

# Xaverian Buzz

SPECIAL EDITION

*Through The Prism of History*



**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY PATNA**

NAAC ACCREDITED WITH B++ GRADE (1ST CYCLE)



# The show must go on...!

Dear Readers,

As November comes to an end and we inch closer to bid adieu to 2023, let's pause momentarily to reflect on the various events organized in the college and the myriad emotions we experienced as Xaverians. To begin with the ICC World Cup 2023, the spectacular performance of the Indian cricket team on the home turf with a nine match unbeaten trail that seemed destined to win another title, unfortunately, didn't have a fairytale ending as it lost the final to Australia by six wickets, crashing a billion plus dream of a cricket-crazy nation. Soon the internet was flooded with 'expert analyses' with some zealots making distasteful remarks about the men in blue. The rancorous intent of the text blighted the standards of sportsmanship and fair play. Perhaps, the ICC should contemplate the prospect of holding such high decibel matches in cosmopolitan cities where misplaced patriotic fervour isn't a default setting.

Diversity is one of the defining features of our college where you get to witness tales of resilience, cultural exchange, and the triumph of the human spirit which is a testament to the power of inclusivity, reminding us that our cultural differences are not barriers but bridges to understanding the broader spectrum of India's mores. The Diwali celebration was a dazzling spectacle that brought together students, faculty and staff in a joyous celebration. The festivities kicked

off with a burst of colour and energy as the college corridor was adorned with vibrant rangoli and diyas where intricate patterns created with coloured powders and flower petals mesmerized everyone.

Even as the college is conducting the mammoth exercise of internal examination of the odd semester, it didn't forget its commitment to the ideals of the Constitution. It hosted a webinar where Dr. S Y Quereshi, the former Chief Election Commissioner of India, faculty members and students engaged in a spirited dialogue on the various facets of constitutionalism, emphasizing the enduring relevance of the supreme document in shaping our democratic ethos. We sincerely hope that the spirit of the Constitution inspires us to be vigilant custodians of democracy and advocates for social justice and equality in all spheres.

As you flip through the pages, we hope you feel the pulse of Xaverian family that values diversity, cherishes knowledge, and embraces the responsibility to make a positive impact. Xaverian Buzz is a mirror reflecting the essence of who we are and a compass guiding us forward to who we aspire to become and remind you of the incredible tapestry we are weaving together.

Here's to the power of words, beauty of diversity, and the boundless potential of our shared journey.

Happy Reading!

**Abhishek Anand**  
Consultant Editor

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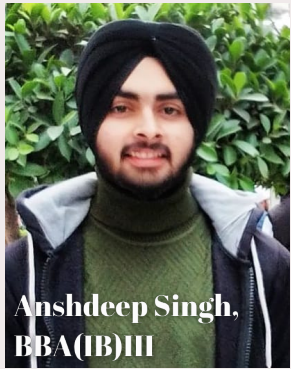
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## Timeless Teachings of the Founder of Sikhism



Guru Nanak Jayanti, or *Gurpurab*, is a joyous celebration commemorating the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the visionary and spiritual leader who founded Sikhism. This significant occasion,

typically observed in November, holds profound importance for millions of Sikhs worldwide. Guru Nanak's teachings encompass the core principles of "*Naam Japo*," "*Kirt Karo*," and "*Vand Chako*." "*Naam Japo*" encourages devotees to meditate on the divine name, fostering a deep spiritual connection. This principle underscores the significance of introspection and prayer in leading a purposeful and fulfilling life.

"*Kirt Karo*" emphasizes the value of honest and diligent work. Guru Nanak advocated for the dignity of labour, promoting the idea that earning a livelihood through sincere efforts is not only essential for personal growth but also contributes positively to society.

The principle of "*Vand Chako*" underscores the importance of selfless service and sharing with others. Guru Nanak envisioned a society where individuals actively engage in helping those in need, fostering a spirit of compassion, community, and generosity.

Guru Nanak Jayanti is marked by various festivities, including visits to gurdwaras, where Sikhs engage in prayers, hymn singing, and community meals. Processions and *Nagar Kirtans*, religious parades, are also organized to celebrate the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The enduring relevance of Guru Nanak's teachings lies in their universal appeal, transcending religious boundaries. On this special day, Sikhs and admirers alike come together to reflect on the profound wisdom of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, reinforcing the values of unity, love, and respect for all.

## "Let's Talk Series" Explores Constitutional Dimensions of Media Freedom in an Enlightening Session



In an enlightening session held on November 4th, the department of Journalism and Mass Communication organized the third episode of the *Let's Talk Series* by Abhishek Anand, Assistant Professor in the department, for an insightful discussion on the '**Constitution and its Relevance to Media**'.

His speech got off to a lively start with an emphasis on the intrinsic nature of Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution. He pointed out that these rights are subject to reasonable limitations and are not absolute and unqualified. One needs to take into account Article 21(A), which states that the right to life and liberty are inalienable and the State can't abridge it.

The focal point of the discussion centred on the fine line between freedom of speech and expression and whether the media too, is entitled to this right. He warned against the possible misuse of this right by the media by creating biased narratives for its own vested interest, citing the threat of wider social implications. A close examination of defamation (IPC Sec. 499) showed that it is not a punishable offence unless it has been proved beyond doubt to cause personal harm. However, people in public life are given to making sensational and scandalous accusations against others under the garb of freedom of speech, as the conviction rate in such cases is dismally low in India.

The speaker agreed that imposing reasonable restrictions on rights was justified on the basis of sovereignty, amicable ties with foreign States, and to ensure public order. He cited the famous *Romesh Thappar vs. State of Madras case (1950)*, which paved the way for media freedom under Article 19(A).

He reminded the students to use their right to freedom of speech and expression rationally and responsibly. After delving into the constitutional nuances surrounding free speech, he answered the queries of the students.

Aditya Raj of BA (JMC) III concluded the session by offering a vote of appreciation, expressing gratitude for the important role that journalism students are poised to play in creating a media ecosystem that is socially responsible without compromising its ethics and principles.

