



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



"Effort and aspiration, when combined, create a force that can overcome even the mightiest challenges."

- The Mahabharata

Aspirations are for everyone, and it's the foundation of progress. With aspirations, we set meaningful goals. With effort, we work towards those goals.

Through our efforts and achievements, we excel in today's competitive world. At Dwaraka Doss Goverdhan Doss Vaishnav College, excellence is not just a goal, it's a tradition. As a linguistic minority institution, established in the year 1964, we have made a great progress in transforming the lives of the students, sharing knowledge, inculcating moral values, reviving cultural ethics, and thereby empowering them to become a responsible citizen. On commemorating Diamond Jubilee this year, our esteemed institution feels proud to witness the outstanding achievements of our dedicated leaders, who have contributed a lot to the growth and development of this institution. I wish and pray that Lord Krishna blesses our institution abundantly, from His inexhaustible store of riches and goodness.

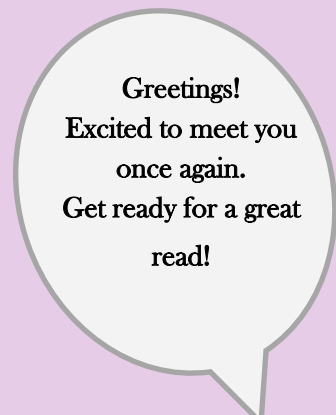
I applaud the Department of English (Shift II) for bringing out the fifth volume of Skylark (the department newsletter). I appreciate the choice of the theme, 'Unleashing the Leader Within', as the newsletter highlights the stories of courageous and visionary leaders. The exciting topics and intellectual areas of this edition will be a rewarding experience as it would encourage the readers to set a goal and to aspire. I congratulate all the faculty fraternity of the editorial board and the passionate students for their enthusiastic contribution to this newsletter.

As Rabindranath Tagore beautifully puts it, "Reach high, for stars lie hidden in you. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal". Together, let us step into the future, inspire one another, and continue our journey of growth, innovation, and achievement.

Best Wishes!

Dr. Ashok kumar Mundhra,

Secretary.



Greetings! Excited to meet you once again. Get ready for a great read!



Inside the Issue

Table with 2 columns: Content Name and Page Numbers. Includes items like Message from the Principal, Expert's Insight, Department Activities, etc.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Greetings!

**“Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world;
By devotion to selfless work, one attains the supreme
goal of life.” - The Bhagavad Gita**

Sacredly steering on the counsels of Lord Sri Krishna, Dwaraka Doss Goverdhan Doss Vaishnav College imparts value-based quality education, persistently empowers youth and has emerged as one of the premier institutions of higher learning. Deeply rooted in values, intellectual curiosity and creativity, our college upholds the progressive mission, fosters leadership skills and has attained an incredible place all over the years.

On this joyous occasion, I congratulate the Department of English, Shift II in advocating academic excellence, to ensure competent and constant growth of the students. The English language holds a paramount position as a global means of communication in the 21st century. Proficiency in English language, help learners to achieve their career goals seamlessly. I extol the relentless effort of the department, for its successful completion and publication of the 2025 edition of their Newsletter **SKYLARK**, themed ‘**Unleashing the Leader Within**’. It is delightful to see the creative

work contributed for the Newsletter, that has exhibited our students’ intellectual insight and their excellent command on the language.

“We want the education, by which character is formed and strength of mind is increased.”

As rightly observed by *Swami Vivekananda*, our college cultivates moral values and civic responsibility in our students, and make them prolific members of the global society.

Spanning wide-ranging eras and domains, our country has produced an array of leaders, who have fostered harmony and prosperity to the nation and the world. These extraordinary visionaries have contributed to India’s growth and has elevated our position on the global stage.

Leadership is closely linked with service. It enhances education, teaches empathy and prepares students for real-life challenges. The theme of the Newsletter precisely has provided wings of imagination and has readied our learners to be stellar thinkers and leaders. I congratulate the Department of English, Shift II for their endeavour and dedication, in making this edition a success.

Celebrating the 60 years of unstinted service to student community, let us continue to evolve ardently, grow higher and stronger, as we march towards the Platinum years.

Warm Regards!

**Dr. S. Santhosh Baboo,
Principal.**

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

“Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge”

- Simon Sinek.

Dear readers,

We welcome you to yet another edition of *Sky-lark*, the annual newsletter of the Department of English (Shift II). As we turn the pages of this fifth volume, we are reminded of the symbolic significance of the skylark, a bird that soars to great heights, its melody a testament to unbounded potential. In the same way, this edition’s theme, **Unleashing the Leader Within**, invites

us to reflect, rise, and realise our own capabilities.

The journey of leadership is deeply connected with growth and learning. The previous edition of *Sky-lark*, *Volume IV* explored **Learning Through Artificial Intelligence** as its central theme, enhancing students’ knowledge and understanding of the transformative technology. Just as AI continues to challenge traditional ways of thinking, leadership requires innovation, and the ability to navigate change.

Leadership is a quality that every individual should possess. It begins within, by understanding our strengths, embracing our potential, and showing the

courage to inspire others. Leadership is not merely a title or position; it is a mindset, a practice, and a responsibility to create positive change. Leaders are not born; they are shaped through moments of self-discovery and perseverance. Effective leadership fosters collaboration, critical thinking, and adaptability.

Imagine a world where every individual recognises their capacity to lead—not just in boardrooms or on battlefields, but in classrooms, communities, and everyday life. Leadership is not always about grand gestures. It often lies in small, consistent acts of initiative, and the willingness to change the world for a better tomorrow. As students, this journey may begin by founding a club, mentoring a peer, or volunteering for a cause. Each step, no matter how small, helps lay the foundation for a leader who can leave a mark on the world.

In this edition of *Skylark*, you will find reflections, articles, and creative expressions that explore the possibilities of leadership. From dealing with criticism, to stepping outside comfort zones and building confidence, this newsletter celebrates leadership in its varied forms. We believe education plays a pivotal role in nurturing these qualities, by helping individuals grow not just academically, but also personally.

It is time to engage with the ideas presented here and reflect on the question: “What kind of leader will I be?” The answer lies not in the opinions of others but in the depths of your own heart. Leadership is the courage to dream, the will to act, and the resilience to rise.

The future awaits. Unleash the leader within!

**Regards,
Editorial Team.**

EXPERT'S INSIGHT

Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others.

– Plato.

Ratan Tata, a beacon of inspiration for generations to come, was a successful entrepreneur with commitment and responsibility in serving society. As students play a crucial role in driving societal progress, they need a true, inspiring paradigm for a leader. One such accomplished, self-made individual is Ratan Naval Tata, a man of morals, who is celebrated across the world. He served as the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons. He is greatly appreciated for his business ethics, charity work, and management skills, over one of the country's greatest multinational companies. When he was at the helm of affairs, the Tata Group interestingly bought major international brands such as Jaguar Land Rover, Tetley Tea, and Corus Steel. These strategic acquisitions not only enhanced the Group's portfolio, but also set the stage for Indian businesses on the International front. This balance inspires the youth to think globally and regionally.

