



LA

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER, KIRORI MAL COLLEGE

# VOICE

AUGUST 2023



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to present to you La Voice - KMC's official newsletter. La Voice is a great platform for college societies and departments to showcase the myriad of activities they carry out throughout the year. The dedicated section on faculty publication is a testament to the academic prowess of the institution. The cover page of the newsletter deserves special mention as it is hand-painted by our team of students, thus bearing witness to their talent and skill. I congratulate the entire team of La Voice for their hard work and dedication which has resulted in the fruition of their endeavour in the form of this e-newsletter.

My best wishes to team La Voice!



## CONVENOR'S MESSAGE

I am extremely delighted to present to you the first edition of La Voice (session 2023-24). The pressing need for a monthly newsletter is inevitable owing to the vibrant nature of Kirori Mal College. Our departments and societies undertake a diverse array of academic and student-centric events throughout the year, and the pages that follow chronicle this beautiful vibrancy of the institution. We have added some new sections to the newsletter in an endeavour to make it more diverse in its content. I hope the new sections on short stories, and comic-strip will result in making the reading experience more enjoyable for our dear readers.

I would like to thank the entire faculty editorial board, for making this issue of the newsletter possible, through their relentless and indefatigable support. Special thanks also to the student team for their dedicated efforts.

Wish you an enjoyable reading!



# FACULTY EDITORIAL BOARD



DR. VANDANA CHAUDHARY



PROF. RENU KATHPALIA



DR. PREETI GARG



DR. SANJUKTA DAS



DR. SIDDHARTHA LAHON



DR. KARUNA SHREE



DR. NIVEDITA BASU

# PUBLICATIONS

## IN THE MONTH OF JUNE - JULY

### RESEARCH PAPERS

1. **Author(s):** Dinesh Khattar, Neha Agrawal, Mukul Sirohi

**Article title:** Qualitative analysis of a new 6D hyperchaotic system via bifurcation, the Poincare notion, and its circuit implementation

**Journal name:** Indian Journal of Physics (2023)  
ISSN: 0973-1458. Indexed in SCIE, SCOPUS, UGC Care and Peer Reviewed (Springer).

2. **Author(s):** Dinesh Khattar, Neha Agrawal, Mukul Sirohi

**Article title:** Dynamical analysis of a 5D novel system based on Lorenz system and its hybrid projective synchronization using adaptive control

**Journal name:** Pramana (2023)  
ISSN: 0973-7111. Indexed in SCIE, SCOPUS, UGC Care and Peer- Reviewed (Springer).



Prof. Dinesh Khattar  
Principal, KMC

### BOOKS:

1. Dinesh Khattar, Neha Agrawal, Group Theory, ISBN: 978-3-031-21306-9, Springer Nature.

2. Dinesh Khattar, Neha Agrawal, Ring Theory, ISBN: 978-3-031-29439-6, Springer Nature.

3. Dinesh Khattar, Neha Agrawal, Prempal Singh, Elementary Linear Algebra, ISBN: 978-81-19160-65-5, Ane Books Pvt. Ltd. (2023).



Dr. Anita Kamra  
Department of Zoology

**Author(s):** Naik K, Singh P, Yadav M, Srivastava SK, Tripathi S, Ranjan R, Dhar P, Verma AK, Chaudhary S, Parmar AS

**Article title:** 3D printable, injectable amyloid-based composite hydrogel of bovine serum albumin and Aloe vera for rapid diabetic wound healing.

**Journal name:** Journal of Materials Chemistry B.  
Volume: Advance Article

Issue: Advance Article

Page no: Advance Article

Month, Year: 27 Jun 2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1039/D3TB01151H>



Prof. Reena Saxena  
Department of Chemistry

1. **Author(s):** Ritu Malik, Sudhir G. Warkar, Reena Saxena\*  
**Article title:** Carboxy-methyl tamarind kernel gum based bio-hydrogel for sustainable agronomy  
**Journal name:** Materials Today Communications, Elsevier  
Volume: 35  
Issue:--  
Page no:105473  
Month, Year: June 2023

2. **Author(s):** Amit Lochab , Kajal Jindal , Arijit Chowdhuri, Monika Tomar, Reena Saxena\*  
**Article title:** Conductive polymer based MWCNTs nanocomposite as electrochemical sensing platform to detect chloramphenicol  
**Journal name:** Synthetic Metals  
Volume: 297  
Issue: ---  
Page no: 117397  
Month, Year: June 2023

### **LIST OF PUBLICATIONS:**



Prof. Rajni Gupta  
Department of Botany

1. BIOLOGY- A Textbook for Grade 12 . Star Educational Books Distributors (P) Ltd. Delhi India. Ministry of Education Monrovia, Republic of Liberia. The World Bank Project. E- Resource alpha numeric code- B12TB.
2. BIOLOGY- A Textbook for Grade 11 . Star Educational Books Distributors (P) Ltd. Delhi India. Ministry of Education Monrovia, Republic of Liberia. The World Bank Project. E- Resource alpha Numeric code – B11TB.
3. BIOLOGY- A Textbook for Grade 10 . Star Educational Books Distributors (P) Ltd. Delhi India. Ministry of Education Monrovia, Republic of Liberia. The World Bank Project. E- Resource alpha Numeric code-B10TB.
4. BIOLOGY- A Teacher Guide for Grade 12 . Star Educational Books Distributors (P) Ltd. Delhi India. Ministry of Education Monrovia, Republic of Liberia. The World Bank Project. E- Resource alpha Numeric code-B12TG.
5. BIOLOGY- A Teacher Guide for Grade 11 . Star Educational Books Distributors (P) Ltd. Delhi India. Ministry of Education Monrovia, Republic of Liberia. The World Bank Project. E- Resource alpha Numeric code-B10TG.
6. BIOLOGY- A Teacher Guide for Grade 10 . Star Educational Books Distributors (P) Ltd. Delhi India. Ministry of Education Monrovia, Republic of Liberia. The World Bank Project. E- Resource alpha Numeric code-B10TG.

**Author(s):** Raksha Sharma  
**Article title:** Some Properties of OPV-frames  
**Journal name:** Poincare Journal of Analysis and Applications  
Volume: 10  
Issue: 1  
Page No. 215-224  
Month, Year: June, 2023  
DOI: 10.46753/pjaa.2023.v010i01.015



Dr. Raksha Sharma  
Department of  
Physics

**Author(s):** Kumar S., Gupta K., Gupta M.  
**Article title:** “Naïve Bayes Classifier model for detecting spam mails”  
**Journal name:** Annals of data science, June 2023  
Publisher: Springer Science and Business Media Deutschland GmbH  
ISSN: 21985804  
E-ISSN: 21985812  
Indexed in UGC CARE LIST, SCOPUS, ID : 21101023806  
<https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21101023806>  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40745-023-00479-z>