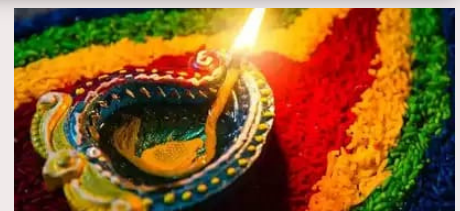
## Mesmerizing Spectacle Comes Alive with Diwali Celebration



In a vibrant celebration of Diwali, the college organized a cultural event, bringing forth the spirit of religious harmony in a creative manner. The highlight of the festivities was a fashion show, where participants donned the traditional attire of various Indian states, turning the stage into a treasure of colours and diversity. The participants not only showcased the beauty of their state but also express a heartfelt message about their region in its native language. This innovative approach highlighted the cultural diversity of India and also showcased a deeper understanding of the country's rich tapestry among the audience. The symbolic act of placing a lighted Diya on the map of India added an emotional touch to the event. As participants illuminated their respective states on the map, it served as a visual representation of unity in diversity, echoing the essence of Diwali. The collective effort to light up the entire map emphasized the interconnectedness of the states and the collective brightness that originates when diverse cultures come together. Principal, Fr. Dr. Martin Poras SJ, shared an inspiring story that resonated with the theme of light which is essential to dispel the guidance within us. His words added a spiritual dimension to the event, encouraging reflection on the importance of unity and shared values in our diverse society. Adding a melodious note to the festivities, the Xavier Dhvani Club enriched the atmosphere with a Diwali song, spreading joy and warmth. The harmonious tunes served as a reminder of the cultural wealth which reverberates within the ambience of the college, fostering a sense of cohesion and togetherness which is quiet essential of Xavierian family

The celebration served as an occasion to reinforce the principles of national unity. Through the fusion of traditional attire, languages, symbolic gestures, and inspirational messages, the event transcended the conventional celebration, leaving an unforgettable mark on the hearts and minds of all present. It was a tribute to the commitment of the college to fostering a sense of belonging and understanding in an inclusive and culturally diverse environment.

## Artistic and Creative Prowess on Display as Kabir Club Organises Diya Decoration and Rangoli - making Competition



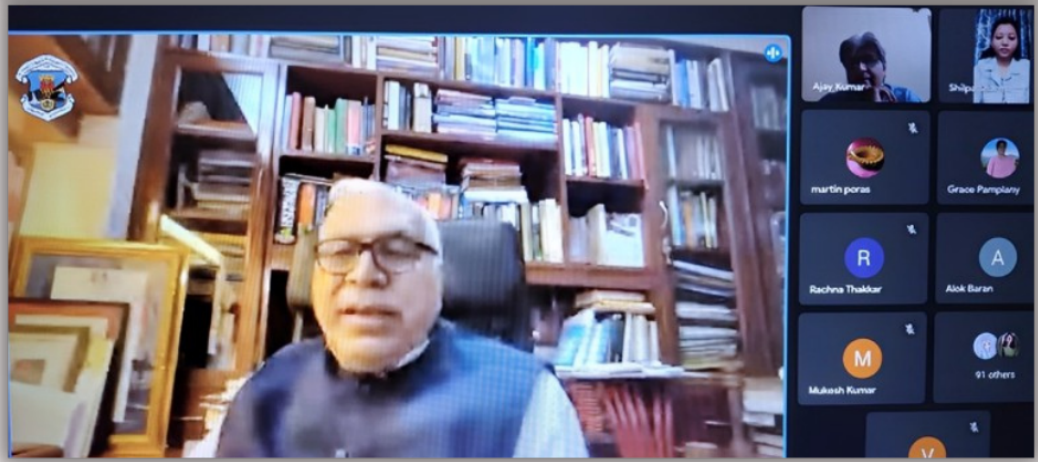
Welcoming the festival of lights, the Kabir Club organised an inter-departmental Diya Decoration and Rangoli Making competition where the students showcased their creative skills. The entire corridor adjacent to De Nobili Hall and Kalaam Hall was decked with picturesque and creative designs by the students. The vibrant expression of art through colours was a visual feast to the eyes.

In the Rangoli Making Competition, the dynamic duo of Shreya and Pallavi Jha of BA (JMC)- I, claimed the coveted first position. Following closely, Priya and Pratistha from BBA- III secured a commendable second place, with BCA's talented pair, Riddhi and Srishti, clinching the third spot.

In the Diya Decoration Competition, BCA- III students, Zafar Iqbal and Ayesha Firdous illuminated their way to the top position. Aadhya and Komal from BA (JMC)-III bagged the second spot while Khushi Gupta and Ankit Kumar from BBA (IB)-II, clinched the third position.

Principal Fr. (Dr) Martin Poras SJ, acknowledged the endeavour of the participants and congratulated the awardees for infusing a burst of vibrancy and creative energy into the college ambience.

## Webinar on 'Constitution Day' with Former Chief Election Commissioner of India



The college organised a webinar on “**Constitution Day: The Founding Pillar of Indian Democracy**”, on the occasion of Samvidhan Divas to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The webinar was graced by the distinguished presence of the resource person, **S. Y. Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India**. Following the address by the resource person, Principal, Fr Martin Poras SJ spoke about the Constitutional duties of citizens to develop a scientific temper, humanism and a spirit of enquiry and reform. He also pointed out how the college is upholding these values in letter and spirit in its work and academic culture. Asst. Professor, Dr Alok Baran said that, 'the value of fraternity needs to be emphasized. When it comes to fundamental duties, we need to observe the law and ethics of law scrupulously. Dr Quraishi discussed the historical context and philosophical underpinning of the drafting of the Indian Constitution, highlighting the visionary leaders who played a pivotal role in shaping its principles and ideals. The webinar incorporated an interactive element allowing participants to engage with the resource person. The deliberation enabled a dynamic exchange of ideas and clarified participants' queries concerning constitutional matters.

## Workshop on Gender Sensitization held

On November 4, 2023, the Commerce Department presented an engaging lecture on "Gender Sensitization" as part of an innovative programme. The discussion was led by Dr. Shambhu Nath Singh, Principal of Surendra Teachers Training College in Patna, the workshop covered the diverse aspects and nuances of gender equality.



The purpose of the programme was to sensitize B.Com (Professional) students about the importance of equality and the impact that gender roles have on society. Students engaged with Dr. Singh in a thought-provoking interaction after the address of the resource person. The meeting was facilitated by Prachi BCP III, while Mayank, BCP III proposed the vote of thanks at the end.



