



ACHARYA INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

*Presents*

# MORPHEUS

ANNUAL MAGAZINE  
2024-2025

*FAR FROM HOME*

**BETWEEN.  
BEYOND.  
BECOMING.**

Where obscure notions crystallise into  
lucid insights,  
Welcome to the space between  
moments.

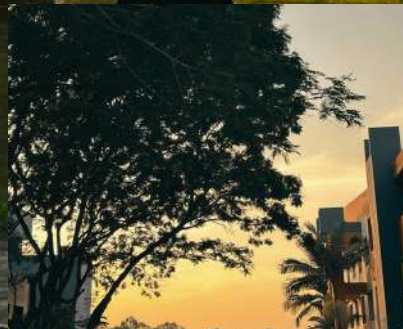


IMAGE COURTESY: AADHIDEV



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



*I am happy that Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies is bringing out the College Magazine for the academic year 2024-25. I am confident that MORPHEUS will effectively showcase the activities that are being organised, conducted, and performed on the campus. It also helps in building up teamwork, which is very much needed to meet the challenges of today's competitive world. Releasing the magazine provides a platform for revealing the merits and academic achievements of the faculty and our students who come from diverse cultures.*

*MORPHEUS would definitely create an impact in the minds of readers by offering greater visibility and dimension to the campus. I hope that this culture of publishing a magazine every academic year will serve as a valuable platform for budding writers, poets, painters and other talented youngsters.*

**B. PREMNATH REDDY**  
**Chairman, Acharya Institutes**

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*It was quite inspiring to watch and witness the potential of our students unfolding across various stages and situations each day. Trying and testing times during the hectic semester system have elicited our students to put forth their best. The management and the staff have been supportive of the various activities that were undertaken by the students in view of helping them reach the pinnacle of perfection and professionalism in whatever task they take on, thus strengthening our journey of achieving excellence. The college magazine exemplifies this journey and exhibits the literary skills of our students. The students have been fostered to be humane professionals in every act and there is no doubt that our outgoing batch will indeed reach greater heights in life. Congratulations to the editorial team for their determined efforts in bringing out this magazine.*

**BASANI SHALINI PRIYADARSHINI REDDY**  
**Executive Director, Acharya Institutes**

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



*Good things remain good only because they are always scarce. I am glad to pen this message for the wonderful magazine as an appreciation of the commendable efforts put forth by the team for its grand beginning. I wish that this trigger establishes to be a flint to fire the enthusiasm and excite their minds for many intrusive innovations amongst the students and inspire passion amongst the members of the faculty as well as the management. I extend my heartfelt greetings to the editorial board and wish you continued excellence in all your endeavors.*

**KRISHNA KABIR REDDY BASANI**  
**Managing Director, Acharya Institutes**



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



*“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit”- Aristotle. The habit of excellence is impossible to achieve without delving deep into the realm. In a world where science and technology overpower human emotions, creative thoughts take us back to the individual passion where spiritual enlightenment becomes the ultimate pursuit.*

*“Morpheus” is dedicated to channelizing the creative aspect of students by exhibiting their imaginative thoughts, unfathomable vision, and freedom of expression. I hope this effort helps to hone the literary skills as well as unique talents in young minds. I wish you all success in this endeavour.*

**Dr. Gurunath Rao Vaidya**  
**Principal**  
**AIGS**

## FROM EDITORS' DESK



**Dr. SUBHALAXMI MOHANTY**  
Associate Professor  
Department of English, AIGS



**SHWEEN TANAZ SALIH**  
BBA, 3rd Year  
AIGS



**Mr. USHA SAI KIRAN R**  
Assitant Professor  
Department of English, AIGS

*Dear All,*

*We are delighted to present to you MORPHEUS 2025, the AIGS Magazine for the academic year 2024-2025. It is our pleasure to welcome our dear students, esteemed faculty members, and honourable management to this special edition. This magazine not only chronicles the key events of the academic year but also showcases a diverse collection of poems, stories, and articles that highlight the creative and critical talents of our students. With this edition, we aim to provide a pleasant and enriching reading experience for all.*

*On behalf of the Editorial Team, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the faculty members of AIGS for their invaluable support in bringing this magazine to life. We owe our sincere thanks to Mr. Shashidhar S, Head of the Department of English (PG), for his expert advice and support. We also owe our special thanks to Dr. Gurunath Rao Vaidya, Principal, AIGS, for imparting his knowledge and support for making this magazine possible. We are immensely thankful to the management for their encouragement, support and the freedom entrusted to us in this endeavour. Finally, we would like to thank our authors, editors, and reviewers, whose contributions fashioned the magazine into the present form. We hope you will find the magazine MORPHEUS 2025 both pleasing and educative.*

*Thank you!*





## VISION

*“Acharya Institutes, Committed to the course of value-based education in all disciplines, envisions itself as a fountainhead of innovative human enterprise, with inspirational initiatives for Academic Excellence”*

## MISSION

*“To take learning beyond the boundaries and to provide exposure to the students that would help them remain focused and gain knowledge in all respects. To help them learn professional ethics, social values and societal commitments so that they become globally acceptable and competent professionals”.*

## OBJECTIVES

- *To develop clarity, precision, and maturity in spoken and written communication.*
- *To focus attention on the importance of cultural and social values in understanding the forces that have shaped civilization and that are shaping the contemporary world.*
- *To develop a flexible intellectual capacity centered around thinking skills and problem-solving abilities that can be applied to a wide range of professional responsibilities where individuals must take action in the face of concrete human problems.*

# CONTENTS

## COLLEGE

---

AIGS Events

08 - 13



## STUDENTS COLUMN

---

Poems	15 - 26
Tiny Tales	27 - 36
Article	37 - 54
Suggestions	55 - 59

## ARTS COLUMN

---

Photography	61 - 63
Painting	64
Digital Art	65
Comic	66 - 72

## FACULTY COLUMN

---

Short Story	74 - 75
Interviews	76 - 82



## GAMES COLUMN

---

Riddle Me This	84
Crossword	85
Crossmath	86
Quiz	87
The Chill Page	88

Special Thanks

89 - 90



# AIGS EVENTS



**8th August 2024, AIGS Orientation:** The Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies (AIGS) organized a student Orientation programme, at the Main Auditorium from 1:00 PM onwards, led by Capt. Sathyananda with support from Principal Dr. Gurunath Rao Vaidya.

The event began with a lighting of the lamp ceremony and welcome dance, followed by an address from Assistant Professor Mr. Sushma and Mr. Harshitha. Speakers, including Mr. Krishna Bassani Reddy, Prof. Gururaj, and Mr. George, introduced the institution, faculty, and academic structure through a detailed presentation.



**9th September 2024, Onam celebration:** The Onam celebration at AIGS began with a launch event on September 9th, 2024, featuring a flash mob and banner unveiling. The main event on September 12th was a vibrant showcase of tradition, teamwork, and culture.

The day started with a Melam music procession, followed by an invocation and lighting of the lamp ceremony. The Megathiruvathira event saw inter-collegiate participation, while cultural performances featured traditional dance forms and songs.

The festivity concluded with Kalashakott, Thambolam, and Shinkarimelam competitions and a Tug of War, followed by prize distribution. The event was a resounding success, fostering unity, cultural pride, and community spirit.





**11th September 2024, NSS Orientation:** The NSS Unit, AIGS hosted its Orientation and Inauguration on September 11th 2024, featuring cultural performances, an NSS introduction, and a registration drive.

The event began with a lighting of the lamp ceremony led by Principal Dr. Gurunath Rao Vaidya and senior volunteers. Alumnus Balagopal Ravi shared his NSS experience, while senior volunteers explained NSS roles and responsibilities. Highlights included mime, dance, and drama performances on social issues, a traffic awareness video, and a short NSS documentary. NSS Officer Mr. George emphasized the commitment required from volunteers. The session ended with registrations, marking a successful start to the NSS year.



**7th November 2024, Kannada Rajyotsava celebration:** The Kannada Rajyotsava celebration at Acharya Institutes began at 10 a.m. with a mesmerizing Yakshagana performance, showcasing Karnataka's rich cultural heritage. Chief guest Srimurali, a renowned Kannada actor, emphasized the importance of preserving traditions while embracing modernity in his inspiring speech.

The event featured a lighting of the lamp ceremony, symbolizing unity and progress, followed by energetic dance and soulful singing performances by students. Traditional and contemporary Kannada songs filled the air, capturing the vibrant spirit of the state. The celebrations concluded on a high note, inspiring students to cherish Karnataka's heritage.







**8th and 11th November 2024, Reyansh Hindi Fest:** The Reyansh Hindi Fest 2024, organized by the Department of Hindi, AIGS took place with great enthusiasm. The inaugural function was graced by Chief Guest Mr. Manish Thakur, Principal Dr. Gurunath Rao Vaidya, and other dignitaries, who emphasized the importance of Hindi language and literature. A key highlight was the release of the fourth edition of the Reyansh Hindi Magazine, showcasing student contributions.

Over 300 students participated in various competitions and cultural events, including poster making, model making, extempore, Hindi dictation, debate, quiz, logo making, and Dumb Charades. Events like Shabd Antakshari and Shabd Mahal tested vocabulary skills, while performances and activities reflected the Cultural heritage of Hindi language. The festival concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, recognizing winners across different events. Reyansh Hindi Fest 2024 successfully celebrated Hindi language, fostering creativity, collaboration, and cultural appreciation among students and faculty.

**12th to 13th November 2024, IT Fiesta:** IT Fiesta 2K24, organized by the Department of Computer Applications (BCA) in collaboration with Spekter AIGS and Tech Minds, was a large-scale inter-collegiate event featuring competitions, workshops, and exhibitions. The Coding & Debugging event tested programming skills, while Capture Con showcased photography and videography talent. The Debate competition engaged students in discussions on IT-related topics, and the Project Exhibition highlighted innovative hardware and software solutions. The IT Quiz challenged participants' knowledge in programming, AI, and cybersecurity. The event successfully fostered skill development, collaboration, and networking, enhancing the college's reputation as a center for technological innovation.







## 22nd November 2024, Inauguration of the Acharya Literary Society (ALS):

The inauguration of the Acharya Literary Society (ALS) on November 22nd, 2024, at Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies was a vibrant event that introduced its vision of fostering a community of readers, writers, and performers. The program featured speeches by faculty members, an overview of ALS's five clubs, and insights from club representatives. The Principal formally inaugurated ALS, while the Dean Academics and HoD launched its social media presence. The event also included a faculty performance and a short film screening. Concluding with a vote of thanks, the inauguration was a great success, marking the beginning of an enriching literary and artistic journey.



**22nd to 27th November 2024, NSS Book Drive:** The NSS Unit of AIGS organized a Book Donation Drive from 22nd to 27th November 2024 to promote education and community service by providing books to government schools. Volunteers created awareness through posters, presentations, and classroom visits, encouraging students to donate unused books. A collection point was set up, and books were sorted systematically, including assignment and workbook contributions from faculty. By the end of the drive, around 1,600 books were collected and donated to Government High School, Chikkabanawara. The initiative concluded with an interactive session, inspiring students to value education. The drive was a great success, making a meaningful impact on the community.







**19th December 2024, Christmas Celebration:** The Christmas celebration at our institution was a joyous event filled with music, dance, and festive cheer. It began with a cake-cutting ceremony led by the Principal, followed by a soulful solo performance and an impressive instrumental recital. A lively dance performance and a humorous yet meaningful skit highlighted the spirit of kindness and giving. Faculty members added warmth by singing carol, and the beautifully decorated venue enhanced the festive atmosphere. The event fostered togetherness and joy, leaving everyone with cherished memories and anticipation for next year's celebration.

**29th January 2025, Suggi Celebration:** The Suggi Sambhrama celebration held on 29th January 2025 at Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies (AIGS) was a vibrant and unifying cultural event. It began with a traditional pooja attended by dignitaries, followed by a colorful procession through campus featuring traditional attire, music, and dance. The celebration continued with impressive student performances blending classical and modern styles, and concluded with the high-energy Tamte drum procession. The event beautifully reflected AIGS's commitment to cultural heritage and community spirit.





IN CHERISHED MEMORY OF  
**Ms. LAKSHMI MITHRA**

10/04/2004 – 21/03/2025



**Ms. Lakshmi Mithra**

Student of BBA Aviation Department, AIGS

*Gone too soon, but never forgotten. Your spirit lives on in the laughter, the memories, and the love you left behind.*

**WHAT HER FRIENDS REMEMBER MOST**



“She's always smiling”

“She wanted to make a page on Insta and make content of her class and memories”

“She was into modelling and all. She used to go for those. She was very passionate and creative.”

“She was like a sister to us.”

“When I met her first, she was different from other girls actually. She wasn't like, you know, shy or very lenient. She was always play fighting with me. She was very friendly, soft hearted and true of a girl.”

“She had great fashion sense and she maintained her standards as well.”

“She was an adventurous person. When we went to the hill before, she was sitting there and you know, mesmerized with the view. Like she had a lot in her than what she portrayed.”

“My favourite memory of her is her chasing me around, play fighting with me and running around. And of her riding the Scooty with me behind her, we were singing our hearts off.”



*Forever in Our Hearts*



POEMS | STORIES | ARTICLES | SUGGESTIONS

# STUDENTS' COLUMN

THE STUDENTS' COLUMN IS A VIBRANT PLATFORM FOR STUDENTS TO SHOWCASE THEIR CREATIVITY, OPINIONS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

## FAR FROM HOME

THE THEME FAR FROM HOME CAPTURES THE EMOTIONS OF NOSTALGIA, ADVENTURE, AND SELF-DISCOVERY EXPERIENCED WHEN AWAY FROM FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS.



## *The One Who Ran Away*

Walking down the lane, my eyes land  
On a beautiful house - the perfect home.  
A house hemmed by a rose garden.  
I fail to see the child inside,  
As she is pushed through the cracks of the  
feeble house;  
The cracks of what should be her home.  
She dies to escape from her loving home -  
The gate is wide open, but filled with thorns.  
Yet, she runs till she's out of breath,  
Thorns pricking her skin at every step  
Her blood paints the roses red.  
She stands in my place, watching her home,  
Admiring the beauty of what she left behind,  
As the one who ran away is me.



Writtika Goswami  
*BA PJE, VI SEM*

## *My Mother*

My Mother is my first love  
And she treats me like a dove.  
She is the first beauty I have ever seen  
And She stands by my side like a queen.  
Even if I put her patience in test,  
She always treats me the way best.  
She scolds me for being bad  
But she never let me be sad.  
She still holds the top place in my heart.  
Even if she is miles apart.  
Her love is pure, strong and divine.  
Yes, She is a blessing from god and forever  
mine.



Theja Thangamaargam S G  
*BCA, II SEM*



# *Home Beyond Walls*

Those four walls  
Those three souls,  
That's my home

The comforting warm embrace  
on cold days,  
That's my home

The people who ache for my  
pain more than myself,  
That's my home

The reason I am who I am,  
That's my home  
Miles away, yet close to heart,  
That's my home

No place could be far from home  
Cause home is all the love, memories  
and moments I cherish

Forever within me  
Never far from me.