Ratan Tata always focused on making serviceable products and solutions that stand the test of time. The world's most affordable car, the Tata Nano, is a key example that shows his dedication towards innovation for the common man. He was agile in initiating and developing Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) into a

Ratan Naval Tata



worldwide IT power. He was involved highly in philanthropic activities and used the Tata Trusts' wealth to support healthcare, education, and rural development. His allegiance to honesty, transparency, and ethical decision-making provides a benchmark for future leaders. Through this, he had demonstrated the value of 'giving back' to society by uplifting others.

Ratan Tata indeed encompassed everyone's heart with his helpful and warm nature. His goodwill and leadership style promoted a friendly, respectful, and loyal organisational culture in the company. Despite his immense success, Ratan Tata is also known for his humility and down-to-earth nature. He often displays a high degree of compassion when making business decisions. 'It's not only business; it's life' said Ratan Tata, the successful business tycoon, who has mastered the art of leadership. Even after his retirement as the chairman of the Tata Group, he continued to seek new areas and stayed relevant with new updates to show the young generation, the importance of lifetime learning. Ratan Tata stands as the epitome of leadership, whose success resonates across the world and creates a lifelong positive impact. Ratan Tata's legacy continues to inspire people to pursue their passion and serve humanity.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES



A Seminar on “English for Competitive Exams”

A seminar titled “English for Competitive Exams” was conducted by the Department of English (Shift II) on 25th August 2024 in Sri Vallabhacharya Auditorium. Mr. S. Haribalasiranjeevi, Dean of Buddha IAS Academy, Chennai, served as the resource person. The seminar was tailored to equip the students with comprehensive knowledge and effective strategies for excelling in various competitive exams like TNPSC, UPSC, SSC, and RRB. It enabled the students to comprehend the prominent role of English in competitive exams, inevitability in mastering grammar, and enhance English proficiency for a stellar career.

A Skill Enhancement Programme titled “Emotional Intelligence: A Roadmap to Success”

On 20th August 2024, a Skill Enhancement Programme titled “Emotional Intelligence: A Roadmap to Success” was organised in Sri Vallabhacharya Auditorium by Mr. P. Raja Venkatesh, Soft Skills and Behavioural Skills Trainer from NPTEL and IIT Madras. The programme enhanced the students to take the helm, in comprehending emotions, boosting interpersonal exchanges and improving mental health and well-being. The key takeaway, ‘Respond, Don’t React,’ served as an illuminating principle for the participants to deal with complex emotions and interactions.



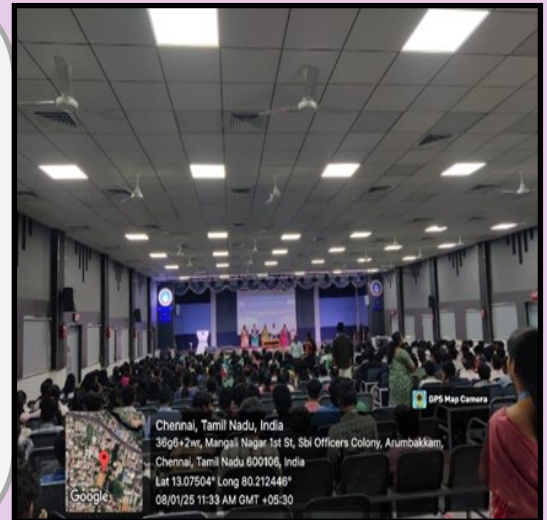
A Guest Lecture on “Ethical Considerations in Resume Crafting”

A Guest Lecture on “Ethical Considerations in Resume Crafting” was conducted on 25th September 2024 in Sri Vallabhacharya Auditorium. Ms. Indraa Panneer, HR Expert and Founder of Valam Solutions enabled the learners to comprehend the significance of drafting a resume, the quintessential features of resume formats, and the need to adhere to ethical standards while perfecting a resume. The guest lecture delved deep into the crucial ethical considerations involved in drafting a winning resume for the students’ successful career.



A Seminar on “Learning English and Its Relevance in the 21st Century”

A Seminar on “Learning English and Its Relevance in the 21st Century” was held on 08th January 2025 at SRG Auditorium in collaboration with the British Council Library. The resource persons Mr. Sharon Rubinstein and Ms. Anitha emphasised the inevitability of English in the present scenario and explored the strategies to master the language and to succeed in their domain. By providing a valuable opportunity for students to interact with British Council experts, the event fostered networking and knowledge exchange.



INNOWIZ-24’



The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English (Shift II) hosted the Grand Finale of INNOWIZ’24 on March 15, 2024 and the event was graced by the Chief Guest, Mr. Ranganathan Chakravarthy, Grand Master and International Scrabble Player & Founder of Madras Scrabble Foundation. The keynote address resonated deeply with the audience, igniting a discourse on innovative educational paradigms. The day also witnessed the finals of the events, Word Relay and Twenty Questions. Mr. Chakravarthy awarded prizes to the winners and runners-up of all events organised during INNOWIZ. The LDS volunteers and the faculty were also presented with tokens of gratitude for their unwavering support and dedication. The event reinforced the importance of creating a stimulating and enriching learning environment.

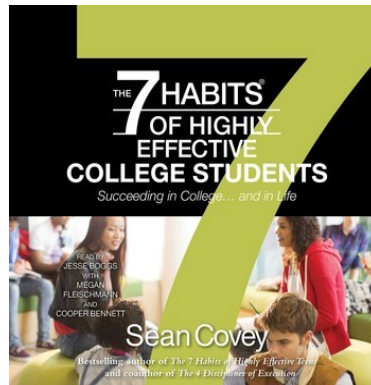
The Literary Debating Society of the Department of English (Shift II) conducted the interdepartmental event INNOWIZ’24 on March 15, 2024 at Sri Vallabhacharya Auditorium. The event witnessed the presence of 218 students and 23 faculty members. The preliminary rounds were conducted on 9th, 12th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of February 2024. The event received an impressive registration of 638 enthusiastic participants. Through vocabulary-centric competitions such as Spell Bee, Word Relay, Caption Writing, Essay Writing, and Word Salad, participants were encouraged to expand their lexicon and sharpen their communication skills. Additionally, events like Joke Smith, Marooned, Twenty Questions, Podcast, and Trash to Treasure, provided opportunities for students to showcase their creativity, humour, and storytelling abilities. These competitions aimed to nurture young talent in a dynamic and engaging manner. Winners were selected based on their performance across various categories, demonstrating excellence in vocabulary, content quality, fluency, and critical thinking.



