivī śāntirāpaḥ
śāntiroṣadhayaḥ śāntiḥ | vanaspatayaḥ śāntir viśvedevāḥ śāntir
brahma śāntiḥ sarvaṃ śāntiḥ śāntireva śāntiḥ sā mā śāntiredhi |
oṃ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ ||

– Yajurveda, 36:17

May we be blessed with peace from the outer space/
heavens, the skies, the earth, the waters, the herbs, the plants, the trees,
all the Gods, and the Supreme Being. May every existence in the
Universe attain peace. May Peace find us all.
Let there be Peace; let there be Peace; let there be Peace!



Miraj D Shah
Vice Chairman
The Governing Body,
The Bhawanipur Education Society College

We applaud the Department of Arts (Journalism and Mass Communication) on the publication of another issue of the Magazine 'Orateur'. The magazine kindles the imagination of our learners. It is quite inspiring to watch and witness the potential of our faculty and students unfolding. Trying and testing times during the hectic semester system have elicited our students to put forth their best.

The management has always been supportive of the various activities that are undertaken by the faculty and students in view of helping them reach the pinnacle of perfection and professionalism in whatever task they take on, thus, strengthening our journey of achieving excellence. The special issue on the occasion of Durga Puja exemplifies the voyage transverse and exhibits the literary skills of the department.

We congratulate the Department of Arts (Journalism and Mass Communication), the Convener and the Editorial Board for their determined efforts in bringing out this magazine issue.

Wishing it a lasting Success.



Prof. Debjani Ganguly
Vice Principal

Arts Department,
The Bhawanipur Education Society College

The ongoing pandemic continues to change human lives across the globe. However, every dark cloud has a silver lining and the pandemic has also optimized the human capability of turning adversity into opportunity.

Last year, the teachers of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, The Bhawanipur Education Society College (BESC) were able to motivate the students to channelize their creative energy and talent in the shape of an e-magazine which gave way to the first special issue of the "Orateur". The project not only helped the students in nurturing their creativity and keeping them engaged in the period of lockdown but also provided them a platform for a hands-on experience of media content publishing.

But what is even more heartening to see is that they have not been content with one magazine issue only. Instead, they have continued the journey which has led to the second special issue of the "Orateur" this year. I congratulate all the faculty and students of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication for conceiving such a brilliant idea in the first place and being able to sustain the same despite the challenges on the way.

MEET THE TEACHERS

OF THE DEPARTMENT

Although she looks a little grumpy and mostly serious, but in reality, she always keeps a smiling face. She likes to play with colours, be it on the canvas or with her outfits. She is straight-forward, emotional and moody too



Ms. Shaswati Das

An old-school teacher, workaholic, stickler, problem-solver and perfectionist. He loves to do everything systematically, is extremely moody but caring, has an OCD for perfection and is always on his feet for the good of students.



Mr. Kapil Kumar Bhattacharyya

A dreamer who dreams one day the world will change, thousand flowers will bloom and humanity will prevail above all. She is associated with cultural activities and loves to recite.



Ms. Priyam Basu Thakur

A creative mind with a bent for teaching. In her spare time, she tries to take refuge inside her writings, music and books. She also loves singing.



Ms. Prakriti Sarkar

A tech-savvy, cool-headed person who loves spending time with gadgets. He is fond of mobile photography and video editing. When it comes to technology, he is the person you should look for. He is also interested in music and sports.



Mr. Sanmitra Dutta

She lives in the Potter world mostly, stepping out once in a while, to share her experiences with others. Occasionally, she sings and recites poems too. Though still a student at heart, she is now taking baby steps towards being a responsible teacher too.



Ms. Chalormi Mitra

EDITORIAL

Om Pūrṇamadaḥ Pūrṇamidam Pūrṇātpūrṇamudacyate |
Pūrṇasya Pūrṇamādāya Pūrṇamevāvaśiṣyate |
Om Śāntiḥ Śāntiḥ Śāntiḥ ||

"Om! That is infinite (Man), and this (Universe) is infinite.
The infinite proceeds from the infinite.
(Then) taking the infinitude of the infinite (Universe),
It remains as the infinite (Brahman) alone.

Thus spake the ancient Indian Sages that this Universe, a tiny speck of which is the Earth, has come into existence from the one and only Supreme Being (the Parama Brahman) whose very nature is that of infinity, and accordingly, the nature of Supreme Being's infinity pervades every passing moment of the history of the humankind, ever leading it forward towards exploring further possibilities of infinity in the future as well. Simply put, infinity is very well the source and the preserver, and also the future hope of humankind. This is in concurrence with the modern-day view that the world of today still remains one with infinite future possibilities for humankind, despite the fact that the world is yet to get over the pandemic. But then, perhaps the pandemic itself has thrown open the door of infinite possibilities to humankind in the new millennium. While it is true that the pandemic has restricted the tendency of humankind to physically move about freely as earlier, it has also expanded the scope of virtual activism, from social interactions to intellectual deliberations, for humankind with the help of digital technologies. The present endeavour is an outcome of such intellectual deliberations virtually initiated and accomplished through the digital platform, despite the varied nature of restrictions of physical confinement of all the individuals involved with the same.

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (JMC) was established in The Bhawanipur Education Society College (BESC) in the year 2014 under the aegis of the University of Calcutta. Initially, the subject was offered to the students as a General Elective only. In 2016, the Department started offering Honours course to aspiring students. Today, the JMC family has steadily expanded to more than one hundred and fifty (150) Honours and General students at the undergraduate level. We, at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, believe in offering academic excellence combined with professional competency to all our students towards preparing them for the dynamic opportunities and real-life challenges awaiting them in the future in both higher education and professional opportunities associated with the subject.



The focus of the Department has constantly been on making the students self-reliant by encouraging them to unravel their own potentials as emphasized in the ideal of uddharedātmanātmānam (elevation of the self by the self) in the Bhagavad Gita, driven by innovative teacher-student interaction techniques that seek to empower the students realistically, within circumstantial limitations, going beyond the usual and routine expectations of intellectual enrichment of the students.

Thus, when the pandemic broke out in India last year resulting in a complete breakdown of face-to-face communication between the teachers and the students, a suitable alternative had to be found as the natural enthusiasm among the students towards classroom learning was understandably found to be diminishing significantly despite online classes being introduced almost immediately by The Bhawanipur Education Society College (BESC). Under such circumstances, the Department decided to initiate and experiment with innovative ideas towards engaging the students in the fun of learning which resulted in the accomplishment of the first special issue of the Departmental magazine titled "ORATEUR" last year.

The primary objective behind the initiative was to promote renewed enthusiasm and vigour among the students and ensure their mental well-being too during the pandemic by providing them a platform to explore and express their creative thoughts and ideas instead of remaining both physically and mentally stuck in their homes. The second objective was to give the students a practical learning experience even from their homes by simulating the environment of an actual publishing industry experience, within the imposed limitations, which would familiarize them with a basic idea of the process of online media content publishing. Keeping this in mind, actual industry working tools such as anonymous peer review, plagiarism checking, magazine designing, and so on were introduced towards maintaining transparency and objectivity and simulation of a real industry experience. Remaining true to this vision, the present Puja Special Issue of the "Orateur" too, like the earlier one, has been managed entirely by the students themselves under the general supervision of the teachers only.

In response to the call for submissions, more than two hundred (200) submissions were received this time which included a wide variety of content comprising of features, poems, plays, short stories, essays, expert interviews, cooking recipes, photographs, doodles, cartoons, mandala art and so on of which only around a hundred (100) submissions could make the final cut. This, however, is not to be assumed as a reflection of the poor quality of those submissions that could not be included in the present issue. It only reflects the rigours of the modern-day media publishing industry where only the best can make it to the final cut ultimately. It also reflects the tremendous creative potential among the students and their ability to stay mentally active and intellectually inclined even during and following difficult times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, practically experienced by humankind in recent memory.



The present endeavour could not have been possible without the generous support of the college authorities. On behalf of the entire Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, The Bhawanipur Education Society College (BESC), I express heartfelt gratitude to the College Governing Body which has consistently and whole-heartedly supported the Department all through since its inception. I also heartily thank **Dr. Subhabrata Gangopadhyay (Teacher-In-Charge, BESC)** and **Smt. Debjani Ganguly (Vice Principal, Arts, BESC)** for their constant guidance, support, and motivation, and giving the department the wings to explore new contours with the emerging times.

My special heartfelt thanks are due to **Ms. Shaswati Das (Faculty, JMC)** and **Mr. Sanmitra Dutta (Faculty, JMC)** for giving their valuable time and insights as also to the young minds/students at work [**Ms. Ananya Dey (Designing)**, **Ms. Khyati Shah (Designing)**, **Ms. Awantika Rai (Content Management)**, **Ms. Diya Shah (Content Management)**, **Ms. Bipasha Chhetri (Content Management)**, **Ms. Shreyasi Sanyal (Content Management)**] for their dedication towards the making of the present issue. Last but not the least, I thank all the other faculty members and students who may have contributed to the making of the present magazine issue in one way or the other. Without your willingness, dedication, and commitment, the present magazine issue would have remained a distant dream only. I also hope that the experience that you have gained from the entire exercise will hold you in good stead in the future as well.

Looking ahead, Team Orateur, as a bunch of like-minded passionate explorers of creativity, keenly looks forward to the observations and suggestions of the readers towards improving the magazine in the future as a platform for the young minds to explore and express their creative thoughts and ideas as also for expansion of the horizons of their professional competencies despite spatial and temporal limitations. In the end, I only hope that the present magazine issue will give you all as much joy as it has given to all the individuals involved with its making!

-Dr. Kapil Kumar Bhattacharyya



Alumni Speak

The journey at JMC, BESC was incredible. The teachers were very supportive and it was one kind of an experience. I have learned a lot from here and it stays for the rest of my life now.

- Raksha Choraria (Batch of 2017-2020)

The Department of Arts has been a very helpful lot of teachers and professors, guiding and helping us to become successful in our careers. The standard of equipment in the Journalism & Mass Communication department is inarguably the highest among colleges accredited to Calcutta University. It has been three eventful, positive, and productive years at The Bhawanipur Education Society College studying Bachelor of Arts in Journalism & Mass Communication.

- Bhavya Hemal Doshi (Batch of 2017-2020)

The JMC faculty group is a blessing. They teach from the heart and are the best teachers you can get to learn professional skills.

- Ayushi Sharma (Batch of 2016-2019)

One of the best education faculty with amazing teachers. Spent the best three years of my life learning. The atmosphere was comforting to new students and teachers guide students like mentors. Teachers of Journalism and Mass Communication were always there for me whenever I needed someone to guide me regarding my studies and other problems.

- Harsha Soni (Batch of 2017-2020)

It was a great experience studying at BESC.

- Lopamudra Saha (Batch of 2017-2020)

Friendly faculty. Good stage to put relevant questions for better clarity on the subject. The hardworking stand to get opportunities.

- Yash Jhunjhunwala (Batch of 2017-2020)

Great experience overall! Totally appreciate the efforts of the institute and the faculty members who managed to hold the ceremony even during this tough situation. Thanks to all!

- Simran Bhardwaj (Batch of 2017-2020)

The best thing about the entire department was the kind of teachers we got. They were more like our friends. I developed as a person while I actively participated in various events as well as focused on a wider scope of academics. It was an amazing experience studying here.

- Dhristi Shah (Batch of 2017-2020)

The most amazing part of studying at Bhawanipur college was the mixture of experience with youthful vibrance that the faculty members tried to exude every day. From them, we learned patience, courage, and most of all regained faith in our abilities. Excluding this, the safe space given to us to interact openly aided me to form friendships for a lifetime!

- Nitin Waghela (Batch of 2017-2020)

It was a great journey. The institution has given me a lot and I am going to embrace it for a very long time. The teachers have been supportive throughout and without their guidance, the journey would not have been special. I feel extremely proud to have graduated from such a wonderful institution.

- Harshal Shah (Batch of 2017-2020)

My experience with the JMC Department was one of a kind. The teachers are very friendly, helpful, and supportive. They always push us towards extracurricular activities as much as studies. They will help the students to every extent possible. They not only cover the syllabus but also give us knowledge about topics related to it to help us understand better. The academic atmosphere is professional and easy. The infrastructure of the department is beautiful and serves the purpose well. The other faculty members always make time for the students to help them. The Journalism and Mass Communication Department is one of the best departments of The Bhawanipur Education Society College.

- Kamyra Raja (Batch of 2017-2020)

The BESC Journalism Computer Lab always felt like a familiar place to me. I have some very fond memories of my peers and teachers there. The Department has given me so much that it is overwhelming to describe everything all at once. I made some great friends here. I learned some of the greatest lessons of my life. And, my teachers are one of the best things to happen to me. By God's grace, I'm still in touch with them and I hope that it stays. If it wasn't for their constant support, Sanmitra Sir, KKB Sir, Manali Ma'am, Prakriti Ma'am, Shaswati Ma'am, PBT Ma'am, Arup Sir, I would not have been where I'm today. Ever ready to take my calls to answer queries, they've given me so much knowledge. Wherever I go, the Journalism Department of BESC will reside forever in my best memories.

- Jyotshna Agiwal (Batch of 2016-2019)

The feel of being a graduate is something all students wish for and despite the pandemic, the college made sure of making us feel special. Despite the prevalent scenario, the ceremony gave us the moment we waited for a very long time with all sorts of mixed feel and a sense of pride and happiness. Thank you so much for that very day which shall always remain with us.

- Shelly Maloo (Batch of 2017-2020)

When I walked in through the gates of this institution, I was a nervous fresher, unsure of what lay ahead. Three years later, I stood as a graduate with a heavy heart, feeling like all of it had ended too soon. The college has given me three years of pure bliss, three years of unforgettable memories and experiences, and a lifetime worth of lessons. I never felt more at home when I was in these premises for here, I was never asked to choose between my passion and my career. Instead, I was taught how to harmonize the two by striking a balance, something that is quite rare in our society and culture. I was given the opportunity to hone myself overall, not only as a student but also as an individual- which is far more valuable. Here, all my decisions were supported endlessly, and whenever they didn't seem best suited, I was helped and encouraged to bring out the best in me. I cannot thank the faculty and my seniors enough for giving me the opportunity to prove my worth not only in academics but also in extra-curricular activities like departmental fests and fashionista. I have left with a grieved heart but a satisfied soul, for I'm convinced that the "college life" that I've lived, the "college life" that The Bhawanipur Education Society has given me, is the best that the world has to offer, and nobody can ever change my mind about that. This institution faith in me even when I myself fell short of it. Thank you for believing in me. I'll always hold my teachers and the memories from my department close to my heart, and in my highest regards.

- Pratibha Singh (Batch of 2017-2020)

My teachers were the most supportive weapon that I can ever have. They have shaped us so very well in these three years. The college has even provided us with many facilities which really helped us in many ways. Proud to be a part of BESC.

- Anisha Thapa (Batch of 2017-2020)

I had three amazing years in college. All my teachers and faculty members were really helpful. I learned and experienced so many things.

- Shreya Golchha (Batch of 2017-2020)





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ORATEUR



**DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND
MASS COMMUNICATION**

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ORATEUR

Let Creativity Flow Unhindered

Inkitt



Education During Pandemic

The current pandemic situation caused by Novel Corona Virus (COVID -19) originating from a wildlife market in Wuhan, China in December 2019 has caused a great damage taking away several lives, having a great impact over the world economy and influencing the educational system as well. Experts and medical professionals largely believe that the control of this contagious global pandemic is only possible through immobility, confinement and social distancing giving rise to the shift from offline to online mode of education to prevent the further spread of cases which in turn comes along with certain drawbacks as well.

According to UNESCO, the current situation has caused schools and other social institutions to shut down all across the world, thereby, globally effecting over 1.2 billion children dragging them out of the classroom in 165 countries out of which approximately 320 million learners are affected in India alone, with the distinctive rise of e-learning, where the teaching is undertaken remotely and by means of digital platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet etc.

A few researches have suggested that online learning has been shown to increase retention of information. This online mode of education has helped a lot to overcome geographical barriers. It is convenient, easy and has a quick access to online classrooms. E-learning has promoted the use of soft copy of learning materials at the present situation amidst lockdown where students are not able to collect the hard

copies for the study material. It has led to a massive rise in virtual meetings thereby maintaining the needs of social distancing and confinement without hindering the education of the students. It has also enhanced the digital literacy amongst people by inducing them to learn and use the digital technology.

Education system in India is still yet to develop in both the urban and rural areas. In a country like India where mid-day meal program is organized in order to attract the students to get proper education it is quite difficult to promote education during this situation where the lockdown has been imposed to prevent social gatherings leaving many people jobless which makes it difficult for the sole earners in the family in rural areas to afford uninterrupted internet facilities as well as a device required for attending online classes. As a result of which there is a disruption of education of the children belonging to the poor section of the society because of shifting of classes from offline to online mode due to COVID-19, most of the children are forced to drag out of school as their parents would be unable to afford to make their children attend online classes due to lack of smartphones and internet facilities and they are even forced to help their parents to make a living to sustain their families owing to their extreme financial conditions.

To conclude, the shift from offline to online classes has both negative and positive aspects as well. It's a boon on one side and curse on the other. To combat such cases the government needs to develop creative strategies in order to ensure that all children must have sustainable access to learning even during the pandemic as e-learning is benefitting the students immensely owing to its quick access and availability.

