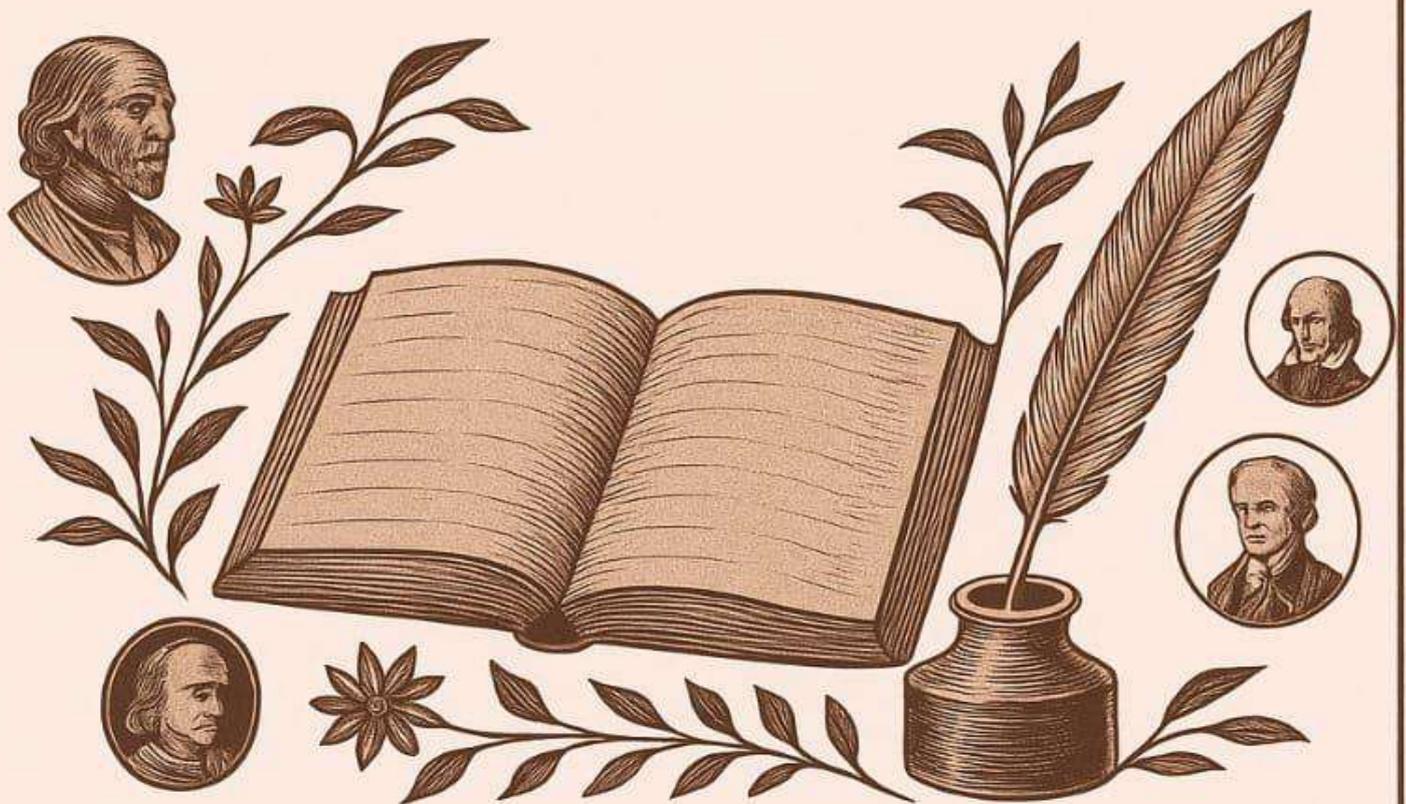


RABINDRANATH TAGORE  
UNIVERSITY, HOJAI  
**SCINTILLA**

AN E-MAGAZINE OF  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



— VOLUME 1 —

SESSION 2024-25

PUBLICATION YEAR 2025

# Scintilla

*Scintilla: A faint spark or a subtle trace of brilliance that beautifully represents the soul of our e-magazine.*

Though the word signifies something small, it carries the potential to ignite powerful thoughts and inspire greater creativity.

*This magazine is a collection of sparks, ideas, expressions, and talents from the students that may seem simple at the first glance, but hold deeper meanings and energy. "Scintilla" reflects the belief that even the smallest voice or creative effort can shine brightly and leave an impact.*



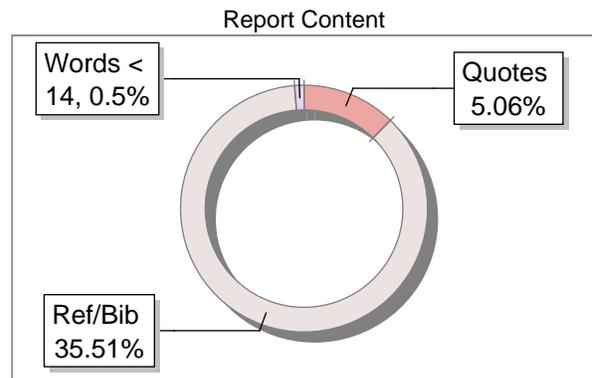
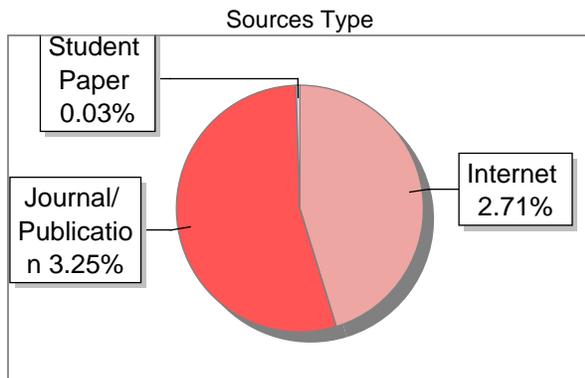
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## *From the Vice Chancellor's Desk*

*It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Department of English on the publication of its E-Magazine, Scintilla'. This initiative is a testament to the department's commitment to fostering intellectual curiosity, creativity, and cultural awareness among its students and faculty members.*



*Scintilla is more than just a magazine-it is a vibrant platform that reflects the rich socio-cultural fabric of our society through thoughtful writings, critical reflections, and creative expressions. It is heartening to see the active participation of both students and faculty in bringing together diverse perspectives and voices that resonate with the essence of literature and life.*

*In today's fast-evolving academic landscape, such endeavours play a crucial role in nurturing critical thinking and encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue. I commend the Department of English for this praiseworthy effort and hope that Scintilla will continue to inspire and illuminate the minds of its readers in the years to come.*

*With best wishes for the continued success of this publication.*

With warm regards,

(Prof. Manabendra Dutta Choudhury)

VICE CHANCELLOR

Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai (Assam)

## *From the Academic Registrar's desk*



*I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations and sincere wishes to the HOD, Faculty members, and the students of Department of English, and anticipate collaborating with all of you to achieve our shared goal of maximising academic potential.*

*The dedication demonstrated by the magazine committee, teachers, and students has successfully transformed the vision of publishing the first E- Magazine "SCINTILLA" into reality.*

*Their hard work in planning, documenting, and reviewing the events of the academic session 2024-2025 in a digital format is commendable. This E-Magazine will serve as a tribute to the collective accomplishments of the Department of English, showcasing the rich tapestry of talent that exists within its ranks. It will highlight the unwavering commitment to excellence that characterizes the work of both faculty and students alike. By featuring a diverse array of contributions, the publication aims to reflect the unique perspectives and innovative ideas that emerge from this vibrant academic community. Each article, essay, and creative piece will not only celebrate individual achievements but also emphasize the collaborative spirit that drives the department forward. May this E- Magazine inspire continued growth and creativity, fostering an environment where excellence is not just an aspiration but a shared reality. Together, let us honor the dedication and hard work that define our community, paving the way for future achievements and a lasting legacy in the field of English studies.*

Dr. Amar Gautam

Academic Registrar

Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai(Assam)

# Message from the Head of the Department

*It is a matter of great pride and pleasure to witness the endeavour of the students of the department culminating into the e-magazine 'Scintilla: An E-magazine of the Department of English'. 'Scintilla' is meant to portray and present the flames of the tiny sparks of the young literary minds of the department. It provides a platform to the scintillating thoughts of the hidden poets, authors, novelists, dramatist, artists and the literary figures that are lying latent in the children of the department, to shape their creative imaginations and intellectual endeavours. A platform to create a converging image of literature, language and culture, under the English Literature, Language and Cultural Club (E.L.L.CC) of the department, with linguistic insights on the usage of poetic, scientific, and common man's language.*



*It showcases the hard work and dedication of the students and teachers of the department. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the teachers and students, the editorial board, the technical team and the members of the E.L.L.CC in making 'Scintilla' leaping into the future of ideas and intellects.*

*I earnestly request each and everyone to read, reflect and relate to the human emotions associated with the pages that are filled with recollections of imaginative and emotive world. The success of this e-magazine rests upon the active participation of the readers. Let's make Scintilla a grand success that ignites the creative imaginations and spiritual wings of the young.*

Dr. Bishnu Prasad Varma

Head, Department of English, RTU, Hojai

## *Message from Diana Singnarpi*



*It gives me immense pleasure and thought on the launch of Scintilla, the very first edition of our Departmental E-Magazine. True to its name, Scintilla represents the spark of curiosity, creativity, and academic spirit that defines our department. This digital platform serves not only as a showcase of talent and intellect but also as a space where students and faculty come together to reflect, share and grow. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the editorial team, student contributors, and faculty mentors who have made this publication possible. May Scintilla continue to illuminate minds and encourage excellence in every future edition.*

With warm regards,

Diana Singnarpi

Assistant Professor Department of English RTU, Hojai

## *Message from Dr. Bandana Baruah*



*I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the students for successfully launching the inaugural issue of "SCINTILLA: An E-Magazine of the Department of English". This E-Magazine serves as an exceptional platform for students to express their vibrant ideas and showcase their artistic talents in a creative format. It is truly inspiring to witness the enthusiasm and dedication that the students have poured into this project, allowing their voices to resonate through the pages of the magazine.*

*The initiative not only highlights their individual creativity but also fosters a sense of community and collaboration among the students. It is particularly noteworthy that the entire E-Magazine has been meticulously crafted by the editorial board, demonstrating their commitment and teamwork. This remarkable achievement stands as a testament to their hard work and creativity, setting a standard for future endeavours. The E-Magazine not only reflects the diverse perspectives of its contributors but also serves as a source of inspiration for others to engage in similar creative pursuits. Such accomplishments are indeed commendable and should be celebrated as they encourage a culture of expression and innovation within the academic environment. I pray that every student who steps through the doors of Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai emerges a well-rounded and fully developed individual. May the environment at the Department of English inspire each student to grow not only intellectually but also emotionally and socially, ensuring they leave as integral members of society, ready to face the challenges of the world with confidence and compassion.*

Dr. Bandana Baruah

Assistant professor Department of English, RTU, Hojai

## Message from Dr. Navaneeta Bhuyan



*"The question, O me! so sad, recurring—What good amid these,  
O me, O life?"*

*Answer.*

*That you are here—that life exists, and identity;  
That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse."*

*Walt Whitman*

*I wish to congratulate our students for creating this platform of self-expression for yourself. And my heartfelt thanks to the entire editorial team along with the contributors for making this inaugural issue possible.*

*In a world fraught with strife and discord, in a life where we seek validation and comfort in screen, at a moment where existence and identity has become so nebulous, literature may not always offer answers—but it offers something just as vital: refuge. And sometimes, refuge is enough.*

*Hoping that Scintilla becomes a refuge for the expression of doubts and insecurities, a safe haven for expressing love and acceptance, and a ground that shall mark the first steps of the thinking minds of tomorrow.*

Best wishes,

Dr. Navaneeta Bhuyan

Assistant professor Department of English, RTU, Hojai

## Message from Dr. Swarupananda Chatterjee

*It is with great pride and anticipation that we present this issue of Scintilla, a student-led initiative that seeks to explore the intricate tapestry of literature through the lens of socio-cultural dynamics. This edition is a testament to the intellectual curiosity, critical insight, and creative engagement of our contributors, all of whom have embraced the theme with remarkable depth and nuance.*



*The socio-cultural dimensions of literature offer fertile ground for inquiry.*

*Whether examining the intersections of identity and language, the resonances of historical conflict, the shifting paradigm of politics, or the literary representations of marginalized voices, our contributors have illuminated the profound ways in which literature both shapes and has been shaped by the societies in which it is produced.*

*What makes this issue especially prominent is that it foregrounds students' voices in conversations that are both timely and timeless. The articles herein reflect a diversity of perspectives, methodologies, and literary traditions, underscoring the vitality of critical discursive hegemonies in academic spaces of postmodern intelligentsia. As students of literature, our students are uniquely positioned to question, interpret, and reimagine the cultural narratives that inform our present.*

*I hope that this collection will inspire readers to engage more deeply with the texts and contexts that surround us, and to appreciate literature not only as an artistic endeavor, but as a powerful medium of cultural identity and social politics.*

Dr. Swarupananda Chatterjee

Assistant professor Department of English, RTU, Hojai

# English Literature, Language and Cultural Club (ELLCC)

**Chairperson: Dr. Bishnu Prasad Varma (HOD)**

**Members:**

**Ms. Diana Signarpi Assistant professor (Stage II)**

**Dr. Bandana Baruah Assistant professor (Stage II)**

**Dr. Navaneeta Bhuyan Assistant professor (Stage I)**

**Dr. Swarupananda Chattarjee Assistant professor (Stage I)**

**Partha Acharjee, Student, M.A. Sem IV (Class Representative)**

**Masoom Zafar Ameen, Student, M.A. Sem II (Class Representative)**

**Jina Devi, Student, B.A. SEM VI (Class Representative)**

**Nasim Mohd Noim, Student, B.A. SEM IV (Class Representative)**

**Izhar Alom, Student, B.A. SEM II (Class Representative)**

# The Editorial Team

## Jina Devi,

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

"Dear Readers,

With great joy, we unveil the latest masterpiece of "SCINTILLA"- a symphony of stories, ideas, and collaboration. As a Class Representative and a member of the editorial team, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Respected Teachers and institution for providing us with this beautiful opportunity to learn, grow, and showcase our work. We're also thankful to our visionary contributors, whose expertise, experiences, and insights have brought this e-magazine to life.

Special thanks to our dedicated editorial team members- Amarjeet Singha, Kamal Kathar and Tanay Brahma for their timeless efforts, meticulous attention to detail, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Within these digital pages, we explore socio-cultural aspects and creativity, a journey that promises to inspire, inform, and ignite meaningful conversations. We hope you'll discover new perspectives, find inspiration, and enjoy the journey.

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported us on this journey."



## Amarjeet Singha,

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our beloved teachers for their constant support, valuable guidance and endless encouragement throughout the journey of creating this e-magazine. Bringing Scintilla to life has been a truly enriching experience. Each page reflects the voices and visions of our vibrant community. Through challenges and deadlines, we discovered the joy of storytelling. This edition is a celebration of expression, emotion, and shared effort. We hope Scintilla ignites inspiration in every reader, just as it did in us."

## Tanay Brahma,

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER

"On behalf of the editorial team, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who also contributed to the making of this magazine. A special thanks to our teachers for their constant guidance, encouragement, and patience throughout the process. We are also thankful to all the students who shared their creative work and ideas. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us and providing me this wonderful opportunity."



## Kamal Kathar,

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER

"I extend my deepest gratitude—to our teachers, whose unwavering guidance and encouragement made this journey possible; to the contributors, who poured their hearts into every word and image; and to the readers, who give life to these pages with their presence. Scintilla is not merely a magazine—it is a living collection of voices, stitched together by creativity, emotion, and an unyielding passion to express. Each piece within these pages is a quiet act of courage, a glimpse into a world shaped by thought and feeling. I hope this edition sparks something within you—be it reflection, inspiration, or wonder—and lingers in your heart long after the final page is turned."

***POETRY  
SECTION***



# The Beautiful Moon

I wondered what you were,  
That gives such a beautiful light in dark.  
Light which retires the darkness of night,  
Your beauty is very delightful and magnificent.  
I feel like talking and sharing my mood while admiring you.

I speculated if there is a tree fixed in you,  
Your light is so intense in the course of full moon days.  
I admired looking at you each night you appear,  
And feel pathetic when you are not in the sky.  
But I hope and desire to see you as soon as the cycle of new moon starts.

Do you know that I look high and low for you?  
And I usually get to see even your slightest glance.  
I learn that you know as well understand my longings for you,  
You know me inside out even if I don't say you a word.  
My desire to always have a glimpse of you will remain to the end of time.

Name- Jina Devi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

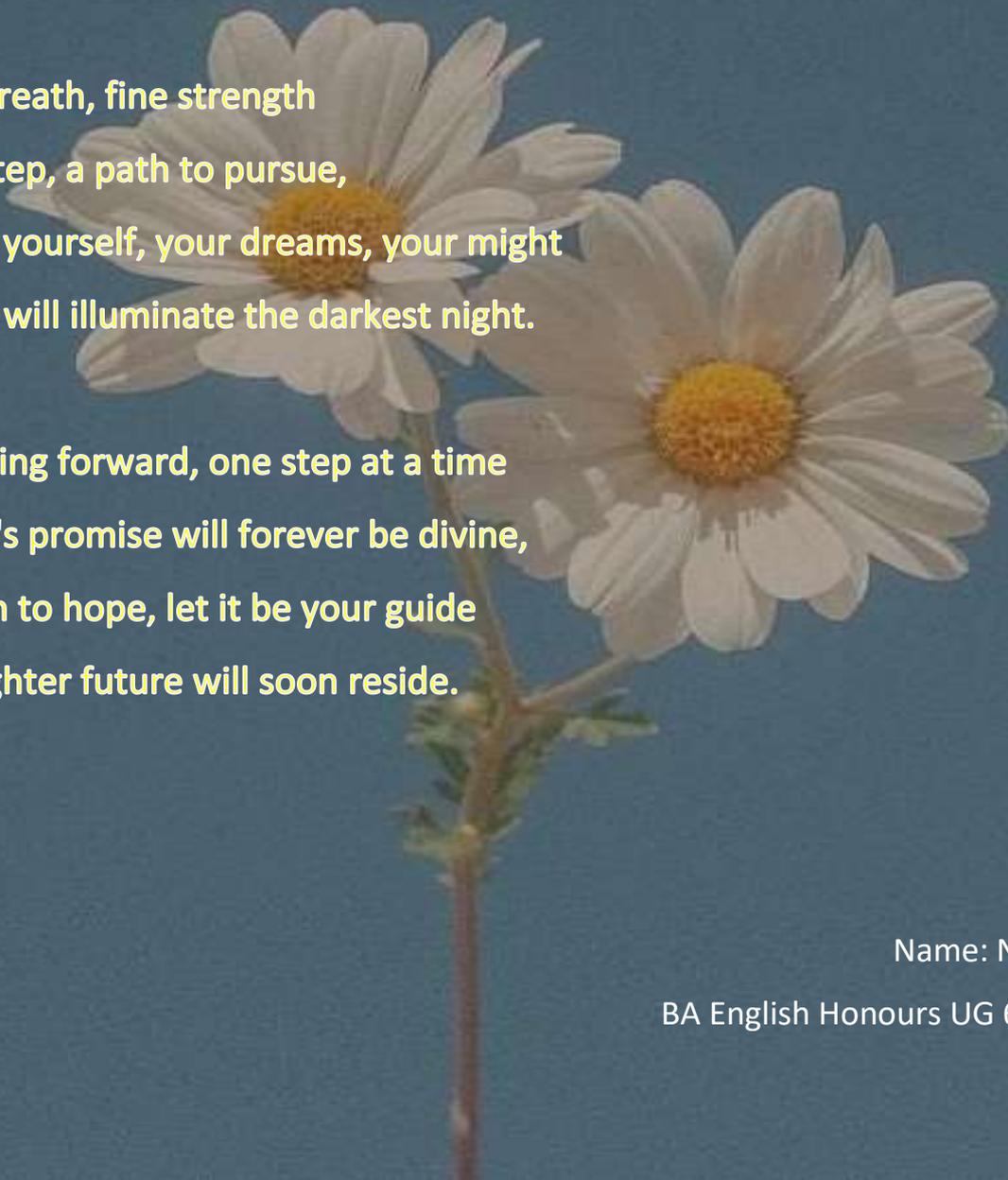
# HOPE

Don't wake up with the regret,  
Of what you couldn't accomplish yesterday,  
Wake up while thinking about,  
What you will be able to achieve today.

Rise with the sun, shine with its light  
Let hope be your guiding force,  
Leave for fears behind, embrace the unknown  
Let each dawn bring new chances to grow

In every breath, fine strength  
In every step, a path to pursue,  
Believe in yourself, your dreams, your might  
And hope will illuminate the darkest night.

Keep moving forward, one step at a time  
And hope's promise will forever be divine,  
So hold on to hope, let it be your guide  
And a brighter future will soon reside.