# राष्ट्रीय प्रेस - दिवस

*Abhishek Anand, Asst. Prof., Deptt. of Journalism & Mass Communication*

हमारे देश में प्रायः प्रत्येक दिन कोई- न- कोई दिवस आयोजित होता रहा है; परंतु उसकी मान्यता और उपयोगिता- महत्ता से अधिकतर हम अनभिज्ञ रहे हैं। इसका मूल कारण है कि हम यहीं तक सीमित रह जाते हैं कि 'परंपरा है' एवं ऐसा सोच 16 नवंबर को आयोजित किए जाने वाले 'राष्ट्रीय प्रेस दिवस' के विषय में भी है। यह स्थिति शोचनीय है कि जिन लोग का पत्रकारिता से दूर-दूर तक कोई संबंध नहीं है, वे लोग भी अपने वाहनों पर प्रेस लिखवाकर सीना तानकर घूमते रहते हैं। अतः प्रेस- दिवस का संदर्भ समझना आवश्यक है।

राजधानी दिल्ली में एक स्वायत्तशासी विधिक संघटन है, जिसका नाम भारतीय प्रेस परिषद् (प्रेस काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया) है जिसकी स्थापना 4 जुलाई, 1966 ई० में की गई थी किंतु वह 16 नवंबर, 1966 ई० से कार्यशील हुई थी। इसलिए इस तिथि को 'राष्ट्रीय प्रेस दिवस' घोषित किया गया था।

हमारे देश में बहुसंख्य सुशिक्षितजन 'प्रेस-दिवस' और 'पत्रकारिता-दिवस' को एक ही मानते आ रहे हैं और समझते भी हैं, जो कि पूर्णतः अनुपयुक्त है। एक अन्य सुशिक्षित-वर्ग ऐसा है, जो दोनो दिवस को भिन्न-भिन्न मानता आ रहा है; परन्तु उनके उद्देश्य और उनकी अवधारणा से अनभिज्ञ रहता है। ऐसे पढ़े-लिखे लोग की भी संख्या बड़ी है, जो 'प्रेस-दिवस' को 'छपाई करनेवाले यन्त्र' (मुद्रक/Printer) के साथ जोड़कर देखते आ रहे हैं। हाँ, गिने-चुने जानकार हैं, जो 'प्रेस-दिवस' को समझते हैं।

'वॉच डॉग' एक ऐसी पत्रकारिता है जो स्वयं को 'लोकतंत्र का चतुर्थ स्तम्भ' कहलाने के औचित्य को सिद्ध करती है। वह शासकीय- प्रशासकीय विसंगतियों को समाज के पटल पर निष्पक्ष ढंग से प्रस्तुत करती है। हालांकि इसमें लेशमात्र भी संशय नहीं है कि आज देश में बड़े उद्योगपतियों द्वारा जितने भी समाचार पत्र- पत्रिकाएं प्रकाशित की जा रही हैं उसका दुष्प्रभाव है कि मीडिया का 'चारणी युग' आरंभ हो चुका है।

ऐसी स्थिति में देश के समस्त मीडिया समूह को चाहिए कि वह क्षुद्र स्वार्थ, द्वेषादिक से परे होकर अपने प्रेस-संघटन को शक्त, समर्थ तथा प्रभावकारी बनायें, तभी सच्चे अर्थ में 'राष्ट्रीय प्रेस- दिवस' आयोजन करने की सार्थकता सिद्ध हो सकेगी।



*Respect is a two-way street where each person in the relationship values, acknowledges, and considers the feelings and opinions of the other person. It sets the foundation for a healthy and thriving relationship where both partners feel valued and heard. In this article, Priya Manish Kumar discusses the importance of cultivating mutual respect essential for maintaining healthy and fulfilling relationships.*



We hear this term often enough – ‘Respect’. As we are taught to respect God and our elders through certain actions. We learn to bow and fold our hands and believe we have shown ‘Respect’. Is that enough? I have been thinking... It led me to consult the dictionary to see what it had to say about this ordinary everyday word, a word that is so intrinsic to Indian culture.

The dictionary is important. It helps us find meaning. Sometimes what we find in the dictionary is enough to make us question ourselves and our understanding that we have been taking for granted. I especially felt so about this particular word, ‘Respect’. When I looked it up in the dictionary, as it is wont to do, it gave me more than one meaning of the word. First it said that respect is admiration of someone for some quality that they possess. Well, I thought that was admiration. We like somebody, we admire their qualities and that is that. It did not really define respect. But wait, there was a second meaning which forced me to reflect on the world’s collective understanding of the word ‘Respect’. The dictionary said

that it means “care and consideration of others’ feelings, rights and wishes”. Whoa! That’s a goldmine of meaning! Something we should all reflect upon.

Now you will do well to ask me why? In answer, I urge you to look around us. We live in a volatile society. Everywhere we see people are seething and simmering with anger. No matter the reason. On the roads, at homes, public and private places, there is abuse. Both physical and verbal. When friends, family, colleagues or strangers do not meet our expectations, we lash out at them. We forget that we are not considering their feelings, rights and wishes. Yet when we come across a place of worship we automatically bow our heads and touch our foreheads as a mark of respect. Who are we respecting? A stone idol? Or a force stronger than us whom we call God? Why do we feel compelled to show respect to God? Either we fear him/her or we want something from him/her. It is fear or greed that propels us to show respectful gestures. But that is not what the dictionary tells us and the dictionary is never wrong.

What will happen if we follow what the

dictionary tells us? What will happen if we show genuine care and concern to others and their rights and wishes? We will create a world full of love, peace and harmony. A progressive world where each will be heard, understood and accepted, differences and all. These very same differences will help create a more vibrant world that moves towards collective growth and success. Isn’t that what we all want? Think about it...



*The writer is Coordinator,  
Deptt. of Journalism & Mass Communication*



# “We Have Set a Standard which Is Difficult to Emulate”



In a tête-à-tête with Swati Mishra and Aayushi Singh, Controller of Examination, Fr A Sebastian SJ, discusses the modalities and nuances of conducting internal examinations.



**Swati:** Father, what elements of being the Examination Controller of this esteemed institution do you enjoy the most and why?

