

# SOCIOLOGUE

आओ बात करे

A magazine by  
Department of Sociology,  
Maitreyi College

Volume 3, 2022-23

*Celebrating*



**YEARS OF  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

*Exploring University, Delhi and Education*



# Milestones of University of Delhi

**1925**

**1949**

DU  
established,  
with 3  
colleges

IP College - 1st  
Women's College

NCWEB  
Estd.

**1922**

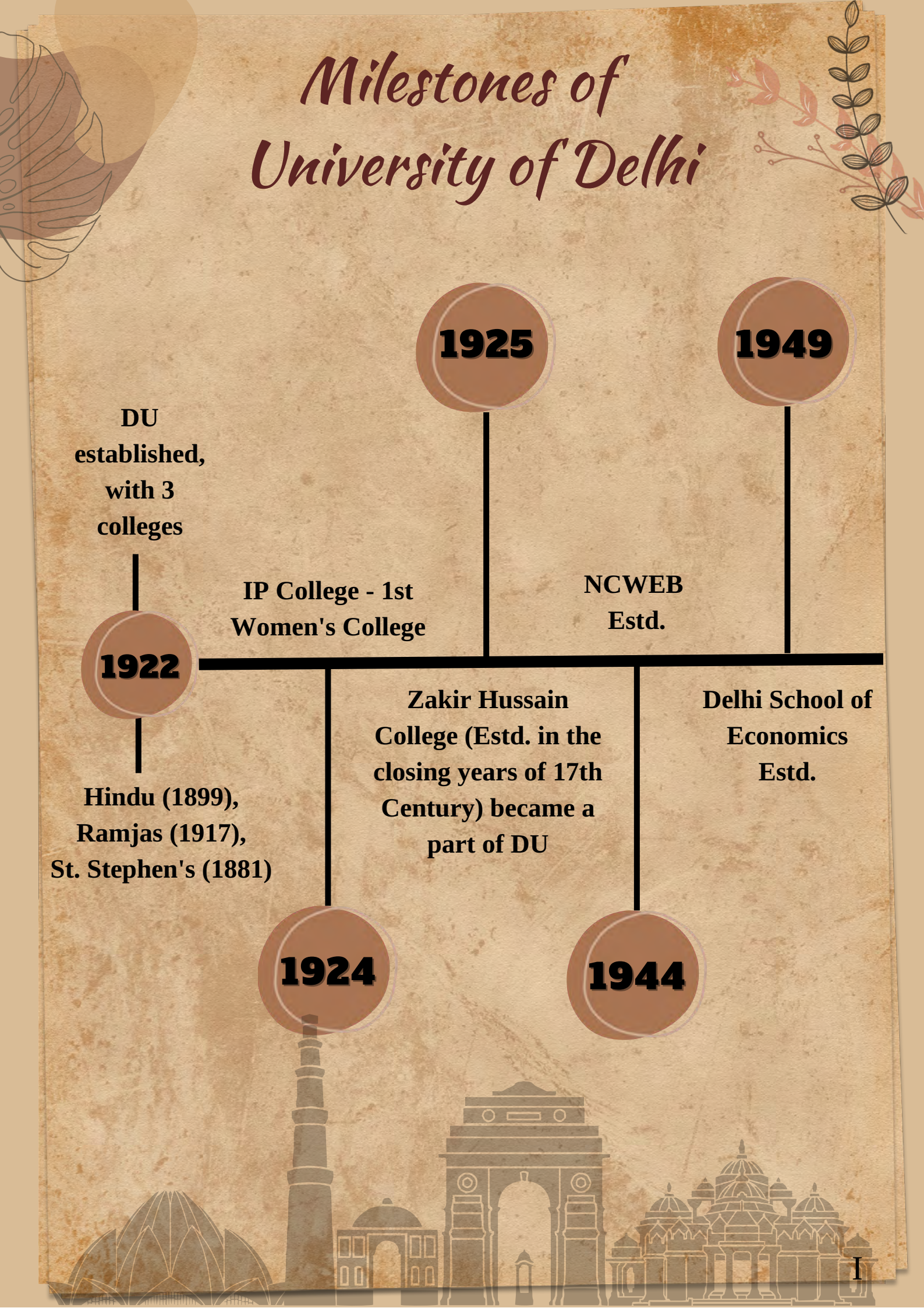
Hindu (1899),  
Ramjas (1917),  
St. Stephen's (1881)

Zakir Hussain  
College (Estd. in the  
closing years of 17th  
Century) became a  
part of DU

Delhi School of  
Economics  
Estd.

**1924**

**1944**



**1962**

MLNC(E)  
College - 1st  
Evening College

**1973**

DUbeat,  
official  
newspaper  
Estd.

**2021**

*and the journey  
continues ...*

School of  
Open  
Learning  
Estd.

Ayurvedic &  
Unani Tibbia  
College  
became a  
part of DU\*

Batch of  
2021  
graduated  
online

**1965**

**2007**

# About Us

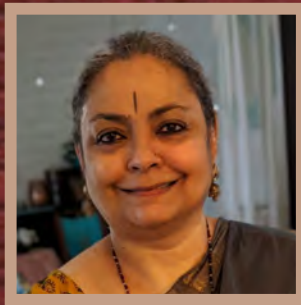


**Prof. Hartima Chopra**  
Officiating Principal

## Faculty



**Dr. Anurita Jalan**  
Teacher-in-Charge  
Associate Professor



**Dr. Gopi Devdutt Tripathy**  
Associate Professor



**Dr. Aruna Grover**  
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**Mr. Pawan Harsana**  
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**Dr. Neeraj Kumar**  
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**Dr. Bijayani Mishra**  
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**Ms. Gabriella Thempineng Tungdim**  
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**Mr. Anurag Singh**  
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**Ms. Arartika Bhadra**  
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# Student Association



**Sanjana Sinha**  
President



**Nimisha Kukreja**  
Vice-President



**Vanshika**  
Executive Vice-President



**Heena Chauhan**  
General Secretary



**Astha Priya**  
Treasurer



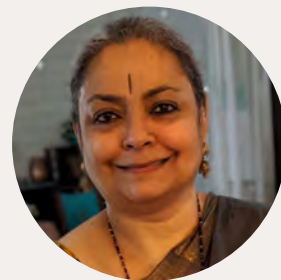
**Taanisi Soni**  
Joint secretary

# From the Editors in-Chief

Delhi University completed 100 years on 1st May 2022. It began with 750 students and now has over 7 lakh students from across the country and the world. Covid 19 took the University online, and university education became a virtual experience. Students completed graduation and whatever courses they were enrolled in, without even seeing the campus and expressed disappointment and a sense of having missed out on an important experience of their lives. They had heard, from varied sources: parents, brothers, sisters, their friends, media, and so on, nostalgic stories about the thrills of campus life: narratives of friendship, classes, discussions in cafeterias, running to be on time, teachers' idiosyncrasies, student life of rebellion, freedom and more. The question is, what does the university offer them? - not simply education but an unforgettable experience of campus life. At DU, you learn everywhere: in the classrooms, streets, shops, bazaars, canteens and cafeterias, gardens and what have you. The breeze of Delhi carries with it stories of love, revolution, and romance. The city's history and rich cultural heritage - theatre, dance, music, and festivals - become a part of every student's imagination.

Teenagers enter the college complex, each with distinctive values, norms, and perceptions, creating a complex undergraduate environment that shapes not only the way they perceive their college, class, and books but also their social relationships and worldviews. This multicultural environment enables students to learn, unlearn, and find new pathways.

They come from different cities and towns with dreams, a spirit of adventure, and excitement for making their own choices, and begin their journey towards self-discovery. Many of them stay in hostels and as paying guests, which becomes a seminal experience in their lives. This special issue of Sociologue: आओ बात करें, gives you a glimpse of DU through the eyes of the students. It has narratives ranging from the thrills of new life to the anguish of being away from home, learning from new experiences, encountering unprecedented challenges and so much more. Let the pages that follow take you on a journey with them.



**-Dr. Gopi Devdutt Tripathy**

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi



**-Mr. Pawan Harsana**

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi



# Editors' Note

Delhi and Delhi University, almost synonymous with one another, stand tall and proud at the very centre of the nation serving as a home to the diaspora of the entire subcontinent. The century old red brick structure is almost symbolic of the aeons that the city has lived through. A melting pot of culture, the brick walls don't constrict us, instead they provide a gateway to the unknown- the unknown art forms of communities forgotten or oppressed, or both, a gateway to every nuanced cultural trait of the numerous communities of the country. It is a space for the celebration of the plethora of identities that grace this place everyday.

The thing with identities, is that it is an amalgamation of all the places an individual has been to and all the people they have interacted with in the course of their life. Our identities take up small portions from all the realities that we encounter. And when the place in question takes the form of the home of an individual, the place where they were raised and groomed, the physical migration also results in transporting a chunk of the culture that shaped them.

Delhi University, as it is known to the rest of the country, is a place where students get exposed to a platform to showcase who they really are, what they carry with themselves and what they are made of- be it visual or performative, the treasured heritage always finds its ways to the forefront. And this art that travels all the long miles to the capital, manages to educate people - not only regarding one's own culture, but to also appreciate and respect the heritage of others.

The uniqueness and extravagance of DU lies probably in the way it makes the paths of these cultures and its students cross. Boisterous events have been known to celebrate the mainstream art forms from every part of the country, courtesy to its many regional student's societies working tirelessly towards upholding their art. Be it scores of students dressed in spotless whites with golden borders celebrating Onam, or the energetic beats of Bihu, festivals always serve as a window into these cultures. But the nuance of these art forms and cultures can be witnessed many times outside the campus, in tiny pockets all across the city.



Left to Right : Vanshika, Debarati Mitra and Sushree Mukherjee

It can be found on a night when your roommate plays a video of her sister getting married and a sweet song breaks the silence. A ritual in Assamese weddings is singing the Biya Geet. Sung without the aid of any musical aids, biya geet symbolises the change in kinship relationships and passes conventional knowledge through generations. It can be felt when your friend's mother visits - and you're enchanted by the intricate designs on her Kalamkari saree. Hailing from the state of Andhra Pradesh, it manages to engulf you in its simple elegance and cultural beauty. It is seen in a riveting performance of the dance form Ghoomar - beginning with its slow pulsating beats, before mesmerising you with its glorious crescendo. Rich and magnificent, popularised by its portrayal in Padmavat, this dance comes from Rajasthan, the Bhil tribe, representing their worship of Goddess Saraswati.

As the University of Delhi completes its 100th year, this issue of the magazine reflects upon the various experiences within and around the University. It explores a multitude of themes that makes Delhi University what it is - be it moving out of one's hometown to study in Delhi, making friends across different cultures or experiencing the decadal changes in student life and relationships as a faculty member.

It looks at the various components that make up DU- the students, the faculty, the non-teaching staff, and celebrates it. This issue consists of a special section- "आपकी यूनिवर्सिटी, आपका शहर", featuring a series of excerpts from the interviews with these very components to help us get a closer look at the people, both in their role with context to the University and beyond their professions, as human beings.

This issue attempts to touch upon the major themes but it is not exhaustive of all the subjective and personalised narratives of one's experience in the University of Delhi. This should perhaps be seen as a starting point of initiating a conversation about Delhi, University and education and hence fosters our vision ... आओ बात करें।

# President's Note

## My journey of 3 years : वो दिन भी क्या दिन थे

17 February 2022 was the first day our college reopened after the pandemic. Since I was a part of the dance society I did not attend a single class that day, which was also quite fun. I clearly remember sitting outside the bamboo room and trying to recognize my classmates and teachers.

Circling back to the first year and my experience from the very first day, which was Orientation Day, I was so excited to switch on my camera (online meetings, you know, were the trend) and just introduce myself to everyone. I always wanted to experience everything in college from the students association to societies, and I did. When the elections for joint secretary came for first-year students, I did contest but fortunately lost it and my dearest friend Vanshika became the Joint Secretary (I will introduce her in a while) and I was elected as the Class Representative. I said fortunately because I think CR was in my destiny and I'm eternally grateful because I formed some beautiful connections with my first-year professors.

It was in my second year that I entered the student association by getting elected as the Treasurer. Yes, fortunately, I won this time. Working under the association of 2022 helped me learn so many new things. On the very first day of working as a Treasurer, I got to learn how to use an Excel sheet. Yes, I didn't know that before. I was also appointed as the PR Head of the Zeal Dance Society. Therefore, learning Canva, google documents, online 8 am Google Meets, organizing online webinars and managing my dance society was indeed a tough task but I'm glad I lived it to the fullest. (PS: I forgot managing studies was also a part of it).

## कुछ दोस्तों के नाम

It's hard to believe that college is ending and with that coming to 8:30 am classes, eating in the canteen with friends, talking to teachers, sitting in the college garden to click pictures or seeing the peacock and a lot of other things are also coming to an end.

I'm going to, again and again, refer to my friends so it's better I introduce them to our readers. my Raju and Farhan (from 3 idiots): Navya and Vanshika. My better-half. Our friendship began with our first unofficial trip. We went to Mcleodganj and Dharamshala for a 5-day trip and that is when we bonded and formed new slang terms with our friendship. A Whatsapp group named "विचार" was created between the three of us that has all-worldly gossip, I must say. The best part is that our "आँखों आँखों की गपशप", even in the classroom, explains all about our friendship. My friendships in college grew both professionally and personally. The Department Field Trip to Udaipur helped me in strengthening my friendship with other girls in my class. I will always cherish the time spent with them and have only one message for all of them: Stay in touch.

## College as an emotion : यादें मिठाई के डिब्बे होती हैं, एक बार खुला तो सिर्फ एक टुकड़ा नहीं खा पाओगे

Maitreyi and my department has given a lot to me in these three years from new experiences to developing qualities which I'm going to cherish forever. I faced both criticism and affection in college and this not only helped me in becoming the person that I am today but majorly contributed to my holistic development. I want to thank all my teachers for treating us like their own kids. No matter how hard it was for us to attend the classes, they have always been supportive. My trips to the accounting office, department room and continuous effort to learn to write perfect applications, has all added to the Sanjana I've become now and I think I've come a very long way.

## Third and the Last year

I became the President of the Sociology Department and what an experience it was! In the same year, I was holding multiple positions like the Editorial Board Design head and the Aashayein Head.



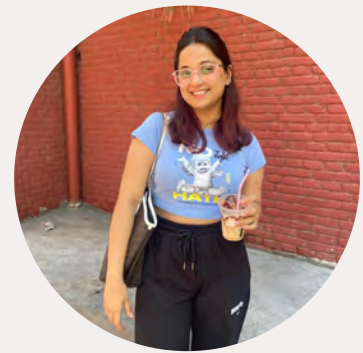


I don't think that I'll be able to sum up my experience in some words but this was a full offline year for all of us and with organizing everything and running my team, I just want to take this moment to appreciate my batchmates who always supported me and of course my very own association Nimisha, Vanshika, Heena, Astha, Taanisi and all the team heads. There were ups and downs but the ups were so high that I can afford to forget the downs. So, congratulations to the entire team and faculty. It was a tough year indeed but we did it!

I wish all the good luck and best wishes to the upcoming Association and Year.

*Lots of Love to my department and Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna*

Signing off as your own  
*President*



**Sanjana**  
3rd Year Honours,  
Department of Sociology



# Remembering Pooja

(2002-2022)



We miss you our friend ! It's been nine months since your demise, Pooja and today as we write for you, to tell people the story that you have painted in the own tiny little world of yours, to let them know how you have influenced the life of your loved ones, we find ourselves living in the memory of 10th July 2022 again. Our souls were shattered and trust us when we say that our group of 'four more shots' has never been the same since then. You were the most important 'shot' of four more shots as you were the one who connected us all. For us Pooja, your carefree laughter was something that could take away all our tensions for a while. It was your genuine vibe which gave your hugs the warmest aura, it was you in your absolute DUite outfits giving fashion advices to us and it was you whose 'कांड होगया यार ' we had to endure. You were a complete package, our friend, the purest soul with an impeccable taste in music and art, you were an irreplaceable part of our department and have made your continuous contributions ever since you stepped into college. You with your 'मैं तो अपनी favourite हूँ' aura made us believe that self-love and care is the key to stay happy and it was your brave and strong personality that showed how much courage you hold within yourself to face every outcome of your decisions and actions. Even in whatever little time you spent with us, you have left your imprints in our hearts for eternity.

Every time that we hear a song on which we danced together, every time that we come across through the photographs of our trip to the hills, every time we remember the fests we went to, every time we enter Room number 16 in college, our heart still aches as we recall the whole bunch of memories we have of you. There isn't a single day that goes by without your thoughts, we are still caught somewhere in the memories of the Himachal trip and we wish to go back in time, relive the good old days just for once and change nothing because all of it was perfect. You were always the visionary, Pooja and never for once we mocked your day-dreams. We knew that you had the capability to fulfil every of your desires. You had the potential to turn the world around for everything that you wished to achieve. This was never meant to be an end of your charm. The demise of you, forced us to think how little time we have for everything that we plan , how we don't value people present in our lives rather work day and night to swallow our materialistic greed. It was wrong to take you away from us and no reason can ever justify it. We feel guilty for not being with you in your last days, for not speaking to you in your last hours and forgoing one last hug. The day we heard, you leave, our girl, was a nightmare and will always be etched in our memory. You were perfectly imperfect in your own way and we adored you. If you're reading this from above, we hope that you have forgiven us, that you still love your 'three broken shots', that you have found serenity, Pooja. A friend who is gone but never forgotten.

-- Oshvi, Rtika and Prachi

BA (H) Sociology, Third Year, Maitreyi College

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# Department Events

SEPTEMBER, 2022 - MAY, 2023

2 Sept, 2022

Department Elections

2 Sept, 2022

A talk on Migration and Capital Defence:  
*The Role of a Sociologist* by CP Shruti and  
Maitreyi Mishra

6 Dec, 2022

Book exhibition on the 66th Mahaparinirvan Diwas of  
Babasaheb Ambedkar

7 Dec, 2022

Special lecture - *Well being is a skill*  
by Prof. Richard Davidson

26 Sept, 2022

Inauguration of Manan:  
Centre of Study of Gandhian Thought  
Talk on *Who is Bapu: Gandhiji as I see him*

3 Nov, 2022

Orientation for first year students

16 Jan, 2023

Department Elections for first year students

23-30 Jan, 2023

An international Interdisciplinary Academic Fest:  
*Avgaahan 2023*

7 Feb, 2023

*Imagine: Annual Academic Fest*  
Department of Sociology

26 Feb-2 Mar, 2023

Field trip to Udaipur, Rajasthan

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*Do you know, Asia's largest spice market is located in Delhi?*

**Khari Baoli, Asia's largest spice market started in the 17th century, is located in Old Delhi.**



# *Reflections*



# An Odyssey to Sanguinity

Being a student of Delhi University is a dream harboured by many pupils from every nook and corner of the country flock to this premier institute with big dreams and aspirations. I too had my own share of ambitions and desires to, someday, make an identity of my own. But Delhi University was never on my bucket list. For staying away from my family was not something that I wanted to opt for at an undergraduate level. So, when I got into Cotton University, which is deemed to be one of the best Universities of North-East India, my happiness knew no bounds. I could now live in my very own city and fulfill my dreams. What more could I have asked for? However, my best friend was not satisfied and kept insisting that I apply for Delhi University and I still wonder how, but I gave in.

