

A P R I L 2 0 2 2

I S S U E N O . 2

# Zenith

AN ANNUAL MAGAZINE BY AMITY SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES

## EXCLUSIVE

*Interview with*  
**Mrs Bijal Shah**  
*author of 'The Happiness Mindset', 2014*

## COLLEGE LIFE SECTION

*Detailed reports on the various clubs of AUM*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*Our staff's curated list of comfort content*

## POST GRADUATION SECTION

*Interviews with the faculty and alumni of AUM*

SUBMISSIONS FROM AUM STUDENTS AND FACULTY  
AND SO MUCH MORE!





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Note from HOI	1
Note from Faculty Incharge	2
Editor's Note	3
Our Team	5
Submissions	14
English	14
Art & Photography	37
Language	45
Interview with an Author	53
Games Section	58
Interview with HOI	65
Language Puns	67



Recipe	69
Faculty Interview	71
Alumni Interview	74
Tongue Twisters	76
College Life Section	82
English Puns	96
Language Interviews	99
Self Study Guide	110
Top 10 Universities	115
Special Thanks	125





# NOTE FROM THE HOI

**DR. MANJIREE VAIDYA**

I am elated to present the second issue of the literary e-magazine of Amity School of Languages, "Zenith". Zenith is a virtual representation of the vision of Amity School of Languages – "Honing the cognitive ability of learners with knowledge and skills to be competent global professionals."

The magazine is a manifestation of relentless hard work, resilience and unstoppable enthusiasm of Team Zenith and the student contributors who put in efforts to present the comprehensive array of literary creations, other art forms, interviews of faculties and alumni and also a very interesting interaction with a writer.

I express gratitude to our Hon. Chancellor, Dr Aseem Chauhan, our Vice-Chancellor, Dr V.K. Sharma, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dr A. W. Santosh Kumar and all the Hols and colleagues for their support and encouragement.

Special appreciation to the faculty coordinator, Dr Swati Bhise and the "Zenith" team for all the efforts they put in, despite many hindrances, which resulted in current vibrant, holistic, and enthralling issues.

Best Wishes to the entire team of Zenith for future endeavors.



# NOTE FROM THE FACULTY INCHARGE

**DR. SWATI RAMKISHAN BHISE**

"Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become."  
-C. S. Lewis

This is the most effective way to convey the significance of literature in our lives. C. S. Lewis was correct when he said that literature not only depicts reality but also improves it via its content. It is clear that literature is a mirror of the world. To put it another way, literature has a lot more to offer than just a depiction of reality. Literature captures the way people think and behave in the real world. They are depictions of many facets of mankind. Human existence is represented by social, political, economic, social, cultural, and psychological characteristics.

These characteristics are influenced by a variety of factors, including environment, acumen, technology, globalization, relocation, and many others.

It is because of these that literature has always been an integral component of human life in some form or another across all communities, serving as a means of experiencing emotions, events, expressions, cultures, and most importantly, life. Literature is an important part of our history and culture in India. The function of literature is not only to entertain but also to preach. Hence, it is our duty to protect and enhance it.

The students at Amity School of Languages are striving hard to preserve and promote this rich cultural heritage. 'Zenith' is the magazine handled by our students and encourages young writers and artists to express themselves. Let's all hope that this attempt continues to rise in the ranks!



# Editor's Note

Everyone involved in curating this edition knows that it's been in the making for a while now. We started off intending to make a bi-annual magazine but managing the busy schedules of each member of our staff to make that happen seemed almost impossible.

Even still, I am extremely proud of what we were able to make and the blood, sweat, and tears that we put into it. The magazine is a very important part of my life because as a struggling writer myself, I was able to be a medium and provide a platform for expression. Not only that, for this edition, we even took the suggestions that we received and exponentially increased the volume of content by adding six brand new sections including Games, Post-Graduation, Author Interview, Humour, College Life, and even a Language section.

The members of the staff have also increased from eight members of the Amity School of Languages to fourteen members across all schools of Amity University Maharashtra.







# MEET OUR TEAM



**UJJWALA NAGENDRA**

FOUNDER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, AND CO-ART DIRECTOR



**ANUSHKA CHAUBE**

MANAGING EDITOR AND CO-ART DIRECTOR



**ARSHI SOHAIL**

MANAGING EDITOR



**SHIZA SHAIKH**

MANAGING EDITOR



**ARCHITA BISWAS**

LANGUAGE SECTION EDITOR



**ANUSHILA JANA**

SECTION EDITOR



**APURVA SAKPAL**

SECTION EDITOR





**AASTHA TAPADIA**  
SECTION EDITOR



**MRIDINI SEHGAL**  
SECTION EDITOR



**ANUSHKA DE SARKAR**  
SECTION EDITOR



**SANSKRUTI MATE**  
SECTION EDITOR



**SANIKA DESHMUKH**  
COPY EDITOR



**DEEPTA SREENIVASAN**  
COPY EDITOR



**SHUBH RANA**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER





# UJJWALA NAGENDRA

FOUNDER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,  
AND CO-ART DIRECTOR

BA ENGLISH (HONS)  
SEMESTER VI

- SUPERVISED AND EDITED THE PIECES OF THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

English Submissions, College Life Section, Recommendations Section, Post Graduation Section, Games Section, Humour Section, Author Interview Section, Language Section.

- CURATED THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

Art and Photography Section, 'That Awkward Moment' for the Humour Section.

- DESIGNED AND CREATED THE TEMPLATES FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

English Submissions, College Life, Recommendations Section, Post Graduation Section, Games Section, Humour Section, Author Interview Section, Language Section, Art and Photography

- CREATED 'SPOT THE DIFFERENCE' FOR THE GAMES SECTION.

- CO-CREATED THE CROSSWORD.



# ANUSHKA CHAUBE

## MANAGING EDITOR AND CO-ART DIRECTOR

BA ENGLISH (HONS)  
SEMESTER VI

- EDITED AND CURATED THE FOLLOWING  
SECTIONS

Humour Section, Language Section, The staff  
picks for the Recommendation section, the  
Art and Photography submissions.

- DESIGNED AND CREATED THE TEMPLATES  
FOR THE FOLLOWINGS SECTIONS:

English Submissions, College Life,  
Recommendations Section, Post Graduation  
Section, Games Section, Humour Section and  
Author Interview Section.

- DOCUMENTED THE RECIPE IN THE HUMOUR  
SECTION.

# ARSHI SOHAIL

## MANAGING EDITOR

BA ENGLISH (HONS)  
SEMESTER VI

- SUPERVISED THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

The interviews conducted in the post-  
graduation section, the riddles, crossword  
puzzles, jumbled words, and word search  
puzzles in the games section.

- EDITED THE POETRY SECTION







# SHIZA SHAIKH

## MANAGING EDITOR

BA ENGLISH (HONS)  
SEMESTER VI

- SUPERVISED THE REPORTS AND CONDUCTED INTERVIEW(S) IN THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

College Life Section, Author Interview Section

- EDITED THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

Author Interview Section, Short Stories submissions, Works of Criticism submissions.

- CO-CREATED THE CROSSWORD.

# ARCHITA BISWAS

## LANGUAGE SECTION EDITOR

BA FRENCH (HONS)  
SEMESTER VI

- CONDUCTED AND DRAFTED THE INTERVIEWS WITH THE FACULTY FOR THE LANGUAGE SECTION.
- EDITED THE LANGUAGE SUBMISSIONS.
- DRAFTED THE LANGUAGE PUNS, TONGUE TWISTERS AND THE SELF-STUDY GUIDE.



# ANUSHILA JANA

## SECTION EDITOR

BA ENGLISH (HONS)  
SEMESTER IV

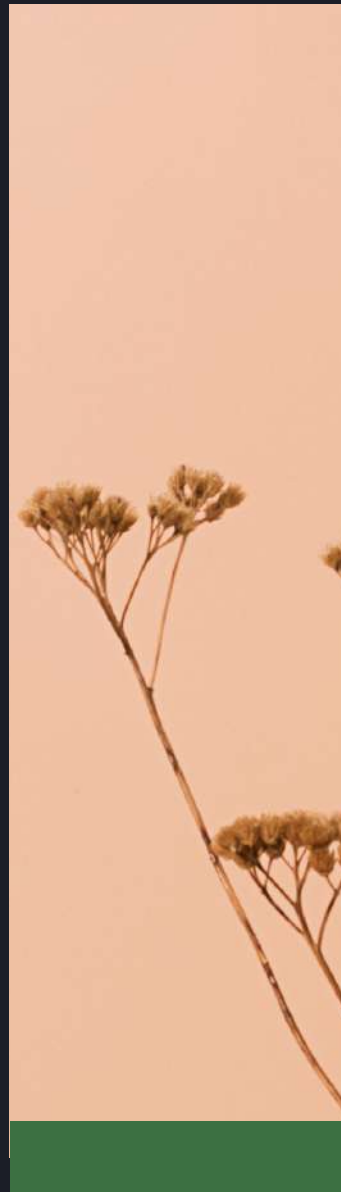
- CONDUCTED AND DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEWS FOR THE COLLEGE LIFE SECTION: GDSC AND AMICULT.
- DRAFTED AND EDITED THE AUTHOR INTERVIEW SECTION.

# APURVA SAKPAL

## SECTION EDITOR

BA ENGLISH (HONS)  
SEMESTER IV

- CONDUCTED THE FOLLOWING:  
Plagiarism checks, faculty interviews and the interview with the HOI of ASL for the post-graduation section.
- DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:  
The Top 10 Schools for Humanities articles, the faculty interviews and the interview with the HOI of ASL for the post-graduation section.







# AASTHA TAPADIA

## SECTION EDITOR

BSC CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY  
SEMESTER II

- CONDUCTED AND DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEWS FOR THE COLLEGE LIFE SECTION: AMIPSYCH, AMILITZZ AND AMIYOGA.
- DRAFTED AND EDITED THE AUTHOR INTERVIEW SECTION.

# MRIDINI SEHGAL

## SECTION EDITOR

BA APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY (HONS)  
SEMESTER II

- CONDUCTED AND DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEWS FOR THE COLLEGE LIFE SECTION: AMITY UNCUT AND AMI SNAP SQUAD
- CONDUCTED PLAGIARISM CHECKS ON THE POETRY SUBMISSIONS.



# ANUSHKA DE SARKAR

## SECTION EDITOR

BA ENGLISH (HONS)  
SEMESTER II

- **PLAGIARISM CHECKS ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Short story submissions, Poetry submissions.

- **DRAFTED THE RIDDLES, JUMBLED WORDS, AND WORD SEARCH FOR THE GAMES SECTION.**

# SANSKRUTI MATE

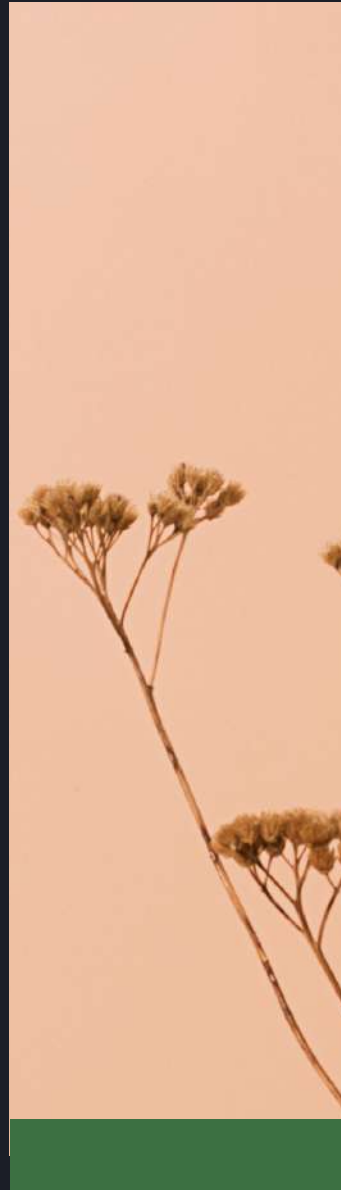
## SECTION EDITOR

BA ENGLISH (HONS)  
SEMESTER II

- **DRAFTED THE FOLLOWING:**

The Top 10 Business Schools article, alumni interview and interview with the HOI of ASL.

- **CONDUCTED THE ALUMNI INTERVIEWS FOR THE POST-GRADUATION SECTION.**







# SANIKA DESHMUKH

## COPY EDITOR

BA APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY (HONS)  
SEMESTER II

- PROOFREAD THE INTERVIEW WITH THE ALUMNI AND THE FACULTY INTERVIEW IN THE POST-GRADUATION SECTION, THE RECOMMENDATION SECTION, POETRY SUBMISSIONS AND SHORT STORY SUBMISSIONS.

# DEEPTA SREENIVASAN

## COPY EDITOR

BSC CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY  
SEMESTER II

- PROOFREAD THE COLLEGE LIFE SECTION, THE GAMES SECTION, THE HUMOUR SECTION, POETRY SUBMISSIONS.

# SHUBH RANA

## GRAPHIC DESIGNER

BSC CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY  
SEMESTER II

- ASSISTED IN THE DESIGN PROCESS OF THE POST-GRADUATION SECTION AND RECOMMENDATION SECTION.



# Claire

"Claire!"

The moment was finally here.

"Claire!"

I brushed my skirt and tucked my hair as I left the room to avoid any sort of criticism. There was nothing else I could have possibly done to eschew this situation.

"Claire!"

His voice echoed throughout the house, and for a moment, I was more scared of his horrendous calls than the thunderstorm outside. I stood outside the living room, dreading going in. "Should I confess?", I thought repeatedly. I should've. The living room was booming with the incessant rustling of paper, and buried under that pile, was my father's head.

"Claire is that you?"

"Yes, dad."

"Have you seen the blue packet that came in the mail last week? It was right here on the windowsill."

I looked around, pretending to look for it, and held a masquerade of worry on my visage. I couldn't decide if it was the frustration of maintaining this facade of

being clueless or the constant worry of being entrapped in my own lie, but I had to admit it.

"I found the letters, dad."

Nothing.

I repeated what I said. Louder. Angier, this time. He waited and the thunderstorm seemed muffled under the tension that filled the room, but what if it knew? What if it knew that my silence was so much more imperative than its incessant roars? I stood there, looking at his horrified face, still processing all the information in the air, floating mindlessly. His hands seemed catatonic, a physical liability. I resisted the urge to throw him across the room.

That is what it had come to. I should've confessed sooner because now his eyes were turning red. The red you'd see in a fresh wound, an alarming red. But they weren't glazing in anger, there was a sort of pain in them. A disappointment, even. But I was rigid, finally. I couldn't burden myself with this secret, not anymore. He still didn't move, and the thunderstorm grew loud again, trying to dominate the situation and despite myself, I charged at him.

The respect inculcated for me in him, it was a tenuous departure.

"Why didn't you tell me? Were you going to tell me?"

He looked at his hands, studying them. I noticed how his face turned ashen after my declaration. I stood close to him, praising myself for controlling the urge to punch the truth out of him. I still felt guilty for invading his privacy when he specifically asked me not to. I had never thought I could be this angry at the one person I thought would never hurt me. I could see him struggling to form words, to force them out of his throat or the non-existent heart in him. Perhaps it was unfair of me to judge him before the truth actually presented itself, but I felt betrayed.

"I was trying to protect you."

Protect me from what? From emotional stability? It was my art. I made that.

I noticed his fear. Good. That made me happy; he should have been terrified. I was capable of much more than I exhibited. Mom believed in me. God bless her soul. I could've sworn she said it was okay if I did one of my experiments on her.



It had been three years but whenever I found myself floating aimlessly, not an idea to be seen, I remembered her. I remember the passion she instilled in me, always pushing me to be better than I was, sometimes literally. The walls too were soft, I could almost feel myself staining the room with colour. Red. And skin. I looked back at my father's face and I could feel my mouth breaking into a sinister smile.

I looked back at his hands and remembered the row of dolls lying in my basement, sitting naked and waiting impatiently to be completed.

I reached into my pocket for the letters and watched as the anticipation on his face grew. I read the address out loud, enunciating every word for dramatic effect.

"Dad, this is not good."

This was not good. A monster, he said. What are humans if not monsters? Just because I enjoyed making realistic art didn't make me a monster, did it? I found it hard to forget the day he incinerated my dolls. It was mom. It was harrowing considering the long hours I had spent plucking her hair and sticking it on my dolls.

They thought I was cured. What a funny word.

I like to believe I cured her. Of this venomous world. Living as a doll is easier than you would think. Absolutely painless.

The thunderstorm was dying.

I looked back at him in a state of confusion, pretending that I didn't just realise that he hated me. I can't say I didn't love these days of supposed normalcy, it aided me to get out of my fenced artist's block. I painted with poster colours, constantly thinking of the scorching dolls and internally screaming in agony. They were my babies.

"You killed her, Claire. How could I love you?"

Tears. I couldn't believe this. I was disappointed. He was all I had. And Bruno. But he wasn't much use anymore.

I loved him but it always bothered me that he couldn't love me, my father. I felt it every time I came downstairs for dinner, he stared at me as though the fact that I resembled her would bring her back. I didn't cage her. I set her free.

There was nothing I could say that would redirect his anger somewhere else and I couldn't wait for him to find out what I did with Bruno.

That reminds me, my room is a mess. Too much carcass. I looked back at the letters. She couldn't wait to fix me. Ms Henrietta, the asylum warden, mentioned that in the clandestine letters exchanged between my father and her. Not because she thought I was insane but because "I was distracted."

I stared at him long enough, imagining his eyes on my dolls and his hair on their round plastic heads. And I hoped he would remember that all that remained of his family was an embodiment of God's nightmare and Satan's ambition.

The thunderstorm was dead.





# The Other Door

Lydia walked into the hotel she would be staying at and could barely suppress her glee. She was going on vacation. Between her job's copious hours and the expensive airplane, she could not go on a vacation.

However, today, she was going. Two weeks ago, she had been looking through her mail and had found a vacation package deal including a hotel room for a bargain.

She adjusted her bag and went through the revolving door to the front desk. "Hi, I reserved a room under the name of Lydia Tucker." The man at the front desk looked up and smiled. "Ah, Miss Tucker, welcome! I am Charles Forbes, owner of this hotel. It looks like you are in Room 666. I can show you the way."

She thanked him and followed him to the elevator. "I must say, when I found such a good deal, I could not believe it. I did not expect such a nice hotel, but here I am."

He nodded. "So you are. I hope you will enjoy your stay with us. If there's anything you need, just call me using the phone in your room, and we will do our best to accommodate you."

They walked out of the elevator, and he turned left past several rooms until they were at 666. "Here you are." He opened the door and handed her the key card. "Enjoy your stay."

She thanked him once more and then stepped into her room. She gasped. It was perfect. To her left was a small desk and chair along with a mini-fridge. On the right was the closet. She stepped further into the room and saw a queen bed with a plethora of pillows, and even a balcony! There was another door as well, but she ignored that momentarily while she studied her view of the balcony.

She plopped her bag down and sank onto the bed. She could get used to this. At least for the week. That was how long her vacation was. But she would make the most of every moment. What to do first though, was the real question. She could take a nap or go down to the beach, or she could order room service. Or...

The door she had neglected to check opened at that moment, pulling her from her thoughts and startling her. She jumped. A man stepped into the room and looked at her.

Completely taken aback, all Lydia could do was scream. He did not look like housekeeping. No, it looked like he was a hotel guest. How, on earth, was he in her room?

"You have the wrong room, sir."

He peered at her blankly. "No, I don't." He said nothing more, staring at her oddly.

She remembered the receptionist and rang him up.

"Hi, this is Lydia from room number 666. There is a man in my room. I'm not sure who he is, but I think there must be some sort of mix-up."

The person on the other end of the phone replied, "Lydia from room 666, you said?"

"Yes." She looked back at the man, expecting him to have turned and left, but he stood where she had left him. He was strangely still, merely watching her. She shivered and turned around to face the wall.

"Well, Lydia. It looks like the room you have that came with the vacation pack is a connected room, meaning you have one side, and another guest has the other.



There should be two doors between you, so you don't have to worry about any invasion of privacy. If you need anything else, please do call us." He hung up.

She held the phone limply as she looked back at the man. A connected room. No wonder the hotel was so cheap. She took a deep breath. It would be fine. She still had the beach, the various pools, and the shops. She would probably be out most of the time and would not even see much of the stranger.

She turned back. "Well, it would appear that I have made a mistake. I did not read everything about this vacation bundle."

He still said nothing.

She was growing uncomfortable under the eeriness of his dark gaze. "I am going to the beach. If I could just ask one thing, please stay on your side of the door. I won't enter your room, and you need not enter mine."

He gave her one more look and then turned and walked back to his side of the door. She breathed a sigh of relief that he was gone and hoped that she wouldn't have to see him again.

She pushed thoughts of the stranger away and grabbed her bathing suit. Turning back to the door, she twisted the lock. For safety. Then she headed towards the beach.

Lydia returned to her room after hours at the beach and a delicious meal of surf and turf. She set down her beach things and stepped into the shower. The warm water hit a few places where she had been sunburnt, but it only stung a bit.

While showering, she heard the sound of tapping against her bathroom door. She froze. Three taps. Then came a scratch. She jumped and turned the water off.

Perhaps, she was imagining things. She grabbed a towel and wrapped it around herself. She inched her way to the door, wishing she had another means of exiting the bathroom, but the door was the only way out. "Hello?" she called out. Maybe it was just housekeeping? But why would housekeeping come at night?

There was no way to find out without opening the door. She opened the door and looked around, holding the towel around her like a shield.

The room was dark, so she stumbled around until she found the light. Then she looked around again. She expected to find the stranger lurking in the corner of her room. But she saw no one.

Looking at the door that separated her room from his, she noticed that it was closed. She stepped closer and saw that it was no longer locked. Hadn't she locked it before she left?

She felt her heart rate speed up as she locked the door and darted under her covers, not even bothering to change out of her clothes. Then she remembered the stranger and thought better of it. She quickly put on her pyjamas and then hurried back.

She was probably overreacting, but something about the stranger made her uncomfortable. Forget him, she told herself, don't let him ruin your vacation.

She sank deeper into the comfortable bed and felt herself drift off. She was going to have a good vacation.

Lydia awoke in the middle of the night in a cold sweat. Something wasn't right. Her room felt quiet, too quiet. That is until she heard the sound of breathing. She froze. She was alone in the room, then why did she hear breathing that wasn't hers?

'Don't panic, it's probably because the walls are thin', she tried to reassure herself. She didn't need to be dramatic. She tried to fall back asleep, but the breathing continued. And it seemed to grow closer every second. She tried to scream, but her lips felt glued shut. Her hand groped for the lamp on the bedside table, and she pulled the cord. Her eyes took a moment to adjust and, when they did, they fell upon the stranger.

She screamed.



It was only a dream.

"Housekeeping." Terry, one of the housekeepers, waited for a response and, when none came, pushed open the door to Room-666. The sight he met haunted him. Although, it was not the first time he saw this. It was routine.

Blood covered one of the walls spelling out the number 666. A knife covered in blood lay on the floor. But the bed was the worst sight. A lady lay across the bed. Had he seen her in a room not covered in blood, he would have assumed that she was just sleeping. The killer had arranged her in clean pyjamas, hair spread across a pillow. But her face was

frozen in a look of pure terror, her mouth left open for a scream that was never really let out.

He should have warned her and everyone else about room 666, but he was not allowed to. Or else, he would be the one with a knife wound in his chest, and it would be his blood smeared on the walls.

He shook his head in disgust and pulled out his cleaning supplies. "I don't get paid enough for this."

"You get to live. Is that not enough for you"? As Charles uttered these words Terry watched in shock. "I did everything I was told, by you and your psychotic son."

"Shh! Unless you want to end up in his doll collection."

Terry was left speechless, his face looking paler than usual. He could not take this anymore, and out of anger, he asked, "How long will this continue?" Replying, Charles told him that this would go on until his son is satisfied or bored of his human doll collection. And if anybody dares to stop them, they would become their next target.

Just like that, there was once again a new girl with a new vacation package, visiting room 666.



# Juhi



"The sun slowly floated down the horizon, with the clouds all moving aside stripping him of shelter.

It was not only the sun but also Iqbal's hope which was going down with it. He was still barefoot, with the last thing he had eaten being a day ago. It was getting cold but the tension in the environment was still as warm as it could be...."

"Juhi come outside how long will you sit inside with that dumb book of yours!" A sharp voice yelled from outside. It was Kamla, Juhi's mother, and Juhi quietly kept her pen down and folded the white pages of Iqbal's fate, and went outside.

