

Department of Sociology Annual Magazine 2023-24

Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi



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శ్రీ వేంకటేశ్వర కళాశాల

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Prfo. K. Chandramani Singh Acting Principal

Principal's Message

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome this edition of 'We Witness', the Annual Magazine of the Department of Sociology. I am glad to see 'We Witness' continue its legacy of encouraging budding academicians in their pursuit of curiosity and creativity. This magazine is a reflection of how the youth of today perceive the world around them, and brings us one step closer towards understanding the students who form the heart and soul of this educational institution.

The department has made exemplary efforts to maintain strong relations with its alumni. This is manifest in the various words of guidance and recollections of personal anecdotes that their alumni have shared in this edition of 'We Witness'. Moreover, the thematic choices of focus, both in the print and wall magazines are clearly aimed at encouraging students to come forth and express their views on topics that are familiar to them, rather than intimidating them. This thoughtfulness is indeed commendable.

I congratulate the Department on this edition of 'We Witness' and look forward to future editions of the magazine.

Ag.Principal

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Gone are the days when texting 'lol' or RaNdOm CaPiTaLiSaTiOn on your Facebook profile were indicators of one's coolness. The days of millennials are increasingly restricted to long working hours and excessive caffeine intake, while GenZ reigns over the world of vocabulary. Oxford University Press, the publisher of the Oxford English Dictionary, declared 'rizz' as the word of the year in 2023. For our GenX readers - rizz is a popular GenZ slang referring to one's style, charm or attractiveness. Not only is GenZ redefining the contours of language, but their access to social media and the world of reels have rendered them attractive consumers in the global market.

We Witness 2024 is an effort towards understanding the world of this 'young, dumb and broke' generation. The past year has brought a mixed bag of global events with it. Wars in Ukraine and Palestine have questioned the relevance of the UN, the coronation of King Charles III as King of Great Britain brought back centuries of colonial rule into debate and Donald Trump's resurgence as a presidential candidate in the United States of America has rung bells of nostalgia and humour in our minds. Besides all this chaos, GenZ finds itself facing the national election ballot for the first time, struggling to make sense of the complex world they live in.

As you scan the pages that follow, discover what art, love, morals, and culture means to GenZ. From exploring their niche nerdy interests, to their perspective on the world that surrounds them, this edition is an exploration of the lives of a generation through a sociological lens.

We would like to thank our Principal, Professor K. Chandramani Singh, for supporting our efforts as well as the student body for their significant contributions to the magazine. Special thanks to our faculty advisor Dr. Niharika Jaiswal, without whom this endeavour would not have been possible. We also thank our dear alumni for sharing their experiences.

We hope you enjoy reading this copy, just as much as we enjoyed putting it together! Happy reading!

Editorial Team: Bhoomi, Tanya, Sneha, Ishita, Zaara, Anushka, Sea, Alisha, Harshita

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Niharika Jaiswal

THE YEAR THAT WAS

Compiled by: Rohitkrishna A and Pratibha Kumari

Marking the beginning of a new academic year, the Department of Sociology organised its Orientation Programme on 16 August 2023. The orientation enlightened students about the department's history, ethos and offerings, highlighting our commitment to holistic education, critical inquiry, and active engagement in the discipline.

Our department conducted its Annual Student's Association Election on September 4, 2023, following which the new association took charge. Through a range of events, discussions, workshops, and cultural activities, the association has worked to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. On 5 September 2023, the students of our department celebrated Teacher's Day, acknowledging the vital role teachers play in shaping our academic growth and our understanding of sociology. Following an ice-breaking session, the department welcomed its first-year students with a Fresher's Party titled, "Rookie Revelry" on 6 October 2023. It was a fabulous event filled with excitement and fun.

From 1 to 6 November 2023, the Sociology Association in collaboration with the Department of Physical Education, organised its first ever Annual Sports Meet titled "Society in Motion" (Sports Edition). The event - meticulously planned and executed - aimed not only to showcase the sporting talents of our students but also to foster a sense of solidarity and teamwork, aligning seamlessly with the principles that define the discipline of sociology.

3 November 2023 saw a thought-provoking workshop on the theme "Engaging for a Change: A Workshop on Online Security and Misinformation." Pratishtha Arora and Vikram Singh, esteemed representatives from Social Media Matters, graced the occasion as speakers, enriching the audience with their profound insights into online safety, misinformation and the proliferation of fake news providing a platform for discourse on critical matters in the digital age. The Department also collaborated with Bano IAS to host a seminar on the theme, "Career Guidance in Humanities", presented by Mr. Asim Mujteba, Mr. Vibay Babu, Mr. Devendra Kumar and Mr. Mukarram Badar on 22nd February 2024.

The prestigious Annual Lecture of the Department of Sociology was delivered on 23rd February 2024, by the distinguished economist, Prof. Pami Dua, Former Director of the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, on the topic 'Financial Inclusion(Initiatives and Perspectives)'.

This academic year saw two of our alumni - Ms. Jyotismita Khataniar and Mr. Raghav Pasricha - come back to their alma mater to conduct workshops on varied subjects. Ms. Jyotismita Khataniar, who is an accomplished alumna of the batch of 2022 with a master's degree from the London School of Economics, spoke on "Crafting Successful SOPs: Navigating the Path to Admission in Reputed Universities." The workshop provided a comprehensive guide to crafting successful SOPs, combining academic rigor with practical insights.

Our alumnus, Mr. Raghav Pasricha conducted a discipline specific skill-based seminar titled, "In Between Images and Ideas: society, Identity and Photography" on 30 November 2023. The transparency and originality of photographs, especially in the age of filters, was debated, with the speaker emphasizing the subjective nature of objectivity. The audience left with a deeper appreciation for the symbiosis of sociology and photography, realizing their shared ability to illuminate the extraordinary in the ordinary.

This year also saw us bid adieu to two of our beloved faculty members, Dr. Geeta J. Sodhi and Mr. Subhash Chandra Mohapatra, who retired after decades of service to this institution. Both Geeta ma'am and Mohapatra sir have inspired us in every lecture they held and have acted as reservoirs of knowledge to us students. It is with much sorrow that we see them end their tenure.