Name: Neha Kumari

BA English Honours UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# Flaming Moon

*With an unrelated glance,  
I looked into the moon's eye.  
The moon, in the hour of gloaming,  
Flamed like a lamb nearby.  
In the brief moment,  
Time stood still.  
As the moon's beauty shone,  
My soul was filled.*



Name: - Nasiha Tahseen Rahman

BA English Honours UG 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

# An Ordinary Rain

*We were resting by the corn fields,  
a peaceful place we know,  
where time felt slow.*

*She turned slowly toward me and asked,  
“What’s your favourite season?”  
To which, I didn’t have an answer—  
I had never thought about it, really.  
She stared at me, waiting for an answer  
but then suddenly she said,  
“Let me guess... I think it’s the rainy season.  
I think it’s the rain.”*

*And just like that,  
The rainy season became a part of me.  
I hadn’t felt the rain before like I do now.  
It’s not just water falling from the sky—  
it feels alive just like her.*

*Each time it rains, I think of her.  
The dropping sounds of the rain  
feel like her laugh and  
her voice sounded like the rain’s melody.  
The clouds felt like her,  
smiling at me, impossible to ignore.*

*Her eyes resemble the sunlight  
shining after a storm—  
golden and warm.*

*Now when it rains, I think of her.  
As she turned something ordinary  
into something I could live in forever.*

NAME: TANAY BRAHMA

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# *An Old Soul*

*Call me an old soul,  
Laugh at my daydreams.  
But my pleasure is different from yours.  
I love the moon and the stars,  
Believe in fairy tale endings,  
I believe in granny stories,  
I believe in romantic chemistry,  
I believe in peace, wellness, and well-being.  
I believe in traditional family,  
I believe in humanity.*

**Name: Mukta Saha**

**BA English Honours UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester**

# GOOD THINGS

*I once heard an old man say,  
Shaping vases out of clay,  
Into subtle forms sublime,  
"Listen, Son, good things take time."*

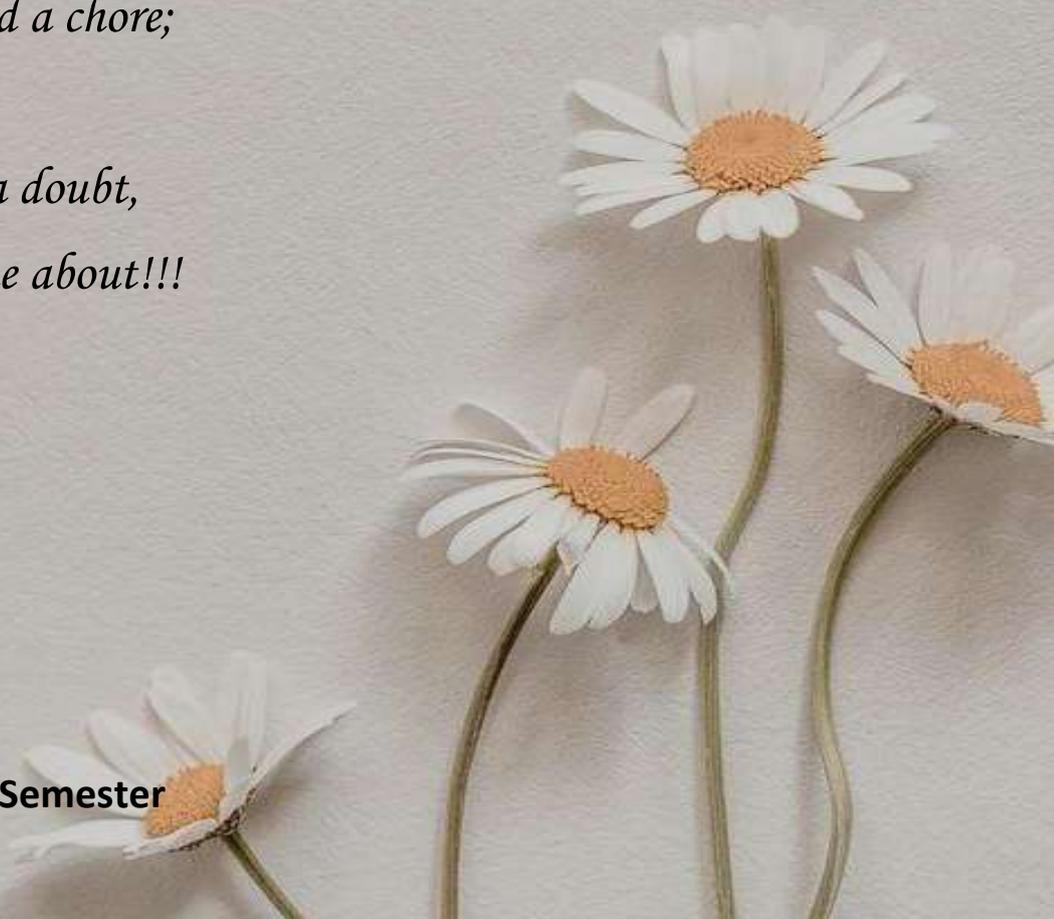
*All my life I've thought of this,  
When a task was lacking bliss,  
When the work seemed awfully tough,  
And I thought I had enough.*

*So, I'd give a little more,  
To what sometimes seemed a chore;*

*And you know, without a doubt,  
Good things always, came about!!!*

**Name- Jahida Begum**

**BA English Honours UG 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**



# The Lonely Search

At twenty years, the quest's still mine,  
For a friend, a soul divine.

Many close ones I've found in life,  
But none to share my inner strife.

Some I've met, their hearts are full,  
Bound by bonds I cannot pull.

Others I try to understand,  
That one true friend will end this maze.

Each day they seem a different face,  
A feeling glimpse, a hurried pace.  
Some leave without a word or tear,  
Years of friendship, they disappear.

For in the search, I'll carry on,  
Until the lonely days are gone.  
And when I find that kindred heart,  
No force on earth will tear us apart.

*Name - Plabita Devi*

*BA English Honours UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester*

# *Whispers Of the Dawn*

The night hums low, a gentle sigh,  
The stars dissolve in a fading sky.

The world awakens, soft and slow,  
Bathed in the morning's glow.

The petals stretch, the rivers sing,  
The breeze unfurls on feathered wings.

The earth, a canvas, vast and wide,  
Painted with dreams the stars can't hide.

The mountains echo ancient lore,  
Of love and loss, of evermore.

While oceans cradle secrets deep.

And as the sun climbs high above,  
It lights the world with endless love.

A gentle promise, pure and true—  
Each day's a chance to start anew.

**Name: Nasima Begum**

**BA English Honours UG 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

# ***A LETTER TO THE MOON***

*I find myself without strength,  
From the weight of thousand worries.  
I look up to you and then I saw how pretty you were.*



*You are not always full  
But still so beautiful.  
Throughout the darkness, Shining so bright.*

*Wandering unnoticed by time, you gave me  
the strength, to hold my head up even  
though I feel lethargic and drained.*

*Looking at you, I realized How horribly  
limited I am. For I can't live and feel The  
shades of eternal life.*

*Your face might only be half visible or less,  
Yet your ever enchanting beauty, Oh!  
gloriously sublime, impressing hearts as  
years goes by.*

Name: Durmi Terangpi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# The Beauty of Nature

*One day when I went on a walk  
And couldn't find anyone to talk.  
I looked around at the beauty of Nature-  
The plants, animals, and other creatures.*

*I saw the mountains stand,  
Silent, wonderful, and grand;  
Looking out across the land  
When the golden light was falling.*

*Trees growing at the riverside,  
Bliss flowing in the viewer's mind,  
Waters flowing at the river banks,  
Quenching the thirst from the drinker's heart.*

*The dim sunlight reflects from the waves.  
As I walk past in my floaters,  
"Let's go home," to myself I say,  
"And let's get ready for another day."*

Name: - Bonnali Rongpipi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# LOST TO THE DIGITAL UNKNOWN

*In streets once busy with steady feet,  
Where kindred spirits meet,  
The shutters fall with a quiet sigh,  
As the colossal shadow stretch across the sky.*

*The tea shops once a lively space,  
With laughter's shared face to face,  
Now stares out on an empty square,  
Where fewer voices fill the air.*

*In the bookstore, shelves finely stacked,  
Pages with stories finely packed,  
Are all left unread, while clicks enticed,  
A digital world at half the price.*

*Each small shops wears a story long,  
Of struggle, hope and holding strong,  
Their owners rise with break of dawn,  
Working still, though hope seems gone.*

*No voices here, no names to greet,  
Just empty echoes on the streets,  
Where stories lived in every sale  
Now silence tells the tale.*

*But deep within, beneath the pain,  
A stubborn hope remain,  
Those hearts that these streets once saw kind,  
Will someday call these same streets to mind*

Name: Velery Thianglai

PG ENGLISH HONOURS 4<sup>th</sup> Semester



# WHISPERS OF THE MIND

*In quite places where shadows stay,  
Thoughts get mixed up, heavy and grey.  
Silent fights happen, not seen by the eye,  
A heart speaks softly, letting out a sigh.*

*Behind bright smiles in daily life,  
There's a hidden struggle, a lot of strife.  
A smile act like Armor, but can easily break,  
Everyday feels tough, with choice to make.*

*Let's speak out loud, let's share our pain,  
By telling our stories, we have much to gain.  
For every hurting heart, there's hope in sight,  
In kindness and listening, we find our light.*

*So tell your truth, let the burden be shared,  
Together we stand, showing that we cared.  
Mental health matters, let's start the fight,  
A brave movement, shining through the night.*

*With hands held tight, we can heal and grow,  
Embracing our paths, letting our feelings show.  
In this shared journey of struggle and grace,  
Awareness brings strength, in our common space.*



Name: Arati Jogi

PG ENGLISH HONOURS 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# HIDE AND SEEK OF TIME

*In dusty lanes where daylight danced  
We played the game of a youth were memories swayed,  
Barefoot on sun warmed earth we ran,  
Chasing laughter, hand in hand.*

*Hide and seek beneath mango trees,  
Counting breaths, muffling giggles and glass,  
Behind old walls or inside broken crates,  
We knew every secret hiding place.*

*The world was small, yet endless then,  
In those fields and alleyways when  
Life was a game, so free, so wild  
A beautiful chaos of every child.*

*And thou those lanes have faded away,  
The echoes of game still seem to play.  
In hearts corners, forever young,  
A place where every song is sung.*

*Good  
things  
take time*

Name-Samira Mamtaaz

PG ENGLISH HONOURS 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# HOMIES

*We met just two years ago,  
once strangers, now hearts that know.*

*Two souls who lit my way,  
turning darkness into day.*

*In sorrow, they are my light,  
in triumph, my strength, my might.*

*I am a bird-they are my wings,  
lifting me high to endless springs.*

*Like water embracing the endless sea,  
they are two sides, completing me.*

*Time may pass, days unknown,  
but with them, I've truly grown.*

*Through every laugh, through every tear,  
they are the ones I hold most dear.*

*Before the end, before we part,  
we stay as one-homies in heart.*

Name-Fahmida Sultana

BA ENGLISH HNOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# IMAGINED EARTH IS SORROWFUL

*Donne, thy trumpet aroused my soul*

*I am too in the queue with thee.*

*The messenger of God recognised me,*

*God asked him who is he?*

*Messenger replied, an unhappy sinner*

*God asked what are his sins?*

*He committed murder of himself*

*For all the sad means.*

*He made no one happy, even himself*

*Nor helped other, or of his own*

*The messenger became sad too,*

*As his mind got blown.*

*God said fie on thy shameful flashes*

*Oh, lonely soul thee*

*I said not a word*

*always silent want to be.*

*I told, lots of time*

*my lonely soul called for thy help,*

*No one came hither to me*

*Had to be myself!!*

*God angered, told this lonely soul, where no one fell,*

*Reconcile thyself, remember Jesus, be in hell.*

*No one would come near thee oh sad soul*

*Thy have to live lonely, like the night king owl.*



Name: - Partha Acharjee

PG ENGLISH HONOURS 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# IN YOUR WORDS I EXIST

*Call out to me, and I'll follow  
Through life's joys and its sorrow  
Wherever you lead, I'll be there  
Forever in your care.*

*Like a flowing river, life moves on,  
My world exists within your word,  
Being with you feels like a timeless tale,  
There are no clouds, no seasons change.*

*So, whether I stay or fade away,  
May a part of me always with you stay.  
And when I take my final rest,  
May I still live in your dreams, caressed.*



Name: - Nasim Mohd Noim

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# A WORLD UNDER GRAY SKIES

*A world under Gray skies,  
Looks dull, like a sleepy eyes.  
Clouds hide the sun's bright face,  
But life goes on in its own pace.*

*Trees stand tall, like guards strong,  
Leaves whisper secrets all day long.  
Wind blows soft, like a gentle hand,  
Flowers bloom, in this quiet land.*

*River flows, like a winding stream,  
Reflecting Gray, but still serene.  
Hope survives, like a tiny spark,  
Guiding us through life 's dark.*

*Sun shines bright, behind the Gray,  
Lighting our way. Come what may.  
When darkness fades, and light appears,  
The world awakens fresh and clear.*

*Gray skies part, like opening doors,  
Revealing beauty, and life's scores.  
In this world we find our way,  
Through shadows and light, to a new day.*

Name-Shila Dey.

PG ENGLISH HONOURS 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# HEART BLOOMING

*Heart cries with no sound*

*Taking the shade of the silence*

*It shouts.*

*Shouts express the sound*

*Of the heart in deep.*

*But, the cries can be heard*

*Only by the spirit.*

*Outside rain showers the earth*

*Get the life, blooming the flowers*

*Blooming solace air Singing the song of joy*

*By the birds,*

*Make the earth precious.*

*But, inside...*

*Inside cries showers the earth*

*The seeds of absurdity are sown.*

*Producing the grains,*

*It leads the soul*

*To the darkness,*

*Where it finds the solace of the soul*

*And the heart shouts with no sound.*

Name: - Aparajita Saikia

PG ENGLISH HONOURS 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# ANGLER

He lived where darkness ruled,  
Where cold and silence felt like home.  
He never knew the warmth of light,  
Never saw the bright sun glow.

But deep inside, a dream was born-  
A quiet wish he hid away.

To see the sun, to touch its fire,  
To leave the dark, to find the day.

One day, he made his choice,  
He left behind the endless night.  
He travelled far through pain and fear,  
Chasing hope, chasing light.

The cold was gone, the air grew hot,  
The burning sun began to rise.  
His body ached, his strength grew weak,  
But still, he longed to see the sky.

And then at last, his dream came true,  
The golden sun filled up his eyes.  
For one bright moment, he was free,  
Before he fell, before he died.

But though his life was short and hard,  
He smiled-he touched the light at last.

Name-Mehnaz Yasmin

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

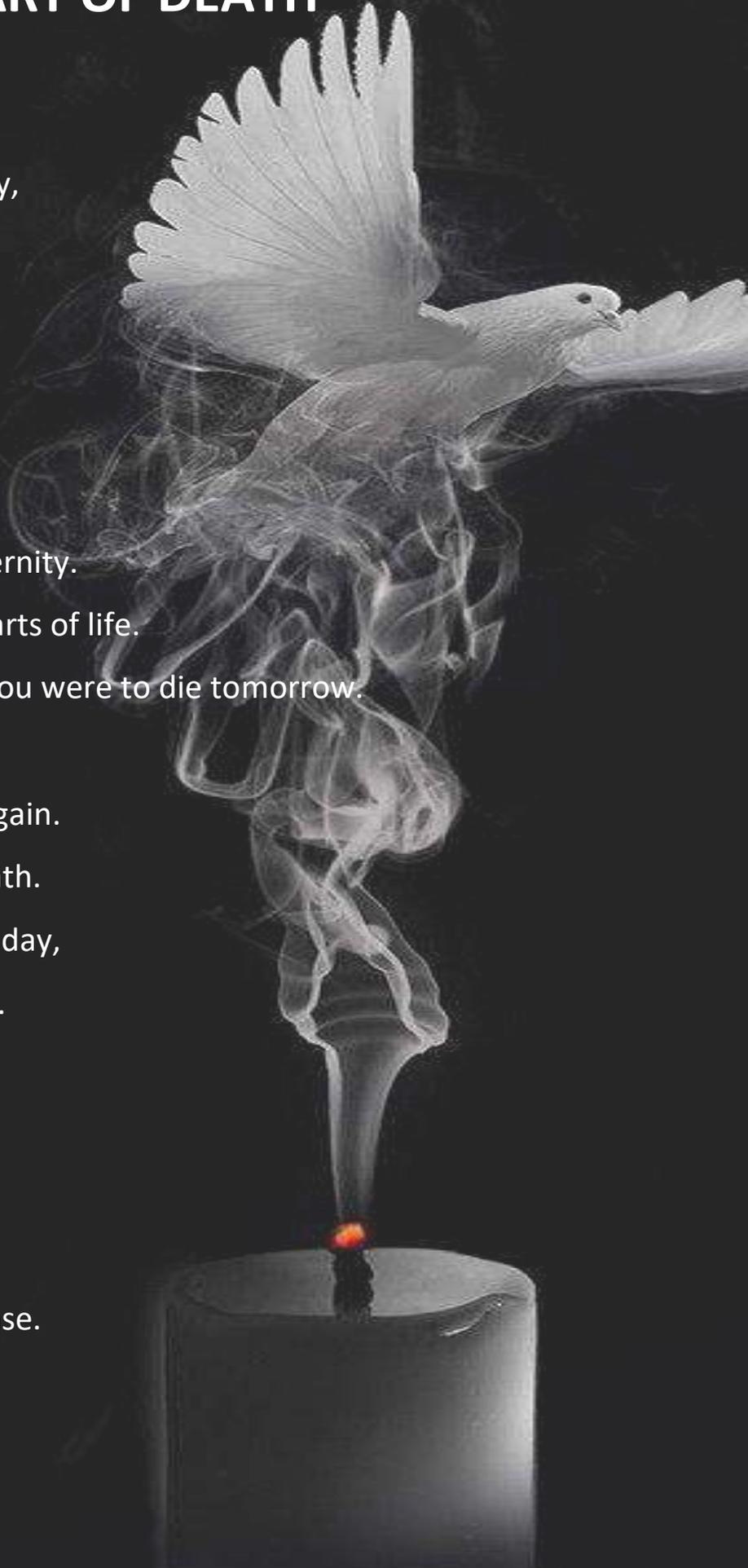
# THE ART OF DEATH

When death arrives, don't turn away,  
Just feel that it's the art of death.  
If you feel pain, just let it heal,  
Death will arrive unpredictably.

When death arrives, just face it.  
Death follows birth; it's a part of eternity.  
Birth and death are never-ending parts of life.  
Be brave in the face of death, as if you were to die tomorrow.

When death arrives, you are born again.  
Nothing should be feared about death.  
As the cloud fades away on a sunny day,  
Life will fade away from art one day.

Don't die before your time,  
Life teaches you how to live fully.  
Never complain about pain;  
When death arrives, all pain will cease.



Name: Komola Rongpharpi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# MORNING MIST

*After every cold winter night,  
Comes a beautiful morning bright.*

*In morning mist and dew,  
When the cold winds blew,  
I saw the village lights glow,*

*Looks so clean!*

*I wanted to walk through the mist,  
To the point it leads;*

*Dreams of thee, come on my eyes,  
Thinking, where the beauty of the mist lies?*

*Deep in thought, I was lost,*

*And understood the mystery that:*

*The beauty of nature lies,  
In how you see it, through your eyes.*

Name: Priyashi Dutta

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

# THE BEST OF LIFE

*Since all of us one day will die,  
What is there to be shy?  
Since we all know there's A time to laugh and cry,  
What is there that we always try?  
Since we all know that,  
Everyone's aim is always high.  
No matter what happens  
Let's live independent,  
If you make such a bend,  
You will feel the real bend  
People Will start comments  
Throughout, till the end,  
In each and every season  
Everything happens for a reason,  
If there is sun,  
There is rain If there is fun,  
There is gain  
Life is full of change,  
In each and every range  
You will always feel strange  
It's good to be glad  
Than to be mad  
No one loves to be sad,  
So, never turn out from good to bad.*

Name: Enish Devi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

# KEEP GOING

When the sun hides behind the Gray,  
And troubles seem to block your way,  
Take a breath, don't be afraid-  
Tomorrow brings a brighter day.

Mistakes will come, and fears will grow,  
But strength is built in what you know.  
Step by step, just move along,  
You're learning, growing, becoming strong.

No need to rush, no need to race,  
Life unfolds at its own pace.  
Trust yourself, you're doing fine-  
Keep going, and you'll shine.

Name: - Sehenaz Khatoon

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# THE SELFLESS LOVE OF PARENTS

*No love on earth is as pure and deep,  
As the love our parents silently keep.  
They give us joy, they hide their pain,  
Through every loss, they hope we gain.*

*My father stands, though tired and weak,  
Working hard, yet words are meek.  
He bears the weight, the endless strife,  
To build for us a better life.*

*My mother, though weary, still smiles bright,  
Cooking, caring, from morning to night.  
Her hands may ache, her heart may tire,  
Yet her love never gets expire.*

*They forget themselves to see us shine,  
Giving us dreams while leaving theirs behind.  
Oh, how selfless, how true, how rare,  
A love unmatched, beyond compare.*



Name: - Afifa Morium

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# TUMBLER OF STEEL

In a normal middle-class family,

Using tumbler of Steel as an important part of kitchen.

Long-lasting, strong,

Used for many generations.

Is being hidden on the arrival of guests.

Welcoming guest with water in a tumbler of Steel is set as a disgrace.

Although everyone has tumbler of Steel in their houses,

which they use in daily basis.

Just like the kid with average grades.

Although respects elders, well mannered,

But its grades don't match societal values and standards.

Now comes the tumbler of glass.

Even doesn't last for very long.

Used as a respectful material,

To welcome the guests.

Even if gives brutal cuts when broken.

But still an honour in the standards set by society.

Just like the kid with good grades.

In simple language, 'the parrot learning topper'

Has high standards in society.

Even if doesn't have any other qualities.

It's rude, disrespectful tone is also accepted.

But not the grades of average kid.

Having nice grades and being zero in the rest.

Are being introduced to society proudly,

Just like the tumbler of glass.

But having many different qualities,

Just being average in grades.

Are being hidden shamefully,

Just like the tumbler of Steel.

Is it Right? Are the societal standards, correct?

Name: -Synthia Sujain Khalid

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# ECHOES IN THE SKY

In the morning's golden hue,  
A Skylark sings, the world anew.  
High above the field it soars,  
It's melody through nature pours.

With every note, the heart takes flight,  
A dance of joy in morning light.  
It sings of love, of skies so wide,  
In its sweet song, we all confide.

As shadows fade and daylight breaks,  
The world awakens, the spirit shakes.  
A haunting tune that fills the night,  
A gentle whisper, pure and bright.

The world is vast, the heart is free,  
In Skylark's song, we find the key.  
Embrace the beauty, let it flow,  
In the Skylark's flight, our spirits grow.

They gather in flocks, a beautiful sight,  
Painting the sky as they dance in delight.  
With every chirp and flutter, they weave a song,  
Reminding us all where our hearts belong.

As Twilight falls and stars appear,  
The Skylark's echoes linger near.  
Through valleys and mountains, they soar and glide,  
Carrying dreams on the wind far and wide  
As seasons change and years go by,  
The Skylark sings and spirit's fly.  
So let us listen, let us soar,  
With the Skylark's song, will seek for more.  
In every rise and every fall,  
The Skylark's song unites us all.

Name: Dwitiya Choudhury

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# A FATHER'S SILENT LOVE

He doesn't say "I love you" out loud,  
But it's in the way he waits at the door,  
In the way he checks if she's eaten,  
In the way he worries without showing it.

He stands in the background,  
Always watching, always ready,  
Never asking for thanks.

He lets her make her own path.  
But never let's go completely.  
He is her safety.  
Even when she doesn't see it.

He won't speak much  
He doesn't need to.  
His love is quiet, steady,  
And always with her.

Name: -Nandita Devi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

# Whispers of Dreams

Dreams remain in the quiet nights,  
Creating a safe space where our hope can grow.

Those who pursue desire set our hearts free,  
In those quiet moments I can just be me.

But then as morning breaks, reality arrives,  
The dream begins to fade as time passes.  
We balance what we want and what is realistic,  
Two parts of our story shaping me and you.

Dreams give us the power to reach for the light,  
Day after day they help us fight.  
So, hold on to those philosophies to show the way,  
They remind us of the wonders of day and light.

