

# The Luminary



## ENGLISH SECTION

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## Editorial

In recent times, it has become imperative for the citizens of our nation to provide a unified front not only for the sake of development, but also, for personal growth. Our students are the backbone of our society and carry on their shoulders the responsibilities of building tomorrow. In a nation as diverse as ours, a number of factors must come together in complete harmony to ensure the security of our future.

Times are beginning to change, and the young members of our society have continued to show increased tolerance, compassion and understanding of different religions, cultures and customs. In a growing economy like India's, mere education will not suffice in creating a society of well-rounded individuals. Our diversity is ingrained in our everyday lives. Our friends, coworkers and acquaintances come from varied backgrounds and professional growth is impossible without the human touch.

Combined with greater respect and tolerance for our brothers and sisters, comes the responsibility of investing in your future. The very first step in that direction is providing yourself with the gift of education. It is truly a golden opportunity to change your life and allow yourself to continue on a path of success and perseverance. It does not matter where we come from, it matters where we are going. It has been widely accepted and acknowledged on a national level that young students' lives are being saturated with increased stress, disillusionment and continued pressures. Increasing academic and professional opportunities may have added variety to the mix, but have certainly added to students' confusion. It is important for you to remember that commitment to education and academic success and a pressure to hop on the bandwagon are two polar opposite ideas. It is necessary for our students to understand this important difference when they start their academic journey. As the young blood of the nation, you wield the power to change not only your lives, but your friends' and families'. The future of this nation will be built by those who dare to make a change. And this change is possible for anyone to create if you put your mind to it. Believe in education to drive you to never before seen excellence.

All in all, our country is on the right track having been blessed by ambitious young men and women who are hungry for a better tomorrow. We, as educators, are here to help you cross over hurdles and barriers in the path to success. Difficulties have arisen before and they will certainly arise again. It is our hope for you to continue to grow and find the courage in your hearts that you have always had to travel through rough terrains. Our diversity is our greatest strength and teacher. Let education open your minds to ideas and avenues you never before knew existed. Allow your

potential to soar to new heights without fear. The world is yours to explore if only you believe in your capability. Let us vow never to forget the love and respect for our fellow human beings and pledge to ourselves the promise of hard work. Your ambition is our hope, and your perseverance, our future.

**Shailendra Sidhu**  
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## Student Editorial

Greetings to my dear Modiites  
Welcome to 'The Luminary'2017.

Creativity is a gift to each and every one of us. It is not limited to Picassos, Shakespeare or Bill Gates of the world. We are all creative beings. Creativity is vital for our souls. Discovering the creativity will help us in moving in the directions we might never have thought of. Creativity helps us to vent out our emotions. Try bringing more expressions of creativity in your everyday life. It helps us to connect to our inner self.

In today's time we are so much hooked on technology that we don't want to do single task by our own capacity. All around us, we see our friends on their cell phones, busy scrolling their fingers through social media and worrying too much of - who is following them and who likes their picture. They devote all their mental ability to such things that they hardly have time for their inner self and their creativity.

Happy indeed is the person who has inculcated the habit of reading. The written word is the most powerful weapon and we must learn the value of reading. So read as creative bones need to read to grow and lead. The Luminary 2017 is the compilation of an attempt by the writers of tomorrow.

Being in the editorial board has been an utmost privilege. I thank my teachers for having faith in me and considering me capable for this position. So feed your soul and mind with many delightful and thought provoking moments as you turn the leaves. Enjoy !!

**Sukhneet Kaur**  
B.A-III

## India's Youth The Trailblazers for Tomorrow

We are a nation of astronomical figures, a whooping 136 crore and out of which 44% of the population is us-the youth. Therefore, we are a young country and that is what makes me talk about youth that is you and me-the Role of youth in transforming India into a world power. Our country, our motherland India, the land of diverse cultures, traditions, and festivals is sadly a victim to corruption, poverty, unemployment and illiteracy. But today, Let's not criticise our beautiful nation and concentrate our

thoughts on the positive things that have happened so far because I believe a positive attitude leads to a positive result. India has the world's largest youth population today. Youth is the hope of our future. Well, I am sure you all are aware of the fact that India is in the list of the developing nations. But I often wonder why is it not in a race of the developed nations towards a better future? I have an answer for you all. The youth hope for India free of poverty and unemployment; they dream of a nation free of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, gender and language. The words hope and dreams aren't helping. Let's face the reality. If we want to conquer the world and be a super power, we will have to convert these hopes and dreams into reality and actions. And believe me it's no rocket science. With our new innovative ideas, with our strength and tenacity, we can perform various things that have never been performed before. We have tremendous resources at our disposal which if fully exploited can contribute to the well being of the country in multiple ways. But nothing is going to work if we don't work for a goal. Things will come to us slowly but steadily and for that we need to be focused and patient. Remember nothing is impossible in this world. We have to be a healthy youth, free from all distractions and totally committed to the well-being of our motherland. Well, I am sure making India a global superpower is not a catwalk, It will take a lot of time. It will be exhausting but we need to keep pushing ourselves. Let us not play the blame game and take over responsibilities seriously. I will end up by exhorting all my friends, Let's put our best foot forward, march with thumping steps full of vigour and confidence.

Trust that the world will be at our feet.

**Aastha Chawla**  
B.A.-I

### **Standing Out From the Crowd**

21<sup>st</sup> century is where women are taking control of themselves and their lives, yet in this century where the concept of women empowerment has grown worldwide, most women are still not living up to their full potential. Villages, towns and even some cities do not let women grow to their full potential, barriers are created at every step of their lives. Everyone talks about women rights, equality, gender discrimination, safety, marriage and numerous other topics so that women can be who they are openly, but is everyone putting in their efforts towards these movements? I don't think so. As the saying goes the charity begins at home and so does this change begins at places that are dealt with our day to day life.

In our Indian society some people still have their traditional thinking towards girls getting married at an early age. At some point every girl is going to get married but when she gets married, while she is trying

to complete her studies, it gets hard for her to juggle her responsibilities. She might forcefully get married and not even complain about her inconveniences but it is really unfair to her. Every girl should make a career for herself and see the world before she decides to settle down. She should also have the right to choose her own life partner. She shouldn't get harassed or blamed for the broken marriage if the marriage doesn't work out.

The right of freedom should be given equally to girls as well as boys. This is the right that everyone should have, the right to wear what you want or the right to do what you like or the right to choose your own path. Boys are given freedom easily but why not girls? What is so different between girls and boys that they have different rights and different set of rules? Aren't they both human? Independence is something that not everyone possesses. You need to be independent in order to survive in the world. Learning to support yourself is fundamental for any success you ever hope to achieve.

In the wake of several brutal rape attacks in the capital city of Delhi, debates held in other cities revealed that men believed women who dressed provocatively deserved to get raped; many of the correspondents stated women incited men to rape them. This kind of thinking makes a woman's social life even more challenging. Social life should be simple and should allow women to do what their heart tells them to do and not to be bound by shallow rules .

Our gender is what defines us and makes us stand out as an individual. Standing out is not a bad thing but with it comes difficulties which we need to face in our day to day lives. Some problems are in our control and the others aren't. I'm proud to be a woman and so should you. Face all your problems like strong women we are. From now on instead of saying "man up" we should tell people to "woman up". Women are much stronger than men, we just have to believe in ourselves.

**Nehmat Grewal**  
B.A-III

### **Robinhood, Hercules and Moti**

When I was a college student, I envied my immaculately dressed professors who would come to the college on their sparkling bicycles. Prior to that, I had seen my headmaster 'driving' back to his place on this majestic conveyance. Smartly dressed and donning a bonnet, he would happily acknowledge the salutations of his students and their parents all through the way. That was the only time, I would see him smiling – all of us were in awe of his imposing presence and the mastery over his subject-mathematics. All along those years, I dreamt and pined for the company of my own bicycle. It was, therefore, not surprising that when I started earning as

a college teacher, I spent almost a month's salary to fulfil my cherished dream. After extensive survey of various available brands of bicycles, the choice finally fell on the smart and robust Robinson- a green coloured mount. My love for things luxurious cost me another twenty rupees when I ordered its original saddle to be replaced by a streamlined and an elegant leather seat. I even sought the help of a relative to ensure that I got the genuine gaarhi. I had joined the elite class of my revered teachers

Next day, I triumphantly rode to the college on my new shuttle. I 'parked' it in front of the imposing gate much to the envy of my colleagues. After having finished the tiring schedule of meeting with my classes, as I was walking in the verandas with sapped limbs, the sudden thought of driving back home on my own conveyance electrified me. I hurried to be with my love – it had been out of my sight for that long. But all my euphoria turned into gloom when I did not find it at the place I had parked it. A thorough search by the college watch – and - ward staff proved futile. My bicycle, my first love had been stolen. How could it be? Exasperated, I rushed to complain to my Principal with the fond hope that a strict disciplinarian in him would surely unify me with my lost love.

