

Session: 2021-22

Students of Functional English BA-III

Seventy-Five Years of Independence- Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (1947-2022)

India became a sovereign nation 75 years ago. After a monumental struggle spanning more than half a century, India with all her resilience finally merited her independence in 1947. The rest as they say is history. India has faced and gracefully overcome a plethora of challenges to earn the global recognition it has today. The journey of our country from the agony of the partition, through war, and immense poverty has culminated into a nation where today we proudly celebrate unity in diversity.

The landmarks of this awe-inspiring journey from a poverty-stricken third world nation to an emerging global power is catalogued below-

1950's

1951-52 First General Election in Largest Democracy. -

1955- Satyajit Ray's *Pather Panchali* brings Indian Cinema on the World Map.

1958-Milkha Singh brings glory to the nation by bagging a gold in the Cardiff Commonwealth Games.

1960's

1961- Annexation of Dadar and Nagar Haveli

1968-Commencement of the Green Revolution

1970's

1970- White Revolution (increase in the production of milk) spearheaded by Dr. Verghese Kurien

1971- Indo - Pakistan War

1974- India enters Nuclear Club

1979- Ramesh Krishnan became the junior Wimbledon champion

1980's

1982- Doordarshan becomes national broadcaster.

1983- India wins first World Cup in Lords

1984- Pilot Rakesh Sharma becomes first Indian in Space.

1985 -PT Usha – the Golden Girl of Indian athletics won 5 gold medals at the 6th Asian Track and Field Championship (Jakarta)

1986- PT Usha won 5 medals (4 gold and 1 silver) in the Asian Games



1990s

- 1.) **1991 Liberalisation of the Economy:** The Indian economy opened the doors for free trade by foreign investors
- 2.) **1990 Kuwait Airlift:** The 1990 airlift of Indians from Kuwait was carried out from August 13, 1990, to October 20, 1990, after the invasion of Kuwait. Air India helped evacuate nearly 175,000 people.
- 3.) **1999- Kargil war:** India launched ‘Operation Vijay’ after Pakistani forces infiltrated inside LoC. The war ended in July, with India successfully recapturing Tiger Hill.



2000s

- 1) **Golden Quadrilateral project:** In 2001, the govt. launched the Golden Quadrilateral, the largest highway project in India connecting four major cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.
- 2) **Right to Information Act:** The RTI Act was passed by Parliament in 2005, throwing government departments open to scrutiny and helping people to acquire any information they want from government officials.
- 3) **Chandrayaan 1:** India successfully launched Chandrayaan in October 2008 to explore the moon. One of the greatest achievements of Chandrayaan was the discovery of water molecules in the lunar soil.



2010s

- 1) **India wins Second Cricket World Cup:** On April 2, 2011, India lifted the cricket World Cup for the second time under the captaincy of Mahendra Singh Dhoni by defeating Sri Lanka in the final.
- 2) **India launches own GPS system:** India successfully launched NAVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), an independent regional navigation satellite system on par with US-based GPS.
- 3) **Mission Shakti:** On March 27, 2019, India successfully conducted Mission Shakti – an anti-satellite missile test that could destroy satellites in space through missiles on the ground.



At present there are 38 World Heritage Sites declared by UNESCO in India. Khangchendzonga National Park (2016), Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar (2016), Historic City of Ahmedabad (2017), Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (2018), & Jaipur City, Rajasthan (2019) being some of the latest additions into the list.

Polio Eradication: India has had a long battle with Polio for 66 years; it was a challenge that was fought with the dedication of the authorities and implementation of proactive immunisation programs. In 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared India a polio-free country; in the same year, the South-East Asia Region collectively became Polio Free.

When Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru said, “The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us,” he wanted India to fight its battles and rise gloriously. With time, may it keep on shining and progressing through thick and thin.

Russia-Ukraine Crisis

Historical Background

The current military operation in Ukraine by Russia is not just any spontaneous outburst of an overambitious leader but carefully crafted developments that have led to permanent hostility between the two countries. It is evident from history that the desire for freedom, sovereignty, and individuality has led to violence and chaos. Similarly, the Fall of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) as a result of internal political, economic, and ethnic disintegration within the Soviet Union. Russia at that time was going through an ‘Era of Stagnation’ thereby weakening Moscow’s hold over the union. The Communist regime backed by Russia in Eastern Europe started collapsing starting in Poland, followed by the reunification of the capitalist west and communist east Germany i.e., the fall of the Berlin Wall.



But Putin’s main concern was not the decreased influence of the Russian Communist regime but the disintegration of the Soviet Union as a geopolitical entity.

Dec 8, 1991-- Leaders of 3 Soviet Republics Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine signed Belovezh Accords, according to which USSR no longer existed and, in its place, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was established. Of the former USSR states, 9 are the members of CIS and Russia exhibits enormous influence over them. Russia has also formed a security organization called the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)

3 Baltic countries Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia all sharing borders with Russia became NATO members in 2004. After the independence of Ukraine in 1991, it had adopted a neutral foreign policy. In 2008 Georgia and Ukraine were offered NATO memberships. Ukraine was one of the founding members of CIS but it did not join CSTO. The spread of US-specific NATO organizations towards eastern parts of Europe which was initially considered pro-Russian was a serious blow to Russian supremacy.

In 2014 Russia annexed the Crimean Republic a Black Sea peninsula from Ukraine. This action was criticized as a violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, while Russian Pres. Vladimir Putin characterized it as an effort to protect Russian citizens and military assets in Crimea. The annexation of Crimea was aimed at influencing developments in Ukraine and other possible regions. Through this Russia obtained effective and long-term leverage over Ukraine’s main strategic decisions, including future moves on European integration.

Adding to these events recently in February 2022 Russia recognized 2 more breakaway republics from Ukraine- Luhansk, and Donetsk in the Donbas region thereby strengthening Russia’s intention of invading Ukraine. If Ukraine joins NATO, then its allies will be able to deploy defensive weapons and forces on its borders and Russia definitely does not want this. The indirect influence of the US through NATO over Ukraine and other former Russian allies is seen as a threat to Russia’s national security and its desire to join NATO topped the already hostile conditions between the two countries.

Take of different countries on Russia and Ukraine conflict

There is full support to Ukraine by NATO countries- Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy. The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal. The United Kingdom and the United States.

Germany and France made a hurried visit to Moscow recently to diffuse the controversy that has erupted. Luhansk and Donetsk as independent countries, Japan South Korea, Australia, and Canada all are supporting Ukraine. The United Nations general assembly passed a resolution strongly condemning Russia’s attack on Ukraine. 141 countries voted in support while 5 countries voted against the proposal including Belarus, North Korea East African countries ERITREA and Syria. 35 countries did not participate in the voting including India.

INDIA being neutral in this conflict

India has four options-India can choose to:

1. Condemn Russian aggression
2. Support Russian Aggression
3. Stay silent on Russian aggression
4. Express displeasure and call for diplomacy.

The first option will pit India against Russia, the second will pit India against the US and its allies, the third option will be read as pro-Russia, and the fourth option which India has taken is the least harmful. Cuba has extended its port to Putin as a close ally of the Russians. Both Russia and China are partners on a multi-dimensional basis, with a wide range of Cooperation from business to military to space. China aims to take diplomatic measures to strike a balance between western countries.

Germany has broken its long-standing foreign policy of banning all exports of lethal weapons to conflict zones and will deliver 1000 anti-attack rocket launchers, 500 stringer missiles, 10000 tonners of fuel to Ukraine.
The US announced a new Euro 350 million military aid package to Ukraine.
Canada announced the sending of military protective equipment.
India sent tons of humanitarian aid including medicines.

