



EPIGRAM



in focus -
SJU Student Council
EXPLORING THE DYNAMICS
OF CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

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FEEDBACK

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EPIGRAM

ST JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY DEBATING SOCIETY

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Letter from the *Faculty head*

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Epigram magazine that is the outcome of the passion and efforts of the students of the association Epigram. This magazine is the representation of a diverse collection of regular coverage of the campus, a curated set of articles, stories, and artwork that showcase the talent and creativity of our vibrant campus community. This magazine serves as a platform for students, faculty, and staff to express their thoughts, ideas, and experiences, with the goal of fostering a sense of unity and collaboration upholding the Josephite spirit.



From thought-provoking opinion pieces on current social issues to insightful interviews with accomplished individuals, the magazine aims to provide engaging and intellectually stimulating content. Our team of dedicated writers and editors have worked tirelessly to ensure that each article is well-researched, balanced, and thoughtfully written.

Recognising the importance of showcasing the artistic talents within our community, this magazine additionally covers captivating artwork, photography, and poetry that presents the essence of our campus life. Through personal narratives and feature articles, we aim to shed light on the unique experiences and achievements of individuals within our campus community. By sharing these stories, we hope to inspire empathy, understanding, and connection among our readers. With the regular coverage of the activities on campus, we hope that the magazine becomes the go-to piece of indulgence and provides updates from the University.

We hope Epigram remains a careful reflection of the importance of publication and the impact it has on our campus community. Whether a first-year student or a seasoned professor, Epigram will strive to provide content that is relevant and engaging to everyone. The dedication and hard work adds flavour to this magazine. Our team is filled with writers, editors, designers, photographers, and layout artists, and expert contributors. We encourage you, our readers, to actively engage with the magazine by sharing your feedback, suggestions, and ideas for future editions.

Harini Madhusudan

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THIS ISSUE UNFOLDS

7

ST JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY BECOMES THE 100TH TO HOST THE UNIVERSITY CONNECT LECTURE SERIES

10

CANDID DISCOURSE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT YIELDS 82-38 VICTORY FOR PROPOSITION

15

EPIGRAM'S 6TH DEBATE: PRO-LIFE VS PRO-CHOICE

18

OPEN HEART 2024: A BEACON OF INSPIRATION AND UNITY & HIGHLIGHT OF JANUARY

22

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM E-CELL'S START-UP MELA & CORPORATE GENESIS

26

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL CADET CORPS

32

“ಮುಂಬರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರೇರಕ ಭಾಷಣವಿಲ್ಲ”, ವಿಕ್ರಮ್ ಪೂಜಾರಿ

9

EPIGRAM MONTHLY DEBATES: IS IT TIME FOR A UNIFORM CIVIL CODE?

12

ON RESERVATION AND EQUITY - EPIGRAM'S 5TH EDITION

17

DOES CASTE & RELIGION DEFINE INDIAN POLITICS?

20

CHAMPIONING CONSERVATION: THE JOURNEY OF WACC & NEERATHON

24

FROM KARNATAKA TO KARGIL: NCC'S EPIC JOURNEY OF VALOUR AND RESILIENCE

27

ELECTION ESCAPADES - EXPLORING THE DYNAMICS OF CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

34

कर्नल का मुख्य भाषण: हिंदी परिषद 23 में प्रेरक ज्ञान

THIS ISSUE UNFOLDS

35

NEW FACES, SHARED SPACES: CONCILIUM'S MIXER

36

(DE)POLITICISATION OF STUDENT POLITICS IN INDIA?

38

YOUTUBE'S CURB ON EXPLORATION OF MYANMAR ARTISTS BY THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

40

PERSPECTIVES WITH AN EXTRA SIDE OF MATHEMATICS

42

DEMYSTIFYING THE SCIENCE LABS

44

PHI ON EARTH

45

DOGS, WHATSAPP GROUPS AND A RUN-DOWN SCOOTER

46

PATH TO EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE: SHATTERING MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

47

EXPLORING THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF ANIME

49

THE WEIGHT OF GIRLHOOD AND MARGOT ROBBIE

50

CORE VALUES: "KAATHAL" EXAMINES FAMILY, FORGIVENESS AND FINDING YOURSELF

51

NAVIGATING THE BIASES OF SCOREBOARDS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS

53

ART SECTION - LIFE AT JOSEPH'S

54

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

ST JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY BECOMES THE 100TH TO HOST THE G20 UNIVERSITY CONNECT LECTURE SERIES

THANGNEICHAN HAOKIP AND PRAJWAL TV

On the 20th of October, 2023, a momentous event unfolded at St Joseph's University as the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, in collaboration with the Research and Information System (RIS) for developing countries, brought forth the G20 University Connect Lecture Series. This unique and ambitious initiative, a flagship 'Jan Bhagidari' endeavour introduced by the Indian Presidency of the G20 Summit, aimed at fostering awareness among students about the priorities, nature of deliberations, and key outcomes of various G20 processes, with a specific emphasis on the Indian G20 Presidency in 2023.



Photo Credit: Fardin Jahangeer

A captivating lecture on the Indian G20 Presidency was presented by Retired Ambassador J.S. Mukul, who shared profound insights and stated, "Non-alignment was the appropriate policy in a particular context; that context was a bipolar world. We have not moved away from non-alignment; what has happened is the context has changed".

The intellectual discourse continued with Prof. Narendar Pani, Dean of the School of Social Sciences at NIAS Bengaluru, who delivered a lecture on "India Tomorrow: World Perspective." He provided valuable insights into the shifting dynamics of power, remarking, "The very way power is used itself, there is a very substantial difference that we tend to ignore, and that's the difference between power as a form of control and power as a form of influence".

As the program drew to a close, attendees were not only enriched with knowledge but also treated to refreshments and received certificates of participation. Shoaib Shakeel, a post-graduate student of Journalism and Mass Communication and the student head of the Organising Committee, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "It was a great opportunity for our university, and it was a delight to organise an event of such stature. We look forward to hosting more events of this calibre".

Ms. Harini Madhusudan, faculty of International Relations at the University, appreciated the well-chosen perspectives and the thought-provoking arguments made by the speakers. She did, however, find certain aspects debatable. "Although the Ambassador spoke about the projection for India's growth in the coming years, which seemed to be debatable on so many grounds, he understands what is expected of India in the current world politics," she noted.

Cris Fernando, the General Secretary of the International Students Association at the university, shared his takeaway from the event, stating, "I believe that the G20 University Connect Lecture Series was an event that reminds people how interconnected we are to one another and how cooperation within states makes the world a better place to live and grow. The G20 brings out conversations that usually remain within classrooms. People often state that politics and world order are not of their interest or don't affect them, but this event made people revisit those thoughts and ignite, if not start, a step towards better cooperation."

The event wrapped up with a shared lunch and a group photo, uniting dignitaries, staff, and dedicated student organisers. The G20 University Connect Lecture Series enriched attendees, emphasising global cooperation.

Epigram Monthly Debates: Is it Time for a Uniform Civil Code?

DIYAA JYOTHILAL AND PRAJWAL TV

The halls of academic discourse echoed with fervent arguments and impassioned rhetoric as students from diverse backgrounds engaged in a spirited debate on the topic of India's Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Organized by Epigram St Joseph's University Debating Society, the event brought together voices from across the ideological spectrum to weigh the pros and cons of implementing a UCC in India. The debate, held on July 27th, 2023, saw articulate presentations from both sides of the motion.

On one hand, proponents of the UCC argued for the need to establish uniformity and equality before the law, particularly in matters of personal laws governing marriage, divorce, and inheritance. They cited examples of gender discrimination and legal anomalies that arise from the existing patchwork of religious laws, underscoring the importance of a unified legal framework to ensure justice and equality for all citizens.

Daryl Elijah Momin, a vocal advocate for the motion, invoked the landmark Shah Bano -

case to illustrate how personal laws often clash with constitutional principles, leaving vulnerable individuals, particularly women, without adequate legal protection. He emphasized the UCC as a vital step towards gender justice and national integration, echoing the sentiments enshrined in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution.

On the opposing side, arguments against the UCC centered around the preservation of cultural diversity and the protection of minority rights. Abigail Raphaela Sylvester raised concerns about the potential erasure of cultural identities and the imposition of a one-size-fits-all legal framework on a nation as diverse as India. She cautioned against the risks of political and social upheaval that could result from enforcing a UCC without broad consensus and social acceptance.

Sanjana Saha echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the secular nature of India's constitution and the need to respect and protect the religious and cultural freedoms of-

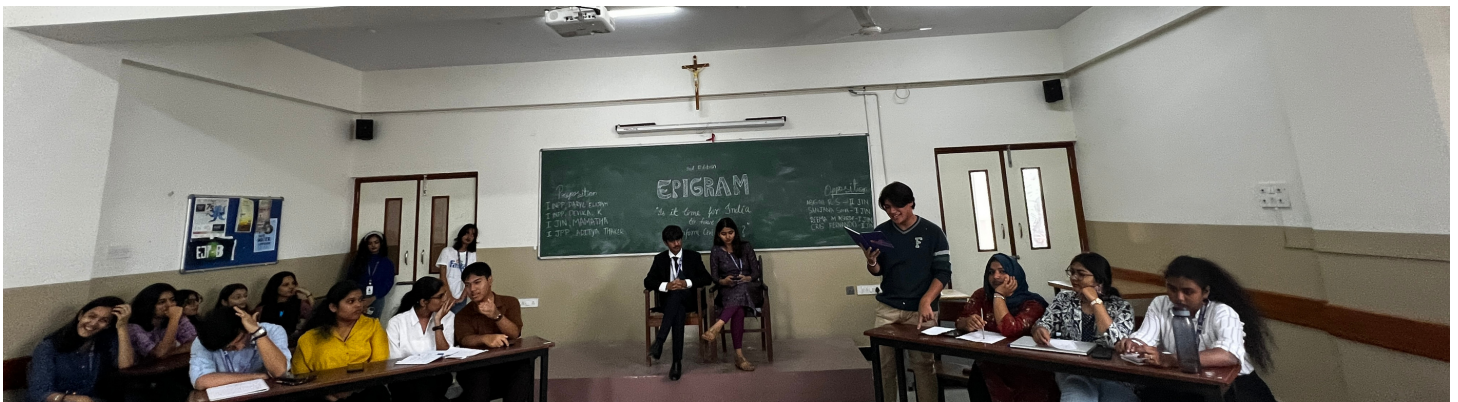


Photo Credit: Fardin Jahangeer

-all citizens. She warned against the homogenization of laws and the erosion of minority rights that could accompany the implementation of a UCC.

The debate also delved into legal intricacies and constitutional principles, with speakers grappling with questions of religious freedom, constitutional validity, and the practical challenges of implementing a UCC in a pluralistic society. Following the presentations, a lively rebuttal round ensued, with speakers fiercely defending their positions and engaging in respectful exchanges of ideas. Audience members also participated in a Q&A session, posing incisive questions that further enriched the discourse.

In the end, the results of the debate reflected the complexities and nuances inherent in -

the issue. While the opposition emerged victorious in the polls, the debate itself served as a testament to the vibrancy of India's democratic ethos and the commitment of its youth to engage thoughtfully with matters of national importance.

As the curtains closed on the debate, the echoes of impassioned arguments lingered, leaving participants and observers alike with much to ponder. The quest for a Uniform Civil Code in India remains a journey fraught with challenges and complexities, but events like these serve as vital forums for dialogue, reflection, and collective introspection as India continues to grapple with questions of identity, equality, and justice in the 21st century.

CANDID DISCOURSE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT YIELDS 82-38 VICTORY FOR PROPOSITION

RHEA RAMESH



Photo Credit: Fardin Jahangeer

On the 26th of August, Epigram in collaboration with Aspire Association held their 4th Edition of Monthly Debate on the motion, *“Is the Death Penalty an Effective Form of Justice?”*.

The raconteurs of the **Proposition** were Trisha Joshi of II JPP, Anand KT Nambiar of I INPP, Farhaz R Ahmed of I INPP and Abhigyan Chanda of II ECS and the **Opposition** were Emma Rose Bobby of I JIN, C Rohan of II ECPS, Zaid A Sheriff of I HPS and Spoorthy R of I JIN. The candidates presented well versed articles with evidence for all their presented arguments with examples of various civil cases and the application of law in a variety of these cases and statistics. Each raconteur was given 4+1 minutes to present their arguments.

The event commenced with a formal introduction and warm welcome extended to all attendees —Ms Harini Madhusudan and Ms Anitha V faculties of the Dept of IRP+PP, delivered insightful addresses to the audience. The event witnessed a turnout of more than one hundred and fifty students from various departments and schools. The Chair pointed out that the debate intended to compel individuals to grapple with intricate inquiries related to justice, human rights, and the state's role in administering punishment. They questioned whether it is ethically sound for a government to take life as a form of retribution and raised concerns about the fallibility of the judicial system, highlighting the potential loss of innocent lives due to errors. They stressed these to be pressing matters necessitating careful deliberation. The Chairpersons earnestly implored the raconteurs to uphold principles of respect, sensitivity, and decorum throughout the expression of their respective views, emphasising respecting the platform of discussion and mutual understanding.