Dr. Kavita Gupta  
Department of  
Mathematics

**Author(s):** Woori Kim, Mohit Tripathi, Chunhyung Kim, Satyapavan Vardhineni, Young Cha, Shamseer Kulangara Kandi, Melissa Feitosa, Rohit Kholiya, Eric Sah, Anuj Thakur, Yehan Kim, Sanghyeok Ko, Kaiya Bhatia, Sunny Manohar, Young-Bin Kong, Gagandeep Sindhu, Yoon-Seong Kim, Bruce Cohen, Diwan S. Rawat & Kwang-Soo Kim

**Article title:** An optimized Nurr1 agonist provides disease modifying effects in Parkinson’s disease models

**Journal name:** Nature Communications  
Volume: 14  
Issue: 1  
Page no: 4283  
Month, Year: Jul, 2023



Dr. Shamseer  
Kulangara  
Department of  
Chemistry





# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Kirori Mal Family,

It is my proud privilege to share with you that Kirori Mal College performed outstandingly in the prestigious Valedictory Ceremony of Centenary Celebrations of DU held in the month of June. Our live demonstration of Mars Rover Robot (which won accolades at NASA, USA) was appreciated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. My heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji, and our ablest Vice Chancellor Prof. Yogesh Singh for their commendable contributions to the successful conduct of the grand Valedictory Ceremony, and also for visiting our stall on the occasion. Credit goes to our entire KMC-Team for such a historic moment. I would like to thank our faculty team and the student team for their tireless effort in ensuring the grand success of our stall at the ceremony. It is indeed a golden chapter in the institution's history.

The last couple of months have also been special owing to the other major achievements of the institution. We have been ranked 6th among colleges across the country, as per the India Today Rankings 2023. The institution has made a remarkable leap in its NIRF Ranking over the last few years, I am very happy to announce that this year Kirori Mal College has achieved 9th position amongst the top 10 colleges in India. It is, therefore, a great moment of pride and celebration for the institution. The college has been working relentlessly to achieve these feats.

Every year, the University of Delhi witnesses tremendous competition, with students aspiring to get admitted to the best institutions. It gives me immense pleasure to witness that KMC has received the highest number of applications from students this year, thus establishing the fact that it is the top choice of students amongst all DU colleges.

I am also happy to share with you that one of our students - Ms. Garima Lohia secured All India Rank 2 in the prestigious Civil Services Examination. A total of 7 students from our college cleared the Civil Services Examination this year. I congratulate each one of them for this extraordinary achievement. Your alma mater is proud of you!



The institution has been adding new feathers of achievements in its cap of glory every single year. While we are jubilant at our extraordinary achievements, we also strive to achieve greater heights in the coming years and preserve the rich legacy of this institution.

- PROF. DINESH KHATTAR  
PRINCIPAL





# KIRORI MAL COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI  
ESTABLISHED IN 1954

NAAC ACCREDITED A++ GRADE WITH 3.54 CGPA  
NIRF RANK 9  
INDIA TODAY RANK 6



## KMC @ NASA



### OUR ACHIEVEMENTS







### Miranda House

3	3	New Delhi	210.1	182
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### Lady Shri Ram College for Women

4	4	New Delhi	200.7	167
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### Hansraj College

5	5	New Delhi	198	163.
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### Kirori Mal College

6	7	New Delhi	200.4	155.
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## Application process closes for DU undergraduate admissions

#### The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Delhi University on Wednesday closed both phases of its undergraduate admission application process and said it will declare the first round allocation list on August 1.

For about 70,000 undergraduate seats on offer, more than three lakh candidates registered this year on the university's Common Seat Allocation System portal in the first phase.

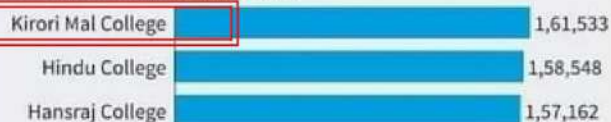
Of these, around 2.45 lakh candidates paid the application fee and nearly two lakh applicants filled in their college and programme preferences in the second phase.

### Campus rush

#### Programmes with most applicants



#### Colleges with most applicants



U.P. Board of High School and Intermediate Education: 7,622

Bihar School Examination Board: 7,880

ICSE: 9,413

CBSE: 1,98,490



#### Top States

Delhi: 88,036

UP: 55,685

Haryana: 23,442

Bihar: 17,991





# KMC @ NASA

DR. SUMITRA MOHANTY

It all started in 2009. I along with a small group of Physics Honors students got together to design, and fabricated a human-powered Moonbuggy to navigate on the surface of the Moon, as per stringent criteria and requirements, to participate in a NASA-sponsored Moonbuggy competition to be held in the US Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama. We sent in our design and video, which was accepted and appreciated by the organizers. We were therefore invited to participate. We participated in the event and represented our college (and university), we were grateful for the trust shown in us, and we pledged to make our institute proud!

The event was a huge success. There were participants from several countries and many renowned Institutes of the USA. At the award ceremony, we were delightfully surprised when the name of Kirori Mal College was called out thrice for three awards!! We felt so proud of our Institution, our University, and our country!

There was no looking back after this. We participated the next year with a buggy much improved in design and came back again with laurels and much appreciation. Needless to say, we got a lot of encouragement from our college Principal and support from the University.

The following year we decided to go further, we applied to participate in a NASA Lunabotics mining competition, held at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, wherein we had to design and fabricate a robot that could be maneuvered on the surface of the moon and collect moon rocks and soil. It was not an easy task to design and fabricate, and meet all the standards and challenges to perform various tasks, and we were competing against leading technical Institutions. We moved on undeterred, struggled against all odds, and came up with a prototype that was hugely appreciated and won several prizes. The students went into a moon-like environment with moon dust etc, wearing protective overalls and masks. It was a unique experience and opportunity for the students, and I was so happy I could give them such exposure.

Over the next two years we continued our efforts, designed new models to go to the Lunar surface, each year with new batches of highly motivated students, and each year we came back with Laurels to make our Institution proud.

Recently, when our Prime Minister was to visit the University for its Centenary celebrations, our Principal Prof. Dinesh asked me if the Rover can be put together and displayed in the exhibition as a pride of the college. I contacted some of our old students associated with the project to help bring the Rover back to life. My young enthusiastic Colleague Ms. Kajal Jindal put together a team of promising set of students from the current batches, and this team led by Kajal, together with the help of the old students refurbished and recommissioned our Mars Rover and got it working! It was displayed by our college and caught the attention and appreciation of our Prime Minister and others at the prestigious Centenary celebrations.

Personally, I feel delighted and honoured, that our struggle over the years has brought honours and recognition to our Institution. I wish all the good luck to the new team led by Ms. Kajal to take the baton forward. I have offered all my help to Kajal and our college team, and I would be delighted if they can participate in such events in the future.

***Best wishes!***







## KMC students' Mars rover competes in NASA contest

Malica Joshi  
malica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Students of Delhi University's Kirori Mal College have built a remote-operated Mars rover.

A team of six students went to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, US, in May this year to participate in an international competition to build and present their robots. The team secured the 13th position out of the 31 teams. Four other teams from India were part of the competition.

The students, who are studying BSc Physics at KMC, are part of the Robophysicists society in college.