BOOK SHELF

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students

Sean Covey's 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students' offers a practical guide for navigating the challenges and maximising the opportunities of college life. Drawing inspiration from his father, Sean Covey adapts the principles for a student audience, providing actionable strategies for academic success, personal growth, and building meaningful relationships.



relationships and working effectively with others. 'Think Win-Win' promotes a collaborative mindset, seeking mutually beneficial solutions in interpersonal interactions. 'Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood' emphasises the importance of empathetic listening and effective communication. 'Synergise' encourages teamwork and creative collaboration. Finally, 'Sharpen the Saw'

focuses on self-renewal and maintaining a balanced lifestyle.

The book's strength lies in its clear, relatable style and focus on real-world application. Covey avoids abstract theorising, instead presenting the 7 Habits as a set of interconnected tools that students can immediately implement. Each habit is explored in detail, with examples, anecdotes, and practical exercises designed to help students internalise the concepts and apply them to their own lives.

While the book's adaptation of established principles might seem derivative to some, its target audience benefits from the tailored approach. Covey understands the unique pressures and opportunities faced by college students, and he addresses these with specific advice and relatable examples. He acknowledges the challenges of balancing academics, social life, extracurricular activities, and personal growth, offering practical strategies for managing these competing demands.

The seven habits themselves form a logical progression, starting with inward-focused habits of self-reliance, self-management, and moving outward to habits of interdependence and collaboration. 'Be Proactive,' the first habit, encourages students to take responsibility for their choices and actions. 'Begin with the End in Mind' emphasises the importance of setting goals and visualising success. 'Put First Things First' provides a framework for prioritising tasks and managing time effectively. These initial habits lay the foundation for effective personal leadership.

The '7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students' is not a theoretical treatise or a quick-fix solution. It is a practical guide that requires active engagement and consistent effort. The value of the book lies in its ability to empower students to take control of their lives, develop effective habits, and achieve their full potential. Incorporating the positive habits in day to day life, enables the students to grow exponentially in their chosen career.

The subsequent habits focus on building strong

Bold and Beautiful in Blue: Department of English, Shift II.



FILM REVIEW

'Hidden Figures' is a 2016 American biographical film, directed by Theodore Melfi, starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monáe. Based on Margot Lee Shetterly's non-fiction book of the same name, it tells the story of three brilliant African-American mathematicians who worked at NASA during the early years of the space programme. This powerful and inspiring film celebrates their remarkable contributions, representing Katherine Johnson's (Henson) trajectory calculations for the first American manned spaceflights, Dorothy Vaughan's (Spencer) rise as NASA's first African-American supervisor and Mary Jackson's (Monáe) groundbreaking achievement as NASA's first African-American female engineer. The film portrays the challenges these women faced in a segregated and male-dominated environment, offering a timely reminder of the importance of diversity and inclusion in STEM. The movie effectively transports the audience to the 1960s, highlighting the social and professional obstacles these women overcame. The well-paced narra-



tive keeps viewers engaged, while the visually stunning cinematography and costumes create a rich and immersive experience. A fantastic soundtrack blends classic and contemporary music, further enhancing the film's emotional impact. With outstanding performances from Henson, Spencer, Monáe and excellent direction from Melfi, this must-see film is sure to inspire and en-

tertain audiences of all ages, making it a great choice for families. The film was a critical and commercial success, generating over \$230 million worldwide and receiving numerous awards and nominations, including three Academy Award nominations. The movie serves as an inspiration for all, reminding that talent knows no boundaries and perseverance can break down even the most difficult barriers. It powerfully illustrates that leadership emerges from vision, courage and dedication. These women, despite facing many barriers, demonstrated leadership by empowering others, challenging the status quo and making impactful contributions.

KNOW YOUR LANGUAGE

EPONYMOUS WORDS

Have you ever wondered how certain words in the English language got their names? Look no further than eponymous words! An eponym is a term that is named after someone, usually to honour and acknowledge the originator or discoverer of a concept, idea, or thing. Let's delve into the fascinating world of eponymous words and explore their intriguing histories.

- 1. Sandwich:** Named after John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, who requested his valet to bring him slices of meat between two pieces of bread so that he could eat while continuing to play cards, without getting his fingers greasy.
- 2. Mesmerise:** Named after Franz Mesmer, an Austrian physician, who developed the concept of 'animal magnetism', a precursor of hypnosis.
- 3. Machiavellian:** Coined from the name of Niccolò Machiavelli, an Italian philosopher and politician, known for his cunning and ruthless political tactics.
- 4. Pavlovian:** Named after Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov, who discovered the concept of classical con-

ditioning, where animals associate stimuli with responses.

- 5. Orwellian:** Inspired by George Orwell, the author of the dystopian novel '1984' which depicted a totalitarian society with pervasive surveillance and censorship.

- 6. Darwinian:** Derived from Charles Darwin, the English naturalist, who proposed the theory of evolution through natural selection.

- 7. Midas Touch:** Named after King Midas from Greek mythology, who was granted the power to turn everything he touched into gold.

- 8. Svengali:** Coined from the name of a fictional character in George du Maurier's novel 'Trilby,' who hypnotises and manipulates the protagonist.

- 9. Tantalise:** Derived from Tantalus, a figure from Greek mythology, who was punished by being placed in a pool of water that always receded when he tried to drink.

- 10. Richter Scale:** Derived from Charles Richter, an American seismologist, who developed the scale used to measure earthquake magnitude.

KNOW YOUR LANGUAGE

Decoding the Lingo: Gen Z and Gen Alpha Slang in Academia

Hello readers! Ready to level up your vocab? In this column, we're breaking down the Gen Z and Gen Alpha slang taking over social media and everyday convos. From "lowkey" to "glow up," we'll give you the context to use these terms like a pro. Check out this conversation between two college students, Mia and Emily, to see how Gen Z slang is used in everyday chat.



Hey, Emily! I'm **lowkey** stressed about our upcoming exams. Have you started studying yet?

Yaaas, I'm **salty** about all the reading assignments, but I need to get on top of it. **What's the tea** on the grading style?



I heard it's tough, but the study group is **lit** and really helpful. Wanna join?



Bet! I don't want to **ghost** my goals. Let's work together and **glow up** our grades!



Yaaas, I can already feel the **aura**. Let's do this!



No cap, we're going to crush it!



Now that you've seen these slang terms in action, here's a breakdown of what they mean:



- Lowkey/Highkey:** used to express a subtle or intense feeling about a topic.
- Salty:** describes someone who is bitter or upset, often due to disappointment.
- Tea:** gossip or secret information.
- Lit:** describes an exciting or wild situation.
- Ghost:** to suddenly stop responding or interacting with someone.
- Cap:** to exaggerate or lie.
- Glow up:** to improve or upgrade something, often academically or professionally.
- Aura:** refers to the vibe, energy or atmosphere that someone gives off.
- Yaaas/Yikes:** expresses strong approval or disapproval, often in response to a situation or decision.
- Bet:** to express agreement, confirmation or acknowledgement.