The Department of Sociology hosted its annual fest, "Conscience Collective" on 5 March 2024. The event provided a platform for students from various Delhi universities to engage with social issues. Highlights included Sociospeak's (Declamation) exploration of social issues, Perspectalk's debate on sociology's frontiers, Socio-Logic's quiz, Film Fanatic Feud's short film competition, cultural performances, games like Treasure Hunt, and a DJ Evening. It fostered intellectual engagement and creative expression among participants.



the clattering solitude
as i wake up mid-morning
is like a wave washing over me.
as i make myself breakfast
i wonder

God, i would love this silence every day,
on parole from the prison of my thoughts
just as long as I'm humming along,
God, is this what adulthood is?
cause i don't hate it quite as much.
and then, my thoughts capture me anew

of the tea overflowing
the mess ensuing
and how you'll have to clean up alone.
and as you serve yourself a plate for one,
you'll miss the protection childhood lathered
a wall you never thought you'd wanna keep.
and you'll miss how naive you were
when you held on to the strainer to measure tea
stopping it from escaping it's boundations
but alas! it still floats away.
and much like all else in this world,
you'll soon be a puzzle too,
pieces of a childhood you can't piece together
and the adulthood you craved before.

tell me would you like this every day?
you will happily make do for a while
before practicality sucks your soul away
and all that you love right now,
making breakfast in the late morning,
will transcend to another world soon
and you'll run away from this echoed monotony.
as you take in the fragrance of tea leaves
you'll remember once more
how misguided growing up is.
and as you strain the remnants through
you'll remember how scared you are



(Inbinding truths: a journey through generational labyrinth

Rajnish Ranjan

They say overthinking is the problem of this generation
Autocracy of their time benignly makes you shine
Leaving behind the ones you once cherished for life
For being the ones vanquishing the contentment of this life

They say you're lazy but the agility of this soul is dying
Faith is keeping the puddle of his soul alive
Every breath feels like a debt I owe to them
Perhaps they own the soul, and I'm oblivious to the whole

They say you question a lot Controlling the narrative is as to control the damage Frequently looking for moments to keep things quiet Leaving the aspect of inquisitiveness to die

Nearing to the end of this story
Claiming to be the nectar of this narrative
In the tapestry of truth, lives the fearless
Freedom reigns only in open minds where the truth unbinds

Harmony in Flight

Devanshi Khanna

The chirping of the birds in the morning is so soothing, I wonder do they invite each other for a meeting, when they fly in one direction they make a formation, just imagine who has given them such perfection



Sociological magination

Alena Gautam

My sociological imagination has begun, only very recently. It is a fruitful tool that understand the level of relationships individuals to would enable interconnections, along with contradictions that exist between the life of an individual, the biography of an individual, and the history of a society. It will enable one to grasp history and biography and understand the relations between the two within society. It will enable one to realize that neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both of them. It will enable one to realize that the private orbits, local environments, the ranges of inner life, and relations of an individual have quite intricate connections with the larger, broader, wider social structure of society, and the larger socio-historical context of life of the society in which they live. If one has to realize the possible life chances they have, one will have to understand that they are located within a larger, broader, wider social structure, wherein they assume a lot of social positions according to which they take up roles, patterns of behavior, emotions, feelings, patterns of food habits, clothing, etc.

A Wake of Oultures

Bhavna Pratihari

In the intricate tapestry of modern society, capitalism stands as a towering force, shaping economies, cultures, and individual lives in its relentless pursuit of profit and expansion. Yet, beneath the surface allure of wealth and success lies a much darker reality—a reality where the essence of human dignity and fulfillment is often sacrificed at the altar of relentless competition and consumption. Like a wake of vultures descending upon their prey, capitalism feeds on individual insecurities, consuming not just material resources but also the very souls of those caught within its grasp.

In this cut-throat environment, the quest for profit reigns supreme, driving individuals and businesses to vie for market dominance at any cost. This pursuit of success often leads to unethical practices, exploitation of workers, and the marginalization of smaller players who struggle to keep pace with the predatory tactics of larger corporations. As the cycle of consumption continues in an unchecked fashion, capitalism's voracious appetite threatens to homogenize cultures and erase the diversity that enriches our collective human experience, similar to how vultures homogenize a carcass through consumption. As global markets become increasingly interconnected, local traditions, customs, and identities may be subsumed by a dominant consumer culture driven by capitalist values of consumption and accumulation. It is growingly evident in countries like India, where rapid development and economic growth have catapulted the nation onto the global stage. However, capitalism's influence in India has exacerbated existing inequalities, particularly along caste lines. Caste and capitalism intersect, further entrenching systems of oppression and privilege that marginalize certain groups based on their intersecting identities of caste, class, gender, and ethnicity.

Amidst this chaotic landscape, the words of Karl Marx offer a beacon of wisdom: "The less you are, the less you express your own life, the more you have." This profound insight challenges the prevailing notion that happiness and fulfillment are synonymous with material abundance. Instead, Marx suggests that true richness lies not in the accumulation of possessions but in the simplicity of existence, in minimizing desires and cultivating a deeper connection with the essence of life itself.

Yet, achieving this balance between material and spiritual wealth is no easy feat. Societal pressures, entrenched norms, and systemic inequalities pose significant challenges to those seeking to break free from the shackles of consumerism. By nurturing a collective consciousness that values social equity, environmental sustainability, and holistic prosperity, we can lay the groundwork for a more just and harmonious economic system that serves the needs of all stakeholders. However, embracing Marx's philosophy of simplicity and authenticity may offer a pathway to liberation—a way to reclaim agency in a world consumed by greed and excess.

As capitalism continues to exert its influence on global economies and societies, it becomes imperative to critically examine its impact on individual well-being and collective harmony. By acknowledging the corrosive effects of unchecked capitalism and embracing alternative paths to fulfillment, we can strive to create a more equitable and compassionate world—one where the pursuit of profit does not come at the expense of human dignity and flourishing.



Black: Superficial or Social

Ayush Rawat and Harsh Pansari

Colors are ubiquitously present all over our surroundings. They are symbols that convey meanings shaped by cultural norms, social interactions and individual experiences.

The color 'black', in particular, offers a compelling example. It shows how people give meaning to simple things in their everyday life - resonating with the dominant ways of thinking in any society. The color black is usually associated with negative feelings such as ugliness, danger, fear, mystery, evil, etc. In religious texts too, one commonly associates different connotations of negativity linked to themes of mourning, impurity and darkness, with the color black. In Hinduism, black is associated by some with darkness, ignorance, and impurity, primarily as the color of the Asuras (demons). In Christianity black is traditionally worn at funerals to signify grief and loss.

However it urges one to question why as many negative connotations are associated with this particular color and the kind of impact it has on an individual's perception of his immediate social context. A possible theory to explain the cultural connotations pertaining to the color black may be traced to racial and colonial factors, rooted in historical contexts of oppression, cultural hegemony and feeling of civilizational superiority. During the time when European countries took control of other parts of the world, they communicated their superiority over the ruled. This Eurocentric worldview further hierarchized the colors black and white. Enslaved Africans were dehumanized and treated as property, reinforcing the idea that black bodies were inferior to their white counterparts. The association of blackness with servitude, labor and subjugation contributed to the perpetuation of negative cultural stereotypes extended towards the black community. As a result, one carefully constructed the socio-cultural meaning of the color black.