"Sir, I have lost my bicycle, somebody has stolen it, I had parked it in front of the college gate". I was blurting breathlessly. But to my dismay, the Principal had no sympathy at all for my lost love. He, rather, admonished me, "You young teachers- very careless. Why didn't you park your stuff inside the college cycle stand?"

"But we haven't got a cycle stand, Sir" I meekly replied to save myself from further reprimand. "Oh, yes! We don't need either. We all come on foot or in rickshaw. Better you too switch back to your old ways. Come on foot, it is good for your paunch." That was his elegy on lost love.

And then I had to wait for seven long years to get another bicycle –this time a better brand, Hercules. In the intervening period, I remembered having borrowed conveyance from my colleagues, who had by then become prosperous enough to have their own bicycles, mopeds or scooters-a car was still a distant dream for our class. There were two reasons for Hercules to come .First, the college had built a cycle stand and second, I had got married and needed a conveyance. More so, my wife wanted to visit her parents every Saturday-they being some 5km from my place. I too wanted to enjoy a long ride, next day being off. The roads used to be clean and cycle-friendly without bumps and there were no traffic hazards as well. My in-laws' house was by the roadside, down a sloppy stretch of about a hundred yards. As soon as I reached the slope, I would stop pedalling. The cycle would roll down, giving me time to equalize my breath and enjoy fresh air. And when I reached the gate, my young brother-in-law would

first yell "Bee Ji see Hercules Ji has come" and then take charge of that regal stallion. He would pat its saddle as if it were a horse expecting caressing after having performed its gruelling assignment. He would first wipe off all the dust gathered on it, from saddle to the rubber tyres, and then vigorously shine its rims and spokes. On occasions, when we stayed longer, he would bathe it like a child. And when it was time to leave, I walked the slope to be on the road, fondly holding my bicycle by its handle. My wife followed me because driving up the slope with her on the carrier was very arduous-it required a clumsy raising of the haunches above the saddle the rickshaw puller way. My wife, who knew my ordeal would say, "It's good we are walking .Your cycle would have been under tremendous stress had you driven it along with me". I appreciated her kindness to the Hercules. When we reached the road, my in-laws' sturdy dog Moti, a pearl of pure indigenous breed, would follow us (A distant descendent of Moti enticed Pamela Anderson so much that it now forms an irreplaceable part of her proud possessions). Moti would ward off all calamities-nobody would dare ogle at my beautiful wife, it barked at the slightest provocation. It would leave only after having safely depositing us in our home. We came to know its well-being only on our next visit, when on spotting us, it would start wagging its tale and gear up for its impending voluntary escort duty. Faithful Moti.

We were safe, healthy and sparkling in the company of Hercules. Then came Chetak to replace Hercules, Maruti to replace Chetak and finally a Honda City evicted all. But now I have to move my arthritic limbs with great caution to be in the driver's seat. And when my wife graces the back seat, Honda groans under her prosperity, an awe-inspiring 125 kg. Hercules and Moti have deserted us due to our apathy and Honda guzzles unaffordable petrol, the literal liquid gold. Our visits have thus become scanty. And once a while, I do visit my in-laws, a ferocious Labrador, though chained, barks at us. Somebody in the house comes out reluctantly to rein it before we are ushered in with faked smiles. There is no Bee Ji to welcome her Hercules Ji. But then all are happy-both the guests and their hosts. Does too much familiarity not breed contempt?

**Prof. Surindra Lal**  
Member, Managing Committee  
Modi College Patiala

### **Fashion-A Gimmick For Solace**

"I don't do fashion, I'm fashion".....Coco Chanel  
Fashion literally stands for latest vogue. Fashion to numerous people is what they feel comfortable in. It is a display of riches or accentuating one's inner self. Primarily, fashion industry is dictated by film industry. It is due to the amalgamation of a few reasons. People imitate film actors. In films, the

character leaves an indelible imprint in the minds and hearts of the people. The Youth yearn to look fresh every day. These days the motto of simple living and high thinking has been altered to 'high living and simple thinking'.

Fashion nowadays is breaking boundaries. It has influenced all alike from a tiny tot to an adult. The attributes which make any trend a talk of the town are its widespread acceptance, and influencing status. These days students prefer style and looks over knowledge and education. Instead of attending the class, students are seen attending gossip sessions, beating about the bush and discussing trash. Today's youth longs to look up to date, uber cool, wearing latest jeans, having latest hair styles and popular accessories.

Generally the trend setters are the film stars, sports personalities, political figures, royalty, and super models. Earlier heroes used to play roles of patriots and historical personalities. But the scenario is wholly transformed now. Now they play heroes, heroes and heroes. The fashion labels like Prada Dolce and Gabbana, Gucci, Armani, Dior, Burberry, Louis Vuitton are extending their horizons due to colossal demand of fashion articles. Fashion brands lure customers by advertisement strategies, offers, fashion shows, brand ambassadors, and enriched qualities.

Fashion inspires many to change the way they look. In a race to look cool and stylish, people take to gaudy culture, intoxicants such as drugs and ferilous maladies. The girls fancy imitating Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra. They behave like butterflies hovering around showing their apparels. Identically, boys fancy replicating Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, and Aamir Khan. In a fit of resembling these superstars, youngsters have become spendthrift. They have become oblivious of economic hurdles. The youth kick the bike, honk the horns, talk with the air without any concern that they are on the road, not acting in a movie.

In today's mundane life, fashion is an exhilarating, vibrant and nailing moment in the sun. It is a realm of unending opportunities. Significantly, Paris Fashion Week is revered as the most wonderful precision. With the invention of new apparel-line, make up skills and cosmetics, people have gained immense confidence to look mesmerizing. It is pertinent to note that "Old is Gold" has been altered into 'Wear, Tear and Get a New One.'

However, speaking forthrightly, fashion has affected the lives of children miserably. It has added stress to lives, to outrank others in looks and style. It also has a corrosive impact on values, ethics and customs. Globalization has immensely contributed to the know-how of trends. With the invention of mod-cons such as mobile phones, televisions, and internet, fashion has altered drastically. Gone are the

days when there were books in the hands of students, now there are mobiles as they have started valuing materials than ethics.

Some people condemn it vehemently by calling it a waste of money. But it is a stark reality that, love it or hate it but one just can't escape it. To quote Nelson Mandela- "May Your Choices reflect your hopes, not your fears". So human beings should stop pretending who they are not. As dreads invent pretensions. So don't fake it. Stay true, stay you.

**Jaspreet Singh**  
B.A- III

## **Accepting Cultural Changes**

Culture and society are the two things which keep on changing forever. Their evolution could be slow or fast in different times and different societies but it is never paralyzed. India is going through a developing phase and changes occurring in our culture are very vast and vivid. Those changes are bound to occur when the whole world has turned into a global village with the help of modern means of communication.

There were times, centuries ago, when social hierarchy based on 'Varnas' (caste system) was at its height, and Indians felt that going outside their country would render them impure. But in the contemporary era, we get connected to the whole world by just a single touch on the 'Smart-Phone'. With such type of connectivity, having the influence of other cultures is quite obvious. Thanks to the Indian diaspora community which has played a major role in bringing the Western and Indian culture closer.

We are observing changes in every aspect of our culture, be it religion, attire, language, moral values and ethics, customs and the list goes on and on. While some are accepting these changes with positivity, there are others who are reluctant to leave their old customs and are stuck with narrow thinking. They often criticize so-called 'western values' like girls wearing short clothes, Sikh boys getting their hair cut, people marrying outside their religion and caste, or teenagers having love affairs. The basic argument that these people present to justify their beliefs is that Indian culture is very rich and pure. People should maintain it just as they inherited it from their forefathers.

But I like to differ. If Indian culture is rich today, it is because of the flexibility in it. Our culture has always been open to the foreign influences and adopted foreign elements from time to time. Our culture is a mixture of traditions of Aryans, Dravids, Greeks, Romans, Turks, Persians, Mughals, British and all those communities who came to India and decided to settle here.