President Zelenskyy

Once known for his political comedy performances to being elected as the president of Ukraine in a landslide victory, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has surely come a long way. In his show ‘Servant of People’, Zelenskyy is portrayed as a principled and honest teacher who is unexpectedly elected as the President. The show itself was his campaign manifesto as it helped people visualize the kind of president he would be. Unlike other politicians who are just made of words and no real action, he promised that his reign would be different.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and many others criticized him for being inexperienced and new to politics. Therefore war-like situations might intimidate him, yet his response to the current crisis is praiseworthy.



When Russia invaded Ukraine, Zelenskyy addressed millions of Ukrainian and other people worldwide through a viral social media clip stating that he is standing his ground and staying in capital Kyiv. Following this other citizen also joined him in this patriotic war proving him as an efficient leader, uniting the nation and retaliating strongly.
He appealed to all nations and leaders to initiate a peaceful dialogue with Russia so that the threat of war can be eliminated. Diplomacy and dialogue were their only alternative but when this proved to be futile, he resorted to defending his country in military attire.
He turned down the US government’s offer to evacuate Kyiv and reached out to the west only for military aid saying “I need ammunition, not ride.”
Initially, Europe was hesitant to join Ukraine in the fight, but his striking speech, a replica of Winston Churchill’s wartime address, was heart-touching. In his words – “we are fighting just for our land and our freedom” his emotional words stimulated raw wounds and made it impossible for them to stay on the sidelines while Ukraine withered away in the war. "We will not surrender, we will not lose, we will go to the end," he added.
He also quoted Shakespeare’s Hamlet – “the question now is to be or not to be” and answered that definitely ‘It is yes, to be.’ He demanded increased sanctions against Russia and the imposition of the no-fly zone over Ukraine. His words brimming with emotion influenced many. The comedian surely knows his way through the hearts of his audience. His leadership and his courage have made the entire world sit up and take notice of his bravery and patriotism.

Operation Ganga

Since Ukraine is one of the favored destinations for medical education, many Indian students are studying there. After Ukraine closed its airspace, India started evacuating its citizens by launching “Operation Ganga”, via Romania and Hungary.
The first evacuation flight from Bucharest reached New Delhi with 249 nationals at 2:55 am (IST) on 27th February.
Four Union ministers were sent the next day to the neighboring countries to assist in prioritizing coordination with local authorities.
Airlines assisting the evacuation include the private carriers –Air India, Indigo, Air India express, and spice jet. Indian air force provided additional support multiple C-17 Globe masters utilized, along with Ilyushin 11-76 aircraft on standby.
Ministry of external affairs (MEA) on March 10 said, “happy to inform you that we have been able to move out all Indian students.”
The Indian mission also evacuated nine Bangladeshis from Ukraine. It also rescued Nepalis and Tunisian students.



THE AYODHYA VERDICT



The Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgement in the Ayodhya land dispute case on November 9, 2019. The five judge Supreme Court bench of CJI designate Sharad Arvind Bobde, Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice S. Abdul Nazeer led by Chief Justice Rajam Gogoi. The Supreme Court of India ordered the disputed land (2.77 acres) to be handed over to a trust to build the “Ram Janmabhoomi Temple”. The Court’s order brought an end to a long fought legal battle. The Court also ordered the government to give an alternative 5 acres of the land for the purpose of building a mosque as a replacement for the demolished Babri Masjid.

One of the Judges (not named) wrote a 116 page note that accompanies the verdict as an ‘addendum’. In this, the Judge opined that the ‘faith and belief of Hindus’ that the Lord Ram’s birth place ‘is a place where Babri Mosque has been constructed’ is ‘proved by documentary and oral evidence’.

The Judge referred to numerous oral statements, references to birth place in gazettes and even ‘scriptures and sacred religious books including Valmiki Ramayana and Skanda Purana, which faith and beliefs, cannot be held to be groundless.



TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE RAM MANDIR CASE-

- 1528-29: Mughal emperor Babar built a mosque, which is known as Babri Masjid.
- 1850s: Beginning of the dispute, communal violence took place. Hindu side sought possession of the site, however, denied by the then colonial rulers.
- 1949: An idol of Lord Rama was found inside the Babri mosque. This led to a protest from Muslims, after which both sides moved the Court and filed a civil suit. The state government had declared the entire area as ‘dispute’ and locked the gates until further orders.
- 1950: Two suits filed in Faizabad civil court by the Hindu side in which it sought permission to worship the idols of Ram Lalla.
- 1959: Nirmohi Akhara has filed the third suit claiming to be the stakeholder of the site.
- 1961: The Sunni Central Wakf Board of Uttar Pradesh moved the Court demanding the removal of idols and possession of the site.
- 1986: On the direction of the District Court, the lock was removed and was opened for the Hindus to worship.
- 1989: Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi led government allowed shilanyas at an ‘undisputed site’

- 1992: The demolition of the Babri Masjid took place on December 6, following which a riot took place between Hindus and Muslims. The Government of India set up the Liberhan Commission to probe the destruction of the disputed structure of the Babri Masjid.
- 1993: The Centre on April 3, passed 'Acquisition of certain area at Ayodhya Act' for the Acquisition of land in the disputed site.
- 1994: In a landmark Ismail Faruqi case on October 24, the Supreme Court of India had stated that a masjid was not integral to Islam.
- 2010: In a 2:1 majority, the Allahabad High court on September 30, had ruled a three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.
- 2011: The Supreme Court had put a stay order on the Allahabad High Court verdict.
- 2016: After the formation of the BJP government at the centre, former Union Minister Subramanian Swamy filed a petition in the apex Court seeking construction of Ram Temple at the site.
- 2017: On March 21, the then CJI JS Khehar had suggested out-of-court settlement among all the parties. On August 7, the top Court constituted three-judge bench to hear pleas challenging the 1994 verdict of the Allahabad High Court.
- 2019: The apex court had referred the case for mediation, asked the panel to complete all the required proceedings within 8 weeks. However, the panel failed to come to any conclusion.
- August 06, 2019: The top Court begins marathon hearing on a day-to-day basis. Hearing goes on for 40 days.
- October 16, 2019: The Supreme Court reserved its judgement in the case.
- November 09, 2019: The Supreme Court delivers its verdict. The Supreme Court ruled that the land belongs to Ram Lalla and ordered the government to provide an alternative five-acre land to the Sunni Waqf Board.
- December 12, 2019: The Supreme Court rejected multiple pleas for a review of its November 9 ruling handing over the land in Ayodhya to Ram Lalla.

In accordance with the Supreme Court verdict, the Uttar Pradesh government allotted a 5-acre plot in Dhannipur village along the Lucknow Ayodhya highway for the construction of a new mosque in Ayodhya district.

- February 19, 2020: Ram Mandir Trust appoints office bearers.
- August 5, 2020: PM Modi conducts Bhumi puja at Ayodhya for initiation of temple construction, lays foundation stone.

The government plans to complete the construction by 2024.

~Rishita Singh
Roll No. 10123

Women and The Farmers' Protest

The government introduced the new farming bills in September 2020 with ordinance. The three laws seek to do away with a guaranteed minimum price that farmers would get in exchange for their produce in government-run markets. If implemented, farmer groups have said that this policy will benefit large corporations over small farmers, forcing them to sell at low prices and effectively leaving them without any protection. At the same time, the climate crisis has already affected their incomes, with rising temperatures, droughts, and storms damaging crops across the country.

