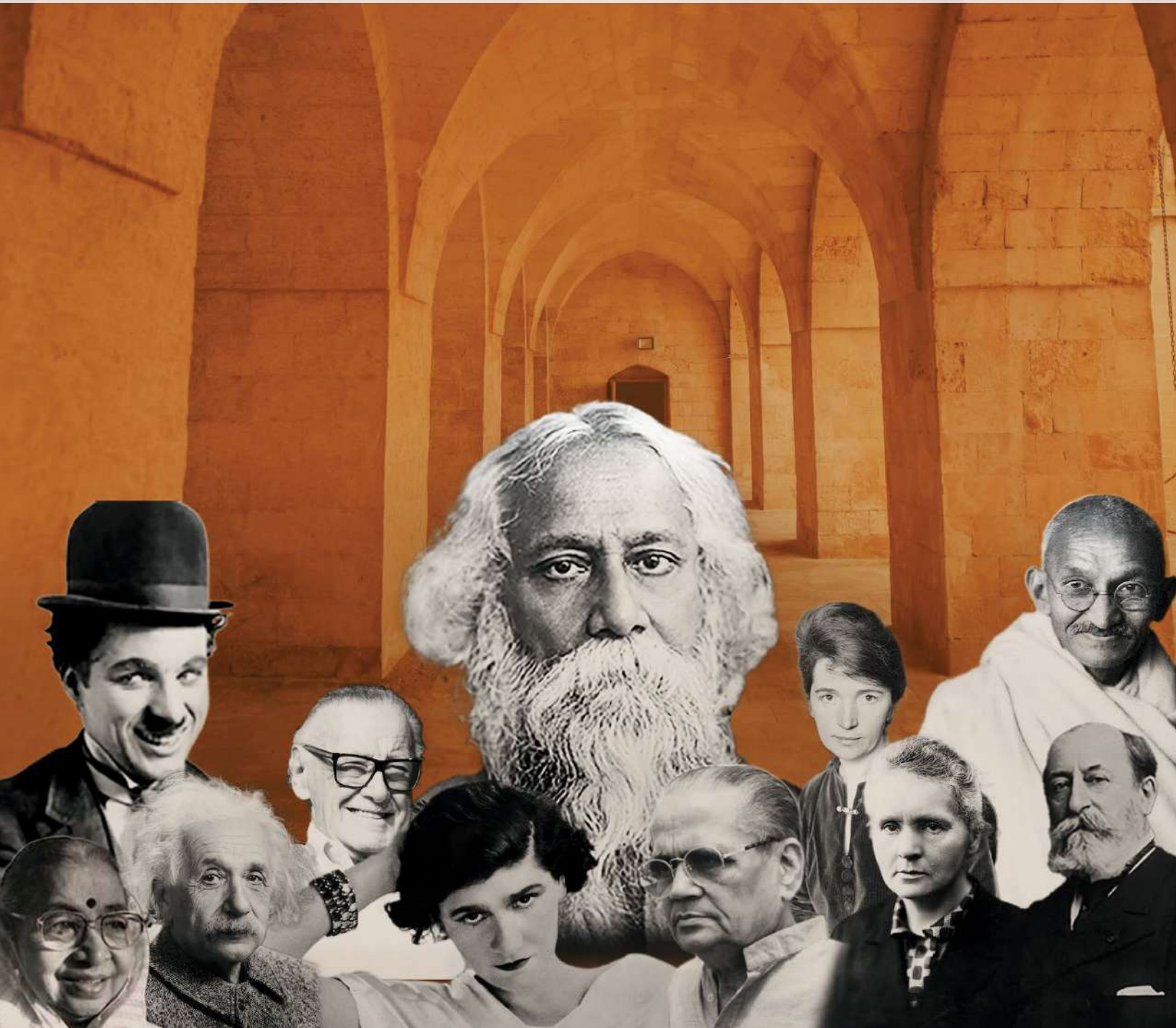


VOL.62

2021-22

DAKSHINAYANAM

THE CENTURY BYGONE  1921-22





HIGHLIGHTS



Yuti Mayur Patel, SYBA student, won the third place at the Maharashtra State Junior U20 Girls Chess Championship held at Jalgaon from 25th to 30th December 2021. She is selected for the Nationals Junior U20 Girls 2022.

The college was awarded over all championship (1st rank) for Zone 2 in the 16th Avishkar research convention



Miss Vaibhavi Bapat TYBAMMC 2021-2022

- Vaibhavi Bapat was selected in the open trials held at Delhi for World Championship 2021 and represented India in Group Rhythmic Gymnastics at World Championship 2021 held at Kitakyushu, Japan.
- Vaibhavi won a Silver Medal for the Women's Team Championship at the All-India Inter-University Rhythmic Gymnastics tournament held in Amritsar, 29th March to 31st March, 2022.

The college received Swachha Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22



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From the Principal's Desk

It is indeed heartening to note that we have overcome the woes and worries of the Covid Pandemic after two years. We have learnt many lessons and are geared to march ahead with heads firmly on our shoulders and feet well grounded.

We have successfully completed three years of autonomy and we are indeed satisfied with new programs which we initiated, stimulating curriculum, invigorating evaluation methods, challenging examinations and inspiring teaching techniques, especially in the online mode. The continued support

of all the stakeholders shall engage us with greater vigour towards academic excellence. On an experimental basis the First year students of Humanities completed a credit course on physical /life sciences and the First year Science students enjoyed credit courses on the subjects offered by the Arts stream. The enthused faculty and students brought the true spirit of autonomy.

This year many webinars at National level were organised by the departments of Commerce, Psychology, English, Microbiology, History, Politics and the IQAC. The entrepreneurship cell- Nirmitee Kendra encouraged more students to have their start-ups and begin a new path in their career. With RUSA funding, we created a new Canteen on the ground floor and gave a face lift to the Gymkhana.

This year's college magazine has featured 75 years of India and about The Century Bygone. We live on memories - though not all of them are pleasant. Memoirs remind us of the lessons we learnt from history. This magazine has covered many themes like the Discovery of First Indus Valley sites, BBC, Chinese Communist Party, Mario Lanza, Insulin, Mario Lanza, the Gucci Brand created in 1921, the women's suffrage and 75 years of Independence of India. As we read such intriguing articles by the contributors, vivid images & pictures flash in our memory. The apt artwork and designs have added much value. My special words of appreciation to the Editorial team for tirelessly working amidst many commitments in bringing this magazine now. The layout, contents and illustrations are beautiful indeed!

I am very eager to meet you all in college premises as we are set to begin a new academic year restoring much enthusiasm and vigour as before the pandemic.

Be strong yet kind, be courageous yet compassionate, and be determined yet humane!
Best wishes to all!

Dr. Uma Maheshwari Shankar
Principal



The editorial team of the College magazine Dakshinayanam is very happy to handover the 62nd Volume of the digital version of Dakshinayanam.

Prolonged Covid Pandemic enforced upon humanity a challenging time for almost two long years. The academic world, while adjusting with the situation, underwent a change from offline to online teaching experience. The magazine also continued to be released in the digital version. Though classrooms remained empty without students during another pandemic affected year, education continued and so did various academic and co-curricular activities.

In this second year of pandemic restrictions, students worked with equal enthusiasm and dedication as they did in the beginning of the Covid

pandemic in 2020, for completing and releasing this issue of the college magazine. Ideas were floating in their mind, imagination had wings and work continued. As we all human beings faced the unusual great medical challenge of the century and suffered through it, humanity also struggled for a solution and solace to deal with it, which made us look into a few events of the past century of 1921-1922. The theme of the magazine was picked up and many incidents were searched, of which some have found place in the literary section. Century is a huge phenomenon and has many shades of progress and challenges. It's a mammoth task yet few unique ones have been explored and expressed in the articles. Readers shall find them interesting and informative as well. The year is also a mark of celebration of India entering its

75th year of independence and to offer a tribute, the pictorial gallery is gracefully designed. This section is also a virtual tour that shows the journey of our beloved nation in these seventy-five long years.

In the whole process, from deciding the theme to designing, we appreciate the hard work of each student who contributed in various capacities to make the Dakshinayanam magazine a good reading experience for all. The magazine has a touch of their co-ordination, unity, a healthy approach as a team and their creative ability which is highly appreciable. They enjoyed the work and so the whole effort has led to the pleasant completion of the college magazine, making it ready to hand over to all the readers.

Dr. Varsha Muley
Faculty Editor



(left to right)- Kirtikumar Badgajar, Amruta Padhye, Pallavi Roy, Varsha Muley, Anuya Dharap, Seema C, Pramod Kamble

Student Editorial

*“If you don’t know history, then you don’t know anything.
You are a leaf that doesn’t know it is part of a tree.”*

-Michael Crichton



(left to right)- Misba Idrisi, Melissa Buthello, Zeena Khambatta, Fatima Zaidi, Shaina Mohite, Dhara Mandaliya, Rhea Prabhu, Palakshi Sathe, Bhavi Mashru, Pranav Sriram, Sharique Khan, Archit Kulkarni

A hundred years is a long time. Does it really matter what happened back then? We realized, after much research and debate, that the answer is yes. There are interesting parallels that stretch across all time and space, wherein lifetimes and lessons repeat themselves. The more we excavated the past, the better we could understand the present.

Indeed, the events of the past two years have changed every one of us in several ways. The pandemic wreaked havoc on the planet and served as a wake-up call for us to appreciate our privileges, and advance through assisting others. But are we the only generation to go through something like this? Definitely not. A 100 years ago, history resembled the present. There were plenty of issues to deal with; what we forget to see is how they fought through it despite the odds. It contained a revolution of its own, right in the eye of the storm. It is easy to get caught up in the winds billowing around us, but they learnt to stand their ground – as did we. It serves as a testament to human tenacity; it is hope, that since our

predecessors had survived through strife, we have the ability to do it too. This year what we wish to achieve is to remind people that there is so much to learn from the past.

Our team’s effort to publish this year’s Dakshinayanam began months before its publication. We wanted to create something unique; something that spoke volumes to our readers on a personal level. It began with exploring all the important and strange events of the past. Some things, like the discovery of insulin, were already known to us. Other things, though, were unknown and fascinating – it made one’s eyebrows shooting into one’s hairline! There is a wealth of information, both

engrossing and educational, in the two years from a century ago that we have tried to cover.

So, it is our pleasure to introduce this year’s topic: A Century Bygone – 1921-1922. This year’s magazine is truly one of its kind. Each illustration, sentence and photograph capture a story. It documents our victories and failures. Most importantly, it is a tribute to the resilience and hope that humanity has carried forward in our bones, amidst all the dreadful darkness and terrible times we have fought through – and won.

Pranav Sriram & Rhea Prabhu

SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

The Department of Commerce organized a National Webinar on a multi-disciplinary topic “TRANSNATIONAL SURROGACY MARKET IN INDIA”

On 28th September, 2021.

The aim of the conference was to bring light and understanding about surrogacy in India and its consequences. The key speaker was Dr. Sheela Suryanarayanan, an Associate Professor at the Centre of Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad, holding extensive research experience in maternal and child health, selective abortion, reproductive technologies and surrogacy. Special focus was made on areas like biomarketing, India as a surrogacy hub, impact of surrogacy on mother and child, medical tourism, etc. The webinar witnessed a total of 105 participants across the country including teaching staff, students, research scholars, other service personnel and the organizing team.

The Department of English organized a National Webinar on “CULTURAL TRAUMA, BIOPOLITICS AND PRECARIOUS LIVES IN THE 21ST CENTURY”

on 7th August 2021.

The objective of the webinar was to focus on a specific form of cultural trauma connected with the biopolitical: posthuman trauma. The invited speaker was Dr. Pramod K. Nayar, who teaches at the Department of English, University of Hyderabad and a recipient of several awards and fellowships. Dr. Nayar, explained the meanings of terms such as Cultural Trauma and Citizenship, Biopolitics, Eco Precarity, and Precarious Corporeality with the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation. He further elaborated his points by giving real-life and contemporary examples of books and movies. The second part of the event was a Q&A session with the speaker. The students raised important and intriguing questions which were answered by Dr. Nayar. A vote of thanks was raised applauding everyone who contributed in making the National Webinar possible. More than 250 people participated in the webinar. The conference was streamed live on Youtube and garnered more than 720 views.

The Department of Microbiology organized a two-day International Conference on “THE FRONTIERS OF MICROBIOLOGY: MAN – MICROBE DYNAMICS”

on 18th and 19th of September, 2021.

The Conference held in association with Microbiologists Society, comprised of a wide horizon including all aspects of Microbiology from the clinical, field, research to industrial and post-industrial arena. The event was partly sponsored by National Centre for Science Communicators and was backed by Media partners – Nepal Journal of Biotechnology and Indian Express. The total number of registrations for the conference

was 250 with 44 abstract presentations. The conference saw several invited speakers like Dr. Sanket J. Joshi, Dr. Vasudeo Zambhare, Dr. Trupti Gokhale, Dr. Poornima Rao, Dr. Ruchi Srivastava, Dr. Prafull Ranadive and Dr. Gokul Shankar Sabesan. The conference was streamed live on Youtube and garnered more than 500 views.

The Departments of Politics and History organized a two-day National Webinar on “EPIDEMICS TO PANDEMIC: CHALLENGES MET AND LESSONS LEARNT”

on 18th and 19th November 2021.

The Webinar was organized in collaboration with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh as an initiative to understand the unprecedented health crises in the past and the present. The key themes of this webinar sought to unravel the experiences of two important states of India, namely, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Eminent speakers like Dr. Mridula Ramanna, Medical Historian and Former Head, Department of History SIES, Prof. D.K. Verma, Professor, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University and Dr. Sumedh M K, a medical doctor and Public Health Consultant to the Government of Maharashtra, shared their insights on the topic.

The Department of Psychology organized a one-day National Webinar on “COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH: ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES”

on Saturday, 8th January 2022.

Eminent mental health researchers and practitioners like Dr. Anand Nadkarni (Renowned Psychiatrist), Dr. Rahul Shidhaye (Clinical psychiatrist and Epidemiologist), Dr. Asha Banu Soletti (Professor, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai), Dr. Sangeeta Bhatia (Professor of Psychology, Gargi College, New Delhi), Dr. Nilesh Mohite (Community Psychiatrist, North-East India), Mr. Mahendra Kanitkar (Senior Counselor, Mukangan, Pune) and Dr. Aparna Joshi (Assistant Professor, School of Human Ecology, TISS, Mumbai) were invited as speakers for the Webinar. All the speakers underlined the importance of understanding people and their mental health in the context of their communities, societies and culture. The speakers mentioned that anyone working in the field of mental health must have knowledge about varied fields like sociology, ecology, economics, political science, public health and law. The Webinar was very well received. Attendees mentioned that they not only came to know about this emerging and promising branch of Psychology but felt highly motivated by the knowledge and experiences shared by all the speakers.



RESULTS AT A GLANCE

CLASS	APPEARED	PASSED	DISTINCTION	I ST CLASS	II ND CLASS	PASS CLASS	SCHOOL/ COLLEGE %
XI ARTS	316	316	312	2	2	0	100.00
XI SCIENCE	647	647	632	11	2	2	100.00
XII ARTS	333	333	310	23	0	0	100.00
XII SCIENCE	591	591	588	3	0	0	100.00
FY BA Semester-II	283	261	10	166	47	38	92.23
SY BA Semester-IV	315	284	2	201	51	30	90.16
TY BA Semester-VI	226	220	23	144	53	0	97.35
FY BCOM Semester-II	221	194	2	48	68	76	87.78
SY BCOM Semester-IV	246	228	2	117	83	26	92.68
TY BCOM Semester-VI	204	191	2	119	68	2	93.63
FY BSC Semester-II	272	232	12	174	26	20	85.29
SY BSC Semester-IV	315	287	2	201	51	33	91.11
TY BSC Semester-VI	313	294	24	218	51	1	93.93
FY BSC C.S. Semester-II	95	69	5	58	6	0	72.63
SY BSC C.S. Semester-IV	107	106	5	94	7	0	99.07
TY BSC C.S. Semester-VI	107	105	18	79	3	5	98.13
FY BSC B.T. Semester-II	32	31	1	23	7	0	96.88
SY BSC B.T. Semester-IV	25	23	2	18	3	0	92.00
TY BSC B.T. Semester-VI	43	43	0	27	15	1	100.00
FY BAMMC Semester-II	92	87	14	63	10	0	94.57
SY BAMMC Semester-IV	94	93	15	65	13	0	98.94
TYBMM Semester-VI	98	98	40	55	3	0	100.00
FY BMS Semester-II	93	92	10	76	6	0	98.92
SY BMS Semester-IV	92	90	20	64	6	0	97.83
TY BMS Semester-VI	94	94	41	49	4	0	100.00
FY BSC - IT Semester-II	103	81	4	74	3	0	78.64



LITERARY SECTION

The Century Bygone

Stan Lee: The Legend Who Created Legends

If you could have any superpower in the world, what would you choose? Would you shoot webs like Spider-Man? Would you fly like Captain Marvel? Maybe you'd choose to wear a powered suit like Iron Man!

Have you ever wondered where the ideas for all these characters came from? Who thought of making Black Widow a talented spy? Where did Jean Grey's telekinesis come from? Who decided Black Panther should have super strength?

Would you believe the same person helped write the stories of all these characters? It's true! The creation of these and many more heroes is credited to Stan Lee.

Stan Lee, original name **Stanley Martin Lieber**, born on December 28, 1922, was an American comic book writer, best known for his work with Marvel Comics.

After graduating from high school at 16, Lieber was hired as an editorial assistant for *Timely Comics*, and in 1942 he was promoted to editor. By that time he had begun writing comic-book scripts for Timely as Stan Lee, a pseudonym that eventually became his legal name. At the age of 19, he became an editor and went on to write his own superhero stories.

Working with artist Jack Kirby, Lee created some of Marvel's best-known



superheroes—*The Fantastic Four* in 1961, which was about four astronauts who gain superpowers after a cosmic incident; the story of *Invisible Woman*, *The Thing*, *Mr. Fantastic*, and *The Human Torch* was a hit among readers.

Shortly after, Lee and another artist, Steve Ditko, introduced another character you may have heard of. Can you guess who it was? Here's a hint: a bad spider bite gave the character the ability to climb up walls, shoot sticky webs, and sense danger. It's Spider-Man, of course!

Lee didn't stop there. He went on to write the stories of the Hulk and the X-Men. He is also credited with the making of characters like Thor, Doctor Strange, and Daredevil. A distinctive feature of Lee's comic-book heroes is that they combine superhuman

powers with human insecurities and emotions.

Marvel continued to prosper, and in 1972 Lee became the publisher and editorial director of the group. Film adaptations based on the series that Lee co-created were highly successful. *X-Men* (2000) and *Spider-Man* (2002) launched blockbuster franchises that earned billions of dollars in box-office revenue worldwide.

Just about every great comic book story has a darkest-hour moment: a point in the tale where all seems lost. The heroes are on their knees, the city's a smoldering ruin and the villains are closing in for the kill. For Marvel, its darkest hour came in the winter of 1996. With growth in stature throughout the '60s, '70s, and '80s thanks to the often stunning art and storytelling

CLASS	APPEARED	PASSED	DISTINCTION	I ST CLASS	II ND CLASS	PASS CLASS	SCHOOL/ COLLEGE %
SY BSC - IT Semester-IV	104	101	2	81	18	0	97.12
TY BSC - IT Semester-VI	88	87	3	71	10	3	98.86
FY BMS Semester-II (C.M.)	53	46	0	44	2	0	86.79
M.SC. - Semester-II (Botany)	12	8	4	3	1	0	66.67
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Botany)	8	8	2	6	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Bioanalytical Sciences)	12	11	8	3	0	0	91.67
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Bioanalytical Sciences)	8	8	6	2	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Biochemistry)	12	10	1	8	1	0	83.33
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Biochemistry)	10	10	0	10	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Biotechnology)	22	22	0	15	7	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Biotechnology)	16	16	0	13	3	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Chemistry)	20	20	0	20	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Chemistry)	18	18	0	18	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Computer Science)	23	23	2	19	2	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Computer Science)	20	20	8	11	1	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Information Technology)	22	22	2	1	19	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Information Technology)	20	20	9	11	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Physics)	10	10	0	10	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Physics)	8	8	1	7	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Microbiology)	8	8	2	6	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Microbiology)	9	9	6	3	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Zoology)	10	10	6	2	2	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-IV (Zoology)	9	9	4	5	0	0	100.00
M.SC. - Semester-II (Data Science)	19	19	4	15	0	0	100.00



“The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has given us a whole new world to imagine, full of metallic suits, super-soldiers, demi-gods, and some extremely sharp wit. Some of the most critically acclaimed superhero movies belong to the MCU.

in such comics as *Fantastic Four* and *The Amazing Spider-Man*, Marvel's financial success had reached a peak by the early '90s. Then, unfortunately, a series of bursting financial bubbles and questionable business deals saw Marvel's stock value collapse; shares once worth \$35.75 each in 1993 had sunk to \$2.375 three years later. An ugly fight between a group of very rich investors followed and for a while, the company's future seemed uncertain.

Yet somehow, Marvel fought through all the corporate intrigue which dogged the company in late 1996 and many long months afterward and emerged from the rubble a decade later as a film industry behemoth. By then, comic book collecting had gained the interest of the mainstream media, which latched onto stories about Golden Age comics selling for thousands of dollars.

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has given us a whole new world to imagine, full of metallic suits, super-soldiers, demi-gods, assassins, and some extremely sharp wit. Some of the most critically acclaimed superhero movies belong to the MCU. The entire franchise is divided into four phases (for now). Each phase has a distinct set of movies. The franchise evolved as it went from one phase to another. Marvel began adding more crossovers and teams to its roster and

the idea that these characters shared a world, that the actions of each had repercussions on the others, and that each comic was merely a thread of one Marvel-wide mega-story is what makes this cinematic universe an interesting one, attracting so many fans!

Lee was often featured in cameo roles in the Marvel films, starting with the first Spider-Man film in 2002, to the delight of his fans - a tradition that continued even after Disney purchased Marvel in 2009. Lee's cameos became fan-favourite "Easter eggs" within the Marvel Cinematic Universe, as the films' shared world came to be known. He eventually appeared in dozens of Marvel movies, television shows, and video games.

A nerdy slacker is hanging around the mall, having been dumped by his girlfriend earlier that day. He is staring in the window of a lingerie store when a sharply dressed older guy with gray hair and tinted glasses approaches and strikes up a conversation. As he casually mentions "an issue of Spider-Man I did," the younger man's eyes slowly widen. He realizes that he is talking to Stan Lee, the originator of some of the best-known and most beloved characters in American pop culture, including Spider-Man, the Hulk, the X-Men, and Iron Man. "Shit, man," he exclaims, "You are a god!"

This scene from the 1995 movie

Mallrats captures the long-prevailing view of Lee, the man behind Marvel during the comics renaissance of the 1960s when superheroes became wittier and more angsty, more human than ever before. To many fans, he was a kind of God. In 2008, Stan Lee was awarded the National Medal of Arts.

The comic book world lost one of its most monumental figures when Stan Lee, the influential writer, editor, and longtime Marvel chief, died at age 95 on November 12, 2018. With a career spanning decades, Lee helped bring comics from humble pulp origins to the fore of American pop culture. Along the way, he helped create scores of memorable heroes who had godlike powers but were still devastatingly human. His passing at the age of 95 was heartbreaking, especially as it was prior to the release of *Avengers: Endgame*. To honor Lee on the first anniversary of his death, Marvel Entertainment posted a beautiful tribute to the man behind so many stories.

On that note let me leave you with this quote from *The New Yorker*-
"Stan Lee presided over a world of superheroes, but his collaborators and readers sustained his vision—and his characters outlasted it." ▶

Anushree Anantharaman, SYBA

White Castle - The Father of Fast Food Chains

A little over 100 years ago, on September 13th, 1921, Walter Anderson and Billy Ingram started a small business selling little square-shaped burgers for just 5 cents (€3.87) each. Little did they know that their business endeavour would not only result in the establishment of America's first fast food chain, but also in the emergence of an entire industry!

It all began when...

In 1916, 36-year-old Walter A. Anderson began selling burgers from a hamburger stand (fashioned from a streetcar) at a busy intersection in downtown Wichita, Kansas. His burgers quickly became a hit with the public, and he soon opened new stands in a second and third location. While scouting for a fourth location, Walter met Edgar Waldo "Billy" A. Ingram, an insurance and real estate agent. As the two got to know each other, they decided to team up and start their own restaurant.

In 1921, with just \$700, Ingram and Anderson opened a tiny white castle-like shack in Wichita, Kansas, and thus, the "White Castle System of Eating Houses" was born. White Castle is often credited with inventing the first "modern-day hamburger". Anderson's method of cooking burgers was considered very unique at the time. He would flatten the meat with the help of a spatula, top it with onions, and then cover it with the bun to soak up all the



flavour. They were famous for their small burgers called sliders, which they sold for a nickel each, and their specific cooking method was followed at every location. Even as the restaurant grew in popularity, seating remained quite limited. So, in 1927, Billy Ingram came up with the tagline, "Selling 'em by the sack", to encourage people to order more takeout.

With the overwhelming success of the first restaurant in Wichita, the company began branching out to other midwestern areas, starting with El Dorado in Kansas. In 1923, White Castle expanded by opening a restaurant in Omaha. Before 1930, they had branched into New York and New Jersey as well as 12 major cities in the Midwest and earned a reputation as a

fun, innovative company with delicious and affordable food.

Overcoming obstacles

No enterprise is successful without its trials & tribulations. During the early 20th century, Americans were hesitant to eat ground beef. As a result, hamburgers became unpopular and were even feared by the general public. Though Anderson had started off selling hamburgers on his own and had gained popularity, Americans weren't as obsessed with burgers as they are today. A big reason for this was a novel written in 1906 by Upton Sinclair called *The Jungle*, which publicised and exposed the poor sanitation practices at meat processing plants. As a result, many people saw

burgers as dangerous and undesirable. Some even called them health hazards on par with “eating arsenic”. They thus bore the difficult task of getting people to trust and try their hamburgers.

Cleanliness was important

In order to get the misinformed public to come to their restaurant, they purposely decided to name it “White Castle”; the founders consciously chose to have white incorporated throughout the restaurant. The building was white in colour; there were white porcelain countertops and stainless steel appliances to give a sense of cleanliness to the kitchen. This need for cleanliness also extended to the employees. Strict rules were to be followed regarding dress code, sanitation and appearance. Besides just the standard well-washed hands and neatly trimmed fingernails, employees were also expected to be clean-shaven and have neatly combed hair tucked under their hats.

To prove the authenticity of their beef, they invited housewives in the area to take a tour of their local White Castle. The Tour was led by a woman portraying a character called “Julia Joyce”. They would emphasise how clean and spotless the kitchens were, as well as the kinds of ingredients they put in their beef and how they cooked it. At the end of the tour, the women were given coupons to encourage them to buy White Castle for their families during dinner time. White Castle thus changed America’s perception of hamburgers and popularised them.

A Scientific Experiment

In 1930, Ingram even went to commission a study at the University

of Minnesota, where a medical student volunteered to eat nothing but White Castle burgers for 13 weeks straight. While it may seem like a bizarre thing to do (or even something you would happily volunteer for yourself!), the student, Bernard Flesche, kept a detailed journal of his burger and water diet. He ate approximately 20 to 24 burgers every day for 13 weeks. He maintained excellent health throughout the 3 months. Ingram even incorporated this study into White Castle’s marketing campaign to prove to customers that they can eat only White Castle burgers and still maintain their “physical and

mental faculties” and receive their necessary daily nutrition. Flesche, meanwhile, reportedly swore off burgers and died at the age of 54 due to heart problems. However, this was many years after the experiment.

Franchising was a no-no

With all the commitment to cleanliness and history behind the burgers, the ideal thing would be to hire more managers and expand the franchise, right? Who wouldn’t want to work at such a successful restaurant? Well, that won’t be happening anytime soon, so you can put your résumés down. This company prefers to keep its fast-

“*In order to get the misinformed public to come to their restaurant, they purposely decided to name it “White Castle”; the founders consciously chose to have white incorporated throughout the restaurant.*”



food empire within the family, which means it doesn’t sell its business locations.

It’s not that they are worried about aspiring business owners trying to overtake the company, but the limited supply. The company wishes to keep the branches localised with its menu offerings the same in each location. Keeping the restaurants closer together would ensure quality control and make transporting supplies easier. “We try to make sure we don’t complicate the operation of individual restaurants,” said Ingram’s grandson, Bill Ingram.

Today, fast-food chains like McDonald’s, KFC, and Burger King, are way bigger than White Castle and have thousands of locations all over the world. White Castle is extremely selective about its locations and operates primarily within the USA. However, this is gradually changing with more locations cropping up all across America and in some other countries.

Imitators

White Castle has had their share of imitators over the years. Many restaurants copied the architecture and name of White Castle, like White Fortress, Little Palace, Little Kastle, and so on. A restaurant called “White Tower” started its strikingly similar chain in Wisconsin in 1926, just five years after White Castle opened. Both the name of the restaurant and its infrastructure were a clear rip-off. Their slogans were also very similar. While White Castle would encourage their customers to “Buy ‘em by the sack”; White Tower would ask them to “Take home a bagful”.

“*In 1961, White Castle became the first fast-food restaurant to sell 1 billion burgers- a whole 2 years before McDonald’s or any other burger chain!*”

Changing up the cooking

As the restaurants grew and prices changed, so did the cooking process. In contrast to the original method, they are now cooked by placing 36 frozen beef patties on the griddle over a bed of onions and water. The burgers also have five well-placed holes punched into them as a result of a suggestion made by Cincinnati Castle operator Earl Howard in 1954. These holes not only allow the burgers to cook faster but also add more flavour. In fact, White Castle liked the idea so much that they secured a patent for it. In 1961, White Castle became the first fast-food restaurant to sell 1 billion burgers- a whole 2 years before McDonald’s or any other burger chain!

Harold And Kumar Go To White Castle

About 19 years ago, Hollywood producers approached White Castle management asking for cooperation with filming *Harold And Kumar Go To White Castle* (2004) at their location. Though initially hesitant, White Castle eventually became a part of the movie. The film was a massive success and to this day remains a favourite among many viewers. White Castle also benefited greatly from this, becoming popular and achieving cult status. And this craving for sliders isn’t entirely fictional either. According to data collected by Foursquare, looking at the eating habits between 10 p.m.

and 4 a.m., White Castle beat 8 of its other competitors and got the top position.

100th Anniversary

March 10th, 2021 marked the 100th year of Ingram and Anderson’s business, White Castle, as well as the fast-food industry in America. To celebrate this milestone, White Castle had fun promotions, special events, and new items all year long. Some of the festivities planned included \$100,000 scholarships to team members; Time Machine Sweepstakes focusing on different decades in White Castle history with daily prizes such as booths named in their honour, their name written in lights on the Castle, a personalized voice message from CEO Lisa Ingram; new uniform designs, augmented reality soft drink cups and a virtual birthday party, due to Covid-19 limiting social gatherings.

Today, there are around 370 White Castle locations spread across America. The business still continues to resist franchising, although they do sell White Castle frozen products in grocery stores. All the restaurants are owned by a privately held White Castle Management Company and the business is regulated by the descendants of Billy Ingram. ▀

Pooja Nair, FYBA

Women's Suffrage : An Important Epoch in American History



Today, Indians can honourably proclaim the success of Universal Adult Franchise for both men and women from their first general assembly elections itself in 1951. But the same was not the case for America. Women's suffrage was an intense and radical movement, fought for the right of women to vote in national and local elections in the United States. It was a relentless struggle which demanded decades of protests and agitation favouring women's rights.

This movement was also prevalent in the United Kingdom.

American women had been denied their voting rights since the 1800s. Soon, it took the form of a political issue in the 19th century. For decades, hundreds of women toiled hard by organising and petitioning for their rights, but only few lived to see the victory in 1920.

Elizabeth Stanton, a passionate and defiant woman, issued a declaration that called for women's suffrage and the right for women to educational

and employment opportunities in 1848. Susan Anthony and Stanton led the suffragist movement for the next 50 years. Some suffragists pursued a strategy of passing the right to vote acts in the states while some opted for hunger strikes, picketing and silent vigils. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: with Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects*, a work by Mary Wollstonecraft published in 1792, played a huge role in this movement.

The first National Woman Suffrage Association was born in 1869 with the



“ *The first National Woman Suffrage Association was born in 1869 with the ultimate goal being of securing the ballot for women by amending the laws of the constitution.* ”

ultimate goal being of securing the ballot for women by amending the laws of the constitution. Eventually, strenuous campaigns took place to persuade state constitutions conferring full power to women in political affairs after Wyoming became the first state to grant voting rights to women in 1869. After World War I, amendments were passed regarding the issue but miserably failed to get even a simple majority.

