



DWARAKA DOSS GOVERDHAN DOSS VAISHNAV COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

Re-accredited with "A++" Grade by NAAC (3rd Cycle)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (SHIFT II)

SKYLARK

Volume: VI Annual Issue

March 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings!

*"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 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. 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 institu-

tion.

I applaud the Department of English (Shift II) for bringing out the sixth volume of *Skylark*, the department newsletter. I appreciate the choice of the theme, 'Prioritising peace', as the newsletter highlights the significance of resilience and growth. 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 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



across the world. At the same time, these developments remind us of the importance of grounding progress in values that promote harmony, understanding, and mutual respect. In such a context, prioritising peace becomes not only relevant but essential, and educational institutions play a decisive role in nurturing this consciousness.

At Dwarka Doss Goverdhan Doss Vaishnav College, education has always meant more than academic excellence. Rooted in enduring values, our institution believes that true learning shapes both the intellect and the character. As Swami Vivekananda wisely observed, "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man". This perfection finds expression through empathy, ethical conduct, and respect for human dignity. Through value-based education, community outreach, and various NSS/NCC programmes, the college continues to foster a culture of understanding and peaceful coexistence. These programmes encourage dialogue,

Greetings!

"Peace equals the ability to handle conflict, with empathy, non-violence, and creativity."

- Johan Galtung (Sociologist, Peace Scholar.)

We live in an era of remarkable progress and expanding possibilities. Advances in technology, education, and communication have opened new pathways for learning and collaboration

Inside the Issue

Message from the Editorial Board & Expert Insight	2
Beyond Borders: Celebrating the Extraordinary Grandeur of Kindness	3
Book Shelf & Upcoming Events	4 & 5
Know your Language	6 & 7
Chisel your Language	7 & 8
Eminent Erudites	9
Film Review	10
LDS Reflections	11
Edutainer	12 & 13
Students' Proficiency Details	14
Academic Activities of the Department	15 & 16
Students' Talk	17
Students' Corner	18 - 22
Reading Club	23 & 24

Welcome back! This year's *Skylark* celebrates the enduring spirit of peace. In a diverse and ever changing world, we invite you to rise above differences and embrace our shared humanity. Explore the latest issue and let your thoughts take flight.



service, and social awareness among the students. Peace, therefore, is not silence or withdrawal; it is a conscious practice, strengthened through reflection, critical thinking, and selfless action.

In a digital age where opinions often travel faster than understanding, our students are encouraged to pause, listen, and reflect. The classroom thus becomes a space not only for learning subjects, but for learning humanity. By fostering inclusivity, social responsibility, and mutual respect, we prepare our learners to become bridge-builders in a diverse and evolving society. Peace, when consciously prioritised, strengthens communities, deepens democratic values, and nurtures lasting progress.

I sincerely appreciate the dedicated efforts of the Department of English (Shift II) in bringing out **SKYLARK** - Newsletter 2026, thoughtfully centred on the theme **"Prioritising Peace"**. The department has created

a meaningful platform where ideas, dialogue, and creativity come together to affirm the role of language in fostering understanding and harmony. I also commend the students who have contributed to this edition with sincerity and insight. Their reflections and creative expressions demonstrate mature engagement with the theme and reaffirm our faith in the younger generation.

As we move forward, let us commit ourselves to peace, not merely as an ideal, but as a way of life. Let this be reflected in our choices, conduct, and service to society. May this theme inspire us to lead with wisdom, act with compassion, and remain anchored in values that endure.

Warm Regards!
Dr. S. Santhosh Baboo,
Principal.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

"Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time."

- Lyndon B. Johnson

Dear readers,

We warmly welcome you to another inspiring edition of the Department of English, Shift II newsletter, Skylark. As we turn the pages of this volume, we are reminded of the timeless value of 'Prioritising Peace', a principle that guides our thoughts, words, and actions towards harmony and compassion. The theme invites us to reflect on how fostering peace enriches our learning environment and empowers us to become agents of positive change.

Peace is a quality every individual can nurture. It begins within, by cultivating empathy, listening deeply and embracing diversity in thought. Prioritising peace encourages us to navigate disagreements with grace and build bridges between cultures and ideas. In this edition, you will find reflections, essays, and creative pieces that

explore the many facets of peace through community building. We believe that education plays a pivotal role in nurturing these qualities, helping our students grow not only academically but also ethically.

Humanity thrives in harmony with one another when every individual recognises their capacity to promote peace. It is often found in small, consistent acts of kindness, respectful dialogue, and the willingness to create a better tomorrow. As students and scholars, this journey may begin by meditating peaceful discussions, volunteering for social causes, or by simply listening with an open heart. It gives us the courage to understand, the will to act with compassion, and the resilience to sustain inner harmony. Each step, no matter how small, lays the foundation for a peaceful society. The future awaits. Let's prioritise peace within!

Regards,
Editorial Team.

EXPERT INSIGHT

Peace is found in the presence of justice, beyond the silence of war.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Kailash Satyarthi is a distinguished Indian social reformer and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate whose lifelong commitment to justice, equality, and human dignity has been firmly rooted in the eradication of child labour and exploitation. Born on 11 January 1954 in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, Satyarthi's early exposure to social inequalities profoundly shaped his moral and ethical outlook. Witnessing children deprived of education and forced into labour instilled in him a deep sense of responsibility, which later evolved into a sustained global movement advocating for the rights and welfare of children. In 1980, Satyarthi founded



the 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' (Save Childhood Movement), a pioneering grassroots organisation dedicated to rescuing children from bonded labour, trafficking, and hazardous forms of work. Through direct intervention, legal advocacy, and rehabilitation programmes, the movement has liberated thousands of children and reintegrated them into formal education and society. By combining ethical leadership

with strategic engagement of policymakers and civil society, Satyarthi has contributed to meaningful systemic reforms in child rights advocacy.

Satyarthi emerged as a leading voice in the global campaign against child labour by initiating the 'Global March Against Child Labour', a transnational movement that mobilised millions of peo-

ple across 100 countries. This unprecedented collective effort played a crucial role in persuading the 'International Labour Organisation' (ILO) to adopt Convention No. 182 on the 'Worst Forms of Child Labour' in 1999, a landmark international treaty that has since been ratified by the vast majority of ILO member states. This achievement underscored the power of civil society activism in shaping international labour standards and human rights policy. Recognising education as a cornerstone of social transformation, Satyarthi also co-founded the 'Global Campaign for Education', advocating universal access to quality education as a fundamental human right. His work consistently emphasises that education not only empowers individuals but also serves as a preventive mechanism against exploitation, poverty, and social exclusion.

In 2014, Kailash Satyarthi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize which he shared with Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai. The Nobel Committee recognised his service as "a struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education." This joint award symbolised a shared global commitment to children's rights, transcending national and cultural boundaries in the pursuit of peace. Satyarthi's enduring legacy is defined by his conviction that true and lasting peace is inseparable from social justice. By championing the rights of the most vulnerable members of society, he has demonstrated that peace is built through compassion, equity and protection of human dignity inspiring policymakers, educators, and activists worldwide.

BEYOND BORDERS: CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY GRANDEUR OF KINDNESS



Mother Teresa rightly observed, "*Service to Mankind is Service to God*". Understanding the essence of serving humanity, many leaders embarked on a journey of joy, compassion, and inspiration, to make a difference in others' lives. Their selfless acts of compassion and dedication have left a profound impact on communities around the world. These humanitarians play a crucial role in fostering love and care among individuals and contribute to a more compassionate world. Among the countless leaders who have dedicated their lives, in both past and present, let us explore here, the legacy of some of the incredible humanitarians, who transcended geographical boundaries and transformed societies worldwide.

Mahatma Gandhi is a global symbol of peace and social justice. His influence extends far beyond the borders of India, leaving a deep impact on the world stage. He actively advocated for the oppressed and marginalised, such as the African Americans in the United States and the untouchables in India. His unwa-

vering belief in the power of peaceful resistance inspired civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. Both these leaders adopted Gandhi's principles to lead their own movements against racial discrimination and injustice, eventually leading to significant social and political changes in their respective countries. While Gandhi's 'Satyagraha' was instrumental in India's struggle for independence, Mother Teresa's 'Missionaries of Charity' serve as a beacon of hope for the impoverished and dying. They provide effective help to the poorest of the poor in a number of countries, and they undertake relief work in the wake of natural catastrophes such as floods, epidemics, and famine, and for refugees. Mother Teresa showed that even small acts of kindness can change the world for the better.

Continuing the legacy of Gandhi's non-violence, the modern humanitarians strive to address the socio-economic inequalities. Bill Gates' humanitarian work, through the 'Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation', focuses on global health, education and poverty alleviation. Gates is acknowledged for his efforts to combat communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and polio. The foundation operates in over 150 countries, partnering with local organisations and global issues. Like Bill Gates, Bono, the lead Irish singer of the rock band U2, has also ad-



dressed global challenges. Paul David Hewson, known by the nickname Bono, is known for his extensive activism in fighting poverty and AIDS, particularly in Africa. While Bill Gates focuses on addressing poverty, Bono focuses on global health and inequality.