They started building the rover in February and took

**THEY STARTED BUILDING THE ROVER IN FEBRUARY AND TOOK NEARLY A MONTH TO COME OUT WITH THE FINAL MODEL**

Out of the 29 undergraduate students in the society, six went to Utah for the competition.

"We were supposed to manoeuvre the rover inside a radius of half a metre. There were several other tasks, such as making the rover pick up things. We had built a robotic arm and MR-03 did well," said Nikita Lohani, a part of the six-member team that went to Utah who is in the second year

The students were then supposed to prepare a presentation on the basis of the performance of the rover, which was adjudged by NASA engineers.

"The experience was wonderful. We were able to meet engineers who have so much experience in this field. Being in the control station was absolutely mesmerising for us, especially since we are just undergraduate students," Lohani added. Members of the society were also part of the Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts and Academic Linkages competition and were the only international team to be selected for it. A team of two girls, in the third year of college, presented a paper on 'Enabling long duration missions through holistic habitat design' at NASA's Kennedy

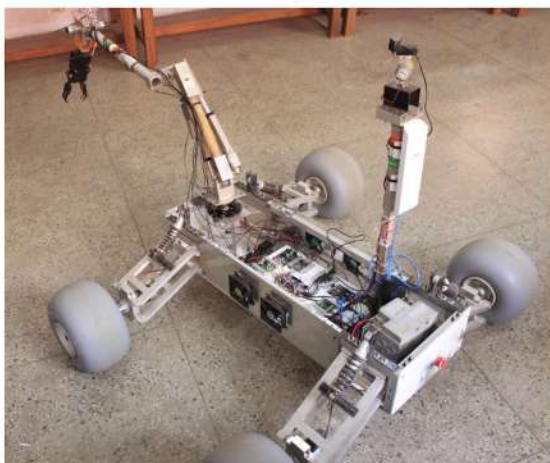
## KMC EXCELS AT NASA CONTEST

Aakriti Vasudeva

akriti.vasudeva@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi University's Kirori Mal College (KMC) recently won laurels at the prestigious, US-based National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The college won two awards at NASA's fourth Annual Lunabotics Mining Competition held at the Kennedy Space Center at the end of May.

The main aim of the competition is to motivate students towards taking up a career in science and technology and to design a robot that can mine the





# MARS ROVER

DR. KAJAL JINDAL

## **Impressive Journey: Rover Team's Successes and Ambitions**

Since 2009-2010, our dedicated team has been immersed in rover projects, excelling in international contests like URC and NASA's Lunabotics. Notably, we consistently secured top positions, showcasing our prowess.

## **Rover's Rising Stardom: Admirers and Supporters**

This year, our rover has captured attention and praise, drawing admiration from esteemed figures. Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed keen interest during the University of Delhi's Centenary Celebration. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan personally operated the rover and was highly impressed. Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora discussed its exceptional qualities for over 20 minutes.

## **New Challenge: A Versatile Rover for the Australian Rover Challenge**

Now, the Kirori Mal College Robotics Club is embarking on an ambitious mission: crafting an advanced rover for the Australian Rover Challenge. Our goal is an adaptable rover that excels in tasks like typing and switch operations. A semi-autonomous design with long-range communication capabilities, enabling operation within a 5 km radius, fuels our vision.

Let us introduce to you the basic building blocks of what it is that we create:

*Revolutionary Rover Design:* Imagine a rover that embodies innovation through its strong yet adaptable structure. Picture a robust double H-shaped frame supported by carefully designed shock absorbers. This combination with a smart suspension system allows the rover to conquer tough terrains with energy and durability. But its abilities go further. It boasts a remarkable robotic arm with human-like movement, thanks to advanced gears and joints it can perform tasks and rotate gracefully and powerfully.



*Powered by Innovation:* The rover's inner workings are a blend of electronics and communication. At its core is a reliable power setup, high-quality motors, precise motor controllers, and a variety of sensors. A groundbreaking change is the shift from using a laptop to a Raspberry Pi, woven into the Robotic Operating System's path planning setup. This upgrade brings benefits like high-quality video streaming, reduced weight, and improved connectivity and navigation.

In these tales of exploration, design fusion, and electronic evolution, the rover's narrative is akin to a symphony—an eloquent articulation of human intellect in pursuit of the extraordinary.





# ARTICLES





# SMART URBAN GARDENING

DR. RENU KATHPALIA



*“Grow What You Eat and Eat What You Grow”*

The conversion of agricultural land into residential multi-storeyed buildings and offices in the cities has led to a price hike and non-availability of chemical-free fresh fruits and vegetables. Every day fruits and vegetables are transported from neighbouring cities which is leading to wastage of resources as well as increasing pollution. This calls for designing innovative urban farming for limited space. All must grow a few fruits and vegetables at home to avoid overdose of chemicals such as pesticides, and fertilizers, in daily doses of food products.

The production of crops and livestock goods within the cities is referred to as Urban Farming. Urban farming creates an improved micro-climate, conserves soils, helps in nutrient recycling, and water management, minimizes waste, increases biodiversity, maintains the ratio of O<sub>2</sub> - CO<sub>2</sub>, and creates environmental awareness among city inhabitants.

Smart Urban Farming refers to the cultivation of vegetables and fruit plants in vertical farming, warehouse farms, community gardens, rooftop farms, hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic facilities. Anyone can grow fruits, vegetables, and herbal plants on a terrace or balcony to ensure food security with little awareness about the cultivation of these plants. In addition, it would help in eliminating chemicals in food products side by side the green cover of the city will increase.

## **Government Initiatives**

To initiate smart urban gardening on a large scale, in 2021 first Smart Urban Farming Expo (Sufex) was organised in collaboration with the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) on 27 and 28 November 2021 at Thyagaraj Stadium, Delhi. After the expo, IARI and Horticulture unit, Environment Department, Government of the National Capital



Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) launched Delhi Government's Smart Urban Farming Initiative with the following objectives:

- Involvement of every Citizen in Urban Farming
- Technology Transfer on urban farming practices
- Knowledge Initiative with impetus on farming needs of Delhi
- Follow-up initiatives for continued citizen engagement and mass urban food movement
- Fuel the training needs for Urban Farming entrepreneurship development
- Employment generation through green jobs in various aspects of modern Urban Farming.

The Smart Urban Farming initiative was approved by the Delhi Cabinet on 29th June 2022. The main advantages of smart urban farming are:

- Growing crop round the year as a result, off-season crops are also available
- Safe and chemical-free production of valuable crops
- Personal involvement in growing crop species
- Smart Urban Farming crops are highly protected.

## **Modalities**

A successful plantation at home can only be done only by one's own interest, passion, and awareness about the plantation. Farming can be done with limited economic resources, using locally available planting materials, home composting, climbing plants on trees or fencing, and using indigenous methods of pest control. The different types of containers that can be used for growing crops are mud pots, plastic drums, tyres, grow bags, pipes, water bottles, paint buckets, plastic buckets, coconut shells, thermocoal boxes. Urban farming practitioners can divert kitchen waste and water into urban gardens. In the case of space crunch, alternative methods like hydroponics, vertical farming, staircase model, hanging models, and aquaponics can also be done on terraces, but it requires more technical knowledge and specialised skills.