Campaigns were organised to ratify these amendments. Finally, on 26th August 1920, a milestone was achieved when the 19th Amendment was proclaimed by the secretary of the U.S. and women were entitled to vote. This changed the face of America's electorate forever and women were enfranchised equally with men in all aspects.

Sadly, not everyone rejoiced over this victory. It didn't ensure full enfranchisement for marginalised sections. The struggle of African-American women and minorities for voting rights still remained. They were blocked by poll taxes, literacy tests and other racial barriers. Even native Americans and Asian immigrants were largely excluded from citizenship itself.

Worldwide, Bhutan, UAE and Kuwait recently allowed women to participate in national elections. In Saudi Arabia, women were enfranchised in local elections in 2015. In Canada, legislation in 1918 expanded suffrage to women, but excluded Asian Canadians and those from indigenous backgrounds at the same time. The same stereotype and racial differences were evident in Australia

where indigenous women were not enfranchised till 1962. Ecuador became the first Latin American country to grant women voting rights in 1929 but there were cultural and legal restrictions that only women above 40 could vote and it was not mandatory for women. In other countries such as Hungary and Guatemala, literacy requirements were imposed on women and later abolished.

Interestingly, there are also some countries which rescinded women's voting rights after initially granting them. For example, in Afghanistan the government had adopted women's suffrage after winning independence from Britain in 1919. But eventually due to evident government shifts and instability over the next hundred years or so, women completely lost their rights in terms of voting and formal participation in elections. There are still rights for women today to vote but some or the other barriers exist.

Today, there is enough evidence to prove that women are doing more than enough to fully harness the voting rights given to them, considering the worldwide struggle. American women have turned out to vote at slightly higher rates than men in every U.S. presidential election since 1984 as suggested by a report of Pew Research Center. A study conducted in 2016 on the voting pattern in 21 countries found that the turnout for women voters was higher than men.

It is, for sure, a moment of pride and utmost importance for all the past women suffragists, that one recognises their voting right as a necessity to survive in democratic states. ▀

Shaina Mohite, SYBA

“Honey, We’re Going Down”: Sugar Ray Robinson



Cricket isn't just a game but an emotion for Indians. Cricketers are worshiped like Gods in this country. M. S. Dhoni, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have become household names. In this year's IPL, we witnessed the craze and affection that people have towards the 41-year-old M. S. Dhoni. Such is the impact of cricketers in India!

In the very same way, Boxing is a sport that Americans are very passionate about. Although Boxing hasn't gained enough popularity in India, I am sure that you have heard names like Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, Floyd Mayweather. However, there is one great boxer, the forgotten hero who inspired Muhammed Ali: Sugar Ray Robinson. Muhammad Ali

called Sugar Ray, “the king, the master, my idol”.

Who was Sugar Ray Robinson? Sugar Robinson was born in 1921. He ruled boxing during his time. He fought 200 professional fights and won 173 (109 by knockout) with 19 losses, 6 draws, and two no-contests. He also won six world titles during this time. He was awarded the middleweight title five times and the welterweight title once. Boxing historian Bert Sugar says that Robinson could deliver a knockout blow going backward. Can we even imagine this? This is a phenomenon that is very rare to see even now.

There is an interesting story behind Robinson's name. He was born as Walker Smith Jr. in Detroit, Michigan on May 3, 1921 and moved to New

York with his parents. This was the time when boxing was booming in the US. For the first time, professional ring fights were conducted, businessmen started investing in the sport and gradually the sport was gaining popularity. Walker Smith was keen to enter his first boxing tournament at the age of 14 but was not allowed to unless he had an Amateur Athletic Union membership card. In desperation, Walker acquired the card of another youth named Ray Robinson who had quit boxing, and participated as Ray Robinson. That name stuck.

Robinson turned professional in 1940, at the age of 19 after winning the New York Golden Gloves. He was crowned world champion six years later. Robinson had a 91-fight unbeaten

record from 1943 to 1951, which is the third longest in boxing history.

What made Ray Robinson so special was his speed. He would throw in a left jab and you wouldn't even know it. He was sly and knew exactly how to set up his opponent. And what made him stand apart was his humility. He would take a few punches upon himself without losing his cool at all. Sports writer Bernet Nagler once wrote that Robinson boxed as though he was playing the violin, gracefully. One more thing that brought Robinson under the public eye was the frequency of his fights. Robinson used to fight three to four times a month, whereas fighters nowadays fight 3-4 times a year. After every victory Ray Robinson would speak to the media in a way that won people's hearts. He would bow down to the crowd and thank them with a charisma that made people worship him. His lifelong manager, George Gainford, gave him the nickname “Sugar” after describing the young boxer as “sweet as sugar,” and reporters took to it. And that's how his name emerged: ‘Sugar Ray Robinson’.

Because of his legacy, numerous other athletes have adopted the nickname. Sugar Ray Leonard, Sugar Shane Mosely, and MMA fighters Sugar Rashad Evans and Sugar Sean O'Malley are among the most well-known Sugars.

But boxing did not define Robinson's legacy. He was one of the first African-American athletes to achieve international prominence outside of sports. Sugar Ray was known for his flamboyance. It's common now to see Floyd Mayweather, Conor McGregor and even Jake Paul travel in large numbers but Robinson was

“Robinson turned professional in 1940, at the age of 19 after winning the New York Golden Gloves. He was crowned world champion six years later. Robinson had a 91-fight unbeaten record from 1943 to 1951, which is the third longest in boxing history.”

the first. He had his own secretary, barber, masseur, voice coach, a coterie of trainers, beautiful women, a dwarf mascot and his lifelong manager, George Gainford. For all the Americans at that time, Robinson wasn't just a boxer, but a showman. According to the New York Times, the French offered to send his entire entourage over, including his iconic pink Cadillac, which he was known for driving in America. In the 1940s and 1950s, he was a prominent figure on the New York social scene, and he also owned a posh restaurant frequented by celebrities.

His fame didn't stop here. People love a good rivalry. A boxer entered Robinson's life and a lifelong rivalry was established. It was like current day Messi and Ronaldo, but much more intense. LaMotta, a very accomplished fighter, a.k.a. The Raging Bull, always gave Sugar a tough time. Robinson faced him 6 times, the first being at Madison Square Garden in 1942. LaMotta lost five of his six battles with Robinson. Although it appears to be a one-sided battle, each fight was close, and LaMotta knocked Sugar Ray out on multiple occasions. Despite their animosity in the ring, Robinson served as best man at LaMotta's sixth wedding – yes, sixth – and whenever LaMotta was asked who his three hardest opponents were, he would

answer, “Sugar Ray Robinson, Sugar Ray Robinson, Sugar Ray Robinson.”

Sugar Ray Robinson was set to battle Jimmy Doyle, a 22-year-old boxer, on June 26, 1947. Robinson recounted a terrifying dream he had before his fight with Doyle in his autobiography. Robinson fought Jimmy Doyle in his dreams. Jimmy was knocked unconscious by Ray's powerful attack. Jimmy remained still. “I woke in a cold sweat, screaming for Jimmy to get up – get up – get up! I guess my yellin' woke me up.” - Robinson wrote. Apparently, Jimmy Doyle was in the ring with him in the dream. Ray landed a few hard blows on him, and he was on his back, his blank eyes staring up, and Ray was staring down at him, unsure what to do, and the referee was moving in to count to ten, and Doyle was still not moving a muscle, and the audience was chanting, “He's dead, he's dead,” and Robinson awoke.

Robinson was so concerned by the dream that he wanted to withdraw from Doyle's match. Fight promoters, who stood to lose money as a result of Robinson's choice, hired a Catholic priest (some versions claim a priest and minister) to reassure Robinson that it was all a dream. Robinson was persuaded not to cancel the match due to a dream by promoter Larry Atkins. On the match day, Sugar Ray

Robinson landed a left hook to the face of Jimmy Doyle in the eighth round of their battle. Doyle was knocked out by the punch. The 10-count was started by referee Jackie Davis, but she quickly recognised it wasn't necessary. Doyle had passed out. The next day, he died.

Robinson told reporters about his dream premonition shortly after the fight, letting out a lot of the emotion he had bottled up as he engaged in the fight, he strongly felt in his heart, would end in disaster. The battle had definitely plagued Robinson. "I'd knocked out scores of people previously," he wrote. "However, when I witnessed them being counted out in such fights, I always felt a nice sensation, a conquering feeling,

maybe because I could tell that they weren't truly injured. But now, with Doyle spread out and his eyes closed, I had that empty feeling you get when something is seriously wrong in your life, and all I could think about was the dream. You warned me, God, You told me. Why did I let everybody talk me out of it?"

Robinson gave up his title after the fight and retired with a record of 174 wins, 109 knockouts and only 19 losses. He had reached the pinnacle in terms of fame, money and status. However, all this went crashing down post his retirement. Robinson wasted himself into destitution by the mid-sixties after earning an estimated \$4 million in the ring. Then he remade

himself by entering the entertainment industry, acting and even singing.

He went on to have a three-year career in show business, but Robinson decided to return back to the ring after a fall in his enterprises and a lack of success in his acting career; he began training again in 1954. In 1957, Robinson lost his title to Gene Fullmer for the first time before reclaiming it in a rematch later that year. Many boxing critics have referred to the punch (a left hook) that ended the fight in the fifth round as the perfect punch. Later that year, Robinson lost his title against Carmen Basilio for the fifth time before reclaiming it by split decision in a rematch with Basilio. Only the referee (who was booed) sided with Robinson by a large margin.

Sugar Ray's career collapsed after that, as he continued to fight past his peak purely for the money. With his third wife, Millie, he relocated to Southern California. Robinson then was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and diabetes. He died on April 12, 1989, in Culver City, California, at the age of 67. He is still regarded as the greatest boxer of his time.

Sugar Ray Robinson always set the highest standards for himself and worked insanely hard to achieve it. A quote by him that would summarize his life is:

"To be a champ, you have to believe in yourself when no one else will." ▶

Pranav Sriram, SYBA



Indus Valley: A Civilisation Far Ahead of its Time



The Cities Discovered

In the early 1920s, India was still under the rule of the British, fighting its freedom struggle. Among many simultaneous, significant events, one was the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization Site. As the name goes, it was discovered in the Indus valley, which was located in the Punjab region of the Indian subcontinent, presently situated in Pakistan. Archaeologists excavated this site after recurrences of ancient seals from the ruins around this region, which seemed to have inscribed in them an ancient language that was not, and still not has been, decipherable. What they found was a sacre bleu moment in history!

The Indus Valley civilization, later characterized into the Bronze Age civilization, is found to have lasted between 3300 to 1300 BCE. It existed alongside other prominent civilizations, such as the Mesopotamian, Ancient Egyptian, and Chinese ones. However, it was considered the most sophisticated because, unlike its counterparts, the Indus Valley focused not on religion and war, but on town planning, underground drainage and trade, which was the secret of its prosperity.

The first proof of this civilization was the discovery of the city that was named Harappa in 1921. In the subsequent year, the city of Mohenjo Daro was discovered, around 400 miles southwest from Harappa. These

two were the leading cities; they entailed the essence of the Indus Valley Civilization. They were found to be similar in design and structure so much so that they can be called sister cities. A solid population of 80,000 people is believed to have been grounded in these two cities.

Both the cities, and Indus Valley as a whole, was an agrarian society. Hence, there were sophisticated agrarian tools and structures that aided in the flourishing of the civilization. Situated in the valley of the Indus, as most civilizations were naturally around rivers, the soil was ideal for cultivation. The astounding fact about this civilization was the employment of varied agricultural tools and methods.

There were open farmlands and paddy fields to the west of Mohenjo Daro, terraced fields along the Margalla hills, and the Persian wheel near Diwana demonstrate the adaptive and advanced agricultural strategies utilized by them.

Along with these structures, there were also agricultural tools, like the plough for tilling the soil. The farmers are believed to have grown wheat, rice, barley, pulses, peas, mustard, and linseed. There were multigrain laddoos found in one of the sites, giving a peek into the ancient diet. They had huge granaries for storage of these agricultural produce. There were also herders who reared domestic animals like cattle, sheep, buffalos.

What makes the Indus Valley Civilization distinguishable is the fact that it was ostensibly home to the largest, most sophisticated civilization of that time, characterized by its most distinguishing factor – the availability of and access to sanitation and drainage systems. Every house had drains connected to street drains, where solid matter settled. The waste water from these was emptied into larger drains. These were covered with slabs that were provided with manholes for inspection and cleaning purposes. This made for the most remarkable underground drainage system, with an emphasis on cleanliness like none other. Along with this, there were also wells that were connected to each house to provide running water.

A central, tall citadel corresponded in both the cities. Though the purpose of it has been a question of debate, a widely accepted reason is that they were probably built to divert flooding. The citadel was the higher part of the city,

containing granaries, major assemblies, and the Great Bath in Mohenjo Daro. The lower part of the city is where most people resided, and shops were set up. Both the parts were surrounded by tall fortified walls. The cities had houses – some with two or more storeys even, made with uniformly proportional bricks. The houses were lined along roads that were interconnected at right angles, proving the existence of a good administrative system. The bricks were found to be of a standard ratio across the entire valley with vast distances between the cities and towns, shedding light to the possibility of a singular federal government throughout the region, without any kingdoms or the concomitant wars.

“ The Great Bath is the most noteworthy factor of Mohenjo Daro. It has steps on the narrow ends of the rectangle and rooms surrounding the bath. The water was supplied through a well in an adjoining room.

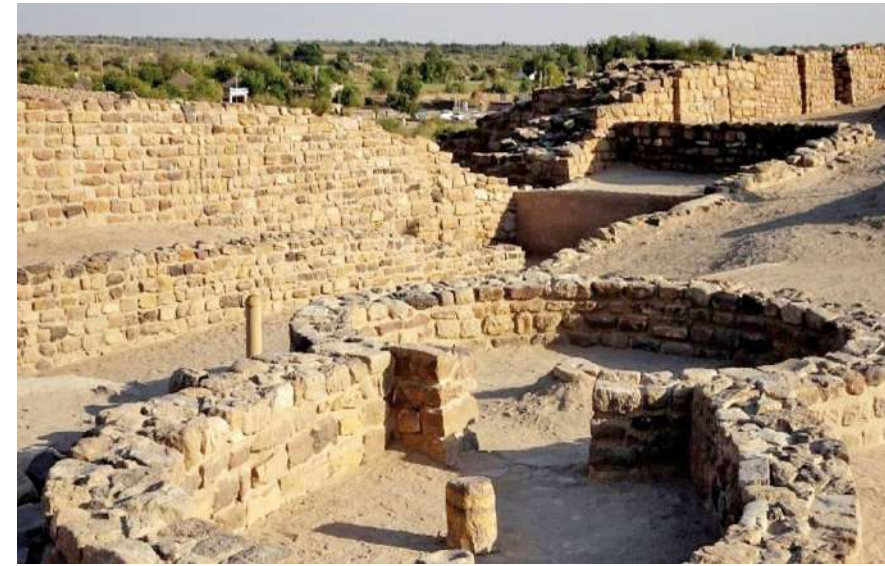
The Great Bath is the most noteworthy factor of Mohenjo Daro. It has steps on the narrow ends of the rectangle and rooms surrounding the bath. The water was supplied through a well in an adjoining room. The strong construction has withstood the test of time and calamities.

Wonderful artefacts that were excavated are what remains of the ancient culture, from which fairly accurate guesses can be made about the way of life of the Indus Valley populace. Jewellery was found around the Great Bath and near bead workshops. It seems to have been made of various metals with intricate

designs. Necklaces, earrings, ear studs, bangles – the Indus people surely liked to dress up! Toys made of clay have also been found, indicating that the kids in the Indus were probably more privileged than other war-ridden and religion-centric civilizations where children hardly had any time to play. There were also board games that used dice. Some historians believe that it is the Indus people who invented dice. It also explains the leisure time that the sculptors might have, to handcraft children’s toys, and the willingness of the parents to trade for them; it is highly indicative of the peaceful and playful nature of their society.

The Indus script, an aggregate of symbols, has not yet been deciphered,

but it is believed that they wrote the sentences in alternate directions – the first sentence from right to left, the second one from left to right, and continued so on; it was bidirectional. It is believed that the writing was used for administrative purposes, because of it being found mostly near trade goods. Along with being logo-syllabic, i.e combining letter symbols and words, evidence of numeric symbols in the script have also been found. Evidence of the script has been found, among other things, on pottery, bangles, bones, shells, and seals. The seals that have been discovered are one of the most prominent artefacts; mostly



“ The origin of weights and measures in South Asia can be traced back to this civilization. Most of the weights found were cubic in shape, made of chert.

engraved with animals along with some script, they reveal that Indus Valley had its own language. The seals are believed to be used for trade purposes, hinting again at the aspect associated with the booming of the civilization. Furthermore, the use of unicorns and three-headed animals indicate the fictional ability of the people, and their creativity and skill to design it on a seal.

The seals were also found at Mesopotamian sites, indicating a trade relationship between them. Interestingly, the ancient Mesopotamian script has been unravelled, and it has been derived that they used to call the city of Harappa by the name ‘Melluha’, from which, according to records, they imported materials like lapis lazuli, gold, timber, ivory, and livestock such as buffalos and monkeys, among others.

One of the major achievements of

the Indus Valley Civilization was that they achieved a high level of accuracy in their systems and equipment for measurement of lengths and masses. The origin of weights and measures in South Asia can be traced back to this civilization. The standard weights and measures also point to the existence of a single state throughout the valley. Most of the weights found were cubic in shape, made of chert. Both binary and decimal systems were employed in measuring weight. They constructed pan balances for weight measurement. Apart from this, rulers, having accurate decimal subdivisions on them, have also been found. This is proof of the highly advanced and intricate nature of the Indus Valley.

Apart from this, the feminine idols made of terracotta, with jewellery designs on them, have been found.

These are believed to be objects belonging to a cult. However, this could probably be a presage to the current Hindu worship of Goddesses. After all, ‘Indus’ is where the roots of the word ‘Hindu’ lies. So, maybe unknowingly, aspects of the Indus Valley Civilization could still be alive in the Hindu culture.

With such greatness and sophistication, why and how did the Indus Valley collapse? Historians and archaeologists take into account various reasons. Indus Valley was a peaceful place, and there is no evidence of a violent war leading to its deterioration.

Around the time of the decline of the civilization, Mesopotamia was politically unstable which could have led to reduction in trade – one of the primary supports of the Indus Valley. Along with this, disease and climate change could have been contributing factors in the decline.

However, one of the most logical and accepted causes is believed to be the drying up of the Saraswati River. Being an agrarian society built on river banks, the cities could not have sustained the deficiency of water. It is speculated that they abandoned the cities to settle in small villages or move near the fertile plains of Ganga. As all great things do, Indus Valley civilization too came to an end. However, it is still arguably one of the greatest, most sophisticated sites of the ancient times, with its relentless insistence on sanitation! We definitely still have a lot to decipher and learn about the Indus Valley Civilization. Its buried remains will continue to inspire and pique the interests of many people even a century after its discovery. ▀

Dhara Mandaliya, SYBA

Mario Lanza: The Biosketch of a Sensational Tenor

Alfredo Arnold Coccozza was born on January 31, 1921 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S. When he was young, he was introduced to classical songs by his Italian parents in Abruzzo and Morrison. His mother, Maria Lanza, was from Tocco da Casauria, a town in the province of Pescara in the Abruzzo region. His father, Antonio Coccozza, was from Filignano, a town in the province of Isernia in the Molise region. At the age of 16, his singing talent emerged. As a teenager, he began producing local operas for the YMCA Opera Company in Philadelphia. In 1942, Sergei Kusevitsky, the principal conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, offered the young Coccozza a full scholarship to the Berkshire Music Center in Tanglewood, Massachusetts. Kusevitzky later told him, "Yours is a voice such as is heard once in a hundred years."

After a period of study with conductors Boris Goldovsky and Leonard Bernstein, young Coccozza made his very first opera debut as Fenton in Otto Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Berkshire Music Festival in Tanglewood on August 7, 1942. And that's when Mario Lanza was born! Young Coccozza had taken up the stage name for its similarity to his mother's maiden name, Maria Lanza. His fast-growing opera career was interrupted when he was assigned to a special service in the United States during World War II. He starred in the



“ Young Coccozza made his very first opera debut as Fenton in Otto Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Berkshire Music Festival in Tanglewood on August 7, 1942. And that's when Mario Lanza was born! ”

war shows *On the Beam* and *Winged Victory*. He also appeared in *Winged Victory's* movie. He resumed his singing career at a concert in Atlantic City, NJ, and co-starred with the NBC Symphony Orchestra in September 1945 under his later mentor, Peter Hermann Adler. The following month, he replaced Jean Peerce on the tenor on the live CBS radio show "Great Moment in Music," six times every four months, singing excerpts from various operas and other works.

He studied with Enrico Rosati for 15 months and took part in 86 concert tours in the United States, Canada and Mexico from July 1947 to May 1948 with George London on bass and Frances Jend on soprano. Claudia Cassidy recalled her second appearance at Chicago's Grant Park in the Chicago Sunday Review in July 1947, praising Lanza's "very natural tenor voice" and "he has many subtleties." He knows the accent that lyrical lines reach the audience and why opera is a musical drama.

Lanza was discovered by Louis B. Mayer during a concert at the Hollywood Bowl in August 1947, and he immediately signed a seven-year film deal with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Lanza's contract obliged him to commit to the studio for six months, and at first, he thought he'd be able to combine his film career with his operatic and concert careers. He made his debut commercial recordings with RCA Victor in May 1949. The (United States) National Record Critics Association later gave him the prize for Operatic Recording of the Year for his performance of the aria "Che gelida manina" (from *La Bohème*) from that session. Lanza's first two films, *That Midnight Kiss* and *The Toast of New Orleans*, both starring Kathryn Grayson, were box office hits, and his rendition of "Be My Love" from the latter became the first of three million-selling singles for the young singer in 1950, propelling him to worldwide renown. Green said in a 1977 interview with Lanza historian Armando Cesari that the tenor was self-conscious about how he had achieved fame, and that he was well aware that he had first established himself on the operatic stage before becoming a Hollywood star. Lanza had already established himself as a leading tenor at the Metropolitan Opera House, if not the leading tenor, and had come to Hollywood in between seasons to create films.

These are light romantic comedies loosely based on Lanza's own life, about a poor but determined boy with a great voice who rises to the pinnacle of society and wins the girl. We can still appreciate Lanza's initial charm fifty years later. Lanza appeared to be a "regular guy" with none of the alleged

snobbery associated with opera during the postwar era.

The film *The Great Caruso* (1951) had greater problems. Lanza was pitted against Caruso in some of the most famous arias in the repertoire, and it was then that the young man's flaws began to surface.

Lanza was known to be "rebellious, tough, and ambitious." During most of his film career, he suffered from addictions to overeating and alcohol which had a serious effect on his health and his relationships with directors, producers and, occasionally, other cast members.

“ Lanza was discovered by Louis B. Mayer during a concert at the Hollywood Bowl in August 1947, and he immediately signed a seven-year film deal with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. ”

In his early 30s, he developed a major drinking problem. Although it has been widely argued whether he was an alcoholic in the last five or so years of his life, there is no doubt that he was at the very least an episodic or binge drinker, and that his drinking badly impacted his health and some of his personal relationships. Lanza's limited tolerance for alcohol, according to Steinman, exacerbated the problem. When inebriated, the tenor was tremendously powerful and impossible to control. During the filming of *The Student Prince* in 1952, he had a dispute that got him fired from the film, and he was replaced by another actor. Lanza was so upset that he ate and drank even more than the excessive amounts he had taken in previously.

He moved from the United States

to Italy with his wife and four children, made a film in Rome, continued to alternate between gorging himself and crash dieting, and frequently passed out drunk. His health rapidly deteriorated; he developed clots in his legs that spread to his lungs and he had extremely high blood pressure, alcohol-and-overeating-induced cirrhosis of his liver and an enlarged failing heart.

However, his drinking habits have been exaggerated. Lanza may have had alcoholic binges during times of emotional turmoil, but he was typically able to keep his drinking under control while at work. After being fired by

MGM, when he was hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, Lanza drank his way through an extended Las Vegas engagement that might have quickly restored his solvency but resulted in a devastating lawsuit. On the 7th of October 1959, he died in Rome from what was diagnosed as a heart attack. Lanza was in poor health at the time of his death, and had been suffering from a variety of diagnosed ailments for the previous twenty-one months. These included abnormally high blood pressure, liver damage, arteriosclerosis, and phlebitis. Alt, the cause of death was almost certainly one of the following: a heart attack, a cerebral hemorrhage, or a massive pulmonary embolism. ■

Kashish Chetwani, FYBA

The Rise and Fall of the Guccis



First House of Gucci boutique, Florence

“Can you keep a secret? Cross your heart and hope to die.” Paolo Gucci said with a stern, terrifying voice. With the symbol of a promise made, Patrizia Gucci replied, “Father. Son. And the House of Gucci.” One of the most riveting scenes ever seen in the cinematic world, the movie House of Gucci has unraveled many dark truths of the Gucci dynasty.

It all began in Florence, Italy, in 1921 when Guccio Gucci started his own leather business. When he was a young lad, he left for England and worked at Savoy Hotel. The Savoy Hotel was a luxury hotel where the aristocrats of the period would come to stay. Gucci would carry around the upper-class luggage to the required rooms. This is what inspired him to make top-quality travel bags and accessories. He returned to Florence and started a small boutique called the House of Gucci. With his reputation in London and his being highly skilled in Tuscan artistry, Gucci

gained a reputation instantly. He began by selling leather saddles to horsemen; but as the automobile industry emerged day by day, there was no need to use leather saddles on horses. So, Gucci started making handbags and other accessories to expand his clientele. People around the globe would come to Florence to buy the beauties made by Gucci: local Tuscan craftsmanship on top-quality leather.

Guccio Gucci was married to Aida Calvelli and they had six children together. Ugo was Calvelli's son from her previous relationship. Enzo Gucci passed away in his childhood and with typical patriarchal mindset, Gucci's one and only daughter was not given much attention. The remaining three, Vasco, Aldo, and Rodolfo made the business a family business. With the help of Aldo, Gucci made its first expansion in Rome, followed by Milan a few years later. Guccio Gucci wanted to keep the brand on Italian soil only. He focused on quality more than anything. The

brand had, and still has, its reputation for its leather.

After the Second World War, Guccio Gucci distributed the shares among his three sons. During this period, Gucci ran short of raw materials due to the War. The colours of Gucci i.e. in order of green-red-green stood out the most compared to any other brand. The striking colours are what helped keep the business flowing. The double G symbol along with the green and red stripes is what put Gucci in higher brackets. The double G symbolises the very fashion Gucci aims for. It depicts a rich sense of taste in the hands of the high-class society.

On 2nd January 1953, Guccio Gucci passed away of old age. This did not hinder the business in any way. In fact, in November 1953, Gucci started to spread internationally beginning in New York. In 1961, they opened in London and Palm Beach and in 1963 in Paris. Paris was a big breakthrough for the company. The accessories such as

“The double G symbol along with the green and red stripes is what put Gucci to higher brackets. The double G symbolises the very fashion Gucci aims for. It depicts a rich sense of taste in the hands of the high-class society.”



gloves, belts, scarves, and so on were a huge success for the company.

From the 1970s to the 1980s, Gucci was passed down to the third generation. Vasco died without children and the shares were now divided 50-50 between Aldo and Rodolfo. Rodolfo's son, Maurizio Gucci, was involved in a courtship with Patrizia Reggiani. The two were the public 'power couple'. They were genuinely in love with each other and wanted to proceed to marry one another. But Rodolfo did not give his blessings to the couple. Since Patrizia was from a lower-class income family, Rodolfo believed she was only after his son for the money. Future events proved that Rodolfo was indeed not wrong.

In the movie *House of Gucci*, we see the character Patrizia Reggiani, played by Lady Gaga, and Maurizio Gucci, played by Adam Driver. As we follow the character Patrizia Reggiani, we see the rise and fall of the Gucci empire. She brought the family together and then tore them apart; she increased the profits and suffered severe losses. Family members were sent to jail for tax evasion and a huge dispute broke out over the company shares. Maurizio could not pull the extreme ends of his family together and decided to divorce his wife, who took along his two daughters.

But at the end of one love story, another one blossomed. Maurizio

started to have a courtship with another lady named Paola Franchi. At this stage, Gucci was suffering extreme losses from tax evasion to penalties for forged signatures. It is said that one of the many reasons why Gucci suffered losses was due to Maurizio's unnecessary expenditure. All the expenses and the courtship with Paola were reported to Patrizia. She was filled with jealousy. She even went so far as to hire an assassin to kill Maurizio... who succeeded. On 27th March 1995, he succumbed to multiple gunshot wounds, all because of his ex-wife's jealousy, resentment and her greed for money.

Investigations took place to find the culprit, but it all went in vain. Two years later, an 'anonymous tip'



House of Gucci the movie has unraveled many dark truths of the Gucci dynasty.

helped the investigation see daylight again. Patrizia Reggiani along with the hitmen responsible were caught and punished. Patrizia served sixteen years in jail. The remaining family members include Aldo, who died due to prostate cancer; his son, Paolo Gucci, who died of poverty since he sold all his shares of the company. As of today, none of the Gucci family members own Gucci.

So, who holds Gucci today? After the entire Gucci family drama, the Bahrain-based investment fund Investcorp held most of the shares while Domenico De Sole and Dawn Mello were CEO and Vice CEO respectively. After that, Gucci has been through many ups and downs with ownership and its shareholders. Since 1999, Gucci has been owned by Kering, a French multinational corporation that specializes in luxury goods. Kering also owns the luxury brands Balenciaga, Bottega Veneta, Alexander McQueen, Yves Saint Laurent, and so on. Marco Bizzarri became the President and CEO of Gucci in 2014-2015 and continues to hold the post.

With this, the company generates €9.628 billion in revenue (€8.2 billion in 2018), and €3,947 billion in profits (€3.2 billion in 2018). The public hopes to see Gucci continue to prosper in the future. With the company being in good hands, one can say that Gucci will continue to thrive as ever. ▮

Zeena Khambatta, SYBA

Death of a Piano-Eer: Camille Saint-Saëns



Camille Saint-Saëns was one of the greatest composers of music from the Romantic era. He has often been described as a musical genius and a pianist second to none. Some of his famous works include *The Carnival of The Animals* and *Samson and Delilah*. In his music, he remains conservative to traditional form and structure; however, he had branched out from solo piano pieces to writing for orchestra to stage operas. He was also one of the first to ever record his music. Not just that – he was also an intelligent man, showing great interest in Latin and Greek, fluent in the former by the age of seven. He also liked philosophy, history, astronomy, and French literature.

Saint-Saëns was born a prodigy.

At the young age of three years old, he was known to have a perfect pitch. Perfect or absolute pitch is when one can identify the exact note only by hearing it, without reference of a key or any other note; it is also the ability to sing a specific note without prior reference. The ability is so rare that it appears in one person for every ten thousand people. His grand-aunt taught him the fundamentals of piano playing, and he later went on to learn under Camille Marie-Stamaty. Saint-Saëns made his first debut when he was only ten years old.

So began his musical journey. At thirteen, he gained admission in the Paris Conservatoire, the best music academy in France at that time. There, he learnt more about the organ and

composition, although mainly sticking to a conservative syllabus. In 1852, he won the first prize in a competition organised by Société de Sainte-Cécile in Paris. He went on to play as an organist for Saint-Merri, a church in Paris. During this time, he composed the Symphony in Eb that resonated deeply with the people of France.

He worked as a teacher for five years at the École de Musique Classique et Religieuse, Paris, where he taught and trained other musical personalities, such as Gabriel Fauré and André Messager. After this, he pursued his career as an independent composer of orchestra and opera alike. His first opera, *La Princess Jaune*, initially premiered in 1872. That was only the beginning; he gained international

fame with the success of his opera, *Samson et Dalila*, which premiered in 1877 – though it caused strife between him and the Church.

Despite such an illustrious career, his life was riddled with loss. Two months after his birth, his father succumbed to tuberculosis. He lived with his mother and his widowed aunt for years before deciding to marry. When he finally did marry and have two children, he had to face their loss too soon. Both his sons died in their infancy – one aged two years and the other barely six months old, the first falling from a window of the house and the latter lost to pneumonia. His mother never approved of his wife, and the anguish and resentment of losing his family made Saint-Saëns resent his spouse. They never formally divorced, but he left her, leaving a letter in his wake saying that he would not come back. He never spoke to his wife again. Following this, Saint-Saëns grew close to Gabriel Fauré's family and adopted theirs as his own. He was rumoured to be attracted to men – especially ones younger than him – but most of this evidence is circumstantial and cannot be proved. He took to travelling and often spent winters away from France since they were harsh on his lungs.

