

GARGI COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

# DEMOS



POLITICS  
OF THE  
PANDEMIC

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

## GARGI COLLEGE

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- Dr. Joya Bhattacharya
- Dr. Puja Rani
- Dr. Sweta Mishra
- Mr. Mukesh Gautam
- Ms. Pemala Bhutia
- Dr. Maneesha Roy
- Mr. Deoraj Singh
- Dr. Anita Bhatt
- Dr. Seema Sharma
- Dr. Nitish Kumar
- Dr. Ragini Singh
- Dr. Jayshree Tandekar
- Dr. Lungthuiyang Riamei
- Dr. Vineeta Bhatt
- Ms. Ankita Singh
- Ms. Lasya Tandon

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Dr. Maneesha Roy

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- Aastha Gupta
- Adya Vashishtha
- Anvi Ahuja
- Aashmani Ghosh
- Krishangi Kathotia
- Shivangi Pandey
- Shreya
- Riya Thakur

# MEET THE TEAM

## Faculty Advisors



Dr. Maneesha Roy



Dr. Jayashree Tandekar



Dr. Puja Rani

## Student Editorial Team



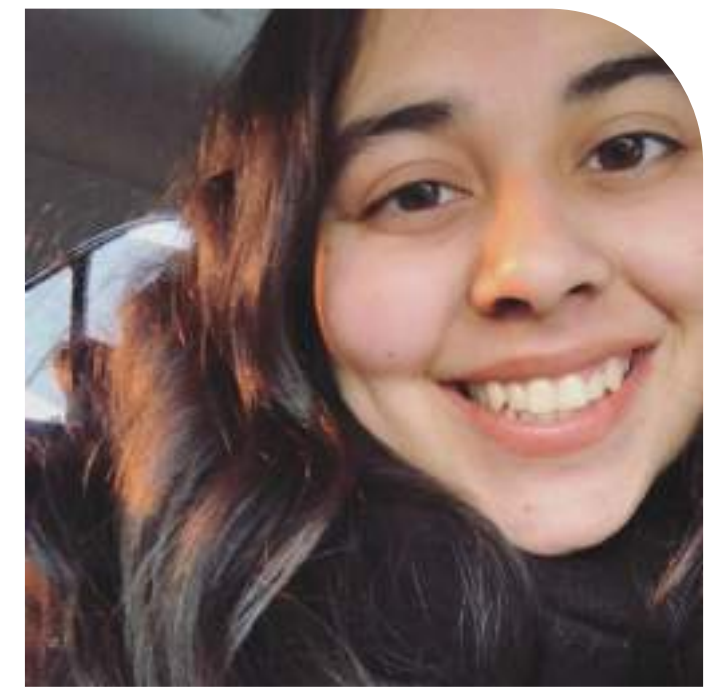
Adya Vashishtha



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Aashmani Ghosh



Shivangi Pandey



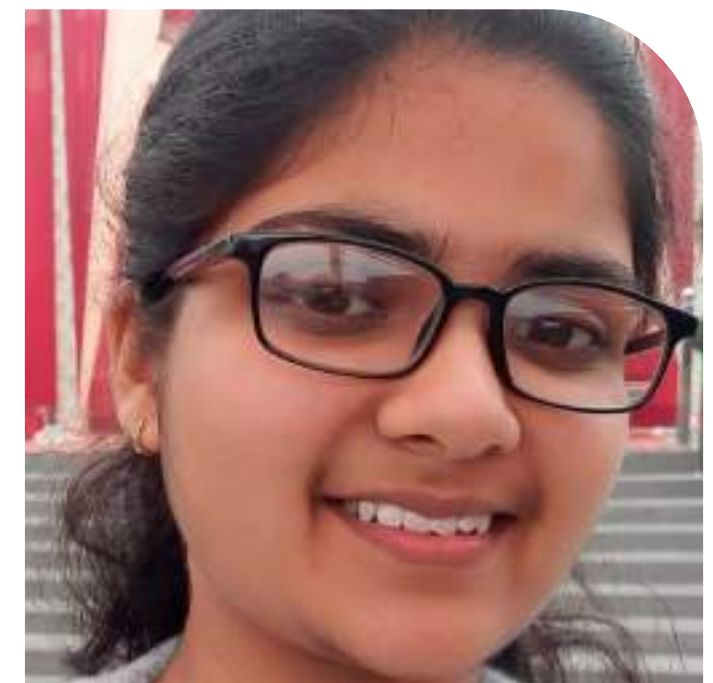
Krishangi Kathotia



Anvi Ahuja



Riya Thakur



Shreya

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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Students/Friends,

I congratulate the team of students and teachers of the Department of Political Science whose relentless efforts has made this edition of DEMOS accessible to us. True to its name, this magazine gives an insight into the range and scope of the imagination and creativity of our students and faculty members collectively. As a Principal of Gargi College it gives me immense pleasure to experience the warmth of this literary tradition in resonance with the glorious past of the institution.

The theme of the Department's magazine is 'Politics of the Pandemic'. We are passing through a critical phase in our country due to the pandemic COVID-19. In this context enormous responsibility lies on our shoulders to ensure the survival of democratic values so that everyone is able to lead a life of dignity with mutual love and respect.

A huge thanks to all the faculty members for their dedicated contribution towards teaching and learning process during this critical phase. I acknowledge their extraordinary work they have done to manage the whole curriculum via online classes.

I also appreciate our students for taking part in online learning very enthusiastically and came out as young leaders who conducted various programs successfully though face to face interactions. It is remarkable that we managed to pull that off together, all of us, including parents, staff and students.

In the academic year of 2020-21, the Department of Political Science unwaveringly strived towards fostering critical thinking and interactive intellectual engagement through academic talks as well as extra-curricular activities.

I am highly thankful to the Teachers in charge, association in-charges, all faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students of my college for their support and guidance in facilitating this Magazine.

I wish DEMOS will scale greater heights with active participation of students and staff members of this institution.

I send my best wishes to the staff and students of the college for a glorious future.

Prof. Promila Kumar

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

When we brought out the 2020 version of DEMOS, little did we expect that publishing digitally would become a tradition. The pandemic had just begun to wreak its havoc on the world and now more than a year into it, it is becoming increasingly clear that the new at-home, online lifestyle is here to stay. Instead of fighting it, we at DEMOS chose to embrace it and this is how we naturally arrived at 'Politics of the Pandemic' as the overarching theme for the magazine.

From a worldwide lockdown, economic recession, human rights crises, farmers' movements to the ordinary person's daily struggles to survive this never-before-experienced catastrophe- the pandemic has affected every living being in some way, some more adverse than others. Lives have been impacted politically, economically and socially and we felt that it was extremely important to ask our readers what they perceived and felt in this time. It was for this reason that for the first time, we welcomed submissions on any political topic- after all, the only commonality we share at this time is the vast diversity of experience and perspective.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the magazine as much as we enjoyed curating it- from pieces on vaccine diplomacy, China's expansionism, environmental policies and even book suggestions, the next few pages promise to be a rich collection of engaging content that is characteristic of the rich variety of the department of political science at Gargi.

Lastly, here's hoping that these trying times come to a quick close but it has been absolutely inspiring to go through them with all of you.

Hope and strength,  
Team DEMOS

# MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

The academic year 2020-21 has been unprecedented, quite like the backdrop of the pandemic that it was forced to start in. The Political Science Department took this year as an opportunity to challenge itself to function efficiently and effectively in the changing conditions. The essence of the department which rests in keeping up with the times, analysing the political realities all over the world and striving to create a balance when the core ideals of egalitarianism, human rights and fraternity are being compromised in many democracies across the globe, has been preserved vehemently by the various activities that took place over the course of this year.



With the world shifting to a reality behind the screens, it is an irony how disconnected we have all been with one another. However, that did not stop the Department from displaying remarkable academic and extra-curricular performance while also portraying an in depth understanding and analysis of the knowledge being imparted by our esteemed faculty, even in the online mode of instruction. This year the department has taken up various themes of political relevance, with special focus on the realignments in the political scenario owing to Covid-19. The cultural calendar began with an international webinar on the much anticipated US election in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, Zakir Hussain College, DU. This was followed by a much needed mental health webinar that imparted various strategies to cope with the new normal. A fruitful and engaging discussion was held to commemorate the international women's day along with lively student performances. An offline tree plantation drive was also initiated on the occasion of World Water Day.

A grand conclusion to the year's activities came with a one of its kind annual virtual fest 'Pol Pourri 21' with the pertinent theme "Maazi se Mojuda: Democracy in Corona Times". The initiative was to discuss the shared experiences of each other as individuals and as citizens of



a democracy amidst a global health crisis. The event involved events like debates, policy analysis, manifesto making competitions, performing arts among others which helped the students work up their creativity while also being sensitised about the various groups that have contributed to the control of and have suffered at the hands corona.

As the President of the department, it was inspiring to watch and learn from my fellow students and teachers. The amount of solidarity and understanding that unified the department in these times of uncertainty was commendable to say the least. With the second wave ushering in, it is imperative that we take care of ourselves and our loved ones. The roll out of vaccines has given us a small ray of hope which can be held on to in order to get through the pandemic. The past year has robbed all of us of precious memories, first experiences and hug-filled goodbyes, but in a way it has also inculcated in us a sense of empathy that could not have been possible in the hustle bustle of pre-covid times. I would like to urge each one of you to keep this empathy alive, even when we get to get back to our old lives.

On behalf of the Student Union, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Teacher-In-Charge, Association in-charges, Demos faculty advisors, and our faculty members for their constant support and guidance. I would also like to thank the Demos team, Permanent Volunteers and the students for keeping alive the enthusiasm and positive spirit and making the department activities an echoing success with their participation.

Lots of love, light and strength to each one of you, you are a fighter and I am proud of you!

Adya Vashishtha

President

Students' Union Department of Political Science (2020-21)

Gargi College

# Political Science Annual Report

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE: DR. MANEESHA ROY  
ASSOCIATION-IN-CHARGE: DR. SEEMA SHARMA  
MR. DEORAJ SINGH

The pandemic situation of the year gone by did not dampen the enthusiasm of Department of Political Science for celebrating its academic spirit. During the lockdown, the Department organized a national webinar on the pertinent theme 'Pandemic, Laws and State Responses in India: A Citizen's Perspective' on May 22, 2020. The esteemed chief guests and speakers for the event were Professor Ujjwal Kumar Singh from University of Delhi and Professor Anupama Roy from Jawaharlal Nehru University. The academic calendar of the Department for 2020-21 began with the holding of Intra-Department Poster Making Competition on 'Gandhi and Environment Movement in India' to commemorate the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The first online Department Student Union Election was held on November 5, 2020 for the posts of President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer and Proctors.

The inaugural webinar of the Department 'Decoding American Elections 2020' was conducted on November 25, 2020 in collaboration with Zakir Husain Delhi College. The eminent speakers at this international webinar were Professor Jinee Lokaneeta and Professor Sanjay Mishra from Drew University, United States of America who discussed about the various factors that influenced the 2020 American presidential elections. The event was Facebook live which witnessed active participation of more than 600 students. The next major event in the academic calendar of the Department was the national webinar followed by a virtual interactive session on 'Mental Well-being: An Initiative Towards Mentoring the Students' which was organized on March 6, 2021. The session was facilitated by Dr. Roma Kumar who is Senior Consultant Psychologist in the Institute of Child Health talked on 'Suffering and Healing: Occidental and Oriental Perspectives', and Dr. Naveen Kumar from Department of Psychology, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi who spoke on 'Digital Learning and Mental Well Being: Issues and Challenges for Students'. This was an initiative by the Department to mentor the students during the pandemic and help them deal with various mental challenges posed by online learning.

Keeping with the spirit of womanhood, the International Women's Day was celebrated virtually by the Department on March 8, 2021 on the theme 'Time to Challenge'. It included dance performances, music and open house discussion on the issues pertaining to women in India. The event was well received by the students. To celebrate 'World Water Day', the Department organized a tree plantation drive in

collaboration with the Gardening Committee of the College on March 22, 2021. The most important event of the Department, the annual fest 'Pol Pourri' was conducted with much enthusiasm on April 3, 2021 with the theme 'Democracy in Corona Times'. The fest was inaugurated with a talk on 'Redefining Centre-State Relations in Pandemic Times' by Professor Rekha Saxena from Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. As part of the fest, the Department also organized various inter-college activities such as Coronologue (the monologue competition) on 'Dalit Lives Matter', the Manna Manifesto, Lockdown's Got Talent based on performing arts on 'Homage to Women Workers', Media Circus (meme/comic strip making competition) on 'Media and Pandemic', Turncoat Debate on 'Farmers' Bill: Satan or Saviour' and Poliopsy (critical analysis of policies) on 'NEP and Roshni Act'. On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, the Department invited Professor Sushma Yadav, Vice Chancellor, Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalya, Haryana on April 16, 2021 for a webinar on 'Dr. Ambedkar's Perspective on Empowerment of Women'. The students actively participated in the event.



# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Invited Speakers of Eminence for 2020-21

NAME	DESIGNATION	TITLE
• Dr. Anupama Roy	Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University	Pandemic, Laws and State Responses in India: A Citizen's Perspective
• Dr. Ujjwal Kumar Singh	Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi	Pandemic, Laws and State Responses in India: A Citizen's Perspective
• Dr. Jinee Lokaneeta	Professor, Political Science and International Relations, Drew University, United States of America	Policing of Race and Gender in 2020
• Dr. Sanjay Mishra	Assistant Professor, Political Science, Drew University, United States of America	Indian Americans and the US Elections
• Dr. Roma Kumar	Senior Consultant Psychologist in the Institute of Child Health, Vice Chairperson (Psychology), Institute for Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	Suffering and Healing: Occidental and Oriental Perspectives

- Dr. Naveen Kumar Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi Digital Learning and Mental Well Being: Issues and Challenges for Students
- Dr. Rekha Saxena Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi Redefining Centre-State Relations in Pandemic Times
- Dr. Sushma Yadav Professor, Vice Chancellor, Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalya, Sonipat, Haryana Dr. Ambedkar's Perspective on Empowerment of Women

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Semester-wise Results for Academic Session 2019-20

RANK	NAME OF THE STUDENT.	EXAMINATION ROLL NUMBER	SGPA
Semester I			
1	Ranu Deshbhratar	19024527095	8.00
	Reshu Raj	19024527097	
2	Aliza Fatima	19024527004	7.91
	Chetna	19024527028	
	Drishti Choudhary	19024527035	
3	Khushboo	19024527048	7.73
	Tanya Mittal	19024527135	
Semester II			
1	Chetna	19024527028	8.82
2	Ranu Deshbhratar	19024527095	8.73
	Reshu Raj	19024527097	
3	Tanya Mittal	19024527135	8.55

RANK	NAME OF THE STUDENT.	EXAMINATION ROLL NUMBER	SGPA
Semester III			
1	Vinita	18024527057	8.64
2	Tanishq Kumar Upasana Sonowal	18024527050 18024527052	8.43
3	Aliya Saifi Gunjan Meena Sukanya Prakash Aditi Bhattacharya Akanksha Kumar	18024527005 18024527018 18024527048 18024527064 18024527067	8.21
Semester IV			
1	Aliya Saifi Adya Vashishtha	18024527005 18024527066	8.79
2	Aparajita Roy Disha Bhatia Drishti Verma Sugandh Bhayana Vinita Yashika Yadav	18024527008 18024527014 18024527015 18024527047 18024527057 18024527059	8.64
3	Vidya	18024527056	8.57

RANK	NAME OF THE STUDENT.	EXAMINATION ROLL NUMBER	SGPA
Semester V			
1	Deepmala	17024527013	7.50
	Gautami Nair	17024527016	
	Priyanka	17024527028	
	Shweta Bish	17024527035	
2	Akanksha Yadav	17024527004	7.25
	Gousia Iqbal	17024527018	
	Kirtika Swami	17024527022	
	Vaishali Digari	17024527040	
	Dharna Tehlan	17024527056	
	Noopur Tanwar	17024527074	
	Varsha	17024527089	
3	Akanksha Chaudhary	17024527003	7.00
	Diksha Singhal	17024527014	
	Karishma Baloda	17024527019	
	Habiba Ahmed	17024527020	
	Naina Tiwari	17024527025	
	Pushpa	17024527029	
	Shivangini	17024527033	
	Shweta Yadav	17024527034	
	Sidra Subhan	17024527036	
	Tanisha Mehta	17024527038	
	Vibhuti Sikand	17024527043	
	Anannya Sharma	17024527049	
	Anushka Gaur	17024527051	
	Chhaya	17024527053	
	Deepanshi Gupta	17024527055	
	Kumari Ranjana	17024527065	
	Megha	17024527070	
	Preeti	1702427073	
	Shuchi Meena	17024527077	
	Srishti Verma	17024527085	
	Yashi Gautam	17024527086	
	Deepti Kant	17024527090	
		17024527092	

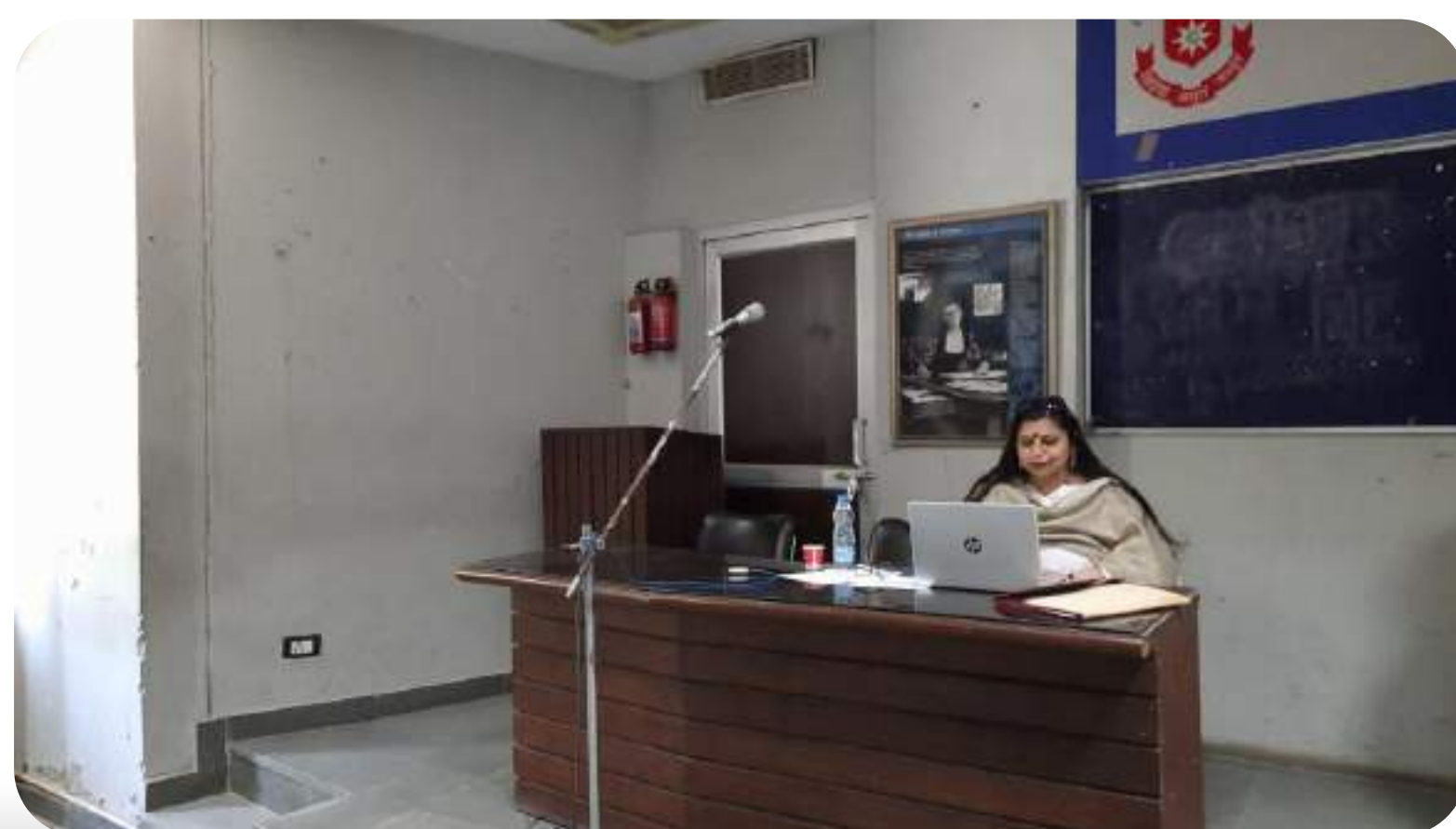


RANK	NAME OF THE STUDENT.	EXAMINATION ROLL NUMBER	SGPA
Semester VI			
1	Namita Devi	17024527073	8.50
2	Vaishali Digari	17024527040	8.25
	Yashasvi Mehlawat	17024527044	
	Deepanshi Gupta	17024527055	
	Dharna Tehlan	17024527056	
	Srishti Verma	17024527086	
	Varsha	17024527089	
	Radhika	17024527093	
3	Gautami Nair	17024527016	8.00
	Gousia Iqbal	17024527018	
	Sanjana Chaudhary	17024527031	
	Shivangini	17024527033	
	Shweta Yadav	17024527034	
	Shweta Bisht	17024527035	
	Tanisha Mehta	17024527038	
	Vani Lavakush	17024527041	
	Vanishka Taank	17024527042	
	Ekta Yadav	17024527058	
	J Gayathri	17024527059	
	Gunjan Sachdeva	17024527060	
	Manya Sharma	17024527068	
	Megha	17024527070	
	Muskan Jain	17024527072	
	Purnima Khanal	17024527078	
	Samridhi Gandhi	17024527084	
	Yashi Gautam	17024527090	

# REPORT: POL POURRI'21

By Shivangi Pandey, 3B

Beginning with lovely music, the annual fest of Department of Political Science, Gargi College, Pol Pourri 2021 on the theme 'Maazi se Mojuda: Democracy in Corona Times' was packed with intellectually stimulating activities, a captivating inaugural address, enthralling performances and enthusiastic participation despite of being a virtual fest. With the recitation of an extract from a short poem by Muriel Rukeyser, a warm welcome address was delivered by Adya Vashishtha, President of the Student's Union, Department of Political Science, followed by a calming rendition of Saraswati Vandana by Ms. Sonam Mishra, a trained Hindustani classical vocalist. On this wonderful note, came about the address of Dr. Promila Kumar, Principal, Gargi College, who expressed her thoughts on the theme and highlighted the importance of evaluating the democratic credentials of the country during the Covid-19 pandemic and declared the fest open. The next address by Dr. Maneesha Roy, Teacher-In-Charge, Department of Political Science was an insightful introduction of the theme 'Maazi se Mojuda: Democracy in Corona Times'. While elaborating on the fact that the public health crisis induced by the Covid-19 pandemic has altered centre state relations in India, Dr. Maneesha Roy went on to enlist some of the centralising laws introduced during this time by various central governments world over. With the increase in non-democratic tendencies in India and rise in governmental surveillance, human rights paid the price. While concluding she appreciated the will power of students to stay positive and keeping the heart of society beating even as public life came to a grinding halt.