Trisha Joshi of Proposition argues for the death penalty, asserting it as just punishment for criminals. She emphasises its role in maintaining public dignity, and national security, to address concerns about potential wrongful executions. Emma Rose Bobby opposes the death penalty in India, with the argument highlighting issues of justice, inequality, and flaws in the legal system. She calls for its limited use, emphasising the need for reforms for its efficacy. Farhaz Ahmed argues for the death penalty, citing extreme cases of violence and emphasising its role in retributive justice. He advocates for improving the system to avoid wrongful convictions and sees it as a necessary tool to deter heinous crimes.

C Rohan argues against the death penalty, focusing on deterrence inefficacy, the emotional toll on victims' families, and flaws in the justice system. He sees it as a moral façade by society. Anand KT Nambiar supports the death penalty, emphasising its role in delivering justice for heinous crimes like the 'Nirbhaya' case. He highlights deterrence, closure for victims' families, and the necessity of severe consequences for criminals. The final speaker of the event Spoorthy opposes the death penalty, emphasising its ineffectiveness as a deterrent and the injustice in its application, especially towards marginalised groups. She advocates for legal reform and acknowledges the risk of false convictions.

Emma Rose Boby and Farhaz R Ahmed were awarded best speakers of the debate were felicitated by Ms Harini Madhusudan along with a plaque for their achievement. The results after tallying the votes of those of the audience, indicated the Proposition emerging as the victor in the debate with 82 for the motion and 38 against the motion.

ON RESERVATION AND EQUITY - EPIGRAM'S 5TH EDITION

MARIYAM SHAJIL



Anagha Girish, Best Speaker of the Edition; Photo Credit: Fardin Jahangeer

The 5th Edition of Epigram's monthly debate series, organised by Epigram - St Joseph's University Debating Society delved into a contentious topic: "Should existing reservation policies be modified to ensure equity?" Held on October 31st, 2023, at St Joseph's University, the debate sparked fervent discussions among students regarding the effectiveness and implications of reservation policies in India.

The first speaker of the proportion was B Rajeev who began his speech by quoting an incident that took place in the state of Bihar a few years ago, in which the PM stated that the reservation policies in the country were never to disappear. He talks about what Babasaheb Ambedkar envisioned for Indian society and the role of reservations, the negative impact of increased politicisation of the issue, rise of caste based politics since 1970s and the demands for reservation.

Cris Fernando from the opposition argued against positive discrimination perpetuated by caste-based reservation policies, citing its detrimental effects on productivity and economic growth. He advocated for a 50% cap on reservation quotas, referencing the CA Rajendran vs. Union of India case to support his stance.

Anagha, representing the proposition, highlighted the distinction between equity and equality, criticizing the current system for its indifference towards the social disadvantage faced by non-quota category citizens. She pointed out instances of affluent individuals within reservation brackets exploiting the system, leading to economic and educational disparities.

Prathik, opposing the motion, acknowledged the original intent of reservation policies to uplift underprivileged sections of society but criticized their implementation, which has led to a complex system with quotas totaling up to 59%. He criticized politicians for using reservations as a means to garner votes rather than addressing the issue for an end solution.

Devika, supporting the proposition, emphasized the need for overdue modifications to reservation policies to benefit all sections of society, especially the economically disadvantaged. She cited disparities revealed in the NEET PG 2019 reports as evidence of the necessity for reform.

Antriksh, opposing the proposition, argued for the abolition of reservations, particularly in education, citing inadequate benefits for individuals and hindrances to development and equity. He concluded that development and equity cannot be achieved simultaneously as long as reservations persist.

In the debate's final phase, Divyansh from the proposition argued that reservations provide opportunities for lower-caste individuals who have historically faced discrimination, emphasizing their role in achieving social justice. He used a quote – “jati kabi nahi jaati” – caste is not something that can be ridden off, and that reservations must be modified to benefit such people for this reason stressing the need to modify reservations to better benefit marginalized communities. On the opposition side, Aditya Thaker used the example of Ekalavya to characterize reservations as a means of providing representation for lower-caste citizens who have been historically marginalized.

During the deliberation round, the proposition questioned the opposition's stance on the abolition of reservations, prompting responses from the opposition members. Cris raised concerns about the proposition's statements regarding fake caste certificates and the allocation of mid-day meals for reservations. Prathik reiterated the presence of social discrimination and questioned whether modifying reservations merely perpetuated social inequality. Aditya clarified the interpretation of the debate topic, addressing the possibility of advocating for the abolition of reservations entirely.

Responding to the opposition, Divyansh highlighted the persistent issue of caste-based discrimination and shared personal experiences of fear of discrimination. Devika emphasized the importance of providing financial aid and focusing on education for all rather than solely relying on reservation policies. Anagha reiterated the prevalence of reservations in educational institutions for OBC communities.

Cris addressed the proposed solutions by the proposition, questioning whether social welfare programs should be implemented without reservations. Prathik acknowledged the complexity of the reservation system, which has been amended multiple times without achieving a permanent solution. Aditya emphasized the importance of providing opportunities to marginalized individuals, citing the case of Ekalavya as an example.

Overall, the deliberation round highlighted the multifaceted nature of the reservation debate, with participants addressing various aspects of social inequality, discrimination, and the effectiveness of existing policies.

During the Q&A round, Devika addressed a question about background checks violating privacy rights by comparing them to the census, emphasizing the necessity of such checks. Prathik elaborated on his statement about reservations being unjust, highlighting the scale of injustice faced by those negatively affected by the reservation system. Cris clarified his stance on merit, emphasizing the importance of providing provisions to uplift individuals for certain positions. Anagha Girish was recognized as the Best Speaker. The final vote favored the Proposition, with 35 votes in favor of the motion and 19 against.

EPIGRAM'S 6TH DEBATE: PRO-LIFE VS PRO-CHOICE

MARIYAM SHAJIL

On November 7th, 2023, the 6th Edition of Epigram's monthly debate series ignited a passionate discussion on the topic of 'Women's Abortion Rights: Pro-life vs. Pro-choice' at St Joseph's University. Three students each represented pro-choice and pro-life stances.

Abigail Sylvester, representing the pro-choice side, argued that abortion is a fundamental healthcare need, emphasizing individual autonomy over one's body. She highlighted the detrimental effects of criminalizing abortion, citing higher abortion rates in countries where it's prohibited. In contrast, Tom Alben, from the pro-life camp, began with a poignant quote, asserting the sanctity of life. He presented statistics indicating the psychological trauma and suicide rates among women who undergo abortions, concluding with a powerful reflection on accountability.



Photo Credit: Fardin Jahangeer

Juwayriah and Palak Jain continued the debate as the second speakers. Juwayriah emphasized the complexity of the abortion decision, citing cases of mental or financial unpreparedness, and instances of rape or sexual assault. She stressed that supporting pro-choice is not an endorsement of abortion but a commitment to advocating for safe-sex education and supporting individuals facing such difficult decisions.

The debate showcased compelling arguments from both sides, shedding light on the ethical, moral, and practical aspects of women's abortion rights. Palak Jain from the opposition argued against abortion under any circumstance, citing statistics and emphasizing the sanctity of life. She pointed out that the majority of abortions are not due to rape and highlighted the case of a 10-year-old rape victim, advocating for love, emotional support and care instead of abortion. Aaryan Ashish, representing the proposition, countered with arguments about the adverse health impacts of childbirth and the importance of women's rights and mental health considerations. He emphasized the need for sex education and safe abortion options, especially for accidental pregnancies. Saniya Philip, the final speaker from the opposition, invoked religious principles against abortion, suggesting alternatives like foster care and government support.

During the deliberation round, the proposition questioned the opposition's stance on the validity of reasons for abortion and the ethical considerations of religion. Tom addressed questions about rape and incest, emphasizing the low percentage of abortions resulting from such cases. Palak defended her stance on the trauma of childbirth and clarified her pro-life position. Saniya reiterated religious principles against abortion and suggested alternative solutions.

In the second part of the deliberation round, the opposition directed questions and suggestions to the pro-choice speakers concerning the mental health implications of abortion and the societal conditions leading to unwanted pregnancies. Abigail responded to a question about supporting women rather than advising them to abort, highlighting the trauma and financial challenges associated with childbirth, especially in cases of rape. Juwayriah addressed concerns about unsafe abortions, emphasizing the injustice of bringing a child into the world without the means to care for it. Aryaan discussed the financial burden of raising children in dire circumstances and the scientific definition of when a fetus is considered "living."

During the Q&A round, the opposition faced inquiries from the audience, primarily focusing on whether abortion was preferable to fostering unwanted children. Saniya expressed her stance against abortion and emphasized the need for government intervention to address such situations, citing potential risks to maternal health.

Palak reiterated her pro-life position, highlighting the traumatic impact of childbirth for victims of rape and addressing concerns about maternal mortality. Tom addressed questions about postpartum depression, advocating for better life partners to support women through pregnancy. Aryaan clarified his stance on fetal viability and the need for responsible decision-making when considering abortion or childbirth.

Overall, the deliberation round and Q&A session highlighted the complexities and ethical considerations surrounding abortion, with participants addressing issues related to maternal health, societal support systems, and fetal viability. Aaryan Ashish was awarded the title of the Best Speaker. The results were in favour of pro-choice, with 59 votes for it and 13 for pro-life.



In Frame: Tom Alben; Photo Credit: Fardin Jahangeer

DOES CASTE & RELIGION DEFINE INDIAN POLITICS?

DIYAA JYOTHILAL

The 7th Edition of the St. Joseph's University's Debating Society, Epigram, was held on the 31st of January. It also marked the first debate of 2024. Organised by Epigram, chaired by Prajwal TV and Hanna Sara Sunny, the Chairpersons of the Society. "Does Caste and Religion Define Indian Politics?" the motion aimed to provide a platform for insightful conversations, where ideas were shared and perspectives converged. The event was attended by Mr. Surya Shankar Sen, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SJU, who served as the epilogue speaker. Raconteurs included Shreyas Mitra and Akilan of I INPP and I HPS speaking for the motion and Grace Treesa and Jazz Phillips of I OEPY and II ECSO speaking against the motion. Raconteurs, professors and the students actively engaged in the collective exploration of the pressing issues at hand, contributing to a dynamic and thought-provoking atmosphere.



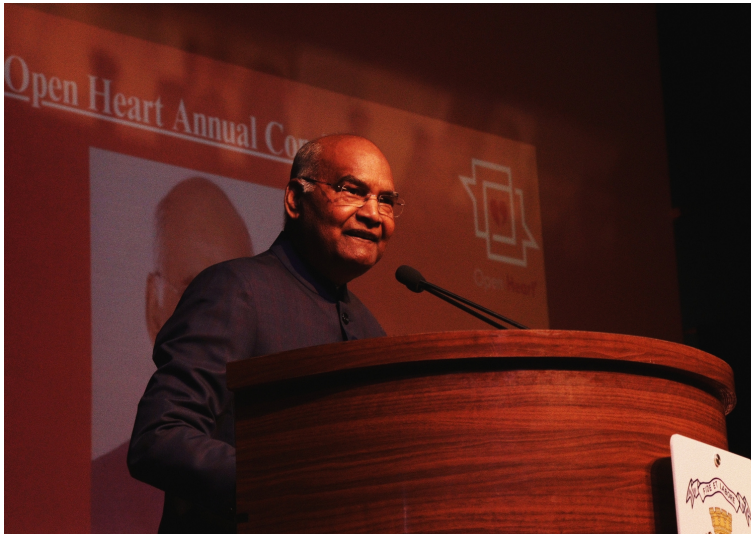
Photo Credit: Fardin Jahangeer

The debate began with the proposition with Shreyas Mitra presenting his opening arguments, followed by Grace Treesa, whose arguments surrounded scrutinising corporate influence in Indian politics, highlighting issues with the electoral bond scheme, opacity, and potential religious motives while emphasising on democratic challenges. Proposition speaker Akilan on the other hand highlighted historical roots, from divine legitimacy to colonial manipulation thereby illustrating the enduring impact of religion and caste on Indian politics. The last speaker Jazz Phillips challenged the notion that caste and religion define Indian politics by showcasing the hidden influence of money and power. Her examples included economic disparities, corporate controversies, and political manipulation and thereby concluded the first round of opening statements.

The debate then proceeded into a rebuttal round where raconteurs engaged in direct conversation by sharing thoughts and questions on the motion at hand. The floor was then duly opened to questions from the audience, which further increased the degree of dialogue and conversation and was followed by Prof. Sen sharing his opinions and remarks that debates on a subject like secularism need to be more nuanced rather than just proposition and opposition. As the dialogue wrapped up, voting was initiated with the Proposition emerging as the victor in the debate.

OPEN HEART 2024: A BEACON OF INSPIRATION AND UNITY

SUMAIYYA TAHA AND MAMATHA JANAKIRAMAN AND PRAJWAL TV



Shri Ram Nath Kovind speaking at Open Heart 2024

In the heart of Bengaluru, amidst the hustle and bustle of city life, lies a beacon of inspiration and unity - St Joseph's University. And at the heart of this esteemed institution stands Open Heart, a platform that transcends boundaries and brings together eminent personalities and enthusiastic youth in a symposium of shared stories and boundless inspiration.