In 1852, he participated in a competition for the Prix de Rome, which was France's most prestigious award for music at the time. The Prix de Rome, originally intended for painters and sculptors only, was a scholarship that let them live in Rome for three years, all costs covered by the state. It was curated to encourage young artists with promising futures to cultivate their skills. However, Saint-Saëns did not win. The winner,

Leonce Cohen, was nowhere near as successful as Saint-Saëns in the long run. Nevertheless, Saint-Saëns competed once again in 1864, much to everyone's astonishment. By that time, Saint-Saëns was well known to be a skilled and acclaimed musician. Alas, he did not win the second time, either. Victor Sieg won that year – whose track record pales in comparison to Saint-Saëns. According to the judges, Saint-Saëns was certainly magnificent, but the young Sieg showed 'promise'. Saint-Saëns had already proved himself. The prize was to encourage young artists, so giving it to someone who is already a celebrity was not feasible.

There is usually a tether that connects the soul to one's art. For many, it is impossible to sever or contain, but for others, they gain mastery over control. Saint-Saëns belonged to the second category. His work is all evidence of brilliance at play... but rarely does one see great emotionality. He wrote with technical skill and musical prowess, but there was little of himself in that music. The suffering he had to endure never made it outside the chambers of his heart. Berlioz once said about Saint-Saëns: "He knows everything, but lacks in experience." As time progressed, Saint-Saëns remained staunchly loyal to his ideal of the traditional form. Art was supposed to be created in the shape of beauty; emotion comes much later, if it comes at all. Modern ideas – proposed by Wagner and Debussy alike – were nothing he approved of. These composers broke all "rules" of theory, wielding their sentiments to produce their greatest works. He once said, "What sets Bach and Mozart apart is that these two great expressive composers never sacrificed

form to expression." On hearing *The Rite of Spring* in 1913, a ballet by Igor Stravinsky, he described Stravinsky as "deranged".

In the latter years of his life, he travelled to New York and other cities in the United States and worked as a composer. His last performance was a recital at the Institut de France in 1881. His hands did not falter, despite being eighty-six years old.

His most famous work – *The Carnival of The Animals* – was written as a joke at first, for his students. He did not allow any of it to be released or played anywhere, all except for one movement – The Swan. The music has been written to facilitate the imagery of a graceful swan, wading through water, feathers fluttering in quiet confidence. He worked on the suite for almost twenty years before it was performed fully, lasting around 25 minutes. Another one of his famous works, *Le Danse Macabre*, is the aural manifestation of an old French myth about Halloween – that the skeletons come alive and dance till dawn. In this fast-paced piece, Saint-Saëns uses the xylophone to mimic the sounds of bones dancing, and slows down in the end after a rushed climax, as if the light of dawn has appeared over the horizon and the ghosts have returned to their graves.

A month after the recital, he moved to Algiers for the winter, where he suddenly died of a heart attack on 16th December 1921. He was mourned throughout France as one of the most impressive musicians of his time and is still revered as a mastermind in music. ▀

Rhea Prabhu, SYBA

Shining A New Light

A story about re-discovering the nature of light

“**T**he emission of electrically charged particles from or within a material when it absorbs electromagnetic radiation.”

This is the current definition of the **photoelectric effect**, a phenomenon that made inventions like solar panels an outstanding reality. This phenomenon was first observed a long time ago – in 1887 to be precise.

Like every other scientific phenomenon that we study today, certain laws govern the concept of the photoelectric effect which allows us to understand it and develop more practical applications around it.

And it was in the year 1921 that a scientist received a Nobel Prize for defining these said laws which would go on to become one of the most celebrated breakthroughs in the field of Physics. But before we jump so further into the story, let us understand the basic concept of the photoelectric effect.

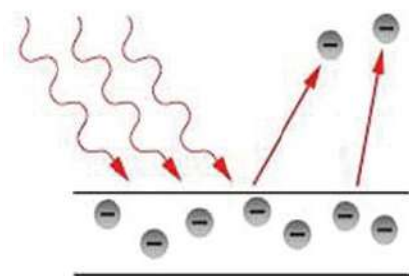
The Basics

The meaning of the term is in the name itself. “Photo” means light and “electric”

comes from electricity. Hence, this is a phenomenon that relates light with electricity or rather generates electricity from light. So essentially, when light of a **certain frequency** is shined upon a metal sheet, electrons are emitted, and these electrons are called ‘*Photoelectrons*’. Below is the simplest visual representation of what the photoelectric effect is.

Why metal sheets? Because metals have free electrons that are shared amongst neighbouring positively-charged kernels (the nucleus and all of the electrons, except those in the valance shell). When enough kinetic energy is provided to these free electrons, they jump out of the surface, i.e., get emitted.

But is it that simple? Of course not,



which is why it was a ground-breaking discovery. Let us see why.

The History Before The Photoelectric Effect

If we want to know how this discovery happened and why it is so revolutionary for science, we have to turn the clock back to the late 1600s, the era when scientists like Newton and Hooke were involved in one of the most popular and important debates in Classical Physics – **Is light a wave or a particle?**

As years passed by and technology gradually advanced a bit, experiments were conducted where it was observed that light, indeed, is a wave. Add the “Maxwell’s Equation” to this and boom! Wave Theory won the match. The debates dwindled and light was considered to be an electromagnetic wave.

The Discovery

The year was 1887 as mentioned earlier. A German physicist named Heinrich Rudolf Hertz was trying to prove Maxwell’s Equation right. And he did, he was successful in creating

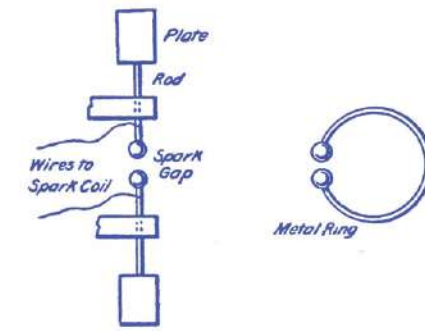
the world’s first antenna which could create, transmit and receive sparks.

But, he also ended up discovering something strange. He observed that when ultraviolet light was shined upon the metal spark balls (the two orbs that create the spark gap) in the transmitter, the voltage at which the spark is created changed! But he never knew what exactly happened, because the discovery of electrons was yet to happen.

A few years later, in 1902, another German physicist, Philipp Lenard, involved himself in the process of this discovery. By this time, the concept of electrons had been introduced to the world of science. Lenard’s experiments clarified that the kinetic energy of these emitted electrons DID NOT vary with the intensity of light.

This conclusion of Lenard came as a shock to Classical Physics as a whole because it raised important questions against the Wave Theory of Light, which was widely accepted at this point. And what added to the confusion was the fact that Hertz had already proved Maxwell’s Equation to be accurate. Let’s see where the wave theory failed to explain the photoelectric effect:

- According to the Wave Theory, energy is only dependent on the intensity of light. But as seen earlier, Lenard’s observations show this doesn’t apply to the phenomenon under consideration.
- Wave theory says that light of any frequency should be capable of ejecting electrons. But experiments showed that electron emission occurred only for certain frequencies.
- Reiterating what has been written above, wave theory says the kinetic



energy received by the electron depends upon the intensity of light. So when light of low intensity is used, it must ideally take some time before the emission of electrons happens so that they can acquire a sufficient amount of energy to jump out. But there was no lag observed between the exposure of light and the ejection of electrons, even with low-intensity light under use.

So now everybody had the same question – Is light not an electromagnetic wave?

Einstein Enters The Picture

Intrigued by these newfound challenges, the scientific community was in a race to somehow explain the concept of the photoelectric effect and ultimately explain the nature of light. In the year 1905, amongst all the hubbub and efforts, a young patent clerk working in Bern, Switzerland published a paper. A young scientist named Albert Einstein.

Five years before this, a certain scientist named Max Planck had come up with a mathematical solution for his experiments on black body radiation, which will later be known to the world as “Max Planck’s Quantum Theory”. He said that different atoms and molecules can emit or absorb energy in discrete quantities only. The smallest amount of energy that can

be emitted or absorbed in the form of electromagnetic radiation is known as quantum. Further, he had come up with an equation, the Max Planck’s Equation – $E = h\nu$ – where:

E = Energy of the electromagnetic radiation

ν = Frequency of the electromagnetic radiation

h = Planck’s constant ($6.625 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$)

He had assumed it was only a mathematical trick to provide an explanation for his experiment. But Einstein expanded Planck’s quanta to light itself and theorized a new corpuscular theory. He said that light was made of tiny particles (which he referred to as light particles at that time) that are like energy packets, i.e. each particle contained a fixed amount of energy which depends on the frequency of that light beam.

And thus he revived the particle theory of light again.

But this wasn’t the extent of his work. Using this theorization of light as a particle, Einstein explained the photoelectric effect and laid down the laws that regulate the same, along with the photoelectric equation.

Einstein’s Explanation And The Equation

When a light particle falls on the surface of a metal, the entire energy from the particle is transferred to the electron. A part of this energy is used to remove the electron from the metal ion’s grasp (this is the work function ϕ). The rest of the energy is used by the electron in the form of kinetic energy to jump out of the metal surface. So basically,

Energy of a light particle = Energy required for an electron to escape metal ion + Max. K.E. of the electron

(Ek)

$$E = \phi + Ek$$

Using Planck's equation, we know $E = hv$

$$\phi + hv = \phi + Ek$$

That means, $E_k = hv - \phi$, which is the photoelectric equation

Using this equation, the four laws of the photoelectric equation were laid down:

- There is a definite cut-off value of frequency (ν_0 , the threshold frequency) below which electrons cannot be ejected by any substance.
- The number of emitted electrons is directly proportional to the intensity of the light incident.
- The kinetic energy of emitted electrons depends on the frequency of incident light on the substance.
- There is no time lag between the incidence of light and the emission of electrons.

In this way, Einstein silently dropped a bomb on the world of Classical Physics in 1905.

The "Nobel" Moment

Fast forward to 1916. An American Physicist was basking in the success of measuring the charge of an electron. Robert Andrews Millikan was his name. This was also the period when people still couldn't accept the fact that light was not a wave. Millikan was one of them. Hence, eleven years after the publishing of Einstein's work, Millikan decides to disprove Einstein's theory.

Millikan hypothesized that no emitted electrons would occur if the photoelectric effect experiment was carried out properly, and he took on the job of doing that. He diligently performed his experiment, that too under vacuum conditions so that no

elements from the air could interfere with his readings.

The man who set out to prove Einstein's theory wrong ended up providing proof for the very same theory. Not just that, Millikan's observations and experiment data even showed, with high precision, that the value of constant h from Einstein's photoelectric equation is the same as constant h from Planck's quantum equation.

With such indisputable evidence, the world finally acknowledged Einstein's theory.

Five years later, the year 1921 marked history in the books of science as Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for providing an incredible insight into the nature of light and the phenomenon that is the photoelectric effect.

It was this year that unofficially gave birth to a new era in science – **Quantum Physics**

Also a little side note: If you were under the impression that the one Nobel Prize that Einstein received was for his theory of relativity, you were wrong. He had passed away before the world could grasp the concept.

The Radical Impact

Acceptance of Einstein's theory was a huge factual shift for the scientific community. But Einstein's theory doesn't completely imply that light is a particle. What he said was that light was made of particles, but the flow of these particles is in the form of a wave.

This is what we know today as the dual nature of light.

The "light particles" mentioned in Einstein's work were named 'photons' by an American chemist, Gilbert Lewis, in the year 1926.

The discovery and explanation of the photoelectric effect have changed science forever. From the wave-particle duality of light to the concept of quantum, everything began from this one incidental finding.

And it wasn't just the scientific community that celebrated this. Each one of us is unknowingly grateful for the efforts of all these scientists in unearthing this concept because our lives have become so very much easier thanks to this effect. You don't believe me? Let's look at a list of inventions using the photoelectric effect:

- In solar cells, to generate electricity using sunlight
- In astronomy. Yes, we can interpret the stars' intensities and temperatures even with the feeble amount of light we receive from them!
- In cameras, where we use photoelectric cells for exposure meter
- In burglar alarms, door sensors etc.
- In photostatic copying

These are just a few of all the applications that are possible today only because of the photoelectric effect.

All of this happened because some people were just too curious to accept things the way they were. They challenged the notions and dutifully dedicated their efforts to that challenge. After all, science is only for the curious.

"I have no special talents. I am just passionately curious."

Albert Einstein

Vaishnavi Mahalingam, F.Y.BSc

What Takashi Hara Kei did for Korea



The 20th century was a grave period of war and pain. Many countries wanted to increase their power and control of their own and other lands as well. Whether it started as something mutually agreed on or forced upon the natives, colonisation often led to abuse of power: they took advantage of what the natives had to offer, leaving them in poverty and with less than what they had started with. Regardless, colonisation always ended up leaving the people of the land in complete and utter misery and chaos.

Initially, the Japanese wanted to avoid starting a colonial rule. They felt belittled by the unjust treaties they had to sign when they lacked the power to

fight against it and wished the same treatment upon no one. Despite their earlier good intentions, Japan went on to become a militant power in many areas of East Asia in their quest for power and land. Korea, Taiwan, Manchuria -- all were annexed by Japan, along with certain islands in the Pacific.

Japan annexed Korea in 1910 after imperial Japan was given license to do what they wanted with Korea after a deal that Theodore Roosevelt created. The deal earned Roosevelt a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in bringing the war between Russia and Japan to an end in 1906. Ironically, this deal allowed Japan to create chaos in Korea. Soon after Korea was annexed, the Korean military was demobilised,

and the Japanese general was put in charge of Korea. Japan's colonial government set up a camp in Seoul and they changed the capital's name to 'Keijo'. This marked the beginning of 35 years of Japan occupying Korea.

Hara Takashi was a Japanese politician who served as the Prime Minister of Japan from 1918 to 1921. He was appointed to his position after the Rice Riots of 1918 that took place in Japan, and chose a stance of moderation wherein, he opted for a relaxation of the oppressive policies in annexed Korea. Hara's premiership actually oversaw the Siberian intervention and the March 1st movement! He was a liberalist who sought to make genuinely positive changes in Japan and their

occupied countries. But this was cut short by one man, part of a faction that actively disagreed with Hara's beliefs. It was November 1921 when he was assassinated by a right-wing Japanese citizen, Nakaoka Kon'ichi, at Tokyo station on a train to Kyoto for a party conference. Nakaoka believed that Hara was a corrupt politician who would pass a motion for universal suffrage in Japan and all its colonised countries. He and his faction were against this and sought to assassinate Hara to avoid this legislature from passing.

The country of Korea collectively fought against the Japanese invasion. There were many anti-Japanese rallies that took place around the country. One of the more legendary ones is the

March 1st movement of 1919. Almost 12 million citizens took part in the reading of a declaration of independence in the city of Seoul. Many were wounded and killed during these demonstrations that spanned out for a little over a year, but the Japanese eased their persecution of Koreans after. Eventually, the military rule strengthened itself in Korea in 1931.

Now, the objective to destroy Korean culture increased tenfold. The cultural assimilation of Japanese culture rose as common propaganda. Koreans were forced to pledge allegiance to the Japanese emperor; they were banned from speaking Korean, singing traditional songs or wearing traditional clothes; they were

even forced into changing their clan surname into a Japanese surname. For example, the clan names of 'Kim' or 'Choi' were changed into 'Takahashi' or 'Sato'. Places of worship like shrines and temples were torn asunder and Koreans were forced to worship at Japanese Shinto shrines instead. If villagers were suspected of hiding rebels, the entire population of the village was herded into a common building and everyone was burnt down to ash. The rebel cause only became more focused and successful after 1941 when President Kim Gu formed the 'Korean Liberation Army' and the communist leader who would later become the founder of North Korea, Kim Il Sung, formed the 'Korean Volunteer Army' that later became the 'Korean People's Army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea'.

After World War 2, Japan surrendered to the Allies. This caused a great deal of confusion in Korea about the state of leadership. The country was divided into two zones: the Americans and the Soviets. The citizens split into two factions of communists and right wingers of which both organisations claimed the right for an independent Korean government.

The Soviets and Americans failed to come to an agreement over a unified Korean government. In 1953, they split into two separate governments that each claimed to be the legitimate government of all Korea. These were the Republic of Korea in Seoul and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Pyongyang respectively. The Japanese left Korea divided into north and south Korea with a heavily fortified demilitarised zone (DMZ) in between the two.

The relationship between Japan and Korea is comparable to that of Britain and India. They claimed they had the right to colonise and develop 'high-minded schemes' to help the natives. Korea and India also share certain cultural traits; for example, Koreans had a caste system known as 'Baekjeong' that was made up of 'untouchable' people, similar to how the Indian caste system had the 'Dalits'. The Japanese invasion and the growing industrialism in Korea broke the stereotype of the Baekjeong dominating certain occupations and task roles. The very concept of Baekjeong was eliminated just in time for modern Korea to become more accepting of all their citizens and evolve as a country.

Despite the tyrannical and heavy-handed rule of the Japanese authorities, many recognisably modern characteristics of Korean society materialised during the 35-year period of colonial rule. The Imperial Japanese government built roads, ports, dams, hospitals and schools, improved agricultural output and created a great number of industrial infrastructures in Korea. In fact, the central train station in Seoul was created in 1925 under the Japanese imperial rule. Similar to Britain's rule in India and their role in abolishing sati, and helping to establish the train system and more, Japan did do some good during their rule in Korea. However, they also did not understand the Koreans' rage at their country being taken over and felt antagonised when the Koreans did not feel thankful for all that the Japanese provided them.

Although the Japanese did contribute to the progress in Korea, they introduced all the development

“ Although the Japanese education system in Korea caused harm to their cultural identity, the establishment of the public education system helped improve Korea's human capital.

with the primary motive of enhancing Japan's resources and to help fight the wars in China and the Pacific rather than being able to help the Koreans develop themselves in the name of goodwill. Subsequently, coal, harvest and other resources were used to feed the Japanese economy while the Koreans were left in poverty, having to fend for themselves by eating wild roots to survive and worse.

Before the Japanese occupied Korea, there was little to no industry in the country. But once annexed, the Japanese used Korean men as slave labourers in coal mines and Korean women as 'comfort women' or prostitutes for Japanese soldiers. These young women were abducted from their homes only to be imprisoned in 'comfort stations' inside Korea and in some parts abroad as well. Physical check-ups were conducted only so that Japanese soldiers wouldn't be infected with disease. Many such women have successfully sought compensation for their extreme suffering.

Due to labour shortages in Japan during World War 2, the Japanese recruited hundreds of thousands of Korean men into mainland Japan for labour work who were often forced to do their jobs in appalling and dangerous conditions. The Japanese also enlisted the Korean men into military service against their wishes when the tides turned against them during the war. As such, Japanese economic policies

increased poverty and compelled Korean men to offer labour and Korean women, their sexual labour to fuel the Japanese war machine.

The after effects of Japanese rule in Korea did include the positive development that Japan brought with them. Education was available for both male and female students of all socio-economic strata as opposed to just the male upper class in the time before 1910. Although the Japanese education system in Korea caused harm to their cultural identity, the establishment of the public education system helped improve Korea's human capital. Adult literacy rate rose from 22% in 1945 to 93% by the late 1980s.

Initially, in schools that were run by ethnic Koreans who worked under the colonial government, students were taught in Korean. After the 1st March movement, the government increased efforts to share awareness of Korean media and literature not only within Korea but also in Japan. Many historical artifacts were taken from Korea and relocated to Japan, the US and France as well. Most of them have been returned but many stay in the Tokyo National Museum and in the hands of private collectors as well. ▀

Melissa Buthello, SYBA

“ He opted for a relaxation of the oppressive policies in annexed Korea. Hara's premiership actually oversaw the Siberian intervention and the March 1st movement! He was a liberalist who sought to make genuinely positive changes in Japan and their occupied countries.



A Century of the BBC: The Rebels who Reshaped Broadcasting

BBC celebrates its centenary this year. And creates a milestone of being the only broadcaster in the world to have such a diverse, exciting and long history.

We often hear people say while they gossip "This is BBC news!" meaning that some piece of news has been reported fresh after its occurrence. But do we know where this 'BBC' comes from?

Well, let me take you back to the 1920s when the BBC i.e world's oldest national broadcaster, and the largest broadcaster in the world by number of employees, employing over 22,000 staff in total, was formed.

Formed on the 18th October 1922, the British Broadcasting Corporation is the national broadcaster of the United Kingdom. Surprising as it may sound, Britain conducted its first public live broadcast from a factory - Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company in Chelmsford

Lord Northcliffe of the Daily Mail sponsored the broadcast, which featured Dame Nellie Melba, a famous Australian soprano. The Melba broadcast captured public attention and represented a watershed moment in the public perception of radio in the United Kingdom. This public enthusiasm, however, was not shared by the officials, who believed that such broadcasts were interfering with vital military and civic communications.



By late 1920, the General Post Office (GPO), the licensing authority, had received enough pressure from these quarters to impose a prohibition on further Chelmsford transmissions.

After a petition from 63 wireless societies with over 3,000 members, the GPO received around 100 broadcast license requests by 1922 and sought to rescind its ban. The GPO proposed issuing a single broadcasting license to a business jointly owned by a consortium of prominent wireless receiver manufacturers, to be named as the British Broadcasting Company Ltd., in order to avoid the same chaotic expansion experienced in the United States. In December 1922, a Scottish Calvinist named John Reith was named general manager, just weeks after the company made its first formal broadcast. Its first music director was L. Stanton Jefferies.

The financing arrangements quickly became insufficient. Due to amateurs building their own receivers and listeners purchasing unauthorized sets, set sales were poor. In order to solve the BBC's immediate financial hardship, the Committee recommended a short-term reorganization of license rates and an increased share of the license revenue split between it and the GPO. Once the wireless manufacturers' protection expired, a simple 10 shilling license fee with no royalty was to be charged. The BBC was in a precarious position as a result of the crisis. On the one hand, Reith was well aware that the government could use its prerogative to seize the BBC at any time as a government mouthpiece if the BBC strayed from the line, but he also wanted to maintain public trust by appearing to act autonomously.

The British Broadcasting

Corporation was established on January 1, 1927, and Reith was named its first Director General. The new corporation adopted the coat of arms, which included the inscription "Nation should speak peace unto Nation," to signify its aim and (said) principles.

Aside from the BBC's upmarket programming, British radio listeners had few options. Reith, a deeply moralistic executive, was in complete command. His purpose was to transmit "everything that is best in every branch of human knowledge, endeavor, and success.... The maintenance of a high moral tone is plainly of essential importance."

Over the years the success graph of BBC rose upwards. By 1929, the BBC was complaining that many comedians' representatives refused to sign contracts for broadcasting because they believed it would harm the artist "by rendering his material stale" and "lower the artist's worth as a visible

music-hall performance." The BBC, on the other hand, was "desperately eager" in collaborating with record labels that "in recent years... have not been slow to manufacture albums of singers, orchestras, dance bands, and so on who have already proven their potential to attain fame by wireless." Radio dramas were so popular that by 1929, the BBC had received 6,000 manuscripts, the majority of which were created for the stage and had no value for broadcasting.

In 2016, BBC Director General Tony Hall established a savings target of £800 million per year by 2021, which is around 23 percent of yearly license fee revenue. The reason provided was the £700 million cost of free TV licenses for over-75s, as well as significant escalation in drama and sports coverage prices. Duplication of management and content spending would be eliminated, and BBC News would be reviewed. Later in 2017, the new BBC Charter

was introduced, radically altering the BBC's governance. It dissolved The BBC Trust and replaced it with a new Unitary Board led by Sir David Clementi. The BBC's activities would now be governed by the government body OfCom (Office of Communications), rather than a BBC-affiliated agency.

Furthermore, by extending the Charter period to eleven years, it was freed from the political election cycle (up to 2024).

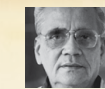
In 2020, the BBC declared a BBC News savings target of £80 million per year by 2022, comprising approximately 520 personnel losses. Despite all the challenges and the financial issues, BBC today stands strong. With a role of fulfilling their mission and promoting their public purposes, it ensures that their purposes mentioned in the charter are delivered accurately. ▶

Palakshi Sathe, SYBA

ON THE COVER...



CHARLIE CHAPLIN who wrote, produced and directed *The Kid* (1921 film). *The Kid* is widely considered one of the greatest films of the silent era.



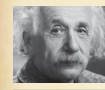
VASANT BAPAT the renowned Marathi poet and author who was born in the year 1922.



SHANTA SHELKE the noted Marathi journalist, writer and poet who was born in 1922.



KATHERINE MANSFIELD who published the short story "The Garden Party" in 1921 which examines class inequality.



ALBERT EINSTEIN who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1921 for his discovery of the Law of the Photoelectric Effect and his services to theoretical Physics.



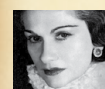
MARIE CURIE who was awarded the John Scott Legacy Medal and Benjamin Franklin Medal in 1921.



STAN LEE who was an American comic book writer, editor, publisher and producer known for the creation of Marvel. He was born in the year 1922.



MAHATMA GANDHI who launched the nationwide Non-Cooperation Movement in 1921.



GABRIELLE "COCO" CHANEL who launched "5" in 1921. This was the first perfume ever to be launched by Chanel.



CHARLES-CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS the famous French composer, organist, conductor and pianist who declared "At the moment I am concentrating my last reserves on giving rarely considered instruments the chance to be heard" in 1921, the year he died.



RABINDRANATH TAGORE who founded the Visva-Bharti University in 1921. It is considered India's oldest central university.



Birth of Communism in China

Today, the People's Republic of China has the largest population in the world. China follows a one-party system rule of the Chinese Communist Party or the CCP. It is headed by the CCP General Secretary who carries out the role of paramount leader of China.

The Chinese Communist Party was formed by Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao, with others, in 1921. There is not one single cause for the formation of the party, but a series of events that impacted and influenced the lives of Chen Duxiu as well as Li Dazhao. As the name of the party suggests, it follows Communist ideology; precisely, the Marxist-Leninist ideology. Last year, the Party celebrated 100 years of its rule. It is interesting to see that what began as a new hope for China by being a strong voice against the government for the rights of common people, went

through a lot of changes as far as the ideologies are concerned. As time passed by, every leader that emerged from this party had his own ideology for the party as well as for the country.

On the 1st of January 1912, the Republic of China (not to be confused with the People's Republic of China) was established and succeeded the Qing Dynasty, an imperial dynasty that ruled over China for more than 250 years. The dynasty had already created anti-imperial thoughts in the minds of Chinese people; but this was a positive change for China. At least theoretically, it was the beginning of a new era. However, it did not last for long.

In 1915, the Second Provisional President of the Republic of China, Yuan Shi Kai declared the Republic of China "The Empire of China" and called himself the "Great Emperor of the Chinese Empire". In 1916, Yuan again

abolished the monarchy and stepped down as the first and last emperor of his dynasty. After the death of Yuan that year, the alliances started fighting for the control of the government which resulted in an unstable central government. Thereafter, China entered the First World War as a member of the Allied Powers. The Premier Duan Qirui of the Republic of China signed military pacts with the Empire of Japan in secrecy, known as the Sino-Japanese Joint Defense Agreement. This agreement allowed Japan various privileges within the territory of China. The contents of the agreement were leaked to the press. This led to a massive student protest which became the foundation for the "May Fourth Movement".

The May Fourth Movement became a patriotic movement of Chinese students who were protesting

the contents of the Paris Peace Conference. On the morning of 4th May 1919, student bodies from more than 10 universities met in Beijing and drafted five resolutions which included promoting student unions and protesting the Treaty of Versailles. Till Afternoon, around 4,000 students from universities like Peking University and Yenching University gathered in front of "Tiananmen" which is a monumental gate in Beijing. Slowly the movement started growing among workers and merchants. After the May Fourth Movement, a discussion started amongst the people for politically realistic policies. Marxist ideas spread like a wildfire. Li Dazhao, who later in his life co-founded the Chinese Communist Party, was already a leading intellectual who had criticized classical Chinese ideas and feudal traditions. He and his scholarly friends supported the ideas of democracy, egalitarianism, and re-examined the Confucian system that China was following for years. During the May Fourth Movement, he emerged as an influential leader for his students as he described democracy, science, and constitutional rule. He emphasized rural society and its importance in creating political movements. He also explored political movements like the Russian Revolution and the Bolshevik Government as a framework for China.

Chen Duxiu believed in the western-style of society with equality and human rights. According to him, in order to build a new state with ideologies that are suitable for modern times, one must suppress the old ideologies. In 1919, Li Dazhao and his Marxist study group caught the attention of Chen Duxiu. Duxiu's ideas were labeled as anti-government



“After May Fourth Movement, many intellectuals started to explore and appreciate Marxism as the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia was considered a victory against the hierarchy of society.”

during the May Fourth Movement and was arrested. After his release, he moved to Shanghai and was intrigued by Marxism and the promotion of rapid social change.

By reading about the revolutions and renaissance that happened in the western world, Li Dazhao thought that China would become a better place by accepting new culture and norms. According to him, peasants in China played the most important role in the political and social change of China. After May Fourth Movement, many intellectuals including Li Dazhao and Chen Duxiu started to explore and appreciate Marxism as the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia was considered a victory against the hierarchy of society. The Russian Revolution of 1917 was a major influence on the life of Li Dazhao. He combined his own nationalist thoughts with the communist ideology to create a political vision for the

country and was involved in forming many socialist and communist groups in Beijing before the establishment of the Chinese Communist Party.

In 1919, the Soviet Union headed an international organization that advocated world communism. This was known as Communist International or Comintern. It inculcated the communist views of Lenin and Marx, as Lenin believed that if the other parts of the world didn't go through the revolution, then the USSR and other communist countries would be crushed by the military might of the capitalist nations. Grigori Voitinsky, with other agents, was sent to China, where he met Li Dazhao and other reformers. Another agent of Comintern worked with Chen Duxiu to draft a declaration.

Voitinsky established the Far Eastern Secretariat of the Communist International in Shanghai and attended meetings of Russian Communists in

China to promote the establishment of the Chinese Communist Party, which he primarily organized and made initial recruitments. Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao formed study societies and created the informal network in 1920 and 1921. The Chinese Communist Party conducted their first National Congress on a boat in South Lake, Jiaxing, Zhejiang province in July, 1921. The formal and unified name for the party was declared as “Zhōngguó Gōngchǎn Dǎng” (Chinese Communist Party) and the final agenda was carried out. Though Li Dazhao and Chen Duxiu were not present for the first national congress of the Chinese Communist Party, they were still considered as prominent co-founders of the party.

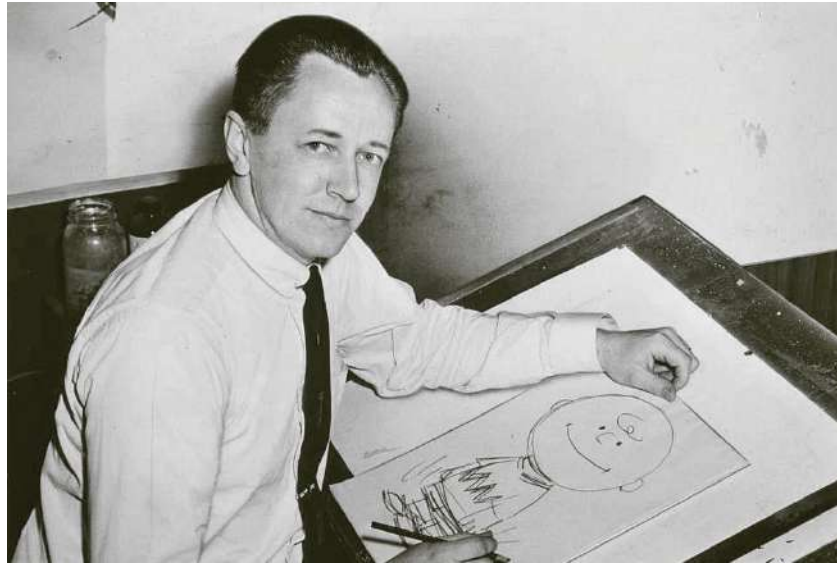
Today, Xi Jinping serves as the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and the 7th President of the People's Republic of China. The role of the Party also increased in China under the leadership of Xi. A new ideology named after Xi, “Xi Jinping's Thought” consists of ideas and policies obtained from the speeches and writings of Xi Jinping. They were added to the Constitution of the Chinese Communist Party in 2017 to be the guide for the political and military views and ideologies of the Chinese Communist Party. ▸

Sarang Kulkarni, T.Y.BAMMC

The “Spark” of a Comical Era

“Try not to have a good time...this was supposed to be educational.”

-Charles M. Schulz



Born on November 26, 1922, Charles Monroe “Sparky” Schulz, took over the world and the skies with his brainchild, *Peanuts*. He is regarded as one of the most influential cartoonists of all time, inspiring quite a few of the bigshots in the world of comics.

Although he was of humble origins, greatness often comes to those who seek it. From childhood itself, Schulz knew he wanted to be a cartoonist. The love for both drawing and enjoying comics was inculcated in Schulz by his parents from a young age itself. In fact, even his nickname “Sparky” was an ode to a character “Spark Plug” from the *Barney Google* comic strip. This beloved nickname was endearingly bestowed

on Schulz by an uncle, who remarked on the odd resemblance of the two. The family moved and Schulz attended kindergarten at the Mattocks School on James Avenue. Even his teachers encouraged his love of drawing.

