



# PRERNA

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME  
SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE



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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

‘The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.’ -Mahatma Gandhi

The above-stated quote aptly describes the spirit and motivation behind the working of the Team National Service Scheme (NSS), Shri Ram College of Commerce. The College has always upheld values of humanity and benevolence along with its academic rigor. It is an honor to witness the sheer determination and devotion of our students working tirelessly towards the upliftment of society. Throughout the year, Team NSS through its several laudable activities promotes the ingrained motto of ‘Selfless Seva’. The diligence and courage to initiate the positive social and cultural transformation is reflected in their noble deeds, awareness spreading campaigns, and wing activities. Their selfless approach not only inspires our stakeholders but the entire society in stepping forward for humanity.

The team led under the able guidance and support of Convenor, Dr. Kuljeet Kaur has worked diligently in inspiring our students and making them socially responsible citizens. I whole-heartedly congratulate the team for the release of the tenth edition of ‘PRERNA’- the annual magazine of the Society. This year’s theme circumventing ‘Order in Chaos’ is pertinent especially during the tough times of the pandemic. Hope that the insights reflected in the magazine will add value to the readers.

I wish them all the best for their future endeavours!

Prof Simrit Kaur  
Principal



# **FROM THE PROGRAM OFFICER'S DESK**



Education alone is not a good measure of a person's stature if it is focussed merely on individual success rather than developing a sense of social welfare and community development. Sadly, with increase in competitiveness and professionalism, individual success is generally put above social welfare.

The National Service Scheme is a platform where we try to develop a sense of social service among young minds through engagement in social welfare activities. We believe our students have the capability and potential to become key decision-makers in policy formulation for the country and the various community engagement programs undertaken by NSS help them understand the various problems in the society and eventually find their probable solutions at the grassroot level. It is my privilege to be associated with the NSS unit of Shri Ram College of Commerce. Teaching and guiding the best minds of our country is certainly a great feeling. I am proud to say that our volunteers are admirably adhering to the NSS Motto of “NOT ME BUT YOU” and trying their best to bring positive changes around them through their work. The NSS unit of the college is the most active student unit in and outside the campus; which starts from the first day of admissions and goes on till the last working day of the session; and their zeal to continue working, despite the limitations that came with the shift to digital platforms, and again to physical mode was particularly admirable. Today I can confidently say that the contribution of our NSS volunteers is not limited to some specific celebrations, instead, it has now become a daily affair. Their work reaches different horizons of society with a number of wings and projects working on a diverse range of social issues.

The office-bearers and volunteers have played a very crucial role in ensuring the elevation of social contributions of NSS SRCC and I express my sincere gratitude to them for enabling the objectives of NSS to become ground reality. In the end, I would also like to congratulate the editorial team for bringing this new issue of PRERNA to the readers. We hope it will help you get a new perspective and inspire you in many respects.

I wish all the volunteers the very best for their future!

Dr. Kuljeet Kaur  
Program Officer, NSS SRCC



# FROM THE EDITOR



One thing I was sure about at the time of joining college was that I wanted to be a part of NSS. I have always been inclined towards social work and this felt like a perfect opportunity to satiate my hunger for the same. Little did I know then that it would prove to be much more than that. NSS has rewarded me in ways I can only be grateful about. The best thing about it? It does so for everyone. The gratitude towards NSS, the homely feeling, is not personal, it is shared. The love and comfort that NSS provides cannot be expressed in words, it can only be felt and paid forward.

I remember while preparing for my interview for joining NSS, I came across the ‘publications’ section on the website. It was heartening to see people talk and write about things that we did not even discuss openly in school. Skimming through the articles, one after the other, made me feel empowered and I knew it would do the same to others as well. It was then when I realized that it was through the editorial wing that I wished to become a part of NSS- a decision which would later go on to define a large part of my college life.

I always had a niche for writing but it was truly as an editorial volunteer that I learned the intricacies of it. Words like editing, researching and proofreading stirred up excitement in me and fortunately, there were always ample opportunities to channel that excitement. Volunteering for tasks never felt like work, my wing heads succeeded in creating that environment of comfort. When I got selected as the editorial head for the tenure 2021-22, this is precisely what I wished to achieve for my juniors as well.

Acting as the editorial head came with its own set of challenges but with determination and faith, Rinkle and I were able to accomplish all that we had planned. The Content Development Internship we carried out was one of the best experiences I had in the capacity of the editorial head. Working on Prerna, the annual publication of NSS SRCC, was another. The entire process of creating Prerna felt like a way of expressing my gratitude toward NSS. It is my labour of love. All I hope is that through Prerna we can communicate the passion we all possess towards everything that NSS stands for. Heart for service is not just a tagline, it is a true description of every member of this family.

While the world has been braving the unprecedented pandemic for almost three years now, the last few months have been about getting life back on track, returning from the ‘new normal’ to the only normal that feels that way. There had been disruption, unparalleled loss, and excruciating trauma. But it was now time to find the order in the chaos that no one anticipated or was equipped to deal with. This year’s theme for Prerna, Order in Chaos, is a reflection of the current world order and is our small way to inspire and celebrate those who have pulled through and are pulling through each day to overcome the dark times we all faced.

Closer to home, Order in Chaos is what truly describes the functioning of our NSS unit in this tenure. With junior cabinet members having limited experience of working on the ground due to covid restrictions, the transition to physical mode with colleges reopening was no less than a task. We were unsure and scared but we were also determined and hopeful. It was our passion for society and social service that helped us achieve all that we could in this last year and take forward the celebrated legacy of NSS, SRCC. What proved detrimental in making this transition as smooth as possible was the unmatched support and guidance of our senior cabinet members- Tenzin, Devika and Kriti, whose past experiences acted as our guide through this uncertain journey ahead.

This year's Prerna brings to you many thought-provoking articles, prose and poems written by people from diverse backgrounds, each having their unique perspective of looking at things, special features on some of our wings and projects for their exceptional work, and experiences of those who have been associated with NSS. It is not just an accumulation of articles and poems; it is our way to celebrate all that we have achieved and more so of what we can achieve. We attempt to inspire the readers to contribute, in whatever way possible, towards the welfare of others. It is our venture, to bring to you, different perspectives, thoughts and opinions and help you find your own.

Prerna is a result of long hours spent in extensive research, articulation of ideas and ensuring successful execution. I am thankful to the TEAM NSS 2021-22 for their unwavering support throughout. I would particularly like to highlight the efforts and extend my gratitude to the members of the editorial wing for their significant contribution and constant hard work. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Technical and Designing Team for bringing our vision to life in the most aesthetically pleasing way possible. Heartfelt gratitude to Tenzin, Devika and Kriti who showed faith in us and provided us with all the guidance and help, as and when required. Their words of encouragement were a major source of motivation and comfort alike. Even though it was through my words that I made my way into NSS, SRCC, I don't think I will ever be able to use them in a way to express my true gratitude for the people I met here, the lessons I learned, the experiences I had and the memories I made.

Happy Reading! I hope Prerna brings to you as much joy as it brought to me in the process of its creation.

Love and gratitude always  
Harshi Kumar  
Editorial Head 2021-22





# FROM THE EDITOR



As I sit to pen down my thoughts, I feel this gush of emotions making it tough for me to talk about NSS and my experience here without disappearing in a puddle of tears. Ours was the first batch to incept their college lives through our laptop screens. I still remember the gripping nervousness I felt as I processed the whole college culture virtually. I recall feeling distant and somewhat unsure about a lot of things. My first encounter with NSS SRCC happened through a video, 'SRCC ft Smiles', which was posted around that time and a part of it has stayed with me till date. Following this, NSS and its meaning for me has only enriched with time.

Right from the orientation, to my journey as a volunteer and then as Editorial Head, NSS has given me a safe space in college, a cushion to fall back on and a family I could count on. Despite the distance created by our zoom screens, the warmth in the beaming smiles could reach me. NSS has made me realize that the thing that makes any experience worthwhile, is the people, it all circles back to the company you have got with you. I've met some of the kindest hearts here and have found a bond I'll cherish for the rest of my life.

From brainstorming for articles and write ups as a volunteer to leading a team of volunteers, to the thrill of organizing SAMARPAN together and offline drives and campaigns, it has been one helluva journey. I've grown tremendously over the past year and a lot of it is attributed to NSS and its people. Being a reclusive and quiet introvert back then to now being confident enough to voice my opinions and what I believe in, it has helped me shape my foundation. My then heads, Naionika Di and Srushti Di have been instrumental to a lot of the lessons I've learnt here. I remember the elation and joy that came post becoming the Editorial Head, but I was also terrified at some level, and it was their comfort, guidance and advice that has helped both me and Harshi, sail through and put our best efforts forward and I feel eternally grateful to have had such amazing heads.

Every misstep, every decision we made, every initiative, every encouragement and memories, both good and rough ones, have taught me more than I could count. The memories I've made here will stay with me forever, and I proudly say that it's a part of my roots now. It has picked me up on the lowest of my days and had me smiling on high ones and has kept me sane while our lives were enwrapped with uncertainty. It has been my comfort place, to say the least, as I've always felt a sense of freedom to be and embrace myself as I am. It has pushed me beyond my limits and at times have left me surprised. I'm extremely thankful to the senior cabinet, Tenzin Di, Devika Di and Kriti Di for always having my back through thick and thin. They've encouraged me to do things to the best of my capabilities throughout the session and go beyond my expectations.

I guess I'm lucky to have got a touch of offline experience in these last few months as it brought us all closer with offline meets, discussions, working for the annual fest and campaigns, day in and day out. The delight and fulfilling joy that comes with witnessing the smiles after lifting someone is beyond words. During my time here, I also got a chance to join the team for a community outreach program with R.O.S.E (Rural Organization for Social Elevation) in Kanda, Bageshwar District of Uttarakhand. The time spent there while getting to understand the ground realities, finding a home away from home with the local families and doing our bit to bring a smile to their faces, will be treasured in the corner of my heart which I'll forever keep safe and close. As was aptly said by Emily Dickinson: "If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain; If I can ease one life the aching, Or cool one pain, Or help one fainting robin unto his nest again, I shall not live in vain."

This year's edition of PRERNA is built upon the theme of 'Order in Chaos'. It is in our innate nature to look for hope, a silver lining in trying times, and this is what this edition entails to. It is an acknowledgement and celebration of the comfort of these silver linings. Having experienced a global pandemic and the stringing aftermaths, seeking refuge in little ways be it art, writing, following one's hobbies or maybe a simple act of humanity by lending a helping hand, is just a reflection of our attempt to bring orderliness in disruption. We hope that the theme resonates with the readers on different levels, as it is an umbrella theme enveloping diverse nuances and its intricacies. In addition to this, it also presents a special feature on the Social Empowerment Wing and Project Kali of NSS SRCC, highlighting their works throughout the session, while providing a glimpse into the experiences of volunteers as well.

Prerna 2021-22 is a result of the collective efforts of the Editorial Team as well as the Technical and Marketing Team, through extensive research, discussions, designing and editing and proofreading done over the past two months. We hope that this magazine proves to be a worthwhile read for the readers and that you find each part of it engaging and enriching.

With love and cheer  
Rinkle Saxena  
Editorial Head  
2021-22



# FROM THE PRESIDENT



‘The last time I wrote for NSS was when I made it as the head of Project Sanskar. Today I sit here and write it under the designation of President of NSS. The journey to summarize the time in between and before is way tougher than I thought it would be. But the journey I lived, that is something which cannot be described in words. I can tell tales of our trips to miserably failed attempts but can you relive them with me? If only I were an author I’d make you. To every single person who has wished to be a part of NSS or are a part of NSS, know that this road will lead you on to a beautiful destination, but it is not about the destination for us. It is about the journey. I carry the blessings of those we met on the way and I carry the lessons I’ve learnt, I carry every tear of those who needed help and I carry smiles of every person we helped. From here on, NSS will be a memory only to be relived in my mind but the people will stay with me. To the ones who are in their journey of finding oneself, like I said, that road will lead you there.

Tenzin Kalsang  
President  
2021-22



# FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



As I sit at my desk and start writing, I feel butterflies in my stomach and a zillion emotions in my heart. I recall those minute details that start from sitting for an interview in Room 6, nervous and ecstatic, but do not end with me writing this note. This journey of 3 years cannot be told in 3 paragraphs but let me try.

From being the junior team member to being the Project head and now leading a team of 300 members as the Vice- President, the journey has been a wholesome one. As a member of the Save Youth wing, I went on many field visits, interacted with underprivileged children, and arranged learning sessions. This all has made me realize how privileged I am and has kept me grounded. As the Project Vishwas head- the only Social-entrepreneurship project of NSS, I have gained analytical and problem-solving skills. I have learnt about the different socio-economic factors of life through interaction with disadvantaged people of the society and helping them by providing a livelihood. As the Vice - President, I have understood the importance of adapting with the dynamic environment. This whole tenure has been a one-of-a-kind exposure which has helped me unmask different facets of society like adult disability, child development, mental disorders among several others. From bedecking the college campus to conducting fundraisers and our annual fest on zoom, it has been a helluva ride.

My seniors have guided me and kept me motivated throughout this journey. I would like to thank Soumika, Ranjana, Nikunj and Ipsita for instilling in me the values of perseverance and hard work. Trust me, you all have been the real driving force. As it is rightly said that people rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing. My juniors have kept me sane and made this ride an absolute delight. They have taught me to enjoy those little things on the way up. All those memories of leg pulling, scolding, zoom meetings, NSS lawn meetings and many more will never be forgotten. During these trying times, NSS has consistently and relentlessly worked towards social welfare and made the unachievable achievable. The strong bond our team shares makes us believe that we are together even in times of distress. I am super proud of the whole team for fearlessly working through the pandemic and then quickly adapting to the offline working. You all have certainly made it look a lot easier.

This would be the first time when I do not wish to keep my pen down, only because I know that this is the last time I am writing for PRERNA. Our annual magazine PRERNA is a work of love. It is the combined efforts of all the people associated with NSS in any form. The Editorial and Technical heads have worked day In and day out to make this possible. The articles that follow are a reader's paradise and to whoever is reading this right now, I promise you a knowledgeable reading. I hope that this year's PRERNA is a huge success and helps people declutter, rejuvenate their mind.

As I finally keep my pen down, With tears in my eyes and faith in my heart for I know that I leave behind our family in safe hands.

With teary eyes, I wish you all happy reading

Signing off  
Devika Chaudhary  
Vice President  
2021-22



# FROM THE SECRETARY



Mother Teresa once said and I quote, “Not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love.”

This is such a wonderful quote to live by as the best way to bring about a change is through small acts of kindness. Not everyone will change the world in one large swoop, but everyone can change the world in small steps together and this is exactly what NSS taught me.

It was my proud privilege to be associated with NSS SRCC in the capacity of a volunteer under Project Sanskar in my first year, then as the Project Sanskar Head in my second year and finally as the Secretary in my third year. And looking back, I can only say that NSS has given me more than I could have ever asked for. I am truly grateful to my seniors, teammates and fellow cabinet members who have supported me throughout the entire journey. Special mention to Ranjana, Nikunj and Ipsita for entrusting me with the cabinet position of Secretary. And obviously to the most enthusiastic and understanding set of juniors. It was because of their tireless efforts, innovative ideas and teamwork which made SAMARPAN'22 a huge success.

I would call myself one of the lucky few who got to experience both the offline as well as online working of NSS which of course came with its own set of challenges.

During my tenure as the Secretary of NSS SRCC, I led a team of seven volunteers to work with Rural Organisation for Social Elevation (R.O.S.E.), a rural eco-community based rural tourism and volunteer programme which is based out of a very remote village called Kanda in the district of Bageshwar, Uttarakhand. As a part of the community outreach programme, we conducted a pad donation drive in the local government school; carried out cleanliness drives in designated locations; engaged in organic farming and learnt about the life and culture of people under homestay based rural tourism while staying with the locals and enjoying the beauty of nature. Overall, it was a wholesome experience for all of us.

As I write this, I am overwhelmed with emotions. The journey of the past three years has been nothing short of pure bliss. NSS has indeed given me memories to cherish for a lifetime. NSS has given me a family that has always supported me in my highs and my lows. And I know in my heart of hearts that if someone were to ever ask me about college, my answer would surely be NSS, all that I learnt here and the amazing set of people I came across who have the purest souls. It is because of NSS that I have lived my college life and grown as an individual. I hope reading this has made you smile as big as I have while writing it.

Our Editorial and Technical & Marketing team have put their all in presenting to you the annual magazine of NSS SRCC- PRERNA. The theme for this year's PRERNA is 'Order in Chaos' to celebrate the positives amidst disruption. The world around us is chaotic and that is the fundamental state of nature. Now it is up to the eyes of the beholder to interpret the pattern and infer the order. It focuses on how people can look at the slightest silver lining and hang onto it as the dark cloud passes. After all, it's always the little things that matter the most.

Kriti Joshi  
Secretary  
2021-22

# ORDER IN CHAOS



*the comfort of silver linings*







## CHAOS IN ORDER IS COSMIC INTELLIGENCE

By Aman Chandrashekar

Planets in the universe, on the one hand, travel in such a beautiful and orderly manner. There are no traffic signs or sign boards so to speak of! . When you look at all the stars and galaxies traveling in their own separate directions, though, there is a lot of chaos. Similarly, the tiniest constituents in quantum physics aren't even particles. They are particles and waves, as well as a plethora of probabilities! But even in the midst of chaos, there is order.

If there is no order in the cosmos, it will eventually come to an end. 'Cosmic intelligence' is 'chaos in order.' Take the planet Earth, for example. We shall not be able to exist on this planet Earth as we do today if even one thing is removed - temperature, water, air, or fire. So this is not a coincidence. There is some order in the midst of the turmoil.

The universe as a whole has its own intelligence. It's not just about power. It's also about energy. There is a distinction to be made between power and energy. Intelligence plus power equals energy or to say, power is energy without intelligence. The universe is more than a force. It's a case of 'power plus intelligence.'

Because it is the intelligence that responds to your thoughts, prayers, and existence. The universe is a living force with its own intellect. You're sitting in the midst of a live force.

You will have nothing to strive for in life as long as you believe the cosmos you perceive is material, mechanical, and devoid of intellect. The ultimate law will be "might is right." The fundamental error is to believe that the world is made up of nothing but dead matter. This ideology is at the heart of all forms of terrorism and violence on the planet. As long as we believe the universe is made up entirely of dead matter, we will experience an ever-increasing desire for power. If we believe the world is in disarray, we will naturally think, "Let me grab whatever I can and live as much as I can." We will be motivated to live by the principle that "might is right."

Dr. Masaru Emoto's investigations demonstrate how water responds magnificently to our ideas and changes its structure in response to our thoughts.

The seed of peace is sown only when we recognise that the universe has its own intellect, when we recognise that the universe is a spiritual creature. Only when we realise that our thoughts are heard, that our actions are rewarded, that our prayers are answered, that there is a living intelligent force at work, and that there is order in the chaos can we realize and work for peace, bliss, and spirituality. We shall then endeavor to expand our consciousness rather than striving to own or grow our boundaries and borders. We may simply relax and trust the universe if we begin to believe or trust that it is 'intelligence.'

There is a lovely Zen story which goes like this:

'Teacher, please describe to me how you began, how you walked the path, and how you got the ultimate experience,' a disciple asks a Zen master.

'When I first started, a mountain was a mountain, a river was a river, and a tree was a tree,' explains the master. 'Mountain was not a mountain, the river was not a river, and the tree was not a tree when I was going. Mountain is a mountain, a river is a river, and a tree is a tree,' I said again when I arrived.

Even if you believe you are special, you are ordinary before you achieve. Even when you are remarkable, you realize you are average after accomplishing. In what you call 'order,' your body, mind, and existence, there lies a lovely anarchy. You know there is disorder in the order of the microcosm, the body,

when you recognise there is order in the chaos of the cosmos, the macrocosm (brahmanda) (pindanda). You are more than simply a physical being. You're more than a microcosm. You are a microcosm of the macrocosm.

You comprehend that, like the universe, you are the ultimate, limitless ocean of potential energy. You have the impression that you are something more than what you believe.

Because you believe your boundaries are very little, you now believe you are in an order. You will discover the chaos within your order the moment you encounter cosmic consciousness, the order in the turmoil.

You will become aware of the energy and consciousness that exists within your body. Then you won't have to worry about keeping yourself in order; it will just happen. You won't have to work hard to be disciplined; discipline will come naturally to you! You will truly become ordered, and you will truly understand how to be orderly without reducing your energy, only when you realize the cosmic consciousness in your body, the macrocosm in your microcosm.

You will just stifle your energy if you strive to become orderly, and you will also be suppressing everyone else. First, you will become a spiritual being when you recognise the order in the chaos, and you will experience love and pleasure. You will become a compassionate being once you recognise the chaos within the order. You will experience a bit of love, happiness, when you comprehend the order in the chaos. You will exhibit the expressing portion of love, compassion, when you recognise the chaos in the order.

# INDIA INDEPENDENT : BRITISH RULE ENDS

## CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TAKES OATH

MOUNTBATTEN GOVERNOR



### NEW STAR RISES IN THE EAST

#### LEADERS TELL NATION OF TASKS AHEAD

**PARTITION**  
By Sara Bapna

Despite the fact that India and Pakistan have been independent from the British for over 70 years, the hostility and mistrust between the two countries remains a tragic and persistent legacy of the Partition. Both countries appear to have forgotten about some unsung heroes, whose actions during the heinous Partition violence serve as a lesson in what it is to be human, what it means to look for ORDER in Chaos.

### 1. Religion and riot

The 'Khaksar,' a militant Islamic party founded by Inayatullah Khan Mashriqi to force the British out of India, was formed with the goal of liberating India from foreign rule. Non-Muslims were able to join the Khaksar Tehrik, and the Tehrik was kept prejudice-free, regardless of caste, color, race, or religion. During the Partition's sectarian bloodshed, Ashraf Khan, the Khaksar leader in Rawalpindi, encouraged his people to swear that they would do whatever they could to defend anybody in need. During the riots, the Khaksars, led by their commander, rescued numerous lives, both Hindus and Sikhs

When pages ripped from the Quran were discovered strewn in the grounds outside Rawalpindi's Gordon College a few months before India was partitioned, to keep.

To keep the city from erupting in bloodshed, a member of the 'Khaksar' collected them and hid them in a well. In his efforts to pacify the mob, the person was stabbed to death.

### 2. Above the call of duty

The enraged crowds didn't spare hospitals during the horrible bloodshed that followed the Partition. When a Hindu-Sikh mob invaded a hospital in Amritsar, Dr Purushottam Dutt and his brother, Dr Narain Das, took up arms to protect the patients. "This behavior of yours is incredibly cowardly," the brothers are said to have warned the assailants, according to eyewitnesses. "We will never allow you touch the Muslim patients in this hospital as long as we are alive and our guns have bullets...for as long as we are alive and our rifles have bullets" The mob dispersed, shaken by the heroism of the two physicians, who went above and beyond the call of duty to safeguard their patients.

Dr. Abdur Rauf, a Muslim doctor in Amritsar, used a radically different argument to help 200 non-Muslims besieged in the Katra Karam Singh neighbourhood . When asked to make a decision on their destiny, Dr. Rauf utilised Islamic moral precepts to challenge others who wished to revenge

Muslim maltreatment in other parts of Amritsar. His statements resulted in the release of all non-Muslims.

### 3. Responsibility over rage

Around 300 Muslims took refuge at a small mosque in Ferozepur, East Punjab, in August 1947. They picked it since it was close to a police station. They had been warned of an impending attack by their Hindu friend, Lala Dhuni Chand. The assault began almost

Trilok Nath, the station's chief officer, was ready to install armed Muslim guards outside the mosque. Even during the Partition conflict, when most police officers in Punjab had become partisan, Nath stood out because he stayed neutral and committed to his duties. The fact that the mosque was not assaulted was due to his efforts.

### 4. A healing hand

An elderly person forgot to bring his insulin shot to the mosque where he was taking refuge. His sugar levels continued to increase throughout the tense hours that the Muslims spent hiding in the mosque.

A young Hindu boy went slipping through the city under curfew, to enquire if their family acquaintances were safe, offered to collect

insulin from his father's pharmacy when he learned of the old man's worsening condition. The youngster was never seen again. It is speculated that he had been killed by an enraged mob for assisting Muslims.

### 5. A refuge for hordes

The modest ashram of Swami Saroopanandji of Narela provided a haven for Muslim peasants during the Partition riots in Delhi. The spiritual leader not only protected them from rampaging crowds, but he also accompanied them over the Yamuna river to their relative's house to guarantee that they were safe.

When the violence subsided, he worked diligently to assist them in returning to their previous residences. He convinced the landowners to restore the Muslim peasants' traditional tenancy rights while obtaining Gandhi's consent to rehabilitate the Muslim peasants who had lived at his ashram for months.

Remembering these stories may be the first step in healing the scars that have lingered in the collective memories of both nations for three generations. For these stories shed light on the silver linings in the dark clouds of chaos which have rocked millions.



## UNRAVELLING THE KNOT

By Vrinda Gupta

Times were tough,  
escalations followed & soon things were rough.

Disruptions became a routine,  
the light at the end of the tunnel,  
was nowhere to be seen.

With sleep elusive and normalcy gone  
dread and helplessness became the norm.

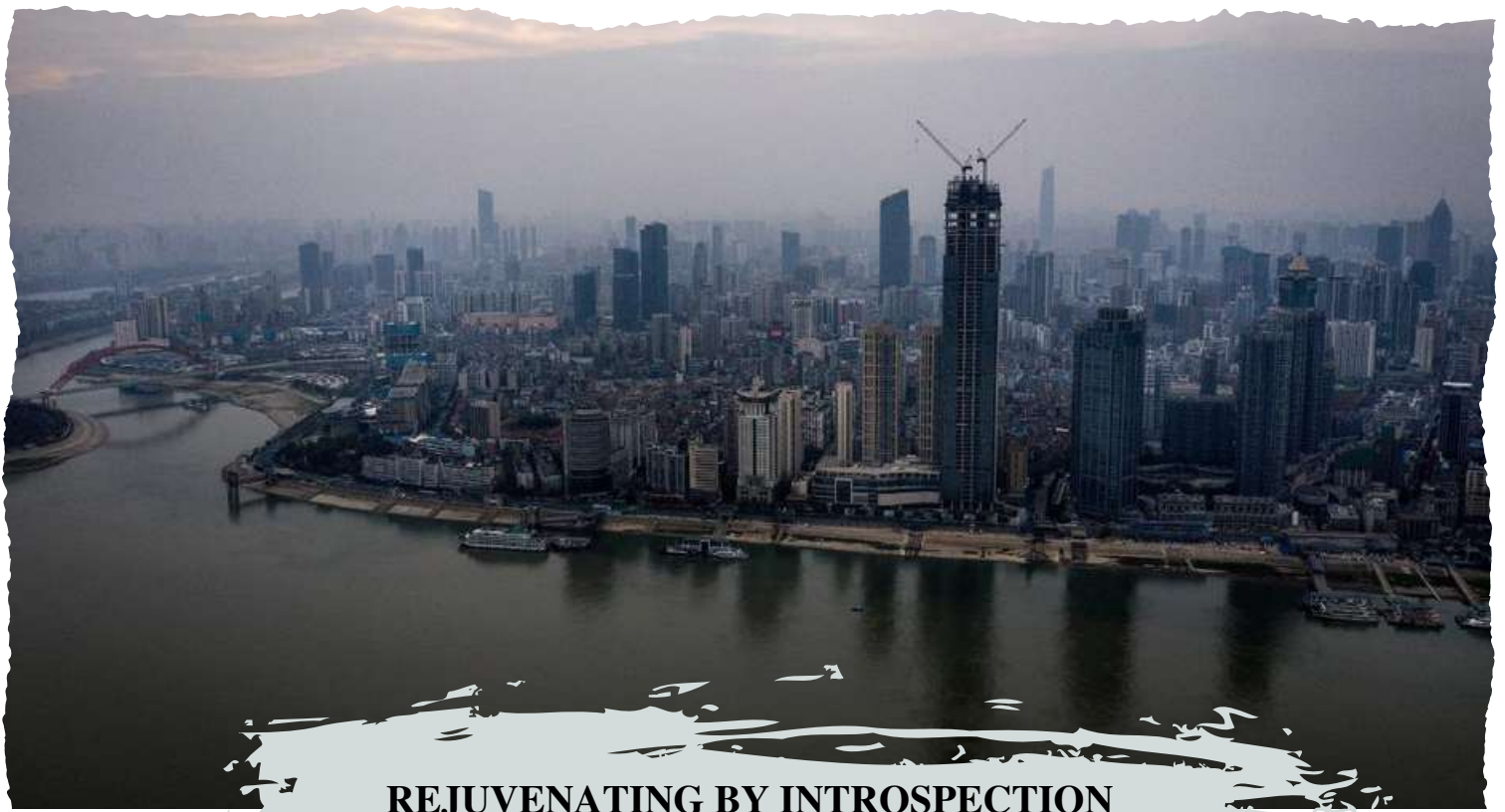
Only devastation and extensive loss,  
civilization sucked into a whirlwind of chaos.