Born a refugee, Halima Aden, the next prominent leader, stands up for migrant children. Aden, the American Fashion model, is noted for being the first woman to wear a hijab in the Miss Minnesota USA 2016 pageant. Her humanitarian efforts extend beyond her modelling career. As a UNICEF ambassador, she advocates for children's rights and education, particularly for displaced communities. She actively participated in various initiatives to empower and support refugee communities.

Humanitarians' lives teach us about the importance of compassion, empathy and the value of human life. They demonstrate that individuals can make a significant difference in the lives of others, even in the most challenging circumstances. By

treating people as active participants in their own development, their efforts foster a sense of self-worth, hope, and resilience. The ripple effect of humanitarian work leads to a

more compassionate society where individuals actively engage in creating a better world for all. Let's join our hands and strive to make a lasting difference globally. Every little

bit helps, and the collective efforts can lead to a substantial change. Together, We Can!

BOOK SHELF

Before the Coffee Gets Cold

- Toshikazu Kawaguchi

"At the end of the day, whether one returns to the past or travels to the future, the present does not change."

Toshikazu Kawaguchi's exemplary novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* is a gentle, contemplative work that places inner peace at the centre of its narrative. Set in a small, windowless basement cafe in Tokyo, the story revolves around an urban legend that allows customers to travel through time.

Even if the narrative seems, at first glance, shaped by elements of fantasy, Kawaguchi harnesses the motif of time travel to lead his characters towards emotional clarity and quiet acceptance rather than mere escapist wonder.

Kawaguchi's minimalist writing style and the cafe embody tranquillity. Originally written as a play, the novel unfolds through intimate encounters focusing on four visitors, who revisit the past or glimpse the future for closure. Rather than chasing dramatic change, each character seeks something far more subtle: peace of mind. Whether it is letting go with love, forgiving oneself, or understanding a loved one better, the characters' journeys emphasise emotional resolution over external transformation.

A key philosophical strength of the novel lies in its portrayal of peace as a conscious choice rooted in the present moment. The author repeatedly reinforces the



idea that while circumstances remain unchanged, inner turmoil can soften when one gains perspective. The cooling cup of coffee serves as a metaphor for the fleeting nature of time and for the quiet courage required to confront pain and let go. Instead of the conventional use of a ticking clock to induce panic, Kawaguchi portrays stillness, reflection, and mindfulness through it. Kawaguchi excels at articulating grief, regret, and

longing with restraint by allowing moments of silence and unspoken understanding to speak volumes. However, the repeated explanation of time-travel rules and the confined setting may feel monotonous to some readers. Additionally, the narrative relies heavily on dialogue which may seem sparse to readers who prefer rich descriptive detail.

In conclusion, *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* is a powerful exploration of peace, acceptance, and emotional healing. Rather than offering solutions or dramatic change, Kawaguchi invites readers to sit with discomfort, embrace impermanence, and find serenity within themselves. It is a novel best approached as a reflective experience while gently nudging one to prioritise peace in the present.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS (On Campus)

- 1) Seminar on
 - i) Stress Management
 - ii) MALL – Mobile Assisted Language Learning
- 2) Workshop on AI and language
- 3) Skill Enhancement Programme on "Negotiation Strategies."
- 4) Guest lecture on Evolution of English in the Digital Era
- 5) Annual event Innwiz'27
- 6) Newsletter release
- 7) Club activities

1) Voice club

2) Reading club

- i) Inaugural
- ii) 12 sessions
- i) Monthly meetings
- ii) Library visit
- iii) Story telling
- iv) Book reviews
- v) Group discussions
- vi) Dialogue delivery of dramas

3) LDS

- i) Debature'27
- ii) Workshop

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
Communication Skills in English	8 weeks	₹1,000	https://swayam.gov.in Communication Skills in English - Course	SWAYAM (NITTTR)
Communicative English	12 weeks	₹1,000	Communicative English - Course https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/e-learning/preview/cec26_hs64	SWAYAM (CEC)
Introduction to Functional English	12 weeks	₹1,000	Introduction to Functional English - Course https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/nou26_ge30/preview	SWAYAM (IGNOU)
English at the Workplace	15 WEEKS	₹1,000	BEGLA-136: English at the Workplace - Course https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/nou26_hs28/preview	SWAYAM (IGNOU)
English in Daily Life	15 WEEKS	₹1,000	BEGLA-135: English in Daily Life - Course https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/nou26_hs27/preview	SWAYAM (IGNOU)
English for Career Development	Approximately 5 weeks	₹2,699	https://www.coursera.org/learn/careerdevelopment	Coursera (University of Pennsylvania)
Improve Your English Communication Skills	6 months (3hours/week)	₹5,199	https://www.coursera.org/specializations/improve-english	Coursera (Georgia Institute of Technology)
English Grammar and Style	8 weeks (3–4 hours/week)	₹11,680	https://www.edx.org/course/english-grammar-and-style	edX (University of Queensland)
Business English Communication Skills	6 months(6 hours/week)	₹5,199	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)	₹18,922	https://pll.harvard.edu/course/rhetoric-art-persuasive-writing-and-public-speaking	Harvard University
Learn English: Intermediate Grammar	6 months (5 hours/week)	₹5,199	https://www.coursera.org/specializations/intermediate-grammar	Coursera (University of California, Irvine)
English for Business Networking	6 weeks	₹3,400	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	₹3,400	https://www.coursera.org/learn/speak-english-professionally	Coursera (Georgia Institute of Technology)
Successful Negotiation: Essential Strategies and Skills	Approximately 17 hours	₹2,699	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 (FutureLearn)
Speaking and Writing English Effectively	Self-paced	₹2,172	https://alison.com/course/speaking-and-writing-english-effectively-revised	Alison

British Council English Learning Programmes

The British Council offers flexible, expert-led English learning opportunities designed for academic, professional, and personal growth. Choose a comprehensive English course or focused IELTS preparation, with structured learning, personalised support, and measurable progress.

1) British Council English Course

Achieve real progress in English with expert guidance. Study offline in Delhi or online in Chennai and build the confidence to communi-

cate effectively for work, study, and everyday life. The modular course includes six 90-minute lessons per module, digital certification, and optional Flex lessons for targeted improvement. With five CEFR-aligned levels and flexible credit packages, the programme offers structured learning and measurable progress.

Course Structure

Modular course with options for work, study, and social communication.

Each module: 6 lessons (90 minutes each).

Delivery Mode: Offline (Delhi) | Online (Chennai).

2) British Council Spoken English Course

Designed for adult learners, this course focuses on fluency, pronunciation, public speaking, and everyday communication that helps to express clearly in personal and professional contexts. Through practical activities and real-world topics, learners build confidence for interviews, presentations, and daily conversations.

Course Details

Duration: 3 hours per week for 10 weeks per module.

Levels available: **A2 (Pre-**

Intermediate), B1 (Intermediate), B2 (Upper Intermediate).

Delivery Mode: Offline (Delhi) | Online (Chennai).

3) IELTS Coach Online

Prepare for IELTS through flexible, expert-led online learning.

The programme offers live group and private classes available 24/7, helping learners strengthen listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills while building test awareness and effective strategies. Suitable for both academic and general training, it includes mock tests, personalised feedback, and webinars for confident test perfor-

mance.

Course Structure

Credit-based learning with flexible scheduling.

Live online **group classes (55 minutes)** and **private classes (25 minutes)**.

Mock tests, practice sessions, and personalised feedback.

KNOW YOUR LANGUAGE



Hello readers! Have you ever been confused by words that sound alike but mean different things? English is full of such tricky pairs. Let's explore them and bring clarity and harmony to our language. Carefully read the conversation between Ira and Naina which contains some interesting homophones.



Did you *cite* that philosopher in your paper, or did you just mention the historical *site* where he taught?

Of course I *cited* him. I'm not risking my academic *sight* for vibes.



As you should. Last semester someone confused *discrete* variables with being *discreet* in discussions.

Stop! That's not just embarrassing, that's academically tragic.

Exactly. We must *precede* our argument with context before we *proceed* to conclusions. No impulsive hot takes.

Period. Otherwise the logic won't pass --and I refuse to *bare* mistakes I can't *bear*.



Also, don't *waive* your right to defend your thesis just because someone gave you a dismissive *wave*.

Not at all. I'm *allowed* to present my ideas *aloud* and defend them.

Love that energy. Just make sure you *lose* any doubt before you let *loose* your final draft -- precision matters.

Relax. I'll keep parts of the argument slightly *coarse* if needed, but the overall *course* of the paper? Elite.

Okay scholar. That's giving distinction. No cap.

Reference:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • cite – to quote | • precede – come before | • allowed – permitted |
| • site – a place | • proceed – move forward | • aloud – audible |
| • sight – vision | • bare – uncovered | • lose – misplace |
| • discrete – separate | • bear – endure | • loose – not tight |
| • discreet – careful | • waive – give up a right | • coarse – rough |
| | • wave – signal | • course – path |

Language is powerful, but precision makes it impactful. Homophones may sound alike, yet their meanings can shape clarity, credibility, and confidence in academic writing. A single misplaced word can shift interpretation entirely. So the next time you write, pause, reflect, and choose wisely. Because in the world of words, harmony begins with accuracy.

KNOW THE ORIGIN, KNOW YOUR LANGUAGE !



