



July ,2023

ALPAS

-Freedom from the shackles of mundane norms

BISHOP COTTON WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE PG DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the P.G. Department of English Studies, I am glad to present our 2nd Weekly Wall Journal "Alpas" a Filipino phrase that means to be free from the shackles of monotony. It is the ability to get away, feel a sense of freedom and escape the mundane. The journal for this week is based on the theme "Aesthetics: Mimesis and Reality. The journal attempts to explore and record various themes within the field of English Studies. We could reach this stage through the faculty's constant support and the intellectual generosity of the authors and scholars we encounter in our syllabus.

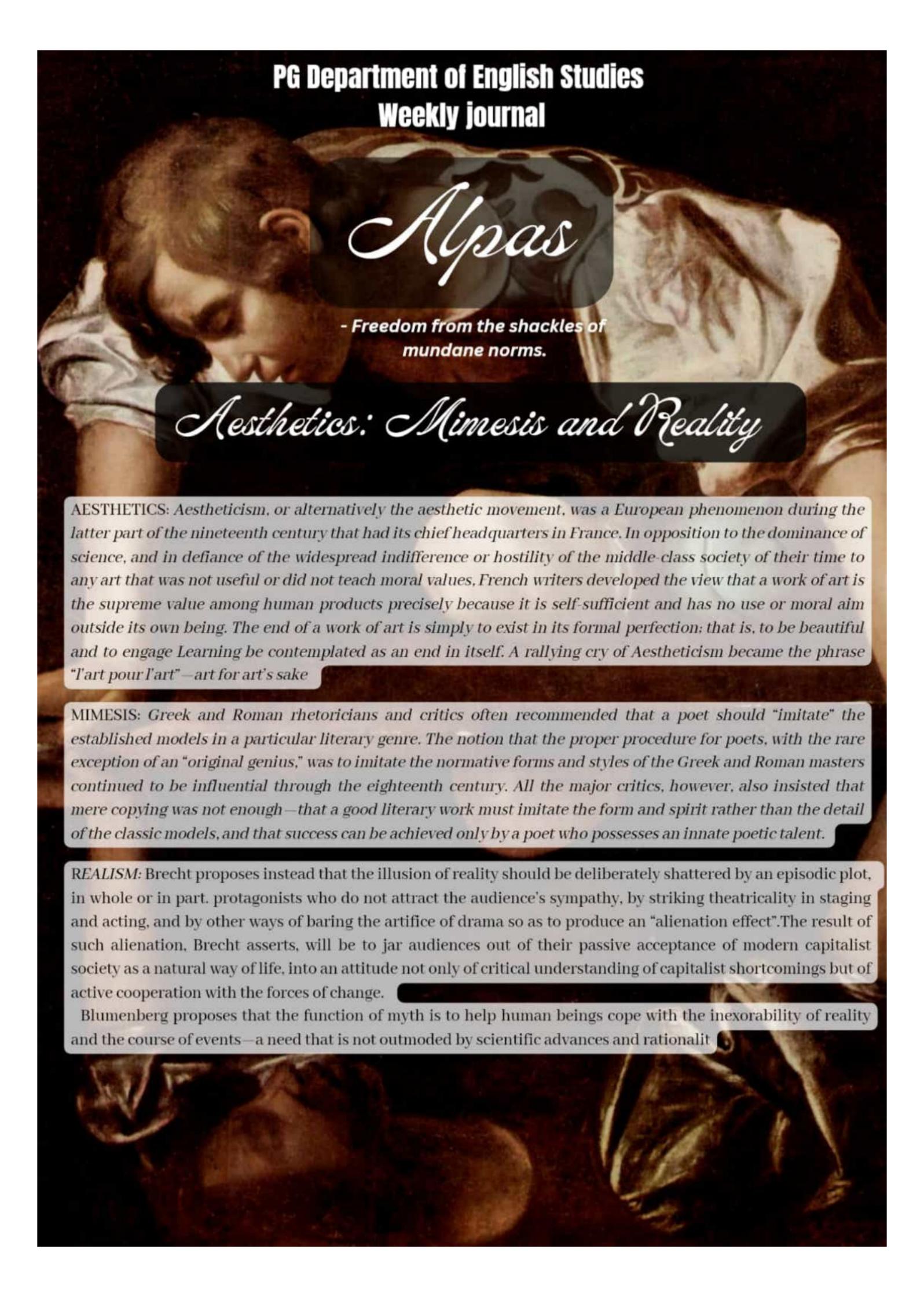
One of the objectives of this journal is to encourage its students and faculty to publish scholarly articles, creative writing, and enriching reviews to further the discourse on the weekly themes. Readers can notice the progression of ideas made through book and film reviews, which emerge as an important section of this journal. The book review section this time features "Mimesis: The Representation Of Reality in Western Literature" by Erich Auerbach put together by Ms. Sadia, a student of the I MA. We also provide a platform for creative writing and critical thinking, towards which Ms. Nafisa, from 2 nd semester has authored a Flash Fiction piece, "Sanki's Ideal Realm". Ms. Samantha Christopher, Guest Faculty puts her thoughts together on the theme of Aesthetics: Mimesis and Reality in the form of a poem titled "The City of Gold". The important happenings in our society are put forth under the 'Current Issues' section, to bring awareness and to encourage voicing out opinions and expanding spheres of one's intellect. This section in our journal for this week is collated by Ms. Anusha, of the I MA. The Events of the Week section proffered by Precilla and Sharon, of the II MA, presents to the reader activities, conference, public lectures and book clubs the Department of English Studies had conducted or participated in through the week.