In the 8th century, 'Parsis' fled from their homeland and came to the coast of Gujrat, in the hope of getting asylum. The ruler of that area conveyed his

message of the refusal of asylum through his envoy. Having no common language to communicate, the envoy took a glass of water, dropped a stone in it and the water overflowed, indicating that there is no room for Parsis in the area. The Parsi's captain, comprehending the action performed by the envoy, called for a glass of milk and stirred a spoonful of sugar in it, indicating that instead of congesting, a spoonful of Parsis will sweeten the land of Gujrat. Today, India is the abode to the largest Zoroastrian population in the world.

That is the spirit of diversity in our country!

Every society is exposed to changes. Women in the 18th century Europe were made to wear tight 'corsets' to keep waists slim. But with the advent of 'Industrial revolution', their attire changed along with the culture.

The era of 'Nationalism' is at its last stages and what our coming generations are going to witness is the era of 'Internationalism', where people won't be divided by different religions, languages or borders. The whole world would be an open place, where people will have a mixed single basic culture speaking a common language. So instead of being an obstacle to this beautiful process of intermixing of cultures, we should welcome the foreign elements and make our world a united place.

**Onam Aujla**  
B.A-III

## Studying Abroad

In the ancient times, foreign students came to India to imbibe knowledge at the universities of Taxila and Nalanda. They were considered the citadels of learning. With the passage of time the Indian universities have lost their appeal. Among the survey of top 50 Asian countries, the premier university of India, the University of Delhi, was ranked 29th, while the University of Bombay was ranked last at 50. The Indian universities basically lack proper infrastructure,

Good administration, accountable academicians and sincere students. This has prompted many youngsters to vie for foreign degrees. Acquiring a degree from abroad lends recognition and enhances the status of a person.

The United States of America, England and Australia are three countries that beckon foreign students. Apart from these countries New Zealand, Japan, Switzerland and Canada are other countries where students throng for degrees. The educational system of the United States of America has maintained a very high standard. The ample allocation of state funds has helped America to provide a sound academic and social environment for the development of the children. The British educational system is around 600 years old. The universities of Oxford, Cambridge

and Aberdeen were established in the 14th and 15th centuries. They offer high quality education along with personal care. Australia is one country where the education system is scientifically planned and it offers a friendly environment to the foreign students. It has 35 internationally reputed universities. Canada is also preferred by several students worldwide because the Canadian government has worked towards having low cost educational system. Though an expensive proposition, studying abroad can help a person enhance his knowledge and gain access to the culture of various countries.

The universities abroad offer high quality education in the field of arts, pure and applied sciences, computer science, engineering, architecture, medicine and hotel management etc. Students interested in studying abroad are required to appear for TOEFL, GMAT, GRE and tests depending upon the course they wish to pursue. TOEFL is meant to check the proficiency of aspiring candidates in written English and comprehension. Those who want to do PhD are supposed to appear for TSE-Test of Spoken English. GMAT is essential for a person aiming for an M.B.A degree in the US or Canada. The test checks the proficiency of the student in Mathematics, Data Sufficiency, Reasoning, Comprehension and sentence correction. SAT or the Scholastic Aptitude Test tests the candidates in comprehension, mathematics and verbal ability and is required to be taken by the students seeking admission in undergraduate courses in the US

The expenses incurred as fees for the whole year abroad can vary from university to university. So an aspirant should have fairly sound financial background. Student scholarships are offered by selected universities which help the students in meeting the fee requirements partly. The students can earn their pocket expenses by doing part time jobs.

Living abroad can be a great fun and it broadens your perspective on life—there are new friends to make, new experiences to have plus a lot of stories to tell the folks back home. The fact, that a person has lived abroad shows that he possesses valuable workplace qualities such as independence, initiative and resilience. It shows that he is not afraid of any challenges and can easily adapt in different situations.

The major disadvantages in studying abroad are that students experience language problem, they experience a cultural shock and sometimes they feel difficulty in adjusting in new environment. One may find himself feeling alone and without any of the social and emotional support from the relatives and old friends that we normally take for granted back in our home country. Financial pressures can undermine the overall enjoyment of the experience, if not careful. This whole phenomenon of studying abroad has ultimately led to brain drain.

The government of India should wake up to the plight of students and efforts should be made to reform the universities and restore their formal prestige. There should be transparency in the educational system to do justice to the meritorious students. The system should lay emphasis on the quality of education rather than quantity so that our degrees and diplomas can also get acceptance everywhere.

**Sukhneet Kaur**  
B.A.III

### **In The World.....**

In the world of stars and scars,  
I search for human hiding behind those machines  
Resting in the graves of technology where rests those  
dying flowers.  
In the world of demons and dreams.,  
I search for humans hiding behind those walls,  
Created by imagination of brain where heart screams.  
In the world of hope and hopelessness,  
I search for human hiding behind those selves.  
Trying to live by the dead curiosity owning that  
covetousness!

**Ishnoor**  
B.A.-III

### **Eyes.....**

I am trying to paint,  
My words and her eyes,  
Failing in both, though.  
Words, feel it like the serendipity,  
But her eyes are impeccable,  
Beyond the infinity, that infinity ever saw.  
Thoughts revolving around her eyes,  
And what a magic spell she left on me,  
I am a stranger for her,  
And she is everything for me,  
In this poem.

**Ishnoor**  
B.A.-III

### **We're all living Pinocchios**

We all know Pinocchio. This living wooden puppet whose nose grew bigger when he lied and who eventually turned into a real boy.

Pinocchio perfectly symbolizes our dual nature; our material self and our real self. Of course Pinocchio's material self is as a wooden puppet. Our material selves aren't made of wood but we are made of physical, emotional and mental material that combine to create our body. This is the material self that you've come to know and love complete with all its sensations, habits, likes, dislikes. thoughts, habits and attitudes. But there's more to us than this body.

Pinocchio transforms into a real boy after

going through many trials and eventually learning to control himself and express his more virtuous traits. Just so we have a real self that seeks to express itself through a disciplined material self. This real self is the noblest, most compassionate and the wisest part of us. It is the soul or spirit which is created in God's image. We are designed to realize that this is our true identity. In fact we need to know that we are not material selves who have a soul but rather we are souls who have a material self through which we act in this world.

Pinocchio redeems himself by the end of the story by first controlling his natural tendencies and then expressing the great qualities of his real self. Through the majority of the story, Pinocchio is loud-mouthed, lazy, dishonest and indifferent. He is always shown the error of his ways and promises to change but he most often repeats the same mistakes. Similarly we often surrender and robotically react to the downward pull of the natural tendencies of our material self to be lazy, annoyed, depressed, impatient, greedy, indifferent and ungrateful. When we do this it's as if we're becoming more materialistic as symbolized by Pinocchio when he's being dishonest and his nose grows.

By the end of the story, Pinocchio has control of his material self's natural tendencies and he starts to express the noble qualities of his real self as he is courageous and strong when he saves his father and himself from the belly of the whale. He is kind, hardworking, patient, selfless, determined, focused and productive when he works as a farmhand and provides for his father. After a few months of this, he wakes up one morning to find himself in a nice new house, lots of money in his pocket, his father's health restored and he is transformed into a real boy! Just so, we are here to express the noble qualities of spirit through our material selves. We are to build our character so we are more loving, kind, beautiful, wise, tolerant, cheerful, peaceful, courageous and productive. These are some of the great qualities that our real selves are here to convey. By doing so we are redeeming the world, fulfilling the marvelous plan and shining light.

Imagine for just a minute what life would be like for you If you shared Pinocchio's curse.

When someone asked you something, you would most likely pause and make sure what you were about to say was not going to make your nose grow again. "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." Eventually you will reap the consequences of your actions. Are you going to leverage the law of reap and sow to your advantage or are you going to choose to ignore it for another day hoping that you are the one exception to its force? It is common sense that we all will be more responsible with our lives, and begin to make the necessary adjustments in the areas of our lives where

we have been irresponsible.

Today, are you going to be like Pinocchio, and lie hoping that nobody will notice your ever-growing nose?