**Father:** It is undeniable that exams are an integral part of the education system as they help the students in knowing and assessing what they have learnt in the classroom and beyond. So at the outset, I can say that I enjoy conducting the exams in accordance with the various modules that we have introduced. We try to ensure that the internal exams are in tune with the mission of the college that is “*to make men and women for others.*” The examination is designed in a manner which dissuades rote learning and focuses on the holistic approach of education. For example, in written exam we check the retention and conceptual clarity, class presentations test the students’ confidence and professional communication skills. The group activities foster a sense of team work while the case studies require students to identify problems and issues in a scenario and to make decisions and recommendations based on the knowledge gained in the classroom to either prevent or solve the issues. So we are not assessing just the writing part, speaking, working in groups and creativity, to name a few. I strongly feel that our college goes the

extra mile to maintain the quality and standard of education which is synonymous with Jesuit pedagogy. This is my sixth year in this institution and the satisfaction of conducting exams keeping pace with the changing times is the part which I enjoy the most. The standards that we have set in the field of higher education are quite difficult for others to replicate. The second thing which is the most joyous is when I see the results of students of both internal as well as external examinations. Invariably, in every stream there are quite a few students who have scored 9-9.8 CGPA. Some of the students have bagged university gold medals. If you see this in the context that our college is hardly a decade old, it speaks volumes about our commitment to quality education.

**Swati:** What is the biggest challenge that you get to face in your work?

**Father:** The biggest challenge is to make students understand the importance of exams in the technology-driven world. Unfortunately, some students indulge in unfair means to pass their exams. I would like to remind them that success is 90% perspiration and 10% inspiration. There is no shortcut to success as only consistency and smart work can help one excel academically.

The second challenge I face is to conduct various modules of the internal exam without hampering the regular classes. Striking the right balance here is anything but easy as we have to take into account the interest of all the stakeholders. This is the most tedious task that I have to do and there is not much elbow room here. I have to constantly keep a watch and do meticulous planning and coordinate with the different departments to inform the students in advance.

**Swati:** Father, what is the redressal mechanism available if a student misses his internal exam owing to unforeseen circumstances?

**Father:** The redressal mechanism is available only in exceptional cases which we consider on humanitarian ground and we treat them on a case-by-case basis. Whenever such situations arise, the student has to submit a written application with the relevant proof to the examination department. However, such concessions are rarely allowed to prevent the dilution of seriousness of exams. Dealing with such cases becomes tricky at times as forging a medical certificate is not difficult these days. So, the re-test mechanism is available but the authority to allow it rests solely with the CoE as it can’t be allowed to be misused by anyone by claiming it as a matter of right.





**Swati:** Could you acquaint us with the process of promotion to the next semester particularly with reference to the number of backlog papers permissible and the minimum CGPA required?

**Father:** As far as Aryabhata Knowledge University is concerned, the rules stipulate that **there should be no backlog paper before you enter into the 5th semester.** If you have a backlog, you will not be allowed to register for the fifth semester. Additionally, your **CGPA must not be below 5.** Apart from that, if you have any backlog paper, you will get a chance to write it after the 1st year. Suppose a student doesn't clear his exams after three years, then there will be a special supplementary, in which he can apply for it and clear all his papers.

**Swati:** Father, how can we convert our CGPA into a percentage score?

**Father:** To convert CGPA into a percentage score, you need to multiply the CGPA by a conversion factor which varies according to the educational institution and grading system. However, the most typical conversion factor is 9.5 for 10- point CGPA scale. So you simply multiply the CGPA by 9.5. For example, if a student has a CGPA of 8.5 on a scale of 10, the percentage equivalent is:  $8.5 \times 9.5 = 80.75\%$

**Swati:** Is there any provision in the policy for re-test if a student is held guilty of using unfair means in the exam?

**Father:** No, our policy clearly states that no re-test is permitted in cases involving unfair means as the paper in such cases is straightaway cancelled. Such students will have to repeat the whole semester. **We are committed to conducting the exams in a fair and transparent manner and hence there is absolutely zero tolerance regarding any malpractice.** The current rules stipulate that if a student is caught, the management calls his/her parents. That student has to furnish a bond and s/he is issued a yellow/red card depending on the gravity of the case. Further, the student gets a zero on this paper and if s/he doesn't perform well in other modules, s/he might fail. Let me assure you that we are working in this direction to plug all the possible loopholes which leave room for any malpractices during the exams.

**Swati:** There is a general perception that the internal exams of our college are tougher than the university exams taken

by the students. How do you see this?

**Father:** Let me rephrase that. The framing of questions is a rigorous exercise as every aspect of learning assessment is meticulously taken into account. I believe students shouldn't have a myopic view by cribbing at the degree of difficulty of the question paper. Instead, they should look at the larger picture. We have a set standard which we follow and hence, the question papers are designed in accordance with it. This becomes particularly pronounced when you take into account the syllabus prescribed by the university which unfortunately, hasn't been revised to meet the requirements of the present times. Our fervent efforts and repeated appeal for updating the syllabus hasn't yielded any fruitful outcome. So, our internal module of examination is designed to fill those gaps to the extent possible. That's why, the certificate courses have been introduced, which are basically short duration learning modules. These courses allow perspective employers to establish whether your knowledge-base corresponds to their skill requirements. If a certificate is earned from a reputable source, it lends credibility to the obtained credentials. So, our CIA modules are dynamic in nature to keep pace with the fast- changing job market. The CIA module also ensures that the students engage themselves in serious and sincere study throughout the year. So, they serve as an important component in the overall assessment of the students' knowledge, understanding and application of concepts providing a more holistic view of their abilities compared to a single exam. All the CIA modules that we have introduced even for projects where we ask you to prepare practical files in a prescribed format which is practised by some of the top class universities across India. This is done to familiarize the students with the latest trend. We are applying for autonomous status and once we get that, things will certainly undergo a positive sea change.

**Swati:** What is the objective and rationale behind making case study- based questions compulsory in the internal examination?

**Father:** As I told you at the outset, our syllabus is still highly theoretical. We are a Management institution and we want our students to have exposure to the latest trends. When it comes to the written curriculum, it is

heavily dominated by theory and leaves little scope for practical learning. So to enable them to learn the application of the theoretical aspect, we have made case study compulsory this time. These questions are an effective way to get students to practically apply their skills and understanding of learned facts to real-world situations. They typically are presented to the students as situation or scenario which is guided by questions such as "what you would do in this situation?" or "how would you solve this question?" Case studies help students analyse and find solutions to complex problems with confidence and foresight. They are particularly useful where situations are complex and solutions are uncertain. In the most straightforward application, the presentation of the case study establishes a framework for analysis. Such questions provide enough information for students to figure out solutions and then to identify how to apply those solutions in other similar situations. So, students develop their skills in problem solving, analytical tools, quantitative and/ or qualitative depending on the case, decision making in complex situations, and coping with ambiguities, to name a few.