Everyday gripped by fear  
worsened and worsened  
by the plight of those dear.

With all prospects shrouded by negativity,  
it didn't do well to anticipate felicity.

Nevertheless, to battle is human tendency,  
We braved & weathered the storm with tenacity.

We endured and we fought,  
dogged determination & selfless service,  
pious prayers & creative cascades,  
unraveled the stubborn knot,  
clearing the way forward,  
for chaos is but ordered.



## REJUVENATING BY INTROSPECTION

By Riyansh Arya

If the spread of a worldwide pandemic was an act of adversity, its catastrophe emerged from within the injustices of social system and policy. On the opposite side, the amazing emergence of the latest communities belonging to social groups trying to fulfill the numerous needs of migrants on the move, which counter the politics of communities in danger, hopefully becoming a post-Covid future, ending forever the assembly of social indifference.

Can we use the instant of this crisis, the gravest that we've faced in many decades, to revive our broken country into one which is more motivated, just, and equal? Arundhati Roy too mentions that the pandemic has opened a portal, a gateway between one world and therefore the next. We will value more highly to practice it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks, and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us or we will rehearse lightly, with little luggage, able to imagine another world and be prepared to fight for it.

India has lived too long with inequalities that ought to be intolerable. Can we resolve to fight back to create better? Can we use the instance of this crisis, the gravest that we've faced in many decades, to rebuild our country into one which is more compassionate, just and equal?

The pandemic demanded the most effective from us. The only chance we've got of overcoming it in the future is by cementing our commonness by holding one another in a circle of kindness, across all our differences in sophistication, ethnicity, and religion, gender, age, and national boundaries. By never turning our faces away, by supporting one another, and with our planet, by caring about and caring for every other irrespective of what proportion the cases swell but the firm belief to let ourselves and be the glue towards resonating consistently to create the effort towards rebuilding the persona to the trail and reach a consensus on the extent of risk.

The time that folks spent during the crisis was opportunistic to introspect, re-examine the elemental assumptions of the worldwide economic order, and wonder if the Indian ideas can come to our rescue. Ultimately a crisis may be a time of distress as well as a window of opportunity. It might sound gibberish because it was unimaginable for a few of us out there to interrupt the shackles that then pent-up stress upon them. Perhaps aside from anxiety, the chance reassesses our moral theory and relooks into the long-term changes.

However, only a minimal number of citizens seemed to be mentally equipped. To accommodate extreme impact as most of their savings were at stake because of their academic training and company culture. Salient message of picturing themselves; the rehearsal as there was a tinge of self-doubt in all sort of questions swirling in the mind , that how I'm going to control this environment,

doubting the experience and how's it going to be, while the extremely ravenous ones counteracted each of their negative feelings that I've already faced. I have years of experience in managing situations like these, never diving into overthinking or how miserable it's gonna be if I fail to ignore these and going for the step was the priority for several of us. Intuitively the main target was on internal dialogue to exhibit the aura of compassion and resilience.

The internal thought process resonating with the actions to be executed may be further perpetuated to the subsequent level by involving ourselves during a similar process, by engaging within the social environment not necessary to form a compulsion but as a way to increase our well being and of those around us.



## A TOWN IN THE CITY

By Ruchi Gupta

With a myriad of dreams and millions of aspirations, leaving the comfort of our abode behind, a major bunch of us moved to a new 'abode.' While the excitement was exhilarating and the air around warm with emotions, fears, and doubts was deeply instilled. Leaving an order to discover or more so build a new one where the aromas won't be the same, the flavors might lose their magic and the ever-present ears miles away - the shift promised to be a rollercoaster ride.

After days of planning and last-minute packaging, waking up one day, where the sun was the same or that's all that was, a sudden realization struck down. Creating complete chaos both inside and out, the new order still not figured out, the familiar voice on the other side of the screen was a relief to be found.

Then, began a new cycle of the day and life. The chaotic terms of the previous abode became the new normal. While the big city with the bigger expectations it brought did not seem to be the most welcoming one yet there was a resolve to adapt and explore each nook and corner.

Slowly and gradually, it all sank in. The helluva of emotions simmered down and the once frightening things became a part and parcel of everyday life. The unfamiliar routes were figured out and traveling alone was no longer just another choice. The once unknown faces were now the only comfort in the crowd. The four-walled box was finally a room with all the additions that the creative brains sought. Eating regularly was not the most orderly part of the phase and sleeping schedules were messed up to the brim. With the overflowing deadlines, both personal and professional, tired eyes were a constant thing.



But still, in all the love and comfort it offered, there was a weirdly confusing urge. A will to know all that In all the mayhem and building up the process a few months passed until it was finally the time to visit that humble town. The moment of stepping into the house was the moment of getting lost all over again. Those few months felt like yesterday and the embrace oozing love was enough to break the boundaries of the oceanic eyes.

Catching up on the gossip, eating that overly missed morsel of food, and sitting on that joyous swing under the light of a thousand stars, it all seemed too good to be true.

ensued in the chaotic city and to stay connected to it.

Days turned into months and months into years in the blink of an eye. The city was not that chaotic now and the town was not that orderly. While living in that gigantic city,

there was a slow realization. About how the once too good to be true town now seemed to be drowned in a number of silent chaoses. From education and health to the luxury of shopping, everything in the city had a set pattern, something that was organized, something that continued to co-exist with all its noise.

At last came harmony, where chaos was the new order and hustle-bustle the new normal. This time there was a resolve to bring order into that town that was the epitome of love and comfort. But in all this process of finding order in chaos or making chaos the order, the eyes continued to dream on despite any curveball being thrown. It wasn't the end of a journey, just the beginning of many new ones.



## BRUISED YET STANDING

By Rohan Kumar

The UN Human Rights office issued a statement describing the war in Ukraine as a horror story of violation against civilians. Although Russia claims to have only captured Ukrainian territory, we can see evidence on our television screens that Russian forces have been committing extensive war crimes across Ukraine. The death toll is unknown because journalists and aid workers can't enter the city.

Our only option is to rely on local satellites to get glimpses of the city. Satellite data suggests that 45% of the city's built-up area has been deeply damaged. It has been nearly two months of the long war, humanitarian crisis, destruction, debris, and deaths.

Earlier Putin had claimed victory in the battle for Mario Poland and later the Russian defense minister said they wanted a Truce.

Meanwhile, on Good Friday the Ukrainian president wished health and happiness to his nation. He said, "I wish happiness and health on the 58th day of our struggle, Holy Friday. Usually, no one works on this day except our heroes, our defenders, our volunteers, and our doctors. They need to work because they protect sacred things: our land, our people, our state, the glory of Ukraine".

While Russia's cynical attack left Ukraine burning into flames of horror and despair, there are stories of generosity, humanity, and strength:

> The Italian Government announces it will rebuild the Mariupol Theater. Italy's culture minister, Dario Franceschini, tweeted, "Italy is ready to rebuild the Theater of #Mariupol. The cabinet of ministers has approved my proposal to offer #Ukraine the resources and means to rebuild it as soon as possible. Theaters of all countries belong to the whole humanity #worldheritage.

> Neighboring countries are welcoming Ukrainian refugees.

We are glad that neighboring countries of Ukraine like Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia are committed to welcoming refugees from Ukraine and providing aid to them. Social media has come to our rescue once again and is bridging the gap, as people are posting online that they are ready to provide accommodation.

> Russian Tennis star's breathtaking message.

Russian tennis star Andrey Rublev gave a heart-winning message to the world. In a brief clip that followed Rublev's win over Poland's Hubert Hurakacz in the semi-final of the Dubai Tennis Championships on Friday, Rublev wrote on the courtside camera "No war please"

> Human's best friends: Pets

Several videos and pictures are coming on social media where people deny leaving their pets behind while being evacuated safely. Their love for their pets is penetrating through our senses.

> Empire State Building In Solidarity.

The iconic Empire State Building in New York reflected that it stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine by announcing on its official Twitter: " Tonight, the Empire State Building will shine its tower lights in the color of the Ukrainian Flag."

Stories of empathy, compassion, and resilience across the globe illuminate the world with the glimmers of hope for bringing the world to peace which reminds me of a previously censored letter, written in 1917 by a French Soldier to his fiance during the World War: "My darling, stay with me, down with the war that separates us and long live the resolution that in brings peace, will reunite us!"



## THE NAIVE AMBIVALENCE ABOUT THE HAVOC

By Yash Sahu

*"Cold blooded listening to death-rise and disaster,  
Time has halted we know,  
Those innocent smiles and tinkly cheeks,  
Have become memories of ago."*

That novel enemy! That pandemic! That virus!

Yes, it's been talked about a lot but, let's meticulously focus our attention on something very pivotal as well as crucial that COVID has left us with!

The generation of today, the youth, constitutes a significant part of the world's population, around 1.8 billion, which is, without an ambiguity, dominating over all other categories of the population.

The youth is the first one to get subjected to any changes or differences in nature. It wasn't any different in the case of the COVID outbreak. For all the teens, it was something so new to cope up with.

With the havoc entering India in the month of March and heightening itself, it was assumed that a normal lockdown would reduce the intensity of the catastrophe and everything would be restored to normal. However, it did not happen as expected. A new normal, a new mindset, and a new set of challenges were awaiting.

Being a teenager myself, I can vouch for the fact that in the beginning, it seemed to all of us as an opportunity to devote more time to

ourselves, owing to classes running online and everything transforming into the virtual world. For a fact, it did happen as presumed. However, it did not continue for a long time.

Months after the series of lockdowns, there was this inherent apprehension amongst the youth about their journey, as in the form of their career life and also as an individual. Due to the fact that classes were scheduled online, the sincerity, discipline and the zeal to study got lost very soon and the zest to even open books became latent, which severely impacted the study routine for all out there. Therefore, COVID brought a major downfall in the education and academic life of students.

Several other health-related bottlenecks brought about by the pandemic included obesity, laziness, disobedience, lethargy, and the list goes on and on. Perhaps, the most crucial and critical setback that COVID created was a complete mental breakdown for thousands of lives. Depression, anxiety, stress, tension, etc. became so common in normal day-to-day conversations, something not to be proud of. It was seen that majority of the youth started committing suicide in fear of not being able to get opportunities to showcase themselves or establish themselves on the career front.

Increment in deaths also was a significant reason for the prevalent tension and emotional trauma which made people undertake certain steps which weren't good for anyone out there.

The outcome due to these was so detrimental that even today, a lot of families mourn over the same. The pandemic, despite bestowing a lot of opportunities for growth on us, has subjected us to so many ugly situations that cannot be overruled, for years to come.

However, the pandemic offered chances for tonnes of people to add many feathers to their caps and come out of the monotony of the world and start working towards their passion. It helped people give more time to themselves as well as their near and dear ones and understand the importance of life.

Therefore, it should be on an individual to be sanguine enough to analyse a situation and work towards attaining the best thing possible, without being bogged under pressure. And, then, things will surely fall in place!



**DAWN OF DEATH**  
**By Rohan Kumar**

A noose,  
Frequently bought as a rope.  
I stared at it for hours,  
In the silence, everything was barred.  
Maybe the salvation before death,  
Or the damnation for what I may resort to.  
The coffin,  
No more of a cage,  
Rather an escape.  
My body rusts no more like a junk,  
Rather decays down to turn into something young.



## UNDERSTANDING CHAOS...

By Saksham Aggarwal

In the beginning, God created heaven and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good and he separated the light from the darkness." (Old Testament / Genesis)

In everyday use, "chaos" refers to disorder, irregularity, turbulence, and disorganisation. The phrase derives from the Greek term "Khaos," which implies nothingness, abyss, huge vacuum, and chasm. In Ancient Greek, chaos represented the polar opposite of order, a sea in which conflicts evaporate, things disintegrate, and everything liquefies into a homogeneous mass of fluid. When we hear the word "chaos," the first image that springs to mind is a nonlinear process in which everything becomes twisted and culminates in calamity.

Khaos is described as a primeval deity in Greek mythology. Khaos existed before the order of the Cosmos. "Chaos, according to the ancient Greeks, predominates in the cosmos before anything else." The order, namely the universe, was portrayed by Uranus crushing the stars and relocating the planets in a certain sequence." This myth alludes to a never-ending transformation cycle. Both chaos and order are ephemeral. This is a balancing procedure that is both dynamic and changing. An individual's role in this process is to first orchestrate his or her own home, creating a small-scale cosmos within it. This is the beginning of sagaciousness, because everything fluctuates, chaos exists in order and order exists in chaos! In this cosmos, no one has ever discovered something that did not alter.

Following the Big Bang, our universe began to evolve and expand fourteen billion years ago. The light was in charge of arranging "Chaos". "Scientists have examined our planet's position and function in this galaxy and the cosmos, and they have discovered clues about the universe's hidden harmony."

Observations revealed that chaos transforms into order, that matter and energy are the same, and that chaos follows a predetermined path. The root and cosmogony of the universe is an explosion of light in the dark of time.

The Earth's genesis was not a clash between chaos and order, but rather a perpetual altar of singularity and plurality. It signifies the emergence of "the Order" from "the Chaos." Existence has evolved as a result of the dualism of the realms in which it has been ingrained. As an immaculate entity, it has transcended itself and acquired a higher degree of cognition. According to chaos theory, even disorder has an order inside its confusion. The coexistence of chaos and order is innate in life. "Everything in the life of a human being is for the order within the chaos to reappear and for discovering the Unity of the Divine."

There's nothing that shouldn't." "What we watch is the unfathomable synthesis of order from the inconceivable, the rise of disorder from the order, and order from the chaos.", Escher writes. The oscillation's two extreme extremes are chaos and order. Its cadence varies like a beating heart before restoring to its former condition. There is unity in their disunity, and disunity in their unity. There is order in chaos and chaos in order. Existence is the union of equilibrium and disequilibrium, stability and variety, law and anarchy. Both ultimate order and ultimate disorder imply apocalypse.

"There is an order, even in places the human mind perceives as chaos."

"Chaos and order are ends of the same notion, just like the two ends of a pendulum. It should not be forgotten that there's no permanent chaos or order, because everything 'lives and changes!'"

"There is a universe in every chaos, a secret order in every disorder, a constant law in every variant."





## CREATIVITY IN CAPTIVITY

By Vrinda Gupta

2020 and 2021 have been years of paradigm-shifting developments, shaped by a global pandemic of prodigious proportions. The world has undeniably turned upside down. We've collectively experienced a phenomenon that comes once in a few hundred years. The newness and the rarity of the entire scheme of events have engendered certain feelings and awakenings among people across all age groups.

Most feelings have been characterised by anxiety, uncertainty, vexation, and uneasiness. Knowingly or unknowingly, it has altered us in more ways than we realise. From daily headlines of covid infections multiplying at an exponential rate to desperate phone calls of relatives and friends echoing helplessness, all of us were engulfed in an air of uncertainty and despair.

In such unprecedented times, creativity was something that allowed mankind to seek

temporary refuge in a place that is far, far away from the reality we refused to accept and found hard to come to terms with. Through creative avenues, we've been able to express and release pent-up emotions.

The pandemic broke the mechanical monotony of modern lifestyles, and people found themselves introspecting. The urge to try out new things and venture into unexplored domains came as a blessing in disguise during the pandemic. Finally, we found the opportunity to take a break, and do things that genuinely bring us joy. As human beings, we're wired a certain way, we have the compulsive need to feel productive. With so much extra time on our hands and a disturbed mind to distract, creative outpourings managed to combine aesthetic satisfaction with the fulfillment that productivity brings with it.

During the pandemic, a lot of us resorted to reading, writing, sketching and painting, practising dance routines, learning to play instruments, cooking, etc. as distractions from chaos. From trying out new recipes and recreating Instagram reels, to curating personal playlists for every occasion and binge-watching fresh content on ott platforms, creativity sustained and flourished.

History has enough evidence to show that great ideas don't require sustained attention and hard thinking, they arrive in lightning bolts of inspiration which in turn come in the right circumstances, like enforced isolation during a pandemic. Shakespeare wrote some of his best plays when the bubonic plague forced London theaters to close in the early 17th CE. After finding himself without a steady job and in the hope of keeping himself occupied, Shakespeare turned to writing. He wrote Macbeth, King Lear, Antony, and Cleopatra before the plague was over. Sir Isaac Newton was in isolation as well when he decided to address the many questions that had been lurking in his mind. His scientific explorations flourished during the Great Plague of London. He had been living in the countryside, walking among the wide green fields when an apple fell on his head.

American pop star, Taylor Swift, spilled her creative juices by releasing two smashing albums called folklore and evermore, during the lockdown. Sharing the happy news of the release of folklore on her social media handles, Swift wrote, "Tonight at midnight I'll be releasing my entire brand new album of songs I've poured all of my whims, dreams, fears, and musings into. I wrote and recorded this music in isolation but got to collaborate with some musical heroes of mine." The two albums are specimens of beautiful, yet powerful lyrical rendition.

Indian-born Canadian poet, Rupi Kaur published her third collection of poems, which she finished writing and illustrating all by herself during self-isolation.

Everything having a spark of creativity in it has the remarkable ability to move people, bring a smile to their furrowed faces when they're having a particularly bad day, give them food for thought, and stimulate their minds and hearts in striking ways. A little piece of poetry, a book you can't help going back to, an indelible quote, a delightful sketch/painting, or a snippet of music; each of these is capable of manifesting a piece of the creator's heart, and of stirring something deep within the viewer. It is essentially an expression of an emotion, a feeling, a sentiment, that begs to find an outlet. Something that refuses to show in ordinary human actions, owing to its sheer intensity and complexity; immense elation, confusion, despairing despondency, unabated excitement, inexplicable frustration.

There's gratification, not just in letting your innate creativity pour, but even in appreciating creativity that didn't necessarily come out of you. People finally found time to engage in activities they might not have explored before. We also started appreciating creativity around us on a greater level. In a way, even when humanity was struggling as a whole in general, as individuals we found solace in creativity.

Creativity is searching deep within and letting out a piece of you, that wrestles to break free.

As Osho very rightly described,

*"Creativity is not a doing, it is an allowing. It is becoming a passage, so the whole can flow through you."*



# Social Empowerment WING

एक पहल प्यार की





## ABOUT THE WING

“Love knows no reason, no boundaries, no distance. It has a sole intention of bringing people together to a time called forever” ~Unknown

We at NSS SRCC believe that by uplifting others and shedding light on the biases, discrimination and taboos that grips certain groups and communities in the society, we can truly march towards a better and all-inclusive environment. Through the Social Empowerment Wing, we continually strive to empower and lend a helping hand to those in need.

Being the newest wing of the society introduced in 2020, the wing predominantly works towards gender sensitisation, breaking all gender stereotypes prevalent in the society at large and upliftment of women and queer community in general. It aims to propagate the pivotal significance of mental health and related facets as well, whereby it disseminates valuable and crucial information about mental health and why it should be a priority in today's world. In addition to this, this wing attempts at alleviating and emancipating the position of a plethora of oblivious sections of society. Taking this ideology ahead, the wing has been instrumental in curating several exemplary series on all our social media platforms. 'Living Out Loud' and 'Flag Friday' are a few of the major series initiated by the wing.

Not just this, the wing has strived continually to challenge and break the taboos and initiate discussions on issues which should be normalized but sadly aren't. In collaboration with Project Sanskaar, which works towards imparting quality education to underprivileged, the wing organised and successfully conducted a number of awareness session on topics like sex education, menstrual hygiene, good touch, bad touch etc. The wing has gone beyond the expectations and ideated posts on various issues otherwise brushed under the carpet, ranging from Body Positivity, Male Rapes, image based sexual abuse, marital rape, etc on a regular basis.



**BISEXUAL AWARENESS WEEK**  
16TH - 23RD SEPTEMBER 2021

**MY BI-FI Signal IS STRONG**

**WHAT IS BISEXUAL AWARENESS WEEK?**

In 2014, BiNet USA declared the week starting September 16th to be Bi Awareness Week, also called Bisexual+ Awareness Week.

**AIM**

- To bring attention to issues of the Bi community
- To make a safer space
- To promote inclusivity

Conceptualised by three bisexuality advocates- WENDY CURRY, MICHAEL PAGE and GIGI RAVEN WILBURK

**STOP STEREOTYPING SEXUALITIES**

**SELF EXPLORATION IS NATURAL AND INFACT NECESSARY,**

EVERYONE SHOULD DO THAT, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG IN IT.

**PRIMARY ISSUES FACED BY BISEXUALS**

- DILEMMA OF COMING OUT**  
It's understandable that balancing to easier community is tough, but come out whenever you want to. No hurries.
- FEAR OF SOCIAL REJECTION**  
Family plays a important role in our lives but when the same family doesn't accept you as you are, it becomes really difficult. Forget about society please.
- DISCRIMINATION & VIOLENCE**  
Discrimination in school, the workplace, or at home, including bullying, name-calling and misgendering yourself, from peers or violence gives essential clues.
- MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTHCARE**  
Receiving assitant treatment for mental health issues, like depression, anxiety, PTSD, eating disorders, and more. Finding a health care provider who you trust is yet another challenge.
- LOVE, DATING & SEX**  
Being bisexual being confused, comparing your experiences the same which led to increase the chances of self-harm and depression.

## BISEXUALITY WEEK

As declared by BiNet USA, Bisexual+ Awareness Week is observed from 16th September to 23rd September every year as a way to support and bring awareness about the challenges, Biphobia and stereotypes prevalent in various forms that affect the bisexual population in staggering proportions.

Bisexuality may often appear as if it lie in the grey area of being straight and homosexuality, however these three have their own place on the spectrum and are different from one another. It's something deeply personal but sadly is often stereotyped as a phrase, indecisiveness, or not a real thing. We, at NSS SRCC, strive to encourage people to be respectful of and supportive about other people's sexuality and to ensure them a loving, safe space and freedom to explore their sexuality in a safe, unbiased and responsible way.

Building on this, we celebrated bisexuality week from 16th-23rd September 2021 as a reminder for creating a safer, all-inclusive space around us and urged everyone to break the stereotypes and foster unbiased, non-discriminative behavior towards Bi+ members as they navigate their way through the journey of self-acceptance and self-love.





We also organized a heart-to-heart conversation with Rahul, a member from the Bi community, on “Believing Bisexuality”, where we had a candid discussion on his story of self-acceptance, challenges, and stigma of bisexuality and to create awareness about the same. Our ancient sculptures, epics, texts, miniatures, and temple carvings convey the message that India has been a country that has always embraced alternative expressions of sexuality. Indian myths also reflect upon the stories of the fluidity of gender.

During the Bisexuality awareness week, light was shed on some of the primary problems faced by the people of this community and urged all to be more considerate in order to build a safe place for all. Love comes in different forms - love between parent and child, between husband and wife, between friends, between siblings, and between people of the same sex. Bisexuality week was our attempt to cherish and embrace one such form of love, the BI-love.

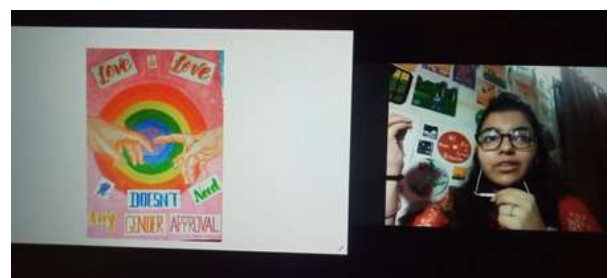
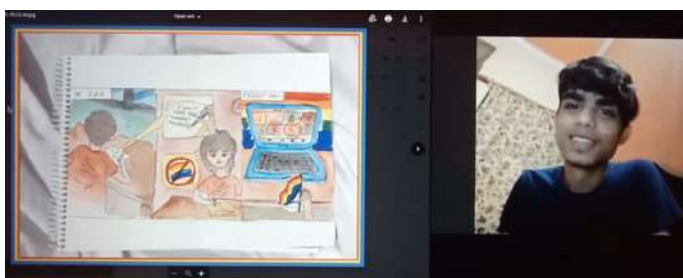




## LIMITLESS LOVE

“Limitless Love” at the core stands for the right to protection of sexual orientation and condemnation of discrimination while celebrating love in every form. In this regard, NSS SRCC organized a heart-to-heart conversation event for marking the 3rd anniversary of the decriminalization of Section 377 on the 6th of September, 2021.

Section 377 referred to “unnatural offenses” and says whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman, or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life. The decriminalization of section 377 became a groundbreaking judgment in favor of the LGBTQ+ community. However, we have still got miles to go ahead in order to build a more gender-inclusive society.





Though the course of forming such a society is not tumultuous and it can be acquired by ingraining values like practicing more acceptance, being kind to each other, embracing our differences, and co-existing peacefully and this is what Limitless Love was all about, celebrating the very core of love, that it knows no bounds and that sexualities and gender identities shouldn't be limiting in that sense either. The evening saw warrior queer members, including members from SRCC as well coming up and sharing their stories of acceptance and pride. It was a fun evening filled with wholesome discussions and stories full of laughter and lots of love.

### **A word from the participant:**

“Limitless Love was suggested to me by one of my queer friends. It was the very first pride-related event I attended. I was nervous about it at the beginning but the hosts and everyone else present there made me feel comfortable. I felt accepted and inspired there. Even though the art I submitted wasn't that visually attractive, It had an emotional value to it. I did those to find representation in the places I couldn't, unfortunately, it was most of the places.

I shared my story along with my art, and I was very happy with everyone cheering, relating and sharing their stories. It was a little virtual 'pride parade' for me. Thank you, Arpit, for letting me know about Limitless Love.”



