

Principal's Message



I'm glad that the change the college has undergone has been highly positive. The graph of Hans Raj's success has always been stable and we need to maintain that. We, as a team, need to keep up the good work so that these changes become permanent.

We plan on working on our innovation which will be possible only if students and the staff come forward with innovative ideas and suggestions. I would request students to come forward with their ideas and suggestions because that's the only way we can improve.

Dr. Rama

Another jewel in the crown : Hansraj success story

The most significant event that took place in August was the NAAC team's official visit to the college. NAAC stands for National Assessment and Accreditation Council. A number of experienced individuals and expert academicians, the NAAC team consists of individuals who meticulously assess colleges on the basis of some generally agreed-upon criteria. These parameters include curriculum, teaching, research, learning, infrastructure, faculty, evaluation, governance, organisation, and student services.

The NAAC team visits the colleges to be evaluated for accreditation. It conducts various assessments judging the college environment on various criteria and finally gives a final score to the institution.

Why is a good NAAC score important?

- The institution accredited with a good NAAC score will be a premier example of quality education.
- A NAAC score, in the first place will help the college/university know its weaknesses and strengths.
- This would help the institution get a new sense of direction and identity.

Hansraj's NAAC Score

Hansraj scored a whopping **3.62 CGPA** in the NAAC grading, scoring an A+ grade well above a number of reputed colleges in the country. Securing second position in Delhi University, and third position in the country, Hansraj proved its standing as an institution of academic excellence.

7 Reasons why Hansraj got a good NAAC grade

- The college provides a liberal and peaceful environment for the academic as well as extra-curricular development of the students. Lectures are filled with active discus-

sions and debates, thus dealing with the academic curriculum in a comprehensive manner.

- The college boasts a highly accomplished faculty, which focuses not only on academic but also on all-round development of the students.

- Hansraj offers a number of full-time courses, along with certificate, diploma and advanced courses in French, Spanish, and German as well.

- In recent years, efforts have been put in to make the college environment friendly for the differently abled. Construction of ramps, lifts, and signboards written in Braille are the steps taken to make the college accessible to all.

- The Library has been renovated and is now completely computerised making it easier for the students to access the wide variety of books available. The books are regularly added according to the needs of the students and suggestions by teachers. The library constitutes reading rooms where the students can read in silence.

- Hansraj has a number of societies catering to the interests and abilities of every kind, be it debating, dramatics, creative writing, poetry, music and dance, fine arts, culinary arts, fashion, social work etc. The college also promotes active participation in sports, which is one of the reasons behind the achievements of college students in various competitions.

- The college focuses on academic as well as all-round development of its students, emphasising mainly issues related to gender equality, environment and society, in general.

The PRINCIPAL speaks



It is about half-past noon when I reach the Principal's office in hope of having a few words with her. The room is a spacious and well-organized with a study table on one side of it. There she sits-the first female principal of Hans Raj. Seated on a chair, a pair of spectacles rest on her nose just below the tense muscles on her forehead which give the perfect impression of someone being completely engrossed in their work. When I utter my Good Morning, the crease on her forehead immediately relaxes. She responds with an equally warm greeting.

Before I can ask anything, she asks me to tell her about myself, about my studies and my future plans making me feel comfortable and sounding like a concerned teacher more than a principal. I nervously break the conversation about myself by putting forth my first question, and she has a lot to say.

Correspondent- You are the first female principal of Hans Raj. How has your journey been? The students want to know how has it been for the woman behind Hans Raj's accomplishments in the last few years.

Rama Ma'am- If you're saying that the students are happy with the work that has been done and are appreciating it, then first I'd like to say thank you to them.

I'm glad that the change the college has undergone has been highly positive. The changes that have happened are not at all temporary. We need to keep up the good work so that these changes become permanent. The graph of Hans Raj's success has always been stable and we need to maintain that. This has been my motto since my journey as the principal began.

Correspondent- The NAAC grade of Hans Raj is the talk of the town. How do you feel after being the flag-bearer of the march of success that Hans Raj has taken this past year?

Rama Ma'am- Well, naturally, I feel great about it! But it was possible only because of the efforts that everyone put in. We, at Hans Raj, work as a family. A family can function properly only if each member contributes-that's exactly how the this has worked as well. The management of our college has always done a commendable job. I've always trusted the people I've worked with-the teachers, the non-teaching staff and especially, the students. The students of Hans Raj have always supported me and they are my biggest strength. I'm here because of my students; they are my right hand.

Correspondent- We might have got a good NAAC score, but if we are completely satisfied with what we've got, there's no room left for improvement. What are your plans for keeping up the good work?

Rama Ma'am- To tell you the truth, I won't be satisfied with the NAAC score unless it's a perfect 4. The NAAC score is a stepping stone; we have much greater heights to achieve. There are some areas that we need to work on and were also suggested by the NAAC team. We need to work on some start-up ideas. We plan on working on our innovation which will be possible only if students and the staff come forward with innovative ideas and suggestions. We also plan on increasing the number of courses that the college offers by including technical and management courses as well. I would request students to come forward with their ideas and problems because that's the only way we can improve.

Correspondent- You've recently written a book titled 'प्रवासी हन्दी साहित्य'. What motivated to write it?

Rama Ma'am- I've always been a teacher before anything else. I've also worked within the media sector. Therefore, you can say that creativity is my basic need. Working in the administrative department came as a welcome challenge. With its immense responsibility comes a lot of pressure and stress. So, to maintain the positivity in the life, I keep in touch with my creative side. So, this book is a result of that.

Correspondent- But after all this, what keeps you grounded?

Rama Ma'am- This is how I've always been! I've always lived a simple life and I need to maintain the dignity of my position but I don't let any of that get to my head. If I do that, I won't be able to focus completely on my work. When I talk to my students, I remind myself that I'm a teacher first, and my students should be able to talk to me freely. This is the reason why you'll hardly find me sitting in my room because I'm usually trying to engage with the students and learn from them.

If I've been given this responsibility, I need to make sure that I do it honestly and I do it well.