Simultaneously, there are instances wherein black is dissociated from any negative connotations. It is commonly worn for formal events such as weddings, parties, award ceremonies etc. Thus, the color 'black' in the world of fashion may also convey elegance, sophistication, and timeless style. It is a popular choice for electronic devices-black smartphones, laptops, and home appliances are often seen as sleek, modern, and stylish. In some cultures and traditions, black is associated with positive meanings and symbolism. In various African cultures, it is linked to wisdom, maturity, and spiritual power. In Hinduism, goddess Kali is depicted with black or dark skin, symbolizing power and destruction.

Therefore, one may assert via the example of the color black, that colors too are cultural symbols, loaded with meanings shaped by social contexts which is intelligible to all who are acquainted with that specific socio-cultural environment.

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Its hay To Not Be Okay

Suhana Samal

People always ask, "Are you okay; are you fine?" And our response is an unwavering "Yes, I am FINE." But no one knows what goes on inside our minds. People always assume "He is smiling, he must be happy!" or "She looks sad, she must be going through a rough time." We are so self-conscious about people noticing us that we forget that we are who we are and no one can change that. If I am sad, I am sad; if I am happy, I am happy. Nothing or no one can change how we feel but they can change what we feel. We may avoid thinking about people's judgment of us if we are publicly vulnerable.

On some occasions, we think that we are letting someone down because of our choices and practices. We overthink these scenarios and lose track, causing ourselves anxiety and frustration. You hide and cry inside, but smile in front of an indifferent lot. But you know what you feel and that you can't always hide. Even a deer leaves her hiding place just to feed herself and fights for her life. Similarly, we too must stop hiding in the shadows and accept negative emotions as a part of us. Just know that it is okay not to be okay.

To empathize is a rare quality for even the most level-headed, optimistic bunch. To be inclusive, value-free, and compassionate is a necessity in contemporary times.

In the end, I would say that no person is innately sad; it is the things around them that affect their mental health. People have to learn to accept that emotions are real and not everyone who smiles, is happy. We should never give up hope and keep doing our best. If you have any problems, share them with the people you love, because they CARE. Remember, it is okay not to be okay, but it is not okay to never be okay.



State of Mind

Tannu Shreya



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I have tried to paint the human state of mind which deals with various experiences, moods, and provoked feelings by personality and the external environment. The painting's center is the human body. The bigger, darker, circular structure shows the unfathomable depths of life and the smaller, circular, lighting structure around the the head shows conscious awareness of the mind which brings light, and enlightenment.

The tearful eye expresses the emotion of sadness while the closed eye depicts the sense of feelings. The smile communicates happiness; the nose conveys youthfulness and the hands represent the connection one creates with the other. On the above right side the solar system, comets, and stars are depicted as a gramophone's disc to show how music is metaphorically connected to the solar system. The disc is also made like a train to show the deep relation between time and space. The maze at the bottom represents the confusion and perplexities surrounding one in their life.



What it takes to be GenZ

Shristi Agarwal shristiagarwal260402@gmail.com Batch of 2023

Is being Gen Z smooth sailing in this digital age? Fasten your seatbelts for a bumpy ride!

In today's digital era, being a member of Generation Z presents a unique set of challenges. From the beginning, technology mediates their experiences and interactions in ways previous generations never encountered. While this inundation with social media and gadgets offers unparalleled connectivity and access to information, it also presents obstacles that affect their well-being and development.

Being Gen Z isn't a walk in the park. Unlike previous generations, Gen Z is the generation cradled by screens instead of parents and entertained by algorithms instead of friends. Consequently, their lives have become increasingly centered around electronic devices. They sacrifices outdoor play and human interactions for virtual experiences and curated aesthetics aimed at projecting a socially accepted image of 'cool'.

This reliance on social media for validation and entertainment has profound implications for Gen Z's social and emotional development. The pressure to cultivate an online persona and constantly engage with digital platforms has resulted in feelings of loneliness, social isolation, and even depression. However, amidst these challenges, they also show resilience and adaptability.

Gen Z individuals demonstrate a remarkable capacity for self-reliance and innovation in response to their circumstances. While they may experience loneliness, they are also adept at embracing it with grace, finding ways to connect with others and seeking support through online communities and creative endeavors. Initiatives such as online yoga clubs and cooking groups illustrate their willingness to proactively address their mental health and engage in meaningful activities despite the constraints of their digital environment.

Despite the obstacles they face, Gen Z is poised to emerge as a generation capable of overcoming adversity and achieving greatness. Their openness to change, willingness to seek help, and ability to harness technology for positive purposes bode well for their future prospects. By navigating the complexities of the digital age with resilience and resourcefulness, Gen Z has the potential to carve out a path that combines the best of online connectivity with the richness of offline experiences, ultimately shaping a brighter tomorrow for themselves and future generations.



Placing Orders

Tanushree S. Balayan tanushreebalayan@gmail.com
Batch of 2022

"I'm in my 'Self Care Era'! Go buy these products, link in my bio."

Seeing these words flashing bold and bright on the screen,

Sitting in the dark corner, I thought to myself,

If a shower routine is all I need to come out of the shackles of my dark blanket, so be it.

The shampoos, the conditioners, the body oils, washes, creams and scrubs, they all still sit in my bathroom.

The floral scents became putrid and the scrub left cuts on me,

Cuts that couldn't be healed with any amount of cream.

"To feel pretty, you need to look pretty! And guess what, link is in my bio."

After hearing these words, I remembered I had a mirror in my room, collecting dust and occasional glimpses of mental breakdown.

I could put it to some use, the use for which it was meant to be.

Colorful blushes, lipsticks, eyeshadows, concealers crowded my vanity.

The only thing that I resonated with, was the eyeliner.

Its dark pigment looked like my own routine and some smudges could be found on my pillow as well.

I neither looked pretty nor felt pretty.

It was just another mess I had to take care of. Just like my life.

Everyone taught me to buy this, buy that and get hit by the serotonin. But how would it last?

People say, and ask to talk it out, "your feelings are valid" But I don't know how to!

You know why? Because I've seen it with my own eyes!

