



SHARDA
UNIVERSITY
Beyond Boundaries

MERáKI

NEWSLETTER



SCHOOL OF
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

ISSUE 43: JANUARY TO APRIL 2020



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dr. Prachi Priyanka
Assistant Professor, SHSS

Welcome to the 43rd Issue of Meraki!

We are living in an age of uncertainties. It is challenging for all of us to deal with the devastating ripple effects and significant disruptions that Covid 19 has caused to industries worldwide. With the unfolding global coronavirus pandemic leading to people being confined to their homes, schools and colleges being closed, borders being shut and economic instability very obvious, it can be hard not to feel overwhelmed by the state of the world at the moment. However, amidst all this, faculty are doing their best to replace normal class room teaching with online lectures, providing course materials and supporting students with webinars and everyday interaction to keep them engaged, productive and positive towards the changes around. Besides the regular courses, we at SHSS emphasize on the need to stay connected with our mentees and encourage them to enroll in online skills enhancement courses, find ways to support people around them and contribute in whatever it takes – in creating a better society.

Stay home. Stay safe.

Welcome to SHSS



Dr. Shradha has recently joined SHSS as a Professor in History, an accomplished professional as well as an Academician with over 14 years of work experience. During her work span, she has handled a variety of roles of a Lecturer, Editor, Analyst and Administration. She also has domain expertise in the field of Security, Terrorism and Gender Studies. She has presented research papers at National Conferences with special focus on Gender Studies as well as International Relations. Her book on Women in Russian Politics: 1991-2001 and State and Patriarchy, Women in USSR gives an insight into women's role and status in Soviet Union and Russia as well as the debates on feminism. She is also the recipient of 'Vishwakarma Award' given for consistent outstanding performance, high level of professionalism, commitment and good work in the field of National Security.

Congratulations

Mr. Rajneesh Saxena of SHSS was honored with the Outstanding Leader Award by Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal, Chairperson, IESA during International Education Summit & Awards 2020 held at Divalux Resort, Bangkok, Thailand.



रजनीश को अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षा पुरस्कार

जासं, ग्रेटर नोएडा : गामा-2 सेक्टर में रहने वाले रजनीश कुमार सक्सेना को



रजनीश कुमार
सक्सेना ● जागरण

अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षा पुरस्कार सम्मान मिला है। उनको यह सम्मान अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षा शिखर सम्मलेन 2020 में दिया गया। समारोह का आयोजन थाईलैंड की राजधानी बैंकाक में हुआ था। इसमें विश्व के 21 देशों के प्रतिनिधियों ने हिस्सा लिया था। रजनीश भी भारत की तरफ से इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल हुए थे। यहां उनको अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षा शिखर सम्मेलन के अध्यक्ष डॉक्टर कुलदीप अग्रवाल ने यह पुरस्कार प्रदान किया।



International Mother language day celebrations

International **Mother Language Day (IMLD)** is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. First announced by UNESCO on 17th November 1999, it was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly with the adoption of UN resolution 56/262 Multilingualism in 2002. Mother Language Day is part of a broader initiative to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by people of the world.

Sharda University is a hub of students coming from different parts of the world who speak different languages. The students studying at Sharda are from many different countries: Afghanistan, South Korea, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Congo, Guinea to name a few. These students speak different languages, for example: French, Swahili, Igbo, Korean, Moore, Persian & many more. The Department of Languages and Culture at School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sharda University provides the platform for the International students to come together and learn one of the Global languages, i.e. English. However, the celebration of **International Mother Language Day** on 21st February, 2020 in room 801B, block-7 (at 1:30-4:00 pm) provided the students with an opportunity to demonstrate their talent and culture in their mother tongues. They decorated the venue very beautifully and also prepared some charts using their mother tongues in very artistic manner. With the wide variety of performances ranging from songs, poems, dances to short skit the students enjoyed the entire experience. A language is much more than just a way of communicating. Language, and particularly our mother tongue, is an important part of our culture. The event made the students aware of the importance of preserving languages and the vital role languages play in ensuring cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, and also in strengthening co-operation & attaining quality education for all. The event began with some encouraging words by the Chief Guest of the event, **Prof. P. K. Mitra** and HoD of SHSS, **Dr. Pramod Kumar Sharma**. Few faculty members also graced the event with their valuable presence. The event gave the students immense happiness and also an opportunity to perceive methods of building societies based on inclusive knowledge and preserving cultural heritage.