Hundreds of thousands of farmers along with their families and kids too have marched from India's three main farming states of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to set up camps at Delhi's Singhu and Tikri Border. They have settled camps at other main entry points of the nation's capital also. Along with men there are women as well. They are full of zeal and power.

For the women at New Delhi's borders, the significance of these protests has gone beyond the call to repeal the laws — they've become a symbol for the deeper, more structural issues in Indian agriculture, including the lack of recognition of women farmers and the denial of some of their rights. The image of Indian agriculture has been stereotypically male. In official records, too, male farmers are overwhelmingly the landowners.



Women are showing a strong presence at the protests. That's because women are often directly involved in the farming, harvesting, and storing of the crops. We can see women working in food grain markets. Across the country, agriculture employs about 44 percent of the workforce. According to the humanitarian group Oxfam, about 75 percent of rural women in India work full-time as farmers, but only about 13 percent own land due to patriarchal rules. There are lots of widows who work on farms as well, as suicide is a major issue among farmers.

However, these large numbers of women, in absence of land rights, are not recognized as farmers. The Census considers a person as a cultivator if they work on a piece of land, regardless of ownership. According to the National Sample Survey Office, a farmer is defined as a person who possessed some land and was engaged in agricultural activities on any part of that land for the last year. Further, without land titles, women farmers are also excluded from central schemes for farmers such as PM-KISAN, which ties the benefit to land for small and marginal farmers holding up to two hectares of land.



Kavitha Kuruganti, founder of the Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA), an informal alliance of more than 400 organizations, said the fact that there is visible participation of women now does not mean that they were absent from the farmers' movements and protests in the past. "Until now, women were invisible participants, supporting the movement back home — shouldering their double-gendered responsibility of running their homes and keeping the farms alive, while the men participated in protests," she said.

Role of women in farmer's protest has been trivialized by celebrities, media and even the supreme court. During the hearing on January 11, Chief Justice of India SA Bobde was quoted by Live Law as saying: "We don't understand either why old people and women are kept in the protests. Anyway, that is a different matter." Reacting to this statement, Jasvir Kaur Natt, State Committee Member of Punjab Kisan Union said "Use of word 'kept' by the Chief Justice referring to the women at the protests is offensive. It implies that women are an object which has been brought to the protest forcibly. As if they have no ability to think on their own." But for these revolutionary women leaders, it was either repeal the three laws or nothing.

Women are an integral part of this movement. From handling funds to daily accounts and stage management Jasvir Kaur Natt starts her daily routine at 10:00 a.m. and joins the meeting of 12 Punjab Kisan unions and 3-4 Haryana unions. In those meetings they decide who will manage the stage and allocate time to several unions to address the protestors. Following this she also makes the notes in her register for these duties.

Navkiran Natt, member of All India Student Union has managed to launch a unique voice called 'Trolley Times' in order to bring a single voice along with her core group members.

The protests are historic not only because they're breaking gender barriers, but those of caste, too. In rural areas, caste hierarchies mean that women from the lower caste seldom occupy public spaces with men. But in the farmers' protest, women from the conservative state of Uttar Pradesh who are used to being covered in 'Ghunghats', or veils, are out on the streets, and those from the patriarchal Jat community in Haryana are taking part in tractor rallies — which may inspire other groups of women.

~Snow Saadgi
Roll No. 10562

Everything you need to know about The Pegasus Scam



Telephone numbers of some 40 Indian journalists figure in a Leaked list of potential targets for surveillance and forensic tests were said to have confirmed that some of them were successfully snooped upon by an unidentified agency using Pegasus software.

The Wire, an independent news website has reported.

Indian ministers, government officials and opposition leaders also figure in the list of people whose phones may have been compromised by the spyware, The Wire, which conducted the investigation along with international partners, claimed. The leaked telephone numbers included correspondents and writers from the Hindustan Times, The Hindu, India Today, Indian Express and Network18. Vijaita Singh, who works for The Hindu’s national bureau, also figures in the list, which includes journalists like Shishir Gupta, Siddharth Vardarajan, M.K. Venu, Sushant Singh, Rohini Singh, Muzamil Jaleel, Ritika Chopra and Swati Chaturvedi.

The spyware Pegasus is apparently sold to governments around the world by NSO group, an Israeli company. It can be used to snoop on phones that run on Android and iOS systems.

Seventeen international media groups, including The Guardian and The Washington Post, led the investigation into how Pegasus was used to allegedly extract messages and information from the phones of journalists, politicians and activists. The Supreme Court has taken a very serious notice of this violation of privacy.

“The state cannot get a free pass every time by raising national security concerns. No omnibus prohibition can be called against judicial review,” the judges said.

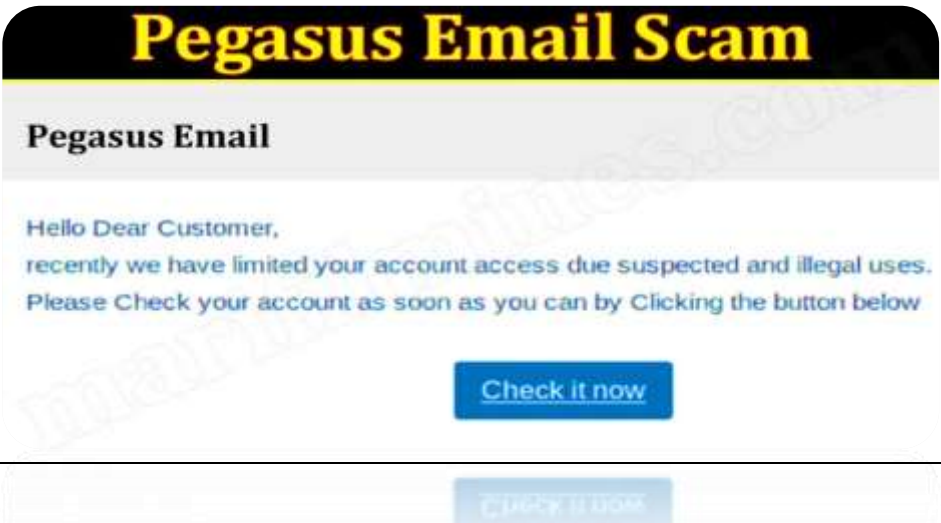
Siddharth Varadarajan, the founder-editor of the Indian non-profit website the Wire, who worked with the Guardian on the Pegasus project, welcomed the decision. “It’s a good start. The Supreme Court has rightly refused to buy the government’s ‘national security’ logic,” he said.

The expert group will have powers to call witnesses and seek documents as part of its fact-finding mission, and can issue adverse findings against individuals or the government if they decline to cooperate. The court listed another hearing date after the committee’s reporting deadline, indicating that it intended to continue pursuing the issue. Indian lawyers have argued that the Pegasus spyware, which inserts malicious code into a smartphone’s operating system that allows it to take control of the device, is a clear example of hacking and therefore the use of it may be illegal, regardless of who it has been deployed against.

Lawyers and privacy advocates welcomed the decision, which they said had wider implications for the government’s accountability on “security issues”. “We’ve seen traditionally in India that [the government] would just cite national security and the court would adopt a hands-off approach,” said Vrinda Bhandari, a lawyer involved in the Pegasus case.

“It’s one of the first times that the court has taken this strong view that you can’t have a ritualistic incantation of ‘national security’ ... The mere fact the government is citing national security is not enough – the court is requiring it to back its case up with some kind of detail.”