This was followed by an intellectually scintillating inaugural address by Prof. Rekha Saxena on the theme of 'Redefining Center-State Relations in Pandemic Times'. Her introduction delivered by Prachi, a student of the department outlined her esteemed credentials as a faculty of the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi and Vice-Chairperson of the Centre for Multilevel Federalism at New Delhi among



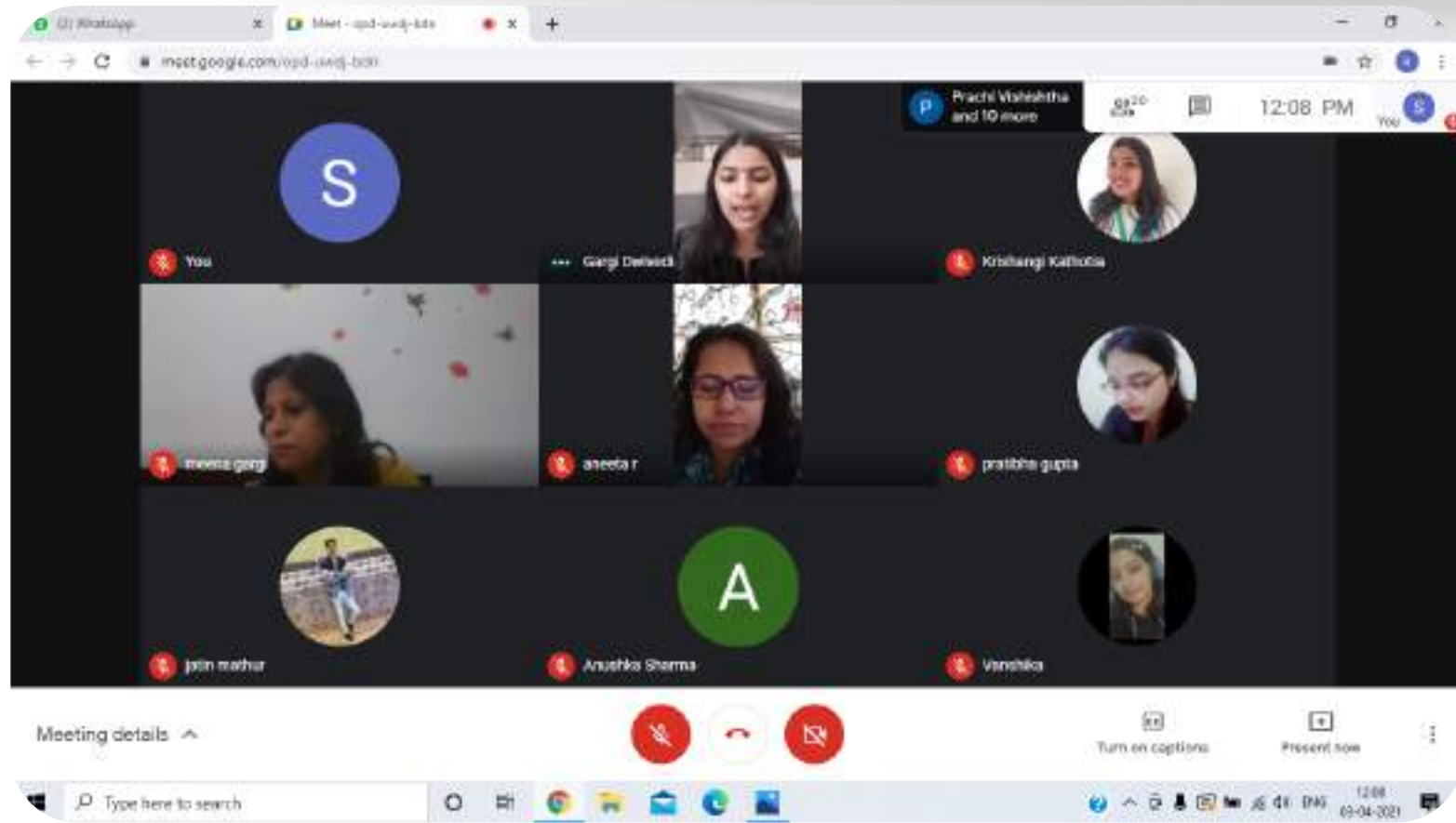
others. According to her expertise on the matter, the pandemic has put federalism in India on trial. This analysis was exemplified through a brief explanation of how the centre did not maintain a line of communication with the states during the first wave of the pandemic on matters concerning the prevailing health crisis situation. A number of acts such as 'Epidemic Disease Act' and 'Disaster Management Act 2005' were used to impose the decisions of the Centre on the States, and a continued issuance of guidelines ensued related to subjects that are part of the State subject list in the constitution. She went on to describe however, that the phase of the 4th and 5th lockdown saw a changed scenario entailing close collaboration between Centre and States through informal conferences signifying the essence of 'cooperative federalism'. While being critical of the inadequate healthcare infrastructure and the mishandling of the situation vis a vis migrant labourers, she suggested the reactivation of constitutional forums of inter-level govt interactions such as forum of Interstate Council. Her address was followed by a dynamic Question-Answer session. The opening ceremony was concluded with captivating dance and instrumental performances by students of the department and the President requested the various participants to disperse for their respective virtual events/competitions.



## EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

### 1. Lockdown's Got Talent

With the theme as 'Homage to the women workers', participants were to pay tribute to women workers, commemorating their contribution to society at large during the lockdown period through performing arts such as shayari, poetry, kawwali, dance, miming, acting etc. The event was judged by esteemed professors Dr. Alka Saikia and Dr. Srinivas Tyagi. After a number of mesmerising performances the judges declared the result in which Ritu Jain and Khushboo Khitoliya were tied for the position of the winner and so were Seeta Prajapati and Mehnoor – Gracy for the position of runner up.



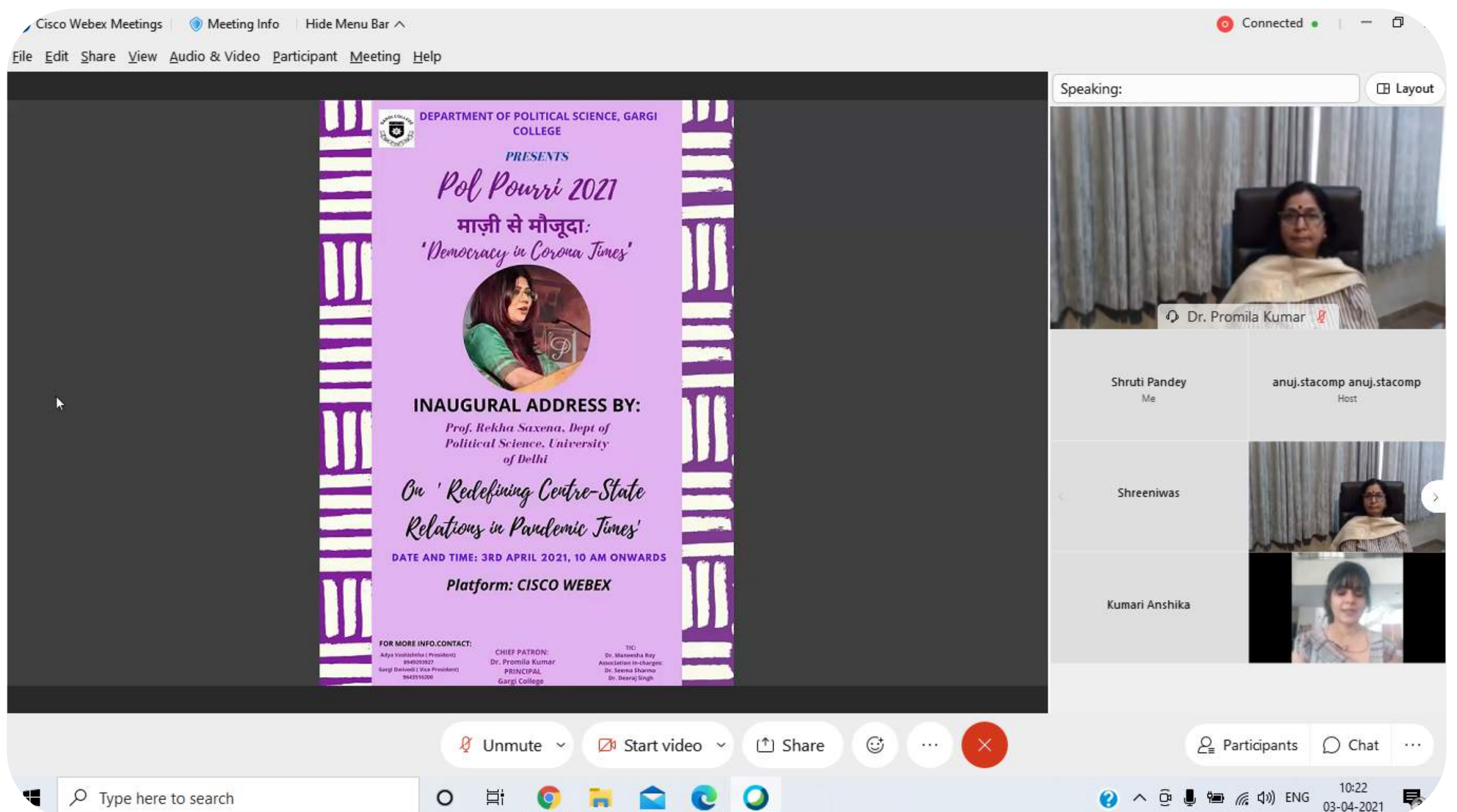
## 2. 'On the flip side' (turncoat debate)

Graced by judges such as Dr. Aneeta Rajendran and Dr. Meena, the event was a variant of conventional form of debating in which the speaker has to change their stance on the motion after half time of their speech. Post the speeches that brought out multiple facets of the motion in a short time, the judges announced the winners to be Shreyansh Dubey and Pratibha Gupta, tied for

the first position, the runner up was Shazia Shifa and Mrigu Sambyal was given the title of Best Interjector.

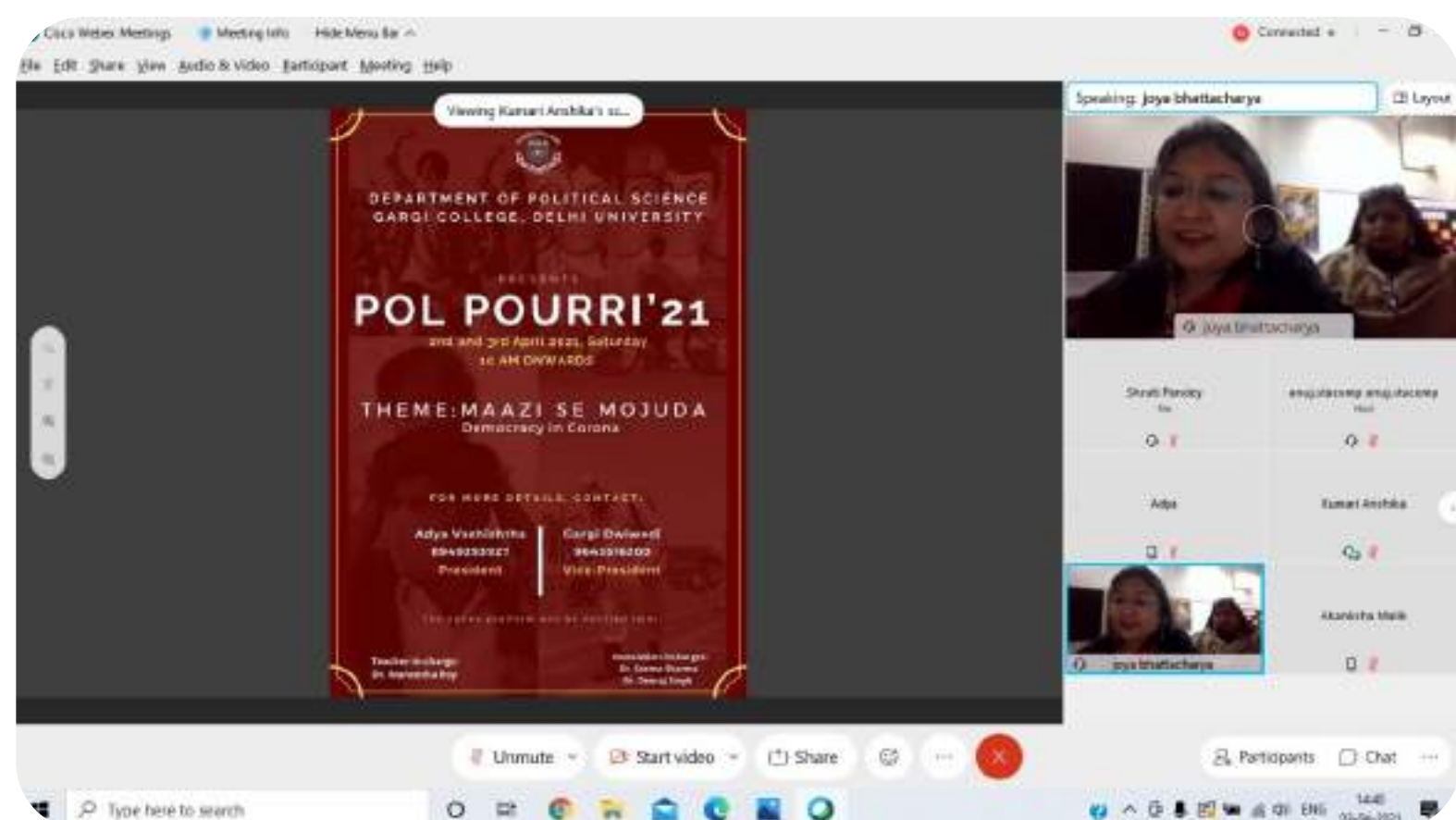
## 3. The Manna Manifesto – the manifesto presentation competition

With the theme of 'Problems in contemporary India with special emphasis on Covid-19 in India' this event entailed preparation of a manifesto on the theme, as participants envisioned leading their own imaginary political into national level elections within the context of the ongoing pandemic. The submitted manifesto entries were judged by esteemed faculty members of the Department of Political Science, Gargi College Dr. Sweta Mishra, Ms. Pemala Bhutia, Dr. Seema Sharma and Dr. Ragini Singh who declared 'Jan Kalyan Sangh' – Aditi Priyadarshini and Vrinda Garg and 'Democratic Reformation League' – Aditi Yadav and Aastha Gupta the winner and runner up respectively.



#### 4. Poli-Opsy – the policy analysis competition

Involving understanding, analysing and recommendation of amendments for a government scheme, act or bill, this event saw novel ways in which this tool of policy analysis can be used in approaching a policy. The policies analysed were – ‘New Education Policy’ and ‘Roshni Act’ and the analyses subsequently submitted were evaluated by esteemed faculty of our very own Department of Political Science, Gargi College – Mr. Deoraj Singh, Ms. Jayashree Tandekar, Dr. Nitish Kumar and Mr. Mukesh Gautam. The winning duo of the competition was Katha Ray and Rashika Singh, and the runner up team consisted of Nilabja Das and Sanjana Prithyani.



#### 5. The Media Circus – meme and comic strip making competition

The meme and comic strip making competition with the theme ‘Media and the Pandemic’ brought out the comic in each of the participants. Graced by the presence of judges who are also respected professors of the Department of Political Science, Gargi College – Dr. Vineeta Bhatt, Dr. Lungthuiyang Riamei, Dr. Anita Bhatt and

Ms. Ankita Singh, the event saw some witty and creative entries on the theme. The winner and runner up were Saachi Chadwani and Kshitij Bhambhri respectively.

#### 6. Coronologue – the monologue competition

As a chance for participants to raise their voices in an effort to bring change and inspire people to fight for what matters, this monologue competition was organized on the theme ‘Dalit Lives Matter’. The judges were esteemed professors from the Department of Political Science, Gargi College - Dr. Puja Rani, Dr. Joya Bhattacharya, Dr. Maneesha Roy and Mr. Raunak Pathak who declared the winner to be Rishika Rastogi and announced a tie between Manmeet Kaur and Janya Sarwal for the position of runner up.



## CLOSING CEREMONY

After a day full of analytical dynamism encapsulated in the spirit of creativity, Pol Pourri 2021 came to an end. Acknowledging the efforts and guidance of all those involved in making the event a success, Adya Vashishtha, President, Student's Union, of the Department of Political Science, Gargi College delivered the vote of thanks. The event was concluded by wishing for all, a safe, healthy and brighter tomorrow. With this, the event was declared closed.





# INDIA IN THE PANDEMIC: EFFECTS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

By Dr. Jayshree Tandekar

The year gone by witnessed unprecedented changes in the lives of individuals. The changes were not only mental, social, cultural, health-related but economic as well. Initially when the pandemic had set in, the safety and health issues became the top most priority for people. However, as pandemic became the 'new normal' and as people adjusted themselves to the new norms such as constant wearing of masks, frequent use of sanitizer, social distancing, limiting the size of public gatherings and virtual conduct of social interactions, the grim realities were staring at India's face. On the health front, more than 13 million people have fallen prey to the corona virus while about one-fifth of a million people have lost their lives. Further, all the sectors of the Indian economy (be it primary, secondary or tertiary) have been witness to steep economic downturn. In the field of education, the mode of learning has become virtual, much to the dismay of students, parents and teachers alike. As far as its foreign policy is concerned, India has initiated vaccine diplomacy 'vaccine maitri' to strengthen its ties with its neighbours in the east as well as the western countries. Last month, as part of this diplomacy, India also gifted two million doses of made in India COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers to be distributed in all the UN peacekeeping missions. The present article provides a brief understanding of the effects of pandemic in three essential sectors of Indian state – health, economy and education as well as the challenges which the Indian state would have to grapple with in each of these sectors in near future.

## Economy

The Indian economy has suffered several setbacks in last one year due to pandemic. According to the World Economic Outlook, the biannual report published by the International Monetary Fund every year, India's GDP was predicted at 1.871% for financial year 2021, one of the lowest in the recent past. During the first quarter of 2020, private consumption -accounting for 59% of India's GDP - fell by 27%, while investments by private businesses reduced by 47%. There has been a sharp decline in productivity as well as consumer demand for goods and services.

Reports suggest that India's middle class may have been reduced to one-third in size due to prevalent conditions while the number of people earning less than 150 rupees daily may have more than doubled. Not only have the income and the purchasing power of the people drastically reduced but the employment opportunities have declined as well. According to one report, the unemployment rates have increased by 8.35% to 23.52% during April-August 2020. In particular, the workers in informal sector have faced income and employment losses. An important point to make here is that during the lockdown imposed in early 2020 millions of jobs were lost and it resulted in mass migration of workers from urban to rural areas. In addition, more women have lost jobs as compared to men and as of today, many women are still out of workforce. Apart from this, several labour-intensive sectors such as construction, real estate, retail trade, transport and manufacturing have contracted sharply. There are some economic sectors such as hospitality, tourism, aviation, hotels and recreation that have been directly impacted by the restricted mobility of people in current times. However, the relief packages announced by the government last year have not helped in the economic recovery as the direct government spending component is modest. Also, the bulk of relief measures consists of indirect support such as credit guarantees and liquidity infusion and they have not resulted in higher credit growth.

## **Education**

One of the sectors to be adversely affected by the pandemic in India has been the education sector. Since the early months of last year, several unintended changes have been witnessed in the education sector. The traditional method of classroom teaching has been replaced by online teaching in schools, colleges and universities. This change has not been limited to teaching alone. Even the examinations and assessments have been conducted online. The pandemic has designated technology as the most important parameter for imparting of education today. However, technological limitations such as poor or no network connectivity, non-availability of devices (laptops and mobile phones), limited awareness of online teaching platforms and privacy concerns have hindered remote learning. In addition, the financial and infrastructural constraints have only aggravated the helpless situation. The teacher-student engagement, which has always been essential for the growth of a student, has also taken a backseat in digital learning. Apart from this, the compulsion to be available virtually for unspecified time period has severely impacted the mental and physical well-being of both teachers and students. Specifically, the closure of schools has drastically affected the lives of students who belong to underprivileged sections of society. The absence of requirement for physical presence in schools has translated into additional burden of household and farm work for many of the children to meet the financial needs of their families. The girls have particularly become vulnerable to being married early due to the disruption of several activities such as mid-day meal scheme, school health programme and pre-metric scholarships to girl students.

## **Health**

Health is another sector which has been gravely affected by the pandemic. By and large, the focus has been on the number of people who have been infected by coronavirus and the measures taken



by the government to prevent and deal with such cases. However, COVID-19 is not the only infection which is affecting the health of people. There are various other infections and diseases but they have become insignificant both for the common man as well as health care centres. Owing to the urgency, the health care centres have been compelled to devote majority of their personnel, financial and infrastructural resources to deal with the pandemic situation at the cost of other diseases. Likewise, given the psychological fear of contracting infection if they step out of house, people have postponed the health care that is not urgent. Thus, many primary care practices have recorded a decline of almost 70%. In particular, the private health care sector has reported 80% reduction in patient visits over the last few months. Consequently, many small hospitals and nursing homes especially in Tier-II and Tier-III cities have closed down due to the financial crunch. Also, the salaries of clinical staff have been reduced or not paid for considerable period of time and many of them have even lost their jobs. Apart from this, the health care workers themselves are at high risk of not only being infected because of their proximity to the patients but also of other problems such as psychological stress, long working hours, fatigue, occupational burnout, stigma and physical violence.

## Conclusion

India has become the world's new hotspot for the COVID-19 pandemic as infection cases have surged in recent weeks. Though the economy recovered in the third quarter of financial year 2021 with a positive GDP growth of 0.4%, it would grow only at around 1.1% in financial year 2022. Also, the employment rate is still 2.5% less than that before the pandemic. The purchasing power of people has drastically reduced due to rising unemployment and worries about possibility of job losses in the future. In the absence of domestic demand, businesses would not undertake fresh investments, which in turn would curb employment and overall economic growth. Hence, it is a vicious circle. Such an unprecedented situation demands effective fiscal stimulus by the government to generate domestic demand and to sustain investment. The primary focus of fiscal stimulus should be on the informal sector and casual workers. Further, the digital learning has exposed the wide technological and financial divide between the rich and poor and the urban and rural areas. Hence, education planning has to be context specific, gender responsive and inclusive. Moreover, the pandemic has revealed the weakness of India's health sector. For years, India's budget allocation for health sector has been less than 2% of its total budget. Therefore, there is an urgent need to increase public health spending in India. In addition, the government can devise new policies to help the health care workers deal with psychological and physical stress presently endured by them. In addition, special insurance and health packages can be introduced for health care workers as a guarantee of mental and bodily security. To conclude, it can be said that pandemic is here to stay and hence it is the responsibility of every individual and not just the government to mitigate the effects of coronavirus and to meet its challenges effectively in the various sectors of the Indian state.

# CROWN SHAPED VIRUS

Sristi Verma  
1st year

Oh beloved how scared I was,  
the risk of losing you to the invisible,  
a creature with no animus and no heart.  
an unknown, undefeatable enemy;  
pounding on you when you had no armour, no  
vicious sword.

Trying to reach you, almost desperate, no hope  
to light my heart,  
You alone in the hospital bed, while I was  
sobbing miles apart, .  
No flying carpet, no fairy tale magic, a real world  
morbid with death and loss,  
But oh my sweet how hard you fought,  
indeed a lioness at heart!  
Me, caged inside four cold walls, hands with  
sanitizer, face with masks,  
incomplete without the symphony of your  
laugh.  
In extreme agony, this is how my few days  
passed.

Streets again lively, grandma with her dog,  
gardens filled with restrained joy, eyes  
shadowed with unexpected loss.  
with grim determination, I pave my path,  
holding the fragile hope of thread,  
Finally, the painful journey ended, my  
destination before my eyes  
Stained windows shading you, the door opened  
and you came running into my arms.  
Sunken cheeks, hollowed eyes,  
Oh love how beautiful you were to my parched  
eyes!



# INDIA'S VACCINE DIPLOMACY

Dania Sheikh  
2nd Year

India's vaccine assistance programme which is called 'Vaccination Maitri' intends at distributing 160 million covid vaccines to 60 friendly countries by the end of march 2021. Under this programme 10 million doses of Covishield vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India are to be gifted to the countries in the Immediate and extended neighbourhood like Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Myanmar ,Afghanistan and Mauritius. Indian foreign secretary Harsh Shringla has stated that India's closest neighbours, friends and partners will receive a privileged access to the vaccine. India has received immense appreciation from WHO for its Vaccination Maitri.

The motivation behind India's Vaccine assistance programme is not entirely based on altruism, it partly stems from the need to counter China's ascendancy in the South Asian region. China's BRI (belt and road initiative) which encompasses around 70 countries jeopardises India's clout in the region. This


context necessitates India to give foreign aid to its neighbours to maintain and expand its geopolitical influence. The NDA government has taken up several goodwill measures as a part of its 'Neighbourhood Policy". NDA has attempted to build alliances even with the countries in the extended neighbourhood like Seychelles and Mauritius .Striking a partnership with these countries is essential for ensuring security and stability in the Indian Ocean region. China's Infrastructure programmes have attracted several South Asian countries, hence it becomes pertinent for India to resolve its outstanding conflicts with countries like Nepal, Bhutan and even Pakistan and garner their support in thwarting Chinese aggression.

India's good will gesture during this time of crises will enable India to cement good relations with it's neighbours. Good relations with neighbours reduce the need to spend hefty amounts on defence and that money can be allocated to other sectors like health, infrastructure and education, so spending huge amounts on vaccine diplomacy is a win for

India. The government has received domestic criticism for undertaking this vaccine assistance programme as the masses in India are yet to be inoculated with the vaccine. The government claims that there are sufficient vaccine and that it plans to vaccinate 300 million workers over the next 6-8 months. About 3500 crore have been allocated for vaccines in the 2021 budget and the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitaram has stated that this figure could increase if the need arises.