~Ayush



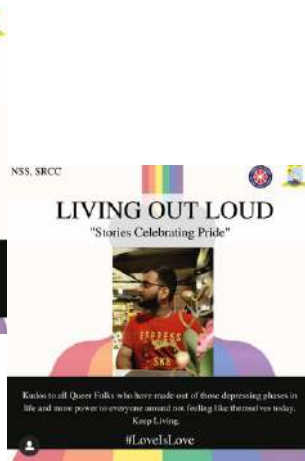
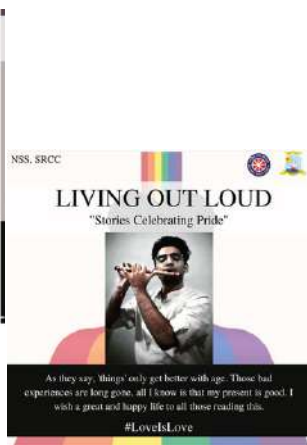




## LIVING OUT LOUD

Among the first few initiatives of the wing is a weekly series of stories under the title, “Living Out Loud: Stories celebrating Pride” having stories of courage and love and the journey of discovering oneself, and acceptance of one's sexual identity which is released every Tuesday. Inviting stories not only from the members of queer community but also from allies helped us forster a safer, more inclusive space out there.

Keeping in mind that the journey that one goes through while questioning their identity is unique to each and everyone and it sure does come with its share of backlash and self-doubts, we have tried to build a safe corner for everyone out there and given them a platform to express themselves, even anonymously at their wish, without the fear of being judged. In May 2021 it victoriously completed two years covering 90+ stories and it makes us feel proud of all those associated with this series. Seeing the impact it has created in the lives of people really inspires and drives us to continue to serve this cause.





## A few snippets from some of the stories:

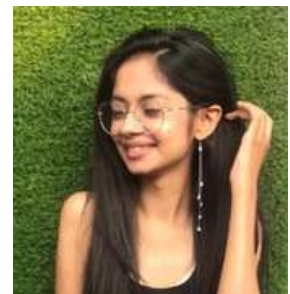
“It didn't turn out to be bad. It was nice actually. I felt more relaxed. In the end, I just realized that, for me, the only acceptance I need is from myself. Coming out for me is just about telling them in words. It's me, my colors, my beauty, my acceptance of myself, and what makes me stronger is validation by my parents and friends.” says Sakhi.

“Now, I am out of the closet to most of my closest friends and a lot of strangers who I wasn't expecting to be so accepting of me. I now have various friend groups with fellow queer people and we would support each other through thick and thin. I am so glad I took the courage to come out to those who matter to me the most and knowing that they accept me regardless of who I am, gives me so much comfort. Thank you for allowing me to share my story!” says Sanjana.

## Story celebrating pride from SRCC:

“So, when I realised about me being asexual, Initially I was scared of all the judgements & people saying things like it's just a phase. But anyways, I just wanted to express what I feel so just wrote it down & NSS's initiative of Living Out Loud just gave me the perfect platform where I could express myself.

When the post came out, the love that I got was extremely overwhelming! I felt really really grateful & lucky that I have such people around me. And now I feel that it just made me more comfortable, more confident of who I'm & I'm proud of it.”



~Simran Chhabra





## FLAG FRIDAY

Flag Friday was one of a kind weekly series, which acknowledged the very existence of various sexualities and aimed to educate people on them, which was posted every Friday on all our social media handles. It was initiated to showcase sexualities and flags of the queer community, emphasizing on the lesser known too and have covered 16 flags and sexualities over a span of 4 months, fostering a sense of inclusivity in the heteronormative society.





## A word from the volunteers:

“Social Empowerment for me has been my home away from home. Looking back on the day we had our wing induction, the first thing I remember is our heads introducing each other and making everyone emotional with the kind of love and respect they both have for each other. Every second that I have spent in this wing has been fulfilling and worth all the stress and tension that comes along with working for a society. From collecting people’s wholesome Living Out Loud stories to ideating posts that make people’s voices heard, this wing and its people have made me more humble, kind and positive in every way possible and I’ll forever be grateful for that.”



~Khushi jaiswal, Volunteer

“Not words but the sheer grin on my face to even catch sight of social empowerment peers, especially Shruti and Shivansh, would warrant my experience in the wing. From not having opted this wing as my preference to myriad moments of love, life and lesson here, I am as content as I could be. The wing gave me a bunch of people to love and be loved by, a bunch of people to share the same passion towards service and most importantly, a bunch of people to call home away from home. Eternally gratified to be a part of this wing.”



~Shashank agarwal, Volunteer





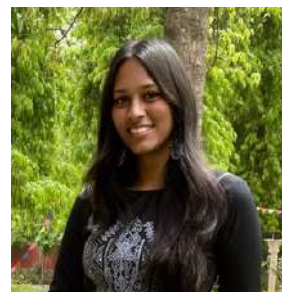
“I still remember the date when I was given a chance to be a part of NSS SRCC. It was my birthday when the post announcing TEAM 21-22 came out and definitely this was my favorite gift.

Social empowerment was a wing I was most curious about and I was lucky to get into the wing of my choice. Honestly, there were a lot of times when I felt lost or a feeling of not being able to fit in college but Social Empowerment was definitely my safe space. Whether it was making Living out Loud posts or Collaborating with Sanskaar kids for special lessons. Whether it was preparing for Samarpan Or playing scribble during informal meetings, I definitely had the greatest time here. A lot of my acquaintances told me that NSS is a place where you'll definitely meet a bunch of amazing people and I certainly felt that way. Undoubtedly, My experience wouldn't be complete without the mention of my heads - Shruti Didi and Shivansh Bhaiya. I have said this many times but these heads are the best heads anyone could ever ask for. They know how to make a person feel comfortable around them.( Also their hugs are the best 🤗 ). I know that our tenure is about to get over yet I can't help but remember our happy moments together. Social Empowerment Rocks<333”



~Tanzin Donsal, Volunteer

“The Social Empowerment Wing provided me with my first volunteering experience and an opportunity to do my bit for the society. It taught me empathy, flexibility and adaptability and helped me become more confident as a person. It also introduced me to a number of amazing people - from ideating for various posts to working together for Samarpan to just all the time we spent together, both online and offline, the friends I found here became family. The time I've spent here has become a core memory of my college life and I'll remember it for a lifetime.”



~Khushboo Bansal, Volunteer





# PROJECT

*Kali*

उम्मीद एक बदलाव की



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Kali aims at the upliftment of the Jatav Community of Shadipur, New Delhi, who following the demolition of their homes, had been living in transit camps in a slum in Anand Parbat. Picking rags and selling nimbu-mirchi for a living, and with inadequate exposure to alternative economic opportunities, the members of the community often struggle to make ends meet. In the absence of basic amenities and education, they live from hand to mouth and teeter at the brink of abject poverty.

Through Project Kali, our endeavor is to empower the members of the Jatav Community, make them self-reliant and substantially improve the way they perceive themselves. We plan to achieve this through interactive activities and sessions with them and providing them any assistance they require from distribution of blankets, ration kits to educational resources for the children of the community, successfully impacting more than 300 people. The pandemic didn't stop us from fulfilling our duty and even though we were stuck at our homes, we were in constant touch with them. Through systematic guidance, mentorship and support, we wish to bring some positivity into their lives and share moments of joy with them.

Since its inception, Project Kali has made considerable progress, and we are affirmative and confident about the future. Over the years we've been supporting them in every way possible. We conducted a sanitary pads distributing drive and interacted with the girls and women of the community on various issues like menstrual hygiene and health and successfully impacted around 85+ women. Apart from that we also organized an awareness session on family planning wherein we interacted with them and also informed about the various schemes of the government of India in this arena.



As a part of “ANSUNI”, a new series introduced under Project Kali, we share the intricate stories of the people from the community as a way to give a platform to their voice. It whirls around the lives, experiences and hardships of the Jatav community in Shadipur. Their smiles bring immense satisfaction to us and are a testimony to our intention and effort. We hope to take Project Kali to incredible heights in the near future!

# #Forshiv

“It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving” - Mother Teresa

Under Project Kali, we initiated a fundraiser campaign for a cause very close to our hearts. Shiv, a seven month old boy and a member of our Project Kali community, was diagnosed with Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD), a defect that causes an abnormal hole in the heart, and had to undergo a surgery for the same. With parents having limited means, we took it upon ourselves to ensure that he gets the right treatment.

Having associated with Shiv’s parents under Project Kali, when they approached us for financial aid, we were more than willing to offer help. We initiated a fundraiser campaign called “Help Shiv’s Heart Beat” through milap.org to raise funds for his surgery. With extensive campaigns on campus and on our social media handles, we managed to raise close to Rs. 70k for his surgery.

It is said that together we have the power to bring about a change we alone could not even think of and with people donating generously towards our cause, we were able to turn this campaign into a successful one. Shiv had his surgery on 13th of April which was successful and he's in good health now.

Knowing that we could play a part in restoring Shiv’s health, our hearts swell with joy and pride. Accomplishments like these reaffirm our faith in well-meaning, unstinting service. Shiv’s parents, Karan and Sunita, were overwhelmed and their gleaming smiles filled our hearts with content and gratitude towards each and every donor who contributed to the cause.





# STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Over the years, project Kali has seen many stories of gradual positive changes be it in the living condition or the education of the children of the community. One such instance is the story of three teenage girls, Poonam, Tulsi and Pooja, who became the first ones from their community to appear for class 10th Board Examinations. Their sheer determination and will to make a difference in their lives and the lives of their family members is truly commendable. In spite of having a gap of three years after class 9th, they didn't give up and kept their hunger for education alive. In the last few months they were enrolled with the classes under Project Sanskaar and were tutored by our volunteers. It's a big achievement for them and their families and feels no less than a victory.

## Poonam in Interview with us:

Q. Hi Poonam! So you appeared for your 10th grade board exams this year, how did they go? How're you feeling about the results? Are you optimistic?

POONAM: Yes, my exams are already over, the results haven't been declared yet. My exams went well. I'm confident that I'll pass all my exams. English is my only concern, I don't think I'll score well in English.

Q. How long have you been associated with the classes under our Project Sanskar and who were your mentors?

POONAM: I have been associated with the project for a year now. I was taught by several mentors, like Honey Bhaiya and Ashmita didi.

Q. How was the news of you appearing for your board exams received by your community? What was the general reaction like? Do your parents feel proud?

POONAM: Everyone in my community has been very supportive, encouraging and positive. My parents are very proud of me and have high expectations.

Only a couple of people have been discouraging and have tried to pull me down by questioning the idea of getting an education, given the fact that I'll eventually be married off to someone. However, I don't pay any attention to them and have faith in my abilities and decisions. I know what's best for me.

Q. Since you are the first one to be writing board exams from your community, do you think more girls will now be inspired to finish their education properly and more parents would encourage their daughters to have a formal education?

POONAM: Yes definitely, I'm very confident that a lot more girls from my community will go to school now. My friends and I are trying to teach our siblings and other kids in the community.

Q. Apart from a degree and employability point of view, why do you think having an education is important?

POONAM: I think having an education is extremely important. More than anything else, education imparts knowledge that comes in handy at several points in life. My lessons have enhanced my understanding of society and the world in general.

Q. What are your dreams and aspirations?

POONAM: I'm keen to finish my high school education. After 10th grade, I want to perform well in my 12th grade board exams. After school, I hope to educate other kids in my community.

Tulsi in Interview with us:

Q. Hello Tulsi! You just wrote your 10th board examinations. How did they go? How do you and your parents feel about it?

TULSI: They went well. I felt very good, being one of the first ones. My parents are really proud and feel happier than me.

Q. How was your experience at project sanskar?

TULSI: It was very good, my teacher helped me a lot too with my studies. Harshit Bhaiya and Pakhi Didi taught me English very nicely. They gave me confidence to write my exams. We did revisions and solved problems together, they also taught me how to write well in exams.

Q. Do other girls in your community feel inspired, seeing you being one of the first girls to write board exams? Is there any message you would like to give them?

TULSI: Yes, a lot of them feel inspired and I am sure they will succeed very well. I will encourage them to study further. I will ask them to take my example and excel well in education and studies

Q. Did Covid disrupt your studies? How did you manage it?

TULSI: Yes, it did affect my studies to an extent but my mentors at Project Sanskaar, continued to take online classes during Covid. I understood the concepts well during those classes.

Q. Now that you've written your exams for 10th boards, have you thought about your future?

TULSI: I do wish to study further. It depends on my scores for this exam, whether I will graduate school or not. But I believe God will help me through. About college, I haven't yet given much thought to that.



## A word from the volunteers;

“I remember the day when I was selected as a volunteer for Project Kali, I was very elated to be a part of the same. It has been months now since I became a part of this. Under project Kali, we conducted awareness campaigns, a Sanitary pad and mask distribution drive and raised a good amount of funds for seven months old SHIV, suffering from Ventricular Septal Defect. Before joining Project KALI my perspective of NSS was very limited, but its real meaning for me has expanded to work for others’ upliftment and now I have understood the true meaning of NSS’s motto “Not Me but You”. When I met different people during ground visits, lacking such basic requirements, I came to know how well off and fortunate I am. My problems which seem to me as the worst ever tragedies one can face in life are just incomparable to what these people face. I have many such experiences in Project Kali (NSS) which made a remarkable impact on me and will always be remembered. I can proudly say that joining Project Kali was one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

~Honey Deval , Volunteer



“It has been wonderful working with the team and contributing for the well-being of our Kali community. Under the constant support and guidance of our project heads, we have been able to do many things, like paying offline visits to the community children and raising funds for a baby’s heart surgery. For me personally, it is an exposure like never before. I have got to learn many things in the initial months only. I have seen a significant rise in my confidence level and sense of responsibility. In the end, let’s not forget about the feeling of achievement that one gets by helping the needful and the level of satisfaction which is immeasurable!”

~Anjali Yadav, Volunteer



“My experience at project Kali was just awesome. The work we did was really amazing and satisfying. I myself felt a change in myself while working for the kali community. The funds we raised for shiv to the donation drives were like food to soul....to see someone smile is the most amazing feeling one can ever experience.”

~Mankeerat Kaur, Volunteer





# Breaking Down the Climate Crisis



# ABOUT THE SURVEY

Climate change is becoming a real deal, the world is getting warmer with each passing day and glaciers are melting. You all must have heard about this or in some way witnessed it at one point or the other. Yes, bells are ringing aloud.

Climate Change or more specifically Global warming happens when greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and water vapor present in the atmosphere trap the sunlight and solar radiation that bounce off the earth's surface. Normally, this radiation would escape into space, but these pollutants, which may persist in the atmosphere for years or centuries, trap the heat and gradually increase the earth's temperature.

Climate change has always occurred on our planet. However it became more prominent during the Industrial Revolution, when people began using coal and other fossil fuels to run factories, smelters and steam engines, adding additional greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. It is undeniable that human activities are altering the climate which is making it unfit for their own survival.

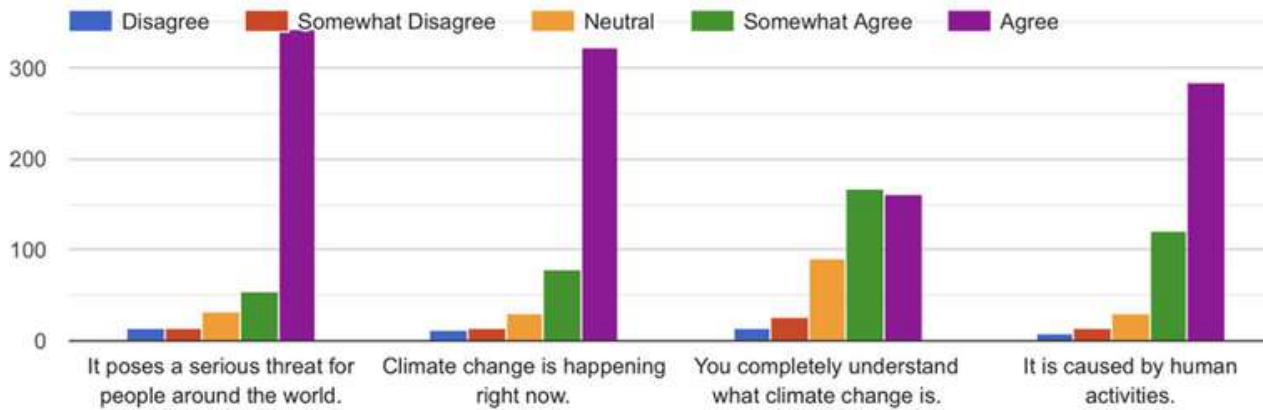
As a result, it's critical that we buckle up and take action now, before it's too late, to avoid or mitigate some of the worst consequences of climate change. The first step is to examine our understanding of climate change.

With this being said, we at NSS, SRCC conducted a climate change survey across India, covering some very fundamental topics. It's crucial to understand how youth interprets knowledge. We started by asking what climate change means to them, whether it threatens their personal health or what issues are of more concern other than climate change or if they are aware about the global initiatives taking place etc.

# FINDINGS AND REPORT



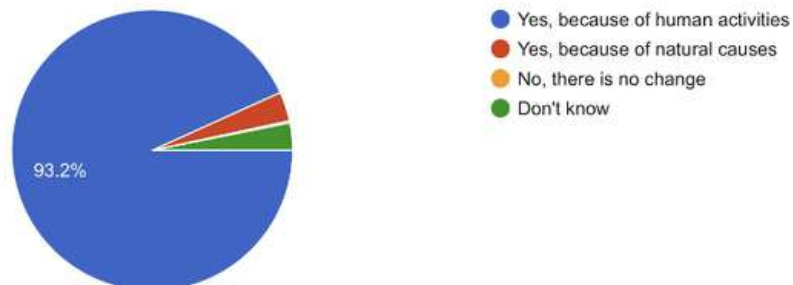
Please state your level of agreement for the following statements regarding global warming/climate change.



Well from the responses, it is observed that people accept the fact that their own human activities are causing alteration in this climate which is making it unfit for their own survival.

In your opinion, do you think the temperature on earth has been rising over the past decade?

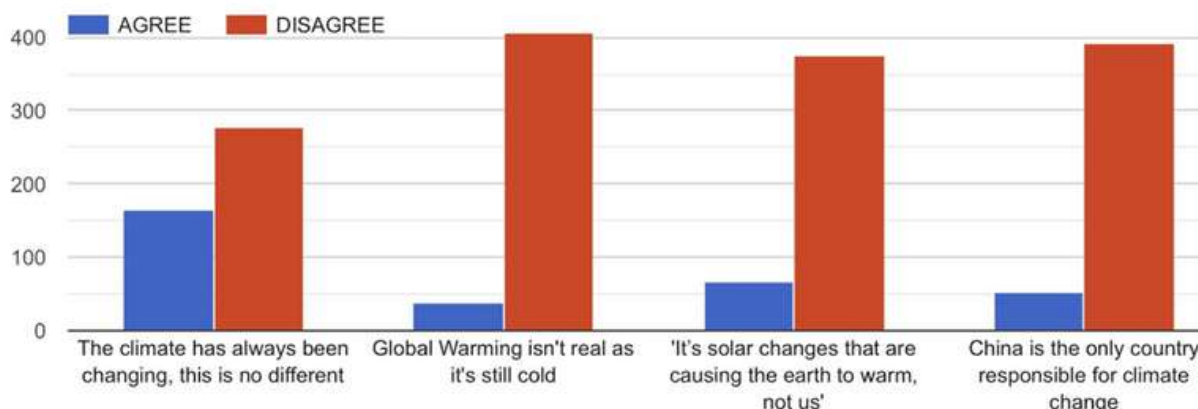
444 responses



Youth is acquainted with the effects of climate change but there is an argument that Climate change has always occurred and is nothing new. To this one is reminded of what Sir Obama said “there is one issue that will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other, and that is the urgent threat of changing climate.”

Agree OR Disagree

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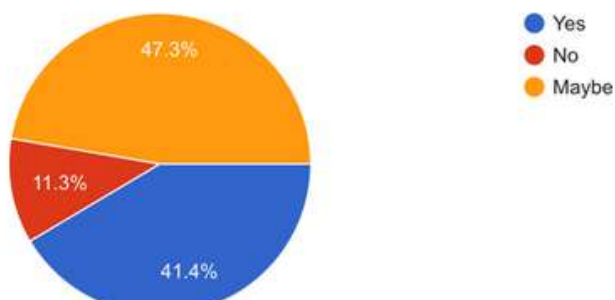
Over the course of the Earth's 4.5 billion-year history, the climate has changed tremendously. Natural warming and cooling cycles, on the other hand, cannot explain the current rapid warming. Changes that would normally take hundreds of thousands of years are taking place in only a few decades.

Since 1880 i.e. the industrial revolution, average global temperatures have risen by 1.2 degrees Celsius, with the most dramatic changes occurring in the late 20th century, which is why we have such extreme weather conditions, heat waves, acidifying oceans and Antarctic ice sheets losing significant amounts of land-based ice. According to the most recent forecasts, temperatures will rise by 2.5 °C to 4.5 °C by 2100. UN has insisted on limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Returning to the survey, we also asked if people were aware of the various Global initiatives taken up to address the situation. It was observed that majority of people were unconfident. Thus, we would like to shed some light on the same.

Are you aware of the global initiatives taken by various organizations to reduce climate change/global warming?

444 responses



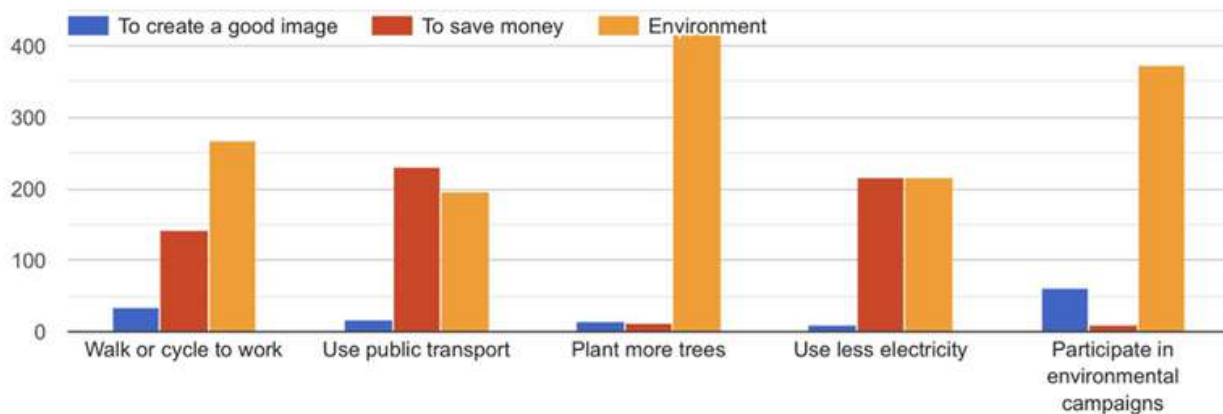


The Kyoto Protocol was adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 1997. However, only 36 countries that signed the Kyoto Protocol met their greenhouse gas reduction targets. The Paris Agreement, which was intended to replace the Kyoto Protocol, came into force on November 4, 2016.

Apart from this, there have been other multi-country initiatives, with over 170 nations introducing national policies and regulations on climate change adaptation to address consequences such as growing risks of severe events like floods and droughts. Furthermore many independent initiatives have come under formation like The Climate Justice Alliance, The Environmental Working Group to name a few.

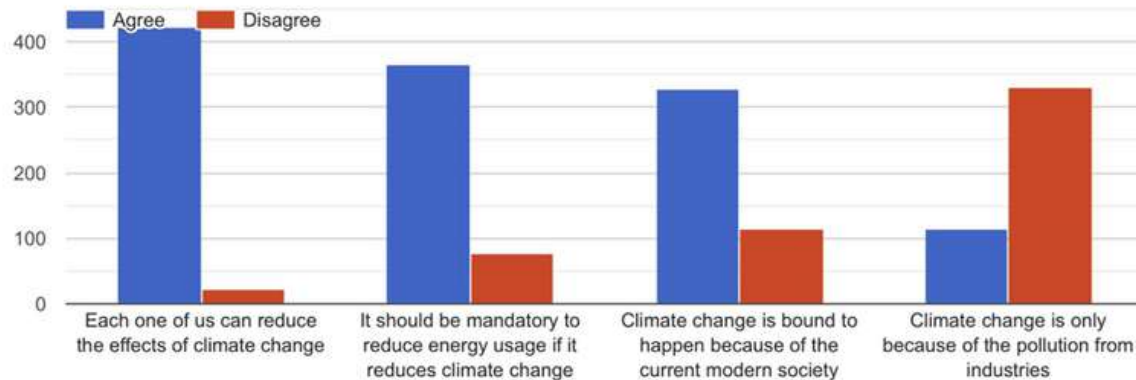
We also found from the study that individuals would be willing to walk or cycle to work, plant more trees and join in environmental campaigns if they could. They would consume less power to save money while also helping the environment. The majority of people chose public transportation to save money, which is understandable given our country's poverty levels.

What is the reason because of which you would do the following activities?



A really welcome revelation was that the majority agreed on obligatory energy reductions if climate change is to be controlled. Well, this is the need of the hour just like Covid made every nation to act desperately and judiciously, it is essential to take some real steps.

Please state your level of agreement or disagreement for the following statements about climate change?



Individuals also agreed that climate change is bound to happen in modern society. However it is the same modern society which will bring back the good again with the technical advancements like renewable sources as the alternate ways to generate electricity.

Last but not least, we asked them what initiatives they would take in the current situation. We received some very creative responses to this.

One was to reduce consumption and waste, and prioritize trash separation, which is majorly overlooked by our society. One said as quoted “promote usage of recycled materials, follow a sustainable lifestyle, will involve in research projects aimed at developing environment friendly and renewable forms of energy”.

Something that caught our attention is quoted as follows-“What I think is important is to let everyone know what is happening and to make them aware of what we can do to avoid these problems .There are more points that can be undertaken in respect with climate change”

Yes we completely agree with this. The importance of awareness and recognition cannot be overstated.

We would like to say that our existence on the Earth forms merely a small fraction of the vast geological time, yet, our activities have resulted in an extensive impact on our climate. It is critical that all of us work towards making a conscious effort to change the current trajectory of the climate crisis.

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# POETRY, PROSE

## AND *Opinions*





## REVISE THE RIWAZ

### Rewriting the manuscripts of Indian Marriages

By Anusha Chauhan

My daughter is 22, she needs to get married soon. It is my utmost responsibility, as a father, to ensure that she is treated well in that house. Let me give her some money and gifts to secure stability and independence in her future.

With this thought, the prevalent DOWRY SYSTEM took its wings. The invasion of the British and Mughals brought the oppression of women and severe violation of their rights. In these times, this gifting culture became the only legal way to get married. Dowry in the form of cash and kind was a “compulsory fee” which was deemed mandatory.

Unfortunately, although it's the 21st century, we have still not been able to eradicate this disruptive and unethical practice from our lives.

The mother-daughter bond is something we have heard and related to. The emotive connection they share is ineffable and made of pure tenderness. A father is often sidelined when it comes to bearing out one's soul. But the love and affection they share towards their princesses is invaluable. This article is a mere representation of the father's perspective when it comes to their daughter's marriage and how the Dowry system remains a nightmare for him.

The societal pressure that a family faces comes down on the shoulders of the man of the family. He maintains a bold facade hiding his anxiety behind a veil. The unconscious influence of maintaining a social standing so that no one ever questions their daughter remains a burden in his mind but he never shows it to the world. He has to maintain a rationale and emotional structure that everybody can depend on. That is the support of a father.