Well, it feels like we are all under surveillance so we would like to warn you all: Savdhan Rahen, Satark Rahen.



~Sukhmani Bedi
Roll No. 10067

~Tanvi
Roll No. 10171

Caste and Politics: A Long-Standing Battle

The fight for equality has long been used to fuel the political fire not only in India but also globally. People in the contemporary world have incessantly fought against discrimination based on gender, race, caste, creed and continue to do so. India's caste system has long survived the social hierarchy as it is a defining feature of the Hindu religion where the people are divided into groups based on their hereditary works. This evil has degraded society as a whole and makes us question the very basis of our religion.

Initially, a disproportionately large number of upper-caste people occupied the political and administrative offices as compared to their lower caste counterparts. This access to power and resources eventually led to the practice of vote bank, where voters back only those candidates that belong to their caste in order to extract benefits. The system of reservations, deemed as a necessary evil, is also a direct result of this very prevalent caste system. At that time, it was considered necessary to safe guard the interests of people from the lower castes, freeing them from oppression. But this approach has not bridged the gap between different castes in the society, as it was supposed to, rather the opposite happened. However, in the present-day scenario economic development, growth of literacy and education has reduced the emphasis on caste system. But this caste-based politics comes to light every now and then where the vote bank of every party prospers through exploiting caste and religious aspects of society. This practice started initially in the form of separate electorates introduced by the colonial administrators which has since then impacted the integrity of our nation starting with the partition of 1947.



This caste-based tussle has recently come to light in the land of Sikh gurus whose teachings have served humanity not just in theory but actually in purpose through ideals of integrity and brotherhood. Charanjit Singh Channi was selected by the congress leaders to replace Capt. Amrinder Singh, making Channi the first CM of Punjab from the lowest stratum of society. On one hand it was a big blow to generations of oppression faced by the socially backward and on the other hand it showed the changing dynamics of political power in the country. But he is often addressed as 'Dalit' CM or 'Dalit' congress leader which is not a part of Overcoming social prejudice rather another glorification of caste-based politics. Bringing up the caste of a designated person repeatedly does not mean that we are surpassing caste bias rather in this case highlights the significance of it. The Caste System has always adopted an introverted and exclusive approach - Why is it that the elevation of Channi as the Chief Minister is looked upon as a hope for empowerment of the oppressed and not society as a whole.

What must change is our mindset because Equality brought through power is the same as suppression brought through the lack of it and 'equality' in its truest sense is not achieved.

Caste based political prejudices can be halted in their tracks if we simply understand the difference between equality and fairness. Equality means providing every individual the same opportunities to improve his rank or condition in life. Fairness on the other hand is the quality of having an unbiased disposition, the characteristic of being just to everyone, of treating them without discrimination or partiality. We are insanely trying to strive for equality, whereas our goal should really be to be fair to all. If equality and discrimination are not understood well, they are both the same. What should be glorified is not the caste or community of a person but rather his work and talent and the caste terminology should be abolished. Choosing political leaders should be more about choices, values and education rather than caste and religion.

In 1995, Mayawati became the first SC Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and also country's first Woman SC Chief Minister. She then coined the term "*bhaichara*" or brotherhood signifying that any community minority or majority cannot capture power by itself, votes other than caste votes are also needed to become electorally effective. The policy of divide and rule has never been helpful, people must not be therefore seen as groups of caste and religion rather as individuals. This long-term practice of caste politics should be shunned and development at an individual, state and national level should be made the prime objective. Real victory lies in upliftment of society as a whole, to look at a person irrespective of their social background and acknowledge their merit and social output.

~Asmita Chauhan
Roll No. 10370

FAKE NEWS ALERT!

And how many times you actually fell for "WHATSAPP UNIVERSITY"?



Social Media:

With a surfeit of hate speech, trolling and attacks on minorities, Dalits and women, social media is a polarized and dark place.

Twitter— Nearly 20 million Twitter accounts are fake.

WhatsApp—owned messaging service, remains the largest carrier of fake news and hoaxes in its biggest market.

Facebook—has nearly 90 million fake accounts. Internal studies show Facebook is used to spread religious hatred.

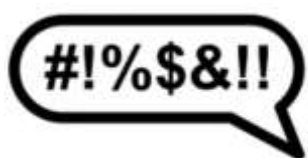
YouTube— owned by Google, hosts a lot of fake news and controversial content, but doesn't attract the same amount of attention.

Data:

National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) data shows 214% rise in cases relating to fake news and rumors. A total of 1,527 cases of fake news were recorded in the pandemic year — a 214 per cent increase — against 486 cases in 2019 and 280 cases in 2018, when the category was first included.

Politicians' False Propaganda:

According to a study that has been conducted by a user of the social media portal Reddit who goes by the username ‘/u/on osmosis’—Nearly 18,000 Twitter accounts spread ‘fake news’ for BJP, 147 do it for Congress. It has become a new normal for politicians to spread misinformation. Remember the very famous clipped video, "Potato-Gold-Machine", a misinterpretation of Rahul Gandhi's speech taken out of the context.



Hate speech in India linked to RSS accounts:

FB whistle-blower, Haugen, a former Facebook data scientist, recently told the US Congress that the social media giant 'promotes global division and ethnic violence', including in India. Her main claims on Facebook's work in India are that pages associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) promoted “fear mongering, anti-Muslim narratives”.



Riots:

Fake news is frequently used to target minorities and has become a significant cause of localized violence as well as large scale riots.

Engineered mass violence was instigated during the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, through a disinformation campaign propagating the love jihad conspiracy theory and circulating fake news video. Also, Internal Facebook company researchers identified calls to violence that coincided with 2020 riots in Delhi that left 53 dead.

Elderly people more susceptible to Fake News:

Misinformation on social media is often fueled by older adults, who share fake news and dubious links more than other age groups—up to seven times more than their younger counterparts. WhatsApp fake forwards play a major role due to its wide popularity and easy access.

Fact-checking Websites:

With massive rise in spread of fake news, various forces have come into action to counter such activities. Fact-checking is a process that seeks to verify factual information, in order to promote the veracity and correctness of reporting.



Alt News:

Alt News is an Indian non-profit fact checking website founded and run by former software engineer Pratik Sinha and Muhammed Zubair. It was launched on 9 February 2017 to combat the phenomenon of fake news. It now provides a WhatsApp number where people can forward content to be fast-checked.



WebQoof:

The Quint is an English and Hindi language Indian general news and opinion website founded by Raghav Bahl and Ritu Kapur after their exit from Network18. The Quint operates WebQoof, International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)-certified fact-checking initiative which strives to provide its readers with stories that are 100% accurate.

~Shelza
Roll No. 10238

Sports Corner

- NEERAJ CHOPRA 23
- DISCIPLINE: JAVELINTHROW
- QUALIFYING RUN: 87.86m throw in January 2020 at TOKYO
- ACHIEVEMENT: •Gold at Asian Games in 2016
- Common wealth Games in 2018
- National record 88.07m



1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze- India produced its richest ever medal haul and the finest performance of all time at the Tokyo Olympics. India's sports persons made nation proud and gave us something to cheer about in the dark times of a deadly pandemic.

Javelin Throw	Neeraj Chopra	Gold
Wrestling	Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Silver
Weight Lifting	Mirabai Chanu	Silver
Women's Single Badminton	PV Sindhu	Bronze
Women Welterweight Boxing	Lovelina Borgohain	Bronze
Hockey	Indian Hockey Team	Bronze
Wrestling	Bajarang Punia	Bronze



THE SPORTS STARS OF PGGCG 11:

1. Ashima Sharma: Class BA 1

* **ACHIEVEMENTS**: Gold medal in Nationals of Inline Hockey,

Silver medal in State Championship Inline Hockey.