Juni Byusat  
*BA PJE, IV SEM*

Manna Ann  
*BA PCE, IV SEM*



## *Echoes of Home*

In distant land, I roam free  
A stranger's face in a crowd's sea  
Memories of home, they linger on  
Far from home, I am so done.

The stars shine at night, bright and clean  
Memories of home, and those dear  
I'll hold on to memories of the past  
Until I'm home again, at last.

# *The Roads That Remember*

Beneath strange skies, I walk alone  
I walk the paths, and still I grieve.  
The streets are strange, the faces cold,  
Yet memories of home, they softly unfold.

The sky above, a muted gray,  
No dawn to chase the night away.  
The wind that once was warm and kind  
Now whispers tales I cannot find.

I long to hear the river's song,  
To feel the earth where I belong,  
To touch the leaves that softly sway,  
And find the peace I left that day.

The fire's warmth, the hearth's embrace,  
The laughter that would fill the space,  
Now echoes in the corners deep,  
A melody that stirs my sleep.

The stars above are distant, bright,  
A reminder of a vanished light.  
The nights are long, the days are gray,  
And home feels farther every day.

Yet still, within my chest there stays,  
A pulse, a call, a flame that sways.  
Though far I roam, and lost I may be,  
Home will live within me.

For though the world may twist and bend,  
The love of home will never end.  
And though I wander, far and wide,  
My heart remains, where it resides.



Bukhosi Khanyile Ndlovu  
*BCA, II SEM*





## *Kindred Spirits in Distant Streets*

Far from home, I wander free  
A northeast girl in strange streets of Bangalore,  
But in the crowd I find a face,  
A kindred spirit in a distant place.

The world may be vast and big  
But connections knows no divide  
In every stranger, I find a face  
I long for home and the familiar face

Until the journey's end.

Juliet Likhum  
*BA PJE, IV SEM*



## *The Soul's Compass*

Far from home, where wild winds sigh,  
Beneath a vast and endless sky.  
The stars above feel cold and strange,  
Their silver glow just out of range.

Yet in my heart, a fire burns bright,  
A whispered hope in darkest night.  
For though I roam these lands unknown,  
My soul still knows where it has grown.



Happy Devri  
*BA PJE, IV SEM*



## *The Window*

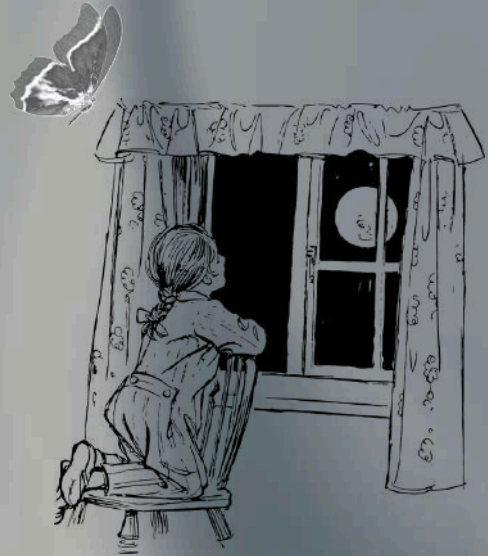
Shween Tanaz  
BBA, VI SEM

I sometimes sit in a dark corner,  
With a window on the side,  
And I feel that at times  
I watch the world pass by me,  
Just staring at my life pass by me.

As I watch all the lost experiences like a  
movie,  
All the versions I could've been float away,  
As I lose my opportunities and, slowly,  
myself,  
I finally see that what I've really lost was time  
—

Something that cannot be reversed or  
changed.  
I realize, within a deeper self, that I get no  
do-over.  
Life passed by me.  
I let it pass by me.

And now I sit still in this dark corner,  
Mourning silently in melancholy no other  
knows,  
For a life I did not know.



## *Seastorm*

And I sat there waiting with the wind  
Hoping time will wash away all my regrets,

Yearning for the day I find peace in my mind  
I sit still under the tears the sky sheds,

Perhaps there was never a time that was kind  
As I wither into ashes that now lay on the  
seabed.



# Home

Home! a place I long to be,  
A city as far as it could be.

A house with four walls and a roof  
and little paws with a woof.

A life I had always dreamt of  
wasn't actually something I could think of.

A new city, a new house, and new responsibility  
strikes as I step out of my home  
and enter a new house of vulnerability.

A new kitchen to cook for me  
Yet no food cooked for me.

A wagging tail with dancing paws  
welcoming me to the real world of yours.

A house with four walls and eyes with tears,  
a city of duty and liability with no one to cheer.

A house where me and my dog stay  
far from our home, where we long to stay.



Atrayee  
BA PJE, IV SEM

# *In the Vastness of Distance*

Seeing airplanes buzzing around,  
Around to collect us its pollen,  
Many thoughts hammered my mind  
Leaving all the memories, friends and family,  
This all was wiped away by the echoing sound from the engines  
As they echoed through my drums, my heart skipped the overall thoughts

Arriving in the city of lights,  
The flickering of the streetlights,  
Like fireflies in the dark grey night,  
Beautified by the arc moon,  
This, illuminate pathways that vanish from my two global vision viewers  
In the vastness of distance I strive to feel whole

Through the mountains of sighs and those valleys of silence,  
Having these mind catching scents,  
I chase distant sunsets, where that amazing horizon lies,  
With each passing moment, I carry the flame,  
Of the dreams intertwined with a dance-skipping like heart that knows the pain  
Yet I press on through the gloom, dark and grey,  
For the love I have been given will light up my path,

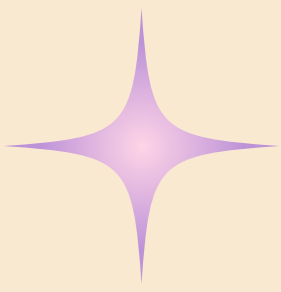
So here to the journey the road yet unknown,  
In the quiet of the night, beneath the starry dome,  
Fields of golden memories dance in my mind,  
Each moment a treasure, the sweetest of kind,  
But miles stretch like shadows a chasm so wide,  
In the tapestry of life, I will find where I belong,  
Yet the warmth of familiar faces, I cannot bear,

Each step feels heavier, a weight on my soul,  
In the vastness of distance, I strive to feel whole.

Owen Kangwende  
*BCA, II SEM*







# *The Heart That Knows Home*



In lands unknown, you stand so brave, A  
heart that longs, yet seeks to save. The miles  
between, they stretch so wide, But still, your  
dreams you cannot hide.

The scent of home may fade away, Yet  
memories in your heart will stay. Though  
faces change and skies are new, The love you  
carry is always true.

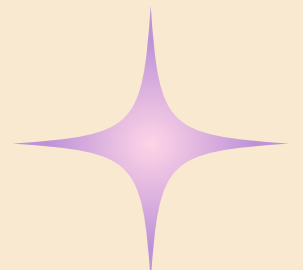
Each step you take, though far apart, Is a  
journey that will shape your heart. In  
classrooms, streets, and quiet nights, You'll  
find your path, your inner light.

And though the distance feels so long, Your  
spirit is where you belong.  
For home is not just place or land, But the  
courage you hold in your hand.

So, rise, dear soul, and spread your wings,  
The world is yours, with endless rings.  
And though you're far, you're never alone  
For the heart that loves will always be home.



Tatiana T Muringai  
*BCA, II SEM*





Roshani Goyal  
*BBA, II SEM*



## *Miles To Go*

I may be far, the miles long,  
And I know I need to be strong.  
With the heavy heart, I said good-bye,  
To chase my dreams beneath this sky.

In this new place, no one is there by my side,  
But in my heart, my family still resides.  
The family, the food, the love everything is  
missing,  
But all I have is their blessing.

I left my home and took this step,  
Towards the dreams I promised to rep.  
No matter where I will be in future,  
I will go back to my home and that's my  
dreamt adventure.



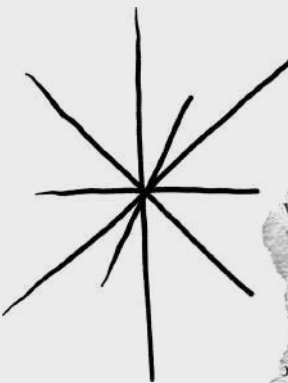
## *Reminiscence*

Far from Home

The morning rose, more beautiful than any,  
Yet only darkness pleased me.  
I was alone but never lonely,  
As turning hands wove light and dark into  
one.

The color of life changed into something  
new,  
Without folded clothes, the self-off fan,  
Meals once warm, and the golden light  
I longed for them, and they longed for me  
too.

Let me chase the blaze of the sun,  
Let me break a few stars,  
Let me bring it all to her  
When home comes near again.



Abin Noone  
*BCA, II SEM*



## *Nature's Child*

These woods are lovely dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep.

Oh how I wish to stay,  
Riding till the sun sets for the day.  
With an open heart and a full soul,  
I travel so I can feel whole.

Trees and leaves and ocean and sand,  
I lay on the beach holding mother earth's  
hand.

All I want is to flee and be wild,  
As I realise I'm just a nature's child.

Shween Tanaz Salih  
*BBA, VI SEM*



Sonam sherpa  
*BCA, II SEM*



## *Between Crowds and Memories*

Sitting amidst the crowd which I always desired.  
After all that I have come this far, which I always  
desired

But you know the void keeps widening every  
passing moment  
The place I left that I cherished from my heart,  
The nostalgia hit hard when it rains, the cold  
wind breeze, I wish could take me back

Now I'm here like a homeless child  
Amidst the crowd which I always desired  
The city lights are beautiful at night  
But nothing compares to the snowy mountain  
cap that I admire  
Sitting amidst the crowd which I always desired  
But now sleeping in my mother's lap is what I  
desire .

## *I am Tired...*



I am tired of sitting straight,  
I am tired of keeping a pleasant face.

I am tired of being coy,  
I am tired of being someone's puppet or toy.

I am tired of being ignored,  
I am tired of being a doll to be adored.  
I am tired of having to shout to be simply heard,  
I am tired of fearing I will otherwise be unheard.

I am tired of the constant pain,  
I am tired of the blood and stain.  
I am tired of having to do twice as more,  
I am tired of them thinking I am an island yet to be explored.

I am tired of the constant fight,  
I am tired of them ignoring my plight.  
I am tired of being overlooked every time,  
I am tired of eyes that leave me covered in grime.

I am tired of being a dress-up doll,  
I am tired of being looked at like I would break if I fall.  
I am tired of all the times I have been told no,  
I am tired of wishing I had been born as someone's bro.

And yet, as I bleed and suffer,  
As my voice turn hoarse and rougher,  
As I hope against hope for everything to be fine,  
I find myself having to pay a price for everything that is mine.

Kavyashree Pratheep  
BA PCS, II SEM



## *A look at Nature*

In the morning crowed the hen,  
And the pleasant breeze blew again,  
The beautiful sun has risen again  
today,  
Wishing everyone a really good day.

The birds sing in their melodious voice,  
And during the rain, the peacocks  
maintain their poise.  
The butterflies flutter their pretty  
wings,  
And an echo of nature's love through  
the air rings.

On the other hand, there is not much  
time,  
As towards riches everyone seeks to  
climb.  
A few fights here and there,  
As the actions of peace becomes rare.

A race thus life has become,  
As with money people try to stick like  
gum.  
Little do they know about the outside  
world,  
Whose beauty towards them has been  
unfurled.

Nature keeps showing them her  
wonders,  
Which without thinking they plunder.  
A look at her will be more than  
enough,  
To smoothen this life which is really  
very rough.



Kavyashree Pratheep  
BA PCS, II SEM



# SNOW WHITE AND TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES



What was the first book you ever received or maybe the first story you ever heard? Surely, it was a fairytale. Now, how many of you had ever wanted to become a beautiful princess with a beautiful castle and a handsome prince who would be your true love? Ah! What a perfectly combined story with a temptingly happy ending! But hey! Quit dreaming. You've got a test to learn for tomorrow or otherwise job interviews to attend. But then, a question remains. Why, among all the great things you could achieve did you choose to become a princess? And please! Don't tell me about how you spent one-quarter of your childhood reading and re-reading fairytales with beautiful princesses. Was beauty what you were seeking? Because I don't find anything inspiring about a girl who spent half her life being a 'slave' for a step-sisters and step-mother, and neither about a girl who ran away from her evil step-mother to save herself, but ended up dying eating a poisoned 'apple' after escaping a hunter who literally wanted her heart and certainly nothing at all about a girl who spent her lifetime doing literally nothing but 'sleeping'. Didn't quite get it? Cinderella was a slave, Snow White died eating an apple though she came out alive and Arora did nothing but earned herself a name through her deeds – Sleeping Beauty! So these were the people you looked up to?

If we put the stories from Grimm's Fairy Tales under a microscope, a disturbing pattern emerges. Most stories do feature women as the central protagonist. But on careful inspection we can see that she is depicted as either as a damsel in distress, the cursed beauty or the silent woman. Men, on the other hand, are shown as brave and clever heroes who are generously rewarded for going on daring adventures. A feminist reading of these fairy tales exposes how they reinforce gender roles and behavior. Girls are often sewing, gathering flowers, or looking at themselves in a mirror. The boys are always doing manly things like chopping wood or going on adventures.

Let's take a careful look at the story of the princess with skin white as snow, and her seven little friends:

A few lines into the story written by the Grimm Brother's, Snow White's mother is seen expressing her desire on what sort of a child she wants to give birth to. She desired to have a child, white as snow, red as blood, and black as ebony. And the world knows it, you and me included that her wish came true. It is seen vividly that all Snow White's mother wanted was a beautiful child. Not a boy, not a girl wielding a sword, but a perfect beauty, fit to win the heart of all princes. This is the first and foremost mistake in most, fairy tales and even stories written now-a-days. Why does the girl have to be pretty? This does not help the insecure minds of young girls who keep doubting their capabilities and beauty. It gives them a feeling that there is someone prettier than them and that they're never going to be loved. I mean, come on! Hera threw Hephaestus off Mount Olympus (it is a really tall place – in case you haven't read Percy Jackson!) because he wasn't perfect (he had a lame foot)!



After Snow White's birth and her mother's death, her step-mother disliked her. Why? Not because she did not get enough GPA to get into Harvard. But because she was prettier than her! I guess there was no plastic surgeons back then. Here, not only the value of being pretty is expressed. The morality of all step-mothers are being tested. The antagonist in Cinderella's story too was a step-mother. Why would anyone portray one woman as a beautiful but timid and weak protagonist, while another as a less pretty, but powerful and strong antagonist? Even though during that time women were considered weak and gullible, it doesn't make any sense to depict another person of the same gender in a completely contrasting manner.

