

## “One last look at infinity, then the warmth of home”, Sunita Williams's safe return to Earth

Aparajita Deb  
BA Sem 2

Sunita Williams is a renowned American astronaut of Indian origin, who has made significant contributions to space exploration. Williams first ventured into space in December 2006 aboard Space Shuttle Discovery on mission STS-116. During her 195-day stay on the ISS, she set a record for the longest spaceflight by a woman at that time. She also conducted four spacewalks, demonstrating her expertise in extravehicular activities. Her return to Earth in June 2007 was marked by extensive research contributions and valuable experience gained in microgravity conditions. Recently, she was set to return just eight days after launching on June 5, 2024, aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. However, due to unforeseen technical issues with the Starliner, her mission was prolonged. She returned to Earth on March 18, 2025, after an unplanned nine-month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Williams's mission was initially meant to be a short test flight to validate Starliner's capabilities for future

commercial space missions. Unfortunately, shortly after a malfunctioning Rate Gyro Assembly, ensuring the station's continued stability. In order to



Image posted on X by @NASA\_Astronauts

malfunctions in the Starliner, making it unsafe for her return. As a result, NASA decided to extend her stay until a safe return option could be arranged. During her prolonged stay, Williams made substantial contributions to scientific research, space station maintenance, and technological advancements. She participated in multiple research experiments in microgravity, aiding studies related to human health and materials science. She also took part in a crucial spacewalk with astronaut Nick Hague on

rescue her and bring her back to Earth safely, NASA ultimately collaborated with SpaceX. The SpaceX Crew-10 mission, launched on March 14, 2025, transported a fresh crew to the ISS while facilitating Williams's return aboard the Crew Dragon capsule.

During her extended nine-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), NASA astronaut Sunita Williams contributed to several key scientific endeavors. She established an experiment to

study the behavior of liquids and gases in microgravity.

This research is vital for understanding fluid dynamics in space, which has applications in improving life support systems and fuel management in spacecraft. She participated in over 150 experiments, dedicating more than 900 hours to scientific research.

These experiments encompassed various disciplines, including human health studies that examined the effects of prolonged spaceflight on the human body. Such research is crucial for preparing astronauts for future deep-space missions.

Sunita Williams's return was met with relief and celebration, as she once again demonstrated why she remains a pioneering figure in space exploration.

Her journey serves as a reminder of both the risks and rewards of human spaceflight and the ever-evolving quest for advancements beyond Earth. Her missions contribute to research in space medicine, engineering, and the psychology of long-duration space travel. Each return also symbolizes the success of international cooperation, as she works closely with astronauts from various countries.

## Michael Bull: No Dead Air! The iPod and the Culture of Mobile Listening

Dr. Nitesh Tripathi  
Assistant Professor

Michael Bull is a Professor in Sound Studies in the Department of Media and Film at the University of Sussex, England. He was dubbed 'Professor iPod' by Wired Magazine. Bull published 'Sounding Out the City' and 'Sound Moves, iPod Culture and Urban Experience'. The author starts by mentioning how as a kid he watched 'The Music Machine'. He states that the iPod is similar

to the device shown on the show. In urban settlements, solitary movement is attributed to busy schedules. This leaves little time for socializing. Unfulfilled desires of relaxation and fun are somewhat fulfilled by personal stereos and MP3 players. Previous generations of stereos provided limited music choices. The iPod enables users to store 10,000 songs and arrange them into playlists.

He explains how in terms of iPod, 'No Dead Air' can be used. With iPod, this silence during commute i.e. 'Dead Air' is filled with

songs. While sole consumption is fun and controllable, domestic consumption conveys omnipotence.

Theodore Adorno said sound fosters 'we-ness' i.e. quality of being sociable. iPod users create space of freedom but become slaves to consumer culture.

The prevailing aural environment of reproduced sounds in contemporary life doesn't always fit desires, so customized music spaces are created.

In 'Sonic Bridges and Street Aesthetics', he mentions that the iPod simplifies the user's

environment, enabling focus on their state of being helping clear space for thought and imagination. Music transports listeners to past memories.

The iPod, though non-interactive, aids aesthetic colonization, making the world feel intimate and possessed. In 'Crowded Streets', the author says people create a 'mobile bubble' to avoid sensory overload, crowds, and strangers. The iPod empowers city dwellers to reorganize sound according to their taste, acting as both a mood elevator and a way of avoiding interaction.