On January 29th, 2024, the 6th Edition of Open Heart unfolded with grandeur and grace, graced by the esteemed presence of the 14th President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind. As the Choir of the University sang the National Anthem, the stage was set for a day of profound wisdom and meaningful connections. President Kovind's address was a testament to the power of positivity and the potential of the youth. With eloquence and insight, he praised the unique concept of Open Heart, highlighting the achievements of our nation and expressing hope for the leaders of tomorrow. His words resonated with every heart in the auditorium, igniting a spark of determination and optimism.

The event also marked significant milestones for St Joseph's University. The launch of the Gandhian Centre symbolized a commitment to Gandhian principles of truth and non-violence, while the release of the International Students Information Brochure underscored the institution's dedication to global engagement and cultural exchange. But perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Open Heart 2024 was the atmosphere of unity and camaraderie that filled the auditorium. Acknowledging the organizers for their meticulous attention to detail and the profound symbolism captured in the art and decor of the stage. He remarked, "When the heart opens, there is usually bleeding, but here they have ensured to stop the bleeding and keep the heart white and pure." These words encapsulated the essence of Open Heart - a celebration of openness, positivity, and unity in diversity.



Acknowledgement: OPENHEART 2024

Over a thousand students gathered as witnesses, eager to soak in the wisdom imparted by President Kovind and inspired to chart their own paths towards a brighter future.

As the event drew to a close, President Kovind extended his best wishes, "May this event deepen bonds, inspire minds and ignite passion for learning. Wishing the faculty, students and organisers continued success on this noble endeavour". As we reflect on the thought-provoking discussions and memorable moments shared during Open Heart 2024, let us carry forward the spirit of inspiration and unity,

striving to build a more inclusive and enlightened society. With hearts open and minds ignited, the journey ahead holds limitless possibilities, guided by the timeless values of truth, non-violence, and service to humanity.

HIGHLIGHT OF JANUARY



From front-to-back: Convenor of Open Heart, the Public Relations Officer along with the University Officials (first row), PRO Faculty Team (2nd Row), Core Committee Members of Open Heart 2024 (3rd & 4th Row). Acknowledgement: OPENHEART 2024

Group photo with the 14th President of India - Shri Ram Nath Kovind attending as the Chief Guest for the 6th Edition of Open Heart on 29th January 2024

CHAMPIONING CONSERVATION: THE JOURNEY OF WACC

DARYL ELIJAH MOMIN AND ANKUSH NEGI



WACC at the Ulsoor Lake cleanup drive on September 3, 2023.

The quote ‘To give back to Nature where we inherently come from’ sounds very much like it’s been taken from the Keats and Wordsworth poems we were all made to read back in our school days, where they would go on passionate tangents trying to understand Nature and everything in it. But what if I were to tell you that the given quote did not arise out of those stuffy little poems but from the passion and enthusiasm that was clearly well defined in a response given by Diya, Vice President of SJU’s Wildlife Awareness and Conservation Club (WACC) in a recently conducted Epigram interview.

In 2011, a handful of students noticed that there were hardly any clubs promoting the idea of conservation in Karnataka and it was the sheer determination and drive of these students that led to the creation of the Wildlife Awareness and Conservation Club (WACC) in St Joseph’s University as an answer to fill in this void.

Over 12 years later, WACC has emerged as one of SJU’s premier associations, boasting over 3000+ volunteers and a variety of flagship events that bring in droves of participants not only from the state itself but also from all over the country. The general aim of WACC is to spread awareness in St Joseph’s and beyond about human-wildlife conflicts, sustainability, the importance of conserving water resources and protecting our wildlife, to provide a platform to discuss matters of ecological relevance and to engage the youth in bringing about changes that positively impact the world which we belong to and which belongs to us. Among the events WACC organises over the year, the two most prominent and highly anticipated ones are ‘Neerathon’ and the ‘WILD’ Fest.

NEERATHON: RUNNING TOWARDS WATER CONSERVATION

Neerathon derives its name from the amalgamation of two words- the Kannada word ‘Neeru’ which means ‘water’ and the word ‘marathon’. A fundraising run which focuses on the promotion of water conservation, the most striking feature about this event is that there is an absence of an age limit which allows for a diverse set of participants from the tender age of 6 right up to the ripe old age of 80. What had been initially intended to be an organised collaboration between the university and WACC for a contractual period of 5 years,

the massive success Neerathon received over the years made it near impossible to be discontinued thereafter and the 7th edition is all set to be held on 25th February, 2024.

Water, the essence of life, is facing an unprecedented crisis - scarcity. In a world where access to clean water is becoming increasingly challenging, the need for urgent action has never been more evident. The repercussions of water scarcity are far-reaching, affecting not only human populations but also the delicate balance of ecosystems worldwide. NEERATHON'24, a marathon dedicated to water conservation to raise awareness and instil a sense of responsibility towards preserving this precious resource.

NEERATHON'24, scheduled for Sunday, 25th February, offers participants the opportunity to contribute to the cause through three categories: a 2km run, a 5km run, and a special Para run of 1.5km for persons with disabilities. By joining this event, individuals can make a tangible difference in combating the global water crisis. But NEERATHON'24 is more than just a marathon; it's a symbol of solidarity and collective action. It serves as a reminder that each step taken towards water conservation is a step towards securing a better future for generations to come.

Water conservation isn't merely an option; it's a necessity. Every drop saved today ensures a more sustainable tomorrow. Together, let's rise to the challenge and stop the water crisis one stride at a time. Join us at NEERATHON'24, and let's make waves of change together.

The intercollegiate festival 'WILD' spans two days and features wildlife-themed activities - like photography, fashion shows, and literary compositions to raise awareness about wildlife conservation.



Credits: WACC

Each year, the event spotlights an endangered or extinct animal species; the 2023 edition focused on the critically endangered Kashmiri red stag or 'hangul'. The festival's activities highlight the importance of protecting these species. Additionally, the association hosts regular treks, flash mobs, and clean-up drives, such as the recent Ulsoor Lake cleanup, which collected an impressive 93.3 kgs of waste. These events promote the message of 'enjoyment with a purpose,' fostering a sense of responsibility towards conservation efforts.

When asked why they joined WACC and why others should consider it, core members shared their perspectives. For Vice President Diya, WACC's focus on events like Neerathon aligned with her passion for the environment, influencing her choice to join SJU. General Secretary Tabitha and Vice President Aditi, inspired by WACC's extensive reach, value the association as a space to explore and develop their strengths and weaknesses.

WACC appeals to nature enthusiasts seeking adventure and individuals eager to make a difference in environmental conservation. It offers a platform for passionate youth to contribute to meaningful change and protect our planet.

As one of the premier associations of the University, WACC offers diverse opportunities for engagement across various sectors, including a skilled social media team and an art and décor team for events. Members learn to handle expectations and pressure, fostering personal growth and pushing them out of their comfort zones. Despite differences, members unite to achieve common objectives, evident in the collaborative efforts observed before events.

With support from their staff coordinator, Professor Kiran Jeevan, volunteers, members, and alumni, WACC has evolved from a small group with a vision in 2011 to a formidable force driving change. Their tireless efforts and remarkable results deserve recognition and applause.

WACC exemplifies individuals who heed the call to make a difference, emphasizing the importance of appreciating both the little joys in life and the larger world we inhabit. Their work serves as an inspiring testament to the power of action and the significance of cherishing our environment.

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM E-CELL'S START-UP MELA AND CORPORATE GENESIS

AADHYA SRIVASTAVA, MAMATHA JANAKIRAMAN AND CATHERINE SARAH SONY

The 26th of October saw the grounds of St. Joseph's brimmed with talent and opportunity as the university held its 3rd Annual Start-up Mela hosted by the Entrepreneurship Cell. The students got the opportunity to interact with up-and-coming entrepreneurs, be inspired and even secure their own prospective careers. This is consecutively the third year that this event has been hosted. From the domains of business to technology to psychology, nouveau enterprises got a spotlight to shine and inspire students. Innovative solutions to healthcare, transportation, and publishing were brought to the forefront. As the rate of start-ups has been increasing in Bangalore and all over India, this was a very well thought and executed effort by the University to help students enhance their knowledge.



Picture credits: E-cell Instagram page

The vice president of the E-cell states that they had been working for almost two months to bring forth such an amazing event. He also mentioned that this event was a partnership with the Government of India's Startup India initiative and Y20. The E-Cell gathered the stalls with the help of a few startup mentors and government officials. There were few sponsored stalls and the Cell had also partnered with colleges like the IIT Kanakpur.

Yashaswini has turned her passion for crocheting into a successful start-up called Crochet Corner, where she sells handmade pieces. By monetizing her hobby, she's tapped into a niche market for affordable and sustainable accessories and fashion items.

OIOT is another start-up aimed at improving the lives of taxi drivers. It addresses issues like the daily struggle for taxis, mistreatment of drivers, and late payments by customers. Founded four years ago, OIOT aims to directly connect drivers and customers, creating a transparent ecosystem. Customers benefit from affordable pricing, no cancellation fees, and easy connectivity to drivers, while drivers benefit from direct payments and no commission charges.

DM Consultants is an immigration consulting company that helps citizens with immigration, student visas, and investment, to name a few. The main goal of the company is to help clients with their visa requests and provide the best care and services. They have panned out to eight different countries and have capitals in Dubai, Sharjah, Toronto, Mumbai and Bangalore. Socife and Let's Note, platforms for creators, participated in a Mela by offering opportunities for artists, writers, and content creators to showcase and publish their work.

Overall, the Mela received positive feedback for its organization, innovative stalls, diversity, and inclusion of carnival games and free RedBulls.

7TH EDITION OF CORPORATE GENESIS: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF WORK IN INDIA

On February 7th, 2024, E-cell hosted its 7th Edition of Corporate Genesis, welcoming a diverse array of accomplished personalities from the entrepreneurial landscape. The esteemed guests included Mr. Karan Virwani, CEO of WeWork; Mr. Arun K Chitilappilly, Founder & MD of Wonderla; Mr. Kamal Bali, President and MD of Volvo Group India; and Special Guest Mr. A. S. Kiran Kumar, Former Chairman of ISRO and Padma Shri Awardee. The event's theme centered around "India 2047: Future of Work".

During the event, Mr. Kamal Bali, President & MD of Volvo Group India, shared insights on the purpose of life for a 20-year-old individual today. He emphasised the importance of contributing to the upliftment of society and outlined four key principles of leadership: Having a clear purpose in life serves as a source of inspiration and motivation, especially during challenging times; Prioritizing the environment by ensuring the creation of eco-friendly products and practices; Developing products with a long-term perspective to ensure their sustainability for decades to come; Upholding ethical practices in business operations and actively contributing to the betterment of society.

Overall, the 7th Edition of Corporate Genesis provided a platform for thought-provoking discussions on the future of work in India, featuring valuable insights from industry leaders across various sectors.

HIGHLIGHT OF CORPORATE GENESIS



In the frame (left to right): Arwa Kumari, E-cell General Secretary; Mr Kiran Virwani, CEO WeWork India; Dr Regina Mathias, Pro-Vice-Chancellor St Josephs University; Mr Kiran Kumar, Former Chairman, ISRO; Dr Ronald J Mascarenhas, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, St Josephs University; Mr. Arun K, Founder and MD. Wonderla; Mr D Kiran Jeevan, PRO, St Joseph's University; Pratyaksh Burman, Head of Marketing, Ecell; Amisha, Head of Administration, E-cell. Acknowledgement: E-cell, St Joseph's University

FROM KARNATAKA TO KARGIL: NCC'S EPIC JOURNEY OF VALOUR AND RESILIENCE"

CATHERINE SARAH SONY, SPOORTHY R AATHREYA



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Kaushik

Travelling from Karnataka To Kargil, two students undertook the task of celebrating the valour of the Indian Armed forces on their cycles. In this interview, they recount the highs, lows, and challenges they faced on their expedition to showcase the spirit and resilience of patriotism.

Catherine - Can you give us a small introduction to yourself and what led you guys to undertake this journey?

Kaushik – I'm Kaushik and I'm studying at St Joseph's University. My companion was the current officer, Vishnu, who is my senior. He is studying in MSR and is also a part of this program. He planned this entire expedition. When he was reading about Captain James Tucker,

he was part of the Kargil War, the thought struck his mind that many people do not know about the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian armed forces during the 99 Kargil War. He asked a few people to name at least 5 recipients of the Param Vir Chakra and no one could answer but they could answer instantaneously about sports and pop culture.

Kaushik - Our people have forgotten the sacrifices of our soldiers. So, to spread awareness of our military, he planned this cycle expedition. The main reason why he opted for the cycle is that it is low budget.

Spoorthy - **For how long have you been a part of the NCC and what prompted you to take up the journey?**

Kaushik - This is my second year in NCC. It's been a long-time dream of mine to go from Bangalore to Kargil. But I did not know how to go about it. Through Krishnan Sir, I got the opportunity to make this a reality.