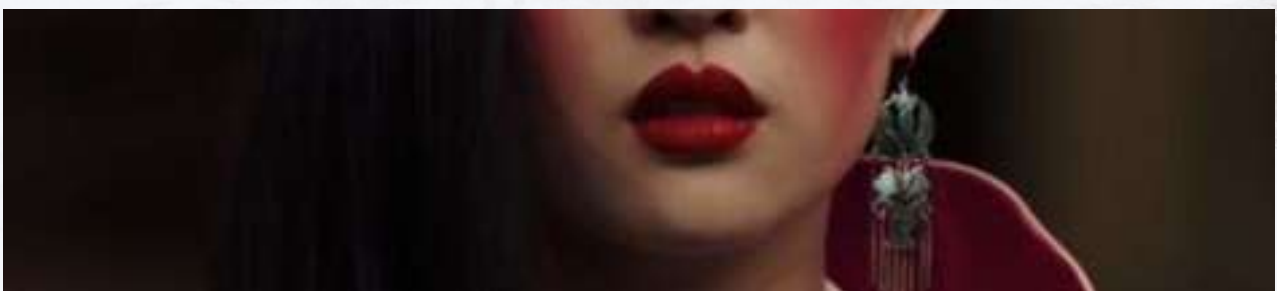
When the stepmother sends Snow White into the forest to have her killed, she ends up at a small cabin inhabited by dwarfs. Instead of simply taking the child in, the dwarfs tell her she can stay with them if she will cook, sew, wash their clothes and keep the place tidy for them. This reinforces the norm that women are supposed to do all the chores in the house. As the story goes on, Snow White is seen continually falling for the evil stepmother's tricks. The dwarfs manage to save her twice and advise her to be on her guard. Thus, a girl is presented as gullible and helpless while men are shown as protectors and the voice of reason.

And finally, Snow White dies. How? Eating an apple! Come on! She evaded her evil step-mother, got past all the guards in

a royal palace, convinced a hunter to not carve her heart out and even survived in the wilderness with seven dwarfs. SHE CANNOT DIE SIMPLY BY EATING AN APPLE! (consider that me shouting in anger and surprise). She is not so gullible to die such a 'gruesome' death! This once again shows that women are gullible to accept anything from strangers and are weak to protect themselves. But are they really?

Times are changing. Stories no more involve pretty princesses and tea-parties. In fact, fantasies like Harry Potter and Shadowhunters depict women as brave and intelligent fighters. Even Disney princesses like Moana and Mulan are seen less in royal gown and more beating the living lights out of villains. It is not wrong to be beautiful. But it isn't right to wait for your prince charming or fairy godmother to come to your rescue either. When you feel you could use a little prince or a magical grandma, remember that the way you look doesn't matter as long as you don't care! Because, you're not born to just have suitors lined up to seek your hand in marriage or to spend your life washing dishes and clothes. You're born to overcome the stereotypes which were given birth even before you were born and is still pressuring you to bow down to men and the seemingly powerful. So start with realizing, that your worth is much more than a princess, a castle or a true love.

Kavyashree Pratheep  
*BA PCS, II SEM*







# Not All Princesses Wear Tiaras



Remember the stories you read as a kid? You know, the ones that sparked your imagination and taught you about neverland? Or how about the ones where a beautiful maiden finds her one true love?

Stories are a time-honored tradition and story arcs like this have been portrayed time after time. Speaking of back in the day, that's a great song by Cindy Lauper! Getting back to story arcs, it's no secret that children are shaped early on through these timeless motifs. And to make things better, they are unanimously embedded with iconic characters. Cinderella, Sleeping beauty, Pocahontas and the Little Mermaid have all had their day in the sun. They deserve the spotlight and rightfully so.

However, there's been a recent string of stories that really gets this writer going! Let me explain.

Children love their imagination and while this holds true, there's a lack of practicality that doesn't shine through. Wherever you live in the world, it's always the little things that matter the world to us all. And children are no different.

The lack of practicality is not limited to the ancient fairytales. Fantasies that are still being written also involves a massive amount of illogical content. Wizards and Witches, dragons and demons, evil robots and oblivion and many more of these. So does that mean fairytales are just meaningless stories meant only for a subtle young mind?

A quick look at any fairytale tells us that all you need to have a happy life is to find your true love. But is it what the stories are really about? On detailed inspection of the story, you'll find that it gives us the lesson of forgiveness and kindness. The way, Cinderella tolerated her stepsisters and stepmother and despite of their cruelty towards her, forgiven them and invited them to live with her, teaches us that forgiveness is the greatest virtue of all.

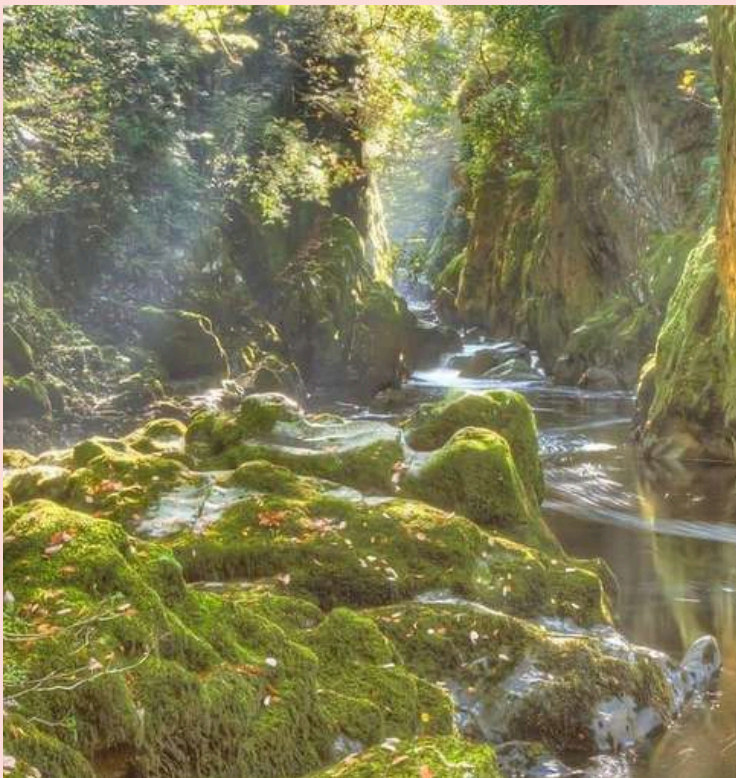
Similarly, Sleeping Beauty doesn't tell us that only true love can wake you up (an alarm clock can do the job well enough). Sleeping Beauty speaks of perseverance and patience. It teaches us that no matter how long it takes, good will always triumph over evil.



Beauty and the Beast teaches us that appearance does not matter. Bella obviously did not see the handsome prince, just a hideous beast. What she valued was his true nature. She overlooked the fact that the beast could tear her into pieces and focused on his kindness, compassion and considerate nature.

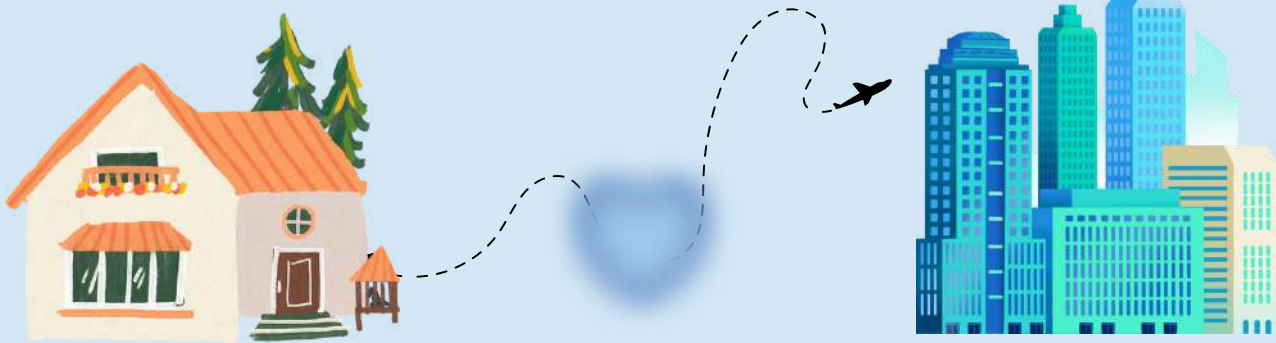
In short, the problem does not lie in the way stories are written, but rather in the way they are understood. No book is meant for a certain age group. A book meant for a 3-year-old can be read by a 20-year-old. But if you fail to realize that the book is not only what it is on the surface, then it is time you start thinking differently.

A princess isn't a young maiden with a pretty face, a tiara and a 100 meter long gown. It is time we change the minds of young ones and let them drown in deception of this superficial thinking. They need to be taught what the stories actually mean. They need to be taught that a princess is not the best position one can get to. They need to be taught that not all princesses need tiaras. All they need is a good heart and a clear conscience to be the best.



*Kavyashree Pradeep  
BA, II SEM*

# Far from Home, Close to Heart



Far from home, yes, a young, ambitious and determined girl stepped out far from her home to pursue her graduation. All she must leave is her bonding, love and comfortability that she felt in her home. From the moment she stepped into the hostel, she was solely confined to her own list of tasks. Till reaching this beautiful city, she was pampered and bound with the love and affection that her father, mother and her granny showed towards her. Some tell her that to succeed, she must sacrifice, as only because you leave a thing, and you get a new thing on the other hand. So, what, must she give up her loved ones to get solitarily confined in the nomenclature of getting succeeded? She undergoes the entire week with chaos, as she didn't get to meet her mother, who was always concerned about this little girl's mental and physical health. On the other end, she got felt to be lonely as she missed her father's kisses. Every weekend she is happily ready to get the proctor formalities done and submit the leave application to the hostel warden and get it approved. Later comes her two days of upmost happiness. Now this little girl will be turning out to be a precious princess, no matter how long the traffic signals take, all she has to do is to reach her home safely and to kiss her father, in front of everyone, no matter where the place is. She then visits her mother, who would have fallen asleep late at night. This little girl admires each and everything for hours and hours. Those two days take away all her solitary confinement and soothes her, whereas she again feels that she had reached her own world of love and affection. These two days complete her entire week and live to the fullest, where the entire street comes to know that the girl had come to her home. Her neighbours understood that this little girl had reached only by her giggling and laughing from her voice. These two days completely transforms her, and she waited for this transformation from Monday to Friday. After those two days, she waits for the cycle again. She must again leave her home and start to pack her bags. Earlier there were few in her hometown to clear up the tears. All she was left out with hope that she will meet with them again.

Theja Thangamaargam S G  
*BCA, II SEM*





# The Road Back Home



Aman was a young boy from a small village. He had never been outside his hometown, where he played in the fields and helped his father in the shop. But one day, he got a letter—he had been accepted into a big school in the city.

His mother packed his bag with care, and his father gave him some money for the journey. “Be brave, my son,” his father said. “Learn well, and never forget where you come from.” When Aman reached the city, everything felt different. The roads were crowded, the buildings were tall, and people walked fast. He missed the quiet of his village, the smell of fresh earth, and the sound of birds in the morning.

At school, Aman struggled at first. The lessons were hard, and he found it difficult to make friends. He often sat alone, thinking of home. But slowly, he started to adjust. He studied hard, asked questions, and one day, he even made a friend named Rohan. Rohan showed him the city, introduced him to new foods, and helped him with his studies. Aman started feeling less lonely. He realized that even though he was far from home, he was learning and growing.

One day, after many months, Aman returned to his village for the holidays. His parents hugged him tightly. He told them about everything he had learned, and they smiled with pride. Aman knew he would go back to the city again, but he also knew that no matter where he goes, home would always be in his heart.

Tom Verma  
*BA - PJE, IV SEM*



# Chai Stall

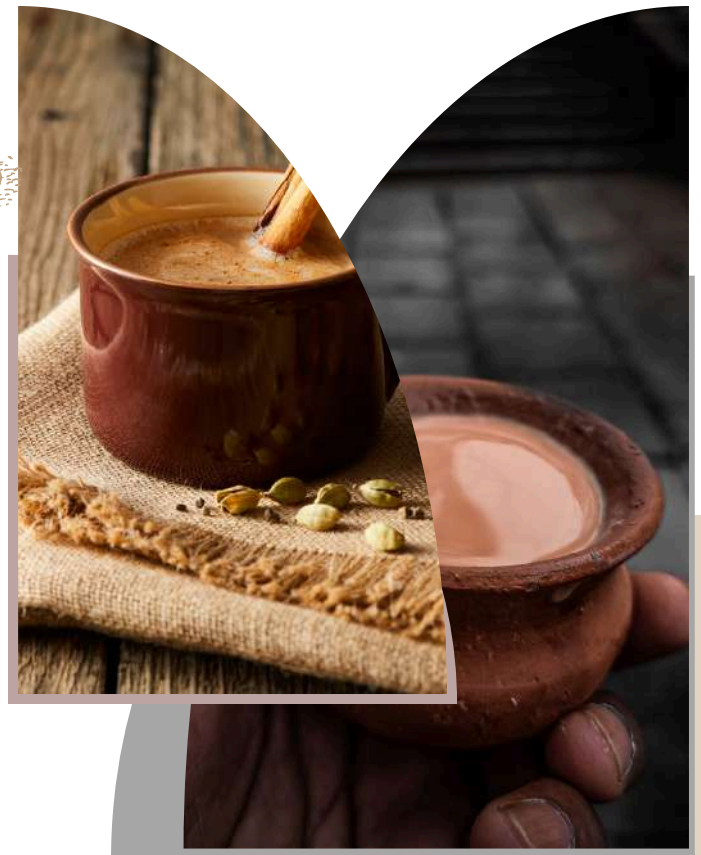
Mythri Roy

*BA - PJE, IV SEM*



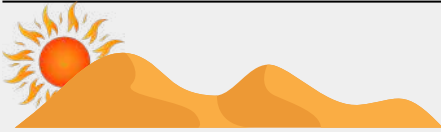
Yashwanth watched through the train window as his hometown disappeared into the distance. Leaving Tamil Nadu for Bangalore felt like stepping into another world. One filled with endless noise, towering buildings, unfamiliar faces. The moment he arrived, the hustle and bustle of the city swallowed him whole, making him feel lost in the sea of strangers. He had come chasing dreams, but the loneliness weighed on him, making him long for his home, the smell of the sea, his mother's cooking, and the quiet comfort of the familiar faces and streets.

Days passed, and the city remained distant, cold. His tiny rented room felt nothing like home. One evening, as he walked past a tea stall, the familiar aroma of chai pulled him in. The old stall owner struck up a conversation, and to Yashwanth's surprise, he was from a village near Tamil Nadu. In that moment, amidst the chaos, he felt a little less alone. Maybe, he could find a piece of home here too.





# BENEATH THE BURNING SUN



Ahwani. S  
*BA - CJE, IV SEM*



He was standing at the edge of the desert, his boots were sinking into the sand. The sun beat down on him like a drum, draining the life from his body.

As a captain in the army, he had grown to the harsh condition of war and had a lot of tension in his life. But nothing had prepared him for the ache of being far from home.

It had been years since he had seen his family, his two sweet babies. He always missed his loving wife, playing with his children. He deeply missed their loud laughter, jokes and fights with silence. He was not at all ready to miss all of these.