SK. Akram Ali
(Semester V-Honours)

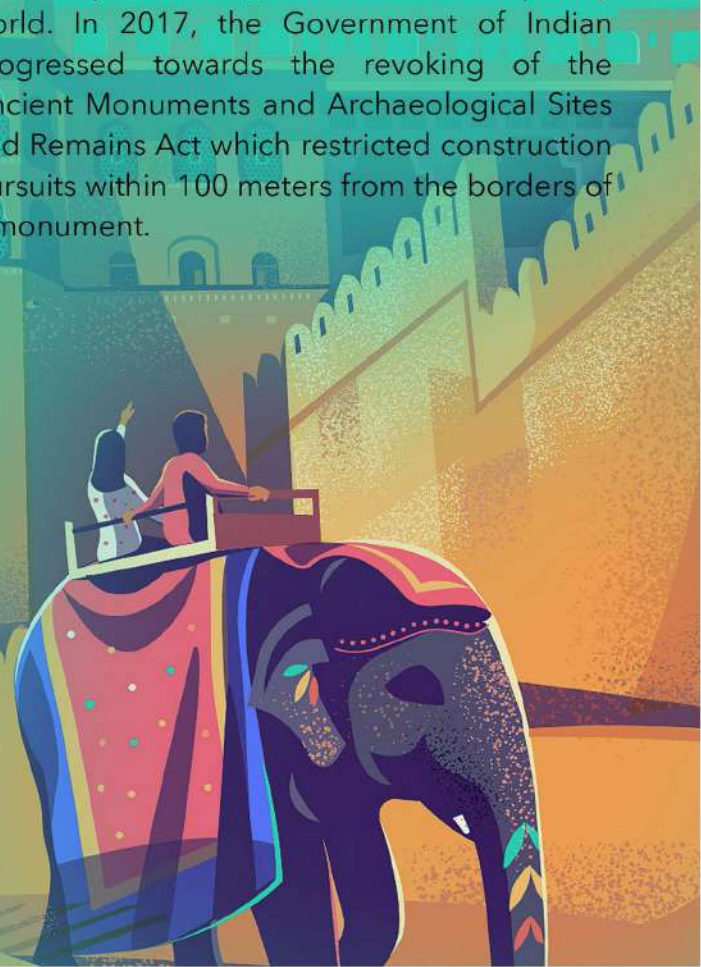
Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Development

The lavish satisfaction of using something to its fullest potential is incomparable. On top of that, it is in the very nature of human beings to adapt to and take all that is ever available to them. The evolution of life on earth has forced humankind to change and adapt itself to the enforced changes be it environmental, developmental, cultural, or societal. Yet, various natural and manmade resources need to be preserved for the sustainable future of humankind. Heritage too is no different from the rest. The task of conserving heritage is as significant as conserving the resources of nature. In fact, it is 'heritage' that plants a sense of belonging in our conscience and keeps us all connected. Heritage can mean different things to different people, however, in general, it consists of those articles, objects, places, and/or traditions of the past left behind by our ancestors that are worthy of preservation for the next generations. The world's heritage holds great historic values that have shaped humanity and its culture as it is today.

The world today, as it forges its way to development, oftentimes turns a blind eye towards the rich heritage that humanity has inherited from the past. Various places of natural heritage, for example, forests and ecosystems which are valued for their aesthetics and their contribution to biodiversity, are extensively being exploited for the resources they provide leading them to exhaust soon. The conservation of natural heritage would not only save earth as a planet but also ensure a healthy cycle of life. Moreover, the overconsumption of natural resources could also limit future generations from experiencing the beauty of natural heritage. Even places of historic heritage like

old buildings, palaces, and heritage sites are not being taken care of recently. It is extremely important to conserve such heritage sites as they are the links between the past and the future and provide immense knowledge of the origins and achievements of humans while reflecting and restoring their cultures, beliefs, behavioral patterns, and identities.

Besides, it is also important to educate the present generation to conserve the heritage properties of India as these can contribute immensely to the economic and cultural development of the country in the present and sustain it beyond the far future. Moreover, these heritage sites have high chances of becoming places of tourist attraction for their aesthetics and architectural appeal. This can, furthermore, lead to economic benefits to the country as well as to the communities living in such places. India, a country of rich historic heritage and various cultures, even today amazes tourists with its ever-beautiful palaces, temples, and other historic sites. The beauty of secularity invites thousands to India every year. However, the value of Indian cultural heritage is constantly declining in the contemporary world. In 2017, the Government of India progressed towards the revoking of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act which restricted construction pursuits within 100 meters from the borders of a monument.

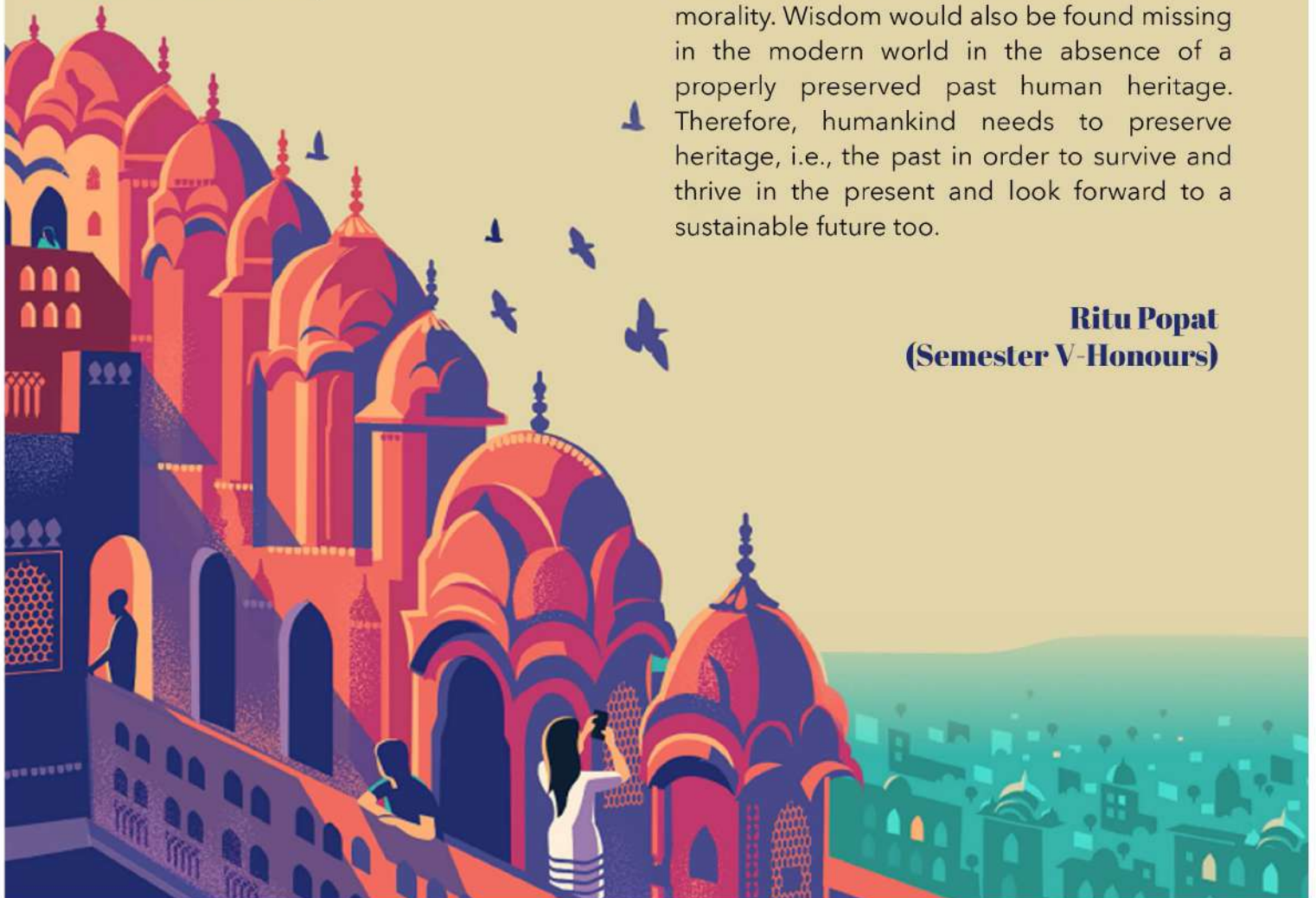


Supposedly, this act was hindering various public activities and limiting the development of the central government's projects. Such a decision of the Government of India was heavily criticized as it could herald the demolition of the country's various heritage monuments.

Alongside natural and historic heritage are practices of heritage that have been passed down to people from their ancestors. Language too, for that matter, can be considered as an important element of heritage. The invisible heritage of languages roots deep into people's conscience and creates a sense of belonging towards a greater collective into their minds shaping it in numerous ways. More such invisible practices of heritage like literature, customs, Ayurveda or medication, dressing styles, and traditions must be conserved in order to keep alive the foundations of human origin and shared beliefs and values. The world, in fact, has inherited all it has today from the past, and to conserve it is its duty.

Modernity and development nowadays indicate 'the end' as the near future of the world's heritage wealth. It is practically impossible for a mere human of the current times to demonstrate exactly how important it is to conserve heritage today. For a world with rich history and diverse cultures, humans exhibit a painfully negligible amount of worry and impulse to conserve the heritage the world is still left with. The impact of negligence towards the conservation of heritage might prove to be tragic for humanity. In the absence of heritage, there would not be the guiding force of family and cultural history; we would be left with doubts and doubts only as the heritage of the past also significantly moulds the lives and practices of humankind and generates a sense of togetherness in this fast-paced world. Thus, in the absence of heritage, human history would make no sense and the world shall be left with only ruins of remnants from the past. Humans of the future generations would never know of their origins and would fail to have concrete foundations of morality. Wisdom would also be found missing in the modern world in the absence of a properly preserved past human heritage. Therefore, humankind needs to preserve heritage, i.e., the past in order to survive and thrive in the present and look forward to a sustainable future too.

Ritu Popat
(Semester V-Honours)



Theatres in the Age of OTT

The pandemic has surely engulfed us as we can no longer do things as we want to in a sense it has quite successfully changed a lot of our preferences at least for the time being. However, the digital screen coming into play has made it relatively easier for people to deal with this grim situation. OTT platforms have come a long way since their first release with BigFlix from Reliance Industries coming in 2008. Though it never really got that much attention until Netflix and Amazon Prime came into the Indian market in 2016. But one thing is certain and that's the steady rise of these online streaming platforms. Till 2019, it didn't affect the theatres but 2020 was a game-changer year for the OTT platforms in India. Amidst a year full of unparalleled circumstances and restrictions as all activities came to a standstill along with the theatres, OTT platforms on the other hand gained the ideal boost by capturing the eager though befuddled audience.

The OTT sector in India witnessed a 30% rise in the number of paid subscriptions from 22.2 to 30 million between March and July 2020. And the numbers have gone on climbing higher and higher as newer series and movies have kept on being premiered on these platforms. According to a recent Boston Consulting Group research, India's OTT market is presently valued at \$0.5 billion and is expected to reach \$5 billion by 2023. While the global players like Amazon Prime and Netflix had already hit the mark of 200 million subscribers globally, even the Indian content providers like Zee5 and Hotstar grabbed above 20 million in the Indian market quite quickly.

Are these just figures or is it suggesting a shift from the conventional theatre movie experience to a comfier binge-worthy experience at home? Video streaming platforms have made watching movies more inexpensive, easy, and accessible 'on the move,' especially for binge-watchers. While we look at web series, there is no other alternative to these online streaming platforms but with movies which are usually for an hour or two, surely OTT platforms cannot be giving the same theoretical magic which we long to experience again. This shift is firstly a forced one and secondly, it's temporary in nature. Though many might say that OTTs are the future but the fact remains that the future has still not arrived. We will definitely get into the cinemas again sooner or later but for this time being, we have to be satisfied with OTT. Its not only about the viewers but even many filmmakers do not really want their movies to be on the OTT platforms directly but then holding on to movies for long has its own cost which might not be fruitful for the producers. Hence the smaller or mid-range movies have not only done well in the OTT platforms but the producers have also gained a profitable margin which in the end makes everyone happy. On the other hand, filmmakers like Kabir Khan and Rohit Shetty are still waiting for their big-budget releases but they don't have any intention of releasing them on the OTT platforms as they feel that their films are for the masses and OTT has still not reached that level to connect with everyone.



But what about the freedom that the filmmakers are enjoying? Freedom from all the restrictions which are usually put forth by the censorship board of India. As we say that content is the real king, it's only till the filmmakers are allowed to portray their story without worrying about the cuts and edits they need to make for passing the censorship. Well, this might be a good enough reason for more and more filmmakers trying their luck on OTT. Another interesting fact is that small-budget films like Nailpolish, Gulabo Sitabo, Choked or Kamyab that might not have made so much profit in the box office have had glorious success on these streaming platforms. The power of new media with the enormous success of the OTT platforms has given rise to discussions and debates on whether the mass mediums will eventually die.

Going out with friends and families and socializing with the whole crowd is still pretty fresh in our memories and especially the larger-than-life experience it provides is just irreplaceable. Be it Shahrukh or Salman, whistling on their entry scene is something that the masses will still be eager to perform. Theatre experiences are not just individualistic, it's a collective atmosphere of escaping into an unreal world and going through all the emotions which at last strives for a smile on our faces. The cinematic experience provided by 70mm displays with Dolby surround sound is unrivaled, and there can be no argument that some films are best viewed on these large screens.

However, looking ahead, it appears that both OTT and theatre are here to stay and not really compete with each other. While we might indeed see several changes in our movie-viewing experience in the theatre once it opens for all, both the platforms remain unique in their own right and shall continue to enthrall us with respective story-telling modes which are likely to remain etched in our hearts forever.

**Abhinandan Modak
(Semester III-Honours)**



The image features a central text element 'POEMS' surrounded by a decorative border of watercolor-style leaves. The leaves are in various shades of green and golden-brown, with some showing detailed vein patterns. The background is a light, textured green. The text is in a bold, black, distressed serif font.

POEMS

Beautifully Strong

*Look at you, you pearly delicate flower,
How you bloom assembling all your elegance,
Whether it's dark, it's stormy or sunny,
You fight it all and glow with radiance.*

*Yes you live not long, just a few days,
You bloom just once, and die in a stark way.
But, so proud I am, while delighting in your fragrance,
Yes, you live just once, but indeed in elegance.*

*Teensy little thing, barely of any use to the world,
Tiny, frail object of no utility, got blurred?
No, you serve the nature with zest and ability,
And though momentary, you live a life with dignity.*

*Isn't that what I should acquire from you?
Confront the obstacles, with a goal to pursue.
As long as I live, I will live in grace
With fire in my soul and warmth on my face.*

*Isn't that enough to live a life?
To fight the odds and accept the strife.
Don't bother the hurdles, just learn to grow
Light up the darkness with your beauteous glow.*

*Antora Chakraborty
(Semester III - General)*

A person wearing a red and black outfit is sitting on a black chair, leaning forward with their head resting on their hand. The background is dark, and there is a large amount of small, brown, rectangular confetti falling around them, creating a sense of motion and celebration. The text is overlaid on this scene.

Don't Quit

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.*

*Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow--
You may succeed with another blow.*

*Often the goal is nearer than,
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.*

*Success is failure turned inside out--
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So, stick to the fight when you are hardest hit--
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.*

*Binit Thacker
(Semester III - Honours)*

Good Old Days

*Take me back to those good old days
When playing on the streets was not a shame.
And being a wonderful teacher was the only aim.*

*Those days, Oh I miss those days
When food used to be cooked without a flame.
And being late for the game was the only blame.*

*Switch on the TV,
I wanna see my Shinchan, Oswald and Noddy.
And the cute little fights between Tom and Jerry.*

*But, unfortunately one day we all grew up
Now we don't wake up without a cup.
And greeting our friends has become with just a 'ssup'.*

*Oh, take me back to those good old days
If I had choices, I would pray.
Never to grow up this soon this way.*

*Bristi Dey
(Semester III - Honours)*

An aerial photograph of a tropical river winding through a dense, lush green forest. The water is a clear, vibrant blue-green. A small wooden boat is visible on the river, and a sandy bank with some structures is on the right. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Good Things

*I once heard an old man say,
Shaping vases out of clay
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.*

*But I told myself, I’d give a little more
To what sometimes seemed a chore;
And, you know, without a doubt,
Good things always came about.*

*Binit Thacker
(Semester III - Honours)*

Justice

*I woke up with a faint memory of yesterday night,
My husband forced claiming he had every damn right.*

*Responsibility of feeding masculine lust,
Don't raise your voice, giving in is a must.*

Priyadarshini, Nirbhaya, Asifa, Manisha - The nation has witnessed it all!

Till date, the rape culture stands strong and tall.

*I tried to shout, they choked my voice,
Strangled me to death. Hush, no noise!*

Candle marches, protests, outcries are common after my death.

"I wish I could fight", I murmured as I released my very last breath.

Tell me, the chances of the demons getting punished are really that bleak?

But Mother India, justice is all that I seek.

JUSTICE IS ALL THAT I SEEK.

*Sankalita Biswas
(Semester VI^{***} -Honours)*

Plea

*The world is crying in agony,
People are thinking it to be funny,
Open your eyes and see the blood oozing out,
Just sitting around paralytic won't help you around.*

*Mother earth is in grave pain,
Don't let her efforts go in vain,
The sun now never smiles,
The cuckoo never cries.*

*The filthy smell of terror and distress is spreading like cancer,
Happiness has divorced earth and seems to disappear,
Only praying wouldn't end the pain,
It's the flow of efforts that would help you gain.*

*Bring back the ever-loving warmth of mother;
It's our time to be together,
Hold hands and protect her from enemies of despair,
If not prevent but allow her to repair.*

*Priyadarshini Mukherjee
(Semester IV*** - General)*

The Introvert's Notebook

*The clock struck seven, gesturing the rays to barge in.
While engulfing the room, the emphasis was on the crumbled papers in the bin.
The window ledge was adoring the bright rays as always,
And was also being observed keenly by a dizzy gaze.
The alarm clock rang to highlight the fresh start of another day,
With her drowsy gaze, she hastily made her way.
Having been freshened up and enclosed in a fresh attire,
"I will bring out a new version of myself", she resolved considering it dire.
The half open notebook on the desk pretended to be ignorant.
But could not hold itself from chuckling till the end.*

*Oishee Chakraborty
(Semester II^{***} - General)*

Expert Interviews



INTERVIEW

MS. SHIKHA MUKHERJEE

Ms. Shikha Mukherjee is a senior journalist. She has been the Alumni of the Jawaharlal Nehru University and has worked for esteemed newspapers like the Times of India and the Economic Times for over 20 years. She also worked as an independent journalist for 10 years. She has been contributing articles to several mainstream dailies and working as a political analyst for a national 24-hour television channel.

1. Madam, do you think that the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the circulation and ad revenue of the newspapers badly as layoff has already been in practice for quite some time?