A daughter was born, a jewel for her parents, the prettiest gift of god with sparkling eyes and the most beautiful smile. With that joy came a lot of pressure. He taught her how to walk, fed her the first bite, sometimes rode like a horse after a tiring day at work just to make her happy. He spent his entire life collecting money with sheer hard work, spending not even a dime on himself. He never expressed his fears, his emotions, his feelings. He always put forward a bright smile even when he was sad. He gave up his share of the meal to ensure a treat for his beloved child. That is the love of a father. The societal pressure that a family faces comes down on the shoulders of the man of the family. He maintains a bold facade hiding his anxiety behind a veil.

The unconscious influence of maintaining a social standing so that no one ever questions their daughter remains a burden in his mind but he never shows it to the world. He has to maintain a rationale and emotional structure that everybody can depend on. That is the support of a father.

The person who had not shed a single tear till date cried when her daughter was leaving in an Ambassador forever. The person who never showed his love kissed her daughter on the forehead that day. He was willing to give everything he ever earned to make sure her daughter lives a bright future. A child he had raised with all the love and care will never be a wholesome part of his family again. The father's heart wept that night.

Earlier, people were afraid if a girl was born. I repeat afraid, not melancholic. Girls were never taught much owing to the lack of resources and unwillingness of the households to spend their money on education instead of serving the society and the groom at the time of her marriage.

The principle behind this convention has taken a different turn. The Dowry System is now practiced to ensure that their girl child is not harassed or mistreated by her husband or the family. Every day nearly 21 lives are lost to this stereotypical fashion!

Think about that father who heard his daughter's cries just before she committed suicide because she couldn't handle it. Think about all those parents who gave their lifelong treasury and took marital loans just to cater to the needs of the groom and his family only to see their daughter's scratched arms and face. This tradition was supposed to end in 1961 when legal action was taken against it. It is an alarming situation and we need to ensure all of our girls are safe and that they cannot be compared in monetary terms.

This normalized custom of tocher or marriage settlement needs to stop. The primary solution to this disheartening problem would be to provide employment to both men and women. This will reduce the pressure and stress on the man and help them lead a life of togetherness, rapport and support. The never ending need for gender equality and unbiased laws will always remain a chief factor in upbringing women and eliminating this cheap rescue ritual of dowry. Education abides as the overriding solution to this problem as it provides knowledge, confidence and the understanding to respect and lead a respectful life.

If you are reading this and agree with this opinion, share it widely so we can push for conversations which question this method and bring about a change in the system.

#ReviseTheRiwaz

A little note to all the doting fathers in the world, we love you, we won't show it to you because we learnt it from the best. But you have a special place reserved in our hearts forever.

You are the superhero every princess yearns for!

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## WITCHCRAFT WITHIN WEB

By Ayush Kumar

“I imagine the witches of the future, the cyber-witches” - Queen Maria Campina

If you go 168 miles southward from Transylvania, you will reach Northern Bucharest, Romania, where you will find 'Queen' Maria Campina living in a villa. Adorned in a long red dress and a gold crown weighing half a kilogram, she's one of the most famous witches in the country.

This ancient tradition of witchcraft has taken a new turn today, The Digital Path. In this modern era, witches of Romania are using the internet and video calls to connect with clients. It also helps them in gaining a digital fan following by live-streaming the rituals. They have clients from Europe, the USA, India and other parts of the world.

“A powerful witch can solve problems from a distance,” answers Witch Cassandra Buzea, 20.

Due to a younger generation, connecting with clients has become easier for them. The 20-year-old mentions that it's not the phone or Facebook that are doing the ritual, it's the words that they're saying. These traditions and powers aren't meant for everyone though. It 'travels' from mother to daughter, making it a matriarchal practice. The mothers teach their daughters about this from the age of 7, but they start learning even before that.

Many witches also claim that they have the 'gift' and they've not learnt it.

Even Queen Maria Campina claims that she's inherited her 'gift' of magic from her mother. She's not just the 'Queen' of the Roma community, an ethnic group of itinerant people but also a celebrity in Romania. She is rich as well as one of the most respected personalities in the country. Even her grandson's wedding, called the 'wedding of the year' in 2019, aired on many national channels.

“Witches are the only matrilineal tribe of Roma people. All others transmit inheritance through male lineage.”- Mihaela Dragan, 32, a Romanian Roma actress and writer. In 2011, the Romanian Government tried to impose an income tax on witchcraft. In answer to this, the witches announced that they would perform a ritual to make evil befall them. Due to the superstitious history, it became a big event in the country. Even the president can be sometimes seen wearing purple to ward off evil. Several bills have failed to pass through the parliament since then due to the protests.

“To become an independent woman in Romania, one must get education or birth in a witch clan.”

Witches have influenced the government and taken part in protests against corruption and racism. To fight the stereotype of witches being stuck in the past, Mihaela Dragan created the idea of a Roma cyber-witch and techno-witchcraft.

True or not, but the followers believe the predictions. This tradition has been continuing for centuries. This won't vanish. It will only change its forms, from offline to online to something more futuristic.



**Submission by Sheetal Koul**



## A GLARING STAR

By Anusha Chauhant

The night arrived once more,  
with it, it escorted the storm within me.  
I looked up in the enormous ocean of sky with a sign of hope,  
and found that one star dazzling in the deep shades of the universe.  
It was portraying power and endurance.  
Footing all alone, glaringly in the black sky,  
The wind moved and caressed my face,  
As if the star was favoring me with its energy.  
Energy to battle,  
And strength to never surrender.

I wondered if I could ever become like the only star in this black world.  
I wondered if I could hold on here without soiling my core.  
The world is a dark place to live in.  
And I am one among those infinite stars fighting to extend their light  
and anticipating to shimmer in these dire situations.

I wondered...  
For how long would I be able to keep my body and soul together in this black  
sphere?  
And will I ever be able to mark my own place and shine bright?  
I pondered looking up in the dead night sky.  
Out of the blue, a new star sparkled through the clouds, making itself visible.  
Giving me hope that I would be the next one...  
Promising me that I will be the next one.





## GOD SAYS FIGHT!

By Jyotsana

Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!

People all around cheered for their favorites. The boxing ring was set and the fighters prepared. It was semifinal round 1 between Team Hindus and Team Christians. The second round was in 20 minutes. Team Muslims and Team Sikhs were ready in their respective chambers. After a 40 round tussle between the players and audiences, Team Hindu and Team Muslims made it to the final round. The fight began and the audience hooted like madmen. No one was in control. Suddenly, fights began outside the rings as well. The chaos was intolerable. And then it wasn't just words as weapons, rather machines to quench the thirst for superiority and power.

I woke up soaked in sweat. It won't be okay if this happened. But isn't this somewhere true? Aren't we somehow in our own little boxing rings? Isn't the newspaper dripping in religious violence a proof of this? This scares me.

What is god? I wonder sometimes. Is it something that forces us to worship itself or someone who tells us it's superior to others? No, right? I believe God is supreme and it stays one without having to prove this to anyone. God is eternal, for it stays in the hearts of all his people throughout their lives and after that too.

God is the creator, creator of all the beings, and their surroundings. Above all, God is faith. Such a faith that a blind man isn't scared to cross a busy road alone. But when something as pure as god exists in this world, why are people fighting over it?

This world is very diverse, with all sorts of people living together. But we just appear to be together. Deep down, we're divided. Color, caste, creed, sex; nothing is overlooked. Everything adds up to create newer groups every day. But what doesn't make sense to me is, why people fight for something which is the same for everyone.

I've heard people fight over things like, "My God is better than yours. He has powers your god doesn't have. He is so much greater than yours." But doesn't every religion teach its followers that God is one? Even when they worship or believe in several forms of it, the essence remains the same. Even if people follow different ways to worship, the one being worshipped is the same. **THE SUPREME GOD IS ONE.**

Then why do people even fight?

Every day we find reasons to hate each other. Be it because of others' acts, way others are or maybe even just for supremacy and power. It's not the god who provokes fights but us humans who use god as yet another excuse for supporting hate.

We constantly point fingers at others, easily blame the rest, hurt more than heal, but as Chetan Bhagat said in his book 'Making India Better', "if everyone feels the problem is with the rest, then who is really at fault?" Maybe it's all of us. We've together failed as humans. We are still unable to respect humanity and love and run towards greed and power. And there is no one particular group to blame, we all need to change this.

Not accepting other religious actions, not marrying our kids into theirs, not allowing them into our worship places, are all proof that we are divided. This divide is much more deeply rooted in our minds than it appears. It's time, we rise above these things. Start accepting, respecting and supporting people who do not support the same religion as us. Because only when each of us starts to fight the demons inside, the healing will begin and the world will know peace.



**Submission by Varidhi**



## LIVING A 'SOCIAL' LIFE

By Prem Gajare

When I think about the things that make me feel joyful, I find that they have nothing to do with devices, technology or social media. The scent of rain, cozy naps in winter and casual group chit-chats filled with laughter are some of the small joyous things I can recall, with none of them having any trace on pixels. Indeed, the experiences that make the best of memories need no external validation through likes or comments.

Ever sat with your grandparents, listening to their fun stories which they remember like it was yesterday? A wide majority of their narratives are centered around their childhood, their friends and the vivid experiences they've 'lived' in the true sense of the word. Things are a lot different now. Well, you can't compare a youthhood based on All India Radio and Doordarshan with a generation addicted to modern technology.

This obsession isn't entirely bad or good. If not for online modes of communication, you wouldn't have been reading this article right now. Moreover, the digitalization of mankind in the past decades is what separates the Millennials from the Gen-Zs. People born in or just before the 21st century are generally referred to as 'Gen Z'.

They are generally thought of as having access to technology from a very young age.

Since the start of the 21st century, technology has come a long way, with online communication being considered the most feasible way of exchanging ideas. A few decades ago, the idea of communicating with someone sitting miles away was unimaginable without letters and pigeons (no Bollywood reference intended). But today, it is just a matter of a few clicks. Life's easy, right? But the problem starts when technology starts diluting its purpose of facilitating communication between people.

One of the most insidious deceptions marketed by social media is that it makes users believe that they're getting more social when they are not. People determine their social status by the number of Facebook friends or Instagram followers. It makes no difference if these "following" or "friends" are real-life acquaintances or not. Are we truly strengthening our bond with others or just making more superficial connections?

We have become so engrossed in screens that we overlook the importance of the values that make us human. We must recognize that we live among living, breathing individuals with feelings and needs, and not just strangers with social media usernames. Having many modes of communication should increase your communication and make it easier to express our ideas, feelings, and emotions, but unfortunately, the data relating to personality and mental disorders correlates with the rate of digitalization.

We waste so many valuable hours glued to our phones that we forget about the people who need our attention and ears right next to us. Going for a walk, having a meaningful conversation or simply introspecting yourself is much better and refreshing than mindlessly scrolling social sites.

We spend a significant portion of our day on the Internet, which could be utilized for something else, putting a brake on the dopamine cycle that our brain associated with gadgets. Also, the constant bombardment of negativity on the Internet changes our perspective and makes us less empathetic towards others – harming another important human trait. Not to mention the impact of the social media culture, which is full of comparison and envy.

The onset of advanced communication technologies in the past few years has drastically changed the way we perceive things. A majority of things that we come across in our lives are influenced by the Internet and technology. But you can't have a world online, oh wait, Metaverse. Robots are closer than ever to replicating human behaviour, and we humans are getting more mechanical. The

traits we often associate with 'humans' are the ones that we feel an emotional connection with, and hence find it easier to make long-term bonds. We cannot ignore the numerous possibilities of forming friendships over the web, a concept largely popular after the pandemic and indeed one of the best contributions the net has made. But real-world friendships have an irreplaceable essence, you can live and make 'moments' together, which would randomly cross over your mind maybe 20 years later while sipping on a cup of tea, with your mind being full of sweet nostalgia.

The technological influence on mankind has definitely made us smarter, but anything that is at the cost of our joy, mental peace, and identity is too expensive to be considered. Do you remember the last time you hugged any loved one of yours? Can the warmth of the touch be replaced by any level of advancement in technology? The answer would be quite obvious for most readers.

A life without technology is impossible to imagine. But limiting its influence on our lives to a certain extent is essential. So the next time you think of carrying your phone to the dinner table or mindlessly searching for it, don't forget to prioritize the things and people that make you feel content. Consider spending some extra moments with your loved ones, reaching out to that old friend of yours you haven't talked to in years, or asking your friend how his/her day went. After all, it is the million little things that matter more than a few eventful things.

So let us prioritize things that actually matter, and 'live' a little :)



## प्यार

~अनिशा जाटव

हम हमारे एक ही रिश्ते से  
ज़िन्दगी के कई पड़ाव पर कई बार  
प्यार करते हैं।

प्यार किसी से कह कर, जान कर नहीं होता।  
प्यार की कोई हद नहीं होती,  
क्योंकि प्यार कभी हद में नहीं होता।

प्यार सिर्फ एक बार भी नहीं होता,  
किसी तय इंसान से  
किसी तय वक़्त पर नहीं होता।  
ना उम्र की पाबन्दीय लगती है उससे,  
ना लिंग-धर्म का जोर चलता है।

और प्यार किसी एक से भी  
सिर्फ एक बार नहीं होता।  
बचपन में जिसकी मासूमियत से प्यार था,  
शायद आज उसी की समझदारी से प्यार हो जाए।  
तब जो प्यार दोस्ती था,  
शायद आज वही ज़िन्दगी बन जाए।

शायद ज़िन्दगी के हर मोड़ पर  
उस प्यार के साथ हमारा रिश्ता बदल जाए।  
शायद प्यार करने का तरीका बदल जाए,  
प्यार बदल जाए।

क्योंकि प्यार किसी से कह कर, जान कर नहीं होता।  
प्यार की कोई हद नहीं होती,  
क्योंकि प्यार कभी हद में नहीं होता।



## **RAPE SURVIVORS AND THE SOCIETY**

By Deepak Pokhriyal

Rape stands for having a sexual relationship with a person without their consent. Rape is counted among the most heinous crimes and its punishment can be life imprisonment or even death sentence. Rates for filing rape complaints, prosecuting, and sentences vary according to justice boundaries. The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority, or against a person who is incapable of giving valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated, has an intellectual disability, or is below the legal age of consent. The term is sometimes used interchangeably with the term sexual assault.

International Crime on Statistics and Justice by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) finds that worldwide, most victims of rape are women, and Most perpetrators are male. Rapes against women are rarely reported to police and hence the number of victims to this is significantly underestimated.

### **How society views rape victims**

The thing that hurts the most is the attitude of society. A girl who has been a victim to this is often looked down by society, especially in the lower and middle classes, and in certain sections even disregarding them from equal treatment as a dignified human.

Society often sees it as the fault of the victim. In such a situation, going to school, office, etc. of the girl becomes a hard road to walk on, where every second eye sees her with doubts and disrespect.

In such a situation, it is normal to have mental issues and even depression. The result is that a girl playing with a smile gets lost in the shadow of oblivion or tries to end her life. The most tragic situation a victim has to face is when she finds people who consider her the easiest victim. It has also been seen that innocent victims have been exploited the most under the disguise of sympathy.

### **Statical Data of Rapes in India**

Rape is the fourth most common crime against women in India. According to the 2019 annual report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 32033 rape cases were registered across the country, or an average of 88 cases daily, slightly lower than in 2018 when 91 cases were registered daily. Of these, 30,165 rapes were committed by perpetrators known to the victim (94.2% of cases), a high number similar to 2018.

The share of victims who were minors or below 18 - the legal age of consent - stood at 15.4%, down from 27.8% in 2018. On the other hand, rapes by juveniles remained high in India with 3 minors being arrested for rape, assault, and attempted violence on women and girls each day in 2019.

Where biology does not become a factor for the type of work you will be doing, is freedom. The fourth pillar of democracy that is allowed to function without any biases or any political or ideological affiliations is the spirit of freedom. The accused getting the right to get himself/herself defended and the victim getting the justice is what defines the gist of freedom. Freedom is that aspect of our lives where the people of a nation can openly and peacefully protest against the state. Where one can propagate and follow the ideals of any religion without hindering the other's right to do so, are the ethos of freedom. A Hindu Child going to a mosque or a Muslim child going to a temple, that's freedom according to me. In a nutshell, Freedom is that utopia that fabricates a win-win situation for all persons.

### **Responsibilities of Society Towards Rape Victims.**

Society has to change the way it looks at rape victims. It has to understand that being a rape victim like a victim for any other crime becomes very weak physically and mentally and the behavior of society also worsens their condition again. Many women try to have a fresh start and move forward, however people sometimes do not allow them to move forward and continue to directly or indirectly mentally abuse them.

If something untoward has happened in a Society must aim to create such an environment in which no one feels alone and people can share sorrow and pain among themselves.

Locality, then the people of the neighborhood go to console and try all possible help, and similar should be the case with rape incidents as well, which sadly isn't as prevalent.

Everyone should cooperate in building a civilized society at every step. Rape victims should also be respected equally and they should be encouraged and helped in any way possible. They should be made to realize that they are brave, not weak and that it is not their fault for what has happened to them. When the thinking of society changes, then there will be a good chance in the life of rape victims and their world will also be filled with happiness.

### **Prevention against Rapes**

To stop heinous acts like rape, society needs to be aware, there should be provisions for girls to teach self-defense education and skills in schools. There should be stricter laws against those who misbehave with women and every possible protection should be provided to women.

Thousands of rape cases are buried in the courts of the country, due to the slow judicial system, and often the victim becomes frustrated and disheartened. Rape cases should be tried to be decided at the earliest, so that rape victims can get justice in time.

The government and administration will also have to turn their attention to this. I believe that the incidents of rape in our country are not because of sexual attraction, but people undermining the respect of women. The influence of patriarchy authority is seen not only in sexual matters but also in other matters. We need to see them as human beings. It's not about authority but equality.

## Conclusion

Women's safety is a serious issue. We all have to come together to solve this problem. The help of the law and police needs to be taken. The culprits and criminals who commit such crimes have to be punished. Women should be encouraged to raise their

voices against such atrocities. Society will also have to be more empathetic towards the victims and make every possible contribution to the safety of women. If these changes are brought in, and such cases are reduced, then the spirit of women will prosper and they will go ahead and establish new dimensions.



**Submission by Diksha**





# AGENDA 2030: INDIA'S CRUSADE TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By Parina Kaur

Climate change has left the whole world vulnerable. Global temperatures are increasing, glaciers melting, fossil fuels depleting and there is an exponential increase in natural disasters.

If the pace at which resources are being consumed is not reduced, the current and future generations will have to face severe consequences. The Climate crisis has led to countries joining forces and developing ways to fight climate change and reverse its effects.

The United Nations General Assembly has been a pioneer in setting standards known as sustainable development goals (SDGs) for achieving “a better and more sustainable future for all.” These Goals were set up in 2015 in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The four P's model—People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership has also been adopted to further enhance the initiative.

Sustainable development goals are multidimensional goals, some of which pertain to reducing poverty, ending world hunger, ensuring good education and well-being, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, climate action, and peace and justice.

Ending poverty and improving health and education have been considered pivotal along with tackling climate change and natural resources.

One of the crucial goals set by many countries to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and curb global temperature rise is reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which means greenhouse emissions in the atmosphere are balanced by the removal of commensurate carbon from the atmosphere. India is still dependent on coal and oil for energy requirements, which are expected to rise due to the economic growth of the country. This means that India will also have to take similar action to reduce its carbon emissions. Studies have shown that India can also reach net zero emissions by 2065-70.

India being home to about one-sixth of the world's population plays an integral part in ensuring sustainable growth of the planet. It is no stranger to climate change with warming temperatures and erratic rainfall throughout the country. Moreover, there has also been an increase in health issues, migration, and conflict. 2030 is the year by which the SDGs are set to have been accomplished. This is known as Agenda 2030

India has been working towards achieving its goals by engaging the whole nation. Policies such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Smart cities, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, and Beti Bachao Yojana have been introduced in an effort toward achieving the development goals. The Union government has launched two very important flagship programs, the Namami Gange for conservation and rejuvenation of the River Ganga and the Swachh Bharat Mission to achieve universal sanitation coverage and put the focus on sanitation along with proper waste management. These are going to further the cause of sustainable development as well.

Various states have also set individual goals and initiated action, Kerala being the state that has pioneered the introduction of measures contributing to sustainable development. The SDG India index has also been set by NITI Aayog which helps ascertain the position of all the states and the country as a whole, identifying the success and failures of the policies adopted. India has also voluntarily committed to reducing greenhouse emissions by about 35% below the 2005 emission levels by 2030.

It is also well on track with the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to preindustrial levels by 2050. India's forest cover has also grown significantly which has resulted in an increasing population of tigers, lions, waterfowl, etc. However, while India has made progress in the field of sustainable development, there is still a long road ahead.

There is still a lot of work to be done to secure the future. Being home to the largest youth population in the world, the nation's youth needs to be stimulated to meet our sustainable development goals.

Poverty, hunger, gender, and climate are domains that still require attention. India should focus on 'smart growth' through proper land management and frame policies that are aligned with nature's regenerative capacity. Population growth is also an issue that should not be neglected as the increasing population puts higher pressure on the already scarce resources.



## **FLY ABOVE THE SKY!**

By Deepak Pokhriyal

SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY!  
FLY AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.  
IT'S YOUR TIME TO FLY HIGH,  
FLY UP AND OVER THE SKY!  
LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF,  
KNOW YOUR TALENT AND SHINE.  
MAKE YOUR LIFE AS COLOURFUL AS A RAINBOW,  
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING, WANNA KNOW HOW?  
LET YOUR EFFORTS PREVAIL OVER YOUR WEAKNESS,  
LET YOUR DREAM COME TRUE.  
REMEMBER, SUCCESS IS NOT FAR FROM YOU.  
JUST SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY!  
FLY UNTIL YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL!  
LEAVE ALL YOUR WORRIES AND FEARS,  
SAY I'LL DO IT.  
JUST SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY!  
Fly over and above the sky!



## IS IT TIME TO CANCEL “CANCEL CULTURE”?

By Riddhi N. Rathod

Is the democratization of shaming a net positive to society?

Let's put your current affairs to the test: do you know what JK Rowling, Jimmy Fallon, and Chrissy Teigen all have in common? They've all been cut away from the fabric of society, aka, cancelled.

The social equivalent of the death penalty, cancel culture has been an extremely controversial topic, especially in the past few years. In simple terms, cancel culture, formerly known as callout culture, involves eliminating public support for a person who has done something offensive, or politically incorrect. The targets of cancel culture have usually been celebrities with huge platforms and influence, however, normal people have been targeted as well.

Certain people argue that cancel culture doesn't exist, and state that it's an easy way to hold people, especially those with a lot of influence, accountable. Others state that it's the modern version of a public execution, and that it does not have any beneficial effects on society whatsoever, especially on the mental health of the victims.

Interestingly enough, the term cancel culture originated from a misogynistic lyric, however, it came into modern vocabulary in 2017, and is now a popular term. However, is it now time to cancel “Cancel Culture”, and is it a net negative to society, shrouded under the guise of accountability? The answer? It's complicated.

Cancel Culture does have its benefits. It has helped in bringing the voices of minorities to the forefront, especially those which get silenced in the everyday noise. In more ways than one, it has contributed towards holding powerful people accountable for their misdeeds, ensuring that they do not evade responsibility. In a way, it demands change, and has been extremely effective at curbing social evils like racism and sexism. For example, the #MeToo movement helped in the boycott of Harvey Weinstein, a Hollywood producer who sexually abused multiple women for decades. After his misdeeds were exposed by the victims online, he was ousted from the industry, effectively being cancelled.

On the other hand, some argue that ‘cancel culture’ does a lot more harm than good. For example, there have been repeated instances of celebrities being cancelled over past tweets, or perhaps misunderstood jokes. While it is true that accountability is important, the opponents of ‘cancel culture’ state that it does not take into account the growth of a person, or perhaps how people’s attitudes or opinions change over time. Many people who have been cancelled have not been majorly affected by their cancellations, with many still leading flourishing lives, with stable careers.

While cancellation might feel great - it’s not the best way to restore balance. For instance, when a celebrity gets cancelled, most people wait for apologies (which are also highly scrutinized). However, the flurry of emotions, tweets, and social media posts make people forget about the actual problem at hand, and oftentimes, the actual victim. Also, it does not provide an opportunity for the person being cancelled to grow and learn from their mistakes, creating a culture of being perfect from the get-go. The former US President Barack Obama rightly summarised it in a speech in 2019: “The world is messy... People who do really good stuff have flaws.” The real question here is: how far should we go to hold people accountable? Are online witch hunts the best form of restoring social equity and justice, and if not, what are the alternatives?

Perhaps we could focus on creating a culture that emphasizes on the fact that people grow and change over time, and educating them on how they can do better. Creating a safe space for people to learn and grow over time helps bring the balance that cancel culture aims to achieve. We must shift our mindset towards making things better for the victim, rather than focusing on “canceling” the offender. While nuanced discussions on the internet seem unlikely, focusing on restorative justice rather than punitive justice helps benefit both parties, ensures accountability, and helps the offender grow and learn from their crimes.

Irrespective of how controversial it is, cancel culture is here to stay, and is a classic case of “good intentions gone wrong”. However, if we as a society focus on eradicating its toxicity, and smoothening out its flaws, we could bring justice and equity for everyone involved.



## WHEN EARTH SPOKE...

By Jyotsana

Long long ago, when gods used to visit their devotees, Mother Earth decided to have lunch with her worshippers. The news spread like fire, and everyone started preparing for her visit.

Homes were cleaned and decorated with all kinds of flowers and leaves. The best of dishes were prepared and everything was set for the welcome of the Goddess of Nature.

Mother Earth visited every house and was delighted to see the preparations. However, one of the houses intrigued her. This was of a family of 5, the mother, and 4 of her sons.

But she could only see the men of the house at her welcome. To find more, she decided to go in.

The sons welcomed her, cleaned her feet, and started serving her food. With still no sign of the mother, she asked the sons about her. "Oh mother, she actually is not well and that's why will not be able to serve you today. But all this food is made by her alone." Worried, the goddess insisted on seeing her. Even after certain attempts when the sons did not call their mother, the goddess stood up to find the mother herself. Hearing the sounds in the hall, the mother finally arrived.

She knelt down in front of the goddess and sought her blessings. "But you look fine! Your sons said you are ill and so were unable to meet me. What is the matter?"

"Mother, forgive me. I was very excited about your arrival. I even cooked everything from scratch alone and did all the arrangements as well. But unluckily, this morning, I started menstruating. Now I am impure and hence should stay away from you. I am sorry I can not attend you."

Mother Nature said nothing and sat down to eat. She tasted everything and was happy with the meal. The mother could see her delight and was at peace with herself too. Suddenly, the goddess said, "The salt and the sugar. There's something wrong with it."

The mother was confused. She had herself shattered the big salt rock into powder and picked up the best sugar crystals in the town. "What's the problem mother? I made sure that the quality is the best."

"I don't know, but it's not good and the food would have been better without these."

"But mother, these are the basics. How would the food be 'better' without these?"

"I don't know but I would not like the food if it has these basics in them."

The mother could not understand the goddess's obstinacy and started sobbing that she could not make her happy.

Seeing her cry, the Goddess of Nature spoke, "Why are you crying? Because you could not make me satisfied? Because I didn't like your food? Did you see how it feels when I say there's a problem with something you made? What about me? Have you ever thought how I feel when you constantly blame and mark my creation as something filthy and impure?"