He always thinks about his wife Sruthi who is always with him and calms him when the situation is bad. She stood as a strong pillar for him.



He thinks of his children who come running as if they have found a diamond, saying, “Daddy is home”.

But now he is stuck in the war which seems has no end. As he got the information that enemies are here, he got prepared and was finally confident.

But his heart remained with the memories of people he loved because he was far from home.



# FINDING HOME IN NEW PLACES



Phiwanda Myllienngap  
*BA - CJE, IV SEM*

Being far away from home means being away from our loved ones, our comfort zone, our home. Being far from home reminds me of a story of a girl named Jenny who loves meeting new people and helping others.

One day when she was sitting alone Jenny had an idea of exploring the world and to get a job outside of her hometown.

After a few months, she moved out of her hometown and went to a place quite far from her home.

When she reached the new place, Jenny was in awe with the new place, their culture and traditions. Their language and their way of doing things was so different from the one she used to see.

It took Jenny a couple of weeks and months to adapt to the new place. But she never gave up, instead she tried to learn their language, tried their food and their way of doing things.

Though at times she missed her family, hometown and friends, meeting new people and making new friends helped her to lessen her feeling of being homesick.





# WHERE THE HEART WAITS

Projukta  
*BCA, II SEM*

Home, is it a place or a feeling? The moment we hear the word home a sense of comfort washes over us. The familiar walls and the photos hanging on them, the laughter of family echoing through them, the scent of a favourite person, all combine to form a home. With the course of life, we move away, away from home to a different city chasing our dreams. But with time we realise distance is not measured by miles instead measured by the moments missed.

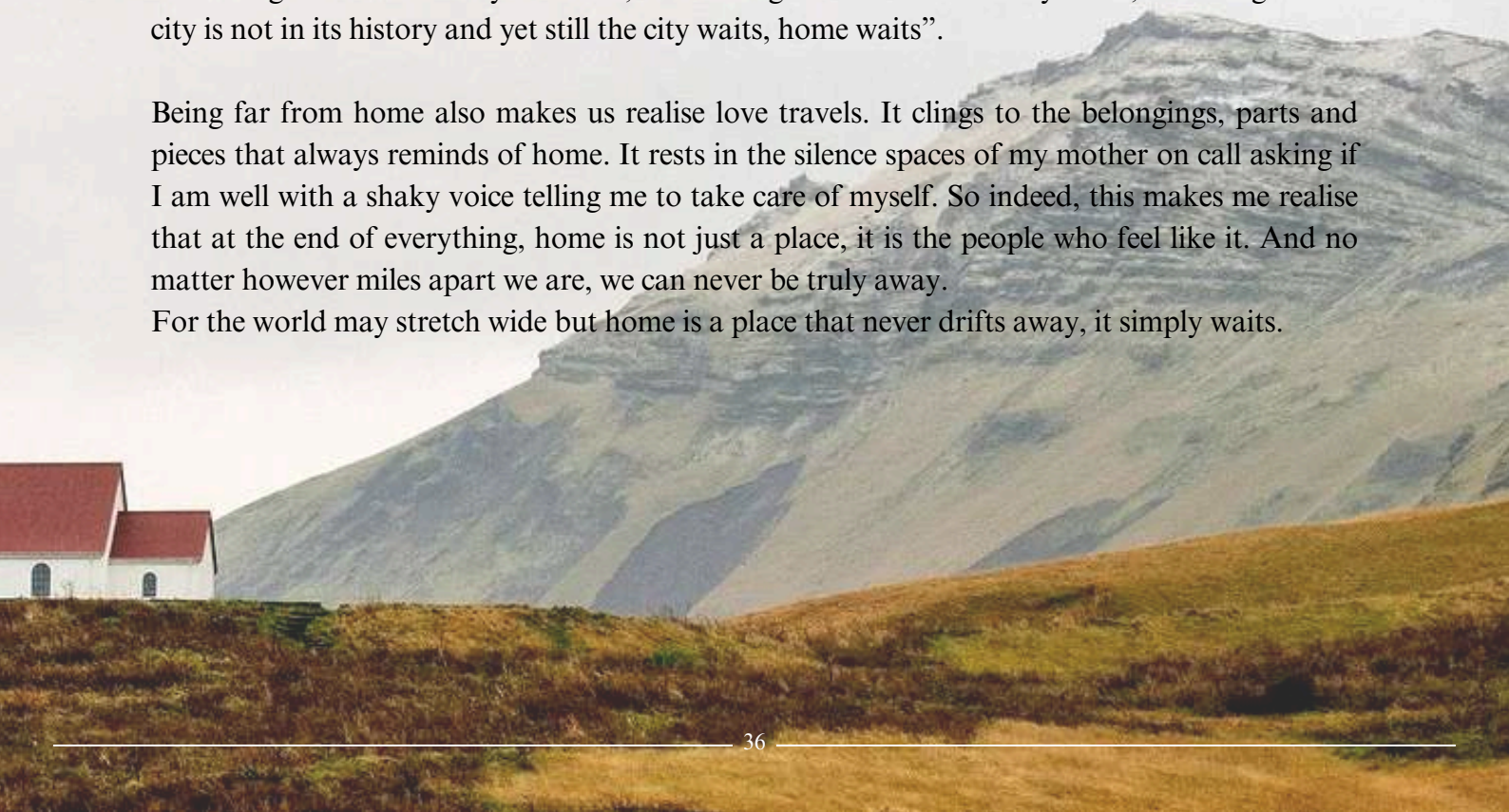
Living far from home feels like a bittersweet journey. The freedom thrills the young heart with a rush of newness. The unexplored streets and the unfamiliar faces though slowly become familiar still feel distant in the quiet hours, the heart calls for home. The hum of one's own city, the creak of the front door, the ray of sunlight spilling from the bedroom window. Visiting back sometimes feels strange, what once was mine entirely, what is still mine, yet I'm a guest, not there to stay.

The flower vase broke, so now that place is empty, a new plant added to the balcony, the placement of the table changed to make more space, all that I was a part of, so unaware now. And so, we start to carry home in fragments, a scarf that smells like mother, the old wallet that father gave, the taste of the dish grandma cooks, which just feels right.

In a song in my mother tongue, it goes as if the city where the home is calls out saying that "returning home is not in your habit, and calling back is not in the syllabus, returning to this city is not in its history and yet still the city waits, home waits".

Being far from home also makes us realise love travels. It clings to the belongings, parts and pieces that always reminds of home. It rests in the silence spaces of my mother on call asking if I am well with a shaky voice telling me to take care of myself. So indeed, this makes me realise that at the end of everything, home is not just a place, it is the people who feel like it. And no matter however miles apart we are, we can never be truly away.

For the world may stretch wide but home is a place that never drifts away, it simply waits.



# Help Your Hurt

An Article on Mental Health

By Writtika Goswami & Rahul Das  
*BA PJE, VI SEM*

## NURTURE YOUR MIND, EMBRACE YOUR WELL-BEING

**HEAL. GROW. THRIVE.**



**A foundation** of a healthy tree starts from its roots. Similarly, our personality is deep-rooted in our experiences throughout our life. From childhood experiences to seemingly minute things that happen in our daily lives, it all comes together to play a role in determining our mental state. Mental state can vary from person to person, time to time, situation to situation on varied occasions. We all are different, but we collectively strive for a stable mental health.

Mental health is a state of well-being where an individual can realize their abilities, cope with life's stresses, work productively, and contribute to their community. As ever growing the society is, and with its fast paced nature, the concept of mental health is often overlooked. However, it is one of the most important aspects of our lives that needs to be paid attention to.

When talking about taking care of one's mental health, there are various ways one can ensure doing so. While these practices are not a replacement for professional help, these are some ways that can help one achieve a better state of mind. Reaching out to our loved ones is a great way of expressing our emotions that might help one feel lighter and understood.

**YOUR MIND MATTERS: CARE, CONNECT, THRIVE**







Meditation, getting fresh air, or any small act of love we do for ourselves also helps in taking care of ourselves. Another way of taking care of one's mental health could be affirmative talking. We often mindlessly engage in negative talk, especially while talking about ourselves. By being mindful about the choice of our words and thoughts, we could try to be more realistic in nature, and provide ourselves and people around us with the empathy we all deserve.

It often also helps with getting valuable advices and feeling validated and important. Another helpful practice could be incorporating self-care activities and techniques in their lifestyle. Self care activities can be all sorts of practices that an individual can perform in order to nurture themselves. While it is important to acknowledge that the main goal of self care is nurturing oneself, an individual should be aware of its different effects. Self care activities can expand from exercises, to yoga, journaling, reading, painting, and various hobbies one enjoys.

But as mentioned before, none of these activities are a replacement for professional help. We all feel unwell at times. We feel lost, scared, sad, or numb; but we also feel emotions like joy, excitement and contentment. Our moods and mental states are ever-changing, and it is alright to be not okay at all times. But if you ever feel like you need help, it is always important to acknowledge that feeling. Starting a conversation about needing professional help can be tough, but a small step, is just as important as a big step. Although there's a stigma attached to it, we shouldn't feel ashamed for wanting help. We could talk to our teachers, friends, our parents, or anyone we trust to seek for resources available around us. Mental health experts are always there to help you. Your mental health matters.



***AS A COURTESY, WE HAVE ATTACHED SOME RESOURCES FROM OUR SIDE.***

Tele MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States):

**14416**

KIRAN (Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline): **18005990019**

Suicide Prevention Helpline Directory: **9820466726**



# Decoding Gen Z



By Writtika Goswami & Rahul Das  
*BA PJE, VI SEM*

## EXPLORING THE MULTI-LAYERED CAUSES BEHIND GEN Z'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOSTERING EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING IN A DIGITAL AGE

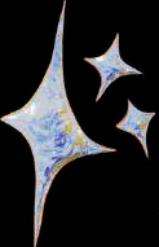


**Gen Z**, often referred to as the “iGeneration”, a generation born in the span of 1997 to 2012, is perhaps, considered to be the most complex to decipher. It has been observed that this generation is plagued with loneliness, leading to a rapid increase in mental health issues. Previous generations often question the reason for such vast differences between Gen Z and other generations, and why they often tend to be quite solitary. It is quite safe to say that the reasons for Gen Z's worsening mental health is multi-dimensional. Thus, this article is an attempt to dig into the primary factors that influence Gen Z mindset.

Firstly, it is worth mentioning that Gen Z is a generation that had witnessed a rapid growth in usage of technology. In fact, it is the first generation that had walked around with smartphones in their pockets from very tender ages. Due to this, the youth of this generation have had unmonitored access to social media since they were teenagers. As it has been pre-established by researchers and scientists, social media is extremely influential, especially to adolescents, due to their tendency to “fit in”, or follow the trends, as they are still seeking for their identity. Being on the wrong side of social media can often affect one's psychological well-being immensely. Teenagers could be exposed to cyberbullying, unrealistic beauty standards, and trends that might not be accessible to everyone, which often tamper with their self-esteem, or might make them feel left out.







These issues often make these individuals prone to various mental health issues like depression, social anxiety, distorted body image, eating disorders, and so on. Due to their early exposure to social media, these individuals often form opinions on many socio-political issues at very young ages. Although it is beneficial for people to be informed about the various social stigmas, monitoring the content that they are exposed to is equally important, as the wrong side of social media could do more harm than good, by promoting misogyny, racism, homophobia, or any harmful stereotypes towards marginalized groups. This, in return, might promote hatred in the young minds, which they might act upon, and affect their peers' mental health adversely.



Gen Z is a generation that was primarily raised by the Baby Boomers (1946-1964) and Gen X (1965-1980), two generations which are often too consumed by the workaholic hustle culture, most likely due to the economic crisis the economy was going through, as they were growing up. Due to this, a lot of individuals from the mentioned generations often have gone through tough childhoods, where they have had either had to work for financial stability from very young ages, or perhaps, had to act as their younger siblings' caretakers. Handling tough roles as such can often make a person prone to romanticizing them, or often believing that financial stability and physical health are the only aspects that are necessary for a person to be satisfied in life, often disregarding one's emotional satisfaction. Growing up with limited access to knowledge about mental health adds to it. It is extremely common for the toxic mindset to be projected onto the children, while parenting, as the



parents are themselves going through unresolved trauma, and not realizing that it is not only harmful for themselves, but also their children. A lot of Gen Z individuals' interests or passions have often been treated as insignificant by their parents. Although some of these interests may seem not worth being sad over, ignoring these seemingly insignificant things, especially by adults that they trust, often send the message that their interests are not worth caring for. Moreover, many of these individuals might repeat the cycle of generational trauma by emotionally neglecting their children, often making them seek for relationships where they do not receive the emotional availability that they deserve.



The constant neglect might make the individual feel like their problem is not worth talking about, thus, leading to distant, unhappy, and often lonely young adults. What might worsen the situation is the fact that most Gen Z are quite self aware about the adversities they go through, yet, are often not ready to seek help due to the stigma still associated with mental health.

Another significant factor that has heavily affected the mental and social well-being of Gen Z is the infamous COVID-19. Many of these individuals have spent some of their prime years in lockdown, barely having any social interactions, being unable to leave the house for months, and as a result, resorting to being on social for prolonged periods of time. It has been observed that the pandemic has had severe effects on the mental health of the younger generations, even heavily affecting their sociability. The rates of mental health issues like social anxiety and depression have increased rapidly, and these individuals have been expected to transition to their usual lives like nothing had ever happened. Therefore, these youth often walk around wearing a mask of functionality, as they often do not find the space to deal with their issues, often leading to an unhappy lifestyle.



The question of why Gen Z tends to be solitary is a quite broad one, and as we have established, the reasons are multi-dimensional. Although we have stated the major factors that have influenced the Gen Z mindset, our primary focus should be on making the process of healing more accessible. Creating a safe space for our loved ones to vent out about their problems, is no doubt, quite crucial. However, along with that, everyone should altogether work on destigmatizing the concept of therapy, as it can be beneficial for everyone. To conclude, we should all be mindful of our own emotions as well as others, and try to show care to our loved ones by listening in a non-judgemental way, which, in turn, brings us a step closer to understanding them better.