Ad revenues are still not back up to what they were before March 2020. So, circulation got a hit, then it has somehow stabilized but is not back up to the old level and ad revenues, are creeping back but not to the original level. So yes, the newspapers were affected by the Covid-19 but many newspapers especially the large and national newspapers with deep pockets took advantage of the pandemic and its impact on circulation and ad revenue to further layoff people. It was savage. It is not only that the newspapermen were laid off, but they were also subjected to savage salary cut-offs, and over a period of time, in the last year or more, in all the newspapers there has been a first salary reduction, a second salary reduction and there has been a third salary reduction. Now, that is really crippling household budgets, it's also creating a kind of discontent amongst journalists.. Moreover, they have been functioning from home, which is also an expense at the end of the day. . And then the management

of the media houses has been telling them that the times are bad therefore we have to do this saying 'at least you have a job'. That is not a fair statement because neither the demand for news has changed nor the supply of news has changed. The newspapers are taking the advantage of this situation and continuing their practice to lay off people from their staff.

2. In your opinion how much does the press still influence public life and public perception?

Well, as I said, the newspaper is a source of information. But during the pandemic, as one observed, newspapers were not available. People were reluctant to bring newspapers into the house and they were watching a lot of television which means that the demand for information is certainly very high. Therefore, the role of media in public life and in shaping public perception is also very high.

3. You have worked with big media houses like TOI and The Economic Times. How did you manage the pressure of tight deadlines? Do you feel that it affects the quality of the content?

You go into the job of reporting knowing

that there will be tight deadlines. I was a reporter. If you went into the newspaper business, you knew there is a tight deadline. So, you learn to work within it. Either you worked and succeeded or you worked and failed. There are only two choices left. And does it affect the quality of the content? Well, you know it's like the quality of your work does not entirely depend on the time that is available. The quality of your work depends on the quality of your information, the quality of your understanding, and the quality of your capacity to write clearly and intelligently. So, you obviously get under the habit to work under pressure.

4. How did you ensure that your work remains accurate and factual? What were some precautions that you used to take for the same?

Since I continue to write and to participate in television debates, let me say that you have to be accurate and you have to be factual because if you're not, then somebody is going to jump on you. You can't invent facts and accuracy is a question of misinterpretation. I can't misinterpret a fact. What are the precautions? You do what every journalist does. That is: you hear something, you cross-check with one source

if not two sources, and then you write, and you also make sure that you've got your facts right as you take down your notes. That's it. There is no other way of dealing with accuracy. There is a sacred rule in journalism that facts have to be checked.

5. The COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly increased the use and role of social media in spreading awareness. How do you feel about the regulation of social media and its effects on journalism?

Social media and journalism are two different things. On social media, a lot of the work done by journalists is shared, first, uploaded, and then shared. But, the role of social media in spreading awareness has been huge, and I think that is one of the most positive things that has happened in the pandemic situation. If I look at how, for instance, just about a month ago when there were these oxygen shortages, and hospital bed shortages and people were not being able to access medication, the role of the social media in connecting people to oxygen to hospital beds to medication to clinics to vaccinations has been outstanding and it continues to be so. What everyone has to do is to post something on Facebook or on Twitter and there is an overwhelming response from a variety of people, some of whom you know and some of whom you may not know. So, yes, social media has played a phenomenal role in managing this crisis. If I look at how social media as an active means of communication intervenes during any crisis, the pandemic is just one. It intervened during cyclone; it has intervened during some other points in time. There is a huge value in how social

media helps in communicating and sharing information. Every government in the world is trying to regulate social media because social media has been used by a lot of people including myself as a way of being critical of power and of the government. And because I, as a journalist don't have to think too hard, frame my sentences carefully because I know there is no publisher, nobody is checking my writing to see whether it is appropriate to the policy of the organization. Therefore, I am free to write exactly as I want. And, this, governments of all over the world have found difficult. And there have been efforts now going on to regulate social media in Europe, Australia, the US, and of course India. And there has been a debate going on at this point in time about how far these governments should go and what is their purpose. I've been looking at some date and it is indicative that a huge number of governments, not only the most authoritarian governments like Russia and Brazil and China and for that matter even in India have been trying to curb and prevent social media to be used by critics and there are other democratic countries that are doing the same as social media makes them uncomfortable. And what are its effects on journalism? Well, journalism if you note now is constantly tracking what is being said on Twitter, what is being said on Facebook, what is being said on Instagram and therefore we are looking for the conversations and the information that is flooding the social media sites. So, on many occasions, conventional journalism depends upon social media for recent updates of news. For example, if you remember the incident of the Capitol Hill attack and the visuals of that attack

were first uploaded on social media and then the news media followed it up. They were looking for people who were willing to talk to them and share their visuals and tell them what was going on because the reporters could not be inside, but the people who were there were also recording it for social media. So, there was real-time information being shared. Therefore, the role of social media in journalism is enormous. It is up to the journalist to be responsible about how to use this. It is also the responsibility of journalism to make sure that the credibility and respect for the work that is published or broadcast or telecast by conventional media is such a quality that people continue to go to conventional media to confirm whether what is being said on social media is correct or incorrect. That is the responsibility of journalism. Social media can keep on doing what it has to do.

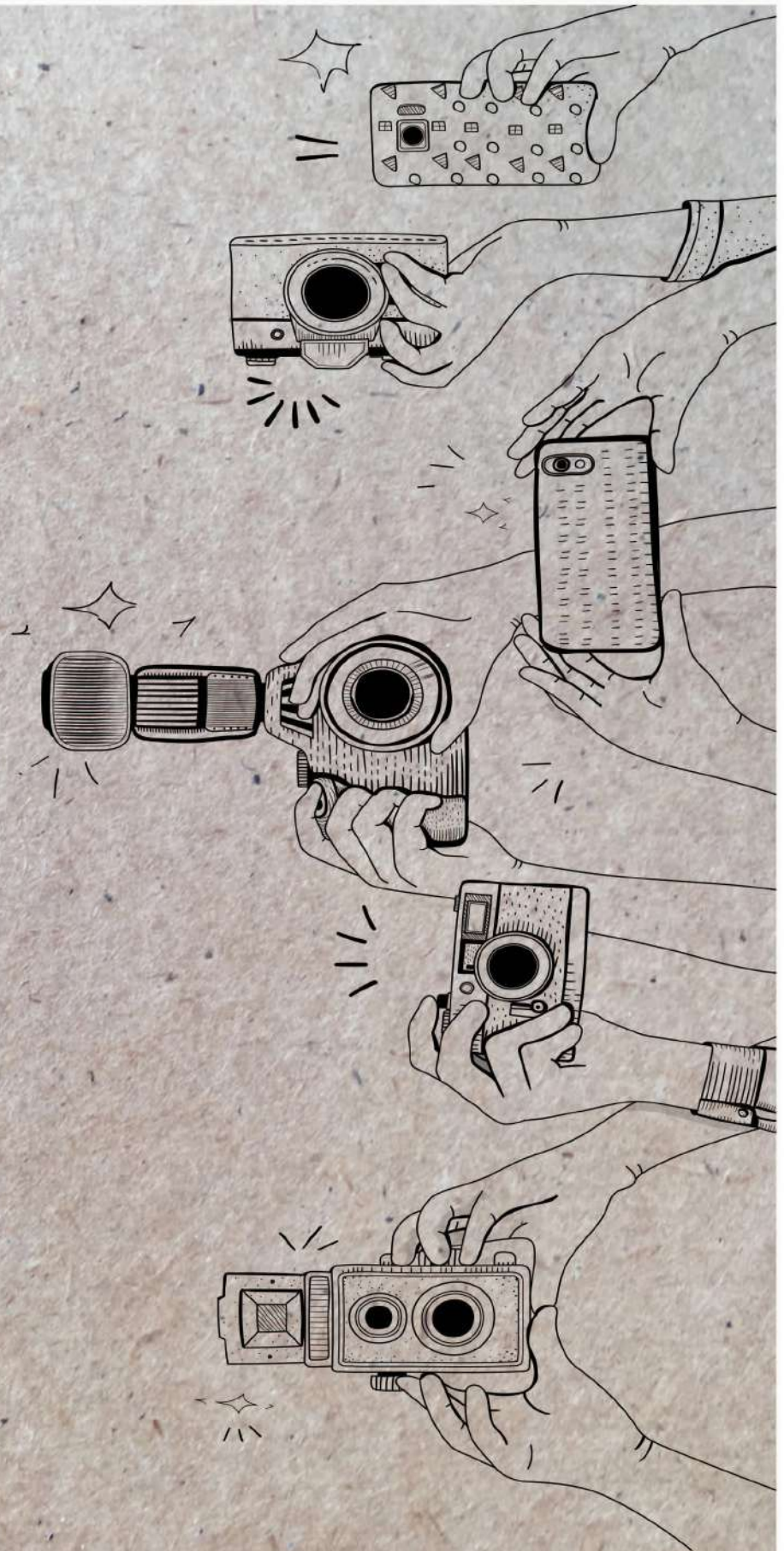
6. What is your take on how India is handling the second wave of COVID-19? How has that impacted the field of journalism?

Yes, it does. So many journalists are threatened. For the second wave in particular when the scarcities became catastrophic and it was clear that it is a manmade disaster and there was no preparation to cope up with the second wave. The journalists were threatened for reporting about scarcities such as people dying of no oxygen, no hospital beds under UAPA disaster management. So, the impact of the COVID has led to the truth prevailing over power and when there were situations of risk, journalists had taken that too. However, the journalists took some time

in acknowledging what Covid-19 was and how to interpret the information been sent to the audience because journalism performed a role of a lifeline to people who were worried about their relatives or dying so, it was a steep learning change.

7. Ma'am, would you like to give any message or tips for the aspiring journalists?

I don't have any message because why should journalists look for an aspiring message. Journalists have to be critical, skeptical and should take up challenges. The term responsibility for journalists is to continuously enrich and motivate themselves towards their work. The enriching part can be done when they read more and more about issues, must not limit to their backyard, must know about social media information. So, a journalist needs to be always updated with all possible information. A journalist has to possess the ability to write and not be careless about words being used as every word has a value and he/she must have a grasp over language be it writing or bytes taken on television. They must be crisp, accurate, and critical and must be able to access a whole lot of information on how clear and concrete it is. You have to live it, sleep it, eat it, and then only you can be a good journalist.



Vasundhara Bhattacharjee (Semester III-Honours)

&

Disha Jaiswal (Semester VI*-Honours)**

INTERVIEW

MR. MANIK CHANDRA PATRA

He is currently the DSP at Bhawani Bhawan. He has also received Prashansa Padak for his distinguished service from the West Bengal Police. The purpose of this interview is to know the role of the Kolkata police. It introduces the scope of work handled by the Kolkata police department with regards to their responsibility and duties in maintaining the COVID-19 norms.

1. Sir how has the role of the Police Force changed since the COVID-19 pandemic?

The major role of the Police Force which has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic is to vaccinate the citizens/people, to ensure that the people are safely visiting the vaccination centres and get vaccinated, to help the COVID patients get hospitalized, to ensure whether the public is following the COVID norms such as maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, sanitizing themselves.

2. Sir, apart from maintaining the Law and Order what are the other important responsibilities of the Police Force even during normal circumstances?

Apart from maintaining the law and order, the other important responsibilities of the Police Force during normal circumstances are to maintain decorum in public places, to ensure that justice is provided to people dealing with injustices of different kinds, to punish the robbers and other punishable crimes such as cyberbullying, domestic

violence, public crisis, to maintain road safety to ensure that no accidents take place, and to ensure if anything outside outside the permitted boundary should be held punishable as per law.

3. Sir what have been the major challenges before the Police Force during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The major challenges of the Police Force amidst pandemic are to maintain both the Law and Order and also to maintain the COVID norms amongst the public of the nation such as India with such a huge population. Besides dealing with everyday crimes, the Police Force now has the additional responsibility to take care of the COVID spread among the population. Also due to the vast stretch of lockdown, we have experienced a major rise in domestic violence in households that deserve our equal support and help.

4. Sir could you tell our readers a bit about the major initiatives taken by the Kolkata police to handle the pandemic situation?

We have very well planned the structure, we are going door to door to inform people about the guidelines to follow, we are making them aware of sanitization and hygiene. we are advising them to wear masks every time they step out of their homes. We have also provided a list of doctors if any person has symptoms or needs consultation. If any person is in an emergency situation and is not getting the ambulance then they can contact us. If any person has been tested positive and is isolated at home, we have requested the neighbourhood to co-operate and not to panic. We have asked the public to get the COVID-19 test done if they have the symptoms. We have also requested the public time and again to maintain social distancing and not to form a crowd at the market.

5. Sir what efforts are being made by Kolkata police to ensure the physical and mental well-being of the police personnel in this difficult time?

We ensure that every one of us does exercise on a regular basis to be physically fit. We are

prepared mentally beforehand for any health emergency situation we are in contact with the hospitals, ambulance services so if any of our colleagues need hospitalization, we can admit them on time. When on duty and while handling the COVID patients we ensure that all our colleagues wear PPE kits and also ensure if they are sanitizing themselves on a regular interval.

6. Sir many of our readers are young college students. What advice would you like to give them for their future lives?

Since all the college institutions are closed because of this pandemic situation, everything has shifted to online mode. So, students must study at their home sincerely and should attain regular classes, and if they have any doubt they should clarify with their teachers. Every student needs to take care of their health during this difficult time they must do exercise every day, they should also take part in social services.



Adrika Shaw (Semester III-Honours)
&
Komal Kumari (Semester III-Honours)

INTERVIEW

DR. RIA DAS

Dr. Ria Das, a counseling psychologist, not only has over 12 years of expertise in her field but is also a gold medalist at Calcutta University who was also nominated for the President of India Award. She completed her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from CU and her major work incorporates wellness programs for children from all age groups. Childhood problems, relationship counselling, and career coaching are among her specialties. Art has played a significant role in her therapy sessions, and she has received certification from the Indian Council for Professional Education Mission, which is approved by the CCL Accreditation Council. She founded EmoJar in 2019. She along with her core team which includes Atri Das, Roshmija Biswas, and Tista Banerjee aims to spread mental health awareness and psycho educate people at large through her organization.

1. Madam, how do you feel that this pandemic is affecting small kids mentally?

The biggest challenge during these times in Pandemic is that all the kids are indoors. Childhood is a stage where you are engaged in all kinds of playful activities like a lot of free plays and space is required. And during this point in time, you build upon relationships on how you interact with other children, how you adjust, or what instructions you follow. Everything is building up as it's a building up phase for our personality development in the later years of our teenage and adulthood. So, children are massively missing out on this. They are not even getting enough opportunities to interact with their friends. It's only during online classes maybe they're seeing each other but even then, they can't talk to each other. They're meeting with the teachers online but the warmth and affection of teachers in a classroom setting are also

missing. Hence human interaction is missing altogether. Neither there are extracurricular activities that are given nor there are any responsibilities that are given to the students. Only a few things which can be done at home are taken into consideration. The physical fitness of children is going down which has direct implications on their psychological wellbeing because we don't vent out our extra energy about whatever we are facing like our everyday stresses, even for small children, it becomes a source of long-term stress. They don't feel like engaging in certain things and thus become lethargic. They become distracted quite easily and their memory becomes poor as well.

They don't have any place to interact, neither build relationships nor develop their skills. Self-esteem to some extent is also hampered. Self-esteem is a very important part while children are growing up because through interaction with their peers and the teachers, as well as their

parents, they develop a sense of self, whether they are good or bad. Even the merit system in schools, like grades and then feedback from teachers, everything counts for a growing up child. But unfortunately, they aren't getting proper feedback from external sourcesituation. It's only the parents or the grandparents who are telling them "What to do?" or perhaps what is right? What is wrong? Hence not only physical activities but also interaction becomes very important especially with an external source, which is wholly missing now. They don't know what friendship is or how to make friends. So, I feel these are the biggest challenges, which are being faced by children due to the pandemic and lockdown.

2. Madam, we often find a lot of young adults getting involved in substance abuse. Why do you think this happens quite commonly in young adults and what are its psychological implications?

Young adulthood is a phase, especially if we call it as late adolescence phase it's a stage of 'stress in a storm', where we're trying out different things. When we were kids, we used to follow our parents. Now, as we're growing up, we're forming a mind of our own and we want to challenge anything and everything. That's a very vital point of life because we are trying to understand who we are and what is right or wrong. And we're trying to impact or place certain viewpoints of what we feel would be good enough for the entire society. But again, after a certain point, young adults do become influenced by peer pressure. Peer pressure is one of the major leading causes of substance abuse. One child who might have enough resources and access not only takes up the habit but also tries to give it to others. This might seem very cool or quite happening. So, the other child, even without wanting to do it, falls prey to the trap, and just in order to belong to the group, they start using it for themselves. Maybe for the first time, they are just 'trying out'. But what happens is eventually these substances are so addictive that the physiological changes do not allow them to break free. So once the substances are in our blood, there will be constant craving for it, even if we have tried it out, maybe a lesser number of times, the short-term consequences are pleasure-seeking behaviour. Consumption of alcohol or drugs will make us move into a state of mind where pleasure becomes the dominant emotion and then we start liking that phase. We start avoiding the worries and the tension in our everyday life. So, this leads to constant and repetitive behaviour which results in a vicious cycle.

The psychological implications of such things can be drastic and can be varied. But more commonly if they are young, they do not have enough resources, they might indulge in wrongdoings or steal money from their parents. If they don't get the substances, there can be withdrawal symptoms also, which can be extremely harmful to them. So, they do all sorts of things in order to procure the substances and feel better about themselves or feel good about things.

The long-term implications psychologically can be a great deterioration of self-esteem because without the substances they cannot sustain or live their life properly. It's only depending on the substances that they feel better. They can't handle their emotions properly otherwise and that's why it goes into a vicious cycle where they try out these substances again and again. It's not only a major self-esteem damper but also relationships get spoiled. There will be frequent fights in the house and if parents come to know or even a few friends come to know about it then they'll be avoided in the society, people might even look down upon them. Apart from this, they might also get into serious legal consequences at times.

While we are still growing up, our logical brain doesn't develop. So along with peer pressure and the kind of trying out activities, when we just want to have an adventure, by trying out these substances, we still do not have a logical brain fully developed. It's only after 25 years of age that we have a fully logical brain with us. So, before that, all the major decisions of

our lives are half fed. So, it's a very dangerous proposition because children cannot think clearly and hence, they take wrong decisions. Also, they'll just go with the flow with what their peers are going for and work more on the pleasure principle. It's more like 'If I like doing something and if it is wanted by me, I will do it'. That's where defiance comes in. They will try to oppose everything, that adults are saying and then they would just do the exact opposite. And since the logical brain is not fully developed, it becomes, even more, tougher to resist such temptations. They are unable to think for the future and about the consequences of their actions. So, both physiology of our human body, as well as our social circle are to be blamed for this.