"How many times do I have to tell you that there are other things to do rather than just sitting in a corner and writing rubbish..." Kamla had a bundle of clothes in her hand and pushed them in Juhi's hand "Go and give them to Savita Masi's daughter and tell her we need them tomorrow."

She quietly took the dishevelled clothes in her hand and folded them, and packing them in a pink nylon sheet she stepped out of the house, smiling at Komal while leaving.

She never really liked her, Komal was the other name for trouble and was Kamla's sister and Juhi's aunt who lived in the same area. Whenever she visited, all she talked about was how Juhi is old enough to marry. It was her who had 'advised' her mother that class 12th is more than enough for a girl to waste in education. "God knows what new information she is going to feed 'aai' with", Juhi thought and closed the door behind her.

Komal said with a sip of her tea, "Listen Kamla Tai I heard whatever was going inside and it is quite natural for girls her age to be lost. But she can't forever waste her time on those books. She has to face a world outside of that, and what is best for her right now is to get married, have a family, and live the practical life she needs to. Soon everything will be fine. How long should her father carry the burden? I mean you see how costly the market's getting day by day. It gets so tough..."

Komal heard all this and after thinking for a while said, "Whatever you said is true but where will we get a family for her where dowry will not prove to be a big issue?"

"Arre that is what I have come here to discuss with you Na Tai", "What do you mean?" Kamla smiled and said, "I have found a great boy for our sweet little Juhi and you already know him!" "What? Who and where do they live?" "Tai be patient I will tell you everything, it is Vivek, Savita's younger son..."

"What are you saying? They have been staying in the colony with us for so many years. We know them so well, Juhi and Vivek are childhood friends, how is it even possible?"

"Tai, listen to yourself, you all know them, they are very close to your family. Dowry won't be a big issue you all can negotiate on a price, and they won't be able to demand too much from you. And lastly, you know the boy, he will earn well from his family's fish business and the entire colony knows how Vivek and Juhi have always been good friends. I don't see the harm in them getting married"

Komal kept her teacup aside and sat rubbing her hand in nervous excitement, "What you have said here Kamla isn't a bad idea, in fact it is a very good opportunity for us.



Can...can you go and talk to them too? I will talk to Juhi's Baba, I don't want to delay this." "No worries I will talk to them, and keep the next three days free, I can arrange a meeting soon, but..."

"No buts Kamla. If this works out I promise you a gold chain for helping my Juhi"

Juhi was now returning after giving the clothes. Vivek stood in the veranda and teased her "What brings our writer madam here?" Juhi smiled at him and said, "Aai sent these clothes for pressing."

"Oh, no problem. Aai isn't home but when she comes this will be the first bundle she'll get" Vivek said with a smile. Juhi didn't say anything else and walked away.

Vivek was accustomed to this habit of hers, he knew when a thought or someone's story occupied Juhi's mind, nothing else could catch Juhi's attention.

She walked down the street, the yellow street lamps were lit, the sky looked yellowish black around the corners, and it was crowded with kids playing in a corner. The vegetable vendors were now getting ready to pack up, but all Juhi could hear was Iqbal and his footsteps. Iqbal's wasn't just her creation, he had soon turned out to be a prisoner of her mind, flying out of the pages and walking with her on the roads.

He was in search of his family or anyone he knew in that destruction struck land and she was busy finding him.

When she reached home that night, she sat near her lamp continuing where she had left off, "Iqbal now stood in the middle of nowhere, trying to walk towards a camp. He was lost finding his way and didn't realize that there was a puppy following him. It was limping. Iqbal turned around and the puppy got scared. Its wanted to run but its injured leg wouldn't let it. Iqbal picked it up with care..." Juhi stopped, looked at the watch, and closed her book. She slept unaware of the storm she would be facing the next day.





## A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SUJATA BHATT'S

# 'Search for My Tongue'

Born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Sujata Bhatt was primarily raised in Pune until the age of fourteen when she immigrated to the United States along with her family. She worked as a writer-in-residence at the University of Victoria, Canada. She has translated Gujarati poetry into English and also writes in a blend of the two languages.

For her contribution to literature, she has been awarded multiple accolades including the Commonwealth Poetry Prize (Asia), Alice Hunt Bartlett Prize, Cholmondeley Award, and Italian Tratti Poetry Prize. Bhatt has travelled throughout the world, across Asia, the United States, and Europe, observing and manifesting all these cultures. Her poetry, therefore, is perfect for analysing diasporic identity, immigration, and globalisation.

Sujata Bhatt's poem 'Search for My Tongue' stems from the fear of an immigrant being 'westernised' or amalgamating with the culture of the host land.

The poem is a part of her first collection titled 'Brunizem' published in 1988 and was conceived when she was still a student in the United States after Bhatt listened to voice recordings that were sent by her mother from India. She experienced vexation and anxiety, feeling that her identity and her native language were both disappearing.

In the poem, Bhatt converses with an unnamed listener; she describes her experience as having two different tongues in her mouth (the tongues symbolising the native language and the foreign language). She explains how she cannot simultaneously use both languages, and that the native language not being practised, is forgotten and rots without use. Bhatt switches to the narrative and uses her language, Gujarati for a stanza and reinforces the stanza again in English, she says that her native tongue blooms and rises again like a phoenix, showcasing the re-emergence of her identity.

Bhatt, like most postcolonial Indian writers before her, imbues her poetry with themes of imperialism and the struggle for identity after independence.

She remembers her ancestors being coerced to learn the language of their oppressors, part of their culture, heritage, being, thinking, and values lost in the process. She feels that she has disrespected her ancestors by learning the language of those who forced them into submission.

The poet feels that her native language is endangered due to the English language. It is seen by her as a destructive element that will curtail the progress of enrichment and beauty possessed by her native language. The usage of the words 'rot' and 'die' while describing English signifies that the language is a hindrance to the fruition of her mother tongue. On the other hand, her mother tongue 'blossoms' and 'grows', and it is in these words that Bhatt's post-colonial identity emerges.

She displays her unwillingness to submit to the colonisers and oppressors. She even goes so far as to write in her tongue, Gujarati, proudly illustrating the endurance and virtue of her native language.



Sujata Bhatt also communicates the anxieties of an immigrant, she has no one to speak to in her native tongue, the native tongue is unused and therefore, rots. She is also afraid of her culture vanishing and succumbing to western ideals and being overpowered by 'Americanization'. However, she expresses that she dreams in her language, allowing it to mature and prevail. Bhatt says that our culture, our language can never truly disappear, it will always be entwined to our being, whether in dreams or thoughts, they will persevere and linger.

Bhatt is also by nature, a diasporic South Asian writer and falls in the category of Indian diaspora writers with Meena Alexander, Imtiaz Dharker, Salman Rushdie, Jhumpa Lahiri, etc. Sujata Bhatt's encounters with the cultures of Asia, America, and Europe are all amalgamated into her writing. Oxford English Dictionary defines 'diaspora' as—"the voluntary or forcible movement of people from their homelands into new regions. Diasporic writing explores the conflicts, assimilation, exile, displacement, nostalgia, migration, and uprootedness of the homeland and the host land."

Cecile Sandton writes that Bhatt is "...bicultural by birth and migration, and...tricultural by marriage". Sujata Bhatt uses her diasporic

consciousness to her advantage by writing about her experiences in three different cultures.

Her writing now has a multilingual sensibility with the native language of Gujarati and acquired languages of English and German.

In her essay 'From Gujarat to Connecticut to Bremen', Sujata Bhatt writes "In a way, exile brought me closer to India. I could find about Indian History, mythology, art, sculpture, sociology, etc. I missed the Gujarati language as well and started reading Gujarati books...I consider myself to be an Indian writer, but I like to think of myself as living in the world as opposed to in any one country." Through this, we can observe that Bhatt's 'Indianness' is not lost, she carries it with her wherever she goes because it is very much a part of her, but the places she visits as an immigrant, a wanderer, a traveller, and most importantly, as an Indian also grow to become a part of her. Therefore, we can observe Sujata Bhatt's diasporic consciousness on political, metaphysical, and existential levels.

Another frequent characteristic of a diasporic writer is the identity crisis which is prominent in 'Search for My Tongue'. Initially in the poem, she feels that her native tongue is jeopardised and lost and that she can not achieve oneness with the foreign tongue.

"I ask you, what would you do if you had two tongues in your mouth, and lost the first one, the mother tongue, and could not know the other, the foreign tongue"

However, as the poem continues, Bhatt comes to terms with her diasporic identity and learns to accept that the languages and in turn the cultures can co-exist within her, the foreign language as an obligation and a method of expression, and the native language as the more personal and special. Her native tongue at long last persists, never ceasing to be a part of her identity.

"It grows back, a stump of a shoot grows longer, grows moist, grows strong veins, it ties the other tongue in knots, the bud opens, the bud opens in my mouth, it pushes the other tongue aside. Every time I think I've forgotten, I think I've lost the mother tongue, it blossoms out of my mouth."

Adapting and assimilating with the new culture does not forgo the identity of the native culture. Conflicts that form out of the two vastly different cultures only form a new global and diasporic identity since diaspora allows for the doubling of meanings.



Sujata Bhatt crafts a unique poem by blending the languages of Gujarati and English. Even to those that are unfamiliar with her native tongue, she frames and structures the words in a way where the underlying sweetness of the language can still be observed.

The use of language in this poem is meticulously crafted as it serves a dual purpose, in that, it is a poem that is expressed through language (in this case, two languages) and is also a poem about language itself. Her writing style is characterised by the use of heavy tactile descriptions and repetitions to reinforce a point.

Bhatt embarks on sensuous descriptions which evoke all sensory organs, she is fully aware that languages change the course of our ability to experience, and therefore, her craftsmanship, her perceptive and intense writing unites us and the cultures that she has experienced.

Sujatha Bhatt also heavily employs poetic devices such as metaphors, personification, symbolism, and imagery. The poem itself serves as an extended metaphor; the mother tongue is a metaphor for the native language and the foreign tongue for the foreign language. Bhatt uses personification to attribute human characteristics to the tongue and in doing so, forms a personal connection. The poet uses the symbol of a blooming flower to portray the pervasiveness of her native tongue, describing the opening of the buds and the subsequent blossom.

Words like 'rot', 'death', 'bud', and 'bloom' evoke a strong intensity, justifying her use of imagery.

'Search for My Tongue' triumphs as a supreme work of Indian diaspora writing. An aspect that specifically stands out is Bhatt's intentional juxtaposition of the English language with Gujarati, her ability to blend such drastically divergent

languages. Through her work, she conveys the conflicts, inhibitions, and anxieties but instils hope. In her poem, Bhatt admits to dreaming in her language; the mother tongue is part of her subconscious, an element of her life that will never be lost or taken away from her because it is inseparable from her mind and deeply rooted in her identity.

Personally, while reading this poem I felt as though I was intruding on the private introspection of an individual. I also marvelled at Bhatt's ability to evoke such strong imagery, using words that manipulate us into feeling utter disgust at the foreign language and feeling at peace with the native tongue. The fully realised self of the poet that understands the importance of both languages is an emblem of well-crafted diasporic writing.





# Metamorphosis

## MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING

Rationality comes from a place where there is a point: a start and an end that is coherent. The very definition of rationality states that it should make sense. When we take the works of Franz Kafka, it lies on the grayer side of the spectrum of rationality and irrationality. There is no relevancy of the backstory, creating an air of existential anxiety.

At the very beginning of 'Metamorphosis', we read the lines "One morning, as Gregor Samsa was waking up from anxious dreams, he discovered that in his bed he had been changed into a monstrous bug...", with no previous or further explanation. This is one of the many instances where we see that Kafka does not even intend to make sense. Throughout the novella, Gregor Samsa's approach towards his life, family,

His transformation is so nonchalant that there is no point in trying to find out why Kafka had chosen the setting and plot the way he did. The only explanation that

can be given is by observing the autobiographical elements.

Kafka's works are existential in nature and he refrains from providing much or any explanation to the predicaments of his characters.

Susan Bernofsky, in their article published in 'The New Yorker' has very rightfully described the character of Gregor Samsa as "Gregor Samsa, giant bug, is a cartoon of the subaltern, a human being turned inside out." Kafka is not trying to create a funny story and leave it at that; he is using the metamorphosis of Gregor Samsa to show how unhinged the human mind is.

Sometimes, our thoughts and feelings do not cope well, affecting our physical health at the same time. Dealing with the body's change along with questioning your belief of who you think you are is subtly depicted in the novella. His transformation has made him unable to even communicate in a way that his dearest ones can understand.

This borders to a storyline talking about how existentialism and mental health disorientation can be destructive until you feel that no one can hear you and you find yourself in a state of depersonalization with dissociation.

The switch from reality and superficiality is always overlapping, giving the reader the freedom to find meaning in irrelevancy and the existential elements of the character. Logic does not have to be there for art to have a purpose. At the same time, meaning does not have to be present for it to be good art.

Kafka's 'Metamorphosis' lies somewhere on that line, where he tried to convey more than just one thing through this story. The novella, in simple terms, is a paradox – the point of 'Metamorphosis' is that it has no real point; it is what you want it to be. What it definitely is, however, is significant. It is not Kafka's experience on the paper, it is a universal experience within a novella.



# Aftertaste

The green tea seeps underneath your tastebuds,  
You flinch from the bitterness of the tea,  
But you still drink it every day.

The black jacket soaks your sweat,  
You are unbearably hot under the heavy cloth,  
But you still wear it every day.

The song is playing on repeat,  
You are tired of the lyrics, the repetition of the chorus,  
But you still listen to it every day.

The childhood friends are far away,  
You are nostalgic for their laugh,  
But you don't call them.

The sunsets and sunrise are not important to you now,  
You are stuck in this guilt cycle,  
But you don't go to your terrace.

The perfume of your mother is sitting on the shelf, unused,  
You miss her scent and her glossy lipsticks, nail polishes, and her eyes,  
But you don't reach out to her.

The yellow frock that you used to wear when you were 10 is nowhere to be seen,  
You wonder what happened to it. Did you give it away to someone? Did you throw it away?  
But you never find out.

The new pack of acrylic crayons doesn't excite you anymore,  
You want to feel alive again,  
But you don't.

So, you sip your green tea,  
You wear your black jacket, every day,  
You listen to your once favourite songs, again.

Hoping, you serendipitously meet yourself, one day.

The aftertaste of growing up is bitter on your tongue,  
The aftertaste of leaving your childhood is sour,  
The aftertaste of being a human is melancholic.



# An Astrophile's Dream

There's a strange comely  
In the perfection of her melancholy  
She renders the Argus-eyed with akinesia  
Just with her inherent state of being

Her movement of death-defying poetry  
Leaving no scope for scrutiny  
Resistance is a futile word  
Because all her actions describe fealty

The quixotic poets can only ever try  
To capture her relentless beauty

If it's all left to chance,  
She meets the light  
And thus, in that happenstance  
Do lovers unite





# Tenebrous Nightmares

Drenched in sweat,  
trembled her soul,  
as dark dreams knock,  
at her mind's door.  
The murky storm hits,  
suffocating her breath,  
an ambiguous dark vision,  
creeps into her core.  
She wants to scream,  
and cry out loud,  
though, everything,  
feels so dazed and sore.  
The venomous fear,  
eclipses around,  
shadowing her thoughts,  
into an angst uproar.  
And that torpid state,  
burned her existence in dwam,  
fizzling out,  
she disemboweled her traumatized soul.



# Happy Second Chances

Lie down  
Lie down  
Just go to sleep  
Dream of all the white and red roses  
Let your mind sweep  
I wrote a dozen proses  
Just to tell you how much I feel

Lie down  
Lie down  
Let the earth consume you  
Steal all your last glances  
No, you don't need to rue  
They were all your happy second chances  
Only then, I have loved you

Has it always rained so much?  
Are those my flowers growing near that granite?  
Has all your pain crumbled into mulch?  
Does it feel like you're finally free?  
Does it feel like anything at all?  
Do you feel anything at all?

My love,  
Take heed to my words  
And lie down  
Just lie down  
Let all your worries die  
Heave out your last goodbye.





# Pebble In The Ocean

"Holding my breath, I walk to the ocean  
The land beneath has now been replaced  
I look down, and it is dark  
What is this?  
I want to escape the void, but I only sink deeper  
Will I land on my feet?  
How far will I fall into this chasm?  
  
I reach my hand out only to be pushed down again  
But I am not sinking anymore  
Feels like the time has stopped  
Giving me time to recover  
Gosh! I am weak  
Can't withstand the strong force  
"Don't give up" I hear you say  
But where are you?  
  
Now, sitting at the beach, staring into the abyss  
Searching for you again  
I came to find you but you sent me back  
I want to protect you because you are me  
I need more strength  
But I will find you.





# The Woods

The woods are beckoning me  
To explore the extremity  
With which it envelopes  
What I sense, what I feel.  
I stand erect at the foot  
Of this giant conquest  
And I let the eerie calls  
Slowly excite me.  
One foot in and the other  
Out of this tempting hell  
And yet all I feel is  
Cold, cold wind thrusting  
Me further into this pit of disdain.  
I stand in the forest now  
Weak lantern in hand,  
Flickers and flickers until it  
Holds the strength of a dying man.  
No fauna here today,  
Just the bicker of my unstable head  
And the roars of fear  
Throttling my exposed neck.  
I see it then,  
A Giant waltzing towards me,  
Although I sense no trepidation  
Suffocating me.  
I saw in its eyes-  
The size of the void  
Floating in me-  
Held just as much pain  
As the day that life  
Slipped through me.  
And off I went  
Roasting in his burning palms,  
A walk of shame  
That was a march of pride,  
after all.



# Career Pressure

In the middle of the night, I think about things I don't know  
My brain tells me that I am lost and don't have anywhere to go

There is no one to be my pillar of support  
No guiding light or even a ray of hope

The motivational gurus scare me about life

They tell me how perfect some are and how spoilt I am

I see people accomplishing their aspirations

I listen to relatives manipulating my life's decisions

These people say that they care  
But their toxicity radiates discouragement and despair

They say they see my grades and potential

But go blind when it comes to my emotions

They say they are putting no pressure  
But they kill my soul with every word and action

They hug me warmly but I don't feel their love

in this crowd of overachievers  
I feel like a lonely loser





People are never just people  
Some are scars.  
Some are blossoms of a cherry tree,  
some are sunshine.  
Some are a dark twisty mystery  
some gift you paradise.  
Others kill you in disguise,  
they narrate their own woe tales  
full of botched emotions and games  
So you ask me, who am I?  
I tell you that I am clandestine,  
limited and barred by fences  
I am a sunflower in the garden of Roses.





# Hope

You see the beautiful sunrise?  
You see its Golden glow?  
Somewhere in the dark corner of the world,  
There is someone dying quiet and slow.  
You're walking in the garden green,  
Skies all clear, flowers in full bloom,  
While there is someone running away from the bullets-afraid to be seen.  
These oceans are a brilliant blue,  
What about the red ones on the other side,  
Can't you see them too?

Hope is the only word we all cling to,  
Some live on it's brighter side,  
While hanging on the darker side is all the others can do.  
The moon shines over the quiet night,  
Guarding everyone in her light.  
Except the ones blocked by the dark clouds,  
Deafened by the gunshots and the grenade loud.  
Some stay up at night,  
Worrying about the future that's far away in sight.  
While there are the ones who pray through the same night,  
To wake up safe to see the day's light.

Hope is the only word we all cling to,  
Some live on its brighter side,  
While hanging on the darker side is all the others can do.  
Can not blame anyone,  
Can not really say that war is wrong?  
How will it be,  
When one's fighting for terror and pain,  
the other for his nation, his truth which they want to kill- and slain.  
It's strange how beautiful things is what God gave us,  
But in our quest to go ahead and conquer,  
We leave everything behind dead.  
It's us who are paying it's price,  
Be it the young soldier's mother or the helpless refugee who cries.

Again Hope is the only word we all cling to,  
Some live on it's brighter side,  
While hanging on the darker side is all the others can do.  
With love and respect for what we built,  
Let's fix what's broken, let's use our guilt.  
And walk forward holding this Hope.





Today I caught myself forgetting you

Today I caught myself forgetting you  
But then I remembered, how could I?

When you hugged me in mornings to wake me up, warm snuggles after bedtime stories, sitting around the backyard pool, and you'd name all the trees, it's a shame couldn't learn all their names,

Feeding me those fruits I hate (But secretly made me love them somehow), playing songs on your favourite radio with a brown leather cover - humming along to the lyrics while tapping your fingers gently,  
Sitting on the terrace for hours under the summer skies,

Giggling when we'd do the silliest things,  
You couldn't see but you felt so much, teaching us to feel so much,  
But today I caught myself forgetting you,  
But then I remembered how cold I thought - when I'm a little piece of you, one day maybe I'll forget how you sounded when you hummed those songs, how your crisp sarees felt when you smothered us with all that love,  
Not today though, not today though.





# Prose, Stanzas and Us

It's beautiful and tragic, you know?  
How you and I both have the tendency  
To pick up pieces of poetry  
Off people's messes.

It's remorseful and joyful, you know?  
How the prose and stanzas fit in our hands,  
Our bare palms burning with their words,  
Engulfing our skins and bones as they turn to dust.

Why do people like us find happiness  
In strangers' tears and eulogies?  
Why do people like us find agony  
In familiar smiles and celebratory?

Are we monsters? Are we angels?  
Or are we just humans who always feel too much for others and,  
Not enough for ourselves?

These poems will be imprinted in our marrows,  
It will be with us in death and sorrows.  
These poems will get us through lonely nights and crowded days.  
And maybe, it will be okay.

My skin hugging my skeleton is all I have,  
except you.  
My hair roots kissing my head is all I have,  
except you.

So, I ask you once again,  
Will you still read this when you are pale and old?  
Will you still find meaning in the words I've written in italics or bold?  
Will you still wait for me if I write poems for you on Wednesdays or once in a  
lifetime's fold?





Your cheeks could fill colour pallets and sunset skies.  
The lines on my palms are nothing compared to yours.  
Because yours are divine and mine are just sweaty.

Your eyes have the ghosts of your ancestors and the reflection of your lineage.  
The haunting of your pupils in my dreams is nothing but a divulgence.  
Because you are Hades draped in human skin and I am a mortal looking for spring.

Your lips wanting to let out laughter is like an empty pond waiting for the summer  
rain.

The traces of childhood smile lingering with its dirty claws is nothing but a trap.  
Because, when you were 10, happiness came freely. But I still pray to see you smile.

Your hair smells like lavender burning in hellfire and forbidden dreams.  
The strands fall over your eyelashes and I do too.  
Because, who wouldn't follow your litany if whispered in dark, underneath your  
arms?

Your feet are hurting from running on someone else's track.  
The people in your life are drifting or you let them. Slowly and painfully.  
But not me.

You are not a holy grail, nor am I. We are not perfect.  
There is nothing holy about you except your love. And maybe that's enough.  
Because I look at you and see archaic poems and a boy looking for his father's love.

You are written in cuneiform and languages unknown to mankind.  
The shadow of your existence will be embarked right here, right now, at this  
moment.  
Because today you were mine and I translated your sadness into this rhyme.

You were a writer on a ticking time bomb. I was a poet looking for a home.  
The wires were entangled in your need to speak and refusal to speak.  
But, when you called me late winter afternoon, your voice, it had life.

You reminded me of myself.  
The speed of your thoughts was nothing compared to mine.  
Because you were the summer rain to my famine.  
Or was I?



FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## The Murders at the Rue Morgue

by Edgar Allan Poe



Edgar Allan Poe's works are a masterclass in descriptive characters and he solidifies himself as the father of mystery and macabre by framing a tense, suspenseful, violent murder that needs a detective as clever as Auguste Dupin to solve it.

short story recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)

## The Fall Of The House Of Usher

by Edgar Allan Poe



A house can hold many secrets, some good, and some dark, mysterious and terrifying. Follow our narrator as he encounters and spends time in his childhood friend's house, "The House of Usher", where not everything is what it seems like.

short story recommended by  
**Arshi Sohail**  
(Managing Editor)



# That Awkward Moment

## *When you pretend to know Chinese*

*By Ujjwala Nagendra*

*Editor in Chief and Co Art Director*

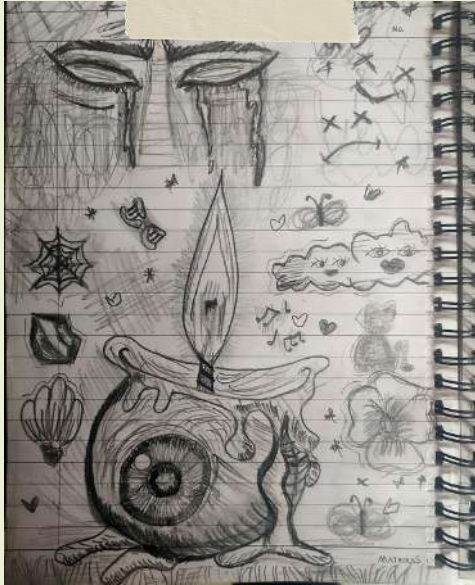
As a child, I had a penchant for lying. I spent most of primary school convincing my friends and classmates that I was proficient in multiple languages, these included—German, Japanese, Russian, Swedish, and Chinese among many others. I got away with it for more than two years.