Stay vocab-savvy and we'll catch you on the flip side!

CHISEL YOUR LANGUAGE

Cryptograms



Have you ever thought about having a secret language that only you and your friends know?

We have a secret message for our readers, decrypt the passage to know the exclusive information:

Hints: z-a, y-b, x-c, so on.

For example: ice-rxv.

Xibkgltizksb rh gsv kizxgrxv lu hvxfirmt xlnnfmrxzgrlm. Rg rmeloevh xivzgrmt xlwvh zmw xrksvih gl kilgvxg rmulinzgrlm. Yivzprmt z xibkgltizn ivjfrivh oltrxzo gsrmprrmt zmw kzggvim ivxltmrgrlm.

Time Machine: The Word Shift

Alex: Hey Ben, have you ever noticed how words can change in meaning over time?

Ben: Uh! Not really. What do you mean?

Alex: Well, like ‘awful’. What do you think is the meaning of the sentence, ‘The view from the mountain was so awful!’?

Ben: Oh! You mean the view was bad?

Alex: Actually, back in the day, ‘awful’ used to mean ‘awe-inspiring’ or ‘impressive,’ not bad at all.

Ben: Wait, really? That’s weird. So ‘awful’ used to mean something amazing?

Alex: Exactly! And ‘nice’ used to

mean ‘foolish’ or ‘silly’. Imagine saying, ‘He’s so nice,’ and actually meaning ‘He’s so foolish!’

Ben: (laughs) So it would be an insult?

Alex: Yep! It’s funny how the meaning shifted. And here’s another one: ‘terrific.’ Like saying, ‘That roller-coaster was terrific!’

Ben: That would mean it was really scary, right?

Alex: In fact, it used to mean ‘frightening,’ but now it means ‘excellent’ or ‘wonderful.’

Ben: Oh wow! So it used to be the opposite! That’s crazy. What else?

Alex: Ever heard of ‘quarantine’? It comes from the Italian word for ‘40.’ Ships used to be isolated for

40 days. Imagine saying, ‘We need to quarantine this ship for 40 days’

Ben: So quarantine used to be about a set number of days?

Alex: Yes! It wasn’t just about isolation, but about a specific time frame. And here’s a fun one: ‘berserk.’ Imagine a Viking saying, ‘Watch out for the berserk warrior!’

Ben: Wouldn’t that mean he’s just crazy?

Alex: It actually referred to warriors who wore bear-shirts, and they would fight fiercely, like a bear. It meant they were fierce, not crazy!

Ben: Whoa! so ‘berserk’ was about a battle technique? That’s insane!

Alex: Yes! Language is full of these hidden stories.

Anagrams



Cinema...iceman

What?

This is an anagram, to mix up a word to form a new one.

Oh! Like silent...and listen!

Exactly! You are a pro already! Let’s try some more.



- 1. Dusty
- 2. Heart
- 3. Thing
- 4. Below
- 5. Drawer
- 6. Lapse
- 7. Stressed
- 8. Lemon

EMINENT ERUDITES

ANITA DESAI

Born on June 24, 1937, in Mussoorie, India, Anita Desai is a renowned Indian novelist and short story writer. Her childhood was marked by a blend of Indian and Western influences. Her early education took place in Delhi, and later she attended Miranda House, University of Delhi, graduating with a degree in English literature. She has also taught creative writing at various institutions, including Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley. Her legacy as a leading Indian writer continues to inspire new generations of readers and writers. Desai's writing career began early, with her first novel, *The Peacock*, published in 1963. Her literary accomplishments are extensive, with notable awards including the Sahitya Akademi Award (1978), the Padma Shri (1989), and the Alberto Moravia Prize for Literature (1990).

Desai's writing usually consists of deep, complex characters who undergo inner turmoils, family conflicts, and emotional struggles. She is known for the employment of potent themes like identity crisis, culture, and social class. Some



of her most famous works include "*In Custody*" (1984), "*Baumgartner's Bombay*" (1988), and "*Fasting, Feasting*" (1999). Known for her numerous novels, her most impactful work is arguably "*In Custody*", a novel that delves into the complexities of Indian culture and identity through the story of a Urdu poet's decline. This work showcases Desai's masterful storytelling and her ability to capture the intricacies of human experience.

Throughout her career, Desai has been recognised for her contributions to Indian literature, and her writing continues to be celebrated for its beauty, depth, and complexities. She often investigates the tensions between traditional and mod-

ern India, as well as the experiences of women and marginalised communities. Her writing provides a unique lens on the human experience and her stories amplify the voices of the marginalised, demonstrating the responsibility of a leader to guide, uplift and represent diverse perspectives.

Having established herself as one of the most revered writers of Indian literary canon, Desai's works have also gained international recognition. Her characters go through profound introspection, adapt swiftly, and thrive in adversity, mirroring a leader's need for self-awareness and personal growth. Her profound portrayals of Indian women's lives, woven together with her signature lyrical prose, innovative storytelling that experiments with language, and introspective stream of consciousness narration, have captivated readers globally. By fearlessly challenging traditional norms and delving into the complexities of the human experience, Desai has earned her place as one of India's most celebrated authors.

Han Kang's literary works have left an indelible mark on both South Korean and the global literary scene, particularly due to her poignant exploration of the human psyche, societal repression, and the psychological complexity of her characters. With a distinctive writing style that is minimalist yet emotionally resonant, Han Kang delves into the darker aspects of life, challenging her readers to face uncomfortable truths about existence, identity, and the human condition.

Her breakthrough novel, *The Vegetarian* (2007), which gained international acclaim after being

HAN KANG



translated into English in 2015, is a prime example of her literary prowess. The book which centers around the unsettling transformation of a woman who suddenly chooses to stop eating meat, tackles the themes

of repression, desire, and the constraints of societal norms. The novel's surreal narrative and stark portrayal of the body's rebellion against societal expectations garnered global recognition, culminating in her winning the **Man Booker International Prize** in 2016.

Kang's *Human Acts* (2014) further solidified her place as a powerful voice in literature. This novel, which explores the 1980 Gwangju Uprising, focuses on the aftermath of political violence and the quest for redemption. It addresses the trauma and scars of a nation grappling with its violent past,

particularly the long-lasting effects of authoritarian rule, and provides a piteous commentary on the human capacity for both suffering and survival. Her writing seamlessly combines the personal with the political, using her spare yet impactful prose to evoke deep reflection. Her works often explore themes of violence, trauma, and the fragility of human existence, compelling readers to reconsider their perceptions of nor-

malty, madness, and the boundaries between the two.

Her leadership qualities such as resilience, empathy, courage, and vision are evident in both her writing and her life, making her a powerful and inspiring figure. Han Kang's Nobel Prize underscores her exceptional ability to illuminate the complexities of the human experience and the societal forces that shape it. As the first South Korean

woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Han Kang's recognition symbolises more than just her literary achievements which reflects the democratic struggles of South Korea and the profound leadership ideologies. Kang's ability to adapt across different works while intercepting various aspects of the human experience speaks to her flexibility and growth as an artist and a leader.