Language carries history within it. Every word we use has travelled across centuries, cultures, and civilisations before settling into our everyday conversations. By understanding where words originate and what they originally meant, we begin to see language not just as a tool for communication, but as a living archive of human thought and experience. The following words reveal how deeply meaning, emotion, and history are woven into the English language.

Epiphany - Originating in Greek, the word epiphany comes from epiphaneia, meaning “manifestation,” and it refers to a sudden realisation or insight. It is pronounced /ɪˈpɪf.ə.ni/ (ih-PIF-uh-nee).

Quintessential - Originating in Latin, the word quintessential comes from quinta essentia, meaning “fifth essence,” and it refers to the purest or the most perfect example of something. It is pronounced /ˌkwɪn.tɪˈsen.ʃəl/ (kwin-ti-SEN-shuhl).

Shalom - Originating in Hebrew, the word shalom means “peace” or “wholeness,” and it refers to a state of completeness and well-being. It is pronounced /ʃəˈlɒm/ (shuh-LOM).

Zen - Originating in Japanese, the word zen comes from zenna (meditation), and it refers to a state of calm attentiveness and inner peace. It is pronounced /zen/ (zen).

Truce - Originating in Old English from trēow (meaning “faith” or “trust”), the word truce refers to an agreement between opponents to stop fighting for a period of time. It is pronounced /truːs/ (troos).

CHISEL YOUR LANGUAGE

Harmony sounds different in every country, yet the feeling remains the same. Explore how various cultures express the spirit of tranquillity. By learning these global greetings, we realise that the wish for a peaceful life is a shared human heartbeat that transcends all borders.

S.No.	Word	Language	Meaning
1	Shanti	Sanskrit	Inner peace and calmness
2	Shalom	Hebrew	Wholeness and tranquility
3	Salam	Arabic	Safety, security, and peace
4	Paz	Spanish	Absence of conflict
5	Amani	Swahili	Harmony and unity



Phrases for Harmony (Idioms & Quotes)

Idioms are the **folk wisdom** of a language. They remind us that peace isn't just a feeling, but an action we take. When we choose to ‘bridge the gap’ or ‘extend an olive branch’, we use our words to transform a moment of tension into an opportunity for friendship. These expressions are the timeless tools of a peacemaker.

Extend an olive branch: An offer of peace or reconciliation.

Peace begins with a smile: A simple act to start a movement.

Bridge the gap: To connect two opposing sides through understanding.

Living in tall cotton: A state of harmony and prosperous peace.

Quiet as a lamb: Representing the gentle nature of a peaceful heart.

The “Peaceful Minds” Riddle Corner



A peaceful mind is a sharp mind! Puzzles and riddles encourage us to look at the world from a different perspective, a key skill in resolving any disagreement. Can you look past the obvious and uncover these hidden symbols of global serenity? Challenge your friends and see who can solve them first!

1. I am the white flag raised in the air; I don't mean I have lost, I just mean, I no longer wish to fight. What am I?
2. I am a white bird that flies across borders without a passport, carrying a branch of

- green. Who am I?
3. I have no eyes, but I see both sides. I have no mouth, but I tell the truth. What am I?
4. I weigh nothing, but I can make a heavy heart light. I cost nothing, but I am the most valuable

thing you can give a stranger. When I am passed around, everyone feels richer. What am I?

Answer:
1. A Truce
2. Justice.
3. The Dove of Peace
4. Smile.



One-Word Substitutes

To navigate the world with grace, we need a sophisticated vocabulary. These words are more than just definitions; they are mindsets. By understanding terms like empathy and mediation, we equip ourselves with the emotional intelligence needed to turn conflict into cooperation and noise into harmony. Can you identify a word that describes these core ideas?

Did you know that you can say the exact same thing in two different ways, one that starts a fight and one that builds a friendship? This is called ‘The Power of the Pivot’. It's about choosing words that are clear and honest, but also gentle. When we swap out ‘sharp’ words for ‘smooth’ ones, we make it much easier for people to listen to us. Think of your words as a bridge; the smoother they are, the easier it is for everyone to walk across and meet in the middle.

1. The act of making two people or groups friendly again after an argument.
2. The quality or state of being calm and peaceful.
3. Understanding and sharing the feelings of another person.
4. Helping two sides reach an argument.
5. The state of being troubled and at rest.

Answers:

1. Reconciliation
2. Tranquillity
3. Empathy
4. Mediation
5. Serenity

Instead of being “Sharp” ...	Try a “Smooth” Pivot...
You're wrong.	I see it differently.
That's a bad idea.	That might be difficult.
That's not fair.	How can we make this balanced?
Stop shouting.	Could we speak more softly?
I don't like that.	I'd prefer something else.
You need to listen.	May I share my thoughts with you?

Have you ever wondered how world leaders stop a conflict before it begins? They use a high-level form of communication called **Diplomacy**. It is the art of using specific, careful language to find a solution that works for everyone. In this exchange, notice how the two nations move from a ‘tense standoff’ to a ‘peaceful partnership’. As you read, pay close attention to how a single well-chosen word can change the entire direction of a conversation.

Country A: Your soldiers are standing too close to our border. This feels like a threat to our people!

Country B: We are simply practising a training exercise on our own land. You are being too sensitive.

Country A: Regardless of the reason, our citizens feel uneasy. Can we discuss a ‘Safety Zone’ where neither side enters?

Country B: We hear your concern. We did not intend to cause alarm. However, our farmers need to access the water in that area.

Country A: Water is vital for both of us. Perhaps instead of soldiers, we could create a shared team to manage the river together?

Country B: A shared team? That would require a

high level of trust, and we aren't quite there yet.

Country A: Trust is built in small moments. Let's try a ‘One-Week Trial’. One person from each side, walking the border without weapons.

Country B: A trial seems reasonable. It shows the world we are serious about finding a peaceful solution.

Country A: The week was a success! Our border is quiet, and for the first time in years, our people feel safe.

Country B: We agree. Let's turn this trial into a permanent accord. Today, we are no longer just neighbours; we are partners in peace.



EMINENT ERUDITES

THICH NHAT HANH

*Dwelling in the present moment,
I know this is a wonderful moment.*
-Thich Nhat Hanh

Thich Nhat Hanh was a Vietnamese Buddhist monk, peace activist, prolific author, poet, and spiritual teacher. He wrote books such as *Peace is Every Step*, *The Miracle of Mindfulness*, *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching*, and *Being Peace*. His personality reflected a rare blend of gentleness, clarity, and moral courage. People who met him, either personally or through his writings, often felt a deep calm that seemed to make time slow down. Marked by simplicity and humility, Thich Nhat Hanh's life reflected his teachings. He spoke softly, walked mindfully, and listened deeply. His calm demeanour was not a withdrawal from the world but a conscious response to suffering. Having lived through the violence of the Vietnam War, he chose compassion over anger and understanding over blame, qualities that shaped his entire character.

One of the most remarkable traits of his character was his capacity to turn suffering into wisdom. Instead of allowing trauma to harden his heart, he used it to deepen his empathy for others. This emotional resilience made his teachings deep-



ly human and accessible. Thich Nhat Hanh showed that peace is not a destination one reaches someday; it is experienced in every mindful step one takes. When one walks with awareness, the heart becomes full of warmth, life, and compassion, like the sun itself.

An important aspect of mindfulness is emotional awareness. Thich Nhat Hanh encourages us to observe our thoughts and feelings without judgment. He teaches that a

peaceful society is built by peaceful individuals. In a fast-paced and stressful world, mindfulness offers a simple yet powerful path to balance and well-being. As he teaches, peace is not something to be found later; it is available in every mindful breath and every conscious step.

Above all, his personality radiated kindness. If one lives mindfully, his actions naturally become more thoughtful, ethical, and compassionate. Whether addressing world leaders or ordinary individuals, he emphasised presence, patience, and compassion. In his life, peace was not merely spoken, it was lived, one mindful step at a time. Thich Nhat Hanh reminds us that true influence does not come from loud voices, but from calm hearts and conscious living.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

*True peace is not merely the absence of
tension; it is the presence of justice.*

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr., born on 15 January 1929, was an American leader born into the African-American community at a time when racial segregation and systemic inequality were deeply entrenched in the United States. His life and work reshaped global ideas of peace, justice, and equality. King's vision of peace was not passive or submissive; it was an active moral pursuit rooted in justice and ethical resistance rather than force. He rose to national prominence during the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955–56), a mass protest against racial discrimination in public transportation. As a young leader, King guided the movement with remarkable restraint and strategic clarity, demonstrating how sustained, non-violent collective action could confront deeply embedded systems of oppression. The success of the boycott established non-violence as a

powerful instrument of social transformation and laid the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.



King's philosophy found its most iconic expression during the March on Washington, where he delivered the historic "I Have a Dream" speech, articulating a vision of peace grounded in equality, shared humanity, and moral responsibility. Alongside his oratory brilliance, King's contribution to literature and political thought remains equally significant. In *Stride Toward Freedom* (1958), he documented the Montgomery movement and outlined the ethical foundations of non-violent resistance. His *Letter from Birmingham Jail* (1963), written during his imprisonment, stands as a seminal text in protest

literature, blending philosophical reasoning and constitutional argument to defend civil disobedience against unjust laws. Later works, such as *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* (1967) revealed his evolving thought, as he confronted issues of economic inequality, systemic poverty, and social fragmentation, expanding the idea of peace beyond racial justice to structural reform.