# GEN Z





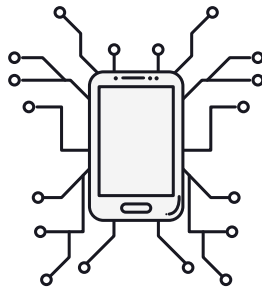
# UNVEILING SPEKTER: EMPOWERING BCA STUDENTS THROUGH INNOVATION

Jain Chako

BA - CJE, VI SEM

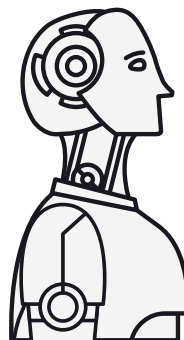
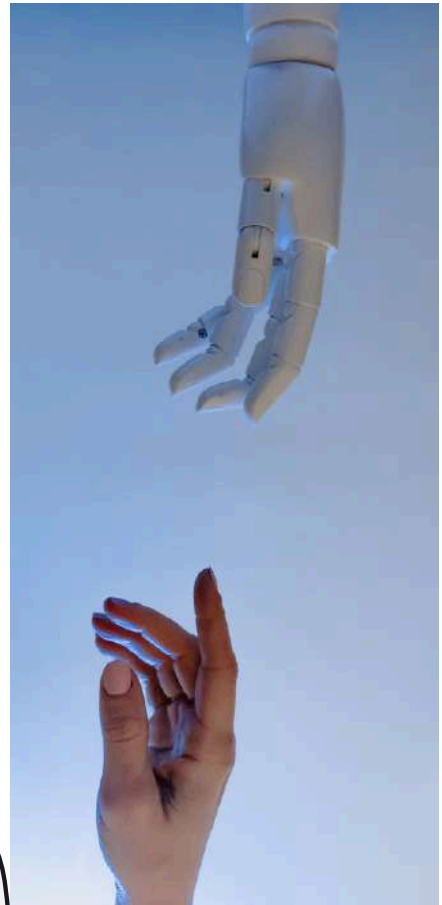
## INTRODUCTION

Four years ago, a visionary BCA student, Prateek, recognized a void within the department—BCA students lacked avenues for exploring extracurricular activities in the exponential field of computer science. Determined to bridge this gap, Prateek led the inception of Spekter, a student-led committee aimed at expanding horizons beyond curriculum.



## ORIGIN

Spekter emerged from the aspiration to offer BCA students an immersive exploration into the realms of Robotics, AIML (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning), IoT (Internet of Things), and software development. Prateek's initiative addressed the scarcity of extracurricular engagements specific to BCA department.



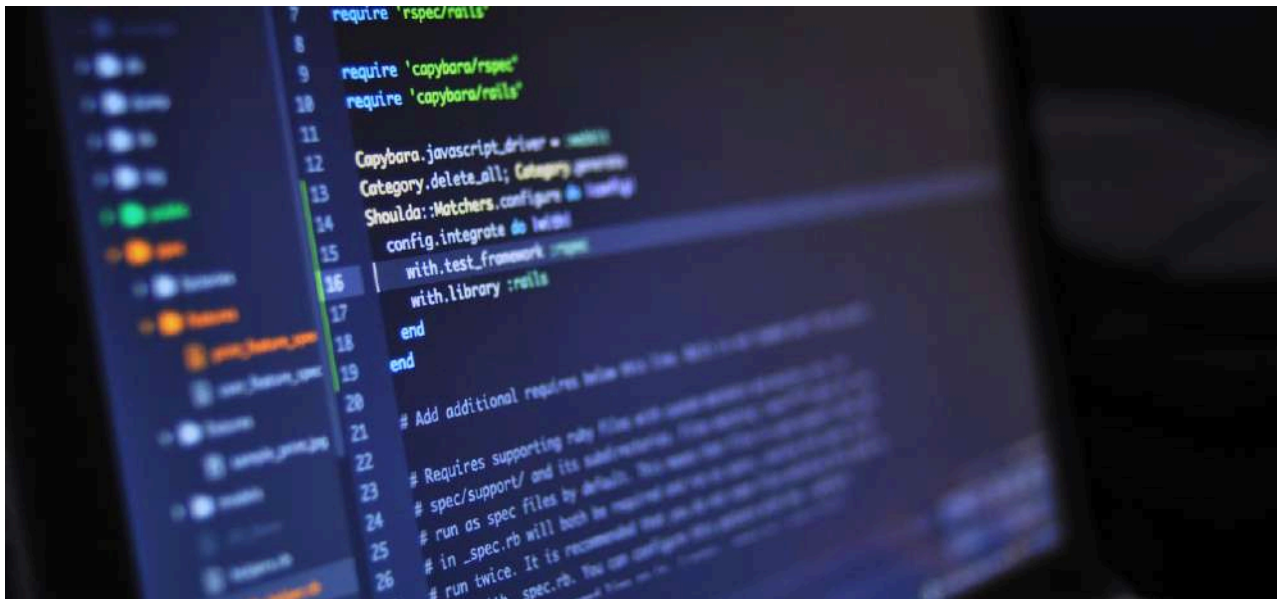
## A STUDENT-LED INITIATIVE

Unlike traditional student organizations, Spekter operates independently from faculty influence, placing decision-making power squarely in the hands of its student members. Under the guidance of BCA HOD, Prof. Ramakrishan CN, Spekter thrives as a dynamic entity driven by passion.

## PROJECTS REDEFINING BOUNDARIES:

Spekter's repertoire of projects exemplifies innovation harnessed for societal impact:

- **Smart Home:** An ingenious app empowering users to control home appliances seamlessly through a smartphone interface, engineered with C language. Revolutionising user interaction with computing devices, this Python-based application enables mouse control through finger gestures, amplifying accessibility and convenience.
- **Sign Language Recognizer:** Harnessing the power of machine learning, this Python application interprets sign language inputs, fostering inclusive communication channels.



## EMPOWERING THROUGH EVENTS:

- **Annual IT Fest:** A flagship event attracting colleges from across Bangalore and beyond, showcasing the latest innovations and fostering collaborative learning.
- **Workshops:** Tailored sessions outside the curriculum enrich students' knowledge base, equipping them with practical skills and insights.
- **Exhibitions:** A platform for showcasing student projects, fostering creativity, and cultivating a culture of innovation.



## STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The committee's organizational framework encompasses distinct roles including President, Secretary, Treasurer, Technical Team, Training Team, Workshop Team, and Exhibition Team. Membership entails a rigorous interview process, ensuring a dedicated and skilled cohort of students committed to Spekter's mission.



## THE SPEKTER ESSENCE

In the words of Balagopala Ravi, Ex-President of Spekter, “*Spekter helps bring your imaginative innovations into reality*”.

As a catalyst for transformative change, Spekter embodies the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and empowerment, propelling BCA students towards boundless possibilities in the digital landscape.



## CONCLUSION:

Spekter's journey underscores the transformative power of student-led initiatives in nurturing creativity, fostering collaboration, and driving meaningful impact. As it continues to evolve, Spekter remains a beacon of inspiration, igniting the flames of innovation and excellence in the BCA community.



# CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

GUKESH DOMMARAJU

Antra

BA - CJE, IV SEM

On December 12, 2024, Gukesh Dommaraju had won the World Chess Championship, at the young age of 18, making him the youngest world champion in chess. As we celebrate the emergence of one of the greatest assets of our nation, we will discuss the background and beginnings of Gukesh.

Gukesh Dommaraju was born on 26th May, 2006, to a Telugu family, residing in Chennai. His mother, Padmakumari, is a microbiologist, and his father works as an ENT surgeon. Although his recognition and fame is relatively recent Gukesh's starship had been evident since his childhood. He had learnt chess at the young age of seven, and had shown keen interest in the sport, as reported by his school coach, Mr. Bhaskar. He was thus enrolled in a structured one hour session per week.



After his 4th or 5th grade, his parents collectively made the hard decision of dropping their son out of formal schooling, in order to focus on his chess career. In an interview with ChessBase India, Padma revealed, “ There are many critical moments when we doubted ourselves. I don't know how to say it exactly. Whenever he didn't play well, we used to wonder whether we had made the right decision for him. He was very young, and it was our responsibility to make decisions for him.”



The supportive environment around Gukesh also played a crucial role in his success. His parents have made significant sacrifices in order to enable their son's successful career. In 2017, his father quit his job to be his son's full-time chaperone, and travelled to various tournaments with him. In an interview, his father said, “It was quite tough to handle my profession and his career. I took a backseat to support my son. My wife goes to work. It's quite tough but when you get these results we are happy for all the sacrifices we have done for him.”



Gukesh had also acknowledged his parents' sacrifices and financial struggles. "We weren't financially well-off, and my parents faced significant struggles", Gukesh had mentioned after his victory, "At one point, in 2017 and 2018, we were so low on funds that my parents' friends had to sponsor me." This shows the humility of Gukesh, despite his fame.



Gukesh's first significant achievement was winning the Under-9 section of the Asian School Championships in 2015. At the age of 12 years, 7 month and 17 days, he became the third youngest grandmaster. He had surpassed FIDE rating of 2750 at the age of 17, making him the youngest to do so, and the third-youngest to have surpassed 2700 Elo at the age of 16. In the World Chess Championship, on December 12, 2024, Gukesh Dommaraju made history by defeating Ding Liren, making him the youngest undisputed world chess champion.

Gukesh's success, however, wouldn't be possible without his relentless hardworking and dedication towards the sport. According to his coach Vishnu Prasanna, he spends 10 to 12 hours. Besides his keen interest in chess, Gukesh also has other hobbies. In an interview, his mother said, "He became crazy about chess from a very young age. The passion only grew stronger with each passing year, but not at the expense of other interests. He also follows and plays cricket, reads books (mostly biographies of sportspersons), plays badminton and table tennis, and enjoys get-togethers with friends and family during his time off from the board." This indicates a healthy and balanced life, along with his successful career.

Gukesh's life story is truly inspiring, as it highlights the relentless hardwork, support and sacrifices put in by himself, his family and other people around him, pushing him towards success. It truly shows, even after periods of gloomy days, one will always see daylight.





# BOOK REVIEW

# MATILDA



Writtika Goswami  
*BA PJE, VI SEM*



The saying, “Blood is thicker than water” has been passed down for several centuries. But what happens when your family doesn't feel like home?

“Matilda” is a children's novel, written by the British author, Roald Dahl, published in the year 1988. Although it is considered as a children's book, the story of Matilda beautifully, yet, simply, conveys a crucial message, and therefore is a classic that is a must-read for all ages. The story revolves around a young girl called Matilda Wormwood, who was born to a family that had neglected her since she was a baby. In fact, she was so neglected, that her parents never noticed that their daughter was much smarter than other children her age, and never knew that she possessed the powers of telekinesis. Matilda never felt like she belonged with her family, who were a bunch of dishonest people and sold faulty cars to customers. She had found solace in books from her local library, and felt less lonely, as she saw books as her sole friends. This was until she was finally sent to a school, and made friends with a girl her age, called Lavender, and formed a familial bond with her teacher, Miss Jennifer Honey. However, the school was ran by Miss Trenchbull, who is abusive towards the students, as well as, towards Miss Honey, as she was her Aunt.

The novel revolves around how Matilda, along with Miss Honey and her classmates, takes revenge upon Miss Trenchbull and gets her fired. It ends with Matilda's family getting paid back for their dishonesty, and Matilda being adopted by Miss Honey, leading to a ‘happily ever after’ ending.

The book, Matilda, is an all-time favourite, as it often makes people feel seen and heard. The playful, yet sensible nature of the book appeals to readers of all ages. The book succeeds in conveying two very important messages to the readers, “You are not alone”, and “It's okay to be different”.



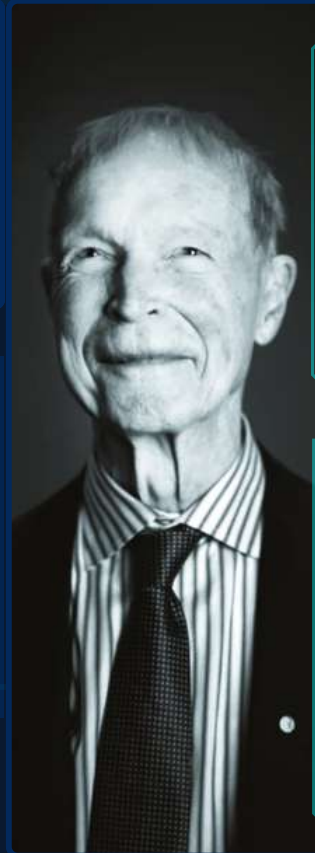


# NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS OF 2024



"Awarded for pioneering discoveries and groundbreaking inventions that have laid the foundation for machine learning through artificial neural networks, significantly advancing the field of artificial intelligence."

JOHN J. HOPFIELD



Awarded for pioneering breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, including foundational discoveries and transformative inventions that have enabled machine learning through artificial neural networks, shaping the future of AI.

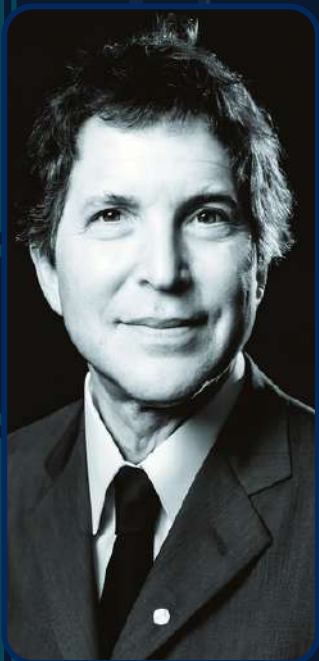


GEOFFREY HINTON



Awarded for groundbreaking advancements in artificial intelligence, leading to the accurate prediction of complex protein structures, revolutionizing biomedical research and drug discovery.

**DEMIS HASSABIS**



Awarded for pioneering the design and creation of entirely new protein structures, advancing the fields of synthetic biology and protein engineering.

**DAVID BAKER**



Awarded for:

Pioneering the discovery of microRNA and elucidating its critical role in post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression.



VICTOR AMBROS

Awarded for:

Co-discovery of microRNA and its pivotal role in the post-transcriptional regulation of gene expression.



GARY RUVKUN

# PARIS OLYMPIC MEDALISTS OF 2024



## ***MEN'S ARCHERY***



***GOLD MEDAL AWARDED TO  
KIM WOO-JIN***

*South Korea*



***SILVER MEDAL AWARDED TO  
BRADY ELLISON***

*United States of America*



***BRONZE MEDAL AWARDED TO  
LEE WOO-SEOK***

*South Korea*



# MEN'S DIVING

## CAO YUAN

★ Cao Yuan is a Chinese diver known for his precision and versatility in both the 3m springboard and 10m platform. He's one of the most accomplished divers of his generation.



At the Paris 2024 Olympics, Cao Yuan claimed gold in the men's 10m platform diving, showcasing flawless execution and unmatched composure. His victory marked a key part of China's clean sweep in diving events at the Games.

## ARTISTIC SWIMMING



WANG LIUYI & WANG QIANYI



### Kate Shortman & Isabelle Thorpe

The British duo showcased strength, artistry, and perfect harmony in the water, earning their place among the world's top performers in artistic swimming with a powerful Olympic routine.

### Wang Qianyi & Wang Liuyi

China's twin duo delivered a flawless, synchronized performance in artistic swimming, earning Olympic gold with elegance, precision, and unmatched unity in the water.



KATE SHORTMAN & ISABELLE THORPE







## BREGJE DE BROUWER & NOORTJE DE BROUWER



### **Bregje & Noortje de Brouwer**

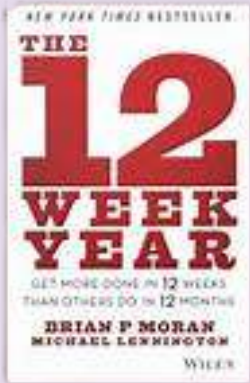
Representing the Netherlands, the De Brouwer twins delivered a beautifully synchronized performance marked by precision, poise, and artistic flair. Their display of unity and expressive movement earned them international acclaim on the Olympic stage.