He says, “My earliest recollection of drawing and getting credit for it and being complimented on it is from kindergarten. I think it was my first day, and the teacher gave us huge sheets of white paper, large black crayons, and told us to draw anything we wanted. I drew a man shoveling snow, and she came around, paused, looked at my picture, and said, ‘Someday, Charles, you’re going to be an artist.’ Now she wasn’t quite right – she didn’t say ‘cartoonist’ – but there was an interesting aspect to this. I had

“The love for both drawing and enjoying comics was inculcated in Schulz by his parents from a young age itself. In fact, even his nickname “Sparky” was an ode to a character “Spark Plug” from the *Barney Google* comic strip.

drawn the snow shovel as a square, but I knew this was not right. I knew nothing about perspective, and didn’t know how to fix it, but I knew that something wasn’t right about this picture. I like to think there was some anticipation there of what was to come.”

Regardless, nothing was handed to Schulz on a silver platter. Living through the Great Depression, he looked for small snippets of light in those dark times. Schulz once remarked that kids could never tell what they were going through, looking back on how he happily ate pancakes for both breakfast and lunch because he loved them, not knowing that it was all his parents could afford at that time. Thankfully, after a little over a year, the family could move back to their hometown and resume their lives. Here, another layer of the foundation of Schulz’s ambition was laid, as the father-son duo loved to read the Sunday newspaper’s comic section to regain their sense of normalcy. His personal favorites were Buck Rogers, Popeye, and Skippy.

Schulz himself remarks: “My dad was always a great comic strip reader, and he and I made sure that all four newspapers published in Minneapolis – St. Paul were brought home. I grew up with only one real career desire in life, and that was to someday draw my own comic strip.”

In 1934, the Schulz family was given

a black and white dog named Spike. Does that description ring a bell? If not, then keep on reading. Spike appeared as a blessing in disguise to the Schulz family, or more like an opportunity. Schulz loved to sketch Spike and his shenanigans. Spike’s shenanigans were a little questionable, to put it lightly... He often snacked on what can be called “Spikey” snacks, ranging from pins to tacks. Schulz’s father, finding this rather amusing, penned a letter to Robert Ripley’s *Believe It or Not* newspaper comics feature describing the family dog’s unique talents to eat all sorts of oddities (thankfully) without adverse results. He noted in a post-script, that, “All these things have been swallowed whole and digested.” Carl included in his letter a small picture of Spike drawn by his son, Charles. The illustration was published alongside a listing of Spike’s strange and unsavory snacks, signed “Sparky”. At age 14, this would mark the point of Charles Schulz’s first published drawing. Spike was also the inspiration behind the beloved Snoopy later on in Schulz’s career.

We’re all familiar with how high school is a turning point for most of us in our lives. The same could be said for Schulz. In his senior year, his mother Dena showed him an advertisement which asked, “Do you like to draw?” The advertisement was for Federal Schools, now known as Art Instruction

Schools, Inc., a correspondence school. Schulz’s parents enrolled him in the correspondence program that spring, after receiving his heartfelt affirmation. Schulz later cited choosing the Federal Schools over other resident art schools in the Twin Cities area due to the fact that, “It was this correspondence course’s emphasis upon cartooning that won me.” Schulz did not know then the window of opportunity this decision would open for him in the future. For then, his career was at a standstill. He still didn’t stop trying, as he actively tried submitting his cartoon art for publication to magazines and even applied to work for Walt Disney.

“The first year or so out of high school, I had very mundane jobs as delivery boys, and I used to send cartoons into magazines and didn’t even come close, I just got nothing but rejection slips. It wasn’t until after World War II, when I came back, that I really was able earnestly to go after what I wanted to do. Those were the formative years, I would say.”

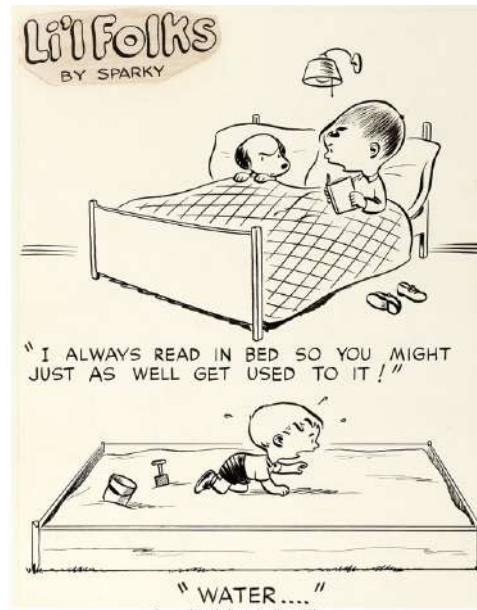
Unfortunately, as the saying goes, “A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor”. At the age of 20, Schulz was drafted to the American Army to fight in World War II. Not long after, he had to face the loss of his dear mother to cervical cancer, and was devastated. After returning from her funeral, he had to leave for Camp Campbell, located at the border of Kentucky and Tennessee for basic training in the Army. He served as a staff sergeant with the 20th Armored Division in Europe during World War II, as a squad leader on a .50 caliber machine gun team. Whenever he’d get free time in the Army, he’d sketch

stills of his life there as well, honing his skills whenever he could. In late 1945, Schulz returned to Minnesota from the Army. Not letting the war dampen his spirits, he worked on lettering another cartoonist's work, and eventually had a couple of his own original comics published in the comic book as well. *Just Keep Laughing*, Schulz's first published panel comic, appeared in the *Topix* comic book in February 1947. The second and final panel was published in April of the same year. In July 1946, Schulz also got a job at his alma mater, at Art Instruction, Inc., where he reviewed, corrected, and graded students' work. Although these jobs were what some people might have considered random, they all were important parts of the journey which eventually led him to his end goal. This serves as a good reminder: we should take every opportunity that comes our way, grab it with both hands, and make use of it to the fullest. No regrets!

Schulz actively put himself out of his comfort zone and explored new opportunities by submitting his work to a variety of publications including *Collier's* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. As they say, good things come to those who wait, his next success resulted in the Minneapolis Tribune publishing two of his comic panels, titled Sparky's *Lil' Folks*.

"I used to bundle my efforts and take the train down to Chicago and visit two

“To his utmost horror, the syndicate brought down the value of his long cherished, childhood dream, to what I daresay, mere peas, as they renamed *Lil' Folks* to *Peanuts*.”



Schulz found success when Minneapolis Tribune published two of his comic panels, titled Sparky's *Lil' Folks*.

or three syndicates there and get rejected and get on the train and come home. In the spring of 1950, I took all the best cartoons I'd done for the Pioneer Press and redrew them and submitted them to United Feature Syndicate. They liked them enough to ask me if I'd care to come to New York and talk about it, and I did. I took along six daily comic strips which had a new approach to humor in strips. If you were to see them now they wouldn't look like much, but at the time it was new." - Charles M. Schulz (1971)

There was a slight hitch in Schulz's plans; the syndicate could not publish Schulz's comics with the name *Lil' Folks*, as the name was similar to another comic, *Tack Knight's Little Folks*. To his utmost horror, the syndicate brought

down the value of his long cherished, childhood dream, to what I daresay, mere peas, as they renamed *Lil' Folks* to *Peanuts*. Schulz was mortified, and made it clear years later as well, that he did not like this title at all. In fact, one might even say, he wasn't nuts about the new title. He accused the production manager at UFS of not having even seen the comic strip before giving it a title, and said that the title would only make sense if there was a character named "*Peanuts*". On the day it was published, Schulz's friend visited a news stand in uptown Minneapolis and asked if there were any newspapers that carried *Peanuts*, to which the news dealer replied, "No, and we don't have any with popcorn either"; this event confirmed his fears concerning the title. *Peanuts* made its first appearance on October 2, 1950, in seven newspapers. The weekly Sunday page debuted on January 6, 1952.

The first strip consisted of three characters, Charlie Brown, Shermie and Patty. Most of the other characters that eventually became regulars of the strip did not appear until later. A lot of the characters were based on the friends and environment around Schulz. As you might have guessed, Snoopy was based on Spike, minus the case of weird munchies. Charlie Brown was named after a co-worker. Peppermint Patty, after his cousin. Linus and Shermie, after his best friends. Schulz's inspiration for Charlie Brown's unrequited love for the Little Red-Haired Girl was Donna Mae Johnson, an Art Instruction Inc. accountant with whom he fell in love. When Schulz finally proposed to her in June 1950, shortly after he had made his first contract with his syndicate,



“The 1960s were considered the golden age of *Peanuts*. Schulz used the characters to satirize the world and the issues of that era. *Peanuts* was ahead of its time in terms of tackling issues such as gender equality, racial equality, etc.”

she turned him down and married another man. Although Schulz named characters after people, the personality and actions of each character were unique to themselves alone, and not to their namesakes.

Schulz says, "I think anyone who is writing finds he puts himself a little bit in all of the characters, at least in this kind of a strip. It's the only way that you can survive when you have to do something every day. You have to put yourself, all of your thoughts, all of your observations and everything you know into the strip."

You've definitely heard of the saying, "Rome wasn't built in a day", right? Similarly, *Peanuts* definitely did not take the world by storm the moment it hit the papers. It rose from the ground up, rising in popularity over time. Regardless of its rather unfortunate name, *Peanuts* did rise, it soared through the clouds with the vigor of a golden eagle scaling the skies. At its height, *Peanuts* was published daily in 2,600 papers in 75 countries, in 21 languages. Over nearly 50 years, Schulz drew 17,897 published *Peanuts* strips. The strips, plus merchandise

and product endorsements, produced revenues of more than \$1 billion per year, with Schulz earning an estimated \$30 million to \$40 million annually. The 1960s were considered the golden age of *Peanuts*. Schulz used the characters to satirize the world and the issues of that era. He took stereotypes and disregarded them like the UFS disregarded his old title. *Peanuts* was ahead of its time in terms of tackling issues such as gender equality, racial equality, etc. Schulz corresponded with his fans and always took their suggestions into consideration, which helped him improve even more. We can take this as an example, as to how constructive criticism and being open to suggestions can help a person improve significantly.

Schulz had quite a few feathers in his cap due to *Peanuts*. He received *The National Cartoonists Society's Humor Comic Strip Award* in 1962, *Society's Elzie Segar Award* in 1980, first two-time winner of their *Reuben Award* for 1955 and 1964, *Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award* in 1999, and many more such awards. On June 28, 1996, Schulz was

honored with a star on the *Hollywood Walk of Fame*, adjacent to Walt Disney's. The awards just kept coming. He's had theme parks, museums, statues, etc. all in the honor of his work. Even an airport was named after Schulz! *Peanuts* was also acclaimed by the sky, as Snoopy had been appointed as the personal safety mascot for NASA astronauts since 1968. NASA issues a Silver Snoopy award to its employees or contractors' employees who promote flight safety. The black-and-white communications cap carrying an audio headset worn since 1968 by the Apollo, Skylab, and Space Shuttle astronauts was commonly referred to as a Snoopy cap. In 2006, Forbes ranked Schulz as the third-highest-earning deceased celebrity, as he had earned \$35 million in the previous year. Schulz's net worth was more than a whopping \$1.1 billion.

As they say, all good things must come to an end, and the beloved *Peanuts* had to meet its demise as well with the declining health of its writer. The final strip was released on February 13, 2000. Schulz's comic outlived him, as this strip was released the day after his death. He battled colon cancer, and unfortunately lost. Yet as the world lost him physically, he managed to stay alive in the hearts of those around him through his comics. He left behind a legacy and managed to fulfill his dreams, even till the very end.

"If I were to give an opportunity to present a gift to the next generation, it would be the ability for each individual to learn to laugh at themselves."

-Charles Schulz

Syed Mahwash Fatima, TYBsc BT

Marie Stopes: How Preventing A Life Saves Another

In this modern age, we have various contraceptive methods to keep us healthy and safe. However, do you ever wonder who took the initiative to dwell on such a controversial topic? It was a lady named Dr. Marie Stopes. She laid the stepping stone and opened the first-ever birth control clinic - Mothers' Clinic - in Great Britain on 17th March, 1921. It offered birth control advice to mothers.

Marie Stopes was a revolutionary woman. Born in Edinburgh, she was the daughter of Henry Stopes (engineer, architect and paleontologist) and Charlotte Carmichael (Shakespearean scholar and women's rights campaigner). Hailing from such an academic family, she expressed interest in science and humanitarian work. Stopes studied at the University College London and graduated with a first-class B. Sc. in 1902. She went on to do her postgraduate in paleobotany and received a doctorate from the University of Munich in 1904. Brilliant in academics, she worked with reputed scientists and carried out numerous research works.

Apart from being exceptionally talented, Stopes also had an interest in writing. Spurred by the shackles and restraints of her first marriage, her first book, titled 'Married Love' was published on 26th March 1918. This was the first-ever book to discuss sexual relationships from a female perspective. Her second



book, published in 1918 named 'Wise Parenthood' became the best-selling guide to birth control. Stopes stated that contraceptives are, "the greatest and most beneficial tools in the hands of the human race, and use would ensure world peace and racial progress". Writing on such a topic of controversy was not easy; Stopes received backlash from the Roman Catholic Church. However, she didn't turn her back from the criticism she received - instead, she

wrote a book addressed to the church named 'Roman Catholic methods of birth control'. Stopes also published 'A Letter to Working Mothers' on how to have healthy children and avoid weakening pregnancies. It was a 16-page pamphlet - a condensed version of Wise Parenthood - designed for the poor and distributed for free.

Among her multiple victories, the one that stood out was the establishment of Mothers' Clinic - the first family planning clinic in

“Spurred by the shackles and restraints of her first marriage, her first book, titled 'Married Love' was published on 26th March 1918. This was the first-ever book to discuss sexual relationships from a female perspective.

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Britain - along with her second husband Humphrey Verdon Roe at 61 Marlborough Road, Holloway, North London. It moved to Whitfield Street in Bloomsbury in 1925 where Stopes wrote 'The First Five Thousand' - the first official report of her clinic. Stopes also established a network of regional clinics in Leeds, Aberdeen, Swansea, Cardiff, and Belfast, which were modelled after the London Clinic. Moreover, she instituted the first-ever mobile clinics which operated on two horse-drawn caravans to travel into small towns. The Clinics were constructed well with structured and private spaces, designed for the comfort of the people. The staff of the clinic included qualified midwives as well as mothers. Stopes' clinics typically practiced three types of reproductive planning: preventing unwanted births, spacing children in a family, and helping infertile couples to conceive. It was known that Stopes was strongly opposed to abortions. The most famous device of Stopes was the 'Prorace' brand of cervical caps, a barrier contraceptive manufactured by the London Rubber Company according to Stopes' specifications. This cervical cap caused a major dispute and was the topic of debate in Stopes' case against Catholic doctor Halliday G. Sutherland who considered the use of cervical cap as harmful. Stopes made the best of this opportunity and wrote a blistering review in the first

issue of Birth Control News which gained her enormous publicity.

Reports say that only less than one percent of her patients conceived using the contraceptives that her clinic recommended. Furthermore, around ten thousand women received contraceptive advice by 1929. Stopes advised women along with trained individuals on how to use contraceptives and condoms. Around the same time, many family planning organizations were budding and they all joined together to form the National Birth Control Council, now called the Family Planning Association. Stopes also became the founder and president of the Society for Constructive Birth Control, a platform through which she spoke widely about the benefits of married women having healthy babies.

As an advocate of humanitarian work, it was rather a surprise that she believed in eugenics - the controlled, selective breeding of human populations so as to improve human genetic composition - which was the product of the intellectual ideas carried by many over the centuries. As a result of this, it was also said that the practice of birth control was to improve the quality of genes of the human population. She maintained that a child should not be born to weakened parents and hence, also wrote a book promoting eugenics called 'Radiant



Motherhood'. Her movement was a crucial one and has been instrumental in changing the lives of women.

After suffering a stillbirth, she successfully had her second child, Harry Stopes Roe, in 1924. Her later years witnessed isolation and frustration. Stopes was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer but refused to take medications and instead, adopted holistic treatment. She passed away on the 2nd of October, 1958.

This fierce woman paved a way for the future with her progressive ideas and values, praised by many for her birth control movement. Though she was disregarded for her belief in eugenics, she was the only courageous woman who dared to address a taboo issue for the betterment of society. Stopes' zealous curiosity for knowledge and learning was her distinguishing quality which helped her fight the ingrained orthodox mentality in society. The concepts she introduced in her books received enormous public responses. Stopes' success in changing people's attitudes and relationships made her an icon of her era. ▀

Shreya Shinde, FYBA

Katherine Mansfield: A Modernist

Katherine Mansfield was born on October 14, 1888 to Annie and Harold Beauchamp. Her father worked as a clerk before becoming a partner in the importing company Bannatyne and Co. He eventually rose to be the Chairperson of the Board of the Bank of New Zealand and received a knighthood for his contributions to the commercial world.

The family moved out of “that dark little cubby hole,” as Mansfield remembered her birthplace, to live in the country at Chesney Wold, in what is now the Wellington suburb of Karori, in 1893. Mansfield continued to live here with her parents, her three surviving sisters, Vera, Charlotte, and Jeanne, as well as her grandmother and her two teenage aunts. Her only brother Leslie was born at this time, and she spent the finest years of her childhood there. Mansfield’s short-story, *Prelude* describes the move and the events that followed. Her most well-known story, *The Doll’s House*, is set in this new house and the neighbourhood elementary school.

In 1898, the family moved back to the community. At 75 Tinakori Road, they resided in a larger home that would later serve as the backdrop for the story *The Garden Party*. Mansfield first attended Wellington Girls’ College before

transferring to Fitzherbert Terrace’s newly established Miss Swainson’s private school. The three oldest girls were brought to England in 1903 to complete their studies at Queen’s College, London. It was there that she befriended Ida Baker, a South African.

Mansfield stated that New Zealanders “...do not know their alphabet” and that living in Wellington was monotonous. She also indicated a desire to return to Europe to pursue her writing career. Her father agreed after she had three pieces published in the Melbourne publication, *The Native Companion*.

She continued to play the cello while also making contributions to the

college’s literary community. She chose the pen name “Katherine Mansfield” and started writing the unfinished book *Juliet*. Mansfield traveled to England with the help of her father, who provided her with a yearly allowance of £100 (which was increased multiple times over the years as she required medical attention). She never returned to the country of her origin. She went on a camping trip to the Central North Island before she departed, and she later used that experience as the basis for her works *Millie* and *The Woman at the Store*.

She started several relationships in her first year in London while only publishing one poem and one short fiction. Mansfield met John Middleton Murry, the Oxford student and editor of *Rhythm*, after arriving back in London, in 1911. They fell in love and later were married in 1918. More of Mansfield’s pieces were published in *Rhythm*, which she later co-edited and later became the short-lived *Blue Review*. She and Murry resided in a number of homes in England and for a short time in Paris. They returned to London, where Murry was employed by *The New Statesman*, after *The Blue Review* failed and Murry was declared bankrupt. Murry and Mansfield had only just been estranged by the start of World War I.

When she eventually made it back to London, she enjoyed

spending time with her brother Leslie, who was studying to be an officer in England. Some of her Wellington stories were inspired by their recollections of their childhood in Wellington.

Leslie Beauchamp tragically passed away in October 1915. She went back to France because of her sorrow over his passing, her own health issues, and her desire to write. *The Garden Party*, like most modernist fiction, was written in the shadow, both historic and ethical, of World War I. The death of Mansfield’s younger brother in a World War I training drill in Belgium by a prematurely detonated grenade upset the author. It may have affected her handling of death in *The Garden Party*. Leslie died in October, and the nostalgia of their planned journey became a key motif in her art. She and her brother spent the summer in London together arranging a trip home to New Zealand.

Mansfield eventually made Bandol her home and started writing *The Aloe* there at the “Villa Pauline.” It is also where she composed *Je ne parle pas français* and started *Bliss*. Her standing as a writer was cemented by the 1920 release of *Bliss and Other Stories* by Constable. Mansfield and Ida Baker arrived back in London in April 1918. Mansfield and Murry relocated to their own home in Hampstead, London, known as “The Elephant,” after a brief stay in Looe, Cornwall, following their May wedding. Mansfield was told to check into a sanitarium after receiving a TB diagnosis in October, though. She was forced to stop spending the winters in London.

Mansfield started writing book reviews for *The Atheneum* when Murry was named editor in 1919.

She produced eight short stories, among which were *Miss Brill* and *The Daughters of the Late Colonel*, of which she declared “the only story that properly satisfies me.”

Some of Mansfield’s last and most well-known pieces, including *At the Bay*, *The Garden Party*, and *The Doll’s House*, were written in 1921 and 1922 as she nostalgically recalled the homeland of her birthplace that she had hated as a youth. The colonial Victorian setting of her New Zealand childhood is clearly brought to mind by these tales.

In an attempt to find new treatment for her illness, Mansfield travelled from Montana to Paris in 1922. “The longer I live, the more often I return to New Zealand”, she wrote in a letter to her father in March. She wrote *The Fly* and then *The Canary*, her final story, during this time in Paris. She departed for London after learning about the Gurdjieff Institute for the Harmonious Development of Man, which was located in Avon, close to Fontainebleau. On October 16, 1922, she enrolled there in search of a physical cure as well as spiritual enlightenment that might hasten her recovery.

She seemed content and seemed to find some serenity there. Murry paid her a visit on January 9th, 1923 and she passed away that evening from a haemorrhage and was buried in the nearby Avon cemetery.

One of her favourite passages from *Henry IV Part I* of Shakespeare, which she had also chosen for the title page of *Bliss and Other Stories*, is the epitaph on her grave: “But I tell you, my lord fool, out of this nettle danger, we pluck the flower, safety.”

Katherine Mansfield was a

representative of the Modernist literary movement, which flourished from the 1910s to the 1920s. Modernist authors were particularly interested in investigating the subconscious, as opposed to Realism, which tried to present a truthful portrayal of life. Modernism can be thought of as a movement that sought to break free from tradition and established principles. Rather than portraying reality objectively, these authors decided to take on a subjective point of view by entering a character’s psyche, recognizing that everyone sees and experiences the world differently.

Mansfield’s writing is distinguished by the presence of a third-person narrator who can enter and exit a character’s thoughts. She frequently concentrated on women and wrote about their psychological worlds and challenges. Such is the case in her classic short story “*The Garden Party*,” in which the protagonist, Laura, ponders life and death as well as social class inequalities. This is apparent when Laura considers the men who assisted in the preparation of the party: “Why couldn’t she have workmen for her friends instead of the stupid boys she danced with and who came to Sunday night supper?”

Posthumously, Mansfield’s letters, diaries, notebooks, dramatic sketches, and a few of her short tales and poetry were made public. They received a lot of praise. Mansfield’s short stories continue to be popular around the world. ▀

Shreya Naik, SYBA



The Family Photo

Looking at the black and white photograph in front of her, one could see the gears of Lakshmana's brain turning hard. "That's our great grandmother?" She asks Parvati, her elder sister standing right next to her. Parvati nods her head.

Both the girls closely inspect the photograph. It is a family photo with the man of the house sitting on a beautiful cushioned chair with his wife. His five children stand in increasing order of height behind their parents. There are white cracks on the surface of the photograph indicating its age.

Currently, 12-year-old Lakshmana and 14 year old Parvati have their eyes focused on a young girl in the photo.

"Why is she the only one smiling?" Lakshmana wondered.

"Girls! Please don't play around with the album. It's late now, you will miss school if you stay up longer!" Their mother calls out from the other end of the room. Lakshmana and Parvati are led to their bedroom. Mother tucks Lakshmana in when the child voices her question. "Mom, what was great grandma's name, what was she like?"

Her mother sits down on the bed. "She was called Sita. I was a baby when she passed away but I've heard mom say that she was a very warm person. She made the best sweets. That's all I remember." she says with a small smile.

"I think we would have been best friends!" Lakshmana exclaims. "No one likes sweets more than

me." To prove her point she waves the chocolate she has in the pocket of her frock.

Parvati and their mother have a hearty laugh at this. She brushes Lakshmana's hair lightly. "I'm sure she would have loved you."

"I wish I could meet her somehow," whispers Lakshmana between her big yawn.

Lakshmana is woken up by a light tap on her face. She opens her eyes to see a dense canopy of a banyan tree. The sun is warm and a pleasant breeze blows. "What an amazing dream!" She thinks to herself.

Slowly getting to her feet, she decides to wander around a bit. It seemed like she was in a village. There was a line of kutcha houses made of mud. More curious than scared, she began to walk down a worn path when she heard the clip-clop of hooves

behind her. A horse cart passed by. She swiftly tried to follow it.

After a short while, the cart stopped in front of a small studio. A family dressed in traditional clothes got off the cart: two young boys in dhoti kurta, followed by a little girl in a frock and two women, one younger than the other. A man paid the driver with tiny coins.

Lakshmana tried moving closer to get a better look and followed the family into the shop. There was a man standing in the small room who welcomed his customers. The adults fell into a hearty conversation and the kids busied themselves looking around the tiny room. The young girl sat in the corner. Lakshmana approached her quite like a kitten. When the girl saw Lakshmana she gave a small smile. Then suddenly her stomach growled. Lakshmana wanted to laugh but stopped herself when she saw how embarrassed the girl looked.

The conversation among the adults had come to an end and they were asked to sit on the chairs prepared. The children followed. As the young girl moved toward her family Lakshmana grabbed her hand and placed candy in it. The girl gave a puzzled look. Lakshmana pointed at her mouth telling her to eat it.

Before the girl had a chance to process anything she was dragged away by her siblings. The camera was ready, while everyone looked at the huge lens of the boxy camera, the girl's eyes did not



leave Lakshmana's. Lakshmana again pointed at her mouth and acted as if she swallowed something in her hand in the hope the girl would understand what to do with the candy. As the cameraman counted down, everyone stood still.

The young girl finally understood what the stranger wanted her to do. She quickly put the candy in her mouth. A smile spread on her face as the cameraman announced they were done. He was just telling them to come

back in a week; the photos would take time to-

Suddenly the ground began to shake. Terrified, Lakshmana closed her eyes tightly and felt her stomach drop, like she fell into her own body. When her eyes shot open, she was on her bed, with Parvati on her side sleeping soundly. She shook her awake and told her what had happened.

"What a peculiar dream!" Parvati announced. Lakshmana felt something in her pocket - an empty wrapper of a

candy. "Paru, did you eat my candy?" She asked. Parvati shook her head. "No silly, I don't even like sweets." Lakshmana went to find her mother to tell her about her dream when she noticed the album they were looking at yesterday- the family photo of her great-grandmother. And she could bet her secret candy stash that there was a lump in the young girl's cheeks. ▀

Gayathri Gopakumar, SYBA

சுதந்திரம்

சுதந்திர காற்றை சுவாசிக்க பல உயிர்களின் முச்சுக்காற்ற நின்றத!

இந்திய மண்ணிற்கு இத உன்னத நாள்!
 சுதந்திரக்காற்றை சுகமாய் சுவாசித்த நன்னாள்!
 அகிம்சை வழி கிடத்தை அன்பு திரநாள்!
 அடிமடை சங்கிலியை உடத்தை அற்புத நாள்!
 வள்ளையனை வளையேற்றி வற்றி பரெநாள்!
 இமயத்தையும் கமரியையும் இணைத்த இனிய நாள்!
 கம்பீரமாய் மணிக்கொடி ஏற்றும் ஆனந்தநாள்!

உழைப்பாலும், உண்மையாலும் உயர்ந்த
 நாமம் காட்டவோமே!
 அயல்நாட அசந்த பார்க்கும் அளவுக்க நம்
 தசேத்தை உயர்த்திக் காட்டவோமே!

நன்றி!!

Mahalaxmi Nadar, SYBA

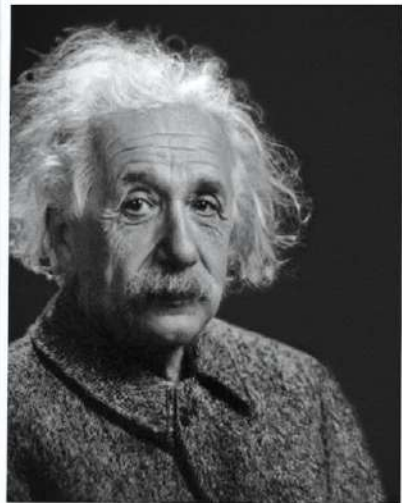
Freedom
The most important day for all Indians. The day when we realized the sense of freedom. The day we achieved our independence via non-violence. The day when slavery was killed and we won our birth right from the Britishers. The day which connected the mountains in the north and the sea in the south. The day which made us feel proud of our lives.

NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATES

• The Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922 was awarded to **Niels Henrik David Bohr** for his contribution in the investigation of the structure of atoms and of the radiation emanating from them.



NEIL BOHR



ALBERT EINSTEIN

• **Albert Einstein** was awarded the Nobel prize for Theoretical Physics and the discovery of law.

• **Frederick Soddy** was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry for his contributions to the knowledge of the chemistry of radioactive substances as well as his investigations into the origin and nature of isotopes.

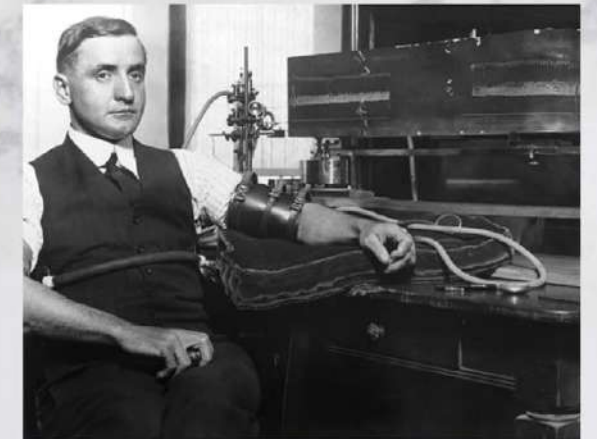


FEDERICK SODDY

THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

1921-22

• The Lie Detector Tests that are trending on social media platforms nowadays trace back to the 1920s. William Moulton Marston developed his version of a polygraph machine – which had been invented in 1921 by a student at the University of California, Berkeley.

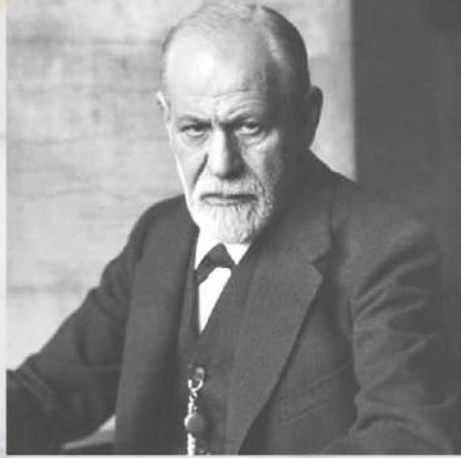


• The BCG vaccine against Tuberculosis was first used on the humans in 1921. The vaccine was developed by French scientists Albert Calmette and Camille Guérin.

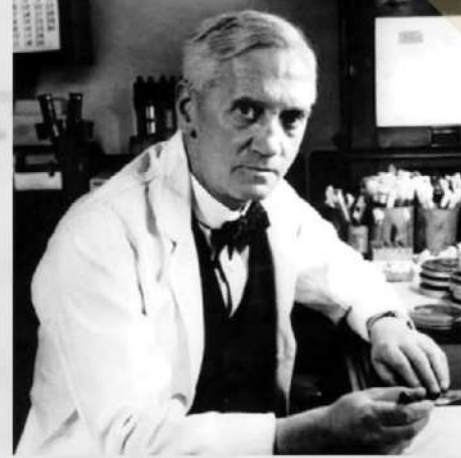
• Comparatively lesser known 'Vitamin E' was discovered a 100 years ago in 1921. Its deficiency can be caused due to problems with digesting dietary fat.



THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES 1921-22



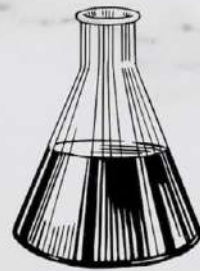
Sigmund Freud published Group Psychology and Analysis of Ego (1921)



Lysosome was discovered by **Alexander Fleming** (1921)



In 1922, **Karen Horney** founded feminist psychology.



Insulin was discovered by **Federick G Banting** at the University of Toronto in 1921.

किती सहज...