Interviewed by Ankita Raina

NATURE'S GLARE

Shattered houses, fractured crust
 Volcanic eruptions, heaven combusts
 The tidal waves, the flickering core
 The heavens in vexation uproar
 Corpses lying on the earth
 Engulfed right into its hearth
 Ruthless killing, brutal torture
 Is it all the nature's conjure?

"No" yelled a man

Struggling for an ounce of breath
 Regretting, repenting for his selfish soul
 For a species gone berserk; out of control
 Worst would come true if we don't halt
 here
 'Cause there's no escape from the nature's
 glare

YourQuote.in - Tanmay Pant

DUSU ELECTION



(DUSU) elections are a constant phenomenon in every fresher's first semester at Delhi University. All around one can witness the buzz of student political wings - picking new recruits, rushing to be the first to leave a lasting impression on the fresh-

ers. A month prior to the election, the entire north campus- from walls to roads, from advertising spaces at bus shelters to market places-is covered with the name of candidates in the form of posters, pamphlets and scribbles, inviting students to "join them". While some students look forward to these elections, others just choose to ignore them. This year the election recorded a 42.8% turnout. What happens when a student chooses to ignore his role in the election? He deprives himself of the a role in student politics. Students cannot be divorced from politics. Students get the university that they choose for themselves.

-Amrish Pandey

(National Spokesperson for NSUI the student wing of the Congress Party)

The outcome of the DUSU election is a strong indication of which way the wind of national politics is blowing, owing to DU's status as the largest central university in the country and the diversity of its student body.

The Delhi University Student Union

A word with the President



Our Correspondent met Mr. Animesh Dwivedi, President of Hansraj College in his office. Here is a highlight of their conversation.

Correspondent : Congratulations Animesh on winning this massive election of Hansraj College and being elected as the President. What drove you to

contest the election ?

Animesh: Hansraj College had a very inactive union and the power was very sluggishly exercised. So I had decided to become the president from my first year.

Correspondent : What are the revolutionary changes that you are planning to bring?

Animesh: We as a team are focussing on fulfilling the agendas we had decided during the election. We are trying to reduce the gym fees and we have planned to install a printer in the college in the current scenario.

Correspondent : How did you feel after winning the election?

Animesh: It was like a dream come true. Now, people know me. I am very grateful to the people who are giving me a lot of love and respect.

Correspondent : What are your plans for Hansraj College this year ?

Animesh: I will try to ensure that students get laptops that have been sanctioned for colleges from Universities. We will try to extend the library deadline. We will try to ensure access to departmental library. We will improve the quality of Hansraj Canteen. We will ensure more cleanliness in LP.

Correspondent : What is your message to the students of Hansraj ?

Animesh: I would like to urge the students to focus on their studies and I will always be there for them at any point of time. I thank them for electing me to this post. I won't let them down.

Interviewed by Sandeep Samal

HANSRAJ THROUGH A LENS



WAR MINUS THE SHOOTING

"Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence: in other words it is war minus the shooting." -'The Sporting Spirit', George Orwell

Birmingham, England - "Any spare tickets for sale?" The demand for the India-Pakistan cricket match on Sunday was so great that the Edgbaston cricket ground could have sold its 25,000 capacity eight times over. India-Pakistan matches have long been fraught with geopolitical tensions, stemming from the splitting of British India in 1947 into India and Pakistan and from ongoing conflict over disputed regions.

"Sport is an unflinching cause of ill-will." George Orwell once said. In an essay written in 1945, at the tail end of a real war, he elaborated: Nearly all sports practiced nowadays are competitive. You play to win, and the game has little meaning unless you do your utmost to win. On the village green when you pick up sides and no feeling of local patriotism is involved, it is possible to play simply for fun and exercise. But as soon as the question of prestige arises, as soon as you feel that you and some larger unit will be disgraced if you lose, the most savage combative instincts are aroused. Anyone who has played even in a school football match knows this. At international level sports is frankly mimic warfare.

India-Pakistan matches have always inflamed tensions. In 1977, Indian players

were pelted with stones in Karachi, Pakistan. In Kolkata, India, two years later, 60,000 fans were evicted after protesting against an umpiring decision.

These matches have also incited sectarianism. Indian Muslims are accused of covertly supporting Pakistan. Bal Thackeray, a far-right Indian leader who died in 2012, once said he wanted Indian Muslims to have "tears in their eyes every time India loses to Pakistan", to prove their loyalty. In 2003, a Muslim man was killed in Ahmedabad, India, in rioting linked to a World Cup match.

The fixture remains an opportune moment for political protest. Outside Edgbaston, Pakistan fans brought signs demanding "Justice for Kashmir", decrying the treatment of Muslims in the India-controlled Kashmir Valley.

Now the battle seems to have been taken to social media. One can easily spot cricket memes, 'Mauka-Mauka' videos and 'No issue, lelo tissue' campaign doing rounds. These videos create fresh animosity on both the sides.

More than the behavior of the players, it is the attitude of spectators, that aggravates the situation. And that is because of the false notion that these absurd contests of running, jumping and kicking a ball are tests of a national virtue

"In the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams." -Olympic Oath

TATTOO: The Darkstar Ink

Recently, Karan, a Delhi based professional tattoo artist had a surgical operation called 'sclera staining' into which ink is pierced into the whites of the eye. Undergoing the same surgery, a Canadian woman was left partially blind. In an interview, Karan said, "If the needle is inside the eye and you move your eyeballs, the sclera membrane will tear and the eyes can be gone forever." So, now the major question arises: Is there any need to get tattooed by holding the body parts at stake? Basically, tattooing as an art can be traced back to 12000 BC. In India, tattoos served different purposes in different regions. For example, in the North-East, tattooing was regarded as a sign of strength and virility; while in Orissa, women used tattoo to recognize each other once they entered the spirit world; Rabari women pierced on necks, breasts, and arms to signify their strong faith in magic, etc. But now, tattooing has taken a different perspective. Now it is much more related to glamour and style. Undoubtedly, New School is the most popular tattoo style of the era. It involves the work of airbrush artists and emphasises dark lines and heavy boundaries.