In recognition of his unwavering commitment to non-violence and civil rights, King was

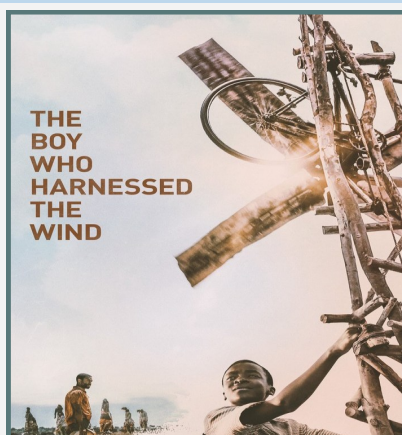
awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Yet his most enduring legacy lies not in formal recognition but in the continuing relevance of his ideas and writings. Even after his assassination in 1968, his speeches and texts continue to inspire global movements that seek peaceful change through moral courage and ethical resistance. His intellectual and moral leadership remains a powerful reminder that prioritising peace requires both clarity of thought and the courage to confront injustice without surrendering one's humanity.

FILM REVIEW

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (2019) – A Quiet Revolution of Hope

Directed by and starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* moves with a calm determination. Like a slow current beneath still water, the film carries its message gently, allowing its meaning to surface without force. Set in rural Malawi, the story follows William Kamkwamba, a curious and thoughtful boy who refuses to surrender to despair when drought devastates his village. The film offers resilience, presents quiet problem-solving and grows patiently like a seed waiting for rain. William's handmade wind turbine becomes more than a machine. It is a symbol of harmony between knowledge and nature, between individual courage and communal survival.

The pacing is deliberate. The camera lingers on dry fields, tired faces, and long silences. These pauses breathe and allow the viewer to feel the weight of uncertainty and the fragile strength of hope. Water, when it finally returns, feels less



like a plot resolution and more like a spiritual restoration. The performances are restrained and deeply human. The relationship between William and his father unfolds with tenderness and strain, reflecting a universal truth. Peace often begins within families before it expands outward into communities. There is no exaggerated heroism or grand speeches, only persistence and quiet conviction.

Visually, the film embraces simplicity. Earth tones dominate the

screen, grounding the narrative in realism. The wind itself becomes a silent character which is unseen, yet powerful by mirroring the invisible force of hope that propels the story forward. What makes *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* especially compelling is its belief that peace is built. It suggests that harmony comes from education, cooperation, and trust in one another. Like the turning blades of William's turbine, peace requires movement – steady, balanced, and shared.

In the end, the film leaves us with a sense of stillness. It reminds us that change does not always arrive with noise. Sometimes, it arrives like wind – quiet, persistent, and transformative. A meditative and inspiring portrayal of peaceful resistance through knowledge and unity. Watch it when you need to be reminded that even the smallest idea can restore balance to a restless world.

Image Courtesy: JustWatch.com

Flow (2024) – A Silent Meditation

Directed by Gints Zilbalodis and written by both the director, Zilbalodis and the producer, Matīss Kaža, *Flow* quietly meditated its way to an Oscar, becoming Latvia's first Academy Award winner without raising its voice even once. *Flow* is a film that moves at a steady pace, approaching the viewer gently, and allowing its meaning to emerge without pressing or over-explaining itself. Rather, it asks you to relax, breathe,



and let yourself be carried away. Coated in smooth humour and silent beauty, *Flow* is more than a movie; it's a prayer for peace, that is delicate, momentary, and much needed

in a world that is not allowed to rest. It is about a black cat that obviously did not volunteer to be on an adventure. Dumped into a post-apocalyptic world, a flooded land, the cat is reluctantly integrated into a small party of animals whose boat drifts violently along. It features an impossibly happy dog, a capybara that brings inner tranquillity as a living Zen koan, a lemur distracted by gleaming objects, and a bird that takes on lead-

ership as a holy calling. They do not talk, but their communication forms a strange yet healing harmony. There is conflict, however, it comes lightly, as on the water waves.

Flow is a masterpiece in terms of visuals. The animation has a believable, painterly effect that invites stillness rather than spectacle. Water stands as the primary characteristic of the film, maintaining a constant presence that influences both spatial movement and emotional tone. The movie is full of stillness: a drifting boat that does not have a purpose, animals lying side by side, images trembling on the water's surface. It is these pauses that give the film tranquillity. Here, silence is more than nothingness; one has a chance to think, to feel, to be. The humour is mild and seductive. It is recognisable and humorous as the cat is constantly irritated by having anyone around, as the dog is never less inclined to be friendly, and it is like a warm hug to suppose that being nice does not necessarily have to be complex. Making the lemur obsessed with gathering objects introduces some lightness, yet it gradually compares the distracting nature of materialism to the bigger idea of the movie, expressed by its simplicity. Even the laughter in *Flow* is so calm that it neither interrupts nor breaks the mood: on

the contrary, it adds a layer to it. It restrains itself from moralising, allowing the film to speak for itself rather than pushing a heavy-handed message. Its themes, such as climate change, coexistence, and survival, are there, but they sail below the surface without hitting the viewer on the head. There are no human beings, and this lack causes a strange calmness in the world where life is not conquerable.

The message that this film puts forth for the present generation is especially compelling. It claims that peace is shaped by an acceptance of uncertainty rather than by the absence of danger; the animals move through the flood without attempting to control or command it. They learn to go with it. *Flow* is so balanced at the end in a quiet way. It teaches the new generation that we will not find peace by enforcing it or by setting grand designs, but by listening, adapting, and sharing space with others. Similar to the flow of water, peace in *Flow* is calm, unpredictable, and constantly flowing; we are meant to move with the flow rather than resist it, drifting forward with trust and belief. Watch it when you're in the mood to feel something... and maybe adopt a cat afterwards.

Image Courtesy: Google

LDS REFLECTIONS

Literary Debating Society – a turning point in my life, a spark in lifestyle, and a catalyst for progress. LDS being the powerhouse of my potential, sculpted my dreams into competence and mastery. From a lass, who entered into college life with no idea, to an assertive individual who is sanguine, dauntless, eloquent and resilient, LDS has transcended my abilities in all possible ways. It acted as a cornerstone in transforming my visions into a mission and shaping me into what I am today. Having entered the organisation as a Vice President, I ascended to the Presidency in the very next year, which motivated me to keep going and maintain consistency. LDS has been a great platform for me

to explore and learn creativity, think critically, enhance oratorical skills and maintain interpersonal relationships. Through this entire journey, I have attained strategic and divergent thinking to orchestrate and organise events with courage, discipline and charismatic leadership. LDS became the bridge between my individual ambition and collective success, teaching me that a leader understands the path, leads by example, and inspires others to follow.

K. Rakshitha
III B. Sc. Psychology
23E3516

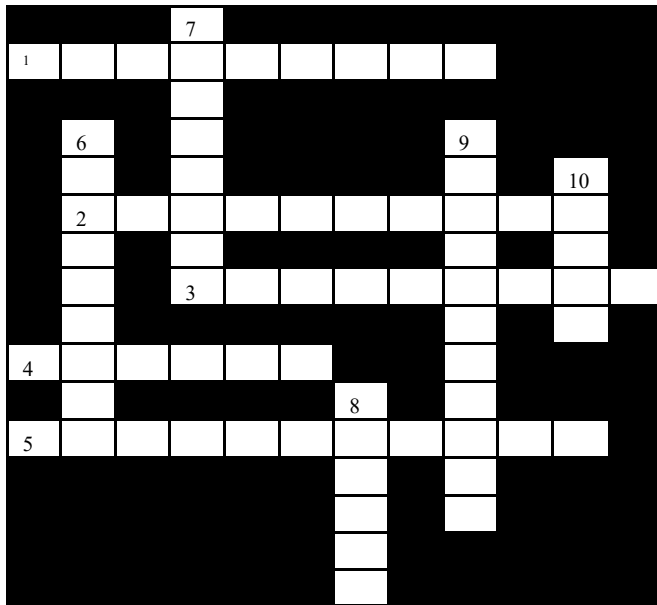
Being a member of LDS is something I look back on with a lot of gratitude. I remember the first day I met my peers and how effortlessly we became a team. Working alongside the team, coordinating events and duties made me realise how easy it is to perform even complex tasks with teamwork and coordination. The warmth and guidance of our teachers aided me with every step. LDS was a learning space for me, which facilitated me become more focused, organised and efficient in time manage-

ment. Though the time I spent as a part of LDS was brief, the experience was meaningful and valuable to me.