Event Convener

Ms. Pooja Mann

Event Coordinator

Ms. Smriti Handoo



Educational Trips

Educational Trip to Jaipur

On 14th February 2020, 15 students of B.A. (Hons) Psychology 2nd year along with our professors **Ms. Komal Beri** & **Dr. Shweta Verma** left for a weekend trip to the city of Jaipur, Rajasthan. We reached our hotel by 3:00 pm and checked into our rooms. We rested for an hour or so and got ready to go visit the famous Bapu Bazaar and do some street shopping. When we reached the bazaar, we decided to eat some of the famous street food delicacies that were available there. We got our hands-on various textiles of Jaipur and got to experience the real beauty of the city that was through its artefacts. Then we were on our way to the World Trade Park which is a mall that attracts a lot of tourists because of its cool and open vibe. There we experienced the different attractions that were available. After roaming around the entire mall for an hour, we were on our way back to the hotel. Once we were back in our rooms, few of the students slept because they were tired and the rest of us decided to quickly change and head to the rooftop of the hotel that was beautifully decorated with planters and tables and chairs for the guests to sit and enjoy. We played UNO- the card game and everybody turn by turn talked about the different experiences that they've had in college. It was a lovely end to the first day. Mostly because many of us opened up and actually got to know each other more. The next morning, we woke up around 8, had breakfast and got ready to head towards Nahargarh Fort. We entered the fort and were filled with admiration because it was so beautiful. It had a view overlooking the entire city of Jaipur. We clicked a lot of pictures and ate some yummy street food outside the palace. Then we were off to go see the Amer Fort. But to reach there we had to climb a kilometre of stairs and it got very tiring for all of us. But as soon as we were inside the fort, all the tiredness was gone. The insides were breath taking and so was the view from the top of the fort. The crowd there was huge. So many tourist clicking pictures and some even singing. To go back down, we decide to take a jeep instead of walking all the way down through the stairs. It would've been a task! We got back to the hotel to freshen up and get ready for the night at Choki Dhani. Upon reaching Choki Dhani we had to wait in a huge line to buy tickets as this place serves thousands of people everyday. We had a proper Rajasthani dinner with various different dishes and the servers there were very entertaining. After dinner all of us together went onto the rides that were there, we entered a maze which was very fun for everyone and then all of danced to the beats of the classical instruments being played by the artists. We came back to the hotel exhausted and

everybody just went to sleep. Of course, only after playing a round of UNO! The next morning, we were up by 10 and left to come back to our university. This trip taught us a lot about friendship and taking care of the people around you. We learnt how everybody has their own experiences & how one should be open to the opinion of others. We learnt about how important it is to learn about different cultures and expand our horizons.



Educational Trip to National School of Drama, New Delhi

The Department of English, School of Humanities and Social Sciences organized a day-long Trip "**Behind the Scenes**": A trip to NSD (**National School of Drama**)" on 10th Feb 2020 Monday for their M.A. English Final year Students. Objectives of Event: The objectives of the visit was to inculcate in the Literature students the knowledge and understanding of performing Arts & Culture. The Bharat Rang Mahotsav was happening that time in the National School of Drama and many seminars, discussions and Cultural meetings were being organized by the School. Many national and International Theatre personalities were there which give the students an understanding and wider perspective in the Art of theatre and they were able to distinguish the difference of The Asian Drama and Western dramatic protocols.

Students also get to know the various technicalities associated with stage, culture, performance behind the Scenes that will benefit our students. A senior faculty assigned to Production of NSD helped our students by introducing them the various technicalities of production like scene, stage, light, camera, settings. Our students had interacted with many actors who shared their experiences with them. These experiences would certainly help them to understand the aesthetics of Drama, cultural studies which form a vital part of their academics.