However, as fate would have it, a Chinese student joined my class in the third grade. It was extremely unfortunate for me because until now I made various plosive and fricative noises, which were gibberish when asked to speak Chinese. The student understandably had trouble adjusting to India, and word got out to my teacher that there was a certain student who knew fluent Chinese.

My teacher encouraged me to sit next to the student, talk to her in Chinese and make her feel comfortable, but when my usage of palato-alveolar fricatives failed to render any meaning to her, I had to come clean and admit, to my utter humiliation, that I was in fact, not proficient in Chinese. However, trust me when I say that I can read and write in Arabic.





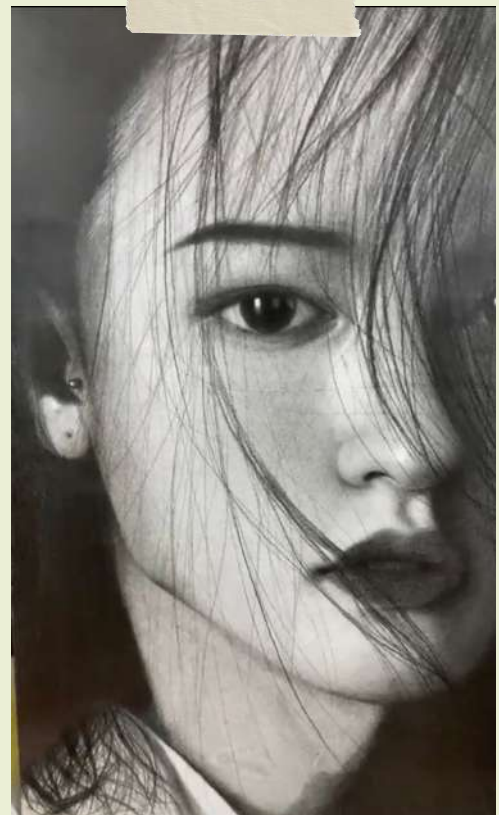


**Ridhima Chib**  
**Semester 2**  
**Biotechnology**  
**AIB**

**Anu Patil**  
**Semester 4**  
**BA French (Hons)**  
**ASL**



**Ridhima Chib**  
**Semester 2**  
**Biotechnology**  
**AIB**







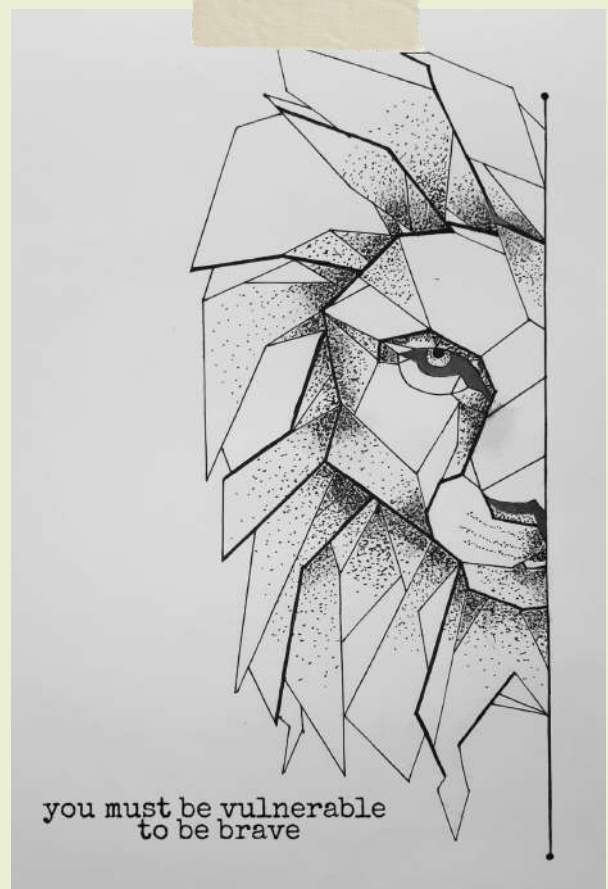
**Prateekshaa Prakash**  
**Bsc Clinical Psychology**  
**Semester 2**  
**Section B**







**Pankhuri Kesharwani**  
**Semester 6**  
**BCA**







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**BCA**







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**Semester 6**  
**BCA**



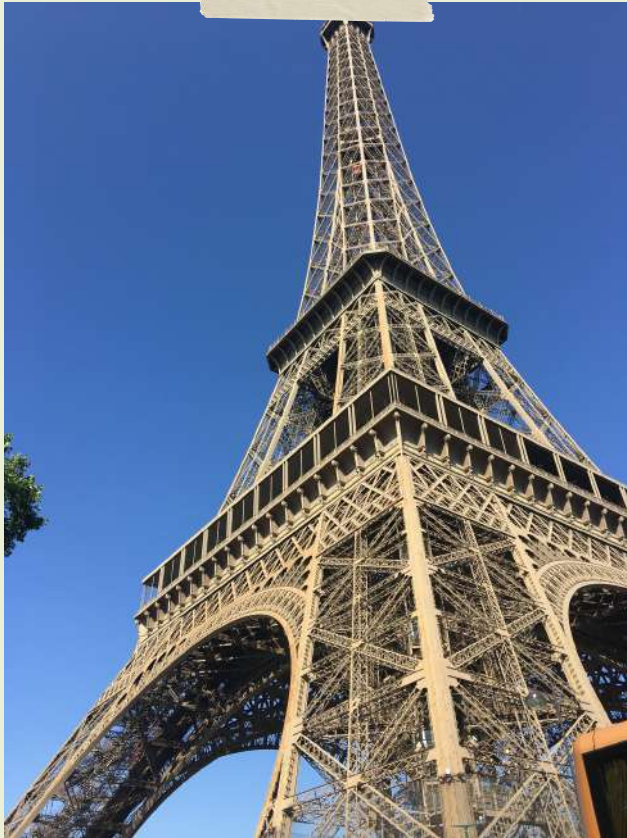




**Prateekshaa Prakash**  
**Bsc Clinical Psychology**  
**Semester 2**  
**Section B**







**Akanksha Kamat**  
**Semester 4**  
**AIB**



**Roshnee Bose**  
**Semester 1**  
**B. Tech**





**Roshnee Bose**  
**Semester 1**  
**B. Tech**





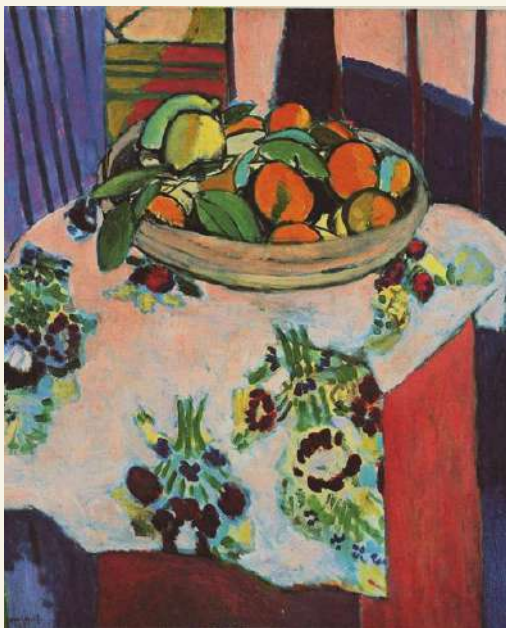
FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## The Orange

by Wendy Cope



As literature is often viewed as a form of art that needs to be dug deeper to be understood, this poem proves that notion wrong. Cope derives joy and pleasure out of the ordinary and this poem, very pleasingly, acts as a comfort blanket on confusingly tough days.

*poetry recommended by*  
**Arshi Sohail**  
(Managing Editor)

## The Farmer's Wife

by Anne Sexton



One aspect of Sexton's talent is her ability to put herself in others' shoes and write from their perspective, and that is precisely what she does in this poem. The poem is written from the perspective of a lonely farmer's wife, and her psyche unravels as the poem progresses.

*poetry recommended by*  
**Arshi Sohail**  
(Managing Editor)



# That Awkward Moment

## *When you wear the wrong uniform*

*By Arshi Sohail*  
*Managing Editor*

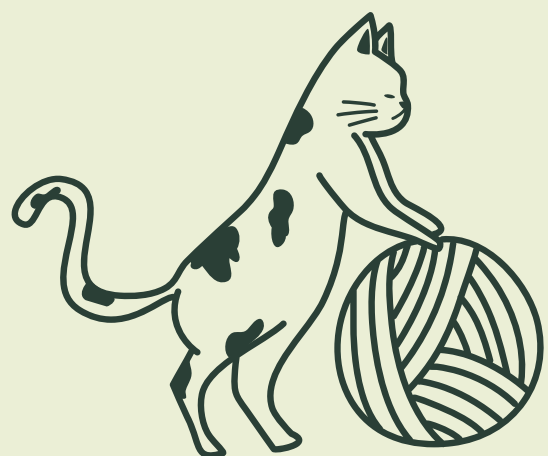
Our school would have an activity day every Thursday where students would be required to wear their 'house' uniforms, namely, the coloured uniforms of the houses they belonged to, and I belonged to the Topaz house (the yellow house).

One day, we received a notice stating that we wouldn't have to wear our house uniforms for next week's Thursday, as our school would be visited by a prestigious personality, and would have an activity day on next week's Wednesday instead. Misreading the notice, I told my parents that I had to wear my house uniform on the current week's Wednesday itself.

I showed up that Wednesday as possibly the only student to wear a bright yellow uniform, among the population of

students dressed in their regular navy-blue uniforms.

At the general assembly, I was made to stand in front of the whole school, throughout the assembly, for not following the dress code. I spent the day embarrassingly, vowing to not make impulsively hasty decisions and to hand out every notice to my parents henceforth.





# VISITEZ MA MAISON !

**WRITTEN BY**

**ISHAAN PANDITA**

**BTECH CSE, SEMESTER 4**

Bonjour madame ! Bienvenue chez moi !  
S'il vous plaît, ne partez pas avant le soir.  
Entrez dans le salon avant les pièces autres,  
Et profitez de ce poème qui a été écrit par un  
étudiant votre.

Il y a un canapé, des chaises et un fauteuil pour  
nous,  
Pardonnez-moi, j'ai oublié de demander : «  
Comment allez-vous ? »  
Voulez-vous boire du thé pour une dose de  
caféine ?  
Pour faire du thé, j'entre dans ma cuisine

Il y a une théière pour nous, et un filtre pour  
l'eau ;  
C'est la pièce où je cuisine tout ce que je peux.  
C'est tout ! Maintenant nous pouvons aller au  
premier étage,  
Et après ça, vous allez visiter mon petit garage.



# L'ESPOIR D'UNE NOUVELLE AUBE

**WRITTEN BY**

**SUCHANDRA GHOSH BASU**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, FRENCH**

**AMITY SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES**

Maintenant c'est la crépuscule. Le ciel rouge reflète encore sur cet étang. L'odeur des fleurs rafraîchit partout. Quelle belle vue!

Regardez et écoutez! Les pépiements des oiseaux! Ah! Le printemps! Et comment j'ai oublié que c'est leur temps de revenir à leurs nids.

Oui! Je me rappelle un peu. À l'aube je me suis levée en écoutant la chanson des coucous. Il fait très beau maintenant. Le printemps est arrivé! Ça me soulage, ça me réchauffe!

Mais....Pourquoi cet hurlement? J'entends quelqu'un dire que des êtres humains de notre belle planète se sont mis à mourir! J'ai crié de ma fenêtre : <<Quoi?>>

Celui-ci s'arrête pour un moment : <<L'épidémie se paraît dans notre monde!>> Il se disparaît aussitôt!

Comment pourrais-je voir notre monde comme un monde mourrant! Les pépiements des oiseaux s'arrêtent soudainement. Ont-ils perçu aussi cette situation, des oiseaux?

Je viens d'être au courant que les millions de gens sont déjà morts!

L'épidémie dévore notre monde entier!

Le soir entraîne une ombre avec lui. Une ombre de l'épidémie!



Les hurlements accroissent... Partout! Une nature sans vie, sombre, horrible!

Est-ce que l'on peut voir un nouveau joyeux monde demain dès l'aube? Tellement petit, tellement insuffisant est mon existence , et je suis ce que je suis... Devant la crise, devant cet hurlement... Moi devant ma fenêtre et le monde devant la crise. L'espoir de voir une nouvelle aube, un soleil tout frais de vigueur et de vivacité !





# LA FOIRE

**WRITTEN BY**

**PRAJESH KUMAR BASU**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, FRENCH  
AMITY SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES**

Nilesh a 13 ans. Il habite dans un petit village au sud de l'Inde. Son père est mécanicien, et ils sont très pauvres.

Sa mère les a quittés quand il avait 10 ans. Les mémoires sont encore bien vives. Sa mère était une personne aimable, tout le monde dans le quartier l'aimait et fréquentait leur petite cabane. Mais quand elle les a quittés, tout le monde l'a critiquée avec virulence: <Bien sûr elle s'en est allée avec un amoureux!>

2021. La pandémie de COVID 19. Les gens sont sans abri, sans travail, sans nourriture. Mais son père heureusement n'a pas perdu son travail. Il continue son travail dans un coin de leur village où il trouve toujours des clients. Il répare des automobiles. Il connaît très bien les visages de tous ses clients. Eux aussi, ils l'aiment et en admirent la précision dans ses réparations.

Leur village est petit, donc on se connaît, on s'aime et on sait toutes les petites choses des habitants de ce village.

Nilesh va à une école où il a beaucoup d'amis. Il est aimé par chacun de ses professeurs. Il participe dans chaque cours. Les étudiants qui prennent des cours privés de ces profs, se sentent de la jalousie et parfois de la frustration quand Nilesh donne constamment des réponses correctes à des questions posées par des professeurs.

Il aime la science et également les mathématiques. La plupart de ses camarades de la classe l'aime et le supportent comme ils savent très bien que s'ils ont aucun besoin d'aide, c'est toujours Nilesh qui tend sa main de soutien.



La semaine dernière, Trisha, leur amie d'enfance, avait eu un accident sur le champ lors de leur cours de sport. C'était Nilesh qui a pris toutes les responsabilités de téléphoner à un hôpital, parler avec le médecin, et appeler une ambulance pour prendre son amie à l'hôpital. Il a manqué le cours des maths, ce qu'il aime par-dessus tout! Il portait toujours un masque comme son père lui a dit de le faire et lui, il comprend très bien la raison de porter un masque. Bien qu'il soit pauvre, il aime la science!

Mais il a trouvé beaucoup de riches à l'hôpital qui portaient seulement leurs vêtements qui coûteraient bien chers (ils n'en oublient jamais!) mais pas leurs masques! Il le trouvait assez drôle! Il pensait que les riches sont peut-être toujours bien éduqués, ainsi, bien érudits, bien sages, avec des voitures et des vêtements chers mais sans science!

Il était accompagné par un autre ami, qui s'appelle Navin. Lui, il était aussi économiquement défié. Lui aussi, il avait seulement un parent. Son père avait quitté sa mère quand il était plus petit. Navin est le meilleur ami de Nilesh. Non seulement leur prénom commence avec un N mais aussi, ils aiment la mangue et les litchis en été! De pauvres enfants sont contents avec de toutes petites choses! Ils n'ont pas besoin d'une voiture luxueuse ou d'un séjour dans un chalet bien cher dans un endroit maritime exotique! Ils sont contents, n'importe quoi, quand même!

Le médecin était bien surpris de voir ces petits enfants!

- «Où est votre professeur? Vous venez d'où, les petits?»

- «Nous sommes venus seules!» était la réponse de Nilesh.

- «Nous venons du village qui est juste à côté de votre ville.» avait dit Navin.

Ensuite les parents de cette fille sont arrivés. Ils ne cessaient pas de les admirer et de les remercier.

- «Vous ne savez pas comment nous sommes reconnaissants à vous deux!» la mère de la fille avait presque fondu en larmes.

La fille était une très bonne étudiante. Elle aussi, comme Nilesh, a toujours eu de bonnes notes aux examens. Elle était sportive, amusante et amicale!



Aujourd'hui ils ont un examen. Tout le monde est inquiet, mais ces trois-là sont toujours contents! Ils n'ont pas un professeur privé, ce qui est un fait très rare et qu'il vaut mieux mentionner. Après l'examen, ces trois amis sont sortis de leur école, avec un doux sourire sur leur visage.

- «As-tu visité la foire des livres?» demande Trisha.
- «Une foire des livres? C'est quoi ça?» Une foire était une chose inconnue pour pauvre Nilesch!
- «Tu n'es jamais allé à une foire? Une foire des livres est un endroit où tu peux voir beaucoup de gens, beaucoup de magasins de livres et beaucoup de petits magasins de nourriture!»
- «Est-ce que vous savez, il se passe une foire des livres dans la ville où nous étions allés pour l'hôpital?» demande Navin à Nilesch et Trisha.
- «Ah oui? Super! On y va donc?» Nilesch dit, avec de l'impatience!
- «Ouais!» s'exclament tous les trois ensemble!

Revenu chez eux, Nilesch, étant bien excité du fait qu'il va aller à la foire, va rencontrer son père. Celui-ci était en train de travailler méticuleusement avec une partie d'une automobile. Il déclare leur projet d'aller à la foire des livres. Le père, tout en continuant à fixer un vis avec un grand tournevis, répond à son enfant : «Eh bien... Je n'ai jamais pu t'amener à une foire... Je suis toujours ici, je travaille toute la journée! Vas-y! Amuse-toi! Dis-moi comment était la foire quand tu vas revenir. Moi aussi je n'ai jamais vu une foire pendant très longtemps!»

- «Viens avec moi, papa, on va voir des livres et les gens...»
- «Non. M. Rahman va revenir bientôt et il faut finir mon travail aussitôt que possible. Il ira au bureau demain... Si je ne fixe pas son moto-vélo, il ne peut pas y aller, hein... Tu comprends, oui? »
- «Oui, papa, je comprends.»

En voyant le visage de son pauvre petit fils, le père s'approche et caresse avec sa main sale sur les petites joues de Nilesch. Il donne un peu d'argent en disant quelque chose dans ses oreilles. Nilesch sourit et part pour la foire.

Le même soir, les trois enfants se rencontrent en dehors de la foire. Trisha a porté un joli vêtement et une belle écharpe, comme dans leur région, il fait froid en décembre. Les deux garçons ont porté des chandails et leurs vêtements paraissent bien pâles devant ceux de la plupart des gens.



Il y a beaucoup de gens et tout le monde est masqué! Ils ont déjà reçu des passes pour la foire de leur école. Leurs professeurs encouragent des enfants de leur village d'aller visiter la foire. Mais quand même, c'est une nouvelle chose pour Nilesh!

Tous les trois entrent dans la foire, c'est la première fois pour Nilesh. Mais Trisha et Navin sont au courant de ce qui se passe dans une foire comme ils ont déjà visité la foire une ou deux fois avant cette année. Ils sont éblouis en voyant un grand nombre de stalles de livres.

Ils ne laissent aucune stalle, aucun coin de la foire! Ils en profitent de tout leur cœur ! Il y a autant de stalles, il y a autant de livres, il y a autant de monde! Dans leur village, c'est différent pendant cette période de pandémie. Tout le monde est chez soi, en peur du virus! Ici dans la ville, c'est différent ! La plupart des gens sont sans masque! Mais les trois enfants avaient leurs masques sur leur visage.

Cher lecteur, portez un masque, même si vous habitez dans une ville ou vous êtes riche! Le virus ne va pas voir la somme d'argent de votre compte bancaire plein d'argent ou votre vêtement ou votre voiture. Donc, portez le masque!

Ils se demandaient comment la foire était belle! Ils entrent dans une stalle de vieux livres, les prix sont bien bas! Navin tient un livre dans sa main, c'est une collection de nouvelles en langue régionale de leur état. Parmi beaucoup de livres, il a vraiment aimé celui-ci ! Il le veut, mais il ne peut pas l'acheter! Sa mère a dit de ne pas acheter un livre cher, ils n'ont pas assez d'argent ! Trisha aperçoit bientôt que son ami veut un livre vraiment ! Elle approche le vendeur et demande le prix de ce livre. Devant une grande opposition et des atermoiements de Navin, elle le donne à son camarade. Quand Nilesh feuilletait un livre d'histoires des inventions extraordinaires au domaine de science, Trisha lui a déjà offert le livre de son choix. Nilesh n'a jamais eu un livre comme cadeau!

Des livres sont les meilleurs cadeaux dans le monde, les enfants de son âge n'auront jamais la chance de tourner des pages d'un bon livre, parce qu'ils appartiennent à un monde où l'on est obligé d'avoir un smartphone mais il n'y a aucune place d'un livre chez eux!



Un vrai livre! La superfluité de technologie et la rapidité ont apporté le monde à une vie de lassitude, à une vie de paresse, surtout pendant cette période de pandémie.

Soudainement, un chanteur commence à chanter une chanson, il était déjà monté sur la scène. Les trois enfants ont presque fini de voir et visiter toutes les stalles de livres. Ils ont écouté cette chanson avant. C'est un chanteur favori de beaucoup de gens, tout le monde agite son portable en clignotant la lumière. On a bien

amusé une chanson d'abord lente et mélancolique, ensuite pleine de musique et de batterie! Nilesch aperçoit le chanteur descendre de la scène et s'asseoir sur une chaise en plastique après la chanson. Aussi il remarque ce gentilhomme soudainement perdre sa perruque, qui est tombée par terre. Il paraît embarrassé, jette un coup d'œil autour de lui, porte cette perruque et remonte sur la scène pour la prochaine chanson.

Les enfants marchent vers les petites tables de nourriture. Nilesch offre des panipuris à ses camarades. Son père, en fait, lui avait donné un peu d'argent et lui avait dit de leur offrir un petit peu de pani puri - c'était ce que son papa lui avait dit dans ses oreilles!

Il faisait froid, comme le temps passait. Alors, Navin leur offre du café au lait, que tous les trois ont bien aimé!

Navin, Nilesch et Trisha, vont ensuite marcher vers la sortie de la foire, chacun avec un livre dans la main. Ils se mettent sur la route vers chez eux, avec un sourire pur et une grande joie.



FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## This be the Verse

by Philip Larkin

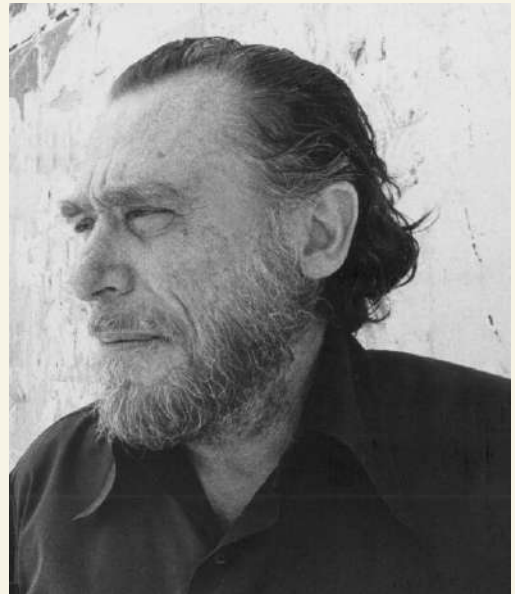


A poem about the vicious cycle of parenting. The trauma and the damage it can cause. It's beautiful. It's poignant. It's spectacular poetry. This indeed, be the verse.

poetry recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)

## The difference between a bad poet and a good one is luck

by Charles Bukowski



Bukowski narrates a tale of an aspiring poet who began doing odd jobs to make ends meet and ended up stuck, unable to create art of his own. He explores a well-known truth: there are so many artists who end up unheard and forgotten; luck is a defining contributor to success.

poetry recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)



# That Awkward Moment

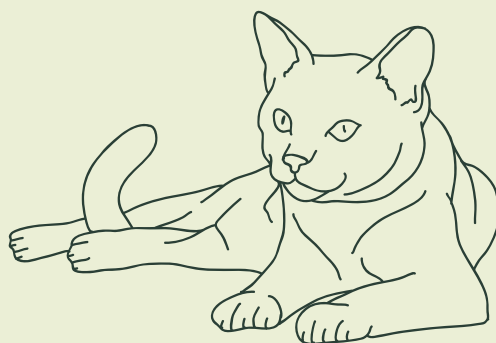
*When you're unmuted during a lecture*

*By Deepta Sreenivasan*  
*Copy Editor*

The year was 2020 and I was attending my botany lecture on zoom. We were learning a chapter that involved chemistry and since I wasn't very fond of organic chemistry, I started getting bored. I decided to munch on something while listening to the lecture.