Name: Raja Dey

BA English honours UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# SHORT STORIES

# RIM

I was standing in the midst of it all, willing to mark my name with a green pen. But greediness taught me to divert my mind from a straight road to a departed road. I could realize my bad habits but was unable to change them. One day, my mom and I went for a walk in the evening. Our village, Lunang, looked very dirty. "Everyone is born with a unique superpower, but some fail to use it correctly," said Mom, as she started cleaning and asked me to help her. "Everyone, Mom?" "Yes," she replied. She opened my eyes, and I was happy to have my questions answered. We reached home at 7 pm, and she said, "Tomorrow is your first day at a new school. You should respect everyone, whether older or younger. Life will teach you good and bad, but it's up to you to choose." I met Rim near our school, Sangpo High School. She was the only child of Taha uncle, who owned a tobacco business. We had been childhood friends, and I was happy to see her, but things didn't seem the same. Rim wanted to become a doctor and was influenced by her father. "Do you know, Srishti, my father said education isn't everything for us, but it's necessary for poor people to get a job. He can get me a job without education," Rim said. That day, I saw the difference between how village people and town people viewed education. Taha uncle's perspective made me lose respect for him. One day, it had been raining since 5 o'clock, making it tough for me to walk the three kilometers to school. I managed to reach, but my uniform was dirty, and my shoes were caked with mud due to the bad roads. Everyone at school stared at me with disgust and laughed. Rim's group was there too, and instead of helping me, they made fun of me, saying, "This is her real look—a dark girl with a dirty uniform." There was no one to defend me. I realized that not only Taha uncle but Rim too had a bad mindset about poor people. Both of them had hollow hearts. Later that afternoon, after class, I was on my way home

when Rim appeared and walked alongside me. Though her home was near the school, her driver usually picked her up. Rim told the driver she would go home with me. We weren't talking, but suddenly she said, "Everyone was laughing at you, and I was embarrassed by your appearance, but I managed it." I was walking fast because I was hungry and ignored her selfish remarks. "Hey, I'm still your friend, Srishti. Talk to me!" she said. I replied, "Yes," but I was aware of her fake personality. She only needed me for the next day's exam. "Why are you angry? Everyone was laughing at your looks—it's not a big deal. But you poor people can't understand. I've been polite with you, but you're ignoring me. My papa was right—poor people aren't our type," Rim said and left. I reached home and complained to my mom about not having a bicycle and the day's events. I was hungry and tired. Mom said, "Talk to your father about the bicycle when he gets home." I waited for him for about two hours. At 5 o'clock the next morning, I asked, "Where is Papa, Mom?" My papa is a secret agent in the Indian Army, so he went on duty, and we are not allowed to disclose his profession. It was our last year, with only two months left for our HSLC exams. On December 5th, our school organized a silver jubilee celebration, and all parents were invited. The program began with Miss Lee saying, "Good morning, everyone. On this beautiful occasion, we have invited a secret person who works as a secret agent for the Indian Army. He is here not only as a chief guest but also as the parent of Srishti." I couldn't express my happiness. My classmates craned their necks to see my father, and I could see everyone was shocked. My father began his speech: "Being a secret agent is hard but never impossible. Don't judge others. Passion is the key to a successful life. Every situation teaches you something, so learn from it. And to all the parents here, what you teach your children today will affect them tomorrow. Teach them the rules of humanity and nature. Teach them how to solve problems. A child's first education starts at home." A year later, I visited my village, Lunang, where I could see the beautiful scenery and feel the pure air. There were many unexpected

developments, like the roads, which were beautifully decorated with flowers. I met Uncle Ramu and asked, "Uncle, who maintained these beautiful roads?" He replied, "Just go ahead, and you'll see more surprises. You might even meet the secret worker." As I walked, I saw the natural beauty embracing Lunang. "Hello, beautiful lady! Nice to see you!" It was Rim. "Hi, Rim! So, you're the secret worker? Your art is fabulous! Did you change your goal?" I asked. "A doctor? I couldn't crack the entrance exam, but I have no regrets. I'm enjoying my work here. I find joy in small things—I don't have big dreams," Rim replied. "Wow, Rim, I'm happy to see you with a different mindset than before," I said. "All the credit goes to my father. He transformed me and my family into a happy one. On the silver jubilee day of our school, everything changed in my life. I couldn't attend the program, but my father was there." Rim smiled and added, "Life is all about teaching and learning. These are the wheels of life, and family is the key. Sometimes, small things can change your life forever."

Name: - Anjali Lama

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# THE UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

In a bustling city filled with towers and flashing lights, there lived a lonely accountant named Nigel. He spent his days crunching numbers and his night staring at the same four walls of his apartment. Nigel dreamed of far-off places, of jungles teeming with life and beaches kissed by the sun.

One day a peculiar package arrived at Nigel's door. Inside was a dusty old map, leading to a hidden island rumoured to be filled with treasure. With a mix of excitement and disbelief, Nigel decided to follow the map's path.

The journey was long and arduous. Nigel trekked through dense rainforest, braved raging rivers, and even survived a run-in with a grumpy gorilla. But as he pushed forward, he began to change. The fresh air and physical challenge invigorated him, and the wonders of the natural world filled him with a sense of peace he had never known.

Finally, he reached the island. It wasn't filled with gold and jewellery like he had imagined, but with something far more valuable. There were vibrant flowers he had never seen, the sound of waves crashing on the shore, and a feeling of freedom he had thought was lost to him.

Nigel realized that the real treasure wasn't buried in the ground but in the experiences, he had and the person he became through this journey. He found love in the rustling leaves, excitement in the salty sea breeze, and a sense of belonging in the rhythm of the island.

Name- Osmi Phangchopi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

## “WHERE I BELONG”

Jasmin grew up in a house where every corner held a piece of her. The old house with its creaky floors, sunlit windows, the kitchen that smelled of her mother’s spices, and the garden where she and her sisters played. This home wasn’t just a place—it was her identity, a reflection of her journey, and the place that made her feel safe.

The walls of the house seemed to echo with her parents’ sacrifices. Every day, they worked tirelessly to provide for her, dreaming of a better life for their daughters. Jasmin watched them, vowing that one day she would repay their love and devotion. She would build a life for them that they deserved—a life where they wouldn’t have to struggle anymore.

As time passed, Jasmin had left the comfort of this house to study in a distant town, seeking knowledge and identity beyond the familiar walls. It was the hardest decision she had ever made, leaving her parents behind. Though she was determined to succeed, the ache of separation weighed heavily on her. She missed the warmth of her mother’s cooking, the sound of her father’s voice after a long day, and the comforting familiarity of her childhood home. Every time she spoke to her parents, she promised them, “One day, I’ll come back. We’ll live together again, in our own home, happy and at peace.”

Years passed, and Jasmin worked tirelessly, balancing her studies with part-time jobs. Slowly, she began to rise in her career, achieving success beyond her wildest dreams. Finally, the time came when she could fulfil her lifelong promise. She had saved enough to renovate their old house, turning it into the home she had always envisioned for her parents—a place of comfort and security, where they could all live together in peace.

Excited to return to her roots, Jasmin made her plans known to her family and neighbours. But the reactions were not what she expected. Whispers started to spread through the village, and soon, those whispers became voices, each one telling her the same thing: “A woman cannot live in her parents’ home once

she's grown. It's not proper. You've done well, but now it's time for you to marry and live in your husband's home."

Jasmin was stunned. After years of working, saving, and longing to come back to the life she had left behind, society was telling her she had no place in her own home. The house she had renovated, the one she had built not just with money but with dreams, was not hers to live in. "A woman's place is with her husband," they said. "This is the way it has always been."

Her parents, proud but worried, tried to comfort her. "We know how much this home means to you," her mother said softly, "but the people will never understand. They expect you to marry and leave, just like everyone else."

Jasmin's heart broke. The home she had worked so hard to build, the life she had dreamed of, was slipping away from her. She had spent years sacrificing for her family, only to be told that the place she considered her own was no longer hers. Society, with its rigid rules and traditions, had decided that she couldn't live in the house she had poured her heart into. Instead, they expected her to marry, to move to a husband's house, leaving behind the home that meant everything to her.

On the day of her arranged marriage, Jasmin stood alone in the house she had dreamed of sharing with her parents. The walls were freshly painted, the rooms filled with warmth, but they felt distant now. As she touched the walls, she whispered, "This was meant to be my home."

As the wedding procession approached, Jasmin realized that society had taken more than just her right to live in her own home—it had taken the essence of what she had worked for. Her home, the one she had fought so hard to return to, would forever remain out of her reach.

Leaving for her husband's house, she looked back one last time, tears in her eyes. "What about my home?" she thought.

But no one answered. In the eyes of society, a woman's home was never truly her own.

Name - Kiran Devi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# Did It Really Happen?

Toby Wayne was a young man at twenties studying at RTU, Hojai, who had a life that could only be described as a dream life. In his third year at university, he was the kind of person everyone noticed and admired him for his elegance. He excelled in academics, consistently topping his classes with little effort, and was an athlete of near-legendary reputation on campus. He danced like he'd been born for the stage, had friends in every club and clique, and even his health and looks were enviable—his skin was flawless, his hair a thick, dark crown. People called him “the perfect guy,” and Toby didn't disagree. But being a human, he can't be perfect, Toby carried a disdain for those who seemed less fortunate. He believed people who naturally struggled with health, finances, or academics were simply not trying hard enough. Toby was convinced that if everyone worked as he did, they could achieve just as much. The idea of simplicity, of living a humble life, seemed weak and vague to him. One cold evening, after a party filled with loud music, adoration, and drinks that numbed his thoughts, Toby found himself walking home alone. The street was quiet, lit by flickering street lamps, and the surroundings of it was deserted. Then, just ahead, he saw her—a frail old homeless woman wrapped in layers of tattered cloth, her eyes sparkling under the dim light. “Could you walk me to the end of the road, son?” she asked in a voice both soft and gravelly. Toby looked her up and down, his drunkenness amplifying his arrogance. He taunted her. “Maybe this street isn't for old hags like you, go and rest in your grave that's where you belong” he sneered. “What makes you think life is worth living being old and homeless” The woman's eyes darkened. “Careful, boy,” she warned. “There's more to life than you see.” Toby laughed, shaking his head. “Yeah, right. Maybe in your world.” He brushed past her, intending to leave the scene behind. But the woman's voice stopped him. “Your pride blinds you young man. Laugh at me now but until you learn humility, and understand others pain nothing will come easily. You will find nothing but struggle and understand life is not created equal for all, and only when you understand what it means to live simply and humbly you will keep failing” Toby felt a strange shiver run through him, but he shrugged it off, stumbling his way home. By morning, he had nearly forgotten the encounter. The following day, Toby woke with a pounding headache and an unusual exhaustion that seemed to cling to him. He reached for his phone to check the time, only to find his screen covered in missed calls and urgent texts. Somehow, he had slept through his alarm, missing his first exam of the semester. He cursed, quickly getting dressed and running to campus, but the professor was unsympathetic. “I'm sorry, Toby, but rules are rules,” she said. “You've failed the exam.” Failing an exam was something Toby had never experienced. He tried to brush it off, convincing himself it was a fluke. But over the next week, more unusual things began to happen. His skin, once flawless, started breaking out in painful acne, and his hair felt brittle and thin. At first, he thought he was just stressed, but then his confidence in class slowly faded. He couldn't grasp concepts that once seemed obvious, and his grades began to slip. In sports, where he had always been the star, his coordination faltered. He fumbled passes and missed goals. His teammates, used

to his flawless performances, began to question his commitment. Toby's popularity diminished and his friends grew distant as his aura of perfection faded. It didn't end there. Toby started feeling tired constantly, a fatigue that clung to him no matter how much he rested. He caught every cold going around campus, his once-perfect immune system seeming to betray him. Dancing, his passion, became a chore. His muscles felt stiff, his movements awkward, and his confidence vanished. One night, he looked into the mirror, barely recognizing himself. Dark circles hollowed his eyes, and his once-pristine face was marred with acne and the dullness of fatigue. His perfect life had unravelled, strand by strand, leaving him in a state of confusion and despair. In his frustration, he withdrew from others, ashamed of how far he'd fallen. He tried to regain control by pushing himself harder, but nothing worked. He couldn't shake the strange feeling that the old woman's curse was real, that she had somehow seen straight into his heart and unravelled everything he held dear. Days turned into weeks, and Toby's world grew smaller. With each failure, he felt a deep pang of resentment. But alongside that resentment, he began to notice others in a way he hadn't before. He watched his classmates struggle with academics, not out of laziness but because of difficulties beyond their control to which he raised a helping hand. He saw students working two jobs to pay for their education, classmates who wore the same clothes every week, and people who juggled family obligations with university life. One day, Toby saw a student in the library drop her stack of books. His instinct was to walk away, but something stopped him. He picked up the books and handed them back to her, noticing the surprised, grateful look in her eyes. It was a small gesture, but he felt a warmth that hadn't been there in weeks. The following days were filled with small acts of kindness. He helped carry bags, shared notes, and offered a hand without expecting anything in return. Each act made him feel a little more human, a little closer to understanding the world around him. His struggles didn't vanish, but his bitterness softened, and for the first time, he saw strength in simplicity, in accepting the imperfections of life. One morning, a month after his encounter with the old woman, Toby woke up feeling... different. He rushed to the mirror, half-expecting to see his tired, worn-out face staring back at him. But the acne was gone, his eyes were clear, and his hair had regained its shine. He felt lighter, as though a weight had been lifted. That day, everything seemed to click and realized all that he saw was nothing but a dream? He aced his classes, his coordination on the field returned, and his confidence felt renewed. He couldn't explain it, but it was as if the curse had lifted. It was only later, as he walked across campus, that the memory of the old woman flickered back into his mind. He kept wondering had it all been a dream? A punishment conjured by his own mind, or something more supernatural? He could never be sure. But Toby knew one thing for certain: he had changed. He no longer felt pride in his perfection; instead, he found peace in simply being human. He understood that life's worth wasn't in flawless achievements but in compassion, resilience, and humility.

Name: TANAY BRAHMA

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

A group of five friends— Sana, Eli, Anne, Leo and Eva decided to make a trip to Manipur, drawn by its untouched beauty and rich culture. After months of planning, they finally boarded a flight to Imphal, the capital. The moment they arrived, they were greeted by the cool breeze and the lush hills. Their first stop was the famous Loktak Lake, with its floating phumdis-mini-islands made of vegetation. As they paddled in a small boat, the lake shimmered under the sunlight, reflecting the surrounding hills. Eli and Anne couldn't stop clicking pictures. They enjoyed a lot and they also had their famous food 'sinju', 'bora'. The next day, they trekked to the serene hill station of Ukhrul, where the rolling mist covered the valleys. The group was mesmerized by the vibrant Tangkhul culture and enjoyed a meal of smoked meat and rice in a local village. They are also fascinated by the shirui lily, it's a state flower of Manipur. On their third day, they visited Kangla Fort, it is an old fortified palace at Imphal. Kangla means "the prominent part of the dry land" in old Meitei. They were fascinated by this part of Manipur and learned about Manipur's rich past. Kangla was Manipur's first capital till 1891 AD. Kangla has a special place in the heart and minds of the people of Manipur. On their fourth day, they visited Keibul Lamjao National Park. It is a national park in the Bishnupur district. The only floating national park in the world, and an integral part of Loktak Lake. The only natural home of the 'Sangai', Manipur's dancing deer. They were mesmerized by the other species that can be viewed, including hog deer, otter, a variety of water fowl, and migrating birds. They enjoyed it a lot and any wildlife lover must see the deer in this fascinating wetland environment. The sangai is a rare and endangered species. The dancing deer is another name of sangai. On their last day, they visited the ima keithel, the only market in the world run by women. Eva, a passionate advocate for women's empowerment, was deeply moved by the bustling atmosphere, where thousands of women sold handmade crafts, jewellery, fruits, vegetables, fish, vibrant textiles and many more. The ima keithel complex is spread over three large buildings. 'Leimarel Shidabi Ima' is the largest and the oldest of the three structures. In all three buildings, only the ground floors are allocated to imas. The word Ima refers to mother. It signifies that the women vendors here are all married. It is popularly known as Ima Market. As the sun set on their final evening, the friends sat around a small bonfire at their guesthouse, reminiscing about their adventure. They say we have travelled far and wide, but Manipur will always have a special place in our hearts.

Name: Puja Devi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# Two Paths, One Bond

Maira and Alia had been best friends since childhood. As they grew older, they decided to pursue different careers. Maira went on to pursue engineering, while Alia chose medicine. Despite their different paths, their bond remained strong. They would meet regularly, sharing stories and supporting each other's dreams. Maira admired Alia's dedication to helping others, while Alia respected Maira's technical skills. Years passed, and Maira became a successful engineer, while Alia became a compassionate doctor. Though their lives took different turns, they remained each other's confidantes. When Maira faced challenging situations in her engineering career, Alia's medical perspective helped her find solutions. Similarly, when Alia struggled with self-doubt, Maira's logical approach reassured her.

Even as their paths took them in different directions, Maira's engineering work improved people's lives, and Alia's medical work brought care and comfort to her patients. Through it all, they remained connected, celebrated each other's successes, and supported each other throughout the journey. This story is a testament to the power of friendship and the idea that different paths can lead to a common bond. Maira and Alia's friendship continued to grow—a reminder that true connections can withstand the test of time and life's many choices.

**Moral: True friends stay connected, no matter where life takes them.**

Name: Nandita Devi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

# The Tainted Soul

In a serene village surrounded with mountains and fields, there lived a baby boy named, 'Jean' with a smile stretching wider across his face with deep-seated inquisitiveness. He was the youngest among five children and his family loved him. The joy for Jean came effortlessly as he was surrounded by laughter and the frequent presence of simple pleasures. His schedule was busy running about the fields, assisting his father in the workshop, and listening to his mother narrating stories by the fire. His family was his entire universe and he was in utter bliss as he enjoyed their company. But one night, in a way that Jean never dreamt of as a tsunamic nightmare, everything happened. Soldiers burst into the peaceful village as if it was an apocalypse claiming the family had badly conducted vile acts. They said his family was guilty of betrayal. In the onset of the proceedings, Jean witnessed his parents defending themselves, saying that, Nay Advocate, WE ARE INNOCENT but the earthly pounders were not prepared to try. The hatred then transformed into derision. Then derision led to an ultimate disaster. By dawn, Jean was the last standing person on earth. His kin, the people whom he adored most, had vanished forever, and he was left broken-hearted and homeless. All had been registered to history by dishonest and ruthless evil. Jean managed to stay alive by staying hidden in the shadows while feeling heartbroken and scared as he witnessed his home and cherished belongings vanish before his eyes. The cheerful boy transformed into a shadow of himself as he navigated through life almost as if, in a trance. He kept to the outskirts of the village engulfed in his sorrowfulness. With each passing day the affection and comfort he once embraced gradually waned, making way for an intense emotion. He sensed a rising desire, for retribution burning within him intensely as a flame. Over time Jean underwent a transformation. His cheerful

grin disappeared, replaced by stares filled with fury. The townspeople gossiped, recalling the boy he once was now a troubled young man harbouring anger. They steered clear of him detecting the sorrow and gloom that enveloped him like a veil. Jeans compassionate heart hardened, tainted by the trials he had faced. He devoted himself to training, for the moment when he could seek retribution against those who had caused harm to his family members. He familiarized himself with the concealed trails of the woods and the mysteries of night-time while drawing strength from his struggles. However, as his desire for revenge intensified, he started to neglect the affection and joy he once cherished. His pursuit of justice posed a threat, to erasing remnants of the boy who once embraced life wholeheartedly. Inside him was the tiny flicker of laughter that surfaced to amuse his older colleagues, and which had lingered throughout his life. Each day the spark dimmed more and more as he stepped further along the road of revenge, a road that would ultimately take the rest of his soul.

Name: Karnov Boro

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# A TRUE FRIEND FOREVER

Aarav and Rohan had been best friends since childhood. They grew up in the same neighbourhood, went to the same school, and now, they were studying together in college. Their friendship was strong, built on trust, understanding, and countless memories.

Aarav was always the cheerful and outgoing one, while Rohan was more reserved and thoughtful. Despite their differences, they balanced each other perfectly. They shared everything—from lunch to secrets, from dreams to fears. Their college life was full of fun, late-night study sessions, and endless laughter.

One day, their college announced a debate competition. Aarav loved public speaking, and he immediately signed up. Rohan, however, hesitated. He was afraid of speaking in front of a crowd.

“Come on, Rohan! You should participate too. It will be fun!” Aarav encouraged him.

“I’m not sure, Aarav. I don’t think I can do it,” Rohan replied nervously.

“You can! I’ll help you prepare,” Aarav assured him.

With Aarav’s motivation, Rohan decided to give it a try. They practiced together for weeks. Aarav taught Rohan how to be confident, how to structure his arguments, and how to engage the audience. Rohan was still nervous, but he trusted Aarav.

Finally, the day of the competition arrived. Aarav spoke fluently and won loud applause from the audience. Then, it was Rohan’s turn. His hands trembled as he walked onto the stage. He looked at the large crowd and felt his voice shaking. He forgot his words and stood there in silence.

Just then, Aarav, sitting in the front row, smiled and gave him a thumbs-up. Seeing his friend’s support gave Rohan courage. He took a deep breath and started speaking. Slowly, his confidence grew. By the end of his speech, the audience clapped for him. He couldn’t believe it—he had done it!

Though he didn’t win the competition, Rohan felt like a winner. “I couldn’t have done this without you,” he told Aarav.

“I’m always here for you,” Aarav replied.

As time passed, they remained best friends. But one day, a misunderstanding arose between them. Aarav accidentally told someone a secret Rohan had shared. Rohan was hurt and stopped talking to him. Aarav felt guilty, but Rohan wouldn’t listen.

Days passed, but Aarav didn’t give up. He wrote Rohan a heartfelt letter, explaining that it was a mistake and that he never wanted to hurt him. He reminded Rohan of their strong friendship and all the times they had supported each other.

When Rohan read the letter, he realized that true friends make mistakes but always find their way back to each other. He forgave Aarav, and they became inseparable once again.

Years later, they graduated from college and pursued different careers. Aarav became a journalist, and Rohan became a lawyer. Life got busy, but their friendship never changed.

One day, Aarav met with an accident and was hospitalized. When he opened his eyes, the first person he saw was Rohan, sitting beside him, holding his hand.

“You didn’t think I would leave you alone, did you?” Rohan said with a smile.

Aarav smiled weakly. “I knew you’d be here.”

That moment proved what they always believed—true friendship never fades. No matter where life takes you, a real friend will always be there when you need them.

Name: Subhajit Debnath

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# THE LAST LETTER

Richa found the letter on the last page of an old, forgotten novel in the college library.

It was yellowed, folded neatly, and smelled faintly of ink and dust. She unfolded it carefully, her heart racing with curiosity.

"To the one who finds this,

I have loved you in a time that does not exist anymore. I have searched for you in hallways where your laughter should have echoed,

in classrooms where your shadow should have fallen. If you are reading this, know that I once stood where you stand.

Maybe we are the same. Maybe we are different.

But I hope you understand what it means to be lost in time."

Richa's fingers trembled. Was this a prank? A forgotten piece of fiction? Or something else?

That night, she couldn't sleep. The words felt too real, too personal. The next morning, she returned to the library, searching the old shelves, running her hands over the spines of books that had not been opened in years.

And then she found it.

A second letter, slipped inside another book.

"To the one who seeks,

If you have found this, you are closer than you think. I was here, just as you are now. I left these

words for you, hoping you would hear me across the silence of time.

Come to the clock tower at midnight. I will be waiting."

Richa's breath caught. Her rational mind told her it was ridiculous—an old game, perhaps. But something deep inside her urged her forward.

That night, she stood beneath the clock tower. Midnight struck. The cold air whispered against her skin. And then-

A boy emerged from the shadows. His eyes were dark and knowing, his face unfamiliar yet strangely familiar. He held a letter in his hand.

"You found me," he said, offering it to her.

Richa took it, her heart pounding. The ink was fresh. The words were hers.

"To the one who reads this, I have loved you in a time that does not exist anymore..."

She gasped.

The past and the present had finally met.

And somewhere, time folded in on itself, bringing together two souls who had always been waiting for each other.

Name: - Bonhishikha Dutta

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# THE STRANGER WITH RAINBOW UMBRELLA

It was monsoon season and the rain was pouring relentlessly, showing no sign of stopping. With darkness approaching, I had no choice but to hurry home from my tuition, completely drenched.

As I passed by the shops, I noticed that the usually bustling street was quieter, considering the rain. After a few minutes, I began to feel uneasy-someone was following me.

At first, I didn't think anything of it. Maybe he was just going in the same direction. But the feeling wouldn't go away. I started to walk faster and to my horror he did too.

When I glanced back, he was still there. We looked at each other and he smirked, sending a shiver down my spine.

Panic set in and I ran. To get home as quickly as possible, I took the shortest route-a broken bamboo bridge that linked the paddy field to the main road. I crossed the river and reached the paddy field. I didn't dare look back, fearing the man would follow.