**Nehmat Grewal**  
B.A. III

## **Time is Money**

The tiny infant cuddled in the warmth of the cradle soon becomes a cute toddler who runs after butterflies and rainbows. No sooner do the fairy tales and pranks of school days get over than the carefree lad blossoms into an exquisite youth when the heart leaps up to pluck the stars. The woods are lovely, dark and deep and the dreamy youth plans for the lovely miles he has to tread until hard facts of life stare him in the face. The stress, storm and strife and manhood transform him from within and without until one sad day the mirror acquaints him with his other self, i.e. grey hair, sunken eyes and trembling hands and he shockingly realises that shadows of the evening steal across the sky. But oh! what about the rosy dreams waiting to find expression, the plans left halfway, the promises to be kept, the words of love never spoken and the aspirations to reach the stars? Seeing the shattered dreams, lost hopes and barren regrets his heart wails, "oh! if only I could get a second chance!" But no!! Life is insensitive and does not give us a second chance. We happen to pass through this way but once! Time slips out of our hands even before we realise it. How tremulous is the water on the lotus leaf! Such is the life of man-frail and transient. Life is a gift of God given to us because He loves us and wants us to realize the grandeur, be alert to seize opportunities, learn from mistakes and make hay while the sun shines.

The period of youth is the spring time of our lives when the mind and the body is at its very best. The age from 15 to 25 years is of paramount importance because it lays down the foundation and determines the path of our lives. Studies, career choices and job opportunities are hotly-debated issues during this period. It is high time students realise that spending time in noble pursuits will enrich them from within and without, while wasting time in ignoble pursuits will impoverish them from within and without. Money is man's dearest possession. He will think a thousand times before parting with it. Money can buy almost every material comfort and security which is again an integral part of life. In the same way careful use of time can make our future. It can lead us to the golden gates of achievement, satisfaction and progress while misusing time can drag us down to despair where life is meaningless. As you sow so shall you reap.

How many precious lives and promising careers have been wasted and ruined only because

they cared more for the false pleasures of the world and in the process they missed the track. Perhaps the negative thoughts weakened them mentally and they lost the war even before it began. The other category constitutes the winners who will win the ultimate war even if they lose some of the battles in it. Some people always complain that they have no time to do the things they always wanted to do. The weariness, the fever and the fret, consume all their time, money and energy. You will never get time to do anything, you will have to find time, change your priorities and adjust your schedule. All the dreams and plans can be actualised with proper time management because as Gandhiji said, "the days of miracle are not gone. They will abide so long as God abides." Trials and tribulations form an integral part of our life.

It is not only during exams that we must use our time wisely but throughout life because life is our greatest test-the mother of all exams. If only we are a little more cautious and careful in all that we think see and do, we will have fewer regrets and less repentance. Life unfolds itself like a procession in front of us.

The adult has more mature commitment while old age looks across the memory lane with tears either of satisfaction or regrets. Each phase of life demands duty and has a charm of its own. The basket is in your hands, whether to pluck flowers or gather thorns depends on you.

**Sukhneet Kaur**  
B.A.-III

## **10 Mysteries of Human Brain**

### **1. How do we store and Recollect Memories?**

The brain undergoes a physical change each time we learn a new fact. However, there is no explanation as to how we can recall information at will.

### **2. How can we Simulate the Future When forming plans?**

The technology we use to study the brain focuses on the present. We are not yet able to understand how we are able to second guess. Future events.

### **3. What is Intelligence?**

It remains a big mystery how the brain 's neurons are able to solve problems. The manipulation and storage of knowledge is mystery, including why some people are smarter.

### **4. How does our Brain understand Time?**

While sound travels faster than we process vision, our brain is still able to synchronise the two. Once scientists understand how we do this, it could help us counteract disorders like dyslexia.

### **5. Why do we Dream?**

Scientists have theorized dreaming allows us to solve problems we have faced in the day. Others suggest dreaming helps give minds a mental workout.



## 6. How do specialized areas of the Brain integrate with each other?

We do know parts of the brain have particular areas of focus. What is not known is how the brain binds these elements to provide our single view of the world.

## 7. What is Consciousness?

Consciousness is our brain 's ability to process information so we can experience the world around us. However, this doesn't explain why our experience are subjective.

## 8. Why does Music trigger Emotion?

When we listen to a song, we tend to associate it with a certain emotion, and occasionally move our bodies according to beat. Scientists know music has no benefit to survival, but it still manages to trigger emotional and physical reactions in humans.

## 9. Why do Brain Cells die in Alzheimer's Patients?

A Protein called "tau"- built up inside nerve cell-is responsible for the death of brain cells in these patients. It is not known exactly how tau is able to attack brain.

## 10. Why do we get Deja Vu?

Most of us, at one point or another, get the feeling we have already experienced a moment. This eerie feeling remains unexplained by neuro scientists.

**Muskan**  
B.Com-II (A1)

## Interesting Facts You Must Know

1. It is impossible to lick your elbow.
2. The crocodile can't stick its tongue out.
3. The young one of goat is called a kid.
4. Ashrimp's heart is in its head.
5. It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
6. Rats and horses can't vomit.
7. People say "Bless you" when you sneeze because when you sneeze, your heart stops for a millisecond.
8. If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib.
9. If you keep your eyes open by force when you sneeze, you might pop an eyeball out.
10. Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.
11. In the course of an average life time you will, while sleeping , eat 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders.
12. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die.
13. Most lipsticks contains fish scales.
14. Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is also different.
15. The cotton candy machine was invented by a dentist.
16. Strawberry is the only food with its seeds on outside.

17. The name of all the continents ends with the same letter that they start with.
18. You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
19. You cannot snore and dream at the same time.
20. Women have twice as many pain receptors on their body than men. But a much higher pain tolerance.
21. On Jupiter & Saturn it rains diamonds.
22. The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
23. The word "queue" is the only word in the English language that is still pronounce the same way when the last four letters are removed.
24. Over 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow.

**Charu**  
B.Com-II (A1)

## Poverty is the Worst Form of Violence

It is a paradox that as India climbs the ladder of economic growth to become the third largest economy of the world in GDP terms, nearly 30percent of its population continues to be the victim of poverty . Amartya Sen and Jean Dreze call this the " UNCERTAIN GLORY OF INDIA" .UNDP's 2014 multidimensional poverty index holds 56% of India's population poor against education , health and standard of living indicators.

There are ample of studies and statistics to prove that the so called ' TRICLE DOWN THEORY' has failed to uplift India's poor masses and that India's growth story continues to be plagued by the malaise poverty

However, what is often ignored and what has impeded our mission against poverty is the true understanding of poverty which goes beyond the simple bread and butter issue . Poverty is not simply the absence of means to the basic subsistence needs but a full blown ASSAULT ON THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE SOCIETY. It is an assault of the worst kind which renders both the individual and the society immobile in ways well beyond any other kind of violence be it cast or communal violence , or state perpetrated or terrorism induced violence . It attacks the individual and the society at its very roots making it impossible for both to achieve their full potential

The individual is the primary victim of violence perpetrated by poverty . A poor person gets entangled in a vicious circle which renders him or her weak in multiple dimensions - physical, political, social and psychological.

The assault of poverty at the most basic level causes bodily harm to an individual. A person inflicted by poverty subsequently suffers from hunger and malnutrition .this impacts his or her health and

shortens his or her lifespan.

At the social level, a poor person feels himself to be excluded. This social exclusion is best manifested in the "gated communities" of the middle and rich classes. Access to the places of social congregation, social participation and engagement be it public parks or shopping malls, being hindered by "gates" and security checks", makes poor people feel their presence being unwanted and -undesired. A social chasm has developed between the 'rich' and the 'poor', with the latter suffering from disenchantment from the society in general. Thus, poverty attacks an individual's social sensibilities. This disenchantment may even take the form of resentment and induce social violence and crimes.

With growing consumerism and materialism in the economy it is but natural for even a poor person to dream of "the good life" and, when things do not look up for the poor, they are again driven to desolation. Since even making the basic needs meet is a challenge. Things are compounded with inflation and price rise when these dreams seem further out of grasp. It may then result in petty thefts to even larger organized crimes like smuggling.

At the political level, violence perpetrated by poverty is of the gravest kind. It disempowers an individual, stripping him of all abilities to enjoy the rights and liberties guaranteed to him or her by the constitution. He or she does not participate meaningfully in the polity, there is no active engagement with the state, which further makes it difficult for them to make informed decisions.

At the psychological and cognitive level, the assault of poverty is almost crippling. Since all doors of developing one's capabilities and potential seems closed, an individual suffers from the feeling of utter worthlessness. He sees no hope for his future which descends into depressions and attacks his mental well being.