That's when my mother entered and asked me if I needed something so I minimised my tab to tell her how bored I was because the faculty was taking a lot of time to finish that particular chapter. Never did I realise that when I had minimised the tab to speak, I had been unmuted and the teacher had heard every word I said.

By then my WhatsApp was flooded with messages from my friends who had been warning me about my mic. I was so embarrassed but I couldn't leave the meeting because I would've been marked absent.





# AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS BIJAL SHAH

**Author:**

The Happiness Mindset, 2014

**Written by:**

Aastha Tapadia and Anushila Jana

Mrs Bijal Shah is a practitioner of bibliotherapy with over four years of experience. She is the founder of book therapy which is a tested approach to harnessing the power of reading to improve mental health while maintaining a cost-effective method of therapy.

Mrs Shah was working in banking when she realized that her passion lay in writing. The founder of bibliotherapy talks about her consultancy which provides a range of items like reading, therapy sessions, and book prescriptions, along with which, they have also started training people in an online course for bibliotherapy.

After completing a diploma in counselling and in psychotherapy and psychodynamic counselling. She wrote 'The Happiness Mindset' and published it in 2014.





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*“Writing with authenticity is the easiest way to help somebody connect with your writing”*

**- Mrs Bijal Shah on her writing**

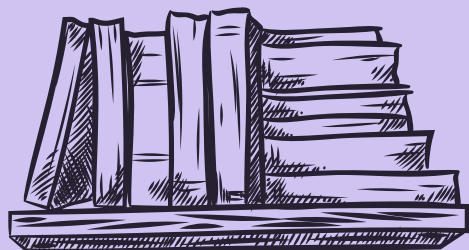
The book aims to give others twelve strategies to live wholesome lives, a life that is aligned with their values, that allows them to be more original, and that always brings them home. To reflect on the fact that whether the path they are on is the path they want to be following.

Bibliotherapy is a landmark that she started in 2017. Mrs Bijal Shah defines bibliotherapy as “the use of literature as a therapeutic medium. It's really like you would do any form of art/expression therapy. You're using literature as a way to connect with your own feelings, emotions, and your own thoughts. Literature gives you a safe space to do it, because sometimes talking to a therapist can be daunting, and talking about yourself can also feel quite painful but when you're looking at it through the eyes of the author or the character, it just feels a lot safer. You're more easily able to access these feelings and thoughts, which you can then talk about with either a therapist or in your journaling, in your writing, and then you go through your journal and use that as a reflective tool. A lot of catharsis takes place in that process, and you identify ways of moving forward. It's very healing, that expression in itself, is very healing that the literature prompts you to do.”

Upon being asked about the obstacles she faced on her journey to becoming a published author, she pointed out the integral characteristic of literary agents and publishers, unless you are a part of an insider group or have done a Masters in Fine Arts, your manuscripts are not touched. Mrs Shah self-published her book on Amazon and with great success, she even had publishers approach her for a translation of the book in Europe.

She added percipiently, “If you've got a message, and you're passionate about what you want to say, and what you want to write about, then you should just go for it. Because chances are, other people really want to read your work, and who will find that your work really helped and you have to believe in your work if you're not going to believe in it, nobody else is. So often, when you do self-publish, you're sort of making that statement and I guess that's how it all started”.

All of what she writes has a therapeutic meaning, Mrs Shah is all about expressing emotions on paper. Like the Happiness Mindset, which is very memoir-like, her own experiences and what she learned from them, or how she healed or what those experiences brought up to her. “I feel like all those stories are quite helpful to others because they can see themselves sometimes in the stories and use that as a healing mirror. So yeah, that's what I tend to go for. Even poetry writing is very therapeutic to me”.





"Writing with authenticity is the easiest way to help somebody connect with your writing", Mrs Bijal Shah, on being the bellwether for the young and impressionable believes that we shouldn't be writing with our defences up because we want to be as authentic and vulnerable as we can because writing is an artistic medium of expression and we shouldn't hold back. Nonetheless, there is also the moral factor that comes in, where you don't want your writing to be cultish or detrimental to others; striking a balance in your pieces is important. Writing has evolved from the beginning of stoicism and Greek tragedies to novels, and every new genre is exciting to wade through. So, as somebody young, Shah invigorates to push boundaries, and write in a way that allows you to express and be authentic to yourself.

Along with writing books and habitual poetry, Mrs Bijal Shah is a freelance writer for various publishers and magazines, she also contributes to journalists' pieces in terms of guidance, book recommendations, and bibliotherapy. It's easy to wonder how one manages to fulfil deadlines and keep focused when they're so caught up. Mrs Shah is an ideal example of setting tiny goals that help us build momentum to achieve bigger ones. Setting bigger goals produces procrastination and gradually leads to overwhelming. Placing smaller goals also helps in allowing ourselves to take breaks. "Taking breaks is crucial for our creative minds to flourish, they invite new thoughts and new ideas. Going to see something artistic like a painting or to a museum, reading a book, or even going for a shower! Because, it's giving you that space, where everything else is just pushed aside, it's about creating those spaces for yourself".

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*"If you've got a message, and you're passionate about what you want to say, and what you want to write about, then you should just go for it. Because chances are, other people really want to read your work, and who will find that your work really helped and you have to believe in your work if you're not going to believe in it, nobody else is."*

Upon confronting writer's block, Shah determines confidence in letting creativity flourish. "It's like creating those spaces where the creative mind can be free from the day-to-day responsibilities, and commitments so that the writer's block is kind of almost not allowed to enter your mind, because you're so full of ideas". With child-like enthusiasm, she adds, "I love reading, I always have books on my bookshelf, near me when I'm writing, because I find books often inspire more writing. Sometimes, I'll listen to something inspiring, or, go for a walk. Anything, that's relaxing, I think, does take the pressure off.

Like I said, even going to a museum or an art gallery, you start to see things from a different perspective. New thoughts come into your mind, and that's when, the writer's block is curing, and it's inviting new words just to come into your head, and you start writing. So, I would say that's one way of how you could overcome writer's block."

It is as they say, "When overthinking, write. When underthinking, read."



The same world we live in also has its own divisions, one the imaginary world we build within us, the 'real' world we live in, and then there's the world the author creates, so we are just someone who lives in the middle, as a writer who is deeply invested in their world, it must be a difficult task to detach oneself from the world and the people they create or write about, on being asked about this Mrs Bijal Shah says the best writing is often inspired by our experiences, our thoughts, by our feelings because one is bringing that authentic part of themselves to their writing, and that's the bit that everyone's going to connect with because one invokes empathy, whatever one's going through, other people are going through that as well. "So I think just merge the reality, merge the imaginary, merge the fantasies being it all in because that's what makes something quite real like that magical realism element is there."

*Taking breaks is crucial for our creative minds to flourish, they invite new thoughts and new ideas. Going to see something artistic like a painting or to a museum, reading a book, or even going for a shower! Because, it's giving you that space, where everything else is just pushed aside, it's about creating those spaces for yourself".*

**- Mrs Bijal Shah on how to deal with creative block**



When it comes to the debatable topic of detaching oneself from their own feelings and emotions to produce fine work, she has a different stance on it, according to her artists are always confessional, some of the best artists are confessional because it's the art that's going to relate and resonate with someone.

A lot of auto-fiction books are auto-fiction in the sense that they're inspired by people's true life experiences, although they're in novel format.

On the topic of digitalisation of literature which is happening quite rapidly, with soft copies being available easily and in a huge number, Mrs Bijal Shah highlighted both the pros and cons of this modernisation in literature the pros are that it's allowing more people to write more people to share their stories. It's increasing the diversity of stories. On the other side there's obviously the risk of plagiarism and the massive amount of content out there, along with a compromising quality, because now you can just hit publish, and just get things out, without the discipline of reviewing your work, editing it thoroughly, in the rush to get it out.



On asking for tips for all the budding and aspiring writers out there, Mrs Shah gave a valuable piece of advice saying that there are always going to be people who don't value your work or might be critical. That might be something that puts one-off writing but to just really, really believe in your work, and just get it out there and let your voice be heard. In your writing, always be sort of authentic, and let people connect with what you're saying. "Just write. I always say, write, like, no one's reading, because that's when you get your truth out. I think it takes the pressure off, and you can then write something great."

Talking about criticism, Mrs Bijal Shah has a very sought way of dealing with the criticism without letting it affect her along with taking it with a positive approach beneficial to her and her work. She double-checks what people are saying and goes to the criticism with an open mind.

To check if their criticisms have any real value, If it's true, then she takes that on board, and learns from it and if it's not a fair criticism, she just focuses on her strengths and tries to stay away from the negative approach.

*"Just write. I always say, write, like, no one's reading, because that's when you get your truth out. I think it takes the pressure off, and you can then write something great."*

**- Mrs Bijal Shah to aspiring writers**

Mrs Bijal Shah is currently working on a new book, she's been writing about some of the clients that she's been seeing and also the books that have helped them because she wants to put together their stories and talk about how books have influenced them or had a positive impact on them, in a meaningful way and then share those stories with readers.

She plans on using social media as one of the platforms where she would be promoting her upcoming work, she deeply reinstates the value and the positive power of social media and the impact it has on people and literature.

"People are reading it! And so, that's the power of social media, like, it's out there forever, and someone, somebody will pick it up, and they'll find it moving, or they'll connect with it, and that's the greatest joy, it's that connection that we have with each other."

Mrs Shah also emphasizes the importance of preserving passion, if writing brings someone joy, they shouldn't stop it. She ends the interview with a bit of very important and useful advice to all the readers, that is to keep reading and cultivate a habit of doing so at least for 15 minutes daily.

We, at Zenith, thank Mrs Bijal Shah for giving us such a personal insight into book therapy and her experience as a bibliotherapist.

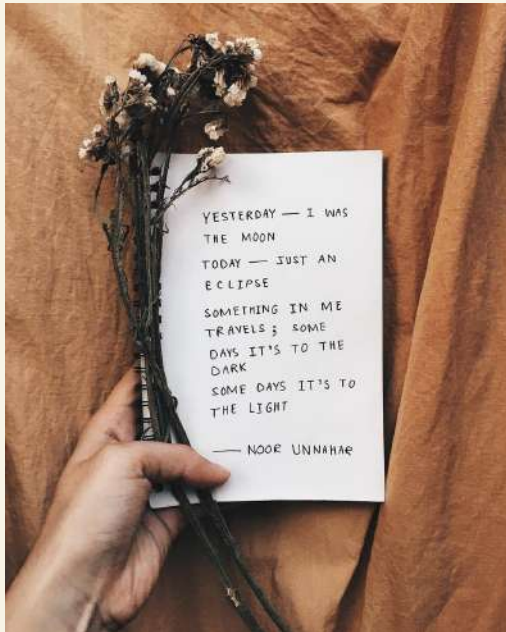


FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



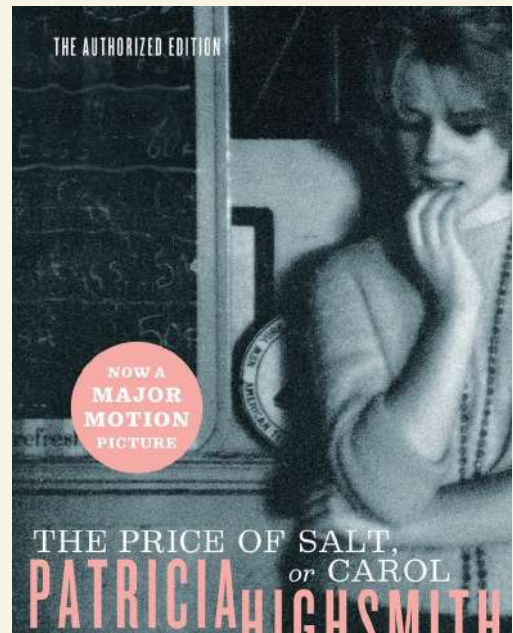
## Yesterday I was the moon by Noor Unnahar



The book consists of small poems that feel like a bright light at the end of the dark tunnel, like a rainbow after heavy rainfall. For me, this collection of poetry acts as a little reminder that helps during rough phases of life.

poetry recommended by  
**Archita Biswas**  
(Publicity Manager and Language  
Section Editor)

## The Price of Salt by Patricia Highsmith



An amalgamation of a thriller with a high dose of WLW? Who doesn't want to read about powerful and confident women in love, fighting against the patriarchy to keep what is theirs?

novel recommended by  
**Shiza Shaikh**  
(Managing Editor)



# That Awkward Moment

*When your stomach betrays you*

*By Shiza Shaikh  
Managing Editor*

Back in 10th grade, a prestigious figure in our school passed away. To honour him, the students and teachers were called into the auditorium and asked to observe a minute of silence. As life would have it, I had not eaten breakfast that morning. As a consequence of that, when the room fell silent, there was a loud rumbling noise. Of course, it came from my stomach. I opened my eyes to subtly check if someone had heard it. There were seven judging pairs of eyes staring at me. I guess one could call this my villain origin story.





# JUMBLLED WORDS

LTRAQY WFST

DIFNSER

TNGODUHSU

OELWLY

ASRTM HOPEN

NVIEEC

PIHPASENS

GTMARANISA

CREATED BY ANUSHKA DE SARKAR



# RIDDLES

I HAVE RINGS BUT NO  
FINGERS. WHAT AM I?

WHICH LETTER CAN WE  
DRINK?

WHY WAS T ANGRY ON  
Q?

WHAT CAN YOU CATCH  
BUT NEVER THROW?

WHEN IS THE DOOR NO  
MORE A DOOR?

I AM A STICK, BUT I GOT  
LIPS . WHAT CAN I BE?

I HAVE CONTINENTS,  
COUNTRIES, AND EVEN  
OCEANS, BUT NO LIFE.  
WHAT AM I?

IF TWO'S A COMPANY,  
AND THREE'S A CROWD,  
WHAT ARE FOUR AND  
FIVE?

CREATED BY ANUSHKA DE SARKAR



# WORD SEARCH

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# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



CREATED BY UJJWALA NAGENDRA



# CROSSWORD





# CLUES

## ACROSS

- 1 Bee Injury
- 2 A legal officer or custodian
- 3 Approximate Date
- 4 Halloween month
- 5 Longest running musical on Broadway (With 54)
- 6 Acronym for Personal Assistant
- 7 Fill in the blanks (Album by 'Godkillers') - \_ \_ \_ R \_ bi \_ \_ h of \_ h \_ Mid \_ dle Ages
- 8 Plant with medicinal gel
- 9 Eating Disorder Abbreviation
- 10 Past tense of hear, with "H"
- 11 Same
- 12 A colloquial word that means an old person or thing
- 13 No \_\_\_\_ or buts
- 14 Oldest and biggest metro depot in India
- 15 Mistruth
- 16 \_\_\_\_ be or not \_\_\_\_ be
- 17 \_\_\_\_ (clay)nos - (the clay is silent) from 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' (8 Across)
- 18 Southwest English dialect for earthenware
- 19 A word that is a synonym for regret and is also a plant
- 20 Founder of Tiscali Renato \_\_\_\_
- 21 Village in northern Poland
- 22 Father of RTI in India
- 23 Vermont Senator Bernie \_\_\_\_
- 24 Treatment to get curly hair
- 25 Slang for an endearment
- 26 Owned and governed by FIA owns, this is the highest level of worldwide tournament in the motorsport field of rallying
- 27 An abbreviation for a promissory note, which is a written promise to pay a specific amount of money to a specific person either on-demand or on a specific date
- 28 Synonym for 'modest'
- 29 The artist who sang 'Do You Remember' in 2011
- 30 In this unit, urgent care medicine is provided by a dedicated department of a hospital or health care facility
- 31 'Is it ploob or \_\_\_\_?' (Refer: Star Wars: Ewoks)
- 32 A machine that produces duplicates of text or graphic images
- 33 Acronym for a written document prepared by the police when they receive information about the commission of a cognizable offence
- 34 Largest land animal
- 35 Abbreviation of a TV series adapted from George RR Martin's 'A Song of Ice and Fire'
- 36 Father of Modern Linguistics
- 37 Most common article in English



# CLUES

## DOWN

- 1 Filmmaker behind The Apu Trilogy
- 2 Audience showing disappointment
- 12 'Trick \_\_ Treat'
- 27 Marco \_\_?
- 31 Mightier than the sword
- 38 Character in Veronica Roth's 'Divergent' series
- 39 Frozen Water
- 40 Quiet breathing is also known as \_\_\_\_\_
- 41 Forcibly removed
- 42 A member of the lowest social class in Anglo-Saxon England; a worker
- 43 Indicates heart rate
- 44 Residence in Sanskrit
- 45 Dine-\_\_
- 46 Part of the body
- 47 Latin term for a degree that means 'for the sake of honour'
- 48 Chartered Accountant abbreviation
- 49 The smallest particle of a chemical element
- 50 One of the Hebrew Bible's Twelve Minor Prophets
- 51 Categorical Imperative
- 52 A character played by Samuel L Jackson in Spiderman: Far from Home
- 53 RM's mixtape
- 54 Longest running musical on Broadway (With 5 across)
- 55 Abbreviation for a conference between parents and teachers to assess the student's development
- 56 Kabhi kabhi lagta hai ki \_\_\_\_ hi bhagwan \_\_\_\_
- 57 Zenith, or the pinnacle
- 58 Science fiction epic by Frank Herbert
- 59 Suffix in 'competitor'
- 60 Symptom of fatigue
- 61 Kick or hit a ball with a high trajectory
- 62 Important document submitted when applying to a university, abbreviation
- 63 Intelligence Bureau abbreviation
- 64 Songwriter with credits such as Fearless and Red
- 65 Iron symbol
- 66 Emergency Room (Abbreviation)
- 67 Suffix, added especially with countries to show belongingness
- 68 The authority in charge of the Indian rupee's production and distribution, as well as the banking system's regulation
- 69 Queen frontman



FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## **The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo**

by Taylor Jenkins Reid



The one thing we cannot ignore is that being queer in this society demands for your sexuality to be hidden if you want to achieve your dreams. From the point of view of a famous fictional actress, you will laugh and cry as you try to decide what you really are willing to sacrifice for love.

novel recommended by  
**Shiza Shaikh**  
(Managing Editor)

## **Brave New World**

by Aldous Huxley



A truly daunting take on the dystopian genre, where human beings are manufactured in laboratories and are further bred in a pre-ordained class system. Huxley tackles human vulnerability, our capacity for violence, and the banality of institutions.

novel recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art Director)



# That Awkward Moment

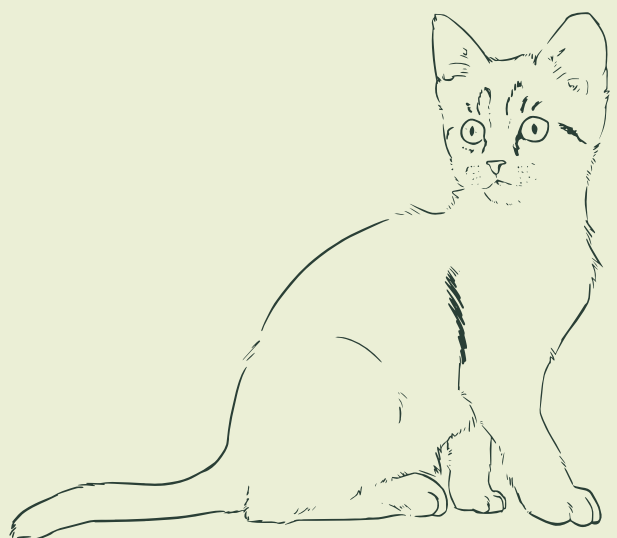
*When you walk into the wrong exam hall*

*By Anushka De Sarkar*  
*Section Editor*

During 11th Grade, 23rd Feb 2020, “Environmental Science Paper’ fully prepared I entered the exam hall, with a writing pad, a tiny bottle of water and my stationery pouch. While walking down the quiet aisle, I could definitely spot a few unfamiliar faces staring at me. Unsure of what is happening, I patiently waited for the answer sheets and question papers to arrive and when they did, let me tell you, I saw hell, all at once. I knew nothing! How could I, the paper was talking about accounts, and I came prepared with the knowledge of soil and how pollution can be controlled.

Well, my poor soul had turned up a day before the scheduled day of my exam!

The walk which I had to take to get out of the whole “situation” is more than embarrassing, all the students from the other batch judged me while I had to do “the walk of shame” with my head buried down and the aisle seemed longer than ever.





# Interview with Dr Manjiree Vaidya

By Apurva Sakpal and Sanskruti Mate



**Dr Manjiree Vaidya**

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to interview Dr Manjiree Vaidya ma'am, the esteemed Head of Institution of Amity School of Languages, who shared her insight and acuity. Additionally, we received other helpful suggestions that include the various career paths that we can explore.

Dr Manjiree Vaidya has been working with Amity University for six years, since its inception in 2014.

When asked if she had any advice for the final year students, "I don't believe in giving advice. However, I would suggest to my final year students to be confident. Now they will land in the bigger, wilder, challenging world. So, they must have a clear vision about their career, short—and long-term goals and ways to achieve those goals. They may face difficulties in the journey, but they must be optimistic. There's always a bright light at the end of the tunnel."

Responding to the question of the various prospects and career paths that students can explore after graduation, ma'am stated "For the students of language and literature, the sky's the limit to flourish in their career. After graduation, students acquire communication skills including LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing) skills. They also develop analytical skills. So, they can go for a career in media in the form of opportunities as a news writer, editor, newsreader, programme anchor, radio jockey, video jockey, content writer, creative writer, blogger, vlogger, content developer etc. Ample opportunities are also available in the teaching field, both online and offline.



Similarly, the corporate sector also provides many avenues. Voice over, voice modulation, translation, films and book review writing are also some of the rising fields for the students. However, for many of these avenues, some basic training, orientation or entrance tests are required.” “The students who are willing to pursue post-graduation abroad, I would like to suggest that they should select the universities carefully considering the curriculum, facilities provided, teaching-learning process etc. Many universities abroad offer scholarships with certain criteria. So, they must grab those opportunities, so that getting a degree is less expensive.

I would like to assure them that they must be confident to get selected in any university abroad. The knowledge they gained and skills they acquired during their graduation here in Amity is based on a well-designed syllabus which creates a strong foundation for any specialization in the universities abroad, be it literature, linguistics, didactics or research. Think out of the box and the whole world of opportunities is yours.”

Finally, we asked ma’am about the different changes students and teachers had to undergo due to the pandemic.

“Students’ lives have changed drastically since the pandemic. Within a day they had to switch from offline to online mode. Though it affects their social life, versatile development that hones

the overall personality in the physical classroom, students can learn through many resources, apps, online activities, webinars, and online learning platforms. Besides, they can also join other online courses of their interest for knowledge and skill development. Many such courses are free of cost. Along with this, through online mode, they can learn in a safe zone in the pandemic, which also saves their travel time. In the end, I feel, the students must identify what they want, develop their skills, keep themselves updated, and then nobody can stop them.”

With such wise advice and the reassuring support of our respected Head of Institution, Dr Manjiree Vaidya, there is no doubt that every student in the Amity School of Languages department will succeed in their future endeavours. Whether it's academics, careers, or life in general, our Head of Institution and her entire team of great teachers, are always there to assist us in achieving our goals. We will certainly fulfil all of our objectives and ambitions thanks to their instruction and advice.

We would like to express our gratitude to Dr Manjiree Vaidya ma'am for her guidance and also thank her for taking the time to do this interview.



FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## The Phantom of the Opera

by Gaston Leroux

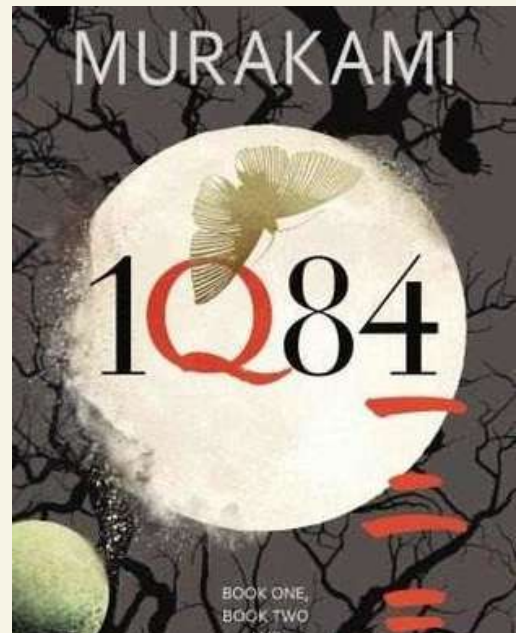


Far from perfect, the novel is an example of pulp fiction, a blend of different genres - it consists of gothic horror, romance, and mystery. It is a masterclass on the importance of empathy and compassion, and how the lack of those very basic things can turn a man into a monster. It has all the elements of a classic - gruesome murders, regal descriptions, and a tortured genius for an antagonist.

novel recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)

## 1Q84

by Haruki Murakami



The build-up of the two parallel stories and the continuous feeling of mysteriousness is exhilarating. Murakami's works are a personal favourite for romance, destiny, and a personalised feeling.

novel recommended by  
**Archita Biswas**  
(Publicity Manager and Language  
Section Editor)



# That Awkward Moment

*When you smack the wrong person*

*By Anushila Jana*  
*Section Editor*

This was back in 9th grade, I was walking home back from school and saw my 'friend' walking on the opposite lane, mind you the lane was lined with trees and somehow one glance and the same school uniform was enough for me to come to a conclusion that, that indeed was my friend and by laws of friendship it was required of me to go and smack him (gently, of course) on his head, I happily crossed the road and with one swift swing smacked my 'friend' on his head.

The poor kid turned around and I profusely apologised and also experienced the deepest level of embarrassment that existed. It wasn't him but someone else with just a similar height and a smack written in the cards for him that day.





# Language Puns

Why do the French eat only one egg?  
Because one egg is un oeuf.

No matter how kind you are, German children will  
always be kinder.

A Spanish magician told everyone he would disappear.  
He said: "Uno, Dos.." and then disappeared without a  
tres.

I asked a French person if they played video games?  
He said WII.

What language do oranges speak?  
Mandarin.

A French woman and an Englishman are in a room.  
She says. "Je t'adore !"  
"Shut the door yourself " he replies.



When you speak two languages and start losing vocabulary in both of them you're byelilingual.

I know several jokes in sign language, I guarantee you, no one has ever heard them before.

What English vegetable do you get by putting a Cantonese rabbit on either side of a Cantonese horse?  
A tomato (Rabbit=To, Horse=Ma)

A person ends their telephone conversations in german with "Auf Wiederhören".  
One of their English speaking colleagues asked them after weeks :  
"Why do you tell everyone on the phone your feet are hurtin' ?"

Is there a word that uses all the vowels including Y?  
Unquestionably.



FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



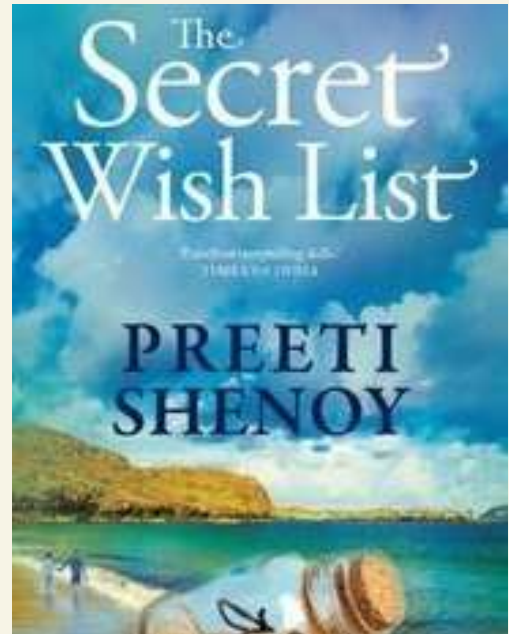
## **The Forty Rules of Love** by Elif Shafak



This book takes you on a journey towards spirituality and towards a type of love we don't really think of anymore. It has a sequence of events taking place in the present and centuries in the past. With a beautiful plotline along with Sufi philosophy and richness of Sufi culture, this book is a beautiful and emotional experience.

novel recommended by  
**Anushila Jana**  
(Section Editor)

## **The Secret Wish List** by Preeti Shenoy



The Secret Wish List is one of the best works of the underrated author Preeti Shenoy. This book is a journey of self-discovery filled with twists and surprises. It gives me immense pleasure whenever I read it, it feels like falling in love and getting heartbroken at the same time.

novel recommended by  
**Apurva Sakpal**  
(Section Editor)



# That Awkward Moment

*When you mistake a stranger for your mother*

*By Sanika Deshmukh  
Copy Editor*

I was in a supermarket with my mother. I got distracted and wanted to show something to my mum. I held her hand, tugged on it, and kept rambling about it. After a long silence from her, I turned to look at her and to see why she hadn't been responding, but it wasn't my mum. In fact, it wasn't my mum the entire time. She wasn't even in that aisle. It was some random woman and "the woman was too stunned to speak".







# Recipe for a Successful Indian TV Serial

Original recipe by Ekta Kapoor

Documented by Anushka Chaube

Serves : 1B-2B

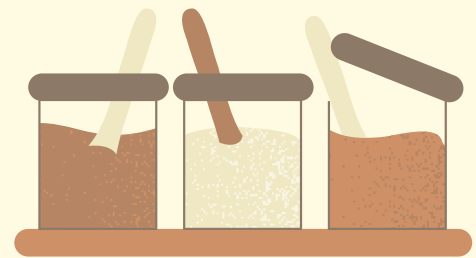
Prep time : 10 minutes

Cook time : 20 minutes

Total time : 10-15 years

Meal type : Snack, Dinner

Cuisine : Indian



Ingredients :

- 1 tablespoon of an overly emotional female lead that cries every 3 minutes
- 1 tablespoon of a rich man with the worst attitude ever (Highly preferred with with daddy issues and mommy issues)
- Jewellery (A must, in case you are planning to get the female lead married in a "rich house" for flavour and appeal)
- 1 tablespoon of a mother-in-law (Can be used for kneading and frying the bahu in order to get the final luscious crispy taste of the dish or simply for tadka!)



- 20-30 extra family members
- 1 pinch of logic (Optional, usually not preferred)
- Heavy makeup (As per taste, only applicable for the stunning fashionista, yes, right the female villain, the "vamp")

(Because what's an Indian TV serial without parivaar)



Procedure :

Step 1: Take a tablespoon of the overly emotional self-righteous female protagonist and another tablespoon of a rude rich man and mix them so they can have a sort of repulsed reaction.

Step 2: Keep that aside, take the overly emotional female lead again and add every kind of social-family responsibility you can find and give it a good mix, you'll see some sort of bubbles rising, they're a good sign that your dish will turn out crispy.

Step 3: For tadka, bring in our one cup of mother-in-law, dressed with some internalized misogyny, orthodox thoughts, and heavy jewellery. Heat for a while on the high flame of female lead's poverty.

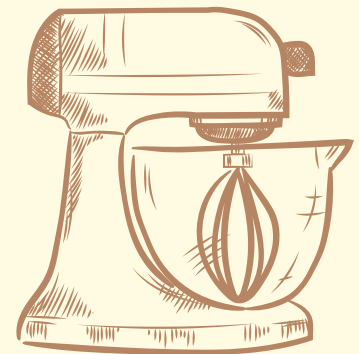
[ Note: Don't forget to add dramatic music and continuously stir. ]

Step 4: Add the tadka to the mixture we made in the first step and and watch it sizzle and drizzle all over! Yummm... What an aroma! The more the noise of spluttering, the more the hit this dish is going to be.

Step 5: Let's not forget to add our beloved vamp, like the mother-in-law, is here to add more flavour by her constant interventions, the hot and sizzling, hated but secretly every chef's favourite ingredient.

Step 6: Add a pinch of logic. (Optional, very very optional, NOT necessary at all) And voila we are done!

[ Special Note: The final dish should be served along with the 20-30 family members, the extras, they actually don't do anything, but look good for the sake of presentation. The more the merrier! ]





FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## After the Ball

by *Leo Tolstoy*



Tolstoy tells the story of a man who must choose between his love for a woman and his conscience. It's also a tale about rationalization, adulthood, and the challenges of reality.

short story recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)

## Castle in the Sky

Dir. by *Hayao Miyazaki*



The fantasy adventure movie revolves around a little girl and boy trying to escape from a group of army agents to protect the crystal and find the castle in the sky. The movie is simply stunning, from its plot to its music to its visuals to its narrative, everything about it is captivating.

film recommended by  
**Anushka Chaube**  
(Managing Editor and Co-Art  
Director)



# That Awkward Moment

*When you almost fail your grade*

*By Sanskruti Mate*  
*Section Editor*

I was in third grade, and we had just finished our English final exam. I was super confident about my answers. So, I submitted the paper, got back to my class only to hear my teacher ask, "Sanskruti, where is your paper?"

Of course, I replied that I had submitted it, but the teacher couldn't find it. She kept searching all the cupboards but couldn't find them. During the last period, she searched in the pile of answer sheets again only to find that there were two papers by roll number 24 and it turns out I had written the wrong roll number on mine. I ended up crying in front of the whole class.



*Humour*



# Faculty Interview

By Apurva Sakpal

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world"

– Malala Yousafzai

For this article, we interviewed faculties from Amity University Mumbai and asked them about their teaching experience, the scope for students, and online learning advantages.

"Teaching is a learning experience"— While agreeing with this statement, **Mr Prajesh Basu**, who has been teaching French in the Amity School of Languages for three years, said "Every class is a learning experience. I have worked in many institutes and schools in the past where I joined as a fresher. Over there, the last benchers used to mock me for my accent and body language. I took note of that and from the next class, I started controlling these aspects. This is how I improved myself with every class I took." **Dr Rita Bansal**, a law teacher in Amity Law School added "We learn while teaching. Particularly in law, it's a learning experience. We need to be updated with existing laws, prevailing provisions, guidelines, and even judgements delivered by the High Court and the Supreme Court of India, so this indeed helps us in learning while teaching, as teaching is a learning process."

We asked faculties about prospects and career areas students can explore after graduation, to which **Ms Prajakta Bhide**,



**Mr Prajesh Basu**  
**Assistant Professor French, ASL**

Spanish foreign language faculty from Amity School of Languages replied, "There are multiple opportunities for the language students after graduation. First of all, you can go for higher education, masters or any other course. You can go into research. There are various jobs as a teaching assistant and research assistant. Students can go into teaching, translation, and interpretation if they have a foreign language degree. There are multiple industries like aviation, hotel, tourism, etc, and all these industries need students who are efficient in language. Students can also go for competitive exams conducted by the government. There are jobs in the United Nations where they need bilingual students."



If you are efficient in languages you can work in organizations like World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations, and similar organizations. Students can work in language and area studies, if you know French you can work in Francophone studies. In Spanish, you can work in Hispanic studies or Latin studies. In language, you have the option of sign language, speech therapy, linguistics. The language field offers various domains you all can work and explore after graduation”.

Talking about studying abroad after graduation, **Mrs Sayali Kadam**, a French teacher from Amity School of Languages shared—“My honest suggestion for everyone is that you go alone. If you go with your friends, you don’t really get to



**Ms Prajakta Bhide**  
**Assistant Professor Spanish, ASL**



**Dr Rita Bansal**  
**Assistant Professor Human Rights, ALS**

explore much in terms of education, make schedules, observe their education system. Many universities abroad let you attend the class as silent listeners where you don’t really have to give exams on that subject. You can simply listen and consume knowledge, so that is a great advantage for you to gain some knowledge. When it comes to your own self, you become a lot more independent, you learn a lot about yourself, you get to know about your responsibilities, you understand how to deal with the worst of situations. Simply talk to people, explore, make new friends, learn and share the culture. Don’t take public transport; walk around. That will help you to see the world from a different perspective.”

The pandemic has turned the education sector upside down but still, students took major advantages from online learning.





**Mrs Sayali Kadam**  
**Assistant Professor French, ASL**

Let's see what our faculties have to say about that. Mr Prajesh Basu said, "In the beginning, I noticed enthusiasm amongst the students. They used to enjoy taking online classes from home. I used to make them laugh in order to make the class interesting. I am happy with online teaching. I observed that I didn't have to shout as there was no noise compared to the offline class. In offline classes, there often used to be shortcomings such as the projector not working, marker ink drying, etc. Dr Rita Bansal added, "It becomes easy for students to access documents, videos, eBooks, and presentations. So, with the benefit of online education in the pandemic, I feel learning seems to have become easier and safer for students. Sharing class materials in online classes have become easier. So, students should really take advantage of the online learning modality."

As final year students are graduating this year, **Dr Swati Bhise**, an English professor from Amity School of Languages, and the faculty in charge of our magazine said, "Never forget that life is an experience and even though you study anything throughout your life, it will always be like a drop from an ocean of knowledge. Be humble and keep learning."

We are glad to receive such wonderful advice and career-related guidance from our faculty. We thank the faculty for taking time from their busy schedules and agreeing to this interview for our magazine. We hope this helps people in the journey following their graduation. However, in online classes, these things were not the problem anymore. Yes, there are many disadvantages, but I personally do enjoy taking online classes."



**Dr Swati Bhise**  
**Assistant Professor English, ASL**



# Alumni Interview

By Sanskruti Mate

*"Our greatness comes when we appreciate each other's strengths, when we learn from each other, when we lean on each other," Michelle Obama once stated.*

Amity University Mumbai students are lucky to have instructors who train us for a life beyond the classroom, and we will take these teachings and principles with us for many years to come. All Amity graduates have instilled these principles and are successfully navigating life.

We were happy to interview two noteworthy Amity University Mumbai alumni: **Sneha Chauhan**, who graduated with a BA in English (Hons) in 2021, and **Rashi Bhakta**, who graduated with a BSc in Clinical Psychology in 2019.

After graduating, Sneha is studying for her Master's entrance exams while writing for her blog. Rashi has gotten a Master's degree in forensic psychology, has published a review paper, interned at the Directorate of Forensic Science for a short time, and is now looking for a job.

Sneha advised the freshers to "follow the path of our professors and indulge in extracurricular activities which help you gain new skills. There are clubs, fests, events, webinars that are worth attending



**Sneha Chauhan**

and participating in. It will be a new experience for you. The knowledge which you gain will be an asset to your life."

According to Rashi "Your dissertation is where you learn, explore and understand your goal and yourself. If possible, decide on a good topic well in advance and request the professors and know their specializations.."

Sneha shared her final year experiences as well as some advice for final year students! "With the arrival of Covid-19, all our lives have been chaotic, though our last year was online, it was amazing. Our mentors and professors were always supportive.





**Rashi Bhakta**

A note to the juniors: I would say, firstly don't be stressed, live your college life to the fullest. I agree that we aren't physically meeting each other, but the virtual connectivity somewhere makes us closer. Don't lose hope, connect with your professors, friends, and classmates, do some interactive sessions, and get involved with each other."

Sneha also has some suggestions for students interested in studying abroad.

"Firstly, those who are planning to study abroad should select a country which is best suitable for their field. For engineering, the United States, Germany, and Canada are the best but it's different for English Literature students, as the United Kingdom is the right place for them. Secondly, studying abroad can be quite expensive for some students,

so they can apply for scholarships programs as it is not only economical but also provides various other opportunities for students."

Finally, there is no doubt that your social image on the leading online platforms matters, especially in this digitalized world with the 'new normal' happening. One such platform is LinkedIn, and both of our alumni spoke about the importance of having a good LinkedIn profile for successful job placements.

Sneha: "These days LinkedIn is a digital platform through which people connect with reputed companies and form connections with people around the globe. I think this is the best way to build up your CV digitally. LinkedIn even provides several courses according to your particular interest, so it's beneficial for all 21st-century students to make their LinkedIn profiles."

Rashi: "Your Curriculum Vitae has to be strong and properly written. Try to write as many research papers as you can and intern in good places."

Ultimately, we consider ourselves fortunate to have received such wonderful advice and words of wisdom from our alumni Sneha and Rashi, and we are grateful to them for taking the time out of their busy schedules to undertake this interview for us. There is no doubt that Amity Mumbai's alumni are leading successful lives based on the principles and wisdom that Amity Mumbai has instilled in them. We are grateful to our instructors and staff for inculcating such valuable life skills in us.



FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## Little Miss Sunshine

Dir by *Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris*, Written by *Michael Arndt*

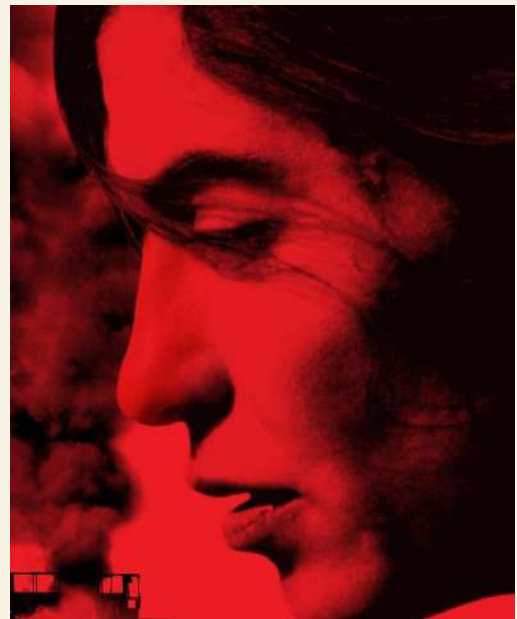


Winner of the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, *Little Miss Sunshine* is a brilliant tragicomedy film. The film tackles themes of hope, loss, death, and disappointment observed through its characters which belong to different age groups - ranging from seven-year-old Olive to her seventy-year-old grandfather.

*film recommended by*  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art Director)

## Incendies

Dir and Co-written by *Denis Villeneuve* and *Valérie Beaugrand-Champagne*



*Incendies* is a film that examines cultural and communal traumas by showing us that they are very much personal traumas. It has strong themes such as war, immigration, diaspora, and rape.

*film recommended by*  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art Director)



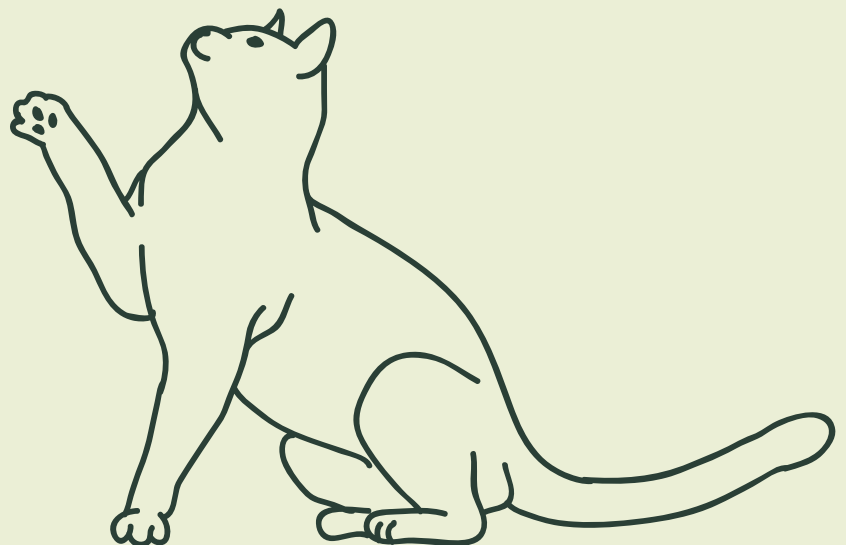
# That Awkward Moment

*When you accidentally unmute yourself*

*By Shubh Rana*

*Graphic Designer*

I am very sure that MS Teams has a personal grudge against me. Because my mic would always be unmuted when I'd be in the middle of doing something embarrassing. This one time I was spending my time while paying no attention to my online lecture and then I heard my phone beeping. My friend told me, "Shubh, mute yourself, we all can hear your playlist" and I can't tell how embarrassed I felt.



*Humour*



# Tongue Twisters

## Trabalenguas

Mi mamá me mima mucho.

Camarero, desencamaróname lo.

El que poca papa gasta pica papa paga.

Juan junta juncos junto a la zanja.

Language | 76

El gendarme dice al agente, mucha gente se agenda  
en la agencia.



¡Qué triste estás, Tristán, tras tan tétrica trama teatral!

Cuando cuentas cuentos, cuenta cuántos cuentos cuentas.

Una bruja tiene una brújula en una burbuja.

La pícara pájara pica la típica jícara; a la típica jícara, pica la pícara pájara.

¿Cómo quieres que te quiera si quien que quiero que me  
quiera no me quiere como quiero que me quiera?

Hoy ya es ayer y ayer ya es hoy. Ya llegó el día, y hoy  
es hoy.

Pepe Pecas pica papas con un pico, con un pico  
pica papas Pepe Pecas.

El gendarme dice al agente, mucha gente se agenda  
en la agencia.



Cómo quieres que te quiera, si el que quiero que me quiera no me quiere como quiero que me quiera.

Pancha plancha con cuatro planchas. ¿Con cuántas planchas Pancha plancha?

Pablito clavó un clavito en la calva de un calvito. En la calva de un calvito un clavito clavó Pablito.

Me han dicho que has dicho un dicho, que han dicho que he dicho yo.

Si Sansón no sazona su salsa con sal, sosa le sale la salsa sin sazonar a Sansón.

Oscar trabaja y transporta las otras sin costras y también las otras ostras con costras.

Tres tristes tigres tragaban trigo en un trigal. Un tigre, dos tigres, tres tigres tragaban en un trigal.



# Tongue Twisters

## Zungenbrecher

Plättbrett bleibt Plättbrett.

Chinesisches Schüsselchen.

Wer will weiße Wäsche waschen?

Schneiders Schere schneidet scharf.

Acht alte Ameisen aßen am Abend Ananas.

Language | 79

Ein Chinesischer Chirurg schenkt Tschechischen Chemikern  
niedliche Teeschälchen. Niedliche Teeschälchen schenkt  
ein chinescher Chirurg tschechischen Chemikern.



Fischers Fritz fischt frische Fische.

Der Grabengräber gräbt die Gräben.

Der dicke Dieter trägt den dünnen Dieter über den dicken Dreck.

Esel essen Nesseln nicht, nein, Nesseln essen Esel nicht.

Du magst Wachsmasken? Max macht  
Wachsmasken.

Kluge kleine Katzen kratzen keine  
Krokodile.

Müller Lümmer frühstückt  
schüsselweise grünes Gemüse.

Blaukraut bleibt Blaukraut und Brautkleid  
bleibt Brautkleid.



Ein Student in Stulpenstiefeln stand auf einem spitzen Stein  
und starrte stundenlang die stillen, stummen Sterne an.

Der Grabengräber gräbt die Gräben.

Am Zehnten Zehnten um zehn Uhr zehn zogen zehn zahme  
Ziegen zehn Zentner Zucker zum Zoo.

Jedes Jahr im Juli essen Jana und Julia Johannisbeeren.

Wollte der Lotse mit den roten Booten Kohlen holen, oder  
hat der Lotse auf leisen Sohlen die Kohlen gestohlen?

Zwischen zwei Zwetschgenzweigen sitzen  
zwei zwitschernde Schwalben.

Schnecken erschrecken, wenn sie an Schnecken schlecken, weil  
zum Schrecken vieler Schnecken Schnecken nicht schmecken.



FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



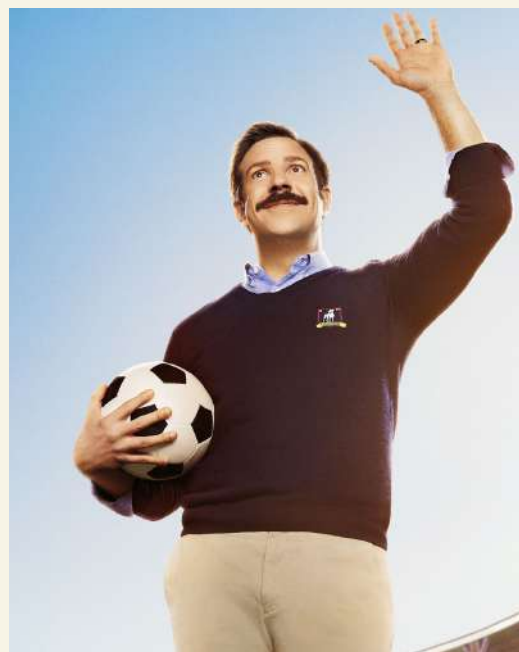
**Goynar Baksho**  
Dir by *Aparna Sen*



A magnificent work of art, portraying the essence of womanhood, at the same time demolishing the barriers created by staunch patriarchy along with amazing comical elements and strong, relevant references to the history, post-independence, and the Bangladesh Liberation War.