## The Deadly Toll of Hustle Culture and The Urgent Need for Work-Life Balance

**Deepakshee Ghosh**  
MA Sem 2

Amid today's rapidly advancing and competitive society, employees face greater pressure to surpass their own achievements and each other. Gruelling shifts along with pressing expectations and tight deadlines have led to a damaging culture in the workplace. This atmosphere guarantees achievement; however, it usually causes fatigue and health decline. In recent years, job stress has strongly been linked to an increase in health problems.

A recent case of the death of an EY worker brings these concerns to the forefront. It was discovered that the employee died at home after allegedly spending too much time at work without fair financial rewards. Currently, investigations are underway relating to this case which serves as a mirror to society at large, highlighting the bigger problem of stressed workers succumbing to excessive workloads. People are starting to view these cases more as common than rare. The global push towards hustle culture, where employees are constantly encouraged to "give their 110%" or "go the extra mile," has led to a concerning normalization of stress, sleep deprivation, and unhealthy lifestyle habits. The WHO reports a steep rise in stress-related issues over the course of the previous decade and have included work-related exhaustion as an acknowledged medical issue. Diagnosing physical conditions can be easier; however, the mental stress can be

equally harmful.

Young professionals face increasing rates of depression and anxiety along with burnout. Employees are often forced to mask their exhaustion, adopting a "grind till you drop" mentality. Within this structure psychological health gets neglected since high expectations from deadlines and around-the-clock availability prevail. The situation is particularly concerning for younger employees. Findings demonstrate that young professionals like GenZ or Millennials are at greater danger for psychological struggles as they struggle to excel in an unreliable workplace. Opinions expressed by business figures exacerbate the problem. For years now Narayana Murthy, business tycoon and co-founder of Infosys, has championed a methodical approach to work. In his comments that stirred debate, Murthy emphasized the importance of hard work in propelling India to global prominence, suggesting that young people today need to put in "at least 70 hours of work a week" to match global standards. Though he sought to enhance the nation's work spirit his words triggered discussions about the health of employees and the long-term viability of demanding working hours. According to critics of Murthy's vision, the key should be on innovation and productivity instead of mere counting hours. His remarks remind us of the sharp distinction between commitment and overpowering stress.

While corporate leaders promote dedication, there is an urgent necessity for balance and acknowledgment of the human factors associated with productivity measures. The recent EY case and the discourse around Murthy's comments highlight the need for a fundamental shift in how organizations view work-life balance. Many companies now offer mental health support programs, flexible working hours, and wellness initiatives, but the systemic problem persists. Until there is a cultural shift that places employee well-being at the forefront over profit margins and delivery deadlines, the tragedies we're witnessing will continue. This matter goes beyond ethics; it's essential for improving business efficiency over time. Hardworking staff have much lower productivity and face a greater risk of leaving or suffering health problems that lead to time off from work. A drained staff helps nobody; it affects both the staff and their households along with the organizations relying on them. The death of the 26-year-old EY employee is a stark wake-up call. Today's work culture is fast becoming unsustainable, and without significant changes, more lives could be endangered. It's time for leaders and organizations to recalibrate their expectations, foster environments that prioritize both mental and physical health, and realize that success isn't defined by hours worked but by the health and happiness of those who contribute to it.

prayer to you.  
I seek,  
To find you within myself,  
That I may forgive him for desecrating the altar;  
To be on my knees so that you may beckon him once more, to his sacrifice of your faith.  
Forgiveness, I seek.

The body which was mine;  
In muffled words spoken, our names interchanged, in your embrace's humble respite.  
I seek,  
The sound of your gentle breaths, to whom my dreams confide.  
Your essence lingers on my lips where I draw blood, meek in my

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Forgiveness, I seek.

## Faith of the Forgotten

**Siddhant Verma**  
BA Sem 4

I seek,  
The familiarity I've left;  
Midst the strands of your hair,  
In the scent of your skin.  
I seek,

The body which was mine;  
In muffled words spoken, our names interchanged, in your embrace's humble respite.  
I seek,  
The sound of your gentle breaths, to whom my dreams confide.  
Your essence lingers on my lips where I draw blood, meek in my

prayer to you.  
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## Ashes of Hope

**Angelina Anusha Gomes**  
BA Sem 2

Oh the sunlight, where have you been?

Blissful and sorrowful, little did you know.

It was all the same,

In a sudden snap, from gray it became black.

It turned into ashes first;

Wind blew and made the surrounding smoke.

It was difficult to breathe.

The environment was polluted, difficult to survive, but was forced.

The dead flowers and leaves wished to revive like they used to but—

the fruits and the flowers were dead. Lands were dried and wrecked.

With no sense of rain.

"Bring the rain back", it wished eagerly;

But the rain seems to be analysing the nature of the weather.

"Oh the rain where have you been?!"