## ARTISTIC SWIMMING MEDALISTS – PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS

# Book Suggestions

## SELF DEVELOPMENT BOOKS



### **The 12 Week Year**

Author: Brian Moran, Michael  
Lennington

At the end of The 12 Week Year, Brian Moran will have helped you establish a vision, 12-week goals, and a plan to achieve them. You will have created a weekly routine to plan, execute, and track for The 12 Week Year.



### **Everything is Figureouable**

Author: Marie Forleo

Marie Forleo's Everything Is Figureoutable is a transformative read that empowers individuals to embrace challenges with a solution-oriented mindset.



### **Make Your Bed**

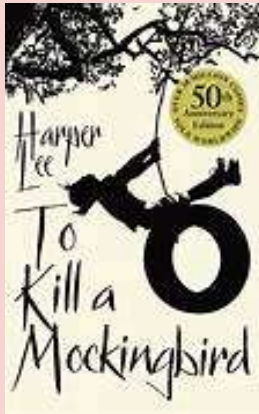
Author: Admiral. William.H. McRaven

Told with great humility and optimism, this timeless book provides simple wisdom, practical advice, and words of encouragement that will inspire readers to achieve more, even in life's darkest moments.





## CLASSIC NOVELS



### *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Author: Harper Lee

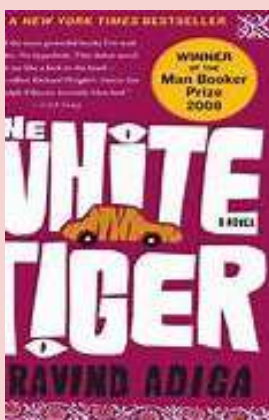
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee is a powerful novel set in the 1930s South, where young Scout Finch narrates her childhood. Her father, Atticus Finch, a principled lawyer, defends Tom Robinson, a Black man wrongly accused of raping a white woman. As Scout witnesses the racial prejudices and injustices in her town, she learns valuable lessons about morality, empathy, and standing up for what's right. The novel explores themes of racism, innocence, and the loss of childhood naivety.



### *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*

Author: Kiran Desai

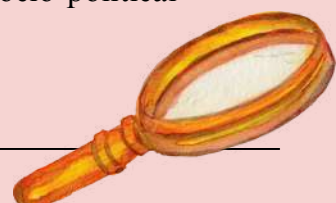
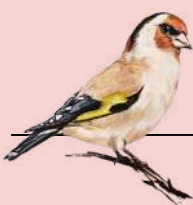
*Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* by Kiran Desai is a humorous and whimsical novel set in a small Indian village. It follows the life of Sampath, a young man who, dissatisfied with his mundane life, retreats to a guava tree, where he becomes an unlikely spiritual guru. As his popularity grows, so do the absurdities surrounding his newfound fame. The novel explores themes of identity, the search for meaning, and the clash between tradition and modernity with a satirical tone.



### *The White Tiger*

Author: Aravind Adiga

*The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga is a dark, gripping novel about Balram Halwai, a poor man from rural India who rises through the social ranks by becoming a chauffeur to a wealthy family. As he grows disillusioned with the corruption and inequality of Indian society, he resorts to crime to achieve freedom. Told through a series of letters to the Chinese Premier, the novel explores themes of class, power, and the moral cost of ambition. It offers a sharp critique of the socio-political system in modern India.





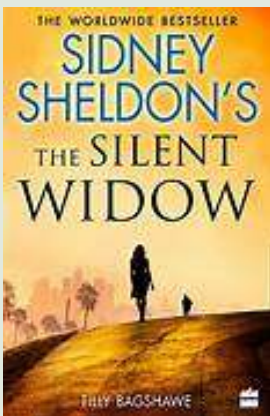
## THRILLER BOOKS



### ***Bell Jar***

Author: Sylvia Plath

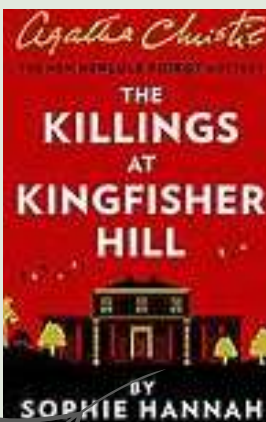
The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath tells the story of Esther Greenwood, a talented young woman who spirals into depression after a promising start to her career. As she struggles with societal expectations and the pressures of femininity, she feels increasingly disconnected from the world around her. The novel depicts Esther's mental breakdown and her time in psychiatric care, symbolized by the suffocating "bell jar" that traps her. Through her journey, Plath explores themes of identity, mental illness, and the complexities of women's roles in the 1950s.



### **The Silent Widow**

Author: Sidney Sheldon

The Silent Widow by Sydney Sheldon follows the story of Dr. Kendra Michaels, a talented forensic psychologist who is drawn into a chilling murder investigation. As she uncovers dark secrets, she must confront her own past while trying to uncover the identity of a killer who has been silencing women. The novel weaves a complex web of suspense, betrayal, and danger. Throughout, Sheldon explores themes of justice, revenge, and the resilience of the human spirit.



### **The Killings at Kingfisher Hill**

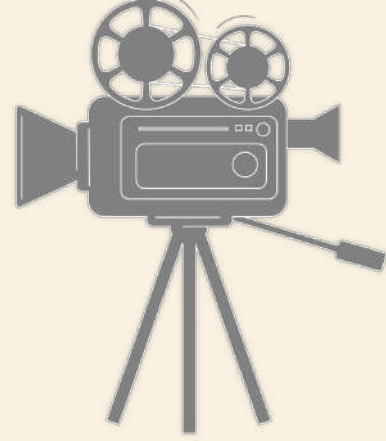
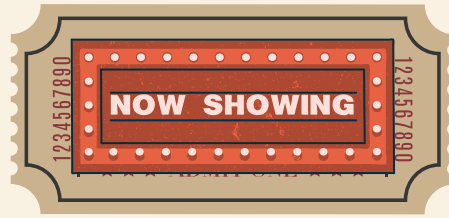
Author: Sophie Hannah

The Killings at Kingfisher Hill by Sophie Hannah is a gripping mystery featuring detective Hercule Poirot. Poirot is called to investigate a murder at an isolated country estate, where a wealthy woman has been found dead under suspicious circumstances. As Poirot unravels the tangled relationships among the guests, he uncovers dark secrets and motives. The novel blends classic detective fiction with a modern twist, filled with twists and turns.





