

हंसराज महाविद्यालय

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HANSRAJ COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
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NAAC ACCREDITED 'A++' GRADE COLLEGE

(2024-2025)

Society Name: The English Society

Convener: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr. Maitri Baruah, Ms. Divya Pandey

Core:

Senior Core:

President- Ginni Malia

Vice President- Arshia Mathur

Cine Club head- Mehwish

Book Club head- Srishti Garg

Junior Core:

General Secretary: Aarzoo Gahlawat

Treasurer- Rainy Vats

Social Media head- Vanshit Dangi

LECTURES

1. Name of the Department/Society: The English Society

Name of the Event: Poetry, Conflict, and Trauma

Date of the Event: 22nd October, 2024

Convenor of the Department/Society: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr. Maitri Baruah

On 22nd October 2024, the English Literary Society of Hansraj College hosted a seminar on "*Poetry, Conflict, and Trauma*" at the Multipurpose Hall, featuring Professor Subarno Chattarjee as the keynote speaker. The session opened with a welcome by society president Ginni Malia and a discussion on W.H. Auden's perspective that while poetry may not alter wars, it reveals overlooked truths, illustrated through works like *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* and other war poets. The seminar also highlighted the writings of Ukrainian poets Serhiy Zhadan and Lyuba Yakimchuk, whose powerful verses conveyed the devastation of war, from fractured lives to the lasting psychological scars of conflict, particularly during Ukraine's brutal winter of 2022. An engaging discussion with students followed, exploring themes such as the role of translation and the shift in poetry's focus from heroism to trauma. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by vice president Arshia Mathur, leaving attendees with profound insights into the relationship between poetry and lived experiences of conflict.

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2. Name of the Department/Society: The English Society, Ostraca
Name of the Event: Writing Practices
Date of the Event: 14th November, 2024
Convenor of the Department/Society: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr. Maitri Baruah

On 14th November, Ostraca – The Creative Writing Society and The English Society hosted an engaging Q&A session with Professor Anuradha Marwah, author of *Aunties of Vasant Kunj*. She began by reading from her works, *The Higher Education of Geetika Mehendiratta* and *Aunties of Vasant Kunj*, before engaging in a thought-provoking conversation with Professor Meenakshi Malhotra about her creative process and recurring themes such as realism, popular fiction, and feminist perspectives. Students later joined in with questions on writing practices and personal experiences, to which Professor Marwah emphasized the importance of finding one's voice, experimenting with different styles, and pausing for reflection when needed. She left the audience with the inspiring reminder that "discovery never really ends; it continues, and it must," making the session both insightful and motivating for aspiring writers.

3. Name of the Department/Society: The English Society
Name of the Event: The Modern Culture of Nature
Date of the Event: 26th November, 2024
Convenor of the Department/Society: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr. Maitri Baruah

Author Mihir Vatsa's lecture opened with an introduction to his achievements, notably his acclaimed book *Tales of Hazaribagh*, before he set a warm, conversational tone by engaging the audience in Hinglish. He began with a reading of the "Ode on Man" from Sophocles' *Antigone*, reflecting on how its relevance endures today, with "man" increasingly equated to "power." Touching on themes like cultural fictions, the "methodology of love," and contemporary portrayals of nature—even in Instagram reels—he created a relatable dialogue for the audience. His striking observation that "man is surrendering his creativity at the altar of nature" invited deep reflection, further enriched by his insights on *Valmiki's Ramayana*, where forests symbolize not only wilderness and exile but also meditation and civilization. Emphasizing "Consumption and Care," Mr. Vatsa explored humanity's relationship with nature through readings of poems by Meg Kearney, Mary Oliver, and David Whyte, fostering a sense of connection and reverence. With thoughtful responses to audience questions, he transformed the session into an engaging contemplation on the enduring importance of nature and conservation, concluding with a vote of thanks by Srishti, head of the book club.

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EVENTS

1. Name of the Department/Society: The English Society

Name of the Event: Carnival of Horrors

Date of the Event: 8th November, 2024

Convenor of the Department/Society: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr. Maitri Baruah

The Halloween event, *Carnival of Horrors*, jointly organized by Kavyanjali, Ostraca, and the English Literary Society of Hansraj College, proved to be a vibrant celebration of creativity and performance. Running from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm, the event brought together students and enthusiasts for an open mic competition that showcased an array of poetic brilliance, dramatic flair, and unbridled enthusiasm. Each participant took to the stage with passion, delivering their best and leaving the audience captivated by the diversity of voices and styles. The competition was judged by Ms. Anupriya Sharma and Mr. Swastik Sawhney, who not only announced the winners but also appreciated the dedication and effort behind every performance. By the end of the evening, the event had created an atmosphere of joy and inspiration, leaving everyone with a sense of warmth and creative fulfilment.

2. Name of the Department/Society: The English Society

Name of the Event: Litmantes

Date of the Event: 29th March, 2025

Convenor of the Department/Society: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr. Maitri Baruah

The English Society of Hansraj College hosted *Litmantes* under the umbrella fest *Confluence 2025* on 29th March 2025, celebrating the richness of literature, cinema, and pop culture. The event featured three engaging sub-events. *What the Flick*, a short movie marathon, showcased a curated selection of short films that captivated the audience with their storytelling, themes, and visual craft, sparking conversations around cinema and creativity. *Pop Culture Punch Up*, a debate competition, saw participants passionately argue contemporary issues in pop culture, exploring its influence, contradictions, and impact on society with wit and insight. *Don Quizote*, the pop-lit quiz, challenged book lovers with a dynamic mix of questions from classic literature, popular fiction, and pop culture references, making for a fun yet competitive experience.

CINE CLUB

Name of the Department/Society: The English Society

Name of the Event: Movie Screening of 'Sleep'

Date of the Event: 27th October, 2024

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Convenor of the Department/Society: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr.Maitri Baruah
Mode of Conduct: Online, Google Meet

Name of the Department/Society: The English Society

Name of the Event: Movie Screening and discussion on 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind'

Date of the Event: 22nd March, 2025

Convenor of the Department/Society: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr.Maitri Baruah

Mode of Conduct: Online, Google Meet

BOOK CLUB

Name of the Department/Society: The English Society

Name of the Event: Discussion on the book 'The silence between us'

Date of the Event: 26th October, 2024

Convenor of the Department/Society: Prof. Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr.Maitri Baruah

Mode of Conduct: Online, Google Meet