Source: ChatGPT

## Hema Committee: will the women of the entertainment industry finally get justice?

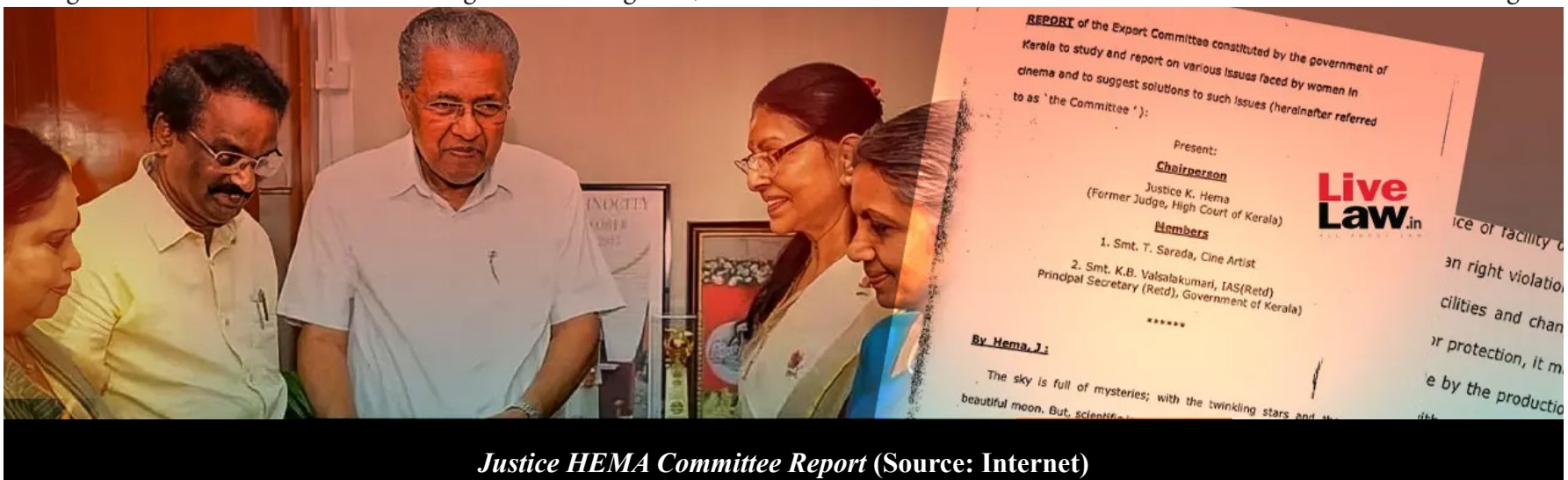
**Arghya Maji**  
MA Sem 2

The Justice Hema Committee was indeed a significant step towards addressing the issues faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. The committee, chaired by retired Kerala High Court Judge Justice K. Hema, included veteran actress Sarada and retired IAS officer K.B. Valsala Kumari as its members. For many years, several reports of sexual assaults, misbehavior, and the term 'casting couch' have been circulating in the entertainment industry. It has been used by power-hungry individuals in the industry for their benefit for many years. Complaining about the issue isn't solving any problem because the people the victims are running away from end up presiding over the major unions for actors. In the United States Of America, during the entire onset of the

#MeToo movement, women came forward with their stories of sexual abuse and harassment, most notably involving producer Harvey Weinstein. In India, we had our share of the movement too, with actress Tanushree Dutta accusing actor Nana Patekar. Although the movement emerged as a social message, it didn't succeed where it mattered most – in effecting real change on the ground. However, with the Justice Hema committee, there is a light at the end of the dark tunnel, as prominent names in the Malayalam cinema industry are being revealed. Women connected to the entertainment industry by profession, are finally coming out with their stories with the hope of getting legal justice. The biggest win for them is AMMA (Association of Malayalam Movie Artists), as the perpetrators who held positions of power for a long time were revealed. Many names surfaced during the investigation, with

women from the industry sharing their harrowing experiences. Sreelekha Mitra revealed a disturbing encounter with Malayalam film director Ranjith Balakrishnan. In response to these allegations, Ranjith resigned as Chairman of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy. The alleged incident occurred during the production of the 2009 film Paleri Manikyam: Oru Pathirakolapathakathinte Katha. An actress disclosed inappropriate behavior from Malayalam film actors Siddique and Riyaz Khan. Subsequently, Siddique stepped down as General Secretary of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA). Geetha Vijayan shared her negative experiences with Malayalam film director Thulasidas and producer Aroma Mohan during the filming of Chanchattam in 1991. Sridevika also recounted a distressing encounter with Malayalam film director Thulasidas while