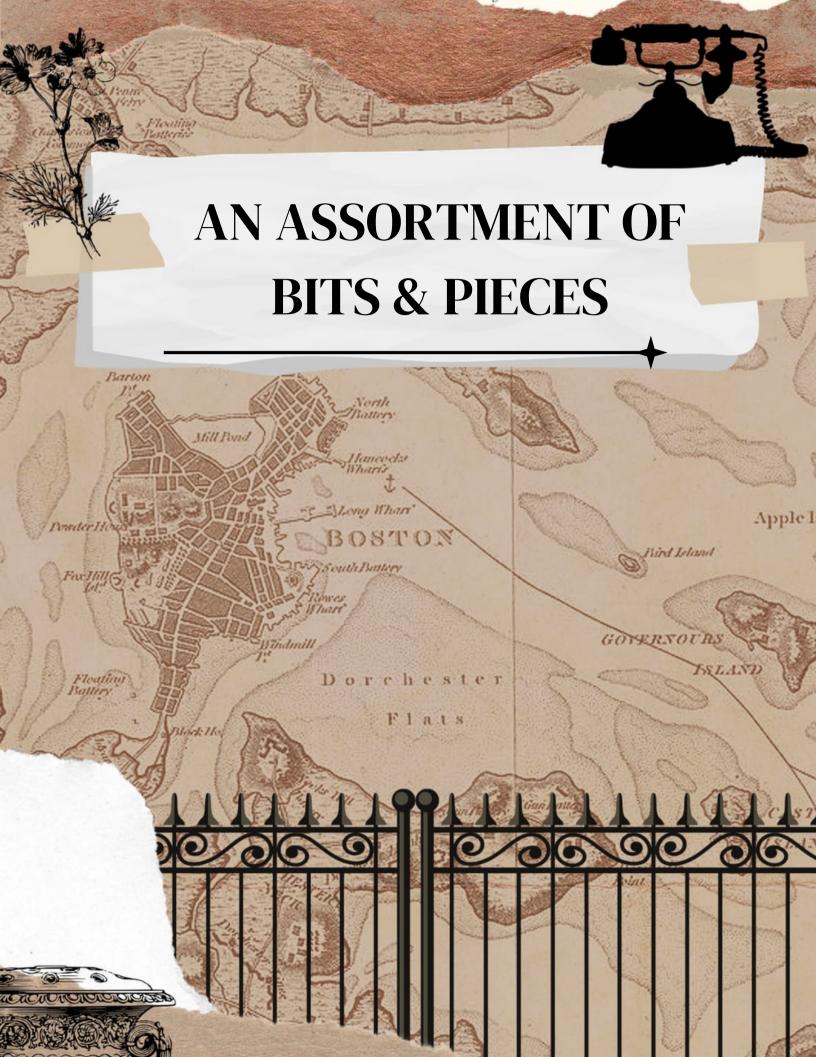
My feelings are only valid till the time they are feelings and not words.

There is no road from valid and real to clingy and "she's sad all the time".

It is a cliff from where you are pushed off.

So if you want to find me,

I'll be in my dark room placing orders.



ना तुम उदास होकर बैठो!

Anshuman Kumar

ओ अनंत पथ के राहियों, ना तुम उदास होकर बैठो! तुम दीपक, ज्वाला, ज्योति हो, अंधियारे को ही खत्म करो। ये साँस भले ही रुक जाए, इस पाँव को ना तुम रुकने दो, ओ अनंत पथ के राहियों, ना तुम उदास होकर बैठो! पथ में जितनी तकलीफे हो, एक वीर योद्धा सा तुम सह लो, प्रकाश भरो अपने पथ पर, विश्वास रखो अपने उपर। चलते हीं रहो तुम ना ठहरो, धीरज अपने जीवन मे भरो, ओ अनंत पथ के राहियों, ना तुम उदास होकर बैठो! देखो इस नन्ही चिंटी को, जो दाना ले दीवार चढी, गिरी हो भले सौ बार मगर , इसे हार कभी स्वीकार नहीं। ऐसे ही कठिन प्रयासों से, पाते हैं सकल जन मंजिल को. ओ अनंत पथ के राहियों, ना तुम उदास होकर बैठो! हाँ माना मुश्किल होता है, एक ही पथ पर अडिग रहना, हाँ माना मुश्किल होता है, उस काँटों के पथ पर चलना। तुम इतनी दूर तो आए हो, थोड़ी सी मुश्किल फिर सह लो, ओ अनंत पथ के राहियों, ना तुम उदास होकर बैठो। रखो विश्वास जब तक है साँस, ये कठिनाई भी जायेगी, ये काँटे तुम्हारे राहों की, मखमली फूल बन जायेंगी। तुम दृढ़ रहो, साहस से चलो, यूँ गति को ना तुम रुकने दो, ओ अनंत पथ के राहियों, ना तुम उदास होकर बैठो!





As I step out of the crowded metro station, I can't help but feel a sense of relief and peace. As a person who seldom travels in the metro, I faced a lot of challenges today. I missed the line interchange, went to the wrong platform and the rain did not make it any easier, especially without an umbrella. As I navigate through the bustling streets of Satya Niketan, it rains more heavily, flooding the roads and stalling my progress. Yet amidst the chaos, there was a strange sense of peace knowing that I'd soon reach the familiar sanctuary of my PG. It's funny how things changed over time; what was once a place I had begrudgingly accepted as a necessity, now felt like my home away from home.

It's fascinating how, with time a place that I looked at with much disdain has become my haven. The paucity of space doesn't bother me now, the sharing of rooms doesn't seem to take away my privacy, and the busy streets of Satya Niketan somehow soothe me. It seems like it was just a few days ago, when I was reluctantly packing my bags to leave my hometown and now time has seamlessly flown by, weaving Delhi into the very fabric of my existence.

Delhi seemed to swallow me when I came here. The skyscrapers, the 4-6 lane roads, and the metro; all gave testimony to the fact that I was in a completely new city. I missed the simplicity and tranquility of home. Delhi gave me space to broaden my personality. It made me stronger than I ever thought I could be. The splashing of mud cast by passing vehicles abruptly interrupts my reverie, drawing me back to the present, and I realize I've reached my PG.

But just as I'm about to revel in the moment, a passing car sends another wave of mud splattering over me, leaving me dripping and sputtering in disbelief. With a hearty chuckle and a shake of my head, I can't help but laugh at the absurdity of it all. Oh, this day couldn't get any worse, but at least I've reached HOME!



मिलजाए तो अच्छा

Ritik Singh

ये बेज़ार गढियों की सर्द बारिश में. पट्टे से रिस एक बूंद अच्छा शबनम की लबो को छू जाए तो अच्छा, मेरे मेहबुब, उस शबनम ए गुलाब को देख, कसक बिन दिये. दो पल और रुख जाओ तो अच्छा, स्तंभित सफ़ेदी से गुज़ारते दिनों में, एक दिन कीचड़ में कलंकित हो जाए तो अच्छा, सिसकते हुए देव घरों के कमरों में, मेरे पिया ए फरिश्ते का आलम हो जाये तो अच्छा, गम ए देहर और उनकी उलझन बहत देख ली, फ़कत एक बार तेरी आँखें दिख जाये तो अच्छा. लूथड़े हए ख्वाबों की नींद में सिसक लिये, इस बार मेरी निंदिया बाहों में आ जाये तो अच्छा, बेजान हवाएं तो दिल को रोज़ भरती है. कशों से एक आग की सांस आ जाये तो अच्छा.