**Swati:** Father, would you like to give any message as we are all set to write our odd semester exam?

**Father:** Although, we are a new college but when it comes to academics I don't think we are new as Xavier is a globally renowned name in the field of education. We continuously strive for excellence as mediocrity has absolutely no place in our work culture. As you write your exams, we are behind you, cheering you on to the finish line. You might be feeling stressed, overwhelmed and even confused but remember perseverance is the key to success as **when the going gets tough, the tough gets going.** The grilling that you undergo here teaches you that setbacks are temporary, disappointments don't last and positivity can lift you out of anywhere. The course of your future might be crooked, unexpected and riddled with odds. Don't let any of the bends or detours shake your belief in your potential.

*Best wishes!*



*The IIT Bombay recently asked its faculty members and students to get prior approval if they plan to invite external speakers for a talk or to screen documentaries/ movies if the content may be construed as “political or potentially controversial”. In this piece, B N Choudhary underscores the pitfalls of such unwarranted steps as he believes that higher education institutions should serve as a platform to accommodate diverse and dissenting opinions.*



## Let's Agree to Disagree!

Asking faculty and students to take prior approval from the authorities regarding what a guest speaker would speak, by IIT Bombay, in my view, is fully against the spirit of education. The education at times should be allowed to voice opinions which might not completely be in consonance with the views held by the establishment and occasionally, even rebellious to the extent of calling a spade a spade. The battle for free speech is always fought on the fringes, with people whose thoughts find scant endorsement. Protecting their rights does an essential public service, because it protects everyone's rights. Freedom of speech is probably the most sacred constitutional guarantee of all, and the true test of this sacred right is when someone uttering morally repugnant thoughts exercises it.

Freedom of speech is probably the most sacred constitutional guarantee of all, and the true test of this sacred right is when someone uttering morally repugnant thoughts exercises it. Any system by its very nature is an evolving entity and no system can claim to be static. How does a system evolve and where does the idea of evolution get conceived? Obviously, in

education and particularly, higher education. Hence, the education system has to have the autonomy to generate ideas which ignite the exploration of the possibilities to attain that goal. If the system itself imposes restrictions on the germination of those ideas, can that process of evolution be effectively explored?

Secondly, and more importantly, the objective of a system is to create the best possible environment to propel the wellbeing of its people, without discrimination on any ground. Therefore, the responsibility of education is to explore the alternatives of the existing system to attain that goal. No system can explore its own alternatives. The stakeholders of the system will have inertia against those changes. Therefore, education has to create the understanding to break that inertia. Various aspects of human life, its related issues and the opportunities and challenges have to be considered beyond the restrictions and confinements of the existing system. Various disciplines of life cannot attain their potentials for improvement in the meaningful existence and sustainability of human life.

Therefore, any restriction and control over

education, and particularly the higher education will be counter-productive for the attainment of the goals of growth and sustenance of humanity and its inherent values. On the contrary, education has to remain free from all restrictions. The ideas of education have to be transformed into activism in various areas of life like the struggle against slavery, marginalisation, social exclusions threats to the environment, war against superstitions and conservatism, establishment of the ideas of collective existence against individualism, etc. Let's pledge to make education free to achieve the pinnacle of the growth of the human race on the earth, collectively.



The writer is Asst. Professor, Deptt. of Economics



*The near-unanimous opinion regarding accessing Dark Web is to stay away from it because it is inherently unsafe. It is so easy to lose your way, and valuables such as money and data in the Dark Web. Unless you fear prosecution by an authoritarian regime or a government agency for doing something you think legitimate, as a rule of thumb, the Dark Web should be a no-go area. As India is moving towards more and more digitalization in all spheres, cyberspace has become a serious concern. Mukesh Kumar shares his insights on the challenges posed by Dark Web and the defence mechanism available to avert any security threats arising thereof.*



## Navigating the Shadows: Dark Web and Cyber security

The Dark Web is a secret domain that exists underneath the surface of the internet and has come to be associated with threats to cybersecurity, illegal activity, and secrecy. It is a part of the deep web that is intentionally hidden and requires specific tools, such as Tor (The Onion Router), to access. It operates on a peer-to-peer network, providing users with anonymity through encryption and routing techniques.

The Dark Web has garnered popularity for hosting a variety of illegal activities, including the selling of drugs, hacking tools, stolen data, and more, even though it is not intrinsically illegal. Perhaps one of the most notorious cases, Silk Road was an online marketplace on the Dark Web that facilitated the trade of illegal goods, primarily drugs. One more example is the ransomware group known as "DarkSide," which gained notoriety for its involvement in the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack in 2021. These cases brought attention to how bitcoins are used in illegal transactions and the difficulties authorities have in tracking these kinds of activity. Actually, the use of cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin,

adds another layer of complexity to tracking financial transactions on the Dark Web.

There is a serious risk to people, institutions, and even governments from these cybercriminals. The Dark Web serves as a hub for exchanging APT (Advanced Persistent Threats) tools and intelligence, enabling malicious actors to enhance their capabilities and launch targeted attacks. Stolen personal data from data breaches is frequently exchanged.

Ensuring your safety from illegal activities on the dark web involves taking several precautions. First and foremost, educate yourself about the dangers posed by the dark web. Always use strong, unique passwords for your online accounts. Enable multi-factor authentication (minimum 2FA) wherever possible to add an extra layer of security to your accounts. You must avoid sharing sensitive personal information online. Phishing attempts should be avoided as they might try to trick you into disclosing personal information. Keep your operating system, antivirus software, and other applications up to date. While browsing the internet, especially if

you're accessing sensitive information, use a secure and encrypted connection (HTTPS). Avoid using public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions.

The Dark Web presents a complex challenge to cybersecurity, with its encrypted channels enabling various illicit activities. As technology evolves, so do the strategies employed by both cybercriminals and cybersecurity experts. Remember, while these measures can help improve your online security, there is no absolute guarantee of safety. Exercise caution, be vigilant, and stay informed about evolving online threats.



*The writer is Asst. Professor, Deptt. of Computer Science*



Music plays an important role in one's emotional and intellectual equilibrium. Music is an art form that inspires, educates, motivates, soothes, energizes, and brings consolation to millions.

That's why I bring music into the classroom whenever I can. In the words of Paul Simon, "Every generation throws a hero up the pop-charts."