working on Avan Chandiyude Makan in 2007. The Kerala Government has taken the situation seriously and initiated a probe against all the sexual harassment in the industry. The Government of Kerala has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate sexual harassment allegations in the Malayalam film industry. The SIT, led by IG G. Sparjan Kumar and consisting of four senior women IPS officers, will have ADGP H. Venkatesh overseeing its operations. The team comprises S. Ajeetha Begum, DIG; Merin Joseph, SP, Crime Branch; G. Poonkuzhali, AIG, Coastal Police; Aiswarya Dongre, Assistant Director, Kerala Police Academy; V. Ajith, AIG, Law and Order; and S. Madhusoodanan, SP, Crime Branch. Following Kerala's Hema committee, a similar proposal for establishing a committee in West Bengal's Bengali cinema has been proposed to Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister Of West Bengal.



Justice HEMA Committee Report (Source: Internet)

## Rise of Indian Regional Titans

**Andrew Das**  
BA Sem 2

The rise of regional leaders in India's political landscape signifies a major transformation in the country's political framework. Leaders like Mamata Banerjee (Chief Minister of West Bengal), M.K. Stalin (Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu), and K. Chandrashekar Rao (Leader of the Opposition in the Telangana Legislative Assembly) have expanded their influence beyond their states,

becoming epitomes of power and leadership at the national level. By prioritizing local issues revolving around identity, culture, and development, they have successfully built loyal support bases, addressing concerns that national parties often overlook. This shift is particularly evident in coalition politics, where national parties like the BJP and Congress depend on regional players for success in states and alliances. Mamata Banerjee's 2021 victory in West Bengal, despite the BJP's strong

challenge, highlighted the power of regional leadership and her grip and capability to expand her provincial dominion. Similarly, Stalin's leadership in Tamil Nadu continues to keep national parties at bay in the state. In accordance to an article published by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "The rise of regional parties has fundamentally transformed electoral politics in India, but those parties may not be the juggernauts they're made out to be." The kernel of truth lies on the

upcoming days raising a question dealing with fragmentation of power in the consequent elections. At the end, it's for the people, of the people and by the people of the country. In summary, the growing power of regional leaders is shaping Indian democracy by ensuring that local voices influence national governance, promoting a more decentralized political structure as well as fragmenting the nation, putting forth a plethora of ideologies for the citizens of our country.

## XAVCOMM'25: A Celebration of Creativity, Communication, and Culture

**Tisha Bhowmik**  
BA Sem 6

The Department of Mass Communication at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, hosted the third edition of its inter-college communications fest, XavComm'25, on January 10 and 11, 2025. The fest served as a platform for students across institutions to showcase their talents in communication, media, and creative expression.

The opening ceremony was graced by Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice-Chancellor, alongside Prof. Ashis Mitra (Registrar), Dr. Susmita Halder (Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Studies), and other faculty members. Their words set the tone for two days of competition, creativity, and learning.

The first day kicked off with excitement as students from the department were ready to battle it out in a series of events. We had Glamours Odyssey, Mr. & Ms. Mass Communication, a Talent Hunt where participants mesmerized the audience with singing, dancing, and acting. The event was judged by Ms. Amrita Chatterjee & Mr. Imtiaz Haque. The day concluded with the Treasure Hunt, Trail of Triumph. The second day continued with events like Movie Trivia. The winners were Aryayan Bhowmik & Urjaswi Saha from SXUK, 1st runners up Lucky Parasramka & Saras Pathak from SXUK, and 2nd runners up Yuvraj Banerjee & Shaguun Mittal from SXUK.

The Press Conference event, Navigating the Storm, gave students a taste of journalism. It was judged by Anupal Chakravorty and Dr. Somak Sen. The winners were Emun Aman & Shreya Paul from SXUK, 1st runners up Arjun & Divyataa Bannerjee from SXUK, and 2nd runners up Angana Mazumdar & Oindrila Khan.

The Graphics Designing competition, The Adda of Arts and Ads, highlighted artistic finesse. Judged by Mr. Sabir Alam, the winners were Tarun Binay Das & Mandip Singh from SNU, 1st runners up Atreyee Banerjee & Meghalama Banerjee from Loreto College,

and 2nd runners up Siddhant Roy & Akanksha Gupta from SXUK. Judged by Dr. Snehashis Sur, the News Report Writing event, Insight Ink, tested journalistic



pro prowess. The winners were Damyanti Dutta from SXUK, 1st runners up Titas Sengupta from SXC, and 2nd runners up Alfiya Dodia from Loreto College.