Catherine - **Can you tell me a bit about the journey itself?**

Kaushik - We started on May 29th, 2003 from our unit headquarters in Jodhpur. We covered a total of 3200 km in 55 days, including a break of 10-14 days. Initially, we would ride 70 km per day, and later on we increased our distance to 150-160 km per day. Once we reached the Himalayas, due to the high altitude, we slowed down to 20-30 km. The weather also played a very crucial role throughout the journey. Till we reached Jammu we could not ride in the middle of the day due to the high temperatures. So we would wake up very early in the morning, 3-4 am, and then ride until 9 am. After that, we would resume at 5 p.m. We would reach our destination very late in the night, sometimes even at 10 pm. Kashmir was the main challenge. The steep terrain was very challenging.

Catherine - **What were the best parts of this undertaking for you? Did you meet with any army personnel on the way?**

Kaushik - The satisfaction of reaching the destination was very memorable and exhilarating. We also got to meet the chief of the Kashmir region. Also, in Ambala, we received shelter and food from the military. Before reaching Kargil, we were staying in the cantonment and from Jammu, we were assisted by the Indian army at every point. Without them, it would have been very tough.

Spoorthy - **How was the experience of staying in the cantonment? What do you think you learnt from personnel there?**

Kaushik - It was very nice. It was my first time going to a cantonment and it gave me a brief idea of how they function. The personnel there mostly spoke to us on how to prepare for SSG. They also gave us some tips such as to stay true to ourselves and not fake anything during the interviews.

Catherine - **Were there any hurdles along the way?**

Kaushik - As you know, it's a very long journey. The weather was a big challenge. Up until Delhi, the temperatures were quite hot and in the Kashmir region, Jammu and Vijayanagar, the steep terrain was very challenging. We weren't eating properly from the start of the journey and faced some issues due to that. My senior, Krishnan sir, had diarrhoea and was feverish but he still pushed through and when we reached Jammu, I got typhoid. It took me about 10 days to recover. It was somewhat smooth since we carried our medical kits and my mom is a nurse. So, whenever I needed to take any medicine, I would call her for advice.

Catherine - **So, was this whole experience how you expected it would be?**



Kaushik and Krishnan with the war heroes of the Kargil War of 1999

Kaushik - Frankly, It was far more challenging than I expected. One thing I can say is that whatever challenges we may face, we must not break down and we must not give up.

Spoorthy - **You've covered a lot of different regions of the country on the way. Which was your favourite part of it, would you go on more journeys after this?**

Kaushik - I truly enjoyed Hyderabad because during my 11th and 12th I stayed there, so it was quite nostalgic when I went back. I took my cycle and just roamed around the city. I would certainly make more journeys when the time comes.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL CADET CORPS



Acknowledgement: 1 KAR AIR SQN NCC SJU Instagram Page

From Left-to-Right: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, CWO Prajwal Thenginkai (Photo 1) and CWO Manya Kenchain DJ (Photo 2)

Two Cadets of the 1-KAR AIR SQN from St Joseph's University; CWO Prajwal Thenginkai on 26th January 2024 won the All India Best Cadet-Gold Medal at the Republic Day Camp while CWO Manya Kenchin DJ won the All India Best Cadet-Silver Medal. Here's the story they had to share:

Sharing his experience, Prajwal Thenginkai said, "Republic Day camp held great significance for me, as facing rejection as a junior division cadet made RDC24 a personal objective. It is an exploration of what it truly means to be the best cadet. It wasn't just about earning a medal or a baton; rather, the process of learning and adapting. The most remarkable aspects of the camp was the exposure it provided and the bonds forged among fellow cadets. Dignitaries who run the nation were our chief guests and interacting with them was the most profound memories. The diverse backgrounds of cadets from all over the nation created an environment where mutual respect flourished. The moment of receiving the medal and baton from the Prime Minister was a prestigious opportunity that instilled a sense of pride and accomplishment. This honor served as a constant reminder of the responsibility to uphold the values learned during the camp, motivating me to strive for excellence in every facet of life."

Recalling the moment, Manya shared, "My journey from eagerly awaiting selection results to becoming a cadet at 1Kar Air Sqn SJU, to ultimately being recognized as the 'All India best cadet-Silver medal' at the Republic Day camp, has been incredibly fulfilling. Through the ups and downs of the selection process, I've learned to face challenges with optimism. The Republic Day camp was a truly transformative experience, bringing together cadets from across the nation, each with their own story of perseverance and passion. I had the privilege of briefing the Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar and the Raksha Rajya Mantri Sri Ajay Bhatt at the 'Hall of fame' of the camp, as well as serving as the MC for events attended by former Directors General of NCC. Interacting with cadets from 24 friendly foreign countries as part of the Youth Exchange Programme was also a highlight. Overall, the memories and lessons from RDC will be cherished for a lifetime."

ELECTION ESCAPADES - EXPLORING THE DYNAMICS OF CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

SPOORTHY R AATHREYA AND PRATHIK JAYAPRAKASH

The echoes of victory speeches and the vibrant hues of campaign posters have faded, yet the recent Student Council elections continue to reverberate across campus. Beneath the surface, a complex narrative unfolds, woven from diverse campaign strategies, personal journeys, and the persistent whisper of gender bias, even within institutions that proudly wear the mantle of progress. A month after the dust settled, we ventured beyond the headlines, engaging with the newly elected Council members to unveil their stories, aspirations, and the challenges they faced.



*In frame : Top row - Vikram Poojary (Sports Secretary), Thiru Surya (Treasurer), Ishani Bhushan (Cultural Secretary), Roxane Francis (General Secretary - I), Soma Shekar (Joint Secretary), Abrial Kajar (General Secretary - II)
Bottom row - Aleeza Seemab (Vice-President), Ajay Paul (President); ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Fardin Jahangeer and Muhammed Anwar*

We also explored the crucial question: does the playing field in student politics truly lie level, or are there hidden obstacles and advantages that tilt the balance in favour of some groups over others? Through our interviews, we uncovered the nuances and dynamics of student politics and the factors that influence the success and failure of candidates. We also examined the role of gender in shaping the perceptions and expectations of student leaders, and the subtle ways that bias can manifest in the electoral process.

We aimed to provide a deeper and more comprehensive insight into the world of student politics and to shed light on the issues and opportunities that lie ahead for the Council and the student body.

CAMPAIGNING: A BATTLEFIELD OF IDEAS, PAINTED WITH DIVERSE HUES

Ajay Paul, the newly inaugurated President of the Student Council, describes his campaign as a metamorphosis. “Last year,” he reminisces, “we focused on grand promises of events that would entertain the students. This time, it was about ensuring our vision for the Council truly aligns with what matters to students.” His emphasis on collaboration and building a team resonated with voters, highlighting a shift from mere entertainment towards a focus on creating meaningful impact. This resonated deeply with many, marking a move towards leadership driven by genuine engagement rather than superficial promises. He adds, “I wanted to show the students that the Council is not just a platform for fun, but also a powerful voice for their concerns and aspirations.”

Abrial Kajar, General Secretary II, paints a contrasting picture of his campaign. His first year in the Council was secured through direct selection, but this year, he embraced the exhilarating pressure of a campaign. “Connecting with the evening shift students became my mission,” he shares, “and the competition was fierce.” This experience engaged his drive to represent underrepresented groups and amplify their voices within the Council, ensuring no student felt overlooked or unheard. His campaign thrived on inclusivity, a stark contrast to narratives of exclusion often associated with student politics. He explains, “I wanted to bridge the gap between the day and evening shift students, and make them feel equally valued and involved in the Council’s activities.”

Roxan Francis, General Secretary I, embarked on a journey of redemption. His unplanned campaign last year fell short, but this year, meticulous planning and a burning desire to serve fueled his efforts. He leveraged his public recognition from campus performances, but his campaign truly took flight with a unique, viral poster declaring, “Roxan already told his mom he won.” This audacious yet humorous approach captured attention, proving that sometimes, unconventional thinking can resonate deeply and break through the mould of traditional campaigning strategies. He says, “I wanted to inject some humour and personality into my campaign and show the students that I am not just a performer, but also a leader who can deliver on his promises.”

With two General Secretaries in the Council, while inquiring about how they divide their responsibilities, Roxan answered that it’s rather a shared domain that they had to work on the basis of availability. “We handle shifts in turns; when Abrial is occupied with classes, I take over and vice versa. Our differing class schedule has worked to our advantage,” said Roxan.



In frame: The Student Council members at the investiture ceremony. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Student Council Media Team

Yet, woven into the tapestry of these seemingly varied strategies lies a recurring thread: the subtle, yet undeniable presence of gender bias. Aleeza Seemab, the Vice-President, reflects on the difficulties faced by a strong female candidate for President the year before. “I believe her gender played a significant role in her loss,” she states, highlighting the discomfort many still have with women in leadership roles and the tendency to dismiss their political judgments.

Her words echo Ishani Bhushan, the Cultural Secretary, who faced a gruelling selection process. “It was intimidating,” she admits, describing the rigorous interviews and intense competition. Ultimately, her achievements paved the way for her selection, but she acknowledges the subtle bias she encountered, emphasizing that “women often have to prove their worth more than men.” She concludes, “I hope that by being in the Council, I can inspire more women to pursue leadership positions and challenge the stereotypes that hold them back.”

FROM CAMPAIGN TRAIL TO COUNCIL CHAMBERS: NAVIGATING THE LABYRINTH OF RESPONSIBILITIES

With the campaign fever abated, the Council members now face the reality of governing. Thiru Surya, the Treasurer, attributed his success to active participation in events and volunteering. He emphasizes the importance of understanding sponsor needs and leveraging marketing strategies to secure funding for student initiatives. He says, “I want to ensure that the Council has enough resources to support the students’ interests and needs.” His campaign resonated with students who valued practicality and resourcefulness, highlighting the need for a fiscally responsible Council.

Vikram Poojary, the Sports Secretary, outlines his commitment to supporting student-athletes through initiatives like fee reductions. He says, “I want to make sports more affordable and accessible for everyone, regardless of their background or ability.” He plans to utilise the network of class representatives to identify overlooked talent and encourage wider participation, ensuring every student has the opportunity to shine. His platform resonated with those who felt marginalized within the existing sports infrastructure, offering a beacon of hope for increased inclusivity and equitable access. He adds, “I want to create a culture of sportsmanship and excellence that inspires the students and the community.”



In frame: The Elected Student Council members during the announcement of the results. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Prajwal TV

BEYOND THE HEADLINES: A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

While popularity and recognition undoubtedly play a role in the success of student leaders, the interviews reveal a deeper reality. Gender bias, although less overt than in the past, remains a hurdle that aspiring female leaders must navigate. They often face more scrutiny, criticism, and doubt than their male counterparts, and have to work harder to prove their credibility and competence.

However, the stories of these Council members also offer hope. They showcase the power of strategic planning, passion for student welfare, and the unwavering commitment to overcome challenges. They demonstrate that female leaders can excel in diverse roles and domains, and inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

As the Council embarks on its term, we see individuals and a team determined to build a strong and impactful leadership body. Their journey, with its triumphs and challenges, serves as a reminder that student politics is not just about elections and slogans, but about the collective effort to shape a better campus experience for all. The Council's commitment to inclusivity, practical solutions, and empowering marginalized groups sends a message of hope, promising a future where diverse voices are heard and student needs are truly addressed. This future, however, requires continued vigilance against implicit bias and a conscious effort to create a truly level playing field where ambition and talent are valued equally, regardless of gender. Only then can we ensure that student politics is truly representative and democratic.

“ಮುಂಬರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರೇರಕ ಭಾಷಣವಿಲ್ಲ”, ವಿಕ್ರಮ್ ಪೂಜಾರಿ

ಸಪ್ತಮಿ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್

ವಿಕ್ರಮಪೂಜಾರಿ, ನಾನು ಮೂಡುಬಿದಿರೆಯ ಆಲ್ಬಾಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಓದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನನ್ನ ಶಾಲಾ ದಿನಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಇತ್ತು. ನಾನು ಹಲವಾರು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅನೇಕ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯೆಡೆಗಿನ ನನ್ನ ಉತ್ಸಾಹವು ಹೊಸ ರೂಪವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿತು, ಅದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಫುಟ್‌ಬಾಲ್‌ನತ್ತ ನನ್ನ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಿಕೊಂಡೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂದಿನವರೆಗೂ ಅದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಉತ್ಸಾಹಹೊಂದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಯಿತು.

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ನಾಮನಿರ್ದೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಮಗೆ ಜ್ಞಾನೋದಯವಾದ ವಿಷಯವಾವುದು?

ನಾನು ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಉತ್ಸುಕನಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ನಾನು ಅದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಏನನ್ನಾದರೂ ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ನಾನು ಈ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಮೊದಲ ಅನುಭವವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಬಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲು ಒತ್ತು ನೀಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮಾದರಿ ಯಾರು?

ನಾನು ಫುಟ್ಬಾಲ್ ಉತ್ಸಾಹಿಯಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ನನ್ನ ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡೆಲ್ ಲಿಯೋನೆಲ್ ಮೆಸ್ಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರಿಸ್ಟಿಯಾನೊ ರೊನಾಲ್ಡೊ ಎಂದು ನಾನು ನಿಮಗೆ ಹೇಳಲು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಕಠಿಣ ಪರಿಶ್ರಮ, ದೃಢಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಿರತೆಯನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಯಾಣವು ನನಗೆ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಅವರಂತೆಯೇ ಇರಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂದಿಗೂ ನನಗೆ ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ.



