

POSTGRADUATE GOVERNMENT COLLEGE SECTOR-46, CHANDIGARH

E-NEWSLETTER

SESSION 2021-22



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dr Abha Sudarshan

Dear Students

It is indeed a great privilege to be a part of the digital edition of the newsletter of the Department of English. I appreciate that the Department has always affirmed to create an inclusive and welcoming intellectual space for all students and faculty despite the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, classes have resumed the face-to-face mode after a gruelling spell of online learning to the delight of teachers and students alike. It is heartening to see students involved in creative and artistic endeavours as the academic session comes to the end.

During the last two years of the pandemic, we have faced challenging times. A profound process of change was witnessed as people walked away from big cities to small villages across the country. As the world resumes normalcy with leaden steps, our cities and towns are experiencing the hybrid-work culture and rapid digital transformation. The premise of learning has expanded exponentially beyond the syllabi towards learning by experience-the lived reality. Temporary setbacks have not affected us. The changes that have been piloted on a large scale during these times have taught us to be resilient and motivated us to achieve what we set our hearts on.

It is commendable that the students have taken up this theme to express their creativity in the form of poems through this newsletter. I believe this phase in our life has been a great teacher for all and we will continue to learn and have an optimistic outlook for the future.

May India Develop and Prosper!

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Greetings to all!

This session welcomed students walking from their homes back to college. It seemed that life was limping back to normal. The stormy weather for educational institutions seemed to be over though the campus re-opened in a staggered manner to thin attendance. COVID conundrum continued to be the major impediment to the dissemination of knowledge. The hardest hit by the pandemic were the new entrants who were not permitted to attend on-site classes. But we preferred not to go incommunicado as we strongly believe in the principle that each individual is different in terms of access, opportunities, achievements and outcomes, and these disparities should not hinder the path of growth and success. Further, it was felt that if we can survive the mayhem of COVID, we also can steer our way above all the challenges that are being posed in managing both online as well as on-site classes, vis-à-vis maintaining one-to-one contact and regular check-ins between teachers and students in an online setting; reducing access gaps, managing the bio-secure environment or following COVID protocols.

Students, there's no education like adversity. I am an ardent believer of the ancient Zen philosophy of wabi-sabi which emphasizes embracing imperfections of life and accepting the natural cycle of growth and decay, celebrating cracks, crevices or any other marks that time, weather and love would leave behind. Hope this newsletter is like a whiff of fresh air that keeps us going.

Best wishes

Riju Sharma

WORDS THAT MATTER: THE CORONA TERMINOLOGY

The outbreak of COVID-19 and its rapid transmission across the globe has added a flurry of words to our vocabulary. Have a look...

INTUBATION A medical procedure that may be used for people with severe COVID-19 who cannot breathe on their own. A flexible plastic breathing tube is inserted through the mouth into the trachea.

FOMITE An object (such as a dish or a doorknob) that may be contaminated with infectious organisms and serve in their transmission.

TRUTHINESS Refers to something that seems to be true but isn't backed up by evidence.

QUARENTEEN A teenager during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DOOMSCROLLING When one becomes obsessed with staying up to date with bad news,

R-NAUGHT or R0 Every virus has a basic reproduction number (R0). The R0 (pronounced R-naught) is the average number of additional people that one person with the virus will infect.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER A decree, usually from a government official, for people to stay in their homes with exceptions that include going out for essential needs, such as groceries, etc.

COVIDEO PARTY Online parties via Zoom or Skype.

COVEXIT The strategy for exiting lockdown.

BLURSDAY An unspecified day because of lockdown's disorientating effect on time.

QUARANTEAMS Online teams created during a lockdown.

PATIENT ZERO The first individual infected with a disease during an epidemic.

PRONING The practice of repositioning a patient in the hospital bed so that they lie on their stomach or their side rather than on their back.