I ran as fast as I could across the muddy field, but I already regretted it. My slippers fell off and got lost in the slush. My house was so far away and there were no other houses around. Just then my foot tripped on something and I fell hard on my ankle.

I winced, struggling to sit up. My feet were covered in mud, my body soaked in rain, and tears ran down my face. I felt foolish and helpless.

Just when I thought it was over, the rain suddenly stopped falling on me. I looked up and saw a rainbow umbrella protecting me. A voice said, "Are you okay? What are you doing out here in the middle of the field? "

I turned and saw my stalker walk away. I felt relieved. Holding back my tears, I looked at the stranger and said, "Bhaiya, can you help me up?" He looked at my swollen ankle and shook his head. "You can't walk like this." Then without hesitation, he offered me a piggyback ride.

I hesitated, embarrassed at my muddy hands and feet and clothes, but he didn't seem to care. He carried me all the way home through the drenched and muddy path, his grip steady and comforting.

When we reached my house, he put me down at the gate and helped me open the gate. "Th-thank you", I stammered, shivering from the cold. He simply smiled and turned to leave.

"Wait! What's your name?" I called after him. But he was already walking away, disappearing into the rain and shadows.

That evening, I never learnt his name, nor did I ever see him again. But I'd always remember-the unknown stranger with the rainbow-colored umbrella. Though time may steal his face, but his kindness in my heart will stay till the end of time.

Name: - Durmi Terangpi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# BLOOMING LOVE

Once upon a time in a small, impoverished village, there lived a young girl named Maya. She was known for her radiant smile and unwavering optimism despite the difficult circumstances of her life. Maya's family struggled to make ends meet, and they lived in a humble cottage on the outskirts of the village.

One sunny day, while Maya was collecting wildflowers in the meadow, she crossed paths with a young man named Ethan. He was a hardworking farmer, toiling in the fields to support his own family. Maya and Ethan's eyes met, and from that moment, they felt an undeniable connection.

Over time, Maya and Ethan's secret meetings in the meadow blossomed into a deep and tender love. They shared their dreams, fears, and hopes with each other under the shade of an old oak tree. Despite their circumstances, their love grew stronger with each passing day.

However, the village was not kind to their love. The townsfolk gossiped and looked down upon their relationship because Maya was a poor girl, and Ethan was from a modest background himself. Yet, the couple remained resolute in their commitment to each other.

Maya's kindness and Ethan's unwavering support for her dreams eventually began to change the villagers' hearts. Slowly but surely, they started to see the beauty of their love story. As time went on, Maya and Ethan's love story became a symbol of hope and unity in the village.

Through hard work and determination, Maya and Ethan managed to improve their circumstances. They built a small, cozy home together and started a family, teaching their children the values of love, compassion, and resilience.

Maya and Ethan's love story, born in the face of adversity, reminded everyone that true love knows no bounds and that the richness of the heart can overcome the limitations of wealth. Their enduring love story became an inspiration to generations in the village, proving that love, no matter where it's found, can flourish and light up even the darkest of days.

Name: - Anisha Das

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# THE BOY WHO LIED

There was once a boy who grew bored while watching over the villagers' flock of sheep. He wanted to make things more exciting, so he yelled out that he saw a wolf chasing the sheep.

All the villagers came running to drive the wolf away. However, they saw no wolf. The boy was amused, but the villagers were not. They told him not to do it again.

Shortly after, he repeated this antic. The villagers came running again, only to find that he was lying. Later that day, the boy really sees a wolf sneaking amongst the flock.

He jumped up and called for help, but no one came this time because they thought he was still joking around. At sunset, the villagers looked for the boy, but the boy didn't return with their sheep.

They found the boy crying. He told them he really saw a wolf, and the entire flock was gone. After some time, an old man came to comfort him and told him that nobody would believe a liar, even when they are being honest.

Moral of the story: Lying breaks trust.

Name: Priyanka Timungpi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

## A College trip to Kaziranga National Park

We are the students of XYZ, college Department of English, Hojai organised an educational tour to Kaziranga National Park on February 1, 2024. It was a day tour where we arranged the entire excursion from booking accommodation, Jeep Safari, Breakfast, lunch, Tea and a visit to Kaziranga Orchid and Biodiversity Park for a group of 45 students, 5 faculty members and 2 members of vehicle (Driver). Krish, our member, was very actively involved in arranging the entire tour of Kaziranga. This tour was organised at a low budget and comfort of the students. It turned out to be a very successful one and everyone left Kaziranga with a smile on their faces. We were very excited for the tour. On the way, we saw some very amazing scenery from the bus.

On the way, we seen a beautiful temple and the bus driver stopped the bus to visit the temple and all the student groups entered the temple and offered their prayers and took prasada from there. After a few minutes the bus arrived at a Kohora Safari range and everyone stopped for tea at a small tea shop. At 10 A.M we reached the Bogori range. The Jeep Safari of Bogori range started at 10A.M at the starting point of Bogori range. The arrangement of our jeeps at Kaziranga National Park at Bogori safari range, as there was a total of 45 people, we had arranged 7 jeeps for the entire group of all members. We were very excited to go to the interiors of Kaziranga National Park and to see the pride of their own state- the One horn Rhinoceros in Assam. The Jeep driver took everyone on a careful ride as the road was bumpy. We saw Rhinos, Deers, Bird's etc. About an hour we came back to Dong Bell. There are various fish species to be found in this water body and you get a beautiful view of the Bogori range. Now we are leaving this place.

At 1 P.M the bus reached the Kaziranga Orchid and Biodiversity Park. It is the largest Orchid and the only bamboo park in India. Krish purchased the entry tickets for all the group members. After this we went to the open stage area, where cultural performance and dances were organised. We are enjoying a lot in Kaziranga. After this we went to Restaurant for lunch. There were 29 varieties of dishes which were very amazing and tasty. We are enjoying our Lunch. Around 3 P.M the lunch was over. After some time, we gathered at a restaurant again for our photo session. After the session we thanked our team member, Krish for this beautiful arrangement of Kaziranga. After that we boarded our bus and headed back to our college.

Name: Shiv Sankar Sah

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# The Apartment of Lost Souls

Anna was sweating heavily by the time she had hefted the last box into her new apartment on the 5th floor of an old building. She had been expecting that someone will try to help her but people had just turned around and ignored her when they heard of her apartment. And she had unexpectedly found all flats on the 5th floor empty except her own. It was a small and old place but she will make it homely and clean.

When she come back after buying some groceries, she found an old woman waiting for her outside the elevator. The woman smiled warmly and introduced herself as Elizabeth, "you must be in dire need to buy such an apartment," Elizabeth commented.

It was indeed true that she was in dire need, she had chosen the wrong career and now she was doomed to live hand to mouth. As a struggling writer, now she was sure her words held no charm for anyone. Her manuscripts were rejected over and over again. Soon she would have to either change her occupation or live on the streets. "What do you mean by 'such an apartment'?" she asks, a frown creased her fine brow. "My dear, it's been rumoured that this apartment is haunted, that's why you find this so deserted," Anna glanced around her uneasily, "I don't believe in superstitions," "you should" Elizabeth Patted her hand.

Next day, Anna was sitting in her new study room, typing on her typewriter a new manuscript but she kept coming against a blank wall in her mind, she really was losing her talent. The doorbell rang, she left the typewriter on its desk but there was no one outside. She looked up and down the corridor but it was deserted.

She shrugged and went towards the kitchen but stopped dead in her track. The tk tk sound of her typewriter was audible throughout the flat. Hairs stood up on her neck. She reached the machine with heavy footsteps, its noise stopped. But already about a hundred pages were scattered around the room. She skimmed through the words and gasped; a new story was described in beautiful words on the pages.

She ran to the kitchen to drink a glass of cold water to clear her head but once again she stopped dead. A glass of ice-cold water sat on the kitchen counter. She sprinted to the bedroom and locked the door. Her body trembled; she wrapped the cover around herself. She was afraid, terrified of the house itself. Elizabeth had been right. This house was haunted. She strained to hear any sounds from outside but failed.

The sound of a doorbell chiming awakes her. She was afraid to go out but still she reached the door with heavy footsteps. But it was only the post- man outside. A letter had been addressed to her.

After the post-man left, she opened the envelope and read the ten words written in an elaborate script on an ancient thick card inside.

**"Don't be afraid of me. I'm just helping you"**

A sob escaped her lips; she composed herself and went to her typewriter. The incomplete manuscript sat there scattered. She started to write again. When she heard the bell again; she was not afraid. The same envelope was waiting for her outside. This time a part of manuscript was written in script on the thick card. She used them. It went on like this for weeks. She was no longer afraid. She felt another presence in the house but now she accepted it as a friend. The apartment once again held the feeling

of home for her. She talks to the neighbours and they were surprised to find her living happily in the evil-haunted place. She got to know that the spirit she had befriended had been a very talented young writer. His name was Daniel. His first book had been publishing when robbers had killed him in this apartment.

Since then, nobody had lived there for over two years, until Anna. She talked to Daniel and he reassured her in the form of letters. And when she sent their manuscript to a publisher, it was instantly accepted. It became famous world-wide soon. Anna was showered with fame and offers. But she never forgot her dear friend Daniel. Even when she could afford a villa, she continued to live in their apartment. This way, Daniel's writing got acknowledged and Anna found a new lifestyle.

Name: - Bimala das

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# ARTICLES

# YAOSHANG FESTIVAL

## **Introduction: -**

Yaoshang, the majestic festival of Manipuri culture, honours Lord Krishna and Radha. It is a vibrant festival of colours, music and joy that resonates across the state. It is celebrated in the Spring Season, usually in February or March, on the full moon day of the month 'Lamta', over five days. Yaoshang embodies the essence of Manipuri culture, tradition and community spirit. As the festival unfolds the streets are transformed into vibrant canvas, filled with the sweet scents of traditional delicacies, rhythmic beats of drums and melodic chants of folk songs.

Yaoshang is a testament to the resilience and spirit of the Manipuri people, who have preserved their traditions despite centuries of external influences. Through Yaoshang, the people of Manipur reconnect with their roots, reaffirm their community ties. As we delve into the world of Yaoshang, let's explore the history, significance, and festivities of Yaoshang, and experience the warmth and vibrancy of Manipur's culture.

## **History: -**

Yaoshang's rich history dates back to the 13th Century introduced by King Lochamba (1144-1164 AD). During King Kyamba's reign (1464-1508 AD), Yaoshang absorbed Hindu influences, incorporating colourful processions, music and dance. But this blending of tradition enriched the festival making it an integral part of Manipuri culture.

In the 19th century, Yaoshang became a symbol of Manipuri identity and resistance against British rule. The festival's significance extended beyond its cultural context, fostering unity and nationality.

Post-independence Yaoshang continued to thrive. The Manipur government recognised its importance, declaring Yaoshang a state festival of Manipur. Today, it's celebrated across Manipur, showcasing the cultural heritage. Despite centuries of external influences the festival remains vibrant, reflecting the state's unique traditions and values.

## **Festivities and Celebration: -**

Yaoshang festivities are a vibrant display of Manipuri culture, unfolding over five exhilarating days. Homes are decorated and the celebration commence with the burning of "Yaoshang" (a small thatch hut/straw hut), constructed with bamboo and straws, symbolising the victory of good over evil. The ritual is followed by the famous Manipuri folk dance "Thabal Chongba", a moonlight dance where boys and girls gather to sing and dance under the starry night. It is a key part of the Yaoshang festival.

On the second and the third day, children dress up in their finest traditional attire and visit neighbouring homes, singing and dancing to collect donations (Nakatheng). Vaishnavite elders and other local Sankritana bands perform traditional "Pala Eshai" (devotional song). They perform at various places like Shree Govindajee Temple, Shree Shree Bijoy Govindaji Temple and other places such as from home to home. They collect the money which is offered to them when they perform. This tradition fosters community bonding and social harmony. As night falls, the streets come alive with vibrant processions, accompanied by drums, cymbals and folk instruments.

The fourth and fifth day witnesses the grand finale, with cultural programmes, music performances and traditional dances. The festivities conclude with a spectacular display of firework, illuminating the night sky. Throughout Yaoshang, Manipuri's rich cultural heritage is fully displayed, showcasing the unique traditions, customs and values. The celebration transcends age, gender and social boundaries, creating an electrifying atmosphere that resonates with joy and unity.

### **Modern Celebration: -**

In modern times, Yaoshang celebration have evolved, blending traditional practices with contemporary elements. The festival has become a showcase for Manipuri's rich cultural heritage, attracting tourists and cultural enthusiasts worldwide. State level events, cultural programmes and music performances are organised, led by traditional drummers and folk dancers. Modern twist includes fashion shows, rock concerts and competitions for traditional attire and folk music. Yaoshang sports, a key component, features traditional games like hockey, wrestling and archery.

Still, the festival's cultural significance remains intact with traditional rituals and customs preserved. However, modern adaptations have made Yaoshang more inclusive and vibrant involving people from diverse backgrounds, fostering unity and social cohesion.

Despite modernization, Yaoshang essence remains unchanged - a celebration of life, unity and cultural identity. The festival continues to inspire pride, creativity and community spirit among Manipuris, solidifying its place as a vital part of India's cultural landscape.

### **Impact of Yaoshang:-**

Yaoshang has a profound impact on Manipuri society. The festival bridges gaps between communities, generations and socio-economic classes, promoting inclusivity and equality.

Economically, Yaoshang stimulates local business, generating revenue through tourism, handcraft and traditional delicacies. The festival creates employment opportunities, hospitality and transportation. Additionally, Yaoshang promotes cultural exchange, attracting visitors from neighbouring states and countries.

Socially, Yaoshang strengthens family bonds, as people return to their ancestor's home to celebrate with their loved ones. This festival also provides a platform for socialisation, fostering new relationships and community ties. Yaoshang emphasis on

traditional practices and custom helps, preserve Manipuri heritage, ensuring it's transmission to future generations. Yaoshang has a positive impact on education, promoting cultural awareness and sensitivity.

### **Challenges and Preservation: -**

Yaoshang, a vibrant festival, faces numerous challenges threatening its cultural significance and traditional practices. Commercialization and urbanisation have led to the erosion of Manipuri customs, as modern influences replace traditional rituals and celebrations. Other challenges include cultural homogenization, environmental concerns, lack of documentation, and inadequate government support. Despite these threats, community-led initiatives promote traditional practices and cultural awareness, while researchers document Manipuri folklore and customs. Government policies support cultural preservation, tourism development, and infrastructure enhancement, and educational institutions integrate Yaoshang's history and significance into curricula. Organisations like the Manipur State Council of Arts and Culture and the Yaoshang Festival Committee work tirelessly to preserve Yaoshang's cultural essence, ensuring its continued relevance and cultural significance.

### **Conclusion: -**

In conclusion, Yaoshang is a vibrant celebration that embodies the essence of Manipuri culture, tradition, and community spirit. This five-day festival weaves together mythology, music, dance, and art, showcasing Manipur's rich cultural heritage. As Yaoshang continues to evolve, it remains a powerful symbol of unity, social cohesion, and cultural preservation. Despite modern challenges, the festival's significance endures, inspiring pride, creativity, and community engagement. As we celebrate Yaoshang, we honour Manipuri's resilient spirit, its unwavering commitment to tradition, and the timeless beauty of this majestic festival.

Name: PLABITA DEVI

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# BEAUTIFUL MIND, BETTER THAN A FAIR COMPLEXION

Someone has very rightly said 'beauty' is not about having a pretty face. It is about having a pretty mind, a pretty heart and most importantly a beautiful soul. However, there are still many people who look at this moral and run after appearance rather than personality.

In India, people are so obsessed with fair complexion that they rejected the girl for marriage just because of her dark complexion. When we read matrimonial advertisement, it is really said to see that everyone wants a fair complexion bride. For job ads everyone demands for fair skin people. High sale of fairness creams is also an indication of people's obsession with fair complexion.

It is totally in contrast to people of Western countries, where they are crazy about getting tanned skin, also they pay a good amount to get tanned skin. It is high time that we need to understand our brown skin has its own beauty and it perfectly suits us what matters is we have a beautiful heart under the skin we need to focus on being good human beings only that will take us somewhere in life. Not to forget, beauty is only skin deep it is something that will stay only for a short period of time, whereas a positive character is internal.

In India, where traditional beauty standards often dominate, several women have shattered the mold, proving that true beauty lies in their accomplishment and character. Meet some of these inspiring individuals-

- Droupadi murmu: - sworn in as the fifteenth president of India.
- Arunima Sinha: - first amputee to climb Mount Everest, defying physical limitations
- Chandro tomar :- 80 year old sharpshooter breaking age and general barriers.
- Menaka Guru Swamy: - lawyer, fighting for LGBTQ +rights and social justice.
- Sindhutai sapkal:- social worker dedicating her life to orphaned children.

These women, among many others demonstrate that beauty is not just in deep. Age, physical ability or appearance do not define potential. Inner strength Resilience and determination are the true measure of beauty. A beautiful mind is the greatest asset one can possess. It shines brighter than any physical feature and opens doors to limitless opportunities. Let's celebrate and cultivate inner beauty.

So instead of giving preference to a fair complexion, one should look at the inner beauty which provides us perpetual experience, pleasure and satisfaction, inspiring us to perform good deeds. Our real progress will occur when we get rid of such racist mindsets within the general masses of our society. "As we strive for beauty, let us not forget the beauty within".

**Name- Anisha Pandit**

**BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester**

# THE DARK SIDE OF SOCIETY

The "dark side" of society encompasses the complex and often hidden issues that impact individuals, communities, and the broader social fabric. While societies generally aim for growth, progress, and well-being, many underlying problems persist. These problems create challenges for human welfare, social cohesion, and justice, and exploring them provides a clearer picture of the difficulties that shape and sometimes threaten societies worldwide.

## 1. Inequality and Poverty

One of the most prominent issues in modern society is the disparity between the wealthy and the impoverished. Economic inequality divides communities, creating environments where people at the bottom of the economic ladder face limited access to essential resources like education, healthcare, and basic nutrition. Poverty leads to a cyclical disadvantage that is difficult to break, as the lack of access to these resources perpetuates poor living conditions and restricts upward mobility. This economic divide fosters resentment and alienation, making it harder to achieve a cohesive and stable society. People living in poverty are also more vulnerable to exploitation and may find themselves in situations where they are forced to work in unsafe, unfair, or even illegal conditions to survive.

## 2. Crime and Corruption

High crime rates and corruption represent another dark facet of society. Crime is often driven by factors like poverty, lack of education, and limited opportunities. The presence of organized crime and drug trafficking also exacerbates social issues, leading to a breakdown of trust within communities and instilling a sense of insecurity among citizens. Corruption, particularly at higher levels, contributes significantly to social inequality and injustice. When officials use their positions to benefit themselves rather than the public, it undermines the legitimacy of institutions and deepens the divide between the powerful and the powerless. This corruption, whether in politics, law enforcement, or corporate sectors, hinders economic development and public trust, creating a more cynical and disengaged society.

## 3. Mental Health Issues and Stigma

Mental health issues are an increasingly recognised aspect of society's dark side, and stigma around mental health remains a significant problem. Anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders affect millions worldwide, yet they are often misunderstood or even ignored. Many individuals suffering from mental health problems are afraid to seek help due to the fear of being judged or discriminated against. This stigma can lead to isolation, which exacerbates symptoms and sometimes leads to tragic outcomes like suicide. Moreover, mental health services are often underfunded, making it difficult for people in need to access support. When societies fail to prioritize mental health, they create an environment where suffering goes unseen and untreated, affecting not only individuals but entire communities.

## **4. Discrimination and Social Injustice**

Discrimination based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and other factors continues to be a pervasive issue. This discrimination is often systemic, embedded within the laws, institutions, and social norms that govern society. These biases lead to widespread inequality, which denies certain groups the opportunities and rights available to others. For example, systemic racism in many societies means that individuals from certain ethnic backgrounds may face disadvantages in education, employment, and housing, which perpetuates poverty and disenfranchisement. Social injustice, in its various forms, contributes to a divided society, where marginalized groups are excluded and where resentment, fear, and anger can quickly arise, leading to protests and social unrest.

## **5. Environmental Degradation**

Environmental issues, such as pollution, deforestation, and climate change, are often fuelled by society's relentless pursuit of economic growth and consumerism. Human activity has caused irreparable damage to the environment, and the consequences are now painfully evident. Industrialization, deforestation, and pollution have led to global warming, climate change, and a staggering loss of biodiversity. Despite overwhelming scientific evidence, many individuals and corporations continue to prioritize profit over environmental health, exploiting resources at an unsustainable rate.

The impact of climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, often in poorer regions, who suffer the consequences of environmental degradation despite contributing the least to the problem. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and declining agricultural yields threaten food security and economic stability worldwide. The environmental crisis reflects society's dark underbelly—greed, short-sightedness, and a disregard for future generations.

## **6. The Influence of Media and Technology**

The rapid rise of technology and media has changed society in profound ways, both positive and negative. On the darker side, social media platforms and digital technology can lead to widespread misinformation, manipulation, and surveillance. Technology companies often collect vast amounts of data on individuals, raising concerns about privacy and autonomy. Social media can also fuel cyberbullying, addiction, and mental health issues, particularly among younger people who are more vulnerable to online pressures. Misinformation and echo chambers within social media create political and social polarization, creating divisions and reinforcing biases rather than promoting understanding. This digital landscape has a profound impact on the social fabric, contributing to mistrust and divisiveness.

## **7. Exploitation and Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is one of the most hidden and disturbing issues in society. It affects millions of people, often targeting vulnerable individuals, such as women, children, and those living in poverty. Trafficking exploits people for labour, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse, robbing them of their freedom and dignity. Despite efforts to combat human trafficking, it remains a global issue due to factors such as poverty, political instability, and demand for cheap labour. The exploitation of individuals for profit, particularly in an age where human rights are emphasized, highlights the extent of societal darkness and the need for stronger protections and enforcement.

## **8. Alienation and Loss of Community**

Modern society often promotes individualism and materialism, leading to a sense of alienation among people. The loss of community and connectedness is felt especially in urban settings, where the focus on personal success often outweighs communal well-being. Social bonds are weakened, and many people feel isolated, leading to a breakdown in the sense of collective responsibility. This alienation contributes to mental health issues, increased substance abuse, and a general feeling of disconnection from others. Without strong community ties, individuals feel less motivated to contribute positively to society, furthering the cycle of alienation and contributing to social instability.

## **Conclusion**

Exploring the darker aspects of society reveals the many challenges and injustices that continue to shape the world. From poverty and inequality to environmental degradation and the breakdown of community bonds, these issues highlight the complexity of modern life and the need for collective action. Addressing these problems requires a deep commitment from individuals, governments, and organisations to promote justice, equality, and sustainability. By recognising and understanding the dark side of society, we can work together to create a future where these issues are no longer ignored but are actively addressed, paving the way for a more inclusive and just world.

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# COLLEGE CAMPUS LIFE

College Campus life is more than just a place for academic learning. It is energetic, vibrant, culturally diverse, and fosters social interactions, with institutions spread across the country. Each campus reflects its unique regional flavour and offers a well-rounded experience.

Some advantages of campus life include social networking, where students can meet and share similar interests, leading to friendships. Resources such as libraries, laboratories, and access to experienced faculty provide support for students' studies. Personal growth is encouraged on campus, fostering self-discovery, independence, and responsibility.

However, some disadvantages of campus life include academic pressure. The competitive nature of college can increase stress levels, leading to anxiety and burnout. Many students struggle to balance academics and personal life. The cost of living can be high, leading to long-term financial challenges for students. Distractions are common in campus life. Social events, parties, and other activities can divert students' attention from studying, especially during exam periods, leading to wasted time.