ವಿಕ್ರಮ ಪೂಜಾರಿ, ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

ಈ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯಾಗಲು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶವೇನು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪೋಸ್ಟ್‌ಮಾಲ್ ಈ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ನೀವು ಯಾವ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ತರುತ್ತೀರಿ?

ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಅಗತ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಅವರು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಡೆತಡೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಿಂದಿಕ್ಕಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸಲು ನಾನು ಇಷ್ಟಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಮ್ಯಾಜಿಸ್‌ನಂತಹ ಕೆಲವು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಾನು ತಂದೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದಂತೆ.

ಮ್ಯಾಜಿಸ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯು ಮೂಲತಃ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ 10% ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ, ಅದು 5000 ರೂ. ಕಲೆ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಅಥವಾ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಿಸದೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಇದು ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ನಾನು ಅದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಂದೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಆದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೂ ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ.

ನಮ್ಮ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ, ನೀವು ಅವರ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೀರಿ?

ನಾನು ಪ್ರತಿ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸಹಾಯವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅತ್ಯುತ್ತಮ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರನ್ನು ಹೊರತರಲು ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಯಶಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ನಾನು ಪ್ರತಿ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರ ಸಕ್ರಿಯ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಿಕೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಈ ವರ್ಷದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸಮನ್ವಯತೆ ಹೇಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ?

ಇದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ನನ್ನ ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷವಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ನಾವು ಮಾಡುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕೆಲಸಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿಸುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯುತ್ತಮವಾದದ್ದನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ನಡುವೆ ಸಮನ್ವಯಗೊಳಿಸಲು ನಾನು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸಹ ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೀವು ಹೇಗೆ ಹೊಂದಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೀರಿ?

ನಾವು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕುಟುಂಬವಾಗಿದ್ದೇವೆ ಎಂದು ನನಗೆ ಅನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ, ಅವರನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಕುಟುಂಬವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲು ನಾನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇದು ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅವರು ನನಗೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸಹಕಾರನಿಡಿದಾರೆ.

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ನೀವು ಹೇಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತೀರಿ?

ನಿಜವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಬೇಕೆಂದರೆ ಇದು ಕಷ್ಟಕರವಾಗಿದೆ. ನನ್ನ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಸಹಾಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ನನ್ನ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲ್ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ 80% ಅನ್ನು ವಿನಿಯೋಗಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳ ಮೊದಲು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ತುಂಬಾ ನೈತಿಕನಾಗಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಇದು ಕಷ್ಟಕರವಾಗಿದೆ ಆದರೆ ನನ್ನ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಸಹಾಯವನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ, ಇದು ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಯಾಣವಾಗಿದೆ.

ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸಲು ನೀವು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೀರಿ?

ನಾನು ಯಾರನ್ನೂ ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಅದು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನುಂಟು ಮಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಯಾರನ್ನಾದರೂ ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸುವುದು ಫಲಪ್ರದ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಇದು ಅವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಅವಲಂಬಿತವಾಗಿದೆ, ಅವರು ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಜೀವನದ ಗುರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದರೆ. ಅವರು ಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿಯೂ ಯಾರ ಸಲಹೆಯನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಿಸದೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ನಾನು ತಿಳಿದಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿಷಯಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ನಾನು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇದು ಕೆಲವು ದಿನಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಭಾವವನ್ನು ತರಬಹುದು, ಆದರೆ ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅದು ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ನೀವು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಮ್ಮದು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಹೇಳಬಲ್ಲೆ.

कर्नल का मुख्य भाषण: हिंदी परिषद 23 में प्रेरक ज्ञान

मन्त्रत कौर और अदिति सुनील कुमार



मंच पर मुख्य अतिथि कर्नल अंशू त्रिवेदी

भाषा और संस्कृति के एक आनंदमय उत्सव में, हिंदी परिषद ने 1 KAR ARMD SQC NCC के सहयोग से 27 सितंबर को हिंदी दिवस का आयोजन किया। थोड़े विलंब के बाद, कार्यक्रम का आरंभिक कार्यक्रम छात्र एलेक्स एलन और निया के संगीतमय गीत के साथ शुरू हुआ। एनसीसी परेड में उनके सम्मानित मुख्य अतिथि कर्नल अंशू त्रिवेदी शामिल हुए, जो 'द क्वीन ऑफ द बैटलफील्ड' और 'गढ़वाल राइफल्स इन्फैंट्री फोर्स' का हिस्सा हैं।

मंच पर मुख्य अतिथि के बैठने के बाद, एक कैडेट को कर्नल की उपलब्धियों को बताने का सम्मान मिला, जिसमें भारत भर में पंजाब से लेकर असम और अरुणाचल प्रदेश तक विभिन्न उग्रवाद अभियानों में शामिल पैदल सेना बटालियनों की कमान शामिल थी। लखनऊ में जन्मे अधिकारी 18वीं गढ़वाल राइफल्स यूनिट का भी हिस्सा थे, जिन्हें 1999 के कारगिल युद्ध के दौरान उनकी बहादुरी के लिए 'आर्मी चीफ यूनिट प्रशस्ति पत्र' और 'बैटल ऑनर' से सम्मानित किया गया था। कर्नल का अनुभव देश तक ही सीमित नहीं था; उन्होंने भारतीय शांति सेना (आईपीकेएफ) के एक सक्रिय सदस्य के रूप में भी काम किया, जबकि -

- श्रीलंका के जंगलों और तटों के बीच उग्रवाद विरोधी कार्यों में भाग लेना। तीसरी पीढ़ी के सैनिक होने के कारण, उन्हें भारतीय सेना में अपने योगदान पर अत्यधिक गर्व है। उनकी यात्रा ने उन्हें एनसीसी में ग्रुप कमांडर और बेंगलोर में सेवा चयन बोर्ड का उपाध्यक्ष भी बना दिया।

कार्यक्रम का अगला भाग कर्नल त्रिवेदी और हिंदी परिषद के प्रमुख के नेतृत्व में एक दीप-प्रज्वलन समारोह था, जिसने इसे परंपरा और प्रतीकवाद की हवा दी। इसके बाद कर्नल त्रिवेदी के जीवन और उपलब्धियों के बारे में जूनियर अंडर ऑफिसर नाय्यन शेरवास्तव का परिचयात्मक भाषण दिया गया। जैसा कि कई छात्रों ने कहा है, जिन पहलुओं ने कर्नल को सबसे अलग बनाया, वे थे उनका अद्भुत सैन्य करियर और उन्होंने राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी और भारतीय सैन्य अकादमी जैसे प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों में सेवा करते हुए भविष्य के नेताओं को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए किस तरह लगन से काम किया। कार्यक्रम के मेजबान यशोवर्धन ने कहा, “मुझे इस कार्यक्रम की मेजबानी करते हुए बहुत गर्व महसूस हुआ, जिसमें एक ऐसा व्यक्ति शामिल था जिसने अपना पूरा जीवन देश को समर्पित कर दिया और राष्ट्रीय कैडेट कोर ने हमें जो प्रेरणा दी वह बहुत बड़ी थी। यह हमेशा एक ऐसा क्षण होगा जिस पर मुझे बहुत गर्व महसूस होगा।”

छात्रों के साथ बातचीत के दौरान, कर्नल ने अपने बचपन की कुछ कहानियाँ बताईं, जिन्होंने आसपास के सभी लोगों के साथ एक अविश्वसनीय संबंध बनाया। उपस्थित लोगों ने दावा किया कि उनकी विनम्रता और स्पष्टता ने उनके और उपस्थित लोगों के बीच मजबूत भावनाएँ पैदा कीं। उन्होंने उपस्थित अन्य लोगों की हर उत्कृष्ट उपलब्धि को भी स्वीकार किया और प्रेरणादायक बातें कहीं, जिससे दर्शक आश्चर्यचकित रह गए।

कोई देख सकता है कि वह हमारे देश की खातिर युवाओं को उनके कौशल को बढ़ाने में मदद करने के प्रति कितने भावुक थे - यह तब और भी स्पष्ट हो गया जब उन्होंने बताया कि उन्होंने अपने पूरे जीवन में किस तरह के अनुभवों को सहन किया। एक भाषा के रूप में हिंदी के महत्व और दुनिया पर इसके प्रभाव पर चिंतन के बाद एनसीसी स्टाफ, मुख्य अतिथि और हिंदी विभाग के प्रमुख के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करते हुए धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव के साथ कार्यक्रम का समापन हुआ।



हिंदी परिषद के विद्यार्थियों ने बॉलीवुड गानों पर प्रस्तुति देकर समानता का बांध दिया

NEW FACES, SHARED SPACES: CONCILIUM'S MIXER EVENT

Malvheeka Raj

Concilium, the "Happiness Club" affiliated with the Psychology Department, successfully organized its inaugural mixer for the current academic year on the 23rd of August. This event aimed to welcome the incoming freshmen while simultaneously raising awareness about the significance of mental health and advocating for positive well-being within the campus community.

The venue for the mixer was the Arrupe basement, and it was strategically scheduled during the lunch break. Despite initial concerns from the core team regarding potential clashes with the break, the event garnered an unexpectedly positive response. Isha Singh, the club's vice president, expressed her surprise, stating, "As soon as the lunch break bell rang, the basement was filled with over-enthusiastic and excited first-year students".

The mixer featured a counter equipped with art supplies, encouraging freshmen to tap into their inner creativity and express themselves through drawing.



The atmosphere was lively, with students eagerly participating in various games such as Chinese Whisper, Heads Up, and others, showcasing joy, competitiveness, and laughter throughout the event.

The mixer not only facilitated socialization for first-year students but also seamlessly integrated psychological concepts with entertaining activities. Attendees gained a profound understanding of Concilium's principles and overarching goals.

(DE)POLITICISATION OF STUDENT POLITICS IN INDIA?

C ROHAN

Politics is one of the most essential activities in the postmodern world today. To attain desired aims for the good of society, sensible politics is an integral component of human life. There is a well-known political adage that goes, "If politics determines your future, then decide what your politics should be." Political participation determines our fate in society as we strive for our rightful privileges. That being said, the future of the nation lies in the hands of the youth. The youth need a platform to express their opinions and their grievances, this is where student unions, student movements as well as representatives come in to act as a platform. Contemporary student politics are on the rise in India, there appears to be a shift in the prime political advisory of student political organisations. The prime advisory, which was well recognized as the neoliberal market and its various governing rationalities has been put to the side, instead, the focus and the current prime political advisory seems to be the very state itself. Here the state is under the limelight as the state has undertaken various measures to 'sanitise' higher education institutions and university spaces. This is done through an attempt to neutralise opponents and opposing ideologies that threaten the various status quo's which are ever present in the current society. As Supriya Chaudhuri describes this process is 'POLITICS OF CONTROL'. That being said, we must understand how this inevitably leads to (de)politicisation within student politics, and also we must have an understanding as to what (de)politicisation even means.

(De)politicisation by definition does not inherently mean the removal or erasure of politics and politics. Instead, it can be understood as a set of interventions, that ultimately leads to the delegitimisation of peculiar politics and politics, which may inherently be progressive. The delegitimisation of subjective moorings, institutions, and organisations acts as a stage or a vehicle of subjective articulations. Here we will take the example of various student unions in West Bengal to understand how this concept emerges in the real world. We Will be taking a student's perspective which was gained through an interview as to how the state (Ruling political parties) and the student unions are both sides of the same coin. A coin that always leaves the students in the ditch of disadvantage. Shomit who was a student at a law institute, points out that when he entered the institution there was one party rule on the campus. In the sense that there wasn't necessarily any difference between the student politics inside the campus and beyond the campus parameters. As Shomit explained, "These unions are mostly seized by the student organisation of the state's ruling party. And their rival was inevitably the largest opposition party of the state at that time. In West Bengal, that accurately translates into the binary between CPI (M) and TMC for more than two decades now." Continuing on this point, let's say the student union (SFI in 2009) doesn't have any opposition to it, in the sense it can be in terms of opposition to the ruling political party or any student opposition to it. In such situations, student unions left to their vices tend to split in half. Constituting a wing of "Intellectually committed" student members and the other wing constituting of students who provide "muscle-power" to the present student union. The leader of the wing which provides "muscle-power" is canonically termed as "DADA".

As the state (Ruling party) and the student unions are two sides of the same coin, any changes to the ruling party will be reflected in current student union politics. For example, in 2011, TMC won an election in West Bengal. Which immediately reflected the change in the ground reality, as Shomit had pointed out. The once-student posters monopolized by SFI (Student Federation of India) were covered by posters for the TMCP's political propaganda, to the point where the entire wall was filled with TMCP posters. This kind of behaviour is almost parallel to monopolized student unions. Monopolized student unions not only gain or assert brute force but also actively decide on which student or institution grievance should or shouldn't be considered to protect their interests. Here, the concept of unions acting as institutions which channel grievances comes to die since it warps into more of a social space which is presented as a hierarchical structure which revolves around how close you are to "Dada". This leads to the symbolic value of the union room, which is ideally supposed to belong to the students, to be exclusionary. Thus, by obstructing access, one also strategically produces a union room as a space which is a constant reminder of hollowing out campus democracy itself.