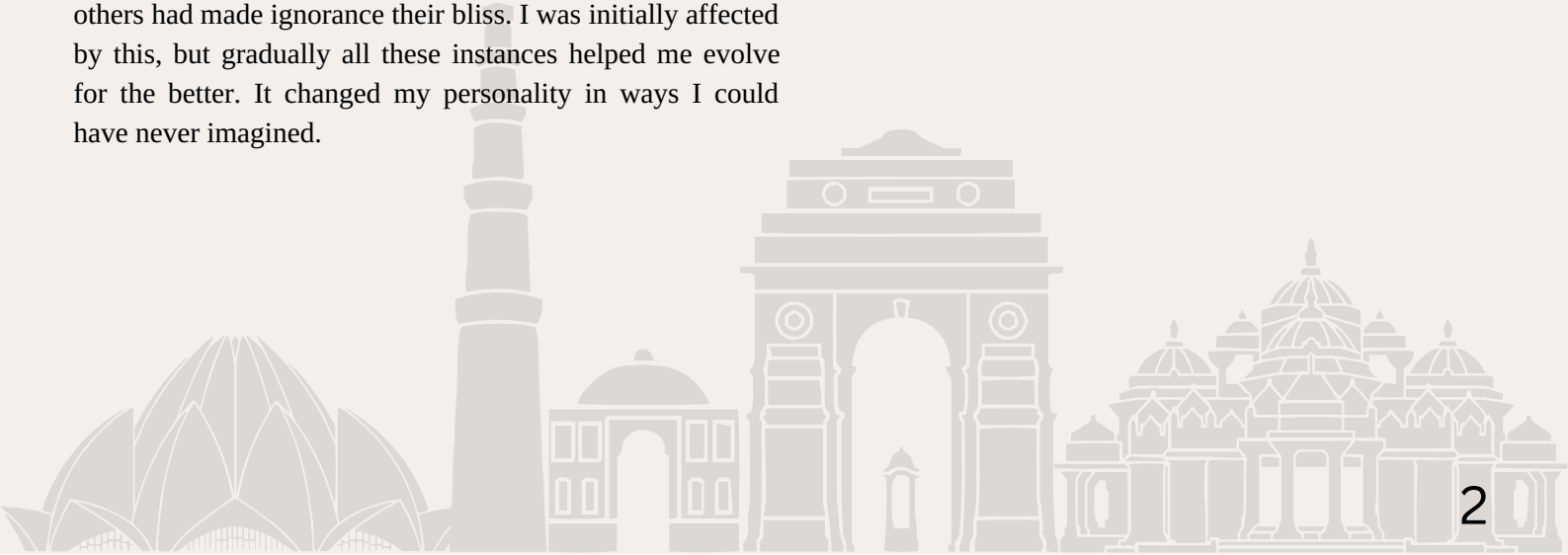
Shifting to the capital was the beginning of a new phase of my life. I was liking it and the thought of having come miles away from home hadn't struck me initially. Everything was new and exciting till the time came for my father to leave for Guwahati. I still remember how he held me and said, "You are my strong child. I am proud of you" while I cried while hugging him at the airport. As I watched him slowly move out of sight, it occurred to me that now I was all alone in an unknown city. And suddenly an abstruse fear gripped me.

Life in Delhi was different and I had realised it in no time. From the food habits to the nature of the inhabitants, I could draw no parallel between Assam and Delhi and I had a difficult time adjusting in this new environment. Owing to the fact that I was from Assam, I was not very loud and bubbly. But this nature of mine was mistaken, by many, to be a sign of a meek individual and this disturbed me a lot. Most had a totally different perspective about the North-East which left me baffled. They had amusing queries about the same and while some genuinely wanted to learn and know, others had made ignorance their bliss. I was initially affected by this, but gradually all these instances helped me evolve for the better. It changed my personality in ways I could have never imagined.

Delhi transformed me into a much more confident, sanguine, prouder and stronger version of myself. Not only did my decision to study at Delhi University just transform my personality, but it also taught me varied life skills ranging from cooking and washing clothes and utensils to buying monthly groceries and managing a household, which I might have not acquired had I stayed within the vicinity of my loved ones. The metro rides, the shopping sprees, the canteen gossip and the voyages to undetermined destinations, slowly forged a new me, emboldened and empowered by experiences and learnings. So, today when I look back at my odyssey of being a DU-ite, I am just filled with immense pride and gratitude. Coming to the Capital has been the best decision of my life and I can't wait to see how the upcoming days and months unfold.



**Shobhna Sharma**  
2nd Year Honours,  
Department of Sociology





# Contouring the Edges of Life is in itself Education

A city so obscured welcomed her with all its awes and subtle notes. She had been pampered all her life, so she wasn't ingenious enough to tackle the nuances of having to stay away from her fraternity, of reviving her socialising capacity which was already at its worst, of getting to get all her chores done by herself, also to get along with a whole new faces which took rather long for her to get accustomed to and to keep up with a language she wasn't fully attuned to, it was all to put in her words, "Disastrous". She dreamt of no fond memories, she precisely paid attention to the littlest of things which kindled the least hope in her. She felt getting capsized and of giving up, she only longed for where she belonged. She felt quite alienated.

Phone used to be her only escape in those debilitating days, she rant about her days to her people back at home who were all in hearts to keep up the truest spirits in her. But all these receded and she seeks to pick herself up and to foster her learning -from booking an Uber cab, planning itineraries for her own travel back and forth, getting to experience metro travel and acing it at the very same time, serving herself daily meals to looking after herself in her weakest days. To her, the city was brimming with an ocean of possibilities to soar high. She refuted the fallacy that crosses every ingenious mind of education being only the garnering of bookish knowledge as she chugged through and the reality clicked that education is all about nurturing oneself through the subtle and perplexing episodes that awaits life with ease.

Lo and behold, she got healed with time, walked up better and stronger enough tracing the light she was shown, liberated herself from her bondages, took pride in herself. She eventually got habituated to bidding a goodbye after the end of another vacation to her family, though with a heavy heart, all determined to make another higher move. All in all, she has risen by leaps and bounds. Though the typical cravings for home cooked foods and of not getting to celebrate seasons' call with her family engulfs her, a crazy perhaps reiterated candour.

The days were getting prettier for her as well, she also stole moments out of it. Recounting about her typical day on a daily basis to her mother felt more important than anything because she was her greatest therapist and it soothes her of all the hardest strains.



Image credit: Akshita  
3rd Year, Department of Sociology

To put all in a single strand, 'Eclectic' is what I am peeping through, a more empathetic self is what I am drawing from all the exquisite experiences. I have learned to force myself through thoughts I never pondered upon only to get to a step closer to the grail and the constant tug of life is slowly getting to its end. Having chosen a course that got me thriving, I can never cease to behold the realities of life in many subtle ways which are yet discernible. All I can assert for now is that the sober days invested and harnessed are leading to more generous years and the city added hues to me as it is moulding me towards contouring the edges of my life.



**Suchitra**  
2nd Year Honours,  
Department of Sociology

# मैंने तो सुना था की...

मैंने तोह सुना था कि सोशियोलॉजी समाजवादी लोगों की रूचि होती है, तोह why do we usually encounter Adam Smiths in bright Valentino, taking lectures for Communist Manifesto? हैं?

मैंने तोह सुना था की दिल्ली आज़ादी देती है, but 8 O'clock वापस लेलेती है ये तोह नहीं बताया था। बताया था क्या?

मैंने तोह सुना था की we shouldn't miss the forest for the trees, then why do we students of sociology feel the special need to point out " ये तोह रेज़र्वेशन केटेगरी है, इनका तोह िज़ी होजाता है " sometimes? Is it not what Ambedkar wanted after all? Are we really blinded to the larger good? बताओ जी?

मैंने तोह सुना था कि सोशियोलॉजी एक ह्यूमैनिटेरियन एजेंडा देती है, पर साथ ही साथ अनजाने में किसी के सरनेम से उनका निजी एजेंडा पहचानना भी सिखा देती है, उफ्फ ये कौन बताएगा जी?

But now when I sit to pen down my opinion about this city and the rest of it, I can't help myself but glide my pen further through the lines on the paper, farther away from the frown on my forehead and more close to the smile held by my lips, because picture abhi baaki hai mere dost.

If it weren't for this city, I would have never known what detachment felt like and what attachment stood for after all? Little did I know that I would miss the same old and annoying habit of my father to wake me up at 7 in the morning to see the sunrise and take a walk through his well gardened plants. If it weren't for this city, I would have never known what scalding splashes of oil felt like on skin when you had to make an omelet because you can't take the risk of starving yourself and how on earth would I have ever known why my mum's palms didn't feel all that soft after multiple application of moisturizing creams.

If it weren't for this city, how would I have ever known what real confidence felt like? And that it was just not about writing bold posts on social media? Especially when you do not have your brother besides you on an auto rickshaw, when you are just on your own.

If it weren't for his city, how would I have ever known that those nonstop talking of my little sister was not all that irritating after all, especially when lying down alone on the bed with a 102° fever felt like the world has chosen to abandon you. How would I have ever known?

Today as I am on the verge of graduating in sociology, I can undoubtedly say that every second that went into the decision of me taking up this subject was totally worth it. More than giving you something, it makes you somebody. Someone who wouldn't decide worth of a person by looking at their wallets and their outfits. Someone who wouldn't give a second thought about holding a hand in need even when it does not have a Rolex on its wrist. Don't know about the money but these ideas sure will fetch us a happy and satisfied life. And all of whatever C. Wright Mills meant when he said that "You can never really understand an individual unless you also understand the society, historical time period in which they live, personal troubles, and social issues", I have felt every cell in my body ponder about this, and have felt every hair on my body shiver to it.

If it weren't for these 8:30 A.M classes, I would have never known what waking up without your parents at the top of their lungs' voice felt like or what working on changing habits on your own felt like. When you hear rumours like, this university installs a fire in you for transforming your thoughts and acts like fuels for cleansing your soul, you just don't believe it until you are on the brink of graduating from it.

If it weren't for this and if it weren't for that, I just admit that I owe a lot, a lot more than the receipts, I got at the beginning of the semesters, a lot more than the receipts I shared with my friends when we slid through the city, a lot more than the receipts I got for the samosas and chai from the canteen. Just a lot of it and then some more.



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# दिल्ली दर्शन : एक विकल वेदना

व्यक्ति के जीवन का मूल्य उससे निर्धारित नहीं होता जो वह करता है या जानता है, बल्कि इससे होता है, कि दरअसल वह है कौन। हर एक व्यक्ति अपने विचारों और भावनाओं द्वारा स्वयं को सूजित करता है, स्वयं की जिंदगी के ताने बाने बुनता है न केवल बुनता है वरन उधेड़ता भी स्वयं ही है ऐसे में हर एक व्यक्ति को अपनी विचार प्रक्रिया के प्रति सजग होना अत्यंत आवश्यक है। जहां तक मेरा विचार है, हमारे आस पास जितना भी प्रत्यक्ष जगत है वह परिवर्तनशील है अर्थात्, प्रकृति परिवर्तनशील है, जल वायु परिवर्तनशील है, मौसम परिवर्तनशील है, इसी कड़ी में मानव और मानव व्यवहार भी परिवर्तनशील है, व्यक्ति के हर पल हर छड़ में परिवर्तन हो रहा है। समय में परिवर्तन हो रहा है, स्थान में परिवर्तन हो रहा है, परिस्थितियां बदल रही हैं, निमित्तों में परिवर्तन हो रहा है।

इस परिवर्तनशील प्रवाह एवं सतत गतिमान जगत में मेरे जीवन में भी परिवर्तन आना स्वाभाविक ही था, किन्तु यदि मैं इन परिवर्तनों की चर्चा करू तो मेरे जीवन का वो सबसे परिवर्तनशील लम्हा था जब सर्वप्रथम मैंने अपने पांव दिल्ली की इस धरती पर रखे, और स्वयं को बिल्कुल अकेला पाया, व्याकुलता की बात तो यह थी जो शहर मेरे लिए बिल्कुल नया था उस शहर में मैं कुछ दिन नहीं बल्कि कुछ वर्ष गुजारने वाली थी, परिवर्तन के इन छड़ों में मैं ऐसा अनुभव कर रही थी जैसे जीवन का कोई अर्थ ही नहीं है, मेरे जीवन का यह वह समय था जब लक्ष्य भी मेरी आंखों से ओझल हो रहा था या यदि सरल शब्दों में मैं कहा जाय, तो गाड़ी भी पटरी से उतरने लग रही थी।

कहते हैं जिस प्रकार बालक की देह के विकास के लिए मां का दूध स्वाभाविक है उसी प्रकार उसके अलग होने पर पीड़ा होना भी स्वाभाविक है परंतु मुख्य रूप से इस वेदना का अनुभव मुझे यहां आकर हुआ, क्योंकि एक शिशु का प्रारंभिक आहार ममतामयी मां के वक्षस्थल से टपकता है। मां का दुलार पाकर अंतरात्मा हुलसती है, ममतामयी देवी का अगम्य प्रेम पाकर एक बालक अलौकिक आनंद से भरता है और तृप्ति का अनुभव करता है, और यदि वह बालक उस जन्मदात्री से कहीं दूर हो जाता है, वह स्वयं को अकेला पाता है, उसके मुख में अन्न का एक निवाला देने के लिए तक वहा कोई नहीं होता, उसकी भावनाओं को समझने वाला, उसके स्वास्थ्य की चिंता करने वाला वहां कोई नहीं होता। एक मां का उसके बालक के प्रति अद्वितीय प्रेम होने के कारण उसके वियोग की व्यथा भी मेरे लिए अनिर्वचनीय है।

जिस प्रकार एक व्यक्ति अन्य व्यक्तियों के प्रति लगावपरक चाहें इतना न हो परंतु वातावरण के प्रति प्रतिकूलता पाते ही झुल्ला उठता है, उसी प्रकार शिक्षा के उद्देश्य से मैं दिल्ली आ तो गई परंतु यहां का वातावरण देखकर मैं भी कुछ आश्चर्यचकित हो उठी क्योंकि यहां के वातावरण में और मेरे घर के वातावरण में अत्यंत भिन्नता व्याप्त थी।

उसी प्रकार शिक्षा के उद्देश्य से मैं दिल्ली आ तो गई परंतु यहां का वातावरण देखकर मैं भी कुछ आश्चर्यचकित हो उठी क्योंकि यहां के वातावरण में और मेरे घर के वातावरण में अत्यंत भिन्नता व्याप्त थी। यहां हर तरफ मैं स्वयं को शान्ति का अनुभव होने में असमर्थ पा रही थी, यह क्षेत्र पूरा प्रदूषणयुक्त नजर आ रहा था, अर्थात् मुझे ऐसी अनुभूति हो रही थी जैसे प्रकृति भी अब मेरे विरुद्ध जा चली हो।



Shristy Sharma

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**पुरानी रोशनी और नई में फर्क इतना है।  
उसे किशती नहीं मिलती, इसे साहिल नहीं मिलता।**

कदाचित्त जीवन के इस परिवर्तन का प्रमुख कारण भी यह है, कि पुरानो के पास नई विधियां नहीं है, नई तकनीके नहीं, नए अंदाज नहीं अर्थात् पार जानें के लिए बातें तो हैं परन्तु किशती नहीं, नौका नहीं है, वही दूसरी ओर नयो के पास प्रचुर संसाधन हैं, तकनीके है परन्तु कोई दिशा नहीं, कोई किनारा नहीं है, ये परस्पर विरोध में उलझे है, किंतु यदि मैं यह कहूं की काश ये परस्पर परिपूरक बन जाए, तो एक की किशती दूसरे के काम आए और दूसरा उसे भी साथ -साथ साहिल (किनारे) तक ले जा सके।

लेकिन सहायद संपूर्ण प्रकृति भी परस्पर मिल जुल कर ही गति करती है इसीलिए इतनी सुंदर है यहां दो विरोधी ध्रुवों में भी परस्पर कोई विरोध का भाव नहीं है, और सहायद यह विरोध के भाव का अभाव ही सहअस्तित्व और सद्भाव को विकसित करता है, जो ईश्वर की नजरों में भी अमूल्य और आद्वितीय है हर सुबह एक नई उम्मीद और नया सूरज लेकर आती है और इन नई उम्मीदों के साथ ही सम्पूर्ण सृष्टि संगीतमय है।



- सृष्टि सिंह  
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# *Education and Learning: A Generational Kaleidoscope of Women's Experiences*

Education and learning may seem like the same thing, but they actually have distinct meanings. Education refers to the formal and structured process of gaining knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes. This often takes place in schools, colleges, and universities, where qualified professionals teach according to a set curriculum. Learning, on the other hand, encompasses a broader range of sources such as observation, experience, and practice. While formal schooling is one way to learn, informal learning can occur through everyday activities like reading, watching videos, and having conversations.

The Indian education system has undergone significant changes over the last century. These changes have been influenced by social and economic developments, leading to greater access to education. Technology has also played a significant role in education, with the integration of computers and digital devices in classrooms. Women are now better represented in education, allowing them to challenge patriarchal norms and pursue their aspirations.

These changes have occurred over multiple generations of learners, each with their own experiences, values, and sense of self.

In India, these changes have been particularly pronounced for women. This article attempts to explore how education, through the generations, has evolved for women in India and I have tried to look at it through the experiences of my grandmother, Mrs. Pramila Devi and my mother, Mrs. Sailaja Chakravarty.

## **INTERVIEW**

### **PRAMILA DEVI:**

*(A 75 year old woman now, my grandmother belonged to a small village of Assam known as Haldibari. Born in the year 1948, Mrs. Pramila Devi went on to complete her graduation in the year 1969 from Shillong (now in Meghalaya), the then capital of Assam and thereafter, started working as a Teacher. The following excerpt explores the essence of education from her perspective and puts forth her experiences of getting educated at a time when girls in and around her village were being married off.)*

During our times, child marriage was widely prevalent. Girls were not allowed to get educated and the ones who did get a chance, were also married off at an early age of 11 or 12. I was fortunate that my family valued education.

My father was a Maths Teacher and my mother also knew how to read and write. Since my parents knew the importance of education, I got the opportunity to get schooled formally. But unlike now, we didn't just stay occupied with our studies. We were also engaged in various other household chores wherein our mothers taught us how to cook and stitch, among other activities. Since we had no school uniforms, we wore the clothes that we stitched ourselves. All of this was fun and made me feel self-sufficient.

Till class 9, I did have a few female friends who studied with me in school, but later, I was left alone as all of them were married off by their respective families. Thus, I became the only female from my village to have passed her matriculation examinations. Thereafter, I was sent away to Shillong, the then Capital of Assam, to pursue my graduation as there were no colleges in my village. My uncle lived in Shillong and I moved into his place. And I started with my college life.