3. For the last few years, one word which has been quite casually used has been FOMO or the fear of missing out. Can you throw some light on how serious this is and how has this affected decision making?

FOMO can be easily associated with anxiety. It's a sense of missing out and that sense can be related to anxiety-provoking situations. We feel anxious if we miss out on something and because of gadgets and social media platforms it has become so common and normal for the youngsters that they cannot miss out on anything. We are constantly striving for materialistic things like if our friends post something on Facebook or Instagram or any other social media platform, that they possess certain branded things, either clothes or gadgets, we will have an instant craving for the same thing because of hundreds of likes and shares the post gets. Many people are going

viral over their videos as well. So, everyone wants attention and fame and being liked by others. So, once we see others doing it, we often have an intense desire to copy the person.

Everything is now based on how many likes or shares we have. Especially during the pandemic where we are only conversing with our friends or family through a digital medium, there's no human contact, so we are exposed to certain social media platforms constantly.

We like it or not, we will feel some kind of insecurity if we look into someone who's very popular as compared to us, where we don't have many followers or people commenting on our posts. People start feeling extremely poor about themselves unless or until the person has a very strong personality. Again, as the logical brain is not fully developed many young people are more prone towards these screenings by others like "what do they think about me?"

Due to an imaginary audience in the adolescence stage, children think that if they are missing out on something then they are missing out on everything, and hence they might not be called an up-to-date person. People have been so used to media and social networking platforms that they have become dependent on this virtual feedback from others, that they keep on using it. They use it to an extent that it becomes autonomous or out of control.

We're sometimes just scrolling and looking at posts, which doesn't even mean anything. Instagram has these reels of 15 - 30 seconds, which is a warning sign.

People can't even sustain a video for even 15 seconds or a minute. These days a video that is over a minute is considered to be somewhat very lengthy and people don't like them and they're less likely to get that kind of exposure or become an instant hit. I've been reading this particular study where they say that a video over a minute, is unlikely that will become an overnight success and hence people have started preferring videos of very short durations.

In Instagram, it's more about just tapping and making a heart, we don't even have to look for a button. So, everything is instant as the name suggests and thus people are losing out on patience. It's like a shrinking window of tolerance. Our concentrations are so much hampered that it's not very surprising if we can't even watch something for more than a minute. It becomes a different section altogether, where people have more time and then they go and explore, which has hardly been done. So that's why these 'reels' concept has come in. This is one of the dangerous ignorance for increasing anxiety.

Your sense of being normal becomes extremely skewed and it becomes worse with peer feedback. This fear of missing out phenomenon is dominating almost all age groups now. We aren't just following what others are doing. A point comes when it becomes a habit for us as well. Building a habit just takes 21 days and so as the timeframe is quite less if we're constantly on our phones for maybe three weeks in a row, we've already built that habit of just watching reels or going

through our phone randomly.

The long-term effects of this in decision-making can be extremely drastic like if we're following someone then it's basically blindly following that person just like the monkey rule suggests. We're not using our brains and like ants, even we're following someone in our front. Sometimes we don't even know where we are going but without questioning anything we continue on our path.

On one hand, a few people may like discussing the number of followers and likes on social media but on the other hand, it may have a very dampening effect on the ego of the other people like maybe they're not likeable or good enough. Hence decision-making is hampered. A person who has low self-confidence will obviously have poor decision-making skills because they'll constantly evaluate themselves through others while people who're very confident about themselves and know what they are doing will take concrete and self-oriented decisions. They won't be easily influenced by others. Thus, it depends on the personality of an individual on how they're taking up this trend and how they are reacting to it, and how much they are sustaining.

4. Madam, a new buzzword that has been making rounds these days is "hustle culture". Do you feel that the pandemic has further promoted "hustle culture" and what are the adverse effects of "hustle culture" in general?

In other words, 'Hustle Culture' is more like a burnout stage where overactivity or

workaholism comes into play. It's more like the toxic productivity of an individual. Too much work is never good and thus we need to plan our days. So generally, we should follow the three-part rule of a day - 8 hours of sleep, 8 hours of work, and 8 hours of personal things or whatever a person wishes to do.

But now due to the pandemic, the entire circadian rhythm has been disrupted. People are mostly waking up late or working throughout the day because there's no structured work. Even organizations are to be blamed because they don't structure the work. They're just scheduling meetings any time of the day and calling people for certain quick reviews. Even students are burdened with work as well. Though they are at home but due to that they are getting involved in more and more work.

Another important thing which the students or even the employees are facing is the sense of guilt. Since we're into a pandemic and staying at home, we often feel that we aren't doing enough. Even our boss or teacher might think the same way. We keep on piling work on ourselves. Maybe the organization has not even given so much work, but we do it as a safeguard. But when it reaches the snapping point, it becomes unbearable for the people who are under this particular thing. A lot of stress and tension in the muscles would eventually build up, which may have long-term implications. When we're working 24/7, our body is always worked up. There's no space for rest and restoration. Hence the body gives up at one point in time. And eventually, people

fall sick and our immune system goes down. If we're under constant stress, we become a workaholic and a sort of a perfectionist, which again, causes a lot of stress. People who desire to be perfect and are on their toes all the time would generate anxiety and worry as a result of which people often face anxiety attacks.

The self-guilt needs to go. It is a situation which the entire world is facing and therefore people need to realize that it isn't their creation nor they can control it. So, the three-part system needs to be followed regularly in order to excel in time management. 8- 10 hours of work is nothing less. We can even extract one hour of time from our sleep and personal care and even then, we will be left with seven hours of our own personal time. Thus, our body as well as our mind needs rest and relaxation to function properly.

5. Do you feel that the COVID-19 news coverage by the mainstream media has affected the mental well-being of people? If yes, how?

Media plays a huge role in how we perceive a situation especially if it's a social situation. The media actually has the responsibility to give correct information, but hardly it is done that way. Now if they are giving constant negative news, it triggers our fight and flight response and as a result stress hormones are released in our body. We are also constantly witnessing people suffering and dying around us. Hence it validates the piece of information/news. Every time we hear something negative, validation gives us confirmation that it's actually

happening. So, the more we're exposed to negative news, the more prone we will be towards anxiety and fear, which may give in return a lot of stress responses and can not only harm us mentally but also our immune system gets affected. Every time we switch on the news channel covid is literally everywhere and then we have different kinds of false information going around. With catchy phrases, which can be easily remembered, everything gets confirmed within your system and thus stress reaction happens again and again. And the best way to steer clear is just to expose ourselves maybe once a day to just go and check on the valid sources or official websites where we get exact data rather than reading up random blogs or listening to news channels. It would be better if we just take the data once a day, if it's required at all, if not, then we need to just know what we have to do in order to keep ourselves safe.

6. Do you feel that the abundance of COVID-19 information in social media has also affected the mental well-being of people? If yes, how?

Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram are more helpful rather than disturbing. I feel so because there's a lot of awareness programs, which are going on via these platforms. But people have to be mature enough to pick and choose certain content which they want to listen to and which will be helpful for them. In Instagram or Facebook, it's more of our choice as in we are given the option of choosing. If we don't like someone, we can instantly unfollow and block them while if

we like someone then we can follow their content as well.

Also, the posts containing vital and correct information is marked with a COVID tag helping people to distinguish between the two. If we have the word mentioned in our post, it will instantly redirect us to that particular website, which has valid information. So, you can do a direct, analysis or differentiation between the two posts to have validation for it. And most often we have seen that it's more of positivity in social media, where we can follow a lot of people and communities for seeking help and for medical assistance. There are pages that also give mental or psychological support during these harsh times. So, I won't say that social media is always negative. There are certain people who are working for the welfare as well. But again, there's a word of caution. We need to understand whether they're valuable or not, whether they are actually giving us the correct information. It's also important to know whether it's helping us in making us feel lighter. If it's heavier than expected they we have the choice to unfollow them or to block the news. Thus, it's more controlled wherein we can control what information we need or which kind of people we want to follow rather than watching TV news channels, which goes on incessantly.

7. Madam, as we can see, the hospitals are hardly allowing any visitors or family members to meet the patients during the pandemic. So, do you feel that the critical patients who are fighting for their life are giving up quickly or are perhaps mentally

breaking down because of the lack of support or motivation from their family members which they could have usually found in normal circumstances?

Well, this is something which is of controversy, but again, going by the pandemic situation, there are different laws and rules to be followed. In the case of a person who's COVID positive has to be admitted to hospital, the responsibility of the hospital becomes prime most. The non-covid people cannot enter the wards and see the patients because that's simply the first ethical ground that the hospitals follow as no one wants normal people to get infected. Thus, in order to save other people from getting infected, the hospitals have to take strict measures. But on the other hand, if we look into the psychological aspect, of course, social and family support is extremely crucial during these trying times. Many private hospitals do have counsellors who go on rounds and talk to the infected patients and they try to make them feel better. But there is a flip side to it as well, of course, a family member talking with the patient while someone strange talking to them will have a different effect altogether. So, this is one of the drawbacks of which we cannot do anything because of the rules and laws of the country which is there primarily just to safeguard other people. But on the other hand, even Doctors are trained to give psychological support to the patients who are fighting for their life and hence with comforting words they try and calm the patients. The nurses are also present there to take care of them who are often trained to make patients feel better.

8. Lastly, do you feel that psychology as a discipline should be made compulsory in schools? If yes, why?

Yes, absolutely maybe a hundred percent yes. It shouldn't be introduced very early in classes but maybe eighth standard onwards when children are just learning to be on their own and they are developing a mind of their own. Psychoeducation can involve a lot of day-to-day challenges or the stresses which each child is facing and how actively they can deal with it. Many of us growing up, don't get that emotional support. We don't have enough resources to deal with certain problems, which we bury inside us. So, it's extremely important that self-care or psychological first-aid is incorporated into the syllabus which will be of immense help to all the students. The physiological part of "why am I feeling anxious?" or "what is my body doing to me in order to feel this way?" or "why am I feeling fear or low?" - all of these are physiologically related and it is not only in our mind but it's a mixture of both our mind and our physiology. So, if we know about it early, if we can label our emotions early and understand how to self-help or maybe help our peers, then it will be of great help and importance to the larger population. Everyone won't be able to treat psychological disorders, but maybe we could comfortably deal with our everyday stresses effectively.

**Abhinandan Modak
(Semester III-Honours)**

Features



Festival of Autumn

India has a rich heritage. It is a land where women are signified as goddesses. Here a lady is pure like Sita and divine like Sakti. People are greatly influenced by culture and tradition. They follow their traditions with heart and soul. When we talk about traditions, the first thing that comes to our mind is festivals. Festivals bring a whole new spirit of joy and power. Every festival has a story behind it. As we are already discussing festivals so let's talk about Durga Puja, the biggest festival of middle India mainly West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and etc. We all are well aware that how Durga Puja is celebrated in West Bengal but not many of us know that how it is celebrated in Jharkhand.

Navaratri is one of the most popular festivals of Jharkhand. The 10 days and 9 nights of Navaratri are solely dedicated to Maa Durga and her eight avatars. The last day of puja is known as Vijayadashami, dedicated to the legendary battle that was held between Maa Durga and demon Mahishasura. Finally on that day, the demon was killed by Goddess Durga and that day is celebrated as "the victory of good over evil". In Jharkhand, Durga Puja is celebrated in two ways, one is Sakti puja and another is Vaishnavi puja. Sakti puja symbolizes the power and the victory of Maa Durga. Her incarnation as kaal ratri which is considered to be the fiercest avatar of Goddess Durga. For worshipping the divine power and strength of Maa Kali people sacrifice goat as offering.

Vaishnavi puja denotes the purity and non-violence forms of Goddess Durga. It represents mercy and forgiveness. To celebrate Vaishnavi puja people organize yajna, havan, and make offerings to please Goddess Durga. Some people organize kanya puja as it is considered that young girls are the purest form of Maa Durga. So, families who do Vaishnavi puja invite young girls from their locality and prepare sattvic food for them. The girls are decorated like Goddess Durga. People wash the feet of all the girls present there then apply alta on them and then cover their heads with a red chunari. At the end of this even all girls get some small gifts.

There is one very important ritual of the puja, which is putting an earthen pot with some mango leaves in it over sand and sowing some barley in the sand. Every day people sprinkle water on that during prayer and within eight days it grows up beautifully. Then on Navami puja a handful of those are ripped off and then offered to Goddess Durga. For youngsters, the best part of Durga Puja is going for dandiya nights and pandal hopping with friends. Whole night boys and girls enjoy eating and going from one pandal to another. Dandiya nights is more popular among girls and ladies. It is organized on a large basis and everyone plays dandiya and perform garba till mid night. There are some scheduled programs also for which participants start preparing weeks before puja.

All the pandals are decorated with lights and flowers, even the streets and roads are lightened up by many dazzling lights. Water shows are organized. You can also see many local products which we don't see in common days. People from rural areas also show up to worship Maa Durga and to visit all the pandals. Puja brings an endless source of energy for everyone. These nine days are so much joyful and spiritual that we don't even know how the days pass and Dashami knocks at the door. The hardest day is when we have to give farewell to Maa Durga. Married women play sindur with each other and worship Maa with strings of tears and a smile of contentment.

Alankrita Muskan
(Semester III-Honours)



After-Pandemic Fashion Trends

A Colour Trend Seminar is held by Francq Colors, founded by Hilde Francq, every six months where the recent and the upcoming important colors and trends are shared by the trend-watchers. Reports shown in the seminar are made in detailed format with well-researched evidence to show that the data are set in such a way that the colors and trends look well set to stay till one and a half or two years ahead in the future. In this edition, the trend watchers met virtually to set the expectations for the 2022 summer collection. It's absolutely clear that the pandemic has brought a noticeable change in social and lifestyle trends. The relationship of the buyer with the clothes has drastically transformed. The fashion industry sale is expected to drop by a third this year. The most purchased clothes are sweatpants and loungewear. Reviewing the recent pattern of sale and the mindset of people, four major factors are detected for categorizing the statement of '22 fashion: Resident, Essential, Tinkerer, and Lunatic.

The resident was based on the extensive use of the local items. The consumers' interest in this trend began during the blockade when the designers had to work with the items from their direct environment. This trend is detected to become mainstream by 2022. The suggested color combination is to mix a subtle color to a more avant-garde. For instance, the color of the resident's sand is subtly mixed with brown making the look even warmer by the summer of '22. Patterns of floral or botanical prints and checks using warm-toned colors are expected to touch the height. The essentialists are expected to show the rebirth of the minimalist side of '90s. Sophisticated and subtle colors with softer shapes are to be seen as the main feature of the trend. A duller color palette is expected to be the main theme. The '22 summer is predicted to view more of the basic, comfortable and oversized outfits. Contrasting shapes and translucent materials are also being worked on for the season. The tinkerers are more concerned about choosing more messy and childish clothes. Artificial Intelligence is used to achieve randomness in the design pattern. For the color palette, any bold bright color can be combined as there is no wrong combination for this trend.

The lunatics are the "moon-admirers". Studies show that biodynamic farming is harvested in rhythm with the phases of the moon and even the stock market being the most unpredictable business is affected by the moon. The moon being the hype is a definite element for trend. The color palette, being inspired by the moon, contains more dusty and grainy textures. Also, inspired by the lunar texture, bioplastics with dirty transparency are also to be found as layering. As an all-time suggestion for colors, the trend watchers insist the brands on maintaining a 20-80 balance for design and purchase. This means that a percentage of 20 should be the trending colors and a percentage of 80 should be the commercial colors for a better sale. This season, an added prediction is considered, saying that the '21 autumn colors are to be back by the '22 spring.

Arshiya Chakraborty
(Semester III-Honours)



Kumartuli: Where The Gods Are Made!

In the immediate days preceding the Durga Pujas, the gondho (smell) of pujo spreads in every nook and corner of Calcutta. The streets from Gariahat to Hatibagan are filled with people bargaining for their favourite dresses. A few more days and we get into the biggest festival in the city of joy. When there are pujo vibes all around, there's one place where people even with enormous financial difficulties work day in and out to make pujo possible in the first place. The craftsmen of Kumartuli, one of Calcutta's oldest neighbourhoods which almost dates back to 300 years are working round the clock to turn the goddess from a basic clay-and-hay structure into a lovely, festooned Bengali bride which will eventually be the central attraction of numerous pandals.

Located on the banks of Hooghly, the tiny narrow lanes of Kumartuli surrounded by enormous workshops filled with huge statues of Durga and her children, are hustling to match the deadline of Mahalaya, when people will be listening to Mahisasurmardini on their radio stations. The rich clay of the Hooghly basin is expertly turned into magnificent idols utilizing raw materials like hay, rice husk, coconut fibre, and jute thread. While the bamboo acts as the skeleton, the hay serves as the body, which is then coated in entel mati and later in bele mati, a finer variety of clay. Despite the arrival of modernity, the sculptors of Kumartuli have kept up with the need of changing times owing to their extraordinary imagination. Along with the traditional ek chala and daker shaaj idol, now the craftsmen are diving into the theme culture which allows them to innovate along with the theme of the pandals. Finally, on the auspicious day of Mahalaya, which marks the commencement of Devipaksha, the craftsmen of Kumartuli invoke the divine powers by painting the eyes of Durga, a practice known as Chokkhudaan. Along with the ones who shape gods, there are others with small stores which offer embellishments and ornaments that are used to decorate the idols. The people participating in this process have weathered the rigours of changing time and continue to exist, but it is unclear if their existence is helping their livelihoods.