Convener Details:

- Dr. Mukuta Borah, Assistant Professor of English, SHSS,

Faculty Co-ordinator:

- Ms. Smriti Handoo



Student Co-ordinators:

- Shreya Bhardwaj
- Divyanshu Sajwan, Don Ete, (MA English final Year)

Educational Excursion to Parliament

Department of Political Science (Ānvīkṣikī) School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS), Sharda University has organized an Educational Excursion for the students of Political Science to Parliament (Lok Sabha), Parliament Museum and Nehru Memorial Museum & Library on 11th February 2020.

Objectives of Event:

- To acquire first-hand knowledge about the Parliamentary proceedings especially of Lok Sabha
- To provide students an opportunity to interact with Member of Parliaments.
- To know about the life and works of Pt. Nehru and other historical materials and papers pertaining to the life of nationalist leaders of modern India

Convener Details: Mr. Manish Kumar, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SHSS

Co-Ordinator Details: Mr. Ankit Tomar, Assistant Professor, SHSS



Details of Proceeding while in Lok Sabha

At that point of time Lok Sabha had cleared Bill to include more tribes in ST category in Karnataka: - The CONSTITUTION (Scheduled Tribes) order (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which seeks to grant Scheduled Tribes status to certain communities in Karnataka, was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha on 11th February. Moving the Bill for consideration, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said, "Certain communities in Karnataka were worried for years because they were not included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.... Parivara and Talwara belong to the Nayaka Community but they were deprived of ST category due to lack of synonyms.... Now the government has brought this proposal to expand the scope of the synonyms of Nayaka and Siddi communities".

The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha during the winter session. All Parties supported the Bill but the opposition demanded a comprehensive legislation for inclusion of any community in the ST list. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Choudhary said, "We need a holistic and comprehensive legislation in so far as inclusion of any community in the Scheduled Tribe list is concerned". Trinamool Congress MP Sougata Ray raised the issue of Maoism in tribal areas, "I want to mention that one of the reasons why Maoism spread in Chhattisgarh is that big corporates like Vedanta & others are trying to grab lands in the tribal areas because tribal areas are rich in minerals. In Odisha, also Malkangiri is full of tribals and full of Maoists. This is, again, because big corporates are trying to grab land," Ray said. Earlier, opening the debate, Congress, MP Kodikunni Suresh said, "After Independence, there was a number of communities which were included in the Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled Tribe lists. You are not enhancing the reservation facilities. The percentage of reservation has not enhanced." Shiv Sena member Arvind Sawant and NCP's Supriya Sule demanded that the Dhanger community from Maharashtra also be included in the list. Sawant also raised the issue of assaults on Marathi people in Belgaum in Karnataka.

Visit to Exhibition and Agrasen ki Baoli

Students from the Department of Sociology and Department of History (BA IV Semester), School of Humanities and Social Sciences went for an educational visit to an exhibition on '**Celebrating the 70 Years of Constitution of India**' organised by SAHMAT Trust on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. The students were accompanied by faculty members, Ms. Prachi Patil, Dr. Sebanti Chatterjee and Dr. Sweta Singh. The exhibition helped students understand essential values that bind the India society together. Students also interacted with the exhibition curator and artist Ms. Aban Raza, who gave everyone a guided tour. The exhibition touched on various aspects of the Constitution dealing with citizenship and the ideals of freedom and secularism. After exhibition tour, students visited the nearby Agrasenki Baoli, a 14th century step-well. The students were excited to explore the place as it offered a chance to integrate textual knowledge with visual experience. The structure of the medieval time step well also made them think about water conservation process and whether it can be reused in this era of water scarcity. Overall the trip was useful from the perspective of evoking thought processes of the students both in the context of constitution and architecture.