In summary, college campuses provide a rich landscape for personal and academic growth. Social networking and academic resources create an ideal environment for developing well-rounded individuals prepared to thrive in the world. Embracing the college experience can lead to lifelong benefits for every student, regardless of their background, making it an important phase in their lives.

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# LIBERAL FEMINISM

## Introduction

Liberal feminism, also called mainstream feminism, is a main branch of feminism that focuses on the equal rights and opportunities for women within a liberal democracy. Liberal feminism originated in Western societies and focuses on the importance of individual freedom, advocating for political and legal reforms to achieve gender equality.

Liberal feminism is also called "mainstream feminism", "reformist feminism", "egalitarian feminism", or historically "bourgeois feminism" (or bourgeois -liberal feminism). Liberal feminism is rooted in liberalism, a political philosophy which advocates the development of individual freedom, especially in political and economic contexts. Liberal feminists argue for the removal of legal and institutional barriers that prevent women from enjoying the same freedoms and opportunities as men. Women's 'liberation' would be achieved by putting an end to the discriminatory practices and by pushing for equal rights. Liberal feminists have fought for Women's right to vote, education, work, and to have equal pay.

Liberal feminism began in the 18th and 19th centuries and has continued to the present time. It took years to explain that men and women are equal and that they play a crucial role in every sphere.

## Some Important figures in Liberal Feminism Tradition

\*Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797): One of the first advocates of women's rights. "Make women rational creatures, and free citizens, and they will quickly become good wives; - that is, if men do not neglect the duties of husbands and fathers", in her book "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" argued for Women's education and rationality.

\* Harriet Taylor Mill (1807-1858) was a prominent figure in the Liberal feminist tradition, known for her advocacy of women's rights and influence on her husband, John Stuart Mill. "A woman should be able to choose any career, and if her choice is to be a wife and mother, then contributing to the family is her career" where she emphasizes on the choice of an individual.

\* John Stuart Mill (1806-1873): A philosopher and political economist, Mill wrote "The Subjection of Women," advocating for women's suffrage and equality by stating that, "The most important thing women have yet to learn is that nobody gives you power. You just take it."

\*Betty Friedan (1921-2006): The author of "The Feminine Mystique" (1963), that sparked the second wave of feminism in the United States. The quote, "Who knows what women can be when they are finally free to become themselves?" encapsulates her vision of women breaking free from societal expectations to realize their true potential.

## A Brief History of Liberal Feminism

Liberal Feminism has a rich history that spans over two centuries. Liberal feminism began during the Enlightenment, with the rise of the political philosophy known as Classical liberalism. Like

many classical liberals in the late-eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, liberal feminists believed that the best way toward women's liberation was the right to vote. The early feminist scholars and activists drew inspiration from Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) and later from John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Women* (1869).

The 1848 convention in Seneca Falls, New York, organized by early American feminists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, was perhaps the first convention in the women's rights movement. The discussions at the event focused on sexual discrimination in the public sphere and expanding fundamental rights, emphasizing voting. In the year 1920, women in the United States gained suffrage and the right to serve in public office.

*The Feminine Mystique* (1963), by feminist scholar and activist Betty Friedan, examined women's sacrifices in society, particularly with household. The Second-Wave of feminism advocated for equal opportunities in the workplace, home, and public sphere. The middle-class Liberal feminists spoke publicly about gender roles at home, the wage gap, sexual harassment, domestic violence, healthcare, child care, and reproductive rights.

Liberal feminist activism persists today, even as the overall movement has diversified in representation and philosophy.

### **The core Principles of Liberal Feminism**

1. Gender Equality-Promoting gender equality, which involves ensuring that every individual, regardless of their gender, have the same rights, opportunities, and fair treatment under the law without any discrimination based on gender.

2. Individualism - Advocating for individual liberty, upholding a person's right to make their own decisions, exercise their freedom, recognizing the agency and dignity of individuals.

3. Reform- Liberal feminists aim to create gender equality through legislative changes and policy reform.

4. Rationality- Applying reason and evidence to challenge and dismantle entrenched gender stereotypes and biases.

### **The Challenges faced by Liberal Feminists**

Liberal feminists face several challenges in their pursuit of gender equality through legal and political reforms. One of the most significant challenges is resistance from institutions, as governments and many organizations are reluctant to implement meaningful changes due to the patriarchal norms or bureaucratic inertia.

Liberal feminism is often criticized for lacking intersectionality, focusing primarily on the experience of white, middle-class women while neglecting the unique struggles of women while neglecting the unique struggles of women of colour, LGBTQ+ individuals and those lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Liberal feminists often face strong backlash from conservative groups, particularly around issues like reproductive rights and gender quotas.

Balancing legal equality with recognizing gender differences, particularly in caregiving and family roles remains an ongoing challenge for Liberal feminists.

## **Conclusion**

Liberal feminists advocate for gender equality through legal and political reforms within existing societal structures. They focus on issues like equal pay, reproductive rights, and anti-discrimination laws, emphasizing the importance of individual rights and opportunities. Liberal feminists argue that societal change can be achieved by promoting women's participation in public life and ensuring that women have access to the same rights and privileges as men. Liberal feminism plays a crucial role in the broader feminist movement, contributing to ongoing discussions about equality and justice. Overall, Liberal feminism aims to create a society in which all the individuals regardless of their gender, have equal rights and opportunities to thrive.

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# CYBERBULLYING AND ONLINE SAFETY: A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

## Introduction

The internet has become an essential part of our lives, offering convenience, entertainment, and education. Social media, online games, and digital platforms have made communication easier than ever. However, with these advancements, there has also been a rise in cyberbullying and online threats. Many students experience harassment, trolling, or privacy violations online, making it crucial to understand cyberbullying and practice online safety.

This article will explore cyberbullying, its impact, and how students can protect themselves in the digital world.

## What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying refers to using digital platforms to harass, threaten, embarrass, or harm others. Unlike traditional bullying, cyberbullying happens online and can reach a vast audience instantly. It can take many forms, including:

**Harassment:** Repeatedly sending hurtful messages, comments, or threats.

**Impersonation:** Creating fake accounts to spread rumours or damage someone's reputation.

**Doxing:** Sharing personal information without consent.

**Cyberstalking:** Monitoring someone's online activity aggressively.

**Trolling:** Posting offensive or provocative comments to upset others.

**Outing and Shaming:** Revealing private information or embarrassing content to the public.

With social media being a big part of student life, the effects of cyberbullying can be serious and long lasting.

## The Impact of Cyberbullying on Students

Cyberbullying can cause emotional distress, social anxiety, and even physical health issues. Some of the common effects include:

**Mental Health Issues:** Victims often experience stress, depression, and low self-esteem.

**Academic Performance Decline:** Fear and anxiety can make students lose concentration in studies.

**Social Isolation:** Many victims withdraw from social interactions due to embarrassment or fear.

**Suicidal Thoughts:** In severe cases, continuous online harassment can lead to self-harm or suicidal tendencies.

Since cyberbullying doesn't happen in a physical space, many victims suffer in silence, afraid to speak up or seek help. This is why awareness and prevention are essential.

## **How to Stay Safe Online**

The internet can be a safe and positive place if used wisely. Here are some tips to protect yourself from cyberbullying and other online threats:

### **1. Protect Your Personal Information**

Avoid sharing personal details like your address, phone number, or school name online.

Be cautious about the photos and information you post. Once something is online, it's hard to erase. Adjust your social media privacy settings to control who can see your posts.

### **2. Think Before You Post**

Anything you post online can be saved, screenshotted, or shared without your permission.

Avoid posting anything that might be misinterpreted or used against you in the future.

Remember, employers and universities often check online profiles before hiring or admitting students.

### **3. Recognize and Avoid Cyberbullies**

If someone is being rude or offensive, don't engage with them—block and report instead.

Never respond to hate messages, as this can escalate the situation.

Keep screenshots of bullying messages as proof if you need to report them later.

### **4. Be Mindful of Online Friends**

Not everyone online is who they claim to be. Avoid accepting friend requests from strangers.

Be careful while joining online groups or chats, especially if they promote negativity or hate.

If someone online makes you uncomfortable, unfriend or block them immediately.

### **5. Use Strong Passwords and Secure Your Accounts**

Use a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters in your passwords.

Never share your passwords with friends, even if you trust them.

Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) for extra security on social media accounts.

### **6. Be Aware of Scams and Phishing Attacks**

Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading unknown attachments.

Be cautious of online contests, giveaways, or messages asking for personal information.

If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is!

## **7. Educate Yourself and Others**

Stay informed about the latest cyber threats and online safety measures.

Talk to your friends and peers about cyberbullying and its dangers.

Encourage victims of cyberbullying to seek help and support.

## **What to Do If You Are a Victim of Cyberbullying**

If you are facing cyberbullying, remember that you are not alone. Here's what you can do:

1. Do Not Respond: Engaging with bullies often makes things worse. Ignore and block them.
2. Document Everything: Take screenshots of abusive messages as evidence.
3. Report the Bully: Most social media platforms allow users to report harassment.
4. Talk to Someone: Speak to a trusted friend, teacher, or counsellor for support.
5. Seek Legal Help if Necessary: If cyberbullying turns into serious threats or harassment, report it to authorities.

## **Cyberbullying Laws and Regulations**

Many countries have laws to punish cyberbullies. In India, for example:

The Information Technology Act, 2000 has provisions against cyberstalking, hacking, and identity theft.

The Indian Penal Code (IPC) has sections dealing with online harassment and defamation.

Schools and colleges are also encouraged to take strict action against cyberbullying cases.

If you are facing severe online harassment, do not hesitate to report it to the authorities.

## **The Role of Colleges in Preventing Cyberbullying**

Colleges can play a significant role in spreading awareness and ensuring a safer digital environment for students. Some steps institutions can take include:

Conducting workshops on online safety and responsible internet use.

Encouraging students to report cyberbullying without fear of judgment.

Establishing a student-led cyber safety committee to address online harassment cases.

Promoting digital etiquette and ethical behaviour in online interactions.

## **Conclusion**

The internet is a powerful tool, but it must be used responsibly. Cyberbullying is a serious issue that affects many students, and awareness is the first step towards prevention. By staying informed, using privacy settings, and standing up against online harassment, we can create a safer and more positive digital space for everyone.

As students, we must support each other, report cyberbullies, and promote a culture of kindness online. Remember, what you say and do on the internet has real consequences. Think before you click, and always choose to be a responsible digital citizen!

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BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# THE BEAUTIFUL SOUL OF A WOMAN

Women are often revered for their beauty, strength, and resilience. However, there's more to a woman's beauty than meets the eye. Beyond the physical appearance, lies a beautiful soul that shines bright with compassion, love, and kindness.

## The Heart of a Caregiver

A woman's soul is often characterized by her nurturing and caring nature. She has the unique ability to put others before herself, to listen, to empathize, and to heal. Whether it's a mother's love for her child, a sister's support for her sibling, or a friend's loyalty to her companion, a woman's heart is always ready to give and receive love.

## A Well of Emotional Depth

Women are often stereotyped as being emotional, but this emotional depth is actually a strength, not a weakness. A woman's soul is capable of experiencing a wide range of emotions, from the deepest sorrow to the highest joy. This emotional intelligence allows her to connect with others on a deeper level, to understand their struggles, and to offer comfort and solace.

## A Source of Inner Strength

Despite facing numerous challenges and obstacles, a woman's soul remains a source of inner strength and resilience. She has the ability to bounce back from adversity, to adapt to new situations, and to find creative solutions to complex problems. This inner strength is often drawn from her experiences, her relationships, and her own inner wisdom.

## A Radiant Light of Positivity

A woman's soul is often a radiant light of positivity, illuminating the world around her. She has the power to uplift others, to inspire hope, and to spread love and kindness. Whether it's through her smile, her laughter, or her generous spirit, a woman's soul can brighten even the darkest of days.

## Conclusion

A woman's soul is a beautiful, complex, and multifaceted entity that deserves to be celebrated and honoured. It's a soul that shines bright with love, compassion, and kindness, touching the lives of everyone around her. As we appreciate the beauty of a woman's soul, let us also recognize the strength, resilience, and positivity that lies within her.

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BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# LAVENDER SCARE & AIDS CRISIS: DECADES OF LGBTQ+ STRUGGLE

## Unmasking Decades of Oppression: From the Lavender Scare to the AIDS Crisis

Throughout the mid-20th century, LGBTQ+ individuals in the United States faced profound persecution, sanctioned and perpetuated by societal and governmental systems. From the “Lavender Scare” of the 1950s—an era of heightened homophobic hysteria branding LGBTQ+ people as security threats—to the devastating AIDS crisis that swept the 1980s and 1990s, LGBTQ+ of marginalization but also a steadfast resilience within the LGBTQ+ movement.

Inspired by Thomas Mallon’s novel *Fellow Travelers* and the recent television adaptation, which explore the intimate and political struggles of LGBTQ+ individuals in these fraught decades (Mallon), this article examines the Lavender Scare and the AIDS crisis, emphasizing how these two pivotal events shaped the landscape of LGBTQ+ rights. By uncovering the legal, social, and personal ramifications of each period, this article provides insight into the roots of modern LGBTQ+ advocacy and the enduring struggles for equality. Through this lens, the article highlights the legacy of fear and resilience that defined LGBTQ+ lives across decades and speaks to the ongoing necessity of acknowledging these histories.

## The "Lavender Scare" in Context

The “Lavender Scare” emerged in the 1950s, a period marked by heightened Cold War paranoia in the United States. During this time, fears surrounding communism extended to LGBTQ+ individuals, who were seen as susceptible to blackmail and, thus, potential “security risks.” This climate of suspicion, largely spurred by Senator Joseph McCarthy and his anti-communist rhetoric, branded LGBTQ+ people as morally unfit and fundamentally disloyal to the nation (Johnson 39).

The Lavender Scare began to take formal shape with Executive Order 10450, issued by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. This order effectively banned LGBTQ+ individuals from holding federal jobs, as it allowed the government to dismiss employees on the grounds of “sexual perversion” (Johnson 51). McCarthy’s fervent anti-communist campaign became a dual crusade against both communists and LGBTQ+ individuals, a fear-mongering strategy that sought to “purify” the government. McCarthy’s approach was reinforced by Roy Cohn, his chief legal counsel, who, alongside David Schine, a close associate, pushed for an aggressive, uncompromising stance on security issues. Ironically, Cohn, who was widely suspected of being gay himself, contributed significantly to the persecution of LGBTQ+ individuals within federal institutions (Johnson 42).

The Lavender Scare differed from the contemporaneous “Red Scare” in that it targeted personal identity rather than political ideology. While the Red Scare sought to eliminate communist sympathizers, the Lavender Scare institutionalized homophobia by equating LGBTQ+ identities with threats to national security. This government-led discrimination not only cost thousands their jobs but also set a dangerous precedent for social discrimination, laying the groundwork for later homophobic policies. Furthermore, the fear generated during this period led to widespread self-censorship among LGBTQ+ individuals, forcing them to lead double lives to protect themselves from exposure and dismissal (Faderman 27).

These policies left a lasting impact on LGBTQ+ rights, perpetuating discrimination well into the later decades. The events of the Lavender Scare catalysed a long-standing fight for LGBTQ+ visibility and acceptance, marking one of the earliest yet least-discussed chapters of systemic oppression against the LGBTQ+ community in the United States.

### **The AIDS Crisis of the 1980s and 90s**

In the 1980s and early 1990s, the AIDS epidemic emerged as one of the deadliest public health crises in recent history, devastating the LGBTQ+ community in particular. Initially referred to as the “gay plague” due to its prevalence among gay men, AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) was misunderstood, stigmatized, and largely ignored by mainstream society and the government during its initial outbreak (Shilts 30). This neglect led to a period of profound fear, suffering, and alienation for LGBTQ+ individuals and the communities surrounding them.

The federal government’s response to AIDS during this period was marked by delays and indifference. President Ronald Reagan, for example, did not publicly address the crisis until 1985, four years after the epidemic’s onset, despite mounting fatalities (France 56). His administration’s silence and lack of support allowed the disease to spread unchecked and contributed to the social stigma surrounding those affected. This absence of government intervention amplified a sense of isolation within the LGBTQ+ community, as public health resources were disproportionately directed away from AIDS research and outreach efforts.

Amid this crisis, community-based organizations and activists took the lead in raising awareness, demanding government action, and providing support for those affected. The establishment of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) in 1987, led by Larry Kramer, was pivotal in bringing national attention to the epidemic and highlighting the government’s negligence (France 78). ACT UP organized demonstrations, such as the “Die-In” protests, where activists would lie down in public spaces to symbolize the mounting death toll from AIDS. These movements were instrumental in pushing for drug research and treatment options, eventually leading to the approval of antiretroviral therapies that helped slow the disease’s progression (Shilts 215).

The AIDS crisis significantly altered the LGBTQ+ community’s role in public activism, transforming it into a political and social force that could no longer be ignored. This period of struggle, both within and outside the LGBTQ+ community, forced a re-evaluation of civil rights, healthcare equity, and social support structures, highlighting the urgent need for inclusivity and respect for marginalized groups. The impact of the AIDS crisis, coupled with the government’s indifference, fuelled a legacy of activism that endures today in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and healthcare reform.

### **The Interplay of Personal and Political Themes**

The Lavender Scare and the AIDS crisis not only devastated LGBTQ+ communities but also laid bare the inseparable link between the personal and the political within LGBTQ+ lives. Both crises forced individuals to navigate private identities under intense public scrutiny, revealing how governmental policies and societal biases infiltrated the intimate, everyday experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals. This era underscored a defining struggle for LGBTQ+ people: the need to reconcile personal identity with public, often hostile, societal forces.

During the Lavender Scare, individuals such as Roy Cohn—prominent lawyer and advisor to Senator Joseph McCarthy—lived under constant threat of exposure and job loss. Cohn, despite his closeted sexuality, pursued anti-gay policies and contributed to the very persecution that endangered his own identity. This self-contradiction was common among LGBTQ+ individuals of the time, who were forced

to compartmentalize their public and private lives (Johnson 63). In *Fellow Travelers*, Tim Laughlin and Hawkins embody this conflict, with Tim's idealism clashing against Hawkins' realism as they attempt to protect their relationship from discovery. Their romance is deeply shadowed by the government's scrutiny, reflecting the pervasive fear among LGBTQ+ people of societal repercussions, loss of employment, and, ultimately, exposure and ruin.

The personal and political ramifications continued into the 1980s and 90s during the AIDS crisis, a period of deep isolation and systemic neglect for LGBTQ+ individuals. The crisis's association with gay men intensified discrimination and fear, leading to societal blame for the spread of AIDS and compounded by limited governmental response. In response to this disregard, activists like Larry Kramer, founder of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), emerged as symbols of defiance and resilience. Kramer's activism highlights the shift in LGBTQ+ communities towards open confrontation against injustice, contrasting with the more guarded self-preservation of figures like Cohn (France 78). Tim and Hawkins' relationship, though fictional, mirrors the struggles of real-life couples grappling with the intersection of public prejudice and private love during the AIDS crisis.

These experiences, both real and fictionalized in *Fellow Travelers*, demonstrate the profound effects that political oppression has on personal lives, pushing LGBTQ+ individuals to respond in diverse ways—from guarded self-repression to open rebellion. Figures like Cohn, Kramer, Tim, and Hawkins underscore this diversity of responses. The Lavender Scare and the AIDS crisis catalyzed lasting movements for rights, recognition, and systemic reform. By forcing individuals to confront hostile policies and societal indifference, these crises left a legacy of resilience, solidarity, and activism that continues to shape LGBTQ+ communities and their quest for equality today.

## **Conclusion**

The intertwined histories of the Lavender Scare and the AIDS crisis illuminate the resilience of LGBTQ+ communities in the face of institutionalized discrimination and social stigma. These events reveal how political and social policies that marginalize vulnerable communities shape not only public perceptions but also profoundly impact private lives. The Lavender Scare forced LGBTQ+ individuals into secrecy, creating a culture of self-surveillance, while the AIDS crisis transformed LGBTQ+ identity into a public health "threat," leading to widespread fear and neglect. Both crises reinforced the need for LGBTQ+ visibility and galvanized enduring movements for civil rights and social justice. Figures like Roy Cohn and Larry Kramer represent the spectrum of responses within the LGBTQ+ community during these times. Cohn's complex legacy exemplifies the internalized pressures of survival within a hostile political system, while Kramer's fierce activism embodies the collective resistance that became essential during the AIDS crisis. Meanwhile, fictional characters like Tim Laughlin and Hawkins in *Fellow Travelers* illustrate the personal sacrifices and emotional tolls faced by LGBTQ+ individuals navigating love and identity in a society that viewed them as threats to national and social stability. The struggles born of the Lavender Scare and the AIDS crisis created legacies that resonate deeply with LGBTQ+ activism today. Each crisis confronted individuals with harsh political and societal realities, but they also generated a spirit of defiance and solidarity that continues to drive the pursuit of equality and dignity. These events underscore a critical truth: that the fight for LGBTQ+ rights is not just a struggle for legal protections but also for social recognition and respect for personal identities. The enduring legacy of these decades of struggle reminds us that history's lessons are most powerful when they lead us toward a future of compassion, inclusion, and justice.

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PG ENGLISH HONOURS 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# EQUALITY FOR ALL: SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

## Introduction:

The LGBTQ+ community is a vibrant and multifaceted part of human society. It stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and others who are in the spectrum of gender and sexual diversity.

In this era, the LGBTQ+ community is a population representing a huge pool of sexual orientations and gender identities. Despite the fact that they are constantly on the forefront of the struggle of human rights almost everywhere in this planet, they are still a group that is marginalized and discriminated. The countries laws that were popularized all over the world ensuring them respect and title, did not bring concrete social inclusion. The acceptance within Indian Society is only partial and is still a big question. This article delves into the history of LGBTQ+ movement not only on the world scale but also in the Indian Society lightening its progress, setbacks, and the ongoing struggles.

## Historical Context:

The history of the LGBTQ+ community has not been just a story about acceptance, it has experienced both advances and setbacks. For the millennial, its was wide spread in such civilizations as Greece and Rome to be openly accept same sex relationships. Still the era of monotheistic religions and colonisation turned out to be difficult years for all those who were not heteronormative. This Global Human Rights Movement came into life during 20th century, gaining momentum after the 1969 Stonewall Riots.

On the other hand, accounts of Indian history like Kamasutra tells us about a peaceful co-existence of LGBTQ+ community. And the other Hindu text like, the Rigveda, Mahabharata and Bhagavata Purana contains certain references to same-sex relationships and non-binary identities. Indian ancient poets like Kalidasa, Bhartrihari, Jayadeva, Vidyapati, etc. wrote about same-sex relationship. Ancient Greek poetess like Sappho, and Erinna also explored same sex love and desire. And ancient Rome too witnessed poets like

Virgil, Ovid etc. delved into LGBTQ+ themes. They remain iconic figure in LGBTQ+ history, inspiring generations with their timeless poetry.

During Colonial rule in India, colonial laws like Section 377 imposed severe restrictions to homosexuality. The 2018 descriminalization of homosexuality under Section 377 was a pivotal moment for the LGBTQ+ community in India. However, full societal and legal acceptance still have not brought up. Today, LGBTQ+ individuals continue to fight for rights and acceptance in the world.