We can see people tattooed in the bailiwick of sports, cinema, singing, body-building etc. From inking to piercing, people use it to add taste to their fashion, masculinity and ferocity. The advent of pop culture and vogue has added fuel to this fire. Tattoos are used more often to convey an individual's personal emotions like sense of loyalty, romantic sentiments, loss of loved ones or experience of violence. The exceptional increase in this practise has attracted students exorbitantly towards it. Owing to its cons, various states of America like Florida, Idaho, Minnesota and South Carolina, have regulated tattooing for the minors.

So, it is important for young minds to know what is actually affecting them and that what the others see does not matter much. Rising from the hypocrisy, the need is to heed the risks involved and not to be drawn to such a practise because of the love for glam.

एक कथा

साहिल साहू

संवेदना की हीनता में ही, अन्याय की गंध आयी है
बालगि जुर्म में भी, नाबालगि की रहिाई है
किसी पीड़ति के दर्द की भी, यहाँ नही दुहाई है
जुर्म कयिा है बालगि उसने, फरि नाबालकिता आयी है
और सत्य जानकर भी चुप, न्याय के रक्षक कहते है
पहले कानून बनाओ जसिसे, नाबालकिता की सुनवाई हो
न्याय के मंदरि में, अन्याय की आंधी आई है
न्याय के रक्षक ने ही, उड़ाई न्याय की हँसाई है

The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there

I think it has been seven years since I missed my train for the last time ever. Time has flown by, and now I can't afford to waste it on petty cravings and childish longings. Now, there's money to be made and a lot of work to be done. It was different back then.

It was an early Monday morning. I lay in my bed, cursing the alarm that wouldn't go off because my fingers were too shaky to press the right button, and my eyes filled with boogers clouding the partial vision I had at that moment. I rubbed my eyes fiercely, and pushed the thin blanket I had taken for the night to the other side of the bed. I put my feet on the cold floor and forced myself to face yet another Monday of doom and despair.

Travelling in the metro had become a monotonous affair. Avoiding the elevator and taking the stairs to the platform, in hope of getting some physical activity into the system, all the while saving yourself from the wrath of the pigeons flying over the platforms who were busy dropping their matter from above, as meticulously as aerial pesticides sprayed on the fields. I sat on the first bench of the platform in front of which the women's coach would be once the train arrives. I had to take the next train; I was already running late. The platform wasn't usually crowded at this time in the morning. The chitter-chatter of the pigeons and the chilly autumn breeze felt like music to my ears. I felt comfortable after a long, long time.

The metro arrived, roaring and piercing through my moment of introspection. The brakes gave a loud cry, as if purposefully trying to break my meditation. The women's compartment now stood directly in my line of sight, and I could see the monotonous, bored, expressionless faces through the window. As soon as the train

stopped and the door opened in front of me with a loud "ting!" - every woman facing my side started looking at me, staring; some giving away expressions of boredom, and some examining me head to toe. A woman precisely in front of me was sitting on one of those reserved seats for the old and the physically challenged when clearly she didn't belong to any of those categories. She was looking at me with a queer expression, her eyebrows tense and her upper lip raised, completely unaware of the fact that the way in which she was inspecting me made me uncomfortable. I noticed that her eyes were fixed on my shoulder, as if signalling me to look at it too. To cut short the staring contest, I tried to look over my shoulder and I noticed a big, green spot on my white shirt. Like hitting an enemy when he's his weakest, the pigeon had attacked me while I was distracted and vulnerable, already under the scrutiny of a thousand eyes. The air in the metro reeked of disapproval and negativity. I couldn't force myself into the strange surroundings when I was perfectly comfortable where I was right now, even with a dirty, stinky blotch on my right shoulder. "Ting!" It went again. I think I deliberately missed my train that day.

The past seems like a distant dream now. It is like one of those secrets that you've kept hidden for so long that now you've completely forgotten about its existence. I don't remember deliberately missing a train in the last few years. There's too much work, and time runs too fast for me to catch up with everything. Here, they have an underground metro network which often makes me feel claustrophobic. The crowd overwhelmingly large for the small spaces, the train coaches compact, and the faces unfamiliar. Here, I don't find empty platforms with birds singing noisily over my head; what I do get

here are a number of voices in confusing accents which I still haven't got used to, mixed with the occasional announcements of the departures and arrivals. I looked at the nearest bench on the platform, two seats of which were already taken by a man and a woman, most likely a couple (guessing by the way the man had kept his hand on the lady's thigh) oblivious of what was happening around them. I sat panting and breathing heavily because I had just climbed a long flight of stairs with a heavy backpack to toughen the climb further. I observed the complete chaos and mess that was this place; people running here and there, pushing each other through the train doors in a hurry, no one even bothering to look at the other person. If I would've pretended dead in the middle of the station, no one would've even noticed; I was just one person less from the infinity. The people there seemed to have forgotten that they were part of a crowd, a crowd which was constituted of living and breathing individuals. Although the crowd was a collective entity, it existed only because the separate individuals existed together.

I hung my bag on one shoulder, pinned up a loose strand of hair on the top of my head, and took a few steps ahead. I sincerely stopped just before the dotted yellow line. "Ting!" The sound was familiar to my ears. I pushed my way through the doors, not caring if there were passengers who needed to get out of the train first. I stood exactly in the middle of the seats and carefully placed my bag on the train floor. I took out the book that I was currently reading from my bag and buried my face into it, consciously avoiding the curious look on the lady's face sitting in front of me.

NSS Service before Self



NSS Hansraj, is a very active extra-curricular society of Hansraj which keeps organising events in the interest of students. On 2 August, it coordinated a self-defense workshop in collaboration with the Delhi police to train girls. The rural development wing of NSS organised a cleanliness drive in Yamuna Khadar, on 9 August, thus raising awareness about the benefits of cleanliness and sanitation. In the interest of students, teachers as well as non-teaching staff, the Health wing organised a free eye-checkup on 25 August. With the aim of making children under Padhaku wing aware of gender concerns, NSS organised an interactive session on gender issues graced by Ms. Perna Bhatia, from Nurturing dreams foundation, on 22 September. The session raised issues which are normally neglected. NSS is a very progressive part of Hansraj which collaborates in serving the society with the help of its devoted volunteers.