One of the songs that I have included on my 'teaching list' is 'Could Have Been Me' by the British rock band 'The Struts'. The Struts got noticed around 2015-16. In 2020, I came across one of their songs, 'Could Have been me'.

Why is the song being played in my classroom? The lyrics and message of the song contain elements that can inspire and encourage youngsters to pursue their dreams, overcome challenges, and live life to the fullest.

The title itself: "Could Have Been Me," suggests the idea of not wanting to look back with regret. The song emphasizes the importance of seizing opportunities and not letting fear or doubt hold one back. This message inspires us to take chances, pursue our dreams, and live life to the fullest without dwelling on past regrets.

**Embracing Opportunities:** The lyrics emphasize the importance of seizing opportunities and taking risks. Lines like "I wanna taste love and pain, wanna feel pride and shame"

encourage listeners to step out of their comfort zones and experience life in its entirety.

**Empowerment and Self-belief:** The song promotes a sense of self-empowerment and self-belief. Lines like "I get knocked down, but I get up again" urge us to be resilient in the face of adversity and believe in our ability to bounce back from setbacks.

**Chasing Dreams:** The lyrics "Well, I never tasted love and I never tasted pain" represent a desire to experience life fully and embrace all aspects of it, including pursuing one's dreams. It urges young people to follow their passions and work hard to achieve their goals.

**Embracing Individuality:** The song encourages young people to embrace their true selves and not be afraid to stand out from the crowd. The lyrics remind listeners that it's okay to be different and unique, which can be empowering for young individuals

who may feel pressured to conform. Lines like "Why don't you be you, and I'll be me" advocate for individuality and authenticity, which can motivate young people to embrace their uniqueness and express themselves fully. "Could Have Been Me" by The Struts

can serve as a powerful motivational anthem for students, promoting self-belief, resilience, and the courage to embrace individuality and pursue their aspirations. The song's positive and empowering message can be a source of inspiration and encouragement for the youth as they navigate through life's challenges and opportunities.



Frank Krishner is former Coordinator, Deptt. of Journalism & Mass Communication



# Remembering The Unsung Heroes

Swati Sakshi Mishra, BA(JMC) III

In a world where gender conversations frequently are centred around women's rights, International Men's Day serves as an emotional call to recognise the unsung heroes in our midst - men. Men's struggles are often relegated to the shadows in the midst of the clamour for equality and justice, obliterated by a narrative that occasionally veers into male bashing. Let us shine a light on the challenges that men face, the stereotypes they face, and the invaluable contributions they make to society on International Men's Day.

The concept of International Men's Day is not an attempt to diminish the importance of women's rights, but rather a call for a balanced dialogue that recognises the multifaceted challenges that both genders face. In recent years, the feminist movement, while instrumental in breaking down gender stereotypes, has inadvertently created an environment of male bashing. It is critical to recognise that advocating for women's rights does not have to imply vilifying men. In the words of Aristotle, "it is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

Men face unique challenges that are frequently disregarded. In some cases, legal systems appear to be skewed in favour of women, potentially making a man's life a maze of legal complexities. Family court decisions, for example, have been known to favour mothers, leaving fathers feeling betrayed. This is not an argument against women's rights, but rather a call for an equitable legal system that considers the well-being of all parties involved.

Men's contributions to society are numerous and frequently underappreciated. Men have played pivotal roles in shaping our collective destiny in fields ranging from science to the arts, politics to technology. "The value of a man resides in what he gives, not in what he is capable of receiving," Albert Einstein, one of history's greatest minds, once said. Men make immeasurable contributions to society's well-being as fathers, mentors, and leaders.

Men's struggles in life, while often internalised, are no less profound. Men are often discouraged from openly expressing their emotions due to societal expectations of stoicism, which contributes to mental health issues. Conforming to traditional notions of masculinity can be suffocating, impeding personal growth and emotional well-being. It's critical to understand that vulnerability is not a sign of weakness, as Brené Brown's wise words affirm: "Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it's having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome."

On this International Men's Day, let us strive for a conversation that is free of gender biases. Acknowledging men's struggles does not diminish women's struggles; rather, it promotes a more comprehensive understanding of the intricate weaving of human experience. As we celebrate women's accomplishments, let us also recognise men's resilience, contributions, and struggles - the unsung heroes who, in their quiet strength, fortify the foundations of our society.

At last, International Men's Day is an opportunity to appreciate the many facets of masculinity, as well as the unsung heroes who face life's challenges with courage. As we navigate the complexities of gender discourse, let us remember Mahatma Gandhi's words: "You must be the change you want to see in the world." We can build a world where both men and women thrive, each recognised for their unique contributions to the symphony of human existence, through understanding, empathy, and open dialogue.



## IN THE ANNALS OF HISTORY

- **November 1666-** The first experimental blood transfusion took place in Britain, utilizing two dogs
- **November 1859-** Charles Darwin's book, 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection', was first published.
- **November 1888 -**  
**Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman** popularly known as C.V. Raman was born on 7 November, 1888, in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

### The Raman Effect-

**The change in the wavelength of light when it is scattered by molecules is known as the Raman Effect, a phenomenon in spectroscopy.**

In 1986, the Indian government declared February 28 as 'National Science Day' in honour of the announcement of the discovery 'The Raman Effect'.

Applications of Raman Effect include medicines, surgery, remote sensing, geology, forensics as a part of scanning at airports, metro stations, malls and security places.

His achievements include Knighthood from the RSL (Royal Society of London) (1929); Nobel Prize for his discovery of Raman Effect in (1930), First Indian to be honoured with Bharat Ratna (1954); Lenin Peace Prize (1957).

- **November 1895-** X- rays were discovered by William Roentgen at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany
- **November 1993-** South Africa adopted a new constitution after more than 300 years of white majority rule.
- **November 1993-** European Union came into existence as a result of the Maastricht Treaty.



## MONTH

- Angkor Wat (Cambodia) beats Pompeii (Italy) to become the 8th Wonder of the world
- Justice M. Fathima Beevi becomes the first woman judge of the Supreme Court of India
- Irish author Paul Lynch wins the 2023 Booker Prize for his novel, "Prophet Song"
- Nepal becomes the first South Asian nation to register same-sex marriage
- Tallest BR Ambedkar statue outside India unveiled in Washington



## Artistry & Verses

ये देश है वीर जवानों का  
उनकी गाथा और बलिदानों का  
कभी सोचा है तुमने?  
उनके टूटे बिखरे परिवारों का  
जो अपने-अपनों के ना साथ रहें  
कैसे अपनी जिंदगी काट रहे  
क्या दर्द सहा है उनलोगो ने  
आओ उनकी भी आज बात करें.