उन्हीं सांसों की छुपी में,

तुम खाता ए दिल समझ जाओ तो अच्छा,

मैं वही नागन हूँ टूट के बिखर जाउ,

और मेरी ही अश्कों में डूब के मर जाउ तो अच्छा।

भारत यादे Anurag Kumar

उस चााँद के शीतल छाव में, सोते थें छत पे गावाँ में। एक हवा का झोंका आता था, हृदय शीतल कर जाता था। वो यादें बडी पुरानी है, नभ मे बादल मंडराता था। क्षिततज तक फै ला हरा खेत, आँखों को चैन ददलाता था जब ओस की बुाँदे फसलों को, तरोताजा कर जाता था। जब सूरज की तपती गमी, मन को ववचमलत कर जाता था तब बागीचे का झूला ही, एकमात्र आश रह जाता था। पर ये यादें बडी पुरानी है, नये कलयुग से अंजानी है।

इस तथाकगथत नये कलयुग में, सबकी अपनी मनमानी है। अब कहाँ हवा का शीतल झोंका, तन को आ टकराता है। उस छत पर सोने का अवसर, बबरले ही अब ममल पाता है। अब तो वो नीला आसमान, बस काला काला ददखता है। बाररस की बुाँदे भी कहााँ, अब ममट्टी से ममल पाती है। अब सूरज की तपती गमी, जब मन को ववचमलत करता है हो संभव तो ममलवा दो मझे, मेरे वो पुराने जीवन से। मेरी वो छोटी दतुनया ही, नये कलयुग से बेहतर होगा!

From Screen To Society

Interpreting Masaan Through a Sociological Framework

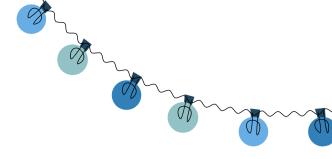
Adarsh Kumar Pandey

As an avid movie enthusiast, my interest in cinema grew further when I started studying Sociology. It changed how I experienced cinema. It shared a unique lens to appreciate the complexities of the plot and characters. Sociology academically equips one to comprehend latent societal norms, structures, and processes. When I apply this perspective to movies, I can see the how filmmakers cleverly represent the societal dynamics on screen.

In the realm of Indian movies, exceptional movies are those which empathetically and sincerely represent the pulse of social groups and individuals. In 2015, "Masaan," directed by Neeraj Ghaywan is one such film. It explores the layered social fabrics, delving into caste inequalities and our negotiation with these dominant social structures. The story is situated in Varanasi, a historical place with a unique culture and complex society. The movie tells different stories, each sharing a nuanced view of different cultural realities of the Indian society.

The first predominant theme is of caste and social hierarchies. Devi, played by Richa Chadha delt with the consequences of having a taboo relationship in the traditional society of Varanasi. Her story shows how societal judgment and caste-based bias impacts personal relationships and social acceptance. The character of Deepak, played by Vicky Kaushal, belongs to a lower caste and paints the will to overcome the limitations set by societal expectations. The film depicts challenges faced by individuals trying to break free from caste-based discrimination, highlighting how these social hierarchies strongly influence people's lives.

"Masaan" addresses the problem of moral policing and how it affects the personal lives of its characters. Devi, the main character, faces difficulties because of societal infringement in her private life. The film criticizes strict societal rules that control and limit expressions of female sexuality. By showcasing Devi's struggles, the movie encourages us to think about unfair attitudes towards women, highlighting the importance of a more progressive and inclusive outlook on personal relationships in society.



The setting of Varanasi, a city blending old and new, serves as a symbol for the bigger changes happening in modern India, such as urbanization. The film shows how traditional values clash with the dreams of younger generations as the city transforms. Deepak's wish to become an engineer represents the youth's desire to overcome social and economic barriers. The movie highlights the ongoing struggle between old ways and new possibilities, emphasizing the difficulties that accompany societal changes.

At its core, "Masaan" is essentially a story about people trying to find their freedom and follow their dreams despite communal pressure. The characters in the movie deal with various expectations, traditions, and ambitions, showing the tug of war between personal ambition and societal expectation. Deepak, Devi, and the other characters in the film go through different experiences, illustrating the many aspects of personal freedom. The movie prompts viewers to think about the decisions individuals make to assert their independence in a society that often tries to control their lives.

To sum it up, "Masaan" is a thoughtful glimpse at various arenas of Indian society. The movie explores things like caste differences, societal pressures, and the desire for personal freedom in a changing culture. Through its characters and stories, the film encourages viewers to think about the social complexities that influence people's lives in India's diverse and ever-changing environment.



अभी जीवन जीना बाकी है

सारांश यादव

saranshyadav021@gmail.com Batch of 2023

अभी जीवन जीना बाकी है।

ये जो कोहरा आता-जाता रहता है,जो कई दिशाओं में बहता है। ये जो कभी शोर कभी सन्नाटा रहता है, सुनों गौर से ज़रूरी कुछ कहता है।

ऊंची डालों से घबराते हो, बूंदों से खुदको छिपाते हो, दलदल से निकलना चाहते हो, तुम किससे बचना चाहते हो ?

ये जो हवा कभी-कभी चलती है, कुछ ढूंढ दिखाने निकलती है। हवा में खुद बह जाते हो, डाल-डाल टकराते हो, बूंदों में जो भीग जाते हो, ठहरते कभी तरसते खुदको पाते हो, देखो हवा और बूंदें ठंडक लाती हैं, जो कोहरा, शोर दबाती हैं, डालों को भिगाती तोड़ जाती हैं, दलदल जीवन समझाती है, हवा और बूंदें राहत लाती हैं, वही तुम्हें बचाने आतीं हैं, तुम जिससे भागते रहते हो।

अभी बाढ़ आनी बाकी है, पहाड़ चढ़ना बाकी है, बिजली से लड़ना बाकी है, आंधी-तूफान आना बाकी है, अभी आग बरसना बाकी है, अभी सूखा पड़ना बाकी है, त्रासदी सारी आनी बाकी है, संघर्ष सारा बाकी है,

> मृत्यू से लड़ना बाकी है, अभी जीवन जीना बाकी है।



A WALK THROUGH MEMORY LANE





DHARINI MISHRA

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As a proud alumna of the Sociology Department at Sri Venkateswara College and former president of the batch of 2021-22, I fondly reflect on my formative years. I am currently deepening my academic journey in Development Studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. I am filled with immense gratitude towards Sri Venkateswara College for playing a pivotal role in shaping my career path.

Hailing from the quaint town of Allahabad, I found Venky to be gateway to a world brimming with opportunities and exposure, both academically and beyond. The institution not only provided me with a platform for intellectual growth but also nurtured my extracurricular talents. At the Department of Sociology, I felt like I was part of a big, supportive family. Our faculty were more like guides, always ready to lend an ear and share their wisdom in the simplest of ways. This warm and welcoming atmosphere made learning enjoyable and truly prepared us for the world outside. Transitioning to TISS for my Master's was a leap into a broader spectrum of the development sector. Here, I've had the privilege to collaborate with diverse organizations across multiple domains such as education, public health, microfinance, environment, and climate change. This experience has been a testament to the solid foundation laid during my undergraduate years at Venky.