# Movie Suggestions



## **Article 370**

*Director: Aditya Suhas Jambhale*

*Year: 2024*

*Duration: 2h38m*



## **Abraham Ozler**

*Director: Midhun Manuel Thomas*

*Year: 2024*

*Duration: 2h23m*



## **Yuvarathnaa**

*Director: Santhosh Ananddram*

*Year: 2021*

*Duration: 2h41m*



## **His Three Daughters**

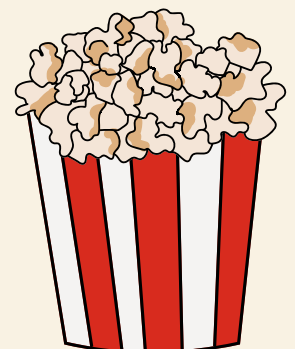
*Director: Azazel Jacobs*

*Year: 2023*

*Duration: 1h41m*



# IMDb



## Song Suggestions

# Playlist



### The Boat Song

*Artist: AGAM*

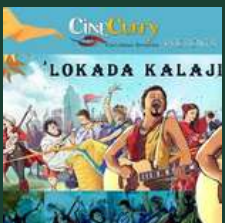
6:47



### Haan Ke Haam

*Artist: Sohail Sen, Monali Thakur, Kausar Munir*

3:23



### Lokada Kalaji

*Artist: Raghu Dixit*

4:53



### Riptide

*Artist: Vance Roy*

3:22





# Art Column

Photography

Art

Comics





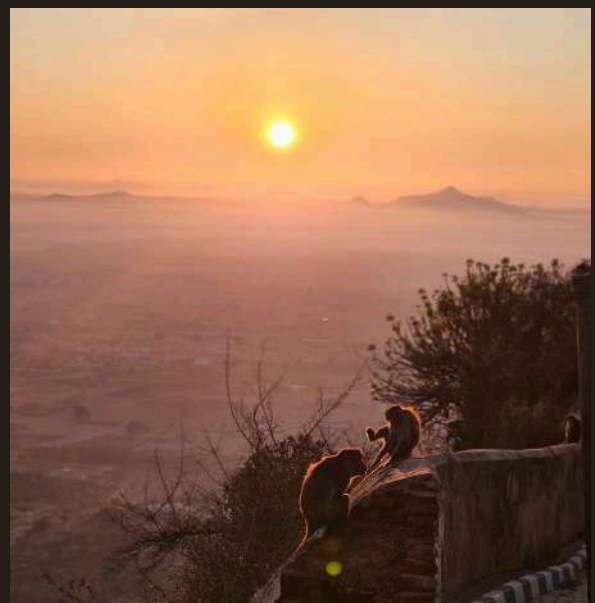
Photographs by Aadhidev  
*BBA, II SEM*







Photographs by Vaneesha Pai  
*BA PJE, VI SEM*







Photographs by Abhishek rejeev  
*BCA, II SEM*



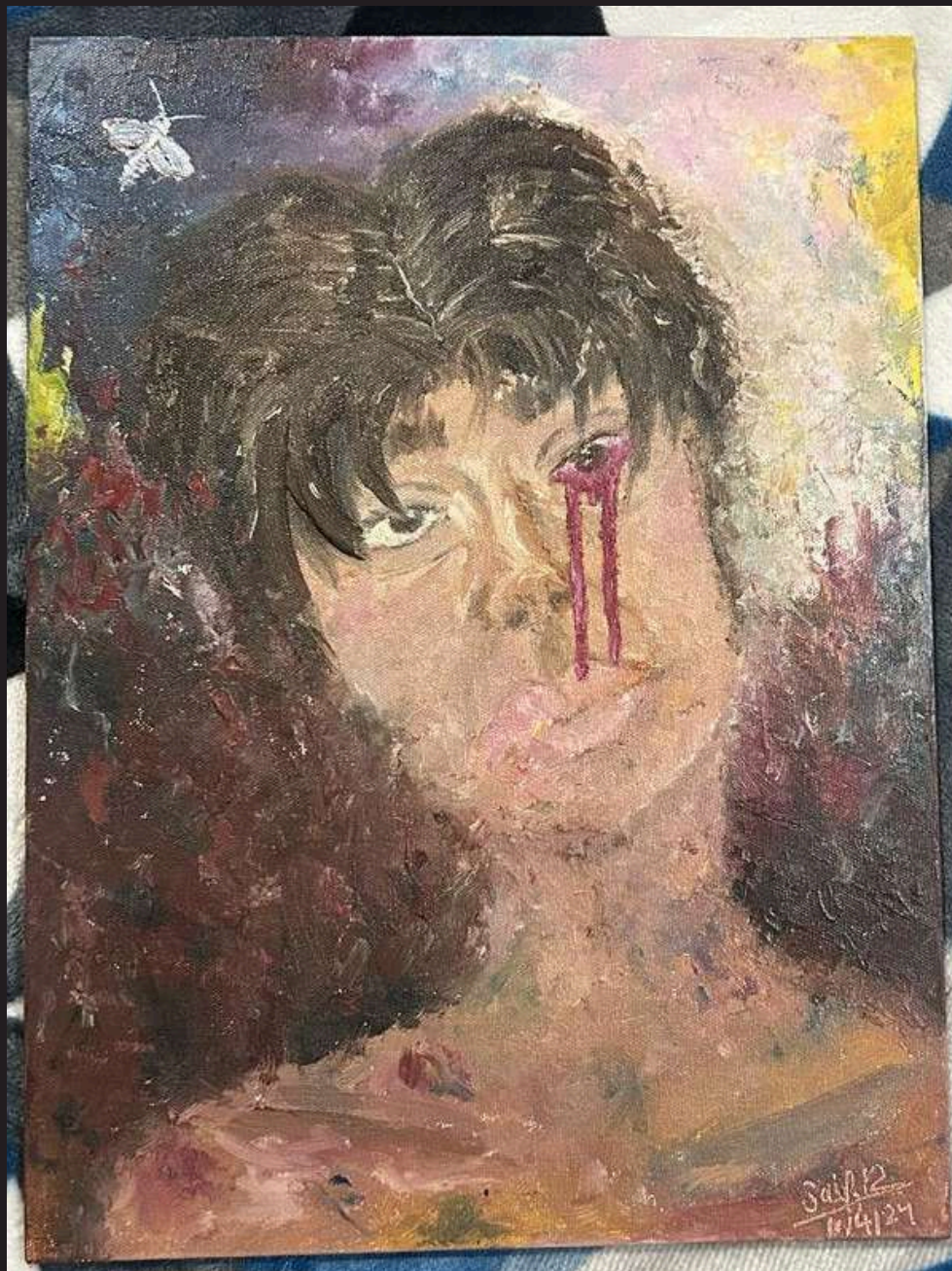


# Canvas Art

**Title:** Master of Deception

**Medium:** Acrylic

**Artist:** Saif Kacharoo, *BA-PCE, IV SEM*



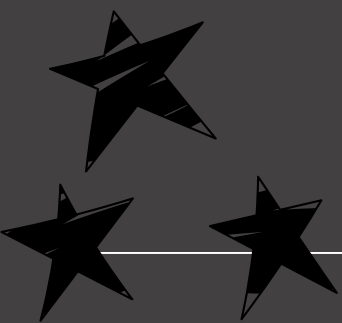


# *Digital Art*

**Title:** What The Silence Knows. Or Doesn't

**Medium:** Adobe Fresco

**Artist:** Naina Kulkarni, *BSc PMC, II SEM*

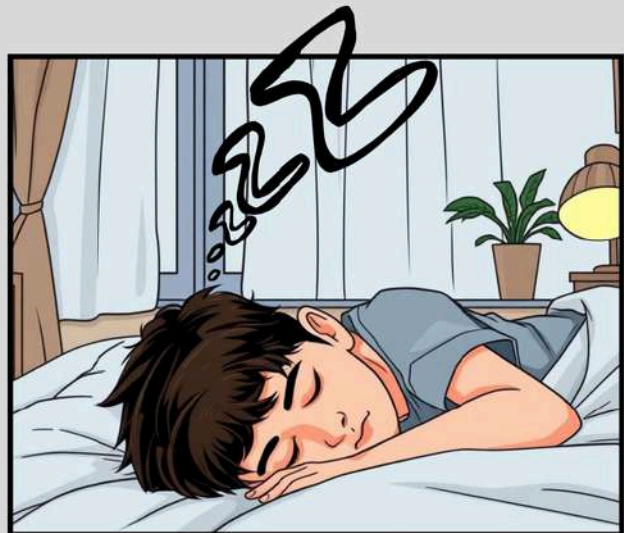
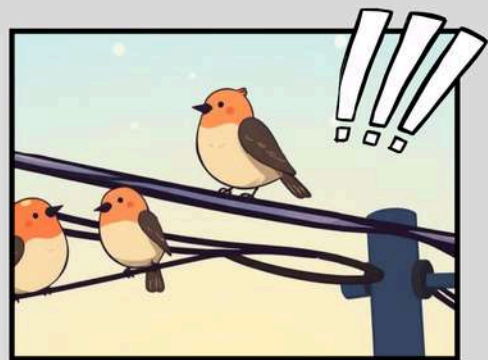
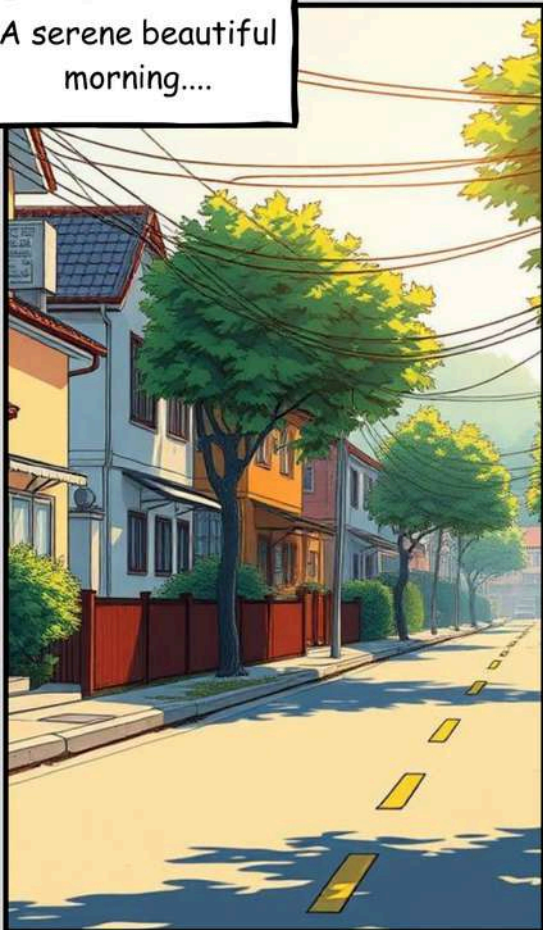




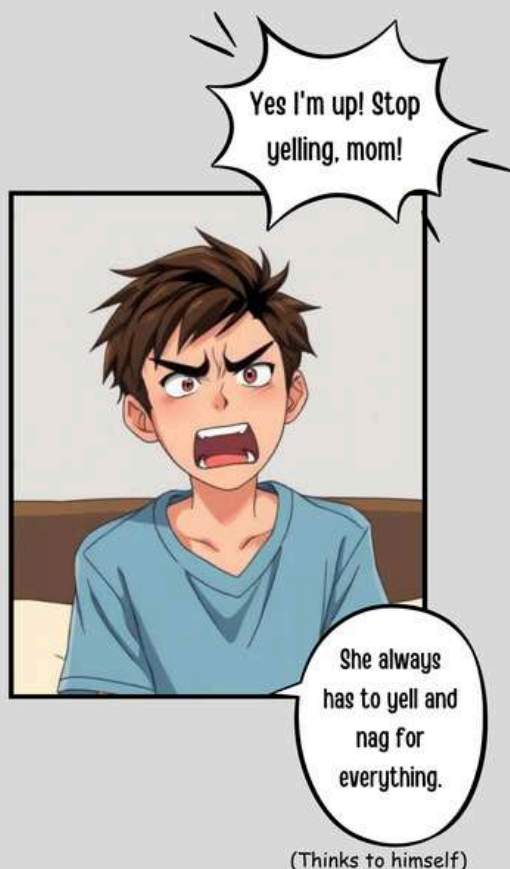
# A Taste of Home

Comic By Sinjini.M.G  
*BA PCE, IV SEM*

A serene beautiful morning....



**Julian!!!**  
**Wake up!!!**





Julian was about to leave

Julian!



You forgot your lunch box! And be careful on your way, don't skip classes and-



I know, mom!



I'm not a little kid anymore. And I asked you to stop packing lunch for me!

I can eat from the canteen. All my friends eat from there! Imagine how it would be if I'm the only one bringing a lunch box like a school kid!

Grabs the lunch box and leaves

Slams!



Bang!

After 4 hours of continuous lectures, Julian finally steps out of the class for the lunch break with his friends

At the busy canteen



Haru -  
Julian's classmate  
and friend.  
Sunshine of the  
group.

I ordered spaghetti!!  
What did you guys  
get?

I got the white sauce  
pasta! Literally  
delicious.

Aww man!  
Should have  
got that  
too

**HAHA !!!**  
**HA...**

What did you  
get, Julian?



Nah, actually I...





My mom packed me lunch. I know it's annoyin-

Yeah....



DID YOU JUST SAY HOMEMADE FOOD!?

Ray-  
Julian's friend and classmate.  
A little dumb according to Julian

**Chaos!**

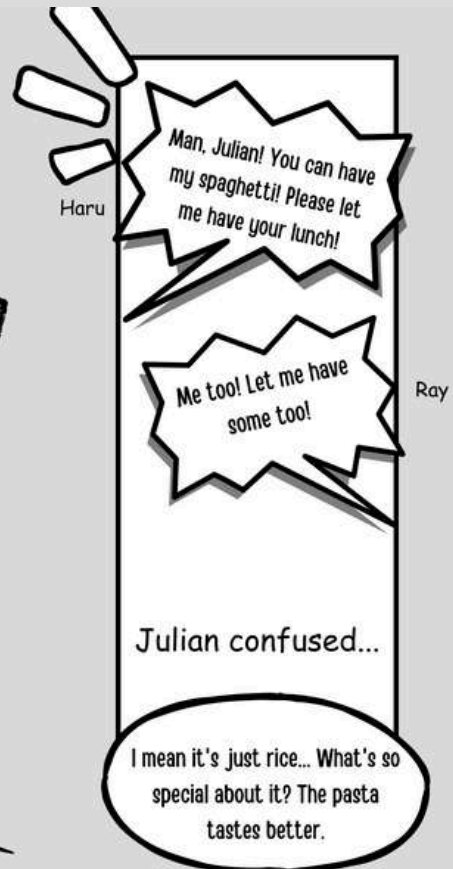
All of Julian's friends gathering around

**Show us!!!**



**WOW!!!**

**Woah!**



Haru

Man, Julian! You can have my spaghetti! Please let me have your lunch!

Me too! Let me have some too!

Ray

Julian confused...

I mean it's just rice... What's so special about it? The pasta tastes better.



Jake-  
Julian's friend and classmate.  
The smart and soft one.





Back home



You're back!  
Freshen up, I'll  
get you some  
snacks and  
tea.

Mom?



Hmm?

Thank you for always  
taking care of me... Thank  
you. And I'm sorry for how I  
behaved this morning.

You're my son,  
silly. Who else  
would I do it for?

I know... Still,  
thank you.

Love you Mom.



I pray to every existing super being to  
always keep me with my family and  
close to my home. I never wanna be  
Far From Home...

# FACULTY COLUMN

---

SHORT STORY

INTERVIEWS:

DR. YUNUSH ALI

DR. THEJU KUMAR C.





# STEEL GLASS

**PN Colony**, the second left from the old bridge. You could miss the turn if you aren't looking keen enough. The road gives way into gravel ten seconds into the steep descent of a turn and opens up into a narrow street. All the cars that suffer on ground clearance are greeted abruptly by a sudden speed breaker: one that takes great pleasure in making worrisome noises, as it mercilessly scrapes the hell out of your ill-equipped sedan.



As you pass seven more speed breakers, unevenly and generously spread out, each one more diabolical than the one before, you encounter an overarching staircase, that unapologetically encroaches into the road by at least three feet. Past that house, nestled deep from the chaos of the main road, lies an edifice barely visible from the rusted iron gate. About three rows of guava trees, a few turkeys roaming around the thick green grass, the house looks like it has been abandoned well before the Indira Gandhi administration. Nestled inside this very house, attempting to en-cash every single paisa of the five rupees he spent on the newspaper, is my dad. And my mother, at least a decade younger, is immersed in cooking the perfect meal – one that homes at least three separate curries, and twenty different delicacies overall, at least half of them made from scratch – today. This was their day – conversations that would easily bore any sane human being within the first five minutes, and a ton of cooking and cleaning the same exact floor – every single day – irrespective of the fact that it doesn't gather enough dust to pleasure an empty pencil box.

Mr. Usha Sai Kiran Raghupathula  
(Asst. Professor, Department of  
English)



I have been married for a few years now, about seventy kilometers away from home. I have a rental there; my wife insisted we get a dishwasher; and I doubled down getting her a robotic vacuum cleaner within the same credit card offer. Here, mom still uses a rag cloth – a tee shirt that I stopped using in my intermediate days – downgraded first to a set of hankies – and then to a thicker set of padded mitts to carry the hot water pan from the stove (dad was afraid of geysers) and is now being used as the soft rag that scrapes the fine corners of the floor squeaky clean. Home was the same – more or less – dad's clothes are everywhere – I think he occupied my room as soon as I left. I saw all my cupboards, once brimming with my toys, half torn notebooks and DIY board games – now resemble the back rows of a dilapidated public library – newspapers from the last two decades – carefully organized and – rotting towards a dull orange – yellow shade.



I didn't want to disturb these old people in their element. My dad reached the business page – clenching what's left of his hubris to comprehend stock market trends and words like inflation and short selling, and my mother was busy patiently scraping off yet another layer of the silverware in the Pooja room – designated for gods – the only ones in the house that aren't scolded for being lazy. I walked in through the back entrance, the one that connects the kitchen and the washroom, and the one whose wooden door frames have been the reason for a large portion of the scars and gashes on my mom's perpetually broken left foot. I walked in like a cat, pretty much mimicking the intrusion I was so used to performing – sneaking home after a late-night movie – a time when movie tickets cost as much as a new classmate notebook did – a simple hoax that mostly worked.

I reached my room, careful not to trip the overly sensitive alarm – my dad – almost enacting a cartoon at this point – leaning far back into his easy chair – making an impression on it that was bespoke – as if it was an extension of his body – head, torso, spine – extending into the teak stile, his bottom, feet and the cross stretcher whose polish wore out the most. His rhythmic tapping – once irritating, yet soothing – was cover enough for me to reach my bed.



It was still laid out – as if being used – I suspect my father's afternoon nap – after all – this was the room with the best ventilation. I arched my back – finally feeling at 'home'. It's been three years – I remind myself.

As I finally rest my head on my pillow – in my home, finally at my place, I was left to confront my thoughts – to question and wonder: Will that rented house become my home? Would I feel the same sense of relief that I find when I finally reach my wife after a hectic night? What is home? What constitutes the sense of a home? Is it people? Is it my mom's powder box? Is it these expired newspapers and the smell of camphor? Is it the walls? The plants and the oil stains all over the kitchen floor? Is it the familiarity of the smells, the sights and the humidity? – I can't decide. I drift to sleep – and someone grabbed my hand after a period of time I don't care to measure –

"Have some lemon water, you look tired" she said – her hands extending a steel glass right over my face.

This – this steel glass – this is 'home'.





## Interview

# The Life and Legacy of Dr. Yunush Ali: A Journey from War to Education

**Dr. Yunush Ali, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Hindi, has led an extraordinary life, transitioning from the battlefield to academia. His journey is a testament to resilience, patriotism, and the power of education.**

*An Interview by*

Shween Tanaz, Student Editor



### Early Life and Education

Born in Basti district, Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Yunush Ali pursued his education in Hindi literature after the war. He later obtained multiple academic qualifications, including Masters, and Ph.D.

At the age of 37, in 1999, he was stationed in Srinagar when the Kargil War broke out. His life took a sudden turn when he was called to Bangalore, only to be deployed to Srinagar shortly after.

### Role in the Kargil War

The Kargil War was not just a battle for the army but also a significant operation for the Indian Air Force.

The enemy had taken strategic positions on high-altitude peaks, making ground combat difficult and leading to high casualties. The Air Force played a crucial role by conducting precision airstrikes, eliminating threats from the mountains.

Dr. Yunush Ali served as a technical supervisor in the Air Force, ensuring that aircraft components were in optimal condition. He worked extensively with MiG-21 fighter aircraft and other models like Mirage and Jaguar. His role demanded rigorous attention to detail, as even the smallest oversight could have grave consequences.

## Challenges Faced During the War

War is never easy, but Dr. Yunush Ali was prepared for its challenges. One of the most difficult experiences he faced was the lack of sanitation in Srinagar, which led to severe stomach disorders. He lost 12 kg and could only consume curd rice for a month, only recovering a month after coming back to Bangalore. Despite these hardships, his motivation and duty kept him going. He spent one and a half months actively involved in the Kargil War, ensuring that the Air Force's technical operations ran smoothly.

## Overcoming Fear and Motivating Others

Despite the dangers, Dr. Yunush Ali never let fear dictate his actions. His role required him to boost the morale of his colleagues, ensuring they remained focused on their mission. He strongly believed that preparation is key, both in war and in life. This philosophy guided him throughout his service, leading him to be considered for positions at ISRO and other prestigious organizations.



## Recognition and Perspective on Patriotism

While Dr. Yunush Ali's contributions were recognized in military publications such as Flight Safety magazine, he never sought acknowledgment or awards. For him, duty came first. According to him, patriotism is not a narrow term but a broader one. He believes patriotism is not just about fighting wars but about loving and respecting one's nation—its rivers, mountains, and people. He advocates for environmental conservation, cleanliness, and guiding the younger generation as essential forms of patriotism.

## Communication and Family Support

During the war, communication with family was nearly impossible. With no phones and the risk of venturing outside, he had to rely on the mental strength of his family, who were in Bangalore. They were prepared for his service and understood the unpredictability of life in defence.





## **Life After the War: A Passion for Education**

After his service, Dr. Yunush Ali pursued a Ph.D. in Hindi at Sunrise University, Rajasthan. He and his unit received numerous accolades and the Gold Seal for five consecutive years. He served in various locations, including Jamnagar, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Ambala, and Jalahalli—where he transitioned from an Airforce Personnel to a civilian employee—An Assistant Professor of Hindi.

His passion for education led him to teach at Acharya Institutes for three years and eventually establish his own coaching centre, Solid Concept Coaching Centre, in Hesaraghatta. He specializes in teaching Science and Mathematics, helping students develop strong foundational knowledge.

## **Continued Commitment to Learning and Service**

Beyond his academic endeavours, Dr. Yunush Ali has been involved in defence demonstrations and operations like Operation Parakram. His experiences have reinforced his philosophy of self-motivation and preparedness. He firmly believes that “the more you prepare in peace, the less you bleed in war.”



Currently, he continues his work in education, maintaining his coaching center and teaching at Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies while preparing for his Ph.D Convocation. His goal is to inspire students and employees with motivational lessons, ensuring that they carry forward the values of discipline and perseverance.