I was enrolled into a co-ed college named, Shankardev College and I was the only student to have migrated there to study. College life was fun, but I did face a few difficulties at the beginning. I had studied in an Assamese Medium School, but once in college, all the lectures were delivered in English and I did find it a little difficult to adjust with the sudden change in language. However gradually, I got acquainted with it. Our relationship with the teachers was not as friendly as it is in today's times. We were instead afraid of them. So whenever, we had doubts regarding the lectures, we would discuss them amongst ourselves rather than ask our professors. After my graduation I got married but my education stayed with me forever. Because of being educated during an era when females were hardly allowed to go to schools, I, with the support of my husband, started working as a teacher. In those times, I was the only female

teacher in my husband's hometown. As a girl child who was born into a period when female education was not encouraged, I never imagined becoming a teacher one day. But education empowered me to reach a position beyond my expectations wherein I got the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young boys and girls.

**SAILAJA CHAKRAVARTY:**

*(Having lost her father to cancer at the age of 14, my mother, Sailaja, was brought up single-handedly by her mother, Pramila. Having been born into a family of Teaching Professionals, education was always her first priority. So, when the time came for her higher education, she relocated from her hometown, Bamundi, to Guwahati (Assam), the largest metropolis in Northeastern India. There, she completed her graduation in the year 1993 and went on to secure a postgraduate degree in Economics. Thereafter, she pursued her B.Ed. too. The following is a snippet of her experiences of college life and her perspective on how education is not only about earning a degree but about learning basic life skills which help in the overall development of an individual.)*

Having completed my schooling in my hometown near Sualkuchi, where I was familiar with everyone and firmly rooted in my comfort zone, I was eager to embark on a new journey after passing my matriculation exam. Little did I know, the shift to Handique College in Guwahati would expose me to a whole new world. Here, I encountered diverse individuals from various places, an experience that was entirely novel to me. I met many students from Northeast, some of whom studied in English medium schools, while others hailed from vernacular schools.

Naturally, the adjustment to a new city, without the presence of my family, was fraught with difficulties. However, my roommates, including my uncle's daughter, proved to be an immense help in making me feel at home. Though I found the hostel food unpalatable and the regimented meal schedule tiresome, adhering to this routine instilled in us a sense of discipline. Nevertheless, I missed home, but since it was only a short distance from Guwahati, I visited every weekend.

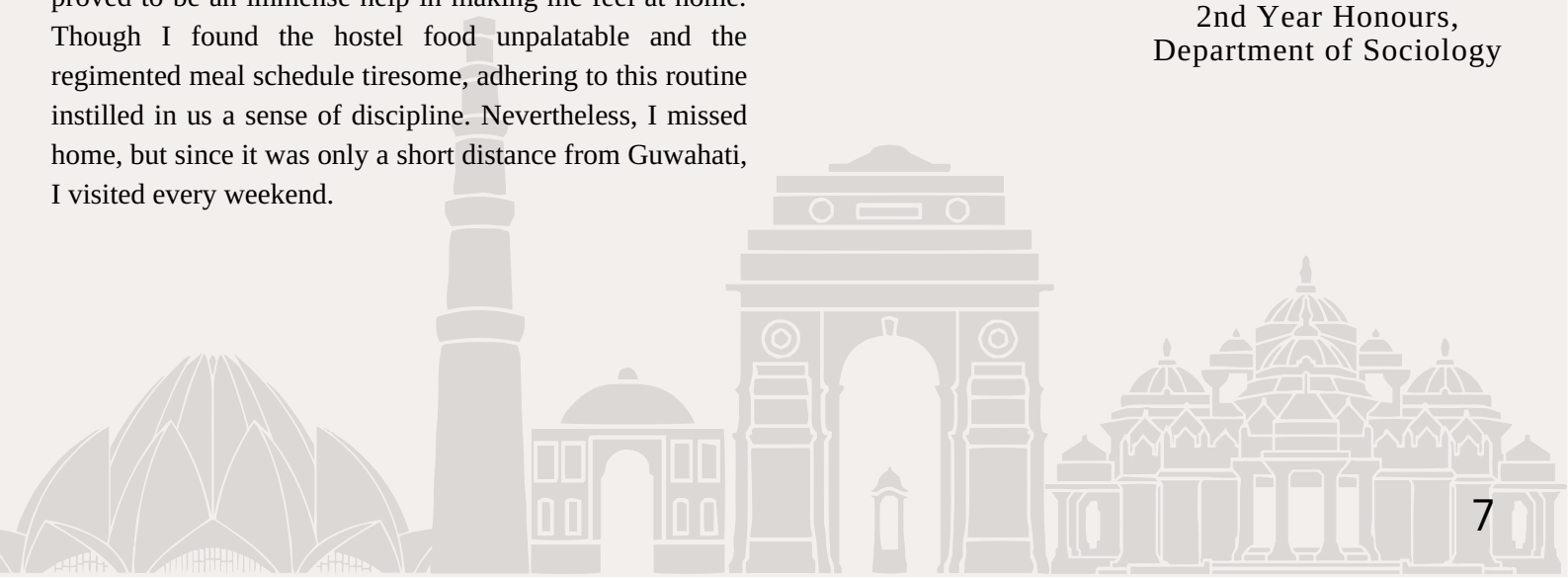
The teachers at Handique College were not only knowledgeable but also friendly and approachable. They were always willing to support us and clear our doubts, making their lectures all the more engaging. Despite the cordial relations between students and teachers, the former always accorded the latter their due respect.

My decision to pursue higher education in Guwahati proved to be transformative in more ways than one. It provided me with not only an exceptional academic experience but also imbued me with crucial life skills that have helped me navigate the many challenges that life throws our way. Looking back, it was, without a doubt, the best decision of my life.

To wrap things up, it's pretty clear that education has come a long way over the generations. Learning looks different now than it did in the past, and that's especially true for women. These days, access to education is a lot easier, and students have all kinds of diverse experiences to choose from. Despite all of the changes, one thing remains constant: education is of utmost importance. It helps people develop themselves and it drives progress in society. So even though education will probably continue to change and evolve, its significance will always be crystal clear.



**Shobhna Sharma**  
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*Did you know, the  
Red Fort was  
originally white?*

Made  
of white  
limestone, the fort  
was painted red by British  
officials when the white  
colour started chipping off.



# *In verse*





# सपने तो कई बुनते है

सपने तो कई बुनते है,  
हमने भी कुछ बुने,  
कुछ कहानियां, कुछ हकीकत,  
और कुछ फ़साने भी सुने,

किस्सों की तो लाइन लगी है,  
अब हम क्या क्या बताए,  
कुछ चुने है किस्से,  
चलो उन्हें ही सुनाए,

12th के बाद सोचा अब जाना तो डी. यू. ही है,  
पर क्या पता था कट ऑफ़ बोलेंगी "बेटा तुम्हें तो दूर से ही सी यू है",  
बड़ी सब्र के बाद जब अखिर में मिल ही गया हमे दाखिला,  
तब जाके मेरे माँ पापा का थोड़ा मुह खिला,

अच्छे कॉलेज के लालच में,  
अनजान विषय का चयन किया,  
शुरू मे कुछ दिनों तक,  
हमने बहुत सहन किया,

अपेक्षायें तो बहुत थी मेरी,  
फ़िल्मों नें जो बनाई थी,  
घूमना-फिरना और खाना,  
कुछ ऐसी दुनिया मैंने भी सजाई थी,

जब ऑनलाइन से ऑफलाइन हुआ सब,  
तब कंधों पर भार बढ़ा,  
नोट्स देने वालों नें,  
हम पे बड़ा उपकार करा,

इकनॉमिक्स में पढ़ा था जिसको,  
वो यहा सोशियोलोगी में भी बैठा है,  
कौंफ्लिक्ट थ्योरी भी दे गया और हिस्टोरीकल  
मटीरियलिज़्म को भी समेटा है,

दुर्खीम ने तो सूइसाइड तक पढ़ा दिया,  
जो हमारे मे तो बोलना भी पाप है,  
पर बाद मे पता चला कि,  
दुर्खीम ही तो सोशियोलोगी का बाप है,

वेबर के सोशल एक्शन ने पूरा दिमाग खोल डाला,  
प्रोटेस्टेंट एथिक्स में कैपिटलिज़्म कहा से आया ये भी बोल  
डाला,

कण कण मे सोशियोलोगी कुछ इस तरह समाया है,  
की जीवन के हर पन्ने का कुछ अर्थ बताया है,

डी. यू. और सोशियोलोगी ने मुझे एक चीज तो ज़रूर  
बतायी,  
मेरी व्यक्ती से व्यक्तित्व की राह बहुत सरल बनाई..



**Nupur Nandini**  
3rd Year Honours,  
Department of Sociology



# *Mundane Charade To Triumphant*

Fuzzy, Vague realities  
Having drawn me into an obscured city,  
That's all I mused;  
The musings of my heart were hurt once,  
When it all began.  
My sociological imagination was hazy,  
The tunnel's end was far off.

But a year has been through,  
Healthy Narcissist is what I have evolved to;  
Erratic and Capricious as life is in itself,  
And blessed as I am,  
Having broken the fetters of my complexes.



**Suchitra**

2nd Year Honours,  
Department of Sociology



# थोड़ा और समय

खुद को अब मनाना पड़ता है  
हर रोज़ याद दिलाना पड़ता है

हा वो इतने ही पल थे  
वो आज नहीं, वो कल थे॥

वह कॉलेज का पहला दिन , वो पहली सी बाते  
सब छूट जाएँगी ,  
फिर हमे वही टीचरस की डॉट और अनवर भाई  
की चाय याद आएगी॥

जब मिल बैठते थे यार तीन  
बाते होती थी बेहतरीन  
ना थी कोई चिंता , ना कोई परवाह  
फिर क्यों खतम हो रहे है यह दिन बेपरवाह॥

दोस्त , होस्टल और मस्ती  
सब यही छूट जाएगी  
थोड़े दिनों में तो यारो ,  
हमारी विदायगी ही आजाएगी ॥

दिल में आजकल बस यही शोर है  
दिल में आजकल बस यही शोर है  
क्यों खतम हो रहा है यह रास्ता  
क्यों अब हमारी मंज़िल कुछ और है॥



दिल टूटता है यह सोचकर  
कितनों को आखिरी दफ़ा देखेंगे,  
पर वाजिद यही जिंदगी है  
अभी तो बस शुरुवात है , इस राह में तो अभी  
हम और विपदा से मिलेंगे॥

अब मन करता है  
दो पल और जीलू ,  
मन करता है  
दो पल और जीलू ,  
वो हसीन लहमो का शरबत  
थोड़ा और पीलू , थोड़ा और पीलू॥



**Nimisha**  
3rd Year Honours,  
Department of Sociology

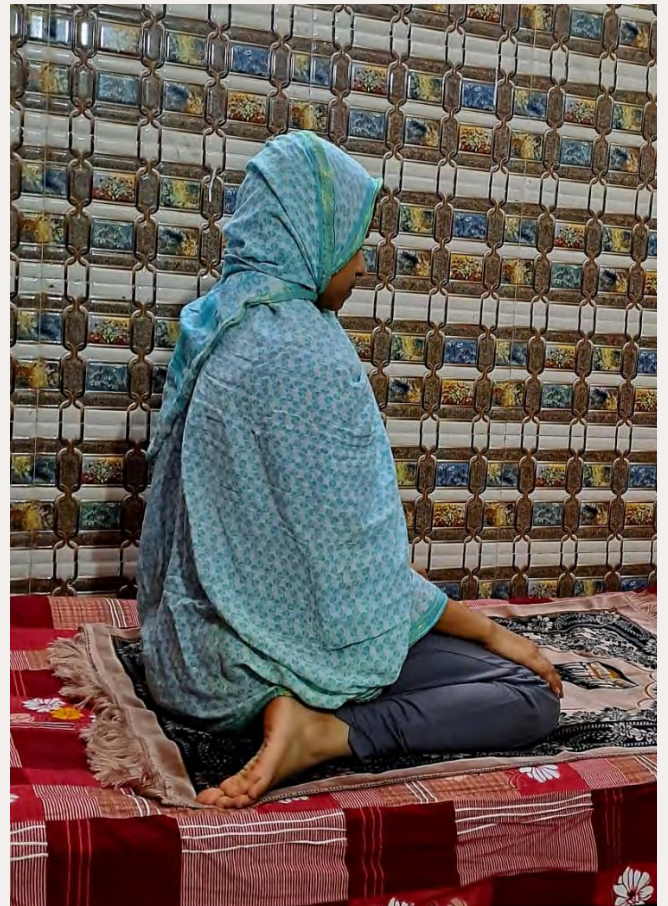
# *Telling Tales*



# Ramadan Kareem at 156, Satya Niketan

*After spending the whole day under the vast and vibrant culture of Delhi, you reach your PG. Within the four walls, you light the incense sticks of your own culture, and in no time, the weight of the day starts melting away, along with the ash from the sticks you have burnt. You are not in your home and it doesn't feel like home, but you don't mind the idea of making a tiny replica of whatever is close to that of your home.*

From offering namaz with your family to just prostrating solitarily.



From eating a variety of dishes prepared by mum after breaking the fast, to simply eating to break the fast.



Crazily decorating every inch of the house with flowers...



... to just using sketch pens and paper to create an 'Eid vibe' in your PG.



# Life of a PG Girl

*When you finally have to let go of that cotton veil of your mother's dupatta, and you don't have her around to throw tantrums like a child anymore, you gulp the bitter shot of adulthood to sustain yourself, in a new city, far far away from home.*

Forcing oneself to make food for survival in PG.



Buying fruits and vegetables for yourself because you do not have your father around to do the same for you.

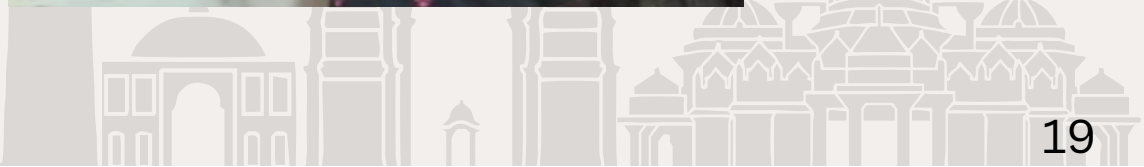




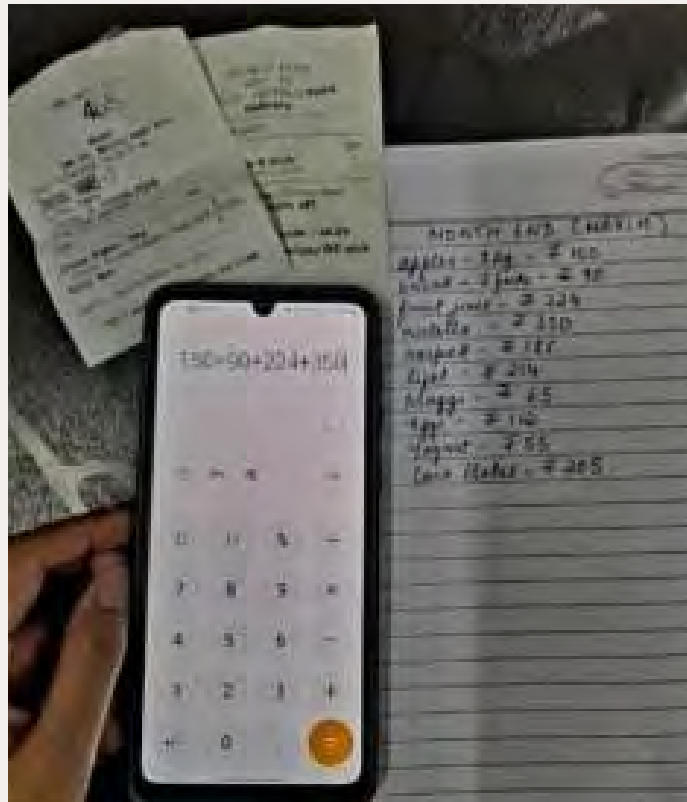
Buying medicines for yourself while running high fever because all you have is you.



Fixing lightbulbs yourself because you do not have an extra buck to give to your electrician.



Month end demands the calculations of the money spent and the beginning of the month signals internship opportunities.



# एक नजर अथवा नजारा दिल्ली से निकेतन का भी

कितनी अटपटी सी बात है.

संपूर्ण जगत. जो एक ही चादर द्वारा स्वयं को समेटे हुए है  
लेकीन फिर भी आपस में इतना भेद प्रकटे हुए है. ।





सूरज भी कभी किसी का साथ तो कभी किसी की तन्हाई लेकर आता है।





एक बार मैं भीड़ के खोफ से घर की तरफ मुड़ कर देखा।





सच में, दिल्ली बदलती निगाहों का शहर है।





मंजिल के घुन में यह अब कहा निकल जाए जहा रास्ते ही रास्ते नजर आते हैं।



*Did you know, the  
inspiration behind the  
Taj Mahal is  
Humayun's Tomb?*

The  
architecture  
of the Taj Mahal  
was inspired by Humayun's  
Tomb located in  
Nizamuddin.





# *From the faculty*



# *Education and the university: The Quest for Knowledge or the Quest for Employment?*

I often come across a particular question from the students regarding the discipline of sociology, “What is the scope, sir”. Hearing this question from the first year students might get one confused because every discipline has some ‘scope’ in the sense of ‘nature and scope’ of the discipline. However, this is not what the students wish to know. The intention behind asking this question is to know the various possibilities in which the students can pursue their career after having graduated from the discipline. And in response to this question I reflect upon some of the avenues of employment after graduating from Sociology. I encounter the same question again when the students are in the final year of their graduation and at this juncture I give the same answer. When I ask them why they are worried about ‘scope’, they tell me that the students of other disciplines have so many opportunities and they also get selected through placement agencies but they (my students) don’t have the same. Though the question is highly pragmatic, here I tend to take a mixed approach of morality + pragmatism. I tell them that we are in such a discipline whose founding principles arose in reaction against pragmatism. The nature of our discipline is reformatory. We train the students to be better human beings, we train them to realize the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity. I also assure them that they would definitely be able to make their career and should not be worried about the employment situation.

Every time I encounter such an episode I am forced to think why it is that education is considered only as a means for employment as the final end. Education is a great liberator. It liberates one out of the bondages of ignorance. It directs us to understand the pain and suffering of others. It channels our understanding to make sense of the discrimination, exploitation and inequalities, and it propels us to internalize critical attitudes and resist all forms of oppression, exploitation and inequalities. When we associate education with employment then we tend to reduce the meaning of education only to technical requirements (literacy) for any particular role, the performance which would give certain remuneration to the performer.

This is just one of the aspects of the broader philosophy of education and looking at it practically, it is important too for the livelihood of individuals. However, society does not survive merely by earning livelihood. There needs to be fraternity and cohesion in the society for any kind of progress. For a long time, education was a luxury which was available only to specific sections of the Indian society. The absence of education led to the servile status of a large section of Indian population. In the nineteenth century, educationists like Phule made great efforts to spread education among those sections who have been hitherto denied access to it. The envisioners of modern India knew about the importance of education and this is why after the democratic modernization of Indian society, institutions like schools and colleges were made de jure accessible to everyone.