Spic Macay

Keeping the traditions alive



On 21st of August 2017, SPICMACAY organized its orientation program where Gitanjali Surendran ji and Sucheta Roy ji were invited as guest speakers. Gitanjali Surendran ji was a president at the renowned LSR college and now is a faculty member at OP Jindal university. Having studied at Harvard University, she is a lady of immense knowledge and intellect. Sucheta Roy ji, by profession is a travel professional and a tour manager. She is also a very hardworking and dedicated volunteer at SPICMACAY.

The event started with the screening of a famous documentary 'Anubhuti' followed by a glorious video showcasing the journey of SPICMACAY Hansraj Chapter. The speakers inspired the students by their inspirational words regarding the importance of Indian culture.

Fashionista

Fashionistas at the Mega Art Festival

The team performed in Colorathon'17- The Mega Art Festival held at Connaught Place on 11 June, 2017. Dainik Jagran newspaper covered the event and featured the team in 12 June, 2017 edition. The event was graced by Dr. Rama, principal of Hansraj College as one of the chief guests at the event.

VLCC institute, Kamla nagar sponsored the college team and the theme this year was Rainbow. Aiming at the moral values one can extract from the 7 colours of Rainbow that are - love, faith, joy, peace, patience, honesty and passion. This was something the team focused on depicting.

71st Independence Day Celebration

It was a memorable day in the history of India when the country became independent on 15 August, 1947. It had taken decades of struggle for the country to break the fetters of slavery. People of the country celebrate this event every year with great splendor. The main programme is celebrated at the Red Fort in New Delhi. Likewise, this event is also celebrated in every city, town, in schools, colleges and universities.

Hansraj college also celebrates Independence Day every year. This year, the fervour among students was at an all time high, while the NCC cadets displayed an unmatched level of vigour. The first half of the event saw the hoisting of the Flag, and a ceremonial Guard of Honour was presented to the National Flag, by the NCC Cadets, in the august presence of various chief guests; Ms Shibani Kashyap, Mr Jagdish Rai, Mr Amit Talwar, Mr Arun Gemini, and Mr Manjot Singh as well as the Principal of Hansraj College, Dr Rama.

The second half took the audience inside the auditorium where a fantastic session was organised wherein the Chief Guests made inspiring speeches. The 71st Independence of India was celebrated with full enthusiasm in Hansraj College and NCC took great pride in actively participating in it.

GEC

The Gender Champions of Hansraj



Since the introduction of Hans Raj's very own Gender Equality Cell, they have come a long way to reduce gender disparities around us. The vision of the society is to reduce and remove any divide that genders create between people in the society. The team has decided to fight against prejudice of any kind. The Cell already conducted various icebreaking and brainstorming sessions. Also, they started a discussion regarding Mahatma Gandhi's stand on sexuality on the 2nd of October. The blogs put up by the cell talks about the grievances that people from different walks of life face in this realm, workshops and open house discussions they hold on various notions of sexuality. They have recognized the need for a society based on equality meted out to all the genders and to spread awareness about the different dimensions of Gender Roles and the myriad manifestations of genders on this planet. Through their efforts, the cell wishes to succeed in their multidimensional vision of forming a gender neutral society.

Aarohan

Into the Wild with Aarohan

Aarohan, the Trekking Society was founded this year under the Sports Department of Hansraj College. The aim of the society is to bring like-minded individuals who like to travel and partake in adventure activities. The president of the society, Ishita Sajwan, along with vice president Niharika Kundu and some of the other core members of the team went on an informational three-day trip to Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand which was filled with fun, adventurous activities that helped in building team cohesiveness. The team participated in an astrological session, trip around The Tehri Club and Resort while taking in the beauty of the hills and the cool pleasing weather. Living up to their aim, the team trekked around the region, walking through the rough terrain, exercising in the clean air and the serene atmosphere of the quaint city of Tehri. The trekkers had the time of their life as they played water games, had jet skiing sessions and swims in the lake.

The team also got the opportunity to visit the Tehri dam and had a guided tour by Mr. Govardhan Prasad Nautiyal, Senior Public Relations Officer at the Tehri Hydro Dam Corporation (THDC Limited), who shared with the students the historical, technological and mythological stories behind the building of the dam.

Ostraca

Where Ideas meets Words

Ostraca, the Creative Writing society of Hansraj College has become one of the most recognized collegiate societies in the National Capital Region since its inception almost two years ago. Started with the aim of providing a platform for budding writers, Ostraca has come to symbolize a forum of discussion and free thinking. Over the span of the previous year itself, Ostraca has successfully organized events that help students and mentors of from various backgrounds to get in touch with one another. The society has organized writing workshops in collaboration with theatre activists and youth-based organizations like Story Mirror. Ostraca also took the initiative to bring together students from across colleges in Delhi in order to provide them with a chance to interact with one of the most popular start-ups in recent years – Scoop Whoop. Our society has attracted the attention of prestigious websites like Campus Diaries in its efforts to build a writing community.

Our annual festival, “Gutenberg”, aims to expand upon the ideas and beliefs of this society. Through this festival, the society provides serious writing competitions for the benefit of amateur writers across multiple universities. The festival also holds a well-attended symposium that

has included the likes of the renowned journalist, Sonal Kalra, Treasurer of The Poetry Society of India, Mandira Ghosh, founder of the poetry journal Ivory Tower, Siddharth Soni, renowned journalist and novelist, Manu Joseph and poet, translator and teacher, Akhil Katyal. The speakers expressed their views on a range of issues that are faced by the modern writer, as poets, professional journalists and voices in the society. The speakers tried to explain the reconciliation between the writer and the society at large by sharing their own experiences and exploring their original incentive to write. They spoke on the creative aspects of translation and recited some of their own work as a sample. The symposium was undoubtedly the most important, successful and appreciated event of the festival.