* **PLACE**: Skating rink Sector -10 Chandigarh



2. Jyoti Maurya: Class BA 3

***EVENT**: JUDO

***ACHIEVEMENTS**: Silver medal (Senior state)

***TOURNAMENT**: Chandigarh State sub-junior cadet, Junior and Senior Championship 2020-21



3. Ritu Bissyan: Class- BA 3

***EVENT**: JUDO

***ACHIEVEMENTS**: Gold medal (Junior state)

***TOURNAMENT**: Chandigarh State sub-junior cadet, Junior and Senior Championship 2021



4. Shivani: Class –BA 2

***EVENT**: JUDO

* **ACHIEVEMENTS**: 2 Bronze medals (Junior and Senior State)

***TOURNAMENT**: Chandigarh State sub-junior and Senior Championship 2020-21



5. NIDHI: Class –BA 3

***ACHIEVEMENTS**: Bronze medal (Senior)

***TOURNAMENT**: State Netball Championship



6. RUPALI: Class- BA 3

***ACHIEVEMENTS**: Bronze medal (Senior)

***TOURNAMENT**: State Netball Championship.



~ Shashi
Roll No. 10142

Youth Festival and Co-curricular Activities

Eighth consecutive winning streak at PU Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival. The Panjab University Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival once again witnessed the shining glory of Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector 11, Chandigarh. Out of the nine colleges from Chandigarh and Ludhiana, PGGCG-11 won the overall trophy continuing the winning streak since 2013. Dramatists, music, dance, and literary debating teams contributed to the overall trophy of the college. The students showcased their talent in quiz and revived the lost art of handicrafts in Guddi making, khiddo making, Chhikku making, etc. The singers and the instrumentalists from the college spell-bound the audience and bagged the first prize too. The idea behind organizing this festival is to give students a platform to display their talent and to create awareness about sensitive contemporary issues. The fest not only enlightened and entertained everyone but gave the students many memories to cherish their college days.



Azadi Ka Mahotsav

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture, and achievements.

As a part of this nationwide agenda, Post Graduate Government College for Girls, Sector 11, Chandigarh actively participated in 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' by organizing various activities and awareness campaigns.

Under the guidance and continued support of our Principal madam Prof. (Dr.) Anita Kaushal the Department of Psychology arranged the lecture series on 'Contribution of military psychology to the Armed Forces and Society' & 'Career Opportunity for the students in the field of Military'. The students of BA 2, Functional English showcased their creative potential in the form of a documentary on Unsung Heroes/freedom fighters in India. The Red Ribbon Society also organized a poster making the drive as a part of the awareness generation and sensitization programme. The whole purpose of these programs was to enhance the feelings of patriotism and their love and respect for the nation.



~ Snow Saadgi
Roll No. 10562

SONG REVIEW

BTS 'Butter' is a cool, crisp summer anthem that doubles as a potent shot of self-confidence.

The Korean superstars return with their second English-language single.

During hard times, relief comes in many forms. In the last year alone, BTS who have been also given the title 'Living Treasure' by the President of Korea have proved themselves as masters of all, whether they were sharing relatable stories of struggle to make you feel less alone on 'Life Goes On' or blasting away the blues with a positive outlook and the addictive energy to match with the Grammy-nominated 'Dynamite'.

'Butter', the Korean superstars' second fully English single, doesn't come backed with lofty aims of changing moods or mindsets. Instead, it focuses on one simple, humble aim: enjoy and have fun.' Butter' is a perfect song for this New Year's party. It's a clean and crisp piece of dance pop that's undeniably cool without sacrificing immediacy or memorable hooks.



From the very beginning, the group intersperses the lyrics' central romantic narrative with equally sweet declarations of self-confidence. The rap line adds a refreshing take to the song. But more than any other lyrics, the BTS ARMY will always remember RM's verse, "Got ARMY Right Behind us When we Say So". BTS' 'Butter' compliments its catchy lyrics with its impeccable dance moves. The styling of the group and the sets are the cherry on the cake.' Butter' has recently won the American Music Award for Favorite Pop Song, MTV Music Award for Best Song of the Year and has been nominated for Best Pop Duo\Performance for Butter. So, to conclude this dance track's review, one has to say: The hair colors have changed but BTS' potential to produce a hit single remains untouched.

MOVIE REVIEW

Gangubai Kathiawadi- a gusty true crime drama



This hard-hitting story of the lives of sex workers, who rose through the ranks of 60s ganglands of Mumbai showcases a magnetic performance by Alia Bhatt.

Based on S Hussain Zaidi and Jane Borges' hard-hitting book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai', 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' chronicles Ganga's rise to power and fame from a demure small-town girl in Gujarat, to the undisputed queen of Kamathipura in Mumbai. Women invitingly standing at the doorstep of a kotha (brothel) in the bustling by lanes of South Mumbai's infamous red-light area Kamathipura, is a scene that is real, tragic and dramatic. Director Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi', set entirely against this gritty backdrop of Mumbai, tells the story of many young women who were sold off to brothels for a few hundred, solely through the eyes of its protagonist Gangubai (Alia Bhatt).

Set in the early 1950s or 1960s, a starry-eyed and naive Ganga is conned by her own lover Ramnik (Varun Kapoor) to elope with a promise that he will pave the path for her to make it as a heroine in Bollywood. What turns out is that Ganga (who rechristens herself as Gangu, and eventually Gangubai), ends up being the heroine of Kamathipura instead. Over the years, Kamathipura becomes her home, the brothel girls her family and all of Kamathipura her domain. But her journey is fraught with challenges, opponents and a social stigma that brings out the fighter within her.