### **Challenges Faced:**

The LGBTQ+ community face many challenges both Globally and in India, stemming from cultural, legal, and societal ground realities. In India, though it is considered not a crime since 2018, it is still a taboo in many parts of the conservative and traditional areas. The desire to live openly and authentically would be difficult with the threat of family rejection, workplace discrimination for many individuals. Many countries continue to make same sex relationships illegal and punishable, including imprisonment or execution. This lack of social acceptance has spurred a wide-range of bullying, violence and heinous crime. LGBTQ+ people face further unemployment and systematic obstacle and their level of unemployment and homeless are sustainable.

### **Progress and Advocacy:**

The LGBTQ+ community has come a long way in achieving their rights, but advocacy is still necessary to ensure that they have nothing less than equal status. Even as we make progress, obstacles include the battle for both equal rights and defence against, attacking on them, recognition of transgender rights, inclusive education, access to quality health care, and elimination of dangerous conversion therapy without exception. Beyond that, there is advocating to do, a lot need to be said but what cannot even stop for is its potential negative impact on even more lives. Human rights campaigns like, International LGBTQ+ Association, The Trevor Project, GLAAD, Indian Naz Foundation, are making substantial efforts to bring social reformation. As of May 2024, 36 countries have legalized same sex marriage. And the recognition of LGBTQ+ rights as human rights have paved the way for greater visibility, advocacy and support. And this will continue to be necessary in the pursuit of a more inclusive equal society for all.

### **Conclusion:**

Support and awareness of the LGBTQ+ Community is not just about tolerating but about making sure that each and every one can lead lives free of discrimination, insults and

inequality issues in the various groups we affiliate with. The struggle for the LGBTQ+ rights journey has been long but the journey is far from over. By continuing to challenge prejudice and foster inclusivity, societies can move toward a future where diversity in sexual orientations and gender identity is celebrated. And all individuals, regardless of how they identify their gender are empowered to live authentically.

Submitted by: -

Plabita Devi and Bimala Das

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# GLOBAL WARMING

## Introduction: -

From the past few years, we can see that 'Global Warming' has become a major concern around the world. Everyone has started facing on its effects in recent times. The term 'Global Warming' means a rise in the earth's average temperature. The reason for global warming is because of when extreme level of Carbon dioxide, Methane and other greenhouse gases collects in the atmosphere and absorbs the sunlight and solar radiation reflected by the earth's surface. As a result, the radiation escapes into space but these pollutants trap the heat and slow down radiation. As a result, this makes the earth's surface hotter.

## \* Natural causes for Global warming: -

- 1) Increasing the composition of the greenhouse gases can affect in global warming
- 2) Natural Forest fires spreads carbon filled smoke into the atmosphere which leads to afforestation.
- 3) Volcanic activities when gets out of control and produces more heats than the average heat it can lead to cause the global warming

## \* Human causes for Global Warming: -

- 1) Rapid increase in population and unsatiated greed for development have led to deforestation
- 2) Apart from other mineral resources, Coal and Petrol are mostly used minerals which leads to excessive mining causes to harm the natural gases in air.
- 3) In a daily basis around the world, industries and vehicles releases a number of gases into the air, which helps in increasing the earth's temperature.
- 4) Garbage collected on daily basis and burnt releases a numerous toxic gas into the air.

## \*Effects of Global Warming: -

- 1) Increasing of heats are causing loss of sea ice which leads to scarier droughts in more region.
- 2) Changes in climate because of more than average heat is causing problems to the nature and cultivation.

- 3) Because of increasing harmful greenhouse gases, it is leading to many harmful diseases.
- 4) Scarcity of food and water.

**\* Solution: -**

- 1) saving energy at home and reducing wasting water.
- 2) Planting more trees will reduce the amount of Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- 3) Using sustainable transportation like walking, taking public transportation rather than using personal vehicle.
- 4) People can divest their investment from fossil fuels and encourage others to follow the same.

**\* Conclusion: -**

Since it is a serious problem and it will threaten the planet and people around the world will have to face the consequences of Global Warming. Humans need to act quickly to reduce greenhouse gases to slow the rate of climate changes. Marginalized communities will need to raise a voice in taking decision about how local government should respond to this problem and give solutions for this. If any decisions are not made by now then this problem will lead to destroy the planet someday.

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# THE IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH ON DAILY LIFE

Mental health refers to our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It encompasses our thoughts, feelings, and behaviours, influencing our relationships, daily functioning, and overall quality of life. Mental health is a vital aspect of our overall health, affecting our ability to cope with life's challenges, achieve our goals, and realize our full potential.

## **Components:**

**Emotional Well-being** - It refers to our ability to recognize, understand, and manage our emotions. It involves being aware of our feelings, values, and attitudes; using this awareness to guide our thoughts and behaviours.

**Psychological Well-being** - It encompasses our cognitive abilities, such as perception, attention, memory, language, and problem-solving. It also includes our ability to learn, adapt, and cope with stress.

**Social Well-being** - Social well-being refers to our ability to form and maintain healthy relationships with others. It involves being able to communicate effectively, empathize with others, and build strong social connections.

## **Factors Affecting Mental Health**

Mental health is influenced by a complex interplay of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. Some of the key factors that can affect mental health include:

**Genetics** - Genetics play a significant role in mental health, with certain mental health conditions having a strong genetic component. For example, individuals with a family history of depression or anxiety are more likely to experience these conditions themselves.

**Environment** - Environmental factors such as childhood trauma, abuse, or neglect can significantly impact mental health. Additionally, exposure to stress, poverty, and social inequality can also contribute to poor mental health.

**Lifestyle** - Lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise, sleep, and substance use can also affect mental health. For example, a healthy diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains can support mental health, while a diet high in processed foods and sugar can have negative effects.

**Social Connections** - Social connections such as relationships with family, friends, and others are essential for good mental health. Strong social connections can provide emotional support, reduce stress, and improve overall well-being.

### **Mental Health Conditions: -**

Mental health conditions are common and can affect anyone, regardless of age, background, or socio-economic status. Some common mental health conditions include:

**Anxiety disorders** - anxiety disorders, such as generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, and social anxiety disorder, are characterized by excessive fear, worry, or anxiety that interferes with daily life.

**Depressive Disorders** - Depressive disorders, such as major depressive disorder and persistent depressive disorder, are characterized by persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and a loss of interest in activities.

**Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders** - Trauma and stressor-related disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), are characterized by exposure to a traumatic event, leading to symptoms of anxiety, depression, and hypervigilance.

**Personality Disorders** - Personality disorders, such as borderline personality disorder and narcissistic personality disorder, are characterized by persistent patterns of thought, feeling, and behaviour that deviate from cultural norms and expectations.

### **Maintaining Good Mental Health**

Maintaining good mental health requires a combination of self-care, social support, and professional help when needed. Here are some strategies for promoting mental health:

**-Practice self-care** - Engage in activities that bring joy and relaxation, such as exercise, meditation, or hobbies.

**- Seek social support** - Build strong relationships with family and friends, and stay connected with others through social activities.

**- Stay physically active** - Regular exercise can improve mood, reduce stress, and enhance overall mental health.

**- Eat a healthy diet** - A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains can support mental health.

**- Get enough sleep** - Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep per night to help regulate mood and reduce stress.

- **Get professional help** - Consult with a mental health professional if experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition or struggling to cope with daily life.

### **Conclusion: -**

Mental health is a vital aspect of our overall well-being that influences how we think, feel, and act. It is essential for leading a fulfilling life and contributing to society. Understanding mental health, recognizing the signs of mental illness, and promoting mental well-being can lead to healthier individuals and communities. It is crucial to prioritize mental health and seek help when needed, as everyone deserves to enjoy good mental health and a high quality of life.

"Mental health is just as important as physical health, and seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness."

Name - Sanjana Dutta

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# ADVANTAGE ASSAM 2.0

Advantage Assam 2.0, the state's premier Investment and Infrastructure Summit, was held on February 25-26, 2025, at the Veterinary Field in Khanapara, Guwahati. Building upon the success of its inaugural edition in 2018, this summit aimed to position Assam as a leading investment destination in India, leveraging its strategic location and abundant resources.

## Inauguration and Participation

The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who highlighted Assam's transformation into a land of limitless opportunities. He noted that the state's economy had doubled to ₹6 lakh crore under the current administration. The event witnessed participation from 67 heads of missions, 76 countries, 12 bilateral agencies, and nine partner nations, underscoring its global significance.

## Investment Commitments

Advantage Assam 2.0 secured investment proposals totalling ₹4.91 lakh crore, nearly five times the commitments from the 2018 summit. These investments spanned various sectors:

- **Private Sector Investments:** Major conglomerates such as Reliance Industries, Adani Group, Vedanta, Tata Group, and Jindal committed a combined ₹1.25 lakh crore.
- **Government Sector Investments:** The government pledged ₹78,000 crore towards infrastructure development, focusing on enhancing the state's connectivity and public services.
- **District-Level Agreements:** At the grassroots level, 1,921 agreements worth ₹5,851 crore were signed, aiming to boost local economies and promote inclusive growth.

## Sectoral Highlights

**The summit emphasized several key sectors:**

- **Energy and Infrastructure:** A significant portion of the investments, approximately ₹2.1 lakh crore, was allocated to energy security, infrastructure development, and inland waterways.
- **Technology and Artificial Intelligence:** Mukesh Ambani announced an investment of over ₹50,000 crore to establish advanced AI-ready data centers in Assam. This initiative aims to transform the state into a technology hub, creating jobs and fostering economic growth.

- **Skill Development and Education:** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma highlighted the need for skilled manpower to absorb the incoming investments. He emphasized revamping the academic curriculum to align with industry requirements, ensuring that the local workforce is equipped to meet new challenges.

**Strategic Initiatives:** To attract global investors, the Assam government undertook several strategic initiatives:

- **Global Outreach:** Led by Chief Minister Sarma, delegations visited countries like Japan and South Korea to showcase Assam's investment potential and forge international partnerships.
- **Policy Reforms:** The state introduced investor-friendly policies, streamlined approval processes, and offered incentives to create a conducive business environment. These reforms aimed to enhance ease of doing business and attract diverse investments.

## **Infrastructure Development**

**A cornerstone of the summit was the focus on infrastructure:**

- **Inland Waterways:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal unveiled a ₹4,800 crore plan to transform Assam's inland waterways, enhancing connectivity and trade.
- **Central Government Support:** The Indian government committed nearly ₹1 lakh crore for infrastructure projects, including developments in waterways, highways, and railways. These projects are expected to bolster Assam's connectivity with the rest of India and neighbouring countries.

## **Economic Diversification**

**Advantage Assam 2.0 aimed to diversify the state's economy by promoting sectors such as:**

- **Agro-Processing and Textiles:** Initiatives were launched to add value to Assam's agricultural produce and revitalize the textile industry, leveraging traditional skills and modern technology.
- **Petrochemicals and Bamboo Products:** Investments in petrochemical complexes and bamboo-based industries aimed to utilize local resources effectively, creating jobs and boosting exports.
- **Renewable Energy and IT:** The summit promoted green energy projects and IT parks, aligning with global sustainability trends and catering to the growing demand for clean energy and digital services.

**Conclusion: -**

Advantage Assam 2.0 marked a significant milestone in the state's journey towards economic transformation. The substantial investment commitments, coupled with strategic policy reforms and infrastructure development, are poised to propel Assam into a new era of industrial growth and prosperity. By focusing on diverse sectors and fostering a business-friendly environment, Assam is set to become a pivotal player in India's economic landscape.

Name-Bhagya Kishore Bora

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# INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT: A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

India, as one of the largest and most rapidly growing economies in the world, has moved far into the field of technology and development over the past few decades. With a rich history that has spanned from the infancy of technology adoption in an era following independence to emerging as a global leader in IT and space exploration, as well as contribution to the digital transformation in this modern world, India's journey has proven to be amazing. This article is an exposition of the various sides of India's technology progress, present challenges, and future developmental roadmaps.

## Early Technological Foundations

Just after independence in 1947, Indian leaders recognized how self-reliance could be achieved through development in technological fields. Thereafter, India invested in those fundamentally productive sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and infrastructure proceeding in the areas of education and research towards such goals.

The 1950s and 1960s were the years in which India initiated its journey into industrialization. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), established in 1954, and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1969, were the major public sector establishments that put India's technology base on a front for future burgeoning growth. Despite the poor conditions and resources available, the government's focus on research and development provided the impetus for many successes in the country at a later stage.

## IT and Software Revolution

The event most conspicuously described in the technology landscape of India actually occurred in the 1990s. The liberalization of the economy in 1991, at the heart of which were reforms, opened the market for inflows of foreign direct investment into the country, thus helping to boost the technology sector of the country. But really, it was the phenomenal growth of the Information Technology (IT) industry that truly made a difference to India's standing on the world economic scene.

In the early 1990s, India began emerging as a mega-hub for software development and services. The internet boom, along with the affordable access to a large pool of quality engineering and science, equipped India well to serve international companies as a low-cost, high-quality solution in software development. Major global corporations began to set up hardware and software development, customer support, and other BPO services in India primarily motivated by cost advantages and technical expertise.

Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, and Gurgaon became new-age global IT centers with high presence of several multinational companies and startups. Companies such as Infosys, Wipro, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) expanded very fast, earning India the nickname of the "back office of the world." By the turn of the century, India's IT and software services industry had become among the largest in the world and earned several billions in contributions to GDP and income generation.

## Advances of Space Technology

This has, therefore, defined much of technological growth in India. The Indian Space and Research Organisation started as a small space agency in the 1960s on limited resources and has become one of the most successful and cost-efficient space agencies across the globe.

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# EDUCATION SYSTEM

## INTRODUCTION:

The education framework is a systematic approach through which individuals in a society acquire knowledge, skills, and values. It is vital for fostering personal growth, driving economic development, and advancing social progress.

While education systems differ around the world, they typically encompass similar levels: pre-primary, primary, secondary, higher, vocational, and adult education. Each level is designed to equip individuals for future academic, professional, and personal endeavours.

An effective education system guarantees equitable access to learning opportunities, a coherent curriculum, qualified educators, modern teaching techniques, and fair assessment methods. It adapts continually to address the evolving needs of society, incorporating technology and innovations to enhance learning results.

Education serves as the cornerstone of a nation's advancement, enabling individuals to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM: -

**Different levels:** Encompasses pre-primary, primary, secondary, higher, vocational, and adult education.

**Curriculum:** A well-structured program aimed at imparting knowledge and skills.

**Teaching Method:** Includes traditional classroom instruction, online education, and hybrid approaches.

**Assessment System:** Utilizes exams, assignments, and projects to measure student progress.

**Government Regulations:** Policies that ensure educational quality and accessibility.

## ATTRIBUTE OF A GOOD EDUCATION SYSTEM: -

**Inclusivity:** Education should be accessible to everyone, irrespective of their background.

**Current Curriculum:** The syllabus should reflect contemporary trends and industry requirements.

**Qualified educators:** Competent teachers are essential for effective learning.

**Technology integration:** Digital tools should be incorporated to enrich the learning experience.

**Practical learning:** A blend of theoretical knowledge and experiential learning.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM:** -

**Flexibility:** Adapts to evolving educational and industry demands.

**Equity:** Ensures fairness and equal opportunities for all learners.

**Quality Assurance:** Upholds high educational standards.

**Student - Centered Approach:** Emphasizes holistic growth over memorization.

**Research and Innovation:** Fosters critical thinking and creativity.

### **ADVANTAGES OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM:** -

**Enhance knowledge and skills:** Equips individuals for personal and professional advancement.

**Promotes Economic Development:** Cultivates a skilled workforce contributing to national progress.

**Encourages social equality:** Bridges the divide between different economic classes.

**Boosts Career Opportunities:** Provides access to improved job prospects and higher earnings.

**Develops Critical Thinking:** Encourages problem-solving and analytical abilities.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM:** -

**Unequal Access:** Socioeconomic barriers may hinder some from obtaining quality education.

**Rigid Curriculum:** Often does not adapt to contemporary, real-world requirements.

**High stress and Exam pressure:** It Can adversely affect students' mental well-being.

**Overemphasis on Theoretical Learning:** Often lacks practical and skills-based education.

**Quality Disparities:** Variations in educational standards across different regions and institutions.

A balanced and dynamic education system can effectively tackle these challenges, fostering a better learning environment for everyone.

### **Conclusion:**

To sum up, the education system is a crucial foundation for personal development, economic advancement, and social improvement. It equips individuals with the knowledge and abilities needed to thrive in life, engage with their communities, and foster innovation. A strong education system guarantees fair access, a thoughtfully constructed curriculum, qualified teachers, and the use of contemporary teaching methods. By adapting to the evolving demands of society, it enables individuals to maximize their potential, ultimately contributing to a brighter and more prosperous future for everyone.

Name: Dimpri Saha

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# Environmental

## Concerns in 21st century

### Introduction: -

In 21st century English literature, writers often explore major environmental concerns like climate change (rising temperatures and extreme weather), pollution (air, water, and plastic), disappearing wildlife (loss of biodiversity), deforestation (cutting down forests), and rising sea levels; essentially, the harmful effects of human activity on the planet, often highlighting the urgency to take action to protect the environment.

### Key points: -

**1. Climate change and global warming:** Climate change means long-term shifts in Earth's weather, mainly caused by human activities. Global warming happens when pollution traps heat, making the planet hotter. This leads to melting ice, rising sea levels, and extreme weather like storms, droughts, and wildfires. Burning coal, oil, and gas releases gases that make it worse. To slow it down, we must use clean energy like wind and solar power, plant trees, save electricity, and reduce waste. If we don't act, animals will lose their homes, crops will fail, and weather will become more dangerous. Everyone can help by making small changes in daily life.

**2. Ecological destruction and deforestation:** Ecological destruction and deforestation devastate biodiversity, disrupt ecosystems, and contribute to climate change. Large-scale logging, agriculture, and urban expansion lead to habitat loss, soil erosion, and carbon emissions. Deforestation endangers wildlife, threatens indigenous communities, and reduces Earth's ability to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>. Sustainable practices, reforestation, and conservation efforts are essential to protecting forests and preserving ecological balance for future generations.

**3. Post-Apocalyptic and Dystopian Visions:** The post-apocalyptic and dystopian genres offer haunting glimpses into possible futures shaped by catastrophe, oppression, and the resilience of the human spirit. While post-apocalyptic narratives explore the aftermath of global devastation—whether caused by war, environmental collapse, pandemics, or technological disaster—dystopian fiction delves into societies where control, surveillance, and tyranny reign supreme.

**4. Ecofeminism and Intersectionality:** Ecofeminism is a branch of feminism that examines the relationship between the exploitation of nature and the oppression of women and other marginalized groups. It argues that the same patriarchal and capitalist structures that degrade the environment also contribute to gender and social inequalities. Ecofeminists advocate for a more holistic, sustainable, and just approach to environmental and social issues.

**5. Nature Writing and Reconnecting with the Environment:** Nature writing is a literary genre that explores the relationship between humans and the natural world. It can take many forms, including essays, memoirs, poetry, and fiction, often blending scientific observation with personal reflection. Nature writing is a powerful way to deepen our connection with the environment. It encourages us to slow down, observe, and appreciate the natural world.

**6. Anthropocene and Human Responsibility:** The Anthropocene is a proposed geological epoch that signifies the profound and lasting impact of human activities on Earth's geology and ecosystems. Scientists argue that industrialization, deforestation, pollution, and climate change have altered the planet so significantly that we have entered a new epoch distinct from the Holocene.

### *Origin and Development of Environmental Literature and Eco-Criticism: -*

It is rightly said that the tradition of Environmental Literature and Eco-criticism can be traced back in the writings on nature. The term 'environment' originates from the French word 'environ'. It means 'surrounded' or 'encircled'. The oxford dictionary mentions 1603 as the date of the first usage of environment. And eco-criticism is the study of literature from an ecological or environmental perspective. It is interdisciplinary. It focusses on the analysis of depictions of life and the connections between literature and nature which many writers have brought out very effectively in their writings. The subject matter, theme of Environmental literature was at first nature itself and its change over time. The writers of Environmental Literature portray the physical impact of humans on the Earth's land, water, atmosphere and biosphere. They illustrate how humans use nature, present the environmental consequences of increasing population, the environmental and human consequences of industrial and technological revolutions. To put it in simple terms, Environmental literature is a branch of literature that deals with nature or environment-oriented works of fiction. The term 'Environmental Literature' gained momentum in the 1960's when various Environmental Movements created a platform for the explosion of themes on environment, nature and ecosystem. Critics with an eco-critical perspective encourage the society or the readers to think seriously about the relationship of humans to Nature, about the environmental crisis and the importance of language and literature in imparting values with ecological implications.

The modern environmental movements emerged in the late Nineteenth century and their objective was to raise their voice against such human activities that harm the environment. In recent years it has given rise to actional and non-actional writings everywhere. While explaining our changing relationships to the natural world, they urge to change political and economic systems so that human societies can prosper without causing pollution and inciting damage upon our environment.

### *Conclusion: -*

Living in the digitalized world of the 21st century, we have been experiencing the harmful effects of our environmental degradation. We have taken our nature and environment for granted without considering the ill effects of our indifference and disconnection from the natural world. Excessive use of technology, craving for materialistic progress, Automobiles and Urbanization, Modernization have

made us forget the importance of a healthy Environment in our life. We are blinded by our passion for 'what is not' and hence we don't know what kind of future awaits the generations of tomorrows.....! It is true that attempts are being made to stop and control further damage on nature through preventive and relief measures, by the people in power, environmental activists concerned. And Environmental literature and eco-critical writings do have a greater responsibility of educating the society, of promoting environmental awareness. It is a progressive move on the part of the Academicians to have introduced the study of Environmental studies and eco-criticism as a part of the Curriculum at different levels of learning in the educational institutions. Reading, discussion and research Environmental literature can enhance their awareness, strengthen their sense of responsibility towards their planet and their fellow living beings. Through its portrayal of the natural world, exploration of ecological issues and reactions on the human- nature relationships, eco-literature encourages the readers to think and act seriously to protect our earth, the only earth we are blessed.

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# Impact Of Ai on Jobs and Future Careers

## How AI is Transforming Employment and Careers

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the workplace. While certain jobs are being phased out, new roles are emerging, and many existing positions are evolving. Although AI can outperform humans in specific tasks regarding speed and precision, it also paves the way for exciting career possibilities. Let's delve into the impact of AI on the future of work.

### Jobs Being replaced by AI

AI excels at performing repetitive tasks, analyzing vast amounts of data, and making quick decisions. This capability has led many industries to adopt AI for automating jobs, particularly those involving routine duties.

**Manufacturing:** Robots are increasingly taking over the assembly of vehicles and other products, which diminishes the need for human workers on assembly lines.

**Customer Service:** Chatbots and virtual assistants can handle common customer inquiries, leading to a reduction in the demand for call center agents.

**Finance:** AI-driven software can analyze financial data and identify fraud more swiftly than humans, potentially decreasing the need for certain banking and accounting positions.

However, this doesn't imply that all roles in these sectors will vanish. Workers will need to acquire new skills to adapt to working alongside AI.

### Jobs Created by AI

As AI assumes repetitive tasks, it also generates new roles that previously did not exist. Organizations require specialists to develop, manage, and enhance AI systems. Some emerging career paths include:

**AI Engineers & Data Scientists:** Individuals who design and program AI technologies.

**Cybersecurity Experts:** With the growing volume of digital data, there is an increased need for professionals to safeguard this information.

**AI Ethics Specialists:** Experts focused on ensuring that AI is utilized responsibly and fairly.

### Jobs AI Cannot Replace

Despite its strengths, AI is limited in certain areas compared to humans. Roles that demand creativity, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal connections will continue to be essential.