Azra Razia
III B. Com. CA
23E5376

EDUTAINER

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

1. A temporary suspension of fighting; a truce. (9 letters)
2. Seeking the common ground; a middle way in a dispute. (10 letters)
3. Acceptance of different opinions or beliefs. (9 letters)
4. Moral excellence, behaviour showing high standards. (6 letters)
5. Discussion to reach an agreement. (11 letters)

DOWN:

6. To bring someone into agreement or restore friendly relations. (9 letters)
7. An official who represents a country abroad. (8 letters)
8. To forgive someone for a mistake. (6 letters)
9. Mutual trust and friendship among people. (11 letters)
10. Kindness or forgiveness shown. (5 letters)

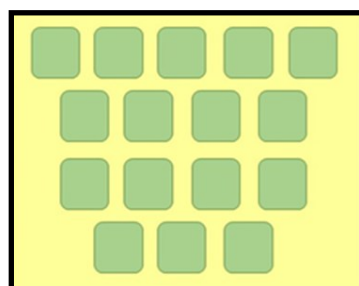
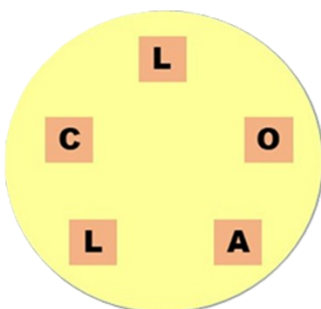
FIND THE WORDS RELATED TO PEACE

1. This white bird is universally seen as a messenger of peace.
2. Mahatma Gandhi followed this principle to promote peace without violence.
3. A calm state of mind achieved through silence, breathing, or mindfulness.
4. This international organisation works to maintain global peace and security.
5. The feeling of inner calm and emotional balance during tough times.
6. A famous Nobel Prize awarded to individuals or groups promoting peace.
7. Resolving disagreements through discussion instead of conflict.
8. The symbol often drawn as a circle with three lines, popular in peace movements.
9. Choosing kindness, empathy, and understanding over anger reflects this peaceful value.
10. The calm that comes from feeling safe, content, and free from fear.

WORD SEARCH

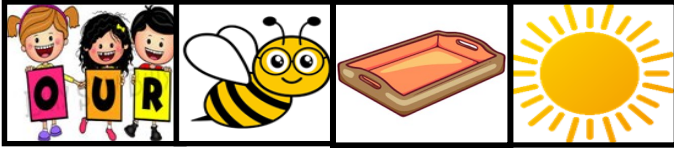
A	C	E	R	H	O	P	E	I	S	K	Q	C
W	B	X	Z	A	Q	W	S	J	I	S	W	A
Q	A	U	Q	X	L	D	L	H	L	M	I	L
J	L	O	N	Z	M	G	O	E	E	I	Q	M
L	A	P	V	I	V	F	V	D	N	L	L	O
I	N	O	N	P	T	R	E	C	C	E	A	Q
G	C	U	B	E	L	Y	L	H	E	K	S	M
X	E	L	O	K	K	X	H	N	Q	L	I	Q
C	W	E	M	V	J	G	W	B	M	N	T	J
P	E	A	C	E	I	Z	Q	N	Z	S	A	S
Q	A	Z	X	R	O	W	X	A	U	F	M	C
D	O	V	E	W	E	F	G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

WORD WHEEL



CONNECTIONS

1. The legal/diplomatic process of settling a dispute peacefully.



2. Living or existing together in a peaceful way.



3. The most iconic "Peace" book ever written (by Leo Tolstoy).



4. The spiritual leader of Tibet, synonymous with global peace.

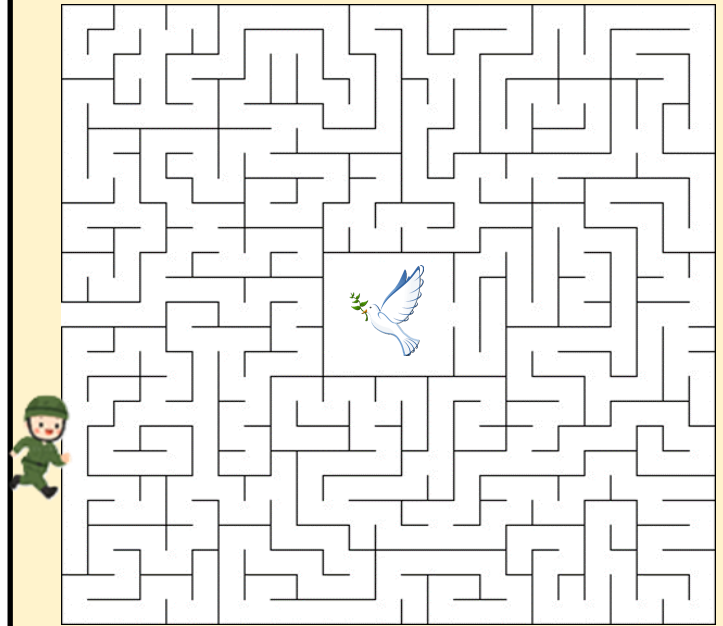


5. The first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize (for the Green Belt Movement).



MAZE PUZZLE

LEAD THE SOLDIER TOWARDS PEACE



Did you know that the oldest olive tree in the world is estimated to be over **3,000 years old**? Located on the island of Crete, the **Olive Tree of Vouves** still produces olives today. Since ancient times, the olive branch has been the ultimate symbol of peace because olive trees take a very long time to grow; in the past, planting them was a sign that a farmer expected a long period of peace, as they wouldn't survive the destruction of war.

SPOT THE EIGHT DIFFERENCES



Find the answers on pages 14 & 16

STUDENTS' PROFICIENCY DETAILS (2024 - 2025)

Sl. No.	Semester & Session	Subject	Department & Section	Roll Number	Register Number	Name of the Student	Marks secured
1.	I November 2024	Foundation English - I	B. Com. Hons.	24E1602	2413101043124	Srivatsan K.R.	86%
2.	I November 2024	Foundation English - I	B. Com. Hons.	24E1612	2413101043128	Kavya Krishnan	84%
3.	II April 2025	Foundation English - II	B. Com. CS – 'D'	24E1513	2413101042469	Harshitha L.	84%
4.	II April 2025	Foundation English - II	B. Com. A & F – 'C'	24E1904	2413101034302	Jayasree A.	83%
5.	II April 2025	Foundation English - II	BCA – 'A'	24E2506	2413101033128	Karthik D.	83%
6.	II April 2025	Foundation English - II	BCA – 'A'	24E2522	2413101033116	Sreshta S.	83%
7.	II April 2025	Foundation English - II	B. Com. – 'C'	24E0846	2413101036351	Ranjan Balaji C.M.R.	83%
8.	III November 2024	Foundation English - III	B. Com. CS – 'B'	23E1353	2313101042256	Ramya C.B.	84%
9.	IV April 2025	Foundation English - IV	B.A. Sociol- ogy	23E0553	2313101031126	Priyadharshan T.	82%

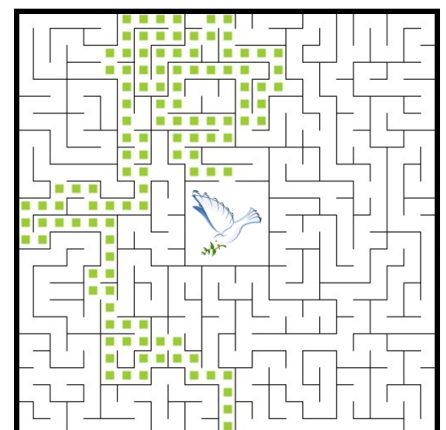
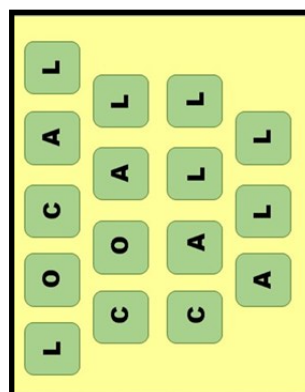
ANSWER FOR EDUTAINER:

WORDS RELATED TO PEACE PUZZLE:

1. Dove
2. Non-Violence
3. Meditation
4. United Nations
5. Serenity
6. Nobel Peace Prize
7. Dialogue
8. Peace symbol
9. Compassion
10. Harmony

CONNECTIONS:

1. Arbitration
2. Harmonious
3. War and Peace
4. Dalai Lama
5. Wangari Maathai (2004)



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT (2025-2026)

A Workshop on “Public speaking”

The Literary Debating Society (LDS) of the Department of English (Shift II) under the valuable guidance of the Head, Dr. Lakshmi K.K., organised a workshop on “Public speaking” on 25th February 2025 at 2.00 p.m. in the SRG Auditorium. The session was handled by Dr. John Ilavarasu, Assistant Professor, A.M. Jain College, Chennai who emphasised the importance of effective communication and the skill of delivering well-structured speeches with clarity, confidence, and engaging content. The workshop addressed various forms of public speaking, including informative, persuasive, moti-



ational, and special-occasion speaking, and highlighted the need for continuous improvement of these skills for personal and professional development. As a part of the same initiative, the LDS also conducted the annual debate competition titled “Debature”. The event aimed to develop students’ critical thinking, analytical ability, and public speaking skills. Together, the workshop and the competition provided practical strategies for effective communication, enhanced confidence-building, and strengthened leadership, articulation, and persuasive skills of the students.

A Guest Lecture on “Mental Health and Wellness”



The Department of English (Shift II) organised a Guest Lecture on “Mental Health and Wellness” on 11th July 2025 at SRG Auditorium, with the participation of 397 students and 26 faculty members. The session was led by Ms. Alagu Lakshmanan, a certified NLP Life Coach, who offered valuable insights into mental well-being as a daily practice rather than an illness. She highlighted the role of emotional awareness, positive mindset, and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) in managing stress and reshaping thought patterns. Through practical techniques such as mental reframing, anchoring, self-reflection, and journaling, the lecture encouraged students to respond mindfully to challenges and embrace self-acceptance. The session proved to be impactful, fostering emotional resilience, mental clarity, and a compassionate approach to personal well-being.