*film* recommended by  
**Anushila Jana**  
(Section Editor)

**Ted Lasso**  
(2020)



An American football coach is hired to train the players of a professional football club in England, despite knowing nothing about British football. The team, the club, even the whole of England hates him, but his unwavering optimism never falters. Watch to find out if you'll end up hating him too or if his belief will end up winning your heart.

*tv show* recommended by  
**Arshi Sohail**  
(Managing Editor)



# That Awkward Moment

*When the cinema theatre staff had to request you to leave because you were a sobbing mess*

*By Anushka Chaube*

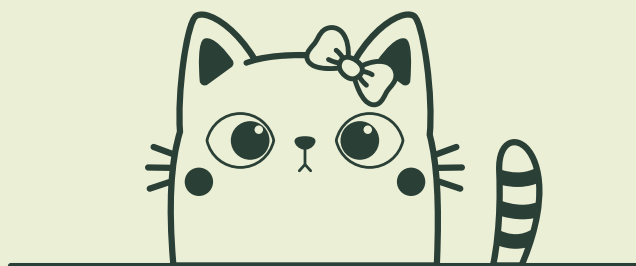
*Managing Editor and Co-Art Director*

In my defence, I love 'Frozen'. A little lot more than the normal amount. So, watching my favourite characters come alive on the big screen again made me so emotional that I went to watch it twice.

I was alone the second time and found myself, a 19-year-old, sitting among the crowd of 10-year-old kids and their parents. Obviously, I cried throughout, sang, and hummed along to all the songs. I wanted to scream, I tried my best to not be a nuisance but I guess I didn't succeed because the woman on my right looked really concerned. The movie had ended but I knew there was going to be a post-credit scene so I sat till the end singing along to the ending credits and sobbing.

The theatre cleaning staff were already doing their work, the screen was blank now and I was still sobbing, they were awkwardly waiting for me to leave but I continued sobbing.

In the end, one of them had to politely ask me to leave because they had to prepare the room for the next show. I was flustered, started profusely apologising, and then ran.







# AMICULT

*“Art is a weapon;  
culture is a form of  
resistance”*

In life, nothing is permanent, if something is it would be the continuing unrest within our hearts and souls while we wade through this ocean called life, but at the same time, certain things have helped mankind put this unrest into something beautiful and meaningful – something which makes our heart feel elated and that is where art, music and culture come in the picture. A soulful song, a beautiful picture, an elaborate dance – the impact these things have on the human heart and mind is phenomenal, and not just that! The fact that this is how culture and tradition have been thriving for ages and beyond is quite amazing. Everything we do, from what we wear to watch or read – all of it is art, some created, some passed on from one generation to another, nourishing and preserving it is something of utmost importance. Ami-cult has actively been working in that direction, not just by preserving it but also helping it reach its utmost potential.

This cultural club aims to promote pertinent aspects of Indian culture by depicting events based on Indian classical music, classical dance, folk music, performing arts, and other cultural details. They have dance and music workshops all around the year and organize contests and celebrations on significant occasions as well as thematic cultural programs.

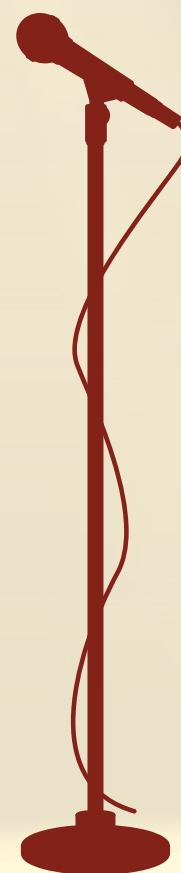
After a conversation with them, we came across so many new things regarding their work and how the pandemic affected their club dynamics, and all the other exciting stuff we need to keep an eye out for. The pandemic hasn't been easy on anyone and so has been the case with Ami-cult, but the sad and despair-filled environment didn't stomp on their creative spirits. They've had online events such as 'Reel Raatri' and have tried their level best to keep the club active





throughout the pandemic. Along with managing their academic commitments, the club members have done an amazing job in handling all of it so well, and their passion for dance and music has helped them cope with the two, side by side producing creative and inspiring work. According to them, the love for their art has kept them going. They are also looking forward to collaborating with other clubs in the future to make it accessible to other students as well, along with making it more inclusive for students of other clubs.

Ami-Cult has several exciting events and pre-events lined up for Aminova. These events will be held in the auditorium where the students would be able to perform to their heart's content. With this club, we are sure that there are MANY more exciting things lined up. Our advice? Stay on the lookout for Ami-Cult!



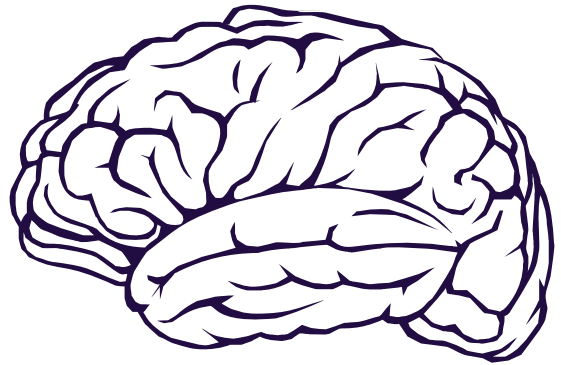
WRITTEN BY ANUSHILA JANA



# AMI- PSYCH

*"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind."*

— William James (1842–1910)



AmiPsych is the psychology club of Amity University. Even though in today's era, there is awareness of mental health, a lot of people in the world still discredit it. This club tries to create a safe space for the members to grow, not only by learning new concepts of psychology but also about themselves. It focuses on reducing the negative air around mental health and spreading awareness by conducting various interactive and informative events and staying active on social media. There are events like the 'Kindness Task' wherein members are asked to send out one kind message to somebody. 'Mann Mela' is another event that provides a platform to share whatever the members wish to, they can easily voice their story and be heard without being judged.

During the pandemic, all of us went through a different journey mentally. The transition from an offline to an online arrangement was taxing, but AmiPsych was still able to cope with it and reach a wider audience due to visual gatherings. Nonetheless, virtual gatherings allowed them to reach a wider audience. Since online events required minimal event management, they were easier to plan. They grew their Instagram page massively to stay alert and true to their club, increasing awareness. The club also exercises the importance of taking breaks for ourselves by creating a space where the members can unwind from the club tasks in their own time to relax or even to manage their academics.

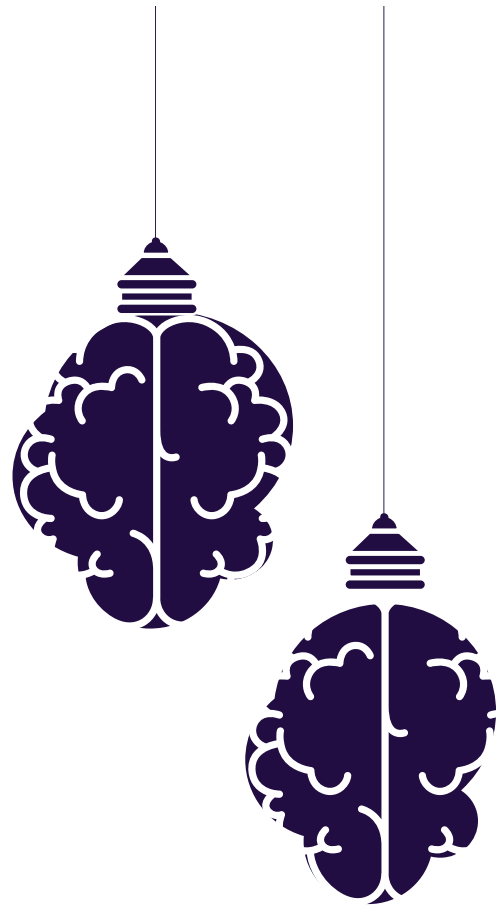


Another one of their favorites was the World Mental Health Day webinar of 2020. There were a lot of fun activities planned out, like the lyrics of some songs being played, and participants having to bring all the objects they can find at their house from those lyrics. People started opening up and connecting, which was the need of the hour. There were a lot of freshers who were thrilled to be part of the discussions because it was all new to them. This was a platform where members could talk about everything and anything, and listening to their stories, and seeing how much they have overcome, gives us a lot of strength and perspective. We start feeling less alone and more like we are part of something.

We encourage you to check out the club on Instagram (@ami\_psych) for informative reels and exciting upcoming activities because trust us, you don't wanna miss this!

In an interview with Zenith, the dignitaries of the club spoke about their favourite events. One of them was a webinar about the value of expression through art. It was conducted by Ishani Ahuja, who specialized in art space therapy. They described it as insightful and felt like the host created a safe space to express and feel throughout the webinar. Adding to that, speakers from outside bring a lot of insight into their career paths. They bring experience and hope, they inspire young minds towards exploring new ideas and these are some things that cannot be taught in college.

WRITTEN BY AASTHA TAPADIA







# AMI YOGA

*“Quiet the mind, and the  
soul will speak.”*

AmiYoga is a club that has always prioritized the mindful practice of everyday activities. We, at Zenith, caught one such event the club organized. Read further to know more!

On the 18th of August, 2021, ICPR sponsored a national webinar on 'Holistic well-being through Yoga'. This particular webinar took place to address the impact of the March 2020 pandemic on our mental and physical health and to realize the significance of a healthy and mindful lifestyle. Invited were three speakers who emphasized the same.

One of the speakers, professor Sandeep Kumar talked about how India is a blessed country with all four seasons, unlike some other countries which have only one or two seasons all year round. It is often said that dietary habits should vary according to seasons and regions. Our guest speaker called attention to good food habits, an active lifestyle, and keeping our coronary health and blood sugar in control. He said that yoga is the science of right living and intended to be incorporated into daily lives.

Yoga is not just a part of lifestyle; yoga is a lifestyle. Now that is something to ponder upon, indeed.

Our next speaker, Dr. Subbulakshmi Kumar, highlighted the importance of mindfulness strategies for managing distractions and gaining focus. We face a distraction only when we have a goal to achieve. Such distractions can be caused by the five senses. She brought into light the function of meditation by holding a 4-minute guided meditation. Whilst meditating, our minds often, quite naturally, wander.

Dr. Kumar pointed out that having distractions is not wrong, but one must acknowledge and observe the hindrance and turn back to meditating. When you observe your thoughts and your mind, you are one step closer to knowing yourself and that makes wonders happen for you. You can take control of your reactions to the emotions you feel, and you learn not to give in to your impulses.



He spoke upon the calming of our “Chitta vritti”- meaning mind chatter. Once we can compose our mind chatter, we will be able to achieve ourselves. The story of yoga is based on understanding and experiencing our real selves. It is mentioned in our Vedas that humans were created as animals with very limited potential and so when we are faced with difficulty, our mind’s capability becomes helpless. Yoga is an exercise that helps our mind and soul go beyond its limited capacity and increases intellect, creativity, decision-making skills, etc.

Once again, AmiYoga has managed to bring something new to the table. As we wait for more such events by them, here is something to chew on

One of the biggest contributors to psychology, Swiss Psychiatrist, Carl Jung once reported that during a personal and professional crisis brought on by his break-up with Sigmund Freud, he used various yoga exercises to calm his nerves.

Mindfulness is a state of mind which teaches us to stay in the very moment that we are living and breathing. It makes us aware and observant of our surroundings and thoughts which initiate self-discipline in us. Our thoughts become refined and non-judgmental and we can handle change and stress better.

Rainer Maria Rilke once said, “The only journey is the one within.” Focusing on this belief, Dr. Udham Singh, who has spent 12 years in research and teaching yogic sciences, talks about the crucial task of finding yourself.

Yoga and meditation help you in developing a wider perspective by demolishing our judgmental attitude. It helps in reconnecting yourself with reality and nature. Humans are not separate from nature; they are a part of it. We must realize that emotions were given to us as survival instincts, and we must not let them consume us. If you want assistance with the same, AmiYoga will always be there to welcome you!

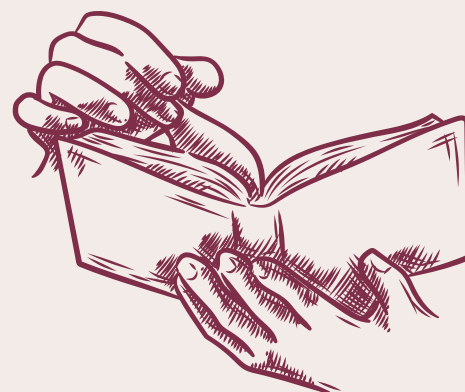
WRITTEN BY AASTHA TAPADIA





# AMILITZZ

*“Literature is the most agreeable way of ignoring life”*



AmiLitzz paves its way towards being oblivious to reality. The club is all about exploring different pieces of literature, shaping minds, and learning new things. It is not only limited to readers, but writers, poets, and public speakers are also welcome. The club strives to make people realize the importance of reading and the depth that goes into it. To support this ideology, they organize various events; 'Chai pe Charcha', an event Amity University Mumbai has not gotten over since 2019, is one of many.

AmiLitzz also has regular, much-needed ranting sessions where members may blow off steam from academic stress. After a long day of lectures, everyone is free to rant about whatever is upsetting them.

Surprisingly, when the pandemic struck, planning, and carrying out an event became even simpler. The literature club was able to arrange meetings with the-

-departmental heads quite often and there was constant distribution and cooperation for all kinds of work from all over amity – ranging from students who were in their first year to those in the final year. They put together various online events and open mics, which was honestly quite therapeutic.

Apart from huge events, small sessions were nothing but lively. There was one particular open mic where initially, a couple of members were too shy to participate. However, after being positively motivated, they collectively sang in the open mic! This song was written for other members of the club. That was easily the highlight of the event – everyone started interacting with one another and the atmosphere uplifted because of the beautiful performances.

Now, not to get all morbid, but the pandemic has affected us all drastically.



But wait! This just in – AmiLitzz is looking to collaborate with the film club or Amity Uncut for a play or a script so that they can write, and the others can execute.

We have always believed that a piece of literature can be perceived in numerous divergent ways. AmiLitzz members dig through while discussing old literature and modern classics like Jane Eyre and the timeless works of Jane Austen, with each member contributing to the bigger picture. Some do not appreciate the most liked literature, and some get obsessed with it immediately.

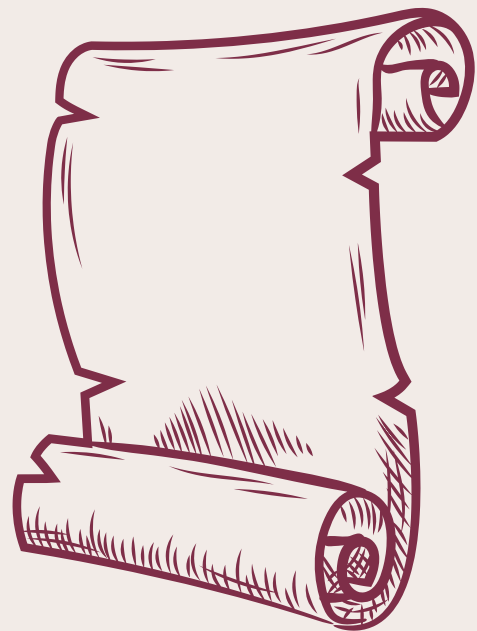
Now, not to get all morbid, but the pandemic has affected us all drastically. We realize that often, it becomes tricky to juggle a presidential position with academics. But the President of the club has found a sound balance by staying connected with all that happens in any particular class through the CRs. Presidency at AmiLitzz has helped shape her confidence and self-esteem immensely. To her, this is not just work, because she enjoys every single one of her duties. AmiLitzz motivated her to apply to various other executive positions as well.

On a different spectrum, a few enjoy reading fictional stories more than real-life stories. We guess one of the reasons is explained in the movie 'Before Sunrise' – “I always find myself being happy around movies, books, and stuff, it is like I get excited about well-done representations of life than life itself”.

Playful banters like these stay put and no one seems to get off their ground. Discussions and debates are not just confined to the members of AmiLitzz, everyone is welcome to talk it out because, at the end of the day, we are all looking to broaden our views.

Beyond a shadow of doubt, it looks like every AmiLitzz gathering is a soulful exchange of thoughts. People coming from different educational and cultural backgrounds unite as one, each expecting relatability but reaping realizations. If the club's ideology appeals to you, keep a lookout for AmiLitzz this year!

WRITTEN BY AASTHA TAPADIA





# AMI-SNAP SQUAD

*“Capturing stories that can’t be put into words.”*



AMI-SNAPSQUAD is the photography and videography club of Amity University Mumbai. It is primarily concerned with merging various concepts, tales, and views via the art of photography and filming. The club is thought to offer a very student-friendly ambiance as well as a fun-loving setting. They are interested in recording memories and displaying them to the rest of the world. They offer and encourage everything and anything camera-related.

One of the biggest events hosted by the club amidst the pandemic was 'The Virtual Photo Gallery' which had received an overwhelmingly positive response. It was a virtual reality platform where you could view photographs on walls. The gallery was sent via links to all the university students and teachers. Suchismita, the club's President, also disclosed in an interview that her favorite snap-squad event was the virtual picture exhibition.

Prior to the pandemic, they had organized a few events including AMINOVA's walk-in picture gallery, photo booths, and different shoots and seminars. Their objective was to cover everything that happens on the campus. They recorded all other clubs' events and activities. Participation was rather active during the start of the pandemic, but enthusiasm faded quickly since physically conversing and creating ideas was impossible. Nonetheless, the members banded together, saw this as a challenge, and geared up again, hosting multiple successful online activities. They held online perception and photography training. They also held a product photography competition and a social media be-role-making competition, in which participants demonstrated abilities such as video editing, animation, and transitions.



The members have frequent club meetings where they feel like a family, exchanging ideas and thoughts over dinner. Their friendship and shared interest in reaching their goals elevate it above the level of a club. The club is active only at particular times of the year, thus working for the club while under continual academic pressure is not challenging.

Ami-snap squad is a club where you may showcase your abilities and skills. It is open to new individuals, ideas, abilities, views, and points of view. This is a club for people who enjoy capturing moments and telling a thousand stories, as well as those who have an innate interest in photography and filmmaking.

WRITTEN BY MRIDINI SEHGAL







# GDSC

*(Google Developer  
Student Club)*

Established around September of 2021, GDSC (Google Developer Student Club) has already achieved tremendous success in its exciting events organized by the club. They plan on using their technical expertise and knowledge to create opportunities for students all over Amity University Mumbai and aim to organize more such events in the future. For those who aren't fully aware, the motive of GDSC is to successfully build a friendly community engaging the members to learn in a peer-to-peer environment and share their best practices. GDSC CET-B connects everyone with similar technical interests and passions and helps them stand out with valuable skills.

Whoever says Hackathons and Google drives are all about tech and software are definitely wrong. GDSC of Amity University Mumbai is breaking barriers by organizing

events such as Amithon 1.0 which will be dealing with finding solutions for problems related to SDGs, security and sustenance, mental health, and many more diverse subjects. According to the talented club presidents of GDSC, time management and proper planning are two special ingredients required for the efficient execution of their events. They utilize the same set of skills to balance their academics along with their club tasks.

In the short span of just three months, this club has successfully organized numerous webinars, hands-on workshops, an open-source event that continued for an entire month, cloud campaigns with around 700 participants, to name just a few. Most of these have been carried out on a national level. It has been nothing short of amazing to witness their progress.



GDSC also heavily emphasizes that collaborations are the life and blood of their club. As of now, they have collaborated with 5 different GDSCs for the event of Android Study Jams. The club also conducted international-level Hackathons with various GDSCs of the world as well as global Microsoft Learn Ambassadors. We urge you to look forward to GDSC working on many other exciting events very soon!

So for all the other enthusiasts, we'd suggest don't just do it for science, but do it for the cookies!



WRITTEN BY ANUSHILA JANA





# AMITY UNCUT

*“Through theater, we not only find ourselves but also discover who we could become.” -Augusto Boal*



Amity Uncut, Amity University Mumbai's theatre club, places a strong emphasis on fostering independent ideas and sheltering creativity. The members of the club have discovered this place as the ideal setting for them to share their enthusiasm and talents. The theatre is nothing less than art; it elicits new sensations and allows you to have a better understanding of yourself. Uncut has successfully established these values.

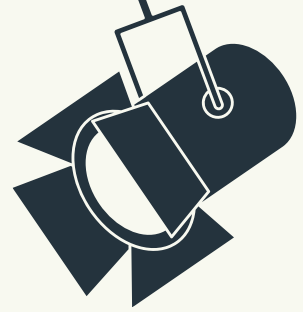
In previous years, they have conducted a variety of activities and initiatives. Uncut has also held a few 'NUKKAD NATAKs' and has worked in collaborations as well. They had joined forces with the 'Internal Quality Assessment Cell' (IQAC) for a successful online event named 'ANDAAZ APNA APNA'. They have also been one of the most significant supporters of 'AMINOVA', Amity University Mumbai's yearly event. They enjoy holding events related to cultural occasions. For example, they hosted 'SPOOKYDY', a Halloween-themed event in 2019.

Uncut also staged two large-scale online events, 'TRIKONE: No tagline needed,' which illustrated three particular stages of college life as well as of the year 2020. Both programs were a success, and the students enjoyed working on them. Deeanj, the club's former president, revealed in an interview that both of these events were his particular favourites.

The period of the pandemic was not easy for anybody; Uncut faced its fair share of ups and down as well. They had a range of activities planned that did not take place owing to the lockdowns and escalating Covid cases. The members had been rehearsing for several live theatrical performances, monologue sessions, and, most importantly, live auditions for prospective club members.

The inability to conduct offline auditions had greatly disappointed the leading club members.





However, the club got together and committed to working again towards their one goal of bringing congenial content together. They hosted amazing online events and had virtual meetings for preparations and rehearsals.

Time management has never really been an issue for Uncut. Many members believe that Uncut is the primary reason they love college. For them, the club gatherings provide a haven and a pleasant atmosphere where they can communicate in ways they never imagined. The club follows a schedule and adheres to particular volunteer times. They keep two meetings every week to discuss their progress and work. The members enjoy the meets to the fullest. They have never felt pressured to perform in a certain manner, and prepare only for what they want to pursue.

The club firmly believes that "Uncut chose us". They are all thankful for the club and cherish the activities and stories it has given them. They enjoy the practice and rehearsal hours more than the final performance because they can laugh at their botched line delivery, spend hours composing a script, or develop new play ideas.

Amity Uncut is a place where you can not only play new characters but also create new ones; it is a place where you can rediscover yourself. It is for people who are passionate, creative, talented or lost. If any of these hit home, this article might be a sign from the universe, look out for Uncut!

WRITTEN BY MRIDINI SEHGAL





FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## Hospital Playlist (2020 - 2021)



The drama has no specific central plot, just a bunch of longtime friends living their lives. It revolves around five long-time friends who work in the same hospital and decide to revive their college band so they can spend more time together and sing their favourite songs. If you like dramas that are about wholesome friendships and relationships, heart-touching anecdotes, and lighthearted comedy with characters that make your heart cry with happiness, Hospital Playlist is for you.

tv show recommended by  
**Anushka Chaube**  
(Managing Editor and Co-Art  
Director)

## Scenes from a Marriage (1973)



Ingar Bergmann's 1973 Swedish miniseries, captures a turbulent marriage in six episodes. The show reduces its audience to mere flies on a wall, eavesdropping on the downfall of a marriage. It has fully fleshed out characters, poetic dialogue, and an eccentric auteur in charge of the presentation, cementing its presence in the zeitgeist of classic television.

tv show recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)



# That Awkward Moment

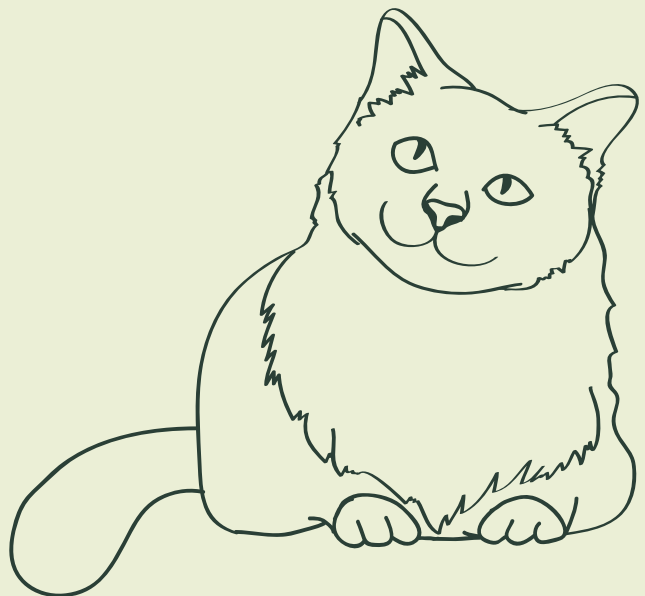
*When you grab the wrong person*

*By Apurva Sakpal*  
*Section Editor*

Two months ago I went to Game Zone with my little cousin. He was very excited as it was his first time. When we entered, he kept running from one game to the other. My mother had told me to take care of him because he was barely 10 years old. I held his hand so he wouldn't get lost.