## **Major Constraints**

The economic benefits of growing crops are not very rewarding. The other problem is the lack of sufficient time to look after the garden, as everyone these days is busy with their personal and professional work. Lack of technological knowledge to grow and find good quality seeds is also a bottleneck in growing plants. It is sometimes difficult to protect plants from birds and cleaning rooftops on regular basis. There is no further help or follow-up from the government or any other organisations for improving their rooftop farming. Another issue is the lack of direct sunlight available to the plants because of shadowing due to neighbouring buildings.



## Future prospects

City planning and environment management are integral parts of urbanisation, where physical and green infrastructure is designed in parallel in expansion and/or preservation of green areas to create a healthy living environment for urban dwellers. At the same time, urban farming enhances the potential for pollination and creating biodiversity as well as its conservation in and around cities. Another role which urban farming can play is to increase the availability of potable water by elevating underground water table level, protecting waterways and taking measures to avoid pollution. Although urban farming does not play much role in climate mitigation but development of Urban forest substantially can do the needful.





# OPPENHEIMER, ATOM BOMB, RELATIVITY, AND A CONVERSION!

DR. SIDDHARTHA LAHON

## ***Oppenheimer***

If I were a teenage boy, to me, Oppenheimer would be someone competing fiercely with Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt for the matinée slot in my nearby PVR. If I were a man from Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Oppenheimer to me would be a villain in chief, for he was the father of the atom bomb. If I was a diehard proponent of preaching Hindu texts, Oppenheimer would be a great physicist who drew inspiration from texts like *Bhagavad Gita*, *Meghaduta*, and so on. He is quoted as saying “Now I am become the death, the destroyer of worlds”, a famous paraphrase from a verse of *Bhagavad Gita*. As a student of physics, I don’t have any reason to contest any of the above understandings of J. Robert Oppenheimer. But for me, as I am, Oppenheimer is a theoretical physicist who has contributed greatly to physics. All the above ways of recognising Oppenheimer as per one’s own reference are actually ways to understand relativity – relative to some reference.

## ***Atom Bomb***

Of the many contributions of Oppenheimer, one that is most popular is his being the father of the atom bomb by virtue of being the leader of the Manhattan Project – the project that created the first atom bombs. So, I will keep this small write-up primed to the reference of atom bombs. An atom bomb is a bomb that explodes due to the sudden release of energy – in the form of heat – from nuclear breakdowns. In contrast to normal bombs, nuclear reactions are involved in an atom bomb, whereas in a normal bomb, just rapid burning of explosive fuel takes place. In the atom bomb, a large nucleus breaks down into two smaller ones and, in the process, it gives out a huge spurt of heat such that it burns everything and anything.





## Relativity

To understand how an atom bomb works, we need to go back to 1905, to Albert Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity (STR). "Einstein postulated the STR with two main propositions, first, the same laws of physics hold true in all inertial frames and second, the velocity of light is the same for all observers even if they are moving with respect to each other. The second part is the nobler, as it is counter-intuitive." One may skip the words in the inverted commas to avoid the physics. Without going into the mathematical details, one of the implications of STR is the famous  $E=mc^2$  relationship. It means that if a mass 'm' can be converted to energy and is equal to the product of 'm' and the square of the velocity of light.

### **Conversion**

Mass is the amount of matter contained in an object. According to Einstein's STR, mass (that is, matter) can be converted to heat or any form of energy. To grasp the things that we can achieve from this conversion of mass to energy, let us consider a not-so-humble tomato of mass 110 grams. If this tomato is converted to energy totally, and this conversion is harnessed for peaceful purposes, it will be able to power Delhi for 15 days uninterrupted in the peak summer. In fact, mass is always being converted to energy in all our daily activities like burning PNG, petrol, and even wood. But in this case, the mass converted to energy is so minuscule that we refer to this harnessing of energy as the conversion of chemical energy to mechanical energy or heat energy.

### ***Oppenheimer, the atom bomb, relativity, and a conversion!***

It was realised that when a very large nucleus of an atom breaks down into smaller ones, some mass goes missing. This process of breaking down a large nucleus is called nuclear fission. The missing mass actually becomes energy. Just to inform you, when very small nuclei fuse together in nuclear fusion, then also some mass goes missing and energy is released – for instance in the sun and hydrogen bomb – four hydrogen nuclei fuse together to form a Helium nucleus. In the atom bomb that Oppenheimer constructed, an uncontrolled chain of events stimulated by the nuclear fission of Uranium to give out lighter Krypton and Barium nuclei is initiated. When Uranium breaks down into Krypton and Barium, some mass gets converted into energy. The rate of conversion is uncontrolled. An explosion of an unimaginable amount of heat occurs. An atom bomb is made. Everything on its way is burnt. And chaos of tragic deaths and unimaginable human loss occurs. However, nuclear chain reactions can be controlled and are controlled in nuclear reactors. Nuclear reactors and the controlled conversion of mass into energy can give power to a nation.

**CHINGGUAN YIHOU:  
A NOVEL  
TAIWANESE ANTI-  
COVID RECIPE  
DR. SANJUKTA DAS**



Chingguan Yihau, a novel traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) officially named NRICM 101 in Taiwan, was highly circulated in the news because of its anti-Covid potential at the time when global pandemic Covid-19 was at its peak. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in December 2019, the scientific community across the world were afoot to develop therapeutics involving vaccines and antiviral drugs to face the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic in terms of infectivity and severity. In the face of it, interestingly this traditional Chinese medicine formulation, Chingguan Yihau was reportedly holding a lot of promise to deal with Covid-19 infection effectively in Taiwan.

This anti-Covid product was developed by Taiwan's National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine, from which its official name is derived, and this is being marketed in the name of Respiratory Aid and COVRelief. In terms of its composition, it is a plant-based herbal formulation and its decoction is prepared by the traditional Chinese medicine department (TCM) and contains 10 herbs in specific proportions: Scutellaria Root, popularly called skull cap root (*Scutellaria baicalensis*, HA) Heartleaf Houttuynia, also popularly known as chameleon plant (*Houttuynia cordata*), Mulberry Leaf (*Morus alba*), Saposhnikovia Root (*Saposhnikovia divaricata*), Mongolian Snakegourd Fruit (*Trichosanthes kirilowii*, ND), Indigowoad Root (*Isatis indigotica*), baked Licorice Root (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* NG), Magnolia Bark (*Magnolia officinalis*, NK), Peppermint Herb (*Mentha haplocalyx*, NL), and Fineleaf Nepeta (*Nepeta tenuifolia*, NR).

In the preparation of its daily dose, all the herbs with 1 L of water are boiled and simmered for the decoction to reduce to a volume of 300 mL. The active component of this product, NRICM101 is flavonoids which are known to have antiviral and anti-inflammatory functions. Thus, this plant-based decoction has 2 prong actions – 1) to target viral infection and 2) immunomodulation. However, the idea of formulating this type of herbal formulation was derived from



experience during the SARS outbreak in 2003. According to TCM theory, the inclusion of plant components in Chingguan Yihau having antiviral potency is based on a documentary evidence.