Ostraca wishes to continue in its endeavours to give encouragement to budding writers and create a community for their support. This year for instance, we have come up with innovative social media campaigns, initiated cross college associations and are currently building an organized alumni network for helping our members avail a variety of opportunities

Kalakriti

Where Artists Bloom



On 28 September, 2017, Kalakriti, the Fine Arts Society of Hansraj College, in association with The Igniters, conducted a workshop called, “Grassroots Comics” with a renowned illustrator and the founder of World Comics India, Mr. Sharad Sharma . The workshop aimed at an interactive discussion over comics as a medium of communication and self expression. The participants of the workshop were explained the difference between conventional media and alternative media and how the latter in the form of social media is becoming a more credible and liberal form of news reporting. The truly enriching workshop undoubtedly instilled in the participants, a zeal and enthusiasm to create and spread their message through the medium of comics.

On 15 August, 2017, “Swavalamban” in collaboration with “Kalakriti”, The Fine

Arts Society, Hansraj College, organised an awareness drive in Todapur Village, Inderpuri. The members of the society chose wall painting as a medium to connect with the inhabitants of the village. Walls of a Sulabh complex were painted, that cited the importance of Sanitation and “Swachhata” in one’s life. A massive Chabutra (a cemented semi-religious spot) was also given a new avatar. The response of the locals was warm and hearty. Milind Soman, founder of United Sister’s Foundation, also graced the occasion. After the arty activities, all those who were present accompanied Milind-Soman in hoisting the national flag. The event was an overall success and the Swavalamban team appreciated Kalakriti for its volunteering spirit and wonderful display of artistic talents.

WDC

Celebrating the power of “Womaniya”

The WDC conducted its orientation on 21 August, 2017, wherein students were informed about the values and mission of the Cell. To render the purpose of WDC, Sukhmanch Theatre Company enacted the play “ Dastak” which tackles violence against women. On 6 September, the WDC held a panel discussion on “Gender based violence” which concluded with roars of laughter and warm hugs. A friendly ice breaking session was held on 19 September, to introduce the new volunteers to one-another as well as the coordinators. The session had a plethora of fun and friendly activities. Focusing on its mission, WDC conducted a seminar on gender awareness wherein the students were informed about various gender issues. Nonetheless, to celebrate women power, WDC also organised Open mic 2.0 ‘ Oh Womaniya’ which celebrated women’s experience with great zeal and enthusiasm.

F.I.C.

FIC hosts “The Stockfather”

The event began with the lighting of the lamp ceremony conducted by Mr.Saurabh Chaturvedi, founder and CEO of Innolabz along with the society’s core team members. This was followed by the mock stock competition- ‘The Stockfather’, the prelims of which witnessed a crowd of over 300 participants speculating on various securities as per the news and rumours. The outcry round was a frenzy filled trading in the American, Chinese and Indian stocks. The auditorium resonated with sounds of deals and negotiations, some that closed and some that failed.

‘Prisonbreak-Narcos on Death Row’ was another event set in the sinister world of crime, drugs, and money-making. The selected teams were required to strategise to escape custody. One member of the team donned the role of a bureaucrat while the other became a terrorist, and the two together had to manage resources amongst their groups to ter-

rorise various locations of the national capital.

The B-plan competition, ‘Power2Idea-Think. Plan. Execute’ had an illustrious judging panel which constituted Mr. Saurabh Chaturvedi, founder and CEO of Innolabz, and Mr. Rajesh Parekh, a Chartered Accountant having an experience of over 25 years in the finance industry. The most innovative 18 abstracts were shortlisted and those who made it to the final round then delivered a presentation of 7 minutes each, explaining their concept in detail. The judges were impressed with the quality and level of participation they witnessed in the event.” We were amazed and astonished by ideas presented before us. Thinking that bricks can be created out of cigarette butts or incense sticks that don’t emit smoke are any day out of the box. These ideas are worth incubating”, said Mr. Saurabh after the conclusion of the event.

Zoology

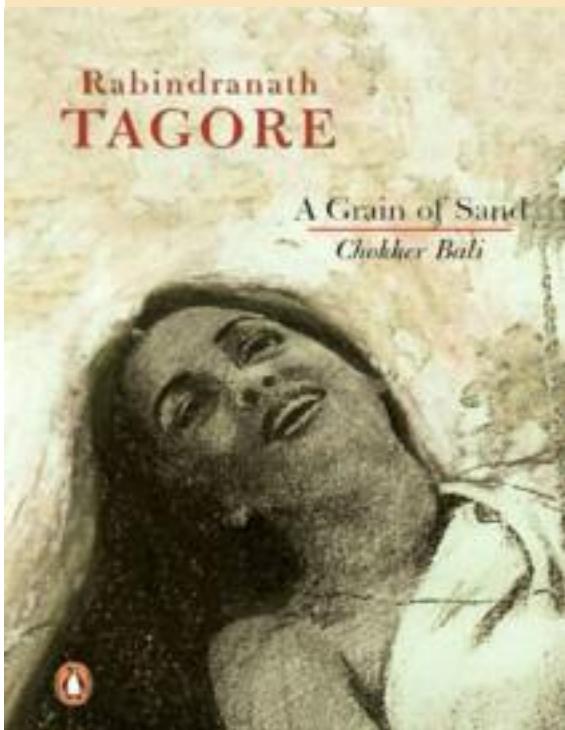
Zealous Zoologists on the go!