A Guest Lecture on “Persuasive Communication”



A Guest Lecture on “Persuasive Communication” was organised by the Department of English (Shift II) on 17th July 2025 in the Seminar Hall, Main Block. The session was delivered by Dr. Jayashree Kadambi, Special Educator (USA), Fitness Coach and Counselling Psychologist, and was attended by Postgradu-

ate students of Biotechnology and Biochemistry, along with faculty members. Dr. Kadambi highlighted the significance of persuasive communication in academic and everyday contexts, explaining the key elements of persuasion and exploring the psychology of influence. Through practical insights on body language, active listening,

audience awareness and ethical communication, the lecture was further enriched by an engaging group activity in which students applied persuasive strategies to pitch products creatively. The interactive session successfully equipped students with essential skills to communicate confidently, ethically and effectively in real-life situations.

A Seminar on “Master your language to Unlock Career Potential”

A seminar on “Master your language to Unlock Career Potential” was conducted by the Department of English (Shift II) as an initiative to develop the language proficiency of the students by Dr. Lakshmi K.K., the Head of the department on 11th August 2025 at the SRG Auditorium. The session, led by Mr. Sharoon Rubinstein, ESL expert and DELTA trainer (Cambridge, UK) from the British Council highlighted the importance of effective English communication



for employability and workplace competence, focusing on clarity, pronunciation, fluency, persuasion, and empathetic listening. Through interactive roleplays and negotiations, students demonstrated real-life professional communication along with the practical strategies such as regular reading, self-recorded talks, and the STAR interview method. Students gained clear takeaways for internships, early career roles and improved readiness for professional communication.

A Skill training programme on “High Intelligence Thinking Skills”

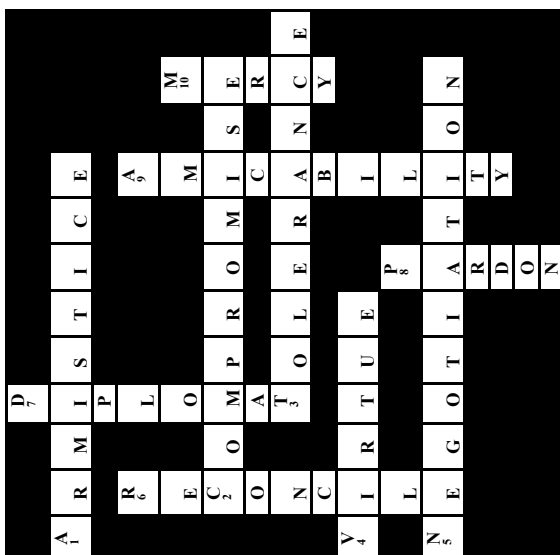
The Department of English (Shift II) organised a Skill training programme on High Intelligence Thinking Skills ‘HITS’ on 4th September 2025 at 11 a.m. in the JGSV Auditorium, with the participation of 220 students and 25 members of the faculty. The programme was conducted by Mr. Vimal Thiyagarajan, Business, Personality and Leadership Coach and Founder of Be Positive Training Academy & Consultancy. The resource person highlighted the importance of critical thinking, logical reason-



ing and intelligent strategies for success in academic as well as professional contexts. Through practical examples, interactive activities and insights from his professional experience, he highlighted structured thinking, metacognition, adaptability and the value of consistent practice. The session concluded with practical

techniques such as mind mapping, inference-based exercises, reflection and the ‘5 Whys’ method, equipping students with tools for continuous self-improvement. The event was followed by the Investiture ceremony of the Literary Debating Society in which the Principal, Dr. S. Santhosh Baboo and the Head, Dr. Lakshmi K.K. formally inducted the new office-bearers of the forum, along with ten student members who pledged to uphold the society’s principles.

ANSWER FOR EDUTAINER:



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

STUDENTS' TALK

1. Which columns did you like the most, and why?

'The Edutainer' contains additional information and captivating facts about the English language. The fun activities such as Word Search and Puzzles are really interesting.

D. Amirtha varshini
24E2751
II B. Sc. Biochemistry

'Chisel your language', a really interesting concept in the newsletter. It was informative and enriched with vocabulary, enabling fun learning.

Jagannathan Srinivasan
25E3112
I B. Sc. Vis. Com. 'A'

2. Share your thoughts and views on the previous volume of the newsletter, *Skylark*.

The newsletter *Skylark* was informative, engaging, and thoughtfully curated. It offered meaningful insights that enriched students academically and creatively.

Sreethi singh
25E1840
I B. Com. A&F 'B'

The contents in the newsletter reflected a good balance between academic relevance and creativity. The articles helped in improving language skills while also keeping the readers interested.

A. P. Nila
25E2539
I BCA 'A'

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

Brief profiles or interviews with faculty members and students.

V. Yashika
24E3049
II B. Sc. CS 'B'

A regular author spotlight or student literary corner.

K. Kavisri
25E1915
I B. Com. A&F 'C'

4. Comment on the relevance of the newsletter.

The theme "Unleashing the Leader Within" was clearly reflected throughout the newsletter from the creative articles. The content encouraged self-reflection, confidence and leadership qualities among students. I especially liked how leadership was shown not just as authority, but as responsibility, service and personal growth. Overall, it was inspiring and motivating to read.

Mohsina Taj
25E2508
I BCA 'A'

The newsletter has critical thinking exercises, students' voice and an absolute record of the previous year. It helps students to evolve from being learners to become leaders and professionals.

S. Pooja
25E2944
I B.Sc. CS 'A'

The engaging newsletter effectively reflects its theme, combining academic depth with creative expression. It highlights the department's commitment to student development and leadership.

V. Yashika
24E3049
II B. Sc. CS

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

The newsletter successfully highlighted leadership, student achievements, expert insights, and academic activities. The content and visuals were brilliant, vibrant and it encouraged critical thinking, motivation, and personal growth, making it a meaningful and engaging read for students.

B. Mythili
24E3013
II B. Sc. CS 'B'

The last edition of the newsletter is thoughtfully curated, blending academic insight, creativity, and leadership values in an engaging way. It reflects the department's commitment to holistic student development and effective communication.

D. Taranya
24E2808
II B. Sc. Biotechnology

6. Recommend a theme for the upcoming volume of the newsletter.

English with AI.

Sharathi
24E3007
II B. Sc. CS 'B'

Life Skills for the Future.

A. V. Pravijith
24E2948
II B. Sc. CS 'A'

Empowering Future Leaders, Career Readiness and Innovation.

B. Mythili
24E3013
II B. Sc. CS 'B'

STUDENTS' CORNER - ILLUSTRATED INSIGHTS

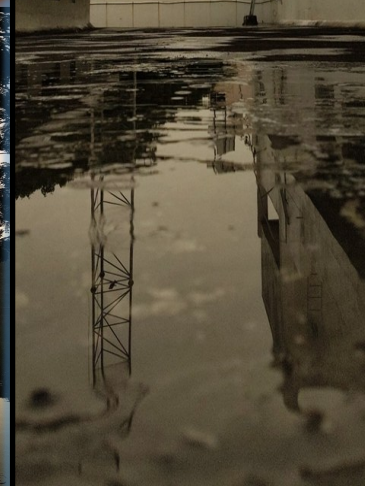
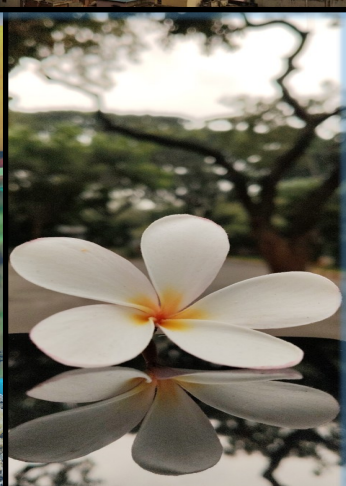
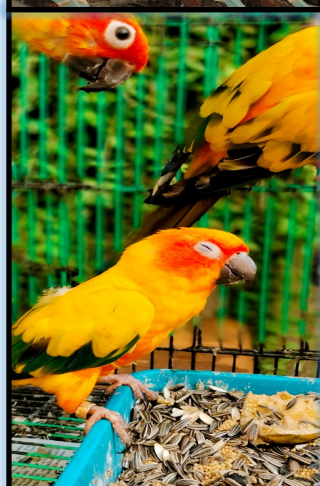
Freedom isn't a place...

Framed in light, wrapped
in innocence

Reflections hold what
words don't.



A thousand stories under one tired sky.

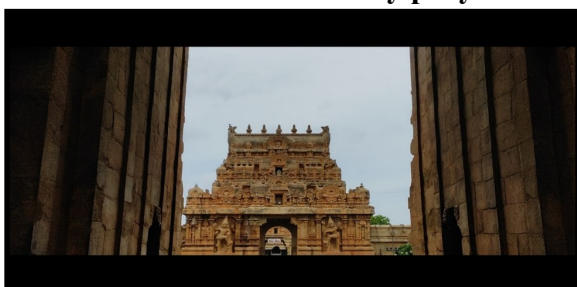


Brushstrokes of life
In a cage of green

Quiet doesn't mean empty. Nature's mirror: trees and
temple in golden hush.