The chemical fingerprint of NRICM101 has been shown to be baicalin, a flavonoid that constitutes its major component and is taken as the parameter for quality control of bioequivalence of NRICM101, as research has shown that its concentration is closely correlated with the inhibitory activity of NRICM101 against SARS-CoV-2 infection. Other TCM-based formulations for COVID-19 treatment include Lianhua Qingwen Capsule, Qingfei Paidu Decoction, Maxinshigan Tang, Huashi Baidu Decoction, Jinhua Qinggan Granules, Xuanfei Baidu Decoction, etc that are reported to have antiviral, anti-inflammatory and immunoregulatory effects. But these have safety concerns and therefore while preparing NRiCM101, safety concerns remained the main thrust area and it was evident from a clinical trial in Taiwan that the use of Chingguan Yihau reportedly did not exert adverse effects on the targeted population. Added to this, its use did not show any interaction with Western medicines.

Research findings in Taiwan have demonstrated that there are 3 mechanisms by which NRICM 101, herbal formulation reduces the risk of Covid-19: 1) it prevents the binding of SARS-CoV-2 protein to the ACE2 (Angiotensin converting enzyme) receptor on the host cell membrane to block viral entry to host cell 2) it inhibits the activity of viral 3-chymotrypsin-like cysteine protease (23CL) proteases thereby stopping viral replication and 3) prevents proinflammatory responses by inhibiting the targeted cytokines such as IL-6 and TNF $\alpha$ .

One characteristic feature of Covid-19 infection is the “Cytokine storm”, an aggressive inflammatory response of our immune system to COVID-19 infection which is manifested in the increased level of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL- 6 and TNF $\alpha$ , etc causing tissue damage and multi-organ impairment in humans. In Chingguan formulation, its herbal constituent Scutellaria Root (HA) is reported to have anti-inflammatory action, as experiments have indicated that this component reduces the secretion of IL-6 and TNF $\alpha$  in murine alveolar macrophages. Further, its anti-viral effect is based on research that Scutellaria root, Heart leaf, and Peppermint exert a blocking effect on spike protein and ACE2 interaction in a dose-dependent manner, thereby interfering with viral entry into host cells. Further, its other herbal ingredients like Mulberry leaf, Magnolia bark, and Fine leaf inhibit viral 3CL protease activity in a dose-dependent manner thereby inhibiting viral proliferation.

After validation of its anti-covid potential, NRICM obtained Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) in May 2020 and its clinical use on a limited number of patients demonstrated a positive outcome that patients treated with this product did not develop serious illness when compared to the ones who did not.



The results of the clinical trial carried out in Taiwan have been documented in research journals and media. An expert view is emerging to give this herbal formula to elderly people in Taiwan who have got vaccine hesitancy but are familiar with TCM.

However, Tsai, Director of TCM has clarified that even if the formula is in the public domain, NRICM 101 is to be prescribed by TCM practitioners after making a diagnosis of the symptoms.

NRICM director Su Yi-Chang with reference to this Chinese traditional formulation had added that Western medicine is very important for treating patients with severe cases of Covid-19, but the potential of TCM treatment, with its mechanism of action and low occurrence of side effects, is no less than that of any western medicine currently available in the market.

Besides its popularity in Taiwan, this herbal recipe has found its place as a dietary supplement in the UK, the US, Europe, and Australia. The fascinating part of NRICM 101 formulation is that it contains many bioactive components having multiple target sites with minimal or no side effects, especially the flavonoids being the main component exerting anti-viral and anti-inflammatory effects. In response to the increase in demand for Chingguan Yihau in Taiwan, NRICM under the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the National Union of Chinese Medical Doctors Association had together launched a website to update the people on the nationwide stock of this novel formulation on a regular basis.

Other than COVID-19, the therapeutic potential of this herbal recipe is being evaluated in the treatment of other diseases like obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiac issues, pulmonary embolism, etc. Finally, the best part of the Chingguan novelty saga is that NRICM Institute of Taiwan is applying for its patent and trademarks.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES





# COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

WORKSHOP: OLD REGIME VS. NEW REGIME  
INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES



MS. MANISHA  
INCHARGE



The Indian Accounting Association, Delhi Chapter and Department of Commerce, Kirori Mal College organized a workshop on the topic **“Old Regime vs. New Regime: Income Tax Consequences”** on June 7, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. The programme was successfully organized by Ms. Manisha, the TIC of the Department of Commerce and attended by over a hundred students and faculty members. Dr. Monika Bansal, DDU College welcomed everyone to the event on behalf of the Indian Accounting Association. The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Dinesh Khattar, Principal of Kirori Mal College. He extended thanks to Prof. H.C Jain, President, IAA Delhi Chapter and Prof. Anil Kumar, General Secretary, IAA Delhi Chapter for their valuable support and to the organising committee who made this event possible.

The event was held at the academic auditorium and addressed by the keynote speaker and resource person, Dr. V K Singhaniya, Eminent Tax Expert and Former SRCC Faculty. He initiated the discussion by citing differences between the old tax regime (regular tax regime) and new tax regime (alternative tax regime under Section 115BAC) in a simplified and practical manner. He further brought to light the applicability of the new tax regime as the default tax regime from the assessment year 2024-25, its major implications and the blocked incentives associated with it. Furthermore, he elucidated upon the adoption of the appropriate tax regimes would depend upon the income of the individual and supported the claim by citing real-life examples.

To make the session more interactive, a question-answer round was also conducted. The programme was incredibly educational for the students, as they are the future taxpayers of the nation.



PROF. RENU KATHPALIA  
CONVENOR

# BHOOMI: THE ECO CLUB

## THE YOUNG ENVIRONMENT AMBASSADORS AWARD CEREMONY 2023



Bhoomi- The Eco Club was selected to present its work for **‘The Young Environment Ambassador Award 2023’**. The joint efforts of **‘Let’s Do It India Foundation’** and **‘Delhi University Students Union’** have undoubtedly set a precedent for promoting youth-driven environmental initiatives and encouraging the next generation to take responsibility for preserving our planet. The event aimed to recognise and celebrate the efforts of young individuals and organizations dedicated to environmental conservation and sustainability. The Young Environment Ambassadors Award Ceremony 2023 was a remarkable event held on 31st July 2023 at the prestigious India International Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi.

The day was marked by thought-provoking speeches by the esteemed guest speakers, HON’BLE JOHN BARLA JI (State Minister, Minister Of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India), Lt. Col. DOSHEHE Y. SEMA (Former Minister, Govt. Of Nagaland), MR. COURTNEY J. WOODS (Public Diplomacy Officer, The American Center), MR. MIKE MAYER (Director Of Solutum Technology, Israel), MRS. SONAL GOEL (IAS), DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA (Director General. Nectar, Ministry of Science And Technology, Govt. Of India), MISS AR MATHING (Miss Manipur), igniting motivation to take one’s eco-conscious efforts to greater heights.