Simultaneously, the Podcasting competition, Kolkata Afternoons, judged by RJ Anup Verma, allowed students to explore storytelling. The winners were Meghadri Chakraborty, Reet Mukherjee, Rajdeep Chanda, Angana Mazumder & Upasana Das from SXUK; 1st runners up Swastika Roy, Srija Das, Riddhita Mitra & Bipasha Sain from SXUK; and 2nd runner up Asmita Ghosh, Ramsha Naureen & Ishanee Sengupta from Loreto College.

The campus buzzed with the Street Play event, Voices Of The City, drawing large crowds. Judged by Abhisek Chatterjee and Sucharita Barua Chatterjee, the winners included Rupantar Majumdar, Jaitri Sanyal, Ishan Nair, Aditya Saha, Sweta Paul, Rudraraj Bhattacharyya, Rounin Chakraborty, Dipsha Paul, Digish Kundu, Sai Majumdar & Kaustav Das from The Heritage College.

Meanwhile, photography enthusiasts captured moments for the Online Photography competition, Roll Camera Click. Judged by Sammya Brata Mullick, the winners were Saswata Ghosh & Pratah Dixi from SNU, 1st runners

up Samridha Dey & Anushka Banerjee from The Heritage Academy, and 2nd runners up Samanway Hazra & Soumil Ghosh from SXUK.

The Pitching competition, The Idea Exchange, challenged participants to persuade and impress. Judged by Avipsu Goswami, the winners were Saras Pathak, Yuvraj Banerjee & Shagun Mittal from SXUK; 1st runners up Rishika Jha, Shalini Kumar & Parna Ray from Techno India; and 2nd runners up Hemlata Roy & Shubham Gulati from Heritage Law College.

The Cosplay event, Cosmic Battles Gods vs. Demons, brought characters to life. Judged by Anamika Debnath and Aman Pal. The winners were from SXUK, Sneha Ghosh & Dipsha Bhattacharyya, 1st runners up also from SXUK, Tanisha Sen & Samreddhi Paul, and 2nd runners up from SXC, Jaden Madeira & Hazel Osta.

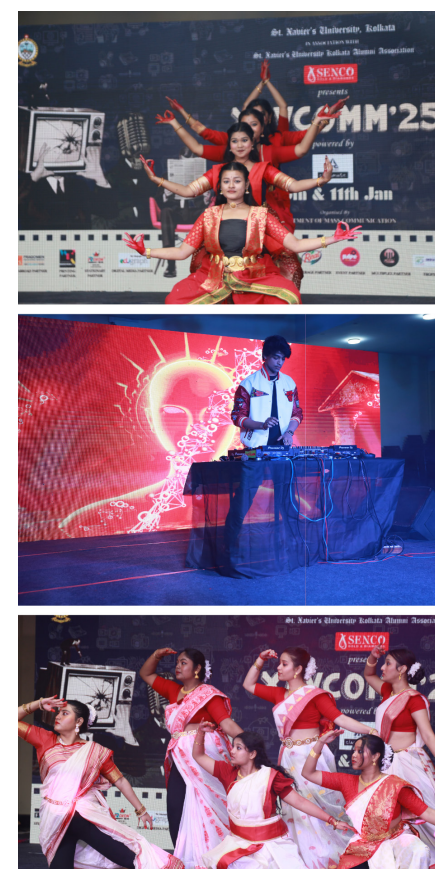
The Marketing competition, The Marketing Gilt, tested advertising prowess. Judged by special guests from Senco Gold & Diamonds, our Title sponsor, Abhishek Banerjee, Payal Shaw & Santanu Saha. The winners were from SXC Md Shahid Dayer & Harsh Kumar Agarwal, 1st runners up Samardhan & Krish Goyal, and 2nd runners up Ansul Agarwal & Naman Kedia. The Dance Drama event, Rising Rhythm The Celebration of Contemporary India, blended storytelling with movement. Judged by Prasun Banerjee, Manju Bothra & Arnab

Chakraborty. The winners were Shreya Sutradhar, Nayanika Guha, Devasmita Ghosh, Aankita Das, Rajnandini Bhadra, Ahana Saha, Aradhya Ghosh & Debarati Mukherjee from SXUK; 1st runners up also from SXUK, Meghalova Das, Archi Chandra, Abantika Bhattacharjee, Mehuli, Smriti Rekha Kar, Pritisha Roy, Simran Ghosh & Aishani Dutta; 2nd runners up from Loreto College.