Conferences, Workshops and Publications

- **Dr. Shachee Agnihotri**, Assistant Professor of History, SHSS has published a chapter titled, "Greying China: Challenges and Opportunity" in the book- Modern China (ISBN-978-11-38575-23-3) published by Routledge-London. Another chapter by Dr. Agnihotri titled, "Ageing South Asia and the Need for Elderly Care: Policy v/s Practice, With Special Reference to India" got published in a Web of Science indexed book, Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in South Asia (ISBN- 978-11-38367-42-5) published by Routledge Publications.
- **Dr. Gurpyari Bhatnagar** presented paper titled 'Spirituality: A Growing Research Theme' in the International Disciplinary Conference on Innovative Research in Arts, Culture, Literature, Philosophy and Spirituality at JNU, Delhi on December 21, 2019. The paper was well received and got published in the proceedings of the conference.
- **Ms. Tapti Roy**, Assistant Professor SHSS, attended the 11th Ambedkar Memorial Lecture held on 14th and 15th February, 2020 at TISS, Tuljapur Campus. She presented a paper titled "Citizens/Tiger Food: A Study of the People and Tiger Nexus in Sundarbans" which talked about the problematic negotiation between the conservation activities in the Indian part of Sundarban and its effects on



the people residing in the region. The paper also focused on indigeneity debates on the lines of political ecology. She interacted with the students of green criminology, rural development, and sustainable water resources management programme and received fresh perspectives on interpreting social issues reflected in literary narratives.

- **Dr. Mukuta Borah's** translated short story "Our Very Own" translated from the Assamese features in the book How to Tell the Story of an Insurgency: Fifteen Tales from Assam, edited by Aruni Kashyap, published by prestigious HarperCollins Publishers India. in the month of January, 2020. ISBN: 9789353576523



- **Dr. Rafrat Shakil**, **Dr. Pallavi Thakur** and **Ms. Pratibha** completed a Short Term Course on Gender Studies offered by UGC Human Resource Development Centre, Jamia Milia Islamia University, From 10th to 15th Feb. 2020
- **Dr. Rafrat Shakil** attended a National Workshop on Designing and Development of MOOCs on Digital Platform conducted by School of Education, Sharda University in Collaboration with the National Institute of Open Schooling Ministry of Human Resource and Development HMRD, Govt. Of India from 17th to 20th Jan 2020



- **Dr. Sudhanshu Verma**, Coordinator, Department of Yogic Sciences and Dr. Shivom Acharya, Assistant Professor, SHSS, attended a two day 6th International Conference on Psycho-Spiritual Approach to Yoga jointly organized by Indian association of Yoga and Uttarakhand Sanskrit University held at Haridwar, UK on 22-23 Feb 2020. Organizing Chairman Dr. Kamakhya Kumar, Dean Faculty of Yoga and Health honoured him with a memento for being Guest of Honor for the event. Dr. Shivam delivered an invited talk on “Psycho-Spirituality and Yoga” and also presented a scholarly article at the forum in the presence of over 600 participants and various Senior Professors from different renowned institutions from India as well as other countries. Dr. Deepti Soori (Chicago, USA), Mrs. Meera Sharma (UK.), Prof. Odoh Brendan (Nigeria), Prof. Ishwar Bhardwaj, Prof. G. D. Sharma, Prof. K. Krishna Sharma, Prof. B. R. Sharma and Prof. Saraswati Kala were present on the auspicious occasion.



- **Dr. Sudhanshu Verma**, Ph.D. in Yogic Sciences published his research article titled “Psycho-Spirituality- A trigger for thought transformation” in International Journal of Yoga and Allied Sciences in Vol IX, Issue I Pg. 63-67.
This is a Multi disciplinary peer reviewed International Journal with a high Impact factor, published by Indian Association of Yoga, New Delhi. Almost all the researchers, professors and Yogis from India and abroad are registered under the umbrella of the Association, which is entirely dedicated to the Yoga stream. The Association also provides a platform to the new comers and all those who are interested in pursuing research in traditional Yoga system.



Students Academic National Seminar

On 21st of January, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences organized student Academics National Seminar **"Unmasking Silence Voices Heard and Unheard"** for the students to explore different intellectual arguments related with silence. The Seminar attempts to explore the voices within society which have not been part of mainstream discourse of disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences such as literature, History, Psychology, Sociology & Political Science etc.