The top ten selected environment clubs, namely Avani (Gargi College), Harithkram (Shaheed Bhagat Singh College), Prakriti (Satyawati College), Bhoomi: The Eco Club (Kirori Mal College) and others showcased their innovative projects and impactful initiatives towards the environment. These presentations demonstrated the club’s commitment to environmental causes and served as a source of inspiration.

Students and members, namely Somil Kumar, Rajashree Pathak, Piyush Parag and Shruti proudly represented Bhoomi: The Eco Club, Kirori Mal College and stood out as an exceptional participant in the award ceremony, securing an **outstanding 2nd position** in the same. The club shared their unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the environment and their tireless efforts in spreading awareness about eco-friendly practices.

The event served as a powerful reminder of the transformative potential of youth-led action and collective commitment towards building a sustainable and resilient future for all.







# CENTRE FOR DISABILITY RESEARCH AND TRAINING



DR. SOMESHWAR SATI  
CONVENOR

## TWO DAY WORKSHOP



The Centre for Disability Research and Training (CDRT), Kirori Mal College signed an MoU with the Department of English, University of Kashmir for the setting up of a separate Centre for Disability Studies in KU.

The MoU was signed under CDRT's Project Sankalp, which aims to assist educational institutions across the country to establish similar centres of academic engagement and sensitization.

As a part of this MoU, CDRT conducted a two-day workshop on Disability Studies in Kashmir University on the 10th and 11th of July 2023, with the following objectives in mind :

1. to debunk stereotypes associated with disability and promote disability sensitization among people in general.
2. to promote disability studies as an academic discipline and highlight the need to engage students in research on disability studies.
3. to understand the relevant themes in the emerging academic discipline and encourage critical engagement on the themes of disability.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan chaired the inaugural session of the workshop and talked about the University's role in creating a truly inclusive space for equal academic progression of all the students.

Prof. F A Masoodi (Dean Academic Affairs, KU), who was the guest of honour, also spoke about the workshop's theme and its importance for academic institutions.

Prof. Someshwar Sati (Coordinator, CDRT), in his keynote address, described the introduction of Disability Studies into undergraduate and postgraduate courses across the country as the need of the hour.

The workshop was divided into nine modules that discussed the following themes :

- how disability is constructed on the binaries and stereotypes created by non-disabled folks, and operates on the “othering” of disabled people.
- how the ability of a person to perform various functions can be widened with the help of inclusive technology as well as social acceptance.
- how misrepresentation in literature, cinema and other modes of narrative fiction shape our ways of thinking.
- the intersection of disability with gender identity and the roles of accessibility, visibility, and inclusion in reconceptualizing disability.

The resource persons for the workshop were Prof. Someshwar Sati, Prof. Shilpa Das from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, and Prof. Baniprata Mahanta from Banaras Hindu University.

The workshop was successful in introducing disability studies as an emerging fertile ground for new research and innovation that can help make Institutes of Higher Education safe and inclusive for all.

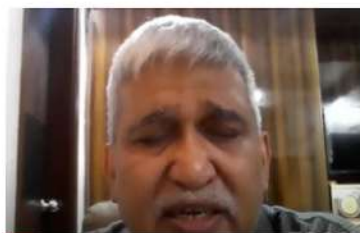




# FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



DR. SOMESHWAR SATI  
CONVENOR



A one-week online faculty development program on 'Understanding disability' was conducted by the Centre for Disability Research and Training, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi in association with CDRT SGTB Khalsa College and Guru Angad Dev Teaching Learning Centre.

This event was organised from 3rd to 10th July under the aegis of PMMMNMTT Scheme, Ministry of Education, Government of India. Prof. Dinesh Khattar principal of Kirori Mal College along with Prof. Someshwar Sati coordinator of CDRT Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi inaugurated the program. Spanning over a total of 14 lectures of 2 hours each, FDP touched upon various aspects of inclusive education ranging from pedagogical practices and evaluative processes, to psychosocial wellbeing of PwD students, and from various modes of accommodation to assistive technology, representation of disability in literature, cinema and culture, disability right movements and disability laws.



The resource persons for the event included well-known disability scholars, reformers, and pedagogues like, Ms. Anita Ghai, Ms. Renu Addlakha, Mr. Krishna Warriar, Mr. Someshwar Sati, Ms. Shubha Ranganathan, Ms. Shubhangi Vaidya, Ms. Mansi Grover, Mr. Piyush Chanana, Mr. Chetan Kothari, Ms. Neha Trivedi. Attended by a total of 63 faculty from various universities across the country, this program underscored the role of higher education in promoting equity and inclusivity in our society.

In conclusion, the one-week online faculty development program on 'understanding disability' proved to be an invaluable initiative that not only fostered knowledge and awareness but also ignited a passion for inclusivity among the participating faculty members. With its comprehensive sessions, esteemed speakers, and collaborative atmosphere, this program has undoubtedly paved the way for a more inclusive and accessible higher education environment. It has successfully empowered the faculty members with tools and knowledge and empathy. The impact of this program will continue to ripple through classrooms, benefitting the entire academic community.



# CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DISABILITY STUDIES



DR. SOMESHWAR SATI  
CONVENOR



A 30 hours - 2 Credit online certificate course from 1st June to 15th June 2023 was organised by the Centre for Disability Research and Training (CDRT), Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi in association with the Department of Disability Studies, Arya Vidyapeeth College (Autonomous) and Shishu Sarothi, a Guwahati based NGO working with children with multiple disabilities.

The main objective of the course was to explore new areas of research in the domain of Disability Studies from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Spread over 20 lectures of 1.5 Hours each, this course intended to explain the significance of Disability Studies in the mainstream academic institutions. A total number of 37 participants across the country from different prestigious institutions like Viswa Bharati, JNU, Hyderabad IIT, Patna IIT, Guwahati IIT, NEHU, Bangalore University, Tezpur University, etc, attended the course.

The course touched upon topics related to meaning, definition and language of disability, it's sociological perspective, growth of disability studies as an academic discipline, portrayal of disability in Indian cinema, legal provisions for PWD, accessibility and universal design and harmonized guidelines for PWD, Inclusive Education, the importance of caregiving for PWD, the interconnection between Disability Studies and Medical Humanities, intersectionality between Gender and Disability Studies by prominent speakers like Ms. Diba Nahin, Dr. Rajeshree Borgohain, Dr. P.J. Gogoi, Dr. P Bhoopathi, Prof. Pramod Nayar, Ms. Deboshree Bhattacharjee, Dr. Mansi Grover, Ms. Amvalika Senapati, Mr. Dhanjeet Kalita, Ms. Mamta Ghosh, Dr. Mintu Bhattacharya. Mr. Kaustabh Kashyap, Ms. Mausana Nightingale Chowdhury, Dr. Nizara Hazarika, and Ms. Priyam Sinha.



The participants were assessed on the basis of a presentation in four sessions. The certificate course concluded with a valedictory session by Prof. Someshwar Sati, Coordinator, CDRT, Kirori Mal College who mapped out the future course of Disability Studies in India and hoped that courses of this kind will be conducted by more and more institutions.