Though de jure access to education does not necessarily lead to de facto access to education. The data on literacy, drop out, availability of schools in remote areas, and availability of teachers and infrastructure in these schools tells us that we have a long way to go, though we have made some strides forward since independence. When I look back at my school time and when I compare it with my time at the university, I feel that the critical attitude which I referred to earlier is somehow missing at school level. I remember how we used to focus more and more on the percentage of marks we have to attain to be something in life. ‘Merit’ (80 percent of marks) used to be the target and schools used to publicize how many of their students were in the merit list. My friends and classmates were devoting most of their time in preparing for the competitive examinations like AIEEE and JEE etc.

Those who were not preparing for these exams were worried about getting a particular percentage so that they could get admitted in Higher Education Institutions. I feel the idea of criticality got lost somewhere in between.



At the same time education here meant technical requirements for getting a job. It is only when I reached the university system, I started looking at things from different angles.

The idea of a university is to impart education which is scientific, and impartial in character. The university education is aimed at not filling the minds of the students with facts and theories but calling forth the individuality of the students. The objective of university education is the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. The university education aims not only at information but also at awareness (See Alvin Gouldner's "The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology"). The university education stands for reason, tolerance and humanity. Hence, the university education inculcates sociological imagination (See Charles Wright Mills' "Sociological Imagination") among the students. When students enter within the spaces of the university system then they come across all these ideas a university stands for. Students get the opportunity to explore, debate and discuss even all those ideas which are not part of the curriculum. A university is a space which imparts universal knowledge. It transcends the boundaries of geographical regions. At present when the information and communication revolution has fully embraced all aspects of human lives, even the ideas originating thousands of miles away find immediate takers in the universities. Many of these ideas are internalized by the students and then used in the nation building process. The complexity and heterogeneity increases at the university level. The students come across various other students with different dialects, different language, different food habits, and different thought processes than their own. Such encounters have a very high potential to develop a sense of accommodation and with the knowledge of university to develop fraternity among them. University is a space which teaches that education is transformatory and reformatory in nature. It changes you for better. It is not only a means to attain a job.

When I look at my own experiences and the experiences of all those with whom I had interacted during my stay at the university as a student, it reveals that the ability to look at various social, political and economic processes differently starts developing at this level. The critical attitude which I referred to earlier starts developing here. According to the All India Survey on Higher Education 2020-21, there are 1099 Universities and 41600 recognized colleges in India.

When the students enter these spaces of higher education, on the one hand they undergo transformation in their thinking process, on the other hand they have to deal with the practical pressure of building a career and working in that direction.

It is at this juncture the students might develop the tendency to understand education only as a means to build a career though they are in the university system. I think, at this juncture, it becomes the responsibility of the teachers to teach them how to maintain a balance between education as a quest for career and education as a quest to become better human beings and better citizens. By better human being I mean having understanding about the pain and sufferings of others, respecting the rights of others, not relegating the rights of others to periphery for one's comfort, not imposing one's views on others, and having a critical understanding. By better citizen I mean those individuals who not only have awareness about their rights and duties but who are also ready to exercise their rights as and when time demands.

In the preceding paragraph, I had mentioned that university space allows amalgamation of various cultures. This kind of amalgamation can be seen most vividly in central universities of Delhi. Delhi is considered as one of the biggest educational hubs in India. There are seven central universities in Delhi and some of these are the best when it comes to quality education at affordable prices. Among these seven central universities, University of Delhi has a special place because this is the only central university in Delhi which has affiliated colleges. These colleges attract students immediately after schooling from all over the country every year. It is these students who give diversity and beauty to the University of Delhi.

Every year when I take the first lecture of the first year, I ask my students to tell their particular geographical regions in their introduction. And after everyone finishes introducing themselves, I tell them not to take me as a regionalist as the purpose of asking regions is to know the diversity of the class. I strongly believe that it is this rich diversity of the students which has contributed to the growth and progress of the University. A mere observation is sufficient to tell that all those places which have had diversity and heterogeneity of population have contributed immensely more for the progress and peace of human civilization than those which are homogeneous. The cultural diversity in any educational institution or classroom not only brings new perspectives but also makes the learning experience richer for both teacher and the teacher.

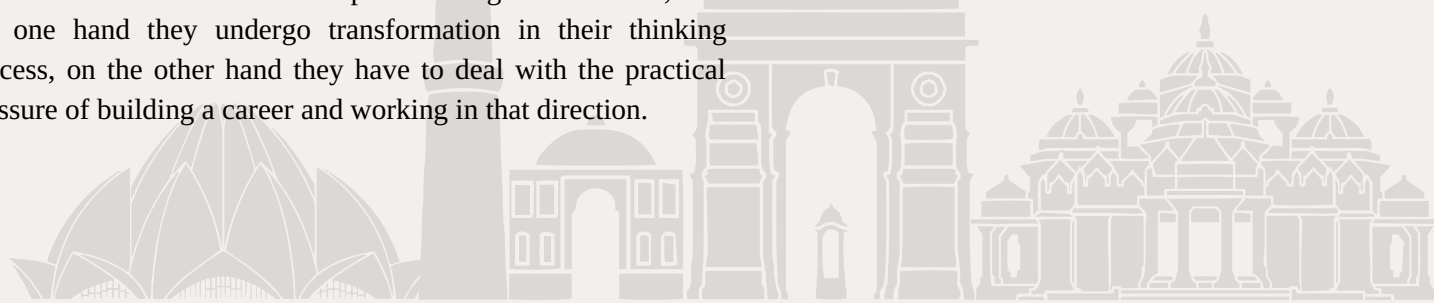




Image credit: Sayali V Shinde

Now at the end, I again come to the same question with which I started- the tendency to take education only as a means for employment. I can understand that in the contemporary competitive capitalist world the pressure of getting a job and earning livelihood after completion of formal education creates anxiety and stress among the students. However, as a teacher of the university system I strongly feel that our task does not end by merely giving facts and theories to students and completing the syllabus on time. The role of a university/college teacher is of a mentor; to make the student learn how to navigate between difficult choices, how to take a road which is less traveled by, how not to take education only as a means of attaining a technical qualification for a job, and how to understand oneself better. I remember once telling my students that if by the end of college education you feel that you are not the same person who came to the college in the first year, you have changed for better, you can now understand things from various perspectives and you are able to analyze things critically even though you do not have any job, then the purpose of education is met and we would consider ourselves successful.



**Dr. Neeraj Kumar**

Assistant Professor, Department of  
Sociology, Maitreyi College,  
University of Delhi



# चेहरे पे सारे शहर के गर्द-ए-मलाल है जो दिल का हाल है वही दिल्ली का हाल

मलिकज़ादा मंज़रु अहमद

If you love knowledge, Delhi gives you her libraries and Universities;

If you love art, Delhi gives you her galleries and monuments;

If you love life, Delhi gives you her syncretic culture.

This city is a melting pot of differences and diversities, yet amalgamates and beats as a single heart. Delhi is a longing, Delhi is love, Delhi is maturing into an individual you never knew you could be! She teaches you the harshness of life through her difficult weather fluctuations, yet she makes you fall in love with adversities. You learn that difficulties are sometimes the greatest stepping stones of learning. She welcomes all the learners and moulds them into achievers.

Here, everyone is a student in the greater journey called "life". You learn, unlearn and eventually evolve. And Delhi remains in you as a warm summer sunset whose lasting impression seems nothing less than sheer poetry.



**Dr. Bijayani Mishra**

Assistant Professor, Department  
of Sociology, Maitreyi College,  
University of Delhi



# *No caging, Gilded or what, Free minds cannot get immured*

With these lines emerges a question in the mind: what do humans do between birth and death? The answer is they create: ideas, dreams and art. Freedom to create lies in our titanic thoughts/ideas, the major driving force to lead life, which are the seeds which disseminate knowledge when they grow in the right direction. As a titanic force, our thoughts decide our feelings and state of mind: shackled vs. liberated & vulnerable vs. armed. Our vision and self-realisation help us in stripping the layers of predetermined identity away and truly shape us in what we envisage us to be. What is needed alongside the self-realisation is the idea of courage or change to be inculcated and floated freely in all human beings to transcend the circumstances and rewrite the stories as an individual first and later to construct the societies. The history is full of stories of courage in a constricted world; all it demanded was courage to believe the ideas to break free from the shackles of expectations, old conditioning and rise above the labels which try to define our identity.

The light of emancipation to decide the right direction comes from education which guides our thoughts that no shackles of domination/control/power could suffocate the liberated soul within. We don't just have to break the centuries old glass ceilings prevalent in the every part of the world in the forms of domestic violence, rapes, low wages, discrimination, and underestimation but need to annihilate them to rise above them.

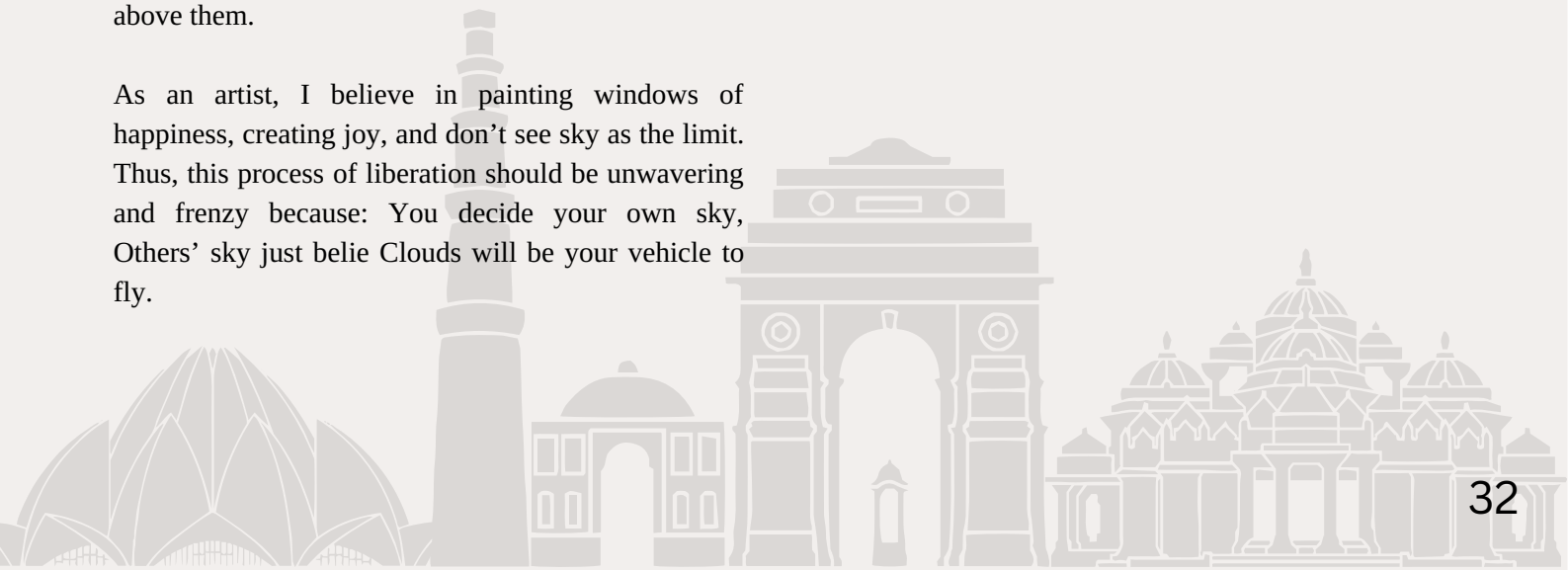
As an artist, I believe in painting windows of happiness, creating joy, and don't see sky as the limit. Thus, this process of liberation should be unwavering and frenzy because: You decide your own sky, Others' sky just belie Clouds will be your vehicle to fly.

We all have the capability of creating our own skies in the form of liberating our souls by expanding our creativity, stretching our dreams, and realising our potential. For true Freedom, all it takes is self-realisation of the fundamental purpose we want to pursue. If we can internally determine and prevent what stops us from chasing our dreams, we set ourselves truly free.



**Dr. Pooja Gopal**

Assistant Professor, Department of  
Political Science, Maitreyi College,  
University of Delhi



# University Special

On a hot summer day my dad took me to his old college, St. Stephen's. He showed me the Shefali tree which blooms gently in autumn which he had planted when he was a student himself. He introduced me to his history teachers. 'This is a place of learning and romance', he said. He took me to the library, to the office and then we had the famous nimbupani at the stall. That was my introduction to a college for the first time. Later I studied at Lady Shri Ram college.

Those were wonderful years. We wore saris on special occasions and bought matching bangles from the churiwaali who helped us select accessories. The day started with a prayer to Lord Brahma at 8.30 in the morning. We were ragged a little by our seniors- who made us sing and dance, but we became friends for a lifetime. After classes we waited in a line outside the reference section door which opened at 1.30 in the afternoon for the 'overnight' book. We reserved our place in the line with empty bags as we went off for lunch!! I remember bursting into tears when I realized that my friend's bag had slipped ahead of mine under the door. She secured the only book on Bismarck which was in the reference section. There were no photos photostat machines in those days. All notes were carefully handwritten. If a friend was absent we used carbon paper and copied class notes for her.

Festivals were special. How we dressed up, painted our nails and enjoyed events in which students from all over the university participated with great enthusiasm. We ganged up to cheer the college team and booed at the opponents team with great gusto. Going to the University by U special buses was a different life. It was a bit lonely for off-campus students in the beginning. Friends kept space as we trooped in. If one was not quick enough we enjoyed the half hour drive to college anyway. Those in love preferred to stand with their friends. Singers sang according to the season or the mood. Notes, books, looks were all exchanged. If one special was missed we caught up with the one from the neighborhood area.

One fine day we heard that a photostat machine had appeared in the Central Library. We had to fill forms, pay and wait for two days and get xeroxed copies of chapters from books. The machine was in an isolated confidential part of the reference section. We were not allowed inside. Much later while searching for the attendant and many requests we actually got to see what the machine actually looked like and the marvel it was! The noodles and thukpa at the Arts Faculty gate, bhel puri, aloo chat, all along the main drain was the best in Delhi. Kamla Nagar for chaat, chhole kulche were venues for birthday treats. The tea and samosa at the neighboring law faculty was the way to begin the day. Dosa and coffee at Indian coffee house and cheese omelet was for special occasions with of course those special friends. Yet the 1.30, 2.30 and 3.30 U-special had to be caught back home. Our friends and even professors ran to reserve seats for us. We let lovebirds sit or stand together. They invariably got down halfway for more cosy times together. Visiting Tibetan Dhabas opposite ISBT was compulsory, so was watching movies at Batra cinema, or the ones in Connaught place. On birthdays we treated our friends to ice cream cones and Nirulas pizza was a very special occasion. Then we caught the buses for our respective homes at Jantar Mantar.

All too soon post graduation came to an end. Competitive exams, the search for jobs, marriage for some brought the romance in our lives to a stop. University of Delhi has expanded beyond measure. The flower show goes on, romance flourishes, the xerox machine is no longer an enigma, life goes on.



**Dr. Ranjana Bhattacharya**  
Associate Professor, Department  
of History, Maitreyi College,  
University of Delhi

*Did you know, Delhi Metro Platforms are equipped to aid the visually impaired?*

The yellow tiled tracks in Delhi's metro stations help people with visual impairment find their way to the desired location.





# आपकी यूनिवर्सिटी, आपका शहर

*Special Feature*



# Mapping Delhi, its University and Colleges

**500** PROGRAMMES  
209 likely to be  
NAAC accredited

**69** ACRES  
campus area

REGULAR STUDENTS

**750**  
STUDENTS IN 1922

**80**  
DEPARTMENTS



# *In conversation*



**Interviewers: Vanshika, Debarati Mitra and Sushree Mukherjee**

**Photography credits: Arisha and Suchitra**

**Transcribing credits: Sadhvi, Hoshangi, Bhaswati, Aditi, Divyanshi, Rashi, Prapti, Tavishi, Arushi, Megha, Ritu, Sujita, Tanishka, Barkha, Rushali, Drishti, Sheilnandini, Manimso, Swikriti, Kavita, Jahnavi, Taanisi**

**Image credit: Tanya Gupta  
3rd-Year Honours, Department of Sociology**

# Principals

*The head of an institution is always a mysterious character- so glorious and charismatic yet so far away. In the case of our University, it has to be our Principals. The demystification of this position and taking a sneak peek into the life of the person behind the post is exactly what this segment does. Afterall, even though they are revered figures, they still have a fun side to them.*

## **Prof Haritma Chopra, Principal, Maitreyi College**

*How do you think the meaning of education, career and life has evolved?*

**Principal ma'am:** My parents played a major role in deciding my career. They wanted me to take up teaching as a career. While pursuing my master program, my friends and people around me were instrumental in helping me make a decision for opting for college teaching as a career as this will respect my parents feelings and at the same time will provide me enough opportunities to engage with the youth, society and contribute to nation building.

Over the past few decades, participation of girls in deciding their career graph has increased significantly. The major reason being exponential increase in the awareness drives conducted by various educational institutions and self awareness because of extensive use of technology.

*How do you think the student-teacher relationship has changed over the years?*

**Principal ma'am:** The role of a college teacher has evolved significantly through the years. They are not only teachers but mentors, researchers, in charge of various activities and are responsible for a large array of important things. Their workload is continually increasing but they are learning new things and equipping themselves in the best way possible to teach and mentor the students. The best example of this is how they went from blackboard teaching to teaching through a laptop in a small span of time during COVID. The teachers deserve appreciation for this and the same thing is applicable to the non teaching staff. Even in adverse conditions of the lockdown, the administration staff was working around the clock to facilitate admissions of 3000 students and conduct online examinations.



Image source: maitreyi.ac.in

Even though the teachers witnessed an exponential growth in their batch sizes while they were adapting to technology, they have beautifully managed to keep in touch with the students and retain an organic student-teacher relationship. Their ability to attune their pedagogical practices to the needs of a current time and generation need to be acknowledged and appreciated.

*In today's world, what are the ethics and values one should have in order to excel at academic and professional life?*

**Principal ma'am:** Education does not only involve acquisition of knowledge, it also extends to building one's ability to inculcate certain values such as compassion, humility and humbleness. These values help in not only individual growth but also in growth of one's and other's knowledge. When we share knowledge, it increases. If we keep it to ourselves, it will become extinct because nobody would get to know about it. One should always make sure they acknowledge everyone and do not hesitate to apologize if needed. One should always thank God for not giving us those things that we had asked for because those things might not be good for us. We never think about these things, we only feel that we didn't get this thing and we never think. So, we should be happy with what we have and approach life with certain values in order to excel at it.

*What is your favorite spot on campus?*

**Principal ma'am:** My favorite spot was lab 3 as most of the classes assigned to me were scheduled in lab 3 and instrumentation lab. I enjoyed teaching there with a regular supply of tea being prepared in the lab by the Lab Staff. But for the past six years, my favorite place is my office. Through this office, I have been able to connect with every individual who is part of Maitreyi Kutumb.