The history of Kumartuli dates back to the Battle of Plassey and the arrival of the East India Company, when the wealthy Bengali babu's developed the black town by setting up the bazaar culture. These colonies were given names based on local sights or people's professions like the Darjipara (for tailors), Muchipara (for cobblers), Jorasanko (twin bridge), etc. This is exactly how even Kumartuli (for potters) got its name. When Durga Puja began in Calcutta, the forefathers of the sculptors, who were originally from Krishnanagar, moved to this area in search of a better life. Even if it's still debatable whether they have reached a higher standard of living after so many years, their creation still remains the only means of survival for them. Their talent, however, is not confined to Calcutta; their created gods travel across borders to other foreign nations for the probashis to get a taste of their culture and rituals. Even when life came to a halt last year, Kumartuli continued to surprise us, despite significant financial hardships. They haven't shied away from getting their hands dirty in innovating with the theme of Covid 19 as well. Right from north to south or from College Square to Ballygunge Cultural or perhaps from traditional to theme, without Kumartuli and its hardworking souls, Durga Puja's culture and heritage would never be the same. The irony however lies in the fact that the majority of these GODMAKERS originate from impoverished populations that require assistance and encouragement as part of a larger effort to promote inclusive growth.

Abhinandan Modak
(Semester III-Honours)



*Simply
Delicious*



Could there be sufficient food ever to satisfy Joey's hunger?



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Joey if we are talking about Food, hence end up ordering half the menu when I visit any sort of restaurant. The fun part is, I enjoy trying a variety of cuisines and am ready to take the risk of not liking it too!!

Food nerd fam, put your hands together for this obsessively delicious Tijuana Tacos and Bar-Be-Que Chicken Wings from Farmm, Tollygunge, Kolkata. This is such an underrated cafe in Kolkata with the assurance that it won't pinch your pocket. As of lately, I have been affectionately calling these guys "cheesy chicken tacos" because they appear humble with the chunk of the sharp cheddar cheese layer, roasted chicken, and lots of fresh veggies with a cutesy little name, Tijuana. but seriously, don't sleep on these. They are a top summerly food for me this year. Chicken wings are my top priority anywhere I go no matter what. And here in Farmm they served it like a cherry on top, it comes with a tangy flavor and fried noodles.

Farm provides healthy & hearty food, beautiful ambience with a Mocktail counter where you can get varieties of soft drinks. If I talk about the sitting arrangements, it is quite innovative as the kitchen area is attached to the sitting area with a glass window from where you can actually watch the chef making your dish. This cafe is my legit recommendation if there are more Joeys out there wondering for food.

If you don't have a sweet tooth, I am sorry for you.

A lover of sweets. I hop around places in search of desserts. I think you can relate if you go to any restaurant or a cafe just to have desserts. Count me in guys. So, here's where I went to have desserts, The Chaiwala, Tollygunge, Kolkata. Pancakes. Yes, it is a dessert. Pancake Nutella Bursts with vanilla ice-cream on top.

It has a heavenly taste of melted chocolate and the fluffy pancakes melt in your mouth. This place offers a variety of Italian dishes and is also a master of "Chai", but personally I loved the pancakes and will recommend this place to all. But don't make a plan with me because "JOEY DOESN'T SHARE FOOD".

*Nabaneeta Pal
(Semester V-Honours)*

Cabin Kotha: Niranjana Agar

Monsoon of Kolkata, the sound of rain is coming from the outside, the mouth melting smell of mutton liver curry, the steaming milk tea, and I noticed the smoke is not following the flame here, it following the laughter of some homely faces. Do I have your attention yet? GOOD!

Kolkata is the city of laid-back charm. It's a city where People romanticize the rains, believe in slow fashion and savour their evening adda (bikaler adda). These old cabins and kitchens of Kolkata still reverberate to the current culture. Just after entering the first floor of a century-old building that had beautiful curved balconies with a bright yellow signboard which is proudly defining its age and the name, NIRANJANA AGAR (next to Girish Park metro station), you'll understand that all.

This place is known for its mutton liver curry, duck egg devil (this item came from a European dish named 'scotch egg'; maybe because of its narcissistic looks, it used to know as 'Nargisi Kofta' during the Mughal period), Fowl Cutlet (specialty) and the must-try "jumbo" vegetable 'chop'. Everything is hand-made here starting from scratch – egged, crumbed, deep-fried, and served with the pungent kasundi (but for me the 'original' taste of the food alone is better than anything) and juliennes of salad. While the big oval dimer devil brings pleasant revelation; The fowl cutlet is incomparable, because of the taste of Kolkata Bhetki. The vegetable chop is another marvel, tennis ball-sized, one can barely find this size in Kolkata. And the 'iconic' mutton liver curry, brings forth the ultimate harmony of ghoti cooking mopped up with sliced bread and finishing off with milk-tea.



ESTD-1922

NIRANJAN AGAR

239A, CHITTARANJAN AVENUE, KOLKATA - 6
MOBILE : 80176 25110

Sl No.	FOOD DESCRIPTION	Price
1.	Mutton Kasha	130.00
2.	Mutton Korma	130.00
3.	Liver Curry	130.00
4.	Breast Cutlet	60.00
5.	Foul (Chicken) Cutlet	60.00
6.	Fish Fry	65.00
7.	Devil (Egg)	56.00
8.	Mutton Cutlet	55.00
9.	Mutton Kopta	55.00
10.	Mutton Chop	26.00
11.	Vegetable Chop	26.00
12.	Egg Curry	25.00
13.	Bread	3.00
14.	Tea	5.00

Thursday Special Menu

1.	Special Fish Cutlet	75.00
2.	Foul (Chicken) Cutlet	60.00
3.	Foul (Chicken) Curry	110.00
4.	Fish Fry	65.00
5.	Egg Chop	26.00
6.	Vegetable Chop	26.00
7.	Egg Curry	25.00

NO SMOKING

In the era of cafes and malls, this place proves, that erstwhile Calcutta still digs into "chop, cutlet, dimer devil" in the minds and on the palates of the city-bred babus, at any given chance. A word of caution though. Timing is important if NIRANJAN AGAR is your destination. So, if you are looking forward to tasting the best of this place, it's the best to reach before 5.30 pm. Also, the looks of the kitchen condition could be a dampener, but the freshness from the cooking pan to the table and also the unrelenting loyalty of repeat customers will definitely lift up your spirits.

Anuska Chatterjee
(Semester III-Honours)



The Most **Unusual Restaurants** Around the World

The outbreak of the coronavirus last year has honestly been a dumpster fire. We have had been through quite a lot and alas, we're only halfway through as the world still continues its tussle against the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has changed several sectors and businesses: from education to travel, from economy to textiles. The quarantine phase advanced as an unforeseen change and had catalyzed a lot of anxiety, buzz, and ennui. Stuck inside our homes, these unfortunate and difficult times taught us a lot of things. Simultaneously, we began missing the "old, normal times" when we met several people, ate at our favourite restaurants, visited new places, and so on. Almost all of us began missing out on something or the other. The pandemic however had brooked many to reunify with their families and nature, concomitantly, the pandemic had also scuppered most of our dreams that we had written on our bucket list with utmost enthusiasm. The rifest activities or wishes we witness on a bucket list comprise travelling to a dream destination, learning a new language, trying a new sport or buying/building a house of our own. Even my bucket list covers a lot of things, some being things that I want to do before I turn 30, but unfortunately, I couldn't tick off any from the list, the reason being the pandemic.

"Better late than never", most people say, so, here I am hinging on this proverb and eagerly looking forward to COVID-free days. Being a foodie and a travel buff, I have convened an entire list of restaurants in my bucket list that I would love to visit soon. My list is extremely long which includes bizarre, enthralling and voguish restaurants that serve the best food and elevate the best of our mood too. To be honest, it is always great to keep looking for unusual elements around us. It certainly makes our life interesting. Rachel Wolchin once said, "If we were meant to stay in one place, we'd have roots instead of feet." And I think it makes sense, right? Come, let's then take a deep dive into my bucket list on exploring some of the beautiful, adventurous, and unique restaurants.

1. Ithaa at Hilton Maldives Resort & Spa - Maldives

Deemed as one of the most beautiful restaurants in the world, Ithaa is located five meters (16ft) below the surface of the Indian Ocean at the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island in Alif Dhaal Atoll in the Republic of Maldives. It is the world's first undersea restaurant that offers 180° panoramic coral garden views. As per reports, the menu holds a blend of Maldivian and International cuisine with dishes such as Yellow Tail King Fish with Saffron Champagne Rissotto and Beurre Blanc Foam, Yellowfin Tuna with lemongrass and Sumac dipping sauce, Angus beef with truffles or Kingfish with Kataifi Langoustines. It also serves contemporary European cuisine in a six-course set dinner menu. Overall, it could be said that this restaurant is worth the money and a visit for its impeccable food and view.





2. Vampire Café in Tokyo, Japan

Obsessed with vampires? Here's one important question- team Damon or Stefan? or team Edward?

Themed restaurants, bars, cafés are some of the most adventurous and exciting places to be in. Speaking of themed public eating places, Japan is known to have several spine-chilling, insane, appreciably unique themed public eating places. One such example is the famous Vampire Café in Tokyo, Japan. Located in a posh district of Ginza, the café entreats the visitors to set foot in a Gothic paradise with spooky décor comprising of red velvet walls, red floor covered with red blood cells, Dracula's VIP room, red-covered thrones, and so on. The waiters take orders in fiery tuxedos and waitresses in French maid outfits. From the decor to the dishes, every last detail is arranged to generate an extensive and eerie dining space. Some remarkable dishes of this place are the Tragic execution of traitor by burning to death, Dark sorcery using flame harbouring the devil, Rose invitation card for the immortalized pizza etc. Hence, if you are obsessed with vampires just like me, you would definitely love this place.



3. Treepods at Soneva Kiri in Koh Kood, Thailand

For all the acrophiles, this restaurant is the perfect dining space for you. Comfortably ensconced in a bamboo tree-pod settled high up into the lush tropical foliage of Koh Kood's ancient rainforest, this restaurant is top-notch when it comes to food, drinks, environment, and services. Saying of services, the guests can choose a personal waiter who would serve the food and drinks that you order on a zip-line. With a scintillating view of the beach and the euphonious sound of the waves, one can enjoy a first-class gourmet meal and bevies here at Soneva Kiri.



4. Cliffside Restaurant in Italy

A splendiferous romantic restaurant located in the town of Polignano a Mare in Southern Italy, this restaurant is set in a vaulted limestone cave in the middle of a vertical edge of a cliff that overlooks the Adriatic Sea. The Grotta Palazzese Hotel Restaurant rests 74 feet above sea level and is cut into the side of a mountain. The cave restaurant had been used as early as the 1700s, where nobles used to gather to dine on.



5. Modern Toilet Restaurant in Taipei, Taiwan

Welcome to a plush bathroom universe in Taiwan! The interior is designed like an interior of a bathroom, with wall tiles painted with poo-shaped cartoon characters. The seats are real toilets, the tables are made of glass placed over a sink/bathtub with fake poo in them, the drinks are served in glasses shaped like urinals, and the rolls of toilet paper are used instead of napkins. Pooptastic!! By looking at the pictures of this place, it sure seems like a fun, bright, colourful bathroom universe. The food served here is a mix of Asian and Italian cuisine, and to keep up with the theme, some of the food is shaped as poop too, without messing with the taste of course.



So folks, here are some of the most unusual restaurants that I want to explore at least once in my life. Certainly, there are hundreds of unusual restaurants all over the world, but these are my favourites and if in any way you fell in love with one of these restaurants, I am not guilty. I knew it already. Also, you called for it! Hehe.

**Aanisha Barooah
Semester IV*-General**

IT'S MOVIE TIME!



The Last Hour Review

Name of the Series: *The Last Hour*

Director: *Amit Kumar*

Producer: *Amit Kumar and Anupama Minz*

Major Cast: *Sanjay Kapoor, Karma Takapa,*

Shahana Goswami, Raima Sen, Robin Tamang, Tenzein Choden, Shaylee Krishen

Number of Episodes: *8*

Genre: *Crime Thriller*

Platform: *Amazon Prime*

Since there were no famous names involved with this series, only a limited number of people were aware of its theme. However, the concept will definitely drive the viewers towards watching this series along with the visual treat they would get.

The supernatural crime thriller set primarily in Sikkim centres around a series of killings that take place in an otherwise peaceful town, which is being investigated by police officer Arup (Sanjay Kapoor). The newly transferred officer Arup in this course finds himself engrossed in supernatural beliefs and soon ends up seeking help from a Jhagri or Shaman called Dev (Karma Takapa), to solve the case. Dev with his superpower could see everything that had happened in the LAST HOUR of a deceased which helped Arup to get a sense of why these murders were being committed.

In this process, the series has also tried to explore the elements which go beyond the mortal realm. But haven't been successful in doing so because of Bollywood's stereotypical practice of finding a romantic angle in every story. One of the most refreshing things about this series was its casting. With this sort of casting, the makers have gone beyond the boundaries set by Bollywood and have shown faith in the local northeastern people's abilities which never saw the light of mainstream series or movies until now. Karma Takapa who plays the main protagonist Dev has a strong presence in front of the camera and thus gives a convincing performance as the shaman. Even the antagonist Yama Nadu played by Robin Tamang, couldn't have been more apt for this role with all that rage within.

With director Amit Kumar's first major cinematic creation after *Monsoon Shootout* and a *Short-Bypass*, *The Last Hour* is heavy in concept and design but lacks credible execution. However, the best thing in this series is its cinematography. With lush and wide woods to the majestic mountain peaks, the city of Sikkim has been masterfully captured with great aesthetical value and expansive shots in contrast to the tiny and heavily packed market places. However, its editing has surely let it down with too many jump cuts and a 'super slow-mo' treatment in the narration.

The makers have pushed hard to create something out of the box even with a low budget. *The Last Hour* will leave viewers with a plethora of unresolved issues, which may just pique their interest in finding out about its sequel. The unique concept of revisiting the past in order to make some changes in the present has been explored quite well even though it had considerable loopholes. Thus, it makes this series a one-time watch for sure which will keep the viewers engaged but at the same time, they would wish if it had more substance.

Abhinandan Modak
(Semester III-Honours)

The Best of Online Streaming

Whether in the midst of a bleak pandemic or even during normal times, online streaming can always offer people a sense of relief from their busy lives. Here's a list of a few online streaming options available for all of you who are looking for a stress-free weekend. You may also watch them on weekdays though if your schedule permits so.

1. Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota (2018) (Netflix) by Vasan Bala **Duration - 136 mins**

Hop on to this quirky joyride of an action-comedy entertainer focusing on a person who literally does not feel pain. A perfect film that you can watch to uplift your and mood and one that will definitely make out laugh out loud.

2. Kingdom (TV Series 2019-) (Netflix) **Duration - 12 Episodes (2 Seasons)**

An intense and engaging periodic horror-thriller series that you can binge set in the backdrop of feudal Korea where a mysterious plague spreads following the death of the King.

3. The Boys (TV Series 2019-) (Amazon Prime) **Duration - 16 Episodes (2 Seasons)**

Get hooked to this fun-filled action-packed series that totally changes the lens through which we look at superheroes by focusing on what if with great power the superheroes starts abusing that power.

4. Another Round (2020) (Amazon Prime) by Thomas Vinterberg **Duration - 117 mins**

Experiment with your film preferences just like the characters in this film experiment with their drinking habits to see how it affects their both, social and private life. Cheers to Life!!!!



Riddhadev Bandyopadhyay
(Semester VI*Honours)

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

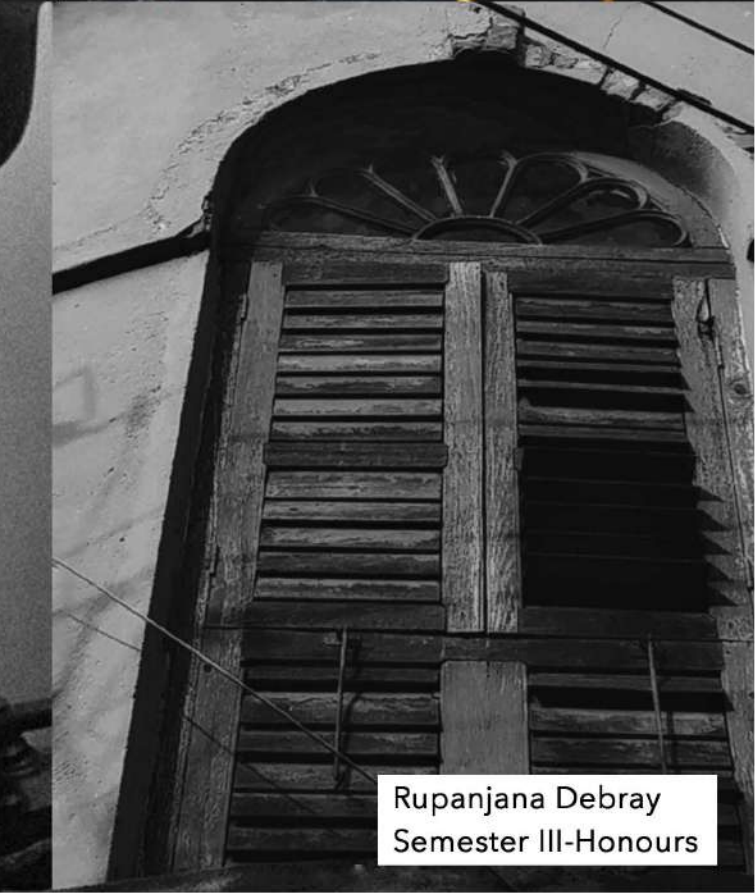
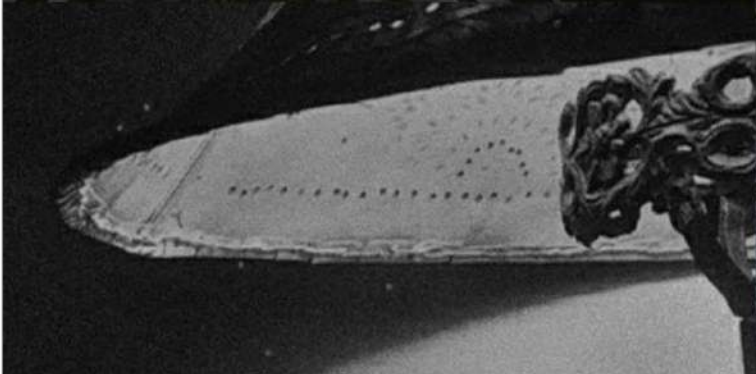
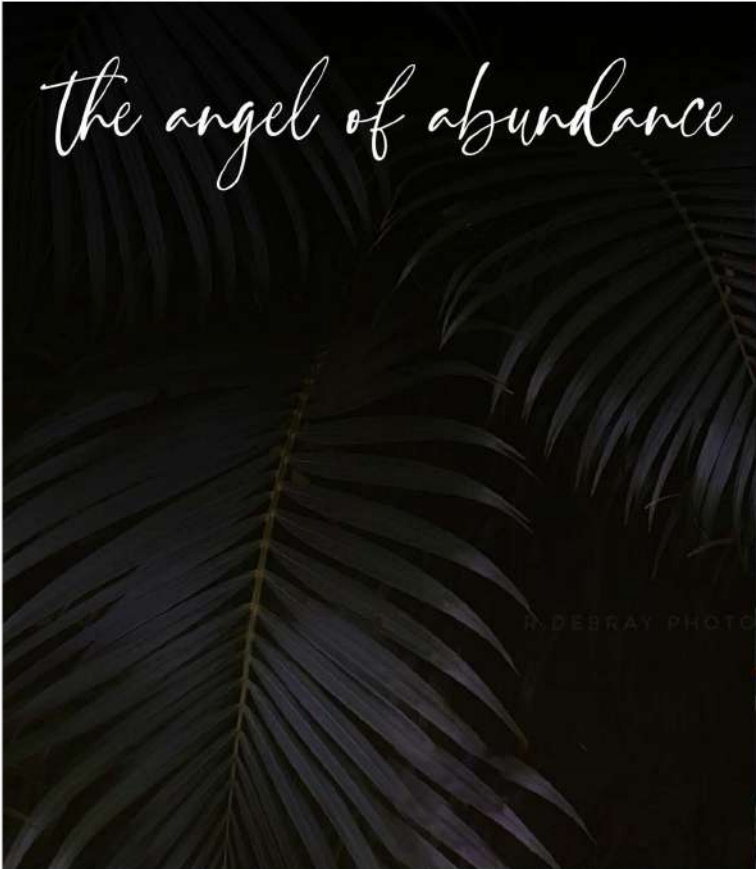


The unheard screams of the unseen tears...