ACTIVITIES AT A QUICK GLANCE

- Organised FACTSHALA: An Online Media Literacy Workshop on July 28, 2021.
- Online Intra-college Nano Story Writing Competition was organised on Oct.03, 2021. Forty-five students participated in it. The first position was won by Sidharth of BCA Semester-I, Roll No. 3774 and the second and third prizes were given to Aadarsh of BA Semester-I, Roll No. 7391 and Divya Bansal of BA Semester-I, Roll No. 7008 respectively.
- Based on the short story 'Lamb to the Slaughter' written by Roald Dahl, Season 1, Episode 4 of Tales of the Unexpected was screened on Dec.03, 2021, for the students of Elective English of BA Semester-I. It was followed by scaffold questions to develop a deeper understanding of the story.
- 'The Diary of Anne Frank' was screened on March 29, 2022, for the students of BA Sem-VI. The students learnt about the struggles and pain that the Jews went through during Hitler's regime in Germany.
- To familiarise the students with library facilities and the vibrant academic culture of the college, a one-week Orientation Programme was conducted for the students from March 14-17, 2022. This programme was organised in collaboration with the Library Outreach Society of the college.
- SPELLATHON was organised on April 20, 2022. 15 students cleared the preliminary round and participated in the event. Competing in three rigorous rounds of spellathon (Spell Bee, Unscramble words, etc.) the winners were announced. The prizes were won by: Chris George of BA-II, Roll No. 6445 as first, Ankur of BA-II, Roll No. 6468 as second, and Parul Malhotra of BA-II, Roll No. 6256 won the third position.
- Nilesh Seth of BA Sem-VI represented the department and participated in an Inter-college Declamation contest organised by the Post Graduate Department of Zoology, DAV College, Sector-10, Chandigarh on April 22, 2022, to mark the celebration of Earth Day and won the first prize.
- To celebrate World Book & Copyright Day an Inter-college Online Quiz Competition 'Blind Date with Books' was organised in collaboration with the Library Outreach Society on April 23, 2022. 226 students, faculty members and scholars took the quiz.
- A documentary film FIT HAI TO HIT HAI ! was prepared by the students of Functional English BA-II.

NEW VENTURES

- A Poetry Club was formed to provide students with a common creative platform where they could share their poems and enhance their poetic skills. Through the club, the interested students were engaged in diverse poetic activities such as poetry writing, recitation and display of poems on the wall magazine. The poetic activities that were conducted included a weekly display of students' self-composed poems in Hindi, English and Punjabi; a weekly display of famous poems selected by students and faculty; suggested readings and poetry recitation.
- PIXATE Film and Photography Club made a foray into documentary film-making. The students were engaged in documentary-making and 'Campus Unboxing' was screened for the alumni on March 12, 2022.

Scan to know more →



City life is a life
Where everyone is busy;
Bereft of human feelings,
All life is no longer lively.

Family gatherings and long vacations
Now exist only in memories;
The soothing shades of trees forgotten
in summers,
And in the winters, is forgotten,
the beauty of fallen leaves.

City life makes our lives
Very boring and dull;
Routines become so monotonous,
That life feels like a long period of lull.

No one has time for anybody
Not even a minute to spare;
To go for a walk in the park,
Or to talk to someone dear.

This is city life, folks,
It's a harsh and grim reality;
For which we are responsible,
Which is a matter of nothing but pity.

- Keshav Sharma

Yes, it's my wild fantasy,
To ride my bike for a ramble on roads;
The cheerful majestic breeze blowing my hair,
Under the light of sparkling stars;

While midnight hid in a blanket of darkness,
To feel those confident fresh vibes;
While being at the campsite,
Getting warm near a campfire;

I love when my city invites me,
My excitement reaches the heights;
My soul be like sobbed in a divine,
When I take a flight to have city life;

- Divya Bansal

There are many colours in this world
Yet one strays through the colours of the city
There are many people in this city
Yet no one to talk with

Wherever you look
There is sadness all around
Cutting through the clutter of noise
Inundated by countless choices

It is more difficult than ever before
To document the good times-
A million memories and treasured mellow chimes
To be brought to the fore.

A city where trains roar
Urban noise and inadequate words do more harm
A city where there's no semblance of charm
Money has brought me here to do the chores

Every single being in the city
Is busy in the sordid pursuit of life.
The deserted streets of humanity
The smack of abundant lost vitality.

Even in the shining of lights
Only the darkness below
Life goes on in the city
But love remains ...

I'm crazy about my village
I don't mind it
But the artificiality of
Urban life is...
Nothing less than a curse.

- Ganesh Thakur

City life becomes a busy life
Bizarre but beautiful
Captivating but brutal
Urban life-gravitating but full of noise and pollution
Unstimulating, but full of hope and aspiration

Less peace but full of chaos
Less verdant but full of opportunities

City life is a creative life
Its baronial buildings, crowded markets

And your search for solitude
Makes you a poet!

-Ishita Kalra

City
Life

NOW YOU KNOW

- The origin of the word ALPHABET is from the Latin word alphabetum, which in turn originated in the Greek alphabētos. Interestingly, Google is now alphabet. Google restructured its business and renamed itself "Alphabet" and created a subsidiary business called "Google."
- Have you ever wondered why we call 'W' a 'double-u' instead of 'double-V'? It is called so because the Latin alphabet did not have a letter to represent the sound /w/ in Old English, 7th-century scribes just wrote it as 'uu.' The double-u symbol eventually meshed together to form the letter W.
- P is the most flexible letter in English and the only consonant that needs no help in forming a word sandwich with any vowel: pap, pip, pup.
- For paleographers, a capital letter, especially one used in ancient manuscripts is called majuscule and the term minuscule appeared in the 18th century as a lower-case letter.
- A character on a keyboard - that looks like a wavy line just below the Esc is known as a tilde.
- Other than Q, J is one of the two letters that do not appear on the periodic table. Invented in 1524 by an Italian, J was also the last letter to be added to the alphabet.