The plethora of leading pharmaceutical companies located in India make it the world's largest vaccine manufacturer. India has played a significant role in eradicating viruses in the past. Its role in combatting the public health crises in Africa and polio in the South East Asian region has received global recognition. It is this capacity to produce vaccines on a massive scale which grants it a leverage over China. The vaccine developed by India's Bharat Biotech has been given an emergency approval by Drug Controller General of India, this has led to an outage in the country as the efficacy results of the phase 3 trials have not been made public but despite that it has been regarded as a more credible vaccine than the Chinese vaccines Sinopharm and Sinovac. This can be ascertained from the fact that China's closest ally Cambodia has refused to accept the Chinese Vaccine and is pinning its hopes on the covax which is an initiative to distribute covid vaccines for the lower and middle income countries. Unlike India, China has not gifted vaccines to its allies. Despite the cordial relations shared between China and Pakistan, the latter has to purchase the covid vaccine from China. This provides India an opportunity to mitigate its tensions with Pakistan by lending a helping hand during this testing time.

Vaccine diplomacy will not only enhance India's stature in the international arena but it will also help in effectively warding off the challenge posed by Covid. A pandemic cannot be eliminated by one country alone, heightened levels of globalisation mandate that countries cooperate for any stage to succeed. While vaccines are offering some respite but the absence of a global strategy and the preoccupation with Vaccine Nationalism are posing obstacles. WHO director Tedros Adhanom has stated that the 'Vaccine Nationalism will prolong the pandemic'. He has been critical of the 'me first approach' adopted by several countries which have worsened the chances of the poorest countries to acquire the vaccine. Vaccine hoarding will only dampen the prospects of eliminating the virus.



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DRAFT 2020: NEW WEAPON TO CLEAR THE PATH OF 'EASE OF DOING BUSINESS'?

Shivangi Pandey  
3rd Year

The conflicting goals of protection of the environment and undertaking efforts to promote economic development as a solution for socio-economic inequalities, has been a persisting issue for governments around the world including in India. During the lockdown, while an alarmingly large number of people from disadvantaged and deprived sections struggled to make ends meet, the Indian government deemed it an opportune moment in time to re-assess and build business strategies. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) draft of 2020 released for public comments on 23 March, which had the potential of becoming a safe haven for the ever-struggling environment world over, in reality has become a tool to deprioritize it in the name of economic development. It was amended by changing 12 of the 14 clauses of the 2006 draft. In doing so the new draft has not only violated the fundamentals of the Environment Protection Act of 1986 (India) but has deviated from International commitments, particularly the Stockholm Conference of 1972 and Rio

Declaration of 1992. The aforementioned indicates hankering on the part of the government to allow setting up of businesses with convenient ease in order to augment development.

The origin of EIA is embedded in the period of liberalization in the US in 1970s, which was also the period of beginning of environmental concerns gripping larger public consciousness. The freed-up economy promised to bring in benefits such as regular employment, social justice and economic equality to those who had been excluded from the purview of benefits of the previous economic structures. Simultaneously drafted, the EIA was mandated to provide protection to the environment in the neoliberal era of production conglomerates and aggressive business, by combining the rigor of a scientific rationale in safeguarding the ecology with public consultancy. As the developmental agenda spread to countries of the Global South, so did the adoption of EIA, with encouragement from international financial institutions like the World Bank. India adopted it during

the 1990s under the New Economic Reforms undertaken by the Rajiv Gandhi led government.

As for the present EIA draft, dissatisfaction has come from both ends of the spectrum. On the one hand there are the environmentalists, who believe the draft to be a convenient tool in the hands of the industrial lobbies, and on the other hand, those who feel it signals the return of 'Permit Raj' meant to facilitate the use (and exploitation) of the country's natural resources, restricting a free flow of economic activities. The truth of the matter is that hardly any projects are rejected on the basis of being environmentally destructive, and the draft has diluted the essence of an actually free economy with 'rent taking' in the form of penalties in the case of violations that the richer enterprises can afford. It is also a bureaucratic weapon against communities who survive on the land and forests that are being acquired and sold to industries that don't give a hoot about preserving them. With their livelihoods snatched away, agricultural or village communities are forcefully displaced and resettled on infertile lands, deprived of the resources they nurtured for decades and cultivated for their livelihood. The industries that don't uproot them damage rivers and harmful toxic industrial processes contaminate the entirety of landscapes – justified as collateral damage for economic growth.

As was stipulated in the EIA, projects with potential for environmental damage would have to go through a cumbersome process of screening by regulatory authorities after which an EIA report would be drafted for public consultation, but the ones in category 'B2' would be automatically exempted, leaving the screening process to be carried out on A and B1 category projects. In the new notification as per clause 26, 40 industries would become inadvertently exempt from any kind of precautionary screening, for example petroleum plants, paint manufacturers, and synthetic chemicals industries etc., simply requiring a prior environmental permission (EP) and foregoing EIA procedure. The list of exemptions continues as increasing number of industries have been categorized as entailing 'strategic conditions'; for instance development projects like road building near border areas. What is strategic is at the Centre's own discretion, signalling an obvious loophole. The term 'strategic' may be attractive to states plagued with underdevelopment, leading them to welcome high-profile industrial development initiatives at the cost of environmental degradation and displacement of indigenous and other communities. The result is, devastated landscapes, impoverished and displaced people, and bankrupt states with reduced decision-making powers at their disposal (as revenues coming from projects are increasingly being absorbed by the Centre).

One of the major sources of vehement opposition from environmentalists is the circumvention of the public consultation process that had always been visualised as a way of deepening democracy. The draft in question has given the regulating authorities unreasonable discretionary powers to decide the manner and method of the hearing, which may or may not be viable for all those who want to speak up. While only restricted sections of the EIA report would be available to the public, the report itself is allowed to be drawn up by private entities, and the report tracking compliance

to guidelines will not be shown to the public altogether. The draft had anyway come up during a global health emergency, the Covid-19 pandemic, making it nearly impossible for stakeholders and activists to mobilize support to discuss the amendments to the draft, and formulate a formidable front against it.

A recent 'sort of' clash between the Delhi High Court and the Ministry of Environment, as well as the Centre, has revolved around the court's order that resulted from a PIL filed by Vikrant Tongad, an environmental conservationist to translate the Draft EIA into all 22 languages (8th schedule of the constitution). The court reiterated their intent behind this order, which was that people in remote areas are our citizens who need to be heard, and publishing the draft in only Hindi and English will be detrimental to their participation in matters related to the projects as they won't be able to understand what is written if they don't know either of the language. While in the latest hearing on 25th February 2021, the Additional Solicitor General notified that the task of translation will be a difficult administrative manoeuvre and it will digress from the actual content of the draft, the concern raised by the court remains to be relevant. Because even though the process of public consultation has been diluted in the draft, it is still a part of the essence of an 'EIA', and an authentic one at that, in which all stakeholder citizens are able to air their grievances and raise their concerns making it necessary for the draft to be translated in their own languages. It is not certain yet, how this situation will unfold.

The foundational stone of the draft - environmental protection while keeping up the pace of developmental activities - has been crushed to powder as the amendments include monetizing environmental crimes, which are currently punishable with imprisonment. In such a case, any environmental damage caused can be 'remedied' by paying a fine, as if the payment of a monetary fine will reverse the environmental damage caused. Moreover, this fine has not been stipulated to be invested in regeneration of the caused environmental degradation, so what actually happens to that money remains an unanswered question?

Along with the weakening of the public hearing process, another problem area of the draft is the Post-facto Clearance stipulation which namely allows projects that have been working without environmental clearance to apply for the same. And in that case firms violating the terms of their functioning have to simply pay a penalty to get this clearance. Environmental lawyers have demonstrated their uneasiness with this as they believe it will only encourage projects to avoid clearance and get it later after paying a penalty.

India's rank has sharply declined on the Environmental Performance Index and out of 180 countries, its position has dwindled from 141st in 2016 to 168th in 2020. In this scenario, the future of the environment, real socio-economic development of the deprived strata and of reducing economic inequalities, seems rather bleak at the moment.

17 lakh comments were received on the Draft EIA 2020 and the Centre has assured that it will strike a balance between developmental goals and environmental concerns by incorporating demands of multiple stakeholders, however only time will tell if this lofty promise was not just in vain.



# DECODING THE CHINA

## TACTICS

Drishti Verma  
3rd year



Long ago, Anne O'Hare McCormick, an American journalist, had said, "Today the real test of power is not capacity to make war but capacity to prevent it". But seeing the stance and policies being adopted by China, it's difficult to appreciate the rising powers of China.

The June 15 Galwan Valley clash has been an infuriating point for India to reconsider its bilateral relationship with China. In a recent visit to Ladakh, the Indian Prime Minister, without mentioning 'China' by name, rightly pointed out the expansionist policies of China, which today

has become an obsolete concept to be adopted. But China being China, doesn't really seem to care about what other nations claim and demand. The authoritarian nature of governance in the name of the People's Republic of China is not hidden from anyone. But why and how are we concerned about China so much? We belong to a democratic and a liberal regime and that should be enough to enjoy our rights. However, this is not entirely true in the present moment. The world is increasingly becoming more integrated. Nations are no longer an isolated piece of land to be governed all by itself without any influence on the outside world.

Today, foreign policy, bilateral and multilateral relations that we adopt and share with other

countries are of extreme importance to our country. And so, the cause of our concern emerges from the way China has been behaving at the international level.

### The Game of Expansionism

There seems to be an utmost contradiction when China retorted over the remarks on its expansionist policies by the Indian PM, stating it as a political stunt. This is because the contradiction is very much evident when we take a look at what's happening in the South China Sea region.

Based on some historical claims, China has been furthering its presence in the South China Sea and to make its claim seem legitimate, China has adopted a '9 Dash Line' policy whereby the Chinese have been building

artificial Islands, namely over Paracel and Spatley. Such activities in this region are a direct infringement on the Exclusive Economic Zones of countries like Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

\*\*[Exclusive Economic Zones are zones in the sea over which a sovereign nation has certain special rights with respect to the exploration and exploitation of the natural resources present over there. This can extend upto 200 nautical miles from the coastal boundary of the nation]

The South China Sea is home to large oil reserves, a good fishing ground and one of the busiest trade routes. China's claim over this region goes against the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, since this region is a part of the global commons and cannot be under the jurisdiction of any one entity. Further, it also interferes with the jurisdiction of many Southeast Asian nations.

Recently, China conducted unsanctioned night drills in the Taiwan Strait to oppose US support for Taiwanese sovereignty. The claim of China over Taiwan despite the Taiwanese claim of seeing themselves as an independent entity has escalated concerns over the region, since the majority of Taiwan's population support maintaining a status quo with respect to their sovereignty. This grave concern has grown even more in Hong Kong due to the aggressive policies being imposed on them by China.

After handing over Hong Kong's control to China by the UK in 1997, Hong Kong was supposed to remain autonomous till 2047 under the 'One Nation, Two Systems' policy. However, the growing influence of China over Hong Kong's electoral processes and the recent passing of the stringent National Security Law has put Hong Kong's democratic and liberal nature of governance at stake.

At the time when the world is fighting a pandemic, Indian soldiers had to fight with their Chinese counterparts in the Galwan Valley region. For China, the construction of the Daulat Beg Oldi Road on the Indian side of the LAC is illegitimate but there seems no problem when the construction is done on the eastern side of LAC (Aksai Chin), despite the land being disputed. They have even proposed another road construction passing through the POK region (another disputed land between India and Pakistan).

China's claim over Bhutan's territory (Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary) that has never been on the list of the border dispute between the two seems to be the latest addition to China's expansionist game.

## The Lust for Hegemony

China, under the leadership of Xi Jinping, has adopted an ambitious plan to become a

global superpower by 2050. But such an ambition seems to be turning into lust, for China is ready to take control over other nations through what some scholars call the 'Debt-trap Diplomacy'.

China has been investing in the development of infrastructure across many nations. But the opaqueness in the contracts and loans being provided has started leading to rising dependency of such nations on China. According to an estimate, around 8 countries are highly likely to fall under such debt traps. Some of them include Pakistan, Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Laos and Maldives. Last year Sri Lanka with already \$1 billion debt, had to hand over a port to China.

Even the recent agreement inked between Iran and China worth \$400 billion, to develop its infrastructure, might become a cause of concern for Iran in the long run.

### **Divergence and Retaliations: The Evident Result**

The aggressive and opportunistic policies being adopted by China even at the time of a pandemic is not being welcomed by many countries including the USA. Even the ASEAN issued their strongest ever statement over China's claim in the South China Sea, insisting that maritime disputes must be resolved in accordance with the UNCLOS.

Seeing the despairing situation in Hong Kong, the UK offered citizenship to many Hong Kong residents. Britain has even removed Chinese telecom giant Huawei from its 5G network development plan. India too has banned 50+ Chinese apps over security reasons.

Even Japan has raised its concerns over China's infringement in the waters close to the Senakaku Islands administered by Japan ( and simultaneously claimed by China). There has also been growing conflict between China and Australia. Recently, when Australia demanded an inquiry into COVID-19, China issued retaliatory warnings over the boycott of Australian beef, wine and universities.

### **The Need for Stronger Regional Cooperation**

As we can see, it's not just India who is facing tough times with China but a large number of nations have concerns against China's behaviour. And so, to counter the growing aggressive and hegemonic China, India as well as other Asian countries need to take some strong concrete steps. The focus must be on reducing the growing dependence on China since the Chinese hegemony in the global supply chain is more prone to its disruptions. In this line, the USA, which has emphasised on its commitment towards ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, can lead the way through more credible multilateral coordination among the allies. With COVID-19 as a turning point, we might witness a remarkable change in the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific region.

# CITIZEN DIPLOMACY



While Indian and Pakistani forces are fighting at the LOC and the diplomats of both the countries are embroiled in a verbal spat at the UNHCR, the citizens of both the countries are laughing their hearts out over shared memes. The 'twadda kutta Tommy, Sadda kutta kutta' dialogue by Shehnaz Gill, an ex-big boss contestant and famous Punjabi singer has gone viral and received love and appreciation from across the border as well. Similarly, the 'Pawri ho rahi hae' meme by Pakistani content creator Dananeer became an instant hit and was trending in both Pakistan and India.

Social media was inundated with the recreations of these dialogues. Even famous Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh joined the bandwagon and posted his version of 'Pawri ho rahi hae'.

The people-to-people interaction between India and Pakistan has been halted time and again due to the hostility between the two countries. The Indian government banned Pakistani artists to work in Bollywood films post the Pulwama attack in February 2019 and Pakistan has also banned the screening of Bollywood films in their theatres and cinemas several times. The rampant integration of the world as a result of Globalisation defeats the purpose of these bans. The new Global networks of communication have made it possible for strangers from around the world to connect

and interact and engage in conversations.

In contemporary times, it has become a matter of few seconds to gather information about anything that intrigues us. The existence of social networking sites has made it possible for us to get a glimpse into the lives of people inhabiting different parts of the world. We are now more aware of the culture and traditions of different communities. Exposure to such information about the other has enabled us to dismiss the stereotypical notions about the other communities. Previously the non-existence of this forum solidified our preconceived notions about the other communities. An absence of interaction bolsters the stereotypes about the other communities. Social media has played a huge role

Dania Sheikh  
2nd Year

in exposing the artificially created binaries of us and them, it has facilitated in establishing amicable relations between countries. As the world has become more globalized, cultural exchange is also advancing, state control is waning away. Countries might be at loggerheads with each other but citizens can have harmonious relations. People do not care where the memes, reels, tik toks, Tv shows, and movies are created as long as they are entertained. Citizen diplomacy has the potential of forging peaceful relations between nations and public opinion against hostility is necessary for any peace dialogue to proceed. Heads of states are compelled to take aggressive and tough measures against other countries because of public opinion, this is especially true for democracies where people's mandate is supreme, and going against it would be political suicide.

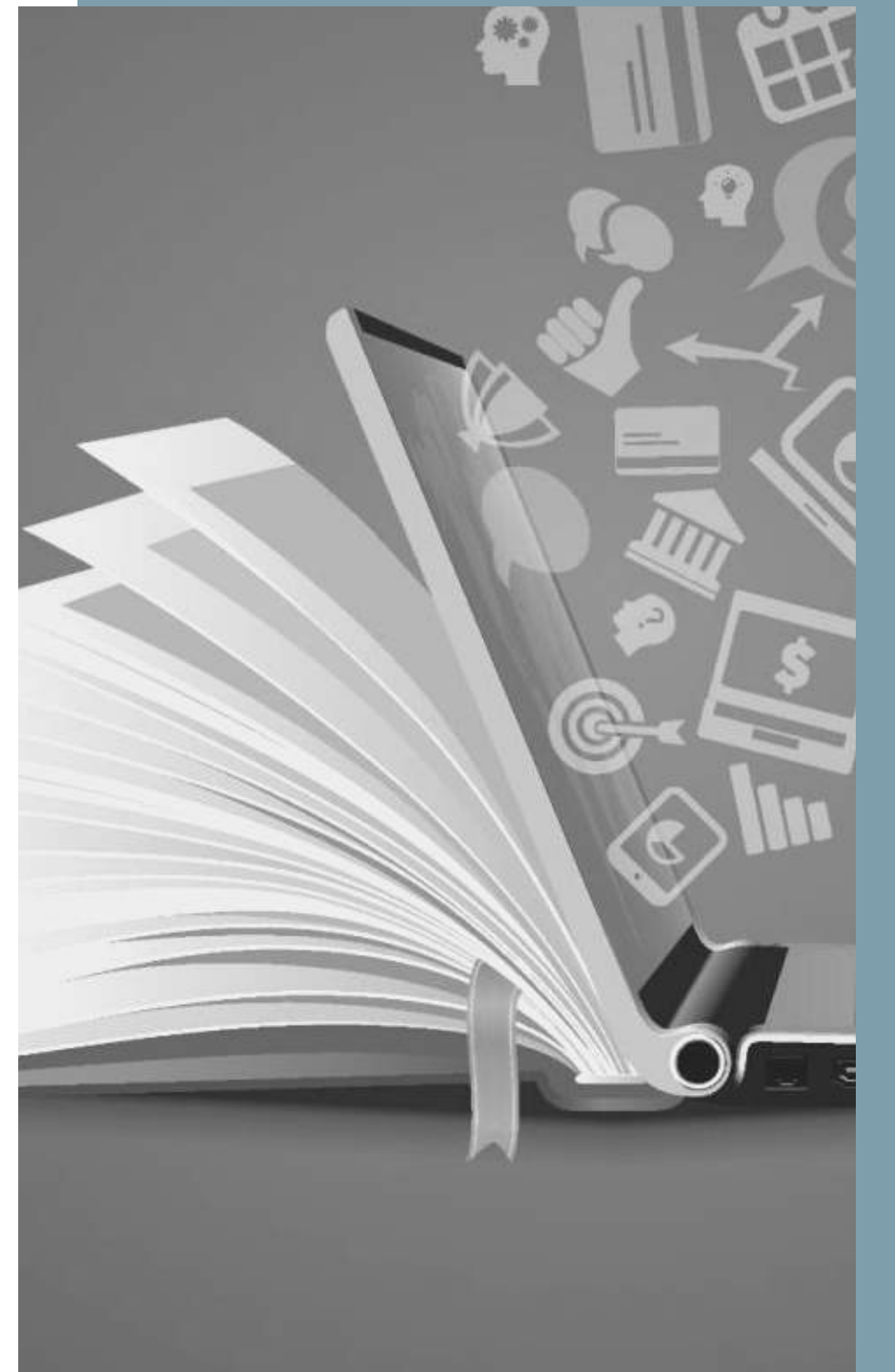
The friendly exchange over social media is a testimony that people-to-people interaction and citizen diplomacy can play a huge role in mitigating the tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours and foster ties of friendship and peace.

It is sad to see politicking over this long-standing conflict which has upended our lives and devastated millions of families, political parties are fuelling the conflict just to garner votes, many of these contemporary political parties with a massive mandate would lose their relevance if this issue is resolved. The competition among political parties today revolves around who can arouse more hate for the people belonging to the other community, religion, or ethnicity, a solution to the conflict seems next to impossible considering the benefits its prevalence generates for those in power, they will covertly continue to thwart any peace process. The state power today is not as overarching as it used to be in the years bygone, the unprecedented levels of globalisation have tamed the state control and authority, a democratic state cannot control what content people view, what music they listen to, or the stuff they read online. Thankfully Viewing content created in a country other than our own doesn't amount to a seditious act as of yet and this offers some hope for a more tolerant world.

# ऑनलाइन शिक्षा व कक्षा

खुशबू  
3rd Year

पहला दिन हो या हो आखिरी दिन गार्गी का,  
नज़रों को तो रहता इंतज़ार बस आप ही का।  
सही क्या है, गलत क्या है, ये सब बताते आप,  
प्लेटो, गांधी और प्रेमचंद से भी करवाते मिलाप।  
जब सूझता नहीं कुछ भी तो राहों को सरल बनाते हैं,  
रंग-बिरंगी इस दुनिया में जीवन जीना सिखलाते हैं।  
जानते सब राज़ हमारे फिर भी अनजानों-सा हैं ढोंग रचाते,  
हमारी शरारतों में भी समझदारी का आप नवसंचार कराते।  
आँखों की नमी हो या चेहरे की उदासी झट से पकड़ लेते हैं,  
बड़े अच्छे दोस्त बनकर आप भी हमारे संग यहाँ हँस लेते हैं।  
अब नए-नए बहानों को सुनकर आप सब बहुत खिसियाते हैं,  
रह न जाए कोई पीछे, इसलिए सबको बारम्बार सिखलाते हैं।  
नासाज़ तबीयत में भी हर दूसरे प्रश्न का जवाब दे देते आप,  
असाइनमेंट की हमारी लेटलतीफी भी बर्दाश्त कर लेते आप।  
कोरोना भी रोक न पाई जिसे कुछ ऐसा व्यक्तित्व आपका है,  
डॉक्टर भी हमें ऐसे पुचकारते जैसा हर बच्चा आपका है।  
सुबह से लेकर शाम तक सब पढ़ते और मुस्काते पार कराते आप,  
माँ-सा स्नेह, और पिता की फटकार, दोनों गुणों के हैं संगम आप।





# CRITICALLY ANALYSING THE VACCINATION DRIVE OF INDIA

Maitreyi  
1st Year

India has laid out an ambitious target to vaccinate about 30 crore people in the first phase of the ongoing vaccination program . India has been making good progress with regards to its vaccination programme and currently more than a third of all vaccinations done in the world on each single day is happening in India. India has earmarked 40,000 vaccination sites and it has deployed its 3 lakh strong workforce of vaccinators in order to contain the spread of the pandemic and save precious lives . However, despite India's good progress the current efforts are simply not sufficient considering India's population because according to latest data hardly around 3.2 percent of the country's population has been vaccinated .One of the major gaps in India's vaccination program is that the government has not set any definitive deadline to achieve this ambitious target under phase one of the vaccination program.Under phase 1 and 2, frontline workers like police and healthcare workers and people above the age of 60 years that are senior citizens

and all those above the age of 45 years suffering from a prescribed list of comorbid conditions have been selected as target group being the most vulnerable to the pandemic but without specific deadline and specific identified parameters to track the progress of vaccination program . It would take India several more months to vaccinate a sufficient proportion of the population in order to achieve herd immunity.

Currently the daily average of vaccinations going on in the country stands at somewhere around two million. This has to be scaled up to achieve a target of 10 million vaccinations per day in order to cover the vast majority of the population . India has this potential to scale up its

vaccination program because it not only has sufficient expertise but has already established itself as a global leader in the development and production of vaccines.It has claimed its glory by distributing vaccines effectively by roping in the infrastructure of both public and private healthcare sector . India can achieve the

target of around 10 million vaccinations per day on an average with sufficient stockpiles of vaccines along with the needed supply chain of logistics .