Aahan Rai
Semester VI*Honours

The angel of abundance



Rupanjana Debray
Semester III-Honours

amar sohor Kolkata



Debotri Ghosh
Semester V-Honours

2. Lockdown can wake up
lives from the nightmare of pandemic

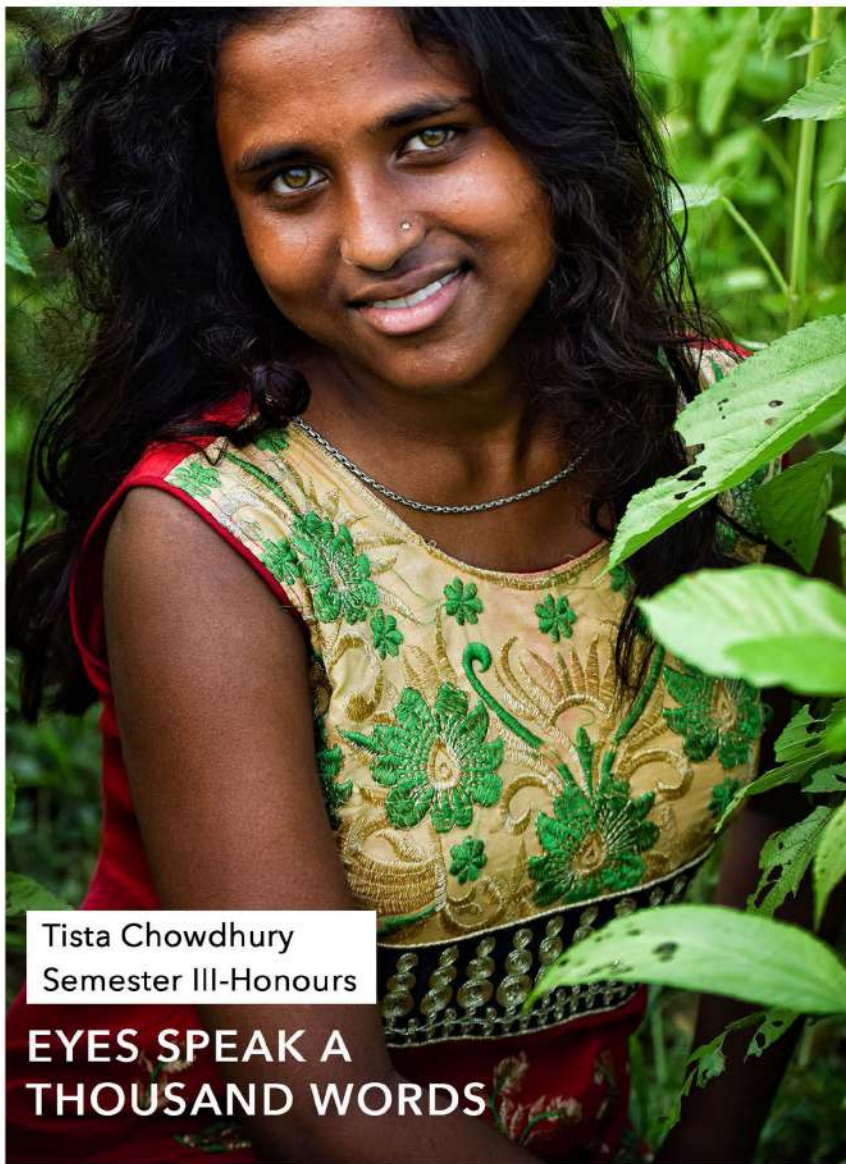


Shalini Das
Semester V-Honours



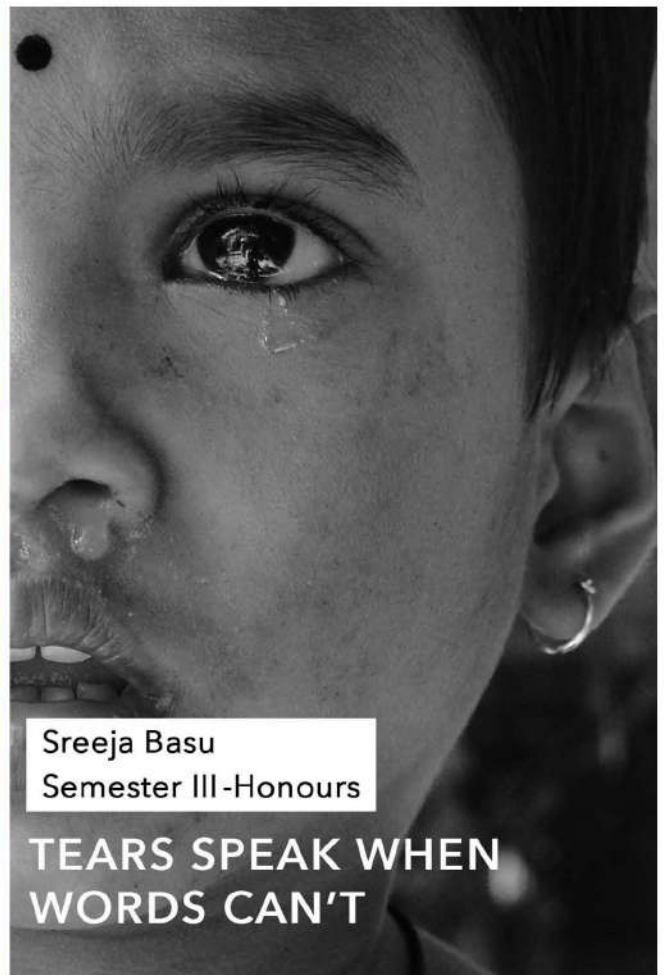
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS





Tista Chowdhury
Semester III-Honours

EYES SPEAK A THOUSAND WORDS



Sreeja Basu
Semester III-Honours

TEARS SPEAK WHEN WORDS CAN'T



Sreeja Basu
Semester III-Honours

ONE LAST TOUCH

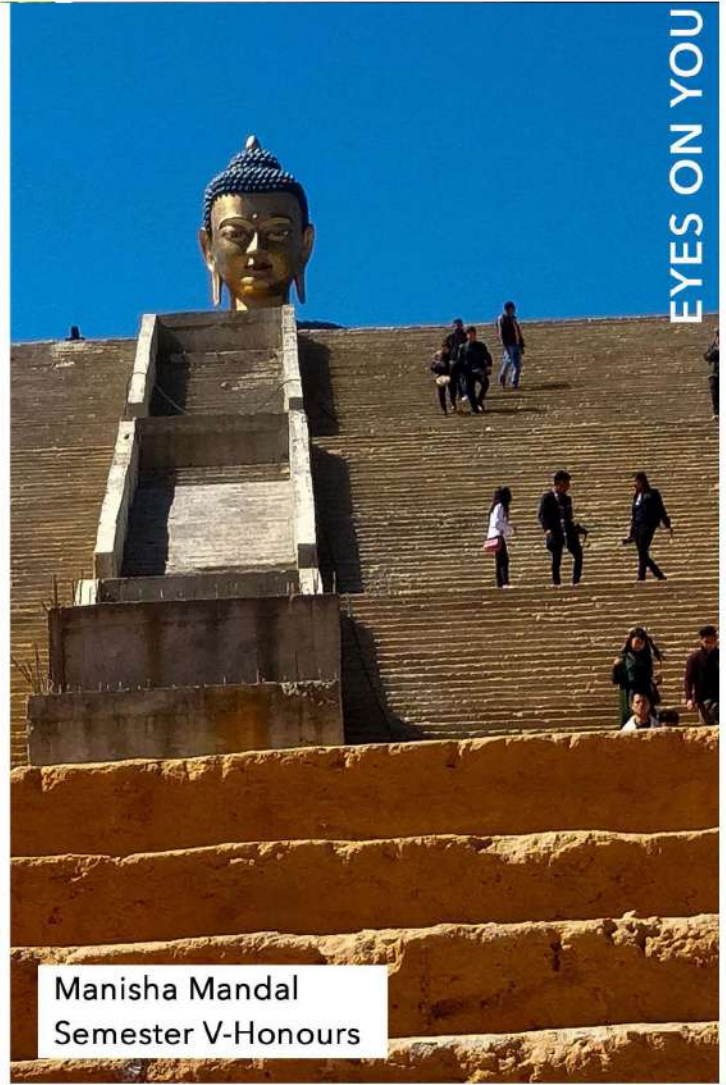


PLUVIOPHILE, A LOVER OF RAIN

Nabaneeta Pal
Semester V-Honours

THE GRANDEUR OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Bipasha Chhetri
Semester III-Honours

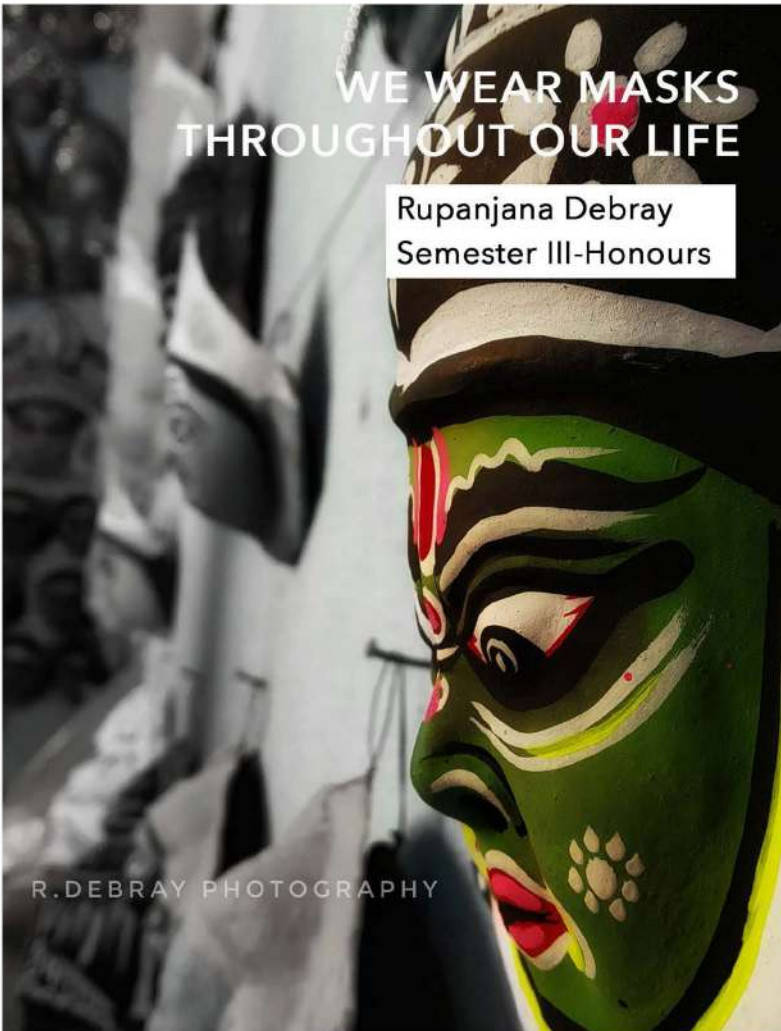


EYES ON YOU

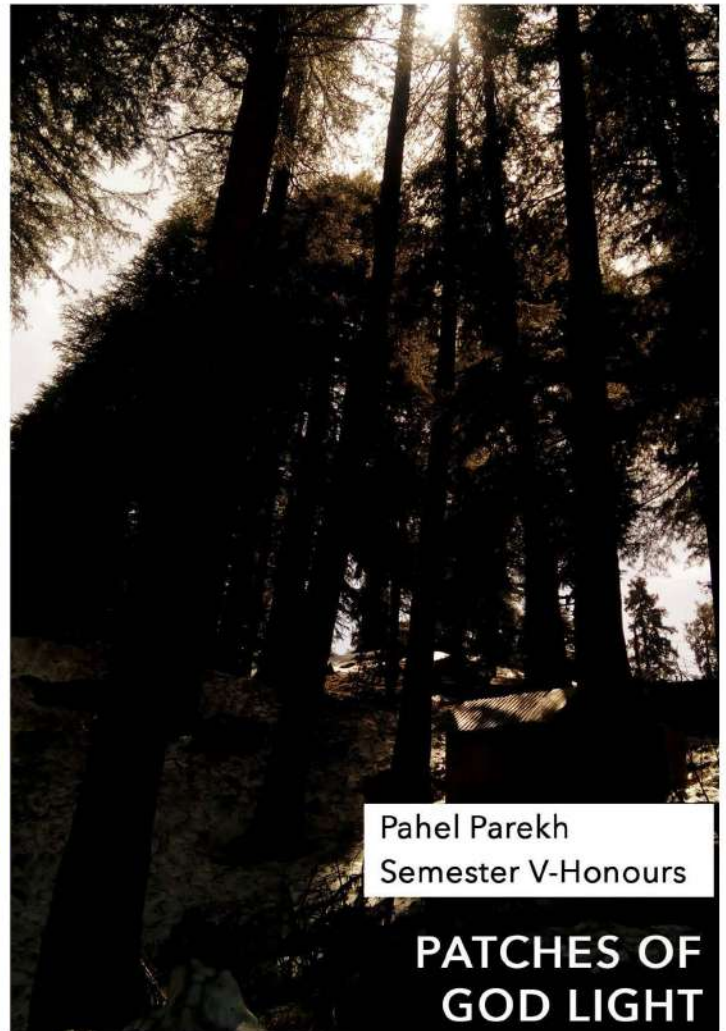
Manisha Mandal
Semester V-Honours

WE WEAR MASKS THROUGHOUT OUR LIFE

Rupanjana Debray
Semester III-Honours



R. DEBRAY PHOTOGRAPHY



Pahel Parekh
Semester V-Honours

PATCHES OF GOD LIGHT



Tista Chowdhury
Semester III-Honours

THE PREDATOR



Tamali Muhuri
Semester V-Honours

TIME TO MOVE ON



Nabaneeta Pal
Semester V-Honours

BE HAPPY IN THIS MEOWMENT



Nabaneeta Pal
Semester V-Honours

WHITE FOREST



Sankalita Biswas
Semester VI*Honours

THE BLISSFUL HOUR



Nabaneeta Pal
Semester V-Honours

RAYS OF HOPE



Sankalita Biswas
Semester VI*Honours

AUGUST REMINISCENCE



**Alokananda Sen
Semester VI*Honours**

A quiet day in the forest of
paradise, a mother and child
enjoy their meal languidly