The Event hosted participants from several different departments and prestigious Universities for paper presentations and discussions. It was a very successful seminar. We were touched by the overwhelming Responses, feedbacks, Love and dedications from young researchers and students. Dr. Borah conveys her Special thanks to Professor HPS Rao, Dean Research, Sharda University, Prof. Pramod Mitra Sir and HoD of SHSS Pramod Sharma, who are with the organizing team for the last three months for any kind of help...from suggestions to discussion! It was the group effort of MA English Final year Students under the Convenor-ship of Dr. Mukuta Borah. The Best Paper Awards go to Madhrurima Sen, Delhi University, Avichal Bhatnagar, Delhi Technological University, Sanket Sarkar from Zaikir Hussain College, Aiswarya Unnikrisnan from Ambedkar University, Samridha and Shibani from Daulat Ram College, Delhi University Fariqa Siddiqui from Sharda University, Deepak Kumar from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University and Namra Sultan from Delhi University. From Bangladeshi Trans-migrants to Disability, from Marital Rape to Witch Hunting, from Non-Queer Talk about Queer Subjects, from Victorian Femininity to Commercial Surrogacy-Commercial Wombs..These young scholars and students came up with so many new Academic unheard voices. More power to Academia. Dr. Borah expressed her gratefulness to one & all involved in the Seminar.

Convener: Dr. Mukuta Borah, Asst. Professor of English, SHSS,
Student Coordinators: Divyanshu Sajwan, Rishabh Kumar and Shreya Bhardwaj, Organization Committee: M.A. English Final



International Women's Day Celebration

Women's Empowerment & Gender Equity: Expert lecture by Prof Auradha M. Chenoy March 05, 2020

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Sharda University, Greater Noida organised an expert talk on **'Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity'** on March 5th, 2020 on the eve of International Women's Day. This was followed by a short cultural programme, by the students as well as faculty members, celebrating the spirit of womanhood in a thought-provoking manner.

Our Chief Guest and Expert Speaker Prof. Anuradha M. Chenoy, a former Dean, School of International Studies, JNU, an academican par excellence, also a consultant with various UN bodies like UNESCO, ICRC, UN Women, UN peacekeepers etc. enhanced our understanding on gender issues, women's empowerment, patriarchy, gender biasness in the study of various disciplines and how all the spaces, culture and different structures of society had become gendered. She sketched out the progress of women in society over the past fifty years-how they have moved towards empowerment and gender equity.

The cultural programme comprised of poetry recitation, skit, dance, songs where various shades and roles of women, their struggle & journey towards empowerment was depicted. The entire programme was quite educating, it also gave the audience an opportunity to pause and rethink the journey of a woman as a child, teenager, mother and an individual in different roles and capacities. It was also highlighted that it was time to educate the males (from childhood itself) on treating females/women with respect and equality, irrespective of their roles. Few pictures of the event are attached below.

Convener: Prof. (Dr.) Shradha, SHSS

Coordinator: Dr. Vishali Sharma, SHSS



Journal Club Meetings at SHSS

Research is seen as a vital function of a university as well as the higher education systems worldwide. School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sharda University is organizing Journal Club Meetings on Every working Saturday of the University without fail from the month of its' execution by RTDC, Sharda University. The Club tries to provide a platform for faculties/ research scholars to share knowledge on varied ideas related to literature and culture, mythology, gender, yoga, psychology and other areas of diversity. Journal Club Co-ordinator of SHSS: Dr. Mukuta Borah, Assistant Professor of English.

The following presentations were done in the month of February and March, 2020.