Certificates with grades were given to the participants upon the completion of the course.

The participants were highly satisfied and expressed their feedback in speeches and forms, and look forward to attending more such courses in the future.



# हिंदी विभाग

## 7 DAYS YOGA WEEK CELEBRATIONS



DR. PRAGYA  
INCHARGE



In the month of June, from the 21st to the 27th, Students of the Hindi department participated in 7 Days Yoga Week on the occasion of International Yoga Day. This event was organised by the Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi, and was named as “YOGA FOR VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM: ONE YOGA ONE WORLD”.

Hon’ble vice chancellor (University of Delhi) Prof. Yogesh Singh, Mr. Mikhali Antsiferov (Attache, Russian Embassy to India), Shri Jagdish Mittal (president, Rashtriya Kavi Manch) and many more distinguished dignitaries were chief guest on this auspicious occasion of the first-day session. During this seven-day program, there was a two-day national conference held on yoga, and several students from the Hindi department first year participated.

Their names are Mr. Rohan Kumar Jha, Mr. Sandeep Yadav, Mr. Priyanshu, Mr. Abhishek, Miss Aakriti, Mr. Amit, Mr. Vivek, Mr. Gaurav, Miss Dolly, Miss Dipali, Miss Garima.





DR. LEENA DEVI  
CONVENOR

# KARTAVYA, THE CIVIL SERVICES SOCIETY



## FELICITATION CEREMONY OF MS. GARIMA LOHIA (AIR 2, UPSC-CSE)

‘There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure’- Colin Powell.

It was a red-letter day in the glorious history of Kirori Mal College, as one of its alumni from the batch of 2020 (BCom Prog.), Ms. Garima Lohia, became a household name, by securing AIR-2, in what is unanimously trusted to be the most difficult examination to crack in India, the UPSC-CSE 2022. The college administration, in collaboration with Kartavya, the Civil Services Society of Kirori Mal College, organized a special felicitation ceremony in the Seminar Room, to honour the efforts and successful endeavour of Ms. Lohia.

The hall was packed with teeming multitudes of hopeful and excited faces who had gathered to get one glance at the young lady, who was now their idol figure and the epitome of thousands of realized dreams and aspirations. Needless to mention, ma'am was greeted with rounds of thunderous applause and a standing ovation as she walked past the beaming audience with a calm smile and a humble demeanour.





The programme began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, which was followed by a warm welcome note by the convenor of Kartavya, Dr. Leena Devi.

Further, the Principal, Prof. Dinesh Khattar, congratulated and felicitated Ms. Garima Lohia for her outstanding achievement and for making the teachers immensely proud, thereby contributing to the prestige of the honourable institution of Kirori Mal College. Ms. Lohia then took the stage and in her address, focused on the crucial importance of persistence, dedication, and consistency as being the key to success. She cited her own example and stated that the present attempt was her second one and in the first one, she could not even make it past the prelims.

However, not getting unnerved and learning from her past mistakes, she strove harder and was consistent in her approach, which subsequently contributed to her humongous success. Her seriousness as a student who was not only inclined towards studying just for merit but laid emphasis on grasping of fundamental concepts and striving for clarity surely had a significant impact on her personality and her preparation, which ultimately contributed to her success. The event was brought to a successful culmination with the address of the Principal who, besides congratulating Ms. Lohia, also thanked her for being a source of inspiration not only for the Kirorians but also for millions of individuals who dream of serving the country by joining the bureaucracy.



DR. LEENA DEVI  
CONVENOR

# KARTAVYA, THE CIVIL SERVICES SOCIETY



## FELICITATION CEREMONY OF MR. SHIVAM

The Department of English at Kirori Mal College, in collaboration with Kartavya: The Civil Services Society of KMC, organized a felicitation and interactive session to honour the achievements of Mr. Shivam, an alumnus of the BA Honours English, batch of 2017-2020, who secured an impressive rank of 796 in the UPSC Civil Service Examination.

The session commenced with a felicitation ceremony, where Mr. Shivam was honored with books and a flower pot, presented by our esteemed Principal, Prof. Dinesh Khattar. Following the felicitation, Mr. Shivam engaged the audience with his insightful words, providing motivation and inspiration.

He shared his journey during the preparation for the civil services examination, shedding light on the ups and downs he encountered. Through his experiences, he emphasized the significance of mental resilience in sailing through the troubled waters. Mr. Shivam further elucidated the strategies he employed to crack the examination and emphasized upon the importance of consistency, perseverance, and hard work, coupled with smart study techniques, during the preparation phase. He also highlighted that coaching institutes and academies are not prerequisites for success in these exams.

According to him, success in cracking the examination depends on the aspirant's strategy and can be achieved by those from all backgrounds, including those from disadvantaged areas, provided they possess the will-power and the grit required for the same. The event concluded with a question and answer round, allowing students to clarify their doubts and seek guidance from Mr. Shivam. He patiently addressed the queries, providing valuable insights and direction for the students in their upcoming journeys toward civil services preparation.



DR. VANDANA CHAUDHARY  
CONVENOR

# THE PEACE CLUB

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

On June 21st, 2023, the Peace Club, Kirori Mal College organized an inspiring event virtually to celebrate International Yoga Day. The atmosphere was charged with excitement as participants gathered to embrace the serenity of yoga.

The event commenced with a captivating discussion led by esteemed yoga experts, Mr. Anand Desai and Mrs. Nimisha Desai from the Art of Living. Their vast knowledge shed light on the holistic wellness that yoga offers, leaving the audience enlightened and eager to delve deeper into the practice.



Throughout the event, attendees delved into the transformative effects of yoga, exploring its physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions. They discovered ways to find balance, harmony, and a deeper connection with themselves and the world.

The participants were encouraged to carry the essence of yoga within themselves, nurturing the peace, strength, and harmony they experienced throughout the day in their daily lives and communities. The event emphasized the transformative power of yoga, inspiring attendees to continue their journey of self-improvement.



As the event drew to a close, a shared vision emerged – a world where love, compassion, and well-being flourish. The collective energy of the participants fostered unity and a commitment to spreading the benefits of yoga to every corner of the globe.

The event's success was attributed to the dedication of the organizing team, and the vote of thanks was delivered by the President, Saharsh Pandey. The convenor, Dr. Vandana Chaudhary, delivered closing remarks, reinforcing the significance of this auspicious day and the positive impact of yoga on individual lives and the broader society.

The maximum number of people who registered for the meeting was approximately 70, while the average number of participants in the yoga event on Google Meet was 54.