"Mother, I never thought your creations were nasty. You've created all of nature. Everything that is around us is your gift to humankind. We're obliged to you! I am just sad that you wouldn't go as happy from here as you went from other homes."

"Of course, I won't. Because my art is not valued here. You didn't come to visit me because you thought you're impure just because you are menstruating. What's that supposed to mean? Isn't it an insult to my creation? When you cannot respect the art, why and how would you respect the artist? Do you know a woman's power? I made her the strongest amongst all. The magic and strength a woman carries can be understood by none.

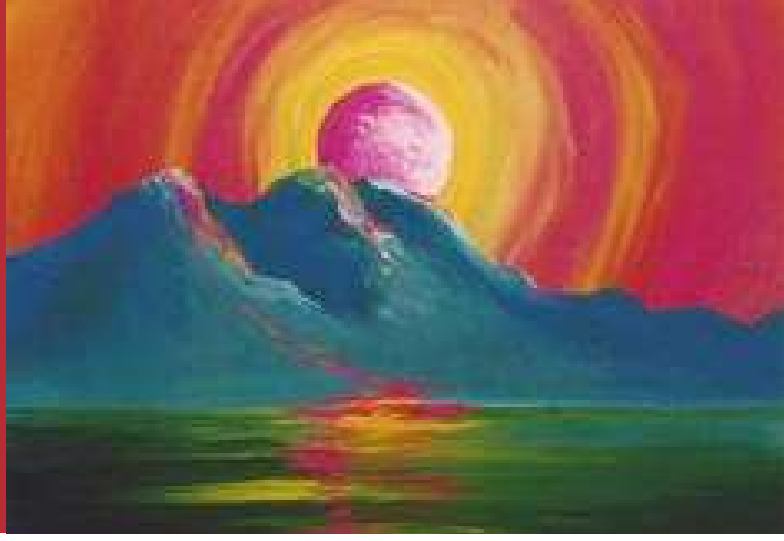
No man can ever match the true value a woman beholds. And it is something to be proud of. But despite appreciating this marvel, people like you have made it impure. You have made women more vulnerable, ashamed, and tired of womanhood.

I bleed too. Then why worship me all the time? Why not keep my idols outside temples in 'those' days? Why not consider me unclean and impure?

There's no harm in menstruation. It's not a disease but is as normal as breathing. And it is there for a reason. It is the 'basic' to creating life and it's magical. Stop spreading and supporting wrongs. Stop being ashamed of it. Women are strong and menstruation is yet another proof to it!"

There were still tears in the mother's eyes, but this time, they were of repentance and guilt. She had understood her mistake. She apologized to Mother Nature for her faults and promised to never support this behavior.

Mother Earth was content now. Happy to see her creations valued. Happy to have made a change!



# देवी

~दीपक

सूरज की वह आग सी ,  
तलवार की वह धार सी,  
कोमल वह फूल जैसी ,  
पर खूंखार वह शेर सी,

गर्जना सिंह की दहाड़ सी,  
ममता प्रकृति के प्यार सी,  
सृजनी वह सृष्टि की,  
विनाशक वह दुष्टों की,

प्यार, अपनत्व व सर्वहित कर्ता,  
रक्षक व दुखहर्ता,  
हिम्मत , साहस से परिपूर्ण,  
बलशाली व दया से भरपूर,

एक देवी रूपी नारी,  
संपन्न व सर्वगुणकारी, परिस्थितियों के वात्याचक्र से उलझती,  
स्वयं ही हर दर्द का इलाज करती।





## **DIGITAL INDIA FOR AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT: Opportunities in COVID-19 and Beyond**

**By Akansha Deswal**

Aatmanirbhar Bharat launched on 12th May 2020 is the vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of making India a self-reliant nation. PM Shri Narendra Modi had said “In the digital age we have an opportunity to transform the lives of people in a way which was hard to imagine just a couple of years ago.” Truly, digital India has transformed the lives of millions of people and is of immense importance as it offers many benefits like improved efficiency, reduced time to market, reduced throughput time, better insights, end-to-end integration, increased competitiveness, economic growth, lower manufacturing costs, better end products etc. A digital India will assist in improving social and economical condition of individuals through development of agricultural and non-agricultural economic activities apart from providing access to education, health and financial services.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat sought to create a self-reliant country through inclusive growth through employment and creation of wealth through private enterprise and government stimulus of nearly Rs.20,97,053 crores has been provided by Aatmanirbhar package .

Digitalisation has enabled the government to actively promote the utilization of digital technology and establishing nationwide online platforms to spice up policy implementation, essential operations and transparency during COVID-19 crisis. Aarogya setu has proved to be an invaluable tool in the fight against the pandemic and the JAM trinity (Jan dhan bank accounts for the underprivileged-aadhar number-mobile telephony) is acting as a safety net and helping million who need monetary aid.

There have been two main pillars of digital technology of pandemic-monitoring and delivery of public goods; the first pillar-monitoring has been made possible by Aarogya setu mobile app which has broken records of swift volume downloads of an app globally. By assisting in the recording, enumeration, and location tracking of COVID-19 Aarogya setu has proved to be an invaluable tool in the fight against the pandemic.

Moreover the use of JAM trinity (Jan dhan bank accounts for the underprivileged -aadhar number-mobile telephony) has made the cornerstone of PM's attempt to embrace technology in governance at a mass scale.

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Aatmanirbhar bharat sought to create a self-reliant country through inclusive growth through employment and creation of wealth through private enterprise and government stimulus of nearly Rs.20,97,053 crores has been provided by aatmanirbhar package .Digitalisation has enabled the government to actively promote the utilization of digital technology and establishing nationwide online platforms to spice up policy implementation, essential operations and transparency during COVID-19 crisis. Aarogya setu has proved to be an invaluable tool in the fight against the pandemic and the JAM trinity(Jan dhan bank accounts for the underprivileged-aadhar number-mobile telephony) is acting as a safety net and helping million who need monetary aid.

There have been two main pillars of digital technology of pandemic-monitoring and delivery of public goods; the first pillar-monitoring has been made possible by Aarogya setu mobile app which has broken records of swift volume downloads of an app globally. By assisting in the recording, enumeration, and location tracking of COVID-19 Aarogya setu has proved to be an invaluable tool in the fight against the pandemic. Moreover the use of JAM trinity (Jan dhan bank accounts for the underprivileged -aadhar number-mobile telephony) has made the cornerstone of PM's attempt to embrace technology in governance at a mass scale.

JAM trinity has proved to be an enabler for the country's DBT(direct benefit transfer) which uses electronic methods to streamline delivery of cash transfers under government schemes. This has not only stopped corruption by removing the mediators but enabled the government to transfer money at the click of the button replacing multiple levels of hierarchies on the file and also weeks of delay. Jan Dhan bank accounts have been proving to be a boon for those who seek financial assistance during the ongoing countrywide COVID-19 lockdown. With the lockdown placing strain on the household budgets here this digitized framework is acting as a safety net for the poor and the needy.

Another benefit it has given is that it has curtailed the spread of COVID-19 as the need for physical visits in the banks are not required. Digitalisation has made policy implementation easier with the dissemination of critical information on COVID-19 and treatment protocols and healthcare services are being enabled largely online on digital multimedia monitoring and evaluating the schemes whilst plugging loopholes.

It has also served the agricultural sector by amending essential commodities act, imposing stock limit only under exceptional circumstances like national calamities, famine with surge in prices. This will enable the agricultural sector to flourish without any constraints.

Technology as a tool of governance had already transformed many areas in the delivery of public goods in India even before COVID-19 pandemic. In the longer run, digitalisation possesses the potential to revolutionize every economic sector by increasing productivity and saving valuable time. In the agricultural sector this will change every part of the agrifood chain.

Management of resources throughout the systems will become highly optimized, individualized, intelligent and anticipatory.

Digital agriculture will create systems that are highly productive and adaptable to changes such as those caused by climate change. This, in turn, will lead to greater food security, profitability and sustainability.

In the manufacturing industry, digitalisation will allow projects to move faster and manufacturers to hit more aggressive deadlines in making the country self-reliant which is of utmost importance in situations like today's when supply chains have disrupted. Digital technologies have played a significant role in reaching a degree of maturity that allows their use across a wide range in service industries as well.

Digitalisation will play a very important role within the coming decades given the prevailing pressure that exist to eradicate costs, standardize processes, reduce variables and reshape the business to run more efficaciously. India as a nation state and a market place have immense potential for transforming lives, society, economy, business, and knowledge through the vigilant use of digital services and solutions. The need is therefore that the government and all the citizens work together to realize the dream of *aatmanirbhar bharat* or self-reliant India.



## TEA: PERKS AND LIABILITIES

By Jasveen kaur

From being a morning body petrol of every Indian household to being an evening mind therapy, tea is the most substantial component of our life. A poet's perfect solution to ignite ideas, a mother's best therapy to relax her mind, a father's coolest companion while reading India Today, a student's best medicine to stay awake, and whatnot. A big thanks to Chinese Emperor Shen Nung for introducing us to this magical fluid. Tea has its branches of history back to 5000 years. Sometimes I wonder what would have been the level of amusement at that time when humans had their first sip of tea, it must have been a direct therapy to the soul.

However, keeping the romanticized version of tea aside, have you ever wondered how beneficial and detrimental tea can be? Tea comes with an abundance of boons. Tea has its glorified variety and each one of it has its perk. White tea, with a fragile flavor derived from the *Camellia Sinensis* plant, native to china is an anti-cancer treatment. White tea comparatively contains the least amount of caffeine.

A mingle of herbs, fruits, spices, and various plants alongside tea leaves and with zero amount of caffeine is what is offered in herbal teas. Each kind of herbal tea furnishes its unique taste and properties. Chamomile tea is easy when you're on your menstrual days, Rooibos tea serves you with improved blood pressure while ginger tea is the most common among herbal teas and is used to cure indigestion and joint pain. The most advertised herbal tea is green tea, which is a skin clearing and weight loss product with some extra benefits. Black tea is a bitter one among all types. It's the most addictive version with a high concentration of caffeine. It is an anticancer and antioxidant product when taken with lemon. In general, tea is a mood enhancer, stress reliever, and body energizing drink.

As said everything in this world comes with its pros and cons and so does tea. Anything, in emotional or physical aspects, whenever is taken in more than the required amount becomes a curse.

Overconsumption of tea is nothing but an addiction. The urge to drink tea within an hour and feeling anxious or irritated when not served are the symptoms of mere addiction. But have you ever wondered how realistically hazardous its addiction can be?. Tea can soak a major proportion of iron present in your body consequently making you anemic.

You can suffer crucial nutritional deficiencies if not taken into consideration.

Our body requires water more than anything and over-drinking tea can make you dehydrated thus causing bloating.

Tea indeed is an amazing and exciting adventure we all take in but as we all know that addiction to anything in this world lowers its preciousness and benefits. So keeping in mind the pros and cons we should consume tea wisely and benefit from it in every way possible without compromising our health.



**Submission by Bhandariunnati**



# मैं देश प्रेम का गीत हूँ

~अनिशा जाटव

मैं देश प्रेम का गीत हूँ,  
मैं हर दिल में बसता संगीत हूँ।  
मैं मजबूर आंखों की आस हूँ,  
वो किसान के हाथों में पड़ते छाले,  
उस मजदूर के घर की दरार हूँ।

मैं वो रखी हर ईंट हूँ,  
मैं एकता की नींव हूँ,  
मैं प्रेम का प्रतीक हूँ,  
मैं मेहनत का मीत हूँ।

मैं कभी विवादों में  
बाटता ज़रूर हूँ,  
कभी किसानों के हक में ज़्यादा,  
कभी जवानों के दिल में जिंदा,  
कभी लकीरों की जंग में,  
कभी इस सरहद में, कभी उस सरहद में।  
हां में बटता जरूर हूँ, मगर बिखरता नहीं।

मैं देश प्रेम का गीत हूँ,  
हर दिल में बसता संगीत हूँ।

मैं कुरान हूँ,  
शब्द पाक 'आमीन' हूँ,  
मैं गीता के श्लोक हूँ,  
मैं ईमानदारी का प्रतीक हूँ।

मैं सरहद का जवान हूँ,  
मैं फिक्र-ए-अवाम हूँ,  
मैं शिकंजा हूँ माथे की,  
मैं भूक भी गरीब की,  
मैं इनायत भी, इबादत भी,  
मैं तमाशा भी, रियायत भी।

मैं उड़ते चीथड़ों की चीख हूँ,  
मैं सेलाब सी उठती दहाड़ हूँ,  
मैं शहीदों की माँ भी,  
अनाथों की गोद भी,  
मैं खयाल की लहर हूँ,  
मैं नई पहल हूँ।

मैं दिल में प्रेम हूँ,  
विभिन्नता में एक हूँ,  
मैं कश्मीर की बर्फ हूँ,  
राजस्थान की रेत, बंगाल के मिष्ठान हूँ,  
पंजाब के खेत।  
हां, मैं देश प्रेम का गीत हूँ!  
मैं हर दिल में बसता संगीत हूँ।

मैं देश प्रेम का गीत हूँ,  
मैं हर दिल में बसता संगीत हूँ।  
मैं मजबूर आंखों की आस हूँ,  
वो किसान के हाथों में पड़ते छाले,  
उस मजदूर के घर की दरार हूँ।

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मैं प्रेम का प्रतीक हूँ,  
मैं मेहनत का मीत हूँ।

मैं कभी विवादों में  
बाटता ज़रूर हूँ,  
कभी किसानों के हक में ज़्यादा,  
कभी जवानों के दिल में जिंदा,  
कभी लकीरों की जंग में,  
कभी इस सरहद में, कभी उस सरहद में।  
हां में बटता ज़रूर हूँ, मगर बिखरता नहीं।

मैं देश प्रेम का गीत हूँ,  
हर दिल में बसता संगीत हूँ।

मैं कुरान हूँ,  
शब्द पाक 'आमीन' हूँ,  
मैं गीता के श्लोक हूँ,  
मैं ईमानदारी का प्रतीक हूँ।

मैं सरहद का जवान हूँ,  
मैं फिक्र-ए-अवाम हूँ,  
मैं शिकंज हूँ माथे की,  
मैं भूक भी गरीब की,  
मैं इनायत भी, इबादत भी,  
मैं तमाशा भी, रिआयत भी।

मैं उड़ते चीथड़ों की चीख हूँ,  
मैं सेलाब सी उठती दहाड़ हूँ,  
मैं शहीदों की माँ भी,  
अनाथों की गोद भी,  
मैं खयाल की लहर हूँ,  
मैं नई पहल हूँ।

मैं दिल में प्रेम हूँ,  
विभिन्नता में एक हूँ,  
मैं कश्मीर की बर्फ हूँ,  
राजस्थान की रेत, बंगाल के मिष्ठान हूँ,  
पंजाब के खेत।  
हां, मैं देश प्रेम का गीत हूँ!  
मैं हर दिल में बसता संगीत हूँ।



## CRACKERS THAT BLAST LIVES

By Shreya Jain

Diwali is one of the most significant festivals celebrated not only in India but across the world, marking a new year and celebrating the triumph of good over evil. Around this time of the year, the night sky is dazzled with fireworks, and the houses of millions are lit up with Diyas and lamps. What makes Diwali truly auspicious is the way people celebrate this festival. Even in 7000 BC when Ram returned from exile, the people of Ayodhya celebrated by lighting lamps and decorated the entire city with rows of Diyas. The celebration has always been the true essence of Deepavali.

Over the years people have changed the ways they celebrate, most prominently the tradition of bursting “Firecrackers” has been tagged as an integral part of celebrations. Today, many people believe that bursting firecrackers holds cultural significance. So, an interesting question to ask would be:

Is bursting crackers an integral part of the Diwali celebration?

It is known that firecrackers were first invented in China during the first millennium AD. Its primary ingredient is Gunpowder which gives the crackers their characteristic whitish smoke. This technology is believed to have been brought to India from China by the Arabs.

Which alludes to the fact that originally firecrackers were never really part of any Indian tradition, As it is a Chinese import.

In addition, it has been pointed out in many articles that “There isn’t one proof whether people of Ayodhya had burnt fireworks on the arrival of Lord Rama.”

Paintings of the 15th century show that firecrackers' popularity existed as a form of royal entertainment in many medieval Indian kingdoms during festivals, events, and special occasions like weddings. So it all boils down to one thing: there's no cultural significance of bursting crackers as it's no more ancient than the 1940s that perhaps we have associated bursting crackers as an “integral” part of celebrating the festival. Even if it was a tradition, what good would this tradition be if we can't adapt and evolve ourselves with the changing times? After all, does it justify what we do to our planet while bursting crackers?

### **The burst of ethics and consequences over the years**

The ban on firecrackers always brings its fair share of controversy, so let's have a quick rundown of the impacts of bursting crackers not only on the environment but also on humans. It's no surprise that fireworks cause extensive air pollution and trigger serious health concerns. It's so because there's dioxin pollution, heavy metal fallout,



and the release of copious amounts of harmful chemicals, this is harmful to not only the planet but to humans as well.

What's sad is that in many ways Bursting crackers can be interpreted against Indian philosophy, according to the texts of Hindu literature, the universe is made up of 5 elements (Agni, Prithvi, Akash, Vayu, Jal) and when we burst crackers in the name of "custom" we indirectly create an imbalance between these elements.

Even the lives of the voiceless animals and birds who are unable to stand the din of crackers are massively affected by the sounds of continuous loud bursts.

Today, the fireworks industry is responsible for child labor, occupational death, and disability. It is true that for centuries we have used fireworks as a way to symbolize happiness and celebration but does the longevity of something justify its continuation and existence?

Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance, So lighting a few lamps is all the celebration that is needed for this amazing festival rather than a celebration that leaves a legacy of noise, smoke, and pollution. Lastly, Bursting crackers is objectively bad and it should be stopped throughout the year not just on Deepavali but on every celebration.

God doesn't turn away from  
*our pain.*



## **FAILURE**

By Maryum Zulfiqar

Today we lost our lives in the way of desire  
Neither there was a trust of pain and sorrow nor the world  
The dead body of hope I put on my chest  
I have made my life ungrateful for ages  
Failure had done it with the same trauma  
I have ruined my heart in every way  
Whenever I see you on the path, I have remembered you in the cold  
signs  
And now, in the wear of my soul, there is a lonely cloud of sorrow  
I have come to light the glowing candles  
My beloved, this riot of renewed loyalty  
My depressed youth is not suitable  
The flowers that I chose for your feet  
Their blurred imagination also died  
There's a chilling sadness over my heart and soul  
Now there's no hope or excitement in my soul  
It's left under heavy slashes of the dab  
The aspiration of my youthfulness  
Anything but bundles in the rags  
What do I have to do with the clouds of avoidance?  
The Kanwal of love has been extinguished in my chest  
Now what do I have to do with your beauty and regrets  
These tears over your illness  
There is no remedy for my depression and sorrow  
Your beloved eyes  
Your Update messages  
I don't wish even if it is compensation expecting



## MARRIAGE OR DREAMS

By Shabina

The marriage of the children is always a dream for their parents, which is natural and completely fine, but nothing is more terrible than when marriage becomes the price of their wishes. Every Indian parent sees their daughter's marriage as a responsibility, but most parents, even in the twenty-first century, see their daughter's marriage as a burden that they wish to get rid of as soon as possible.

Child marriage, in which children (particularly females) under the age of 18 were married, was extremely popular in the past. Girls as young as 8-12 years old were married to males between the ages of 25 and 40. The parents' mindset was to find a partner who could provide for her necessities while absolving them of the responsibility of raising and caring for young daughters. Education was not valued at the period, and women's roles in society were limited to marrying, reproducing, rearing children, performing household chores, and remaining at home to serve the family.

Fortunately, the implementation of the 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' resulted in a significant decrease in child marriage in India in the beginning, and while it is still prevalent in certain parts of the country, it has disappeared.

The exceptions are communities or segments of society that are highly uneducated, backward, and stereotypic.

As a result, we can conclude that child marriage has disappeared from India, but this is not the case because it still exists in India but in a different form. People in recent times have become educated enough to provide primary and secondary education to their children, recognizing that education is the most basic need of society in the modern period.

In today's world, a girl is given the opportunity to study until she graduates from high school, but if she requests further education or more desire to develop their career, not only her family, but the entire society reminds her that it is her time to marry, reproduce, and rear children, and to fulfill the responsibilities for which God has placed her on this earth.

This not only distracts the female, but also causes mental demotivation, worry, melancholy, and a sense of mental torment. On the other hand, if the family's son wishes to continue his studies or do something to help him become self-sufficient,

the entire family will support him, and no one in society will ask him to marry.

Most middle-class families believe that educating their daughters will help them locate a better groom, as most families are looking for educated daughters-in-law. Some families believe that marrying their daughter is a better option than educating her because it is pointless to invest in the girl because, after marriage, all of the girl's earnings will go to her in-laws. Even today, the majority of Indian families believe that it is the males' obligation to provide for the basic necessities and expenses of the wife, children, or entire family and that the females need not be concerned. She only needs to cook, clean, care for her family, and stay at home, so it is worthless to spend any amount on her higher studies or career.

Everyone recognizes that the aforementioned perception is entirely false. There are many successful women in today's society, but society as a whole is still unwilling to shift its mindset. There are many parents in society who believe that focusing on their daughter's aim is more vital than tying her to such a massive and onerous commitment that utterly destroys a girl's self-identity. Society is not even ready to accept this thing too.

People will constantly remind them that their daughter is young, how much longer will they wait, it is not appropriate to give girls too much freedom,

their daughter will let them down one day, they will regret it later, no one wants such girls working outdoors at late hours, people want nice girls, teach her how to cook instead of driving, how to dress traditionally, how to apply makeup instead of looking professional, and so on. All of this not only distracts the female but also causes the parents to consider all these factors and begin the process of persuading their daughter to marry.

Every girl desires for a financially independent life. She seeks for a life in which she can make her own decisions, make her own rules, live her life according to her own desires, own her own car, travel alone on her own expenses without any worry, and spend her self-earned money on her own way rather than a life in which she must seek permission from her husband for everything, and is completely reliant on him for her basic needs and all she has to do is child-rearing, cooking, washing, and serving the entire family.

At last, the decision to marry or remain single should be made alone by the girl, and the age at which she wishes to marry and have children should be left to her. Marriage should not harm a woman's aspirations, wishes, abilities, or talent, as a society must comprehend and adjust its perception. They will marry when it is appropriate for them; society must cease forcing this burden on them.



# HOPE

By Parina Kaur

Stay home, stay safe  
Haven't we all heard  
Masks, sanitizers, gloves became our shields, our weapons  
Spread across continents  
So far apart yet connected by a common thread  
Waiting for the world to revert to its former state  
While adjusting to the new normal  
Some lost family, some lost friends, some their livelihoods  
Yet there is hope, hope for a future without the disease  
Hope for living without fear



# ज़िन्दगी

~ अनिशा जाटव

23 साल 9 महीने 17 दिन!

कभी कभी लगता है जब आज यहाँ हर एक दिन का एक एक पल बिताना मुश्किल होता है। मैंने ज़िन्दगी के इतने साल जी कैसे लिए और कब। खैर अब इन सब बातों का कोई मतलब नहीं। क्योंकि अब इस 9वे महीने का कोई 18वा दिन नहीं होगा। क्योंकि अब मैं थक चुका हूँ हर उगते सूरज के साथ फिर मेरे अँधेरों के मिट जाने की उम्मीद करके। और वो भी कोनसा अँधेरा, जो ये दिन का उजाला ही अपने साथ लाता है। हर दिन वही लड़ाई। खुद से, अपनो से और फिर रही सही हिम्मत बाहर वाले तोड़ देते हैं। यहाँ खुद के दिल और दिमाग की उलझन खत्म नहीं होती। और मुझसे अब कोई वजह मत पूछना। क्योंकि वजह कोई एक नई कई है। और सबसे बड़ी वजह है कि अब मैं थक गया। हारने लगा हूँ। एक बार जो खुद से विश्वास उठने लग गया तो बस फिर मन कोई दलील नहीं सुनता। मेरा आज , मेरा अतीत, मेरा कल, मुझे ऐसे जकड़े हुए है मानो बस कहना चाहते हो कि बस अब बहोत हुआ। अब सब खत्म होने का वक़्त आ गया है।

मगर मेरे जाने का इल्ज़ाम किस पर होगा?

इस ज़माने पर? जो शायद मुझसे मेरा हाल पूछने तो कभी नहीं आया मगर इसे उसके अलावा मेरी ज़िन्दगी में पूरी दिलचस्पी है। मेरी नौकरी, मेरी शादी, मेरा गुस्सा। या माँ बाबा पर? बेशक वो मुझसे बहोत प्यार करते हैं, मगर शायद उनका प्यार भी इस खालीपन को भर नहीं सका। उनकी तानों और शिकायतों ने ऐसे दरारें डाल दी जिससे प्यार की दीवार खोलखली हो गई। क्योंकि शायद हम एक रिश्ते से कुछ और भी चाहिए होता है। ज़रूरत होती है कि वो हमें समझे। बिना किसी सलाह के बस सुने। मगर अफसोस, अफसोस मेरी ज़िन्दगी में ऐसा कोई रिश्ता नहीं। माँ बाबा ने भी कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी मुझे कमज़ोर महसूस करने में। या फिर मुझे दोश खूद को देना चाहिए? हाँ क्योंकि हार तो मैं रहा हूँ। कमज़ोर तो मैं हूँ। मगर और मैं अब करूँ भी क्या। ऐसा नहीं है कि मैंने कोशिश नहीं की। की कई बार की। कई बार मारने का खयाल आता है, मगर फिर ऐसी ही एक चिट्ठी लिख कर दराज में रख देता हूँ। इस आस के साथ कि या तो एक दिन ये सारी चिट्ठियां जला दी जाएंगी और उसी रोशनी के साथ मेरे सारे अँधेरे मिट जाएंगे। या फिर किसी दिन ऐसी ही किसी राख में मेरा शरीर भी मर जायेगा।



## THE MODEST FASHION OF ISTANBUL

By Ayush Kumar

The birthplace of the Ottoman Empire has been part of the fashion industry for a long time now. Being historically and culturally fashionable and beautiful, Istanbul has again emerged as a fashion hub in the Modern Era. From Cemil İpekçi to Bora Aksu, Istanbul's fashion week has been cherished by talented and immensely creative designers. In the presence of these talented designers, new ideas are guaranteed to be born. The concept of 'Modest Fashion' starts from here, the birthplace of Turkish culture.

The term 'Modest Fashion' can't be defined in a generalised manner as it has a distinctive meaning for an individual. It depends on the person who is dressing up 'modestly' that how they would like to define 'modesty' for themselves. Shortly explaining the term can sum up to 'Covering up yourself on purpose'. It is an individual's choice to do so, reason being faith, beliefs, commitment to god or anything else. It's the freedom of that person that determines how they would dress up and present themselves. The ban on headscarves started with the government of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Even though the Republic of Turkey has been a secular state since the constitutional amendment of 1937,

he introduced the secularization of the state in the Turkish Constitution of 1924, alongside his reforms. He began to actively repress its use in public venues but never forbade the headscarf. The headscarf was banned in public institutions because of the 'public clothing regulation' issued after the 1980 coup. Later on, it began to be executed radically after the military memorandum of 1997.