- On Saturday, the 1st of February 2020. Ms. Prachi Ramdas Patil, Assistant Professor of Sociology presented a paper on "Motherhood as Resistance: Sex Worker Mothers and Hostile Neighbourhoods"
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) Sharda University organized their Journal Club meeting on Saturday, 15th February 2020. Dr. Gurpyari Bhatnagar, Assistant Professor of English, School of Humanities and Social Sciences Presented a paper on "Alternative Spiritualities in Coelho's Texts"
- On Saturday, 7th of March, Dr. Shradha, Professor of School of Humanities and Social Sciences presented a paper on "State & Patriarchy: Status of Women in Soviet Union and Russia 1985-2005"

Dr. Mukuta Borah, SHSS





Students Corner

Life in the Times of Corona

The prospect of being locked in a room for a prolonged period was not unfamiliar with me, lack of resources and the abundance of inhabitants, the former can be considered but the latter is what truly vexes me. These times demanded everyone to be relegated to their homes, a place that I left ages ago, a different life it was, a different boy I was yet the discrepancies between that boy and this man are not that distinguishable, they are amalgamated into each other perhaps in the vicinity, or perhaps it is the home in people that makes I 'him'. This is not my place, these, not my people and that boy, is not me.

Rishabh Kumar, B.A. English Hons, 2nd year

Virus or type of killer, one of the most dangerous and terrifying virus, which has taken the life of many people. Some even say that nature is hitting its reset button. "CORONA VIRUS" a virus which can cause disease in mammals and birds. It has several names like SARS, MERS and COVID – 19. In humans it basically affects respiratory tracts and shows the starting symptoms like common cold and cough. Government of India announced lockdown of 21 days all over India, which led to the closure of school, universities, trains to the small markets in the area. Government with the help of media, famous stars who are continuously trying to make aware about the disease and symptoms and even told about the precautions to take like washing hands, use of sanitizer and the most important step was to maintain social distancing and staying at our home. But the question arises Is everybody fully aware of the disease and its danger.

By occupation my father is a Doctor in Patna, Bihar but he has his private clinic in almost village type area Fatuha. Through him I came to know about many things which aren't being displayed in televisions, newspaper or any kind publications. It has been hard days for all those workers who are leaving their home without thinking about their own life and about their family and keeping their first priority to help their nation and saving the life of needed ones. In conversation I observed that most fearful feeling was people aren't aware fully aware of the disease and how to protect themselves. Their main tension is to earn money to feed their family because they say if they won't earn they will die, not because of disease but because of hunger and poverty. Doctors who are doing treatment of diseases like this and come in contact with several people, they don't have the proper medical equipment, facilities with they should be provided to treat the ones. He said we don't need salute we just need the proper facilities so that they can be alive to treat the ones.

Hence what I observed in my area is literacy is very important because wearing the mask isn't the solution but there must be a proper social distancing which can't be seen in rural areas. Everything can be recovered or gained but if we really want to fight against COVID 19 awareness is much important, which is almost zero in rural areas.

Nidhi Mishra, B.A English Hons, 2nd year

Personally, I find it harder to draw a silver lining in an unholy mess than to determine the side effects of a holy one. I have henceforth abstained myself from doing any of the tasks on the usual self-growth to-do list. I am sure you must have heard of one or more of these;

- Learn a new skill or a hobby.
- Complete your never-ending tasks like penning down that story that you always wanted to write.
- Bond with your closed ones.
- Expand your knowledge base, read a book or two.

Nope, I haven't done any of these or any other productive activities to make the pile of mess feel a little sorted or to get my head straight. Perhaps, that's just because I have grown to believe that no antibody or vaccine is sufficient enough to fight the mess within, so my body might survive against the COVID19, but somehow, I fear I won't survive myself.