# STUDENT ACHIEVERS





# **STUDENT ACHIEVERS**



**GARIMA LOHIA**

AIR 2 IN UPSC CSE 2022



## **SWETOW TYAGI**

SELECTION IN  
INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE 2023



## **SRUJAN JAIN**

- IIM AHMEDABAD  
PGP'25
- CAT'22 99.40%TILE
- CA FINALIST



## **GARIMA GARG**

- FMS'25
- CAT'22 99.64%ILE

# SPORTS



**YOGESH KATHUNIYA**

SILVER MEDAL IN DISCUS THROW F56  
WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS



**RINKU HOODA**

SILVER MEDAL IN JAVELIN THROW F46  
WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS



# तबाह दुनिया की दास्तान

- प्रो. प्रज्ञा  
हिंदी विभाग



'अब बताइये एक दिन, बात सिर्फ एक ही दिन की होती है और आपका सब कुछ तबाह हो जाता है... कुछ बर्बाद होने को तो एक सेकेण्ड ही काफी है पराशर सर ! एक दिन तो बहुत ही समझिये आप। मेरी कितनी रातें एक सपने के पीछे भागती रहीं। सोचा था कल मुराद पूरी हो जाएगी।

“ हां! तुम कल भी ऑफिस नहीं आए थे ।”

“ कैसे आता सर...आज भी मन नहीं कर रहा । कल सुबह कितनी खुशियों से भरी थी सर! पर दिन पूरा होते-होते सब खुशियां दुख में डूब गयीं। आदमी जो चाहे वह इस एक जिन्दगी में पूरा हो इसकी कोई गारंटी है क्या? और है तो कौन देगा भला? मेरी बदनसीबी की दास्तान आप सुन लीजिए तो मुझे ज़रा चैन आ जाए। जानते हैं मेरे सपने बिखर गए कल । न सपना ही पूरा हुआ, न कहीं से कोई गारंटी मिली उसके पूरा होने की। मिला तो सिवाय दुख के और कुछ भी नहीं।”

वो मेरी ही कंपनी में साथी है मेरा। विनीत नाम है उसका। काम तो हमारा एक-सा ही है, पद का भी कोई खास अंतर नहीं पर मेरी उम्र और मेरे अनुभव का लिहाज़ करके वो मुझे सर ही कहता आया है। अक्सर फोन कर लिया करता है अपने सुख-दुख बांटने। कहता है आप मेरे परिवार का हिस्सा हो गए हैं। ये अलग बात है कि भागमभाग भरी नौकरी और जिन्दगी में अभी तक हम एक-दूसरे के परिवार से मिल नहीं सके हैं। पर बातों ही बातों में हमें एक-दूसरे के घर की पूरी जानकारी हो गई है। उसकी छुटकी बिटिया दिया की हर दिन की नई कारस्तानियां सुनने में मुझे बहुत मज़ा आता है। यों अपनी पत्नी मेघा से जुड़ी कई बातें भी वो अक्सर बताया करता है। कभी मन का गुबार निकालने तो कभी कोई हल जानने। अक्सर दोनों के बीच समय ही सबसे बड़ी दिक्कत बन जाता है। मेघा के पास सारे काम के बावजूद समय है और विनीत के पास समय के बाद भी काम ही काम।

आज विनीत की आवाज़ में एक गहरी तड़प थी। अपनी बैचेनी में मुझे कोई मौका दिए वह लगातार बोले चला जा रहा था। कितनी दफा मैंने कोशिश की ज़रा शांत हो तो मैं पूछूं कि माजरा क्या है? फोन की तरंगित ध्वनि से भी मैं देख पा रहा था उसके दुःख के निशान पर दुःख जिस राह पर चल कर आ रहा था वो राह अब तक धुंधली थी। अब आप इसे मेरा सब्र कह लीजिये या उसके दुःख का उफान जिसमें मेरे सवाल पछाड़ खाते जा रहे थे। मैं जरा सवालों को बुदबुदाने का मौका देता उसका उफान और ऊपर की ओर चला जाता और मेरे बुदबुदाते शब्द कोई राह न पाते। शायद बात आमने-सामने होती तो वो मेरे सवालों की शक्ल ज़रूर देख पाता। कितनी दफा शब्द होंठ तक आए और कोई राह न पाकर गले में ही अटक गए। उन अटके हुए शब्दों पर मैंने तरस खाया।

“भाई! आखिर हुआ क्या?” मेरे शब्द धैर्य की दीवार तोड़कर मेरी जिज्ञासा को राह देते बाहर निकले।

“आप नहीं समझ सकते न...ओनली द वीअरर नोज़ वेयर द शू पिंचेज़, सर! मैं दावे से कह सकता हूँ सर आप बहुत ही खुशनसीब हैं। बहुत अच्छा हुआ कि आप कल इस सबसे दूर थे। मेरी बदकिस्मती के आगे आप वाकई बहुत-बहुत खुशनसीब रहे। आप भी इसमें शामिल होते और आप के साथ भी वही सब हुआ होता तो आज आपकी दुनिया भी मेरी तरह लुट गयी होती। तबाह होना किसे कहते हैं सर! ये कल जान लिया मैंने। आपसे नहीं कहूंगा तो किससे कहूंगा...फिर हरेक को फुर्सत भी कहां है किसी की तकलीफ जानने की?”

“मुझे बताओ विनीत...ज़रा साफ-साफ। आखिर ऐसी क्या बात हो गई?...हैलो...हैलो..विनीत” और फोन डिस्कनेक्ट।

“उफ! ये नेटवर्क। इसी वक्त जाना था इसे? विनीत की पूरी बात भी न सुन पाया मैं। जाने क्या कहना चाह रहा था? जाने क्या मदद चाह रहा था मुझसे?” मैं बार-बार फोन मिलाता रहा और खीजता रहा। ऐन मौके पर विनीत के फोन का नेटवर्क क्षेत्र से बाहर चले जाना बेतरह खलने लगा।

इतना तो मैं जान गया उसके शब्दों के हर कंपन से कि बात बहुत ही गंभीर है। उसे मथ रहा कोई शांत दुख आज फूटकर बह चला था। पर मेरा दिमाग एकदम चकरा गया- उसकी दुनिया लुट गयी। क्योंकि? सैकड़ों बुरे ख्याल दिलो-दिमाग में एक साथ उठे। मेरा मन कांप गया। दूर-दराज़ के किसी कस्बे से शहर आया ये नौजवान आखिर किससे कहे अपना दुख? मुझे अपना समझता है इसीलिए तो घर की बातें साझा किया करता है। मैं थर्रा गया था उसकी बातों से। उसकी ‘लुटी दुनिया’ की तस्वीर में मुझे सबसे पहले उसकी गर्भवती पत्नी मेघा नज़र आई। परिवार पूरा होने को था उन दोनों का। पहले माह में ये खबर सुनाते हुए कितना खुश था विनीत। “सर! आज तो मिठाई बनती है आपकी...दिया को जल्द ही अपना नन्हा साथी मिलने वाला है। मेघा इज़ एक्सपेक्टिंग।” बाद में कितनी दिक्कतें बार-बार आती रहीं थीं मेघा को जिनकी वजह से विनीत भी परेशान रहा करता। कभी शुगर तो कभी हाई बीपी। घर में कोई और सहारा भी तो नहीं था। बार-बार इस नौकरी में छुट्टी लेना भी मुमकिन नहीं।

अगले संस्करण में जानें बाकी की कहानी



# COMIC STRIP

BY AYESHA KHAN

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