The Zoology Department, Hans Raj College, organizes a number of events under the aegis of the zoological society- ‘Srishti Chetna’ and DBT star college scheme. A workshop- ‘Be a Bee’ was organized on 22nd August, 2017 on the occasion of ‘World Honey Bee Day’. The conveners of the workshop were- Dr. Neelam Gandhi and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Gautam. Dr. Devvrat Sharma, Managing Director, Hi-tech Natural Products (India) Ltd, Delhi and his team members were invited for the workshop which was started with the talk by Dr. Devvrat Sharma followed by a demonstration on live honey bees and explaining various steps for the collection of honey from the hives and its purification. On 19th September, 2017 a workshop on ‘Diagnostic Applications of Immunological Techniques’ took place which provided insight on immunological techniques like ELISA, Western Blotting, Agglutination Inhibition, Rocket Immuno-electrophoresis. A talk on “Vaccines, Immunity and Health” by celebrated scientist and speaker Dr. Chandrima Shaha, Senior Staff Scientist, National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi was organised on 15th September, 2017 by the department in collaboration with Sci-

ence-Setu programme where she very lucidly explained the origins and fundamentals of vaccines, its relation with immunity and the subsequent effect on health. She concluded with a brief discussion on future prospects of different careers in drug industry.

The department is not “only work and no play”, it celebrated the annual fresher’s welcome event, “Zoophoria”, on 31st August, 2017 with great fervor. The freshers were kept on their toes with a plethora of games like ‘Your State in Three Words’, ‘Dress in Monochrome’, ‘Saree in a minute’, ‘If I become the Environment Minister.’ and talent hunt. Along with all this fun was a Zoology round which checked their awareness regarding their environment and the biological world. The event culminated with the cake cutting ceremony and an orientation video. An excursion was planned to the Division of Entomology, Indian Agriculture Research Institute on 27th September, 2017. The main objective of this excursion was to see rearing of honey bees in an Apiary followed by a visit to Biological Control Laboratory. The students were taken to the insect museum where various array of insect species have been collected by the distinguished Scientists working in the Institute.

Book Review-Chokher Bali



home is nearly burnt down, without flame or smoke to outside eye. There are only six characters in the novel- the fond mother devoted and jealous, the pampered son vain and self centered, the simple untutored wife whom suffering alone can turn into a woman, the pious aunt who finds refuge in religion, the loyal friend so virtuous and noble that he seems somewhat of a prig, and the beautiful and vivacious widow who poses a threat.

“My dearest life, I know you are not mine forever, but do love me even if its not for this moment. After that I shall vanish into the forest where you cast me, I won't ask for anything again. Give me something that can last me till I die.”

An unmarried girl over twelve years of age is a social disgrace to a respectable Hindu family of the day, so Binodini is married off to a poor and sick nobody who dies soon after, leaving her stranded.

Conscious of her beauty and wits she rebels against the unjust deprivation of a humiliating existence. She asserts her right to love and happiness and in this process she burns her fingers and nearly burns down a home. In her frustration and suffering is summed up the author's ironic acceptance of the orthodox Hindu society of the day.

What makes Chokher Bali relevant even today even after hundred years is its realistic portrayal of human emotions, human psyche and human relationships. Tagore takes us back to the time of British India flawlessly through his beautiful descriptions.

If I knew how to read Bengali I would have read the original. There is always something missing in a translation. I have now read some of Tagore's works. It is beautiful to have a story speak to you.

There are some stories that keep the readers engaged throughout because of the strong characters, the setting of the novel and the simplicity of the language. These books, I feel, are very rare. One such book I came across was written by one of my favorite poets, one who is well acknowledged around the world. Rabindranath Tagore is known more for his soul stirring verses than novels, but this book has always appealed to me and is as good as poetry in prose.

“If you want to be happy then don't remember everything.”

-Rabindranath Tagore
from Chokher Bali

Chokher Bali is not a story that all will like. It does not flow quickly and neither can it be finished in one day. The story ripens during the course of its reading. It's a family drama, that explores problems of human relationships and paints the picture of what happens behind the facade of a well-to-do middle class Bengali home. One would imagine that nothing much ever happens in a house like that. And yet naked and savage passions are roused within seemingly tame hearts and battles rage until the



Life of a Class Representative

While in school, we all had wished to become a class monitor at some point of time. But the same desire gets largely skewed at the college level. Responsibilities revolving around a Class representative are very different. In anticipation of having same kind of authority like they did while in school being a class monitor, they fall into this vicious trap of becoming a class representative.

Class representative is a middle man between professors and students. Class representatives, from running errands for professors to voicing students' issues, they do it all.

While organizing up any event, it is mandatory that the class representative goes to each student to ask for the contribution. There will always be a bunch of rebellious students who wouldn't comply to his request for contribution easily and wait till he resorts to begging.

It is a moral obligation for a Class representative to ensure that every student of the class gets the notes provided by the seniors or he is doomed to get backlash. Some students take the notes and never bother to return it in the same condition as it was given to them. It always comes back to the Class representative with stains of oil and torn corners of the pages.

Class representative is the communication link between the professors and the students. Whether the class will be taken by the professor or not, the information is first passed to the Class representative. He has to go through the ordeal of ensuring that every single student is well informed about the new developments and hence updated.

It is his responsibility to strategize a fool proof plan for mass bunk for the entire class. If the plan fails, the poor soul has to tackle with an undeclared war waged against him by the students; and if it succeeds, he has to face the wrath of the professor.

However, a class representative inevitably takes up many skills while executing his duty which includes leadership and management. The ability to handle stress flourishes in the student in full bloom. There are also other several incentives of being a class representative. Besides seasonal criticism, a Class representative earns truckloads of love from his classmates and professors. Professors are generally very generous while rewarding internal marks to this industrious fellow.

A Class representative is that industrious creature of our college life who is very underrated and needs to be acknowledged.

You might've seen people putting the obituaries of their loved ones in the newspapers after they're gone, that is, remembering that person through the eyes of his/her family.

What if we got the chance to write our own dying stories and then, our own obituaries?

Therefore, we, at Vision are carrying forward the idea of Mayank Austen Soofi a.k.a The Delhiwalla from Hindustan Times, of encouraging people to write self- obituaries in 200 words. This is merely to play with one's creative side, and give ourselves a chance to think how we want ourselves to be remembered after we're gone.