**Doctors & Nurses:** While AI can assist in diagnosing conditions, patients still require the empathy and care provided by human healthcare professionals.

**Teachers & Counselors:** Although AI can offer information, authentic learning happens through human interaction.

**Writers & Artists:** AI can produce text and images, but genuine creativity and storytelling remain uniquely human attributes.

### Preparing for the Future

To stay competitive in an AI-driven landscape, continual learning is crucial. Here are some strategies:

**Build Technical Skills:** Acquiring knowledge in coding, data analysis, or fundamentals of AI can be highly beneficial.

**Emphasize Soft Skills:** Skills such as communication, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence will always hold significance.

**Remain Flexible:** Be willing to learn new skills and adapt to evolving job roles as the work environment changes.

### Conclusion

AI is transforming the way we work, but there's no need for concern. While some jobs may be lost, new positions will emerge in their place. Success in the age of AI will depend on our ability to adapt, learn, and seize new opportunities. Rather than completely replacing humans, AI is likely to serve as a powerful tool, helping us work more intelligently and efficiently.

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# Social Issues and Student Activism

Social issues have always been a driving force behind change in society, and students have played a crucial role in addressing them. From historical movements to modern digital activism, students have been at the forefront of social justice, advocating for equality, environmental sustainability, mental health awareness, and political change. Today, student activism is more powerful than ever, thanks to the rise of social media and global interconnectedness.

**The Role of Students in Social Change:** Students bring fresh perspectives, energy, and a sense of urgency to social issues. Their activism has led to significant changes throughout history, such as the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, anti-apartheid protests in South Africa, and the Chipko Movement in India. Even today, student-led movements shape discussions on climate change, gender equality, mental health, and digital rights.

## **Major Social Issues Addressed by Students:**

**1. Climate Change and Environmental Activism:** One of the most pressing global concerns today is climate change. Students across the world, inspired by activists like Greta Thunberg, have taken to the streets demanding action through movements like “Fridays for Future.” Many college students also promote eco-friendly initiatives, such as reducing plastic use, planting trees, and organizing clean-up drives.

**2. Gender Equality and Rights:** Despite progress, gender discrimination, harassment, and inequality remain major social issues. Students organize awareness programs, workshops on gender sensitivity, and protests demanding equal rights. Similarly, LGBTQ+ students advocate for inclusive policies, safe spaces, and representation in institutions.

**3. Mental Health Awareness:** With increasing academic pressure, financial stress, and social expectations, mental health issues among students have risen significantly. Student-led organizations promote mental health awareness through campaigns, peer counselling, and demands for better support services on campuses.

**4. Political Awareness and Human Rights:** Many students actively participate in political movements, pushing for policy changes, democratic rights, and social justice. Movements like protests against racial discrimination, women’s rights marches, and student-led petitions for policy reforms have shown the power of youth in shaping political landscapes.

**5. Digital Rights and Cyberbullying:** In today’s digital age, issues like cyberbullying, data privacy, and online harassment have become serious concerns. Students are taking a stand against

cyberbullying by promoting digital literacy and ethical online behaviour while demanding stronger laws to protect online users.

**The Impact of Student Activism:** Student activism has led to significant policy changes, awareness, and improvements in society. It encourages critical thinking, leadership skills, and civic engagement. Through petitions, social media campaigns, protests, and discussions, students influence policymakers, institutions, and the general public.

**Challenges Faced by Student Activists:** Despite their enthusiasm and determination, student activists often face challenges such as lack of resources, resistance from authorities, and personal risks. Many institutions discourage activism due to political reasons, and some students face threats for voicing their opinions. Balancing academics with activism is also a challenge for many young advocates.

**The Future of Student Activism:** With the rise of digital platforms, student activism is evolving. Online petitions, viral campaigns, and global solidarity movements allow students to voice their concerns and demand action like never before. The future of activism lies in collaboration, innovation, and persistent efforts to create a more just and sustainable world.

**In Conclusion,** Students have always been a powerful force in addressing social issues, and their activism continues to shape societies worldwide. Whether through environmental advocacy, mental health awareness, political movements, or digital rights campaigns, student voices matter. With passion, determination, and the right platforms, students can drive positive change and create a better future for all.

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# Sustainable Technology: A Path to a Greener Future

In an era where environmental sustainability has become a pressing global concern, the role of technology in promoting sustainable practices cannot be overstated. Sustainable technology, also known as "green technology" or "clean technology," refers to innovations and practices designed to minimize environmental impact, conserve natural resources, and promote ecological balance. This essay explores the various aspects of sustainable technology, its significance, and the ways in which it is shaping a greener future.

## The Need for Sustainable Technology:

The rapid industrialization and technological advancements of the past century have led to significant environmental challenges, including climate change, deforestation, pollution, and resource depletion. These challenges have underscored the need for sustainable technology to mitigate negative environmental impacts and ensure the long-term health of our planet. Sustainable technology aims to address these issues by developing solutions that are eco-friendly, energy-efficient, and socially responsible.

## Some key areas of Sustainable Technology:

**1. Renewable Energy:** Renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal, are at the forefront of sustainable technology. Unlike fossil fuels, these sources are abundant, clean, and produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions. Innovations in renewable energy technologies, such as more efficient solar panels and advanced wind turbines, are making it increasingly viable to transition to a low-carbon energy system.

**2. Green Building and Construction:** The construction industry is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and resource consumption. Sustainable building practices, including the use of eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient designs, and green construction techniques, aim to reduce the environmental footprint of buildings. Innovations such as green roofs, smart thermostats, and energy-efficient lighting systems are transforming the way buildings are designed and operated.

**3. Sustainable Transportation:** The transportation sector is another significant source of emissions. Sustainable transportation technologies, such as electric vehicles (EVs), hydrogen fuel cells, and advanced public transit systems, offer cleaner alternatives to traditional gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles. The development of EV charging infrastructure and advancements in battery technology are critical to the widespread adoption of sustainable transportation options.

**4. Waste Management and Recycling:** Proper waste management and recycling practices are essential for reducing landfill waste, conserving resources, and minimizing pollution. Innovations in waste-to-energy technologies, biodegradable materials, and advanced recycling processes are helping to create a circular economy where resources are reused and repurposed rather than discarded.

**5. Agriculture and Food Production:** Sustainable agriculture practices aim to reduce the environmental impact of food production while maintaining food security. Techniques such as

precision farming, vertical farming, and agroforestry promote efficient use of resources, reduce chemical inputs, and enhance soil health. Additionally, advancements in plant-based and lab-grown food technologies offer promising alternatives to traditional animal agriculture.

**The Benefits of Sustainable Technology:** The adoption of sustainable technology offers numerous benefits, including:

- ❖ **Environmental Protection:** By reducing emissions, conserving resources, and minimizing pollution, sustainable technology helps protect ecosystems and biodiversity.
- ❖ **Economic Growth:** The green technology sector presents opportunities for economic growth and job creation. Investments in renewable energy, green building, and sustainable transportation can stimulate innovation and drive economic development.
- ❖ **Energy Security:** Renewable energy sources provide a reliable and decentralized energy supply, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and enhancing energy security.
- ❖ **Health and Well-being:** Sustainable technology promotes healthier living environments by reducing air and water pollution, which can have positive impacts on public health.

**Challenges and Future Prospects:** Despite its potential, the widespread adoption of sustainable technology faces several challenges. These include high initial costs, technological barriers, and resistance to change from established industries. However, continued research and development, supportive policies, and public awareness can help overcome these obstacles and accelerate the transition to a sustainable future.

**In conclusion,** sustainable technology holds the key to addressing some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. By embracing innovations in renewable energy, green building, sustainable transportation, waste management, and agriculture, we can pave the way for a greener, more sustainable future. It is imperative that individuals, businesses, and governments work together to support and promote sustainable technology for the benefit of our planet and future generations.

Name: Rahul Biswas

BA ENGLISH HONOURS Ug 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# Protein Deficiency in India: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions

## Introduction: -

Protein is an essential macronutrient necessary for the growth, repair, and maintenance of body tissues. It plays a crucial role in muscle development, enzyme production, and immune system function. Despite being a fundamental part of a healthy diet, protein deficiency remains a significant concern in India. A large section of the population, particularly in rural areas, fails to meet the required daily protein intake, leading to various health problems. This essay explores the causes, consequences, and possible solutions to protein deficiency in India.

## Recommendation on protein requirement: -

The human protein requirement should satisfy the currently established indispensable amino acid requirements as recommended by FAO/WHO/UNU Consultation of 2007.

The present Expert Group (ICMR-NIN 2020) adopted the FAO/WHO/UNU(2007) approaches to define the protein requirements for Indians of different age groups. A median obligatory nitrogen loss (WHO, 2007) has been used to compute mean (0.66 g/kg/day-EAR) and safe protein requirements (0.83 g/kg/day-RDA) for healthy Indian adults. Considering high quality protein sources as the premise for defining requirements, a newer protein quality index, digestible indispensable amino acid score (DIAAS), which is based on true ileal digestibility (instead of PDCAAS) of individual amino acids has been introduced in the current document.

In addition, the cereal-legume-milk composition of the diet has been improved to 3:1:2.5 (ICMR-NIN, 2020) as compared to the earlier 11:1:3 (ICMR-NIN, 2010).

Hence in the 2020 recommendation the RDA for protein is 0.83g/kg/day instead of 1g/kg/day (RDA 2010) and the EAR is 0.66 g/kg/day (Table 2a & 2b). A foot note is mentioned under the Table 2a- that for people consuming cereal-based diet with low quality protein, the protein requirement is 1 g/kg per day.

## 80% Indian diets are protein deficient: Survey

Ninety per cent Delhiites registered a protein deficiency in their meal plan, says a recent survey, which has also indicated that over 80 per cent of Indian diets are protein deficient. This implies that most people are not getting the right amount of proteins required.

The Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) conducted a consumer survey across several major cities titled "The protein consumption in diet of adult Indians by interviewing respondents, which included males and females (non-pregnant and lactating) between the age of 30-55 years. Fifty-nine per cent of the sample size was non-vegetarian.

Dr. Ritika Samaddar, dietician at Max Healthcare, said: "The protein requirement of an average adult per day is 1 gram per kg of the body weight. An intake less than this veu to difficulty in performing simple tasks and processing sensory signals by the brain. One of the key symptoms of lack of proteins is weakness and fatigue."

## **Causes of Protein Deficiency in India**

### **1. Dietary Habits and Cultural Preferences**

India has a predominantly vegetarian population, with a significant reliance on cereals and carbohydrates for daily nutrition. While vegetarian diets can provide adequate protein through sources like pulses, dairy, and soy products, many people do not consume them in sufficient quantities. Furthermore, economic constraints make protein-rich foods like meat, fish, and eggs inaccessible to many.

### **2. Economic Barriers and Poverty**

A large portion of India's population lives below the poverty line, making it difficult to afford protein-rich foods. Instead, many rely on cheaper, calorie-dense foods that fill the stomach but lack essential nutrients, including protein.

### **3. Lack of Awareness and Nutritional Education**

Many people, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas, are unaware of the importance of a protein-rich diet. Misconceptions about nutrition, combined with limited access to health education, contribute to poor dietary choices.

### **4. Poor Agricultural Practices and Food Supply Issues**

Despite being one of the largest producers of pulses and dairy products, India faces challenges in ensuring an adequate and affordable supply of protein-rich foods. Post-harvest losses, inefficient food distribution, and export priorities often reduce domestic availability.

### **5. High Protein Prices**

The cost of protein-rich foods, including dairy, eggs, meat, and pulses, has increased significantly over the years. This makes it difficult for lower-income families to include adequate protein sources in their daily diet.

## **Consequences of Protein Deficiency**

### **1. Stunted Growth and Development in Children**

Protein is essential for the growth and development of children. Deficiency can lead to stunted growth, low muscle mass, weak immunity, and cognitive impairment. According to reports, India has one of the highest rates of child malnutrition, partly due to inadequate protein intake.

### **2. Weak Immune**

System Protein is vital for immune function, and its deficiency makes individuals more susceptible to infections and diseases. Malnourished individuals often suffer from frequent illnesses and longer recovery times.

### **3. Muscle Loss and Fatigue**

Lack of protein in the diet leads to muscle wasting, weakness, and chronic fatigue. This affects daily productivity and quality of life, especially among the working population.

### **4. Increased Risk of Chronic Diseases**

Protein deficiency has been linked to an increased risk of chronic conditions such as osteoporosis, anemia, and kidney-related disorders. It also affects the body's ability to heal wounds and recover from illnesses.

### **5. Kwashiorkor and Marasmus**

Severe protein deficiency can lead to malnutrition-related diseases like kwashiorkor (characterized by swelling, skin lesions, and liver damage) and marasmus (severe wasting and muscle loss). These conditions are particularly common in underprivileged children.

## **Solutions to Combat Protein Deficiency**

### **1. Promoting Affordable Protein Sources**

Encouraging the consumption of locally available and affordable protein sources, such as pulses, lentils, dairy products, eggs, soybeans, and nuts, can help bridge the protein gap.

### **2. Government Interventions and Nutrition Programs**

The Indian government has introduced initiatives like the Poshan Abhiyan and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to improve nutritional intake among children. Expanding such programs to ensure adequate protein intake is essential.

### **3. Fortification of Foods**

Fortifying commonly consumed foods like wheat flour, rice, and dairy products with protein can be an effective way to increase protein consumption without requiring dietary changes.

### **4. Raising Awareness on Nutrition**

Public awareness campaigns can educate people on the importance of protein in the diet and encourage better dietary choices. Schools, community centers, and health workers can play a crucial role in spreading this knowledge.

**5. Boosting Agricultural Production of Protein-Rich Foods** Investing in agricultural practices that enhance the production of protein-rich crops like pulses, millets, and soybeans can

improve availability and affordability. Encouraging animal husbandry and fish farming can also help meet the protein demands of the population.

## **Conclusion**

Protein deficiency remains a significant challenge in India, affecting millions of people, particularly children and economically disadvantaged groups. Addressing this issue requires a multi-faceted approach, including better dietary habits, economic support for low-income families, government initiatives, and increased awareness about nutrition. By implementing these measures, India can move towards a healthier, more nourished population, reducing the burden of malnutrition and its associated health risks.

Name: Rounak Kundu

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

ESSAY

WRITINGS

# NINGOL CHAKOUBA

Ningol Chakouba is a significant traditional festival celebrated by the Meitei community in Manipur. The word "Ningol" means "daughter" or "sister", and "chakouba" means "invitation for a feast".

This festival, which fosters familial bonds and harmony, is marked by the homecoming of married daughters and sisters to their parental homes, where they are warmly welcomed and honored. Ningol Chakouba holds cultural, social and emotional significance, as it reinforces the bond between Brothers and Sisters and emphasizes the importance of family unity.

## HISTORY

The history of Ningol Chakouba dates back to the time when King Nongda Lairen Pakhangba ruled in Manipur. The Queen Laisana used to invite her brother Poireiton to the king's palace for a feast once in a year. So, it was known as Piba(brother/son) Chakouba rather than Ningol Chakouba. But the tradition changed during the time of King Chandrakriti Singh(1831-1886)in the 19th century. He invited his sisters for the feast as it was difficult for him to visit their places in a day. Thus, the tradition changed to Ningol Chakouba since then and continued to become an integral part of Manipur's rich culture and heritage.

## CELEBRATION

The festival typically falls on the second lunar day of the Manipuri calendar's Hiyangei month (November). On this day, the married daughters and sisters, along with their children are invited to their parent's home for a feast. And the invitation comes from the son(s) of the parental family of the ningols, generally a week in advance.

The celebration includes traditional food, laughter, sharing of memories, strengthening of the bond of love and respect among the brothers and sisters, daughters and parents of a family.

A unique aspect of the festival is the exchange of gifts. After the feast, parents and brothers give gifts to the daughters and sisters, touch the feet of the elders by the younger ones, symbolizing blessings and gesture of love and support. In return, the daughters and sisters also bring small gifts for their family.

## TRADITIONAL PRACTICE

On this joyous day of Ningol Chakouba, every woman wears the finest of traditional Manipuri attire, often wearing a "phanek" (a traditional wrap-around skirt) and an "innafi" (a traditional upper garment). She also wears exquisite Manipuri jewelry, which include necklaces, bangles, earrings, and rings that adds elegance to her appearance and also highlights the cultural pride

and beauty associated with Manipuri women. The attire and ornaments reflect both the significance of the occasion and the woman's place within the family.

When the ningols come, they usually bring a variety of gifts, fruits and vegetables, traditional Manipuri sweets like khoidum (sweetened rice balls), kangsubi(sweetened sesame seeds ball), kabok(crispy sweet puffed rice mixed with jaggery), chengpak,etc.

After reaching home for the Ningol Chakouba festival, Ningols traditionally offers prayers to Lainingthou Sanamahi and Leimarel Sidabi(significant deities in Manipuri culture and are central to the household worship practices. This act of worship symbolizes the Ningol's respect for their roots and serves as a way to seek divine blessings for the happiness and well-being of both their parental and marital families.

## **PREPARATIONS**

The preparation of Ningol Chakouba begins in fact days ahead; the members of every family wait the whole year eagerly for this day to meet and greet their daughters and sisters with joy and excitement. They go to the market to buy necessary things, like the gift to be presented to their beloved sisters and daughters. They prepare a lot of tasty and healthy traditional Manipuri cuisines with much care and effort for the grand feast. The popular dishes include Nga-Thongba(Fish curry) made from Sareng(an expansive fish), Eromba(a dish with mashed vegetables and fermented fish), Agouba(fry), bora(dish made from fritters of various ingredients, deep-fried until crispy), Uti(classic Manipuri vegetarian dish, Chamfut (boiled vegetables), chak-hao kheer (sweet pudding made from black rice), etc.

## **Conclusion**

Ningol Chakouba is not just a celebration of food and family; it is a cultural affirmation of bonds that hold families and communities together. The festival is celebrated by the Meitei community and some other communities of Manipur.It is also celebrated by members of the Indian Diaspora in Western countries, like Australia and Canada, and in many Indian cities outside Manipur. Ningol Chakouba is not only a cherished tradition but also an important cultural heritage that promotes family values, love and social cohesion. It has continued to flourish through generations, adopting to modern times while keeping the core values intact,and remains one of the most awaited festivals in Manipur.

Name: - Jina Devi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# CULTURE OF NAGALAND

The culture of Nagaland is characterized by its diverse tribal communities, each with unique customs, languages and festivals influenced by agriculture with a strong emphasis on vibrant traditional attire. Music, dance, Christian population.

Making known as " Land of festival" the most prominent festival being the hornbill festival show - causing the diverse Naga heritage across various tribes.

**1) TRIBAL DIVERSITY** - Naga is home to numerous tribes including the Angami, Ao, Konyak, Chakhesang, Lotha and more each with their distinct customs and traditions

**2) FESTIVAL** - Nagaland is renowned for its numerous vibrant festivals throughout the year, the hornbill festival being the most prominent, showcasing traditional dance, music, foods from different Naga tribes.

**3) AGRICULTURE-BASED LIFESTYLE** - Most Nagas primarily depend on agriculture with terraced farming being a common practice. And many festivals are linked with the agriculture cycle.

**4) TRADITIONAL ATTIRE** - Naga people wear distinctive and colourful attire with beautiful ornaments on red and black in colour. Often featuring shawls and loincloths.

**5) MUSIC AND DANCE** - Traditional Naga music and dance parts for their culture. They perform in different instruments like clude drums, bamboo flute and gongs Hekialeu is a famous folk song of Nagaland.

**6) FOOD CULTURE** - Naga food is known for its local ingredients fermented foods various types of meat. Bamboo, wild meat, fermented food like fish meat vegetables, Akhuni (a fermented soyabean product that's used in carriers, chutneys and stews).

**7) CRAFTSMANSHIP** - Nagaland craftsmanship includes wood carving, textile weaving, pottery, and bamboo work. The art and craft of nagaland is rich and diverse. Women's handmade dresses, bamboo baskets, homemade jewellery, wooden hornbill, elephants and many animals.

Name: -Supriya karmakar

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

# THE KARBI TRIBE

The Karbis are also known as the Mikir or Arleng, mostly residing in the hill district of Karbi Anglong (East Karbi Anglong) and West Karbi Anglong. They also lived in different districts of Assam like Dima Hasao, Sonitpur, Golaghat, Kamrup, Nagaon, and Morigaon, but the majority population of Karbi lived in the East Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong. The Karbi belong to the Mongoloid group, and linguistically, they belong to the Tibeto-Burman group. The Karbi are an indigenous ethnic tribe in Northeast India, primarily in the hills area of Assam. There are two main variations of the Karbi language, Hills Karbi and Plains Karbi. The Karbis practice a traditional animistic religion that involves honoring ancestors and believing in the immortality of souls and rebirth. About 15% of the Karbis are Christians.

The Karbi have five clans, also called "Kur"-I) Lijang, (II) Hanjang, (III) Ejang, (IV) Kronjang, and (V) Tungjang, which are again divided into many sub-clans.

## The following are the sub-clans-

**I) Lijang-** Ingti Kathar, Ingti Hensek, Taro, Ingleng and Ingti Kiling.

**II) Hanjang-** Terang Dili, Terang Rongchecho, Kro, Bey Dum, Bey Ke-et and Bey Ke-ik.

**III) Ejang-** Enghee, Rongpi, Ronghang, Tisso, Hanse, Lekthe, Keap, Bongrung, Kramsa, Rongpi Amri, Rongpi Chinthong, Rongpi Ronghang, Rongpi Lindok, Rongpi Miji, Ronghi, Rongchekon, Rong-O, Kete, Kereng, Keleum, Durong, Tisso Rongphu, Tisso Rongli, Tisso Mothau, Tisso Rongchitim, Tisso Rongchecho, Hanse Chinthong, Hanse Nongpip, Hanse Lindok and Ronghang Lindok.

**IV) Kronjang-** Kongkat, Langne, Milik, Ai, Sirang, Trop, Dengja, Miji, Sir-Ik.

**V) Tungjang-** Timung, Rongphar, Singnar (Senar), Tokbi, Phangcho, Killing, Timung Phura, Timung Rongpi, Timung Kiling, Toktiki, Singnar Miji, Singnar Pator, Tokbi Dera, Dera, Kleng Rongphar, Rongphar Phura, Rongphar Ronghang, Phangcho Juiti, Phangcho Langteroi, Phangcho Ingnar, Phangcho Vojaru, Singnar Muchiki, Muchophi, Nokbare, Sengnot, Salung Sengnot, Tokbi Chinthong, Tokbi Ronghang, Nokdu and Nonglada.

The Karbi are a patrilineal society. Marriage within the same clan is not permitted in the Karbi society. Marriage in Karbi is called "Adam Asar" or "Pangri Pangdon".

## FESTIVALS

**1) Rongker**-It is a festival celebrated every year by the people of Karbi during winter that is on the 5th of January, and in some other places, it is celebrated on the 5th of February. On this particular festival, the people of the village come together to pray to god for the well-being of the people of the village.

**2) Chojun**- Chojun is also known as Swarak Puja, it is a socio-religious festival. This puja is celebrated at a particular house for the well-being of their family members and to be free from thel. During this puja, pigs and hens are offered to God.

**3)Botor Kikur**- Botor Kikur is celebrated by singing a song of weather to ask god to grace the earth with rain so that the people can cultivate and sow crops.

**4) Karbi Youth Festival (KYF)** - The Karbi Youth Festival is the annual festival of the Karbis that is celebrated every year in February at Diphu, Taralango. It came to be known as one of the oldest ethnic festivals in the Northeast; it showcased the Karbi tribe's cultural identity.