This monopolization of the political and political does not, however, go unchallenged as it must never be. There are always students who want to challenge this regime of deference and patronage. Campus violence was primarily the outcome of these issues, which might emerge from inside the student body. That being said there are various repercussions to challenging the status quo, the student union body, which primarily consists of muscle-power headed by dada, springs into action as a response to these challenges.

The students who organise or who are part of the revolt are violently suppressed, physical violence, verbal violence, harassment, forceful exclusion from the institution groups, etc. These methods not only deter the students from ever challenging the authority but also create a hazardous environment for various progressive political ideologies and movements to come into the picture.

This leads to distinctions between party, student union, administration, and state apparatuses (e.g., police) being constantly blurred, and dominance, including violence, is feasible in this zone. In addition to controlling politics, I want to highlight the politics of (de)politicization that was predicated on such dominance. As we have seen with the previous examples, how the (de)politicization of a concept emerges in reality. The state acts as a mechanism to restructure universities, suppress formations and emergence of challenging ideologies, and also make universities part of the marginal economy using student unions which were in place to prevent this from ever occurring. That being said, there is always light at the end of the tunnel for everyone who seeks freedom, equality, justice, and representation. The students who refuse the subject position of compulsory obedience, rather fall into disobedience in essence, are truly the ones reclaiming politics. There is no politics without violence (In essence, violence can only be legitimized, not cease to exist) and there can never be changes brought forth without active political participation from the students on opposing ends. As always, students are the hope for the future, as they are meant to be armed with intellectual points which challenge the status quo.

YouTube's Curb on Exploitation of Myanmar Artists by the Entertainment Industry

THANGNEICHAN HAOKIP



Interviewing local taxi drivers on the new road construction in Yangon.

During the summer of 2018, amidst scorching heat waves enveloping the city of Yangon, I had the privilege of assisting one of Myanmar's prominent artists and rappers. My role involved assisting with foundational technical knowledge, guiding them through the process of establishing a Google account, and setting up a YouTube channel dedicated to showcasing their music. While technological advancements were accessible to the public in Myanmar, the predominant online landscape was one of Facebook's dominance. Despite a significant increase in internet usage, from 25.07% to 30.68%, between 2017 and 2018, Facebook remained the primary conduit for internet activities. It served as a versatile platform for e-commerce, news consumption, entertainment, and basic web browsing, rendering the introduction of alternative platforms, such as YouTube, a formidable challenge.

Growing up as an avid follower of prominent YouTubers like PewDiePie, Lilly Singh, Pink Guy, Ryan Higa, and many others, I found it perplexing to contemplate the untapped potential that Myanmar creators were missing out on.

Upon creating and accessing our YouTube account, Ye Gaung Phoo initiated a search for his music on the platform 'X-BOXIN'. To our astonishment, we uncovered that an unauthorised user had already uploaded his music and was generating a substantial income. In instances of copyright infringement such as this, mounting a legal challenge independently, devoid of label or YouTube partnership support, presents an exceedingly daunting prospect. Within Myanmar's entertainment landscape, three dominant entities reign supreme, boasting the majority of A-list artists. Two of these entities trace their origins back to prominent figures from an earlier generation of rock bands, while the third is now under the stewardship of the founder's daughter. While major entities compensate artists for their online presence, they often retain a substantial percentage, resulting in the artist typically receiving around 10-15% of their total income. This development raised concerns and ignited a strong desire within me to offer assistance. Major powerhouses would generate income with the artist's digital assets from YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, Deezer, and even cell caller ringtones.

It was bizarre knowledge to discover the helplessness that came from the deep-rooted generational trauma of the country's political stance that impacted these artists. They did not dare to fight against the corporations and authority.

It became a primary objective of mine to facilitate the widespread adoption of YouTube among the public and enable artists to monetize their digital assets thereby realising their commensurate value. For lack of a better word, I was mostly driven by rage and anger. Fortunately, as I used to record cover songs in a local studio, I came across different connections and networks that led me to establish a presence within the inner echelons of the industry. I got a job as a personal assistant to the CEO and an interpreter from the language of Burmese to Hindi as the company wanted to invite a sound designer from India to work on an upcoming movie. As months passed by and more connections were made through work and friendships; I possessed the capability to exert influence, encouraging artists to seek independence or transition from their current affiliations with major entertainment conglomerates to an official YouTube partner located in Bangkok, Thailand. Persuading the artists entailed a comprehensive educational campaign aimed at empowering them with a profound understanding of intellectual property rights, the avenues for potential income augmentation, and an awareness of the pervasive exploitation within the industry. In these educational efforts, we delved into the mechanisms governing copyright, royalties, and the revenue potential associated with their creative works. Artists were apprised of the considerable financial gains they stood to accrue by asserting control over



In the frame: Thangneichan Haokip(extreme left), Karlcharn Gunn Konkaton(second right), Oak Soe Khant (extreme right)

their intellectual property and leveraging digital platforms like YouTube to reach wider audiences. Additionally, we underscored the importance of safeguarding their creative independence and the potential long-term benefits it could yield.

One notable aspect was the receptiveness of many artists to these discussions. A considerable portion of them was enduring significant financial hardships, struggling to make ends meet in an industry where fair compensation was often elusive. This financial vulnerability made them more inclined to embrace the cause, as they recognized the opportunity to not only secure a sustainable livelihood but also to regain control over their artistic expressions. It was a stark reminder of the power of informed advocacy in an environment where the exploitation of creative talents had persisted for far too long.

My approach was straightforward: establish autonomous YouTube channels for these artists, convince them to sever contractual ties with the predominant industry powerhouses, and transition them to an alternative entity. However, the formidable challenge lay in effecting a smooth migration of the audience from one plat-

-form to another, particularly when introducing a nascent channel into the equation. As an increasing number of artists embraced the alternative entity I had introduced, a well-structured strategy emerged among them. They began a deliberate process of introducing and promoting their YouTube channels on Facebook, educating their audiences, and asserting the authenticity of their official channels.

Within just one year, my efforts directly influenced approximately 10 to 15 prominent tier-one and tier-two artists to claim their copyrights, and earn their revenues; prompting others to subsequently follow suit. While a pebble has been cast into the tranquil waters, the battle against exploitation endures. The impact of the initial ripple can only achieve its utmost effectiveness if the artist remains steadfast in their resolve and resists succumbing to the influence of major industry giants.

PERSPECTIVES WITH AN EXTRA SIDE OF MATHEMATICS

AALAM SULTANJI

If ever a situation occurs where someone is to speak about mathematics in a positive light, one usually encounters two possible responses: ‘Yuck, Math? I am so glad I’m not in Math, I hate it’ or ‘Wow, you must be so smart to take Math. I hate Math.’ Notice how the outcome in both scenarios is the same. Very rarely does one come across someone with a flaming passion for mathematics, but it is a delight when that happens. Dr. Gerard Rozario of the Department of Mathematics has much to say about how the world views mathematics and the potential underlying problems regarding the mindset around the subject.

Aalam: With the varied departments and topics under mathematics and the vast number of uses for all of these topics, the definition of mathematics becomes difficult. In all of your experience, what is your definition of mathematics?

Dr Gerard: Generally, mathematics is called the Queen of Sciences. One of the definitions I would like to offer is the one my professor told me: “Mathematics is a tool for creating tools. For example, you want to design a hammer. Mathematics is like iron and wood. Just with iron and wood, you cannot do anything, but without iron and wood, you cannot make a hammer. Thus, Mathematics is a tool to create tools when applied, finds use in a wide range of applications.

Aalam: With the large number of topics in mathematics, many students find it complicated to cope with and grasp the advanced concepts of Math. Why do you think so? Is it the topic itself or is there a deeper underlying cause?

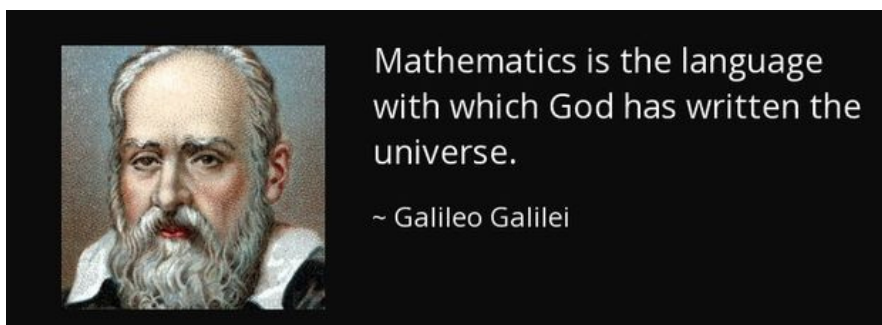
Dr Gerard: Well, this one is a problem which prevails from the schooling level. The problem with teaching mathematics is the teaching itself. So, at the school level, the teachers are worried about marks and they aren’t interested in teaching the basic concepts with application in mind. They give formula(s), they give out problems, they make you do the problem(s) and you pass so that the teachers are also safe. For example, take the basic concept of differentiation, which comes under calculus. So, without calculus, nothing can evolve. Say, you ride a motorcycle and you apply the throttle, the speed changes. What is the rate of change that has to be measured?

See, everything happens to be based on differentiation, right? Differentiation by definition, is the rate of change of the dependent variable concerning the independent variable. However, in schools, differentiation is taught as dy/dx and that is where the problem lies. The applications are rarely taught the way they should be, and students lose interest very fast. An example of the daily application of mathematics can be found in forensic sciences. You can study the decay of a corpse using differentiation. The rate of change of decay is used to determine the timeline of when the time of death. This is a widely used application of calculus apart from engineering, but schools don't teach this as their sole focus is on academic performance rather than actual learning.

Aalam: You mentioned applications and their role in building interest in students. Given there are a lot of concepts in mathematics that do not have any obvious applications, how can a teacher build that interest in the students?

Dr Gerard: How does Google's Maps work? You start from a point and then are navigated to go one way, then another, take a right, take a left, and you get to your destination. But how does it work? Sure, there is an internal program and code, but there's a lot of mathematics behind it. There is a concept called a path, and Google Maps uses this path to find the shortest route between two input points. In school, we learn graph theory. So, from this particular point, what are the roadmaps available and what are the distances available? Based on that, it calculates the shortest path along with possible alternate routes. Another great example is the game of Minesweeper. The Gauss-Seidel method gives you a solution based on the matrices in the game data. When you convert it into a Gauss-Seidel problem and it is solved, you get values which correspond to the mines. All these are intensive applications, but the prevailing problem is that teachers are not given enough time or incentive to explain all these intriguing concepts.

Aalam: Do you think the syllabus for undergraduate students is sufficient for them to advance in the world of mathematics? Or do you think that students should be taught more abstract concepts with a focus on the basics?



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: AZ Quotes

Dr Gerard: Again, this dilemma stems from the school level itself. If the basics are covered properly at the school level and students have a passion for the subject and an interest in the field, the syllabus needn't be diluted at the undergraduate level. The syllabus that I covered during my BSc was far more advanced as compared to the current level. The many changes in the syllabus at the school level itself have caused all of these problems at the UG level. Basic concepts that were taught to us during our PU days are now being pushed to the UG level, but very little focus is being given to them. Due to that, I have to include them when starting advanced concepts. Then, we have to remove some of the concepts from the original syllabus or modify them so that the students can manage them, and thus, learning advanced concepts is much harder.

DEMYSTIFYING THE SCIENCE LABS

DANIEL THOMAS

Science labs are portrayed quite vividly in popular culture - we have the infamous garage lab in the Back to the Future series where Dr. Brown built a time-travel machine, to the glamorous high-tech labs seen in Iron Man. While these depictions are not accurate, many people assume this is how every science lab is. So, it spurred us to show how a science lab truly is to those who are not familiar. This piece aims to tackle one of the big mysteries around science - What do scientists learn?

Now, each field of science may require a certain set of equipment and resources that may be unique to it. Not all labs will have microscopes or a particle accelerator.

Do note that the labs in Sat Joseph's University are not representative of the labs in other colleges, some would be better or ill-equipped - we seek only to cover the matter that is covered in the science labs.

To brace what the general public thought of the science labs, interviews were conducted with non-science students on their views on the matter:

A student from Economics mapped out a science lab to be filled with microscopes, high-tech equipment, anatomy diagrams, formulas and also sorts of incomprehensible stuff.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Alan Shyju

They imagined the Microbiology lab to have microscopes which would help them deal with microbes, diseases caused by them and how to cure them. Computer Science labs are all about programming and engineering, according to them.

Physics labs, according to a Psychology student, make mini rockets and develop bee drones for military espionage. They believe Chemistry students make natural cosmetics, and perfumes which they test on themselves, rather than some unfortunate lab rat.

A Journalism student assumed labs to be hands-on. They said that their science friends despised their labs. For the biology labs, they generalized it to be cutting plants and dissecting animals to understand the internal structures. They envisioned Mathematics labs to be doing hands-on geometry activities, and the use of mathematical applications, as in the Hidden Figures movie where Katherine Johnson uses simple Math to ensure the US Apollo landing.