Here's one by Astha Bhandari, Economics Hons(2nd year)

SELF OBITUARY

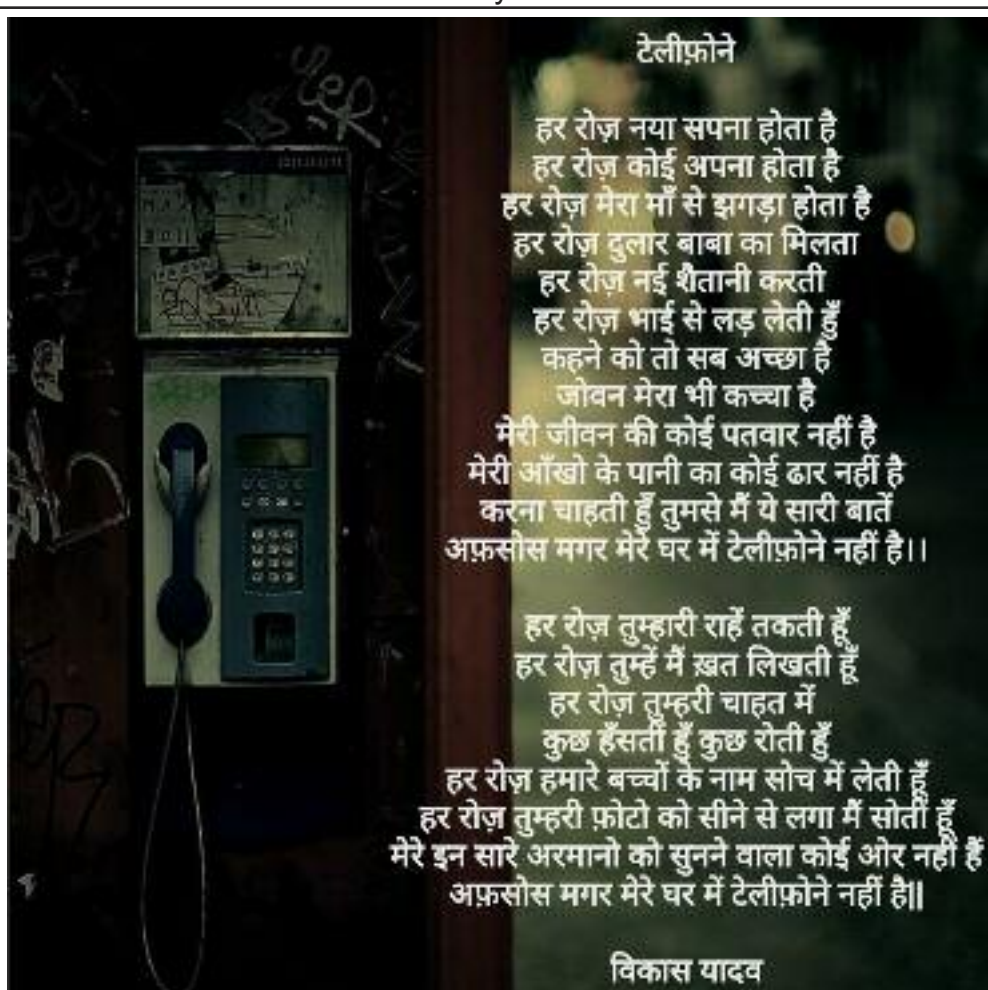
ASTHA BHANDARI

Astha, an Economics student of the Hans Raj College of Delhi University was found dead in her bed curled up in her blanket this Friday morning.

With her alarm still on snooze and her beloved specks beside her, the cause of her death is being suspected as brain death due to overthinking and over sleeping - a dreadful act for which her mother constantly chided her.

She loved her nephew and nieces. The most in grief shall be her phone which came next in line. Her parents and her siblings shocked by the turn of events, failed to give any statement. Her beloved niece Dhriti could only be heard screaming at the dead body "Bhua utho" as she always said to her narcoleptic aunt. Her Snapchat account showing the timer emoji - as it was time to send streak snaps. She constantly lived her life in a dilemma, an indecisive woman as she was couldn't even decide what to wear for the lunch next day as her sweaters lay in heaps on the chair.

She will be missed by her family especially her sister with whom she had a lunch & shopping date fixed the next day and a few close friends who she always troubled. The funeral shall be held on Saturday with people holding the burger king burgers in one and waffles in the other hand to mark her final farewell in the same charitable hospital where she wanted to donate her organs.



The Utopian journey of the angelic city.....



Shakespeare once said, "What's in a name?" Christen it Kashi, Banaras, or Varanasi all these names invoke the same feeling: being one with your inner self. Regarded as the spiritual capital of India, the place is a perfect blend of ancient culture and modern urban centres. Mark Twain once said, "Banaras is older than traditions, older even than a legend and twice as old as both of them put together." The sanctified temples, the immortal ghats, the chime of bells, the angelic Ganga Aarti all evolve into one – The Kashi(Lord Shiva's place).

Being born in Kashi is itself a boon in Hindu mythology. As a girl, I was born in a Brahman family in Varanasi. As a native, I keep breezing in the won-

ders of the land- the Ghats, the temples and the Ganges. If there is any place in India where one can brood in solace, it is only the Ghats which give you the most appropriate environment. The Assi, Dashashwamedh, Ravidas, Darbhanga, Tulsi are just a few names rich with the burden of myth and legend. Ganga Aarti is truly awe-inspiring. With the dawn & dusk, the Ghats of the city light up to sing the glory of Ganga. The mellifluous beats of conch-shells, coupled with the fragrance of incense sticks spread the divine presence. The rhythmic movement of brass lamps subtly leaves the pilgrims touched. Also the place of temples, one of the most famous is the Kashi Vishwanath temple which is one of the twelve jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.

"Enlightenment and death which comes before it, is the business of Varanasi." The holiest of all, Kashi, is a place which defies death as it celebrates life. The Manikarnika and Harishchandra Ghats provide an ode to death at their cremation grounds. A world within world- BHU(Banaras Hindu University) is a treasure trove of India. To its one side is the chaotic city full of honks and noises. To its other side are the various faculties adorned with big trees lined in amazing sequence which grace the 1300 acres area!