India should diversify the vaccines it uses. As of now there are 2 vaccines that India has deployed as part of its vaccination program, which include the vaccine developed by Oxford university- mass produced by India by the Serum Institute of India (SII) i.e. Covishield. The next one is Covaxin, the indigenous vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech and these are currently the mainstay of India's vaccination programme but If India has to drastically scale up its vaccination program then it cannot rely on just two producers. Hence, it will have to start looking at other vaccine candidates as well .India has already tied up with Russia to carry out technical trials for its Sputnik vaccine in India. The best part of India's vaccination strategy is that India is not dependent on foreign suppliers excessively. Instead it is tying up with foreign partners and providing for local production by exploiting the inherent strength of India's pharmaceutical and biotech sector. It is this strength of India which has made the country a global leader with regards to vaccination but despite this remarkable achievement we have a long way to go. Then to further ensure sufficient stockpiles, India has to balance its diplomatic initiative 'Vaccine Maitri' with its domestic needs and requirements .India should supply vaccines to the rest of the world because several countries, especially weaker ones as this would be a highly humanitarian and compassionate objective of our diplomacy but it has to strike a perfect balance between these two conflicting objectives.

The government should also take the sole responsibility to monitor the quality of the vaccines and to regulate their prices. Currently as far as price control is concerned the government has already done the right thing by capping the price of vaccines at 250 rupees . Such price regulation needs to be continued in order to make it more affordable and accessible , while those who can pay for the vaccines can avail the services from even private hospitals; the government will have to pay special attention to the vulnerable and marginalized sections as they may not be able to afford these vaccines . Hence, the free vaccination component has to continue with the direct support of the government because this is the mandatory social responsibility of the government for the weaker sections of society.

Complexities involved in the eligibility criteria and the registration process in the COWIN mobile application need to be addressed. Such a technological initiative is bound to ease out the vaccination drive but the process of registering oneself for the COWIN application is quite complicated.It might seem easy for the educated class but will pose a very big hurdle for the illiterate and technology disabled and for those living in remote areas. So the government will have to simplify the registration process by allowing direct walk ins into the vaccination centers as that would directly help in widening the vaccination program. The required data can be collected through a paper-based registration process and later this data can be uploaded to



enable the government to track and monitor the progress in the vaccination program. Further, the current eligibility criteria is creating complexities in the vaccination program; those who are above 45 years have to provide a medical certificate to prove that they are suffering from the listed co- morbidities; this is again an entry barrier.

There are millions of people in the country who are unaware of their comorbid conditions and hence the government should take up a program on its own to proactively identify such people with comorbid conditions as they are part of the vulnerable population. India has successfully used a strategy to eliminate polio and had come out with the micro planning strategy under which localised plans were made for each region based on local context and circumstances; this can also work for connecting people with the vaccination centres. The government should not rely on fixed vaccination centers alone. It should also adopt mobile vaccination centers and conduct outreach programmes where the vaccinators reach out to the vulnerable populations. Next the government should also mobilise the population to get themselves vaccinated which requires greater education, awareness and a public health campaign in order to remove any vaccine hesitancy. Finally it has to put in place an effective monitoring and mentoring system which will help in introducing suitable changes as we progress through the vaccination drive. Such a comprehensive strategy would be needed to plug the existing gaps and to push the country towards its vaccination target .

# A COVID WARRIOR

Alisha Mordhaya  
3rd Year



Hi dear readers, I am Alisha Mordhaya, a third year student of Political Science. Gargi, as I mentioned in my yearbook quote has empowered us and also prepared us to empower many others in our lives. The pandemic has distanced us from our college but we will always carry the lessons and experiences this institution has bestowed upon us. The pandemic has been depressing for a lot of people. And, for girls like me whose extended family doesn't really support girls' education, and expect them to be perfect in household chores from a very young age, it has been worse. Every difference that I have

faced in my family and every lesson that I have learned from my college, both aspects, the negative and the positive inspired me to begin my own youtube channel during lockdown, 'Haq Se Naari'. It is a platform I utilise to spread awareness about gender related issues and share stories of some amazingly inspirational women. I belong to Rajasthan. The journey from Jaipur to Delhi has remained incredible for me. I feel no shame in admitting that I am the first girl in the family to pursue her bachelors from such a reputed institution. Hence, I believe the journey we all go through, the journey that drives us towards our goals in life, remains a special one. Here in this story, I am going to share with you one such incredible and powerful journey of a very devoted nursing officer,

Ms.Laxmi Ashrawat. By this story, I wish to bring to light all the hardships and challenges faced by female health workers as well as sensitize readers about the same.

A very hardworking, multi-talented, super smart and dedicated nursing officer, Ms. Laxmi Ashrawat is currently working in a government hospital in Jaipur. She is known for her exceptional work and honesty in the workplace. Before taking the story ahead, let me tell you all that she is also one of the kindest and most helpful of my neighbours. Knowing her closely is no less than a delight for me.

A girl from a middle class Indian family whose dreams were never really valued, but her self motivation and dedication were enough to

make her reach a place where she can deliver such a respected public service.

After completing her training in nursing from Ajmer she came back to Jaipur in 2011. She had very few resources at home but her dreams were high. Soon after returning to Jaipur she wanted to join a coaching centre to prepare for government examinations. But it could never happen because of the financial crisis in her family. She worked in a private hospital for a few years, earned money and bought herself all the books that were required. While talking with her, I got to know how difficult it was to pursue the goal of self study besides her work and household chores. Her family has always remained very patriarchal in nature. Just like with every third family in India, as a girl she was expected to do all the household chores as well as manage her own tasks herself, simultaneously. People used to make fun of her studious nature and demotivated her with every possible means. But there were also few who tried giving their support to her from time to time when she needed it. With her intelligence, consistent hard work and some support from her family, she managed to crack the exam and got her dream job in 2016. The story does not end here. This is just the beginning of a self made nursing officer.

With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic many countries called for lockdowns. Even as all industries, offices, educational institutions and many governmental departments had ceased to function for months, the medical department had been continuously working day and night for us. In PPE kits, with covered bodies and faces, health care workers dedicated extra hours of duty to save the lives of people all over the globe. Not just in the current context of the pandemic, but they have always proved that they are no less than God for the entire human community.

Ms. Laxmi was the first to wear the PPE kit in her department. Her experience was filled with pride and pain both at the same time. Do you know why? It was her second day of periods (menstruation) when she was asked to wear the kit. There was a really low supply of kits and other necessary tools in the beginning.

Hence, all the health workers were made to wear it for as long as 10-12 hours. They were even restricted to use toilets. Bleeding all day, not being able to pee or change pads was never even discussed in the public sphere.

Due to restrictions and guidelines, no form of public transport was available. She told me about how she used to drive long distances to pick up her friend from her house to reach their workplace. She shared the experiences of many of her staff members who stay in Jaipur away from their families due to work and all the difficulties they faced. Being a localite, she served as a big helping hand to many of her friends during the lockdown period. All these stories brought tears to my eyes and I believe this is the kind of sisterhood we need in this world .

Ms. Laxmi believes that her job needs 24/7 attention and a great deal of passion as she is involved in helping deliver babies.

All of the health care workers were asked to sanitize themselves again and again. All the health workers were greatly challenged in personal and professional lives. On one hand they were asked to sanitize themselves for a safer surrounding at the workplace and on the other hand to keep their families safe at home by maintaining proper social distance. Most of them have experienced a hard quarantine time too.

Quarantine - Oh GOD! The word itself is distressing. Ms. Laxmi shared how she felt being away from home in her quarantine days. Tough days and on top of that a two week long isolation. She told me how horrific everything was for her. Nothing could make her feel happy and satisfied but her selfless and dedicated service. Meanwhile we were getting to read about a lot of depressing covid quarantine stories from all over the globe. This became one of the major reasons of mental illness and depression for people in great numbers including the health workers. The health care workers who are also mothers of very small children had to stay away from them for a number of days. The isolation resulted in tremendous emotional trauma. While many were enjoying games and trying new dishes at home, these warriors were struggling to spend a few happy moments with their loved ones.

Ms. Laxmi is one of the youngest, most honest, determined and intelligent nursing officers. All her seniors in the workplace admire her. She has been awarded the 'Best Worker Appreciation Award' for her dedicated service. Besides that, she has also been a very kind, generous and helpful human being to the people in need. Being a part of the medical department, she treats all the people with equal care and a lot of generosity.

While the patriarchal society in our country poses challenges to the strength and capabilities of women in various sectors, Ms. Laxmi and many other female health workers like her have proved that women are not weak in front of these challenges. Their stories of survival, strength and love continue to inspire the globe.

# IF I COULD EAT FLOWERS

Radhika Purohit  
3rd Year

If, and only if I could eat flowers,  
Breathe through each petal,  
Like it would sew up my wounds,  
As if the fragrance would lure lovers to my doorsteps.

If, and only if I could eat flowers,  
I'd pick them up from unattended graves,  
Eat them as if those who lay there are a part of my  
being,  
As if their souls could talk to me through the pollen I  
swallow.  
With each petal, I'd drink their grief and sorrow.

If and only if I could eat flowers,  
I'd burn with them on fracturing democracies.  
Recovering broken bits of a people,  
That outlived hate and impediments.

If, and only if I could eat flowers,  
That burnt to ashes,  
In North-East Delhi,  
That were smoked and shelled in Jamia,  
That beat all odds to survive in Shaheen bagh, Park  
Circus, Hauz Rani and...  
I'd sew a Garland smeared with hope and rage,  
All in the name of love, peace and diversity.



If, and only if I could eat flowers,  
I'd gather the dust off of broken homes, with  
grieved children and beaten wives.  
Gluing together unhung and unclicked family  
portraits that praise fragmented perfections.

If, and only if I could eat flowers,  
I'd wait to eat them,  
Until all those hungry could contain all its  
nectar

If, and only if I could eat flowers,  
I'd lay myself with the dead,  
To feel what I don't already feel: a little alive.

That is,  
If, and only if I could eat flowers,  
In hope,  
In love,  
In grief,  
Until the end of time.

The image features three maps of Palestine overlaid with a large title. The leftmost map shows the Mediterranean Sea to the west and the Negev desert to the south, with cities like Haifa, Nazareth, and Jerusalem marked. The middle map shows the Jordan River to the east and the Negev desert to the south, with green arrows indicating the movement of 'Troupes irakiennes' (Iraqi troops) and 'Troupes égyptiennes' (Egyptian troops). The rightmost map shows the Mediterranean Sea to the west and the Negev desert to the south, with red arrows indicating the movement of 'Troupes irakiennes' and 'Troupes égyptiennes'. The title 'ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND VIABLE SOLUTIONS' is centered over the maps in a large, bold, blue font. The text 'Maitreyi 1st Year' is located in the bottom right corner of the image area.

# ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND VIABLE SOLUTIONS

Maitreyi  
1st Year

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is over who gets what land and how it's controlled. The map of Historic Palestine was shifted to become three different parts: Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. It indicates a cartographic regression in favour of the Jewish majority state. The current territorial configuration, in which cities under full Palestinian administration are fragmented are surrounded by Israeli controlled land, and the West Bank is located to the west of the Jordan River. It is a landlocked territory, bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel to the south, west, and north. The Gaza Strip, on the other hand, is a small boot-shaped territory along the Mediterranean coast between Egypt and Israel.

Though both Jews and Arab Muslims date their claims to the land back a couple of thousand years, the current political conflict began in the early 20th century. Jews fleeing persecution in Europe wanted to establish a national homeland in what was then an Arab and Muslim-majority territory in the Ottoman and

later British Empire. The Arabs resisted, seeing the land as rightfully theirs. An early United Nations' plan to give each group a part of the land failed, and Israel and the surrounding Arab nations fought several wars over the territory. Today's lines largely reflect the outcomes of two of these wars, one waged in 1948 and another in 1967. The 1967 War is particularly important for today's conflict, as it left Israel in control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, two territories home to large Palestinian populations.

Today, the West Bank is nominally controlled by the Palestinian Authority and is under Israeli occupation. This comes in the form of Israeli troops, who enforce Israeli security restrictions on Palestinian movement and activities, and Israeli "settlers," Jews who build ever-expanding communities in the West Bank that effectively deny the land to Palestinians. Gaza is controlled by Hamas, an Islamist fundamentalist party, and is under Israeli blockade but not ground troop occupation.

**These are the two broad ways the Israeli-Palestinian conflict might end:**

The “two-state solution” would create an independent Israel and Palestine, and is the mainstream approach to resolving the conflict. The idea being that Israelis and Palestinians want to run their countries differently; Israelis want a Jewish state, and Palestinians want a Palestinian one. The “two-state solution” is based on a UN resolution of 1947 which proposed two states - one would be a state where Zionist Jews constituted a majority, the other where the Palestinian Arabs would be a majority of the population. The idea was however rejected by the Arabs. For decades, it has been held by the international community as the only realistic deal to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Why is the solution so difficult to achieve?

**Borders:** There is no consensus about precisely where to draw the line – with Israel building settlements and constructing barriers in areas like the West Bank that creates a de-facto border. This makes it difficult to establish that land as part of an independent Palestine, breaking it up into non-contiguous pieces.

**Jerusalem:** Both sides claim Jerusalem as their capital and consider it a centre of religious worship and cultural heritage making its division difficult. In December 2017, Israel declared Jerusalem as its capital and the step found support from the USA, intensifying the situation in the region.

**Refugees:** Large numbers of Palestinians who fled their homes in what is now Israel, during the preceding wars as well as their descendants believe they deserve the right to return but Israel is against it.

**Divided Political Leadership on Both sides:** The Palestinian leadership is divided - a two-state solution is supported by Palestinian nationalists in West Bank but the leadership in Gaza does not even recognize Israel. Further, while successive Israeli Prime Ministers - Ehud Barak, Ariel Sharon, Ehud Olmert and Benjamin Netanyahu - have all accepted the idea of a Palestinian state, they have differed in terms of what it should actually comprise.

The “one-state solution” merges Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip into one big country. The ‘one-state solution’ has been favoured by some leftists and Palestinians and would create a single democratic country. Arab Muslims would however outnumber Jews, thus ending Israel as a Jewish state. Most countries including Israel and Palestine prefer a two-state solution. However, the inability of Israelis and Palestinians to come to two-state terms has led to a recent surge in interest in a one-state solution, partly out of a sense of hopelessness and partly out of fear that if the sides cannot negotiate a two-state solution, a de facto one-state outcome will be inevitable.

*The world at large needs to come together for a peaceful solution but the reluctance of the Israeli government and other involved parties have aggravated the issue more. Thus, a balanced approach towards the Israel-Palestine issue would help to maintain favourable relations with Arab countries as well as Israel.*





# FAT PHOBIA AND DIET CULTURE MUST NOT BE ENCOURAGED

Dania Sheikh  
2nd Year

The pandemic and the subsequent lockdown that was imposed altered our lives in several ways. As the covid cases surged, stringent lockdowns were imposed across the world, and quarantine became the new necessity. It was an unprecedented event and people took to several new activities and hobbies to keep themselves engaged. Social media was flooded with aesthetic pictures of dalgona coffee and quarantine bakes. There was an increase in social media consumption as people had a lot of free time on their hands. Memes were circulated to get through the monotony that was brought about by the lockdown and one particular meme which caught everyone's attention was the 'Barbie charbie' meme, it mockingly implied how our appearances would drastically change because of all the quarantine cooking, baking and immobility during the lockdown. While such memes might seem harmless but they are extremely problematic and can have grave repercussions on our physical and mental health. These memes perpetuate fatphobia and make us believe that weight gain is something

that we must dread.

While these memes are directed towards everyone regardless of their age and gender but women especially are targeted. Women suffer this double jeopardy of living in a patriarchal and capitalistic society. From quite early on in their lives women are indoctrinated with the socially constructed notions of beauty and are told that it is a prerequisite for a happy life. Their worth is reduced to how they look, they are made to derive their confidence from their looks and their physique. Young girls begin to idealize the barbies they play with, the female actors they see on television, and the mannequins they see in stores. Exposure to such unrealistic and homogenous standards of beauty in the formative years of children has grave repercussions for their physical and mental well-being. Studies have shown that children who are not confident about their physical appearances lag behind their peers in academics and extra circular activities. A recent study reveals that 40-60% of elementary school-aged girls are dissatisfied with

their weight and anxious about putting on weight.

Capitalism takes advantage of these insecurities that are engendered especially among girls. Brands capitalize on this dissatisfaction and exploit our sentiments to expand their markets and aggrandize their profit, they come up with myriad products ranging from fat loss pills to fairness creams which only seem to validate these distorted notions of beauty and exacerbates the existing insecurities.

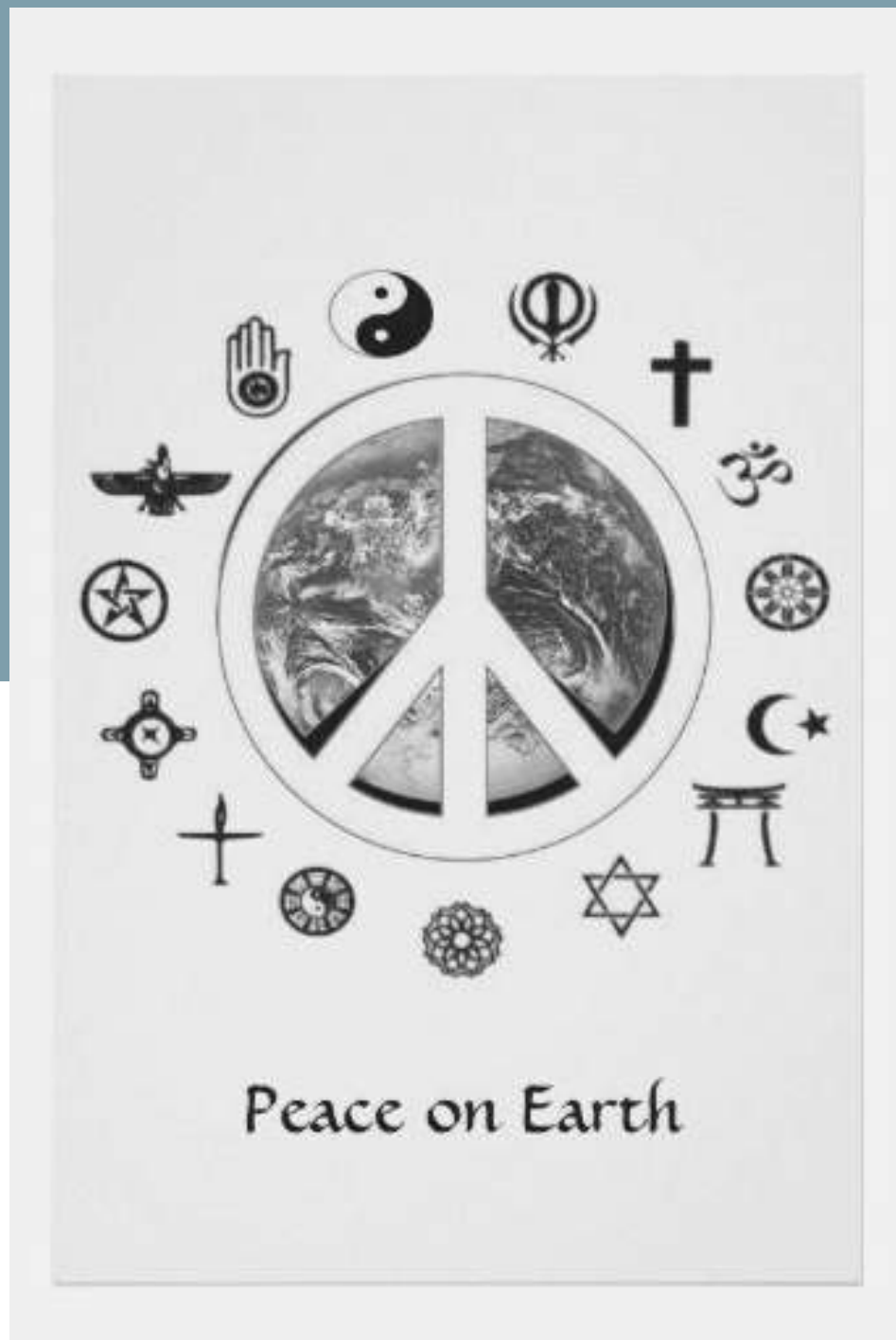
'Fat-phobia is defined as the 'irrational fear of, aversion to or discrimination against, obesity or people with obesity. Fat-phobia establishes the need for diet culture, and the consequences this unhealthy obsession with diet culture has are frightening. It ruins a person's relationship with one's body and with food. Eating disorders like Anorexia nervosa, Bulimia nervosa, and binge eating are at an all-time high. Anorexia Nervosa mortality rate supersedes that of depression or any other psychiatric illness. Over the years these habits get so solidified that it becomes extremely difficult to rectify these habits, and these eating disorders if left untreated lead to suicides, deaths due to malnutrition, and cardiovascular diseases. A study reveals that every 62 minutes someone dies as a direct result of an eating disorder. It is, therefore, necessary to dismantle these toxic and misleading notions of what constitutes health and beauty.

The US weight loss market is worth a whopping \$72 billion, diet culture is so well marketed that it clouds our rationality and demands to be followed. People feel obligated to make these 'unhealthy healthy' choices.

The pandemic has exacerbated fat-phobia and the obsession with clean eating. There is an urgent need to apprise people about what being healthy means, healthy is not a size, and more importantly healthy looks different on different bodies, it cannot be gauged by a weighing scale. The recent body positivity movements by plus-size models have been successful in helping people to embrace their bodies and to overcome their fears of eating. Eating disorders are lethal, they can wreak a person's physical and mental health and are emotionally draining, if not taken into account and not given the attention it requires, it could become the next epidemic. Abandoning a diet culture should not translate into consuming inordinate amounts of junk and processed food either, healthy choices are choices that make you energetic and enable you to live a happier life.

# COMMUNAL HARMONY

Amrita Kaur  
1st Year



Communal Harmony is defined as a condition of love, peace and brotherhood among all people propagating or practicing any religion in a country. When there is no discrimination on the basis of religion, harmony prevails among people and there are no tensions or conflicts.

If we talk about our country India, it has been a diverse country in terms of religion since ages. Rather India is defined as a nation of diversity amongst its religions and cultures. The Indian National Movement, when the whole nation came together to fight for the nation's independence glorifies this unique aspect.

Bypassing the tragedy of Partition, India nevertheless remained united in spite of these diverse cultures.

And this unique spirit of "unity in diversity" has been captured by many scholars and writers in their works.

But talking about the current situation, it's not the same as it was decades ago. Today, tensions and conflicts among people are growing day by day. In the name of religion, people are berating and killing each other.

Moreover, it has become a New Normal to hear about communal violence in our country.

People of one community or religion are badly infuriated against those of others and are at each other's throat. The riots in Muzaffarnagar in 2013 between Hindus and Muslims is merely an illustration of the many more such grave

incidents that have taken place.

The root cause of this violence and disturbance in communal harmony is the dirty politics that prevails in our country. The power hungry political leaders in the greed of grabbing larger number of votes incite people of different religions against each other. It can rightly be said that the politics in our country has shifted from being development oriented to religion oriented.

This increasing communal violence is not only hampering the internal growth and strength of our country but also diminishing India's image in the international arena as well. Before it becomes too late and our country stands on the verge of being disintegrated on the basis of religion, we need to settle contentious issues and revive

the love and the brotherhood amongst the people of India. We need to emphatically reminisce the history of India where everyone lived together with peace and harmony, respecting each other's beliefs and religion. We need to celebrate the plurality of views, cultures, customs, festivals, practices etc. in order to bridge the gap that prevails between followers of different religions, caste and creed. We need to educate and aware our generations about the glorious past and collective shared memories. And most importantly, we need to understand that before being the followers of different religions, we are the sons and daughters of one motherland that is, our country India. Therefore, it becomes our prime duty to live together with peace and affection, not only to uphold the unity principle but also to defeat the bad intentions of these greedy politicians.

# RAAVAN

Sneha Chandila  
3rd Year

Kyun Dil sehem jata hai  
Kyun waqt theher jata hai  
Kyun haath kaampte hai,  
Jab koi raavan hume darata hai.  
Kyun kadam dagmagate hai  
Kyun roz ke khel nahi bhate hai  
Kyun naata apno se toot sa jata hai,  
Jab koi raavan hume darata hai.  
Kyun mann vichalit ho jata hai  
Bin galti ke bhi ghabarata hai  
Kyun sita aaj bhi darti hai,  
Jab uss raavan ki hasi kano me padti hai.  
Kyun chehra pheeka lagta hai  
Jo hasmukh aur chamkeela tha,  
Kyun aaj bhi sita ki aankhon me paani hai,  
Kyun chalti aaj bhi raavan ki manmani hai.



# ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN: A PUBLIC EXPENDITURE?

Akanksha  
First Year

One sweeping analysis of a democratic nation is sufficient to conclude that elections comprise its core spirit. From a financial lens elections are expensive and the immense expenditure is totally justified keeping in mind the importance of this event in a free spirited democracy. Yet, the fact that the citizens bear the maximum brunt of this expenditure is not justified.