The journey from Venky to TISS has been a transformative one, where every step has been a building block towards achieving my aspirations. The learnings and experiences I garnered have been invaluable, setting the stage for a promising future in the development sector. As I continue to navigate through this journey, my lessons from Venky remain a guiding light, forever reminding me of where it all began.

JAHNAVI CHAWLA

chawla.jahnavichawla@gmail.com Batch of 2023

My college life at Venky is something I will definitely cherish for life. Although my batch spent 3 semesters online, I made a few bonds that are still as strong and beautiful as they were on the first day.



We had wonderful faculty at Venky and I remember that they were always there to help me. I urge all my juniors to kindly connect with the faculty outside your one-hour classes, since you will definitely have some insightful conversations with them. The faculty really helped me explore my studious side. I never thought I would enjoy studying sociology, as it is considered a mundane theoretical discipline. I am currently pursuing a Master's in Applied Psychology with a specialization in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. From Sociology of Health and Medicine and Sociology of Work to Sociological Thinkers, I still apply my knowledge of Sociology in my master's classes. I aspire to become an HR Professional and I want to apply my knowledge of Sociology and Psychology and break the stereotype that only graduates from B-schools can enter the corporate world.

A word of advice I would give to all the juniors is to not only go to college for classes, but also to enroll yourselves in various societies. Participating in these societies will help you grow personally and help you to expand your network.



DEEPANSHU YADAV

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College life was fun, but life after college is filled with many apprehensions and questions. There is a rather sudden jump to being responsible. However, the exposure that I got during my college years, did prepare me to face my struggles with confidence and skill. Although, from the very beginning I had decided to not pursue an M.A. in Sociology, I have changed my decision. After a year-long break, I am finally seeking admission in an M.A Sociology programme. Its important to enjoy your college life to the fullest. These are the days that are memorable and filled with important life lessons for a more prepared tomorrow.

SHEFALI SHARMA

shefalisj15@gmail.com Batch of 2023



When the editorial team asked me to write something for the Alumni blog, I was excited but not ready with ideas. So, I am going to keep it short and to the point. It is just a compilation of things that college taught me, and I hope it helps you. I was a good student, but not a nerdy one. I have had my share of gossip, rumours, friends, foes, and cold wars. I mentioned this so you know this is not the script for one of those Instagram reels titled 'Go incognito for six months and set yourself ten years ahead'.

College will have a lot to offer everyone. It is the one place where stereotypes break, people transform, and they begin building their lives. I remember seeing a good-looking guy in the canteen one day and wondering if he had utilised sports quota or ECA to get into this college. However, the only quota was 99% in the commerce stream (academic rizZ). So, you see, college breaks all stereotypes. I went after money (via internships) and never explored beyond my department. Do I regret not joining societies and making more friends and memories? Yes, I do! I hope you do not make the same mistake. College is not only about studying (professors, sorry); it is for you to grow and evolve. I grew up planning to be an advocate and even gave multiple entrance exams. I could not clear all, but the ones I did, I could not accept because they were in a different state, and my health status was almost 20% of Aman Mathur in Kal Ho Naa Ho. Fast forward to today: I am in the corporate sector and happy with my job and life. I applied for the job out of FOMO and got it.

The crux is that college will introduce you to people you never knew existed (both good and bad), give you experiences you craved, and bring you difficult challenges. Never completely ignore academics for fun; and never drown yourself under the pressure of Marx and Durkheim.



NIDHI CHAUHAN

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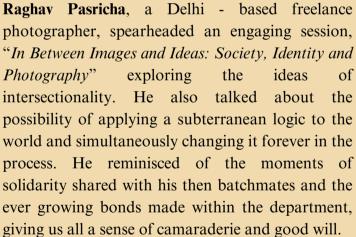
Alongside many of my friends, I too have embarked on the journey of preparing for civil service examinations. Civil service examinations demand dedication, discipline and perseverance and I want to acknowledge that my college's environment has given me enough confidence to be committed to my ambitions. When I reflect on my time at Sri Venkateswara College, I am filled with gratitude for the education and experiences that have shaped me into a person who wants to be an independent individual

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ALUMNI INTERACTIONS

From workshops, seminars, to lectures, this academic session witnessed a myriad of insightful incursions into the world of social sciences. Among all the distinguished speakers, two faces were rather familiar as Raghav Pasricha (Batch of 2010) and Jyotismita Khataniar (Batch of 2022) returned to their alma mater.





Raghav Pasricha works across multiple genres including, documentary, portraiture, architecture and advertising. He was awarded an MPhil in 2015 by the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University. In 2022, he was awarded the Nazar Foundation Artist Assist Grant to document the Wari in Maharashtra from the lens of resistance and resilience to social inequality.



Jyotismita Khataniar, currently working as a Governance Officer at the Law Society of England and Wales is an LSE graduate in MSc Political Sociology. She took an enlightening workshop, titled, "Crafting Successful SoPs: Navigating the Path to Admission in Reputed Universities" in which she shared strategies for tailoring SoPs to meet the specific requirements of reputed universities. Her journey, from being the Founding President of the Global Youth, India's SVC chapter to leading the LSESU Women in Research Society is phenomenal.

Jyotismita Khataniar completed an MSc. in Political Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She received various scholarships like the Charpak Masters Scholarship, Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Scholarship, etc. In the future, she is interested in researching the various aspects of the politics of militarisation.

The return of these alumni and the experiences shared by them marked yet another beautiful chapter in the history of our beloved Sociology Department.



In conversation with Ms. Bhaswati Borgohain

borbbaswati89@gmail.com
Batch of 2010
By Bhoomi Bohara

Got tired of this decade 'GenZing' yet and wondering how College life in DU was more than a decade ago? In this edition of "We Witness", we bring to you the unabridged contents of a conversation with Ms. Bhaswati Borgohain (Batch of 2010).

Beginning the interview with a rather quintessential question, I asked,

How was College life back then and subsequently your experience of coming to Delhi for undergrad?

To which Ms. Borgohain replied, "it's a long question..how do I sum up three years in Delhi.. it was very new for me". Hailing from a small town in Assam, the first few months in Delhi were difficult on account of bad food, language gap, lack of clean water, and extreme heat. But by the end of first year, she made friends with a "good bunch of people" making the rest of undergraduation nothing less than a beautiful journey.

How would you describe your experience of doing Sociology in Venky?