The opinions shared above resembled certain aspects of what is done in the respective labs. But to obtain a clearer picture, students majoring in those subjects were asked what they covered: At the undergraduate physics lab, the coolest experiment they do is the Double Slit experiment, which is a proof of the baffling world of quantum mechanics. Physics students work with electric circuits, and instruments to calculate the wavelength, and frequency of light, learn about the properties of light and sound waves, and calculate the speed of light. At the graduate level, they cover advanced labs in electronic systems, optics, material sciences and even astrophysics.

The Chemistry labs have seen various experiments, encompassing understanding the components of salt and identifying which type of organic compound group is given, whether it is an acid, alcohol, etc. They also, personally, have my most dreaded experiment, the titration. A titration is an experiment done to determine the concentration of a substance with a defined amount of another substance. Any slight errors in titrating can cause you to redo it again! To avoid this headache, students learn how to do conductometric and potentiometric titrations. Here, the quantity of ions and potential differences respectively, help determine the concentration of a substance.

Mathematics, contrary to expectations, revolves around the use of basic programming to solve mathematical questions. Just a (not so) simple plugging-in of the formula and voila!

Environmental Science field that integrates areas of life, physical and earth science to study and address problems facing the environment. Students perform labs to understand water pollution, carbon sequestration and estimating of biodiversity. The amount of heavy metals in water, and heavy metals toxicity on microbes relates to water pollution.

A most probable number (MPN) test is done to gauge how many harmful bacteria like E. Coli are in a sample. Students also do field experiments such as measuring carbon capture of trees by just measuring certain dimensions of a tree and inserting it into a simple formula!

A growing field in the sciences called Biotechnology utilises biology-related processes to benefit humanity.

Experiments such as biochemical tests for identifying the type of microorganism are done. Isolation of molecules such as DNA and proteins, and techniques to visualise, and understand differences and interactions of the antibodies and antigens in our immune systems are taught. The intriguing process of how genes are inserted into organisms to produce a desired effect, called genetic engineering, is expounded.

Science labs can be as diverse as the people in our university. Their personalities and quirks make them unique, owing to the instruments,

purposes and the people in the lab. Acknowledging the pop culture portrayals, they do not pay homage to labs but are over-glorified imitations. Despite this, I dare say that science in real life is more magical than on the screen. Given the public's perception of labs, people are partially aware of the basics behind the different labs, barring the glaringly obvious scientific jargon. Some did give reasonable answers, while others were aloof. In conclusion, some aspects of science labs will always be shrouded by mystery. However, if it can be communicated effectively, science could be a common language for all.

PHI ON EARTH

ISHITA JOSHI

The most human of all things is to find patterns where there are, or are not any. And so, we occasionally stumble upon what I like to call the universe's Easter eggs. Little inside jokes that we don't completely understand, but keep observing- The Fibonacci Sequence and The Golden Ratio. To math it down for you, it proposes that for the integer sequence starting with 0 or 1, the sequential number is the sum of the two preceding numbers and the golden ratio. It is an observation that the ratio of any two sequential Fibonacci numbers approximates the value of 1.618, represented by the Greek Letter Phi (ϕ).

Furthering this geometrically, rectangles can be created using consecutive numbers from the sequence, which could be further equally divided into squares and connecting the diagonals of each gives rise to a spiral - The Golden Spiral. Superimposed images of the rectangle and the spiral with everything from the shell of a nautilus to the human ear to phyllotaxis to galaxies, show a convincing and striking similarity. Across the cosmos and this planet, on micro and macroscopic levels, most things, even bizarre ones, have had their connections to that one figure.

Structure and function are not mutually exclusive and only one of those have we figured out so far. To put this into perspective beyond a couple of common examples and to zoom into the vast expanse of its occurrence - the human genome exhibits fractal behaviour, that hints at several puzzling theories across the sciences, but underneath the complexities and the biology jargon of codons and amino acids, the same symmetry has been proven. Planetary rotation ratios in our solar system add up to the Fibonacci numbers.

This pattern is created by the way that the planets orbit the sun, with each successive orbit forming a larger angle than the one before it. The ancestry of bees, over generations, shows the same sequence. Observations of this, in itself are an endless Fibonacci spiral to go down (or up) but the fascination and curiosity exponentially grows. And if you choose to go down that spiral, everything from dog scat to psychedelic visions looks the same.

Ultimately, it begs the question of why something that is so deeply ingrained, so extensively and on all levels of this universe, must have a larger explanation than just arbitration. If there must be a larger picture takeaway of all the developments and discoveries that have been made over the Anthropocene epoch, very fundamentally put, it is that everything is the way it is, for a reason. Biologically speaking, an evolutionary advantage has to be offered, extending this to other fields, maximisation, efficiency and so on, whatever fits, must be attained. With some room left for God, for those who find solace there, could this be a piece of the puzzle of the unifying equation of life?

DOGS, WHATSAPP GROUPS AND A RUN DOWN SCOOTER

ANAMICA VINOD

I was not always a fan of dogs. In fact, my earliest memories are of hiding behind my mother's back every time we came across one at the park. In the midst of those rushed escapades, it would have never crossed my mind that one day, I would be voluntarily taking time off of work, to go feed several furry, loud and clingy imps who trust humans blindly.

"Voice of Animals" was just another name on a stall put up near the entrance of the University for me. I was on a stroll of the campus with a friend, when I saw the littlest puppy I had ever seen, and she was being passed around.



Photo Credit: Anamica Vinod

She seemed to enjoy the attention, with people paying thirty rupees to get to hold her for ten minutes, which had me wondering how most of them would have shooed her away had she come up to them in the streets only wanting affection, for free. I signed up and thought nothing of it, another WhatsApp group amongst a sea of others for trips I never went on, for group assignments that were completed and friendships that were meant to last till at least the third year. That was until the first time I volunteered to go help feed the dogs.

The rundown scooter and the big tub of dal and chicken amused me at first. I remember holding on for dear life as the vehicle sped past the roads of Akkithamanahalli, and kept stopping suddenly whenever a four-tailed, wide eyed dog came into sight. I loved how all of them had names that had meanings, from a beautiful fluffy boy being called Chai to match the colour of his fur, to a strong guy called King who was named so because he always sits on the roof of a small convenience store. There were a few kittens and a puppy who kept fighting over food, even though each of them were given enough.

There were dogs of all sizes, friendly dogs who wanted to sniff your palm and dogs who would only eat off of their designated spot on the road. There were dogs that were loved once and then left to fend for themselves and dogs that were never loved.

It is heartbreaking how unaware people are of adoption when it comes to Indie breeds. Shelters in and around Bangalore are full of helpless dogs like Chai and King who need us. They are mistreated and hurt and disregarded. If you are looking into making your life a whole lot more colourful and happier by bringing a furry friend home, do chose to adopt. While it might seem like the more complicated choice, most of the best things in life do not come easy. And if you are a college student who is also confused about their equation with the dogs, there're always WhatsApp groups, a run down scooter and a tub of dal and chicken.

PATH TO EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE: SHATTERING MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

MUSKAN JHAMBANI AND MALVHEEKA RAJ

WHO defines mental health as a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realise their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community. Mental health was an extremely stigmatised topic until very recently. Seeking out help for your emotional state of mind was considered a sign of weakness and was looked down upon by society. This stigma around therapy and mental health is engraved in the minds of many which leads to feelings of shame or self-doubt, limiting their abilities to become their best selves. You are often told to “tough it out”, implying that you need to handle your emotional struggles.

There have been efforts in recent years to reduce the stigma around mental health and therapy. Several celebrities and public figures have opened up about their struggle with mental health and how therapy has helped them. A lot of workplaces have also taken the initiative of providing professional help for the well-being of their employees. Therapy helps people not only with severe issues such as depression and anxiety but also with dealing with day-to-day stress or improving interpersonal relationships.

I was probably 15 when I realised what anxiety was. I had read about it, but it was never a felt experience until then. Therapy seemed a lot out of my reach but at the same time, no other option seemed to help the tightness I felt in my chest.

Teenagers, young adults and mostly adults, rarely have any information or access to information on why certain things happen in their bodies and minds. The strong relation between the impact of the mind on the body is still a fairly new concept. Psychology is such a broad term that even if I wanted to, I wouldn't get through the explanation without a hundred clashing opinions. Neither will I try. Rather, I want to share my felt experiences of mine and the people around me.

I decided to study Psychology as a major throughout my pre-university as well as a degree. More than academia, observing people, analysing their behaviour and relating them with mine has been enjoyable. As I went through life and saw people around me struggling through it, I made the aspects of psychology come into my life.

Once you dive into it or start informing yourself about the various aspects, you can see how many parts of it exist. People with anxiety, depression, mood disorders etc. can access therapy, emotional freedom techniques, and nervous system regulation, all of which are offered by trained professionals. But even these things provide us with just the information about the surface's appearance.

I dived into intense therapy, trying to figure out what my anxiety was trying to convey. It took months to question and answer why a 'normal' child was supposed to go through such a breathless experience. Everyone's mental health journey can look different and for some, there is no journey at all. The words Psychology, mental health, depression etc. come with a sense of fear to the audience. This fear is often the root cause as to why this need to get help is dismissed, and it almost forces people to forget this need. The thing about the current psychological information provided is that it is so much and so vast.

Often, it confuses people and that confusion makes them continue living a life of ignorance. There are smaller first steps to healing and taking care of oneself which are widely accessible as well.

We must strive to live in such a world where mental health is a priority instead of an afterthought. Emotional intelligence is something we must cherish and nurture from the very moment we are born. Children should be encouraged to express their feelings and taught how to take care of their emotional state. Imagine how a small change would help these children to become better-adjusted, healthier adults. Most adults, in this day and age, go through anxiety and depression which often stems from their childhood. Suppose the chains of stigma around mental health and therapy are destroyed and proper care is provided from an earlier stage. In that case, we will live around well-rounded, resilient, and emotionally stable adults.

EXPLORING THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF ANIME

SOUNAK GHOSH



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Google

Anime, a style of animation that originated in Japan, has transcended cultural boundaries to become a global phenomenon. With its unique artistry and diverse storytelling, anime has left an indelible mark on the world of pop culture

One of the most striking aspects of anime is its stunning visual style. Anime artists often push the boundaries of imagination, creating characters with distinctive features, vibrant

hair colors, and exaggerated expressions. This artistry has not only captivated viewers but has also influenced other forms of media, including Western animation and comic books.

Anime's storytelling is equally compelling. The medium spans across genres, catering to audiences of all ages and tastes. From the epic adventures of "Naruto" to the emotional rollercoaster of "Your Lie in April," anime has a story for everyone. Its ability to tackle complex themes like love, friendship, and existentialism makes it more than just animated entertainment; it's a platform for exploring the human experience.

It also allows people who love the typical genres set by Hollywood to enjoy the art that is anime, with popular ones like action, sports, comedy, mystery and romance all being covered under the aforementioned Japanese art. It also appeals to all age demographics, with a variety ranging from Shinchon and Doraemon for kids to Berserk and Monster for adults. It also ranges in how straightforward it can be, with dialogue that can either sound like it came from an episode of Mickey Mouse or a translation from Inception.

While anime was always a distinctly popular genre, it exploded in popularity worldwide as Studio Ghibli formed a league of its own. Under the leadership of Hayao Miyazaki, Studio Ghibli films frequently took topics that went way beyond the boundaries of Japan, with movies such as "Grave of The Fireflies" and "Spirited Away" managing to take topics of depth such as the loss from war and moving on in life respectively in a manner that no other form of screenplay has managed to.

The emotions that several frames of drawing managed to draw out were unlike anything seen before. Paired with their use of subdued colors, are slower-paced, and tend to be colorful mainly when there is a thunderstorm or a magical burst, in contrast to many popular animes that are flashy, quick-paced, and vividly colored. This is preferred by some individuals since it is easier on the eyes and more comfortable to view.

Moreover, anime has given rise to dedicated fan communities worldwide. Conventions, cosplay, and fan art have become integral parts of anime culture, fostering a sense of belonging among enthusiasts.

Fans engage in passionate discussions, creating a global dialogue around their favorite shows. The anime industry in India flourished when the COVID-19 hit. At that time people were in their homes and started watching anime and it got a lot of exposure.

Anime's influence extends beyond entertainment into fashion, music, and even technology. Japanese fashion trends, J-pop music, and merchandise related to popular anime franchises have found a global audience. Additionally, streaming platforms have made it easier than ever for fans worldwide to access their favorite series. Anime, with the elegance that it possesses, reveals itself to the person who can see through the outer layer of anime just being a cartoon.

THE WEIGHT OF GIRLHOOD AND MARGOT ROBBIE

ANAMICA VINOD

Going shopping with Amma always turns out wrong. We argue over skirts being too short and lines for food being too long. I point at movie posters and tell her that I will be on one someday, and she smirks. She points out women wearing pretty kurtis, and I stare at my phone. She's never understood me, and I've never tried to understand her. She was like a book I tried to read time and again but kept putting down because of how boring it was. She was a mystery; her existence was just being my mom, someone I called crying over boys and asking for money to buy cold coffee and Coca-Cola.