Trapped amidst a swirl storm of responsibility, duty and obligation towards the country, the taxpayers part away with their hard earned money with little or no protest, after all protesting against the government doesn't help much nowadays. But recently the line up till which tax could be justified as a citizen's obligation towards the state and post which it becomes a means of exploiting taxpayers has blurred. The concept of Electoral bonds which the Bhartiya Janta Party introduced with the Finance Bill (2017) is playing an instrumental role in this.

An electoral bond is similar to a promissory note. It can be sought through select branches of State Bank of India by any Indian citizen or

company incorporated in India. There is a 10 day window for purchasing these bonds. The citizen or corporate can then donate the ensure the same to any eligible political party of his/her choice. The bonds are similar to bank notes that are payable to the bearer on demand and are free of interest. An individual or party will be allowed to purchase these bonds digitally or through checks.

Donations to political parties have always been under scrutiny and correctly too, owing to the large scale of black money which changes hands. But the only reprieve was that the name and details of the donations had to be made public earlier. Interestingly, the electoral bonds introduced in the Finance Act of 2017 are exempt from disclosure hence legalizing anonymous donations, a step the government deems necessary to protect political donors from "political victimization". The government's defense is that this system of payment through checks or digitally would not allow black money to flow in the system which is a sumptuous assumption. RTI reports have shown that

electoral bonds have become a means of illegal and illicit funding through shell companies. Aside from this obvious consequence, there are other indiscernible outcomes of this scheme.

Contributions received by a political party in the form of electoral bonds will be exempt from income tax. A donor would get tax deduction and the receiver the political parties in this case would get tax exemption. The entire expenditure of this scheme which includes expenditure for printing “electoral bonds”, bank fees, commissions, transaction cost and for maintaining and upholding infrastructure and technological aspects would be financed through the Consolidated Fund of India, which itself receives funds through direct and indirect taxes which is the hard earned money of taxpayers or ordinary citizens who somehow are the only ones who are unable to evade the prejudiced system of taxing unlike political parties and their anonymous donors.

Thus while the taxpayers are robbed of their earnings by levying a plethora of taxes unto them, the primary beneficiary of this electoral bond system, the political parties contribute nothing to the electoral machinery. The anonymous donors would have liked nothing better. The working and machinery of the electoral is agitating yet fascinating at the same time.

As of now, quite predictably the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which had introduced this system has gained the maximum benefits from the unhindered exploitation of taxpayers. It has raised the maximum funds after the introduction of electoral bonds. In 2018-19, BJP raised Rs 1,450 crore, through electoral bonds. The Congress had raised Rs 383 crore using this scheme.

While this façade of electoral bonds is new but the practice of looting the taxpayer's money by political parties especially those which form the ruling government to earn vote bank or finance their election campaign is old.

The BJP in its poll manifesto during the Bihar Assembly elections 2020 had promised free Covid-19 vaccines. While the act of politicizing a basic need during a pandemic is an immoral act in itself but another haranguing aspect is the fact that the funding of free vaccines would not have been done by the private funds of the political parties but obviously by the government or rather taxpayers. Thus, the taxpayers who would be quite evidently paying for themselves are made to believe that it is an act of generosity of a political party they have elected.

BJP isn't the only political party which exploits taxpayers. It has become quite normal for a political party to trickle out money from the taxpayer's pocket. BSP chief Mayawati, while holding the post of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh between 2007 and 2012 had spent over Rs. 2400 crore to build multiple Dalit memorials, including statues of BSP founder Kanshi Ram and BSP's election symbol 'elephant'. In Lucknow, at least 64 elephant statues flank Ambedkar Park next to the Gomti river. In Noida, the National Dalit Memorial on the banks of the Yamuna house 24. The significance of the elephant for the BSP can be seen in the context of the party's formation — the influence of Ambedkar and his adoption of Buddhism. Although according to a court judgment Mayawati has to pay the money back to the state exchequer and thus the taxpayers money which had been used will be returned back yet the ease with which the taxpayer's money was freely used by a political party for its personal interest and promotion is deeply troubling.

The Aam Aadmi Party has often been accused of distributing 'freebies'. It had proposed

to make bus and metro rides free for women, apart from slashing power and water bills for all Delhiites ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections which were to be held one year after the announcement. This move was not only criticized for undermining the capacity of women to pay for themselves but also for its lack of introspection with regard to financial details. Such an unfeasible move was estimated to lead to huge revenue losses to the DRMC. The DMRC would ultimately look to the state government for help in such a case and that would have meant the government incurring the losses which would further lead to the taxpayers paying up the final consequence.

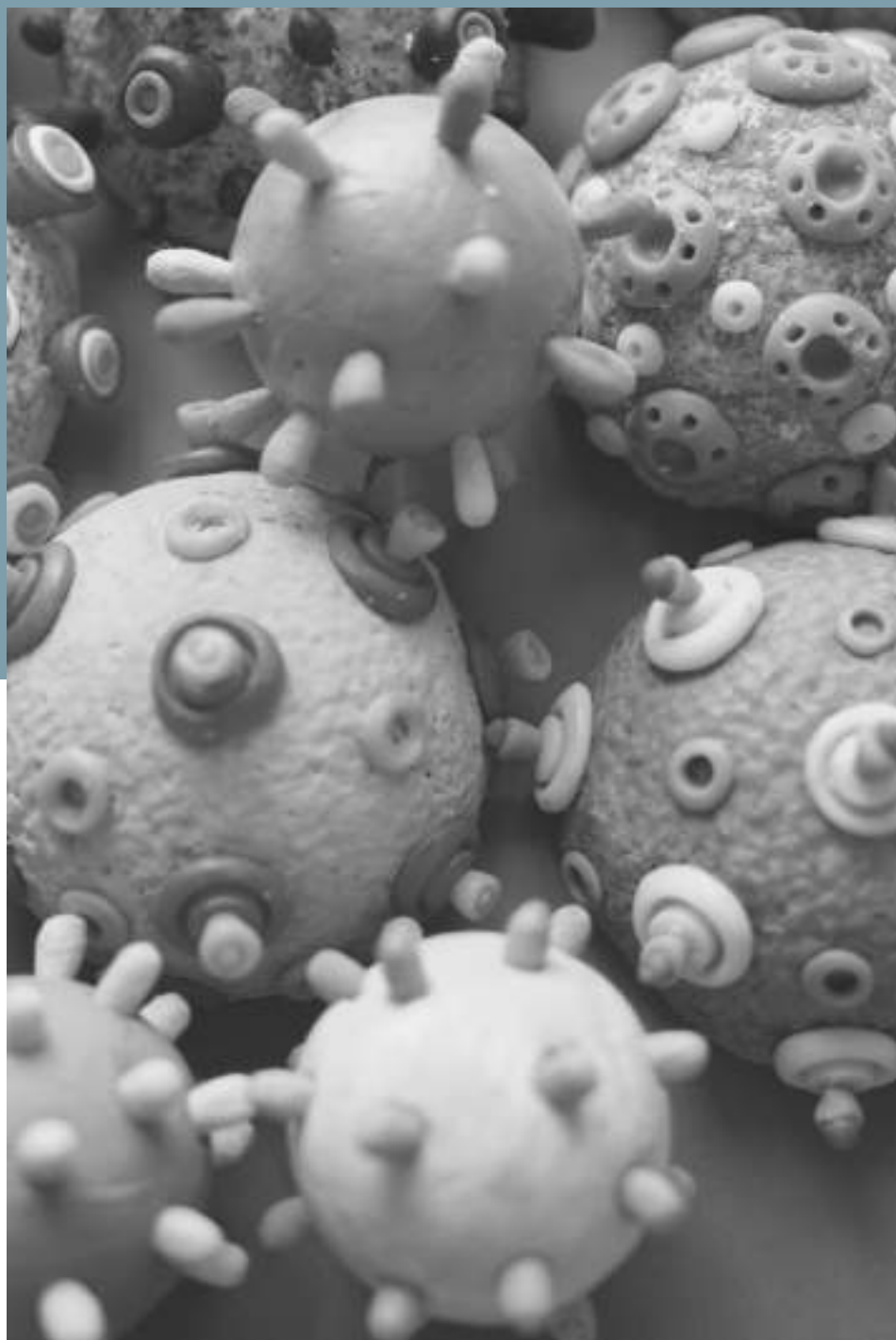
Another widespread practice is the use of public money for financing advertisements worth crores for publicity during electoral campaigns in news papers and hoardings; on radio and television and through other mass media.

It is painful to see how politicians have shrewdly manipulated the entire electoral system to their advantage. The system is filled with practices which churn out money from the taxpayers for election campaigns. Amidst this the electoral bond scheme was not only another scheme for maneuvering money into different political camps but it was also detrimental to the democratic nature of our nation. It allows the main players in a game to sit idle while the audience not only pays for the tickets but is also compelled to play the game for themselves. There is a dire need to question the legitimacy of the wide spectrum of practices which have evolved in the current electoral system and to reform it such that the taxpayer's money is left untouched for its intended use and not for financing electoral campaigns.



# EMERGENCE FROM EMERGENCY: A LOOK AT POST COVID-19 INITIATIVES

Drishti Verma  
3rd Year



Some 75 years ago, the world came together to recover from the devastations caused by World War II. The League of Nations formed after WWI failed to stop another war. Soon after the second war, countries realised the dire need to strengthen the security and peace in the world and thus the United Nations was established. We needed reforms and policy measures for economic support and its revival and thus the Bretton woods conference led to the establishment of the IMF and the World Bank.

Although the present COVID-19 pandemic is different from

World War II, we can definitely learn lessons from the Post-War period and act quickly to prevent another pandemic to happen in future. In other words, similar to the post war initiatives, it's time for the world to take Post-Pandemic Initiatives.

Let me narrow it down to one country, say, India to see how the post pandemic measures and reforms may look like.

## HEALTH IS WEALTH

The very first sector which needs reforms is the health sector. There's no doubt how commendable our doctors and nurses have been in working day and night to serve the COVID-19 patients but that's not where we can stop. Faced with such an unusual crisis, we have a long way to go.

At present, India's spending on healthcare sector stands at 1.5% of the GDP.

Presently, it's the Corona Virus which is taking away all the limelight thus leaving little attention towards other severe ailments and diseases which people are grappling with. These too need to be treated. However, the lack of infrastructure is forcing us to focus mainly on COVID-19 cases. This infrastructural deficit needs our immediate attention. There's also a need for better private healthcare participation, improvement in the quality and wages of public health workers, more focus on research and development, better regulation and monitoring of public and private healthcare so as to make it more affordable and accessible. And for these above improvements, the only

way forward is to increase our health budget.

The virus doesn't respect the border and so, there's a need for a global multilateral collaboration such as the SAARC virtual summit that happened recently. Such initiatives would promote cooperation, for instance, in providing financial assistance or sharing of technology and knowledge.

### **Learning and Mending: Revamping the WHO**

The famous Proverb "A stitch in time saves nine" is a good takeaway for the world especially China and the WHO (World Health Organisation). The Chinese doctor Li Wenliang was the first to share the reports of a SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in Wuhan city. However, instead of verifying the reports, the Chinese cops summoned Dr Li for making false comments on the Internet about an unconfirmed SARS outbreak.

Had the Chinese officials not delayed in assessing the reported cases of COVID-19 in Wuhan and had the WHO not blindly believed in the initial Chinese claim of 'No human-to-human transmission', rather had monitored the situation independently and immediately, the outbreak would not have turned to an epidemic or the epidemic would not have turned to a pandemic.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) was established with the aim to improve the global public health and such negligence in monitoring and delay on the part of WHO in declaring a global public health emergency reflects the need to revamp its methodology of governance. Reforms in WHO would also help the eroding trust among its member nations to improve.

### **The Dilemma of Climate Change and Economic Revival**

The lockdown might have provided time for our planet to heal, as people are witnessing clear blue skies, snow-capped Himalayas from their windows, elephants, deers and monkeys prowling on the empty roads, the Air Quality Index improving substantially. But how sustainable are these instances is the question we need to answer.

Once the pandemic eases, our attention would shift from life to livelihood, thus, actions on climate change taking a back seat. This can be seen as many countries have already started easing their carbon emission targets. In the present scenario, the major goal of the Post COVID-19 period would be the economic revival which is definitely the need of the hour. However, this choice of economic revival over climate change wouldn't be a sustainable revival.

The effects of climate change have only been increasing with time. The recent forest fire in Australia, increasing frequency of severe cyclones in India caused due to heating up of the

Indian Ocean, the attack of the Locust swarm in Africa travelling upto India causing a threat to our food security, the recent oil spill over Arctic due to melting of the permafrost in Russia are just some of the effects of climate change. Even the rise in viral outbreaks: SARS (2002-03), Swine Flu (2009), MERS (2012), Ebola (2014-16), Zika (2015) and the current COVID-19 are all results of the increasing human intervention with the animal space.

Therefore, actions on climate change have to be a part and parcel of the economic revival measures. They cannot be postponed and as such, there's a need for intense global collaboration and national governments to increase their role in promoting a shift towards greener and cleaner technologies. For instance, promoting usage of Electric Vehicles and developing its related infrastructure, incentivising use of renewable sources of energy as fuels.

### **Paying Attention to the Vulnerable**

The pandemic has proved itself as an eye opener for us to pay attention to the vulnerable sections of our society. While sitting at our homes under the lockdown, we can't even imagine the sufferings of the migrant labourers. Many of us have shifted to the 'Work from Home' culture, there are labourers and workers whose work cannot be accomplished via a computer screen. With factories shutting down, they are left with no source of income. In such a situation of calamity, these daily wage earners are the highest vulnerable section in our economy. Therefore, to ensure some security for them in future, the government must think upon schemes like the Unemployment Insurance as suggested by the Minister of MSME, Mr. Nitin Gadkari.

Likewise, there's also a need to focus on the strength of digital and network penetration in India. For instance, not every student has access to a good network connection or network device. With education being continued even in the lockdown, such students may lag behind their peers in getting uninterrupted knowledge.

### **Hope and Optimism: The Way Forward**

At the end, we can be hopeful. The dark clouds of pandemic would pass and the sun of opportunities would shine. All we need to do is to mend our ways and take appropriate measures so that the world doesn't see another pandemic in future. We need to walk, collectively and sustainably. Only then can we ensure that the sun falls on all of us leaving no one in the dark.

# WHAT IF IT'S THE NATURE

Madhurima Gupta  
3rd Year

What if it's the nature  
Sending us signals to what we are doing to our  
planet

What if it's the nature  
Telling us not to take things for granted

What if it's the nature  
Telling us to be kind and generous

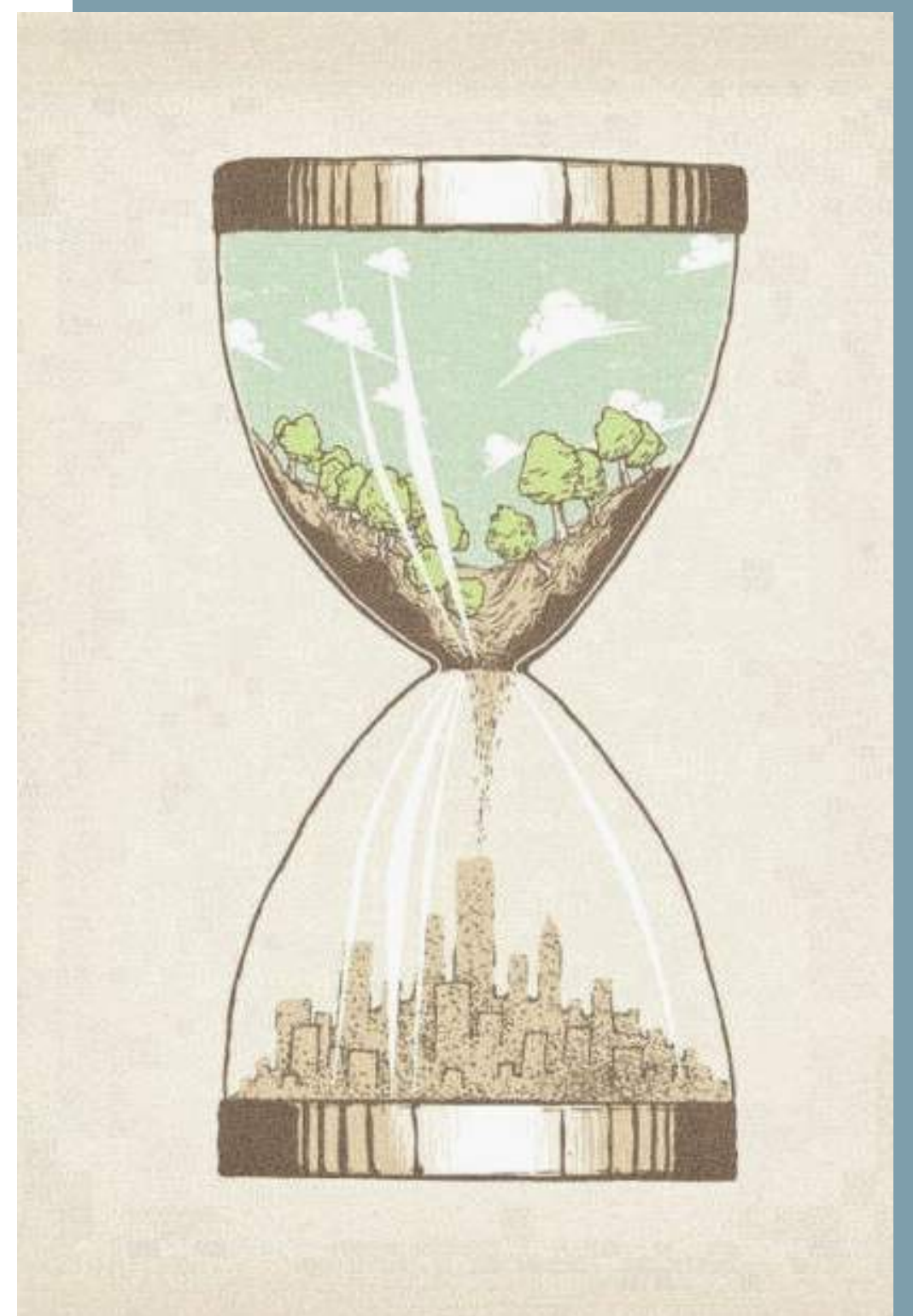
What if it's the nature  
Telling us to let the earth breathe for once

What if it's the nature  
Telling us to introspect ourselves from within

What if it's the nature  
Making us realise the importance of not only our  
close ones but also the sweepers

What if it's the nature  
Taking control of what we are doing to our  
wildlife .

What if it's the nature  
Making us understand how vulnerable we are in  
front of forces of her





# POVERTY ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO PROSPERITY EVERYWHERE

Shreya  
1st Year

99% of the world's resources are controlled by just 1% of the world's population; - this testifies the situation of abject inequality that we are living in. The term poverty in its simplest manifestations is defined as a situation of absence of even the basic necessities required for survival. The Covid 19 outbreak is the best testament of this undesirable situation which has furthered the gap between the haves and have not. When anyone is unable to make their ends meet, the person is believed to be thriving in poverty. Three broad aspects of poverty can be defined as –

**ECONOMIC POVERTY-** This form of poverty is prevailing in almost every part of our planet. Even food, clothing and shelter are a dream come true, so the idea of minimal ranges is quite far fetched. A major proportion of the world population is subjected to this form of poverty; when the services of education, health, sanitation, drinking water etc are not accessible. If people are forced to think upon spending money for purchasing daily bread or immediate medical aid, they are gripped by this state.

**SOCIAL POVERTY-** When society lacks moral values and ethos, they are said to be trapped in a vicious circle of social poverty. Caste discrimination, gender inequality, religious intolerance, extremism, destructive wars, heinous acts of rape, etc are all various nations of social poverty. All human societies are confronting one or the other forms of this poverty.

**POLITICAL POVERTY-** This form of poverty deals with lack of good governance, a poor leadership, as well as a deficit of common national agenda. When those in power do not fare well in the tasks assigned to them and their power begins to breed corruption with associated malpractices rendering the democratic verdict useless, political poverty comes into picture.

Such conditions of deprivation which the common masses suffer pose a potential threat to prosperity everywhere. This can be best exemplified as under -

**SECURITY THREAT-** As more and more people are compelled to live a degraded life where their share of Earth's natural resources is a minute

fraction, the oppressors are left with no other option but to revolt, protest or violently demonstrate. History is replete with such examples like French revolution and the Gujarat- Bihar movement in India in the 1970's.

**ENVIRONMENT THREAT-** Outbreak of diseases or epidemics is another consequence of poverty for which lack of cleanliness, sanitation and proper health facilities are the major culprits. This has been rightly proved by the Coronavirus pandemic that has battered people's lives and left economies across continents shattered . In a second, the use of conventional chulhas in areas such as the poverty stricken rural India, which release harmful greenhouse gases is also a case in point.

**ECONOMIC STRAIN-** A continuous cycle of poverty pushes the economy into a situation of strain. As nations try to emerge out of poverty they spend huge revenue in the upliftment of the people at the lowest rungs of society. The budgetary allocation to various schemes like Saubhagya Yojana etc or the MGNREGA by Union government of India is a major example, which otherwise could have diverted towards more developmental projects like dams, industries or infrastructure.

Lastly **LOSS OF HUMAN RESOURCE-** When people do not get favourable conditions to nurture their talents or enrich their skills, it results in a sheer loss of human resources and aggravates into a monstrous problem of unemployment. People remain relegated to menial or odd jobs (rag picking etc) out of poverty.

Thus the current time demands serious reforms and measures to be undertaken to alleviate people out of this inhumane condition and to ensure that peace, stability and every individual's life is not jeopardized with. The need of the hour is equitable resource distribution to wipe out problems like food insecurity, premature deaths and other crises, the world is grappling with.

# AFTER 75 YEARS, ARE WE REALLY INDEPENDENT?

Shreya Agarwal  
1st Year



After nearly 200 years of colonialism and subjugation, the golden auspicious day of 15th August, 1947, marked the dawn of a new era when Indians would self regulate their destiny. The cherished goal of an independent nation that had long been imagined in the popular memories of the masses stood actualized. The leaders of unmatched charisma and demeanor shouldered upon themselves the responsibility to construct a nation along the contours of the values that had spearheaded the freedom movement, with the Constitution as its foundation and the superstructure being shaped by the empowered

citizens who will contribute in the nation-building exercise by reaping the fruits of government ensued development programmes.

Also the leaders had in their minds the consideration of the maintenance of the essential equilibrium between modernity and the preservation of our traditional culture. This development enterprise was, however, fraught with shades of grey with the emergency being the blackest period that minaciously sabotaged the nation's democratic credentials both at home as well as abroad. So now it's high time that we introspect on how free we truly are. Free from colonialism; yes, but what about everything else?

More than half of the population lives below the poverty line and has minimal

resources that are barely enough for meager subsistence. 313 million people are yet to be imparted formal education which leaves our abundant human resources highly unutilized. Health parameters too depict a grim picture; malnutrition takes a huge toll on infant life; childbirth deaths and a plethora of diseases continue to flourish, finding new hosts. Filthy Slums and cramped holes which may anytime be demolished house 78 million of our population, rendering the countrymen without even a roof over their heads. The youth roams unemployed and is duped into robbery and drug addiction. Sectarian and communist divides have deepened with people at each other's throats. The marginalized and deprived are discriminated against and left voiceless. The nation is

yet not a secure place for women; the seed is either killed before birth or harassed when it mushrooms . All neighborhoods are troubled by petty beggars. Every nook and corner is a dumpsite for trash and we have miserably failed in keeping the nation clean. Corruption abounds; scams and black money harbored. The judicial system is plagued by inefficiency and redundancy. Elected representatives have shattered democracy and its ethos replacing it with populism instead.

instead. The bureaucracy, once described as the steel frame has badly rusted and is largely inaccessible to the people it is mandated to serve.

Independence means freedom, or self rule. We were bestowed with legal freedom following the exit of the Britishers and the establishment of a duly elected government. But have we realized the future envisioned in 1947 in true essence? The cherished values enshrined in the preamble ring out hollow. The shackles of poverty, illiteracy, ill healthy, injustice, inefficiency and intolerance and discrimination; have enslaved us. These are the multiple barriers which have to be surpassed for the Indian citizens to truly experience freedom. Lets pledge to prevent the sacrifice of millions of our compatriots from going futile and work together to provide the enabling conditions for the enjoyment of independence we had initially dreamt of.