**5) Chomangkan**- The "Chomangkan" is a funeral rite of the Karbi tribe, based on their belief in the soul after death. This rite is celebrated by keeping full faith in the soul. There are generally three different kinds of Chomangkan, i.e., Kanphlaphla, Harne, and Langtuk. The Chomangkan is celebrated depending upon the social status of the deceased person and his family. The Chomangkan festival is a very expensive and lengthy event; it takes around three to four days. Other festivals like Hacha Kekan, Henup –ahi keti, Thoi Asor- Rit Asor, and Peng Karkli are also celebrated around the year.

## FOOD HABIT

Rice is the basic food of the people of Karbi and they traditionally prefer to eat Kangmoi (Vegetables cooked in alkaline) and Kalangdang (vegetable stew). Another traditional way of cooking is called "Kimung," a way of cooking in which all the ingredients are put inside a bamboo pipe and then put the pipe in a fire and let it boil. The Karbi have an age-old tradition of preparing "Hor Alang" (rice beer) by fermenting cooked rice with local yeast culture called "Thap" and distilling the alcohol called "Hor Arak" from the beer. The alcohol and the rice beer are mandatory on every occasion.

## KARBI TRADITIONAL ATTIRE

The Karbi have their traditional dress which are artistically designed and woven at home by the women. Choi Hongthor, Seleng, Rikong, Poho, and Rumpan are the traditional dress codes for men, whereas Pini, Pekok, and Vamkok are the traditional dress codes for women and girls. Apart from that, ornaments like Lek-tangka (necklace made of silver coins), Roi (a silver bracelet), and Nothing (silver earrings) are worn by the women, whereas ornaments liLek-

phantomtom (necklace worn by males and less), and Norik (a ring made of gold or silver) are worn by the men.

## **THE KARBI LEGENDARY HEROES**

Here are some of the Karbi legendary figures-

**1) Thong Nokbe**- The original name of Thong Nokbe is Thong Teron. He is a legendary hero of the Karbi who sacrificed himself in the conflict with the oppressors (Jaintia officials). He lived during the medieval period against Khasi feudal oppression and restored dignity and freedom to his fellow Karbis. He also became the commander of the Jaintia armed forces and killed the Jaintia officials who humiliated the Karbi workers.

**2) Rongpharpi Rongbe**- She was Kareng Rongpharpi. She was the one who freed the karbis from the clutches of the tyrannical rule of the parok richo. She was the one who protested violently and killed the soldiers of the Dimasa King because she was forcibly asked to produce her milk by the King's soldiers to feed human milk to the tiger cub; she took hold of an axe and hacked them to death in a rage. She is known as Rongpharpi Rongbe, and she is regarded as the symbol of strong willpower, courage, and sacrifice.

**3) Sirwomu**- Chir Tokbi is the original of Sirwomu. He belongs to the Socheng Dhenta village of the Nogoan district. He is known as Sirwomu because he killed the two giant "Womu" (Eagle) who made the life of the Karbi people a hell residing in that particular area and saved the people, and he later came to be known as Sirwomu.

**4) Serdihun Timungpi**- She was the first person to introduce the art of weaving, the art of their Indigenous dying system, and various floral designs in their costume.

**5) Waisong**- He was a great Karbi warrior known as Waisong who took revenge by attacking the Khasia villages one after another and establishing a liberal state for the Karbis.

**6) Ru Rangina Sarpo**- Ru Rangina Sarpo is known as the legendary Karbi God descended from heaven and showed the path of culture and tradition to the Karbi tribe and told them to follow it for their welfare. He was the first mentor of music, art, and culture of the Karbis.

Name: - Humri Kropi

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

# NEP

The National Education Policy (NEP) of India, introduced in 2020, marks a significant shift in the country's education framework. It aims to overhaul the education system to make it more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, aligned to the needs of the 21st Century, and rooted in Indian culture.

## Key feature of NEP 2020:

**School Education Reform:** - The NEP proposes a new curricular structure known as the National Curricular Framework (NCF), which replaces the traditional 10+2 system with 5+3+3+4 system. This aligns with the foundational learning stage of children.

The policy envisions increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) to 60% by 2035. It promotes multidisciplinary education, flexibility in course selection, and multiple entry and exit points.

The NEP 2020 aims to transform India's education landscape, making it more inclusive relevant and future-ready. Its success will largely depend on effective implementation and the commitment of stakeholders at all levels from government to local communities. If realised, the NEP has the potential to empower the next generation with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Name: -Arindann Deb.

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

# CHILD MARRIAGE IN INDIA

## Introduction: -

India is Surging On its thanks to become a Superpower, but it's a startling reality that an age-old evil practice called child marriage still prevails within the Country.

India has the Second highest number of Child Marriage in Step with a UN report. In line with the Statistics the State of Bihar has the best incidence of Child marriage at 68% followed by Rajasthan and Jharkhand.

## Causes and Impact of Child Marriage: -

Child Marriage is no less than exploitation of rights. In almost all places, the child must be 18 years and above to get married. Thus, marrying of the child before the age is exploiting their right.

The impact of child marriage Can be a life changing for children, especially girls. The household and then the unplanned new born baby responsibilities fall on the girls at a very young age. As they were not mentally or physically ready for it, yet it falls on them.

Further, their health is also put at risk due to the contraction of Sexually transmitted disease like HIV and more. Especially the girls who get pregnant at a young age. it becomes harmful for the mother as well as the baby.

## Effects of Child Marriage: -

The victims of Child Marriage in India are often uneducated. They are not allowed to have a broad view off their life with regard to be globe. So, they often tend to pass this tradition to future generation, out of ignorance.

Since they're physically and psychologically not ready for a married life, they have to suffer discontinuation of education, deterioration of health etc. and their childhood is frustrated with hardship of life.

## How to End Child Marriage: -

Ending child marriage is the need of the hour. In order to end the social evil, everyone from individuals to world leaders must challenge the traditional norms. Moreover, we must do away with ideas that reinforce that girl are inferior to boys.

We must empower the children, especially girls, to become their own agents of change. To achieve this, they must get access to quality education and allow them to Complete their Studies so they can lead an independent life later on.

Safe Spaces are important for children to be able to express themselves and make their voices heard. Thus, it is essential to remove all forms of gender discrimination to ensure everyone is given equal value and protection.

**Conclusion:** - marriage Could be a sacred union between two mature individuals who are in Consensus with one another to share responsibilities and be sure of every other for a lifetime Child Marriages happen to be an illogical institution that has prevailed within the Country, despite all the event and growth that the country has witness over the time. As a responsible citizen of India, we must contribute to the fullest to eradicate this evil practise by immediately reporting to the police when one hears of child marriage going down.

Name: - Farhan Akhter

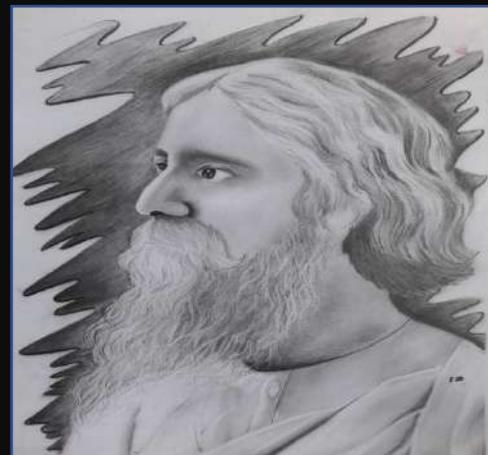
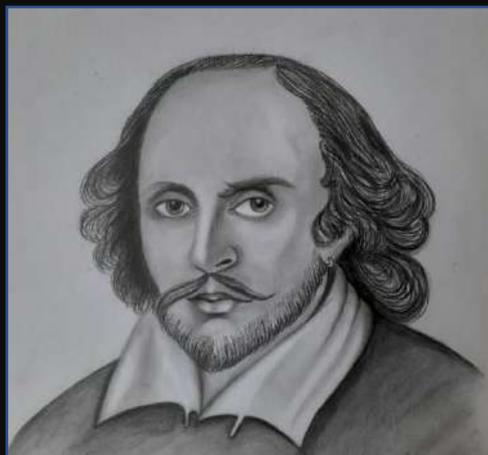
BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

ARTS  
AND  
CRAFTS



ART BY ANISHA PANDIT

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester



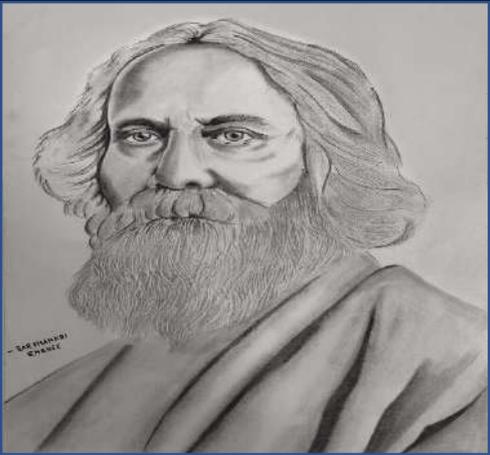
ART BY SHALINI KAR

BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester



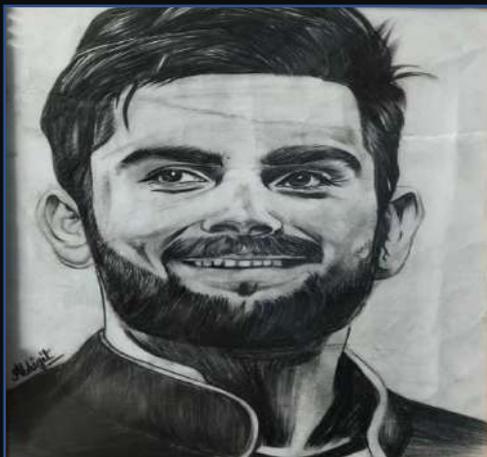
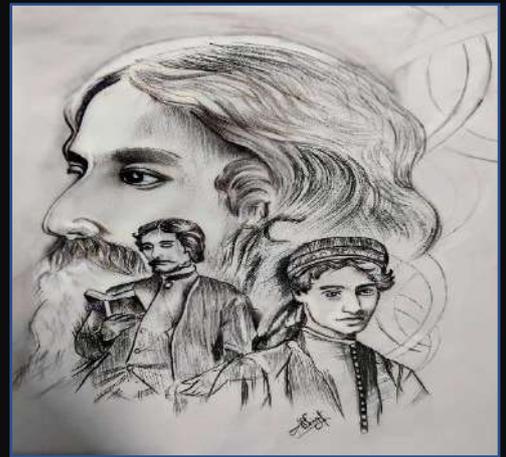
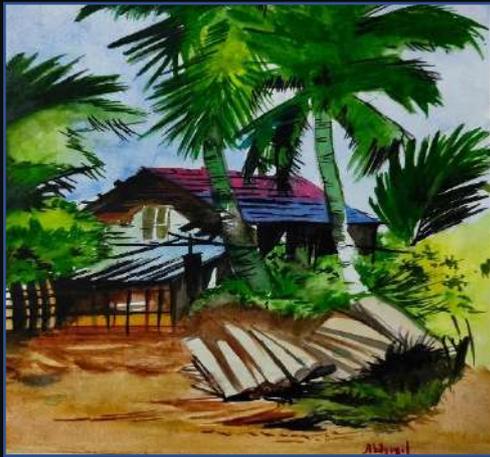
ART BY ESHIKA DUTTA

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**ART BY AMARJEET SINGHA**

**BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester**



**ART BY SANJANA TELI**

**BA ENGLISH HONOURS UG 6<sup>th</sup> Semester**



*Happiness is handmade*

ESHIKA DUTTA

BA ENG HONOURS UG 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

@vrindasbakenbloom





# UNIVERSITY WEEK







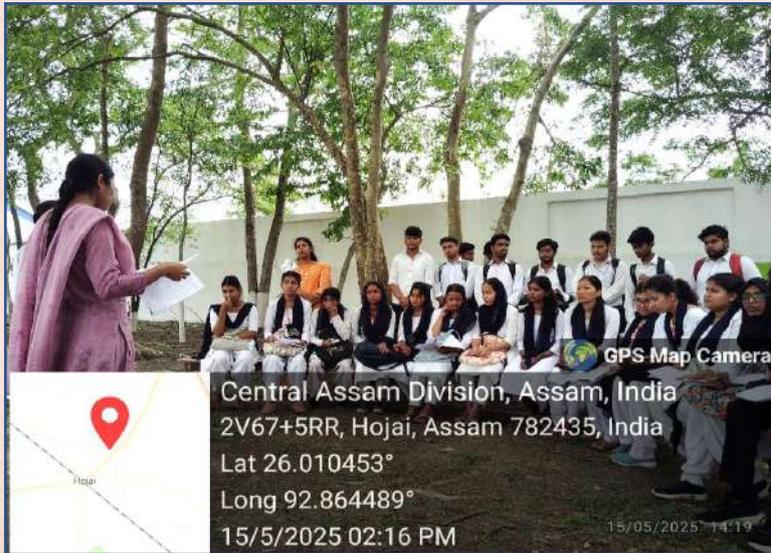




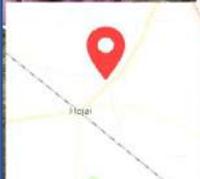








GPS Map Camera  
Central Assam Division, Assam, India  
2V67+5RR, Hojai, Assam 782435, India  
Lat 26.010453°  
Long 92.864489°  
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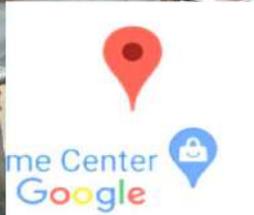
©Deep



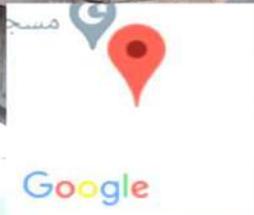
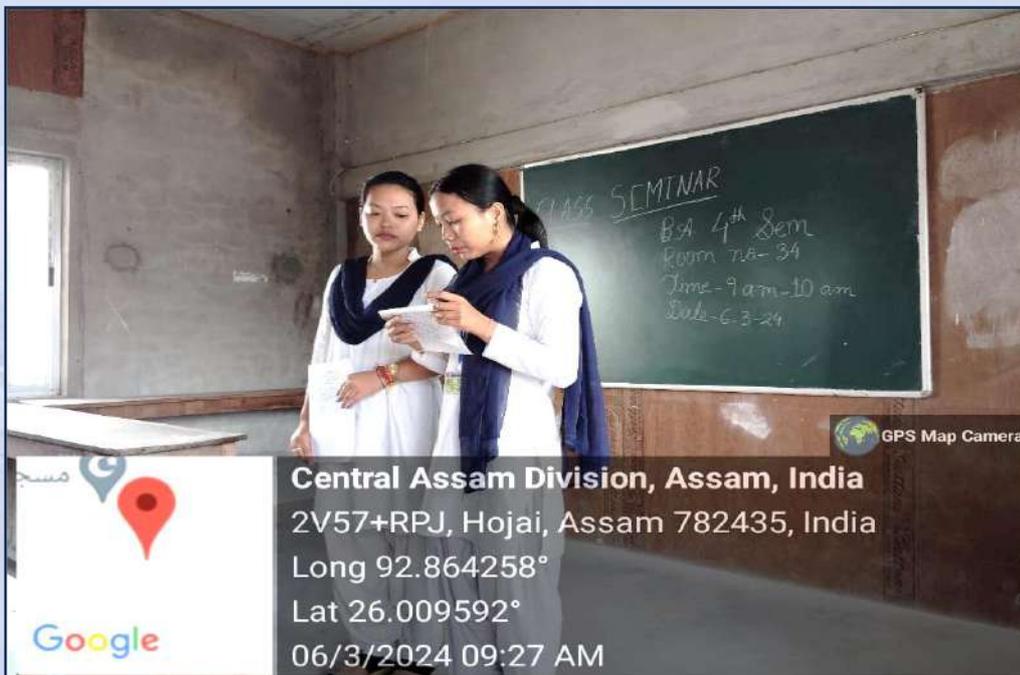
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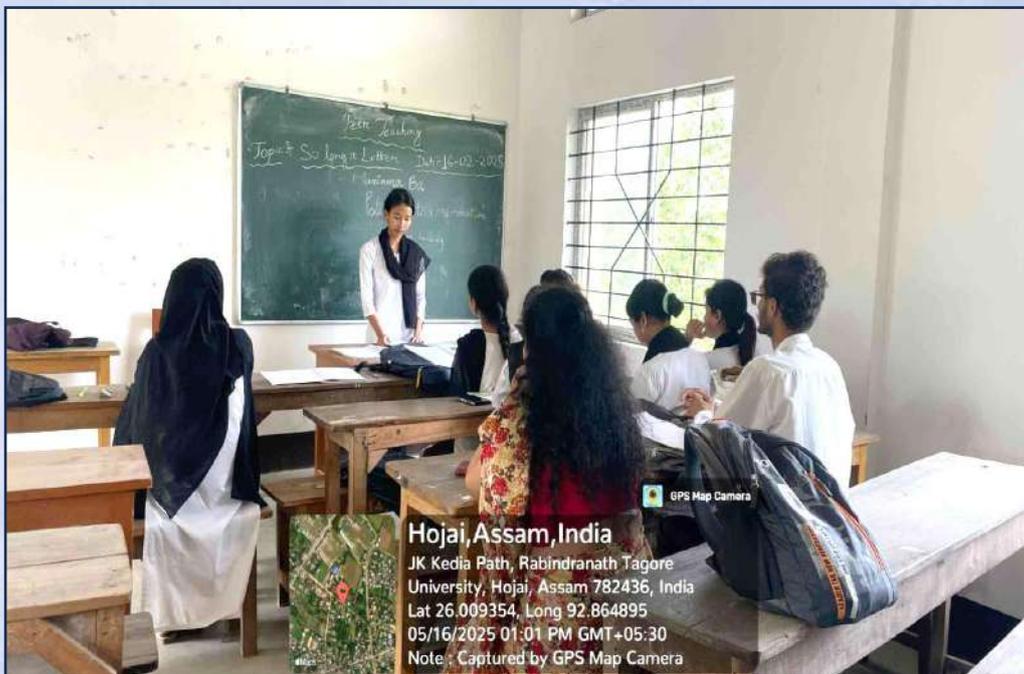
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2V67+5RR, Hojai, Assam 782435, India  
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Lat 26.010453°  
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**Central Assam Division, Assam, India**  
2V57+RPJ, Hojai, Assam 782435, India  
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**Central Assam Division, Assam, India**  
2V67+5RR, Hojai, Assam 782435, India  
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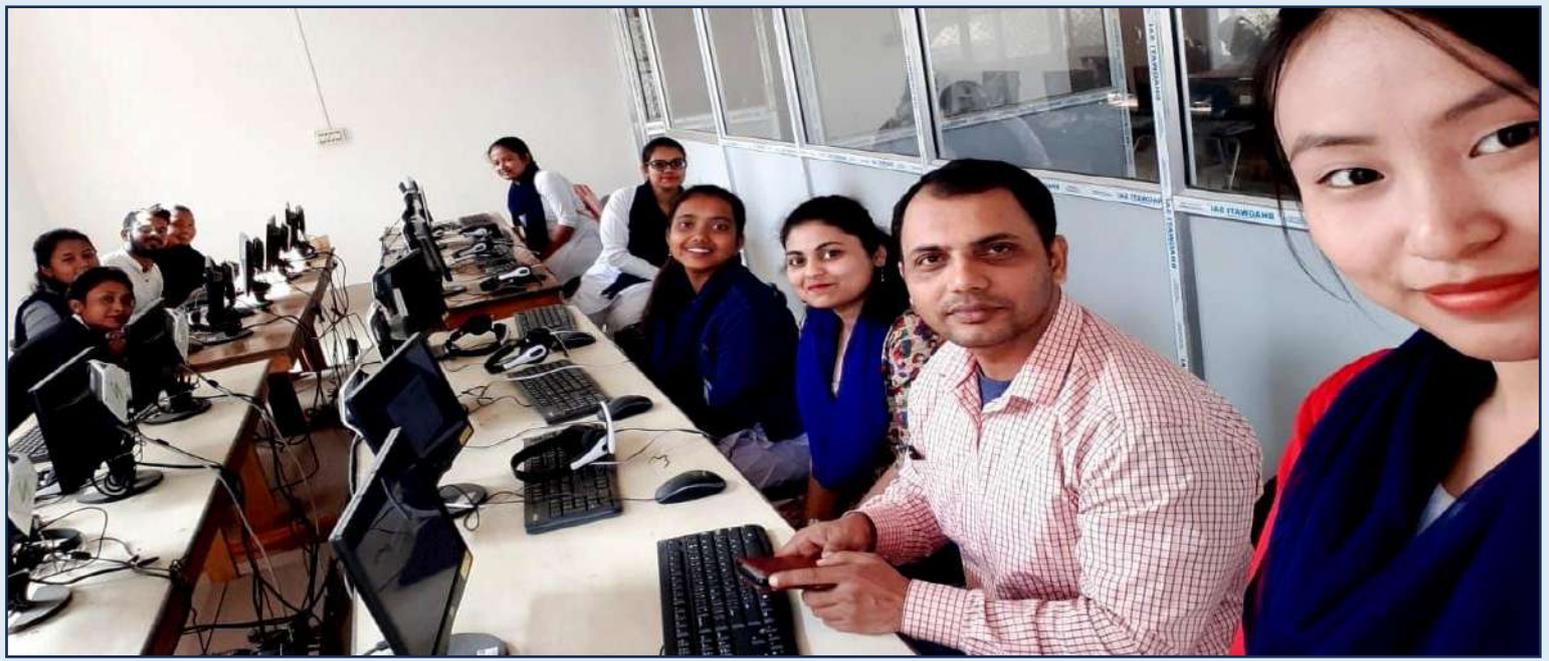
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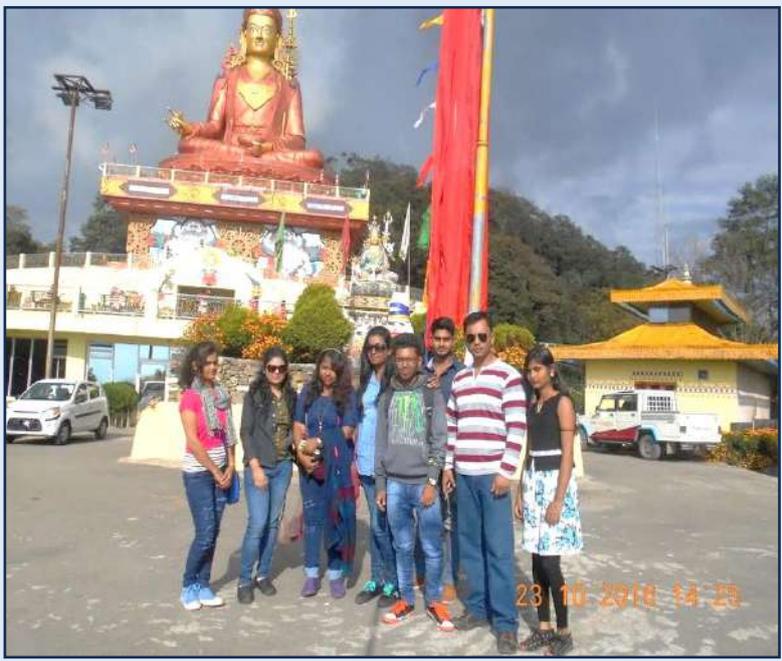
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**ANNUAL  
PRIZE  
DISTRIBUTION**