Divyanshu Sajwan, M.A. English, 2nd year

Having its name originated from the rarefied gaseous envelope of the sun and other stars. The first notation of Corona virus was in the early 1960's, first symptoms to be occurring in birds. Due to Covid-19, Sars and Fars which are spreading like wild fire in the world all due to grace of corona virus. Till date in there has been a total of 1276302 deaths worldwide. All the governments are emphasizing on the use of masks, hand-sanitizers and hand-wash, one thing moreover the others "Social distancing" to reduce an outbreak of the pandemic. There is another face to that story. Due to widespread the government issued a lock down of 21 days. And this lock down has been beneficiary to the nature most of all. The air is cleaner than usual. We hear no more honking of horns in our daily life but humanity is fading away from the hearts of humankind. Given the situation of Tablighi Jamaat which 1300 muslims attended, there has been an upsurge on the hindu-muslim controversy. The tasks given by our honorary Prime Minister to clap and light candles as a depiction of unity in our country turned out to be a absurd situation. As mentioned that social distancing is the most crucial element in our fight against Corona the people are always reluctant in doing so and misinterpret the idea of clap and lightening of candles as on road orchestra and diwali with social gatherings at an alarming rate. And despite the tight security employed by the government to stop people from wandering around there are numerous beat downs on an everyday basis. Insanity did show its true nature when people started showering stones in Indore on a doctor who came to diagnose a patient of Covid-19. Mankind is hell-bent on self destruction and marching towards its own doom. May God bless their soul.

Aayush Pandey, B.A. English Hons, 3rd year

The number of infected of the COVID-19 virus were increasing at a devilish extent, overlooking the sovereignty of nations, the segregation of class, the place in the society and even sex. This pandemic is unforgiving, it is unforgiving to all of the humanity, yet another reminder of how trivial existence we live, infrastructure soaring to the clouds, underground railroads reaching to the core, the concrete jungles making the biggest of jungles a patch of green foliage, roads spreading out like branches of the trees and humanity, perpetrators of all of this, perhaps this is the price we have to pay, perhaps we have finally outlived our welcome or perhaps mother nature in all her benevolence is giving us another chance to mend our ways and begin anew. Life amidst Corona is miserably depressing, terribly frustrating but at the same time I believe we are more connected to each other..to nature, to family, to surroundings. According to WHO few protective measures can be taken in order to fight against Corona virus such as: wash your hands frequently, maintain social distancing, avoid touching nose, eyes and mouth, practice respiratory hygiene, if you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early and several others. As a responsible citizen of this nation one has to be patient, be kind and be responsible. Let's appreciate the brave hearts, who are fighting the virus at the front lines and risking exposure by providing essential services and let's do our bit by staying home and helping to contain the spread during this lock down.

Shreya Bhardwaj, M.A. English, 2nd year

Resonance: The Music of Thoughts

Why is it that you're so close to my heart?
Yet so far away,
Diving into someone else's arm.
And here I am,
Surrendering myself to you,
Or is it just an Idea of you?
I wonder if you'll ever look back,
When you do...
I'll be here,
I swear!
Why is it that I pour my heart out into the wilderness?
When I know that there's no hope.

Yet I hope,
Someday you'll look back
When you do...
I'll be here,
I swear!
What if you never look back?
Leaving me behind,
With the wrath of Keres!
Then maybe, I'll invoke to the mighty Thanatos,
Giving my life in sweet surrender,
Finally,
To taste the sweet and gentle touch of death!

To what do I owe the pleasure, Zahnaseeb?
Laid down in the throng of crowded noise; shrouded
I'm descending into the complete oblivion!
Hands shiver no more, body doesn't respond.
Fingers collapsed, ink abandoned.
"Death!" they call it.
Now that you're here, Zahnaseeb!
Tell me...
To what do I owe the pleasure?
It would have been better,
Only if you visited earlier!
When my heart fluttered with the rhythmic bliss of chirping birds,
When my fingers danced as the ink flew out of my pen, onto those
frail pages!
It doesn't matter...
Now that you're here!
It is time now,
I'll go...
Into the void...

Md. Musharraf, B.A. English Hons, 3rd year

Pretence
Its crazy
How good people can act
How they don't want to impact
Yet she wants them to see
The thing she doesn't want to show
The happy face keeps the flow
Not selfish enough to disrupt the lives
Will take the daggers and the knife
Dark yet enlightened her heart
In stability keeps tearing patience apart
She reaches out to grab the invisible
Sees the attempt, antifeeble
What if she doesn't want to be saved
What if her soul is already graved

Mohammad Ayaan, B.A. (Hons) Pol Science