Jai Hind.



# कलयुग

सिमरन सिंह  
2nd Year

हां हमारा देश कुछ तरक्की की ओर है,  
जिंदा मुर्दे घूमते न अंत है न छोर है |  
अभी कल ही देखा था एक परिवार जो,  
भूखे प्यासे बैठे थे  
जब बात चली तो पता चला  
रक्षक ही भक्षक बन बैठे थे ।  
अभी हाल ही की बात है,  
जो स्त्रियों को पूजते ,  
राम-राम गाते और हलवा-पूरी बांटते ,  
जिस राज्य में मंदिरों की घंटियां हैं गूंजती,  
नाम सुनोगे, व्याख्यान सुनोगे,  
तो रूह कांप जाएगी |  
स्त्रियों के प्रति अन्याय-अत्याचार देखोगे तो,  
सच कहती हूं पैरों तले ज़मीन खिसक जाएगी  
स्त्रियों को रोक है और नरभक्षी खुल्ले घूमते,  
समानता-समानता का डंका जहां गूंजता,  
बेटियां न बेटियां,  
हर बाप जहां मांगता,  
ये समाज है या कोई क्रूरता का जाल है  
कलयुग का ये दौर है,  
जहां राम-राम बोलते,  
अरे रावण भी बन जाओ तो  
क्या पता स्वर्ग भोग लो!  
हाथ-पैर बोले न ,  
आँखें बयान देती है,  
दहशत की कहानी है काली जुबान कहती है!



प्रपंच है प्रपंच है,  
बेहाल हाल हो रहा,  
धरती मां भी रो रही,  
जो कलयुग का हाल हो रहा है।

ये स्त्री है, स्त्री है  
मत करो ललकार तुम,  
ये जो रूष्ट हो गई,  
संभाल पाओगे न भार तुम !  
जो जीवन- प्राण देती है,  
वो कर देगी कल्याण फिर!

संहार है संहार है,  
उत्पत्ति दूर होगी,  
ये स्त्री है, स्त्री है  
मत करो प्रवाद तुम,  
ये स्त्री ही प्रकृति है,  
मत करो खिलवाड़ तुम  
मत करो खिलवाड़ तुम !





# FRIEND AND FOE

Shreya  
1st Year

Reminisce your childhood and what fun it was learning about the Chameleon, a reptile that changes body color to its advantage. Today it seems most appropriate to describe India's pugnacious neighbor – china. A vast landmass of South Asia is occupied by these two giants, accompanied by their humongous populations. Sitting next to each other, an era of cultural exchange has dawned in since the ages of Fa Xian and Xian Zang. However this seminal relationship has not been sustainable.

When a young India was born in 1947, Pandit Nehru endeavored to establish harmony culminating in the endorsement of Panchsheel Agreement. The peace was short lived and shadowed by the dark and blood stained memories of 1962. Not believing it to be enough, China lay hands on India's sore feet by extending whole hearted support to Pakistan in each of its infamous maneuvers. Ties turned bitter.

But yet again a new trajectory of positivity

unraveled, well corroborated by Rajeev Gandhi's visit to the Dragon Nation. More recently an era of cordial relations relations was ushered in with deepening proximity between the leaders of the two states. Gujarat, Wuhan to Mamallapuram bonhomie, the trio signified the pinnacle of peace.

However the sudden globally disastrous outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic was a crucial juncture as the entire world was and is still reeling under the vehement consequences of the China borne Coronavirus. What is even more shocking is the latter's claim of not being associated with the origins of this virus that had taken such a huge toll on human life.

June 15 was the fateful day when relations took a vicious turn for being the deadliest and plunged into a historic low. Indian motherland sacrificed 20 martyrs to uphold its sovereignty, and reply to the enemy befittingly. Also the Indian response coded in the order of banning 59 Chinese applications was more prudent

in this technologically-driven age.

Since the end of Colonialism, boundary has always been a contentious issue but not so much as to snatch away invaluable lives. Though facing several betrayals from this neighbor, with regards to permanent membership in UNSC, international treaties, or even designation of Pakistan sponsored terrorists, India never hesitated to knit a new alliance.

Expectedly, the reciprocity was not encouraging. China's belligerence is visible vis- a- vis sour relations at home too - Tibet, Taiwan and Hong kong - and even internationally - USA and ASEAN nations.

Indian policy makers need to deliberate the future course of action, emphasizing true patriotism over a nationalistic rhetoric. Prioritizing the idea of Vasudeva Kutumbakam, India has to steer animus relations with negotiations before looking at its arsenal. The government of the day has a fair record in the management of external affairs. As citizens we too should shoulder the responsibility, the least we can do is to zealously participate in government initiatives like the Atmanirbhar Abhiyaan. If 120 Crore Indians firmly resolve, no one has the fortitude to prevent India from becoming an unrivalled super power.

# WHAT THE PANDEMIC HAS MADE US ALL REALISE?

Sugandh Bhayana  
3rd Year



*It is not the strongest of the species that survives nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change."*

-Charles Darwin

When an epidemic spreads beyond a country's borders, that's when the disease officially becomes a pandemic. The history of mankind has witnessed various unknown, first appearing deadly communicable diseases. The earliest recorded pandemic happened during the Peloponnesian war, which left two-third of the world's population dead. Coming over to the current pandemic,

Covid-19, it has shaken the soul of this world and is still looming large over our heads. Nevertheless it couldn't stop time and life is still going on, as people have adapted themselves to a New normal. In this article, I would like to talk about those sections of our society who made us rethink their worth and contribution in the development of any nation. These strata consist of women, migrant laborers and frontline workers like medical staff and police personnel.

## MIGRANT LABOURERS

Migrant Labor, those who seemingly remained invisible in the pre pandemic world got visible during the unprecedented crisis and its gravest implication in the form of an unplanned lockdown. The migrant laborers were seen moving back towards

their rural homes along with their families either on foot or on bicycles with no food, water and shelter, continuously for days. This showed the harsh and bitter condition of the Indian economy when it comes to employment in the unorganized and informal sector. Therefore, it becomes important for the government to accept this harsh reality and move towards improving employment conditions through labor welfare centric policies so that our nation stays prepared for any such catastrophic event in near or far future.

## FRONTLINE WORKERS

In case of contribution by medical staff and police, it has to be accepted without an iota of doubt that they were the ones who put their lives in danger and

remained committed to their duties.

On one hand, when the entire world was locked inside their homes, they were only the doctors who kept their doors open for the treatment of patients. Our saviors had to remain in separate accommodations to protect their families and children from the risk of infection. Indian Medical Association which represents 3.5 Lakh doctors across the country mentioned that 734 doctors in the country had died due to the infection so far as per the latest data revealed in February 2021. The nation is indebted to them for their continuous efforts.

## STATE OF WOMEN

Talking about Women, another important stratum of society which has always been under rated and seems to be invisible in the public domain, has been worst hit by the corona virus induced lockdown. According to a new working paper titled 'Down and Out? The Gendered Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on India's Labor Market', authored by Azim Premji University's senior research fellow Rosa Abraham, associate professor Amit Basole and assistant professor Surbhi Kesar, found that women were seven times more likely to lose jobs during the national lockdown than men. Also, women were 11 times more likely to not return to work subsequently.

The lifting of lockdown restrictions was associated with a return to work but the recovery was more muted for women, the paper pointed out. Prior to the pandemic, about 70% of men in the working age were employed, according to the data. By August-September 2020, 88% of them remained employed or returned to work. By contrast, of the 10% of women in working age who were employed before the pandemic, only 53% remained employed or returned to work by August-September 2020. This meant that half the pre-pandemic female workforce had lost jobs and were unable to return to work after the lockdown.

## CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude this article with a quote by Dave Hollis,

*"In the rush to get back to normal, use this time to decide which parts of normal are worth rushing back to."*

The past year was the year of realizations for everyone. Not only at the personal level but collectively at public level as well, it's important for us to realize the worth of above mentioned sections of the society. Also it's high time that the government pays heed to the lives of these sections by evolving progressive policy and upliftment measures.

# AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN BROUGHT YOUR MAMA'S MESSAGE

Your mama sent a message for you,  
She's doing good in heaven,  
And every day she watches you  
Very often you think that you are alone,  
But that's not done,  
How can you forget,  
That she's always with you.

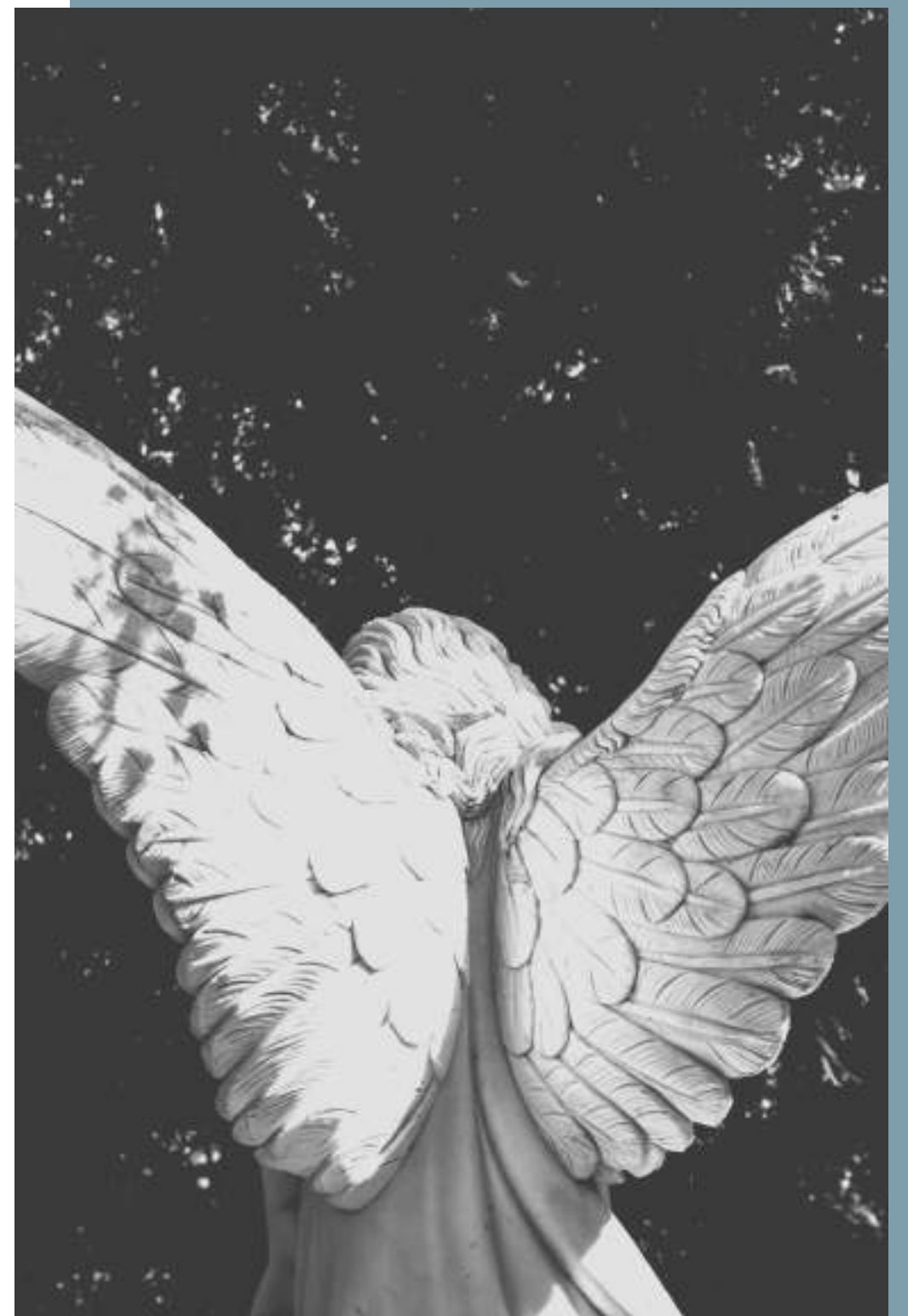
Every morning she stands at the heaven window,  
And asks the sun to take something with it for you  
Every day the very first ray that falls on you,  
Has the kiss she sent for you  
She hugs you twice or thrice a day,  
In the form of cozy winds,  
And wishes you a good day.

When you are happy,  
Her smile is the brightest  
She tells all the souls in heaven,  
That Her child is the best  
But, whenever you are sad,  
She gets so upset.

Your happiness is what she always prays for,  
But, whenever you cry she cries even more  
Godfather then comes to calm his daughter down,  
And tells her neither of you are alone, he's always around.

She asked me to tell you,  
That you are never alone,  
She's always with you, please don't moan  
You are strong, stronger than you think,  
But when she sees you giving up, her heart sinks.

Sneha Chandila  
3rd Year





# RECOGNISING RAMANI'S ACQUITTAL

Reshu Raj  
2nd Year

*“I can be changed by what happens to me,  
but I refuse to be reduced by it”*

*-Maya Angelou*

On february 17th, 2021 the court ruled in the favour of Priya Ramani who was undertrial for ‘criminal defamation’ charges for calling out M.J. Akbar, a union minister and veteran journalist for sexual harassment. It stated that “ the reputation of an accused cannot be protected at the cost of someone’s right to dignity”. This verdict has revived the conversation around sexual harassment, and has given a voice to women who are harassed and then forced shut into decades of silence. It establishes that sexual harassment cannot be seen as part and parcel of the professional lives of women. Ramani’s win with this welcomed verdict will highlight the gravity of gendered violence and further pave the way for movements like #MeToo which will encourage more women to call out their abusers.

This short article will explore the backlash

received by Ms. Ramani in the form of the question: ‘Why do women take so long before reporting their abusers?’

The patriarchal system is such that it protects the perpetrator safe from scrutiny by deploying several tropes and entrenched beliefs regarding the victims of their abuse. Our society is built around the institution of family and other rigid hierarchical institutions that have always assigned women a subservient position. All these conditions coalesce to create a culture which normalises violence against women and then ironically enough, impose on them the responsibility of protecting this culture, even if it requires reconciliation with their abusers. Our social code nurtures a nature in women in which silence is a virtue and violence a vice.

The absurd question arises in the minds of people every time: ‘why did the victim not resist or fight back?’. Whenever a woman calls out her abuser, the society first judges the complainants behaviour against cultural norms to determine



her 'victim worthiness'. Whether she had contravened the 'cultural gender code', expressed her sexuality, or if she had invited those advances and had been caught in a situation of her own making by dressing or conducting herself inappropriately. Finally deciding if the victim was subdued and defenceless and hence, eligible for the help and support she is seeking.

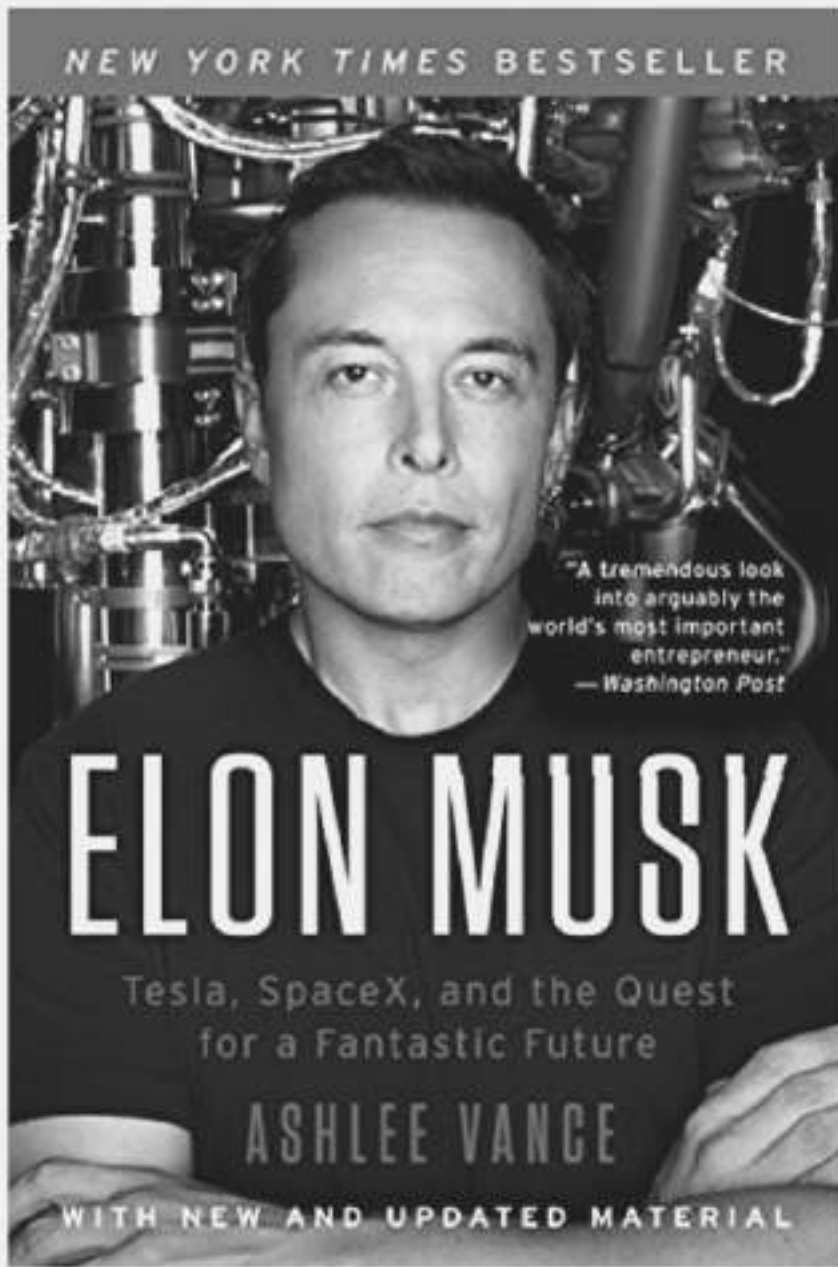
On the other hand, every possible argument is deployed to prove the innocence of the perpetrator. It is believed that any 'respectable', 'perfectly polite' person of importance can never be an abuser. Family members, religious heads and good leaders are faultless creatures with impeccable standards of morality who could never do anything wrong unless 'provoked' to do so. From the courts asking the rapists to become brothers or husbands to women they have abused, to MJ Akbar's claim that he is 'too respectable a person to face allegations of abuse and has been harmed by the offensive words used', which were 'false' and 'caused irreparable damage to his stellar reputation', all stem from these biased baseless grounds.

Victim naming is automatically translated to victim shaming, due to which women are reluctant to be identified as being violated. Majority of the time abuse occurs in private and by people with whom the victim of violence is familiar with. As a result, Instead of holding the accused accountable, women are put under trial to prove their claims. Ramani was lucky that it only took 2 years to give a verdict on the defamation charges and prove that her accusations were not an attempt to malign her abuser's image. In a case involving charges of rape, Justice Grover and Justice Attri said in defence of three men accused of raping a woman whose "narrative did not throw up gut wrenching violence that normally precedes or accompanies such incidents" that they intend to "balance the concerns of the victim, demands of the society and law and the element of reformatory and rehabilitative justice". For victims, the decision of not reporting is often grounded in the very real fear of experiencing trauma at the hands of callus processes and societal evaluations which confront them, rather than the perpetrators.

On these accounts, the next time we question the victims, we first need to ask ourselves. Have we employed enough resources to educate and sensitize ourselves? Have we learnt to acknowledge the courage it takes for the victims to pass innumerable patriarchal litmus tests? Are we capable of providing them with support requisite to bring their abusers to justice? Are we able to withhold our own judgements, which often is a reason a victim exists somewhere?

# TOP 5 BOOKS I READ IN 2020

Drishti Verma  
3rd Year



2020 has been a year of isolation. Being at home, we all have tried to keep ourselves busy and entertained with something. From cleaning utensils to brooming to binge-watching the latest web series to sleeping to even exercising, we have somehow survived this lockdown period. Talking about my experience, apart from doing all these above tasks, I have read a number of books. Having no other option, I adapted to e-books. So, here's sharing my thoughts on some really good and thought-provoking books which I read in this one year of 2020.

## Elon Musk – by Ashlee Vance

This book is not just a

biography of a person called Elon Musk, but a compilation of the ideas, the mindset and the vision of a man who is creating history each passing day. After reading this, I can say, with utmost surety, that Musk is that person who will bring revolution within the whole of humanity. His journey from a boy who throughout his childhood was teased merely for his initial name, to being the person behind extraordinary initiatives like PayPal, SpaceX, Tesla, SolarCity, The Boring Company, OpenAI, Neuralink that are causing disruptions and shocks across industries, Elon Musk is nothing short of a visionary. He has this belief that he is the guy who can change this world. Despite huge failures, he has not given up on his mission. Describing the amazingness of this book in one paragraph is really tough. Every page is an

Inspiration. Below are a few lines from the book which show the level of hard work he and his team does in turning his vision into a reality.

“The employees have learned never to break the time needed to accomplish something down into months or weeks. Elon wants day-to-day and hour-by-hour forecasts and even minute-by-minute countdowns, and the fallout from missed schedules is severe.”

## Why Nations Fail – by Daron Acemoglu and Robinson

This book is an in-depth analysis of the inequalities that persist among the various nations. As the title of the book suggests, it talks about the reasons for poor level of development, high poverty and low economic growth of nations by vividly giving ample case studies covering

all continents. According to the authors, most of the current world inequalities emerged since the late 18th century following the industrial revolution. Their central tenet, reflected in the book, is that it is the institutions, both political and economic, that play an important factor for a nation's prosperity because good institutions incentivise citizens' development. The book takes us through all the major historical events that shaped the present political economies across the globe. Anyone who loves history or politics or economy will definitely find this book super interesting. Here are a few lines from the book highlighting its central theme.

“There is strong synergy between economic and political institutions. Extractive political institutions concentrate power in the hands of a narrow elite and place few constraints on the exercise of this power. Economic institutions are then often structured by this elite to extract resources from the rest of the society.”

### Emotional Intelligence – by Daniel Goleman

Many people are excellent academically, however, they fail to succeed in their life, be it professionally or personally. Why does it happen? The book Emotional Intelligence answers these questions. We all know what's an IQ. However, there's also something called EQ, i.e. Emotional Quotient which measures how well a person can manage and understand their own and others' emotions. In my opinion, books like this should be made mandatory for students to read, either in their school or college. The book talks about every aspect of an individual where he/she needs to learn how their emotions behave and how it can be managed. Anyone interested in some basic psychology of humans can go for this book.

### Who Moved My Cheese? – by Spencer Johnson

COVID-19 is a big change for us. A lot has changed in the lives of so many people. Did we ever think of/expected such a change? Have we accepted this way of life? Are we looking forward to what's next or still glooming about the past? An answer to all such questions lies in this thin book called “Who Moved My Cheese?” The author, by way of a fictional story, tries to make the readers realise the reality in our life. The “Cheese” has been used as a metaphor for our goals, desires and aspirations that we want to achieve in our life, be it personal or professional. The story revolves around four characters and their reaction to the changes that they encounter. The reason why I loved this book is for its one simple lesson: Change is inevitable. It's going to happen. It is us who need to anticipate, adapt and move with the changes we face. Those who do so are able to grab their “cheese” because life will keep moving the “cheese”. Every page holds a message for the readers.

It's a must read for people of all ages and from all backgrounds, especially those who are finding it

difficult to deal with changes they have encountered in their life. Here's a very beautiful line from the book that can be even adopted as your "mantra" for a happy life.

"He realized the fastest way to change is to laugh at your own folly – then you can let go and quickly move on."

### Lean In – by Sheryl Sandberg

This is the book for all the girls who aspire to achieve their dreams and goals. The author is the Chief Executive Officer at Facebook. In this book, she has talked about women in the work sphere. Through her journey as depicted in the book, she has made me her huge fan. The way she looks at women empowerment is really inspiring. According to Sandberg, the reason for the lack of women in leadership positions is that women often underestimate their own capabilities and strengths. Reading the book, one can get a reflection of the author's vision of wanting gender equality not just at the workplace in general but at the top-most, leadership positions as well. The book addresses a number of challenges that working women face, be it at the organisational level, family level or personal level. Being an eye opener, not just for women, it should be read even by men. Here's two of my favourite lines from the book:

"Women need to shift from thinking "I'm not ready to do that" to thinking "I want to do that—and I'll learn by doing it."

"Real change will come when powerful women are less of an exception."