On 1st October 2013, the ban on the headscarf was removed by the democratization package. The restrictive provisions were removed as well by the amendment in Article 5 of the dress code regulation. From that moment, the demand for modest fashion slowly started to increase and then, later on, became an important part of today's fashion world. A lot of brands, including luxury and affordable ones, have tried to participate and contribute to the world of modest fashion but weren't quite successful enough.

On the other hand, small and local designers have been able to understand the concept of modest fashion and deliver what consumers demand.

Many new and old designers have increased the value of modest fashion overall and have been attracting the attention of other brands as well. Even though luxury and other brands have been trying to be more diverse and inclusive, yet they lag when it comes to modest fashion.

The majority of consumers of modest fashion are Muslim women and they feel they've been ignored by the fashion industry. For example major luxury brands copy the idea and concept of modest fashion but don't advertise them as they are meant to be used as modest fashion. The fact they want to make a profit out of this but also don't want to acknowledge for whom their products are being made is contradictory. Brands not acknowledging their "scarves" for handbags as hijabs, is a strong example of the ignorance they've towards Muslim women.

According to the State of the Global Islamic Economy Report 2020/21, the modest fashion industry is valued at \$277 billion and is expected to reach \$311 billion by 2024.

The major markets for modest fashion include countries such as Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Muslim consumers want luxury products but major brands aren't able to provide them, therefore, new designers are emerging.

To solve the issue of the 'exclusive' attitude of big brands for Muslim women, Istanbul Modest Fashion Week (IMFW) was founded. It is an annual fashion platform co-founded by Franka Soeria, founder of Alahijab.com – a social media platform dedicated to modest fashion – and Turkish entrepreneur Özlem Şahin.

Intending to become the world's leading modest fashion event, the two-day event not only promotes Turkish-Muslim fashion but also shapes new trends. IMFW also brings together trendsetters and models from the modest fashion world. The invited designers are from the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Sweden and Malaysia.



Refka at Istanbul modest fashion week 2019 day 1 © Rooful Ali



For instance, in 2019, famous names of the modest fashion world met in Istanbul for “Istanbul Modest Fashion Week (IMFW)”. Personalities such as Halima Aden, Sherpa Jewelry, Nihan Peker, Till We Cover, Amina Fedorenko, Mizalle and many more participated in IMFW 2019. It had Halima Aden’s eagerly-awaited fashion debut of ready-to-go turbans and shawls. The supermodel teamed up with the world’s leading modest fashion e-tailer Modanisa for her first foray into design, opting for warm colours in a trans-seasonal collection of the headwear that veers from the demure to the audacious.\*

Istanbul has been enriched with its Turkish Culture, a combination of oriental and European elements and it has been setting its feet in the fashion world with a new take of its own.

Shortly, as predicted by the State of the Global Islamic Economy Report 2020/21, Modest Fashion will be more profitable and influential to the fashion world. It. With its innovative, creative and historically rich identity, Istanbul has been taking its stand in the fashion world at a rapid pace. Sooner or Later, Istanbul, with its unique Modest Fashion concept, will be the leading player and hub of the fashion world.

“The fashion world has the soft power to influence everything.” -Banu Bölen in DW’s documentary titled “Turkish fashion: From hijabs to streetwear”



# JOURNEY TO GLORY

By Maryum Zulfiqar

I was searching for my success.  
Then I saw it in my eyes,  
The desires,  
All of them were scattered in space.  
The signs of life,  
Those which were in me now became the target of my quest.  
I wished for them,  
I spent a lifetime in the paths of heart,  
Kissed the moon and stars.  
And yesterday evening,  
After the journey,  
I won.  
In the celebration of the win,  
When I was happy,  
Suddenly the path turned to his inside,  
A defeat was attached to a strange person.



## मर्द को दर्द नहीं होता

~ अनिशा जाटव

"मर्द को दर्द नहीं होता"

हमारे 'शहनशाह' के ज़माने के वो प्रचलित डायलॉग। पर सवाल यह है कि क्यों नहीं होता मर्द को दर्द। मैंने तो कभी बायोलॉजी की किताब में नहीं पढ़ा कि पुरुषों का दिल पत्थर से बना है। या उनके पास जज़्बात नहीं होते। फिर ये सीख किस की बदौलत? जवाब है, बॉलीवुड! जी हाँ, इसमें कोई शक नहीं कि हम सभी फिल्मों के दीवाने हैं। क्या पहनना है, हमें किस तरह का संगीत सुनना चाहिए, शादियाँ किस तरह होनी चाहिए, त्योहार किस तरह मनाने चाहिए, सभी निर्णयों में हमारी फिल्मों का बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। हम फिल्मों से कुछ इस तरह जुड़े हुए हैं कि कई बार हम फिल्मों में दर्शाए किरदारों को अपने जीवन में ढूँढने लगते हैं। हमारी कहानी को किसी चल-चित्र की कहानी से जोड़ने लगते हैं।

और दर्शकों का यही लगाव बॉलीवुड को इस ज़िम्मेदारी में बाँधता है कि वह अपनी कहानियों एवं किरदारों को बहुत ही सहजता से प्रस्तुत करें। पर सवाल यह है कि सही गलत के इन नियमों का पालन किस हद तक हो रहा है?

शायद जवाब आपको निराश कर दे। क्योंकि, हालांकि बदलते वक्त के साथ सिनेमा भी अपनी सोच विकसित करने की कोशिश कर रहा है। मगर अंतिम परिणाम निराशाजनक ही है। आज भी बदलाव, बराबरी और नारी शक्तिकरण के नाम पर कुछ फिल्में बनाई तो जाती हैं जिनमें मुख्य भूमिका एक औरत के द्वारा निभाई जाती है।

मगर फिर क्यों अधिकतर कहानी एक महिला के पीड़ित, लाचार या अपने पति के बिना अपने बच्चे या घर को अच्छे से संभालने के इर्द गिर्द होती है। क्यों किसी आम कहानी में एक महिला किरदार को बराबरी का दर्जा नहीं दिया जाता। आज भी कई फिल्मों में हीरोइन का काम बस ग्लैमर बढ़ाना है।

खैर, यह बात तो माननी पड़ेगी कि नाइंसाफी किसी भी लिंग के साथ नहीं हुई है। सभी को बखूबी बड़ी समझदारी से अपने अपने निर्धारित व्यक्तिगतत्व के दायरे में कैद किया गया है। मर्द है तो उसके रोने पर पाबंदी लगा दी गई है। एक सच्चे मर्द का हृष्ट पुष्ट और ताकतवर होना इतना ज़रूरी बना दिया कि किसी के पतले होने पर उसकी मर्दानगी पर शक किया जाता है। "तुम लड़ नहीं सकते, तो तुम्हें हाथों में चूड़ियाँ पहन लेनी चाहिए।" और क्या गलत है चूड़ी पहन लेने में? क्या बस हाथों में पहनी कुछ रंग बिरंगी चूड़ियाँ काफी हैं किसी का लिंग निर्धारित करने के लिए?

बात अगर किन्नर वर्ग की करें तो हालात और भी खराब हैं।



## FAST FASHION TRENDS AND WASTE

By Aanchal Baweja

The trends in the fashion industry are dynamic. Not every consumer can afford to buy trending clothing items with a given income. The affordable bundle of goods (clothing items in this case) was very low and hence the consumers bought what they needed. It is true to say that demand creates its supply. Fashion-conscious consumers from low-income profiles were dissatisfied with this system and urged an affordable industry model. This led to the creation of an affordable business model: The Fast Fashion Industry. The industry drastically affects consumer habits and has adverse ethical and environmental effects.

Fast fashion is a term coined in 1990 by the renowned newspaper New York Times. The fast-fashion business model focuses on making cheap clothing from catwalk trends accessible and on creating more seasonal and trendy designs that are extensively sold to fashion-conscious consumers. Companies like Zara and H&M started to build a business model around fast fashion that made use of cheap quality fabrics like polyester and produced low-priced garments in bulk. They focus on quickly manufacturing the latest designs and making them available in the stores at low prices.

The fashion cycle to a normal consumer seems unpredictable,

but fashion experts believe that trends repeat themselves after 20 years. Take for example how the y2k fashion or the fashion trends from the early 2000s are making a comeback in 2021.

Some experts believe it is the trickle-down theory, the trends pass down from the designers and fashion buyers to the mainstream consumers. Designers and fashion buyers may play a significant role but the ultimate decision-maker in setting trends is the consumer. However, corporations manipulate consumer choices in trends. The tactics used by business houses to promote their products mostly include influence marketing, companies endorse people with a large following to promote their products on social media platforms like Instagram and YouTube. Fast fashion brands like Shein, Fashion Nova, etc. rely exclusively on influence marketing.

The private final consumption expenditure on fast fashion by consumers is ever rising. The bundle of goods that the consumer can afford in this business model is high and hence augments the utility derived from the purchase decisions. This stimulates the consumer to alter their consumption habits and they buy more than needed while being completely satisfied with the sacrifice in quality.

One of the biggest problems associated with fast fashion is that it promotes overconsumption. Fast fashion has changed consumption habits. There has been a shift from “what we need” to “what we want”

We as consumers are not realizing the long-term consequences of our patterns of consumption. Due to the cheap prices and trendy pieces the consumer keeps on buying more than needed. Research by the European Union in 2014 shows that consumers generate half of the impact of the fashion industry. The consumption pattern is as harmful as the production pattern. Consumers keep purchasing what they want more than what they need, later they find it easier to dispose of the cheaper products, hence increasing the textile waste every year.

Consumers are not the only ones exploited by fast fashion. The labor market experiences adverse effects on the industry. In the Tailored Wage Report of 2019, H&M has graded an E grade, as the brand was unable to provide evidence that they are paying a living wage to any of the garment workers despite signing a voluntary agreement that aims to negotiate wages of workers between unions and suppliers in 2016. High street fashion brand Nike was also given an E grade for the same reason. Fast fashion companies exploit overseas workers to maximize their profits, especially young and underage women. These women work long hours with minimal pay. Not only are these workers paid less, but they are also subjected to dangerous working conditions with no benefits or protection.

The opportunity costs of fast fashion are also very high. A change in consumer habits has made textiles disposable goods from semi-durable goods.

When the cost of purchasing a quality garment is compared to the cost of buying fifteen cheap garments, it is found that buying a low price garment is costlier than purchasing a quality garment. Not to mention the amount that could have been saved and invested.

The company has become synonymous with this business model and manufactures around 30,000 units of product annually, 18000 designs each year, and can produce them within an average of 3 weeks. The decreased period improves the variety of choices but deteriorates the quality of the product. In 2015, Zara had total global sales of \$19.7 billion and surpassed the sales of luxury brands by 8%. H&M India’s revenue rose by 14% to rupees 1,700 crores, while the operating profit of H&M group worldwide was 334.04 million US dollars in 2020.

A pattern that has been detected commonly in these fast fashion brands is the demographic profile of their consumers. Research shows that the target audience of these business houses is largely consumers aged 18 and 24 who are often university students with low-income profiles. Females of this age group are more often found shopping from these retailers other than any other demographic group. Consumers agree that these are low-quality products but are still ready to accept them for affordability and accessibility. They believe that the value-added in these trendy items surpasses the utility derived from premium quality products which makes them still satisfied with their purchase decision.

A counterargument to fast fashion given by the loyal consumers of these brands is that it stimulates the growth in the economy. It promotes consumerism and creates more jobs in developing countries. Consumers also state that it gives everyone access to the latest fashion trends despite having huge income gaps. At first, this may seem like a legitimate argument but the ethical and environmental effects are such that the consumers also acknowledge them.

The fabrics used by fast fashion brands are generally polyester, nylon, and other cheap quality fabrics. These fabrics cannot be recycled, hence generating textile waste of around 20 million every year. The toxic chemicals used in trendy tie-dye clothes can cause several skin diseases. The fashion industry is the second largest contributor to pollution after the oiling industry. Hazardous chemicals, fiber dust, and noise pollution from yarn manufacturing concern many environmentalists.

Even though child labor is an acknowledged crime, it remains a challenge in the clothing and textiles industry to monitor it. Fast fashion brands are no different from other corporations when it comes to payrolls for females. Female employees, including a large number of migrant females, are paid less in comparison to their male colleagues and are more vulnerable to sexual harassment. Most of these brands do not provide the minimum promised wage to their employees while the employees work in fatal and unsafe environments.

The time duration of these trends is a concerning factor when analyzing the effects of this industry. Many fast fashion brands release season-wise catalogs: summer catalogs, winter catalogs, etc. and some brands release monthly catalogs.

This makes these trends ever-changing. What is trending on Instagram might not be trending on Tiktok as the existence of these trends is manipulated and endorsed, not genuine

. A counterattack on fast fashion in the form of “slow fashion” is the need of the hour. The term “slow fashion” emerged in the 2000s after the takeover of the market by fast fashion brands. This business model focuses on sustainability over profits. The clothing items were made of recyclable fabrics and the trends could be easily recreated with pieces in the wardrobe instead of buying more. This balanced the consumption levels.

A similar concept of minimalistic fashion is surfacing over the internet. Smart shopping and awareness of our purchase decisions are required. Various consumers have come to realize the human cost of fast fashion along with the environmental costs and are making an effort to bring change. Shopping sustainably has become popular among young consumers aged 18 to 27. Many well-known retailers are also acknowledging it. Fast fashion brands like H&M are also trying to include more sustainable staples in their catalogs. The sudden shift from not acknowledging the ethical issues to partaking in them has become possible due to growing consumer awareness. It would be right to say that the consumer indeed is the king of the market.



## MONEY=HAPPINESS?

By Muskan Saini

“Making money is happiness; making other people happy is super happiness.”

~Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Muhammad Yunus

The main purpose of our life is to be happy. In today's materialistic world people mostly spend their time finding happiness but they don't know what real happiness is. Every person gets happiness in different things. For some, it is buying branded clothes, cars, expensive jewelry, etc. For some, it is to have two meals. But to get the things that we want in our life is real happiness? Or Who gets real happiness in life?

Once there lived a young rich woman. She had a high-salary-paying job yet she was unhappy and dissatisfied with her job. She visited a psychiatrist to find a solution to her problem. She told the psychiatrist that she is rich and can buy branded clothes and visit different places yet she is unhappy. The psychiatrist understood her problem. He explained to her that getting the desired things in life and having a good job do not mean happiness. I know a woman who works as a bathroom cleaner yet she is very happy with her life. The rich woman asked the women's reasons for her happiness. The women replied-  
I lost my husband after 6 years of marriage.

I lost my son soon after he was born.  
I lost my mom and dad recently.

Once I thought of suicide but then I saw a boy crying, I went there and gave him a toy. This brought a smile to the child's face and that made me happy. Then I helped a blind person cross the road, his smile made me happy. My real happiness doesn't come from a job, it comes when we help people.

So someone who makes others happy gets real happiness. Feeding someone who is in need is real happiness. Bringing flowers to his wife by the husband is real happiness. Appreciating the students by the teachers is real happiness. Cooking our favorite food is my mother's real happiness.

Why is money important? Can money buy happiness?

Human beings require money to pay for all of the necessities of existence, such as shelter, food, medical costs, and a good education. Without money, if we want food then we have to search for a person who has food and who wants the same thing that we want to sell and this is a very difficult process.

With the help of money we can live where we want, can take care of our needs, and pursue our dreams. If we have enough money in our banks we need not worry about meeting our necessary needs.

But it doesn't mean that we can buy anything with money. Money can't buy peace. It can't buy happiness. For example, a person working in a job getting a salary of 100000 per month yet he isn't able to get mental peace. Similarly, a person even after getting everything in his life waits for Sundays or holidays so that he can get time to do things that make him happy.

Sometimes people try to earn more and more money, and for this, they indulge in criminal behavior, such as theft or scamming others,

they even leave their family for money and have no one to share their feelings with, which makes them unhappy.

When a person and her partner or family members don't agree on what should be done with money, this can cause substantial friction in their life. Money is one of the leading causes of divorce for American couples.

Although money cannot purchase happiness, it may buy you independence, stability, and the ability to pursue your aspirations. That's why it's critical to put in the effort, make money, and learn how to save and invest it the right way.





## A POWERFUL WOMAN

By Akansha Deswal

She rises from her adversity but never forgets her origin  
She has learned from her past and chooses to keep going forward  
Even when her steps get heavy  
She transforms her pain and suffering into strength and wisdom  
Yes, she might stumble  
Yes, sometimes she is wrong  
But just as the sun always rises  
So does a powerful woman  
She is equipped with an intuition that guides her quotes like a  
compass  
She strives to love herself and all that she stands for, fiercely  
Even when it is difficult  
She's not afraid to speak the truth even when it hurts  
She is passionate and uses her gifts to inspire and spread light and  
love  
With a mind of wonder and a heart of goodness, she is resilient  
She refuses to be navigated by fear and doubt  
She knows where she has been, where she is and where she is headed  
Watch her uplifts other women and embody authenticity and  
humility  
She loves deeply, live with compassion and is relentlessly and  
unapologetic  
She is designed to be admired.  
She's determined and unstoppable



## **A WALK HOME**

By Maryum Zulfiqar

Buses were rushing from both sides. The sound of horns started waging down as her taxi was moving forward. Sarah's brain was overactive at the time. Something was blowing out of her brain on that dark street. Her taxi stops in front of a housing society's main gate. The Taxi driver was not allowed to enter through the gate because he was not vaccinated. Fifteen minutes' walk, she thought, and I am alone here. She took her pepper spray keychain in her hand. With each step, she revived the self-defense ninja techniques. She was taught in her student life. But what if all this didn't work out? What if pepper spray is not enough to hurt them. It only weighs 100 mg of Pepper oleoresin. And she had used it several times before at the bus stop. What if there were more than one. Every step was triggering her mind. She was amazed that she must be a thinker when she thought of saying, "don't rape me. I am badly infected." And they wouldn't even touch her. It might be because they were afraid of getting STDs for them. She took the next step and rang the bell. She was in front of her home. I can write a novel; I am blessed with such a fantastic imagination. She was just an overthinker. She should be, for her safety.



# MERCY KILLING

By Yaswanth Vattam

“Life and death are inseparable. Every moment our bodies change... life is not disconnected from death. Dying is a part of the process of living.” - Justice Chandrachud

Euthanasia or Mercy Killing is the act or practice of painlessly putting to death persons suffering from painful, incurable diseases and incapacity physical disorder, allowing them to die by holding treatment and artificial life supporters. It was legal in a few countries and one of those was India, Euthanasia is four types Active, Passive, Indirect, and Physician-assisted suicide, but only Passive Euthanasia was legal in India. “Passive Euthanasia” is the deliberate withholding of medical treatment with the intention of an ill patient to die. This can involve turning off respiratory systems, stopping the life-sustaining medication, or even withholding food and water so the patient dies from starvation or dehydration. A specially constituted medical board will be the final authority on when and in which circumstance passive euthanasia is medically justified.

Even though the Supreme Court has recognized the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right, major hurdles might be posed by religious communities, who mostly oppose euthanasia in India.

“In Hinduism Atma-gatha meaning suicide—the intention to voluntary kill—was prohibited in Hindu culture. Muslims also don’t favor euthanasia however they haven’t made any public statements on the subject. Muslims believe that no one has a right to die before the time decided by God,” said Scaria Kanniyakonil, Professor of Moral Theology at Paurastya Vidyapitham, Pontifical Oriental Institute of Religious Studies in Kerala. The issue of euthanasia rose to prominence in India after several noteworthy cases including that of Aruna Shanbaug is a nurse who spent 42 years in a vegetative state as a result of a violent sexual assault.

In 2011, Journalist-activist Pinki Virani filed a written petition under Art 32 before the Supreme Court seeking the legalization of euthanasia, so that Aruna’s suffering ended by withdrawing life supporting measures, but the court denied the petition for euthanasia for Aruna’s case, but, it legalized passive euthanasia in the country. It also made a distinction between Active euthanasia and Passive euthanasia in the judgment. In the Aruna Shanbaug case, Supreme Court (SC) laid down guidelines for passive euthanasia. These guidelines provided for the withdrawal of life support systems which can ultimately lead to a person's death. This verdict made passive euthanasia possible in India in certain conditions which will be decided by the High Court.

In this verdict, the apex court declared that the right to die with dignity is a Fundamental Right incorporated into the right to live (Art 21) and also suggests that “Living Will”-

Is essentially a document that sets out a patient's wishes regarding how they want to be treated if they are seriously ill in future and there might be chances for misuse of this document. "A person is entitled to draft a living will specifying that he/she should not be given life support treatment if he slips into an incurable coma state in future," the court said. If in case the person has not made a will, the apex court said that the relatives can seek permission from High Courts to allow passive euthanasia.

There is one culture that existed like assisted suicide, but it was not suicide it was a heinous custom to kill the old people called Thalaikoothal - it is the traditional practice of senicide (killing of the elderly) or involuntary euthanasia, by their family members, observed in some parts of southern districts of Tamil Nadu state of India. Thalaikoothal, an act of killing the elderly It's said that invalid elders are given a final oil bath and forced to drink tender coconut juice, followed by tulsi juice and then milk (a customary pre-death drink), with the relatives standing around chanting, 'Kasi'. In some cases, even hard pieces of murukku (a savory) are forced down a resistant individual's throat, causing them to choke to death. Mud mixed with water is also used,

with hopes that the watery Hemlock would cause indigestion — brutally fatal to an already compromised body. And even as preparations for the Thalaikoothal are underway, families start

arranging for the funeral anyway.

According to the study titled "A Study on the Victims of Geronticide in Tamil Nadu, India, conducted by M. Priyamvada, Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology of Madras University, reveals that about 30 percent of the respondents of the study acknowledged that geronticide was being practiced as ritual killing in the state, the respondents have cited a variety reasons for the illegal practice including concern for their parents, irreversible physical or mental condition and poor economic situation and they do not want their parents to suffer during old age. The offenders choose from 26 different methods to kill the elderly. Nowadays everyone in the family is employed taking care of the elderly has become a burden. Are we really that busy with our own lives that the lives of those that sourced ours have become such a big burden that we won't hesitate to kill our responsibilities, hidden under the mask of mercy? Do we have that right?



# FREEDOM

By Nitesh Goyal

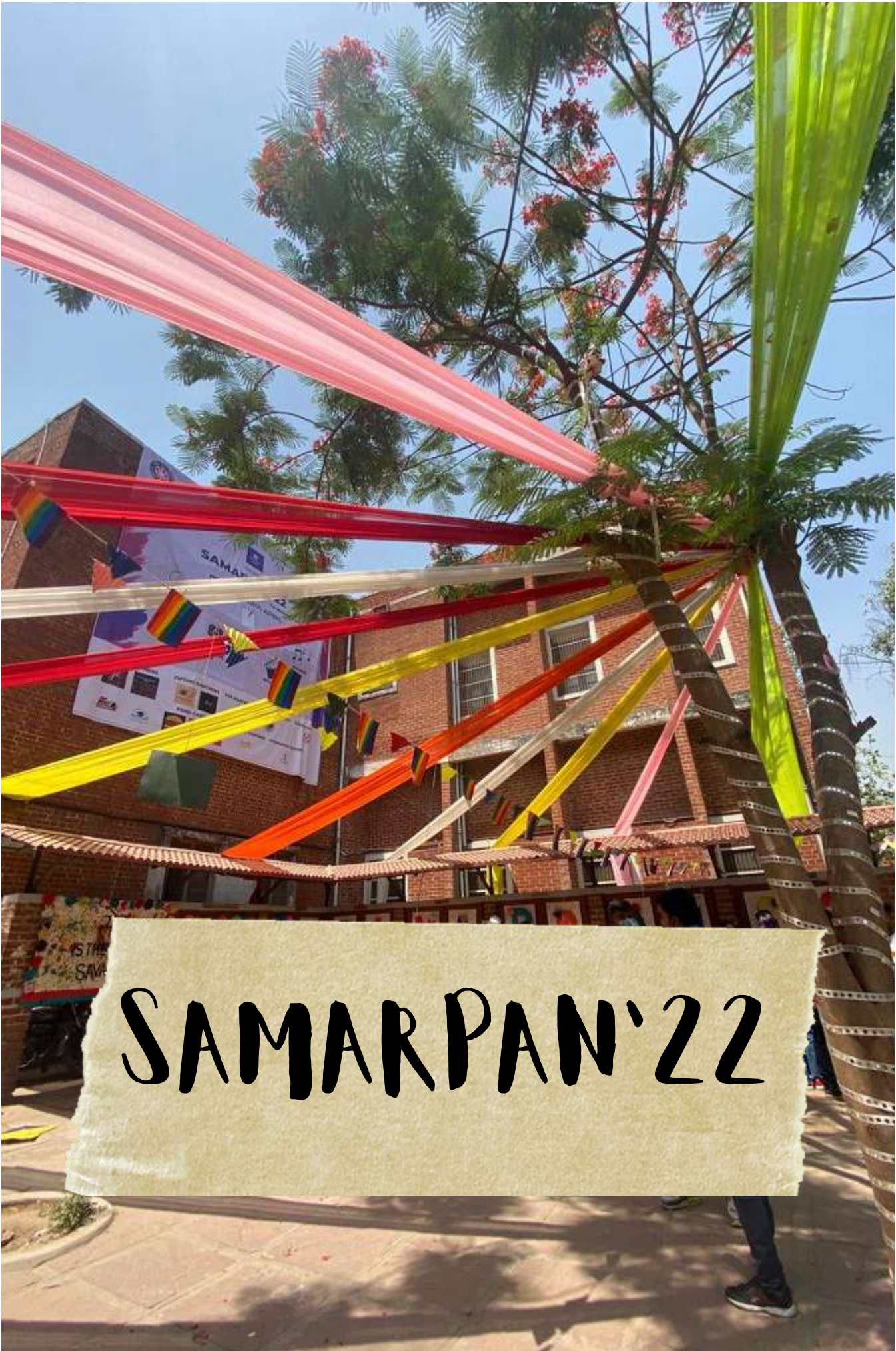
Freedom is a word that adorns our faces with positive vibes and opens up the avenue for a better opportunity. The opportunity to transcend every hindrance on our path and achieve what we aspire for. Freedom according to me is not just an expression, it's a feeling we live with. Moreover, the ambit of freedom keeps expanding its wings as per the social and political changes in our society. The freedom to express ourselves freely on the digital platforms, which have become a core aspect of our lives nowadays, may not have concerned us a few years back.

The idea of freedom is also subjective as what is freedom for one may serve as an impediment to others' development. The freedom of an elite to build a multiplex showroom may destroy the livelihood opportunities for various small shopkeepers on its periphery. The Constitution-Living Document of our country has done enough to provide us freedom in the public sphere by ascribing it under the prestigious fundamental rights thus providing its citizens a shield that no government can surpass. The whole range of Article 19- Article 22 signifies the true democratic spirit of our country.

For me, it's that paradigm of an egalitarian society where every individual in the society is provided an equal and fair chance to develop and nurture himself.

Every individual having the right to put forth his/her thoughts without any restraints or their voices being suppressed is the true essence of freedom. Freedom is a principle that states that people are not bound by the deeply rooted prejudices, stereotypes, and conventions, instead rationality becomes the founding principle of our decisions.

Freedom is a state where a child is not fed with just the things mentioned in the pages of the books or what the society at large surmises but where a child is given enough liberty to go beyond the language of books and create a world for themselves which would be their own. Freedom would ensure that every child is provided with the wings to soar high in the skies and their wings are not tied up under the hardships of social or economic distress.