**Awishi Neogi
Semester V-Honours**

They sicken of the
calm who know the storm



**Bipasha Chhetri
Semester III-Honours**


NEPAL

FRAMED FRAMES




**Awishi Neogi
Semester V-Honours**

SERENITY




Abhinandan Modak
Semester III-Honours

HORIZON & BEYOND



Antora Chakroborty
Semester III-General

SHRINE RADIANCE



Antora Chakroborty
Semester III-General

EMBRACE THE HILLS



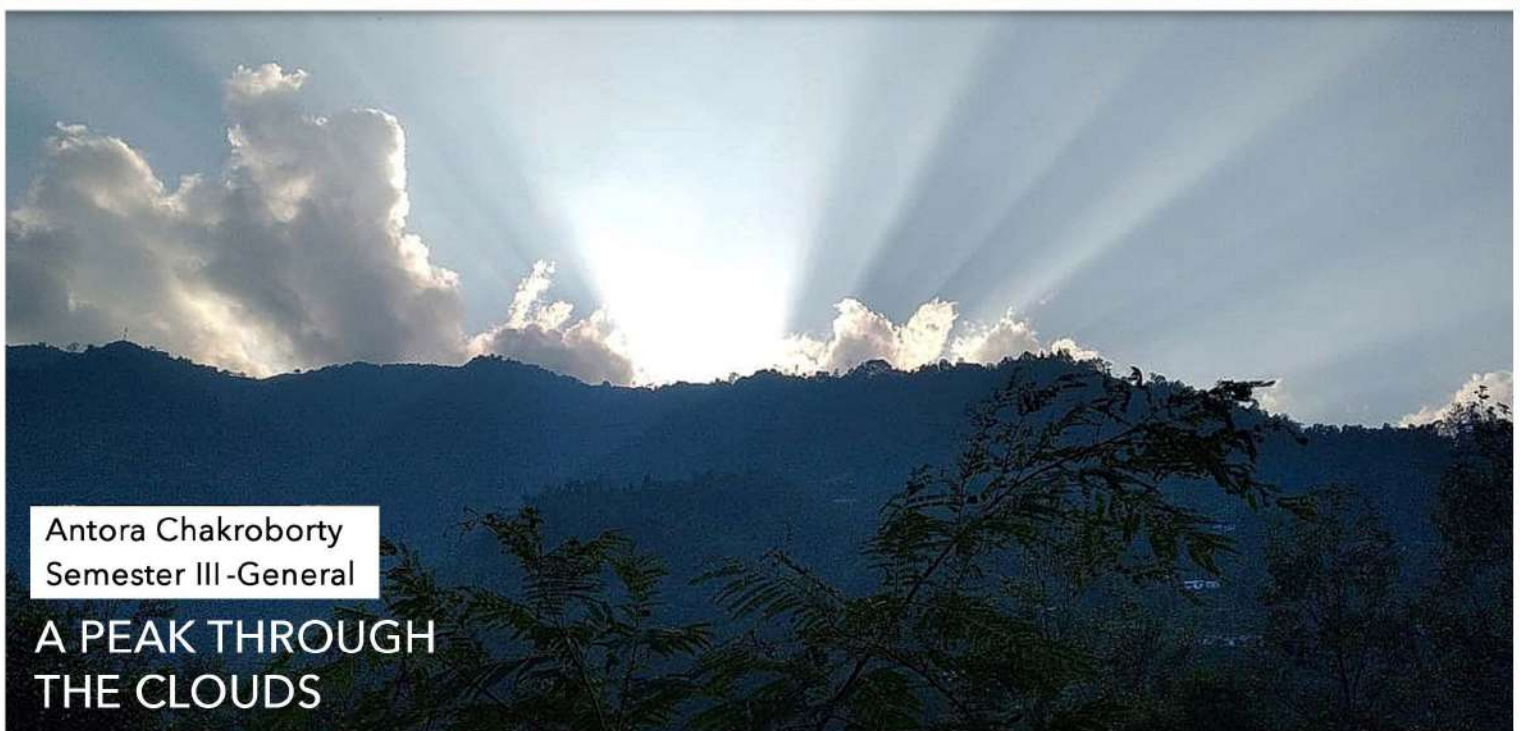
Antora Chakroborty
Semester III-General

LISTEN TO ITS FLOW



Ankita Chakraborty
Semester VI*Honours

A PANOROMA OF BLUE & GREEN



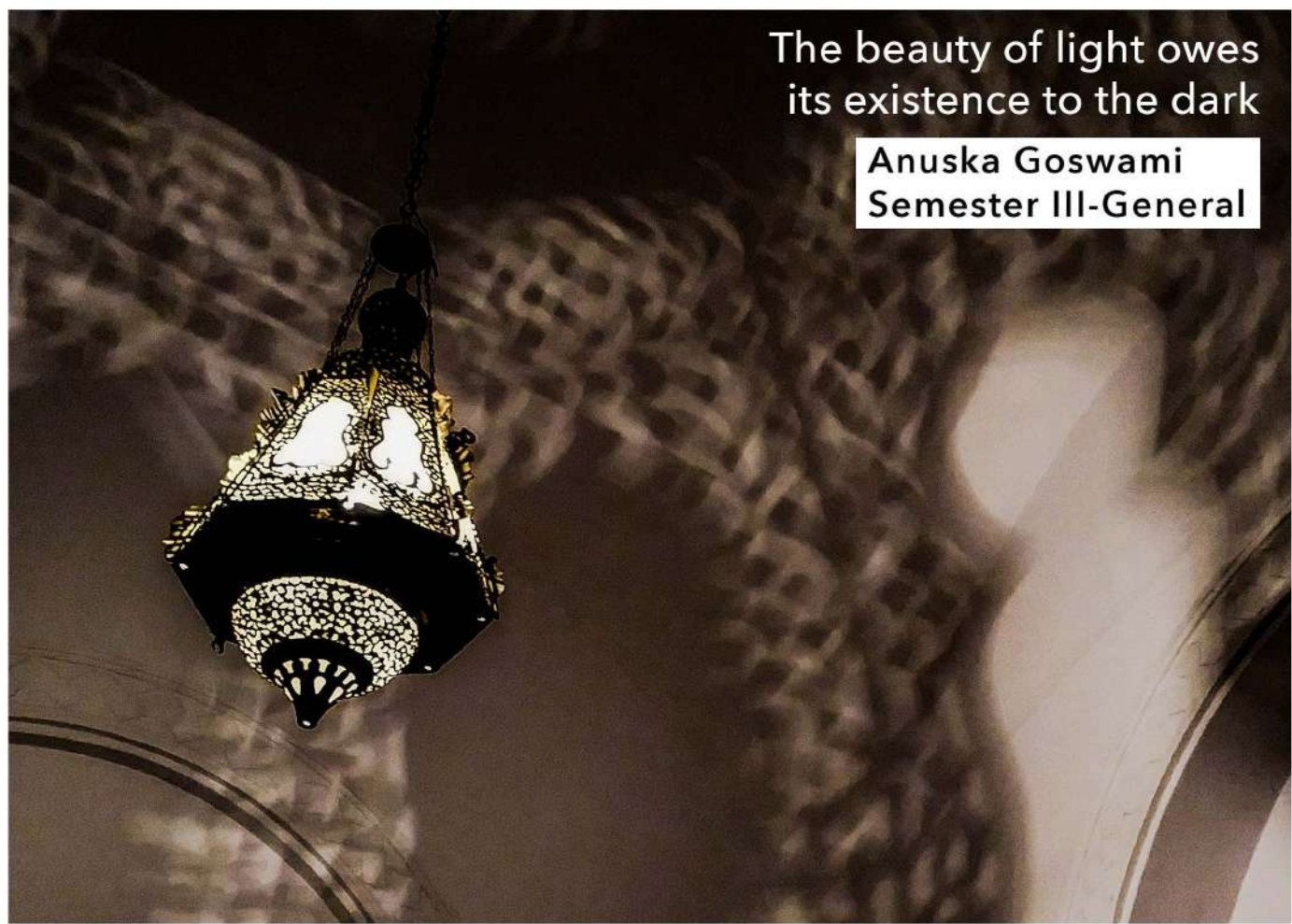
Antora Chakroborty
Semester III-General

**A PEAK THROUGH
THE CLOUDS**



**Anuska Goswami
Semester III-General**

A walk in nature walks
your soul back home



The beauty of light owes
its existence to the dark

**Anuska Goswami
Semester III-General**



Dhruvi Shah
Semester V-Honours

THE SKY WILL STILL BE UP THERE



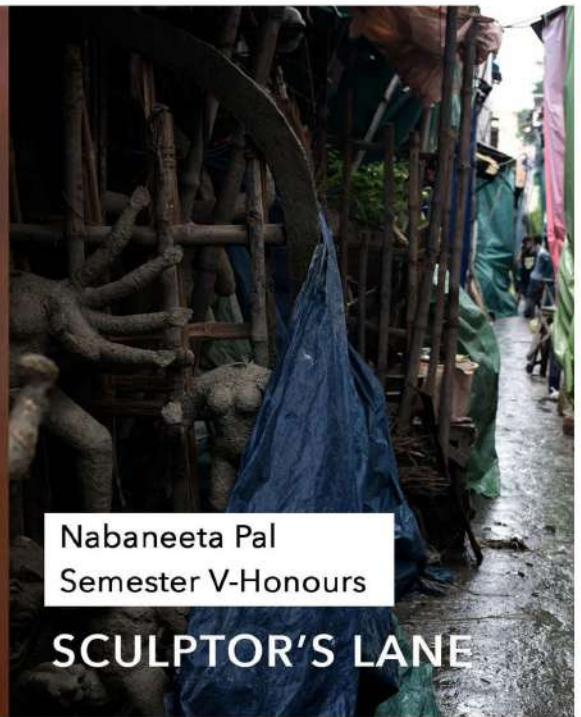
Ellina Das
Semester V-Honours

FLOWERS



Ellina Das
Semester V-Honours

BIRDS



Nabaneeta Pal
Semester V-Honours

SCULPTOR'S LANE



UPSIDE DOWN

Nabaneeta Pal
Semester V-Honours



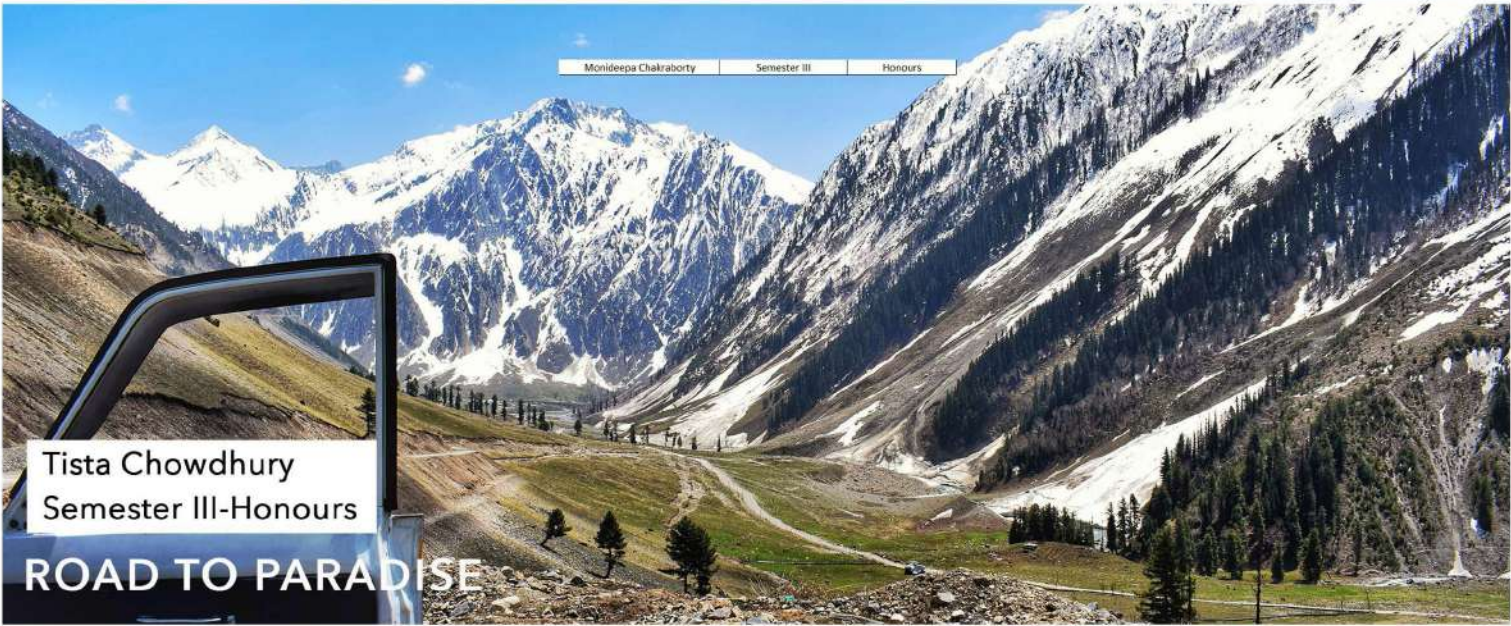
Pahel Parekh
Semester V-Honours

YOU CAN NEVER WATCH TOO MANY SUNSETS



Monideepa Chakraborty
Semester III-Honours

**LIFE IS ONLY A REFLECTION OF WHAT WE
ALLOW OURSELVES TO SEE**



Monideepa Chakraborty Semester III Honours

Tista Chowdhury
Semester III-Honours

ROAD TO PARADISE

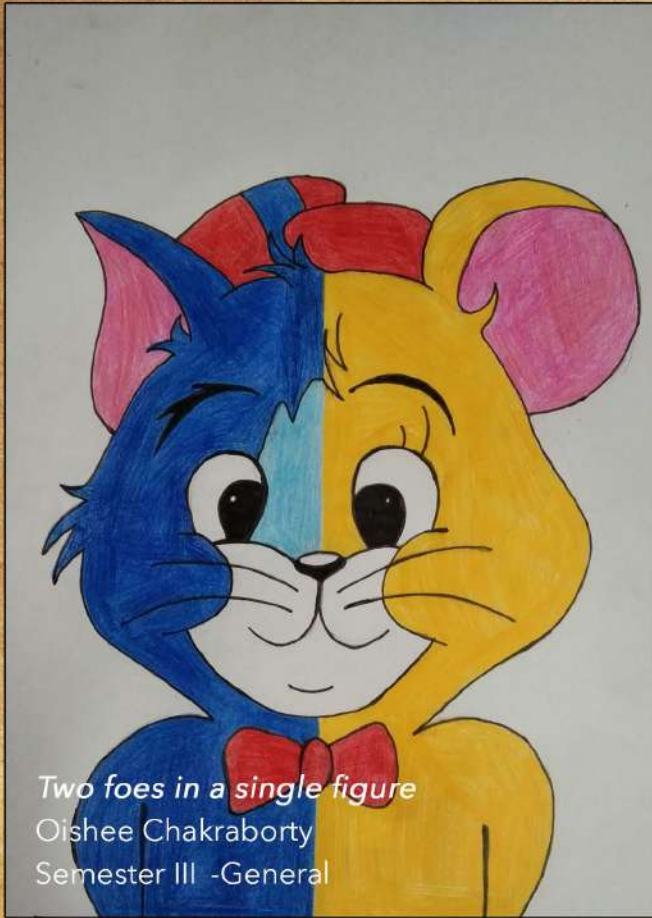


Tamali Muhuri
Semester V-Honours

HAPPY ENDING



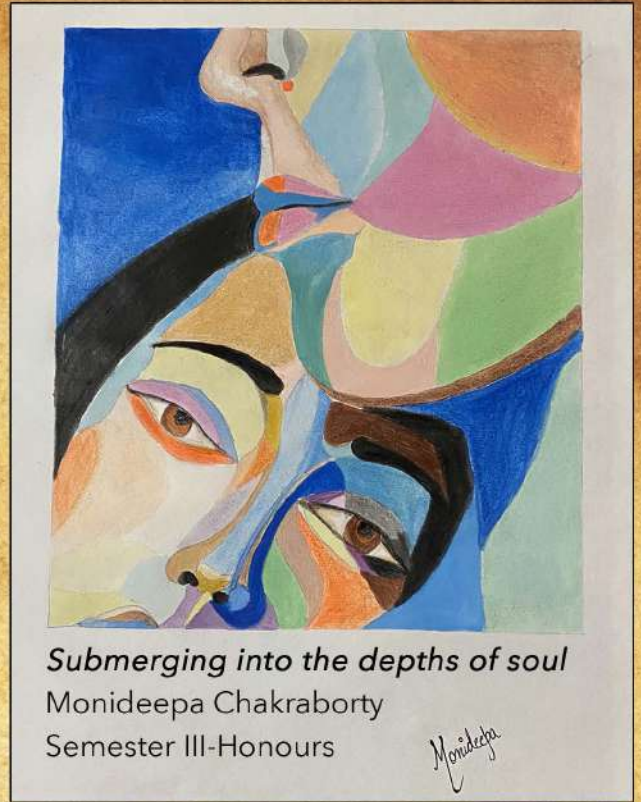
Paintings



Two foes in a single figure
 Oishee Chakraborty
 Semester III -General



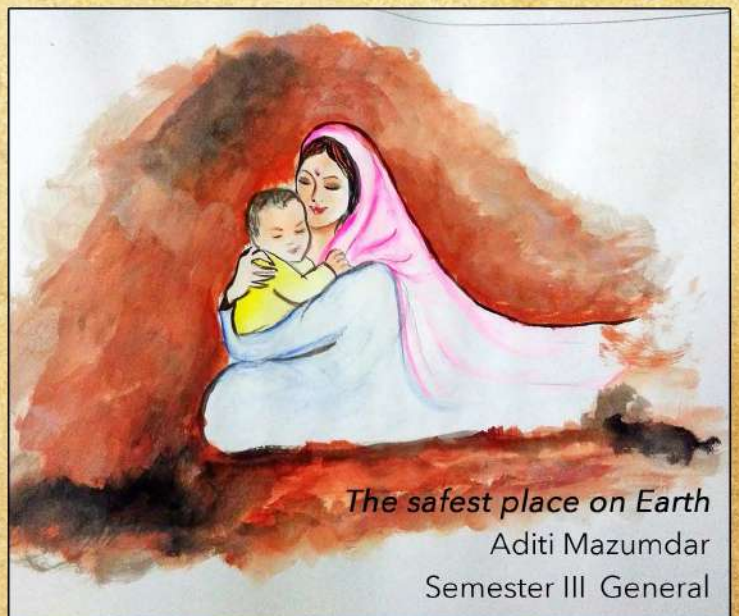
The beauty and the beast
 Rupanjana Debray
 Semester III -Honours



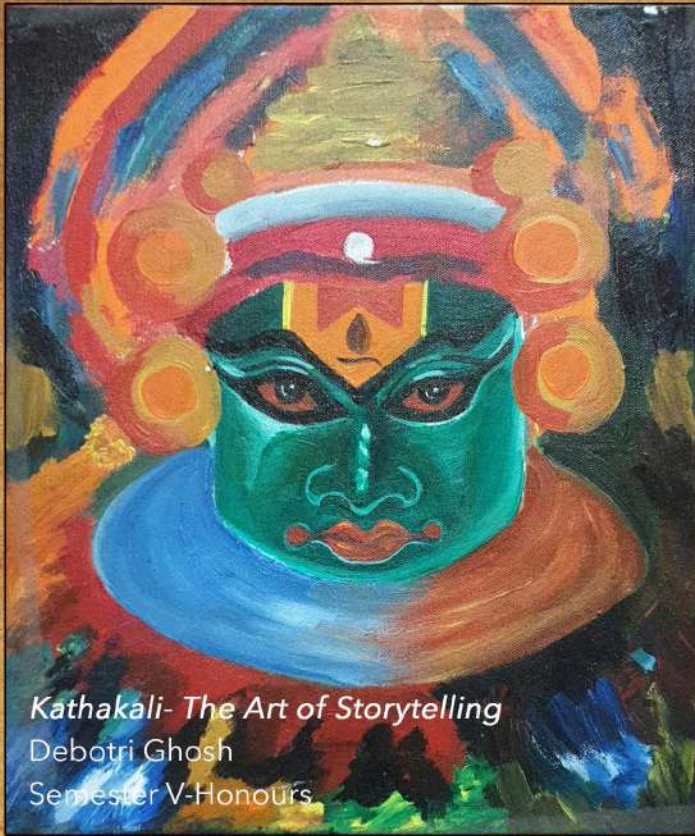
Submerging into the depths of soul
 Monideepa Chakraborty
 Semester III-Honours