The journey is endless but to give a pause I would only say - I see a boundless beauty in the soil of my land, an acoustic rhythm in the waters of the Ganges.

Every brick has a story to unfold...

Do you remember your first day in Hansraj? I remember walking through the main gate and seeing everything under construction, a large dust cloud in place of our beautiful garden-to-be, LP looking lively with an old charm and the ground floor canteen, bustling with students. Just as I was about to observe the old, yet charming setting of our college, my father, being a Hansarian himself, exclaimed "Everything has changed".

We have seen our college transform into a redstone marvel, with all essentials present. The pride of North Campus, our flag, gracefully swinging gives us a feeling of immense pride. But many generations of students have seen this college thrive and transform. It is the contribution of generations, that has catapulted our college to the prestigious position it is in, today.

It all began on July, 26th, 1948, right after independence, when Hansraj College was founded by the DAV College Managing Committee. Named in memory of the prominent Indian educator and nationalist, Mahatma Hansraj, our college was initially started as an all boys school, achieving its co-ed accreditation very late, in 1978.

Teachers in Hansraj were as highly reputed in early days as they are now, and the college's astonishing accomplishment in maintaining a healthy teacher-student relationship is evident from the large Alumni Base that our college maintains.

The college grounds were even more populous then, with sports being a real stress reliever to all. C block had no restrictions to sit at since the college wasn't educating a hefty population of

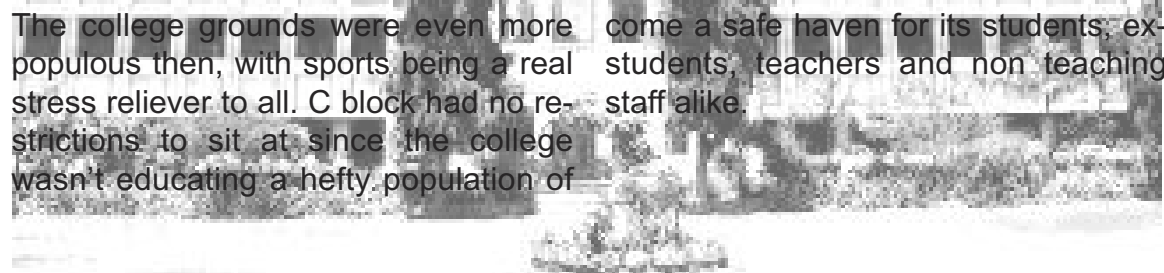
5000 in those times. Very few societies existed and the library was the best place to study since nowhere else was there any quiet!

While Kamla Nagar and Hudson Lane are a boon to students now, there weren't many options available back in the 1970s and 80s. The ideal spot to hang out in college was the canteen (Since the term, 'Lover's Point' hadn't been coined yet). You could get a Samosa for Rs 2 and a chai for just 50 paise! Kamla Nagar's Chacha ke Bhatu was the answer to hunger pangs and was widely popular for providing a wholesome meal for the measly amount of Rs 5! The popular craze in the 80s was Cinema. With multiplexes being non-existent at the time, local cinema houses like Alpana, Batra and Golcha took the spotlight and were near housefull every Friday night, filled with ardent cinema fans. It wasn't too hard to keep it in the budget since the cheapest ticket to watch a film was Rs 2!

While there are some stark differences in the past and present, there are some familiar similarities too.

Most experienced the transition from school to college in the exact same way, with the discovery of freedom, being responsible for themselves, building strong friendships and eventually missing classes to go out!

While much might have changed since its inception, Hansraj college still carries the values that it set out with and has become a safe haven for its students, ex-students, teachers and non-teaching staff alike.



UNDER THE MOUNTAINS, ABOVE THE HILLS: A trip to Little Lhasa



The holiday season was in and my feed was flooded with pictures of happy people travelling with their family and friends, hashtagging their memories from Shimla or adventures from Goa. Jealousy filled me as I scrolled down the page and that was the time I decided to get out of town. So, I packed my bags and took a train to Hoshiarpur, then a bus to Dharamshala and finally a cab to the destination, McLeodganj.

Located in the picturesque Kangra valley, McLeodganj is a suburb of Dharamshala surrounded by dense Pine and Deodar forests. Though named after a British governor it is fondly called as Little Lhasa. Home to his Holiness the Dalai Lama, it is the hub of Tibetan culture. One is greeted by the aroma of butter tea and the prayers from the Namgyal Monastery early in the morning. Monks praying, women and men donning ethnic Tibetan attire, the shops and stalls offering authentic Tibetan food like Khaspe, Thenthuk and Laping to name a few gives the visitor a glimpse of the culture. The Norbulingka institute is a different world in its own. Designed after the Dalai Lama's summer palace, its gardens, waterways and stone painting are a visual treat. It nurtures the Tibetan arts and crafts, culture and language and allows peo-

ple to stay for a few days and explore the culture. Nearby the institute is the Karmapa Gyuto Monastery, a tantra school and the seat of Karmapa Ringpoche.

One who needs some adventure can always visit the Bhagsunag falls and temple. Though the temple and the market are a treat itself, the Bhagsunag falls takes the cake. The climb to reach the falls is something for the strong-willed and strong-knee-ed. The climbers are rewarded by a breath-taking view of the mountains plus some hilarious conversations with the fellow travellers. On a much higher level and with a rougher terrain, one finds the Shivas café, a hip place to chill and relax with your gang. If you have the spirit of Bilbo Baggins for an adventure, you can always go for the Triund Trek. Near the Bhaagsu falls is also St. John in the wilderness church which is built with a Neo-gothic design and has a cemetery attached to it which gives it an equally eerie and peaceful taste.

I believe wherever we go becomes a part of us and McLeod has a magic of its own. With its buzzing street life, varieties of restaurants, temples between the markets, the flora and fauna, the chill, one gets so enchanted that he wishes to never leave. You will never know until you go. So, pack your bags, convince your gang and take a trip to this land of culture, of life, of peace and of love.



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