An attack so vicious on the individual cannot but leave a deep imprint of destruction on society too, in its wake. Society is too impacted by the perils of poverty so much so that it can be seen almost as a violence against the society.

At the social level, a society becomes dysfunctional due to the wide gulf that develops between the rich and the poor. The society loses out on social engagement and social cohesion, which hampers peace and harmony in society.

Economically the society loses out on healthy workforce which can contribute to its growth story. Instead the economy is burdened with millions being spent on poverty alleviation programmes and subsidies, which could have been utilized productively elsewhere had poverty not existed in the first place.

Politically, democracy is weakened. Democracy has no meaning if significance proportion

of the population can't participate in it meaningfully because of poverty. Thus, poverty strikes at the very root of democracy and the empowerment it guarantees to a society practicing it.

Psychologically, the society lacks natural trust, cohesiveness and harmony. This weakens the bonds among people and hampers their unity. Thus, poverty has indeed proved to be the worst sort of violence against the individual and the society. It injures the society and individual at so many levels that without its complete eradication, the nation cannot progress, and that any growth or development without eradication of poverty would always be weak and incomplete. Gandhi who believed poverty to be the worst form of violence supported "sarvodaya", which means "upliftment of all". He asserted that rather than "mass production", we should have "production by masses". Indeed, as Gandhi himself suggests, without uplifting the masses out of poverty nothing can be truly achieved. However, to tackle all forms of violence perpetrated by poverty, we require a change in our approach rather than relying on a spirit of "charity", we need to go for a RIGHTS BASED APPROACH. We need to guarantee to the poor decent standard of life as entitlements, only then can psychological and social dimensions of poverty be eliminated in the right direction.

To conclude, the violence of poverty against the individual and society can indeed be eliminated by its shoot and root, if all aspects which make poverty the worst sort of violence are understood. Only then can India come out of its paradoxes and achieve a 'certain glory'.

**Arunank Attri**  
B.A-III

### **Classic Literary Quotes**

"There are tears shed for things even here and mortality touches the heart. Abandon your fears; I tell you, this fame will stand us somehow in good stead." - **Virgil, The Aeneid.**

"What 's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet" - **Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet.**

"The mid is its own place and in itself, can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven" - **John Milton, Paradise Lost**

"Nothing in this world is harder than speaking the truth, nothing easier than flattery."- **Fyodor Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment.**

" You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view - until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." - **Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird.**

" Rats died in the street; men in their homes.And newspaper are concerned only with the street." - **Albert Camus, *The Plague***.

"A man of genius make no mistakes. His errors are volitional and are the portals of discovery." - **James Joyce, *Ulysees***.

"Whenever you feel like criticizing any one... just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." - **F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby***.

**Dr. Shikha**

Department of English

## **The Indian Army-Pride of Our Nation**

From the burning of Rajasthan to the icy heights of Siachen, from battling wars, to nation building, from scaling mountains to Olympic drawing, from enduring struggle, to supreme sacrifice, with an indomitable will, our soldiers lay down their lives, for Honour, for INDIA.

The Indian Army is the pride of our nation. The Indian soldier has had an illustrious march through history. From the battlefields of the first World War where 1.3 million soldiers marched for valour, to the second World War where 2.5 million Indian soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder with the allied forces to uphold the ideals of Freedom, Liberty and Democracy. The Memorial at Kohimo (Nagaland) is a salute to their sacrifice

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow, we gave our today".

As our great nation took the first step towards freedom in 1947, it was the Indian Army with its secular credentials that stood its bulwark to protect human values, a quality that retains to this day. With sheer grit and determination, they dismantled tanks and physically pushed them up the 11,500 feet high Zojila pass. This audaciousness, perseverance and flawless execution by the Indian Soldier altered the course of India's destiny. Then came 1962, when the enemy attacked in hordes, taking the nation by surprise. The ill-equipped Indian Soldier stood his ground, willing to lay down his life even in the face of over-whelming odds.

In 1965. the Indian Army yet again proved its mettle, be it the dramatic capture of the Haji Pir pass or the unprecedented feat of capturing and incapacitating a hundred enemy tanks in the Battle of Asal Uttar. In one of the greatest milestones achieved in military operation anywhere in the world, the Indian Army oversaw the birth of a new nation in 1971, Bangladesh.1984 saw the Indian Army create a singular operational world military history.

Strategically, one of the most important victories of the nation when India established complete control of the imposing and magnificent Sal Toro Ridge overlooking the Siachen glacier, now the highest battlefield in the world. The Indian Army was tested once again in 1999. The victim belligerent incursions on iced capped peaks, by tackling vertical cliff faces in Kargil, the Indian Soldier yet again proved his mettle and won the hearts of the nation.

The Indian Army not only safeguards the borders of our Nation but also the foundation of our Democracy. The scourge of terrorism and insurgency has brought war to the doorsteps of innocent civilians. Be it in the battle fatigue of the Rashtiaya Rifles or the black dungarees of the 'Special Action Group' which formed the backbone of the NSG, the nation turns to the Army EVERY TIME. The formidable reputation of our soldiers goes far beyond our shores. Dawning the role of Ambassadors of the Indian state, they have endeavored ceaselessly to achieve peace and stability in war ravaged nations, making them one of the most sought after peacekeepers across the world.

Training friendly armies and extending support and humanitarian aid, our soldiers are the public face of Indian Diplomacy. Participating in joint-exercises with friendly nations, they also showcase our ethos and capabilities across the world. It is this lethal MAN-MACHINE combination that stands between any adversary and the Indian society. The wrath of Mother Nature comes without warning and can be far more devastating than war itself. In such catastrophe, the nation turns to the ever dependable Army, the fastest respondent in any crisis. Not withstanding personal hardship, the Indian soldier has always responded with valour whether it was combating floods in Uttarakhand and Kashmir, earthquakes in Bhuj, tsunamis and cyclones on the south-east coast or provided shelter and relief to catastrophe struck citizens of this country.

This devotion to duty comes at a cost. The Indian Soldier has been ever willing to pay the price whenever called upon. Stories of courage and sacrifice of the many uniformed are today foretold.

Men Apart, Every Soldier is a Hero :

From Major Somnath Sharma to 2nd Lieutenant Arun Khetrapal, from CQMH Abdul Hamid to Lansnaiak Albert Decker, these men willingly sacrificed their lives in the name of our Nation. Such stories of selfless sacrifices of our soldiers, not only in war but also in peace keep surfacing and make the institution of the Indian Army the most respected force in India. Like Capt. Majinder Singh Bhinder who saved 150 lives in the Uphaar tragedy and Bishnu Shrestha who single handedly saved the honor of a young lady from 40 armed bandits on a train. For every hero, there are countless others who have spilled their blood. Some survived & many others did not. Words can hardly convey the gratitude that these martyrs

inspire for their sacrifice. In the words of T B Macaulay, "How can man die better than facing fearful odds, for the ashes of his fathers, and the temples of his Gods?"

The Indian soldier not only fights the nation's wars but has a larger role in the march towards greatness. Building critical infrastructure like roads, bridges and airstrips in virtually in accessible and extremely varied terrains, to constructing bridges in Delhi during the Common Wealth Games, the Indian Army is there at the nation's call.

Hardworking, gritty Indian Soldier holds his soldierly skills throughout the year, maintaining his equipment and keeping his powder dry. He is always there for other security forces, be it training the Central Armed Police Forces to combat terror or assisting the local police when things get out of hand, from restoring essential services like communication and power, to railways to oil-wells, from medical research to cyber war, from trauma care to conservation ecology to heritage, the Army responds to the carrion call of the Nation in every walk of life.

Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier::

Our veterans too contribute to society. Once they hang up their spurs, they join every walk of civilian life, bringing with them the qualities of discipline, honesty, integrity and loyalty. The Army also imparts these values in the younger generation through the NCC and investing in the nation's future.