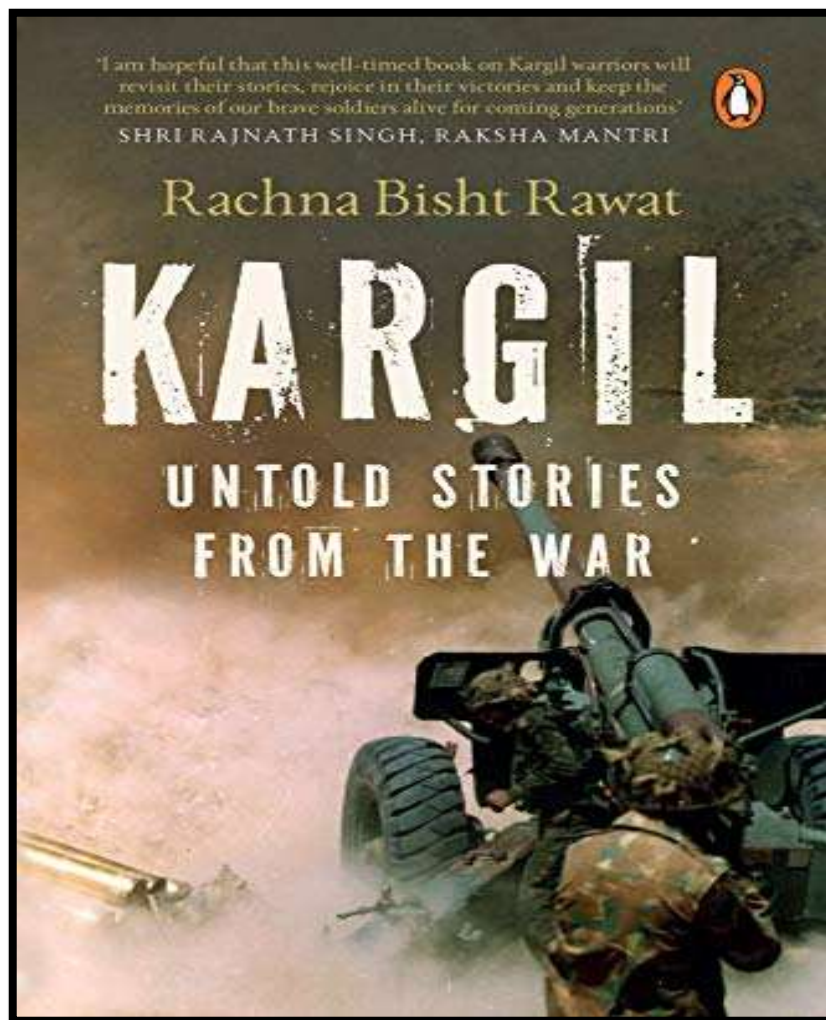
The beauty of the film lies in how it shows Gangu's character transform through various stages in her life. The narrative takes time to build up, even slowing down along the way, but not without leaving an impact through some fiery dialogues and powerful moments. It's an Alia Bhatt show all the way, as she slips into the role of the boss lady in a world full of brothels and lustful men. It might take a while to feel comfortable with the idea of Alia playing this part, and she too takes her time to settle in. She does deliver the much-loaded dialogues with supreme confidence, audacity and a killer instinct. What's unmissable and strange in all of this, while the narrative moves ahead, is that the physical appearance of Alia's character, always clad in pretty whites, remains unchanged. Ajay Devgan, even in a brief role as Rahim Lala, leaves a solid impact. The rest of the supporting cast like Seema Pahwa, Vijay Raaz, and Jim Sarbh put their best foot forward, but don't have much room to shine. Shantanu Maheshwari as Gangu's love interest delivers a fine performance, and the bitter-sweet moments between Gangu and him are among the more memorable parts of the film.

Bhansali drives his narrative much like the book with each challenge and episode moving like a chapter. While there is a lot packed into the film — like how Gangu turns into an activist for the women in Kamathipura, her liaison with the city's underbelly and her political aspirations — we are still left craving to know more about the rest of her life and how it all unfolded. There are some beautifully crafted, heartbreaking moments in Bhansali's signature style — with a lot of finesse and flair — however, the narrative does not delve deep into any one aspect of Gangu's life. The production value is top-notch. The film skillfully pays homage to the bygone era through movie posters and actor portraits of that time plastered on the walls. Each song is masterfully and colourfully picturised — even while Gangu stands like a vision in white in the midst of it all. But none of the songs, other than Dholida, are too memorable.

Like every other Bhansali film, this one, too, is a visual delight. While the camera captures the dark alleys of Mumbai's red-light area, it does so with extravagance and ample gloss. Yes, the story brings to the fore some poignant truths about our society, the lives of sex-workers and raises some hard-hitting and pertinent questions, but there is plenty about her life that remains untold. The screenplay is what falters here, by simply holding on to some well-designed dramatic scenes and heavy-duty dialogues, which keep you engaged for a while. But after a point, the film feels too long for its runtime. If you're seeking a real peek into Gangubai's life, also known as Mumbai's Mafia Queen, then you will be left yearning for more. But even with whatever is packed into this drama, there are enough moments that will draw you into this world where nights seem endless and the lights never fade.

~Vaishali Ghai
Roll No. 10137

BOOK REVIEW



"KARGIL - Untold Stories from The War" written by Rachna Bisht Rawat. Published by Penguin ebury Press; 288 pages
Rs 237 (paperback): Rs 136 (Kindle edition)

Each page unwinds an adventure. The language is lucid and can be read by any age group. The book is gripping and laden with interesting facts and images as well.

This book is all about the Kargil War, which was fought on mountainous terrain, and the exemplary valour shown by the Indian Army.

This book is a tribute to all the 527 young soldiers who were martyred and over 1000 wounded personnel. This book gives in-depth insights of the battlefield. The last letters from war zone, the war cries, the stories of severely injured soldiers, leaves the reader heavy hearted and after the last bullet, the reader too, rejoices in the victory.

This book is a collection of vivid memories of the Kargil Warriors and their families, which are very heart touching. It's been said, that behind every strong soldier there is even stronger family, very true to this sentence, the families of martyrs, face the loss of their loved ones with courage and dignity. The agony of the old parents who are still fighting for the justice for their martyred son who was tortured in the enemy's custody. The courageous mother who lost her son during the war, but still puts aside her pain and advises the Indian Army not to risk another soldier's life just to retrieve her son's dead body. The retired colonel who glorifies his son's death by saying he was fortunate to die on the battlefield. There are many such stories in this book, that keep the reader engrossed.

This book also unveils the many unsung heroes of the war, like, the doctor with the maroon beret who pledged that "no man who comes to me alive, will be allowed to die", the civilians of the war zone, who joined the Indian Army as a volunteer. AIR Leh and Kargil kept the radio station running even amidst war situation to control the rumours perpetrated by Radio Pakistan. All these unsung heroes deserve huge respect.

The book also expresses how strong the Indian Army is ethically as well. During the war they treated the injured enemy soldiers and also cremated the dead soldiers with all due respect. Not only this, the Indian Army also endorsed the enemy soldier's bravery. Even the family of the late Pakistani soldiers appreciated the moral values of the Indian Army.

This book has a wonderful line written...

"Soldiers don't die on battlefields; they die when ungrateful nations forget their sacrifice." And this book will surely make the reader realize how much grit and determination it takes to protect the nation.

I would definitely recommend this book to any Indian to keep alive, the flame of passion for the nation. Let's never forget that, they gave up them today for our tomorrow.

"Our Flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."

According to me the book is a must read for anyone who is interested in the politics behind war, its human cost and the strategies involved on the battlefield.

**~Sukhmani Bedi
Roll No. 10067**

UPCOMING MOVIES

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness

2022 Sci-fi/Adventure

Release Date: 6 May 2022

Director: Sami Raimi

Music Director: Danny Elfman

Production Company: Marvel Studio, Truenorth Productions.

Producers: Kevin Feige.

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Elizabeth Olsen, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Benedict Wong, Xochitl Gomez, Michael Stuhlbarg, Rachel McAdams



Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness opens in the Theaters on May 6

Plot:

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness is an upcoming American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character Doctor Strange. Dr. Stephen Strange casts a forbidden spell that opens the door to the multiverse, including an alternate version of himself, whose threat to humanity is too great for the combined forces of Strange, Wong, and Wanda Maximoff.

After the events of *Avengers: Endgame*, Dr. Stephen Strange continues his research on the Time Stone. But an old friend turned enemy seeks to destroy every sorcerer on Earth, messing with Strange's plan, causing him to unleash an unspeakable evil.

With an established fan-base for the Marvel Movies, *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* is much awaited with great anticipation.