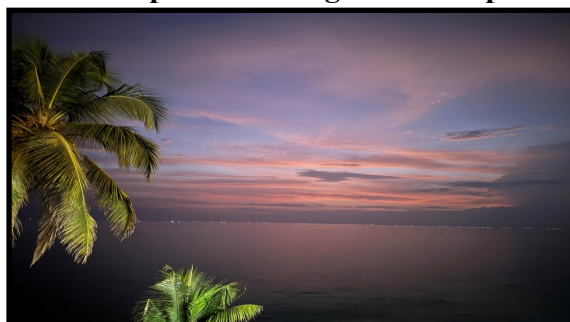
S. Vishva
I B. Com. CS
25E1483

Centuries carved in stone, still teaching
silence louder than any prayer



B. Raghul
II B. Com. A&F
24E1747

A Masterpiece learning to master peace



Peace grows where nature breathes



Prem Kumar
II B. Sc. CS
24E2909

R. Harshak
II B. Sc. CS
24E2909

STUDENTS' CORNER - ARTWORK



G. Haremithra
I B. Com. CA
25E4235



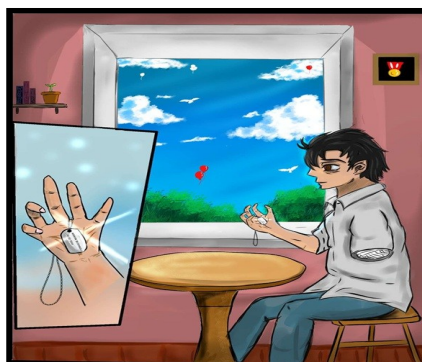
A. Allish Karuniya
I B. A. Economics
25E0226



S. Tasleem Fathima
I B. Sc. Psychology
25E3510



R. Narmatha
I B. Com. CS
25E1252



D. Yogas
II B. Sc. Computer Science
24E2915



K. Dharshini
I B. Sc. Psychology
25E3503



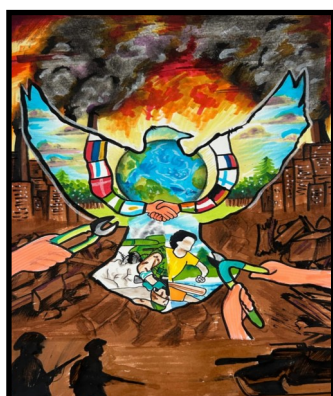
R. V. Shivakkarthi
I B. Com. CS
25E1474



S. Suryadev
I B. Com. General
25E0974



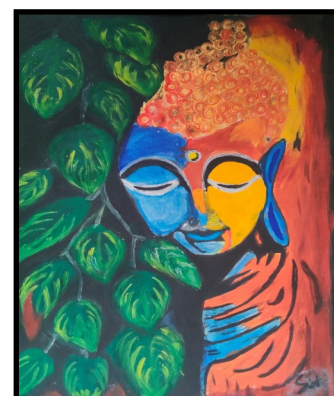
M. Sharathi
II B. Sc. Computer Science
24E3007



K. Abhinavarasan
I B. Com. CA
25E4264



B. S. Lingesh
I B. Com. CS
25E1425



S. Swathi
I B. Com. CS
25E1441

STUDENTS' CORNER - ARTICLES

Peace as a Survival Skill

For the longest time, I have been thinking that peace is the top-most achievement a person can attain. It is something people run after throughout their lives, and yet fail to achieve it. The reason why it becomes hard for people to lead a peaceful life is often because of the assumption that peace is an eternal glory or something of that sort. But to be honest, peace is just a survival skill, a skill that can shine bright in a world full of noise, drama, and unnecessary opinions.

Prioritising peace doesn't mean running away from responsibilities or pretending problems don't exist. It simply means choosing not to lose your mind over things that were never under your control in the first place. It's realising that not every battle deserves your energy and that not every argument needs your response. Sometimes, silence is not weakness but it's self-respect. We live in a culture where being "busy," "stressed," and "emotionally exhausted" is almost a badge of honour. If you are not overwhelmed, people assume that you are not trying hard enough. But constantly being on edge does not make someone pro-

ductive; it just makes them tired. Prioritising peace is about breaking out of this cycle and asking a simple question: Is this worth my mental health? Most of the time, the answer is no.

Choosing peace also means setting boundaries, which sounds simple until you actually try to do it. Saying no feels rude. Walking away feels selfish. Distancing yourself feels dramatic. But what's truly dramatic is sacrificing your peace to please people who wouldn't do the same for you. Boundaries aren't meant to shut people out; they are filters that let in only what doesn't disturb your inner balance.

Another important part of prioritising peace is accepting that you cannot control how others think, feel, or act. You can explain yourself a thousand times and still be misunderstood. At some point, you stop explaining and start protecting your peace instead. Not everyone deserves access to your thoughts, emotions, or energy and that's okay.

Prioritising peace also involves letting go of the constant need for validation. When you stop seeking approval from everyone, life becomes

surprisingly lighter. You begin to make choices that align with your values rather than other people's expectations. And honestly, the freedom that comes with that is unmatched.

In the end, prioritising peace is not about becoming emotionless or detached. It's about choosing calm over chaos, clarity over confusion, and self-respect over constant exhaustion. It's understanding that peace is not something you choose only when things are messy, but something you practise every day. So yes, prioritising peace may look like walking away, staying quiet, or choosing yourself. And no, it does not make you weak. It makes you self-aware. In a loud world that constantly demands more, choosing peace is the bravest decision you can make.

K. Dhanashree
25E3544

I B. Sc. Psychology

Peace is a Skill, Not a Luxury

Modern life often feels fast, demanding, and full of expectations. There is pressure to perform, to keep up, and to figure out the future while managing the present. In the middle of all this movement, peace can seem secondary. Yet, it is one of the most valuable choices a young adult can make. Prioritising peace begins with how one spends their energy. Juggling studies, creative pursuits, and personal goals can quickly lead to burnout. Learning when to focus and when to pause creates room to think clearly. Rest is not wasted time; rather, it supports better decisions and steadier progress across all areas of life.

Peace also shapes social and personal choices. Constant comparison, the need for approval, and the pressure to be everywhere at once can quietly drain confidence. Choosing peace means stepping away from unnecessary competition and giving less weight to outside noise. This allows interests, values, and identity to develop more honestly. Future choices are often influenced by what looks impressive from the outside. There is pres-

sure to follow paths that promise status or security, even if they quietly create stress. When peace is prioritised, decisions become more thoughtful. Goals still matter, but they are chosen with care, making effort feel steady rather than overwhelming.

Choosing peace does not mean avoiding difficulties. Challenges are a natural part of progress. What changes is how they are handled. By choosing peace, responses become calmer and more thoughtful, replacing constant tension with focus and steady judgment. In a time filled with choices and uncertainty, it acts as a quiet guide, helping life move forward with balance, clarity, and direction.

Vijayaraghava Simhan G
25E2909

I B. Sc. CS

Peace Amid Pressure: Strength Through Stillness

“In a world full of noise, choosing peace is choosing strength.”

In an age where life moves faster than ever, peace has become one of the most precious yet overlooked necessities. College students today face continuous pressure from academics, career expectations, social responsibilities, and personal challenges. Amid deadlines, competition, and uncertainty about the future, prioritising peace is not a luxury, it is essential for mental and emotional well-being.

Peace does not mean the absence of difficulties. Instead, it is the ability to remain calm, composed, and emotionally balanced even during stressful situations. A peaceful mind enables clarity of thought, better decision-making, and the confidence to face challenges without feeling overwhelmed.

The journey towards peace begins with self-awareness. Understanding personal limits, managing time wisely, and setting healthy boundaries can protect one's mental space. Students often fall into the habit of comparing themselves with others, which leads to unnecessary stress and self-doubt. Focusing on individual growth and progress helps cultivate self-acceptance and inner stability.

Peace is also nurtured through simple daily prac-

tices. Taking short breaks, engaging in mindfulness, spending quality time with loved ones, and pursuing hobbies can refresh the mind. Physical well-being plays an equally important role, adequate sleep, nutritious food and regular exercise greatly contribute to emotional balance. Moreover, peace is not only personal but also social. Creating harmony through kindness, patience, and respect builds a supportive environment. A peaceful campus culture encourages collaboration, understanding, and collective growth among students.

In conclusion, prioritising peace is essential for leading a meaningful and successful life. True achievement is not only about reaching goals but also about maintaining happiness and mental clarity along the way. Choosing peace every day is one of the greatest strengths a student can develop.

“PEACE BEGINS NOT WHEN LIFE BECOMES PERFECT, BUT WHEN WE LEARN TO STAY CALM WITHIN IT.”

Kamatchi Selvi S
25E1304
I B. Com. CS ‘B’

“WHY PRIORITISING PEACE IS OUR GREATEST POWER?”

We live in a society that treats “THE HUSTLE” like a religion. We are taught that if we aren't exhausted, we aren't trying. But lately, I've realised that the most radical thing we can do in a world screaming for our attention is to simply walk away from the noise.