In the sports arena too, the Indian Solider has kept the national flag flying high and the impressive tally of medals tell its own tale. Be it Dhyhan Chand at Hockey, Captain CK Naidu in Cricket or the flying Sikh- Milkha Singh in athletics, the Army has always contributed its share of outstanding sportsmen to the nation. During war and peace, within our borders and without, these men and women stand shoulder to shoulder inspiring the citizens of our nation, irrespective of cast, creed or colour. Every soldier epitomizes the motto of "All for One and One for all". From the dense and humid jungles of Arunachal Pradesh, to the barren expanse of the Rann of Kutch, from the beaches of Port Blair, to the high altitude desert of Ladakh, the Indian Army is every ready, be it war or as the ever-dependable instrument of state supporting national endeavors and sustaining national pride. The Indian Soldier stands steadfast and strong knowing that the aspirations of 1.2 billion Indians rests on his shoulders. He marches on, unrelenting in his pursuit of 'Excellence'; The Nation Expects; The Army Delivers. In heat and cold, in pleasure and pain you will find the Indian Soldier living by his code, willing to pay even with his life for the dignity of our nation and the idea of INDIA. The ethos and spirit of the Indian Soldier makes the Indian Army the "Pride of our Nation".

**Angad Singh Shergill**  
B.A-I

## **My Wonderful Experience of NIC Camp (Tamil Nadu)**

One day Ved Parkash sir called me and told that a NIC Camp of NCC is going to organize in Tamil Nadu. I was so happy that not even wasting my single minute, I said "yes sir I want to go." I went to 5 Punjab Batallion and filled my form and all necessary requirements. My companion Sukhwinder Singh was also going with me. Including me and my companion Sukhwinder Singh from Modi College there were 16 cadets from another Colleges of Punjab going with us. We all 16 cadets were going to represent Punjab in the camp. The days selected for the camp were from 6 Nov to 17 Nov 2017. This camp was going to be held in the campus of Pariyar Maniammai University in thanjavur city in Tamil Nadu. All the cadets decided to meet in Ambala city, from there we had to start our Journey by train. During this journey we had to change our train 4-5 times in different stations like Ambala to Delhi, Delhi to Chennai Central, Chennai central to chennai Egmore, Chennai Egmore to Jhanjairis. During our Journey from Delhi to Chennai we met tamil people. We shared our culture. We all were very excited and tried to understand their language and had lot of fun. We sang songs and danced together. We saw natural sceneries like rivers valleys, forest and the night sky.

Finally we reached Jhanjairir. There we saw, all people were in their traditional dress lungi and kurta. Outside the railway station, the NCC Batallion Van was already waiting for us. All the cadets from different states had already reached at the university campus. The teams of different directorates were present there except Jammu & Kashmir directorate. We were unable to understand the language of each other but it was only the motto of N.C.C ie, unity and discipline which had joined us together.

On the very first day, we ate their traditional meal idli, sambar, rice and coconut flavour was in every dish and this was our routine diet.

On first day they explained us the schedule of upcoming days. On that day, we only took rest. Next ten days, we enjoyed the cultural activities of different states. We presented our own culture like folk dance and folk songs. We enacted play on the partition of Punjab and Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

It was a very proud moment for me to give a solo performance to play flute on that stage. In the evening it was our sports time and there we realised that language has no role to understand each other. It was not words but emotions which helped us to create a bond with each other. We also enjoyed different cultural performances by the cadets of various states of India during rehearsal. We shared our dance moves and songs. We made new friends from different states. We also visited world heritage of

Thanjavur.

As our final days were approaching our bonds between each other were getting stronger by each passing day.

I have never imagined that I will get a chance to come here and I am very thankful to N.C.C for this opportunity.

**Gurfateh Singh**  
B.Sc-III (NM)

### **Balance Sheet of Life**

Birth is your opening stock  
Death is your closing stock

What comes to you is Credit  
What departs from you is Debit

Your happiness is your profit  
Your sorrow is your Loss  
Your heart is your Fixed Asset  
Your soul is your Goodwill  
Your friendship is your Hidden Adjustment  
Your duties are your Outstanding Expenses  
Your knowledge is your Investment  
Your ideas are your Assets  
Your views are your Liabilities

Your character is your Capital  
Your behavior is your Journal Entry  
Your thinking is your Bank Balance

Good things are your appreciation  
Bad things are your deprecation

Always remember GOD is the creator and YOU'RE the writer.

**Nehmat Grewal**  
B.A.III

### **Problems Faced by Students**

Students all over the world face a number of problems. This is very much true in case of India also. The students community is affected by lots of problems. Lack of quality education, the threat of unemployment, absence of adequate opportunities, the politicization and criminalization of academic life, rampant corruption and nepotism and a host of such factors dishearten the students and sometimes lead to law and order problems. The military crackdown on students assembled in Tiananmen square in China, protesting against corruption is still fresh in the minds of people. Earlier the self-immolation bids by students in protest against the implementation of the Mandal commission report were gruesome. Taliban, the dreaded militia, who were the ex-rulers of Afghanistan started off as a student movement. In the US, a couple of students fired shots at their school mates before killing themselves. It is perhaps high time that we sit together and look into the cause of these incidents. As

students are the future citizens of the world, every country should shoulder the responsibility of providing clean environment to the students.

With the disintegration of the joint family system, nuclear families have emerged. The close-knit family atmosphere among the family members have given way. As the cost of using has increased the mother too ventures out in search of job to supplement the family income. The career-oriented woman finds it difficult to resign herself to the job of rearing up her children and to confine herself to the home. This creates insecurity among the children. As working parents, they are not readily available when their children need their help. Thus two generations have started drifting apart from each other.

In India, the pressure of the education system has taken its toll on children. Children who are barely out of their infancy are made to identify various objects and display courtesy for admission into kindergarten. Their admission is secured after the school authorities are convinced of the financial security of the parents. The school curriculum emphasises more on the theoretical aspect of education than on the practical. Parental and peer pressure on the students to secure good marks hampers their development.

The educational system in India judges the child on the basis of his performance in the annual examination held at the end of session. Students learn their lessons by heart but do not make any effort to understand them. Being theoretical, education has made the children mechanical as they don't attempt practical application of the knowledge. Less bright students find it difficult to cope up with this pressure and take refuge in drugs, alcohol etc. Though a number of universities and college are imparting education to the students, the standard of education has plunged. Some professors secure their positions through unfair means. Reservations and recommendations withhold the candidature of several competent persons. It has done more harm than good.

Unionism in our universities has led to the infiltration of several candidates who indulge in anti-social activities in the campus. It also contributes to the student unrest. Political parties are known to patronise students councils or associations for the realisation of their conceited ideas.

Those students who strictly adhere to the grind of school and later college emerge as graduates. But they find themselves unsuccessful in securing jobs. They find themselves to be a part of the already saturated markets of the job-seekers. They frantically strive to find a job but realise that money and favoritism find jobs, not certificates.

The role of the govt., the society, the teachers and above all parents is crucial in proper development of the child. Our education system should judge the

students on the basis of their overall performance and not only on academic performance. Practical application of knowledge should be there. Teachers and professors should be made accountable to the system and students. In the universities, politics should be kept at an arms's length. Parents, on their part, should consider children as friends and help them out whenever they feel troubled. If we take human resource development route seriously then we can dream of a better India.

**Sukhneet Kaur**  
B.A-II

## **Brain Drain**

Brain drain may simply defined as a flight of talent from India. It is a pity that the most talented students and talented professionals are absorbed by the western countries, India is just a training school for the industrially advanced countries. According to an estimate, the annual brain drain from India to all the countries of the world is said to be around 10,000 trained personnel.

In fact India suffers from brain drain in terms of superior talent because India has a fairly well developed infrastructure. The irony is that the most qualified professional graduates of high quality institutions find lucrative posts and the country is deprived of their service. In fact the system of employment and promotions is unhealthy in India. Those belonging to influential families having political and bureaucratic links get preferential treatment. Corruption in bureaucratic and administrative machinery is a great obstacle to the progress of genuinely qualified candidates. Talented workers make way for sub-standard workers resulting in frustration among deserving and capable candidates. It is just like the working of Gresham's law according to which bad money drives the good money out of circulation.

As a matter of fact we have not been able to develop work ethics. The employers are not interested in talented persons because they would not have to pay higher salary to those who deserve to be rewarded. As a result of this, frustrated young men in India would look to the West where they might get recognition for their talent. Examples of Sir J.C. Bose, Dr. Hargobind Khurana and S.Chandrashekar should serve as an eye opener to Indians. Today in the context of progress in the field of information technology, brain-drain has become an alarming problem. Even in medical profession the problem of brain-drain is all pervasive. It is said that the British health Services are largely run by Indian Doctors. We have very effective infrastructure for medical education. How unfortunate Indians are that those trained at public expense go out of the country to serve the foreigners. One can conclude very easily

that the two most important causes of brain-drain are fascination for the West and corrupt bureaucratic and political culture in our own country. Unless talent gets proper recognition in our country, the problem of brain-drain will continue to eat into the vitals of Indian society. The entire social-economic scenario needs to be changed drastically so that a genuinely talented person does not become the victim of frustration.