Prithviraj

Release Date: 10 June 2022

Directed By: Chandraprakash Dwivedi

Written By: Chandraprakash Dwivedi

Produced By: Aditya Chopra

Starring: Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Sonu Sood, Manushi Chhillar

Cinematography: Manush Nandan

Edited By: Aarif Sheikh

Music By: Score-Sanchit Balhara, Ankit Balhara

Songs-Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy

Production Companies: Yash Raj Films

Country: India

Language: Hindi

Plot:

A biopic on legendary Hindu warrior king Prithviraj Chauhan including his early military successes, love story with Sanyogita and clashes with Muhammad of Ghor, a ruler of the Muslim Ghurid dynasty who led the Islamic Conquest of Hindustan. *Prithviraj* will release worldwide on June 10, 2022. Superstar Akshay Kumar is essaying the role of the legendary warrior who fought valiantly against the merciless invader Muhammad of Ghor whereas the gorgeous Manushi plays the role of his beloved Sanyogita and Sonu Sood will be portraying as Chand Barai. Lastly, legendary actor Sanjay Dutt will be playing the role of a blind man in the film. He will be seen as Akshay Kumar's uncle. Now, it will be interesting to see Sanjay Dutt getting into the skin of such a character.



~ Laishram Channu Sushama

Roll No.10195

MENTAL HEALTH

Humans have a habit of constant worrying and forgetting about mental health, which is a topic of utmost importance nowadays. Despite the high disease burden, mental illness has thus far not achieved commensurate visibility, policy attention or funding. While significant progress has been made in terms of prioritising mental health globally, debates around the definition of mental illness and continued impact of stigma remain.



Why is it important to talk about mental health?

Talking about mental health helps to improve our communities by making it more acceptable for those suffering from mental illness to seek help, learn to cope, and get on the road to recovery. In addition, mental health isn't just about mental illness. It's about maintaining a positive state of well-being. Good mental health allows is to adapt to changes in our life and to work productively.

Higher Education Institutions and stress

A student has to deal with pressure from many directions a certain level of challenges makes a person work, complete and progress but beyond the limit they cause anxiety, depression, substance abuse and even attempt to suicide. Students may experience stress due to several factors like workload, relationship between friends and peers, teachers, parents, job and career aspiration and financial problem. A study was carried out to find the main factors responsible for stress among students in higher education institutions. The results showed that career and financial crisis were the main causes of stress. The next prominent factor of stress were academics and workload.

FOMO - FEAR OF MISSING OUT

The idea that you are missing out on certain things can impact your self-esteem, trigger anxiety and feel even greater on social media. FOMO can compel you to pick up your phone every few minutes to check for updates even if that means taking risks while you are driving, missing out on sleep at night or prioritising social media interaction over real world relationships. A study at the University of Pennsylvania found that high usage of Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram increase the feeling of loneliness and not using them can improve overall well-being. The more you prioritise social media interaction over the real world the more you are at risk of developing mood disorders i.e., anxiety and depression.

COVID-19

Covid-19, caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2, and measures taken to curb its spread have profoundly affected every aspect of day-to-day life around the world. Early indications suggest a serious impact on employment and livelihood, income and personal dept. The lockdown has disproportionately hurt marginalized communities due to loss of livelihood, lack of food, shelter, health and other basic needs.

Just the fact of someone wondering if he or she is positive for covid-19 is like having a stigma and something that is threatening to his life and affects, of course, his behaviour. We know very well that panic leads to bad behaviour and to

psychosomatic problems as well and that brings on somatic problems very easily. We have to handle it carefully. If doctors have to deal with people who are in panic, they have to be well supported. In this, the stress is of course, doubled. They deal with people who at the end have the coronavirus but they have to stay calm, go through dos and don'ts without stressing themselves out. There is no cure for mental illness but there are lots of effective treatments.

Treatment for mental illness



In today's world, we are bombarded by society's standards and expectations. It is for this reason that we develop a positive self-image and value ourself. A strong mind, free from burden of expectations, is achieved when one is able to detach from external labels and make choices for oneself. Treatments for mental illness include lifestyle changes, support groups, medication and therapy. Medication and therapy require working with professionals but there are also lots of things you can do on your own.

- It is no surprise that the more you help your body, the more you help your mind. Being active releases chemicals in your brain that makes you feel good and boost your self-esteem and help you concentrate as well.
- You can often achieve a sense of peace by visualization, the process of picturing a tranquil scene or location. This practice can reduce tension in both your body and your brain by challenging neurons in less dominant area of brain. When you think about something other than your daily worries, you increase activity in neural structure of that area of your brain.
- Positive affirmation is yet another means to increase mental proficiency. According to Alzheimer's Association research shows that keeping your brain active increases its vitality. Doing new things in new ways appeared to help retain brain cells and connections. In essence, breaking out of your routine can help keep your brain healthy.
- Reading is great activity because it stokes the imagination and ignites different parts of the brain.

As young adults who are part of an increasingly complex world, mental health is of great importance in dealing with nitty-gritties of life. Mental health is not a debilitating condition and with the right help and support an individual can lead a full happy and meaningful life style.

**~Cheetakshi Sharma
10658**

Influence of the Asian Cuisine

The authenticity in the culture and tradition of Asia stands out from the rest of the continents. And the Asian cuisine strikes as one which is extremely luscious and robust with the practice of sustainable cooking. Consisting of diverse nations, varying cultures with deep rooted traditions, Asia stands as one of the most impactful continents in the world. Widely known for in the technological arena, policy and business outreach, the cultures along with its cuisines are also making a mark in the world. Mouth-watering delicacies from Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Thai cuisines to name a few are fast gaining popularity courtesy web shows and online gaming. The advancement in technology has nonetheless procured a wide array of audiences between 2000-2010. Distribution of cinematic movies and series all over the world won the hearts of millions across the world. And with it came attention towards the food culture and style of Asian nations. The following gives an account of some enriching food for thought from some selected countries.

Asian Cuisine:

Food stands as an important part of cultural heritage and national identity, it connects various people across the globe, bringing their friends, and family close. The depiction of various scrumptious victuals in popular dramas and movies has proved to be indicative of the popularity of Asian cuisine.

Korean cuisine without a doubt resides in the hearts of everyone who watch K-dramas and K-pop these days. The advent of **Mukbang** since 2010 gives a huge helping hand in the spread of these various customs. The sight of the food habits and the number of dishes leaves the viewers in awe, giving rise to an urge to taste the good food being displayed.



Korean cuisine dates back centuries and is largely based upon grains, fruits, legumes, seasoning and condiments, *gochujang*, meat, vegetables and many more. Among hundreds of the Korean food items that exist, some are as follows, **Bibimbap**; *bibim* stands for mixing of rice whereas *bap* stands for rice, it is a dish served with rice and cooked vegetables and meat, **Japchae**; it is a savory sweet on a barbecue, **Naengmyeon**; dish made of stir-fried glass noodles and vegetables,



Samgyeopsal; slices of fatty pork belly, **Bulgogi**- it is marinated slices of beef or pork grilled, **Bossam**, **Kongguksu**, **Kimchi**, **Tteokbokki**, **Pajeon**, **Jjajangmyeon**, **Gimbap** and more.

An important part of **Chinese culture** is Chinese cuisine. Its main food staples include rice, soy sauce, noodles, tea, chili oil, tofu etc. Some of the Authentic Chinese Cuisines are as follows, **Dimsums**- they are steamed or fried dumplings with a variety of vegetarian or non- vegetarian fillings, **stir fried tofu**, **Cong You Bing** (*scallion pancakes*), **Gong Bao Chicken**- it is a stir-fried chicken dish, **Baozi**- it is a yeast leavened filled buns, **Mapo Tofu**, **Char Siu**- it is a Cantonese style barbecued pork, **Zhajiangmian**, **Hong Shao Shi Zi Tou**, **Wontons** **Hot Pot** and the list goes on.