The soul mates
 Aditi Mazumdar
 Semester III -General



The safest place on Earth
 Aditi Mazumdar
 Semester III General



Kathakali- The Art of Storytelling
Debotri Ghosh
Semester V-Honours



*Sunsets are proof that endings
can often be beautiful too*

Shaibi Basu
Semester III -Honours



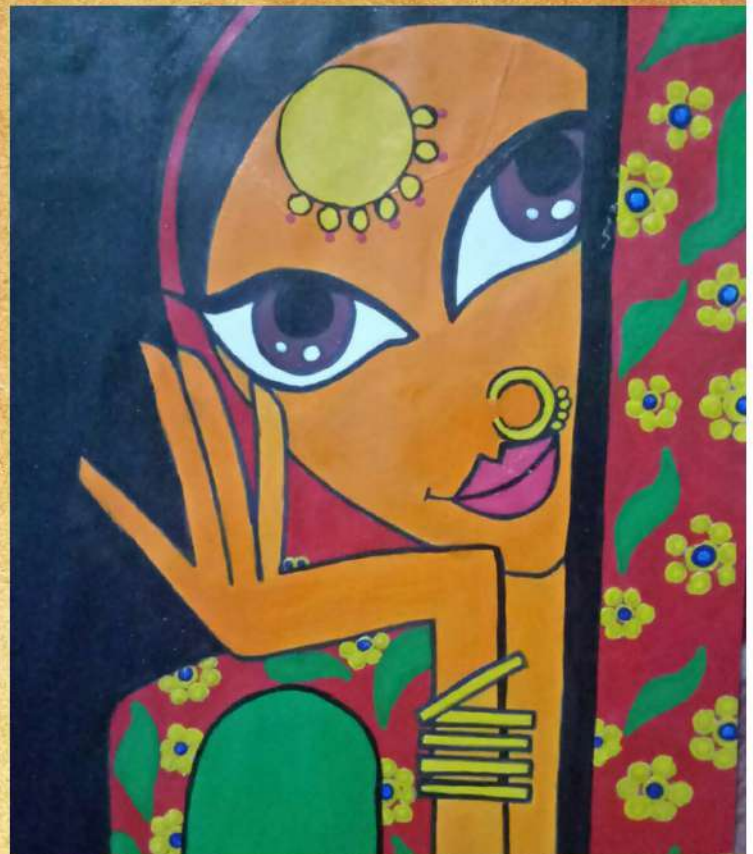
Flowing beauty
Anuska Goswami
Semester III -General

Fragmented Life
Anuska Goswami
Semester III -General





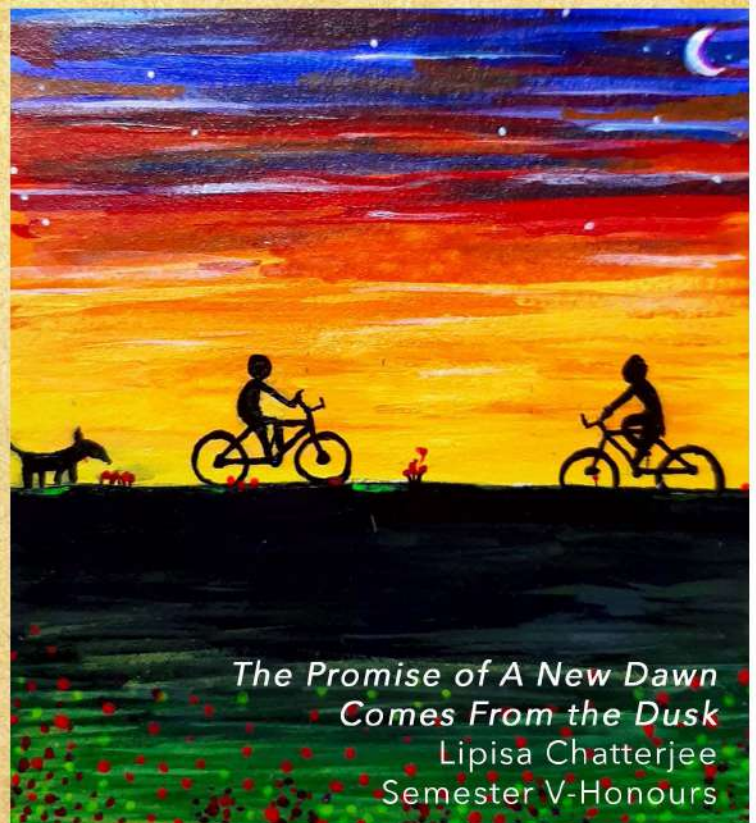
On the hills
 Hetvi Kothari
 Semester VI*** Honours



Banjaran Woman
 Komal Kumari
 Semester III -Honours



View of the mountains-
 Hetvi Kothari
 Semester VI*** Honours



*The Promise of A New Dawn
 Comes From the Dusk*
 Lipisa Chatterjee
 Semester V-Honours



Illustrations



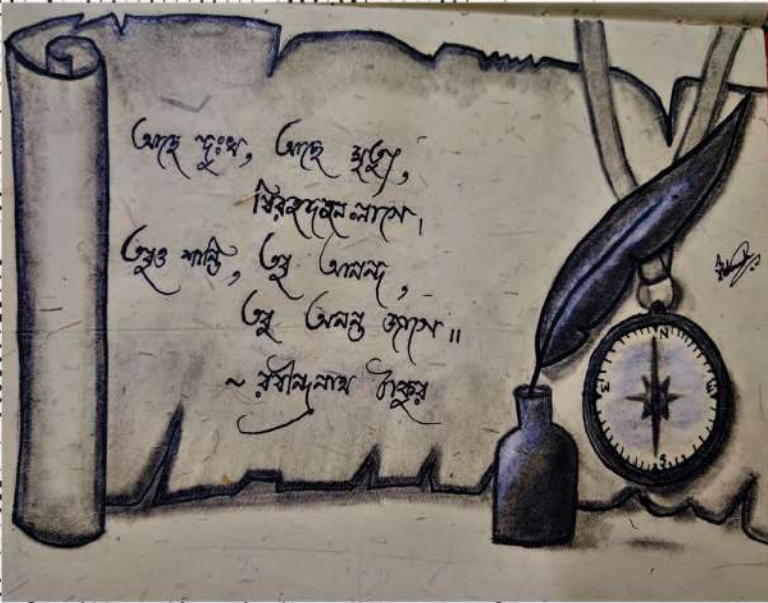
Paradisical
-Awantika Rai
(Semester VI***)



Split Art
-Awantika Rai
(Semester VI***)

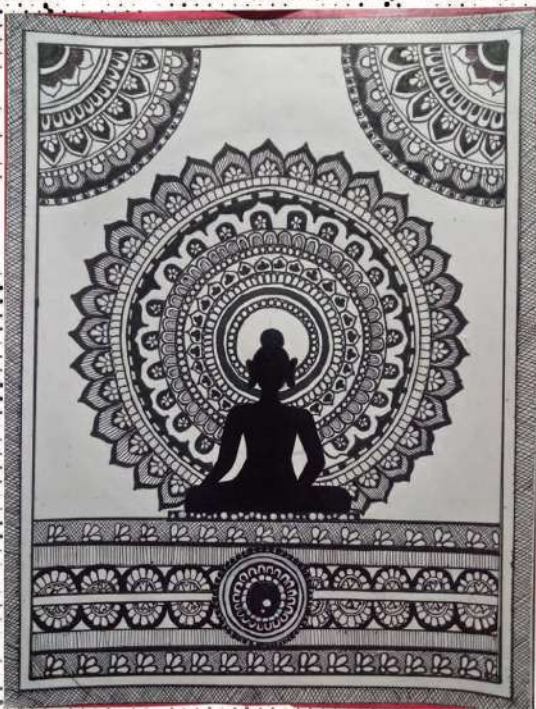


The One With Tough Exterior
Also Has a Kind Interior
-Awantika Rai
(Semester VI***)



Aache Dukkho, Aache Sukh
-Alokananda Sen
(Semester VI*)**

Waiting to be Pampered
-Rupanjana Debray
(Semester III)

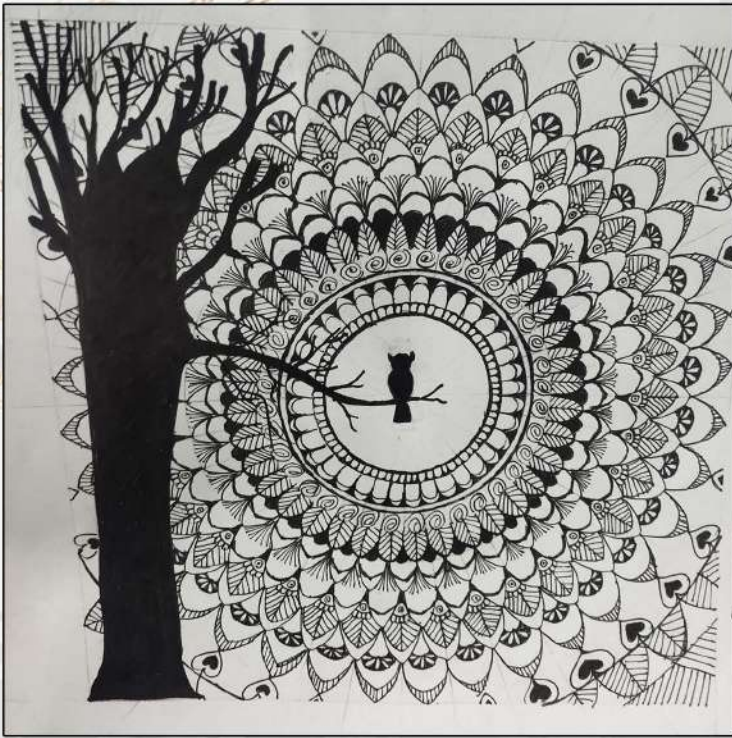


Conquer the Inner
-Komal Kumari
(Semester III)

Tears are Light But Carries
Heavy Feelings
-Sristi Chanda
(Semester III)

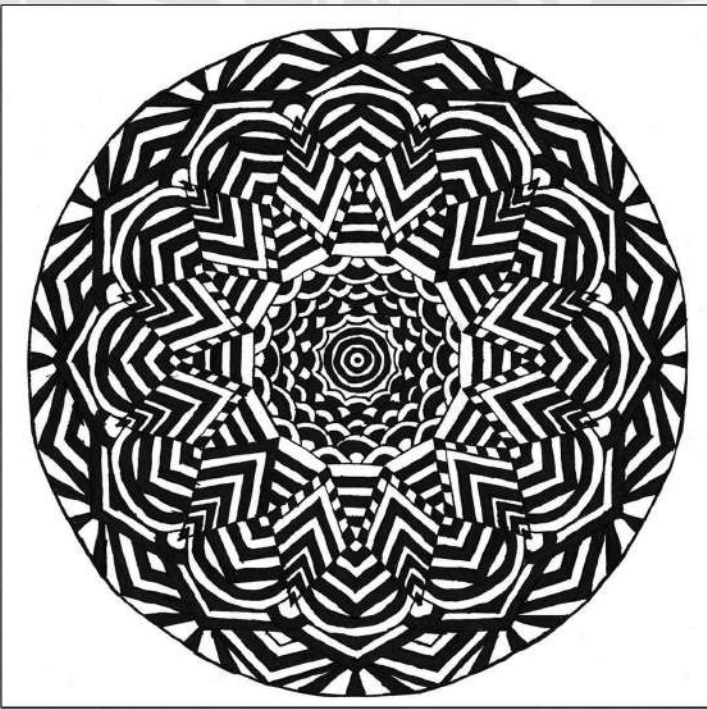
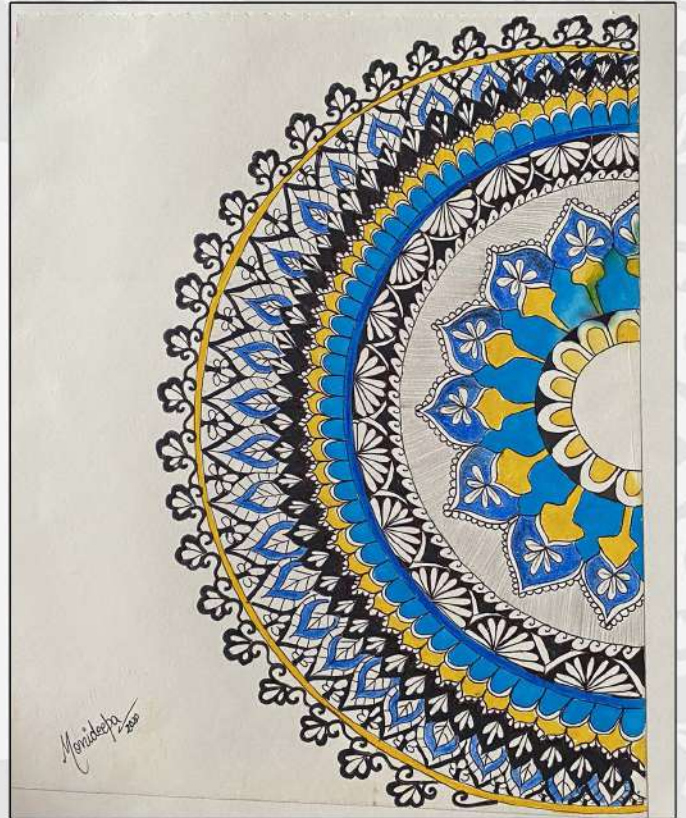
Mandalas



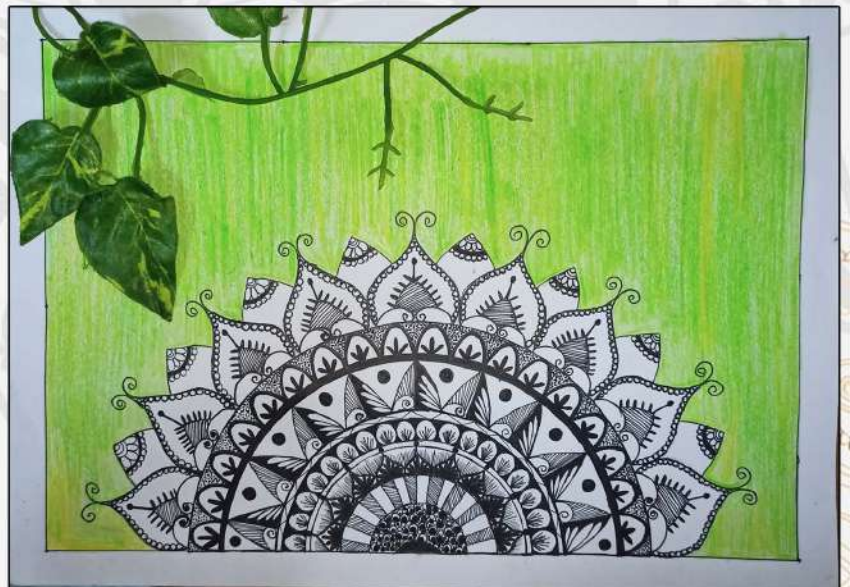


TAMALI MUHURI
SEMESTER V - HONOURS

MONIDEEPA CHAKRABORTY
SEMESTER III - HONOURS



ABHINANDAN MODAK
SEMESTER III - HONOURS



NANDINI KHANDELWAL
SEMESTER III - HONOURS

Sketches





FEMININITY SYMBOLIZED
POULAMI MAJUMDER
SEMESTER III- HONOURS



THE ROUTE OF SUFFERING
IS ATTACHMENT
TAMALI MUHURI
SEMESTER V- HONOURS



MASKED MAN
SRISTI CHANDA
SEMESTER III- GENERAL



APUR SANSAR
RUPANJANA DEBRAY
SEMESTER III- HONOURS



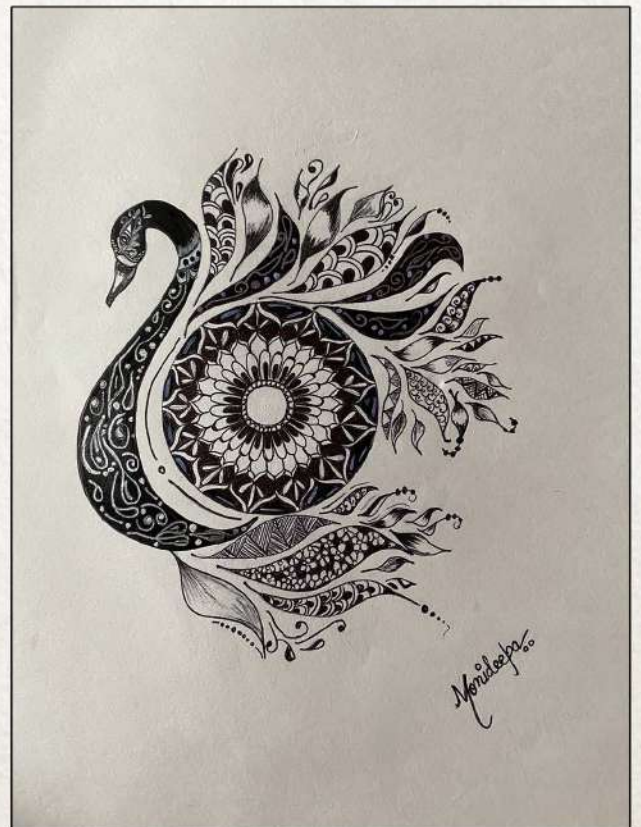
COLOURS OF CELEBRATION
PAHEL PAREKH
SEMESTER V- HONOURS



THE POT OF LIFE
HETVI KOTHARI
SEMESTER VI- HONOURS



WHEREVER LIFE PLANTS YOU,
BLOOM WITH GRACE
MONIDEEPA CHAKRABORTY
SEMESTER III- HONOURS



CONQUER FROM WITHIN
MONIDEEPA CHAKRABORTY
SEMESTER III- HONOURS



Comic Strip

ROAD NOT TAKEN

Debotri Ghosh (Semester V-Honours)