First, we have to explode the myth that the West is superior to the East. Self-employment has to be encouraged. The industrialists will have to learn to respect the talent by paying salaries commensurate with the talent.

Myth is already exploded. Though we have always decried brain but were not able to lure our expats to return home. The scenario appears to be changing fast. The reason lies in our strong rate of growth and dismal performance of American and European economies. European countries can retain foreign talent only if they relax immigration policies. India is likely to draw on its brain bank in due course of time.

On his visit to America the Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh said that he welcomed Indians to return home. The call came at the most opportune time when conditions for Indian residents in America were more favourable at home.

Indian migration to the US was once criticized as brain drain. Now, it is renamed as brain bank or brain circulation. Of late, new dimensions have been added to Indian migration to the US. It has become apparent that the diaspora played an even bigger role in the economic and social life of the US. The brain drain gradually increased the number of influential Indians in the US. The size and the clout of the diaspora grew fast in Silicon Valley. The trend now encompasses all walks of US life. This has raised India's profile in the US. One-third of Silicon Valley engineers are Indians. The rise of Indians in the US is a story that has kept on growing. Indian Americans are a fast growing ethnic group, now estimated at almost three million.

But one thing is clear that a big shift is underway. India would not remain content to allow the flight of indigenous talent. What is more, with India's rapid growth, home will offer a number of incentives not available in the past and brain drain might be put in reverse gear. With ten per cent unemployment, the US will find it difficult to hold Indians back for a long time.

**Surbhi Sood**  
B.A II

## **Racism**

Racism is a prejudice against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior. Racism is at its highest peak in India. We differentiate people as fair and dusky in appearance.

In order to combat this problem, people with dusky skin tone, especially girls, switch off to the fairness creams which are in high demand in our country. India is a highly racist country and if you have a dusky skin tone you can be ignored and bullied for it. Women also undergo liposuction and skin lightening treatments to enhance their beauty and it's a familiar trend nowadays in bollywood industry. As we are well versed that the brand ambassadors of such fairness creams are our bollywood stars, to name a few, Yami Gautam promoting "FAIR AND LOVELY" and John Abraham promoting "FAIR AND HANDSOME". In fact these stars promote racism. Priyanka Chopra- The eminent personality of bollywood once said "when I was in my school in America, I was bullied for my dusky appearance." And she is the one who turned the tables and today she is the well known face of Hollywood too. Recently Nawazuddin Siddiqui tweeted it as-"thank you for making me realize that I cannot be paired along with the fair because I am dark but I never focus on that."

The effects of racism are devastating. If a person feels neglected then he can undergo problems like depression. Such a mentality of people that whites are superior than blacks is absolutely wrong. Hesitating to socialize with people who are not fair is abhorrent. In fact you must be the one to bring about the change in the society because that is the need of time. It's not choice of a person to be a black or a white but this is innate, that is, it is since birth. We must change our opinions and blacks are blessed with more melanin content but whites don't feel biased if I view this topic biologically in this case having less melanin in their body. I just want to say that it's just the way we look at something or the way we perceive something. The ones who are the victims of racism are also human beings like us. They also have feelings, thoughts and emotions like all others. We all are familiar with the term "Humanity" but I cannot see a single footprint of it left today.

Just because a person is not fair, he or she cannot be deprived of opportunities. True beauty of a person radiates from inside. You can never judge a book by its cover. Our conscience has literally demised. The milieu that is created by the people in Indian society stifles dark people and they feel dejected. It's wrong to believe that blacks are not worth anything and that whites are the backbones of the society. Racism arises because of our mindset. In other words, we can say it's psychology. It's just people who can change their beliefs for the betterment of the society. Not only in India but in various parts of the world like the USA and the UK, the racism is still prevalent in each and every corner. We are living in the modern era and we believe in being modern in every aspect but when it comes to upgrading our mindset, we are lost. We still believe in racism. This is in a way ironical. We should not look at

other races contemptuously. Instead, we should broaden our psychological mindset. We must take pledge to do away with such a discrimination, otherwise, this will continue for generations and generations to come. Don't feel proud of being a racist but feel ashamed if you still believe in racism living in 2017.

**Arsh Thind**  
B.A-I

### **Life is Too Short**

This message is beyond all relationships, it is touching reality.  
 When I am dead.....,  
 Your tears will flow.....,  
 But I won't know.....  
 Cry for me now instead!  
 you will send flowers,.....  
 But I won't see.....  
 Send them now instead!  
 You'll say words of praise,.....  
 But I won't hear.....  
 Praise me now instead!  
 You'll forget my faults,.....  
 But I won't know.....  
 Forget them now, instead!  
 you'll miss me then,....  
 But I won't feel.....  
 Miss me now, instead  
 You'll wish.....  
 you could have spent more time with me,.....  
 Spend it now instead!  
 Moral  
 Spend time with every person around you, your family, friends, acquainted.....  
 Make them feel special.  
 Because you never know when time will take them away from you forever....  
 Life is too short  
 Love all and forgive all.

**Meghali Gupta**  
B.Sc-II (Non-Med)

### **Migration And Immigration**

Whether it is the flow of displaced persons to Europe from the Middle East and North Africa or the ebbs and flows of Mexicans across America's southern border, issues of migration, immigration and population movement controls are often politically radioactive.

These policy debates- from building walls on border to limiting quotas for refugees- frequently focus public attention on short- term issues and miss the wider patterns that may be even more consequential for societies over time. Operating largely outside of the latest policy controversies, there

is a well-established discipline of social science that makes demographic projections based on long-term factors and assesses how the resources and economic needs of society align with changing patterns.

At both the global and national level in the United States, all future projections point to a much larger population, suggesting looming resources and infrastructure needs- and potential emerging areas of conflict, as much of this growth happens in cities across the world- that will require policy planning at all levels. The United Nation's 2015 World population is expected to increase by more than 1 billion, "reaching 8.5 billion in 2030, and to increase further to 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100". Further, the report notes, "During 2015-2050, half of the world's population growth is expected to be concentrated in nine countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Indonesia and Uganda, listed according to the size of their contribution to the total growth." In a 2015 report, the U.S. Census projects continued population growth domestically:

"Between 2014 and 2060, the U.S. population is projected to increase from 319 million to 471 million, reaching 400 million in 2051."

Birth rates and patterns of longevity may be fairly predictable over time, but migration is a factor that requires perhaps even more careful analysis. There are a variety of "push" and "pull" factors- from educational and economic opportunity to war and drought- that interact dynamically and sometimes unpredictably to incentivize or limit cross-border migration. A 2016 study published in the proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS), "Probabilistic Population Projections with Migration Uncertainty," provides one of the most comprehensive analyses of the many fluid dimensions of population movement across societies. The study's authors, Jonathan J. Azose, Hana Sevcikova and Adrian E. Raftery- all affiliated with the University of Washington- note that "in many countries, migration is a substantial driver of population change," and thus properly assigning and analyzing uncertainty in projections is crucial to making well-founded forecasts.

The researchers note that their migration model "does not specify that projected migration must respect current migration quotas or that current countries of net in-migration should remain net receivers." They choose this analytical direction because "quotas do change over time, as is happening with European Union quotas in the wake of Syria's refugee crisis."

**Karan**  
B.A-I

## **BREATH**

Life and death,  
Game of breath.  
Imprisoned it gloats,  
Freed it floats.  
Trapped in turmoil,  
Released in tranquil soil.  
Devoured in burning desires,  
Salvaged in sacred fires.  
With it is all worldly play,  
Without just lamented clay.  
When breaths mingle,  
Duality melts into single.  
When breaths U and I;  
Will meet in eternal sky,  
No Yours no mine;  
One whole at feet divine.  
Why mourn and cry,  
Breath belongs to the HIGH?

**Prof. Surindra Lal**

Member, Managing Committee  
Modi College Patiala

## **Sense of Humour**

'Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone'. There are people endowed with a sixth sense that is a sense of humour. They are able to laugh through life, making it pleasant for themselves, and others around them.

Life is basically what you make out of it. You can either go about it, complaining and cursing your fate, or enjoy its ups and downs, taking it in your stride.