कविवर्य विश्वनाथ वामन उर्फ वसंत बापट यांचे हे जन्म शताब्दी वर्ष आहे. १९२२ साली कराडला जन्मलेल्या या तेजस्वी कवीने विसाव्या शतकाची जवळपास सहा दशके आपल्या लेखणी-वाणीने अक्षरशः गाजवली. “बुदुक टेमरे”पासून ते वॉशिंग्टनपर्यंत, सर्वत्र आपल्या बहारदार रचनांची छाप त्यांनी सोडली. भारताच्या स्वातंत्र्य चळवळीत, संयुक्त महाराष्ट्र चळवळीत सक्रिय सहभाग घेऊन राष्ट्रीय सेवादलाच्या कला पथका मार्फत, आणि “साधना” साप्ताहिकाचे संपादक म्हणून अनेक सामाजिक समस्यांविषयी जनजागरण देखील त्यांनी केले. त्याशिवाय मराठी आणि संस्कृत भाषा साहित्याचे समीक्षक आणि प्राध्यापक म्हणून पुढच्या पिढीला साहित्याकडे पाहण्याची दृष्टी त्यांनी दिली, आणि इतकेच नव्हे, तर, जगभर प्रवास करून “बारा गावचं पाणी”, “अहा, देश कसा छान!” आणि “गोष्टी देशांतरीच्या” या प्रवासवर्णनांतून मराठी वाचकालाही आपले अनुभव दिले. बापटांनी जेव्हा

“ वास्तविक बापटांची “किती सहज” ही कविता देशातील राजकीय परिस्थितीवर परखड भाष्य करते. परंतु तिच्या शीर्षकाप्रमाणे बापट आयुष्य जगले. उमेदीवीच नाहीत तर सारीच वर्ष उमेदीने जगणारा हा कवी जितक्या सहजतेने जगला तितक्याच सहजतेने व्यक्त झाला.

वयाच्या पंचाहत्तराव्या वर्षात पदार्पण केले, तेव्हा त्यांचे मित्र कवि मंगेश पाडगांवकर यांनी लिहिले होते: “ अवघे पाऊणशे वयमान! शक्यच नाही. दंताजीपासून कानोजीपर्यंत बापट अजून पूर्वीसारखेच ठणठणीत आहेत. व्यासपीठावर उभे राहून लावण्या म्हणू लागले की, अजूनही आवाज कसा सुरेल, मिस्कील आणि खणखणीत लागतो.” वास्तविक बापटांची “किती सहज” ही कविता देशातील राजकीय परिस्थितीवर परखड भाष्य करते. परंतु तिच्या शीर्षकाप्रमाणे बापट आयुष्य जगले. उमेदीचीच नाहीत तर सारीच वर्ष

उमेदीने जगणारा हा कवी जितक्या सहजतेने जगला तितक्याच सहजतेने व्यक्त झाला. याच बहुआयामी व्यक्तिमत्त्वाची ही थोडक्यात ओळख. बालवयातच बापट अनुष्ठप् छंदात संस्कृत रचना करत असत आणि पुण्याच्या नूतन मराठी विद्यालयात त्यांच्यातल्या कवीला प्रोत्साहन देणारे शिक्षकही लाभले. पुढे १९४२ साली जेव्हा महात्मा गांधींनी “चले जाव”चा नारा दिला, तेव्हा वसंत बापट यांनी काही काळ भूमिगत राहून काम केले. सुरूंग लावणे, तारा तोडणे अशा साहसी कारवायांसह जनमानसात क्रांतिकारी

विचार रुजवण्याच्या हेतूने त्यांनी एक गुप्त नभोवाणी व्यवस्थाही सुरू केली. याच काळात “सैन्य चालले पुढे”सारखी त्यांची गीते लोकप्रिय झाली. याच चळवळीदरम्यान साने गुरूजी व एस.एम. जोशी यांच्याशी बापट यांचा संबंध आला व पुढे राष्ट्रीय सेवादलात सक्रिय होऊन कलापथकाची निर्मिती व नेतृत्व त्यांनी केले.

“बिजली”(१९५२), “राजसी”, “मानसी”, “अकरावी दिशा”, “प्रवासाच्या कविता”, आणि इतर अनेक काव्यसंग्रहातून बापटांनी नाट्यपूर्ण कविता मराठी वाचकाला दिल्या. शृंगारिक आणि लडिवाळ कविता असोत वा वीररसाने ओथंबलेले पोवाडे किंवा तडफदार लावण्या असोत, प्रत्येक काव्यप्रकार बापटांनी आपलासा केला. समीक्षक श्यामला वनारसे यांनी बापटांना रचनेचे “प्रभू” म्हटले आहे. त्यांची कविता काव्यप्रकाराला अनुसरून वेषभूषा करत असते असे म्हणायला हरकत नाही. उदाहरणार्थ “कुंपण” ही लहान मुलाच्या तोंडी असलेली कविता अगदी सरळ, निरागसपणे समाजातील उपेक्षित घटकांच्या दुःखाची जाणिव करून देते:

“आंबा खाऊन फेकली मी
कुंपणाबाहेर कोय
त्याने म्हटले घेऊ का?
मी म्हटले होय
तेव्हापासून पोटात माझ्या
कुठंतरी टोचतंय गं
झोपतानाही गादीमध्ये
कुंपण मला बोचतंय गं”

तसेच ते “किती सहज” या काहीशा क्लिष्ट कवितेतील “तीन ताड पूर्वजांचे पुत्र तीन फुटी” या एकाच ओळीत अवघ्या कवितेचे सार सांगतात. कविवर्य विंदा करंदीकरांच्या शब्दांत सांगायचे झाले तर बापट हा “शाहिरी काव्य व अर्वाचीन काव्य यांना जोडणारा प्रतिभासंपन्न दुवा होता.” त्यांच्या या प्रतिभेमुळे भारताबाहेरही त्यांना लोकप्रियता लाभली. इतकी की अमेरिकेचे तत्कालीन राष्ट्राध्यक्ष जॉर्ज बुश यांनीदेखील बापटांच्या संकल्पित महाकाव्याची कांडे असलेला “साधना” विशेषांक मागवला होता!

१९६०च्या दशकात आपले मित्र कविवर्य



विंदा करंदीकर व कविवर्य मंगेश पाडगांवकर यांच्यासह महाराष्ट्रातील गावागावांमध्येच नाही तर देशाबाहेरही प्रवास करून बापट कविता सादर करत असत. या तिघांचे विलक्षण सख्य होते, व तिघे एकत्र आले तर “तीन खट्याळ पोरे एकत्र जमली की जसा उनाडपणा करतील, एकमेकांची थटा वा टिंगलटवाळी करतील तसा सर्व प्रकार” होत असे, असे वर्णन पाडगांवकर यांनी केले आहे. याच दरम्यान वसंत बापट माटुंग्याच्या रामनारायण रूईया महाविद्यालयात प्राध्यापकही होते. १९७४-८२ या कालावधीत मुंबई विद्यापीठात ‘गुरुदेव रवींद्रनाथ टागोर तौलनिक साहित्याभ्यास’ या केंद्राचे पहिले प्राध्यापक होते आणि ‘तौलनिक साहित्याभ्यास: मूलतत्त्वे आणि दिशा’ (१९८०) हे मार्गदर्शनपर पुस्तक त्यांनी लिहिले. पुढे “साधना” साप्ताहिकाचे संपादक म्हणून त्यांनी काम पहिले. त्यांचे सहकारी ग.प्र. प्रधान सांगतात, की भाषेवर प्रभुत्व असल्याने बापट स्वतःच साप्ताहिकाची प्रुफे तपासत. १९९०च्या दशकातही साहित्यिक म्हणून ते सक्रिय होते व १९९९ साली मुंबईतील अखिल भारतीय मराठी साहित्य संमेलनाचे अध्यक्षपद त्यांनी भूषविले.

बापटांच्या जन्म शताब्दी वर्षाच्या निमित्ताने प्रकाशित झालेल्या “साधना” विशेषांकात बापट यांचे “रूईआ” महाविद्यालयातील विद्यार्थिनी, “साधने”तील सहकारी, प्रकाशक, समीक्षक यांनी त्यांच्या आठवणींना उजाळा दिला आहे. या अंकाने प्राध्यापक, कवी, शाहीर, गीतकार, समीक्षक, संपादक, कार्यकर्ता, वक्ता, आणि शोमन अशा विंदांनी गणलेल्या त्यांच्या व्यक्तिमत्त्वाच्या नऊ पैलूंवर प्रकाश पाडला आहे. त्या वर्णनावरून

वसंत बापट ही प्रत्यक्षात किती समृद्ध आणि संवेदनशील तरी रोखठोक व रूबाबदार व्यक्ती होती याची प्रचिती येते. साने गुरूजी व एस.एम. जोशीसारख्या थोर समाजसेवकांच्या तालमीत तयार झालेल्या वसंत बापटांमधेही समाजसेवेचे रसायन पुरेपूर उतरले होते आणि कलेच्या रूपाने समाजाला त्यांनी अविरत सेवा देऊ केली.

आता कविवर्य बापटांच्या निधनाला सुमारे वीस वर्षे झाली आहेत. परंतु हे “चैतन्याने सळसळणारे झाड” आजही जगभरातील मराठी रसिकांच्या मनात मुळे घट्ट रुजवून उंच उभे आहे. “गगन सदन”, व “छडी लागे...” सारखी त्यांची गीते चिरतरुण आहेत आणि आजची परिस्थिती पाहता त्यांच्या औपरोधिक आणि परखड कवितांनाही इतक्यात मरण नाही. अमाप प्रतिभेच्या या कवीला कधीही कृतकृत्य झाल्यासारखे वाटले नाही; याउलट आणिक किती करता आले असते या कल्पनेनेच ते असमाधानी असत. ते स्वतःला “पसायदान”वादी म्हणत, व जगत्कल्याणासाठी त्यांनी रचलेले हे आधुनिक पसायदान प्रत्येक आधुनिक मानवाने स्मरणात ठेवावे असेच आहे:

देह मंदिर, चित्त मंदिर, एक तेथे प्रार्थना
सत्य सुंदर मंगलाची नित्य हो आराधना

Vedang Deshpande, SYBA

सदाबहार शंताबाई

आपल्या महाराष्ट्रात अनेक दिग्गज कवी व कवयित्री होऊन गेले ज्यांनी त्यांच्या लेखणीतून सर्वसामान्यांच्या भावना काव्य रूपाने सादर केल्या. त्यातीलच एक सुप्रसिद्ध नाव म्हणजे कवयित्री ‘शान्ताबाई शेळके’. २०२२ हे त्यांचं जन्मशताब्दी वर्ष!

शान्ता जनार्दन शेळके यांचा जन्म १२ ऑक्टोबर १९२२ रोजी पुण्यातील इंदापूर येथे झाला. त्यांचं शिक्षण हुजूरपागा शाळेत व स. प. महाविद्यालयात झालं. मला या पूर्वी शान्ता शेळके ह्या फक्त त्यांनी लिहिलेल्या गाण्यांमुळे माहीत होत्या; पण आम्हाला गेल्यावर्षी त्यांचा ‘वडीलधारी माणसे’ हा व्यक्तिचित्राचा संग्रह अभ्यासक्रमात असल्यामुळे त्यांच्या जीवनाविषयी जाणून घेण्याची संधी मिळाली. ह्या पुस्तकात त्यांनी त्यांच्या आयुष्यातील विविध टप्प्यांवर भेटलेल्या थोर माणसांबद्दल व त्यांच्या योगदानाबद्दल ऋण व्यक्त केले आहे.

शान्ताबाईंच्या आयुष्यात त्यांनी अत्यंत समृद्ध असे व्यक्तिमत्त्व प्रथम पाहिलेले ते म्हणजे त्यांची आई; ज्यांना त्या ‘वहिनी’ म्हणून संबोधत असत. त्यांच्याचमुळे शान्ताबाईंना साहित्य, काव्य, शब्दांतला गोडवा यांची पहिली जाण आली. अनेक श्लोक, स्तोत्र, चारोळ्या, गाणी, ओव्या यांच्यात रस निर्माण झाला.

शालेय शिक्षणात इंग्रजी पाहिलीत असतानाचा एक प्रसंग आहे : एके दिवशी त्यांच्या वर्गात शिक्षक एक कविता शिकवत असताना त्यांना विचारलेल्या सर्व प्रश्नांची उत्तरे अचूक दिल्याबद्दल त्यांचे सर्वांकडून फार कौतुक झाले. त्यामुळे त्यांना स्वर्ग ठेगंगा झाल्यासारखे वाटत होते. त्या स्वतःवर फारच खुश होत्या. पुढील गणिताच्या तासाला परीक्षेचे पेपर मिळणार होते. त्यामुळे त्यांना गणिताच्या मर्काची अजिबात फिकीर नव्हती. पेपर मिळाला आणि त्या चक्क



पन्नास पैकी शून्य मार्क मिळवून नापास झाल्या होत्या. ज्या शिक्षकांनी आधीच्या तासाला त्यांचे कौतुक केले होते, त्यांनीच शांताबाईंच्या हातावर दोन छड्या मारल्या. तिथून पुढे असे काही घडले व त्या स्वतः फार खुश झाल्या की हा किस्सा आठवून लगेच भानावर येत.

शैक्षणिक जीवनात त्यांना गुरुवर्य माटे व प्राध्यापक जोग यांसारखे प्रेमळ व विचारवंत गुरू लाभले. कॉलेजच्या मासिकात लिहिलेल्या लेखासाठी माट्यांकडून मिळालेल्या शाबासकी व कौतुकामुळे त्यांनी बी. ए. ला संस्कृतचे अतोनात आकर्षण असूनही मराठी विषय निवडला. प्राध्यापक जोग ह्यांचामुळे त्यांना अनेक अंक व विविध लेखकांची पुस्तके वाचावयास मिळाली. एम. ए. परीक्षेच्या वेळीही स्वतःच्या भाषाशास्त्राच्या वहा त्यांनी शान्ताबाईंना अभ्यासाकरता दिल्या. त्या म्हणत, “एम. ए. ची परीक्षा झाल्यानंतर त्यांच्या स्वभावाशी, आवडीनिवडीशी आणि काम करण्याच्या कुवतीशी विसंगत असा वर्तमानपत्रातल्या कामाचा पेशा मी पत्करला म्हणून अनेकांना आश्चर्य वाटले”. त्यांच्या आचार्य अत्रे यांशी संबंध ‘नवयुग’ या मासिकामुळे आला. तेव्हा त्यांनी स्फुटलेखन, भाषांतर यांतून मासिकात लिखाणास सुरुवात केली व पुढे पाच - सहा वर्षे

तिथे नोकरी केली. तिथे नोकरी करत असताना अत्रे ह्यांनी त्यांना लेखनाची नवी दृष्टी दिली.

त्यानंतर त्यांनी नागपुरातील हिस्लॉप महाविद्यालय, तसेच मुंबईतील रुईया व महर्षी दयानंद महाविद्यालयांमध्ये मराठीच्या प्राध्यापिका म्हणून काम केले. आळंदी येथे १९९६ साली भरलेल्या अखिल भारतीय मराठी संमेलनाच्या त्या अध्यक्ष होत्या. शान्ता बाईंनी गाण्यांचं लेखन ‘नवयुग’ साठी काम करत असतानाच सुरू केलं. दिनकरराव पाटील व माधव चित्रे यांच्या ‘राम राम पावणं’ या चित्रपटा करता त्यांनी प्रथमच गाणी लिहिली; ज्यांना लता मंगेशकर यांनी स्वर दिला. ‘किलबिल किलबिल पक्षी बोलती’ हे त्यांचं गीत लाहानपणी मी ऐकलेलं पाहिलेलं मराठी गाणं आहे आणि ते अजूनही मला पाठ आहे. त्यांना गाण्यांच्या लेखनामुळे अनेक दिग्गज कलाकार व गायक यांची संगत लाभली. अशा भोसले, हृदयनाथ व लता मंगेशकर यांचाही सहवास लाभला. लता बाईंनी त्यांना भरभरून स्नेह दिला. अडचणीच्या काळात त्या खूपच सहृदयतेने समजून घेत, सल्ले देत. अश्या अनेक थोर व्यक्तींमुळे शान्ताबाईंना विविध प्रकारे मार्गदर्शन मिळाले, त्यांच्या वर चांगले संस्कार घडले म्हणूनच आज फक्त एक कवयित्री म्हणून नव्हे; व्यक्ती म्हणून सुद्धा शान्ताबाई आपल्याला आपल्यातल्याच वाटतात. एका मुलाखतीत संदीप खरे यांनी म्हटलं आहे की त्यांना चित्र काढायला खूप आवडायचं आणि मांजरी ह्या त्यांच्या फार आवडीच्या त्यामुळे त्या मांजरीची चित्र काढायच्या. त्यांच्यावर त्यांचा सहवास लाभलेल्या काही लोकांनी पुस्तकेही लिहिली आहेत. शान्ताबाईंना आठवलं की शांत स्वभावाची, मायाळू, गोबरे गाल असलेली एक प्रेमळ आजी डोळ्यासमोर येते.. ह्याच प्रेमळ आजीला त्यांच्या जन्मशताब्दी वर्षी नमन करून त्यांच्या कविता व गाणी गुणगुणत राह्या...!

Palakshi Sathe, SYBA

75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

भारत: कुछ नया, कुछ पुराना

भारत त्योहारों का देश है। हर महीने हमारे पास कम से कम दो त्योहार तो ज़रूर होते हैं। हमारे यहाँ शादियाँ भी किसी त्योहार से कम नहीं। जीवन में एक ही बार तो होती है शादी और हम उसे वैसे ही मानते भी हैं। ऐसी ही एक शादी का न्योता हमें अभी कुछ दिनों पहले आया था। जाने के लिए ट्रेन की कन्फर्म टिकट हमें मिल नहीं रही थी पर रिश्तेदारी थोड़ी करीब की थी सो फ्लाइट का सहारा लेना पड़ा। मेरी अम्मा (दादी) पहली बार फ्लाइट की यात्रा करने जा रही थीं। थोड़ी घबराई हुई थीं। मैंने उनसे कहा “मत डरो अम्मा, बस जैसे मेले में झूले में बैठने पर ऊपर जाते वक़्त लगता है वैसे ही एक मिनट के लिए लगेगा, कुछ नहीं होगा, मैं हूँ ना”। वो मेरा हाथ पकड़कर बैठ तो गई पर उनकी घबराहट अभी भी नहीं गयी थी। उन्होंने मुझे कहा, “बेटा बाथरूम कहाँ है? मुझे होकर आना है थोड़ी घबराहट हो रही है”। मैं उन्हें ले गयी पर फ्लाइट के उस छोटे से टॉइलेट को देखकर वो बोलीं, “रहने दो हम वही पहुँचकर चले जाएंगे”।

बुढ़ापा सौ बीमारियों के साथ आता है। देश के हर बुजुर्ग की तरह मेरी अम्मा भी शूगर की मरीज हैं। उनसे कंट्रोल नहीं हो पता सो मैंने उन्हें जबर्दस्ती कहा की लंबा सफर है हो आओ। थोड़ा ज़ोर देने पे वो चले गईं। थोड़ी देर बाद धीरे से पल्ला खोल वो मुझे बोलीं, “बेटा, इसमें पानी कैसे डालते हैं?” मैंने पलश किया तो आवाज से वो थोड़ी सकपका गईं। पर अब वो थोड़ा कम

घबराई हुई लग रही थीं। थोड़ी देर वो बाहर बादलों को देख खुश हुईं पर फिर बोर हो गईं। थोड़ी ही देर में नाश्ते का विकरण शुरू हो गया। मैंने उनसे पूछा कुछ लो गी? थोड़ा झिजकते हुए वो बोलीं, “चाय”। मैंने चाय और एक सैंडविच लिया। इतने से ऑर्डर के जब मैंने 300 रुपये दिये तो वे थोड़ा झिजक गईं। थोड़ी देर बाद बोलीं, “बड़ा महंगा है ना यहाँ पे सब। बड़ा कठिन है ये सब। मुझे तो समझ ही नहीं आएगा। अकेले आना हो तो मैं तो भटक जाऊँगी। नयी पीढ़ी कितनी आगे है। ट्रेन में तो चाय-कॉफी 10 रुपये की आती है। यहाँ लूट है। ये कहाँ फेकूँ? बड़ी ठंड लग रही थी”। मैंने बताया की एयर होस्टेस आके ले जाएगी। खैर इस सफर में मेरी अम्मा को दो बातें बड़ी अच्छी लगी- पहली यह की यहाँ सामान की चिंता बिलकुल नहीं। प्लेन में चढ़ने से पहले ही जमा कर दो और अपनी मंजिल पर पहुँचकर बेल्ट पर से ले लो। ना कूली की झंझट ना ट्रेन में रात भर जग के चोरी से बचाने की चिंता। दूसरी, ट्रेन में जितनी सासत होती है उससे यहाँ मुक्ति है। कहाँ 24 घंटे ट्रेन में

सड़ना और कहाँ 2 घंटे में यहाँ से यहाँ एक नींद में पहुँच जाना। देश के छोटे से छोटे कोनों में एयरपोर्ट खोलने की पहल हो रही है। इससे समय भी बचेगा और सुख-दुख में आदमी खड़ा हो पाएगा। जीतने बड़े स्तर पर ये पहुंचेगा, जीतने ज़्यादा गाँव और शहरों को जोड़ा जाएगा आम आदमी के लिए फ्लाइट का सफर उतना ही सस्ता होगा। वहाँ जब हम पहुंचे तो देखा की उनके घर भी वेस्टर्न टॉइलेट ही है। जैसा प्लेन में था। मेरी अम्मा इससे बड़ा घिनाती हैं पर मजबूरी थी अब कोई घिन के चलते नित्यक्रियाएँ तो नहीं रोक पाएगा ना। पैरों के दर्द की समस्या आज देश में एक आम बात है और जो भी अपना घर बनवा रहा है उसमें भले ही इंडियन टॉइलेट ना हो, वेस्टर्न तो ज़रूर होता है। स्पर्श होने से भले ही सौ बीमारियाँ हो, पेट साफ ही ना हो, कम से कम घुटने दुखते तो नहीं। बड़ी दुविधा है।

मुझे याद है हम बचपन में अपने दीदी की शादी में जब गाँव गए थे तो लूडो का चस्का लग गया था। सारे भाई-बहन तख्ते पर बैठ जंग लड़ रहे होते हैं। पहले दो-दो साथ होकर दो को काटते

“ देश के छोटे से छोटे कोनों में एयरपोर्ट खोलने की पहल हो रही है। इससे समय भी बचेगा और सुख-दुख में आदमी खड़ा हो पाएगा। जीतने बड़े स्तर पर ये पहुंचेगा, जीतने ज़्यादा गाँव और शहरों को जोड़ा जाएगा आम आदमी के लिए फ्लाइट का सफर उतना ही सस्ता होगा। ”

हैं फिर आपस में लड़ते हैं। हमको केवल बैठकर देखने की इजाज़त थी क्यूंकी कच्चा नींबू खेलता नहीं सिर्फ चीयर करता है। हालाकी साँप सीढ़ी खेलने की अनुमति थी क्यूंकी उसमें दिमाग थोड़ी लगता है केवल किस्मत चाहिए। आज ट्रेन की भीड़ में मुझे उस समय की याद आ गयी। मेरे सामने वाली सीट पर एक महिला अपने फोन पर लूडो खेल टाइम पास कर रही थीं। मैंने सोचा की जब खेल की समझ आई तो खेल ही नहीं रहा। यही हाल चेस का भी हुआ। हम छोटे थे तो स्टेशनरी पर जाने पर नया व्यापार टंगा हुआ होता था। उसमें व्यवहार, साँप-सीढ़ी, लूडो और ऐसे अन्य गेम शामिल थे। आज जब ऑनलाइन ही पढ़ाई हो रही है तो स्टेशनरी पर जा ही कौन रहा है। मैं सोचती हूँ की स्टेशनरी जैसे कितने ही बिज़नेस होंगे जो समय के साथ ढलते जा रहे हैं। कौन अब किताबें खरीद रहा है और कौन अब किताबें पढ़ रहा है। लिखने की तो आदत ही जैसे खतम हो गयी है। लेकिन मैं शायद यहाँ थोड़ी गलत थी। गाँव में आज भी बच्चे पेन और पेपर की पढ़ाई पढ़ रहे हैं। वहाँ स्टेशनरी जैसी कोई चीज़ ही नहीं है। राशन की दुकानों पर ही ज़रूरत के पेन-पेंसिल, नोटबुक और बाकी सामान मिल जाते हैं। उसी को लेकर गाँव के बच्चों में बड़ा उत्साह देखने को मिलता है। गाँव के बच्चों में शिक्षा को लेकर जितनी लगन दिखती है उतनी शहर के बच्चों में नहीं दिखती। जबकि यहाँ सारी सुविधाएँ गाँव से बेहतर हैं। कोरोना के चलते बच्चों की पढ़ाई बर्बाद होने की बात सामने आई। ऐसे में शहर के बच्चों के माँ-बाप का कहना है की बच्चे घर में पढ़ते नहीं, फोन लगाकर सो जाते हैं, कॉपी करके एक्जाम दे रहे हैं, वगैरा वगैरा। लेकिन दूसरी ओर समस्या कुछ और है। भारत अपने गाँवों में बस्ता है। पर अभी भी वहाँ इंटरनेट 2जी वाली स्पीड पर ही चलता है। ऐसे में बच्चे स्कूल नहीं जाएंगे तो ऑनलाइन कैसे पढ़ेंगे। पूरे दो साल की पढ़ाई गाँवों में बच्चों की कोई गलती ना होते हुए भी खराब हो गयी। भारत के इन दों पहलुओं पर सोचकर आश्चर्य होता है।

बात केवल लगन की नहीं सामाजिक सपोर्ट की भी है। पढ़ने की ललक हो पर साधन नहीं तो

इसमें बच्चों का क्या दोष। गाँव में केवल प्राइमरी तक स्कूल हैं। यहाँ स्थानीय भाषा में पढ़ाई होती है। अक्सर बच्चों के बैठने के लिए टेबल-कुर्सी तक नहीं होते। ब्लैकबोर्ड के नाम पर दीवार के एक बड़े से हिस्से को काला रंग लगाकर रखा हुआ है। सरकारी शिक्षकों की भर्ती कठिन से कठिन परीक्षाओं से हो रही है। पर वहाँ जब बच्चों के लिए बराबर व्यवस्था ही नहीं होगी तो शिक्षक आखिर कैसे पढ़ाएगा। माँ-बाप बच्चों का स्कूल में दाखिला करवा लेते हैं पर पढ़ाई के लिए भेजते ही नहीं। केवल मिड-डे मील के समय बच्चे हाजरी लगाने पहुँच जा रहे हैं और पूरा समय शिक्षक खाली बैठे हैं, हाजरी लगाके वो भी चले जा रहे हैं। इलैक्शन ड्यूटी में अपनी सेवाएँ प्रदान कर रहे हैं। ऐसा नहीं की शिक्षक प्रयास नहीं कर रहे बच्चों को

दिशा में पहल ही नहीं कर रही। ये हालत देश के हर गाँव की है। गाँवों में आज उन्हीं के बच्चे पढ़ पा रहे हैं जो आर्थिक रूप से थोड़े सक्षम हो। यातों वो अपने बच्चों को प्राइवेट स्कूलों में पढ़ा रहे हैं या फिर खुद इतने शिक्षित हैं की प्राइमरी स्कूलों में बच्चों को पढ़ाकर आगे शहर की तरफ या किसी बड़े बाजार की तरफ हाइस्कूल और कॉलेज में पढ़ने भेज दें। सबसे ज़्यादा परेशानी इसमें भी लड़कियों को ही होती है।

बात अगर सरकारी नौकरियों की है तो देश में इससे ज़्यादा पागलपन कहीं और नहीं। कहने को तो दहेज प्रथा खत्म हो गयी है पर असलियत बहुत अलग है। जितनी ऊंची लड़के की डिग्री, उतनी ऊंची उसकी दहेज की मांग। अब तो मुह खोलकर ये मांगा नहीं जाता। लड़की वालों को

“ बात केवल लगन की नहीं सामाजिक सपोर्ट की भी है। पढ़ने की ललक हो पर साधन नहीं तो इसमें बच्चों का क्या दोष। ”

स्कूल में लाने का। वो माँ-बाप से बात करके उन्हें बहुत समझाते हैं पर माँ-बाप अक्सर यही कहते हैं की पहली बात तो प्राइवेट स्कूलों जैसी अंग्रेज़ी में पढ़ाई तो यहाँ हो नहीं रही। दूसरी, गाँव में केवल प्राइमरी तक ही स्कूल हैं। ऐसे में प्राइमरी तक पढ़के भी क्या फायदा जब बच्चे आगे पढ़ ही नहीं पाएंगे। खासकर लड़कियाँ। लड़कों को तो माँ-बाप आगे पढ़ाई के लिए भेज भी देंगे पर लड़कियों का क्या। ऐसे में वो खेत पर रहकर बच्चों के काम सीखने को ज़्यादा अहमियत देते हैं। सोचनेवाली बात ये है की जहाँ एक तरफ शहरों में बच्चे 3डी एनिमेशन और स्मार्टबोर्ड पर पढ़ रहे हैं। अंग्रेज़ी के साथ विदेशी भाषाएँ सीख रहे हैं वही दूसरी तरफ, गाँव के बच्चों को स्थानीय भाषा में भी पढ़ने का हक नहीं मिल रहा। ऐसे में गाँव के बच्चे कैसे आगे बढ़ेंगे, कैसे वे अपने ही देश के शहरों के बच्चों की बराबरी कर पाएंगे, दुनिया की बराबरी तो दूर की बात है। खेती ही अगर करनी हो तो उसके लिए भी शिक्षण दिया जा सकता है पर सरकार कभी इस

सिर्फ ये कहा जाता है की आप अपनी बेटी को जो देना चाहें दे दें। गिफ्ट है। पर मार्केट में रेट कार्ड तो तय है। सबको पता है की किसको कितना देना है। उसपर अगर लड़के की नौकरी सरकारी हो तो सोने पे सुहागा। फिर तो रेट डबल हो जाता है। लेकिन हाँ, मार्केट में एक नया ट्रेंड आया है। मेरे एक रिश्तेदार की बेटी का ब्याह बड़े समय से खोजा जा रहा था। लड़की शिक्षक बनना चाह रही थी पर अभी पेपर क्लियर नहीं हुए थे। माँ-बाप ने रिश्ते ढूँढने शुरू कर दिये। लड़की ने साफ-साफ कह दिया था की वो शादी के बाद नौकरी करना चाहेगी। ऐसे में उससे 8 लाख रुपये मांगे गए। लड़की के पिता ने आर्थिक तंगी के कारण हाथ जोड़ लिया। कुछ समय बाद लड़की की सरकारी नौकरी लग गयी। वही लड़के वाले लौटकर आए और उसके करमठी होने के गुण गाने लगे। अब इन्हे लड़की केवल एक साड़ी में चाहिए थी। बात ये नहीं की लड़की करमठी थी। बात ये है की लड़की सरकारी नौकर बन चुकी थी। अब वो घर संभालते

Highlights from 1947-60

हुए बड़े आराम से हर महीने अपनी सैलरी पाएगी। ऐसी सोने के अंडे देने वाली मुर्गी से कौन दहेज लेगा। एडुकेशन आज देश का सबसे बड़ा धंधा बन गया है।

आज मैं अपने पड़ोस वाले बच्चे को स्कूल से वापस लाने गयी थी। गेट के बगल में देखा एक चाइनिज का ठेला लगा हुआ था। बच्चे श्रेजवान साँस में डूबे मंचुरियन और मोमोस उँगलियाँ चाटकर खा रहे थे। मुह लाल हो रखा था। हमारे समय यहाँ लाल कैरी-कच्चे आम, सॉफ और बर्फ के रंगबिरंगी गोले की रेडियाँ लगती थीं। आज बच्चे उस स्वाद को कहीं जानेंगे। चाइनिज और अन्य वेस्टर्न फूड्स जैसे पिज्जा-बर्गर ने लोकल चीजों की डिमांड को खत्म कर दिया है। आज हर खाद्य पदार्थ में चीज डाल रहे हैं। घी अनहेलथी और व्हाइट बटर सही हो गया है। दतुअन नहीं इस्तेमाल कर रहे पर नीम वाला टूथपेस्ट सही लगता है। चाय शरीर के लिए खराब पर स्टारबक्स की घटिया और महंगी कॉफी सही है। रसगुल्ला बगल वाली मिठाई की दुकान का नहीं छह महीने पहले बने हल्दीराम के डब्बों का स्वादिष्ट लगता है। कॉटन के/खाड़ी के देसी कपड़े नहीं भाते पर एचएनएम और ज़ारा के एको-फ्रेंडली कपड़े एक्सट्रा पैसे देके लेना सही है। क्यूंकी वो ब्रांड है ना। क्या ये वैश्वीकरण के दुष्परिणाम हैं या हम 75 सालों बाद भी अंग्रेजी सोच से मुक्त ही नहीं हुए। पान की टपरियाँ लुप्त होते जा रही हैं पर फ़ायर पान का क्रेज बढ़ता जा रहा है। मेहंदी केमिकल वाली है पर टैटू सेफ है। राशन की दुकानें बंद हो रही हैं पर हर रोज़ कोई अरबपति एक नया मॉल/सुपरमार्केट खोल रहा है। मारुति 800 से थार तक, कोड़ाक से स्मार्टफोन के कैमरे तक, शारदा सिन्हा के

कहीं सही, कहीं गलत। बुलट ट्रेन के जमाने में कुछ लोगों को डबल डेकर आज भी याद है। डाक जमा करने वाला लाल बॉक्स अब कहीं दिखता है?