## **A Life of Service and Learning**

From the war of Kargil to the classrooms of academia, Dr. Yunush Ali's journey is an inspiration. His experiences reinforce the idea that preparation and dedication are the keys to success, whether in war or in life. As he continues to educate and mentor students, he carries forward the same spirit of resilience that defined his service. His story is a reminder that true patriotism extends beyond the battlefield—it is about building a stronger nation through knowledge, discipline, and unwavering commitment.



## STAYING SAFE IN BANGALORE: A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO CRIME AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

An interview with Dr. Theju Kumar C., *Associate professor and HOD of Criminology*

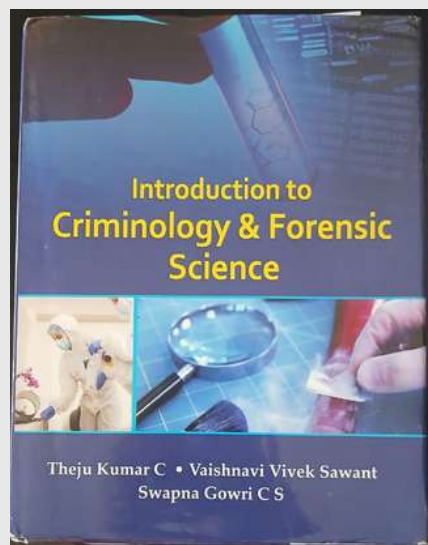
By Shween Tanaz, *Student Editor*

In the heart of India's tech capital, Bangalore's youthful vibrance and educational opportunities attract thousands of students from across the country and around the world. But as with any bustling metropolis, safety remains a critical concern—especially for young people living away from home. In an insightful interview with Dr. Theju Kumar C., we explore the changing landscape of crime in Bangalore, the specific risks students face, and actionable ways they can protect themselves.

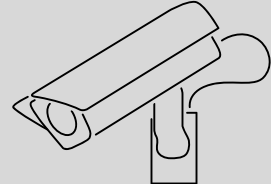


### About the Expert:

Dr. Theju Kumar C. is the Associate Professor & Head of the Department of Criminology. A seasoned academic, he has trained at the Karnataka Police Academy and organized conferences with the National Commission for Women. He is also the author of the textbook *Introduction to Criminology and Forensic Science*.







## Understanding Crime Trends in Bangalore

While traditional crimes like theft, assault, and physical violence continue to exist, the face of crime in Bangalore has evolved.

*“Earlier it was traditional crimes—now it's cybercrime.”*, Dr. Theju Kumar points out.

Cybercrime, including identity theft, phishing scams, and financial fraud, has emerged as one of the most common and dangerous forms of crime targeting students. The ease with which information is shared on social media platforms only increases vulnerability.

Another growing concern is drug-related crime. According to Dr. Theju Kumar, college hubs have become hotspots for drug peddlers, who often target students by offering free samples to get them addicted.

*“They know how to find students struggling with depression, alcohol issues, or loneliness—and they manipulate them”*, he warns.



## When and Where Are Students Most at Risk?

Crime is not limited to specific neighbourhoods. Whether in high-end areas or localities near colleges, students must remain vigilant—especially in dark or isolated places and during the evening hours, when most incidents occur.

Though international students are not necessarily at higher risk, Dr. Kumar notes that circumstantial crimes involving drug use or poor decision-making can draw anyone into unsafe situations.

## Safety Precautions Students Must Take

From personal safety to cyber safety, here's what students can do:

*While Traveling Alone or Using Cabs:*

- Always inform a friend or family member of your travel route.
- Use safety apps like **Suraksha** and **KSCPCR**.
- Share ride details and keep your location services turned on.
- Use emergency services by **dialling 112**, the national emergency helpline.



*Cybersecurity Tips:*

- Never share personal details or OTPs online.
- Be cautious with roadside vendors selling SIM cards—your biometric data could be misused.
- Use government services like [tafcop.dgtelecom.gov.in](https://tafcop.dgtelecom.gov.in) to check how many SIM cards are registered under your Aadhaar.



## Choosing Safe Accommodations

When renting a PG or apartment, do not rely solely on advertisements.

*“Before moving in, students should research online, ask for recommendations, and avoid isolated locations.”*, Dr. Kumar advises.

Some landlords make false promises during admission season and become unresponsive afterward, leaving students vulnerable and helpless.

## Hidden Dangers: Human Trafficking & Organized Crime

A grim reality that many overlook is the presence of human trafficking networks. These syndicates often lure victims through promises of work, friendship, or help during emotionally vulnerable periods. Once trapped, victims may be used for organ trade, child marriage, slavery, or pornography.

*“Cybercrime, drug abuse, and trafficking are all interconnected.”*, says Dr. Kumar. *“Addiction often leads to exploitation.”*

## Creating Safe Educational Spaces

*Colleges can play a vital role in ensuring student safety:*

- Implement proctor systems and anti-ragging units.
- Encourage regular interaction between students and faculty.
- Create legal aid cells where students can report concerns confidentially.

If a student feels unsafe, they should immediately approach faculty members, the HOD, or the principal. Dr. Kumar stresses the importance of a culture where faculty initiate trust-building, making themselves approachable to students.

## Safety at Public Events

Attending concerts, protests, or large gatherings is part of student life. *But caution is key:*

- Always go with friends or trusted company.
- Avoid excessive alcohol consumption.
- Stay alert to your surroundings and never give others the chance to take advantage.

## Recognizing and Avoiding Job Scams

The promise of easy money can often mask a trap.

*“No genuine employer will ask for money upfront.”*, Dr. Kumar cautions. *“Students should always verify job listings, read reviews, and be wary of shady interviews.”*







## Self-Defence and Emergency Response

Dr. Kumar strongly recommends self-defence training in disciplines like Taekwondo, Judo, or Krav Maga. While not all institutions have facilities, even basic physical education can enhance confidence and reflexes in emergencies.

If faced with harassment or a threatening situation, staying calm and having the presence of mind to act is crucial. *Students should also look for red flags like:*

- Poorly lit areas
- Lack of CCTV surveillance
- Unknown people offering help without context



## Working as a Student Community

One of the most powerful tools students have is each other. Forming support networks, student safety committees, and promoting community policing—where citizens collaborate with law enforcement—can make a tangible difference.

*“Be the voice for your community. Be a volunteer. Come forward and report. That’s how safety begins”,* says Dr. Kumar.

## Closing Thoughts

Safety in a city like Bangalore is not about paranoia—it’s about awareness. As Dr. Theju Kumar’s insights reveal, students have the power to protect themselves and others through vigilance, education, and community action.

Let’s create campuses and communities where safety is a shared responsibility—and everyone looks out for each other.

### Important Resources for Student Safety



Emergency Helpline: 112



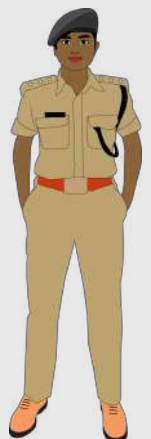
Suraksha App – Real-time police support



SIM Card Check: [tafcop.dgtelecom.gov.in](http://tafcop.dgtelecom.gov.in)



KSPCR App – For girl child protection



# GAMES COLUMN

---



RIDDLES  
CROSSWORD  
CROSSMATH  
QUIZ  
& MORE

---





# RIDDLE ME THIS!

1. I have keys but no locks. I have space but no room. You can enter but can't go outside. What am I?

2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?

3. What has hands but can't clap?

4. I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?

5. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?



6. Forward I am heavy, but backward I'm not. What am I?

7. What can fill a room but takes up no space?

8. I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old. What am I?

9. What has many teeth but can't bite?

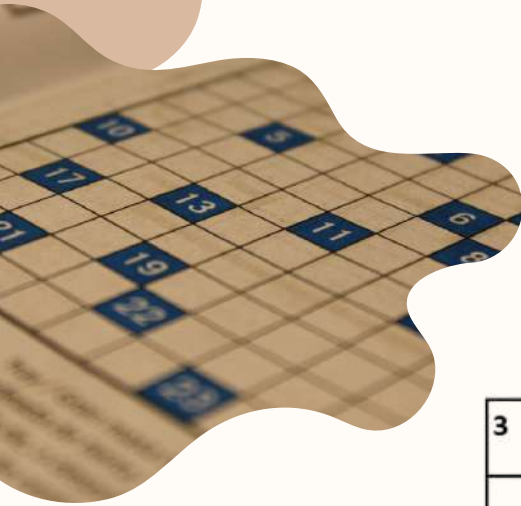
10. I'm not alive, but I can grow. I don't have lungs, but I need air. What am I?



*Answers: 1. A keyboard, 2. Footsteps, 3. A clock, 4. An echo, 5. The letter "M", 6. The word "ton", 7. Light, 8. A candle, 9. A comb, 10. Fire*

# CROSSWORD

## CAMPUS CHRONICLES



### Down

2. The person who knows all your secrets (and your laundry habits).
3. The friend who always has proxy covered
4. A last-minute saviour for assignments
6. Annual cultural extravaganza

### Across

1. The sacred spot before exams
5. College's favourite caffeine spot
7. That sacred scroll we never read but always blame.
8. Weapon of mass distraction in class



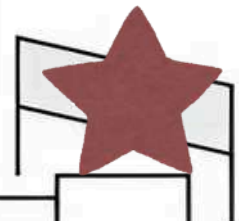
*Solution:*







$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



# QUIZ

## CAMPUS IQ CHECK



1. What is the capital city of Canada?
2. Who painted the famous artwork The Starry Night?
3. What does “HTTP” stand for in a website address?
4. Which Indian cricketer is nicknamed “The Hitman”?
5. In mathematics, what is the value of  $\pi$  (pi) rounded to two decimal places?

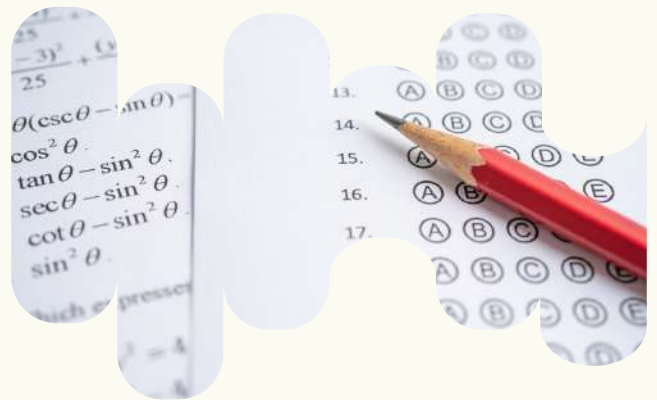
6. What is the name of the virtual assistant developed by Amazon?

7. What’s the largest internal organ in the human body?

8. Who wrote the novel 1984?

9. Which Netflix show features a game called “Red Light, Green Light” with deadly consequences?

10. Which chemical element has the symbol “Fe”?



Answers: 1. Ottawa, 2. Vincent van Gogh, 3. HyperText Transfer Protocol, 4. Rohit Sharma, 5. 3.14, 6. Alexa, 7. Liver, 8. George Orwell, 9. Squid Game, 10. Iron



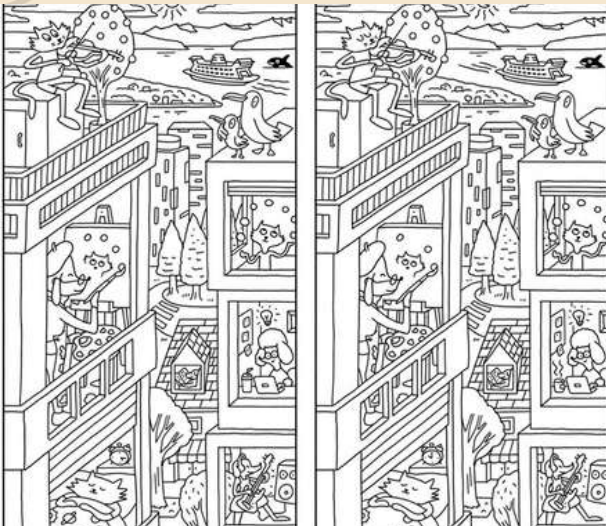
# THE CHILL PAGE



## WOULD YOU RATHER???

1. Give a surprise presentation or take a surprise test?
2. Have a 6:00 AM lectures all semester or one 12 - hour class every Saturday?
3. Bunk with friends and get caught or attend and sleep in class?
4. Eat only canteen samosas for a week or revise using only last year's notes?
5. Get your phone taken away for a week or get rejected by your crush?

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



## CAPTION THIS MEME



## EMOJI DECODER

1. 🧑 + 📖 = ?
2. 🧊 + 🍷 = ?
3. 🧠 + 🌀 = ?
4. ☀️ + 🕶️ = ?
5. 🦻 + 📞 = ?

Answers: 1. "Facebook", 2. "Iced Tea", 3. "Brainstorm",  
4. "Sunglasses", 5. "Earphone"

## 6 WORD CHALLENGE

Describe your college life in just 6 words.

Example:

- "Wifi slow. Life slower. Friends fast."

Now your turn— send your 6-word story to [morpheusaigs@gmail.com](mailto:morpheusaigs@gmail.com)!



# SPECIAL THANKS

## CHAIRMAN

B. PREMNATH REDDY

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BASANI SHALINI PRIYADARSHINI REDDY

## MANAGING DIRECTOR

KRISHNA KABIR REDDY BASANI

## PRINCIPAL

DR. GURUNATH RAO VAIDYA

*Thank you for giving us this opportunity and support to make this happen.*

## EDITORS

DR. SUBHALAXMI MOHANTY

(Associate Professor, Department of English)

MR. USHA SAI KIRAN RAGHUPATHULA

(Asst. Professor, Department of English)

*Thank you for your guidance and expertise in bringing this magazine to life.*



## STUDENT EDITOR

SHWEEN TANAZ SALIH  
*BBA, VI SEM*

## MEMBERS

ANGELICA DANIEL  
*BCOM, VI SEM*

SINJINI M.G.  
*BA-PCE, IV SEM*

AADHIDEV DARSHAN  
*BBA, II SEM*

MOHAMMED ROSHAN K.M.  
*BBA, II SEM*

WRITTIKA GOSWAMI  
*BA-PJE, VI SEM*

ANTRA KULKARNI  
*BA-PJE, IV SEM*

RAHUL DAS  
*BA-PJE, VI SEM*

NAINA KULKARNI  
*BSC PMC, II SEM*

*A special thanks to all the members who have worked diligently to bring this magazine to life. Thanks to all the students for their contribution and support.*

*We hope you have a bright day!*

Comments and Suggestions that might help us in better achieving our aims in the future editions of this magazine are most welcome.

To submit your work, please email us at [morpheusaigs@gmail.com](mailto:morpheusaigs@gmail.com)





## **ACHARYA INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

(NAAC Accredited 'A+' and Affiliated to Bengaluru City University)

**Soladevanahalli, Bengaluru-560107**

**MORPHEUS**

**2024- 2025**

*IMAGE COURTESY : AADHIDEV*