Many successful great men therefore cultivate the friendship of men with a good sense of humor, so as to bring them down to earth, and face to face with reality, in a way that is practical yet unoffending. We had the Vidushak in the courts of kings and emperors, who made fun of themselves and the king. They highlighted the woes of common men in an appropriate manner, for better appreciation by the royalty. We have heard of many practical jokes of Birbal, a courtier in the court of emperor Akbar, to bring home a logical point, which he could not have dared to do plainly. The fable "Birbal ki Khichri", in which Birbal cooked a dish in a pot hanging from a tree, on a fire that burnt much below it. When questioned by the king, as to how the dish could be cooked without the warmth of the fire reaching it. Birbal replied, that it would be cooked in the same manner, as a man standing in a pond, could get the warmth from a lamp, burning far away in the castle. He, very subtly, made the mighty emperor see logic in an unfair decision, that had been awarded to a subject.

'Laughter is the best medicine' is a well-known adage. This is also a scientifically acknowledged fact that humour excites laughter.



Humour therefore not only makes our life more pleasing and worth living, but is also necessary for staying healthy.

Further more, I would like to underline that a good sense of humour avoids the appearance of people becoming older. I mean that people who have a sense of humour are looking like younger than their peers. And also it is proved that the spirits of these people stay younger. They wish and act like youngsters, So it is very important for living happily in this world. Indeed, most of happy people have a great sense of humour.

"If fate doesn't make you laugh, you just don't get the joke".

Humour is the spice of Life When we are happy, we are light-hearted. We are open to others and ready to laugh and play. We laugh when we see things presented in unexpected ways. TV sitcoms and comics give us daily reminders on how to twist what we expect to see and hear to make it funny. When life seems good, the world seems safe. And at these times we find the confidence and the strength to deal with the challenges of everyday living. Knowing how to add humour to our conversations and to our activities keep us happy and confident and connected with others. Conflicts and difference of opinions are prevented or managed. Humorous comments help us see a situation realistically. Well then my conclusion is this: a sense of humour is the most important of all human qualities no matter how strange that sense is.

Humour is not only good for your health physically and emotionally, but it also reinforces your relationships with your family, your friends and your coworkers.

**Ramandeep Kaur**  
B.Com 1st (A2)

## Words That Prompt Hope

No matter how masterly we are in our work, we always love it when some one encourages us as we all love being applauded. I love a quote by Blaise Pascal;

"Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much".

How true is that ! Kind thoughts do not remain as long in our minds as kind words do because kind words leave a lasting impression on our minds. They echo with in the walls of our minds forever. Kind words have the potential to produce enthusiasm and motivate an industrious man. Now imagine what wonder would they bring if said to some indolent man! As kindness can make enemies friends similarly kind words can withdraw all the altercation between people.

Humans have natural inclination towards appreciation. We love it when our parents appreciate us in front of the world. Nothing provides us more contentment than our teachers praising us in front of

our parents. Nothing gives more satisfaction to a heart than helping others with kind acts. All leaders, all heroes and their legends are remembered and honored today because they lived their lives for others. What ever they did, they did for humanity. The life we are enjoying today is the result of their efforts.

One of the chief causes of lack of kindness is the feeling that one is disliked, on the contrary nothing promotes zest more than the feeling of being loved. A man may have the feeling of being disliked due to many reasons and one of them is the thoughts of not being appreciated.

Recently the idea of 'Wall of Kindness' was spread by an anonymous Iranian that quickly spread throughout the country. The precepts of the movement are two sentences 'Leave it if you don't need it'. It is basically a charity work, people leave their clothes, shoes or things that are no longer in use. We are regular internet users hence the idea spread through the social media rapidly. The idea gained so much applause that it was adopted by many other countries right away. People loved the concept internationally. This kind act in Iran received so many kind words that prompted many other people to remove all the obstruction lying in their way.

Nothing beats kind words. One should not use bitter words to do the magic that kind words can do. You may succeed in making things happen by mocking others and their shortcomings, but they will never ever enjoy the victory gained after listening to such scornful remarks. People know with whom to share their triumph and predominantly they will use this tool to prompt other's hopes.

**Gursimran Singh**  
B.Com-I(Sec-A4)

## Life and Death

We often take our lives for granted especially when we're young. We think we're going to live forever. But, from one moment to the next, nobody knows what will happen. A person could be alive and well one moment and dead the next. This shows the value of life and the uncertainties of death. Death is the "great unknown" and that's why it's so frightening. Also, we perceive the inevitability of death long before it happens, which can be worrying, even tormenting. This fear and suffering keeps us from thinking seriously about death as it impedes our happiness . We need to know how to do this, how to live in freedom, not being imprisoned by future and not being carried away by things in the present. When we live our daily life deeply and genuinely, we begin to feel free and are able to live see the true nature of life. We arrive at a great freedom within us and freedom is the essence of happiness.

All of us are equal as far as life and death are concerned, we all are going to die. So it is certain that death will come to everybody. Everyone has to die however before death, can we live properly? Properly means living life and enjoying life, not being sucked in by your surroundings and thoughts. I am determined to live properly until I die. If we are going to die, then we have to live the best we can. If we don't live the best we can, why should we live? You are given an extraordinary thing, which is life, and you should use it to fulfil everything you desire. The saying, "To live well is to die well" takes on great meaning. If we aren't able to live with peace, joy and freedom before we die, then we live as if we are dead already.

"People fear death even more than pain. It's strange that they fear death. Life hurts a lot more than death. At the point of death, the pain is over"

Life is not always beautiful. It has lots of problems. Don't worry though! All these problems make you strong. It gives you courage to stand alone in future. Life is full of moments of joy, pleasure, success and comfort punctuated by misery defeat, failure and problem. There is no human being on earth, strong, powerful, wise or rich who has not experienced failure. You have to work hard to reach to the highest position. Life is full of paths, you just have to choose the right one. Without doubts, life is beautiful and full of celebrations, There are difficult situations in life as well. Be careful! Life asked death, " why do people love me and hate you?" Death replied, "Because you are a beautiful lie and I'm a painful Truth"

Fear of death surrounds us, it could be waiting for us at any corner (whether it be a car swerving out of control, an acute allergic reaction, a nasty slip on ice.) We tend to try not thinking about it too much but it is something inevitable, something we all eventually come to. I believe everyone dreads it in one way or another. I also believe that this fear usually arises from the fear of the unknown.

For the strong followers of religion, there's always the question of what comes after death.

I'm more than sure that anyone who has thought about death has also thought about how their own lives may come to an end. This even further mystifies the already very obscure event of our passing. I've often wondered about how I may move on from this world, asking myself question such as, " will it hurt?," or "Would it happen in my sleep?". The complete lack of control we have over our demise is what trust to be another important factor in our fear of death. It's an insolvable mystery for everyone of us (until we invent the time machine anyway..)

"I don't think you should die until you're ready. Until you've wrung out every last bit of living you can."

"Life hurts a lot more than death"

**Kiranbir Kaur**  
B.Com (A2)

## **Failures are the Pillars of Success**

Failure is not disastrous, it can be the stepping stone to success. Failures are our best teachers and mirrors that show us our real face.

Every successful person fails at some time. It tells us about our weaknesses, lack of preparations, lack of efforts. So if we learn from our failures, we will definitely reach our goals. Making a mistake is not a crime, the ability to learn from it contributes to lasting success.

Facing failure makes one stronger, wiser and more resolute, spur them on greatest efforts.

One who tries is always better than the one who dares not to try. Only a person who tries has a chance of success "Blessed are those, who once failed" is a saying worth following.

It means that the failures make us capable to evaluate our shortcomings and purge us to reach the higher ideas, higher planks.

Abraham Lincoln failed many times in his life, but never got frustrated and fought with more determination every time and became the president of America.

Nothing that comes too easily is worth satisfaction. When you want to succeed, be ready to pay the price for it. You can either be defeated or discouraged by failure or you can learn from it and analyze the cause of it and endeavour again with all your strength and energy.

Mere talking idle, day dreaming or aimless drifting will not take you to your goal, but only divert your attention and dissipate your energy. Failures give us clues to rectify our mistakes and show us the direction to move on.

Our greatest glory is rising every time we fall. We must face them with our full strength. Many people own the grandeur of their lives to their failures they have faced in their life. So, failures are the pillars of success, stepping stones to success.

The only failure is when you say "I Give up"

So never GIVE UP and face it. Failure prepares the foundation for bigger things in life.

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