Japanese cuisine offers a wide array of distinctive dishes prepared from using traditional recipes and local ingredients. To begin with, who doesn't know of **Sushi** all across the planet, followed by **Ramyeon** and **Sashimi**, **Yakisob**- it is a stir-fried noodle dish, **Tempura**- batter fried seafood, meat and vegetables, **Kobe Beef Steak**, **Takoyaki**, **Sukiyaki**, **Onigiri**, **Sake**, **Oden**, **Donburi** and more.



The unique taste and characteristics of a country's dishes is an integral part of its culture. Through accessibility of Korean food for example, people are able to understand and learn about Korean culture. In this rapidly evolving world, people are slowly but surely impacted by the unique taste of food from Asia.

~ Aribam Yeeshika Sharma
Roll No. 10194

Superstitions that Indians Follow Blindly

We live in a country where more than half the population literally thrives on baseless superstition. All of us have also been brought up with a set of weird superstitions and most of them simply defy logic. Yet, there are many who refuse to question their rationality and continue to live in blind faith. Only Indian superstitions will tell you that crow shit is actually good for you. And it weirder than this!

Here are some superstitions which don’t make sense, but we Indians follow blindly.

1. *Indians believe that cutting nails and hair on Saturdays brings bad luck.*



Indians believe that it’s inauspicious to cut hair and nails on Saturday because it angers planet Saturn (Shani), which then brings bad luck. However, ask people who cut their hair and nails on Saturdays, and we bet they will tell you their hair looked better and their nails neater, and no planet hovered above them with bad luck.

2. *If a black cat crosses your path, then your tasks get delayed or postponed.*



Poor black cats. They are blamed just for being black (no racist joke here). It’s a popular belief in the west too that, if a black cat crosses your path, it’s a bad omen. For the west, the origin of this superstition came from Egypt. Egyptian culture believe that black cats were evil creatures, whereas the Indians explanation is that black represents ‘Shani’ and therefore brings bad luck. It is said that if a black cat crosses your path, then your day’s tasks get delayed or postponed.

3. *Omitting the 13th floor from the building.*

No explanation for this one, because number 13 is just considered unlucky. Ancient Christianity declared the number thirteen unlucky and therefore till date apartments and hotels skip the thirteenth floor. Even Chandigarh did not have a Sector 13 for a very long time.

4. *Sweeping floors in the evening drives away Lakshmi from the home.*

Even if your room is filthy, your mom will not let you sweep the floor in the evening. That’s because Hindus believe that Goddess Lakshmi generally visits homes during the evenings, and therefore sweeping will drive away her away. This is, of course, assuming that Goddess Lakshmi has a problem with basic hygiene.

5. *Teen tigada, kaam bigada.*



According to the phrase, ‘teen tigada, kaam bigada’, anything above two gets difficult to handle. And that a discussion is always better between two people rather than three. However, this was misinterpreted as three being unlucky.

6. *Eye Twitching.*



It is considered that the right eye twitching is good for men, and the left one brings good news for women.

7. *Crows shit brings luck.*



We’re not making up shit if we tell you that crow shit is considered lucky. Indians believe that crow shit brings ‘laabh’ and that money is on the way. If that was the case, then crows would have been the best pets, no?

8. *Putting a small spot of Kajal on a baby’s forehead to care of ‘buri nazar/evil eye’.*



To drive away 'buri nazar', babies are smeared with black kohl. A tikka on the forehead and cheek is believed to ward off the evil eye.

We have grown up hearing and at times adhering to these and many other superstitions. Superstitions are usually attributed to lack of education; however, this has not always been the case in India, as there are many educated people with beliefs considered superstitious by the public. Being part of tradition and religion, these beliefs and practices have been passed down from one generation to another for centuries. The Indian government has tried to put new laws prohibiting such practices into effect. Due to the rich history of superstition, these laws often face a lot of opposition from the general public and critics argue that the Indian constitution do not prohibit such acts.

**~Manu Chauhan
Roll No. 10136**

The People We Lost...

Ma'am Shashi Joshi

A shockwave hit the PGGCG-11 family on 28th October 2021, when the former Head of the Department of Public Administration, Ma'am Shashi Joshi aged 62 lost her courageous battle with lung cancer.

Ma'am Joshi is survived by her husband. She hailed from Jodhpur, Rajasthan and later settled in Chandigarh where she got her education from Government Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 16 CHD. and M.C.M D.A.V. College CHD. A perfectionist in whatever she did, ma'am had rendered her services as a teacher at GCM and later at PGGCG-11 for more than 18 years.

Being popular among students, she would always counsel them, which even helped in solving their personal problems. She was indeed a role model and a positive influencer for the GCGians. She always strove for excellence and was committed towards the betterment of the college. She founded the Red Ribbon Club which created awareness regarding HIV-AIDS and encouraged people to donate blood. She was also the Staff Secretary for 4 years. Her pleasant personality and contagious smile touched everyone she met. Ma'am Shashi Joshi will be sorely missed by fondly remembered by the entire GCG family.

Ma'am you are not forgotten,
Nor will you ever be,
As long as life and memory lasts,
Your soul will live in us,
We'll miss you now,
Our heart is sore,
As time goes by, we'll miss you more.
Your loving smile, your gentle face
No one can fill, your vacant place...



(1959-2021)

Ma'am Sudha Vashisht



(1961-2020)

Ma'am Sudha Vashisht aged 59, left for her heavenly abode in the year 2020 after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband and two sons.

Ma'am Sudha hailed from Haryana and had been a successful educator for more than 32 years. She started to render her services in PGGCG-11, Chandigarh in the Department of Zoology as an Assistant Professor in 2003, and retired in 2018 as the Head of the Department giving her selfless service of 14 years. In addition to this, Ma'am was the incharge of the Community Hygiene and Public Health Society and aimed to hone the diverse skills of students and create awareness towards health and hygiene. She shared a cordial relationship with her students and was known for her hardwork and sincerity. Her cheerful attitude and bright smile always motivated the students.

Even though the illness took her away from this world, her loving heart has left a lasting legacy among her loved ones.

Sh. Guddu Ram



(1952-2021)

Sh. Guddu Ram aged 62, left us for his journey to heaven on 15th February 2021, due to a lung infection.

He hailed from Dehradun and later shifted to Chandigarh where he started working as a gardener at the age of 8. In the initial years he worked in the Government Home Science College Sector 10, Chandigarh and then was transferred to PGGCG-11 where he worked for nearly 16 years. He was very loving and caring for every being and always believed that plants and flowers make people happy.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Mr. Nitin Rathor



(1987-2021)

Mr. Nitin Rathor aged 33, who worked for nearly 15 years as a Lab Assistant in the Physical Education Department of PGGCG-11 Chandigarh, passed away on 27th October, 2021, due to a liver infection.

Mr. Nitin hailed from Chandigarh where he completed his graduation from Sri Guru Gobind Singh College Sector 26, Chandigarh. He was a very hardworking and a helpful person.

He is survived by his wife and a three-year-old daughter.

There are no goodbyes, where-ever you are, you'll always be in our heart...

~Samridhi Anand

Roll No. 10395



List Of Contributors:

Navya Singh 10025



Maitri Vats 10662



Rishita Singh 10123



Asmita Chauhan 10370



Snow Saadgi 10562



Tanvi 10171



Sukhmani Bedi 10067



Shelza 10238





Shashi Sharma 10142



Vaishali Ghai 10137



Laishram Chanu Sushama 10195



Cheetakshi Sharma 10658



Aribam Yeeshika Sharma 10194



Manu 10136



Samridhi Anand 10395