## ***Professor Bijaylakshmi Nanda, Principal, Miranda House***

*What was your first point of contact, when you joined as a student ?*

**Principal ma'am:** I joined as a student but I joined in the m phil department of political science. I came from odisha from Utkal University. I was a gold medalist there. However, when I came here I realized that it doesn't really matter, you are a gold medalist in your home state. In Delhi, everyone is a gold medalist. When they come to DU, that's the kind of dream you have to deal with. So I came here with the entrance test i.e. written test. I cleared that. Then I started kind of being part of that dream and met some very important professors, especially those whose books I have read. I met them here. When I completed my Mphil and submitted, I got a job here, in Miranda house. I had cleared my UGC Net exam. So the journey is not so long in that very sense. I joined Miranda house in 1993 and it's 30 years now.



Image credit: Prof (Dr) Jayashree Pillai

*Ma'am when you were a student here in DU or you were a teacher here for that matter, did you ever see yourself as a principal of Miranda house?*

**Principal ma'am:** So when I was a student, definitely not. My father is a civil servant and the idea was that I was doing something that was basically in transition and I would ultimately do UPSC. Teaching was seen as that priority like plan B but when I started teaching here I enjoyed it so much and I saw myself as a quintessential teacher. I did a very late PhD because I was so much into teaching and being with my Students and writing textbooks and trying to understand pedagogy, understanding the non-hierarchical Learning Systems. I was completely steeped in it. In fact, I was always saying how do people become principal? It's really a very difficult job and why would anybody do that? Teaching is much better but like the same Never Say Never. But once I came here, I realized you can do so much more, especially if you believe in ideas of equality, believe in non hierarchical systems. I thought this post might tie me down. In the beginning, I thought I was not cut out for it because that's how you see it. I have to act soft, I have to be non-hierarchical, I am too emotional. Then I realized that's exactly what within the feminist discourse is.

One thing I learned is that Let's say what is your biggest passion? So when I was with students, my biggest passion was to look at inclusion. To see How we could all have equal conversations, is it possible for me to translate that as an administrator? You are rule bound to some extent but nothing stops you as an administrator to have equal conversations, to have empathy. So just while I was doing it unfortunately covid happened and Covid made me realize that empathetic leadership is the way to go. And it gave me a lot of strength that I am actually not on the wrong path and you could create paths for yourself.

*What has been your vision as the principal of Miranda house?*

**Principal ma'am:** This is a legendary institution. The legacy is surpassing who and what I am, what I can do to it. So one thing is to sustain that legacy. The legacy of women's leadership, the legacy of excellence, striving for that, sustaining it. Also, since it is a woman's only space, like your college too, so how can we make it more enabling? More, you know, how it can contribute, not just within, but outside. How can we have those conversations outside? What are the things that we could do? So now the vision of the college is to look at the National Education policy and how we can dynamically align ourselves with that. The other part of the vision is to see to it that we are into climate action, because that's the most important thing for the world, for everyone. So looking at sustainability, looking at sustainable growth and empowering women to do that is a win win. So we have both.

*How do you think student and teacher relationships have changed over the years given the fact that most students have evolved as individuals?*

**Principal ma'am:** I would say that every generation has its own kind of evolution story. They have evolved with their different learning systems. I think when I used to go to a class and I had read something original and I had a larger hold over the students. Now, the student is skeptical because she can just go on and search Google and read that up but ultimately it is in the conversations you have, it's in the discussions you have, it's in the way you connect and every teacher has to develop a pedagogy. I mean you have to develop a very interesting, stimulating environment for teaching and learning. Young people don't have time. They can do so much more so teachers have to earn the privilege of the time of students. In some ways they were captive, but now they can learn everything from the internet, youtube, there are a lot of lectures which are very well established lectures. So redundancy is pretty much there and teachers have to really work and develop their own sensibilities and it should not be talking down at all.

Teachers must recognise that they have to earn the privilege of their students and for that we really have to develop because now students are exposed to so much more. We can't have that generational gap question. The teachers aren't younger by the day also so I think that's also nice because wisdom has its own strength, we can break all of that but Sensitivity, compassion, kindness and clearly understanding what is it to have equal conversation. Very few people understand that. They think to do it but they don't. Even parents as well everyday you'll have to rethink. There's so much to learn from students from those conversations.

*If you could give a message to the people who would read the interview. What would it be?*

**Principal ma'am:** My message would be to listen and be more empathetic and I think everything else is a footprint.



## ***Professor Manoj Kumar Khanna, Principal, Ramjas College***

*What is your vision for Ramjas College?*

**Principal sir:** Our vision for Ramjas college is holistic education, freedom for academic research for under-graduate level, research centers are also being created in college. We are promoting awareness of sustainable environment, discipline with confined ideas without absolute freedom. New ideas and innovations are welcomed. Heading towards 2047 we are promoting skills, startups, we also want to create entrepreneurs with the best mind. We also want to promote powerful youth who would lead the world afterwards.

*According to you, what is the difference between Ramjas college before and now?*

**Principal sir:** Before the 1980s, our college was at the top, some challenges came in between. However, past old glory is being restored now. There is a financial transparent system. We are focusing on 3R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). We are aiming towards how to utilize money and not waste it. We have also produced maximum civil servants in the country and judicial members too. There have been a lot of changes now. Like there is less respect for teachers by students. As students are dominating on social media they are losing control of themselves. Covid is also one reason for this. Social media was the only situation. In reality there is a tussle between digital life and real life.



Image credit: Sushree Mukherjee

*What is your first contact with University Of Delhi?*

**Principal sir:** I, myself am the alumni of Ramjas college. Being financially weak at that time, Ramjas college provided me the platform to study, to work.

*When you joined Ramjas college, was it in your mind to return to this college as a Faculty?*

**Principal sir:** Yes, I wanted to do teaching. I was also a member of the academic council.

*What is the one message you want to send to this generation?*

**Principal sir:** This generation is full of talents, ideas and energy. They are misguided at times. They have to be morally and ethically strong. They also have to build up decision-making power. Their energy needs to be channelized.

*Who has been your support system in this University?*

**Principal sir:** For me student's satisfaction is important. When the name of a student comes for good work is a matter of pride for me and the entire college. I feel proud when UG level students compete with PG level students in research. For me connection with students is important.

*What is your favorite spot of this college?*

**Principal sir:** I would say it is the college grounds.

## ***Professor John Verghese, Principal, St. Stephen College***

*What was your first point of Contact with DU? How do you come into DU? Did you join here as a student or as a faculty? How do you come to know about DU? How did you join DU?*

**Principal Sir:** I am going to take you back to 1991, you were not born that time. That is when I first came here to St. Stephen College. I had not come to Delhi before that I was born and brought up in Chennai then it was called Madras. I was also a block tutor, in St. Stephen's College we have a system of block tutorship where a teacher is attached to a residence block and they take care of the residence. So that is how I came to St. Stephen and to Delhi and that is way back in 1991.

*What are the changes from then till now? What are some changes that still strike you the most?*



Image source: [www.theweek.in](http://www.theweek.in)

**Principal Sir:** One of the striking things about college is that we have a lot younger women in college. In the 90s we did not have any residence facilities for our female students but now of the six residence blocks we have three for women so that is a big change and it's a change in the right direction. When I came as a principal in 2016, it was very perceptible the changes which happened and the changes which did not happen. Changes and the absence of changes were very striking. There are some things which have not changed, one of the things was the fact that changes in the curriculum till last year are so minimal and hardly significant. But I am very happy that in some ways the NEP has brought good things.

*What is your vision for the college?*

**Principal Sir:** My vision for college is that we continue to be the pioneers in this University. The College is older than University by more than 40 years. my vision is that while we have continued to set the trend for university, so that St. Stephen College by the grace of God and by the hard work of students and because of the efforts of teachers we have a very good set of students. We have got a set of students who are known all over the World. We want to continue that trend. And now we want to take it a few notches higher, which means doing things which have not been seen in the University before.

Sir, what is your favorite spot here in the college?

**Principal Sir:** I spend most of my time in this office. All of this keeps me busy right from morning till evening. But a favorite spot is sometimes going and standing under that painting, or going and taking a look at this photograph. It's a very old photograph from the 1930s and it is the photograph of the person who sits outside the principal's office. It is not a king or principal or a great teacher or anybody. He's just an ordinary person but his photograph is put there because he did his job well in the face of opposition, his name is Qamaruddin. He was a bishti of the college whose job was to provide water to the muslim students of the college. During the time, water supply to Hindus and Muslims were different, thus it was a daring step on his part to go against conventions and provide water to the students overlooking their faith and religion. it's something we must learn from, we must do our duties and do it the right way irrespective of whether there is opposition whether we understand or not we must be guided by what is right. a painting of one of our teachers here, C.F. Andrews, painted by Abanindra Nath Tagore. He was the teacher who went to Bombay to bring Gandhiji when he came from South Africa to lead the Indian Freedom Movement. He decided that he could not stand the inequalities that he saw in India and so he gave up his teaching position and went along with Rabindra Nath Tagore to serve the people. He is even buried in Shanti Niketan. It is a life of service from here to there. It's a life of service and these are big lessons for whoever occupies this chair and our students as well.



*In regards to your own college life, what are your fondest memories?*

**Principal Sir:** My own college life was not here, my college life was down south, a place called Loyola College, there I did my bachelors and masters and then went to Madras Christian College to do my M.Phil. It was fun because we had a wonderful curriculum, we had text which were not prescribed anywhere else, we had wonderful teachers who gave us the freedom to explore, to find out, to read extensively and to be very critical of what we wanted to put down and be very creative as well so my college life was fun. I made wonderful friends with whom I am still in touch. Good time.

*What message would you want to send to the students?*

**Principal Sir:** I want the students to enjoy their college life, enjoy it in every positive way. They should explore the curriculum because knowledge is for what they have come to college and their respective institutions for. They must make most out of it and most colleges have wonderful teachers so teachers should be approached. They should be asked to help the students to gain more knowledge. The students should have fun, make lots of friends, and they should make their time in college really memorable both inside the class and outside the class.



# Joint Registrar

*One of the most important parts of the university is the Administration, which often goes unappreciated. The past few decades have witnessed massive growth in terms of administrative support. From the transition of the whole University to online mode due to COVID, to six month long semesters being shortened to four month long semesters, one constant support was the administration. The excerpts from this interview looks at the administration closely and allows us to appreciate it more.*

## **Mr. Ankyaan Krishnan Prakash, Joint Registrar of South Campus**

*University of Delhi has completed its 100 years and is in no doubt, no of the top universities of India. What do you have to say about the University as its Deputy Registrar of South Campus?*

**A.K.Prakash:** Delhi University is celebrating its 100 years of completion. So many programs are going on in and out of the university including South Campus as well as the North Campus. This university was established during 1922. So many people in this country are alumni of this place, even tomorrow we are having a centenary alumni people celebration.

Delhi university has around 90 affiliated colleges and in that, 68 colleges are taken care by the university as construal colleges. In those 68 colleges, we have around 12 university maintained colleges which are directly controlled by the university. There are 24 Trust colleges, we have around 32 Delhi administration colleges.

Many people may not know how many colleges there are in the university. These 68 colleges are catering education to the students from the entire country on PG courses, UG course as well as M.Phil and Ph.D, all these things. Approximately, in Delhi University, around seventy-thousands seats are there for direct people, I mean for full-time courses. Around one-lakh twenty thousand SOL students, around 23-30 thousands students for the Non-Collegiate Women Education Board. This type of breakup is put together including M.Phil, PhD students somewhere around 7 lakhs students are there, biggest in the country. For example, there are 42 central universities; Delhi University is on one side and 41 central universities are on the other side. So ours is a unique system in which we take care of college administration also. Out of 68 colleges we have 20 women colleges and 8 evening colleges under Delhi university. In 20 women colleges, there are 6 colleges in South Campus and around 5 colleges of evening colleges under the administrative control of South Campus. There are totally 25 colleges under the administrative control of South Campus and 43 colleges under the administrative control of North Campus. One of the women's colleges- Maitreyi College, which is a great college, established in 1967. You should be happy for being associated with the college and the college is really doing well and I can say that the controversy is almost nil in the college when compared to other places which are little aggressive. I was associated with the previous principal Savita Dutta Ji, she has contributed a lot to the college and now Haritma Chopra Ji is also contributing well. Recently NIRF ranking as well as accreditation ranking has come which has secured A++ which is great and good courses are being conducted like B.Sc, Honors courses, B.A.program, B.Com is also there. Students are also very good.

How does the college function in Delhi University? Like, who all are the power sectors in the colleges? For example, colleges are controlled by the governing bodies. Governing body has a Chairman, Treasurer (who takes care of the finances), Principal is also a member then is an Administrative Officer. There are two teacher representatives along with, in the Delhi administration colleges there will be 10 members, 5 members from the university side and 5 members from the Delhi administration side. The complete administrative, academic and finances is controlled by the governing body of the college. Even for colleges, appointing authority for all teaching and non-teaching staff is a governing body only. Principal also gets appointed after the completion of 5 years tenure extendable to another one year of tenure. And for Principal appointment there is a committee called APEX committee in Delhi University. Once the selection is done at college level three names will go to the university, then the university will have its APEX body and they give the recommendation; accordingly principals are getting appointed. Rest of the



Image credit: Debarati Mitra

procession like the teaching and non-teaching duly advertisements are given by the college, reservation rosters like SC, ST, OBC are being followed in admissions as well as recruitment which is being dealt by the college directly. So this is how the college functions.

*Sir, what was your first point of contact with DU? Did you join the working staff directly or were you an alumni of the university?*

**A.K.Prakash:** No, I will tell you how I landed here. I belong to the Saharsa community, Gujarat. Two-three hundred years back, my forefathers shifted towards the south. I was born and brought up in Tamil Nadu, got married in Karnataka, settled in Andhra Pradesh and now I am in Delhi. For sometime I was in Kolkata and Pondicherry also. Myself and my family speak six languages, we move around. I started my career in 1992 in a private company for 14 years then from 1998, in the Government of India. I was associated with the department of Biotechnology, Hyderabad and worked there for almost 10 years. My wife was a Kendriya Vidyalaya teacher. She is now the HM there. When she was in Chennai, I was in Hyderabad, we could not stay together while working so we got an opportunity - If we move to Delhi we could live together. This was the reason I applied for Delhi University and during 2008 I was fortunate enough to be appointed as Deputy Registrar, previously I was a finance officer in a former institution. Since 2013, I have been the Joint Registrar.

*So it was kind of fate, kind of planned..*

**A.K.Prakash:** One is planned, another one is commitment towards your work. Entering Delhi University is not an easy job because it is a central university and there is a lot of competition from all over the country. You need to put in hard effort and you should be really bright to enter this type of place. During 2008, heavy competition was there. Thanks to elders' blessings, self-commitment towards work and everything worked together.

*Sir, you have been associated with the university for more than 15 years. How would you say that it has grown in these years in the administrative sense, I mean has there been any developments on this front..?*

**A.K.Prakash:** There have been many developments, you must be hearing from the Government of India on digital platforms. I was associated with the School of Open Learning for almost 3 years. During 2014-2017, around 20 thousand students would come everyday, for various reasons; some people came for getting their degree, some for getting their books, some for getting the details from the teachers, some would come for payment of fees - each counter with 50-60 people then from morning till evening that entire road transport was halted. Girl students are more in SOL, they came with their parents who would stay outside in the scorching summer. So many challenges were being faced by the SOL, then digitization came, what I am talking about is 10 years back itself. Now students are not required to go to SOL, every student has been allotted a dashboard of whatever they want, payment of examination fee can be paid through this and so can one fetch softcopies of study material, even lectures are uploaded in the website. Now you need to go to SOL/ collegeonly for writing exams.

Similarly in the university, you can now make the fee payment online, submit the documents online and get a migration certificate online. A lot of changes have come in examinations because of COVID open book exam. In the last three years, within a click, around 1-2 lakh students have got their degree due to everything becoming digital. In these last ten years, the admission process is also brought under Central University Entrance Test, which was previously a merit-based system which favored some. The government thought there should be entrance based admission so that whoever qualifies for the entrance would get a seat. The changes have mostly come due to the adaptation of online platforms and everything becoming digital, providing equal opportunity to all, quality education and accessibility. These are all requirements under NEP which we are able to address quite efficiently.

*You are not originally from Delhi. So, after you moved here, did you like the city, did you like working here?*

**A.K.Prakash:** See when you are in a room, you should always be like water. When it is poured in the glass you should take the shape of the glass, when poured in a drum take the shape of drum or when poured in a tube take its shape. If you have that attitude, every place is great. I used to be that way only. I have seen 22 states in this country and every place is good. Since you specifically asked about Delhi, what is not there in Delhi? It is a great place to live in but there are a couple of issues such as pollution, extreme weather and the cost of living. If you can manage these issues, there is nothing like Delhi!

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# Faculty

*Teachers play a vital role in shaping the lives of students - be it in school, college or university. Their words have a lasting impact on us and are carried forth by us into our own lives. However, a lingering curiosity exists amongst students - with regard to their own teachers. Did they ever bunk classes? How did the college function during those days? How were their own teachers like as students?*

*In line with the theme of celebrating 100 years of the University of Delhi, this section celebrates the teachers of the University, exploring the University and Delhi as a city and how they helped in their growth, taking a sweet trip down memory lane.*

## **Dr Raj Kumar Bhardwaj, Librarian, St Stephen's College**

*Could you please share your experience of joining DU as a faculty?*

**Dr Bhardwaj:** Yes, of course. Its a very democratic setup, where one can share views and have healthy discussions. There are a variety of people from different places and cultural experiences. there are several libraries which help in creating quality content and inter-library loans are possible due to a large number of libraries. Lots of professionals participate in seminars and have fruitful discussions, which also help in the creation of quality content. I got a fellowship and visited the UK and other countries, in order to enrich the understanding of the subject. I got a fellowship and visited the UK and other countries, in order to enrich the understanding of the subject. The library in the college is open from Monday to Saturday; and is even open for a longer period of time during exams to help facilitate students.



Image credit: Suchitra

The library also provides a large number of E- books and E-resources which contributes to the students having access to a larger number of resources. The information-seeking habits of students and faculty have changed drastically after the COVID-19 Pandemic. So, libraries are providing services to the clientele and at the same time, libraries are allowing them to access E-resources. So, the library organises a research library programme. Recently, an own demand-information library, and an own demand-research library programme, have come in so that the small group can approach them to understand the nuances of research literacy.

*What are some of the changes that you have noticed since the time you joined DU?*

**Dr Bhardwaj:** There are gigantic buildings around here that were not visible before, like it's a part of structural changes. The number of events in DU have increased as well; more seminars and conferences take place as well. A revision of curriculum has happened as per the recent demands, that is, the changing scenario due to the NEP.

*What is the message that you would like to give to parents and students?*

**Dr Bhardwaj:** Apart from studying, look out of the curriculum, think out of the box. Make lots of friends and keep in touch with the faculty. Follow the Western students to enrich the understanding of the view. If there are times in which you don't feel like reading, the library is a good place to rush to and inculcate the inherent habit of reading.

## ***Dr. A.R. Tripathi, Guest Lecturer, Post Retirement, Department of Hindi, St Stephen's College***

*Sir, when did you join Delhi University as a member of faculty and as a student?*

**Dr Tripathi :** I joined DU in 1983. Earlier, I was in Zakir Hussain College for one year. Then I came here in 1984. Earlier I studied in Khalsa, then I came to Hindu College. I joined the University in 1973 and completed my graduation in 1976, M.A. in 1979. Then I did M. Phil from here and PhD in 1984.