This was until last week, when we wandered into a kids store. A pretty, pink Barbie doll stood proudly on the first shelf, a replica of Margot Robbie, waving at us with her plastic hand. I slowly ran my fingers across the box, tracing her face. She looked beautiful—too beautiful to be real. I turned around, and to my surprise, I saw Amma holding a doll in her hands. A doll that looked like a baby, dressed in a blue dress with frills. Amma held her very tenderly, brushing her curls with a finger and smoothing the wrinkles on her dress. I smiled and asked her if the doll reminded her of me when I was a baby. She smiled back and said it reminded her of her childhood. My smile faded as hers widened. She said the doll looked like the ones she was given to play with, hand-me-downs from her cousins whenever they visited from the States. She never complained about them not being new. She used to steal talcum powder from her mother's powder tin, bathe the dolls, and dress them up. She used to rock them to sleep in a makeshift cradle she made from her mother's shawl.



Photo Credit: Variety Media LLC

I looked around and saw many mothers and their daughters laughing and talking animatedly. Wondered if the mothers were also looking back at their childhood and whether daughters were feeling the same way I was.

In that store, we were girls dressed by our mothers, hair oiled and braided into two with ribbons on the end, with dreams in our eyes. The world hadn't hit us hard yet, our hearts hadn't been broken yet, and the only concerns we had hadn't involved money or men yet. We were all playing dolls, cooking imaginary food in our little plastic pots and pans, having tea parties with our teddy bears, and laughing under our blankets with the lights off. We were curious about growing up. We were curious about romance. We admired our mothers and stole their shoes, pretending to be grown women, not knowing how difficult that would be. As we all continued on in our little imaginary world, the Margot Robbie replica doll looked at us and smiled, her plastic smile hiding what the world does to little girls.

CORE VALUES: "KAATHAL" EXAMINES FAMILY, FORGIVENESS AND FINDING YOURSELF

PRATHIK JAYAPRAKASH



Credits: Indian Express

Beneath the familiar surface of "Kaathal - The Core" lies a groundbreaking cinematic achievement. Director Jeo Baby, renowned for his audacious take on domesticity in "The Great Indian Kitchen," weaves a powerful tale of sexuality and marital bonds, seamlessly challenging societal norms through individual liberation. The screenplay, a meticulous collaboration between Adarsh Sukumaran and Paulson Skaria, drives this film.

Baby transcends the confines of conventional feminist narratives by delving into the poignant story of a woman trapped within a 20-year marriage. She is Omana, masterfully portrayed by Jyothika, whose quiet battle with mental anguish unfolds over two decades. While thematic echoes of MB Padmakumar's "My Life Partner" are present, "Kaathal" boldly carves its path by confronting taboos head-on, its rural backdrop further amplifying the film's raw honesty. This is a call to arms, urging audiences to confront and embrace the complexities of the modern world. Mammootty delivers a nuanced performance as Mathew Devassy, a man grappling with societal expectations in the picturesque village of Theekoi.

He shares his life with Omana and an ailing father, but their seemingly idyllic existence is shattered by Omana's unexpected divorce filing, mere days after his reluctant entry into the local panchayat elections.

The revelation behind Omana's decision ripples through the community, unsettling not just Mathew but also others like Thankan, the driving school owner played with depth by Sudhi Kozhikode. The ensuing legal battle, a captivating exploration of individual rights within marriage, sees Advocate Sajitha (Chinnu Chandini) championing Mathew while lawyer Ameera (Muthumani) stands by Omana's side. "Kaathal" distinguishes itself from typical family court dramas by prioritizing understanding over acrimony. Even in the courtroom, the focus shifts from blame towards understanding the silent, suffocating trauma that has defined Omana's existence. Jyothika's portrayal, further amplified by Jomol's exceptional dubbing, brings heartbreaking authenticity to Omana's journey.

Mammootty, while not venturing outside his comfort zone, delivers a masterclass in subtle emotional expression, elevating key scenes with his trademark versatility. Mathews Pulickan's evocative score seamlessly blends with the narrative, weaving an emotional tapestry that captivates the audience. In its unassuming yet elegant storytelling, "Kaathal" breaks new ground. By confronting the nuances of sexuality and its consequences within a familiar family setting, Jeo Baby fearlessly tackles a critical theme in rural India. This film urges viewers to shed societal constructs and embrace the transformative power of new perspectives.

NAVIGATING THE BIASES OF SCOREBOARDS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS

ADITYA THAKER

Leaning on a ledge beside Malabar's tea stall, I was watching the match when an uncle peered into my phone and commented, "There isn't a need to watch a group of women taxi drivers play and win a cricket match". The comment came as a surprise to me, but I later realised his notion was related to the white colour of the test cricket jersey. I responded with a stiff laugh, saying, "Your chai might burn you after the win, be careful," and withdrew from the conversation.

The Indian women's cricket team went on to clinch the gold medal at the finals of the Asian Games in Hangzhou with an impeccable bowling performance, bringing smiles to the hearts of many fans. However, some continued to neglect their achievements. The problem here can't be attributed to a single factor; it's a result of unequal opportunities in sports, limited exposure, restricted access to television at lower levels, lack of investment in grassroots infrastructure, a shortage of female coaches and role models, and societal perceptions that need to change.

While the men's Asia Cup matches averaged an astonishing 266 million viewers and 350 million in the finals, the viewership for the women's final at the -



AI Generated Image

Asian Games lagged at 40-60 million. These stereotypes and social perceptions of women playing sports have a long history of sidelining them and limiting their chances of success. The treatment of women sportspersons and athletes in India has a troubling record, from pay disparities to inadequate resources for training and development. This reflects the deeply ingrained sexist belief that sports is a man's domain. Notable female athletes such as Sania Mirza, Dipika Pallikal, Christine Mboma, Mithali Raj, Beatrice Masilingi, Dutee Chand, and Serena Williams have had to fight not only to be recognized internationally but also to challenge the patriarchal expectations forced upon them.

This struggle for equality in sports is not a recent phenomenon; it dates back to a time when women were not even allowed to watch the Olympic Games. Even after they were allowed to participate, they were subjected to medical examinations to ensure they weren't men trying to cheat and win.

There are two key aspects to this issue: first, the grassroots-level perceptions of women in sports, and second, the coverage and viewership of women's sports. Numerous instances have shown women being sidelined from playing or even watching sports due to sexist, irrational, and immoral reasons.

Take, for instance, Dutee Chand, an international level track star and an Arjuna Awardee, who was banned from competition due to naturally occurring high testosterone levels. She spent years challenging the ban, which was morally unjust given that she was fighting for the body she was born with. Another example is the Football Association of England banning women from playing from 1921 to 1971, or Brazil banning women from playing football, arguing that it's "against their nature".

As a child, I watched Serena Williams play tennis, dominating the game every time she entered the court. Her powerful serve and competitive backhand were legendary.



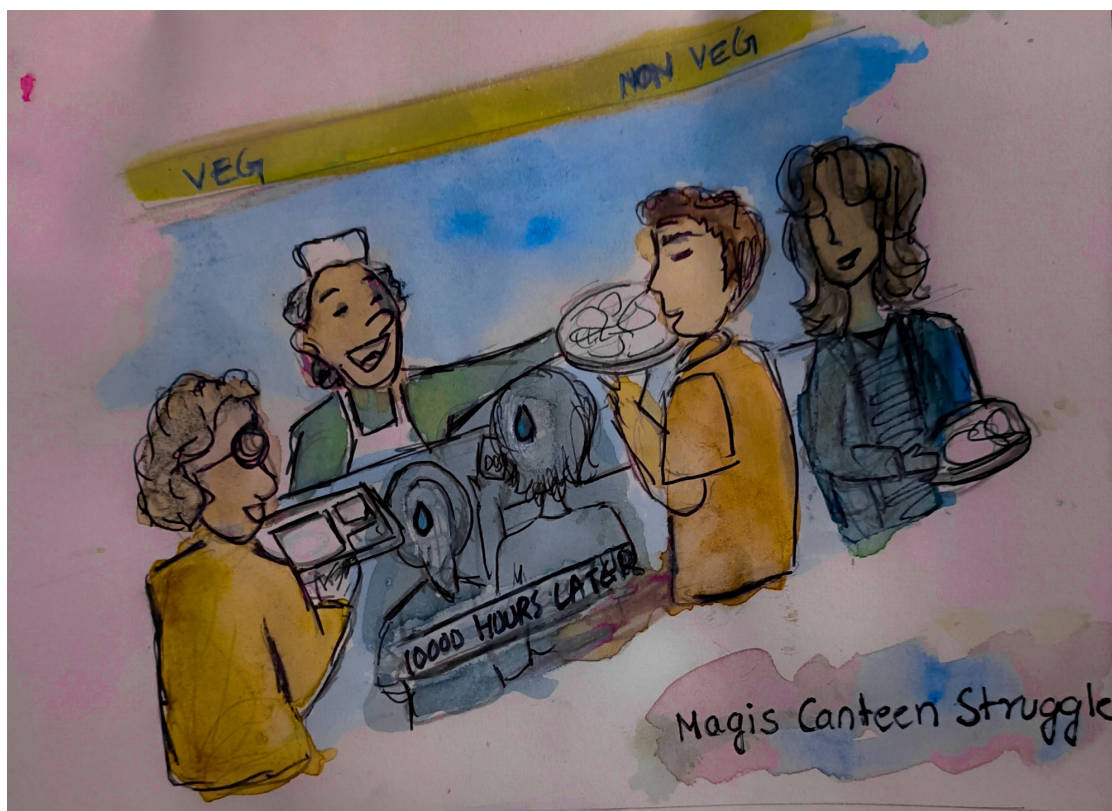
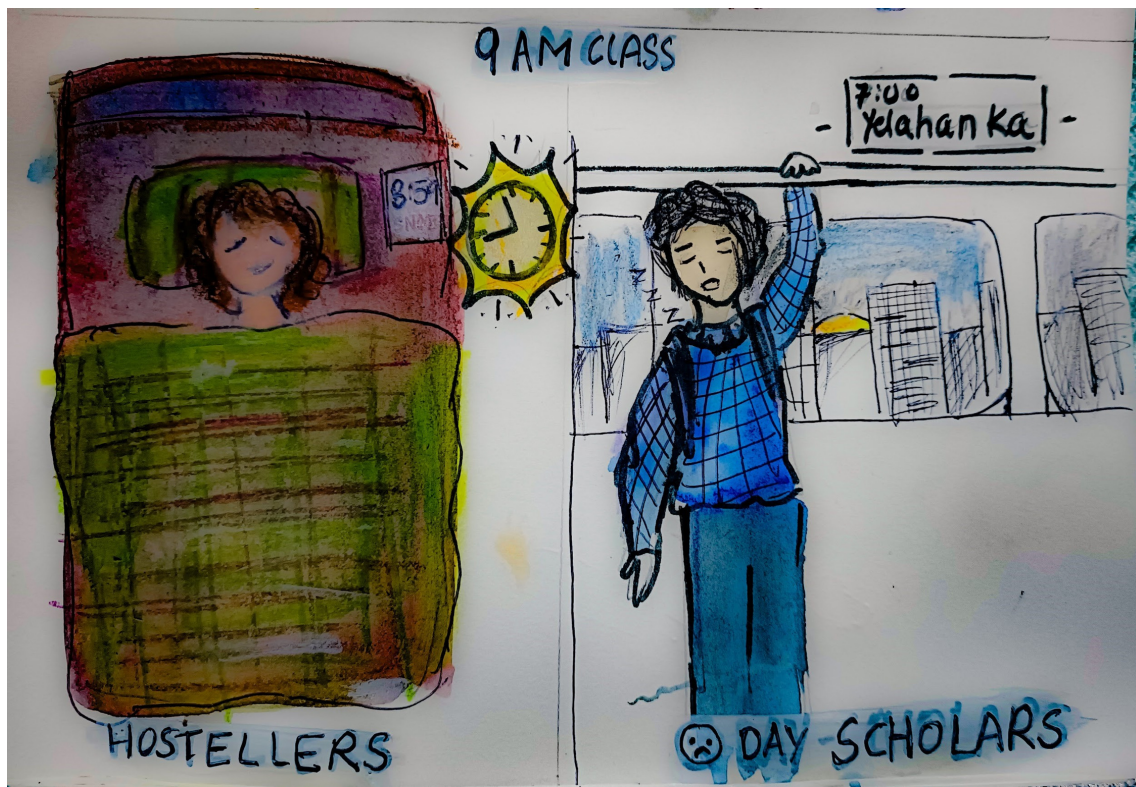
Photo Credit: The New York Times

I vividly remember the night she equalled and later surpassed Steffi Graf's open-era record of 22 majors at Wimbledon while being pregnant. She shouted with joy, "Oh, my God, I won, oh my god." That moment is etched in my memory, iconic and unforgettable. Most people highlight Billie Jean King's victory over Bobby Riggs as a pivotal moment for women's tennis, but that doesn't tell the whole story. We might have forgotten or never realised that 27 years later when Monica Seles was playing through injury in the Australian Open, the stadium was hardly half-filled. Just a week later, when Hingis won the Open, it was a historic moment in women's tennis.

So, why do women's sports continually have to prove themselves and reintroduce their greatness? It's high time for change, one that challenges age-old biases and brings sincere equality to the world of sports.

ART SECTION - LIFE AT JOSEPH'S

SHREYA JAGADEESAN



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