“Prioritising peace” isn't about sitting on a mountaintop in silence; it's about the fierce, sometimes difficult protection of our mental landscape in the middle of the chaos.

THE MYTH OF “DOING IT ALL”

The Art of the Selective “No”: We don't owe everyone our time. Protecting our energy isn't selfish; it's a prerequisite for being a functional human being.

The Power of Stillness: Even five minutes of staring at a tree or drinking coffee without looking at a screen can recalibrate our nervous system.

HERE IS A REAL-LIFE SCENARIO

The Nature of Fragility

A few months ago, a man was standing at a busy intersection, balancing a lukewarm coffee in one hand and frantically replying to a “high-priority” email with the other. While he rushed to do everything at once, his phone slipped. I watched it hit the concrete in slow motion, the screen spider-webbing into a thousand tiny shards. That shattered screen was the wake-up call I needed. It made me return to present-moment awareness, take a break from digital dependency, a kind of “digital diet” and reconnect with the physical and natural world.

It dawned on me that modern technology, and life itself, is fragile, prompting a need to appreciate still moments and protect the calmness that prevails.

Why we struggle to let go:

The real reason we don't prioritise peace isn't because we're busy, it's because “Stillness is uncomfortable”. THE GUILT FACTOR: We've been conditioned to believe that rest is 'laziness', when in reality, rest is a 'biological necessity'.

“Peace isn't something that happens to us;

It's something we have to choose, over and over again,

Even when the world tells us to keep running”.

Jayavel. S
25E4216
I B. Com. CA ‘A’

STUDENTS' CORNER - POEMS

PEACE IS STAYING

My mind aches to answer back,
my heart chooses silence.
I am always the one
who holds the words in place.
Is that fear,
or kindness learning how to survive?
I loosen my grip
instead of throwing it back.
No one counts feelings carefully.
Somehow, I still do.
I am tired.
I want to rest.
Peace is staying
when leaving would be easier.

S. Kailash
I B.Sc. Psychology
25E3502

LIBERATING JOY

'I'm happy in life'
A man asked,
'How do you do that?'
'I'm deaf,' I said.

Luxury, greed, attention
We seek everything,
And there we pay
Peace by piece.

Chasing the bills, I went
For I can buy cars,
Show it off to people
And start running from the
bills.

They say build a house, get a
car
Get settled, get settled,
I say, open your eyes, look
around
Choose peace over being bus-
tled.

I lived my life,
Thr other's eyes.
Until I realised
I lost my vision.

V. B. J. Abhijayanirudha
I B.Com. CS 'A'
25E1213

A QUIET GARDEN

The world is loud, a restless, rushing tide,
With heavy winds that pull from every side.
But in the center, where the heartbeat slows,
There is a garden where the silence grows.

It isn't found in mountains far away,
Or in the ending of a weary day.
It's not the absence of a storm or strife,
But how we carry light through daily life.

It's in the hand that chooses to let go,
The quiet river is steady in its flow.
A bridge of silver built across the deep,
A promise kept while all the city sleeps.

I found it here, within this hollow chest,
a place for restless thoughts to come to rest.
For peace is not a gift that's simply given,
But a quiet path we carve for the living.

V. Parnika
I B. Com. CS 'B'
25E1335

THE MAZE OF PEACE

In the world of race,
Finding peace seems to be a
maze.
But in this life of chaos and
craze,
I praise God for giving peace.

I choose to prioritise peace
In this moment of odd phase,
Letting go of all the rage
And finding peace as I turn
the final page.

K. Priya Lakshmi
I B.A. Economics
25E0228

IN THE STILLNESS

In the stillness it is seen,
And in the silence, it is felt.
Away from those eyes so keen,
Finding faults that stir within
me.

Oh Lord, I ran to find it,
All those mountains in vain,
Only to discover it within me.
Just in silence, in that halt,
All my problems were re-
solved,
So too my feelings, long held in
pause.

Now I know the place I can
find peace,
And I will live my life at ease.

S. Akshitaa
I B. Sc. Psychology
25E3540

CHOOSING MYSELF

I walk quickly, breath uneven,
unfocused eyes,
Quietly holding what no one
sees.
Should I listen to my heart or to
them?
Tired of trying to satisfy them,
but not me—
What do they want?

I wear a smile for the world,
While storms quietly rage with-
in.
Not interested in arguing or
chasing,

I've grown tired of proving my
worth.

But now I choose walk slowly,
breathe deeper, and look
around,
Letting go of things I cannot
control.

They said choosing myself
would bring loneliness,
But I found me,
And I found myself in peace.

S. Sherin Grace
I B. Com. CA
25E4212

HAIKU

Eyes sting, stay open
lights on for the ones asleep
night holds its breath.

S. Kailash
I B. Sc. Psychology
25E3502

READING CLUB

Monthly Meetings

The Reading Club of the Department of English (Shift II) conducted a series of monthly meetings between July and September 2025 with the objective of fostering a sustained interest in reading and critical engagement with literature. The maiden meeting was held in the month of July at the library featured insightful book reviews of *“Things Fall Apart”* by Chinua Achebe, *“Train to Pakistan”* by Khushwant Singh, and *“Lord of the Flies”* by William Golding, with active discussions on characterisation, themes, symbolism and moral conflicts guided by Dr. K. K. Lakshmi, Head of the Department and convenor of the



Reading Club. These discussions enabled students to critically evaluate texts, appreciate diverse perspectives and enhance their expressive and descriptive communication skills. The meeting in August focused on welcoming first-year students with 86 new members registering and the senior members introduced the aims, activities and literary scope of

the club, thereby creating an inclusive and intellectually stimulating environment. The meeting in the month of September further strengthened engagement through structured initiatives such as the creation of WhatsApp groups, a genre-based questionnaire and a collective discussion of a Reader's Digest article titled *“His Best Friend Was a 115-kg Warthog”*, which prompted reflections on human-animal relationships, trust, vulnerability and the unpredictability of nature. Collectively, these meetings enriched literary appreciation, encouraged thoughtful dialogue and promoted critical thinking and communication among the members.

A Book Discussion on *Murder on the Orient Express*



The Reading Club of the Department of English (Shift II) in collaboration with the British Council Library, organised *“Poirot's Great Case: Book Discussion on Murder on the Orient Express”* on 17th September 2025 in Gyan Darshan, MBA Block with the objective of fostering regular reading habits, critical thinking and intellectual engagement. The programme was attended by 92 enthusiastic Reading Club members and 14 staff members. Ms. Divya Lakshmi, British Council Tutor, and Mr. Valavan, Librarian, British Council Library served as the resource persons. Dr. K. K. Lakshmi, Head of the Department of English (Shift II) felicitated the chief guests, unveiled the Reading Club logo and formally introduced the student coordinators.

The book discussion was made lively through a series of interactive activities. The session included icebreaker and role-play activities in which students enacted various characters from *Murder on the Orient Express*, enabling them to explore character traits, motives and emotions. Students also worked in groups to read and dramatise a key excerpt from the novel, allowing the audience to identify characters and scenes while appreciating Agatha Christie's use of suspense, evidence and deduction. These activities deepened students' understanding of the text, sharpened their observation skills and encouraged multiple interpretations of the narrative. The programme motivated the students to participate more actively in reading and literary activities.

A Visit to British Council Library

The Reading Club of the Department of English (Shift II) organised an enriching visit to the British Council Library on 17th December 2025 with thirty student members and two staff coordinators. Guided by Mr. S. Valavan, Library Coordinator, the students explored a wide range of academic, fiction and non-fiction resources and participated in a language-based programme titled ‘Engaging Literary Activities to Empower Young Minds’. Activities such as Switch-If, Speed Book Dating, Pictionary and immersive literary tasks encouraged teamwork, creativity, critical thinking and effective communication. The interactive sessions reduced reading reluctance, broadened literary exposure and helped students make informed reading choices. The visit enhanced students’ confidence in speaking and writing, fostered collaborative learning and transformed reading into an engaging and adventurous experience.



A Skill Enhancement Programme on “Emotional Power of Stories”



The Reading Club of the Department of English (Shift II) organised a skill enhancement programme titled “Why We Feel While We Read: The Emotional Power of Stories” on 23rd December 2025 at the Seminar Hall, Main Block. Ms. Monisha Sundaravadanan, Cambridge Certified Trainer served as the resource person and highlighted effective storytelling techniques through interactive discussions, demonstrations and team-based activities. The programme featured brainstorming sessions, storytelling strategies, poster presentations and collaborative exercises that enhanced creativity, higher-order thinking and communication skills. The highly engaging session inspired students to explore the emotional depth of stories and participate actively in future Reading Club initiatives.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr. K. K. Lakshmi, Associate Professor,
Head, Department of English, Shift II.

Dr. R. Shalini Priscilla, Assistant Professor.

Ms. Thilagam Anandhan, Assistant Professor.

Dr. S. K. Rahmath, Assistant Professor.

Ms. C. Vidhya, Assistant Professor.

Dr. T. Kanchana Devi, Assistant Professor.

Dr. K. Valli, Assistant Professor.

Ms. D. Sangeetha, Assistant Professor.

Ms. R. Nandhini, Assistant Professor.

Ms. Aiswarya K Nair, Assistant Professor.

Ms. S. Archana, Assistant Professor.



Contact: newsletter.engevedgvc@gmail.com