STUDENTS' PROFICIENCY DETAILS (2023-2024)

Sl. No.	Semester & Session	Subject	Department & Section	Roll Number	Register Number	Name of the student	Marks secured
1	IV April 2024	Foundation English - IV	B.Sc. Computer Science	22E2945	2213101058136	Kannathal V.	82%
2	III November 2024	Foundation English - III	B. Com. (CS)	23E1353	2313101042256	Ramya C. B.	84%
3	II April 2024	Foundation English - II	B. Com. (Gen)	23E0914	2313101036415	Kaushik B.	81%
4	II April 2024	Foundation English - II	B.Sc. Bio. Chemistry	23E2702	2313101051104	Mohammed Shahid H.	81%
5	II April 2024	Foundation English - II	B.Sc. Bio. Technology	23E2826	2313101052126	Ramya Sri Varshini	81%
6	II April 2024	Foundation English - II	B.Sc. Bio. Technology	23E2841	2313101052102	Gokul Krishna N. S.	81%
7	I November 2024	Foundation English - I	B. Com. Honours	24E1602	2413101043124	Srivatsan K. R.	86%

Answer for Anagram:

- Dusty → Study
- Heart → Earth
- Thing → Night
- Below → Elbow
- Drawer → Reward
- Lapse → Peals
- Stressed → Desserts
- Lemon → Melon

Answer for Cryptography:

'Cryptography is the practice of securing communication. It involves creating codes and ciphers to protect information. Breaking a cryptogram requires logical thinking and pattern recognition.'

Answer for Crossword Puzzle:

	1V	I	7S	I	O	N													
			T																
			R																
6E			A																
M			T																
P																			
O			G																
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5M	O		8T	I	V	A	T	I	O	N									
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N			C																
T			T																

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS (On Campus):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar on “Interview Skills” • Workshop on “Interpersonal Skills” • Seminar on “Acing Competitive Exams” • Workshop on “Story Telling” • Seminar on “The role of AI in Language Learning” • Seminar on “Decoding Gen Z Communication | <p style="text-align: center;">Style”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on “Content Writing” • Workshop on “Proof Reading” • Workshop on “Effective Workplace Communication” • Workshop on “Life Skills to Shape a Better Future” |
|--|---|

Online courses (Off Campus):

The following courses are offered free of cost. If the learner requires a verified certificate, the fee is as mentioned below:

Course Name	Duration	Certificate Fee (INR)	URL	Platform
English for Career Development	Approximately 5 weeks	₹4,000	https://www.coursera.org/learn/careerdevelopment	Coursera (University of Pennsylvania)
Improve Your English Communication Skills	Approximately 4 months	₹16,000	https://www.coursera.org/specializations/improve-english	Coursera (Georgia University of Technology)
English Grammar and Style	8 weeks (3–4 hours/week)	₹8,200	https://www.edx.org/course/english-grammar-and-style	Edx (University of Queensland)
Business English Communication Skills	Approximately 5 months	₹16,000	https://www.coursera.org/specializations/business-english	Coursera (University of Washington)
Rhetoric: The Art of Persuasive Writing and Public Speaking	8 weeks (2–3 hours/week)	₹11,400	https://pll.harvard.edu/course/rhetoric-art-persuasive-writing-and-public-speaking	Harvard University
Learn English: Intermediate Grammar	Approximately 4 months	₹16,000	https://www.coursera.org/specializations/intermediate-grammar	Coursera (University of California, Irvine.)
English for Business Networking	Approximately 6 weeks	₹4,000	https://www.coursera.org/learn/business-english-intro	Coursera (University of Washington)
Academic and Business Writing	6 weeks (5–6 hours/week)	₹8,200	https://www.edx.org/course/academic-and-business-writing	Edx (BerkeleyX University of California)
Speak English Professionally: In Person, Online & On the Phone	Approximately 5 weeks	₹4,000	https://www.coursera.org/learn/speak-english-professionally	Coursera (Georgia University of Technology)
English for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)	Approximately 5 weeks	₹4,000	https://www.coursera.org/learn/english-for-stem	Coursera (University of Pennsylvania)
Successful Negotiation: Essential Strategies and Skills	Approximately 17 hours	-	https://www.coursera.org/learn/negotiation-skills	Coursera (University of Michigan)
Communicating across cultures	Approximately 3 weeks	-	https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/communicating-across-cultures	British Council

British Council English Course (Offline):

British Council offers interactive classes focusing on Practical Language Skills and Business Communication based on the levels of the learners (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced). The fee details are as below:

20 classes (2 months) - ₹ 19,000

40 classes (4 months) - ₹ 32,000

60 classes (6 months) - ₹ 42,000

10% discount for on the spot registration.

IELTS Preparatory Course (Offline)

24 Classes - ₹ 28,625

36 classes - ₹36,625

48 classes - ₹ 41,500

Henry Harvin® Language Academy:

10 in 1 Program: Training + Projects + Internship + Certification + Placement + E-Learning +

Masterclass + Student Engagements and Events + Gold Membership

1. Training: A1: 40 Hrs | A2: 40 Hrs | B1: 40 Hrs | B2: 40 Hrs | C1: 50 Hrs | C2: 50 Hrs of Two-way (Live Interactive online classroom sessions).

2. Projects: Facility to undergo projects in English Speaking, Interview Skills, Public Speaking, and more.

3. Internship: Internship Assistance to gain practical experience of the learnings.

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5. Placement: 100% Placement Guarantee Support for 1-Year post successful completion.

6. E-Learning Access: Access to abundant tools and techniques, video content, assessments, and more.

7. Masterclass: Regular Masterclass sessions spread over the next 12 months.

8. Student Engagement and Events: Access to all student engagement events throughout the programme.

9. Membership: Get 1-year Gold Membership of Henry Harvin® Language Academy for the English-Speaking Course.

10. Entrepreneurship Mentorship: Mentorship from Young Successful Entrepreneurs to set up a sustainable and scalable Business from scratch at both Freelance and entrepreneur levels.

For Enquiry: 70650 01225

STUDENTS' TALK

Skylark, the newsletter of the department of English (Shift II), offers varied and informative content. It aims to provide a platform for students' voices while offering valuable and enjoyable reading material.

Vidula, II B.Sc. Vis.Com. A

The newsletter effectively captured the essence of AI. The content is educational and provides a fresh perspective on the evolving technology.

Arunadevi B, II B.Sc. Statistics

Which column/columns did you like the most, and why?

I love the column 'Useful Apps for Students' as it suggests apps that help us to improve our communication skills.

Rubesh R, I B.Sc. C.S. B

'Edutainer' segment tickles my brain into thinking out of the box to find solutions! It amazingly puts across critical thinking in an engaging way.