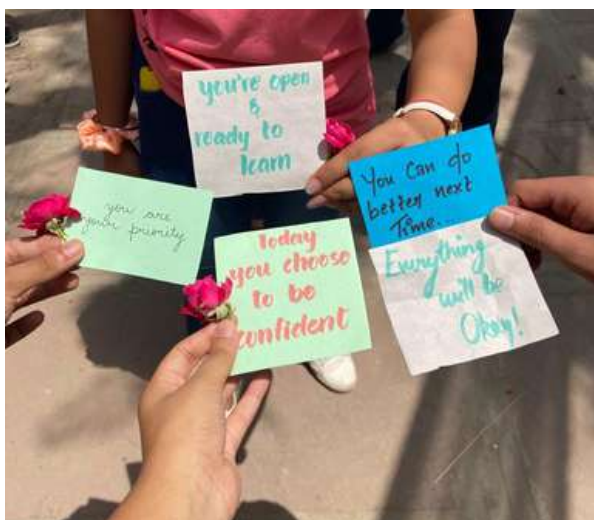


# SAMARPAN'22

**“It's easier to take than to give. It's nobler to give than to take. The thrill of taking lasts a day. The thrill of giving lasts a lifetime.” — Joan Marques.**

With a heart for service and an intention to spread endless joy and warmth, NSS SRCC organized "Samarpan 22-खुशियों का दर्पण". The annual fest of NSS SRCC which celebrates the joy and contentment that comes with losing oneself in the service of others. It was filled with intriguing and fun events which saw participation from all over the country, offering them a soulful experience to cherish, up-close! It is said that together we have the power to bring about a change we alone couldn't even think of . With this in our minds and beaming hope in our hearts, we initiated a fundraiser for a young boy, Shiv, who is a member of our Project Kali community. Shiv is suffering from ventricular septal defect ,a hole in the heart and had to undergo surgery for the same. Like every year, SAMARPAN'22 aimed to cater to a cause very close to our hearts. All the funds raised during Samarpan'22 were channelised for this cause.

Unfurled with the tag of #sevaisthenextnewsavage, Samarpan'22 debuted with an Opening Ceremony on 27th April as our Program Officer, Dr Kuljeet Kaur, graced the occasion and gave her blessings as we kick started the fest. With a team of over 200 extremely devoted volunteers whose hearts beat unequivocally for social service and selfless seva.



# EVENTS

## CONVERGENCE 6.0

One of the flagship events of NSS SRCC is Convergence. With the aim to bring together like-minded people for engaging and worthwhile discussions on various issues, it gives a platform to cherish the journey of social service. This year, Convergence6.0 welcomed not only NSS units but also student-led non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate and initiate constructive discussions regarding social concerns. Participants in the event gave a work presentation, exhibiting their work and inspiring others to achieve better. This year's convergence was likewise a huge success, with teams from all around India demonstrating their outstanding contributions to society.

The judge panel was led by two very eminent personalities. Mr Subhrajeet Gautam, a TEDx speaker, politician, and businessman, who is a well-known figure. He is the founder of Umeed NGO, a non-governmental organization dedicated to societal welfare. Sir graduated from Amity University with a master's degree in business administration. The judging panel was also shared by Mr Farhat Umar, a well-known orator and a seasoned consultant with an astonishing track record in the professional training and coaching field. He also has experience lecturing, developing curriculum, training teachers, and developing personnel.



**NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME**  
SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

**SAMARPAN'22**  
खुशियों का दर्पण

**CONVERGENCE 6.0**  
A CONFLUENCE OF NSS UNITS

Deadline for registration : 2nd April

Event dates: 25th & 28th April

Venue

Exciting prizes await!!!

Ticket for SAMARPAN'22: ₹ 50

Deadline for PPT submission: 11:59am 24th April 2022

Register with link in Bio or Scan The QR Code

**Contact us:**  
Rohit Yadav : +91 8619815855  
Kinke Saxena : +91 9354765097



**Mr. Subhrajeet Gautam**  
Judge



**Mr. Farhat Umar**  
Judge



## Winners:

1st Position: NSS Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

2nd Position: NSS Hansraj College

3rd Position: Sarkaari School

## A word from the winning teams:

“We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the NSS unit of SRCC for organizing CONVERGENCE 6.0 and bringing together all the NSS units and Student led NGOs. It seemed more like a forum for sharing ideas and getting inspiration from the work of other teams than a competition. It was inspiring to see all the units working relentlessly to bring about positive change in society. We hope everyone keeps working with the same zeal and enthusiasm.”

~Team NSS IIT Delhi

“Convergence 6.0 was an insightful and motivating experience. The fact that it was a pan India competition where NGOs took part along with NSS units across India made the exchange of ideas more diverse and the competition even more competitive. Though NSS Hansraj was the first team to present their work, we remained attentive throughout the competition, learning from other teams. The concluding speech made by the esteemed judges Subhrajeet sir and Farhat sir inspired us to continue our work and have the spirit of social service in the journey ahead.”

~Team NSS Hansraj College

“Firstly we would like to thank team NSS SRCC for inviting us to their prestigious event, Convergence 6.0. It was an honor to be a part of this event and represent our organization and get inspiration from so many great teams. Listening to all the teams gave us a lot of motivation and valuable ideas. We are truly grateful to Team SRCC for recognising our work by awarding us the 3rd position. Thanks a lot again for making us a part of your event. Also, congratulations on the success of Convergence 6.0.”

~Team Sarkari School

## A word from the Judge:

"Really want to thank NSS SRCC for inviting me as a judge for "Convergence 6.0". It was a great platform for young social workers from top institutions to showcase their initiatives and works. Program was very well planned & organized. I appreciate the efforts made by NSS SRCC in Coordinating teams and managing time, which is very important for any online event. Thank you"

~Mr Subhrajeet Gautam, Judge Convergence 6.0

# SOCIO BEE 8.0

Social entrepreneurs strive for diverse and one-of-a-kind entrepreneurial strategies that are strongly attributable to the society and give cultural and social solutions while creating an impact on the society. While recognising, encouraging and celebrating this spirit we organized an intriguing B-Plan competition Socio bee 8.0, a one-of-a-kind social entrepreneurship competition that invited all young social entrepreneurs to develop a business plan to contribute to the community.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from all across India. The judging Panel was led by Mr Vishal Kumar, founder of LWT Academy and co-founder of Cofounders Planet. He is an IITian who has explored 25 countries and held roles ranging from geophysicist to research assistant. He mentors social entrepreneurs and aspires to build a flourishing social entrepreneurial ecosystem.



**NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME**  
SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

**SAMARPAN'22**  
खुशियों का दर्पण

**SOCIO BEE 8.0**  
Buzz for a Cause  
A social business plan competition

Deadline for registration : 22nd April

Event dates : 27th April

Exciting prizes await!!!

Ticket for SAMARPAN'22 ₹ 50

Register with link in Bio or Scan The QR Code

**Contact us :**  
Sukhleen Kaur : +91 95696 11133  
Pooja Pareek : +91 87438 42677



**Mr. Vishal Kumar**  
**Judge**

## Winners:

1st Position: Team Aspirant Learning (Adarsh Kumar Singh and Priyanshu Grover)

2nd Position: Team A.K (Akshita and Khushi Gupta)

3rd Position: Team Haritah (Sneha Jain, Sambhav Goyal and Vansh Jain)

### A word from the winning teams:

“First of all, on behalf of team Haritah, I thank you for having a highly perceptive, intellectually stimulating business plan event. It was an amazing experience at Socio-Bee 8.0. The arrangements were impeccable. Though being in online mode, we found everything to our satisfaction. Everything was perfect from the questionnaire session to one-on-one interactions with the experts. We had a fun time preparing for this event and learned a lot. Pitching our business plan at Socio-Bee has helped magnify our cause in the best possible way and also has set new milestones for us. Thank you again for putting in your best effort.”

~Sneha Jain, Team Haritah

“Our experience of participating in the socio-bee 8.0 competition was very insightful. We learnt a lot throughout our case preparation and at the end of the day our hard work paid off. We are elated as we got the 2nd position. All the teams performed very well and we were able to witness some great and innovative ideas.”

~Akshita and Khushi, Team AK

# RECASTING

Recasting was our newly introduced blockbuster event where the participants were welcomed to challenge the subtle aspects of Bollywood posing as troublesome. From 'Mogambo Khush Hua' to 'How's the Josh', and 'Ek pyaar ka nagma hai' to 'Ranjha' Bollywood has made a cozy home for itself in our hearts and recasting catered to the ones whose hearts are crazy for bollywood which while carries a great deal of entertainment, joy and laughter BUT at the same time, it also has its setbacks. Be it derogatory songs or prejudicial dialogues, Bollywood does have its fair share of matters to be questioned.

Participants could pick any Bollywood song, movie, dialogues, clips or characters, of their choice and critically evaluate the aspects they reckon as problematic and subsequently put it to question. It saw active participation from all across India with an inflow of many thought provoking and intriguing submissions.



The poster for the 'RECASTING' competition is framed like a film strip. At the top, it says 'SAMARPAN'22 Presents'. The central part features a collage of Bollywood movie stills and the word 'RECASTING' in large, bold letters. Below this, there are two blue boxes with white text: 'DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION 09/7/20 22nd April' and 'DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION 09/7/20 26th April'. At the bottom, there is a QR code, social media icons for Instagram (@nsssrcc) and Facebook (nss.srcc), and contact information for Shruti Agrawal (+91 9315348744) and Suhasini Yadav (+91 9013544377).

## Winners:

1st position: Gurleen Sohal

2nd position: Maitreyi Jha

## A word from the winner:

“SRCC is one of a kind , and so are its competitions. Recasting competition was something that gave me a platform to present my views on some deep seated problems in our country. It allowed me to be creative, and provided me with a space to brainstorm with a plethora of ideas. I was ecstatic when I learnt that I had bagged the first position in it. It really was a wonderful experience, and I look forward to taking part in more competitions presented by NSS SRCC.”

~Gurleen sohal

# SEIZE THE STEREOTYPE 2.0

A stereotype may be negative or positive, but even positive stereotypes present two problems: they are cliches, and they present a human being more simple and uniform than any human being actually is. Stereotypes, no matter in what form, acts as a virtual cage for the mind to look at the things that matter. Taking this ahead, we organized a photography competition, Seize the Stereotype, during the annual fest, Samarpan'22.

Seize the Stereotype 2.0 was, for a fact, one of the most exciting events which invited folks who have, within themselves, a drive to address the setbacks that swarm the society. Its aim was to break any prevalent stereotype in society using a lens. We saw an overwhelming flow of responses with participants creatively breaking the shackles of the society.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME  
SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

**SAMARPAN'22**  
खुशियों का दर्पण

**Seize the Stereotype**  
A Photography Competition

Deadline for registration :  
22nd April

Deadline for submission:  
11:59pm 26th April 2022

Exciting prizes await!!!

Ticket for SAMARPAN'22  
₹ 50

Register with link in Bio or Scan The QR Code

Let's break the bias!

Contact us :  
Shivansh Raj : +91 8851472945  
Ruthvika Shivali : +91 9502824210



**Winning Picture**

**Winner:**

**GAYATHRI DS**

"I personally have encountered many situations where people are hesitant to show their affection towards their partner openly as they feel they are doing something that shouldn't be done. Open up ! Show your true feelings, that's what I believe in!"

## **A word from the winner:**

“It was one of my best friends who introduced me to this competition being conducted by the NSS cell of SRCC. As a person who is very much interested in photography I registered asap. Throughout our lives we all are bound to some sort of stereotypes! That's why the theme of the competition 'Seize the Stereotype ' caught my attention. Without any second thought I applied for it, but never had an expectation of winning it! The photograph I submitted was not the best of my clicks in regard to the technical aspects, But definitely it was one of the best moments that I got to capture! Sincere thanks to the NSS cell of SRCC for bringing such a concept. Good luck!”

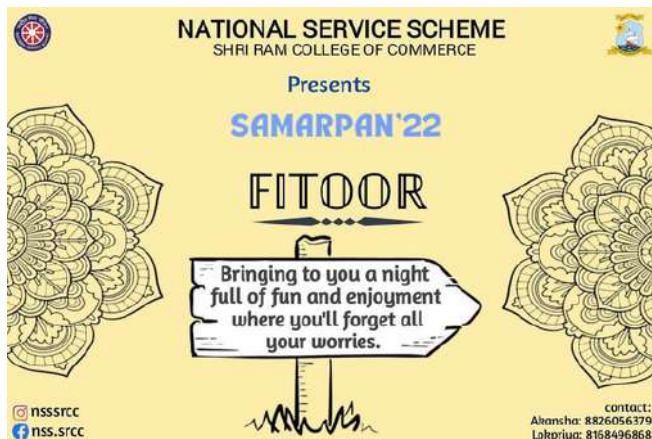
~Gayathri



**Gayathri**

# FITTOOR ~ The Cultural Evening

Fitoor, the Cultural Evening was organized with immense pomp and splendor on the 28th of April, which also marked the successful conclusion of Samarpan'22. The evening commenced with the emcees vehemently greeting the audience by heartwarming 'shayaris', followed by soulful performances by artists, various societies and SRCC alumni



The Cultural Evening witnessed some exemplary and amazing personalities who made the evening way more magical for all of us there. Our first performer was Avinash Goyal, an eminent storyteller and writer whose magnanimous pieces touched our hearts and left everyone mesmerized.



**Mr. Avinash Goyal**

We also got to host Divyansh, an extremely talented and remarkable music producer and sound engineer. His music mingled with his charisma just filled all our hearts with utmost love for the same.

The final performance was by Anurag Deka, a one-of-a-kind violinist from Assam, who gave a splendid tribute to the late nightingale, Lata Mangeshkar Ji, and with his fantastic strumming, left everyone surprised!



**Anurag Deka**

We also had on board with us our very own Former President of NSS SRCC, Ranjana Verma, who with her ecstatic poetry captivated all the souls and made everyone fall in love with College Life all over again



**Ranjana Verma**

There was yet another mind blowing performance by Ripunjoy Sonowal, an alum of SRCC and definitely a wonderful vocalist. His melodious voice and bags of character in the tone is something worth listening to.



**Ripunjoy Sonowal**



Charging ahead, we had Sneha Yadav, a fellow SRite, on the virtual stage with a poetry on love which resonated with everyone present!



**Sneha Yadav**

We also had performances by our very own Panache, the Western Dance Society of SRCC who with their terrific moves blew all our minds! We also had Aarohan, the Indian Music Society of SRCC to make us go gaga with their mellifluous tunes via the rendition, 'Dhadak'. This was followed by a stupendous performance by the members of Kalakshetra, the Indian Dance Society of SRCC, which not only made everyone groove but also replenish oneself with the Indian Culture from within. In line we also had Catharsis, the Western Music Society of SRCC.



The event and fest came to a close with heartwarming words by the Cabinet members. Our president, Tenzin Kalsang, with her dear words left us all spellbound and wished all the volunteers an adventurous and successful life ahead. Fitoor, like every other year, made Samarpan complete. The tears in the eyes of all members were proof enough that NSS is not just a society, instead a family, a family for life, a family spreading togetherness and love!

### **A word from the performer:**

“Being a part of Fitoor-The Cultural Evening was an experience worth cherishing. It fills my inner self with a sense of contentment while performing in an event so purposeful. I thank NSS SRCC for their commendable work towards the noblest of causes and how consistent they have been right from the start. My gratitude to the whole team and looking forward to more such events in the future <3”

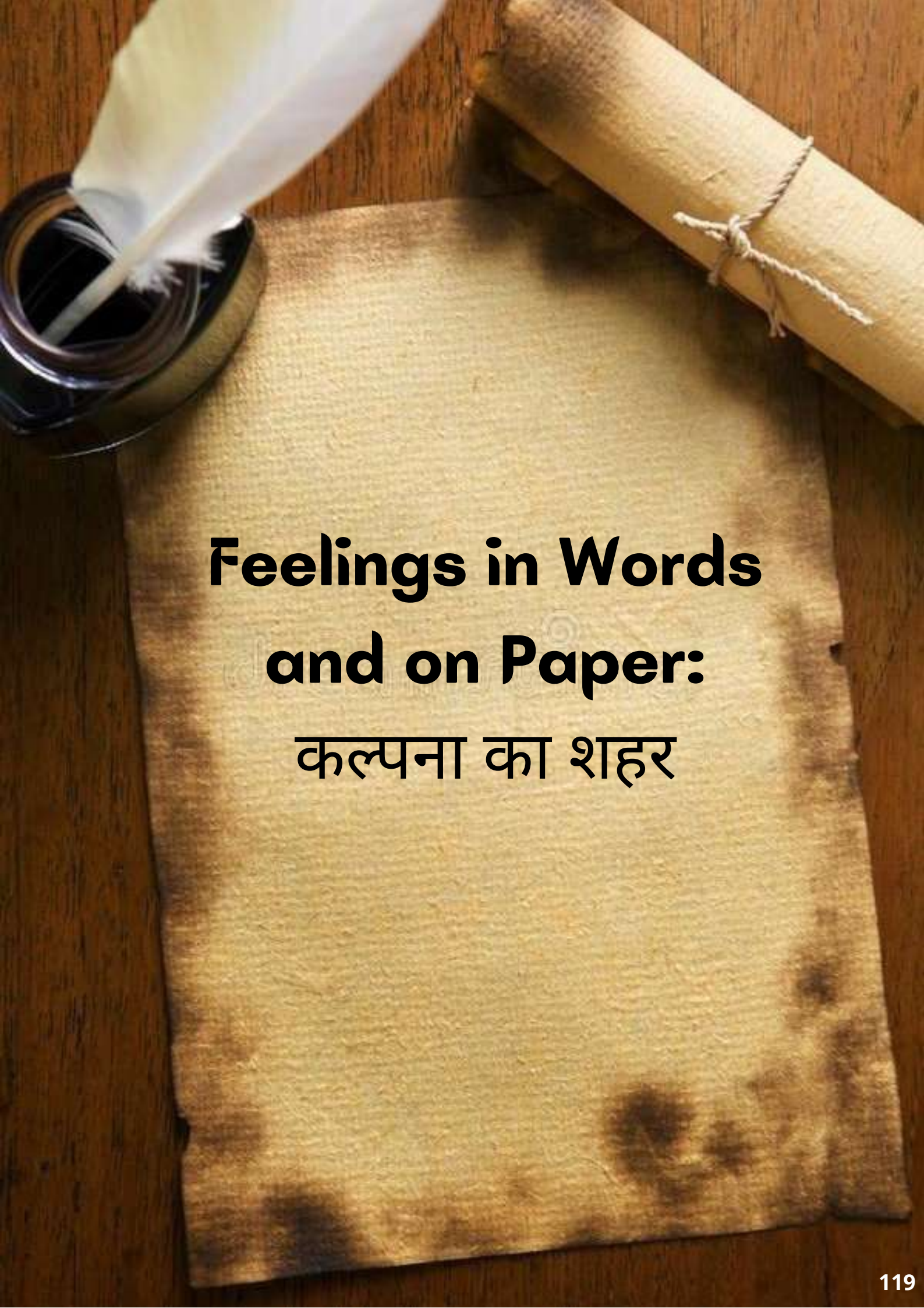
-Ripunjoy Sonowal

And it's a wrap ...

To have yourself devoted to making someone happy is a joy like no other. If asked what Samarpan 2022-खुशियों का दर्पण was in a nutshell, we would happily say 'a treasure of beautiful smiles'. What we achieved with samarpan this year is nothing short of a miracle. Be it the thrilling stories of breaking stereotypes or the fitoori evening, having new perspectives on movies and most importantly the successful fundraising of our dearest Shiv, everything fell under a thin bracket of success.

NSS SRCC aimed a great amount this year and while all of them were achieved, the overall work isn't over just yet. We have been working in this sector for a long period and will continue to do so until there comes a day where we see no call of suffering but until that day the hustle continues. As chaotic as the world may be, there is no time for you to stop serving, so let's all keep doing our bit to make the world a little better.



A quill pen is positioned in the top left corner, resting in a dark inkwell. To its right, a scroll of parchment is rolled up and secured with a piece of twine. The background is a wooden surface with a prominent grain. The main text is centered on a large, rectangular piece of aged, yellowish parchment that has some dark stains at the bottom.

**Feelings in Words  
and on Paper:**  
कल्पना का शहर

# मां अभिषेक, कक्षा 9

बिना कुछ कहे,  
वह सब समझ जाती है,  
चेहरा देख के,  
मेरे दिल का हाल जान जाती है |

मेरे लिए वह सब से लड़ जाती है,  
मैं खुश होता हूं,  
तो वह भी खुश होती है,  
मेरे रोने पर वह भी रोती है |

मेरी हर जिद पूरी करती है,  
कभी नाराज हो जाऊं तो,  
मुझे प्यार से मनाती है,  
उसकी गोदी में सर रखते ही,  
चैन की नींद आती है |

आज भी अपने हाथ से,  
वह मुझे खाना खिलाती है,  
लफ्जों में बता नहीं सकता,  
वह मुझसे कितना प्यार करती है |

बहुत किस्मत वाला हूं,  
मैं कि मुझे मां मिली,  
है मेरी मां ही मेरी जिंदगी है |



# जिंदगी पर कविता अंजली, कक्षा 12

रुई का गद्दा बेच कर, मैंने नींद खरीद ली,  
ख्वाहिशों को कुछ कम किया, मैंने और खुशियां खरीद ली |

सब ने खरीदा सोना, मैंने एक सुई खरीद ली,  
सपनों को बुनने जितनी, उतनी डोरी खरीद ली |

मेरी एक ख्वाहिश मुझसे, मेरे एक दोस्त ने खरीद ली,  
फिर उसकी हंसी से मैंने अपनी, कुछ और खुशियां खरीद ली |

इस जमाने से सौदा कर, एक जिंदगी खरीद ली,  
दिनों को बेचा और शामें खरीद ली |  
शौक-ए-जिंदगी कम और कुछ कम किए,  
फिर रास्ते में ही सुकून-ए-जिंदगी मैंने खरीद ली |





**Sanya**  
**7th Class**



**Nagma**  
**9th Class**



**vandana**  
**12th Class**



**vandana**  
**12th Class**





**Sargam**  
**10th Class**



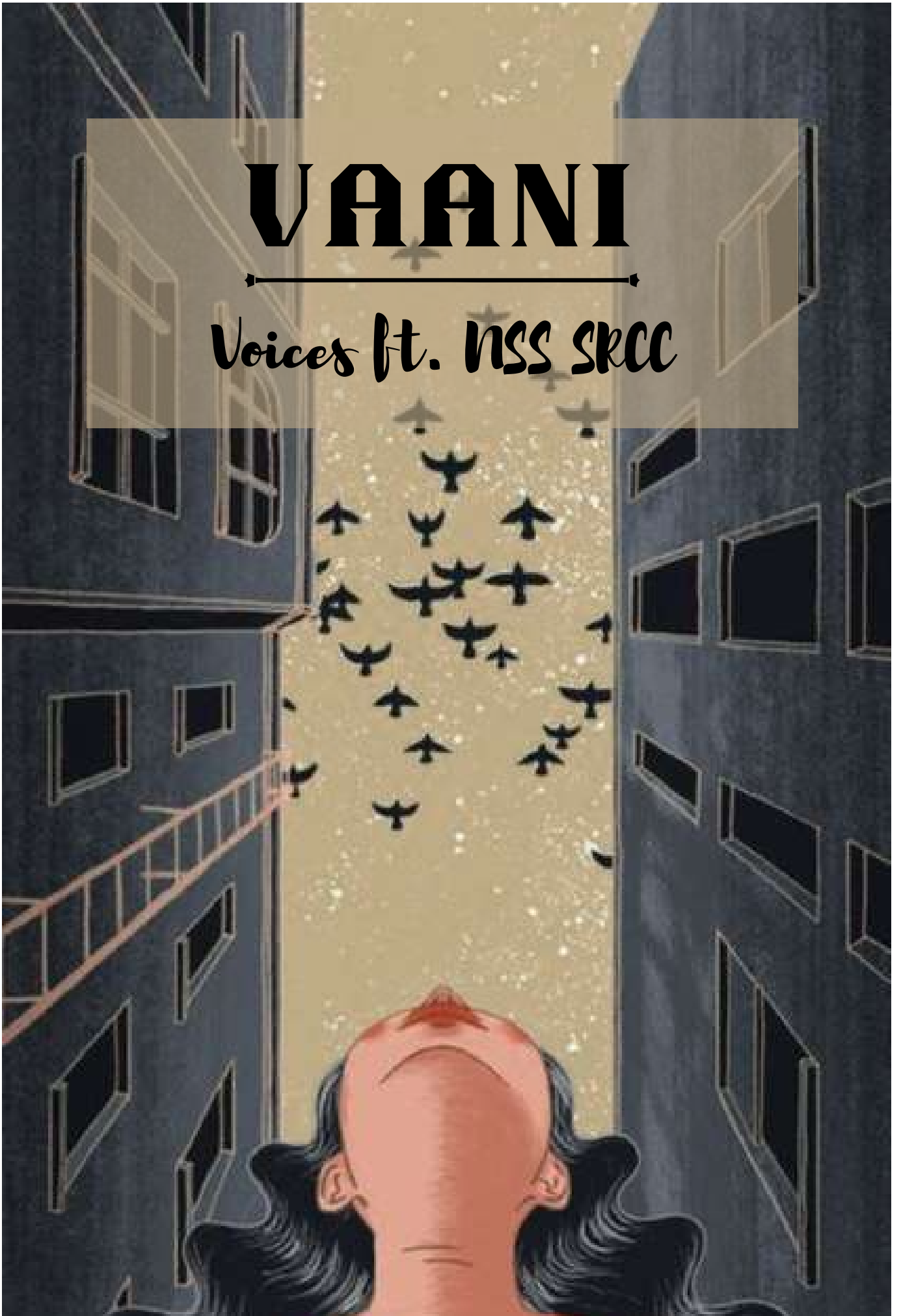
**Hemlata**  
**7th Class**



**Salma**  
**6th Class**

# VAANI

*Voices ft. NSS SKCC*





## Ipsita Dhir

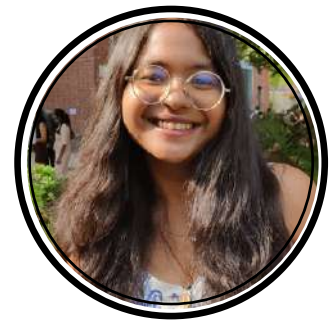


Secretary (2020-21)

NSS has been very close to my heart, it has substantiated the 3 years of my life at college. The journey of being a volunteer in the first year to ending the third year being the Secretary, every minute spent here was worth it. It has very well complimented my transition by teaching some of the most crucial ways of life and providing me the skills of leadership, public speaking and initiation. This team gave me the opportunities to translate into small but impactful societal changes. The stint wasn't easy as we had to deal with a global pandemic, but teamwork, commitment and dedication made us sail through. I will always be short of words to express how grateful I am to NSS but at the same time, will always be filled with enough lifelong memories and innumerable experiences that I could gain due to NSS. I learnt a lot from every junior, senior and batchmate. Hope NSS continues to make the world a better place.

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## Vranda Singhal



Volunteer of the year, 2020-21

“There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others.”

— Mandy Hale

The first thing that pops up in my mind when I talk about NSS is “Safe Space”. For me personally, seeing someone smile because of the small efforts I put up is more than enough to brighten my day. All the chores undertaken by me during the tenure were never a burden but instead a joyful experience amidst the hustle in college. NSS helped me to look at the world from a completely different perspective, making me realize that everyone has a heart for service. I’ve seen myself growing here and becoming a better person each day.