The Movie Trailer Making, Cut to the Chase, judged by Anirban Dey, challenged participants to craft gripping previews. The winners were from THK Jain, Srijon Karmakar, 1st runners from Techno India, Swapnil Roy & Priyanshu Saraogi, and 2nd runners from SXUK Debadrta Nandy & Siddharth Das.

The Mr. & Ms. XavComm, Down The Red Carpet, celebrated charm and intellect. Judged by Satyaki Ray and Souradeep Roy. The winners were SXUK, Manaswini Surana & Ishan Chiripal and 1st runners up from IEM Srijeeta Dhar & Nayan Dey. The DJ Mixing competition, Pulse Paradise, had participants dropping beats. Judged by Rahul Deb Sikdar. The winner was from BESC, Yash Damani, 1st runners up from SXUK, Haris Daniel & Akshita Das and 2nd runners up from Bangabasi College Sealdah, Suman Chatterjee.

The fest concluded with the prize distribution ceremony, followed by a guest performance by DJ Tatrix.



## *The Weight of Memories*

**Arijeet Mukherjee**  
BA Sem 2

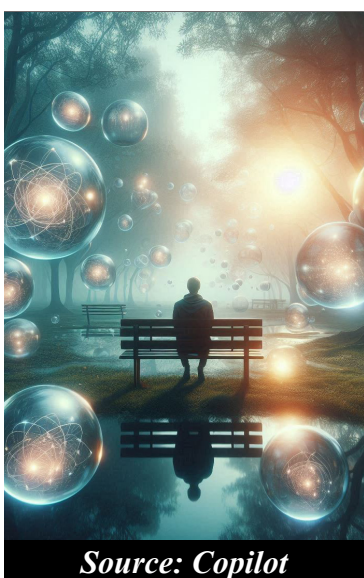
The weight of memories can be immense,  
A burden felt in both present and past tense,  
They cling onto us, like parasites on a tree,  
Painful, persistent, and hard to break free.

Yet there is a paradox within this weight,  
A strange duality that's hard to articulate,  
They shift and change like tides of sea,  
A confluence of past and present, yet to be.

I recall a time I spoke out of turn,  
A blundering misstep, a bridge I would burn?  
Now that memory is a quirk in my story,  
A reminder to be humble and not to seek glory.

And what of the time my eyes did lie?  
As I mistook a stranger for someone I stood by.  
That memory now serves as a point of reflection,  
A moment of wisdom, a chance for correction.

Thus the weight of memories is both heavy and light,  
A guide and a burden, a blessing and a blight.  
The good and the bad, the laughter and tears,  
All make us complete, and conquer our fears.



Source: Copilot

## *Objective View, Not Satire*

**Sanjana Malhotra**  
MA Sem 2

Tis a wonderful game of children's carousel,  
The inner child that lives on in their depths of hearts.  
Hence, they make and break their proposal,  
Uncaring of lives plundered like their Hot Wheels parts.  
For it's a merry game of love and war,  
Love for power; warring for domination.  
The god of lightening, their superhero Thor,  
Must feel pleased and grant all salvation.  
When Russia tore down Ukraine,  
Scared their security would be breached.  
It was a genuine fear of pain,  
A mighty eagle might be the reason if their lands were besieged,  
For USA glimmers hope all across as long as they reign.  
Israel has the right to be insecure,  
For which child won't if they were always despised?  
 Hamas decided to be Palestine's messiah – so benevolent, so pure.  
Children harmed? Why it was only but a rough play in their playschool!  
A playschool that stretched from east to west, north to south.  
It was collateral damage; they must've not followed the rules,  
After all... it is the only way to seek their idol, their Routh.  
Was it on purpose? The genocide, the bloodshed, the torment?  
Nay for those were sacrifices made for Greatness.  
Swift knew the mastery of this game when to Liliput, Gulliver was sent,  
Everyone plays a part – one is the man attacked, and the other the Lochness.  
Society surely mastered the art of theatrics,  
As accurately observed by Pope.  
Rape of the Lock was such a classic,  
Women should really learn how to cope.  
Bangladesh has been so disturbed lately,  
India must come to their aid.  
The poor country deserves to profess safely,  
Not like they would ever help those who can make us call Code Red.  
Oh, and what is this religious tussle?  
One feels threatened hence, wipes out the other.  
It is just fight or flight instinct, not a complicated puzzle,  
We're all majestic like lions who fight when threatened by another!  
Tis a wonderful game of children's carousel,  
The inner child that lives on in their depths of hearts.  
Hence, they make and break their proposal,  
Uncaring of lives plundered like their Hot Wheels parts.