लोकगीतों से बुलडोजर गीत तक, 9एक्सएम से जिओसावन तक, चूड़ियों से स्मार्टवॉच तक, दूरदर्शन से नेटफ्लिक्स तक, विको/बोरोलीन से कोरियन स्किनकेर तक, सरसों के तेल से ऑलिव ऑइल तक, चूल्हे से इलैक्ट्रिक स्टोव तक, गुड़ से शुगर-फ्री तक, बाल्टी से शावर तक हम आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। कहीं सही, कहीं गलत। बुलट ट्रेन के जमाने में कुछ लोगों को डबल डेकर आज भी याद है। डाक जमा करने वाला लाल बॉक्स अब कहीं दिखता है? गांवों से बच्चे शहर में आकर ऐसा कौनसा आशियाना बना रहे हैं की गाँव वृद्धों की कॉलोनियाँ बन गए हैं। पुजा करना अब कूल नहीं रहा। लोटे से सुलभ सौचालय तक तो हम पहुँच गए हैं पर बारिश के पहले शहरों के नालें कैसे साफ होंगे ये नहीं पता। पानी की बोतल दस ब्राण्ड्स की अच्छी है पर नल में साफ पानी अभी भी सबको नहीं मिलता- शहरों में नहीं मिलता, गावों की तो बात ही अलग। कोई टैंकर के सामने लाइन लगाके दो हंडे पानी भर रहा है तो कोई एक ग्लास पानी पीने के लिए मोटर चला रहा है। कहीं सड़कों पर सड़क कम गड्ढे ज़्यादा हैं तो कहीं खेतों से गुजरती सड़कों के मुआवजे से जीवन सुरक्षित हो गया है। कहीं गीला और सूखा कचरा अलग-अलग फेकने की मांग की जा रही है तो कहीं सदियों से गीला कचरा गाय को दे दिया जाता है और सूखा जला दिया जाता है। खबर तो ये भी

है की बनारसी साड़ी भी अब चाइनिज सिल्क पर बन रही है। क्यूंकी कारीगरों की कमी है। लालटेन अब कहीं मिलते हैं बाज़ारों में? एल्बम भी बनते हैं अब इस देश में? पत्ते वाली आइस क्रीम खाते खाते मैंने सोचा क्या पत्तलों से थरमोकोल प्लेट्स की तरफ जाने का आइडिया वाकई ठीक था?

ट्रेन में घर लौटते वक़्त मैं एक 30-35 साल की महिला से मिली। वो गजरा और चम्पा के फूल बेच रही थी। मैं उससे अक्सर फूल खरीदती हूँ पर आज नहीं लिए। वो बोली, “ले लो मैडम। आज के बाद मैं इसमें नहीं आएगी।” मैंने पूछा ऐसा क्यूँ। उसने कहा, “इस धंधे में मेहनत बोहोत है और कमाई कुछ भी नहीं। पुलिस पकड़ती है तो 5 दिनों की कमाई जितना फ़ाइन लग जाता है। कोई और नौकरी भी नहीं देता। झाड़ू-पोछा का भी नौकरी नहीं मिलता। अभी मैंने सोचा है स्टेशन के बाहर पानी पूड़ी का स्टॉल डालुंगी। आप आना”। मैंने उससे 10 रुपये के फूल बँधवा लिए पर घर पहुँचते-पहुँचते मेरे मन में ये खयाल आया की ये तो कुछ अलग सोच रही है। आज तक मैंने पानी पूड़ी बेचते किसी महिला को तो नहीं देखा। मेरा देश इन पचहत्तर सालों में बहुत आगे बढ़ चुका है।

Raksha Mishra, SYBA



Indian Airlines was created, Air India was nationalised.



India became independent ending British rule.



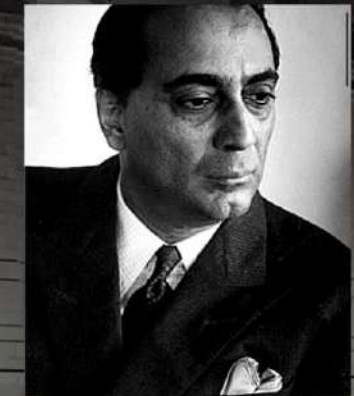
Dr B.R. Ambedkar - Architect of our Constitution passes away in 1956.



Amul is established in 1946 which spurred the White Revolution in India.



Formation of Maharashtra in 1960



Dr. Homi Babha receives Padma Bhushan for his work in Nuclear Physics and Atomic Energy

Highlights from the Decade of 1961-71



India saw the White Revolution pioneered by Verghese Kurien.



Dr. Vikram Sarabhai who founded ISRO is awarded Padma Bhushan in 1966

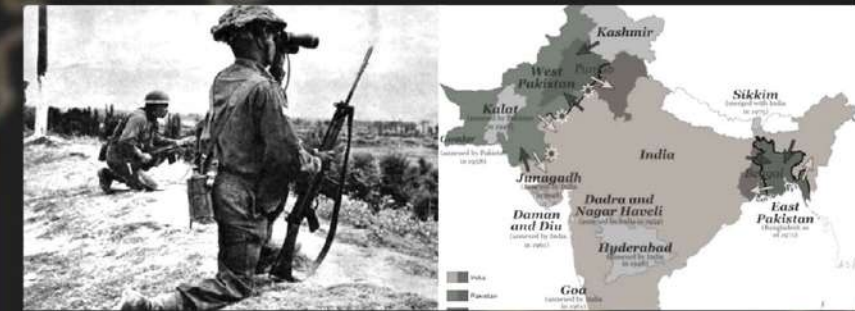


India's first ever rocket launch was carried out at Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station Thiruvananthapuram.



GOI launched Green Revolution with the help of M.S. Swaminathan.

Highlights from the Decade of 1971-81



Indo-Pakistan War over East Pakistan led to creation of Bangladesh



Chipko movement emerged as a peasants' and women's movement which aimed at protecting environment



Sunderlal Bahuguna



Aryabhata, first unmanned Earth satellite built by India. It was named after a prominent Indian astronomer and mathematician of the 5th century CE.



Highlights from the Decade of 1981-91



-Ernakulam in Kerala is declared the 1st 100% literate district in India.



PT Usha receives Arjuna Award for her outstanding performance in athletics in 1983.



India won its first ever World Cup and became the world champions.



One of the deadliest disaster in history of India.



Rajiv Gandhi, the 6th prime minister of India, was assassinated in an explosion in Sriperumbudur.

Highlights from the Decade of 1991-2001



Kargil Vijay Diwas is commemorated on 26 July every year in India to celebrate victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War. On this day, forces of Pakistan were driven out of the posts occupied by them in Kargil district, Ladakh in 1999.



The Bharat Ratna is awarded to Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, scientist and India's 11th President.



Madhya Pradesh in India is declared a "tiger state" as it contains 1/6th of the world's tiger population.



JRD Tata who is the father of Indian Civil Aviation passes away at the age of 89.



India's 1st private FM radio station - Radio City - is launched in Bangalore.

Highlights from the Decade of 2001-11



India sets a world record by sending 10 satellites into orbit in a single launch.



India's victory over Sri Lanka in the finals of the 2011 Cricket World Cup under the captaincy of Dhoni remains unforgettable.



Pratibha Patil is elected as the 1st woman President of India in 2007.



In July 2005, Mumbai floods paralyse the city in 24 hrs.



The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) starts as a social movement.



The terrorist attack on 26/11 takes place in Taj Hotel of Mumbai where Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan is martyred.

Highlights from 2011-22



Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue depicting Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel



In 2016, Government of India announced demonetisation of Rs 500 and 1000 currency notes



On August 5, 2019, Articles 370 and 35(A) were nullified that gave the state of Jammu & Kashmir its special status and the mandate to define its domicile rules.



On March 2020, WHO announces outbreak of coronavirus as a pandemic that ravaged the world.

आजाद भारत के 75 वर्ष और भारतीय राजनीति

मैं हिन्दू हूँ, तू मुस्लिम है,
है दोनों इंसान,
ला मैं तेरी गीता पढ़ लूँ, तू पढ़ ले कुरान,
इस स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर,
है मेरा बस एक ही अरमान,
एक थाली में खाना खाये सारा हिन्दुस्तान!!

आजादी का अर्थ है, ऐसी व्यवस्था जिसमें देश समाज की व्यवस्थाओं में बाधक न बनते हुए हमें अपने आचार विचार के अनुसार जीवन जीने और फैसले लेने की बंधन बाधाएं न हो। अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता ही मानवीय गरिमा और सम्मान के साथ जीवन यापन के समान अवसर हो, किसी तरह जाति, लिंग, या धर्म वगैरह को लेकर भेद भाव न हो।

इंसानों के बंधनों से तो देश आजाद हो गया, मन के कुसंस्कारों के बंधन से आजाद हो तो पूरी आजादी मिलेगी। असली आजादी का तब अनुभव होता है जब आप किसी के गुलाम ना हो और आपको कोई रोके टोके न।

अंग्रेजों के भारत छोड़कर जाने के बाद 15 अगस्त 1947 को भारत देश पूर्ण रूप से आजाद हुआ। और इसी लिए हर साल 15 अगस्त को भारत देश के स्वतंत्र होने की खुशी में स्वतंत्रता दिवस मनाया जाता है। यह भारतियों का राष्ट्रीय पर्व भी कहलाता है। देश के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू बने और उनके द्वारा ही देश के आजाद होने की खुशी में दिल्ली के लाल किले पर आजादी के बाद पहली बार झंडा फहराया गया। और देश को सम्बोधित भी किया गया। इसी प्रकार हर साल दिल्ली के लाल किले पर हर साल देश के प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा झंडा फहराया जाता है और राष्ट्रगान गया जाता है और देश के प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा देश को सम्बोधित भी किया जाता है।

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की 75वीं वर्षगांठ को भारत



सरकार 'आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव' के तौर पर मना रही है। 15 अगस्त 1947 को भारत, ब्रिटिश शासन से स्वतंत्र हुआ था। आजादी के 75 साल का ये जश्न 12 मार्च 2021 से शुरू हो चुका है जो 75 सप्ताह तक चलेगा। 15 अगस्त 2023, 78वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर अमृत महोत्सव का समापन होगा।

इस दौरान भारत सरकार व राज्य सरकारों द्वारा देशवासियों की जनभागीदारी से अलग-अलग आयोजन किये जाएंगे। हजारों-हजारों सूर्यों से अधिक तेजस्वी भारत की स्वतंत्रता को लोक-जीवन में स्थापित किये जाने की आवश्यकता को महसूस करते हुए एक ओर आजादी के जश्न मनाये जायेंगे, जिसमें कुछ कर गुजरने की तमन्ना होगी तो अब तक कुछ न कर पाने की बेचैनी भी दिखाई देगी।

पंचवर्षीय योजना और भारत

1951 में शुरू की गई भारत की पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना, मुख्य रूप से कृषि, मूल्य स्थिरता,

बिजली और परिवहन पर केंद्रित थी। यह हैरोड-डोमर मॉडल पर आधारित था जिसने बचत और निवेश में वृद्धि के माध्यम से भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि को गति दी। यह योजना सफल रही जिसने अर्थव्यवस्था को 3.6% की वार्षिक दर प्रदान की और 2.1% के लक्ष्य को भी पार कर गई। दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना ने तेजी से औद्योगिकीकरण पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया और इस योजना ने एक तरह से आत्मनिर्भरता की नींव रखी।

जून 1964 को श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री ने पंडित नेहरू के बाद हरित क्रांति और श्वेत क्रांति को प्रोत्साहन दिया। चीन के साथ युद्ध ने भोजन की कमी और बढ़ती कीमत को जन्म दिया था और उसे आश्वस्त करने के लिए भारत को कृषि पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने और निजी उद्यमों व विदेशी निवेशों के लिए अनुमति देने की आवश्यकता थी।

आत्मनिर्भर भारत नये रास्तों पर अग्रसर

आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव भारत की विरल

उपलब्धि है, हमारी जागती आंखों से देखे गये स्वप्नों को आकार देने का विश्वास है तो जीवन मूल्यों को सुरक्षित करने एवं नया भारत निर्मित करने की तीव्र तैयारी है। अब होने लगा है हमारी स्वतंत्र चेतना का अहसास। जिसमें आकार लेते वैयक्तिक, सामुदायिक, सामाजिक, राष्ट्रीय एवं वैश्विक अर्थ की सुनहरी छटाएं हैं। स्वतंत्रता प्राप्ति के बाद बहुत कुछ बदला मगर चेहरा बदलकर भी दिल नहीं बदला।

विदेशी सत्ता की बेड़ियां टूटी पर बन्दीपन के संस्कार नहीं मिट पाये और राष्ट्रीयता प्रश्नचिन्ह बनकर आदर्शों की दीवारों पर टंग गयी थी, उसे अब आकार लेते हुए देखा जा रहा है। जिस संकीर्णता, स्वार्थ, राजनीतिक विसंगतियों, आर्थिक अपराधों, शोषण, भ्रष्टाचार एवं जटिल सरकारी प्रक्रियाओं ने अनंत संभावनाओं एवं आजादी के वास्तविक अर्थों को धुंधला दिया था।

अब उन सब अवरोधक स्थितियों से बाहर निकलते हुए हम अपना रास्ता स्वयं खोजते हुए न केवल नये रास्तों बल्कि आत्मनिर्भर भारत, नये भारत एवं सशक्त भारत के रास्तों पर अग्रसर है। अब आया है उपलब्धिभरा वर्तमान हमारी पकड़ में। अब लिखी जा रही है कि भारत की जमीन पर आजादी की वास्तविक इबारत।

भारत में संघर्षों से जूझने की क्षमता

संघर्षों से जूझने की क्षमता भारत को अपने स्वतंत्रता के उदयकाल से ही प्राप्त है। इसके सामने आज तक जैसी परिस्थितियां उत्पन्न हुई है, अवरोध उपस्थित करने वाली शक्तियां उसके सामने टिकने का साहस नहीं कर पाईं। जिसको जन्मघूटी के साथ ही राष्ट्रीयता के संस्कार मिल जाये, वह कभी हार नहीं सकता, अपनी आजादी पर आने वाले हर खतरों एवं हमलों को परास्त करने की उसमें क्षमताएं हैं।

आजाद भारत के निर्माताओं ने जिस सूझबूझ, कर्मठता, साहस के साथ परिस्थितियों से लोहा लिया, वह इतिहास का एक क्रांतिकारी पृष्ठ है। मोदी उसी पृष्ठ के एक चमकते राष्ट्रनायक हैं। स्वतंत्रता एवं सहअस्तित्व वाली मोदी की विदेश नीति इतनी स्पष्ट है कि आज दुनिया में भारत का परचम फहरा रही है।

उनकी दृष्टि में कोरे हिन्दू की बात नहीं होती, ईसाई, मुसलमान, सिख की बात भी नहीं होती है, उनकी नजर में मुल्क की एकता सर्वोपरि है। उनके निर्णय उनके इतिहास, भूगोल, संस्कृति की पूर्ण जानकारी के आधार पर होते हैं।

विदेश नीति की चुनौतियां

हम महसूस कर रहे हैं कि निराशाओं के बीच आशाओं के दीप जलने लगे हैं, यह शुभ संकेत है। एक नई सभ्यता और एक नई संस्कृति करवट ले रही है। नये राजनीतिक मूल्यों, नये विचारों, नये इंसानी रिश्तों, नये सामाजिक संगठनों, नये रीति-रिवाजों और नयी जिंदगी की हवायें लिए हुए आजाद मुल्क की एक ऐसी गाथा लिखी जा रही है, जिसमें राष्ट्रीय चरित्र बनने लगा है, राष्ट्र सशक्त होने लगा है, न केवल भीतरी परिवेश में बल्कि दुनिया की नजरों में भारत अपनी एक स्वतंत्र हस्ती और पहचान लेकर उपस्थित है।

चीन की दादागिरी और पाकिस्तान की दकियानूसी हरकतों को मुंहतोड़ जबाब पहली बार मिला है। किसी भी राष्ट्र की ऊंचाई वहां की इमारतों की ऊंचाई से नहीं मापी जाती बल्कि वहां के राष्ट्रनायक के चरित्र से मापी जाती है। उनके काम करने के तरीके से मापी जाती है।

आजादी के 75वें वर्ष में "मेक इन इंडिया"

आजादी के 75वें वर्ष में पहुंचते हुए हम अब वास्तविक आजादी का स्वाद चखने लगे हैं, आतंकवाद, जातिवाद, क्षेत्रीयवाद, अलगाववाद की कालिमा धूल गयी है, धर्म, भाषा, वर्ण, वर्ण और दलीय स्वार्थों के राजनीतिक विवादों पर भी नियंत्रण हो रहा है। इन नवनिर्माण के पदचिन्हों को स्थापित करते हुए कभी हम प्रधानमंत्री के मुख से कोरोना महामारी जैसे संकटों को मात देने की बात सुनते हैं तो कभी गांधी जयन्ती के अवसर पर स्वयं झाड़ू लेकर स्वच्छता अभियान का शुभारंभ करते हुए मोदी को देखते हैं।

मोदी कभी विदेश की धरती पर हिन्दी में भाषण देकर राष्ट्रभाषा को गौरवान्वित करते हैं तो कभी "मेक इन इंडिया" का शंखनाद कर देश को न केवल शक्तिशाली बल्कि आत्म-निर्भर बनाने की ओर अग्रसर करते हैं। नई खोजों, दक्षता, कौशल विकास, बौद्धिक संपदा की रक्षा, रक्षा क्षेत्र में स्वदेशी उत्पादन, श्रेष्ठ का निर्माण-ये और ऐसे अनेकों सपनों को आकार देकर सचमुच मोदीजी हमारी स्वतंत्रता को सुदीर्घ काल के बाद सार्थक अर्थ दे रहे हैं।

आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव का संदेश

आजादी का यह उत्सव उन लोगों के लिए एक

आजाद भारत के निर्माताओं ने जिस सूझबूझ, कर्मठता, साहस के साथ परिस्थितियों से लोहा लिया, वह इतिहास का एक क्रांतिकारी पृष्ठ है।



आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव का उत्सव मनाते हुए यही कामना है कि पुरुषार्थ के हाथों भाग्य बदलने का गहरा आत्मविश्वास सुरक्षा पाये। एक के लिए सब, सबके लिए एक की विकास गंगा प्रवहमान हो।

आह्वान है जो अकर्मण्य, आलसी, निठल्ले, हताश, सत्वहीन बनकर सिर्फ सफलता की ऊंचाइयों के सपने देखते हैं पर अपनी दुर्बलताओं को मिटाकर नयी जीवनशैली की शुरुआत का संकल्प नहीं स्वीकारते। इसीलिए आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव का यह जश्न एक संदेश है कि-हम जीवन से कभी पलायन न करें, जीवन को परिवर्तन दें, क्योंकि पलायन में मनुष्य के दामन पर बुज़ादिली का धब्बा लगता है जबकि परिवर्तन में विकास की संभावनाएं सही दिशा और दर्शन खोज लेती है।

आजादी का दर्शन कहता है-जो आदमी आत्मविश्वास एवं अभय से जुड़ा है वह अकेले ही अनूठे कीर्तिमान स्थापित करने का साहस करता है। समय से पहले समय के साथ जीने की तैयारी का दूसरा नाम है स्वतंत्रता का बोध। दुनिया का कोई सिकंदर नहीं होता, वक्त सिकंदर होता है इसलिए जरूरी है कि हम वक्त के साथ कदम से कदम मिलाकर चलना सीखें।

राष्ट्रीय जीवन में नैतिकता एवं आत्मनिर्भरता को स्थापित करने की जरूरत

हमें राष्ट्रीय जीवन में नैतिकता एवं आत्मनिर्भरता को स्थापित करने के लिए समस्या के मूल को पकड़ना होगा। हम पत्तों और फूलों के सींचन पर ज्यादा विश्वास करते हैं, जड़ के अभिसिंचन की ओर कम ध्यान देते हैं इसलिए पत्र और पुष्प मुरझा जाते हैं। इसलिये हम आत्मनिर्भर नहीं हो पाएंगे। नरेन्द्र मोदी समस्याओं के मूल को पकड़ने के लिये जद्दोजहद कर रहे हैं।

वे पत्तों और फूलों को सींचने की बजाय जड़ को सींच रहे हैं ताकि आने वाली पीढ़ियां समस्यामुक्त जीवन जी सके। आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव का उत्सव मनाते हुए यही कामना है कि पुरुषार्थ के हाथों भाग्य बदलने का गहरा

आत्मविश्वास सुरक्षा पाये। एक के लिए सब, सबके लिए एक की विकास गंगा प्रवहमान हो। आजादी का सही अर्थ है स्वयं की पहचान, सुप्त शक्तियों का जागरण, आत्मनिर्भरता एवं वर्तमान क्षण में पुरुषार्थी जीवन जीने का अभ्यास।

भारतीय राजनीति

प्रस्तावना

भारतीय राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के बारे में जब बात करते हैं, तो राजनीति और भ्रष्टाचार का समान रूप से उपयोग किया जा सकता है। यह कहना कोई अतिशयोक्ति नहीं होगी कि भारतीय राजनीति में भ्रष्टाचार अभी भी है।

भारत भ्रष्ट राजनेताओं से भरा हुआ है। जो भ्रष्ट तरीकों से अधिक से अधिक धन की बाजीगरी करने के अलावा कुछ नहीं सोचते हैं। वे अपने देश के लाभ के बजाए अपने फायदे के लिए काम करते हैं। भारतीय राजनेताओं के कई तरह के घोटालों में शामिल होने के मामले कई बार सामने आए हैं और यह इस बात का प्रमाण है कि कैसे वे अपने स्वार्थी उद्देश्यों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए देश की आम जनता को झाम्सा दे रहे हैं।

हमारे नेता सत्ता में आने से पहले आम जनता से कई वादे करते हैं लेकिन सत्ता हासिल करने के दौरान उन्हें भूल जाते हैं। ऐसा हर चुनाव में होता है। गरीब जनता हर बार भ्रष्ट राजनेताओं द्वारा बेवकूफ बनती है। वह राजनेताओं को एक बेहतर भविष्य की उम्मीद में किए गए वादों की आधार पर वोट करती है। हालांकि आम जनता को निराशा प्राप्त होती है। उनकी समस्याएं अनसुनी रह जाती है।

भारत के लोगों को जागने और महसूस करने की आवश्यकता है कि राजनैतिक प्रणाली तब तक भ्रष्ट बनी रहेगी जब तक हम सब मिलकर इसे रोकेंगे नहीं। मंत्रियों के भ्रष्ट आचरण से पूरे समाज

पर नकारात्मक असर पड़ रहा है। पेट्रोल, डीजल, खाद्य पदार्थों और अन्य वस्तुओं की कीमतों में वृद्धि भी भ्रष्टाचार का परिणाम है। देश के असमान धन वितरण और धीमी आर्थिक वृद्धि भी हमारे नेताओं की भ्रष्ट प्रथाओं के कारण हयह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है कि स्वेच्छा से या अनिच्छा से आम जनता भ्रष्ट आचरण की पार्टी बन रही है। इसका एक स्पष्ट उदाहरण रिश्वतखोरी है। यह समय है कि अपने देश से भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करने के लिए एकजुट होकर रहे। राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में सकारात्मक बदला लाने का एकमात्र तरीका सर्वसम्मति से आवाज उठाना है। हमें यह महसूस करने की आवश्यकता है कि हमारी ताकत हमारी एकता में निहित है और हमें इसका उपयोग प्रणाली को बेहतर बनाने के लिए करना चाहिए।

जिस तरह भारतवासी अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ एकजुट हुए हमें भ्रष्टाचार और भ्रष्ट नेताओं के खिलाफ लड़ने के लिए एक ही समर्पण और देशभक्ति की भावना के साथ एक बार फिर से आना चाहिए। यह समय सुधार लाने और सत्ता में लोगों के भ्रष्ट प्रशासन को रोकने का है। यदि हमारे पूर्वज हमारे बेहतर भविष्य के लिए संघर्ष और बलिदान कर सकते थे तो हम भी ऐसा क्यों नहीं कर सकते?

निष्कर्ष

भारत के राजनेता देश को परजीवी तरफ खा रहे हैं। शिकायत करने और फिर भी इस भ्रष्ट व्यवस्था का हिस्सा होने के बजाय, हमें अब इसे तोड़ने पर काम करना चाहिए। हम भारतीयों को भ्रष्टाचार को समाप्त करके सुधार लाने के लिए एकजुट होना चाहिए।

एकता और अनुशासन से भारत माता का जयकार करें !!

विश्व गुरु बने भारत फिर मिलकर कुछ ऐसा सहकार करें !!

Neha Dubey, SYBA

आजादी के 75 वर्ष और महिलाओं की स्थिति



भारत अपनी आजादी की 75वीं वर्षगांठ का जश्न मना रहा है। यह सभी देशवासियों के लिए विशेष अवसर है। 15 अगस्त 1947 को देश सैकड़ों वर्षों की गुलामी की बेड़ियों से आजाद हुआ। तब से लेकर अब तक सांस्कृतिक, सामाजिक, राजनीतिक, आर्थिक, सैन्य, खेल एवं तकनीकी क्षेत्र की विकास यात्रा में देश ने अपनी एक नई पहचान बनाई है। 75 वर्षों की इस विकास यात्रा में नए कीर्तिमान बने हैं। आज भारत की पहचान एक सशक्त राष्ट्र के रूप में है। यह अनायास तो नहीं है। दुनिया आज भारत की तरफ देख रही है। बीते 75 सालों में अपनी निजी समस्याओं, चुनौतियों के बीच देश ने ऐसा कुछ जरूर हासिल किया है, जिसकी तरफ पूरी दुनिया आकर्षित हो रही है। देश के पास गर्व करने के लिए उपलब्धियां हैं तो अफसोस जताने के लिए वजहें भी हैं।

हमें आजादी तो मिल गई लेकिन वह आजादी आज किस रूप में है। हमारे पूर्वजों, स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों, राजनेताओं ने आजाद भारत का जो सपना देखा था। उनकी नजरों में आजादी के जो मायने थे क्या उसके अनुरूप हम आगे बढ़े हैं? संविधान में एक आदर्श देश की जो परिकल्पना की गई है उसे हम कितना साकार कर पाए हैं? नागरिकों से समाज बनता है और समाज से देश बनता है। एक बेहतर नागरिक एक स्वस्थ समाज का निर्माण करता है। एक सजग समाज देश को उन्नति के रास्ते पर ले जाने का मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है। सवाल यह है कि एक देश और व्यक्ति के रूप में आज हम कहां खड़े हैं, इस पर मनन (चिंतन) करना आवश्यक है। आजादी के इन सालों में हमने क्या खोया और क्या पाया है, आज इसकी भी बात करनी जरूरी है।

15 अगस्त 1947 को हम आजाद तो हो गए लेकिन यह आजादी विभाजन के साथ आई।

भारत की जमीन से नया देश पाकिस्तान अस्तित्व में आया। देश के पूर्वी और पश्चिमी हिस्से में बने इस नए देश की वजह से भारत को अपना एक बड़ा भूभाग और लोगों को खोना पड़ा। इसके बाद कश्मीर और अक्साई चीन में हमें अपनी जमीन खोनी पड़ी। हालांकि, सिक्किम को अपने साथ जोड़ने में हमारी सरकार कामयाब हुई। तब से लेकर अब तक भारत अपनी सीमा की हिफाजत करता आया है। कई राज्यों में अलगाववादी ताकतों, नक्सलवाद, आतंकवाद की चुनौती से निपटते और सीमा पर चीन एवं पाकिस्तान से लड़ते हुए भारत ने देश की सीमा एवं संप्रभुता पर आंच नहीं आने दी है। आंतरिक चुनौतियों एवं सांप्रदायिक सौहार्द बिगाड़ने की कुटिल चालों को नाकाम करते हुए भारत ने अपनी अनेकता में एकता की खासियत एवं धर्मनिरपेक्षता की भावना बरकरार रखी है। भारत जीवंत लोकतंत्र का एक जीता-जागता उदाहरण है। यहां की लोकतांत्रिक

संस्थाओं में लोगों की आस्था है। विरोधी विचारों का सम्मान, लोकतंत्र को ताकत देता आया है। दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतांत्रिक देश के रूप में भारत ने एक परिपक्व देश के रूप में अपनी पहचान बनाई है। देश के पहले प्रधानमंत्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू से लेकर अब तक सत्ता पक्ष और विपक्ष के बीच मुद्दों पर गंभीर मतभेद रहे लेकिन इन मतभेदों ने लोकतंत्र को कमजोर नहीं किया बल्कि उसे मजबूती दी है। लोग अपनी पसंद से सरकारें चुनते आए हैं। भारत के लोकतंत्र में लोग ही अहम हैं। यह भारत की जीत है।

आम आदमी को सशक्त बनाने के लिए बीते दशकों में सरकारें जनकल्याणकारी नीतियां और योजनाएं लेकर आईं। योजनाओं का लाभ गरीबों एवं कमजोर वर्गों तक पहुंचाया गया है। प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना, सूचना का अधिकार, शिक्षा का अधिकार, मनरेगा जैसे कार्यक्रमों एवं योजनाओं ने आम आदमी को सशक्त बनाया है। इन महात्वाकांक्षी योजनाओं से विकास की गति तेज हुई। लेकिन यह भी सच है कि सरकार की इन योजनाओं को पूरी तरह से लागू नहीं किया जा सका। इन योजनाओं का लक्ष्य आम आदमी को राहत पहुंचाना ही था। इन विकास योजनाओं के बावजूद देश में गरीबी, लाचारी, पिछड़ापन दूर क्यों नहीं हो पा रहा है ? यह विचारणीय है।

विकास से जुड़ी समस्याएं अभी भी मौजूद हैं। आज भारत दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा बाजार बना हुआ है। सैन्य क्षेत्र में भारत एक महाशक्ति बनकर उभरा है। परमाणु हथियारों से संपन्न भारत के पास दुनिया की चौथी सबसे शक्तिशाली सेना है। मिसाइल तकनीकी में दुनिया भारत का लोहा मान रही है। अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में भी भारत ने नई-नई उपलब्धियां हासिल की हैं। मंगल मिशन की सफलता एवं रॉकेट प्रक्षेपण की अपनी क्षमता के बदौलत भारत अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में महारत रखने वाले चुनिंदा देशों में शामिल है। आईटी सेक्टर में देश अग्रणी बना हुआ है। इन उपलब्धियों ने देश को सुपरपावर बनने के दरवाजे पर लाकर खड़ा कर दिया है।

जाहिर है कि आज भारत के पास दुनिया को देने के लिए बहुत कुछ है लेकिन इन सफलताओं



हमें ये समझना होगा कि विकास और महिला उत्थान दो अलग चीजें नहीं हैं। इन्हें दो अलग नज़रिये से देखने पर सिर्फ नाकामी ही हाथ लगेगी। महिलाओं को विकास की मुख्यधारा में शामिल करने के लिए पिछले कुछ दशकों में अभूतपूर्व प्रयास किये गये, जिससे वो आत्मनिर्भर और जागरूक हो सकें।

एवं उपलब्धियों के बावजूद सामाजिक एवं नैतिक मूल्यों में पतन हो रहा है। व्यक्ति से लेकर समाज, राजनीति सभी क्षेत्रों में मूल्यों का पतन देखने को मिलता है। सत्ता, पावर, पैसे की चाह ने लोगों को भ्रष्ट एवं नैतिक रूप से कमजोर बनाया है। राजनीति का एक दौर वह भी था जब रेल हादसे की जिम्मेदारी लेते हुए केंद्रीय मंत्री अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दिया करते थे। एक वोट से सरकार गिर जाया करती थी। भ्रष्टाचार में नाम आने पर नेता अपना पद छोड़ देते थे लेकिन आज सत्ता में बने रहने के लिए सभी तरह के समझौते किए जाते हैं और षड्यंत्र रचे जाते हैं। नैतिक पतन के लिए केवल नेता जिम्मेदार नहीं हैं, मूल्यों में पतन समाज के सभी क्षेत्रों में आया है। इसके लिए किसी एक को जिम्मेदार नहीं ठहराया जा सकता। बेहतर समाज एवं राष्ट्र बनाने की जिम्मेदारी हम सभी की

है। इसके लिए हम सभी को आगे आना होगा। तभी जाकर एक बेहतर भारत और 'न्यू इंडिया' के सपने को साकार किया जा सकेगा।

आजादी के सातवें दशक में हम कदम रखने जा रहे हैं। लेकिन हर बार हमारे सामने ये सवाल खड़ा हो जाता है कि स्वतंत्र देश में हमारी आधी-आबादी यानी महिलाएं कितनी स्वतंत्र हुई हैं? ख़ासकर उस समय जब प्रधानमंत्री को भी 'बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ' तथा भ्रूण हत्या के खिलाफ बोलना पड़ रहा है।

ये स्थिति तब भी आती है जब मंदिर और मस्जिद में महिलाओं के प्रवेश को लेकर समाज में तना-तनी हो जाती है और न्यायालय को हस्तक्षेप करना पड़ता है। बात यहीं खत्म नहीं होती। खाप पंचायतों के महिलाओं को लेकर हुए तुगलकी फरमान किसी से छिपे नहीं हैं। इसी समाज में रोज



अनेक शहरों में गंभीर घटनाओं का होना भी हमारे प्रगतिशील समाज के मुंह पर कलंक है।

आजादी के 70 सालों में तीनों सेनाओं में महिलाओं को प्रवेश मिला है। प्रशासन, पत्रकारिता, बैंक और अन्य सेवाओं में भी बहुत बड़ी भागीदारी है।

महिलाओं ने अब तक जो भी हासिल किया है वह स्वयं के अनुभव, आत्मविश्वास और मेहनत के आधार पर पाया है। क्योंकि पुरुष समाज पूरी तरह से लैंगिक सोच के दायरे से बाहर नहीं निकल पाया है। स्त्री को देह मानने की मानसिकता से क्या अब तक हम उबर पाये हैं?