*Okay. You were first here as a student and currently as a guest lecturer. I am sure that you must have observed a lot of changes - but are there any that catch your eye?*

**Dr. Tripathi:** When things change slowly, then more is known, probably we also keep changing accordingly. Because students keep coming everyday, so it doesn't seem like anything special.



Image credit: Suchitra

*Alright. Sir, you have studied in this university and you are teaching now, so what changes have you seen in the teacher-student relationship?*

**Dr. Tripathi:** A different kind of distance has been created and the main reason for this is the cell phone. This has weakened everyone's relation, not only the teacher, and along with it, the things used to be discussed in studies at that time, when there was no internet, we used to have a lot of discussions between the student and the teacher. Earlier there was the Annual Board Exam, there was an exam in which exams are conducted only once in a year, there was a long time for discussion on any topic, and for that children used to talk to the teacher, when there was no internet, the familiarity that used to be with the children is no longer there, even after asking the teacher. Instead, they go to the internet, search there, copy it, in which they also get caught. By the way, everything is near, but when the students had a desire to know from inside, then the teacher also liked it very much, he used to enjoy telling and explaining. It has become an invisible distance between us, now that affinity is not felt. Earlier there was a lot of affinity, now there is not. It is that earlier there was a lot of openness in the university, as it was seen that guards were sitting at the gate, earlier it was not like this, one could go anywhere in any way. We had to go to the university, Hindu have a gate in front and we used to enter from there and go to the university after coming out from behind. No one used to stop us, interrupt us, from going anywhere in any college. If we had to go to Kamla Nagar, we used to enter from the main building and leave from the gate, this is a short cut, and when we reached Kamla Nagar there was no guard. There used to be a wall of very low height, just one foot here and the other there and that's it..... Just the openness that was there and things like this coming in, it feels a bit strange, which wasn't there before.

## ***Professor Jayashree Pillai, Department of Political Science, Miranda House***

*Ma'am, when did you join DU as a faculty member?*

**Prof. Pillai :** Oh my god, it's 82..13th August 1982. So it is 41 years plus now. I'll be completing 42 years in August.

*What have you seen in the range of changes? How was it like back in 1980's and how is it like now? How is it different?*

**Prof. Pillai :** It's a very tough question. See, everything has changed and I would say, that time was also good and now we are in a better position so change has happened for the good.

If you start with the classroom, we used to have 35 students in one classroom and we knew every student individually. Now the classroom has become hundred and twenty, so with that you know the kind of limitations we do have, you know you don't get enough time to know each and every one, you know fully. Those days we knew every student, their problems, their family and everything. So that way there is a difference in the classroom, but otherwise and other changes if you would see, everything has bettered.

See we've scrolling rooms now, but then you know, there is more greenery. We used to have classes in the garden. So, I can not say that is good or this is good, both had its own importance to the time they belong to. Contextually '82 was perfectly fine when I joined this college. I was very excited because this is my first job. I joined at a very young age of around 22. Immediately after masters, I joined this college and Miranda House had then and even now always been at its peak.

But I immediately felt a part of Miranda House. I'm also an outsider in the sense that I've not studied in Miranda House but I studied in a Delhi University, Janki Devi College. And the colleagues were good, the principal was good, so you felt at home and I never have felt that you know, I was subjugated, or I was dominated by my colleagues you know. We've to always give space, that is the way we've always been trained to democratic functioning, democratic way of working - inclusive, including students even then any decisions taken students were a part of it and you should know that there wasn't much difference between the student and the teacher. If I joined at 22, the final year student would be around 19 to 20. So, there was the time we enjoyed.

*Did you get an opportunity to join other colleges?*

**Prof. Pillai:** See, there is no question of going to another college because we've been in Miranda House and the system in university is that, see we are all Delhi University, managed colleges, we all 400 Delhi University. So whether you are in Miranda House - I'm not trying to be elitist - whether you are in Miranda House or you're in any other college we are all the same. Whether you are a student of Miranda House or I'm a student of JDM, the degree that you get is the common Delhi University degree. I'm a JDM student and a child who has passed out from Miranda House would also get the same kind of degree or ARSD or Aditi college or any other college. So there is no question of changing the job in college. From Miranda House we'll not go to any other college , so that is one clarity you should require.



Image credit:Debarati Mitra

Yes you could go to the university if you want to, you know but I never wanted to because I was absolutely contented with this college. And I'm telling you, this is the truth I'm telling you till date I don't realize that I've become..now I'm sixty four plus, I don't realise that I'm sixty four plus because the kind of life long duration I spent with, in the company of such beautiful young girls, meaningful girls. So I've never thought of going anywhere else. You could interpret it in your own way because I've my own satisfaction here. I've had opportunities to even go to universities abroad to get a job there, but I decided to be here. This was your home.

This is. And I don't want to leave India. I'm very conscious and in fact I was given a PhD course program for Sussex but I tried to remain here, because I wanted to be, you know, close to family. I'm also a very family person. I didn't want to leave everyone and then go.

And here, I was completely, perfectly satisfied. I had wonderful junior and senior colleagues. So even now, right now I'm the senior most in the college for the past several years. The kind of respect I get but I also did a lot for the college, the kind of responsibilities I conducted. See, respect is something which you earn. You can't force others to respect you. See, if I'm respected by my students and my colleagues, life is worth more. And I think, it also lies in its reciprocity.

Because you respect your students so much, your students respect you and your colleagues. And you see your students reaching all high positions. So that is also satisfying, right! It always helped our students.

*One last question we have is that what is the message you would want to give to the people who will read our magazine?*

**Dr. Pillai :** One message to the readers. My message to the readers would be that please read every line of the magazine because the people behind the magazine are sincere ones, not sitting on a table and writing out of imagination or fiction. It's a realistic magazine because I've seen interviewing the other because you are talking to me. You are trying to gaze, understand and then write something. So please, take the magazine seriously.



Image credit:Sushree Mukherjee





## ***Dr. A.D. Mathur, Associate Professor, Head of Department of Sanskrit, St Stephen's College***

*Sir, how long have you been teaching here?*

**Dr Mathur** : Now, it's almost 41 years . . it could be 42 if my Maths is right. I started in 1981, so . . ah, yes. I completed 42 years.

*Any favorite memory of college, sir? It could be anything - from your time as a teacher or as a student, any particular memory that you love, that you cherish the most.*

**Dr Mathur:** No I think it's constant. It's a constant thing, everyday is a happy day. Everyday is a very happy day - for me, if certain classes don't happen then I'm not happy. I don't think there's any particular thing that I would point out, it's been a constantly happy journey in the last 42 years as a teacher and 5 years before that as a student, so when I go, when I retire next year I would have spent 50 years here in this college. I joined when I was 16 years old and I'll go when I'm 65 so it's almost my whole life and it has been a fine, wonderful, happy, very happy kind of experience overall.

*What is the message that you would like to give to the students who are starting their first year?*



Image credit:Suchitra

**Dr Mathur:** Giving a message is a very difficult task but yes, I'll say that do whatever you are doing very seriously. Whether it is studies, your games or your activities, be serious about it; if you are not serious about yourself, nobody in the world is going to take you seriously, so first learn to respect yourself only then expect others to respect you.



## ***Dr. Sudipto Basu, Assistant Professor, Department of History, St Stephen's College***

*Firstly sir, when did you join DU as a faculty?*

**Dr. Basu:** As a member of faculty, in 2019, February.

*Have you studied here in DU before?*

**Dr. Basu:** Yes, I did. My entire education is from DU. From Undergrad, Postgrad, M. Phil, PhD everything. For undergraduation, I started college in 2006. I completed my B.A. in History Honours from St. Stephen's College in 2009. 2009-11, I did my post graduation from the department of History, University of Delhi. 2011-13, finished my M.Phil. from the department of History, University of Delhi and then 2014 got enrolled in my PhD and submitted my PhD in 2018 and since then I've been teaching here. I got my PhD awarded in 2020.



Image credit:Suchitra

*Would you like to tell us about your experience here as a member of the faculty here in DU? You also said that you were here as a student as well and then as a teacher so how does it feel?*

**Dr. Basu:** It's a great experience. The methods of teaching have changed. The way we used to deal with or we used to look at things as students, is very different now as compared to what it was during my time. The Pandemic changed a lot of things. The two years of online teaching; that brought in new dimensions of teaching. Some would feel that it was disruptive but in other ways the Pandemic did bring in a lot of new opportunities because it taught you to innovate during that period of time. The college has a particular academic culture which we have maintained for so long; the culture of sitting in the library studying, the culture of tutorials which is very important which I think we as a college as an institution pride ourselves because I think we were the one who actually initially started this tutorial system and I think something that we feel extremely proud of. , being a student in this college as well now as a teacher, earlier the people who were my teachers are now my colleagues in a way but it has been a very good experience overall teaching students using new methods of teaching which as a students we would not have thought about but which we used especially post the Pandemic, use of audio video, more etc.

It has been an overall good experience. And again I said, Pandemic made a lot of difference but certain traditions have remained over the years, over many years for that matter, over the hundred years of Delhi University and more than one forty years of this college including like I said tutorial system which I think we pride ourselves in.

*Did you ever feel like joining any other university? No, why?*

**Dr. Basu:** Because I'm intrigued by the system. I've never gotten out of Delhi University so I'm very well versed and comfortable with the syllabus and everything out here and DU has its own character, DU has its own charm, DU has its own old world. So, for someone who has only been in DU and not been outside ever as a student, this is my life. I don't have a life beyond this. I'm not somebody who has migrated or come from some other city, I've been a Delhi person, brought up in Delhi, did my schooling in Delhi, went to college in Delhi. Like I said from student days' to right up being a teenager it has always been DU. All my degrees are from DU. Other Universities have their own culture, maybe, but I'm more comfortable with the culture out here or the atmosphere out here as compared to some other university.

## ***Dr Geetanjali Sethi, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, St Stephen's College***

*When did you join Delhi University? Was it as a faculty or student ?*

**Dr Gitanjali:** I joined St Stephen's College in 1997 as a student of Physics Honours and since then I have been in the university and never left it. 1997 was my Bachelor's and then continuing my education and in 2002 I started teaching in Delhi University St Stephen's College only and that was my beginning.

*Could you tell us about the atmosphere in college whenever a fest or activity takes place?*



Image credit:Suchitra

**Dr Sethi:** I think for students it is really the time when they can socialise, stay in college for a longer duration of time. Even in the evenings they roam around wherever they want, they won't have classes. I think they really enjoy spending time with their friends, it's the only time the corridors are crowded - otherwise corridors are very silent and quiet as the classes are on. It's the only time they see how vibrant the college is; full of students everywhere, there is music . . otherwise the college is so silent, during the fest you will hear music, all the places are completely fun and free. Nobody will be telling them to remain quiet or silent, I think that's the true colour of the college during the festivals. For teachers it is more like - at least to people like me who can relate to my time in college - it is like reviving those memories, watching them, though the kind of programmes we had at that time and the kind of events they have also had evolved so its very different from what we used to have.

*What are your fondest memories about college?*

**Dr. Sethi:** As a student I think the best times we had, were the times when we had fests in the college; that was really the time we bonded not only with our classmates, people from your own course but you also meet people everywhere in college - across courses so, I think that's the best bonding time. And, the friends you make during the college festival. My second fondest memory are the trips as students that we went for. In second year, I remember we went to Shimla and we stayed in one of the school hostels there. It was a lovely time and the closeness, the bonds that I developed with my friends, my classmates there - I still cherish them. We still remember those nights where we did not sleep, where we sang songs, talked and ventured out - despite being told not to do that at night and we slipped out and had fun. Yes, I think those were the best times and the other times were when we had labs, but we were never in the labs but were always at the Dhaba, spending time at the Dhaba.

*Is there any message that you would like to pass on to the students?*

**Dr. Sethi :** Oh yes, this is the age - this is the time which will never come back in lots of sense . The kind of freedom you have at this point will never be there - the freedom to learn, enjoy and the freedom to live the way you want to live your life. This time will never come back as you grow, your responsibilities will grow, you will be answerable to many people and you will have a lot more bindings. I think when you are in college, college life is probably the best time and you should utilize it to the best of its capabilities not only in terms of education, but in terms of making friends.

# Non-teaching staff

The first good morning of our day is probably a wish aimed at the person standing at our college gates (even if they greet us with heavy frowns if we forget our ID cards). The picturesque gardens that we all love to click pictures with, are maintained by our mali bhaiyas and didis, also giving us a chance to boast about our won medals in flower competitions of the university. This segment is ode to all our bhaiya and didis on campus



Image credit: Vanshika

## Mr. Devender Singh, College Guard, Ramjas College

When did you join the university?

**Devender Singh:** In 2014 on 5th May.

You remember the date. Are you from Delhi?

**Devender Singh:** No, from UP.

Why did you come to Delhi?

**Devender Singh:** I came along with someone for work

Do you like Delhi?

**Devender Singh:** Yes I do.

What do you like most about Delhi?

**Devender Singh:** What I like the most is the fact that I'm employed and have a livelihood here and can provide education to my kids.

At what age did you come from UP?

**Devender Singh:** When I was 24 years old. A little older than us.

You may remember your village from UP, So what is the difference between your village and Delhi?

**Devender Singh:** The difference is that of employment. There is no employment there and in Delhi I got a job, and even provided education to my kids. Well, it is the capital city. Now I'm living in a capital city and earlier I was in a village.

You are working here for a long time, approximately 9 years so what are usual break timings?

**Devender Singh:** I eat here only, spend time apart from work here at the spot

What do you like most about the campus?

**Devender Singh:** Principal office. I stay and work here only. The ground is very big.

And how are your relations with the people you work with?

**Devender Singh:** They are cooperative. Any of them will help me.



Image credit: Debarati Mitra

## ***Aunty Ji, College Guard, Miranda House***

*Are you from Delhi?*

**Aunty ji:** Delhi is the best. It has the best food, places and girls.

*How many years have you been in Delhi?*

**Aunty ji:** 7 to 8 years.

*Which is your favourite place in Delhi?*



Image credit: Arisha Farooque



Image credit: Vanshika

**Aunty ji:** Recently, the newly built khatu shyam mandir in alipur is the best. If it is possible please take your parents. It is very amazing, also kids love this.

*When you joined this college, how did you feel?*

**Aunty ji:** Like there is life, most probably to girls. This is the best life I have had. According to me, 3 years of BA is the best experience of life. You make so many beautiful memories only if you live with your full heart.

*Which is your favourite place in college ?*

**Aunty ji:** Garden, where I can see so many girls.

*How do you feel when girls come from different places to study?*

**Aunty ji:** Yes, everyone has different qualities. When you mix many flowers such as roses, sunflowers, how pretty they look! So this thing I found in the garden. This is the best place for me.

*How you are feeling Delhi university completing its 100 years even though you are also part of this?*

**Aunty ji:** I feel so amazed, Delhi University is that place, where students live their life fully. If you wear different kinds of clothes in your own colony. Aunties said what kind of clothes she wears. But here, wearing different kinds of clothes, tells you are unique, this is nice. This is the best phase of life. If you did something then you achieve. Winning and losing is part of life.

*When people read your interview, what are you trying to tell them?*

**Aunty ji:** Live your life as best you can. Participate in every program organised by the college. You may lose, you may win, winning and losing are all parts of life. You do not know at any moment what happens then. Live your life to its fullest.

## **Mr. Hare Ram, Gardener, St.Stephen's School**

*Are you from Delhi?*

**Hare Ram:** No, I am from outside. From Haryana.

*How long have you been living here ?*

**Hare Ram :** Here in college. I have been here permanently since 2000.

*How did you feel when you first came to Delhi ?*

**Hare Ram :** At that time in Delhi, I felt very nice, the environment of Delhi earlier was very nice. But now yes, the pollution is increased, but still it is nice... there's employment here. It's okay, it's good. Lal Quila, zoo , Qutub Minar. There are so many things in Delhi that are really nice, worth it to see. The partande that are in lal Quila were made of wood... the spoons and all were made of wood.



Image credit: Sushree Mukherjee

*What would you like to say to the people who are reading your interview?*

**Hare Ram :** No, students are really nice, they respect us, they all speak politely.



## ***JP Tea Store Owner, Delhi School of Economics***

*How long have you been here ?*

**JP tea store owner :** I have been here since 2000.

*So it's been 23 years since you've been here !*

**JP tea store owner :** Yeah, it's been 23 years since I have been here but it has been seventy years since the shop was set up , it was started by my father, Jay Prakash , after whom this stall is named, in 1970.

*How did you come to Delhi ?*

**JP tea store owner:** There was no work for me to do there and my grandfather also worked in an industry here.

*Do you like Delhi ?*



Image credit: Debarati Mitra

**JP tea store owner:** I was born here so I don't ever visit Uttarakhand... and all my family members go there, I don't go because of work.

*What do you want to say about the completion of 100 years by Delhi University? Your tea stall has always been a spot where students of Delhi School of Economics come and gather, so what has been your experience here?*

**JP tea store owner:** Actually, everything is nice here. I feel good here, the people who come to my stall are also good. I talk to everyone and I really enjoy my work. Whoever comes here they get settled in good jobs. I want to stay here like this for my whole life. I wish the way it has been now, it will remain like this in future also. The university should carry on running like this and shouldn't change. Old people like my father spent his time here, I have spent 23 years here and I wish I could work here just like this till I become old and the students also keep on coming like this.



Image credit: Vanshika

# Students

*Students make a college what it is. It goes without saying that celebrating the University of Delhi involves celebrating the strengths and weaknesses of the University through the experience of its students. The University is made up of the corners where students hang out in between classes, the hustle and bustle of canteens, the clamor of the fests, the 'group study' sessions before exams, the rare rant sessions with the teachers and of course, the learnings it endows. Hence, this section reflects upon these experiences and interactions through questions like why a student chose DU, what they like about their college, how has their relationship been with the professors, how has their overall experience been and so on and so forth. This brings together an eloquent representation of the present reality of the University of Delhi through lenses from various mindsets and backgrounds.*

## ***Nalla Ashwita, 3rd Year, Philosophy Hons, Miranda House***

*What is your favorite memory of college?*

**Ashwita** - My friends, I got amazing friends. They are really really cool and of course my subject philosophy. I don't know.. philosophy chose me, I didn't choose philosophy but I am loving it now.

*Of course I can make it out that you are very happy that you got philosophy but if you had gotten economics honors, your initial choice, what do you think your life would be like?*

**Ashwita** - I think I could have not been able to manage everything because I am pretty good in societies, internships and I love content writing and also NCC, it's like a big big big thing. It had played a very predominant role in my life, so I could not have managed if I had landed up in economics.



Image credit: Arisha Farooque

*Okay! Since you'll be graduating, what are your feelings about that?*

**Ashwita** - It's quite sad because I love Miranda, I love my classes and everything, I love sports and NCC. I really don't want to leave, because it's fun and it's not very tiring to come to college. You can explore and learn a lot.