## *Missing Slippers*

**Sreerupa Das**  
BA Sem 4

There runs the Little Miss,  
Holding a snowy grape 'Posy'.  
The flower of mistrust & preference,  
Her frock flowing of purity & damson elegance.  
Her feet cold her hands numb,  
Running around for her missing slippers-  
Legs bruised and heel covered with scum.  
There goes the little Miss,  
Grasping a boutonniere of Iris;  
With minimal colour ramp of the

honeysuckle,  
Royal love, cheerful joy & the serenity bliss.  
Her blonde mane capturing twigs,  
Hunting for her missing slippers  
Running about with her yard gigs.  
Then I saw the little Miss,  
Sitting under the mountain ash;  
Sprawled on the White Violet's purity mattress,  
Her lips cold and frost on her lash.  
Soon, she didn't run, nor did she walk,  
Placing purple lilac beside her missing slippers;  
Never did I see her warm grin nor did I hear her talk.

## *On the Death of Eternal Vice*

**Anushka Sinha**  
MA Sem 2

I ramble and rove by the ugliest of days,

And yet methinks the skies lie-  
Of the inert and pale sun's peering austere rays,

And numbing, frigid ether so dry;

My tears freeze; bolstered by the hostile wind,  
Lost in the forests of prejudice and artificiality  
From the horizon afar the echoing cries ringed,  
The doom has come for the exquisite juvenility

But from your fallacy my rectitude I derive,  
In the agony of blistering, fiery, and roaring hell  
The vizard fell and the truth did revive  
With maimed wings I live to apprise the tale;

The fallen angel endures to agitate:  
For one to precede those sins and gravitate.

## *Healing's Embrace*

**Angelina A.Gomes**  
BA Sem 2

In shadows deep, where wounds reside,  
A gentle touch, a guiding tide.  
Healing's balm, a soothing grace,  
Mending hearts, restoring space.

Like sunlight, breaking through the night, Dispelling darkness, offering light.  
A gentle hand, a comforting word,  
Hope's embers rekindled, stirred.

Time's passage, a healing art,  
Erasing scars, mending a broken heart.  
With patience's grace, and love's embrace, We find our way, a peaceful place.

## Trump administration does away with multilateralism

Sagnik Bhaduri  
BA Sem 4

U.S.A. President Donald Trump's recent political manoeuvre is a looming threat to the international world order based on cooperation and mutual respect for international law in addition to multilateralism. Ever since the inception of Trump's second term, things are awry for the political institutions which have laid the foundation for the liberal polity of the U.S.A. This connotes the administration's call to withdraw itself from major international bodies and policies like the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Commission), WHO (World Health Organisation), the Paris Climate Agreement alongside sanctions being imposed against the ICC (International Criminal Court) and in recent light the proposal of the DEFUND (Disengaging Entirely from the United Nations Debacle) Act which has been drafted Republican Senator Mike Lee from Utah.

### *The DEFUND Act and its implications*

The aforementioned DEFUND (Disengaging Entirely from the United Nations Debacle) Act can render the United Nations toothless which despite having its own share of criticisms has been an effective political administrative body to navigate and soothe conflicts emanating post the second World War. This signals a murky future for the US-UN relationship as they can culminate into the repeal of the UN Participation Act (1945) and the UN Headquarters Agreement (1947) which would result in a bottleneck situation for the financial aids to the United Nations, abolish peacekeeping efforts and create a territorial segmentation where a cordon sanitaire would be born, thus, barricading UN officers of diverse ethnicities to work in the United States towards enabling peace, progress and adherence towards human rights. Furthermore, the multilateralism based world order is also crippled by the February 6 executive order against the

International Criminal Court (ICC) at Hague, Netherlands. Turning a blind eye towards the crisis in Gaza, Palestine which unleashes a symphony of pogrom and progeny as the lives of uncountable civilians are claimed by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and Netanyahu's Zionist policies.

One ought to remember that if not for the ICC, the Nuremberg trials (1945) an instance of the potential of political diplomacy rooted in pluralist principles where US chief prosecutor Ralph Jackson stated that "the willingness to submit enemies to the rule of law marked a triumph of reason over power" would not have taken place to hold Nazi Germany accountable for anti-Semitism and human rights violations, sectarianism, systemic violence and genocide against its citizens.

### *Impacts on the politico-economic landscape*

In the contemporary socio-political epoch, Trump's actions of economic ultra-nationalism to implement heaps of reciprocal

tariffs under the mask of "MAGA (Make America Great Again)" is akin to the disastrous Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act (1931) which created the material conditions that caused the devastating Great Depression which exacerbated into the second World War.