FACULTY NEWS

- **Ms Riju Sharma** attended two webinars on "Revisiting Language & Literature: Post Pandemic" organized by PG and Research Department of English, Nehru Arts & Science College, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on July 13, 2021, and "Let's Learn How to Become a Film Critic" organized by the Department of BAMMC, Nirmala Memorial Foundation College of Commerce & Science, Kandivali, Mumbai on Feb. 01, 2022. She also attended a faculty development programme on "Digital Skills for Educators" organized by Saraswati College of Professional Studies, Ghaziabad in association with the Council for Teacher Education Foundation Delhi-NCR Chapter from May 01-08, 2022.
- **Dr Chingangbam Anupama** published a research paper "Memoirs of a Princess: MK Binodini's The Maharaja's Household" (Chapter 8, p. 83) published in a book titled On the Wings of Life: Women Writing Womanhood, Yking Publication, Jaipur, 2021, ISBN 978-81-949044-8-9; attended a faculty development programme on 'Literature in 21st Century: New Perspectives and Challenges' organized by the Department of English, Govind Sarang Govt. Law College, Bhatapara, Chhattisgarh from Oct. 03-09, 2021 and also delivered a guest lecture on 'Literature and Society: An Overview of Manipuri Poetry' in a national webinar organized by the Indian Society for the Promotion of English Language & Literature (iSPELL) Jaipur Forum on Nov. 22, 2021.
- **Dr Sumeet Gill** completed a SWAYAM-MOOC course on "Film Studies" conducted by Central University, Kerala; published a poem titled 'Confessions of a Theophobe' in Postcolonial Text (Vol 16, No. 2), 2021. Link: <https://www.postcolonial.org/index.php/pct/article/view/2714>; co-ordinated FACTSHALA: Online Media Literacy Workshop on July 28, 2021, and peer-reviewed three papers for a Double-Blind Peer Reviewed Journal New Horizons (ISSN 2277-5218) Vol. XVIII, August 2021.
- **Dr Ranjeet Singh** published three poems in Setu: A Bilingual and Peer-Reviewed Journal of Literature, Arts, and Culture (Pittsburgh, USA). He also published a research paper "Chacha Choudhary Comics: A Template of Middle-class Nationalism" in Dialog, a bi-annual peer-reviewed Journal of the Department of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh.



KNOW YOUR AUTHOR

Damon Galgut



A committed yogi, Damon Galgut has carved a niche for himself in contemporary South African literature. He addresses the state of his country and the shadow left by apartheid through his novels, short stories and plays though his primary focus remains on the power play between individuals and the forces which bind or sever them. He has been tracking the cracks deep within the South African psyche since he published his first book at 17 and his novels include 'A Sinless Season,' 'Small Circle of Beings', 'The Beautiful Screaming of Pigs', 'The Quarry', 'The Good Doctor' (shortlisted for the 2005 Man Booker and the 2004 Commonwealth Writer's Prize), 'The Imposter' (winner of the 2008 University of Johannesburg English Literary Award, shortlisted for the 2009 Commonwealth Writers' Prize, M-Net literary award and Sunday Times Fiction Prize), 'In A Strange Room' and 'Arctic Summer.' His novel 'The Promise' won the prestigious 2021 Booker Prize, making him the third writer from South Africa to win the Booker, following Nadine Gordimer and J. M. Coetzee. Cinema, theatre and language are finely blended in his novel's account of a white South African family's downfall in 'The Promise'. The segmented structure of the gripping novel blurs the readers' minds as there's no section of the book more challenging than any other since it's not a plot-driven novel. To this, Galgut says, "I like books that require a bit of work from the reader, too" Amusingly, Galgut has a "fetish around stationery" and writes longhand on notebooks first rather than on a typewriter or computer and the real pleasure he experiences while writing comes towards the end when he tries to pull everything together and thus gains clarity. As a White South African writer, Galgut uses a post-modern experimental style of writing to portray the unconcealed truth that White South Africans, in general, do not perceive the lives of Black South Africans as full and human and this is what makes him distinct.

City Life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

How strange city life is!

Everyone has his own madness

Lost in the vast corridors of loneliness

Though everybody exists together here
But nobody knows who's here and there

People don't struggle here for finding a thing
But struggle for money to buy and bring

We are free but still don't bother
And say that we don't have time for each other

City life is always growing and commercial
Hub of activity, it doesn't seek approval

Everything here we have to chase
but in the end city life is under God's grace

City life becomes a busy life

Bizarre but beautiful

Captivating but brutal

Urban life-gravitating but full of noise and
pollution

Unstimulating, but full of hope and aspiration

Less peace but full of chaos

Less verdant but full of opportunities

City life is a creative life

Its baronial buildings, crowded markets

And your search for solitude

Makes you a poet!

-Ishita Kalra

-Hardik