21वीं सदी आधी दुनिया यानी महिलाओं की सदी है। स्वतंत्र भारत में महिलाओं के लिए बहुत सारे ठोस कार्य हुए हैं। लेकिन इस परिवर्तन को होने में जितना वक्त लग रहा है, वह कहीं न कहीं पुरुषवादी मानसिकता को कटघरे में लाती है। इसके चलते सशक्त योजनाएँ भी सिर्फ कागजी बनकर रह जाती हैं।

हमें ये समझना होगा कि विकास और महिला उत्थान दो अलग चीजें नहीं हैं। इन्हें दो अलग नज़रिये से देखने पर सिर्फ नाकामी ही हाथ लगेगी। महिलाओं को विकास की मुख्यधारा में शामिल करने के लिए पिछले कुछ दशकों में अभूतपूर्व प्रयास किये गये, जिससे वो आत्मनिर्भर और जागरूक हो सकें। राजग सरकार के समय यानी 2001 में महिला सशक्तिकरण वर्ष का मनाया जाना इसका एक बेहतर उदाहरण है। इसमें महिलाओं को सशक्त करने, उन्हें आत्मनिर्भर और जागरूक बनाने के अनेक प्रयास किए गए।

परिवार जरूरी है लेकिन कर्तव्य और अधिकार का समान होना भी जरूरी है। बेशक

“ बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ जैसी योजनायें महिलाओं को समानता का हक दिलाने में और अधिक सफल हो रही हैं। स्किल इंडिया जैसे स्वरोजगार के विकल्प महिलाओं के लिए पंख बनकर उभरेंगे। इससे महिलाओं की जिंदगी बदल रही है। ”

शिक्षा और आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता महिलाओं की दशा और दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव ला रही है। बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ जैसी योजनायें महिलाओं को समानता का हक दिलाने में और अधिक सफल हो रही हैं। स्किल इंडिया जैसे स्वरोजगार के विकल्प महिलाओं के लिए पंख बनकर उभरेंगे। इससे महिलाओं की जिंदगी बदल रही है। गाँवों की लड़कियां बड़े-बड़े कॉलेज स्कूलों से घर बैठे अपनी पढ़ाई कर रही हैं। बड़ी ऑनलाइन कंपनियों से जुड़ कर उत्पाद बेच रही हैं। अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक हो रही हैं।

आज भी हम रात 9 बजे के बाद लड़कियों को बाहर नहीं निकलने देते, क्योंकि असुरक्षा की भावना इतनी है कि निर्भया जैसी दुर्घटना होने की आशंका से हर परिवार डरा हुआ है। ये घटनायें जितना बड़ा दुःस्वप्न हैं, उससे भी बड़ी इन घटनाओं के बाद होने वाली राजनीति है।

आजादी का 'अमृत महोत्सव' प्रगतिशील भारत की आजादी के 75 साल और इसकी उपलब्धियों के गौरवशाली इतिहास को मनाने के लिए भारत सरकार की एक पहल है। यह महोत्सव भारत के लोगों को समर्पित है, जिन्होंने न केवल भारत को विकास पथ पर लाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है, बल्कि उनके भीतर प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के भारत 2.0 को सक्रिय करने की शक्ति और क्षमता भी है, जो आत्मनिर्भरता की भावना से प्रेरित है। आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव भारत की सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक, राजनीतिक और आर्थिक पहचान के बारे में प्रगतिशील है। "आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव" की आधिकारिक यात्रा 12 मार्च, 2021 को शुरू होती है, जो हमारी स्वतंत्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ के लिए 75 सप्ताह की उलटी गिनती शुरू करती है और 15 अगस्त, 2023 को

एक वर्ष के बाद समाप्त होगी। प्रधान मंत्री, श्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 12 मार्च, 2021 को साबरमती आश्रम, अहमदाबाद से 'दांडी मार्च' को हरी झंडी दिखाकर 'आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव' का उद्घाटन किया। यह समारोह स्वतंत्रता की हमारी 75वीं वर्षगांठ से 75 सप्ताह पहले शुरू हुआ और 15 अगस्त, 2023 को समाप्त होगा।

गुलामी की बेड़ियों से देश को स्वतंत्र कराने की लड़ाई कब शुरू हुई बताना कठिन है, लेकिन गोस्वामी तुलसीदास ने जब 'पराधीन सपनेहुं सुख नाही' का उद्घोष किया तो उनके मानस में देश को स्वतंत्र कराने की ही कामना रही होगी। उन जैसे संतों ने ही हमारे अंदर स्वाभिमान की चिंगारी पैदा की, जो आगे चलकर स्वतंत्रता व स्वराज की मशाल बनकर उभरी और 1947 में हमने आजादी प्राप्त की। स्वाभिमान और स्वतंत्रता के बाद अब देश स्वावलंबन के रास्ते पर निरंतर आगे बढ़ रहा है। स्वतंत्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर शुरू हुआ 'आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव' स्वावलंबन की दिशा में उठाया गया एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है, जिसे भारत सरकार ने 15 अगस्त 2023 तक मनाने का निर्णय किया है।

Hetvi Bharat Gala, TYBA

कुछ देशभक्त ऐसे भी!

पंजाब, सधि, गुजरात, मराठा से बना यह देश
उत्तर पश्चिम पूरब दक्षिण में वसित यह देश
फलती-फूलती, नाचता-गाता यह देश
शहीदों की कुरबानियों से रचा यह देश

हर सदी ने मुश्किलें देखी, कोशिशें देखी, सफलता देखी
देश की आज़ादी देखी, देश की समृद्धि देखी
हर सदी ने अपना नया भगत सधि, सुखदेव और राजगुरु पाला
उनके माध्यम में जुनूनयित का परलय अपने गर्भ में पाला

कसिनो के अथक परश्रम से
महिलाओं के वात्सल्य व प्रेम से
वकिरम बत्रा, राधाकृष्णन व कल्पना चावला से
देश बना था हर सामान्य व असामान्य वचारों से

युग-युगांतर बीत चले
प्रगति व परपिक्वता से समृद्ध रहा हमारा देश
स्वतंत्र-संग्राम, बटवारे का हृदयवदिक दृश्य
सब कुछ दलि पर पत्थर रखकर सहा

पर क्या सीने पे गोली खाना ही देशभक्ति है ?
अपने वतन के लिए मर मटिने ही देशप्रेम है ?
अपनी जान की परवाह न कर
अनगनित भारतियों का जीवन बचाना ही देशभक्ति है ?

असंख्य हैं वे लोग जो
न दखि कर भी महसूस होते हैं
परदेके पीछे रहकर भी
देशरूपी नाटक को सफल बनाते हैं

देश को आगे बढ़ाते हैं शक्तिष्क
देश के सुनहरे भवषिय का सृजन कर
अनेको चाचा नेहरु, साराभाई, रतन टाटा, घडाते हैं
जीवन दाता हैं जैसे
जो अपनी जान को जोखमि में डालकर
दुसरे के चेहरों पर खुशी की वापसी लाते हैं
संवधिन के रक्षक
कुरीतियों, रूध-विवाद के भक्षकों का खात्मा करते

क्या ऐसे भी होते हैं देशप्रेमी ?
सुरीले मधुर आवाज़ से
ताल और लय का शंखनाद करते
क्या यह देशप्रेमी नहीं हैं ?
खेती है जसिकी माँ
फसल है जसिकी संतान
क्या वे नहीं हैं देशप्रेमी ?
अगणति हैं वे जो
देशप्रेम के नाम पर अपना सब कुछ न्योछावर करते हैं
अगणति हैं वे जो धैर्य व शौर्य से ही नहीं पर
शालीनता व मृदुलता से दलि जीतते हैं
अगणति हैं वे लोग जो
देश भर में सुरों की मल्लिका, फ़्लाइंग जेट, बनकर घूमने वाले
अगणति हैं वे लोग जो व्यापार को
वाराणसी से Vietnam तक पोहुचा दरे हैं
अगणति हैं वे उभरते, सतिरे
जो देश के प्रतभक्तिभाव की भावना रख
सुनेहरा भवषिय अपने कर्मों से लिखते हैं
१३८ करोड़ के देशवासियों में
एक देशभक्ति ही तो है
जो हम मोतियों को देश की माला से परिरे रखता है

Divya Gopakumar, FYBA



MILESTONE (25 YEARS OF SERVICE)

DEGREE COLLEGE



Dr. Satish Sarfare
HOD Zoology



Dr. Antonette Lobo
Chief Librarian

NON-TEACHING STAFF



Ms. Maya Khedekar
Office Staff



Ms. Neha B. Bapardekar
Department of Zoology



Mr. Santosh S Pallav
Office Staff

ADIEU (RETIRED STAFF)

DEGREE COLLEGE



Dr. K. George Abraham
Department of Chemistry



Ms. Seema B. Ronghe
HOD Microbiology



Ms. Gayatri Sahgal
HOD Chemistry

JUNIOR COLLEGE



Ms. Sunita U. Khopkar
Department of Physics



Ms. Anuradha S. Karandikar
Department of Biology

NON-TEACHING STAFF



Mr. Vilas R. Gaikwad
Department of Chemistry



Dr. Varsha Muley
HOD History

Awarded the Doctoral Degree in History on 17th December 2021 for the submission of the research work to the University of Mumbai, for the thesis titled "Public Health in Colonial Pune, 1818 to 1920".



Dr. Dinesh Pathak
HOD Hindi

Awarded the Doctoral Degree in Hindi on 16th September 2021 for the thesis titled "Bhumandalikaran Ke Sandarb Mein Hindi Upanyason Ka Anusheelan from 1990 to 2012" from the University of Mumbai.



Dr. Madhavan Gopalan
Zoology Department

Awarded the Doctoral Degree in Zoology on 22nd February 2022 for the thesis titled, "Investigation of the Neuroprotective Properties of Beetroot (Beta vulgaris)" from the University of Mumbai.

OBITUARY



Mr. Essaki Armugam
Department of Physics



DEPARTMENT REPORTS

BIOANALYTICAL SCIENCES

- Organized workshop on 'Training and Skill Development in Instrumentation and Bioanalytical Techniques' under the aegis of RUSA from 14th to 19th March 2022.
- The Department participated in ECHO (Environment Conservation Heroes) Project, a nationwide WWF initiative, from September 2021 to April 2022. Under this, students were guided to develop an environmental friendly product, 'Natural Water Purifier'.
- Conducted online Science Lecture Series on 5th and 15th October 2021, November 27th 2021 and February 5th 2022 on various subjects, where eminent speakers shared their experience and expertise with students.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Mridul Sudharman successfully completed two months online CSIR- IIMM Research and Training Programme in the theme Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Toxicology and Formulation in 2021 and was selected Nation-wide from more than 8,000 applicants.

BIOCHEMISTRY, FOOD TECHNOLOGY & NUTRACEUTICALS

- A Workshop on Scientific writing was conducted in April 2022, for the practical exposure in the area of scientific writing. Ms. Poonam Pawar, a Publication writer and Founder of Kaprau Communications guided the students.
- MOU signed with Chamber for Advancement of Small and Medium Businesses (CASMB) for PG Diploma course in 'Food Technology and Nutraceuticals' on 13th April 2022. CASMB will partner in course designing and in training and placement of students.
- Conducted Workshop on Soft Skill and Personality Development, on 6th and 7th April 2022. A Certified Psychological Counsellor, Ms. Shalini Gamre conducted the sessions.
- Organised a two-days workshop on GC/GC-MS, HPLC, Ion Chromatography and FTIR Techniques on 30th and 31st March 2022.
- Organised 'HACCP Internal Auditor Awareness & FoSTaC

Training Program' on 15th and 16th March 2022. Mr.Sanjay Indani: Director – Technical and Food safety at SafeFoodz Solutions, and Ms. Khushbu Shah guided the students.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

- Organised an online Interdisciplinary Workshop for 'Developing & Refining Skills in Bioinformatics' under the aegis of RUSA between 12th February, 2022 and 13th March, 2022.
- Dr. Rajalakshmi Amudan's lecture series on 'Opportunities in Biotechnology' supported by SIES College's PSA was conducted on 21st December 2021.
- Conducted an Internship program for TYBSc students in collaboration with IWSA (Indian Women Scientists' Association) between 18th November 2021-18th December 2021
- Organised a Webinar on 'Global Profiling using Microarray' by Dr. Manoj Mahimkar, Senior Scientist, Cancer Research Institute, ACTREC, Tata Memorial Centre, on 16th November 2021. The lecture was conducted under the aegis of Indian Women Scientists' Association (IWSA) supported by BRNS-DAE (Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy).
- Conducted webinar on 'BARC Technologies' for Solid Waste Management Through Biological Route jointly with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on 28th August 2021 as a commemoration of 75 years of India's independence. The webinar was sponsored by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), (Government of India)

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- MSc II student, Mansi Rawat secured third prize in agriculture and animal husbandry category at the PG level of Avishkar Research Convention 2021-2022, conducted by University of Mumbai, for her research proposal titled 'Coir Nanofibers Composite with Aloe Vera Gel - Potential Use in Sanitary Pad'.
- TYBSc student, Dhanisha Mohapatra secured the first prize in the Amonkar intercollegiate elocution competition organized by R. J. College, Ghatkopar, Mumbai.

- MSc II student, Aarti Galgali secured the first prize in the intercollegiate competition 'Advertising a Marine product', second prize in elocution competition and third prize in Food Fest organized by B.K. Birla College Kalyan.
- SYBSc student, Lahari Pratap Sirupuram secured the First prize in the intercollegiate essay writing competition and second prize in the Food Fest organised by B.K Birla College Kalyan.
- SYBSc student, Medha Iyer secured the third prize in the intercollegiate elocution competition organised by K. C. College.

BOTANY

- Organised RUSA sponsored Certificate course entitled 'Skill Based Workshop on Organic Gardening' from 2nd to 5th March 2022 for TYBSc Botany students.
- MOU established to promote Awareness, Conservation and Research in the field of Mycology with the The Association of Fungal Biologists was proposed on 4th January 2022. The By-laws were finalised. Now completing the registration formalities.
- Conducted Alumni Talk Series which involved delivery of two interactive sessions by Alumni which highlighted the scope and career prospects in the subject botany.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Bhakti Sapkal qualified NET and SET in January 2022.
- Kirthika, S. (M.Sc. – Environmental Botany student) jointly published a research article 'Comparative Study of Roadside Avenue Trees as Bioindicators of Air Pollution in and around Mumbai, India: A Case Study' in International Journal of Science and Research archive, Vol. (2)2: 257-263 ISSN: 2582-8185, 2021.
- Rupa Nadar, a student of TYBSc Botany, won the First prize in Green Race competition, organised by KDMC and Nyass Trust, Dombivli in August 2021.

CHEMISTRY

- Organised Webinar, jointly with the Indian Chemical Society, Mumbai and BARC's celebration of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav on 9th October 2021. Students were guided on the career prospects in Chemistry by Dr. Adish Tyagi, Scientist, Department of Chemistry BARC.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Akshaya Ajay Bhosle (M.Sc.) secured Third rank in Pure Science category, at the final round of 16th intercollegiate Avishkar Research Convention 2021-22 organised by the University of Mumbai on 2nd May 2022, through a virtual platform. Title of Akshaya's presentation was 'Mechanochemical Approach to Synthesis of Xanthate Ester via Chugaev Elimination and its Application'.

COMMERCE

- Organised a National Webinar, 'Transnational Surrogacy Market in India' on 28th September, 2021. The key speaker was Dr. Sheela Suryanarayanan, who is working as an Associate Professor at the Centre of Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.
- Organised an online workshop on 'Managing Money and Investment' on 25th June, 2021.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Vaishnavi Sharma, FYBCom, won the second prize in Poster Making Competition themed 'Shubharambh' organised by Wilson College, on 19th March, 2022.
- Khan Fiza Khurshid, FYBCom, won the second prize in Quiz Competition on 'All About India, Science, Social Workers & Politicians, Entertainment & Music and Internal Trends' organised by Wilson College on 20th March, 2022.
- Shivam Menariya, TYBCom, won the first prize in Box Cricket at N.K.E.S College of Arts, Commerce and Science on 24th February, 2022.
- Ali Imran Alam, FYBCom, won the third prize in Short Film Making Competition themed on 'LGBTQ & Poverty' organised by S. M. Shetty College on 22nd March, 2022.
- Ali Imran Alam, FYBCom, won the first prize in Short Film Making themed 'Cleanliness' organised by R. A. Podar College, Matunga and Jai Hind College on 12th January, 2022.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- In Msc Computer Science, out of 24 students in total, 42% students have got placements.

- In Msc Data Science, out of 20 students in total, 60% students have got placements.
- In the Third Year Bsc Computer Science, out of 106 students in total, 12% students have got placement.

ECONOMICS

- Organised a 3 day Workshop on 'Enhancing the Skill of Research- Use of R tools software for Data Analysis' on 28th February, 2nd and 3rd March 2022 funded by RUSA.
- Organised a National Webinar on 'Pluralism in Economics - Theories and Pedagogies' by Alex Thoma, Assistant Professor, Azim Premji University on 11th August 2021.
- Organised a workshop on 'Pathways to Success' by Purva Gaikwad, Mindset Transformational Coach on 2nd August 2021.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Revaty Ramachandran, TYBA won the first prize in a debate competition organised by the NGO Earthub 18. Her article also got published in December 2021 by the Earthub 18, an art studio on 18th April 2021.

ENGLISH

- Organised a RUSA-sponsored 5-day online 'Skill Enhancement and Career Guidance Workshop' from 7th to 11th February, 2022 for students.
- Conducted a Value-Added Course on 'Social Media Management' from 4th to 28th January 2022.
- Organised a National Webinar, 'Cultural Trauma, Biopolitics and Precarious Lives in the 21st Century' by Dr. Pramod K. Nayar on 7th January, 2022.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- TYBA student of English Literature, Misba Idrisi won the Storify Competition organised by Ghanshyamdas Saraf College on 24th March 2022.
- FYBA student of English Literature, Divya Gopakumar, published a poem titled, 'Strength of the Frail' in the collection 'The Non-Human' published jointly by V. G. Vaze College, Mulund and CHM College, Ulhasnagar in October 2021.

HINDI

- Organised a two-day National Seminar on the theme, 'i Patrakarita Va Anuvad mein rojgar ke Avasar, Aavashayk Kaushal avam Chunaotiyan' on 11th and 12th March 2022.
- Senior Poet, Ashtabhuj Shukla interacted with the students on the topic, 'Samkaleen Kavita Mein Lok Jeevan Vishesh Sandarbh Stree aur Kisan' on 15th February 2022.
- Dr. Kripashankar Chaube interacted with the students on the topic, 'Jail, Jabti aur Jurmane ki Patrakarita' on 18th December 2021.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Prarthna Singh and Divya Gopakumar got 1st and 2nd Prize respectively in Intercollegiate Poetry Recitation Competition on 18th February 2022, organised by the Hindi Department of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.

HISTORY

- Organised lecture series on Archaeology and History by the Archaeologists, MS. Anuja Joshi and Sneha Joshi from 16th to 18th February 2022.



Politics-Economics joint credit course FYBA

- Conducted a two-day an online National Webinar on 'Epidemics to Pandemic: Challenges Met and Lessons Learnt' jointly with the Department of Politics in collaboration with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, on 18th and 19th November 2021.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- 'Demystifying Cloud' was conducted on 12th February 2022 by Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Technical Account Manager at Google Cloud.
- Data Storytelling - From Art to Science' was conducted on 22nd January 2022 by Ms. Rajneet Kaur, Senior Technical Project Manager, Persistent Systems, Pune.
- Alumni Talk Series was conducted on 'Demystifying Data Science' on 23rd December 2021 by Ms. Ratna Pillai, Senior Data Analyst, CACI, Dublin.

MANAGEMENT STUDIES (BMS)

- 'Mock Stock', a virtual stock trading event was held for Utkarsha 2022, an intracollegiate fest on 24th February 2022, where 10 Teams had participated.
- Orientation for MBA Program by Prof. Deepa Dhonde, Faculty - SIES Institute of Management Studies, on 25th January 2022.
- Organised webinar on The Business of Fintech by Prof. Debarshi Nandy on 18th January 2022.
- A Study Abroad Webinar was organised by Educational Consultant Mr. Parin, on 16th December 2021.
- Organised webinar on 'Business Finance 101' by Mr. Vishal Goel, dnan Instry Expert on 26th November 2021.
- Conducted a workshop on Investor Awareness Program by Prof. Amogh Gothoskar, Trainer, in association with BSE on 25th November 2021.
- 'CFX Orientation' for SIES College Students by Ms. Nisha Shah from FinX Education on 27th August 2021.
- Organised webinar on 'Business Intellectual and Emotional Intelligence' in association with the faculties of ICFAI Business School, Powai on 31st July, 2021.
- Organised webinar on 'Dream Career in Management Accounting via CMA - US' by CA Pranit Jain from Financial Planning Academy on 13th July, 2021
- Organised a webinar on 'Dream Career in Accounting

and Finance via ACCA' by Mr. Zaheer Sayed on 9th July, 2021.

MASS MEDIA (BMM)

- Value Added Skill-Based Course under RUSA for Semester Two for F.Y.B.A. M.M.C titled 'Managerial Skills Development-II', a workshop-based coaching was offered for one credit suitable for recruitment, retention and relationship building on and off job aptly during the entire month of March 2022.
- 'TATA Power and Sustainability', on 10th March, 2022, panellists Mr. Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, and Mr. Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD TATA Power.
- 'The Emerging Challenges for the Power Sector in India' on 20th August 2021, panellist Mr. Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, TATA Power.
- 'Vision for the Textile Industries' on 10th August 2021, panellist Mr. Mohit Jain, Executive Vice President, Indo Count Industries and Mr. Kailash Lalpuria, CEO, Indo Count Industries.
- Conducted an online workshop on 'Conversational Intelligence - The Master Key to A Successful Career' by Mr. Ujjaval Buch, Director and Master Coach, United Minds on 9th August, 2021.
- Danfoss: Enabling a Green Transformation' on 3rd August 2021, panellist Mr. Ravichandran Purushothaman - President of Danfoss India Region.
- The Free Press Journal in collaboration with the Department of Mass Media, conducted a panel discussion



Inter-University Event March 2022 Student with coach (Student Achievement)

cum national webinar for the students and corporates moderated by Shri R. N. Bhaskar on the following topics: 'The State of Indian Economy' on 9th July 2021, panellist Mr. Mahesh Vyas, MD, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Vaibhavi Bapat was selected in the open trials held at Delhi for World Championship 2021 and Represented India in Group Rhythmic Gymnastics at World Championship 2021 held at Kitakyushu, Japan from September-October, 2021.
- Vaibhavi won a Silver Medal for the women team championship at the All-India Inter-University Rhythmic Gymnastics tournament held in Amritsar, 29th March to 31st March, 2022.

MATHEMATICS

- Organised a One Day National Webinar on Pathways To Develop Research Skills in Mathematics on 5th March, 2022 under the aegis of RUSA to orient the students and teachers about nurturing research skills, contemporary areas of research, procedural approach to quality research and to discuss research opportunities and avenues in Mathematics.
- Organised the event 'Mathemagicians' on 24th February, 2022, as a part of Utkarsha 2021-22, which included QUIZ based on Math and Logic, Poster Making with general Math related topics.
- Organised a Two Days Workshop on the Setting Effective Question Paper using Bloom's Taxonomy on the 20th and 21st September 2021 to orient teachers about the role of Bloom's Taxonomy in effective question paper setting and evaluation.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Alexander V. (TYBSc Maths) & Nihaar T (TYBSc Stats) secured First place - Pandemonium in Numero Uno, Math fest of HR College.
- Alexander V (TYBSc Maths) & Mahavidya S (SYBSc Maths-Stats) secured Second place - Sugaku Pazuru in Numero Uno, Math fest of HR College.
- The Department received Runner-up Contingent Prize in Numero Uno, Math fest of HR College.

MICROBIOLOGY

- Conducted Workshop 'Development of Skills in Biostatistics to Analyse Biological Data Sets' under RUSA grant for students of TYBSc, MSc & Ph.D, on 2nd & 3rd March 2022.
- Dr. Pravin Govind, project Scientist II CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh delivered a talk 'Insights on Bio-Nano Interface: Promises and New Prospects' on 28th November 2021.
- A two-day International Conference on 'The Frontiers of Microbiology: Man - Microbe Dynamics' in association with Microbiologists Society India on 18th and 19th September, 2021.
- Organised a Webinar, 'Why Do Bacteria Form Biofilms?' by scholar Dr. Eisha Mathre, University of Pittsburgh on 25th July 2021.
- JIVAN-RAKSHA vaccination drive was conducted by the Department of Microbiology and DMLT in association with Platinum Hospital, Mulund on 24th June 2021 & on 23rd September 2021 in association with Lions Club.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Research student Vivek Parab, completed Ph.D under the guidance of Dr. Manju Phadke, in 2021.
- Rajitha Satish Ph.D student got the Best Oral Presentation Award at the 2nd International Virtual Conference on Bacteriophage Research, for the Paper titled 'Isolation of Mycobacteriophage: A Novel Tool to Treat Mycobacterium spp' conducted on 22nd - 24th July 2021, by the Society for Bacteriophage Research and Therapy.

PHILOSOPHY

- 'DOT Listening Skills' workshop, under RUSA Grant, facilitated by Mr. Sachin Chitambar, Founder and Lead Trainer, The Connect Hut, from 8th February to 3rd March, 2022.
- 'Ethics of Care - Nel Nodding' talk by Dr. Reetu Jaiswan, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Delhi University to sensitise students on feminist ethics, on 4th April, 2022.
- 'This is Socrates Speaking' under 'Tattva Trends' in collaboration with Spanda Abhinava Holistic Initiative

conducted an essay writing competition from 3rd to 15th January, 2022.

- 'Mental Health Literacy on Suicide Prevention' session to spread awareness on mental health and reduce the stigma surrounding suicide, by Mr. Sachin Chitambar, Lead trainer, Samaritans Mumbai, an emotional support and crisis intervention helpline, on 20th December, 2021.
- 'History of Yoga and its Contemporary Relevance' by Shri Vyasa Kalyansunderam, Yoga therapist and Yoga consultant of Astanka Yoga Mandir, Sri Lanka on 26th August 2021.
- 'Jainism and Sustainability', a talk to highlight the role of Jaina Dharma and its ecological relevance, by Dr. Pankaj Jain, Prof. Dept. of Philosophy and Religious Studies & Head of Indic studies, Flame University, Pune on 31st July, 2021.
- 'Chair Yoga and Pranayama' - 'Yoga Banaye Niroga', one-day workshop for teaching and non-teaching staff, by Mr. Sandeep Solanki, Yoga trainer, to commemorate International Yoga Day, on 21st June, 2021.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Divya Gopakumar, FYBA student bagged First prize in Gita Shloka chanting competition, Chinmaya Mission.

PHYSICS

- Conducted One Day Demonstration Session on the MSc-Part 2 projects and research facilities in the department, on 23rd April 2022.
- Organised Two Days workshop on Power Supplies and Fun with Logic Gates for SYBSc Students on 20th and 21th April 2022.
- Organised Skill Development Program of 30 Hrs on the topic Programming and Interfacing Using Raspberry pi, funded by RUSA, from 14th February 2022 to 6th March 2022. Mr. B. M. Wagle, R/D Head, Microbyte Solutions guided the students.
- Organised One Day National level online Workshop titled 'Pratibha P Pai Webinar on the Frontiers of Physics' to orient students about the latest and significant progress and highlight in Physics on 17th July 2021. Faculty from TIFR Mumbai, IISc Bangalore, IIT Delhi and IACS Kolkata were the resource persons.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- MSc student Mamata M. cleared the SET exam in May 2021.

POLITICS

- Organised a workshop on 'Understanding the Basics of Political Reporting' on 28th February 2022.
- Organised a National Webinar on 'Epidemics to Pandemic: Challenges Met and Lessons Learnt' on 18th-19th November 2021 along with the Department of History in association with Dr. B.R Ambedkar University of Social Sciences (BRAUSS), Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- Organised a webinar on 'Understanding Right to Information in the Context of Good Governance' in association with the Praja Foundation on 7th October, 2021. The webinar was delivered by Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, former Central Information Commissioner and a prominent RTI activist.
- Organised a National Webinar on 'Understanding Urban Governance : A Case of Mumbai' on 29th September 2021 in association with the Praja Foundation. The webinar was delivered by Aviral Narayan Dubey, Project Officer at Praja Foundation.
- Organised a webinar on 'Civilizational & Cultural Influences on India's Neighbourhood Policy' on 6th August 2021 in collaboration with the Value Lab Association. The webinar was delivered by Dr. Nanda Kishor, Associate Professor, Department of Geopolitics & International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Learning (MAHE).

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Shubham Sharma of SYBA bagged Praja Foundation's





OTHER/ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Elected Representative (ER) Fellowship for 2022-23.

- Pranav Sriram and Mansi Kelkar of SYBA bagged a gold medal for the debate competition under the national event 'Prajatantra 2021'.

PSYCHOLOGY

- Organised a RUSA-funded 20 hours online short-term course on 'Basic Helping Skills for Psychological Counselling' for TY Psychology students from 12th February 2022 to 3rd March 2022.
- Organised a National Webinar on 'Community Mental Health: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities' on 8th January 2022.
- Organised a guest lecture of 'Brain Donation' on 24th July 2021 by Dr. Anita Mahadevan, Head of Department of Neuropathology, NIMHANS, Bangalore.

STATISTICS

- Conducted a workshop on 'Curriculum Vitae Writing' on 25th April 2022.
- Organised a webinar on 'The Investment Strategies for Beginners' on 24th April 2022 .
- Conducted 'Data Summit: A National Level Competition' from 13th to 16th August 2021. Nihaar Thakkar & Yogita Chavan received prizes in 'Data Summit: A National Level Competition' held between 13th to 16th August 2021.

- Organised a webinar on 'The Introduction to Probability and its Applications' on 24th July 2021.
- Organised a webinar on 'The Role of Data Scientists in Banking Sector' on the occasion of National Statistics Day, 29th June 2021.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ummehaani Shaikh was placed at Car Trade Tech Limited as a data analyst through college placement.

ZOOLOGY

- Organised Two day Photography Workshop under the Aegis of RUSA on 4th and 5th April 2022. Experts from the field of photography demonstrated and gave hands-on experience on basics of photography.
- Organised a three day workshop for Enhancing Research Skills for UG and PG students by the faculty of Zoology under Nirmitee Kendra funded by RUSA from 24th to 26th March 2022.
- Conducted Excursion for TYBSc students to Sanjay Gandhi National Park on 12th March 2022.
- Conducted Excursion for SYBSc students to Coastal and Marine Biodiversity centre, Airoli on 10th March 2022.
- Conducted Excursion for MSc students of Oceanography to Aquaculture farm, Saphale on 5th March 2022.
- Celebrated National Science day by organising a Two Day Exhibition Cum Experimental Learning Activity on 28th February 2022 and 1st March 2022.

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

- A 16 hours duration 1 credit course on Personality & Soft Skills development was held for First year classes in Semester - I in February 2022.
- Organized an Interactive Online Session on 'Enhancing Opportunities through MOOCs and Skill Based Training Programs' on 4th February 2022.
- 6 Staff Members completed Faculty Development Programme (FDP) by completing NPTEL Online Certification (NOC) Examination during 2020 and 2021 runs.
- In the NPTEL Online Certification (NOC) Examination there were 5 toppers in January - April 2021 and 5 toppers in July - December 2021. In all, 157 qualified NOC examination in 2021.
- Centre for Excellence and Placement Cell of SIES College in collaboration with LUT University, Finland organized a webinar titled 'Challenge based Higher Education at LUT University, Finland' for TYBSc Physics and Chemistry students on 11th December 2021.
- Conducted NPTEL Soft Skill Training Program for students between 9th and 14th August 2021.
- Conducted a Basic and Advanced Python Credit Course between 1st and 15th July 2021.
- A Career Guidance Webinar titled 'Dream Career in CMA' in association with Financial Planning Academy was held on 13th July 2021.
- Career Guidance Webinar for students titled 'Dream Career in Accounting & Finance' in association with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Financial Planning Academy held on 9th July 2021.

CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

- Hosted the Great Master Series featuring Vidushi Guru Srirangan Gopalaratnam in collaboration with SPICMACAY on 19th March 2022.
- Conducted Traditional Day on 5th March 2022.
- Organized the annual event 'Talent Mania', a hybrid platform for the FYs across all departments of both Junior

college and Degree college on 28th February 2022.

- Conducted an event 'MIXtape' on 29th January 2022 where participants were asked to send in the audio tracks of their own mashup of a minimum 3 to maximum of 5 songs.
- Conducted an event 'Tales By Three' on 4th December 2021.
- Conducted an event 'Living Pictures' on 16th October 2021.

GENDER SENSITIZATION CELL

- Organised a Guest lecture titled 'The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' by Advocate Arun Ramchandra Gaikwadon 28th January 2022.
- Organised a talk titled 'Menstrual Hygiene and Menstrual Issues' by Dr. Rupali Vaity, Department of Zoology on 19th January 2022.
- Organised a Guest lecture titled 'Cancer Awareness' by Ms. Susmita Mitra (Director-Special Projects, Cancer Patients Aid Association) on 2nd September 2021.

INSTITUTE OF COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION (ICE)

- Conducted a Career Panorama virtually from 9th to 11th February 2022 for the 10th standard students of our sister institutions, SIES High School, Matunga and APJ Abdul Kalam High School, Ghatkopar.
- Conducted a Panel Discussion jointly on 'An Engaging Curriculum guided by NEP to Empower Gen Z' on 18th October 2021.
- Organised a Webinar on 'Diversity in the Classroom' by Ms. Rukhshana Sholapurwala on 11th July 2021.

ISR (INSTITUTIONAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY)

- Organised a trip to Kawthwadi with the Rotaract Club of SIES College and CDF SIES on 27 December, 2021. The

students conducted surveys and shared educational videos with the Kawthewadi students.

- Conducted 'Khel Utsav' for the native children at Kawthewadi on Monday, 27th December 2021.
- Conducted 'Talent Dikhlaja' at Kawthewadi on Monday, December 27, 2021.
- Completed a portion of ISR donation drive in Kawthewadi as part of the Partners-In-Service initiative 'Gift of Warmth'. 80+ blankets were given away to the Kawthewadi tribals.

IQAC (INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL)

- Organised a webinar on 'Understanding the CAS Rules under 7th Pay Regulations' jointly with the CAS committee on 8th January 2022. Dr. Sanjay Jagtap, Joint Director, HE Panvel, Konkan Region was the resource person.
- Organized an online workshop on Outcome Based Education, 'Setting Effective Question Papers using Bloom's Taxonomy' jointly with the Department of Mathematics on 20th and 21st September 2021. Dr. Nandita Mangalore, IQAC coordinator, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai was the resource person.
- A half day workshop was conducted on 'The Role of IQAC and Teachers in the Documentation for NAAC' on 13th August 2021. Dr. Parvathi Venkatesh, Principal, Don Bosco College, Kurla and Prof. K. Venkataramani, Joint Secretary, SIES Management, Matunga conducted this workshop.
- Organized a webinar on 'Apki Khushi Apke Hath me' in association with CTD, regarding self-realisation and self-improvement. Dr. Thangam Ghule and Dr. Jayashri Giri were the resource persons for this webinar.

LIBRARY

- The Library has a collection of 57900 books, 2788 e-Books and digitized copies of articles on astronomy as of March 2022. Currently 80 Journals, 59 Magazines and 8 Newspapers are available. The Library Web Page contains Links to various e-resources including NDLI and N-List. Library OPAC can also be accessed through the college website. Library notices and new additions are

displayed regularly on the Opening page of the OPAC. A Book Display of General and Reference books was held from 7th to 11th February 2022.

MARATHI VANGMAY MANDAL

- Organised a program named 'साहित्यातील दोन सुमने' to celebrate 'मराठी भाषा गौरव दिने' - 27th February 2022. The poems of the great Marathi poet Vasant Bapat and Shanta Shelke were recited by students and staff members as a tribute on their birth centenary year.

NATURE CLUB

- A lecture by Mr. Kartik Thevar, Alumni, was organized by Nature Club on the Topic 'Snow Leopard Conservation and Rehabilitation at Hemis National Park' on 11th April 2022.
- A lecture by Mr. Sunil Harshana who works on the sacred grove around Haryana was organized on 27th August 2021.
- A virtual tour to Godrej Mangroves by Mr. Hemant Karkhanis was organized on 17th August 2021.

NIRMITEE KENDRA

- Conducted a Business Bootcamp under the name 'Initio' on 18th January 2022.
- Organised a guest lecture on 'Establishing a Start-up 101' by Mr. Bhavesh Kothari, a leading entrepreneur and start-up mentor, on 26th September, 2021.

NCC

- A cultural programme and Shakti Pradarshan were performed by the cadets on Maharashtra Day, 1st May 2022.
- Conducted the event 'Say No to Drugs' on 12th January 2022.
- Paid homage to the 14 martyrs of the 08/12/21 helicopter crash. The cadet performed SHOK SHASTRA at the college on 11th January 2022.
- Organised Covid-19 Vaccination Drives-2 for all the faculties, students and their family members on 30th October 2021 and on 29th November 2021. In all 230 people benefited from this drive.



Tribute to CDS General Bipin Rawat on 11.01.2022

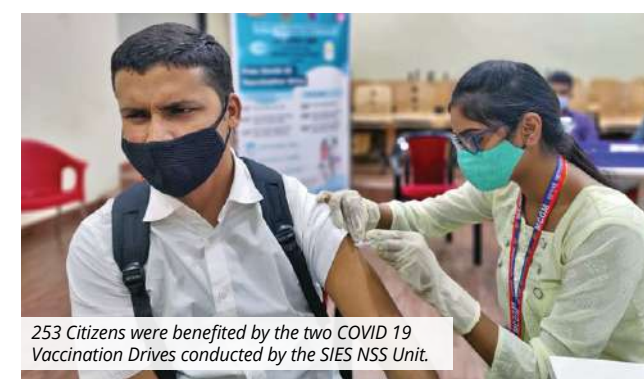


Cadet. Alok Gunjawale Participated in the Republic Day Parade

- Celebrated 'Kargil Vijay Divas' on 26th July 2021 to pay homage and make the citizens aware of the sacrifices made by the soldiers. 30 cadets participated in the event.
- Carried out a tree plantation program under 'Van Mahotsav'. 60 saplings were planted over three days: 8th July 2021, 9th October 2021 and 10th October 2021.
- Celebrated Yoga Day on 21st June 2021. 38 cadets participated in the event.

NSS

- Organised a Beach Clean-up Drive at Shivaji Park Beach, Dadar Chowpatty on 19th December 2021. 50 volunteers participated in the event.
- Conducted a Street Play and Poster making competition on the occasion of World AIDS Awareness Day on 1st December 2021. 37 volunteers participated in the event.
- Conducted Covid-19 Vaccination Drive-2, in collaboration with the NCC Unit and the Municipal Corporation F North Ward, for all the faculties, students and their family



253 Citizens were benefited by the two COVID 19 Vaccination Drives conducted by the SIES NSS Unit.

- members on 29th November 2021. 120 people benefited from the drive.
- Organised a Blood Donation Drive, in collaboration with 'Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation and Sion Hospital Blood Bank', at Dadar Station on 21st November 2021. A total of 90 Units of blood was collected. 22 volunteers participated in the drive.
- Conducted Covid-19 Vaccination Drive-1, in collaboration with the NCC Unit and the Municipal Corporation F North Ward, for all the faculties, students and their family members on 30th October 2021. 110 people benefited from the drive.
- Conducted an Educational Program 'Udaan' from 12th September to 16th December 2021. 24 volunteers participated in the event.
- Organised a 'Pulse Polio Drive,' in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation F North ward, from 26th September to 1st October 2021. 23 volunteers participated in the event.
- Organised a workshop on Chair Yoga and Pranayam, in collaboration with Tattvam, Philosophy Association, on 21st June 2021. 22 volunteers participated in the event.



NSS volunteers had taken an initiative to clean the Dadar Chowpatty Beach on 19th December, 2021.



ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS

PSA (PAST STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION)

- Organised Dr. Rajalakshmi Amudan Lecture Series on 'Opportunities of Biotechnology', along with the Department of Biotechnology, on 21st December, 2021.
- Organised Free Covid-19 Vaccination Drive on 29th November, 2021 in association with MCGM F/North Ward and NSS, NCC Units of the college.
- Financially supported needy students during Covid times by paying their fees.
- Sponsored a girl child for eye check-up and continuous medication as prescribed by the ophthalmologist.

ROTARACT CLUB

- Conducted 'Smile and Wave' on 4th and 5th May 2022, an interactive program where foreigners at tourist spots in Mumbai expressed their opinions on Indian cuisine, culture and people.
- Organised a Students' Professional Development Conference on 5th March 2022.
- The event 'Akanksha' was held from 19th February 2022 till 28th February 2022.
- Organised 'Khel Utsav' for different categories like school students, college students, teaching and non-teaching staff of SIES College, senior citizens, orphans, kids at the juvenile centre, specially abled kids on 23rd January 2022.
- Conducted 'Cinefest Take 5', an all-day, digital festival from 16th to 18th December 2021.

SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

- As Celebration of National Science Day a Guest Lecture titled 'Need of Science Awareness Among Educated People' was organised on 28th February, 2022.
- Organised QFIESTA-2022 on 25th February 2022.

VALUE LAB

- A group competition, 'Mock Panchayat', was organised on 23rd December, 2021.
- Lecture-cum-demonstration workshop titled 'From Movement to Stillness' was conducted by Mr. Sandeep Solanki on 29th September, 2021.
- A guidance lecture on 'Ahaar Vihaar Vichara' by Dr. Aashish Phadke was organised on 22nd September, 2021.

- Principal Dr. Uma Shankar guided students on 'Be Spirited Be Spiritual' on 16th September, 2021.
- A webinar on 'Navigating Friendships - Understanding Boundaries & Anxieties in Relationships' by Ms. Pratyaksha Tiwari, In-house Therapist, The MoodSpace, was conducted on 6th September, 2021.
- A lecture on 'Cultural & Civilizational Influences on India's Neighbourhood Policy' by Dr. Nanda Kishor, Associate Professor Department of Geopolitics & International Relations, was organised on 6th August, 2021.
- A short film titled 'Butterfly' was made by the members of Value Lab and was released by Dr. Uma Shankar on 30th July, 2021.
- A talk on 'Alive in Hope' by Dr. Siddharth Warriar, MD, Neurology, TEDx Speaker and poet, was organised on 5th July, 2021.
- Variety of activities were conducted with SIES school to promote values. The events included 'Fun Hour' on 4th December, 2021, an Origami workshop on 26th November, 2021, a workshop on 'Secrets of Happiness' on 25th September, 2021, a workshop on 'The Bond of Friendship' on 16th August, 2021 and a lecture on 'Why What How Hope' by Benaifer Khisay, Remedial educator, School Counsellor, on 12th July, 2021.

UTKARSHA

- Utkarsha, the Academic Literary Fest of the college, was held on 24th and 25th February, 2022. Various events like the Art of Ancient India, You Laugh = You Lose, Tri-Econo-Factor, The Lost Island, (Epi)Curious, Expressions, Mock Stock Trading, Ziegers, Essay Writing, Poetry Writing, Poster Making, Chemorisis2021, Video Clip Making, Face Painting, Kalakruti, Finding Nemo, Unlock the Doc, Shark Tank, Alice in Borderland, Squidgame, Symposiums etc. were organised by different departments and associations.

VISIONS

- Visions celebrated its 30th year with the theme 'Apocryphal', dedicated to the folklore of mythological creatures. The fest took place on the 25th and 26th of February, 2022. All events, including Cynosure, Valorant, Cinemaniacs, Mystical Maquillage, and Spin the Tale among many others, were held online and streamed virtually across social media platforms.

BIOCHEMISTRY AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND NUTRACEUTICALS

DEEPALI KOTHEKAR

- Completed a University of Mumbai-funded Minor Research Project on "Modulation Of Drug And Chemical Induced Hepatotoxicity By Natural Antioxidants: A Study Using Chick Embryo Model". Total grant sanctioned: Rs. 40,000.00/-

SUVEERA BELLARY

- Published a research paper titled "Microbial conversion of lignin-rich biomass hydrolysates to medium-chain length polyhydroxyalkanoates (mcl-PHA) by using Pseudomonas putida KT2440" in the journal, Preparative Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Taylor Francis, ISSN:1082-6068E-ISSN:1532-2297.

BIOANALYTICAL SCIENCES

PRACHETA SALUNKHE

- Selected for the Macquarie Group Scholarship by edX (American MOOC created by Harvard and MIT) to pursue and complete the educational course offered by edX, with a scholarship worth \$500.
- Jointly published a paper titled, 'Biotechnological Techniques to Engineer Disease Free Plants in, Research and Reviews in Biotechnology and Biosciences, 8, 171-195 (2021).

BIOTECHNOLOGY

PRAMOD KAMBLE

- Won the "Best Paper Award" under the category of Medical Microbiology for the paper titled "Antioxidant and Quorum Sensing Inhibition Activity of Aegle marmelos, Picrorhiza kurroa and Swertia chirayita" in an International Conference on "The Frontiers of Microbiology: Man-Microbe Dynamics" held on 18th and 19th of September 2021 organized by Department of Microbiology, at SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sion (West), Mumbai.

- Jointly published a paper titled "Berberis aristata: A potential resource of Medicinal plants" in Medicinal Plants ISBN: 978-93-5593-624-0. <https://www.scientistracademy.com/about-8>.

BMM

VANEETA RANEY

- Published a paper titled "A Comparative Study of Audience Preferences Between OTT Platforms and Television Channels with reference to Entertainment Shows" in VB International Interdisciplinary Research Journal ISSN: 2319-4979.

BMS

UMADEVI KOKKU

- Awarded Ph.D. in the subject Business Policy & Administration under the faculty of Commerce from the University of Mumbai on 2nd November 2021.
- Published a research paper titled "An Empirical study on Green Accounting practices in the current paradigm for sustainable development in India" in Asian Journal of Organic & Medicinal Chemistry, ISSN online:2456-8937

SARAVANAN NADAR

- Invited as a guest speaker for online session with SMART project staff and students of Tech Mahindra Foundation held on 16th March 2022.

DEEPIKA GAWADE

- Published a research paper on "A study on Microentrepreneurship- The engine of Job growth for the Indian Economy" in Purana Journal, ISSN: 0555-7860.

BOTANY

VISHNUPRASAD V.

- Won the First prize in Green Race competition, organised by KDMC and Nyass Trust, Dombivli in August 2021.

- Jointly published a research article, "Comparative study of roadside avenue trees as bioindicators of air pollution in and around Mumbai", in India: A Case study, International Journal of Science and Research archive, Vol. (2)2: 257-263 ISSN: 2582-8185 (2021).

CHEMISTRY

PALLAVI ROY

- Jointly published a paper with Dr.Nitin Mirgane titled "Ionic Liquid: A Versatile Green Catalyst for the Reaction of 9-Hydroxymethylanthracenes with Maleimides under Solvent-free Conditions", in the Indian Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry 2021,31, 295-299.

NITIN MIRGANE

- Jointly published a paper titled "Phytochemical Study and Screening of Antioxidant, Anti-inflammatory Typhonium Flagelliforme" in Research Journal of Pharmacy and Technology. 202, 14, 2686-0.
- Jointly published a paper titled "Phytochemical analysis, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activity of leaves and bark of Ceropegia rollae" Hemadri. Plant Science Today, 2021, 8, 425-428.
- Jointly published a paper with Dr. Pallavi Roy titled "Ionic Liquid: A Versatile Green Catalyst for the Reaction of 9-Hydroxymethylanthracenes with Maleimides under Solvent-free Conditions", in the Indian Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry 2021,31, 295-299.

KIRTIKUMAR BADGUJAR

- Received "Teacher of The Year Award-2021 in Young category" from Academisthan Foundation on the occasion of Teachers Day 2021 due to his Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Research.
- elected as "Young Associate of Maharashtra Academy of Science, Pune" due to his Outstanding Contribution to Research in Chemical Science and Technology.
- Granted recognition as a teacher to guide students for Ph.D. Degree in Chemistry from University of Mumbai.
- Patent granted by Indian Patent Office, Government of India titled "A process to synthesize 2-chloro alkyl ethanoate compounds using supercritical carbon dioxide reaction media, 2021", Patent Application number: 201621044030, Grant Number: 378562

- Published a research paper titled "Investigation of effect of ultrasound on immobilized C. rugosa lipase: Synthesis of biomass based furfuryl derivative and green metrics evaluation study" in Enzyme and Microbial Technology, 2021, 144, 109738 Journal, Elsevier Publication (Impact Factor 3.49)
- Published a Chapter titled "Ionic liquids for bioenergy", in the book Ionic Liquid-Based Technologies for Environmental Sustainability, 2022, 235-256, Elsevier Publication
- Published a research paper titled "Lipase as a green and sustainable material for production of levulinic compounds: State of the art", in Materials Science for Energy Technologies Journal, 2022, 5, 232-242, Elsevier Publication.
- Published a Chapter titled "Recent update on use of ionic liquids for enzyme immobilization, activation and catalysis: A partnership for sustainability", in Current Opinion in Green and Sustainable Chemistry Journal, 2022, 1-12, Elsevier Publication (Impact Factor 6.42)

MAHALAXMI NADAR

- Received a Letter of Appreciation for being part of Internshala Annual Rankings 2021 for the exemplary efforts put forth towards building a meaningful internship culture in SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce in the year 2021.

COMMERCE

KRISHNAN RAMCHANDRAN

- Published a research paper titled 'Novel CoronaVirus and Changing Lifestyle: Mainland India' on 'International Journal of Research (IJR)', January – July 2022 Edition, ISSN: 2231-6124, Impact Factor: 7.551.
- Published a research paper titled 'Radio Media in the Contemporary Society: Advertising Avenues' on 'International Journal of Advance & Innovative Research (IJAIR)', April 2022 Edition, ISSN: 2394-7780, Impact factor: 7.36.

ECONOMICS

SHRUTI PANDAY

- Published a chapter 'Reappraising Gandhian Economic Philosophy in the light of its relevance in Modern India' in

the edited book "Gandhi ke Arthik Vichar and Nav Nirman Bharat" 2021.

- Keynote Address at NMSM Government College Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Lecture Series: "Indian Economy: A Kaleidoscope of 75 Years" on 3-11-2021.

ENGLISH

LAKSHMI MUTHUKUMAR

- Research Paper titled "Revisiting Communication Skills in English Courses in HEIs" published by the Cosmos Multidisciplinary Research E-Journal, a recognized international peer reviewed journal, Volume VII, Issue III, March 2022. ISSN 2456-1665, Impact Factor 4.94.
- Book titled Beauty Sleep published by Orange Books Publication in April 2022. ISBN:978-93-92878-56-5
- Research Paper titled "Staging an Encounter: Citizenship and Resistance" in the International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences, Vol. 7, Issue 2, March – April 2022, ISSN: 2456-7620 with an impact factor of 5.553.
- Paper titled, "A Tamil Poet and Composer Par Excellence-Arunachala Kavirayar" published by the magazine Synergy, January – June 2022 issue.

SEEMA C.

- Received the Well-Planned Mentor Award by NPTEL held on 3rd March 2022.
- Published a paper titled "Have you Arrived Yet? Attempting a Disambiguation of the Modernist-Postmodernist Dichotomy" in Vol. 30, March 2022 issue of UGC care journal, Dibrugarh University Journal of English Studies, ISSN 0975-5659, ISSN [Online] 2581-7833).

VIDYA HARIHARAN

- Published a paper titled 'Threshold and Marginality: Space for Meaningful Dialogue in The New Normal' in Lucid - A Peer Reviewed, Multidisciplinary Journal By Sophia College, Mumbai – Vol1, Issue 1 March 2022.
- Published a research paper, ' Mass Displacements and Ecological Crisis in The Novels Of Amitav Ghosh 'Gun Island' And The Hungry Tide' in Ajanta Vol. XI, Issue 1 Jan-March 2022 ISSN 22775730.

HINDI

DINESH PATHAK

- Completed his PhD on the topic "Bhumandalikaran Ke Sandarb Mein Hindi Upanyason Ka Anusheelan from 1990 to 2012" on 16th September 2021 from the University of Mumbai.
- Published a Book 'Bhumandalikaran Bharteeya Samaj va Hindi Upanyas' (ISBN 978-93-91458-14-0) by RK Publication Mumbai.
- Published an article, ' Mashini Anuvad: Prakriya Prayog, Samasyen,va Samadhaan' in the journal,'Sameecheen Mumbai' .(July -Sept 2021)
- Published a paper,'Aajadi ka amrit varsh: Gandhi chintan Va Daliton Ki Sthiti' in the journal 'Ajanta' (Oct-Dec,2021)
- Published a paper,'Bazarvad aur Hindi Upanyas' in 'Ajanta' (Jan -Mar 2022)

HISTORY

VARSHA MULEY

- Awarded the Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) on 17th December 2021 for the submission of the research work to the University of Mumbai, for the thesis titled 'Public Health in Colonial Pune, 1818 to 1920'.

ICE (INSTITUTE OF COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION)

VIDYA SATISH

- Was a Keynote speaker at PUSMA –A Concern for a Cause Conclave 2022 for future-ready schools on 26th June 2022.
- Delivered a keynote address on National Education Policy 2020 – Implications for the Foundational Years, at the Virtual International Conference on Sustainable Practices in Higher Education, on the 25th of March 2022.
- Contributed a chapter titled "Nai Talim - A Philosopher's Stone and its Relevance through Eight Decades" in the book Gandhi: The Hidden Power, published by Gandhi Shikshan Bhavan College of Education, October 2021, ISBN 978-1-68563-585-5
- Published an article titled "Once upon a Time" in Indian National Child Care Association INCCA- Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 1, August 2021.
- Was Keynote speaker for the session on Foundational

Literacy organized by Association for Early Childhood Education and Development on 21st August 2021.

BHAKTI GALA

- Published an article on "Women will Rule the World" in the book titled Her Voice-Articles on Women Empowerment towards a Progressive Nation. ISBN 979-888629202-2, March 8th 2022.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SUDHA BHAGAVATHEESWARAN

- Qualified the Maharashtra State Eligibility Test (M-SET) Examination for Assistant Professor held on 26th September 2021 in the subject of Computer Science & Applications.

BIJU RAMESH

- Invited as resource person to give a talk on "Advanced Excel" for Tech Mahindra foundation SMART centres on 2nd and 9th March 2022.
- Invited as resource person to give a talk on "Information Technology Enabled Services" for Tech Mahindra foundation SMART centres on 20th and 21st January 2022.

MICROBIOLOGY

MANJU PHADKE

- Edited book titled Marine Microbiology- Objective Pattern by My Rays Publication, ISBN- 978-93-93337-24-5.
- Contributed to the chapter titled "Berberis aristate - a potential resource of medicinal plants" in the book on Medicinal Plants published by Scientist R Academy Bangalore, ISBN 978-93-5593-624-D.

PRAMOD GHOGARE

- Editor for the book Basic Techniques in Microbiology-I (ISBN: 978-81-954694-8-2) (Practical Handbook), on 27 November 2021.
- Editor for the book Basic Techniques in Microbiology-II (ISBN: 11406-ISBN-2021-A) (Practical Handbook), on 14 December 2021.
- Editor for the book "Basic Techniques in Microbial Biochemistry and Environmental Microbiology" (ISBN:

978-93-93337-06-1) (Practical Handbook) on 2 March 2022.

- Received popular mentor award for running online NPTEL courses during Jan – Dec 2020 & Jan- April 2021.

CAROL BRAGGS

- Published a research paper titled "Analysis on the Novel Approach of Using Colloidal Silver Against E. coli Persists to Ampicillin" in Biosc.Biotech.Res.Comm. 2021;14(2) on 30/06/2021. (<http://dx.doi.org/10.21786/bbrc/14.2.48>)

PHILOSOPHY

UMA SHANKAR

- Published an article in "Navadurga" titled "Empowering and Promoting Women Leadership on Generating Leaders for Tomorrow" by Srimaan Balasaheb Thackeray Adyasan Kendra, University of Mumbai, 2022.
- Published an article "Sankara divinity in human form-Synergy".
- One student completed PhD
- Was a resource person at Jain college Chennai on 21st July 2021 and delivered a talk on 'Introduction to Vedanta' – ICPR sponsored lecture series.
- Delivered a talk on 'The Bodhi tree that continues to shelter' organized by Intercultural Women's' organization on 28th September 2021.
- Delivered a talk on 'What is text- reader & beyond' at the Chennai Philosophy Forum on 23rd Jan 2022.

KAMALA SRINIVAS

- Recognised as Ph.D. Guide in Philosophy at the SIES Ph.D. Centre w.e.f. 23rd February, 2022.
- Invited to engage series of lecture on 'Shree Narayana Guru's Social Transformation through Spirituality I-Role of Religion and Spirituality' and 'Shree Narayana Guru's Contribution to Women's Empowerment' under the Value-Added Course on Sree Narayana Guru conducted by Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai from February 21 to March 25, 2022.

VRUSHALI GUPTA

- Published a research paper titled 'Anandanubhava-The concept of well-being in Upanishads', as part of Pursuit of

Happiness-The path of Philosophy & Counselling National conference Monograph (book) pg nos-133-135 ISBN: 978-81-944813-7-9 First impression-2020.

PHYSICS

AARTI MULEY

- Published a paper titled "Recent Development of Aluminates in Solid State Lighting" (2022) in Progress in Solid State Chemistry Journal.

POLITICS

RASHMI BHURE

- Delivered a lecture on "Publication Ethics-Definition, introduction and importance and Conflict of Interest" in the course on 'Ethics in Research' organised by the Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai, 16 February 2022.
- Published a paper titled 'अफगाणिस्तान: अस्थिर इतिहास आणि अनिश्चित भविष्याचा वेध' in समाज प्रबोधन पत्रिका, अंक २३६, ऑक्टोबर-डिसेंबर २०२१, ISSN No: 0973-2845.
- Contributed a chapter "Connecting South Asia through sub-regional initiatives: A case study of (B) BIN MVA in

Adhuri Subramanyam Raju (ed.), Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation in South Asia, London and New York: Routledge, 2022. ISBN: 978-1-032-23429-8 (hbk).

- Published a paper titled "Food Insecurity and Covid-19 in Mumbai" in Third Concept, Vol.35, No.419, January 2022.
- Co-authored an article "Diaspora a Key in strengthening India-US relations under Modi Government" in FINS Journal of Diplomacy and Strategy, Issue.1, Vol.5, October-December 2021.

AJINKYA GAIKWAD

- Published a chapter titled 'Fragmented Identities and Hegemonic Projects: The RSS and the Subaltern Politics in Contemporary India' in an edited volume Subaltern Movements in India: Issues, Perspectives and Challenges, Akhand Publishing House, New Delhi (June 2021).

ZOOLOGY

MADHAVAN GOPALAN

- Awarded Ph.D by the University of Mumbai. on 22nd February 2022. For the thesis titled, "Investigation of the Neuroprotective Properties of Beetroot (Beta vulgaris)",



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- Prof. Umadevi K, Co-ord. BMS
- Prof. Vaishali Falnikar, Member Secretary

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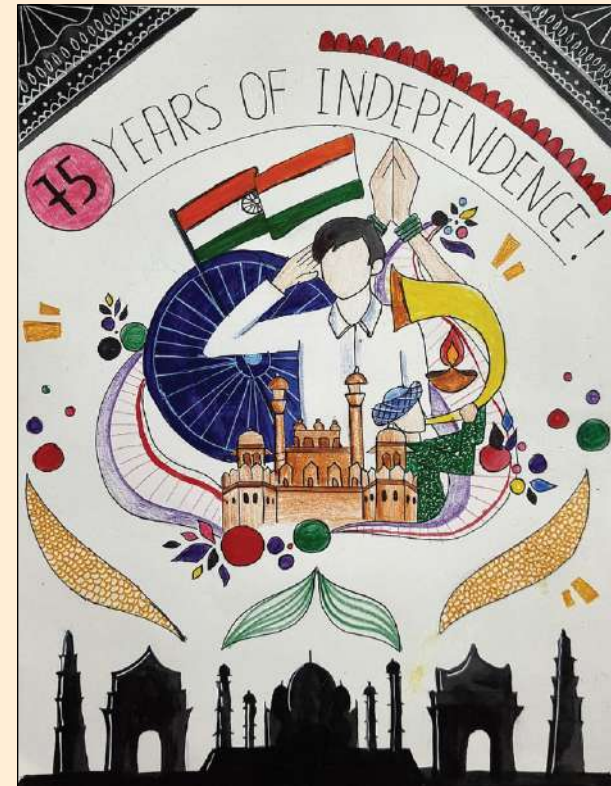
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- CA Pradeep Kamthekar, I/C Finance & Accounting Officer, University of Mumbai

- Prof. Kiran Nabar, Senior Teacher
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- Dr. George Abraham, Nominee- Principal
- Dr. Manju Phadke, Nominee- Principal
- Dr. Uma M Shankar, Principal & Ex-officio

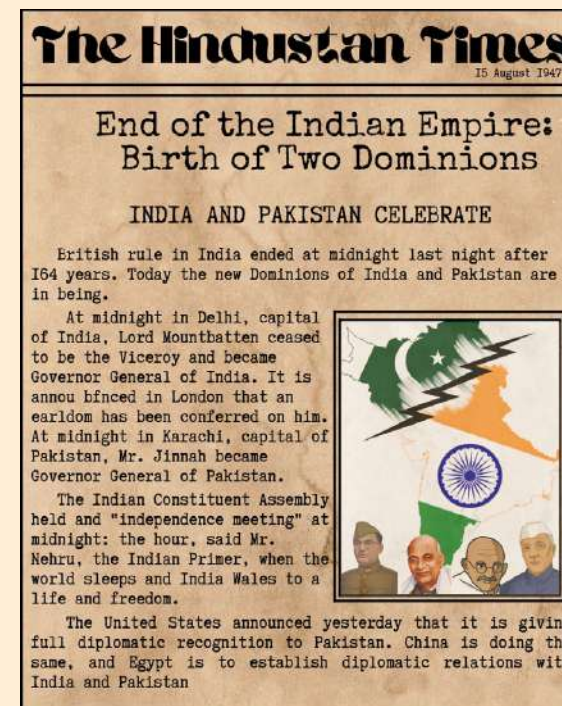
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Vyusti Kumar, FYBA



SIES SHALL BE AMONGST THE MOST ADMIRABLE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

WHAT DOES ADMIRATION MEAN?

A feeling of wonder, pleasure or approval.

The act of looking on or contemplating with pleasure

Approval, esteem, regard, affection, veneration, honor, idolization, reverence - synonyms for admiration

OUR ADMIRATION SHALL FLOW FROM

The quality of our efforts in the field of education

The quality – the reach, the expanse and sweep of our academic services

Our respect for 'Law' at all times

The creation of an SIES Family where a full family tree would have experienced SIES as students

WHAT DOES THAT CONVEY FOR SIES?

We shall confine ourselves to our core competence i.e. universalising education

We shall redefine the boundaries of our activities beyond Mumbai, Navi Mumbai to India

We need not be 'BIG' but shall endeavour to be the 'BEST'

We shall be 'Admired' for our activities in life learning process through 'Education' The admiration shall come from all stakeholders – students, staff, society

Our scale of admiration shall be based on the value addition we provide during the student days

We shall ever remain 'Student centric' for we have no existence without them

IT'S HALF WAY THROUGH OUR CENTENARY IN 2032

Phase I - GOALS

Student strength to reach over 50,000

SIES – University for Higher education

All institutions accredited at the highest grade 'A' for e.g. in NAAC

Socially responsive education. Beyond the classrooms or social media. 'ISR' the dominant face of SIES. A Good share of admiration from ISR.

Most vibrant network of Alumni, Past Teachers and Staff, present human resources creating the vast SIES Family.

Phase II – Goals and action plan in 2022



THE IDENTITY FOR ANY SIES INSTITUTION

A distinct logo within the SIES logo

A value lab

An ISR Department

A Past Student's Association within the institution without separate legal existence

An active forum for parents and teachers

Capitation Free Merit based student enrollment at all levels

Highest accreditation from a National Agency

Research unit