"That's it, we are already late," I told him after two hours when he was asking for more. He agreed to leave with puppy-dog eyes. I started walking towards the exit and held his hand and I sensed he wasn't moving. I shoved his hand again but he still wasn't moving.

Finally, I gave in and looked back. The hand I had held was not of my cousin but a worker from the Game Zone. He looked confused. I apologised and went looking for my brother who was behind the worker teasing and giggling at me. I was so embarrassed that I left the section as quickly as I could.





HOW DID THE MOON  
CUT IT'S HAIR?

Eclipped it!

WHY DIDN'T THE  
MELONS GET MARRIED?



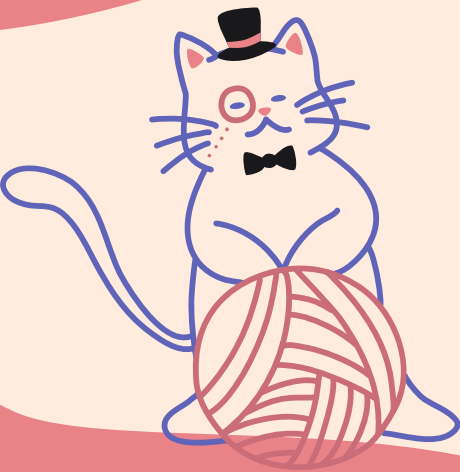
Because they  
cantaloupe





WHAT DID THE BEETLE  
SAY TO THE OTHER  
BEETLE WITH A  
SPRAIN?

Well, shake it  
up, baby, now.  
Twist and  
shout!



WHAT DID THE CELL SAY  
TO HIS CELL SISTER  
WHEN SHE STEPPED ON  
HIS TOE?

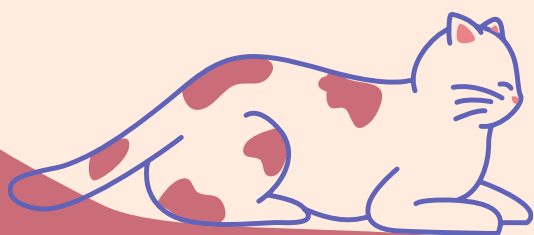
Mitosis!



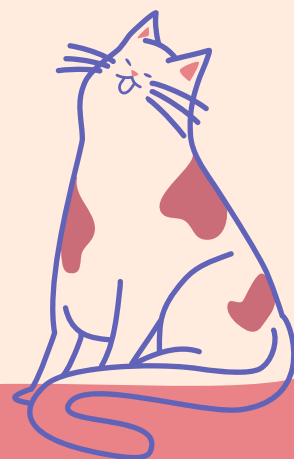


WHAT DO YOU CALL A  
PANSEXUAL NAMED  
NICK WHO WORKS AT  
THE CD-STORE?

Pan-nick at  
the disk-co!



WHAT WOULD KARL  
MARX HAVE DONE  
DURING A PLAGUE?



Socialist  
distancing





FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## Gravity Falls (2012 – 2016)



An exploration of childhood curiosity and siblinghood. The show is basically “What if my uncle lived in an isolated cabin and fought aliens and monsters?” It also subtly highlights childhood abandonment and heartbreak.

TV show recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)

## Charcoal Baby by Blood Orange



A perfectly soothing song with beautiful lyricism reminding you of the warm afternoons, coffee, and your favourite books.

song recommended by  
**Anushila Jana**  
(Section Editor)



# That Awkward Moment

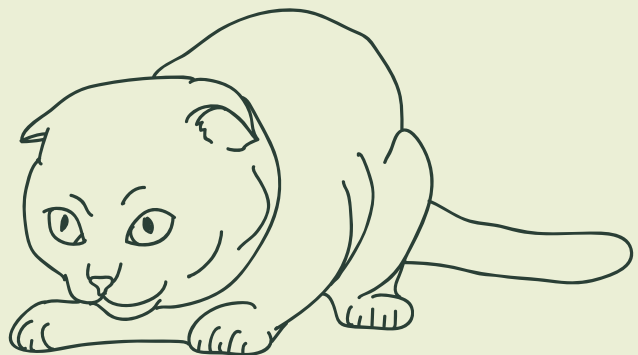
*When your brain to mouth filter doesn't work*

*By Aastha Tapadia*  
*Section Editor*

Back when I was in 8th grade, I was out with my friends for a movie, and on the way back home, one of my friend's mother had come to pick us up in the car. The three of us were sitting in the back seat. At one point, while waiting for the green signal, we thought why not lower our windows and breathe into the fresh air.

Here's the thing, we lowered the windows and saw a man with a strange something in one of his eyes.

He probably had just undergone a major operation, it looked swollen and had a greyish-blue colour to it. Amazed, I had loudly exclaimed in Marathi, "Ae tyacha dola!!" which translates to "Whoa his eye!!" My friends ducked their heads immediately, quite justifiable. People around us all looked at me.





# Interview with Ms Sayali Kadam

by Archita Biswas

Mrs Sayali Kadam is an Assistant Professor in Amity School of Languages and has been teaching French for 2 years. She has an MA in French Translation and has a BA in French literature. Additionally, she's completed the B2 level of DELF.

When asked about the role of foreign languages in the corporate community Sayali ma'am responded "It varies, it depends on the profile that you're working for, for example, I was into quality. The job qualification didn't require any knowledge of a foreign language, but it helped me because a lot of times when translators weren't available or reviewers weren't available, I could help the company and also save them some bucks.

If you look into it, there are jobs available for translators, interpreters, then there is reviewing, there is creative writing. So it would, it would vary in the industry you're associated with, say, for example, if you're working for Netflix, you could work on subtitling projects. You could also be a reviewer for the subtitles. So there are many opportunities, there are several roles that you can play."



When asked to elaborate on the role of an interpreter, ma'am said "As a language need, you would have to deal with the references that are provided with translation files, say, for example, we would maintain style guides, we would maintain glossaries, we would maintain, instructions provided by the clients, then we had certain tools at our disposal, which would help us verify whether there are consistencies in the document whether, there are punctuation error, errors with regards to new numerical, in German, say, for example, all the nouns' first letter is capitalized. So the tool would help us check that language-related rules are fair to the tool. We would simply flag these issues to the translator. If they were true errors, he would correct those if they weren't true errors, he would explain why.



We would create glossaries or terminology files, which will help us consistently with the translations no matter how long you're working on it, no matter how many translators you're working with. We would also work with translation memories on different platforms. So we would verify the quality of the translation memories with the help of translators, reviewers, and you'd also see the final product if it looks as identical as the source product that we received, and then we would also need to market."

I then asked ma'am about her preparation for the C1 level of the DELF exam and what her suggestions are for students who are preparing for it.

Ma'am suggested that one shouldn't start at the last moment, and recommended practising as much as possible. She also implored that the candidate should be dedicated and consistent.

According to Sayali ma'am, while learning we should enjoy the content and practice the language with the help of content that we enjoy. So by listening to French songs, watching French dramas or films, reading articles. Ma'am also advised the candidate to be updated about the news and happenings in the language's home country, because a lot of times in such exams, the questions that are asked on the current situations.

Ma'am also suggested the use of dictionaries as much as you can—have dictionaries for synonyms as well as antonyms.

"Additionally, make a plan. Take the first five minutes and write down pointers. Don't divert a lot from that plan. Because it will structure your answer properly. It will show how organised your thoughts are and you will be able to help the conjunctions effectively. Don't write long paragraphs, because the examiner might not read them.

If you're preparing for advanced levels, particularly, make sure that you are well prepared. Don't just go and appear for B1, B2 level without preparation, because from A2 to B1, it's a high jump so the vocabulary changes a lot. The speed at which the audio is played changes.

Also, ensure to read the questions first. No matter what type of exercise it is. When it comes to French, the minimum you have to score is 50, when there are four sections of 25 marks each and 5 marks per section is the passing mark."

Sayali ma'am gave her suggestions for candidates who want to explore languages without going to university or institutions. The primary way of learning according to ma'am would be to access the free material that is available online. Going through tutorials on YouTube and engaging in the comment section is something that ma'am strongly recommends.

Ma'am also recommended the usage of websites and trying apps like Discord to contact people and build a language learning community with people across the globe. According to ma'am, making a friend who's also learning the language or speaks the language and is willing to converse with you will be instrumental. However, ma'am also explained that a self-learner cannot learn at the same pace as someone who's studying the language formally.

Sayali Ma'am also gave a structured description of the recommended process for preparing for foreign language exams. Ma'am recommended that the candidate should approach the audio for the listening exams as they will probably know 20 to 30% of the answers if they have read and understood the questions.



In French, we have four sections each of 25 marks, we have écoute (listening), we have production orale, production écrite, compréhension orale, compréhension écrite. The candidate has to score five marks minimum, and cumulatively 50 marks to clear the exam.

Practising oral expression by talking in front of a mirror is ma'am's suggestion. Additionally, ma'am recommends extensive reading, listening to songs or podcasts while scouring for vocabulary and usage of words. For writing, ma'am suggests following a structure and practising by using new words from dictionaries. For compréhension écrite, ma'am suggests reading articles from the newspaper and short stories. This way a lot of vocabulary related to literature can be digested like the very popular 'Le Petit Prince'.

Our sincerest gratitude goes to Mrs Sayali Kadam for sharing her precious time and knowledge with us for this interview.



# Interview with Ms Snehal Godbole

by Archita Biswas

Ms Snehal Godbole is an Assistant Professor in Amity School of Languages and teaches German.

Snehal ma'am elaborated on the German official examination by stating how all the European languages are divided into four parts. The first part consists of testing the speaking skills, the second part tests the candidate on their written skills, then there is listening comprehension and finally the reading comprehension. These are the four important elements of the examination. She adds that any language learner/student is judged based on these aspects, even if its a regional language.

When asked if there are any specific criteria students should adhere to, she informed that the official examination is a 60% passing criteria and is not based on combination marking of sections. The students have to score a minimum of 60% in all four sections of the examination individually. She adds that earlier there was a rule where if a student had failed to score 60% in any section they were allowed to re-take that particular section again. This has now been stopped considering it is not an efficient method of marking.

Snehal ma'am explained that when students attend courses from Goethe Institute, they are taught the four sections of the examination carefully.



She mentioned how according to Bloom's Taxonomy, language learners should follow the flow of step-by-step learning. Their syllabus has been compiled in accordance with Bloom's Taxonomy methodology. She further adds that learning from other institutes has its own limit which Goethe doesn't have. According to ma'am, each and every student should know about the pattern of the examination and all the sections are interrelated and every portion of it should be taken care of.

We asked for her thoughts on the notion that German is a difficult language and that might be the reason that comparatively lesser students opt for it. We further inquired about the various language channels on various social media platforms that can often be seen making fun of German for being excessively long and hard on pronunciation.



She replied that particularly in Pune, students mostly opt for German. Even though we cannot concentrate on one city for statistics, it is said that at least 90-95% of language learners opt for German in Pune. She says, "If someone is making fun of a language, it doesn't have to be a negative one." She says that we generally make fun of things we like. It's just the same for these videos or posts. Observation plays a big part and you cannot observe things closely if you hate it.

She adds, "Those people who observe or love these languages, engage with such content only when they like it."

We thank Snehal ma'am immensely for giving us her valuable time.



# Interview with Ms Prajakta Bhide

by Archita Biswas

Ms Prajakta Surender Bhide has completed 11 levels of Spanish, until the C2 level. She has been teaching Spanish at Amity University since 2019 while simultaneously working on her research.

Prajakta ma'am gave a detailed note of what the candidates of the DELE exam need to know, including the pattern and other components.

According to ma'am, the DELE exam is typically conducted twice a year, depending on the level. For higher levels like C1 or C2, there aren't many students so the exams might be conducted once or twice a year. So for C1, the institute is accredited with Instituto Cervantes, which is the body of conducting examinations. So it's better than the students joining a preparatory course for such examinations, which this Institute [Hispanic Horizons] conducts. For Spanish examinations, there are four sections:

- One section is comprehension-based, wherein you have MCQ-based questions.
- The second section is audio-based, again, you have MCQ-based questions.
- The third section is written expression.
- The last section is oral expression.

The candidate has to score 30 out of 60, combining sections one and three, so comprehension and essay and combining sections of audio and oral expression the candidate has to score 30 out of 60.



Ma'am suggested that the candidates need to practice pack comprehensions, which are very technical. They also need to listen to audios of different accents, to master this ma'am suggested enrolling for a preparatory course. Ma'am also said that the candidates should converse with each other in Spanish because it's imperative they know how to start and end a conversation, how to express their opinions using the vocabulary. They must also know the format for a recommendation letter or a complaint letter. The candidate's analytical skills are judged in comprehension so the student needs to prepare six months in advance.

When asked about her opinions on A1 and A2 levels of exams and their learning difficulties, ma'am responded "At every level, you feel the paper is difficult because your preparation is not up to the mark but a beginner student should at least start with A2. I think you should go in the order of A2, B2, C1 and C2."



We also asked ma'am if she suggests students who wish to sit for their desired level of examination (A1, A2, B1, B2) train themselves to a higher level, and she responded that it's always better to prepare for higher levels as the examinations cost a lot of money and training for a higher level would lead the candidate to be more prepared.

Prajakta ma'am also had some tips for students preparing for foreign language exams. Ma'am said that the candidates should choose good books, like 'Chronometro' for Spanish and practice using a stopwatch in a limited time. Ma'am also recommended group study sessions with people preparing for the same exams. She further added, "C1 concepts are very technical answers, you can make a list of expressions. For instance, the expression "Estar de mala leche" in Spanish, 'mala' means bad and 'Leche' means milk, but there is no relation of 'Leche' with milk. Therefore, practice phrases using flowcharts and flashcards. Also, talk to native speakers if you can."

When asked about the importance of mock tests and how learning a foreign language can benefit students in current times, ma'am answered, "Students these days learn foreign languages for various purposes. Sometimes they just want to learn the basics, enough to clear A1 level and sometimes they want to pursue a career in it. If we talk from an interdisciplinary career view let's suppose if you've selected mechanical engineering as your major and German as your language then you have a good scope in Germany because of automobiles. I would recommend students to try for international language certifications because currently in the job market such certifications always prove to be beneficial. It's not just a skill, it's your efficiency to connect with the entire world as you not just learn the language but the culture attached to it too which in turn helps in widening your perspective."

It is important to note that there are various career options for language students which include translation, interpretation and localization, where in-depth knowledge of the cultural background plays a crucial role. To do justice to the translated pieces, just knowing the source and target text languages isn't enough, the culture that is attached to them should always be taken into consideration because translation is about bridging gaps.

Prajakta Ma'am also added that despite modern society becoming more artificial intelligence reliant, humans continue to have the upper hand because of their cultural sensibility and comprehension skills. This is a major reason why interpreting and translating is still a heavily human relied field that has opportunities from the UN to embassies to WTO.

Many people want to learn languages but the problem is they don't know how or where to start. When asked for tips ma'am has for such budding learners, ma'am responded, "I would highly recommend talking to someone who has taught the language. Along with looking for material online. Various universities, for instance, Mumbai University have certificate courses, so they publish a list of reference books that you can find online. Getting a tutor will prove to be advantageous in the long term because the more you advance, the more doubts and difficulties you will face. A1 and A2 can still be managed on your own but for the higher levels like B1, B2, it's more about understanding. Another key factor to self-learning is consistency and practising, join online communities, make friends and practice!"



There are times when people give exams but they slip up. We asked ma'am what are some common threats that one should generally look out for. According to ma'am, anxiety is a primary threat as it's difficult for candidates to focus on giving the exam when they are anxious, they might miss out on paying attention to the audios or reading the questions thoroughly. To overcome this ma'am recommends solving practice papers and also familiarizing yourself with the question paper pattern. Prajakta ma'am adds, "Be as confident as you can be. It's fine, even if you fail the exam, it's absolutely fine. It's just one exam, you can appear for it several times."

Prajakta ma'am also elaborated on her opinions about how developed the foreign language research community is in India as she is currently pursuing her research, "Well, as far as Spanish is concerned, the main problem is that we do not have many universities that offer Master's courses in India. Spanish is not that much institutionalized here so that is one of the lacunae for less research in Spanish. We need to develop more language centres so as to give a platform to the avid learners who want to explore more in this language."

It's true that in India the options for higher studies in a foreign language is limited and when it comes to specializations like applied linguistics, international cooperation, communication with multilingualism, language technology, language studies, the options get narrower. Even if we have established universities like EFLU and JNU that offer master's and PhD programmes, the seats are limited. A major reason why students opt to do higher studies in foreign countries.

Ma'am further adds that due to globalization and access to television across different countries, students are more attracted to foreign languages, and although it is not possible to learn the language just by watching a show, it is part of the process of language learning. It also attracts new people to learn and communicate in the language.

Interviewing Prajakta ma'am was an incredible honour, and we thank ma'am for being kind enough to dedicate some time to answer our queries.

Prajakta ma'am also stated that distance learning courses are also considered very valuable, so a candidate willing to pursue a Master's in a foreign language but can't or doesn't want to go abroad can study online from a well-reputed university that is located abroad.



# Interview with Dr Poonam Sharma

by Archita Biswas



Dr Poonam Sharma is an Assistant Professor in Amity School of Languages and is teaching French to the students.

When asked about the foreign language research community in India Poonam ma'am elaborated that the members need to understand the requirements of the Indian society and accordingly orient the research to present, for example, France and French societies (or the respective foreign country) to India in a way that may enhance the opportunities in India. Similarly, India needs to be represented with the Indian values systems in the research and presentation in a foreign language. Indian value systems and Indian theoretical foundations are almost negligible in the foreign language research community.

Poonam ma'am also had suggestions for foreign language students "It is pertinent for a foreign language student to understand the culture of the respective language as it is not our first language. A student should listen to the radio, to learn French I recommend RFI, FRANCE INFO, RTL and watch TV5 monde, read electronic newspapers as LE MONDE, LE FIGARO, LIBÉRATION. They must write one page daily in their respective language to improve their writing skills."

Poonam ma'am shared some tips for students preparing for foreign language exams "Being an Assistant Professor of French, I would suggest French students take at least any intensive course of 3 to 4 months from Alliance Française, which is an international organization that aims to promote the French language and francophone culture around the world. In this pandemic time, students have great opportunities to learn online and after becoming a member of Alliance Française one can access its digital library also."

We are extremely grateful to Poonam ma'am for giving us the opportunity to interview her and gain knowledge about learning foreign languages.



# Interview with Mr Prajesh Basu

by Archita Biswas

Mr Prajesh Kr. Basu is an Assistant Professor in Amity School of Languages and has been teaching French for the past 6 years. He has an MA in French and was bronze medalist in his bachelors course. Additionally, he has completed the B2 level of DELF.

When asked about the importance of pronunciation and phonetics in language learning Prajesh sir explained that phonetics is a part of linguistics that helps study how humans produce and perceive sounds. Prajesh sir has come across many aspects of pronunciation and the challenges in pronouncing French words in a large number of students mainly due to the regional influence.

Sir adds, "To be perfect in pronunciation is a myth. To acquire proper pronunciation is what I advocate for my students. To be accentless should be the primary goal, which means to get rid of the regional influence in terms of speaking in any foreign language. I teach basic phonetics almost to all my students, and I tell them that they must practice transcribing passages from graphic to phonetic as beginners for a few weeks, then always keep an eye on phonetic transcription when they open a dictionary, and simultaneously to practice audio exercises routinely. After learning basic phonetics, listen to a lot of dedicated audio, compare the accents of native speakers from different regions, then stick to a suitable pattern of pronunciation."



When asked about the opinion on learning a new language through a foreign language sir explained "For the complete beginners, based on the capacity of the batch in all respects, I use the bilingual approach (to teach French through English), and slowly I move to the Direct Method in higher semesters, gauging the receptivity of the batch."

Prajesh sir explained that in India, having a Master's degree is mandatory for proving your worth as a candidate in certain areas of work, whereas, in France, DELF is given more prominence than a Master's.

Prajesh sir's recommendation for the process of self-study is hard work, by strictly following a self-made routine. He adds "Put up plenty of well-planned balanced time for the subject and the subject will return its favour in the near future to you. A priority-based set goal always can help."



With respect to foreign language exams, Prajesh sir says that the exams are divided into different levels based on difficulty and each exam requires different skills. For example, A1 and A2 require the domination of grammar and a certain level of pronunciation. B1 requires getting a strong base in communication, skills in using the time markers and logical markers to chain up the ideas in a methodical manner, skills in writing as well as comprehension. B2 requires accentless communication skills, where you must be capable to argue with promptness, understanding the language, the ability to use very well fabricated sentence structures, and varying the vocabulary to some good extent. To effectively prepare for the exams, sir recommends following a healthy but strict routine.

We at Zenith, send our warmest regards for the time and efforts that Prajesh Sir bestowed on us.



FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## **Cleopatra** by *The Lumineers*



Known for their folk-rock songs, The Lumineers rose to fame through hit singles like “Ho Hey” and “Sleep On The Floor”. “Cleopatra” is a tale in the form of a song about a young woman’s journey through grief, heartbreak, and life. The Lumineers, as always, find an intricate connection between chord progression and words, weaving a story to remember.

song recommended by  
**Arshi Sohail**  
(Managing Editor)

## **Arcadia** by *Lana Del Rey*



In this piano ballad, Lana sings about her country needing “a miracle”. This song appeals to me because her lyricism takes an elevated turn while still staying true to her authentic songwriting nature. Also, the melody on this one is so good to slow dance to, speaking from experience.

song recommended by  
**Arshi Sohail**  
(Managing Editor)



# That Awkward Moment

*When you mispronounce a word*

*By Mridini Sehgal*  
*Section Editor*

Now, I'm a person who kind of gets annoyed when people use the wrong pronunciation or make grammatical errors but this one time I was at the mall with my two best friends and we were talking about dogs when I, in the heat of the moment, accidentally blurted out a loud "Oh my God guys my aunt's dog is vaccinized" instead of vaccinated. They noticed it and made fun of me. To this day I think about it and sometimes it still haunts me at night.





# Self Study Guide

By Archita Biswas

Learning a new language can be daunting, you will have questions like 'Where do I start?' and 'How do I study?'

Fret not, here is a detailed study guide for learning a new language.

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR) is an internationally recognized guideline put together by the Council of Europe as a key part of the "Language Learning for European Citizens" project from 1989 to 1996.

According to the CEFR guidelines, the languages are divided into 6 levels to earn a certain degree of competence in the language:

1. A1(Breakthrough)
2. A2(Waystage)
3. B1(Threshold)
4. B2(Vantage)
5. C1(Advanced)
6. C2(Mastery)

The CEFR categorizes language activities into four categories:

- Reception (listening and reading)
- Production (spoken and written)
- Interaction (spoken and written)
- Mediation (translating and interpreting)

You may use [the level chart](#) to see how the levels are divided down and the degree of proficiency you will acquire after completing each level.

Since Amity University Maharashtra offers foreign languages—Spanish, French, and German, this article would be covering these three only.

Through this article, the examples and topics will be covered for the A1 level, you can adjust them according to your target level. We will divide the levels into the glossary, learning goals, and grammar goals.

Below is a detailed outline of our targets and topics that needs to be covered to reach the desired targeted goal. The goals can be adjusted based on the number of hours that are dedicated to practicing the language. A minimum of two hours a day is recommended for enhancing both listening and speaking skills.