अपना गम जिसको बतलाना था,  
उन्हें लौट के घर भी तो आना था  
हर वक्त जो थामे थे तिरंगा हाथों में  
उन्हें विजय तिरंगा लहराना था  
उन वीरों की क्या बात करें  
जो मरते दम तक साथ रहें  
सम्मान करो उनके बलिदानों का  
ये देश है वीर जवानों का  
उनकी गाथा और बलिदानों का।

-सुशांत घोष

### Poetic Bloom

Let these Wars  
that is  
Plaguing the world  
Bloom -  
in  
Petals of peace  
Potion  
Healing the world and its  
inhabitants  
by the poetics of  
sublime and its  
metaphorical alignment

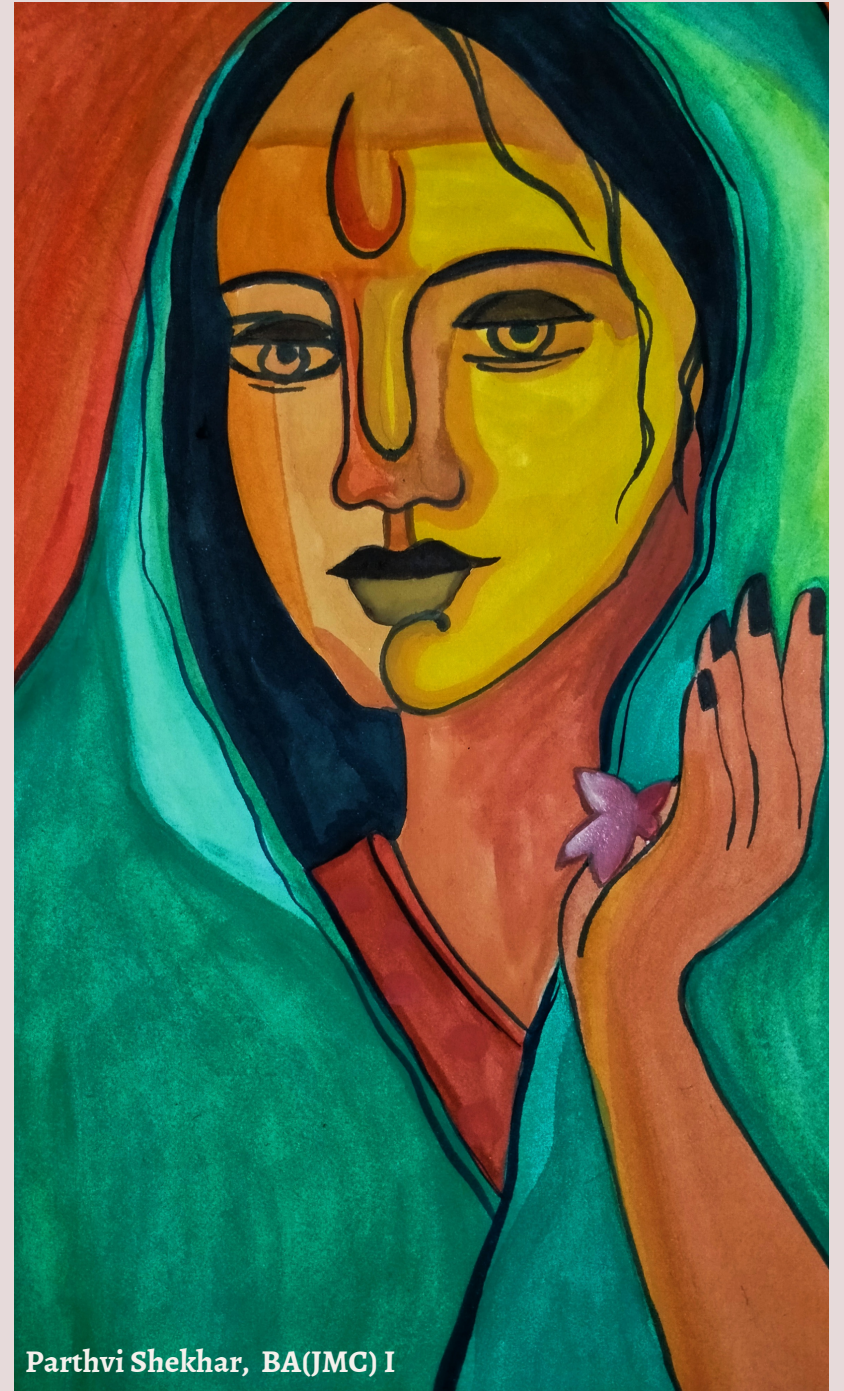
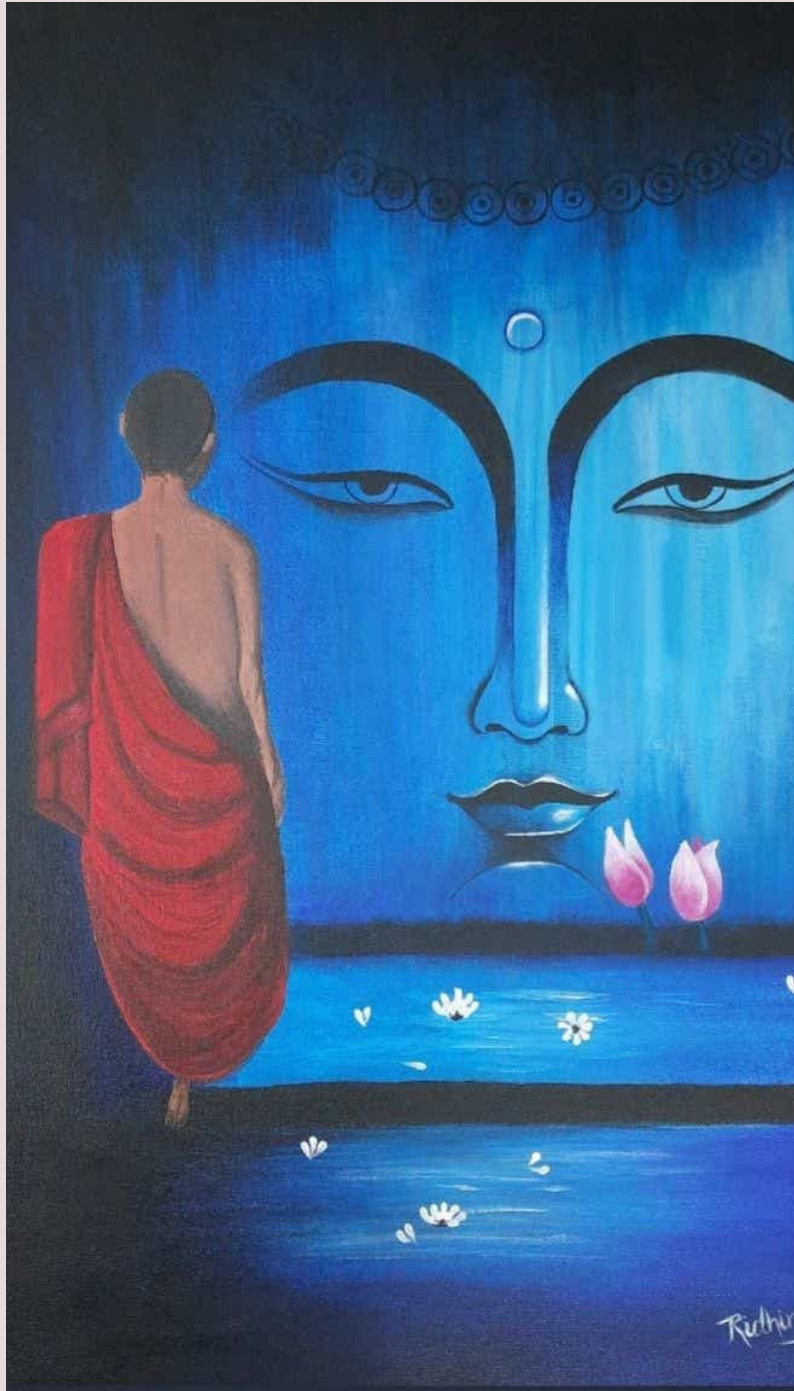
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### प्रांकुर