*Okay! Is there anything that you have taken away from your professors that you will take forward with you?*

**Ashwita** - I want to, I am a UPSC aspirant but after seeing them I want to teach in DU. BEST JOB!!  
What would be your message that you would like to pass onto the first year students?

**Ashwita** - Explore a lot, and 'Love what you do, do what you love'.



## ***Harshit Gouri, 2nd Year, B. Sc Prog. with Chemistry Hons, St. Stephens College***



Image credit: Sushree Mukherjee

*Your college is very famous for one of its fests known as Harmony. Could you describe what your college is like during Harmony, as in how a typical day starts out?*

**Harshit-** If I tell you the truth, I was not there for Harmony. I was out for some work so that's why I didn't attend harmony but I saw the pictures and videos. It was nice and the first day started with the inauguration. There was a dance performance from all the departments and it was very nice. When I saw the videos, my department had a very nice dance and then I guess it was followed by some music night or sufi night. It was nice as that is the time that you can enjoy the most in college but I missed it. This time I'll attend it for sure.

*What do you like about your college?*

**Harshit** - The college is very peaceful as compared to other colleges. Free from politics generally. The environment is very friendly and it is expected to be just the kind of environment here. You can just go and talk to anybody, they are very welcoming. Secondly, there is a lot of exposure: you meet different types of people everyday, from different religions and different communities. You also get to know and learn a lot. I recently completed two of my research projects here for which I went and had a word with the teachers. They were very supportive. I've seen in many colleges that the teachers are not that supportive towards research if they don't want to take the burden on them but here, teachers are welcoming. So your teachers helping you is definitely a cherry on top.



## Ankit, 2nd Year, Maths Hons, Ramjas College

आपको डी यू कैसा लगा?

**अंकित-** मैं राजस्थान का रहने वाला हूँ हमारे क्षेत्र में राजस्थान यूनिवर्सिटी है (आर.ई.यू) मेरा वहा एडमिशन हो गया था और मेरे घरवालों ने भी बोला कि आर. ई. यू. में ही रहना है, लेकिन मैंने फिर भी डी यू के लिए एप्लाई किया । मेरा डी यू के विद्यालय में एडमिशन हो गया लेकिन जब मैंने आर.ई.यू से यहां ट्रांसफर किया तो मेरे घरवालों ने बोला कि आर.ई.यू से डी यू ही क्यों? मैंने कहा आर. ई. यू में जो छात्र होंगे, जो क्लासमेट होंगे, वो होंगे राजस्थान के मतलब एक निश्चित क्षेत्र के लोग ही होंगे, लेकिन जब मैं डी यू होंगा तो हर जगह के, हर स्टेट के लोग मिलेंगे। और मैंने मैथ्स इसीलिए लिया क्योंकि मैंने 12th में साइंस ली थी और मेरी मैथ्स काफ़ी ठीक थी।



Image credit: Arisha Farooque

क्या आप प्रोफेसर या उनके बारे में कुछ कहना चाहेंगे? कोई मेमोरी या फिर कुछ ऐसा जो आप ग्रेजुएट होने से पहले कहना चाहते हो?

**अंकित -** हमको बस.... हमे प्रोफेसर लोग के साथ एक बार क्रिकेट मैच खेलना है, हमारे एक सुमित सर है, उनके साथ हमे क्रिकेट का मैच खेलना है।



## ***Debangana, Chemistry Hons, St Stephen's college***

*How did you come to know about DU?*

**Debangana:** I believe Delhi university was really a popular choice. You heard from your mom and dad and family and relatives - "it's a very old university, '100 years'". So definitely I came to know about DU through this. It has been my dream university since 8th grade. I used to think 'Probably I'll just, maybe I can, go there and do chemistry honors'.

*You said you were a part of photography society, can you tell us a bit about your journey in this context?*

**Debangana:** I have been a part of the photography society since my first year. Initially when it was online, we didn't have much of covering or competitions and all because everything was online. It was mostly then doing online work like publicity creating posters. When things shifted to offline, we started covering events in and around campus and yeah photography society is one of the oldest in our college. It was established in 1949. That's how long the legacy has been. It has always been great, I got to know a lot, I got to attend a lot of talks by famous photographers, and I got to learn logistics work, handling events. So, it was great being in the society for me as I learnt a lot through it.

*Till now, what is your most cherished memory about college?*

**Debangana:** My most cherished memory in college would be like the small small things which I did between the classes. I mean, college was never all about the classes anyways. I attended everything. I'd always cherish the memories I made outside outside the classroom in the little moments in which I am hung out with my friends at 4pm and 5pm, attended society events, eating something by the stalls which were there, watching a performance by someone, cheering up for our friends, attending dance practices or doing drama practices at 6pm in the evening. These are the memories which I'll always cherish, so yeah.

*You said you are from Assam, did you have any problems with adjusting in Delhi? What was it like?*

**Debangana:** I did think that people might be discriminative against me because I am from Assam and although I knew for a fact that people from northeast do face discrimination, when I came here in DU, everybody was very warm and welcoming. My seniors were very good and nice so yeah, I didn't face any problems adjusting to the environment, or to the people. In fact, I adjusted very quickly. Though adjusting to the climate and weather took me a lot of time, other than that, people were very nice and sweet to me.



Image credit: Sushree Mukherjee

## ***Pratham, 1st Year, Chemistry Hons, Ramjas College***

*What have you learnt from your professors so far or what about them has inspired you?*

**Pratham-** My professors come from different backgrounds and are mostly an alumni of DU as well. They are from KMC, SRCC and other colleges. They are very very confident about what they have learnt and are able to express their knowledge well. So, I want a bold personality like them. I also like one of my teachers. She teaches very nicely and has a really good personality.

*Is there anything that you would like to convey to the students?*

**Pratham-** I just want to say that college life is immensely fun. One should come to DU and enjoy as much as they can because after a few years, they will realize that these memories will last forever.



Image credit: Arisha Farooquee



## ***Poorti, 3rd Year, B. Com Hons, Ramjas College***

*What would be a message that you want to give to the students in their first semester, those who are just starting out ?*

**Poorti:** One message I would like to convey to them is, please join societies, NGOs and work on your personality development. College is the golden opportunity, you can invest in yourself.

*What have you learnt from your professors, anything which has inspired you or a fond memory which you will carry forward in future?*

**Poorti:** From one of our professors, I have learnt to stick to the ground while flying in the sky. Yes, this is the one thing I have learnt from my professor.



Image credit: Arisha Farooquee



# Alumni

*When one looks up 'Notable Alumni of the University of Delhi', they get pictures of former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, beloved actor Shahrukh Khan, prolific writer Amitav Ghosh, talented film director Imtiaz Ali, master of satire Shashi Tharoor and many other famous entities. Sure, these are all notable graduates of the prestigious University but are the graduates who came from a distant village, assimilated into the culture of Delhi, built their career or life from ground up in this city and are living happily not notable?*

*In line with the theme of celebrating 100 years of the University of Delhi, this section celebrates the subjective success of the alumni of the University, explores the contribution that Delhi University and Delhi as a city had to their growth, and provides words of wisdom and guidance from the graduates of batches 1990-2005.*

## **Vinay Krishna Jha, Faculty of Arts, Batch 1989**

*Why did you decide to come to Delhi?*

**Mr. Jha** - I was a good student but there was some political strike known as JP movement back in Bihar which spoiled a couple of years of my graduation. So, my parents decided to send me to Delhi University for a masters very abruptly.

*So do you think you would be able to come to Delhi if not for Delhi University?*

**Mr. Jha** - My economic status and my social status couldn't have allowed me to come without having admission from Delhi University. Delhi was just impossible. I would have gone to maybe Patna or maybe some good colleges of Bihar or UP.



Image credit: Vanshika

*In that case, congratulations for being admitted to DU! How was your experience in DU and Delhi in general?*

**Mr. Jha** - Coming from a small village, I was having a lot of problems in coping with the situation initially. It took a lot of time, maybe by that time my first semester was spoiled. I couldn't find what to read, what to learn, how to travel around the city, whom to take guidance from - everything was chaotic. Nothing was crystal clear to me. It was very brutal.. People were running hither and thither. I was just amazed. It was a new world for me but anyway, somehow I slowly slowly organized myself, I adjusted here and I did well here also.

*The fact that you finally adjusted despite the challenges is really impressive. How would you see Delhi as a space of career?*

**Mr. Jha** - See, it has enormous opportunities as far as career is concerned but somehow we did not have that many opportunities because my parents had extremely limited knowledge of openings. They had only two things in their mind: UPSC and professorship. There was no internet either. After MA, I got a teaching job in Bihar but I was not able to cope with the slow moving life of the place once I had lived in the hustle and bustle of Delhi. So, I resigned



Image credit: Vanshika

and came back to Delhi. It had enormous job opportunities for all kinds of people and to be honest I did well. I got a good job, I enjoyed it but then suddenly I came into business and then I realized the real opening of Delhi University - the way it taught me to be professional, to negotiate, to communicate and to function as an educated man.

When google king, the technology king, came, I got to know there were many opportunities. I thought 'I missed this, I missed that, I could have done this, I could have done that' but by that time, things were already out of control but I have no regrets. Delhi gave me the opportunities, Delhi made me richer than what I was mentally and economically and perhaps physically also because I became a regular exercise-doing person here.

*What do you think your life would have been like if you did not come to Delhi?*

**Mr. Jha** - The kind of perception which I received or which I developed in Delhi that could not have been possible anywhere outside, especially in my case. We had the knowledge, we had the writing power, we had good marks but we were not able to express ourselves : how to express with pure clarity. I learnt this from Delhi and from my classmates. Of course, I had a number of cultural drawbacks. I would not have that kind of dress people wore, I would not have the kind of ideas people had here, but I definitely enjoyed carelessly and completely. The people were also very cooperative. So yes, there were malignant factors also but they were very ineffective.

*Good to know that DU taught you so much. So, as a successful alumni of DU, what message would you want to give to the readers of our magazine?*

**Mr. Jha** - Delhi University is extremely good. If a person has a caliber but limited resources, they can come here and be on the world panorama just by being in any college of the Delhi University. Make friends, these friendships go a long way. Learn, use all the resources but make sure you have fun along your journey too.



## ***Mrs. Ranju Jha, Faculty of Arts, Batch 1990***

*How and why did you decide to study in DU? How did you feel about it back then?*

**Mrs. Jha** - I came to Delhi with my husband. He was a student of DU and I used to go to the campus with him sometimes. I made some friends here so whenever we would sit for a talk, I would increasingly get interested in studying in DU. So, I applied for a Masters in History and got admission.

*How was your experience in DU?*

**Mrs. Jha** - It was awesome because it felt like a very different life here, especially with friends. I felt really good. There was a routine we followed that told us when to go and come. So, I was enjoying my life a lot.

*What value will you give to your experience of DU in today's time?*

For my experience in DU, I would say that I wasn't able to do that much as I got entangled in my family affairs but it was a very nice experience. But even though I am a homemaker today and not using my degree per say, that experience made me into the woman I am today. It made me more inquisitive, sensible and fun loving.

*What would you like to say to the readers of this magazine and other DU students as a successful alumni of DU?*

**Mrs. Jha** - I would like to say that I wasn't able to do anything in terms of my education but if you all can do something, then definitely do it. Do not forget to enjoy your college life to your fullest, it'll go by faster than you realize.



Image credit: Vanshika





## ***Mr. Kameshwar Singh, Faculty of Law, Batch 1981***

*Why did you decide to come to Delhi?*

**Mr. Singh** - It's because here there's an abundance of opportunities for studies. The college professors were usually impressive there and I wanted to prepare for UPSC so that's why I came here.

*So, how do you feel about DU?*

**Mr. Singh** -I felt really good. We got many opportunities which we weren't able to get there. Here there's more students, the library is really inviting and the teachers too are very friendly to us.

*As an alumni of DU, what message would you like to give to the readers of this magazine?*

**Mr. Singh** - Here in DU, students come from different parts of the country. The environment is really apt and fitting for higher studies. The teachers too are very capable. The libraries are very vast and voluminous so, the students should thoroughly expand their knowledge. The students should take the best advantage of this because they won't get any better opportunity than this in life.



Image credit: Mr. Kameshwar Singh



# Instashots

## "Are you even a..."



**vaidehi\_first year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't put studying at DU in your instagram bio ?

Reply



**sanjana\_third year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't worn short kurta and jeans as indo-western outfit?

Reply



**priyanka\_second year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't travelled 4 hours in the metro to reach college everyday ?

Reply



**prapti\_first year**

Are you even a pg girl if you haven't worn your roommate's clothes ?

Reply



**sheilnandini\_first year**

Are you even a pg girl if you haven't missed home cooked food ?

Reply



**janhvi\_second year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't missed 8:30 AM lectures ?

Reply



**ayesha\_third year**

Are you even a pg girl if you haven't cried while washing clothes ?

Reply



**muskan\_third year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't gone to sarojini nagar ?

Reply



**nimisha\_third year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't bragged about the university yet?

Reply



**nupur\_third year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't cried before assignment deadline

Reply



**tanisi\_first year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't contacted a distant friend just to arrange passes for the fest ?

Reply



**meghna\_first year**

Are you even a DU girl if you haven't tried desperately to make up for your short attendance ?

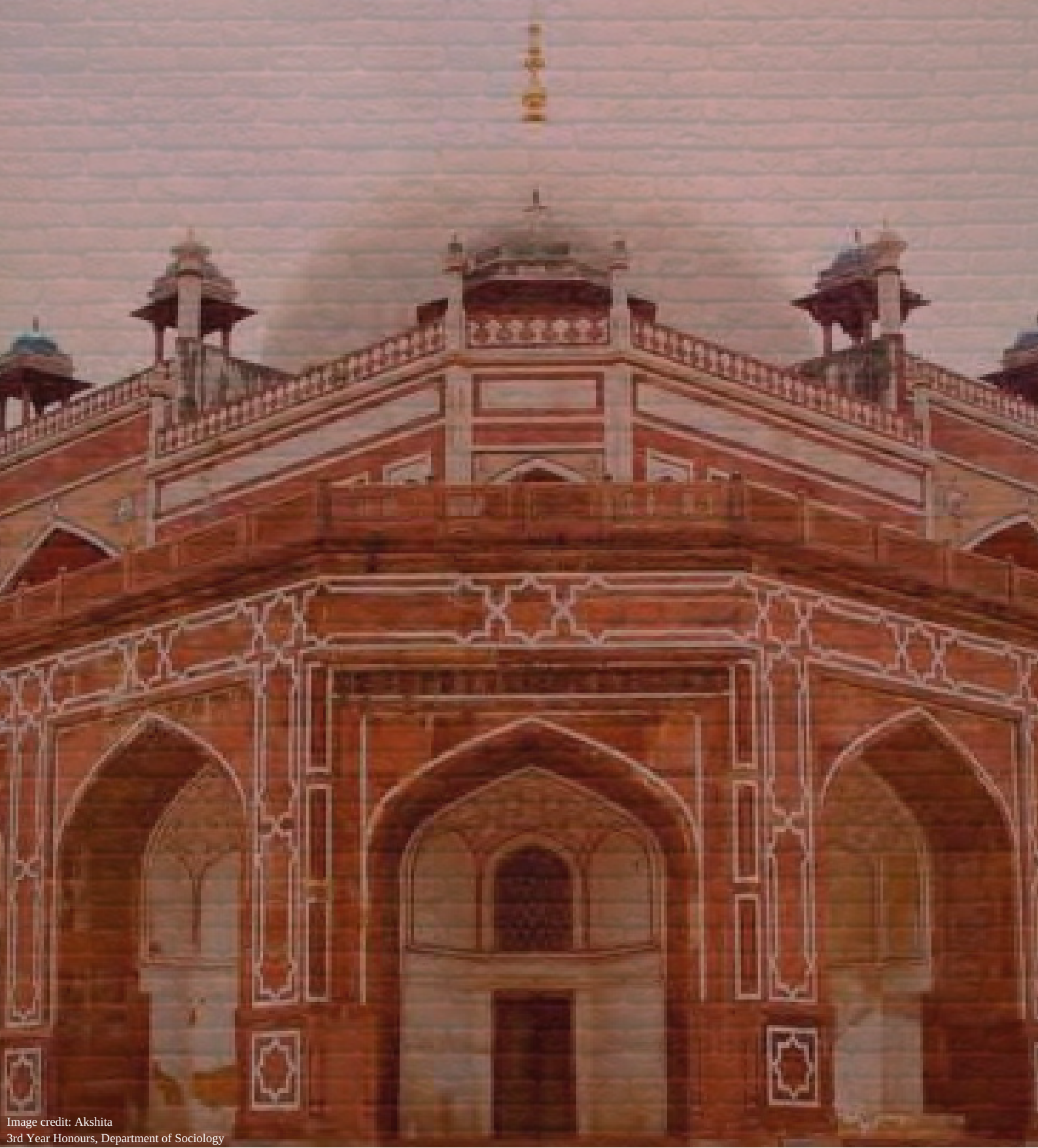
Reply

*Did you know, Delhi is  
the second most  
populated city in the  
world?*

The  
population  
of Delhi comes  
around 25 million  
according to the 2015  
census, making it the  
second most populated city  
in the world.



# Melange



# Editors' Choice

The theme of this issue focuses on celebrating 100 years of University of Delhi. The University, nonetheless, is what it offers to its students. It presents itself as a forum of self discovery and personal and professional growth. The excerpt below quotes this phenomena beautifully.

*From Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi, Sudhir Mishra (2005)*

“College is a time of great freedom and experimentation. You meet people from all walks of life, take courses that challenge your beliefs, and explore new ideas and experiences. It’s a time when you can reinvent yourself, try on different identities, and figure out who you want to be.

For me, college was all of these things and more. It was where I first discovered my love of literature and started writing poetry. It was where I met my closest friends, who shared my passion for social justice and equality. And it was where I first became aware of the political realities that shape our lives.

But college was also a time of great uncertainty and fear. The world was changing rapidly, and it seemed like everything we had taken for granted was being challenged. The government was cracking down on dissent, students were being arrested and tortured, and violence was erupting on the streets.