It's 2021 now. A year we all are looking forward to, for new opportunities, new ideas, new knowledge. Let's pledge to read more and learn more.

# THEY ASK WHAT THE STRANGER DID

Rashika Singh  
3rd Year

A faraway meadow, born a piece of sunshine  
The first notes as beautiful as little fireflies  
The gloom feeders warded off by the laughs  
She created a symphony, her own new paths.

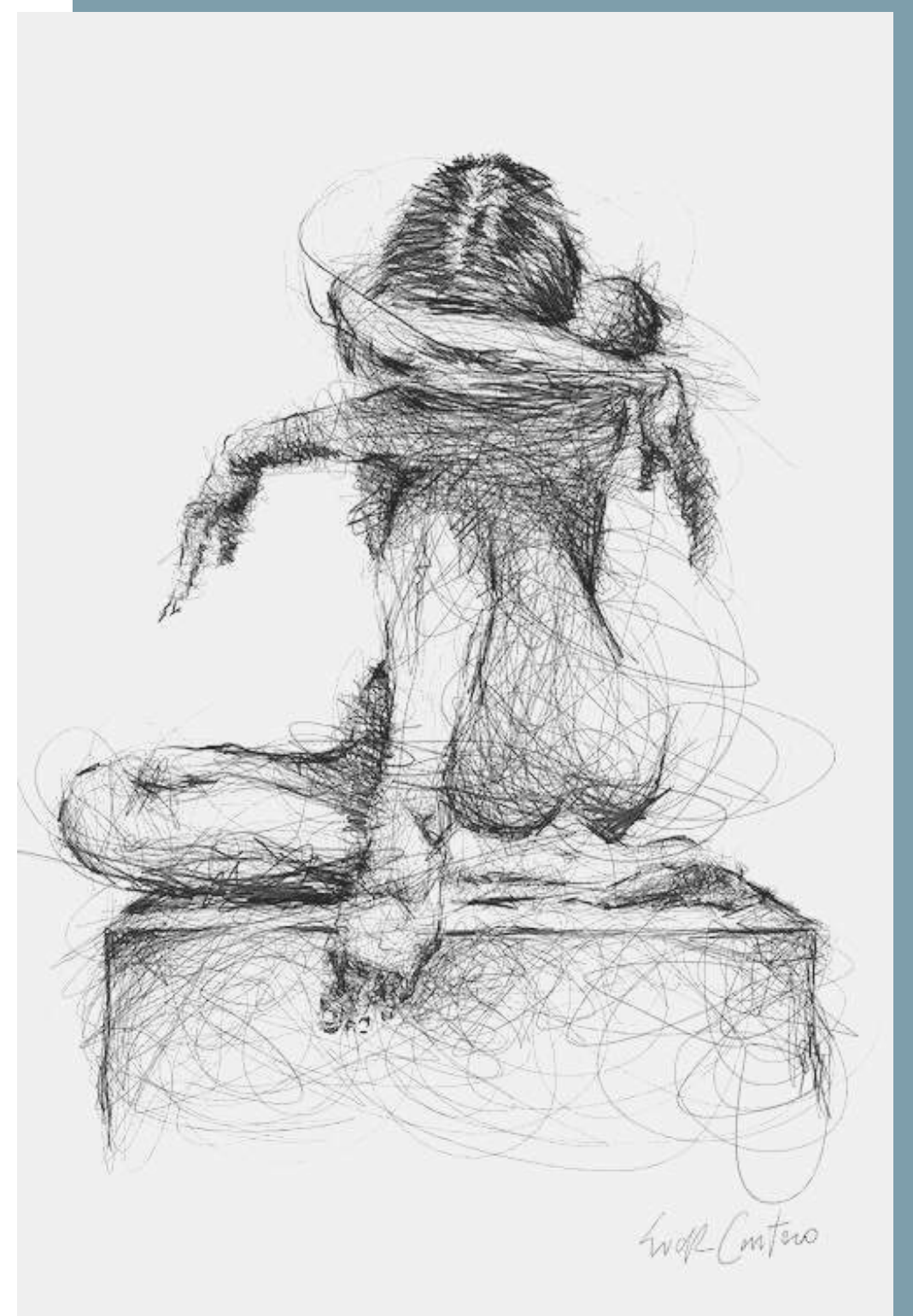
Chasing the ghosts with curiosity not fear  
Her little feet wandered far and near  
Warned about the evils that lurked in the shadows  
Wading amongst strangers, she kept on her toes.

While she faced the threat and kept herself barbed  
True evil was beside her with its demons garbed  
Ripped of her innocence with trust and anger ablaze  
She buried the horrors in a mind of maze.

You'll know the riddle if you have one of your own  
The maze hidden in the pages you tore  
The story isn't complete but they'll never know  
The flower long plucked, but they'll see it grow

The scarred Phoenix still enticed the parasites  
Mark of evil festering in the paradise  
The rotting pieces, she kept slashing as thorns  
But the book fell apart with too many pages torn

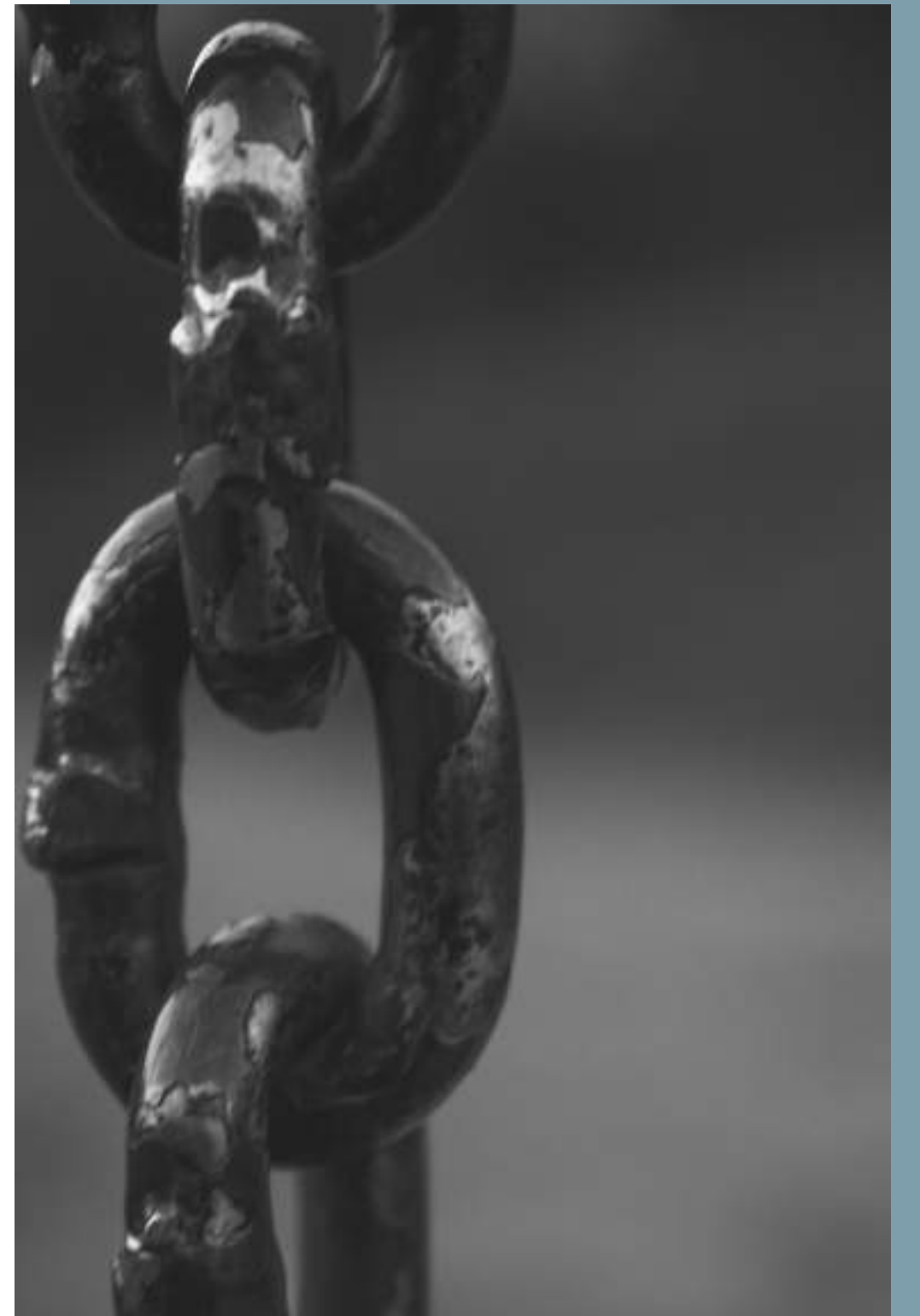
In the ruins lay a secret box in the mid  
But it was her grave where the keys were hid  
Never having the courage it bid  
All their lives, they asked what the stranger did



# जंजीरों

-Taniya Dalal  
1st Year

जकड़ा हुआ है समाज ने  
सभी को अपने उसूलों से  
बनी जंजीरों में  
उन जंजीरों को तोड़ना  
किसी ओर को नहीं  
खुद को पड़ेगा  
भागते तो कायर है  
इस समाज का सामना सीना  
तान के किसी ओर को नहीं  
खुद को पड़ेगा  
समाज हम से बना है  
इसे बनाया है हमने  
तो इस समाज को संवारना  
भी किसी ओर को नहीं खुद  
पड़ेगा ।  
ये एक एक कदम मिलकर  
किसी रोज़ भीड़ भी बन  
जाएंगे  
जो उन उसूलों को अपनी  
बुलंद आवाज़ से उड़ा ले  
जाएंगे



# ।। स्वतंत्रता की कीमत ।।

एक पल थम सा गया,  
तो याद आई वो घड़ी  
जब इंकलाब की लय थी रगों में,  
और इस देश की मिट्टी में लिपटे जिस्म थे।  
एक वक्त था जब इस मुल्क में,  
चारों ओर घना अंधेरा था।  
तब इस मां की संतानों ने,  
अपने लहू से इस माटी को सींचा था।  
शौर्य, वीर, प्रताप, लिए ऐसे गुण  
खड़ गए सीना ताने,  
अपने मुल्क की लाज बचाने।  
गांधी ने दिखलाया सत्य धर्म का मार्ग,  
तो नेताजी ले जाए सात समंदर पार।  
इतनी सी थी चाह,  
की स्वराज की थी आस।  
किंतु मुफ्त मैं न हो सकी अपनी पूरी यह मांग  
एक कीमत चुकानी पड़ गई,  
जो थी बहुत विशाल।  
खो दिए इस मात ने अपने कुछ संतान,  
वो पीड़ से रोती रही, और  
सिसक सिसक कर सो गई।  
जब आंख खुली तो,  
नए सवेरे की रोशनी मैं खो गई।  
जब संसार सो जायेगा,  
एक नया भारत जन्माएगा।  
इसी उम्मीद में सबने,  
अपने भाग्य का कर लिया था सौदा।  
आज स्वराज तो है, किंतु स्वतंत्रता पर संदेह है।  
क्या इसी भारत का ख्वाब लिए,  
वीरों ने दी कुर्बानी?  
जहां इंसानियत से बड़ेके अब हो गए है भगवान?  
जहां हर दिन मां बहनों को,  
देना पड़ रहा है अपने आबरू का बलिदान।  
क्या यही वो भारत है जिसका ख्वाब लिए,  
हंसते-हंसते वार दिए सबने अपने प्राण?  
इस काल को बदलना होगा,  
एक नव निर्माण रचना होगा,  
क्योंकि इस राष्ट्र की आज़ादी के लिए  
एक मूल्य करना पड़ा अवदान,  
और खो दिए मात ने अपने कुछ वीर संतान।

Anupama Shashni  
2nd Year



# TO LOOK WITHIN.

Pooja Yadav

When waiting becomes a  
means to exile

When living amounts to a  
mere domicile

When thinking leads to  
harsh trouble

Just stop for a breath and  
look for the person standing  
next to you all this while.

When cold winds cut through  
the sky of tomorrow

When intentional joy turns  
into unwitting sorrow

When the leap of faith seems  
to be a casted hollow

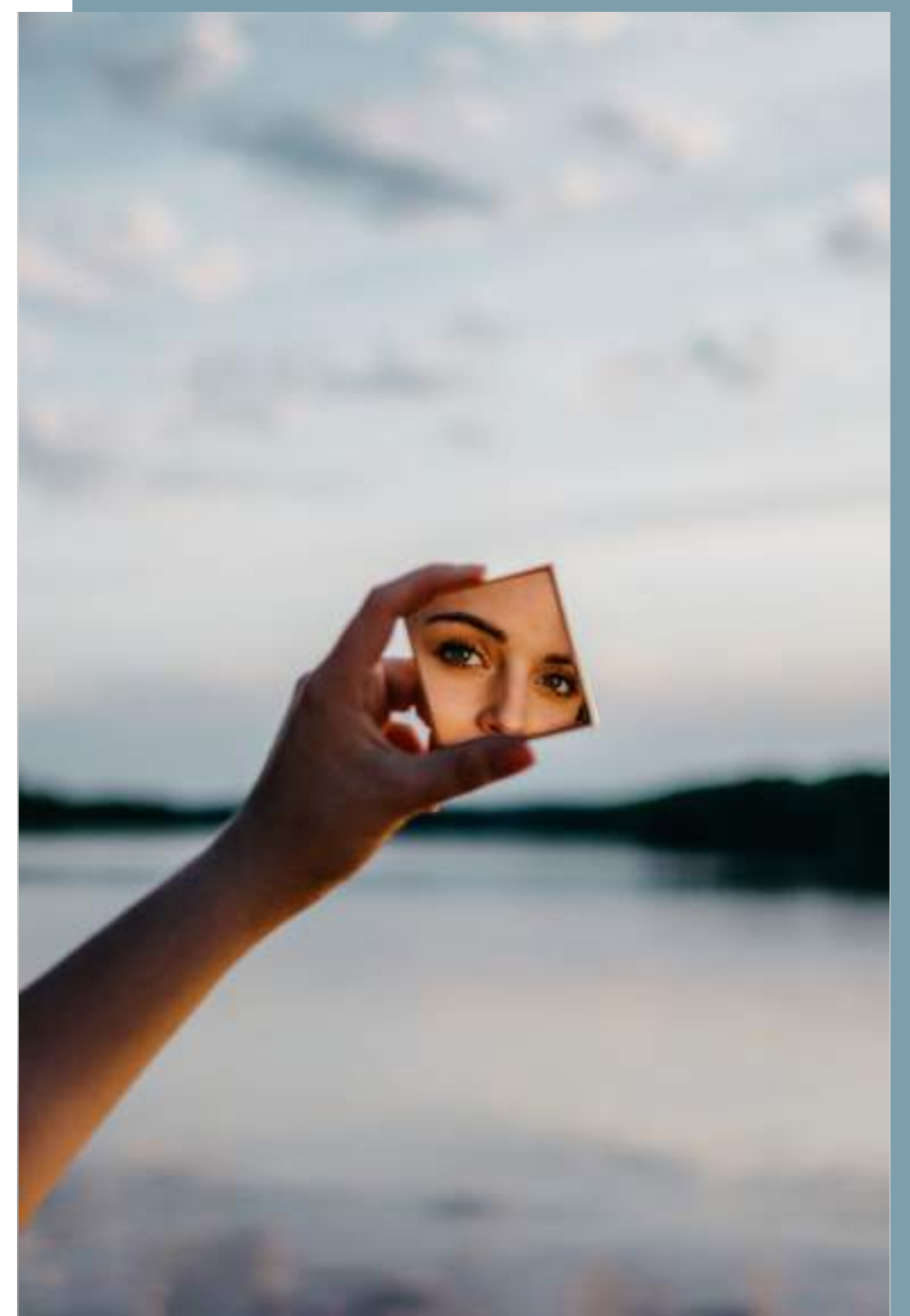
Look for the one waiting for  
you at the end of this narrow

When drowning befits the  
eyes of the ill

When wounds appear  
possessing any frill

When redemption arises  
without any will

Look for the evil within you to  
kill.





# BEHOLD THIS BREATH

Pooja Yadav

Behold this breath for the gloomy days

Behold this breath to validate your ways

Behold this breath to illuminate the fire within  
your soul

Behold this breath for the blaze to never close

Behold this breath as you will fly...

So high that nothing will matter at all.

Behold this breath of your trembling fear

Behold this breath for the objects in dure

Behold this breath for the fortunes of shear.

Behold this breath for the unruly fame, for the  
fame must wake at the poorest stake.

Behold this breath for the unholy smear.

Behold this breath for the bets placed in past  
swear.

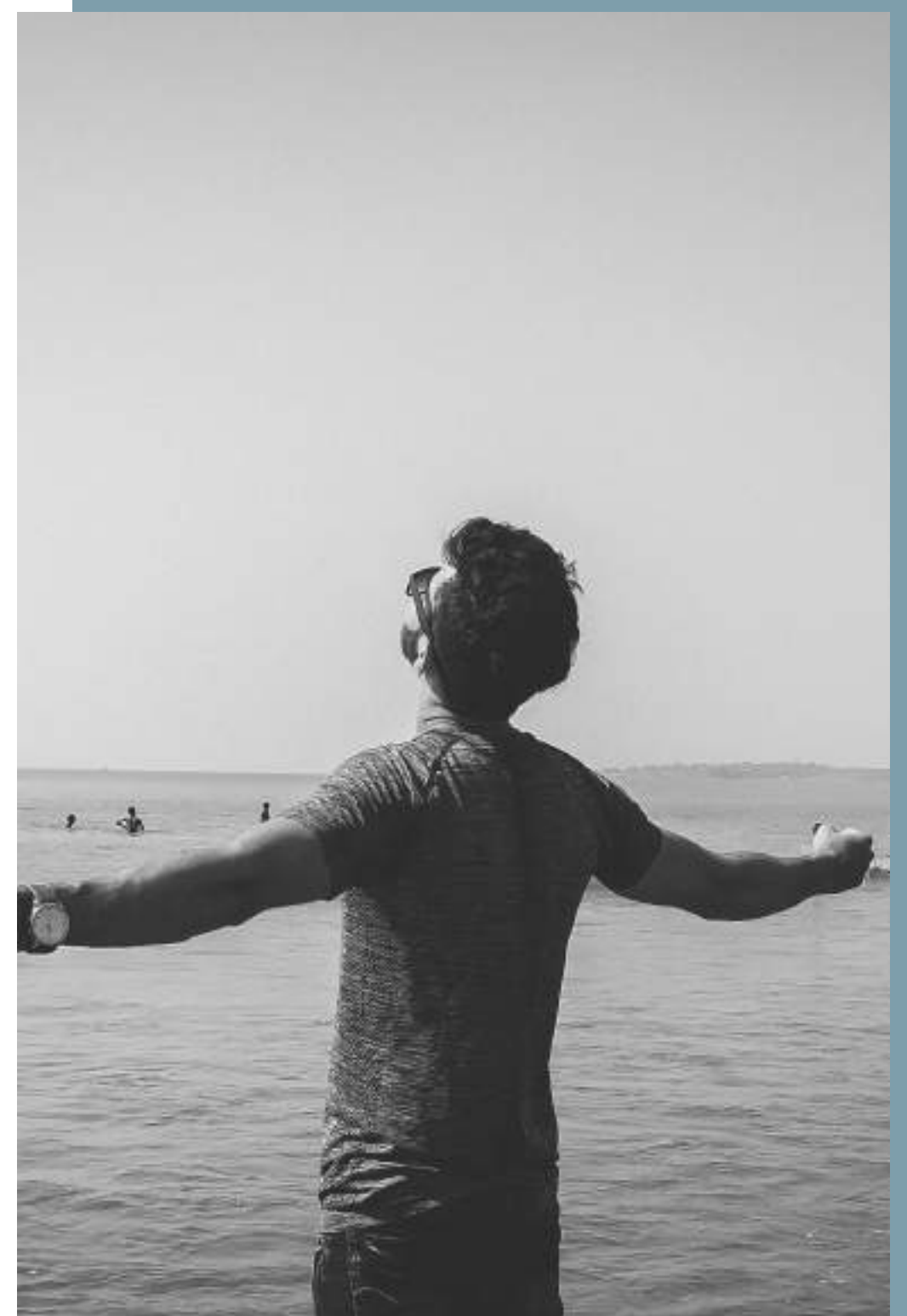
Behold this breath to endure when the spirit  
haunts

Behold this breath to cast away life's demons,  
For the demons are most lured by your  
passionate roar.

Behold this breath to stay wide awake  
Even when the world around you seems utterly  
vague...

Behold this breath in moments of unyielding  
strokes

For the power to conquest will come ashore.



# मेरी शक्ति

Taniya Dalal  
1st Year

तुम्हारी तरह चिल्लाना मुझे भी आता है  
और एक शेर की तरह  
दाड़ना भी आता है।  
पर चुप हूं,  
तो ये शक्ति है मेरी।  
मेरी इस खामोशी को मेरा  
डर मत समझ लेना ,  
हर बार की तरह इसे ही बात  
का निचोड़ मत समझ लेना ।  
और सुनो  
आगली बार मुझे झंझोड़ने से पहले  
जरा सोच लेना



# HOPE BLOSSOMS

Srishti Verma  
1st year

So what if the world does not understand you,  
fathom your words, your values, your hardship  
and all your close tete-e-tete with trouble.

So what if the world is blind in it's pernicious  
goal, in it's grandeur, it's unrequited love for  
fame and glory.

So what if the world starts it's journey without  
you, leaving you behind, in vicious waves and  
tides, floating up and down, searching for  
shore, grasping a little hope.

So what if the world continues it's schedule,  
it's assignment even if your innocuous world is  
shattering, heart breaking, soul wrenching.

It seems like an end, rather than a beginning,  
but have little faith nina pequena 'cause every  
ending have a new fresh distinct beginning.



# 15 K-POP SONGS EVERYONE SHOULD LISTEN TO:

Kumari Anshika  
2nd Year

1. Spring Day- by BTS
2. Love Scenario- by ikon
3. Blood Sweat and Tears- by BTS
4. Replay- by Shinee
5. Bang Bang Bang- by Big Bang
6. Cheer Up- by Twice
7. Du Du Du Du- by BlackPink
8. Holiday- by SNSD
9. Psycho- by RedVelvet
10. Kick It- by NCT
11. Hip- by Mamamoo
12. Gashina- by Sunmi
13. Me Gustas Tu- by Gfriend
14. I'm the best- by 2NE1
15. Monster- by EXO



# THE DEPENDABLEZ INTERVIEW

By Shreya and Anvi

Though most of us in this technologically driven modern era are guided by our personal interests, there are some who are able to combat these tendencies and devote their lives to the cause of others. Ms. Turni Dhar, founder of the DEPENDABLEZ is one such inspirational figure. Dependablez is an organisation that is devoted to the mission of providing compassionate and comprehensive Senior Citizen care by cultivating their clients' well-being, autonomy, safety, dignity, independence and quality of life. Ms. Dhar always had that latent spark of caring for others which remained well a part of our everyday life through voluntary services. However, little had she imagined that this hobby would turn into full-day work schedule. The pandemic had thrown life out of gear across the globe. The senior citizens who had their children settled overseas were hit far more miserably by this tragedy: neither were they self-sufficient nor could they depend upon someone. It was this void that Ms. Dhar resolved to fill along with some friends who kept joining this chain of help, and finally, the Dependablez acquired its present form in the midst of the lockdown, in July 2020 in Kolkata, West Bengal. Social media has over time spread the word of its prospects and popularity and the organisation is keen to expand its network in Delhi NCR after overwhelming demand.

The services they offer are immense, ranging from medical services like ambulances, doctor visit facility, attendant nurses for COVID 19 patients, dementia assessment at home, physiotherapy at home, ICU set up at home among others and a range of non-medical services such as nutritional consultation, psychological consultation, yoga therapy,

cooked food delivery, grocery delivery, airport/ temple pick and drop , legal consultation. Every aspect that caters to life of the elderly is taken care of ,as small as teaching them the usage of smartphones. Apart from this, curated packages with a combination of all these services can be availed following a monthly subscription.

But like every other initiative she too faced her own set of challenges. Some people mischievously

**DEPENDABLEZ**<sup>®</sup>  
WE ARE RIGHT WHERE YOU NEED US



wanted to use the organisation's services for their children. Her own teammates contracted the infection and had to be administered the medication, thereby reducing the personnel available to deliver services. Immense workload kept them awake for long and a routine mismatch led to irregular sleep patterns.