Anand, II B.Sc. Statistics

Suggest a column/an activity/any other content that you would want to be featured in the next volume.

Riddles can be captivating and mind-wrecking.

Madhumitha M, I BBM B

I would like proverbs to be added.

Sneha Tibrewal, I BBA C

Comment on the relevance of the newsletter.

The newsletter is relevant with its up to date content and topics.

Rajat Venkateswaran, II B.Sc. Vis.Com. A

Skylark definitely helps lots of students to enhance their communication skills.

Deepak J, II B.Sc. C.S. B

State your opinion on the overall layout and visuals of the newsletter.

My props to the editors who've edited this newsletter, it looks cool.

Tarun Saravana, II B.Sc. Psychology

The visuals are attractive and well-structured.

Venkat Raghav, I B.Com. F&T

How do you think the newsletter could better engage with the college community?

The newsletter could better engage the college community by including student content, campus events, and interactive elements like polls and social media links.

Hemadharshini L, I B. Sc. Criminology B

A wider student demographics can be reached by circulating the newsletter across the official groups.

Thiruvagan, II B.A. English

Recommend a theme for the upcoming volume of the newsletter.

Finance for the future generation

Kenneth Joshua B, II B. Com. C.S. D

Art and Culture

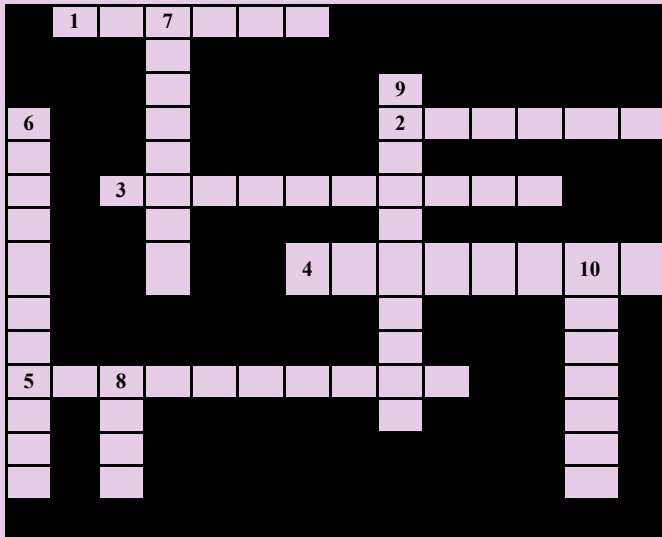
Yashana Priya U, I B. Sc. Criminology B

Anime and its Influence in Pop Culture

Swathi V V, I BBM B

EDUTAINER

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:



ACROSS:

1. A clear picture of the future.
2. Moral Principles.
3. Ability to bounce back.
4. Collaborative effort.
5. Inspiring other to act.

DOWN:

6. Giving power to someone.
 7. Plan of action / Methodical approach.
 8. Skilful handling.
 9. Assigning task.
 10. To have high opinion on somebody.
- (For answer check page no. 11)

QUIZ:

1. N _ _ W _ R K

I am a word that describes a complex system of inter-connected parts.

2. E _ H _ L A _ A N _

I am a word that describes a state of being extremely happy or excited.

3. E _ O L U _ I O N

I am a word that describes the process by which living

organisms develop and change over time.

4. L _ C I _ I T Y

I am a word that describes the quality of being easily understood or clear.

5. C _ N T E M _ L A T E

I am a word that describes the act of considering or thinking deeply about something.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:



S	W	J	A	E	P	E	D	T	E	Q	I	I	I	I	A	X
P	E	E	E	E	S	P	Q	S	D	J	U	Y	Y	I	J	
J	C	I	I	I	S	P	Q	Q	J	B	I	Q	E	I	D	A
T	T	K	I	S	U	J	U	V	P	A	U	T	X	I	B	
S	I	U	U	A	I	S	W	C	K	U	D	A	S	E	Q	V
S	A	D	D	O	K	H	U	Z	I	E	P	H	O	E	S	U
E	E	O	K	Z	A	K	U	D	I	J	H	J	U	C	K	U
U	I	I	I	D	W	D	B	H	F	D	F	H	X	S	S	S
E	I	S	W	O	U	O	A	Z	B	W	O	F	U	A	R	
R	S	A	C	X	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	B	J	Q	Z	W
A	T	R	G	U	I	V	I	O	S	M	E	I	Q	O	R	D
W	E	Y	R	E	S	K	J	H	S	B	D	S	A	S	O	J
A	U	T	U	O	I	A	V	O	U	U	I	D	I	T	U	
J	I	E	A	D	C	S	E	T	R	B	C	K	H	K	U	Q
I	U	T	S	T	R	E	M	Y	T	I	R	S	E	T	U	I
I	U	G	E	B	M	S	E	P	O	N	B	V	D	E	G	T
S	M	N	S	D	B	S	E	S	I	S	E	M	P	R	O	M

Word Search Answer:

CONNECTIONS:

1. It is an idiom which means to be upset or dwell on something that has already happened and cannot be changed.



2. It is an idiom which means something that appears bad at first but ultimately turns out to be good.



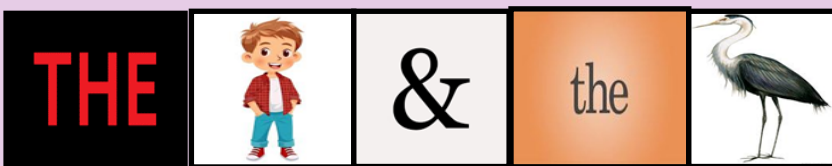
3. It is an idiom which means to pursue a mistaken course of action or line of thought.



4. It is an autobiography of a famous leader.



5. It won the Best Animated Feature Film at the 96th Academy Awards.

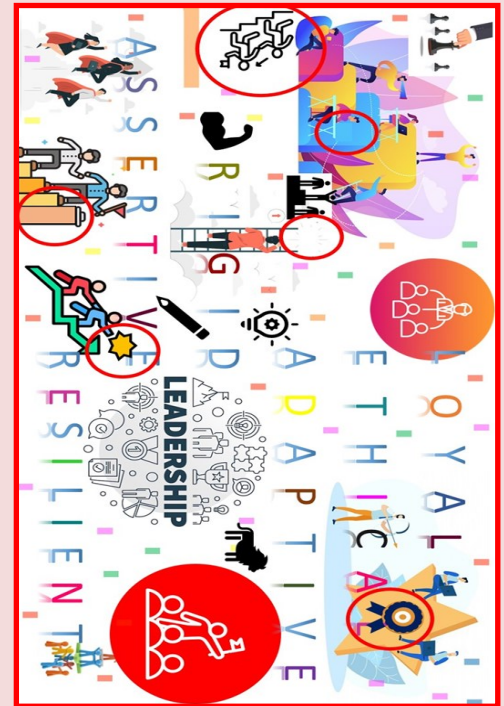


WORD SEARCH:

a	c	o	m	p	r	o	m	i	s	e	s	d	b	n	m	s
g	t	g	a	t	e	p	o	n	b	y	d	e	b	m	g	e
f	i	n	t	e	g	r	i	t	y	m	e	r	s	t	n	l
b	n	k	h	k	c	b	r	t	e	s	c	p	a	e	i	f
n	t	l	d	i	n	n	o	v	a	t	i	o	n	t	n	a
m	j	o	a	s	d	b	g	h	j	k	s	e	r	y	e	w
p	r	o	b	l	e	m	s	o	l	v	i	n	g	r	t	a
w	z	b	f	q	e	r	t	y	u	i	o	x	c	a	s	r
r	a	n	f	o	w	q	z	a	y	o	n	o	m	s	i	e
g	s	x	h	e	r	d	f	h	b	p	m	p	n	i	l	n
k	n	c	n	f	h	f	t	d	n	k	a	z	k	o	e	e
n	g	e	o	h	d	a	l	z	n	h	k	o	p	p	v	s
v	b	e	g	a	p	n	k	c	m	g	i	a	n	n	i	s
q	i	x	t	m	h	y	d	v	n	f	n	s	i	k	t	t
a	p	t	e	b	i	q	f	b	b	d	g	i	t	l	c	r
f	l	y	y	h	j	p	g	h	d	s	e	r	e	e	a	d
x	y	t	i	l	i	b	a	t	p	a	d	a	v	r	w	s

1. The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.
2. The process of finding solutions to problems or complex issues.

ANSWER:



QUIZ:

1. NETWORK
2. EXHILARANT
3. EVOLUTION
4. LUCIDITY
5. CONTEMPLATE

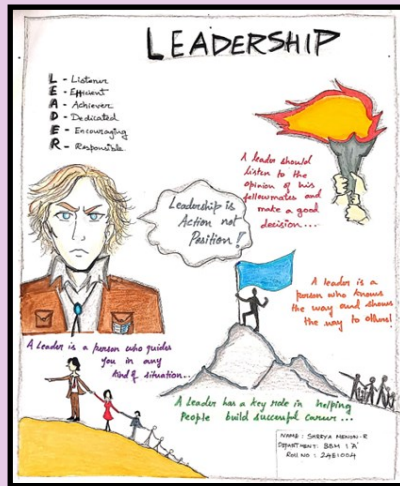
3. The process of facilitating the peaceful ending of a dispute.
4. The process of choosing between options or alternatives.
5. Not just hearing what someone is saying, but also attuning to their thoughts and feelings.
6. The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.
7. The ability to change in order to suit different conditions.
8. Practical implementation of ideas that result in the introduction of new goods or services.
9. The ability to understand your own thoughts, feelings and actions.

Keerthana J
24E3524, I B. Sc. Psychology

STUDENTS' CORNER - ARTWORK



Mahalakshmi V. S.
23E1543, II B. Com. C.S.



Shreya Menon R.
24E1004, I BBM 'A'



Sharathi M.
24E3007, I B. Sc. C.S. 'B'



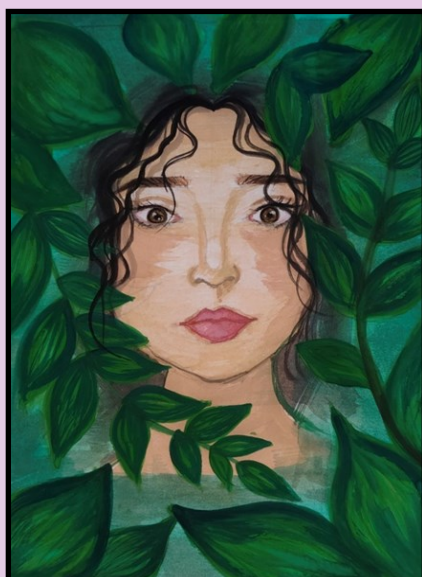
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24E1739, I B. Com. F & T



Ratheesh Samuel R.
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Padmavathy B.
24E3931, I B. A. Journalism



Divya Dharshini T. S.
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Padmavathy B.
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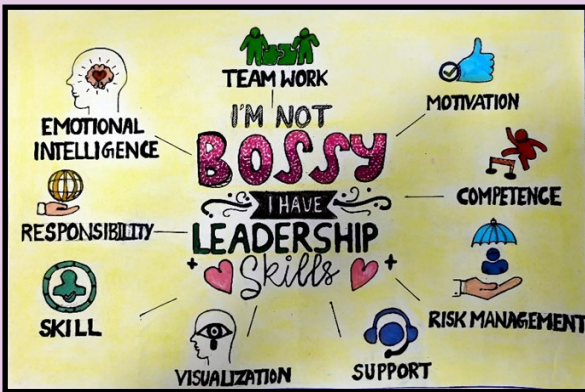
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Vinaya U. M.
24E0436, I B. Sc. CCJS



M. Swathi
24E3318,
I B. Sc. Maths with Computer Application



Ketan Bafna
24E2370, I BBA 'C'

STUDENTS' CORNER - CREATIVE WRITING

BECOME THE LEADER

Within me lies a leader true,
A voice that whispers, "I can do."
A spark that glows, a fire that burns,
A passion that drives, and forever years.

To unleash this leader, I must be bold,
Embracing challenges, young and old.
I'll step outside my comfort zone,
And let my vision, like a beacon, be known

With every step, I'll claim my ground,
And let my voice, like thunder, resound.
I'll rise above the doubts and fears,
And let my heart, with courage dry its tears.

The leader within me, now set free,
Will guide me forward, wild and carefree.
With purpose and conviction, I'll take the stage,
And unleash the leader, in this newfound age.

So let the leader within you shine,
And let your shyness, like a down, decline
Unleash your power, let your spirit soar,
And become the leader, you were born to be, forever-
more.

Sooraj M. P.
23E1517, II B. Com. C.S. 'D'.

A GREAT GUIDE

Standing bold and true,
Guiding hearts through the skies of blue.
Not wealth nor fame,
Yet by the fire within their name.
They serve, strive to achieve and light the path,

Turning night into light.
And dusk into dawn
A leader leads with love, not with fear.

Umabarathi J.
24E3509 , I B. Sc. Psychology.

SPITTING IMAGE

Saw a girl on the opposite side
 Who was standing still with her heart wide
 Her dazzling appearance and shimmering eyes
 Made me feel that she is empathetic and nice.

Her warm smile with a dimple carried me away
 Her bold nature can be admired all day
 She seemed to be positive, by her look
 To see her open body language, I was shook.

“Who is she?” I constantly asked
 Focusing on her visionary, half of my day had passed
 Resilience seems to be her topmost quality
 Her confidence level is far more than her ability.