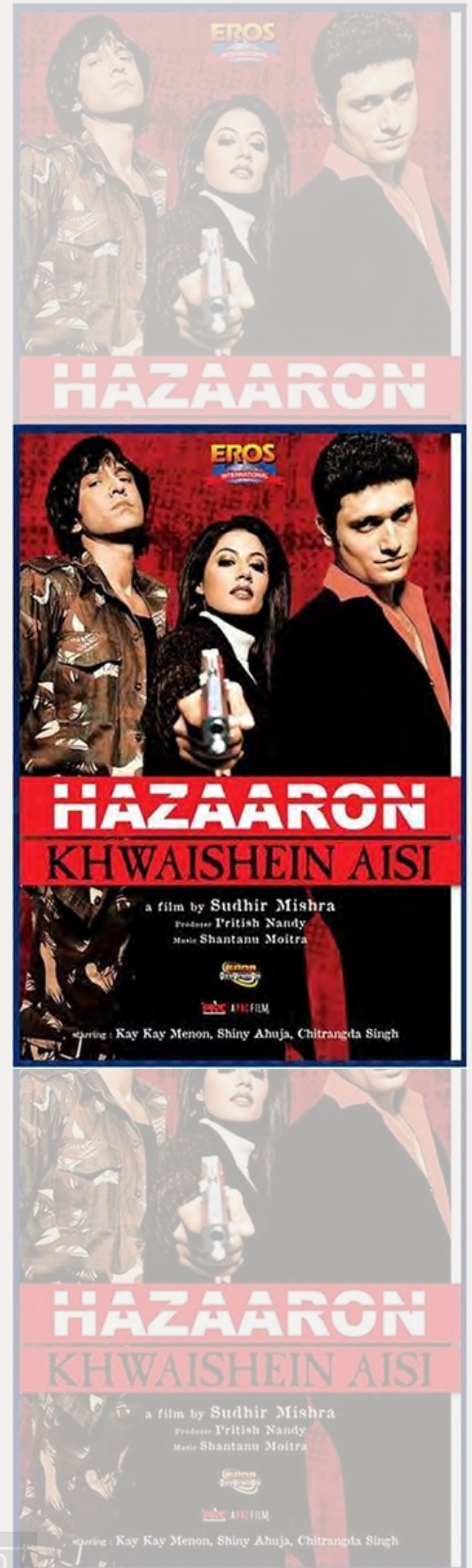
In the midst of all this, we struggled to find our place in the world. We questioned our beliefs, our values, and our identities. We debated endlessly, argued fiercely, and sometimes even came to blows. But through it all, we remained committed to each other and to the ideals that had brought us together.

Looking back, I realize that those years were some of the most formative and transformative of my life. They taught me the power of community, the importance of empathy, and the necessity of speaking truth to power. They gave me the courage to stand up for what I believe in, and the faith that change is always possible.”

This excerpt contextualizes the experience of college life in the movie "Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi" as a time of great freedom, experimentation, and self-discovery. The speaker emphasizes the importance of meeting people from diverse backgrounds, taking challenging courses, and exploring new ideas and experiences.

The speaker also highlights the challenges faced during their college years, including political uncertainty, government crackdowns, and violence. Despite these challenges, the speaker and their peers remained committed to their ideals and to each other.

The speaker reflects on the formative and transformative nature of their college experience, which taught them the power of community, empathy, and speaking truth to power. Overall, the speaker suggests that college can be a time of both personal growth and social responsibility.



# Movie Review

Satyajit Ray's 1984 film "Ghare Baire" explores two controversial topics prevalent in India: the separation of Muslims and Hindus and the clash between liberal and nationalist ideologies. The screenplay is adapted from Rabindranath Tagore's 1916 novel of the same name.

Set in 1907, after the partition of Bengal, Satyajit Ray's film "Ghare Baire" depicts the division of Hindus and Muslims in India. The story revolves around Nikhilesh (played by Victor Banerjee), a landowner who has had a Western education and believes in individual freedom. His wife, Bimala (Swatilekha Sengupta), has been educated by him and shares his views. However, their ideologies clash when Nikhilesh refuses to support the nationalist "Swadeshi" movement's call for a boycott of foreign goods. Their discussions intensify with the arrival of Nikhilesh's friend, Sandip (Soumitra Chatterjee), the leader of the "Swadeshi" movement. Bimala is enamored by Sandip's eloquence, passion, and nationalist fervor, which impress her. Her proficiency in English and her beauty attracts Sandip to her, and he visits their home several times. However, Bimala's affection for Sandip and her growing involvement in the "Swadeshi" movement create a rift between her liberal beliefs and her loyalty to her husband. As the story unfolds, Bimala finds herself torn between her feelings for Sandip and her loyalty to her husband and his liberal beliefs. When Sandip asks for her financial support for the "Swadeshi" movement, Bimala's dilemma becomes more acute. Sandip manipulates Bimala by seducing her and exploiting her affection to gain access to Nikhilesh's wealth. Bimala becomes involved in Sandip's movement without fully understanding its implications, finding a sense of purpose in it. However, Sandip's true intentions are revealed when it becomes clear that he is a profiteer masquerading as a revolutionary. Nikhilesh opposes British rule in India but disagrees with the radical approach of the Swadeshi movement, knowing it will harm the poor's livelihood irreparably. He prefers a civilized approach of debate and discourse to achieve their goal.

An interesting observation regarding the film, is a dialogue delivered by Sandip, once his villainy has been exposed before both Nikhilesh and Bimala. Sandip says that his favourite character from the Ramayana had been the character of Ravana and makes a reference to the principle of 'duty with no attachment,' an interesting portrayal considering his personality as portrayed in the film.

Satyajit Ray's "Ghare Baire" shares similarities with his film "Shatranj Ke Khilari" (1977) in that both are based on literary works that depict a period of upheaval in Indian history. However, while "Shatranj Ke Khilari" is a historical film, "Ghare Baire" is primarily a love story influenced by the political turmoil of the period. The film portrays the politics of the time with great insight and detail, much like "Shatranj Ke Khilari." The period has been recreated beautifully through Ashoke Bose's exquisite production design, while Soumendu Roy's cinematography creates the perfect ambiance. Although Ray had been operating the camera himself since 1964, he had a heart attack during the making of "Ghare Baire," and his son Sandip completed the film under his supervision. Some critics attributed the "failure" of the film to Ray's illness, but this is belied by the film's quality. Despite his illness, Ray's screenplay, music, and direction were at their peak in "Ghare Baire," as evidenced by the masterly one-minute sequence of crossing the passage that exemplifies pure cinema.

Overall, 'Ghare Baire' is a must watch for all. It serves interesting narratives for cinema lovers while also providing insights into the society of the past and dilemmas faced by an individual in such a social backdrop.



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*"Did you know, Delhi and New Delhi are two different places?"*

New Delhi serves as the capital of the country and Delhi forms the more substantial city within which New Delhi is a 'territory' designed by the British.

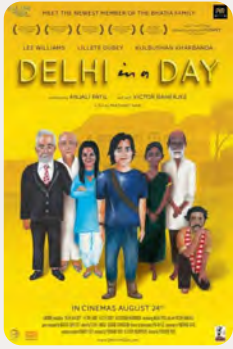




*We recommend*



# Movie Recommendations



- The movie, Delhi in a Day (2011), directed by Prashant Nair touches upon themes which can be used to facilitate educational discussions and provide opportunities for learning and reflection.
- Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi (2005), directed by Sudhir Mishra, ties the theme of education and the city of Delhi to its central theme of political and social change by highlighting the important role of education and the city's vibrant culture in shaping young people's views and activism.
- Nayi Umar Ki Nayi Fasal (1966), directed by R. Chandra, promotes the idea of education being a tool for empowerment and social mobility, particularly for those who come from marginalised communities. Overall, it is a movie that encourages youth to pursue their education and achieve their dreams despite the obstacles they may face.
- A gritty drama exploring the themes of youth, family, and crime in contemporary Delhi, India, *Titli* (2014), directed by Kanu Behl, follows the story of Titli - the titular character -

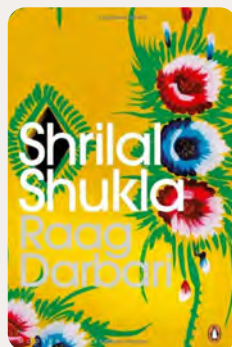
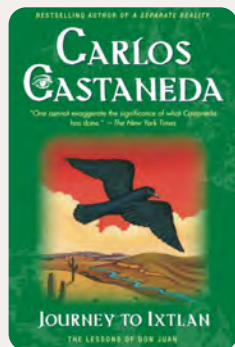
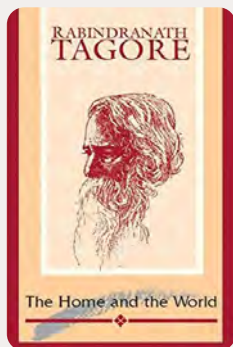
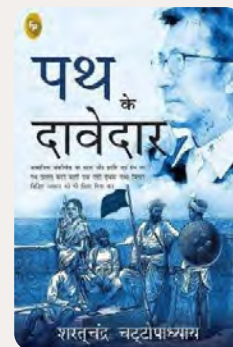
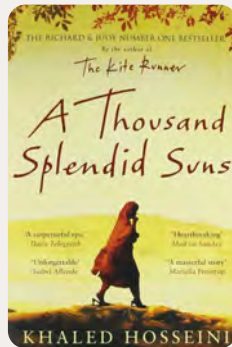
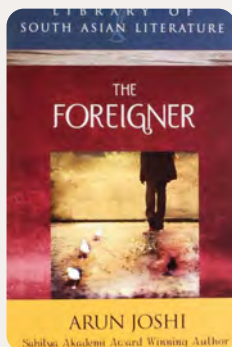
a young man from a dysfunctional family who dreams of escaping his oppressive and violent household, whose struggles to break free from his family reflects the broader theme of youth in Delhi facing similar challenges and navigating the pressures of tradition, family, and social expectations while trying to forge their own paths in life.

- Aligarh (2016), directed by Hansal Mehta, is based on the true story of Dr Shrinivas Ramchandra Siras, a professor at Aligarh Muslim University in India, who was suspended from his job and faced public humiliation for being gay. Although the movie primarily deals with issues of discrimination, persecution, and human rights, education is a recurring theme throughout the film which is demonstrated by the importance of academic freedom, intellectual curiosity, and critical thinking in promoting a more inclusive and just society.
- A nod to the cultural significance of the Old Delhi area and serving as a symbol for the cultural melting pot

that is Delhi, Delhi-6 (2009), directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, showcases the essence of Delhi, capturing its diversity, charm, and complexities, making it an ode to the city and its people.

- Legally Blonde (2001), directed by Robert Luketic, serves as a reminder that education is a powerful tool for personal growth and self-discovery. Through her journey, the protagonist, Elle Woods, learns to value herself for who she is and to pursue her passions with confidence and determination, which are important values for all students to embrace.
- The movie Yuva (2004), directed by Mani Ratnam, despite not having a direct connection to education, contains themes and messages which can be applied to the importance of informed decision-making, the impact of societal expectations, and the potential of youth to create positive change through education.

# Book Recommendations



- The book *Delhi is Not Far* by Ruskin Bond is set in the city of Delhi and revolves around the life of a young man named Arun who leaves his small town to find work in the big city. The title is symbolic of Arun's journey from his small town to the big city and it captures the essence of Delhi and its many facets, including its people, its history, and its culture. Overall, it is a tribute to the vibrancy and diversity of Delhi and a reflection of the city's unique character and identity.
- Arun Joshi's novel *The Foreigner* is set in Delhi, India, and explores the theme of alienation and identity. Portraying the contrast between the traditional Indian culture and the modern westernised lifestyle that is becoming more prevalent in Delhi, the protagonist Sindi struggles to reconcile his Western education with his Indian identity, and he finds himself increasingly isolated from the society he grew up in.
- The book *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini tells the story of two Afghan women, Mariam and Laila, and their

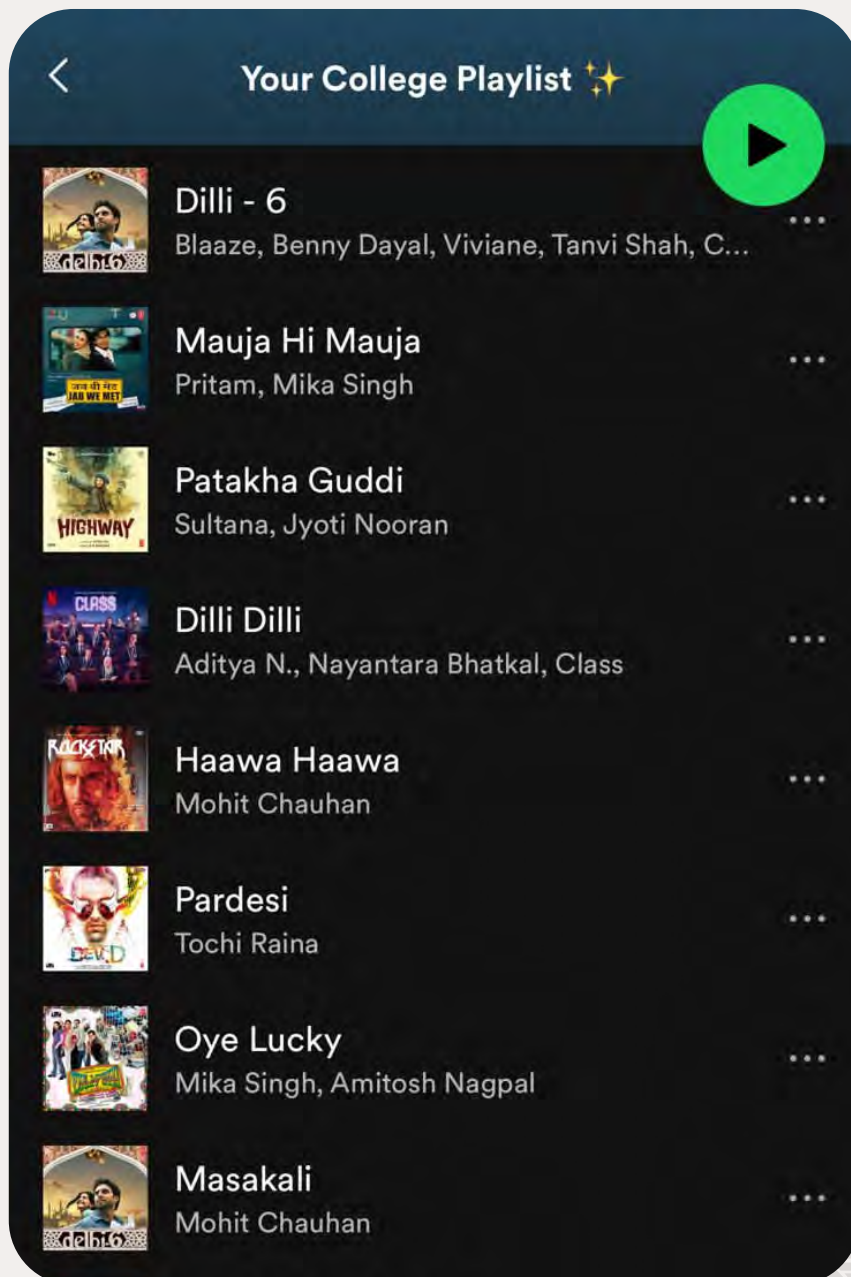
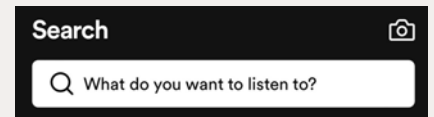
struggles living under the oppressive regime of the Taliban. Education plays an important role in the book as it is used as a means of empowerment and liberation for the female characters.

- A graphic novel by Sarnath Banerjee, *All is Quiet in Vikaspuri* is set in Vikaspuri, a residential area in West Delhi. Through a diverse set of characters and their interactions, the book sheds light on broader issues facing Delhi and other Indian cities, such as the challenges of rapid urbanisation and the complex relationships between different social groups, offering a nuanced perspective on the city and its complexities, while also providing an engaging and thought-provoking reading experience.
- A novel written by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, *Path Ke Davedar* was originally published in Bengali in 1912. The novel portrays the struggles of a young man named Prafulla in his pursuit of education and social mobility in colonial India. Through Prafulla's journey, the novel underscores the importance of education in empowering individuals and transforming their lives.
- Rabindranath Tagore's book *Home and the World* explores complex themes related to education and the impact it has on society. Focusing on the character of Nikhil and his friend Sandip, where the former believes that education is a means to promote individual freedom and social progress, while the latter argues that education should be used to promote nationalist ideals and social change. This conflict highlights the tension between different visions of education and its role in society.
- The book *Journey to Ixtlan* by Carlos Castaneda is a work of fiction, exploring the concept of shamanism and the mystical experiences associated with it. One of the key themes prevalent in the book is the idea of learning through experience. The novel also offers insights that may be relevant to educators and students which can be seen through the emphasis on the importance of experiential learning and critical thinking.
- *Raag Darbari*, by Srilal Shukla, is a satirical novel which portrays the social, economic, and political conditions of rural India and is set in the fictional village of Shivpalganj, Uttar Pradesh. The book depicts the urban influence on rural life and how the two worlds interact, while portraying the education system of rural India, where the education is limited to the theoretical aspect and doesn't provide practical knowledge.

# Song Recommendations



To view the entire playlist scan the Spotify code using this camera -



# In the news

## Delhi University To Give Professors 5-Year Extension Post Retirement

At present, the retirement age of the faculty is 65 years and no extension was given to teachers.

## Delhi Women's Body Seeks Report Over Harassment At College Fest

Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal on Monday summoned Delhi Police and Delhi University officials to appear before the commission.

## Delhi University represents India in all its richness and diversity: President Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu was speaking at Delhi University's 99th convocation

February 25, 2023 08:23 pm | Updated 09:22 pm IST - New Delhi

PTI

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President Droupadi Murmu addresses at the 99th Annual Convocation of the University of Delhi, in New Delhi, on February 25, 2023. | Photo Credit: PTI

## Over 1,000 Students Benefited from Delhi University's Fee Waiver Scheme So Far: Official

Under the Financial Support Scheme (FSS) launched by the University of Delhi, so far 1,009 needy students have received benefits of about Rs 1 crore, DU's Dean of Students Welfare Pankaj Arora

## After 3-year gap, DU student union election to be held after admissions this year

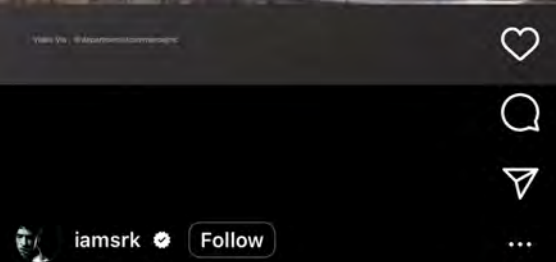
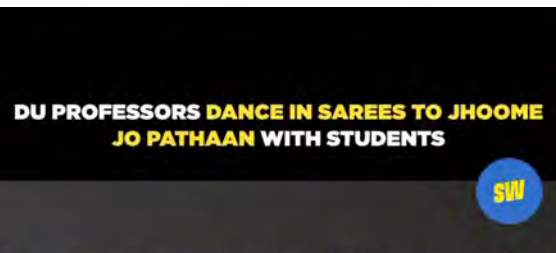
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## It's raining lit fests at Delhi University

Written by [Vidheesha Kuntamalla](#)

## Delhi Government Releases ₹ 100 Crore As Part Of Budget For Delhi University Colleges

According to the Delhi government, ₹ 361 crore were allocated to these colleges during the Assembly budget in 2022-23, ₹ 308 crore in 2021-22, ₹ 265 crore in 2020-21, ₹ 235 crore in 2019-20, and ₹ 213 crore in 2018-19.



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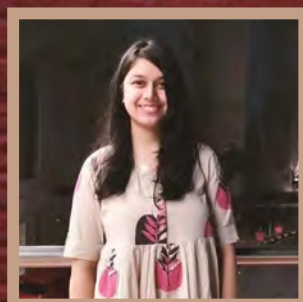
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