"Our batch was a bright batch" said Ms. Borgohain with pride gleaming through her voice. There were a very few colleges offering Sociology and Venky was recognised for its academic rigor. On her love for the discipline, she said, "I initially wanted to study Psychology..but I am glad that destiny brought me to Sociology". It opens the world for the reader making them "more humble, tolerant, open-minded" but can it backfire at a personal level? Sharing a giggle, she said, "I feel you just understand everyone...in a way, it increases the burden of understanding..but it's alright." After completing masters in Social Work from TISS Mumbai and working in Corporate for a while, she applied for her PhD from Sociology Department of Tezpur University and thus came back to where she began.

What did you all do for fun?

"We used to have a routine...I used to ensure I am back to my hostel before it gets dark". With classes getting over at 12:45 p.m., Ms. Borgohain along with her friends used to hangout in Satya and even in College canteen for food, or watch movies sometimes for fun. They used to also hangout at friends' homes as most of them were from Delhi itself; (Niharika, Amulya,

Aparajita, Raghav were the side characters featuring multiple times in her lovely undergraduation experiences). Resonating with Delhi aesthetics, she mentioned going to markets like G.K., Sarojini, and Lajpat but Delhi wasn't all fun. Highlighting the grim reality of the city we all hold dear and the aftermath of increasing acid attacks in India, she

mentioned how her mother reminded her at every instance, "don't wear bright colors, don't be visible" and thus the ubiquitous "pressure to be invisible as a woman."

How was the bonding with your batchmates and teachers?

"I was the only North-eastern in the group..our batch was pretty much accommodative like that, I never felt excluded or marginalized". Reminiscing of her beloved classmates, she mentioned how sometimes they'd ask weird questions but they weren't to be blamed because "they don't know right..it's also not their fault that north-east is not part of the curriculum of the Indian Schooling system". Reflecting upon her academic journey in DU and then TISS, Ms. Borgohain explained how "there is such a rich volume of literature, political debates from the region but which has no space in Indian Sociology or Indian pedagogy".

On the student - teacher relationship, she fondly remembered Geeta ma'am, "she is such a motherly figure...she had postcard type notes which I really used to like." The batch size was relatively small back then which meant a personal connection to most of the teachers.

What is the one thing you regret not doing in college?

"Now that you are asking and I am reflecting...I somehow feel I was more of a sincere and nice girl... as the first one to venture out, so I also had the burden of not messing up..a lot of pressure to prove that sending girls out to study is good". She said she regretted not exploring Delhi as a city more. She missed upon reading a lot of fiction and works beyond one's own discipline. She said, "masters is pretty hectic as well, graduation is the time to explore life and read all kinds of other stuff..now I have this list of 100-100 must read fictions but I don't have the time." She summed up with a classic, "do some crazy stuff, do some serious stuff and use your time properly, to the maximum."

How different do you think it would be if you would have done undergraduation now?

"Right now, right now I don't know...back then, I was too young and hopeful so I didn't worry too much but now..Delhi is so daunting...now I would not like to think living in delhi as a student...you know post thirties, life is different."

In this thirty-two minute telephonic interview, it almost felt like living through her experiences. I summed up the interview with a rather cliched question,

Describe your undergrad life in three words.

"Exciting, Friendship, Growth" said Ms. Borgohain.

Ms. Bhaswati Borgohain is a 2010 Batch Alumna who did her Masters in Social Work from TISS Mumbai (2010-12) and then worked in the development sector on various research projects. She started her PhD in 2017 on "*Urban Land Governance and Informalities in Itanagar*" from the Sociology Department of Tezpur University. She is a published author with 2 co-authored books and 1 edited volume.



NATIVES



GENZ BINGO



followed the latest fashion trend

recreated a reel

saw koffee with karan s8

took a friends only trip went to the fest season in DU binge watched OTT

screen time of 12+ hours

went to a stand up comedy show

had momos every week

taught your parents gen z slang clicked mirror selfies

your metro card is your bff

THE GEN Z DICTIONARY



slay

to do something really well Yes girl, you slay in that fit!

rizz

having charisma

Her following is insane, she has so much rizz

drip

another word for style or the way you dress I like your drip, where's it from?

FOMO

fear of missing out

I had so much FOMO seeing everyone's concert stories last night

fr

for real; something that is really very true

Have you heard the new Taylor Swift song? It's so good fr

green flag

A positive sign about someone/something

They got you your favorite flowers, that's such a green flag

delulu is the new solulu

delusion is the new solution

Girl, stop being delulu, he does not like you back!

vibe

the feeling you get while being around someone *I love your vibe*



wya

short for 'where you at?'

I'm near your house, wya?



flex

to show off

Everyone can see your new bag, there is no need to flex

ghost

to stop texting someone back for no reason

The vibe just wasn't there between us anymore so I had to ghost him



to say someone looks great in what they are wearing I saw your Instagram post! You really ate and left no crumbs



cancel

to reject or disapprove of someone

did you see that interview? They need to be cancelled bro, such outdated views!

red flag

a negative sign about something or someone

they're so toxic, it is def a red flag. stay away from them.



lowkey/highkey

lowkey - something very chill and casual; highkey; something very hyped and overenthusiastic *The houseparty is going to be very lowkey only, chill vibes*



tea

Omg spill the tea, I've been waiting to hear it!

wyd

short for 'what you doing?'

Wyd on Saturday night? Wanna go for dinner?

main character

considering yourself to be the most important person in every room $\,$

it's my world, I'm the main character

JANUARY



NEW RESOLUTIONS RIZZ

FEBRUARY

INSTALLED AND THEN UNISTALLED BUMBLE

MARCH



DU FEST SEASON

APRIL



FASHION TRENDS

MAY



SLEEP DEPRIVATION AND END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

JUNE

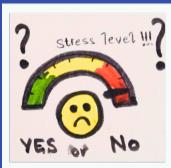


JULY



DISCO NIGHTS AND PARTY TIMES

AUGUST



TRYING YOUR LUCK AT **SOCIETY RECRUITMENTS**

SEPTEMBER



BUSTED YOUR BUDGET ON STREET FOOD

OCTOBER



FALLING FOR THE FALL AESTHETIC

NOVEMBER



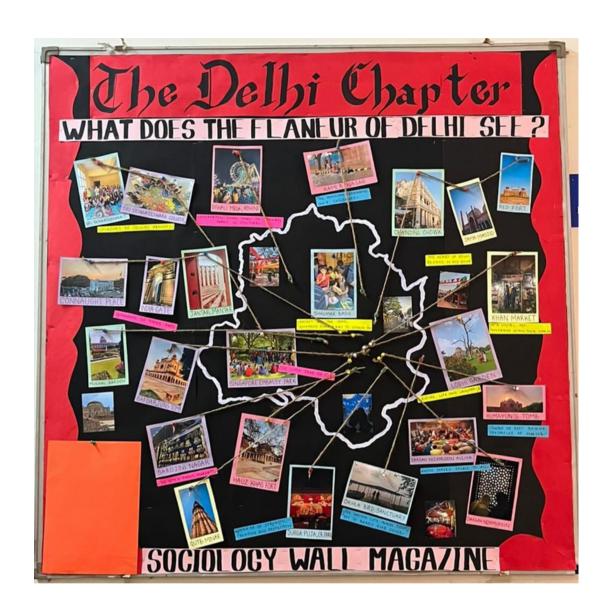
LEARNED HOW TO PLAY CARDS **FOR DIWALI PARTIES**