The way she sets clear goals, caught my attention
 She looks calm and free from tension
 A simple girl with a growth mindset
 Her strong adaptability and transparency are hard to interpret.

“Have I seen this teen before?”
 Was the question lingering deep inside my core
 Showing greatness, leading the way,
 Passion, purpose and pride aids her to sustain and stay.

Leading with heart, conquering with courage
 The way she empowers and inspires is great at any stage
 I went next to her, to have a talk
 As her solutions act as a key to a lock.

I wished to greet this leader, but couldn't
 As she looked the same, like my print
 Thanks to one who invented the mirror
 Which made unleashing the leader within me cleverer.

Rakshitha K.
23E3516, II B. Sc. Psychology.

HEART vs MIND

Today my heart filled with joy again,
 A strong sense of hope blossoming,
 A small flutter of my heart,
 And my face starts to hurt from smiling.

Like moonlight in the midnight sky,
 A beacon of light.
 In the darkness of my mind,
 A small tinge of bright.

But time stops for none
 And the sun peeks out,
 The rays small but sure
 And my smile turns into a pout.

My doubts win again
 My self-hate diminishes that hope
 “How could I deserve something so beautiful?”
 So, in my fantasies I will cope.

And yet I ponder, how I could look at my face-
 in the mirror every morning
 Knowing I threw an opportunity away,
 If I couldn't depend on myself
 When things went awry.

And the cycle continues
 Day turns to night,
 And the battle of my mind and heart continues
 To decide which one is right.

Kavya Krishnan
24E1612, I B. Com. Honours.

BEING YOU

You, yes you!
 who you truly are?
 what your True desires are?
 what fear do you hold in you?
 Let your words be you
 when you speak.
 Whatever you do
 Don't pretend you are not you.
 Just be you and play it cool!
 No one can be you,
 you can't be anyone either!

Only you can be you.
 By being you, yes you!
 You will find more success
 and never have to worry about what
 you confess!
 Don't go pretending to be someone
 that who you are not.
 The real you are the one
 who you should let people see.
 Love who you are and
 do what you love.

If others don't like the way
 you are; why do you care?
 You, yes you!
 Are bright and beautiful
 just the way you are!
 You are uniquely you.

Meenakshi P.
23E0704, II B. Com. (Gen) 'B'.

WHO IS A LEADER?

A leader is someone who is perceived to be the one who can show the path, guide his subordinates in achieving a shared goal. However, what does it take for one to be at the position of a leader? A leader is not defined by his position but by his character. One's ability to have a farsighted vision, plans to achieve it, implementing the plan and finally creating an impact on others. The adequate channelising of one's abilities is what makes one a leader.

The key to unleash the leader within oneself is to have high levels of self-awareness and introspection. Recognising personal strengths and weaknesses, along with understanding how to employ them effectively, is when a successful leader emerges. Everyone has an in-built potential to step up into leadership roles, but it is their ability to identify and embrace this potential so as to succeed.

Each person is unique in their own way. Identifying one's own uniqueness and using that to create an authentic, credible image of oneself is what leads to people instilling trust and faith in you. Being able to recognise one's own personal biases and limitations also

assists in deriving a suitable plan of action for goal achievement without conflicts.

A leader is one who can communicate and articulate oneself appropriately. When one knows how to articulate their goals and visions, it becomes easier for the group to work on it as a whole. With successes, failures and disappointments are also a part of the parcel. Having the emotional stability to take that in a constructive manner is what inspires people to continue to put in efforts. Being able to take risk, face failures and ultimately bounce back is equally essential in any leader.

Being a leader is a cyclic journey of learning, making mistakes, relearning, improvising and creating meaningful impacts. Having faith in oneself to be able to undertake this journey is what unleashes the world of countless opportunities as a formidable leader.

Tanvvi Agarwal
23E3538, II B. Sc. Psychology.

WE CAN BE OUR OWN LEADER!

My first tryst with leadership began when I was enrolled to a boarding school in a lovely hill station with about two dozen strange eight-year-olds, equally clueless and clueless as me. Some of us cried, some sat in despair while some immediately got into the element. Nevertheless, we began bonding all the better. In our first day's class, we were introduced to our class teacher who sprang the most unexpected surprise at us. A simple question, who wants to lead the class? We were caught unprepared, and while most of us sat deliberating, two students raised their hands in quick succession. They were immediately appointed as the prefects and went on to perform their duties impeccably. It was there and then I understood that a leader rises to the occasion when one least expects it.

Leaders have existed all through human history, in fact leaders emerged as soon as social groups emerged in the most primitive societies. There are inherent differences in human nature that are influenced not just by genetics but also by their unique circumstances and environments. Such distinctions lead to the need for one individual or many individuals to effectively

lead everyone else. They are helped by the fact that they possess certain qualities about them. They are wonderful communicators, problem solvers, critical thinkers and possess physical strength (in the ancient and feudal societies). Further they demonstrate integrity, confidence, empathy, resilience, courage and a whole lot of other qualities that set them apart from others. But then, again everyone possesses at least a few, if not many of the above qualities and hence being a leader is all but a stone's throw away. In fact, it is all about a mindset that moulds a leader into developing themselves to lead better. Each one of us can learn to lead our minds in the direction we desire, thus becoming our own leaders.

Ravinandan Udai R.
23E0540, II B. A. Sociology.

ROCKEFELLER, THE MAN WHO FELL POVERTY WITH HIS CHARITY



“The greatest good is, what we do for others.”

- Mother Teresa

Philanthropy has the power to influence lasting social change. A ‘ripple effect’ takes place when support is received. Many lives are touched, potentially for generations. When people come together to help others, whether donating money or time, we are reminded what it means to be **‘human’**.

John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937), the American Industrialist and Philanthropist, who owned the Standard Oil Company, was the country’s first billionaire. After retiring from business in the 1890s, he made large-scale national philanthropy a systematic way. He led his energy toward philanthropic causes donating hundreds of millions of dollars, during the latter years of his life. He founded the University of Chicago and The

Rockefeller University. He invested in the Green Revolution which enabled many poor countries to upgrade their agricultural productivity dramatically. Still, his business practices and charities have benefitted millions of people. The Rockefeller Foundation continues even today, to follow its stated mission, **‘to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world’**.

John D. Rockefeller’s approach to philanthropy was grounded in a deep sense of responsibility and a belief in creating everlasting, positive change. He said, **“I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation, every possession, a duty”**, reflecting his view that wealth carries a moral obligation to serve the greater good. Rockefeller also believed that charity should empower individuals, stating **“Charity is injurious, unless it helps the recipient to become independent of it”**. This philosophy guided his philanthropic efforts, focusing on initiatives that promoted self-reliance and long-term progress. Through his support for education, medical research, and public health, Rockefeller sought to address the root causes of societal challenges, learning a legacy that continues to shape modern philanthropy.

GOVARDHAN M. S.

I BBM ‘A’



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