However, it was due to the implementation of the 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) with its ethos in multilateral politics and rules-based international law that gave birth to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Dialog, thus, should not cease to be a means of achieving social, political and cultural progress. Thus, it is an imperative to work towards fostering an inclusive multilateral geopolitical scenario which would be crucial in garnering nuanced public opinions on ever-resonant issues of Climate Change, Genocide, Human Rights, warfare, nuclear weaponry regulation and enabling political stability as envisioned in the ways of visionaries like Bertrand Russel and Albert Einstein.

## Naqaab

Harsita Xaxa  
MA Sem 2

Naqaab pehna har koi  
Naqaab jakda har koi  
Naqaab khola har koi  
Naqaab pehchana na koi

Kya hai ye naqaab?  
Kaun hai ye naqaab?  
Kyu hai ye naqaab?  
Jo pehna har koi  
Puchta bhi har koi

Naqaab tuta to ghabraya har koi  
Naqaab chuta to thartharaya har koi  
Naqaab ke piche tha shakhs aur koi  
Naqaab aur shakhs ka mila nata na koi

Naqaab pehna har koi...



Source: ChatGPT

## Loneliness

Arghya Maji, Abir Adhikary  
MA Sem 2

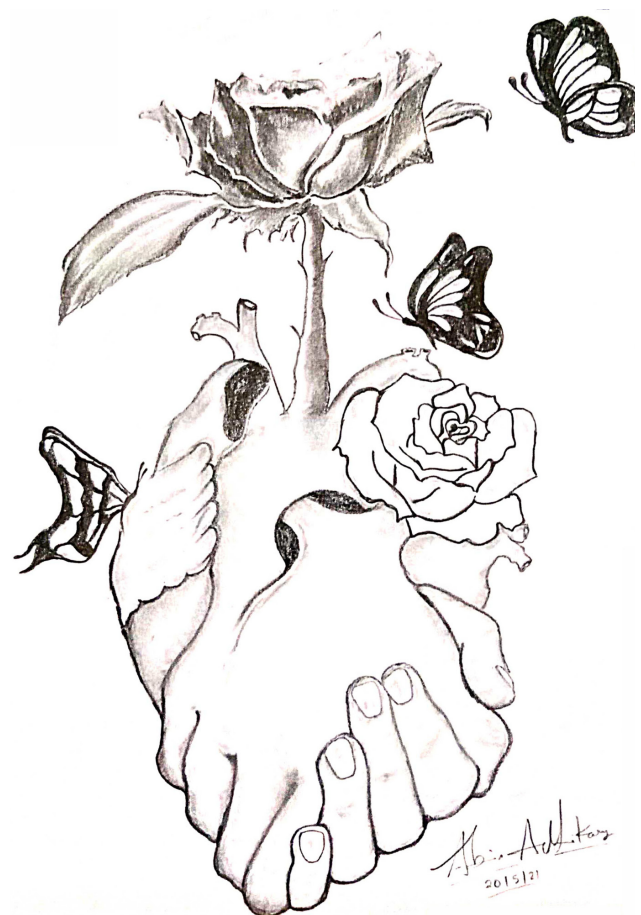
Something knocked on my door at night,  
A shadow on the floor,  
Whispered tales of past and 'what might',  
Of love that is no more.

It sat beside me on the couch,  
An entity I cannot see,  
Yet somehow, silently,  
It wrapped around me.

I tried to drown it out with noise,  
The music played so loud,  
But even in the busiest places,  
I am lost within the crowds.

In the morning light,  
When the warmth reaches my skin,  
A hollow space in my chest,  
Gets filled within.

Maybe if I call it by its name,  
It won't feel so vast,  
Perhaps like floating clouds,  
This too shall pass.



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*Painted By Sreerupa Das*



*Clicked By Ashmita Dutta*

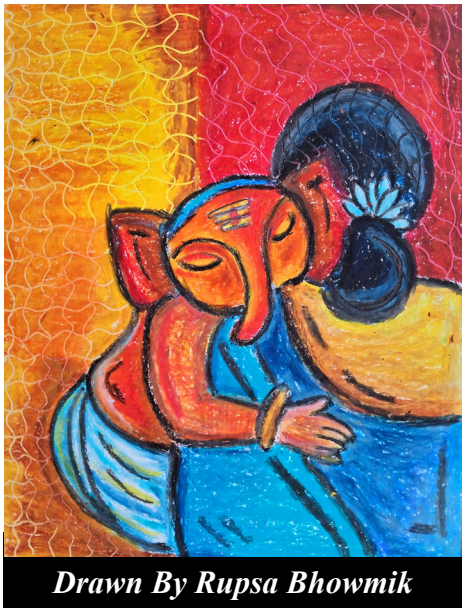


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