Nevertheless, she led her team in her mission with immense fortitude.

The Dependablez was at the forefront of caregiving to the most vulnerable group - the elderly, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The organisation had frontline workers at service at all times to provide help and support to the people.

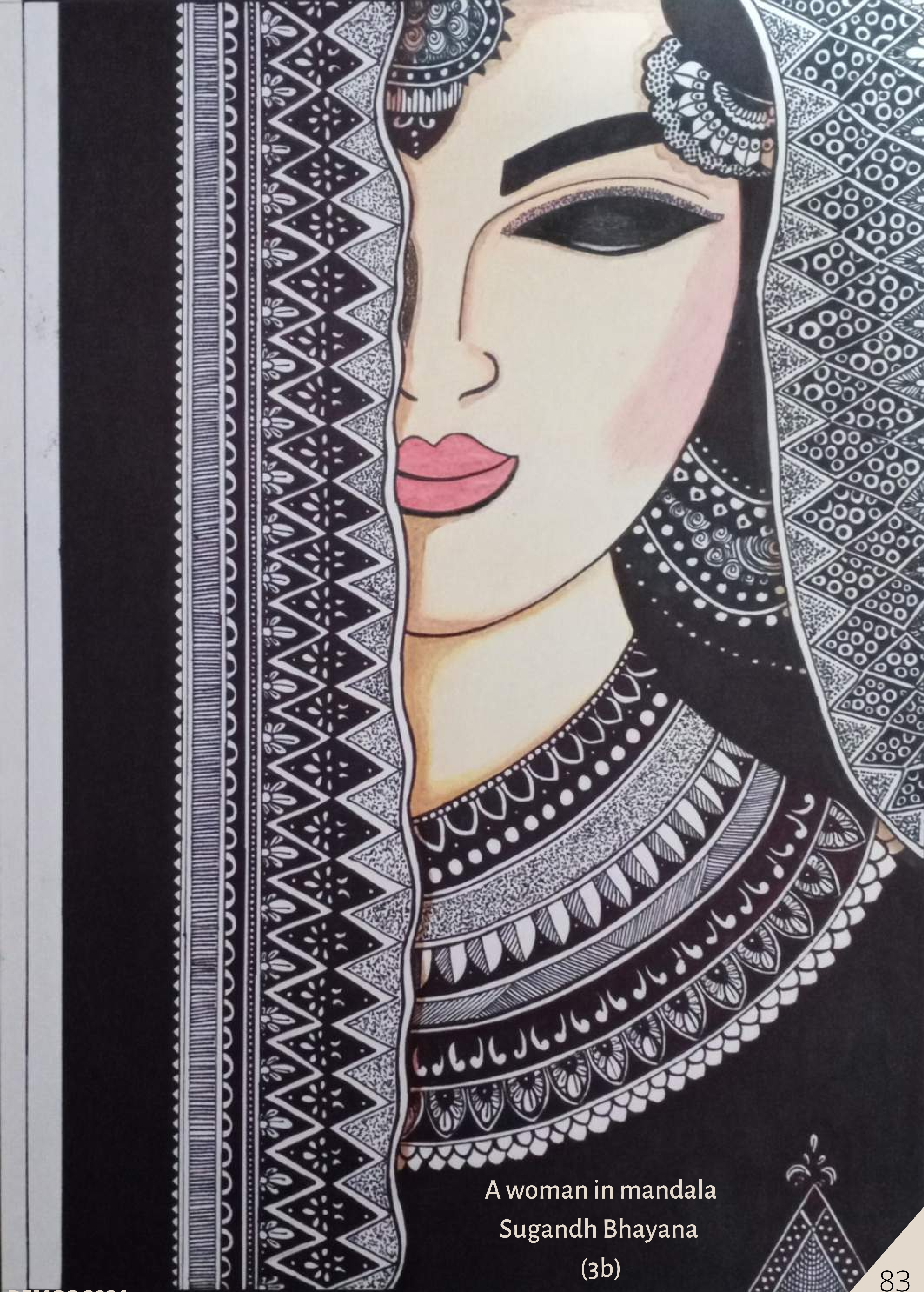
The pandemic was a pressing crisis but the team, led by Ms. Turni Dhar was tackling nearly 200 elderly people in Kolkata. Dependablez not only provided care but also generated employment for the people who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. One such incident was that of an Uber driver who has lost his job but was hired by the team to take care of COVID patients.

When asked about the vaccination process, she said that while a lot of people have been enthusiastic, while some had their share of reservations. For that, the team provided them with support and cleared their doubts about the process.

Ms. Dhar shared how gratifying an experience it was for her and the entire team because of the blessings they gained from the elderly and the sense of belonging they received. She believes that more than anything, it is essential to be connected with this cause - and that's her driving force to continue to work on this project every day.

A message Ms. Turni Dhar had for the student community at Gargi College was that college students have so much energy and potential. She understands that the current scenarios are tough and encouraged us to not lose heart and take it as a learning opportunity, to be more compassionate, and to stop taking things for granted and be grateful for the opportunities one gets and to make the most of it.

# Glimpses of Lockdown



A woman in mandala  
Sugandh Bhayana

(3b)





Madhurima Gupta

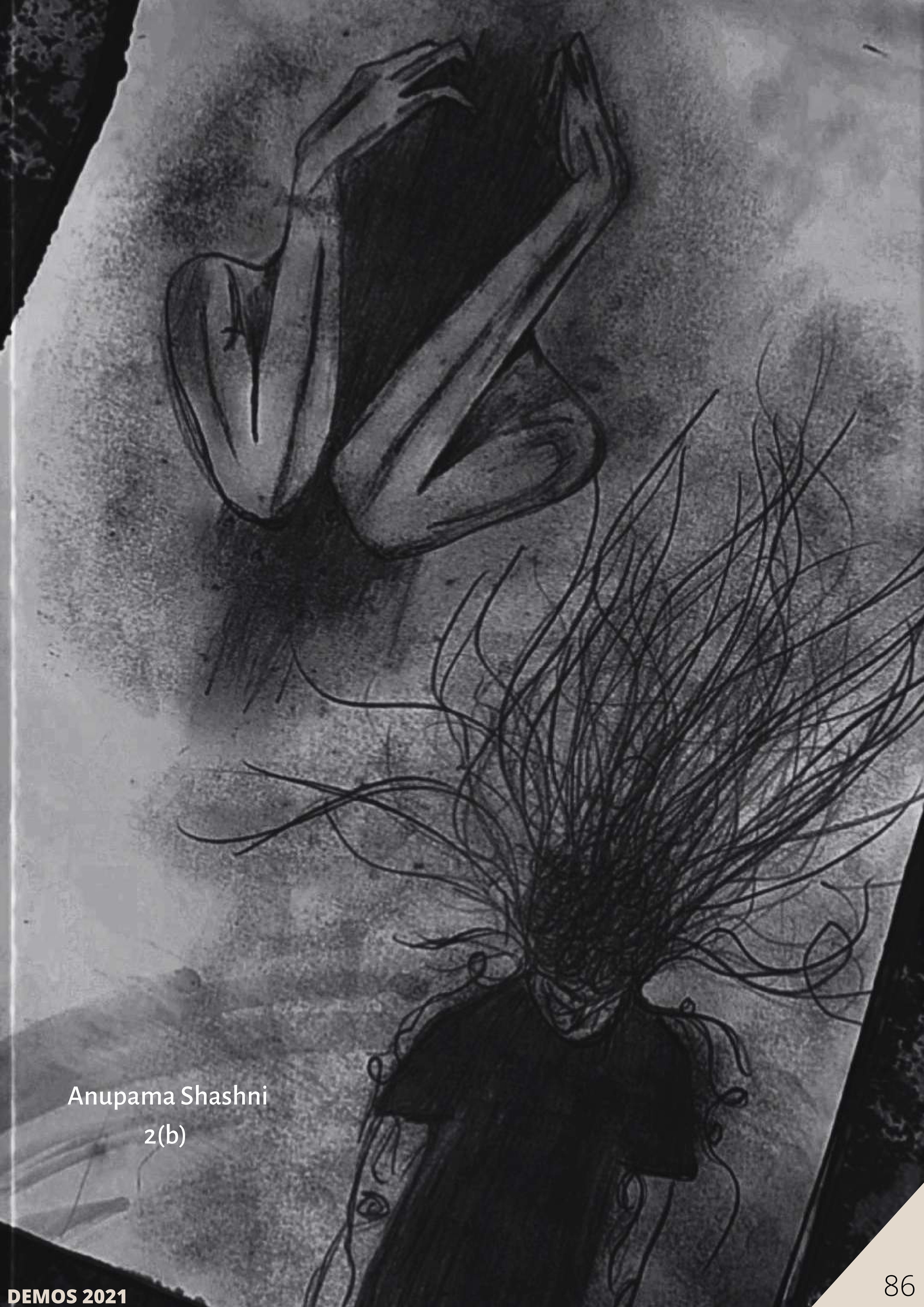
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Madhurima Gupta

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Madhu



Anupama Shashni

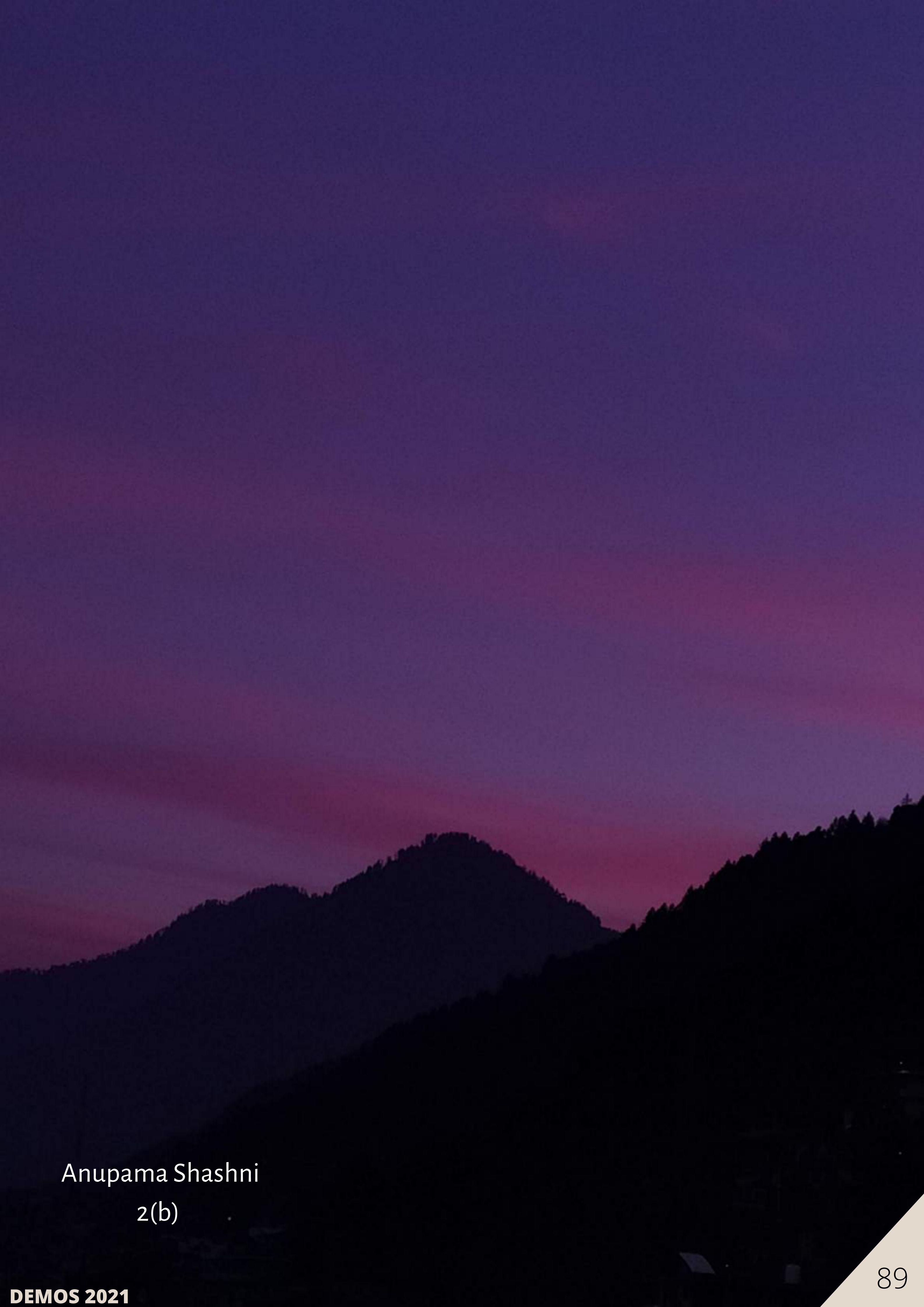
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Anupama Shashni  
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Anupama Shashni  
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Anupama Shashni  
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Anupama Shashni  
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Anupama Shashni

2 (b)



# YEAR BOOK 2021



*Stanzin  
Choskit*

PEOPLE SAY "DO WHAT YOU LIKE "  
AND THEN THEY SAY "SIKE!"



THERE ARE BRIGHT PLACES, EVEN WHEN ITS DARK.  
GARGI WAS ONE, WILL ALWAYS BE THE ONE.

*Tushita  
Chandna*



*Sneha  
Chandila*

WENT THERE SPEECHLESS  
THAT PLACE GAVE ME POWER TO SPEAK  
PROUDLY I CAN SAY NOW,  
NO MORE I'M WEAK...

IT IS ALWAYS SAID NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS  
SOME MEMORIES CANT BE REPLACED  
AND SO DOES THE JOURNEY OF OUR COLLEGE .  
HAVING AN ENTHUSIASTIC FRESHER TO A DIM AND A UNIQUE ONLINE END  
NEVER IMAGINED THIS LIVELY JOURNEY HAD TO END SO FAST .  
BUT CHEERS TO OUR COLLEGE AND CAMPUS DAYS OUR YEAR SPECIFICALLY  
TO DEAL WITH 2 DIFFERENT MODES ONLINE AND OFFLINE .



*Trisha  
Das*



*Spraha  
Gupta*

WHO DOESN'T WISH TO BE A SUPERWOMEN?  
CAUSE I DO, I WEAR THE CAPE OF NOBILITY!

*Rohini  
Sharma*



THE OFFICE, SEASON 5 -  
EPISODE 12, 11:32  
YUP SUMS UP MY  
COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

*Neha  
Singh*



BE WHO YOU ARE AND SAY WHAT YOU FEEL,  
BECAUSE THOSE WHO MIND DON'T MATTER  
AND THOSE WHO MATTER DON'T MIND

I CANNOT EXPRESS IN WORDS WHAT I REALLY FEEL ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE IN COLLEGE, ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I WILL CHERISH THEM FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE

Anushi Molo



Sonal Sahwal

YES.  
I WAS IN THIS BATCH



Prakruti

"LIFE SHRINKS OR EXPANDS IN PROPORTION TO ONE'S COURAGE"  
ANAI NIN



Purvi Takher

THE WORLD NEEDS YOU TO SHOW UP TODAY. YOU ARE POWERFUL, YOU ARE VALUABLE & AND WHAT YOU BELIEVE CHANGES THE WORLD, SO FLY HIGH BECAUSE SKY HAS NO LIMITS BABE

COLLEGE IS THE BEST THING AS I SAY ..  
THAT THINGS END BUT MEMORIES LAST FOREVER .  
I'LL LOVE THIS COLLEGE AS I HAVE MADE SO MANY MEMORIES AND SO MANY  
FRIENDS AND THERE ARE FEW FRIENDS THAT BECOME MY FAMILY .  
ACTUALLY WE DIDN'T KNOW WE ARE MAKING MEMORIES TO BE  
HONEST WE ARE HAVING FUN . AS BEST COLLEGE TEACHES US  
SO MANY THINGS THAT WILL COME IN OUR LIFE LATER .  
COLLEGE IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN LIVE YOUR LIFE TO THE FULLEST .  
AND I'M GONNA REALLY MISS THIS PLACE.



*Akanksha  
Kuman*



*Vanshika*

"GO CONFIDENTLY IN THE DIRECTION OF  
YOUR DREAMS, LIVE AND ENJOY  
THE LIFE YOU HAVE IMAGINED "  
HENRY THOREAU

*Prachi*



COLLEGE LIFE ALTOGETHER  
WAS FULL OF EXPERIENCES ,  
SOME TO LEARN FROM  
AND OTHERS TO CHERISH FOREVER.



*Kajal  
Bharti*

WHY AM I ALWAYS LEFT OUT?  
BECAUSE KAJAL BHARTI.

*Sangam*



LIFE AT GARGI WAS FULL OF ENERGY, EXCITEMENT AND NEW EXPERIENCES. I FEEL TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE MET SUCH GREAT TEACHERS AND AMAZING FRIENDS WHO HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED ME TO BE A BETTER PERSON AND ALWAYS BRING OUT THE BEST IN ME .



*Vidya*

COLLEGE FRIENDS MAKE YOU EXPERIENCED ALL KINDS OF CRAZINESS IN THIS WORLD WHICH I EXPERIENCED. THERE ARE SEVERAL WORDS TO SYMBOLIZE THE FRIENDS WE MADE IN COLLEGE, BUT FOR ME, IT IS ONLY TREASURE.

*Alisha*




GARGI EMPOWERS AND PREPARES US TO EMPOWER MANY. THANK YOU GARGI ! I OWE THE MOST LEARNING YEARS OF MY LIFE TO YOU.

*Gargi*

IT WILL END BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, SO DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT TURNING YOUR ASSIGNMENTS IN ON TIME.





*Bhita  
Singh  
Yadav*

WE DIDN'T REALISE WE  
WERE MAKING MEMORIES,  
WE JUST KNEW WE WERE HAVING FUN.  
CAN WE GO BACK TO PAGE ONE  
AND DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN?



*Madhurima  
Gupta*

THE BEST GIFTS IN THE  
WORLD ARE NOT IN THE MATERIAL  
OBJECTS ONE CAN BUY  
FROM STORE , BUT IN THE MEMORIES  
WE MAKE WITH PEOPLE AND GARGI  
GAVE ME THIS OPPORTUNITY.



*Aliya  
Saifi*

THOSE RED WALLS WILL  
FOREVER BE MY BEST WALLS,  
I LEARNED A LOT BEING PART  
OF THIS NOBLE INSTITUTION,  
IT MADE ME  
CONFIDENT INDIVIDUAL,  
I M GLAD TO HAVE MY BAG  
FULL OF MEMORIES,  
AND THOSE CHEERFUL AND  
OVERJOYED MOMENTS WORTH REMEMBERING.



*Varshika  
Sagan*

YES,  
I AVAILED MY RESERVATION.  
GO CRY ABOUT YOUR "MERIT"  
IN THE CORNER NOW.



*Sukanya Prakash*

I WAS A GIRL WHEN I ENTERED GARGI, NOW I'M GRADUATING AS A GROWN-UP WOMAN. GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES WHICH WILL BE CHERISHED FOR A LIFETIME!



*Hannoor Kaur Sukheja*

SOMETIMES LIFE MOVES SO FAST YOU BARELY GET TIME TO PROCESS THE SPEED BUT ONE DAY, WHEN THE ENGINES SLOW DOWN IT ALL COMES TOGETHER AND IT ALL MAKES SENSE. TILL THEN, I KNOW I LAUGHED, I CRIED, I GREW BY THEN, I HOPE I FIND WORDS IN WHICH TO SAY THANK YOU.



*Aashvani Ghosh*

IF U SAY U SAW ME W/O COLD COFFEE PROBABLY WASNT ME LOL



*Shivangi Pandey*

WERE THE THREE YEARS IN COLLEGE THE WORLD STATIONARY FAIR? BECAUSE I AM LEAVING WITH SO MUCH MORE THAN I EVER IMAGINED - AMAZING, STRESSFUL, BEAUTIFUL, DIFFICULT, WONDERFUL

*Ritika  
Bhat*



WE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE, NOTHING TO GAIN,  
NOTHING WE DESIRED MORE  
EXCEPT TO MAKE OUR LIVES INTO A WORK OF ART.

TREASURING MEMORIES OF THESE ENTIRE 3 YEARS,  
THE CAMPUS LIFE, MY RESPECTED MENTORS  
AND MY AWESOME GALS.  
THANK YOU GARGI FOR EVERYTHING!

*Upasana  
Sonowal*



*Rakhi  
Nagan*

ONCE MY MOTHER TOLD ME TO BE A LADY.  
AND FOR HER, THAT MEANT  
BE YOUR OWN PERSON, BE INDEPENDENT



*Sugandh  
Bhayana*

NEVER THOUGHT THE COLLEGE LIFE  
WOULD END LIKE THIS  
BUT WHATEVER IT HAD BEEN,  
IT'S BEEN AMAZING



*Tina  
Bhatnagar*



**JUST WONDERING,  
HOW FAR IS THE LIGHT  
AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL.**

*Radhika  
Purohit*



**FROM "WHICH ROOM NUMBER?"  
TO "WHERE'S THE LINK?",  
WE GRADUATED! <3**



*Aditi  
Kishor*

**ALWAYS TRY TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF  
JUST A LITTLE MORE THAN YESTERDAY.  
LIFE BECOMES EASIER WHEN YOU KEEP BELIEVING.  
THIS IS SOMETHING I WOULD WANNA TELL MY  
YOUNGER SELF AND ALSO THAT, YOU DID IT :)**

*Rishika  
Kapoor*



**STUDENTS CARRY A DREAM TO BE IN DU,  
I AM BLESSED TO HAVE LIVED IT,  
LOVED IT AND DEFINITELY CHERISHED IT,  
WHAT MORE DO I SAY.  
IT WAS A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE WITH A VIBE  
AND AURA THAT WAS UNMATCHED.**

*Aditi  
Bhattacharya*



GARGI HAS BEEN A HOME TO ME; A PLACE WITH HUES OF EMOTIONS, BEAUTY, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. THE MEMORIES THAT IT HAS GIVEN TO ME IS INVALUABLE. I AM BLESSED TO TO BE A PART OF THIS FAMILY OF IMMENSE LOVE :)  
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

*Aparajita  
Roy*



**I CAME, I SAW,  
I GRADUATED.**



*Vedanshi  
Khatten*

**“TUM SAB GARGI SE NAHI,  
GARGI TUM SABSE HAI”**



*Bhika*

**KILL THEM  
WITH KINDNESS  
XOXO**

*Shreyanka  
Chandel*

OOOF



HAD A GREAT TIME IN GARGI .  
I AM A PROUD STUDENT OF GARGI  
WITH JOYFUL MEMORIES AND  
A BUNCH OF SUPPORTIVE  
AND LOVELY FRIENDS

*Somali  
Chowdhuri*



*Srishti  
Iha*

THANKS GOOGLE  
AND WHO EVER  
INVENTED COPY+PASTE,  
I MANAGED TO GRADUATE



*Pooja  
Yadav*

MY LOVE FOR YOU  
WILL ALWAYS KEEP ME  
FROM BEING A LONELY SPIRIT



I ONLY CAME HERE  
BECAUSE MY DAD FORCED ME TO

*Aastha  
Gupta*

*Katha  
Ray*

UNLESS LIFE ALSO HANDS YOU  
WATER AND SUGAR, YOUR LEMONADE  
IS GOING TO SUCK, FRIENDS



WHERE LEARNING TAKES PLACE IN BETWEEN LECTURES ,  
WHERE YOU ARE YOUR OWN INDIVIDUAL ,  
WHERE EXPERIENCES ARE CHERISHED  
AND BATTLES ARE FOUGHT ,  
WHERE THIS DIVERSE WORLD SQUEEZES ITSELF  
AND FIT INTO THE RED WALLS!

*Apoorva  
Singh*



*Adya  
Vashishtha*

I CAME HERE WITH LOW SELF ESTEEM,  
AND I LEFT WITH BANGS THAT I CUT BY MYSELF.  
THAT SUMS IT ALL UP.



*Kritika  
Jha*

**THE OFFICE, SEASON 7,  
EPISODE 19, MINUTE 14:45**



*Ravisha*

**I'M NOT GOING TO MISS 8:40 LECTURES  
BUT DEFINITELY GOING TO MISS  
IMPROMPTOU SAROJINI TRIPS.**

*Bhawana  
Dahiya*



**PEOPLE, PLACES AND PLATES  
BUT WHERE ARE MY GRADES?**



*Aditi  
Yadav*

**YOU ARE YOU.  
THAT'S YOUR BIGGEST POWER.**