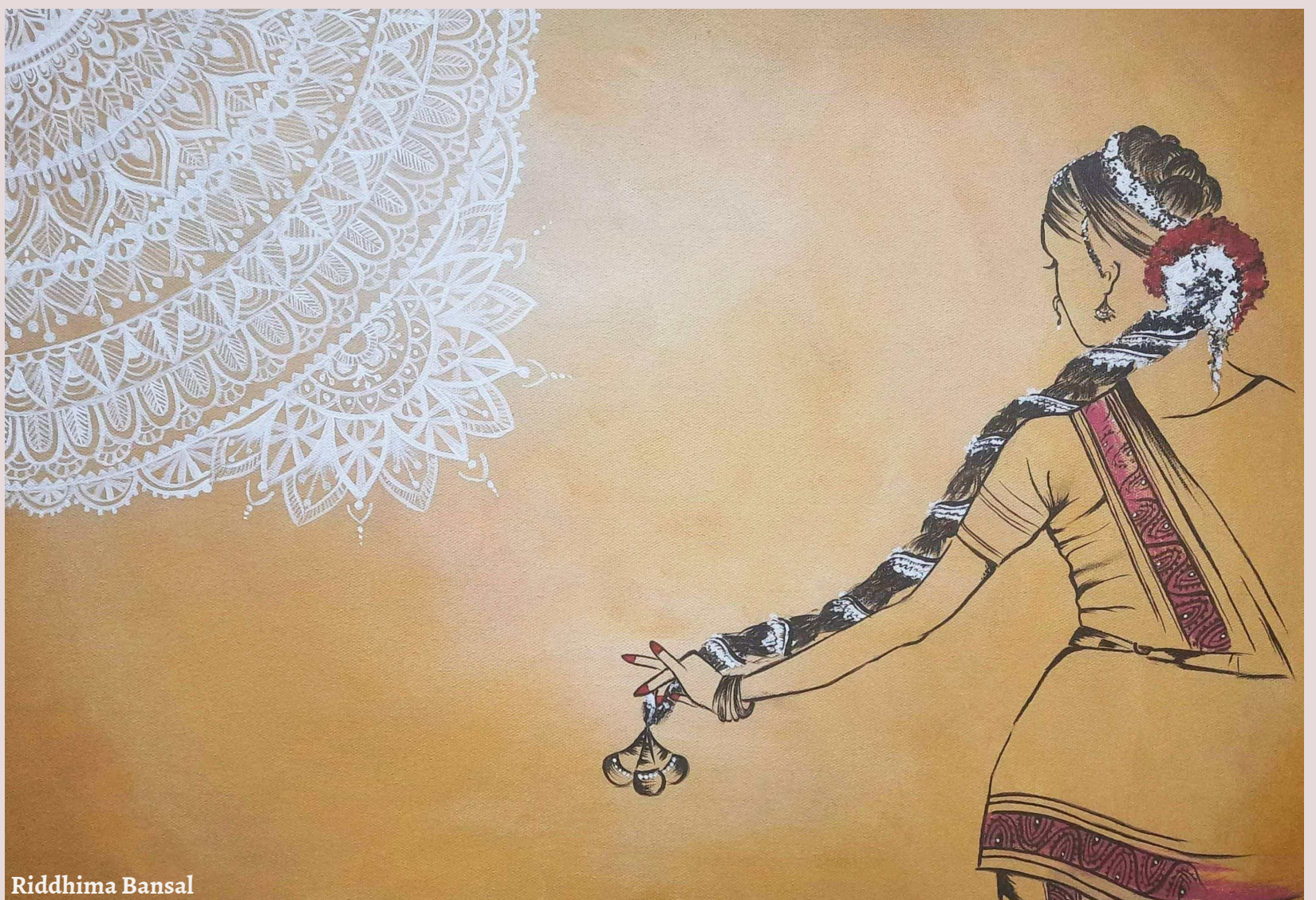
कटे हुए पेड़ के तने से  
जो प्रांकुर  
अभी-अभी विकसित हुआ है  
लगता है  
पूरे आसमान को  
अपने अंदर समेट लेगी

इतना विश्वास  
अगर  
मेरे शब्द में  
काश  
विकसित हो पाते, तो  
वर्तनी को मेरे  
संचय करने के लिए  
पूरा  
समास मिल जाता

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