## GLOSSARY

- The Alphabets
- The numbers
- The full names
- The address
- Personal items
- The objects of the class



- The objects of the class
- The nationalities
- Professions
- Countries/cities
- The civil status(married/single)
- Recreation
- Close family
- The time
- Prices
- The weather/climate
- Descriptions (small, large, old, young, handsome, friendly)
- The date
- Places
- The day of the week
- Colors
- The seasons

### LEARNING GOALS

- Greetings in French
- Understand days of the week and months of the year.
- Count (numbers)
- Spell words
- Introduce yourself (give your age, your job, talk about your family, say where you are from, where you live, say the languages you speak)
- Ask questions and answers about yourself and others
- Learn basic vocabulary,
- Understand a menu/Order at a restaurant
- Ask questions and answer in a restaurant
- Understand and give directions
- Speak about the weather
- Say the time
- Suggest an outing
- Buy in shops
- Do your grocery shopping
- Indicate a quantity
- Speak about the future
- Talk about a duration
- Talk about your studies
- Give advice, order
- Make a positive/negative comment
- Describe someone
- Speak about the past

### GRAMMAR GOALS

- **Auxiliary verbs**
- Genders (masculine/feminine)
- Definite and indefinite articles
- Plural form
- Possessive adjectives (my, your, his/her...)
- **Regular verbs at present tense**
- Plural of nouns
- **Modal verbs**
- Negation
- Prepositions of location (in, on, next to, in front of...)
- Use of WH words in a question
- Demonstrative adjectives (this, that)
- Partitive articles
- Answering a negative question
- Regular verbs at the future tense
- Reflexive verbs
- Imperative Form
- Regular verbs at past tense
- Regular verbs at the present continuous tense
- Direct pronouns
- Time markers
- Conjunctions
- Irregular verbs at present tense
- Connectors

Learning a language can only be accomplished with sufficient planning and dedication. Ensure that you dedicate a set amount of minutes for all the four sections within the time that you have chosen for study. To fully maximize the time, you can utilize the various resources that are available online, these include:

### BOOKS

Books have withstood the test of time as one of the most efficient ways of studying. They are imperative when you are trying to self-learn. As a self-learner, it can be challenging to navigate through good books which are completely monolingual.



Here are some great bilingual books that can aid you in learning these languages, all on your own:

#### Spanish

- Aula Internacional [A1-B2]
- Nuevo Avance
- Practice Makes Perfect Complete Spanish Grammar Textbooks
- Spanish Made Easy: Learn Spanish in an Easy and Systematic Way
- Español 2000
- Barron's 501 Spanish Verbs
- Spanish Made Easy: Learn Spanish in an Easy and Systematic Way

#### French

- Barron's 501 French Verbs
- Saison: Livre de l'eleve [A1-B2]
- Colloquial French Grammar- A Practical Guide
- Teach Yourself French
- Collins Easy Learning French Grammar, Verbs and Vocabulary 3 books in 1
- À Propos [A1-B2]

#### German

- Barron's 501 German Verbs
- German Made Simple: Learn to Speak and Understand German Quickly and Easily by Eugene Jackson and Adolph Geiger
- Schaum's Outline of German Grammar (5th Edition)
- Short Stories in German for Beginners
- Practice Makes Perfect: Complete German Grammar (2nd Edition)

#### YOUTUBE

The best use of this platform would be for your listening, speaking, and reading skills. Some channels make short drama or story-based videos for various levels that are easy to understand and learn from. There are also detailed videos of different topics and sub-topics.

You can even practice for the official exams through the sample paper videos.

We strongly recommend using YouTube in your language learning journey since it helps improve three of the required skills and as a bonus is free!

#### Spanish

- [Spanish Playground- LEARN SPANISH VIDEO SERIES BUENA GENTE S1](#)
- [Spanish Thailand- EXTRA SPANISH/ EXTRA EN ESPAÑOL S1](#)
- [The Language Tutor- Spanish Lessons for Beginner Learners](#)
- [Learn Spanish with SpanishPod101.com](#)
- [Butterfly Spanish](#)

#### French-

- [Learn French With Alexa](#)
- [French with Basu](#)
- [innerFrench](#)
- [Easy French](#)
- [CLE International- Tendances A1](#)
- [Learn French with a French Dude](#)

#### German

- [Deutsch lernen mit der DW- Deutsch lernen | Nicos Weg - Der Film zum](#)
- [Learn German](#)
- [Easy German: Learn German From the Streets!](#)
- [Get Germanized](#)
- [LinguaTV.com- Deutsch lernen mit Videos / Learn German with videos!](#)

#### WEBSITES

There are a plethora of websites that provide you with detailed explanations and include practice exercises for various topics.

- [FluentU](#)
- [livelingua](#)
- [Learn a language](#)
- [Memrise](#)



- [ThoughtCo](#)
- [Innovative Language](#)
- [Ocw](#)
- [Edx](#)
- [Polyglot Club](#)
- [BBC Languages - Free online lessons to learn and study with](#)
- [Living Language](#)
- [Mango Languages](#)

### Apps

- [WordReference.com](#)
- [Italki](#)
- [Busuu](#)
- [HelloTalk](#)
- [Tandem](#)
- [Dictionary.com](#)

Foreign languages may seem fun and interesting but at the end of the day, they need to be practised every day to fully understand and learn them. Mastering a language is extremely difficult, and they are easy to forget if not studied. Here are some Points To Remember, while studying a foreign language.

- Practice daily- Consistency is the key to mastering any skill. You don't need to finish big goals in a short span of time. Make small goals/targets for the day or the week and try to finish them. Through steady and through practice you will reach higher levels much more easily and fast.
- Vocabulary- This plays a big role when it comes to language learning. The higher you advance in the levels, the more intense it can get, and mastering vocabulary is a key method to master a language. Use varied vocabulary, synonyms, and antonyms. You can work with phrases too. Every language has its own set of proverbs and phrases.

- Practice Speaking- Unfortunately speaking is one of the primary sections where a lot of students fall back, due to a lack of conversation in the targeted language. The best way to tackle this is role-playing with oneself. As ridiculous as it sounds, having an argument, debate with oneself does help a lot in enhancing speaking, or, you can try different apps which are available to have a conversation with a native. Another interesting way is to pull up interview videos of different personalities and answer the press questions in your target language. Think of it as YOUR interview, your talk show. Conversing on important topics helps to build your language knowledge and vocabulary.
- Practice Listening- Initially this part sounds the most infuriating. You might play audio or a video in your target language and understand nothing, but as cliché, as it sounds—trust the process. The more you subject yourself to audios, the easier it becomes. You start recognizing words, phrases and your brain registers words faster.
- Language immersion- Language immersion is equally important when you are self-learning. Language immersion helps in understanding, grasping concepts better and faster. The easiest way to achieve that is to listen, watch, read content in your desired language as much as possible. Changing your phone/ laptop language in the desired language also helps. But when you surround yourself with the language, learning becomes fun and easy.



- Feynman Method- Developed by Nobel prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman, this is one of the most effective methods you can adapt to learn anything. There are 4 steps you can follow to achieve this:

**Step 1:** Choose a concept you want to learn about.

**Step 2:** Explain it to a 12-year-old

**Step 3:** Reflect, Refine, and Simplify

**Step 4:** Organize + simplify + Tell a story

The internet is full of resources, we just need to know where to look. We hope this helps and you have fun learning a new language all on your own!



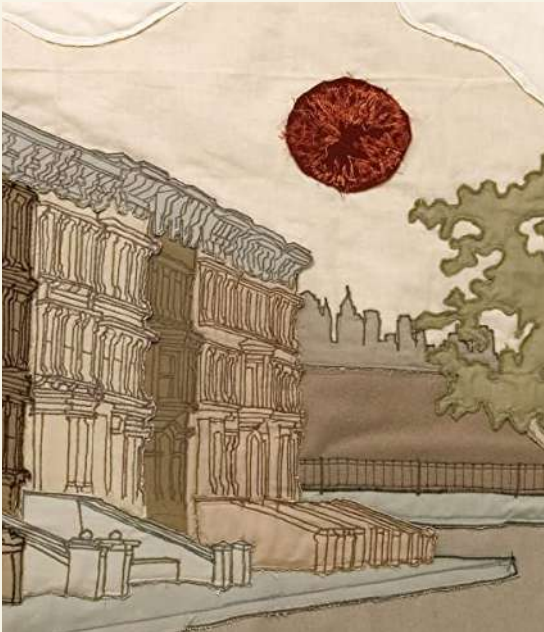
FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## 'First Day of My Life'

by *Bright Eyes*



The music of Bright Eyes captures raw emotion like no other band. In their song, 'First Day of My Life', the lead singer Conor Oberst begins to cry as he sings the song, and it is natural and unadulterated. If you like listening to indie rock, then Bright Eyes is perfect for you.

song recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)

## Come On! Feel the Illinoise!

(Part 1 and 2)

by *Sufjan Stevens*



Sufjan's music is distinct and powerful. Through his melodies, he emulates an earthen and pleasant essence, unique only to him. In this particular song, and the album containing it titled 'Illinois', he blends indie rock, folk, and lo-fi with a lyricism that is heavily inspired by transcendentalism.

song recommended by  
**Ujjwala Nagendra**  
(Editor-in-Chief and Co-Art  
Director)



# That Awkward Moment

*When you're mistaken for a parent*

*By Archita Biswas*

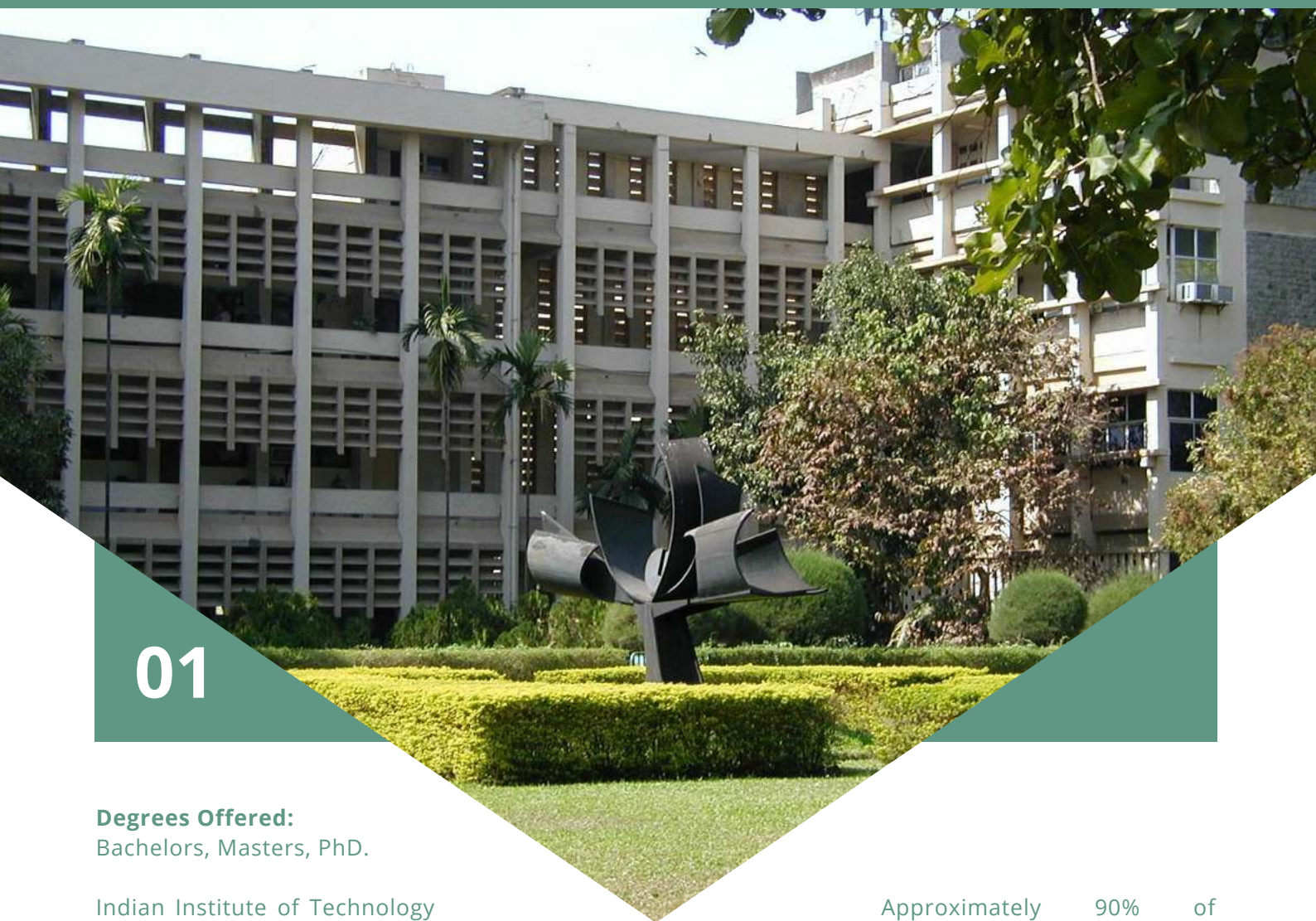
*Publicity Manager and Language Section Editor*

The most awkward moment of my life was on the orientation day of Amity University.

I was wearing a saree and talking to my new friends when suddenly a professor invited me into her office. She was very sweet and told me that she was the HOI. Eventually, she started asking me about my ward, and I was confused. Then, I realized that she mistook me for a parent. I was very embarrassed, but I informed her that I was a student and introduced her to my mother.







01

**Degrees Offered:**

Bachelors, Masters, PhD.

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay is a public technical institution in the Mumbai suburb of Powai, Maharashtra. IIT Bombay was founded in 1958. The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IITB offers a diverse selection of core and elective courses in subjects ranging from language and literature to philosophy and economics, allowing students to broaden their knowledge and experience in the field.

It offers a Bachelor of Science in Economics degree after a four-year undergraduate programme. It combines economic, technological, and social information to assist students in becoming competent professionals capable of securing a promising career in the private or public sector.

Approximately 90% of students get placed after graduation. The average compensation package is in the range of 15 to 18 LPA. All students are welcome to join the IITB company. To attend placement interviews, you should maintain a minimum CPI criterion, similar to how some academically top students maintain an 8 CGPA.

# *INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY*

TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES FOR HUMANITIES IN INDIA



02

### Degrees Offered:

Masters, PhD.

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), which was founded in 1961, is another excellent college for humanities in India. The institute has grown to 16 departments, 12 centres, and six schools concentrating in Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences, Management, and Physical Sciences. The IITD's Humanities and Social Sciences (HUSS) Department

offers a comprehensive doctoral programme in seven disciplines: economics, linguistics, literature, philosophy, policy, psychology, and sociology. Students can study part-time or full-time, and graduates will have the skills needed to seek a job in academia or research.

Every year, approximately 85-90% of students are placed. 16 LPA is the average package size. Students with a CGPA of 8 or higher are more likely to be offered an internship.

# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES FOR HUMANITIES IN INDIA





03

**Degrees Offered:**

Masters, PhD.

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) is an outstanding humanities school in India, one of the country's 23 nationally significant technological institutes. It now holds the title of the best technical institute in the country. It opened in 1959 as part of a bilateral agreement between India and Germany to construct a technical university in Madras. The Master of Arts programme at

IITM lasts five years and offers students a degree in Development Studies and English Studies, allowing them to obtain global awareness and aptitude to handle social, economic, linguistic, and technological concerns. The institute's Humanities PhD programme allows students to undertake studies in a

variety of areas, including international literature, history, linguistics, philosophy, and more.

Every year around 85% of IIT Madras students are placed. The average wage package is 16.1 LPA, with the lowest package being 5.5 LPA. Amazon, Flipkart, Apple, Microsoft, Oracle, Uber, Paypal, etc are the top recruiting firms.

# *INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS*

TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES FOR HUMANITIES IN INDIA



## 04

**Degrees Offered:**  
Masters, PhD.

The University of Calcutta (CU) is a premier school for humanities in India that started in 1857 in Kolkata and has since produced four Nobel Laureates, including the world-renowned Rabindranath Tagore. It is one of the top five institutions in the country and is known for multiple firsts, including a national college for women, a medical school, a science college, a national museum, and more. Postgraduate programmes in

ancient Indian History and Culture, Bengali Language and Literature, Sanskrit, and other areas are offered. Students can also pursue a postgraduate programme in Economics, Philosophy, Archaeology, and other fields that are more globally focused. Regardless of the curriculum, the University of Calcutta's renowned

national reputation for excellence ensures that students receive the highest quality education available in these subjects.

The University of Madras places approximately 95% of its students. Here, the average compensation package was 4 LPA. The top three hiring firms are TCS, Infosys, and Wipro.

# UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES FOR HUMANITIES IN INDIA



05

In 1916, the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi was established. Its graduates have contributed to India's independence as well as its progress and modernisation. Banaras Hindu University is a recognised humanities institution in India and is currently ranked among the country's top five institutions. The Faculty of Arts at BHU provides Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degrees in history, culture, philosophy, language,

and literature, among other subjects. Students from both India and outside can study Indian and foreign literature and languages. Every year, 100% of students from most batches get placed. The average package cost is 25 LPA, with the highest package costing over 1 Crore (2019) and the lowest costing roughly

15 LPA. Amazon, Google, and many others are among the top employers. SDE management is the highest-level position available. Internships are available to more than 90% of students.

# *BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY*

TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES FOR HUMANITIES IN INDIA



01

**Programmes offered:**

Ph.D, MBA, MBA-FABM, MBA-PGPX, ePGP & ePGD-ABA

IIM Ahmedabad is at the top of the list of India's best business schools. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) is a non-profit Ahmedabad Business School is a business school in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. In 2017, the Ministry of Human Resources of the Government of India designated the institution as an Institute of National Importance. Several national agencies have continuously

selected IIMA as the best management school in the country. In addition, IIMA programmes are highly regarded in a number of international rankings. IIMA was the first management school in India to receive EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) certification from the EFMD in 2008 (European

Foundation for Management Development).

# *INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AHMEDABAD*

TOP BUSINESS SCHOOLS IN INDIA



02

**Programmes offered:**

PhD, MBA, MBA(BA), PGPPM.

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) is a non-profit Bangalore is a public business school in Bangalore, India, as well as an Institute of National Importance. After IIM Calcutta and IIM Ahmedabad, it was the third IIM to open its doors in 1973. Motto: Tejasvi nāvadhītamastu (Let our study be enlightening).

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) is Asia's most prestigious graduate management school. IIMB is designated as an Institute of National Importance under the IIM Act of 2017.

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# *INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT BANGLORE*

TOP BUSINESS SCHOOLS IN INDIA



03

**Programmes offered:**  
PGDM (BM) & ExPGDM

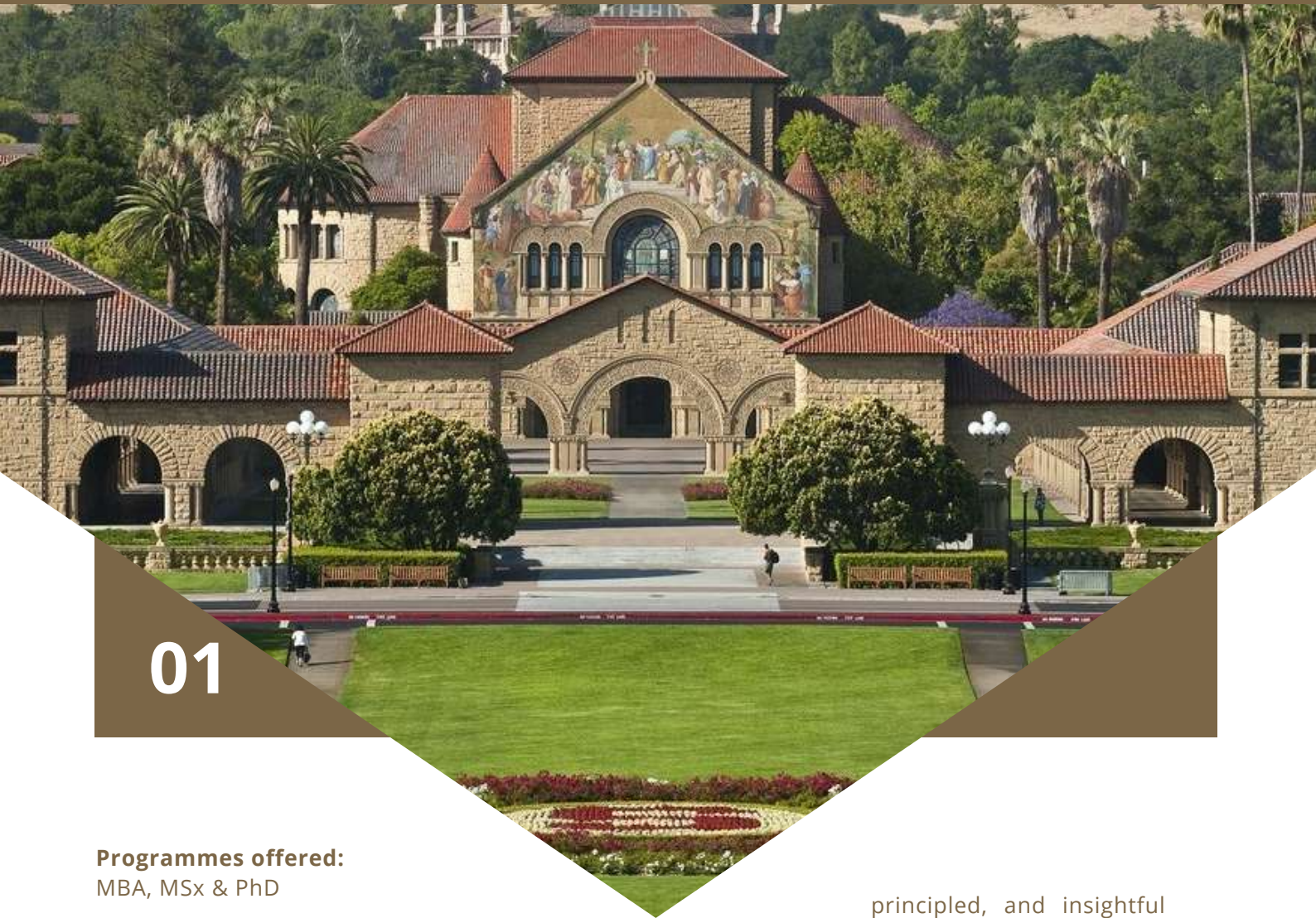
Xavier School of Management, also known as XLRI, is a private business school in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, India, run by the Society of Jesus. The oldest business school in India, it was established in 1949 in the steel metropolis of Jamshedpur. In the year 2020, the same Society will open a new campus in Jhajjar, which

would be located in the Delhi-NCR region. It was founded with the goal of bringing about change in the economy and society. The institute is constantly striving to be a unique management school. For more than six decades, XLRI has been dedicated to academic excellence and promoting students' whole-person integral growth.

# *XLRI XAVIER SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT JAMSHEDPUR*

TOP BUSINESS SCHOOLS IN INDIA





01

**Programmes offered:**

MBA, MSx &amp; PhD

The Stanford Graduate School of Business is Stanford University's graduate business school. Located in Stanford, California, it has been the world's most selective business school for numerous years, admitting only roughly 6% of candidates. They see it as their mission to develop inventive,

principled, and insightful leaders who will improve the world by developing concepts that deepen and advance management expertise.

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*STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY*

TOP BUSINESS SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE





02

**Programmes offered:**

UG, MBA, EMBA, PhD

The Institution of Pennsylvania's Wharton School is the university's business school. It is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is a private Ivy League research university. In 1881, Wharton became the first collegiate business school, and it was instrumental in changing business studies from a craft to a rigorous and respected profession.

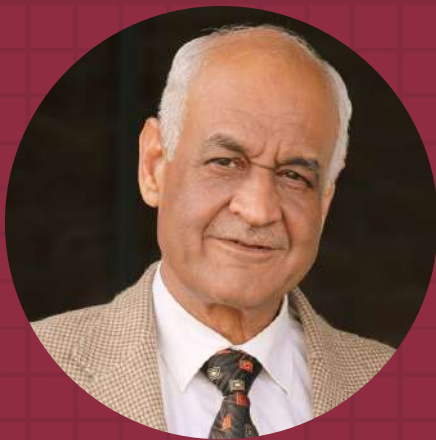
consider enrolling in an Executive MBA programme, which has a higher average student age. Because they spend less time with coworkers, EMBA's are more focused on job advancement than on a career change. They also have fewer networking chances.

# *UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (WHARTON)*

TOP BUSINESS SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE



# A SPECIAL THANKS TO



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HEAD OF INSTITUTE  
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AMITY UNIVERSITY MUMBAI



**DR. SWATI BHISE**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
AMITY SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES  
AMITY UNIVERSITY MUMBAI



# SOFTWARES USED



CANVA



GRAMMARLY



GOOGLE DOCS



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ISSUE 2, APRIL 2022  
AMITY SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES  
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