DECEMBER



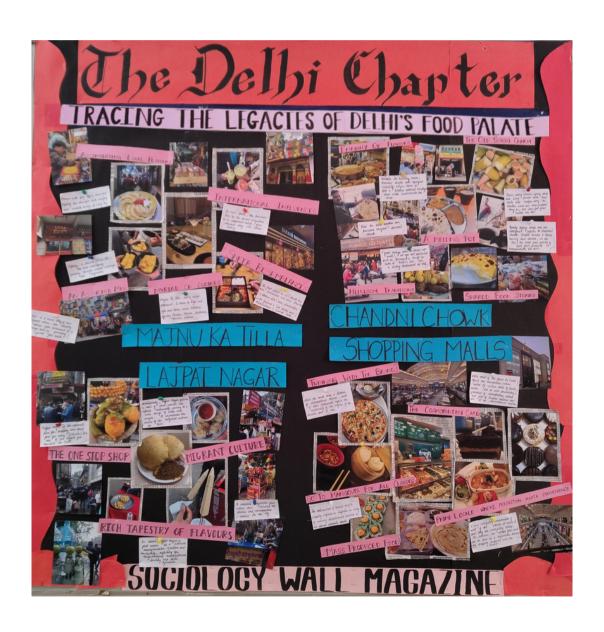
YOU IN YOUR BLANKET: A **LOVE STORY**

WALL MAGAZINE



Every photo is a remnant of stories untold. Displayed outside the sociology department room every year, our wall magazine has hosted many such unfolding stories. This year's wall magazine ran two editions on the theme, 'The Delhi Chapter'. The first edition on 'What does the flaneur of Delhi see?' was a collection of narratives from a city that has become home to many of us. It was a representation of what Delhi means to each one of us, showcasing visuals that embodied the spirit of storytelling.

The second edition on 'Tracing the legacies of Delhi's food palate', took the editorial team out for a stroll as we navigated the relation between the different parts of Delhi and the variety of food each place offers. Starting from the laphing at Majnu ka Tila, to the Chhole Bhature at Lajpat Nagar, we tried it all, in our attempt to trace the cultural narratives that are embedded in Delhi's food history.



"FINANCIAL INCLUSION"

(Perspectives and Initiatives)



Prof. Pami Dua



Seminar Hall, SVC, Delhi



Date- 23 February , 2024.

Time- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

presents

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC SKILL BASED SEMINAR

In Between Images and Ideas:

Society, Identity and Photograpl

SPEAKER

Mr. Raghav **Pasricha**

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

Date: 30th November Time: 2:30-4:30pm 💽 Venue: Seminar Hall

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

FANATIC

ET YOUR CREATIVITY SHINE ON THE BIG SC DATE: 5 MARCH, 2024

TIME- 10:45AM ONWARDS

VENUE- ROOM 305

MORE QUERIES:





R. SATHEESH PERUMALLA VENT CONVENER

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

RI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Presents

Unmasking Social Realities'

"LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD AS YOU UNMASK THE INTRICACIES OF

OUR SOCIETY"

DATE: 5 MARCH, 2024

TIME- 10:45 AM ONWARDS

VENUE- ROOM 302

ONWARDS

DR .NARENDI EVENT COORI HEAD,DEPARTI

https://meet.google.com/ihe-akgn-xke

Date: 25th NOVEMBER'23

Debating Sociology's Frontiers

Date: 5 MARCH, 2024 Time: 10:15 onwards Venue: ROOM 208



The Annual Fest

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Presents **ENGAGING FOR A CHANGE:**

A Workshop on Online Safety

and Misinformation

SPEAKERS

Pratishtha Arora

Social Media Matters

DATE: 3 NOVEMBER, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

INVITES YOU TO IT'S FIRST EVER SPORTS MEET

(SPORTS EDITION)

1-6

CHIEF PATRON: PROF. K.C. SING (AG PRINCIPAL

NOVEMBER, 2023

SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE, University Of Delhi

VENUE- SEMINAR

Vikram Singh

SCIENCE COLLECTIVE 2024'

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

IN COLLABORATION WITH





SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE

AN ONLINE WORKSHOP

by our Alumna on

Crafting Successful SOPs:

Navigating the Path to

Admission in Reputed Universities

Ms. Ivotismita Khatania

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Presents

EER GUIDANCE IN HUMANITIES

Guest Speakers:

Mr. Asim Mujteba, (UPSC CSE 2022 Qualified)
Mr. Vinay Babu (Former Civil Servant)
Mr. Devendra Kumar (Former Assistant Commandant)
Mr. Mukarram Badar (Faculty)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Presents

"Unravelling Mysteries"



DATE: 5 MARCH,2024 TIME: 1:30 PM ONWARDS **VENUE: ROCK GARDEN**

OUERIES:

For queries, contact: ha (6260815999) Rohit -+9188268762an (8418001869)

SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Presents

"CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND COMPETE FOR THE TITLE OF ULTIMATE SOCIO-LOGIC EXPERT

DATE: 5 MARCH,2024 TIME- 10:45 AM ONWARDS **VENUE- ROOM 215**

OR MORE QUERIES:

GYTA - 9389886986

LAVANYA- +91 90276 96419 ISHITA- +91 96439 70233

FOR MORE QUERIES:

SCAN TO REGISTER

IUSHKA - 9717159058



Sitting (L-R): Sneha Alexander, Shubha Gupta, Tanvi Sharma, Rohitkrishna A, Dibyasmit Mallick, Praveen Kumar, Aman Shekhar, Prateek Jebin, Standing Row back (L-R): Aadithyanarayanan M N, Prarthna Sajnani, Harsh Raghuwanshi, Ashutosh Singh, Lakshita Gera, J Khuziilou Paokho, Standing Row Front (L-R): Tanya Singh, Kriti Kukal, Gargi Dua, Dhanshikha Kaushik, Balinda Changmai, Arishta Gogoi, Ankita Saha, Pratibha Kumari, Tannu Shreya, Prischya Gulati, Manasi Verma, Bhavna Pratihari, Umesha Jayasinghe, Musuma Zahara, Kathanliu Gonmei Muhammed Ajsal, Yajas Vaidyanathan, Bhoomi Bohara, C Lalawmpuia

B A T C H Prashant Katharia