NSS is happiness, an emotion! Once you are a part of this family, you remain associated with it forever. College is prettier being with NSS!

# Muskan Saini



## Volunteer of the year, 2020-21

I think what I got from NSS can't be put in a few words. I am so grateful for myself that I decided to be an NSS Volunteer. I joined NSS during my 1st year of college and it has given me a lot of memories to cherish.

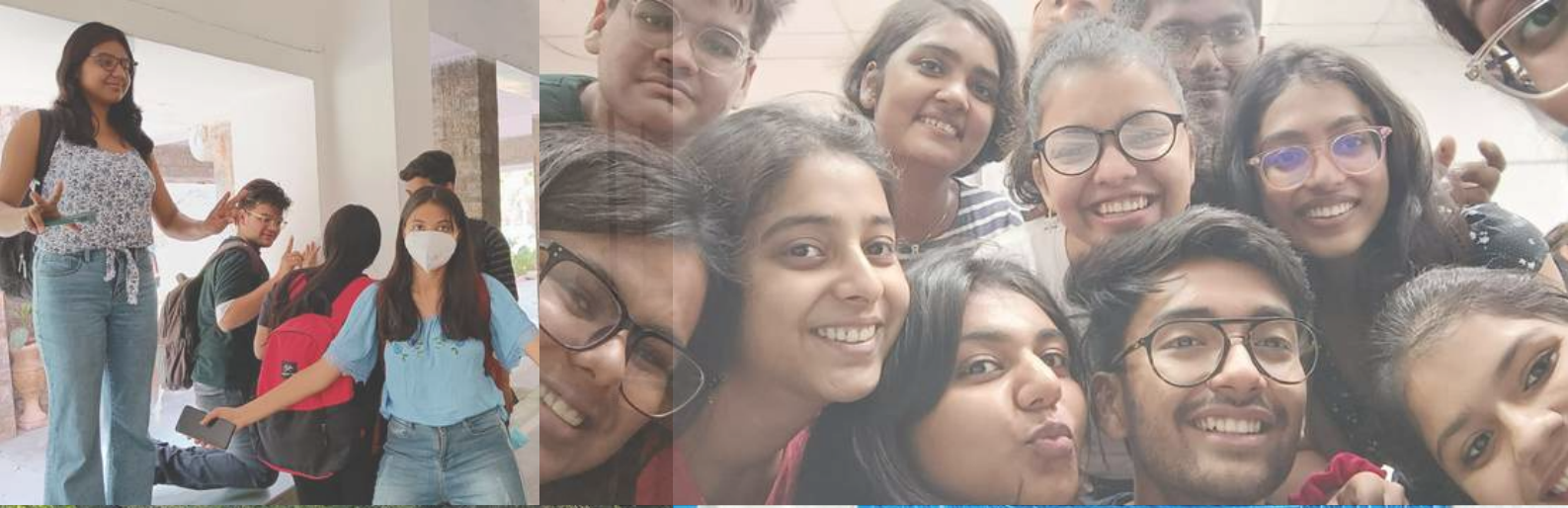
After joining NSS, my life seemed very beautiful and valuable to me. I was able to discover myself. When I saw the kids in NSS lacking such basic requirements of life without which I can't even imagine my life, I came to know how well off and lucky I am. My problems, which seemed to me as the worst ever tragedies one can face in life, are just incomparable to what these kids face.

Being a part of the Creative wing of NSS for 2 years, I learned how I can use my creativity to spread awareness and make anyone stand for any social cause. I have become more confident, optimistic and hopeful after joining NSS. It taught me to live life happily and make the lives of others happier. Help as much as you can. Be compassionate and be kind to others.

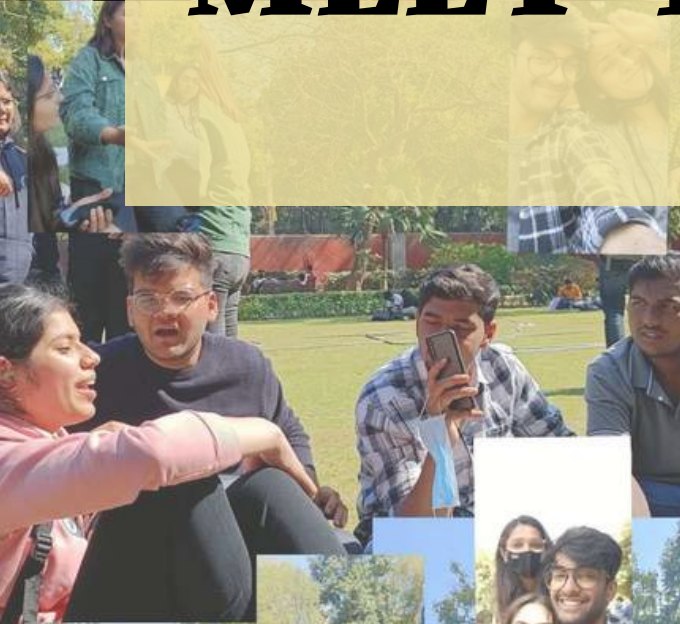
Most importantly, I gained some very beautiful souls in my life as friends because of NSS. I am so thankful for all the heads and volunteer mates for making this journey so wholesome and beautiful.

HEART FOR SERVICE <3

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# MEET THE TEAM



*candid cabinet meetings be like*



NSS SRCC  
FOR SERVICE  
FOLLOW @NSSSRCC  
Instagram Facebook LinkedIn



# **NSS FAMILY**

## **2021-22**



# ROHIT YADAV

## PROJECT SANSKAR HEAD



When everyone was hustling to get into some or the other society, I, too, was sailing in the same boat and without even knowing the essence of the society and its work I just wanted to get into some or the other society. NSS was one of the societies I applied for and luckily got selected into, still wasn't aware about society culture, wasn't aware how inclusive this society actually is and how this society will help me in shaping my thought, shaping my personality and most importantly taking a step ahead to shape this world.

It all started with me applying for NSS and getting selected as Project Sanskar Volunteer. When I got selected I wasn't sure if I could handle this responsibility or not. I still remember that I called one of the Sanskar kid and the way of excitement, enthusiasm and dedication which I could feel from his voice when he said, "yes bhaiya padhna hai," in reply of my questions that "hum Sanskar se hai and aapko pdhna hai?" I somewhere felt that they are more confident than I am and they are showing this trust in me. I packed myself for this journey and without giving it a second thought I taught him for 6 months.

Being selected as one of the Sanskar head was an honour and I never expected that, I applied for the cabinet just to give it a try, at that time I was an individual who was under confident and I always used to underestimate myself but after getting into cabinet I get to know how important it is to believe in yourself.

Have hundreds of experiences and stories to share but I don't think magazines can accommodate me bragging about NSS. But surely I can say now I am an individual who knows how to stand for a cause whether it's about me cutting my friends whenever they pass any sort of homophobic comments or people trying to degrade each other on the basis of their looks. NSS has helped me to become a more confident person and has helped me to accept myself the way I am, without changing myself for people who don't even exist for me. Lastly NSS gave me a chance to meet some beautiful souls and gave me a chance to become a reason for Sanskar kids' smiles which is priceless.

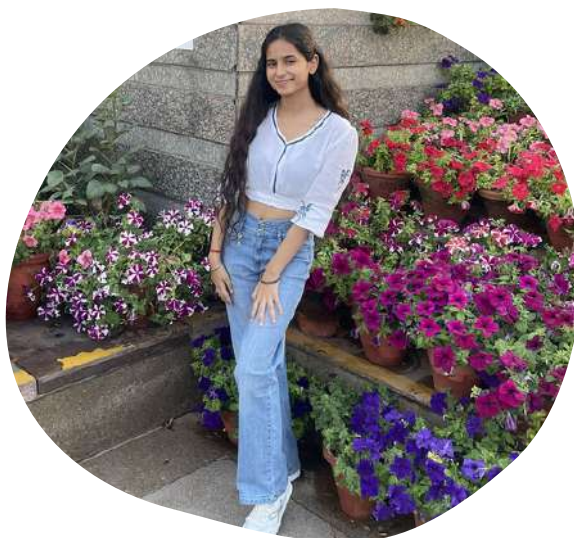
## RUTHVIKA SHIVALI PROJECT SANSKAR HEAD



It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life to be a member of NSS. I was very apprehensive about transitioning from a volunteer to a project head because I am not an outgoing person. I had no idea what to expect. Everyone in the cabinet, on the other hand, was nothing short of warm and wonderful. It always had valuable lessons to teach, from overcoming communication barriers to organising events. Through NSS, I met some of the best people I know, and it will always hold a special place in my heart.

# SUKHLEEN KAUR

## PROJECT SANSKAR HEAD



From a volunteer to a head,  
From giving interviews to taking interviews,  
From teaching my kids online to meeting them offline,  
From organising internships to recruiting junior team,  
From conducting fun events to organising book donation drive,  
The whole journey has been so wholesome for me.

When I got admission in SRCC, I didn't know about the society's culture. When I came to know about NSS SRCC, I filled out the form without giving it a second thought because I have a strong inclination towards social service. My preference was Project Sanskar which aims at providing quality education to underserved children of the society.

My tenure as a junior member passed in online mode due to Covid-19. I was allotted two kids in class 8th. I used to teach them two days a week for two hours each day. Luckily, I was allotted the brightest student of project Sanskar and slowly both of my students became an important part of my life. Teaching them online was not an easy task, but it gave me immeasurable peace. The news that my student came first in her class gave me an ineffable feeling. After that, I applied for the post of the head of project Sanskar and with God's grace I got selected. I learned so many new things throughout my tenure.

One thing I want to highlight is when the notice came that our offline classes are going to start, the only thought that came into my mind was that, now I have the opportunity to help these children more effectively. Honestly, I was more excited to meet my sanskar kids than meeting my friends.

I devoted 2 years of my college life to NSS wholeheartedly and it has given me a memory of a lifetime. Thank you, NSS.

Always grateful.

## DEEYA HARPLANI

### PROJECT KALI HEAD



It was a significant step for me to move from the Social Empowerment Wing to Project Kali. However, it was an interesting year. Harshit, my co-head, made certain that I was aware of every aspect concerning Kali that I had overlooked during my first year as a volunteer. Planning and scheduling visits, coordinating between NSS and the community, leading offline drives, walking a lot in the blistering heat of the sun, and seeing the smiling faces of our beloved community at the end of it all was well worth it.

I enjoyed every minute of it. Poonam, who was only a point of contact at first, turned into a new buddy. I recall a young girl approaching me and addressing me as "Deeya didi," asking how I was and if I was on Whatsapp. At the end of the day, it's the little things that count. There's no way I'd want it any other way. I'm also quite proud of my girls, who are currently taking their CBSE exams. They were the first in their entire community to take that step, and they have much greater heights to reach on.



# HARSHIT SIDDHU

## PROJECT KALI HEAD



My experience as a Co-head at Project Kali has been a journey full of learnings, fun and experiences. When you enter college, you come up with a mindset of trying new and different things. I also had the same thing in my mind and my concept of trying new and different things was to explore the real and deprived side of our society. And NSS was the right platform which was aligning to what I was looking for. Then being a co-head at Project Kali was an amazing experience in itself. It not only made me a different person than what I was at the start of my college but also helped me develop various qualities such as leadership, patience, public speaking, convincing power, decision making, dealing with different kinds of people and many more. Organizing various visits to the people of our Kali community on various topics like Family Planning, Quit Smoking, etc and carrying out ration and book donation drives were some of the highlights of our session and all these things were so fulfilling as seeing smiles on the faces of those people was a satisfaction in itself. Also, organizing a fundraiser for a small kid of our Kali community for his medical treatment, reaching out to people on ground, appealing to classmates and teachers for the donation and finally getting the child to get proper treatment was the most amazing feat in this session. All in all, it was a great and life-long experience that I'll carry out with myself forever and will definitely cherish the memories that we made throughout the year.

## ANANYA SINGH PROJECT VISHWAS HEAD



Working at NSS as the head of Project Vishwas has taught me what it means to be disciplined and learn to juggle between different commitments giving equal importance to all of them. Managing a team of 30 volunteers under you is a growing challenge and that is what this position offers you. On top of that, I have found a bunch of like-minded people who've come to become my closest friends in college. It is truly a blessing to work with 24 people and be so close with all of them. The boon of working in a team is you get to learn more about yourself, what enriching qualities you have that you instill in others, and what other qualities you pick up from others. It also gave me a great opportunity to work on my shortcomings. The past one year has taught me so much about myself and I'm so thankful for that. It is truly a blessing to be part of NSS.

# PRATEEKSHA UPADHYAY

## PROJECT VISHWAS HEAD



Prior to joining NSS, I was a beginner with respect to how one can tangibly add a contribution to social services at this age. But, trust me on this, NSS genuinely fulfilled its need for me as I got to comprehend the essential morals and basics behind being a genuine citizen who is generally up for any social cause. NSS instilled in me the substance of a functioning, mindful and concerned citizen who might continuously step up to the plate; and would want to work for the society. It gives you the fortitude to stand, to talk, and to work. NSS is not just a college society, but a family. Moreover, it was a journey of emotions where one could rant out all their chaotic college life, dump their insecurities, and recharge themselves to hustle again with the same josh. It all started right from volunteering at NSS in my first year to heading up a social entrepreneurship project i.e., Project Vishwas as a Cabinet member at NSS SRCC.

Time-traveling a couple of years back, Project Vishwas started as an initiative to uplift the differently-abled people. Our project aimed to implement the solution to social and environmental issues via social entrepreneurship. I figured out how you can utilize your inventiveness and creativity to spread awareness and make everybody represent a friendly reason to exist. Living in the comforts of our homes we fail to realize grassroot-level problems. But, NSS gave me an opportunity to understand those ground realities and work on their improvements. It is all about the satisfaction and contentment one gains from working for the people out there.

To sum up, associating with NSS gives you some side effects. First; if you are committed to serving society, there's no going back, second; gives you a heart for service, and third; long-lasting memories of "beautiful smiles" to cherish in your life forever.

# PRIYANSHU SANWARIA

## PROJECT ANKUSH HEAD



Namaste, Aadaab, Sat Sri Akal.

My journey in NSS for the last two years has been a blast. Working as a volunteer and leading as a project head, a lot of things changed but what endured was the 'familia-ilism' . Apart from what I learned as a professional being, it has changed me as a person, the persona NSS shaped in me would definitely add charisma to my attitude towards life. NSS SRCC has been the only home away from home.

The people around in this organisation have intrigued the best in me. Furthermore they have been with me in my most down self. The ones reading this know that I'm talking about them. Now when it's over, the nostalgia I feel is at its peak. "Yaadon ke purane album me chupa ke rakh loonga ye din". Anomaly, where people find friends for their own motives , here I found a family which motivates. Thus , "pal , yaad aaenge ye pal " .

Now whatever I wrote above sums up as a tribute to the organisation in this prestigious college, which genuinely works towards the upliftment of the society, the well-being of the society, along with the the well being of its members and volunteers too, and the experience would cater as an imperative part for my professional and social being.

# SHIVANSH RAJ

## SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT HEAD



I still am wondering how I'm going to write about my experience in nss, because either I'm short of words or I can write an entire novel out of it. But it's okay, we all are constrained by something in life.

NSS has been the safest space for me in the entire college since day 1. It has added colours to my life, the colours that are never going to fade away. The person I am today, is all because of NSS, I can't thank enough for it. The biggest turning point was when my reel was posted that day, and after that everything in my life changed, but for better only. I remember I cried when I was declared as the Social Empowerment head because I realised my journey with NSS is not going to end, I'll have an entire year to spend with it.

We all are privileged and even if we use 5% of it to make others' lives better and more beautiful, then why not? Working here is like intoxicating everything else in your life, not just yours but everyone's. You meet different kinds of people, learn from their experiences, create new experiences, face problems, make solutions, but at the end it feels like beauty. There was obviously a lot of pressure while working, long hours of meetings, so much discussion and debate, clashes of opinions, but you see, all of this is important, it helps you as a person. Not one day was there when I didn't think about what more I can add to the value of this society, it's so much connected to my heart, it's like building your own home, decorating it with love and affection.

We all have a heart, but not everyone has a heart for service, but NSS brings it out. And I'm and always will be grateful to it for making me the person I am today. I'm a more expensive person, who knows what to do, how to take a stand, how to deal with a plethora of emotions at a moment, and work under pressure. From organising an event in 2 days to working for the first time offline, in college, this family has been with me all throughout. More than what I have given to NSS, it's NSS which has given me. I still can't believe how much you can associate your life to a group of people, the work that is done, the fest, the celebration, everything is a bliss. I've cried in front of the people here, showed all of my emotions altogether and made memories, and it has been such an overwhelming journey. Two years into NSS, and still it feels like it's just been a day.

Proud to be a part of this family.

# SHRUTI AGGARWAL

## SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT HEAD



HOME is what comes to my mind when I hear the word NSS.

My journey with NSS began 2 years ago when we were confined to our rooms and college life felt like a dream that wouldn't come true. Things became extremely difficult and the world seemed to have come to a pause. I was clueless sitting in front of the laptop and wondering how I will survive 3 years in SRCC made me shiver. And then I decided to apply to NSS. Yes, that's it!! My life has changed since then.

My journey with NSS SRCC began as a junior member of the social empowerment wing and now leading the same feels like a dream journey. If I had to express what college means to me in one word, I would say NSS. NSS has given me more than I could have ever asked for. Just two years back, I was a person filled with insecurities, self-doubt who struggled to accept herself for who she was. NSS taught me to believe in myself. It taught me that 'IMPERFECTIONS ARE PERFECT'. Now when I look at myself, I feel extremely happy and grateful that finally I am learning to accept myself. This journey was only possible because of the love I received from the people of NSS.

I always imagined college life and friendships by looking at the movies and thinking what my college friendships would look like. We, a group of strangers, who had different thoughts, and aspirations from different parts of the world came together as a team who would be working for NSS SRCC. But from strangers to friends and friends to an inseparable group of people whose one hug had the capacity of making crying hearts smile we have come a long way.

NSS SRCC is different and the quality that separates it from the rest of the world are the people of NSS. Each individual that I have met in my journey of NSS are so pure and beautiful in their own unique way, that I can't stop and think that "kaise mujhe tum mil gaye, kismat pe aaye na yakin". I believe magic happens when the team of NSS comes together. The bond that the members have among each other and the love they carry for NSS makes each and every task so pure and perfect. We all are so different yet so close to each other. We all have different dreams but all of our hearts beat together for humanity.

When I think about the social empowerment wing my eyes are filled with tears of happiness because words cannot express how lucky I feel to have such a wonderful co-head and such a loving team of juniors. From sharing google meet links to looking for empty classes for meets, from lots of serious talking and working to hours filled with rubbish laughter, life feels complete. NSS completes me. Helping others has always brought a smile to my face. NSS gave me a chance to do something for society and I am extremely grateful for that.

For each and every individual reading this all I would like to tell you is that don't be afraid to be yourself. When you start trusting yourself that is when the magic begins.

No matter where I go or what I do, I will always carry these beautiful memories with me for a lifetime. Thank you NSS for making me what I am today. People always said NSS is much more than society and yes, it is not a society, it is our home away from home!!!

# ATHULYA

## SOCIAL SUPPORT HEAD



The arm that first came forward to help me become the actual me from the wandering individual in quest of her true self was of the team NSS. The shy, introverted, uncomfortable me who was hesitant and frightened, was chosen for NSS by luck. It was then a journey of ups and downs, fun and adventure, and, most importantly, becoming a member of the NSS family began. It wasn't only about our duties; it was also about how we interacted with one another. I eventually recognised that I was never at ease with people that I hardly knew or with whom I was just acquainted online.

NSS aided my development, learning, and self-confidence. Being a part of the social support wing, first as a volunteer and subsequently as its head, provided me with the wealth of learning possibilities. Working with poor people, learning about their difficulties, and being able to assist them in any way possible has always filled me with joy and drive. Throughout my NSS journey, I met a lot of people who gave me fresh perspectives on different elements of life and helped me to see things in a positive light.

Throughout this journey, I owe a debt of gratitude to the senior cabinet, cabinet members, and volunteers, who are the backbone of our family. I hope everyone gets to experience something great and get a new message to learn in their life from being a part of NSS.

I really wish that many great stories can be penned with due support of NSS and many creative and emotional diversions can be found by being a member of this family.

# LOKPRIYA DHULL

## SOCIAL HEALTH HEAD



हर लम्हा कुछ खास सा था,  
जिसमें हर दफा प्यार का एहसास सा था,  
ऐसे कुछ दिल मिले इस सफर में,  
जिनसे मिलकर हर पल सुनहरा सा हो गया मुकद्दर में।

NSS has been my home, my escape, my safe space and everything one can desire in college. That unconditional love, that support, that politeness, that patience NSS has provided me with is unparalleled. From being a volunteer to signing off as the head of Social Health Wing, NSS has been there in my highs and lows. The people here were there to cheer in the highs and to support me when I was not doing well. Be that seniors or batchmates or juniors, everyone has always been there to prove that they literally have a heart for service that strives to bring a smile over every face they come across. Even if it comes to being exposed to work, I would happily say NSS had been the society I worked the most for, but the work also never came as a burden rather always offered a sense of satisfaction and happiness through the smiles we worked for. The teamwork NSS possesses is unmatched. What to say about the love this teamwork has: You call one person for some work and you will find four in front of your eyes the very next moment. I will cherish these moments spent with your cheerful and happy faces and hearts for a long long time to come.



## VISHNU PRASAD KM ENVIRONMENT HEAD



My stint with the NSS has been truly incredible down the crude lanes defining a workspace. Functioning within a ‘society’ rank was no secondary acquaintance to my curriculum credentials bearing a decent profile throughout senior high school. Maneuvering your way through the stiffened marks of toil embarked at the liberal consciences, it’s normalized to keep realistic expectations despite those surreal surprises that make you want to strive harder. My association with the NSS hasn’t just been a record of assignments that could lure some brains into getting to your raw bulk offered on official sheets of paper.

It's not every day you find the right space to express yourself without failing with no gradient to inhibitions and adulterations. The NSS undoubtedly exposed that very arc to me, facilitating a pedestal to stay grounded to my ethics and core values, exploring various aspects of the society and life beyond.

# AKANSHA

## SPONSORSHIP HEAD



"Not Me But You", the motto of the National Service Scheme, itself reflects the essence of selfless service this society strives for..

I would say the experience of the last two years in NSS was wholesome!

NSS SRCC helped me to grow as a person, to a person who now finds good in everything. Not only my own growth, it was also about the amazing set of people I found here. People are accepting and delightful. Truly, there is a different vibe in NSS, a place where everyone feels secure and can say anything without fear of judgment. I remember I used to be so nervous when it used to come to public speaking, but when I hosted Fitoor, an event under annual fest of NSS SRCC, I just thought these are my people, why should I even feel shy, and it went well, same thing I taught my juniors when they were nervous.

I still remember the day when we were given positions in the junior cabinet, it was so emotional because I was thinking why can't the past cabinet stay, because we were so close to them. This year went really well, there were so many learnings. The experience with the cabinet was amazing. NSS really became my happy place.

I would like to thank the Senior cabinet of session 2021-22 for being so understanding and caring. And Junior cabinet for being so loving and sweet, I couldn't expect for a better team to work with.

NSS is a safe place, and I know it will only get better and reach greater heights. I will always carry the beautiful memories that I created. NSS is going to stay with me forever!

# SV RUSHIKESHWAR REDDY

## SPONSORSHIP HEAD



My journey with NSS was overwhelming starting from the very first day. We were a team of 24 with a lot of ideas to put in effect throughout our tenure and we managed to achieve more than we planned. Not only professionally but also personally I got the best team and great family. I would say it is my family rather than a team because every single member has a different vibe which attracts not only me but also a lot of people. There are a lot of things which should be learnt and unlearned from them. They were with me throughout and guided me if I was wrong and encouraged me when I was right.

Once after the college reopened our bond became stronger than before. We got to know each other better than before. The 1st day when I met all the cabinet members for the very first time and the trip we went to will always be very special for me. Whenever I think of NSS the only thing running through my mind will be all the charming faces of my loved ones.

This journey will be cherished for many years.

## POOJA PAREEK CREATIVE HEAD



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Hey there!

Talking about my experience in NSS, in both online and offline modes, it's been the craziest and the most amazing experience of all. From not properly knowing each other to being best friends, from our late night online meetings to "Report to the sports complex ASAP!" and from sending photos to each other to actually having a day out together, it's been no less than any adventure. If you would tell me to sum up my years till now in college, a major chunk of it goes to NSS, and trust me when I say it!

I really feel blessed to have such supportive and understanding people around me and I will always remain grateful for it.

# SUHASINI YADAV

## CREATIVE HEAD



My SRCC experience did not begin as I had hoped, and to be honest, there wasn't much to look forward to. With the pandemic limiting everyone behind the four walls, college felt rather dull. A lot has changed since then, and NSS deserves a lot of credit for that. I am very grateful for the two years I've spent with NSS. My journey here has been a learning curve. The gratification that comes from helping those around you is profound, NSS hasn't just provoked me to reflect and introspect on life but made me a better person, it has enabled me to be a part of something larger.

NSS has made me the person I am today, a much brighter fellow with a lot more faith and love for people around me. NSS has helped me believe that no matter how small our efforts might be, a heart for service is all it takes to make the world a better place. My NSS buddies are more than simply teammates; they are the ones who have made college a reality for me, something I look forward to now. NSS has been my safe place, a place where I can be my honest self and serve others.

# AYUSH PALAWAT

## TECHNICAL AND MARKETING HEAD



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"To us, NSS is like water in the desert." I believe this statement would be firmly supported by everyone who is or has been a member of NSS. NSS provides you with a lot of lovely beings who assist you discover answers to the problems and relish the current times. It introduced me to the folks who have such pure souls. Because of their reassuring presence, I haven't felt alone throughout these trying times. There are no words to describe my gratitude for NSS, but I believe it has aided me in maturing as a person and discovering my genuine passions. I consider myself extremely privileged to be a member of this wonderful family. Working with juniors, teammates, and seniors has been a fantastic learning opportunity. I've learned that being a nice person is more essential than anything else because it helps in bringing smiles on the faces of people, and it might sound stupid or selfish, but it makes me happy.

# TAPUR JAIN

## TECHNICAL AND MARKETING HEAD



My journey with NSS has been an amazing one. In the midst of the boring college life, NSS has always been an escape to me. While I was working with NSS, it always felt like I was working for the things that actually matter in life. From helping the disadvantaged sections of society in real life to spreading awareness on important issues online, it was like working for a cause. It felt like we were actually bringing a change and spreading smiles everywhere. I learnt a lot and also made some mistakes. But I'll always remember the learnings that NSS gave me. My co-head made it so easy to work even after doing everything online. NSS gave me some beautiful memories and moments. I will always cherish these. It always provided a safe space for all its volunteers and heads. Truly, NSS is not just a society but another home to me. I will always be grateful to be a part of NSS. <3

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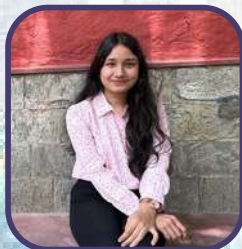
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"It's all about finding the calm in the chaos"

~Donna Karan



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