The MA English weekly wall journal encourages students from other disciplines to contribute in the areas of creative writing and critical thinking. We would be greatly pleased to have them published in our future editions.

Sharon Christy
STUDENT EDITOR

ALPAS

Editorial Team
Chief Editor: Dr Amitha Santiago
Faculty Editors: Ms. Samantha Christopher, Ms. Shwetha M.
Student Editor: Ms. Sharon Christy



PG Department of English Studies
Weekly journal

Alpas

- Freedom from the shackles of
mundane norms.

Aesthetics: Mimesis and Reality

AESTHETICS: Aestheticism, or alternatively the aesthetic movement, was a European phenomenon during the latter part of the nineteenth century that had its chief headquarters in France. In opposition to the dominance of science, and in defiance of the widespread indifference or hostility of the middle-class society of their time to any art that was not useful or did not teach moral values, French writers developed the view that a work of art is the supreme value among human products precisely because it is self-sufficient and has no use or moral aim outside its own being. The end of a work of art is simply to exist in its formal perfection; that is, to be beautiful and to engage Learning be contemplated as an end in itself. A rallying cry of Aestheticism became the phrase "l'art pour l'art" — art for art's sake

MIMESIS: Greek and Roman rhetoricians and critics often recommended that a poet should "imitate" the established models in a particular literary genre. The notion that the proper procedure for poets, with the rare exception of an "original genius," was to imitate the normative forms and styles of the Greek and Roman masters continued to be influential through the eighteenth century. All the major critics, however, also insisted that mere copying was not enough — that a good literary work must imitate the form and spirit rather than the detail of the classic models, and that success can be achieved only by a poet who possesses an innate poetic talent.

REALISM: Brecht proposes instead that the illusion of reality should be deliberately shattered by an episodic plot, in whole or in part. protagonists who do not attract the audience's sympathy, by striking theatricality in staging and acting, and by other ways of baring the artifice of drama so as to produce an "alienation effect". The result of such alienation, Brecht asserts, will be to jar audiences out of their passive acceptance of modern capitalist society as a natural way of life, into an attitude not only of critical understanding of capitalist shortcomings but of active cooperation with the forces of change.

Blumenberg proposes that the function of myth is to help human beings cope with the inexorability of reality and the course of events—a need that is not outmoded by scientific advances and rationalit



Sanki had just returned home from school and was feeling a bit lost. He had spent the day studying and was now finding it difficult to reconcile his new knowledge with his everyday life. Suddenly, an idea came to him. He would attempt to create a new world where realism and imagination could coexist. He had read about mimesis and thought this would be the ideal way to explore this idea.

Sanki began by creating a world in his mind. He created a complex network of streets and alleys, decorated with colorful buildings that seemed alive with the energy of a bustling city. He populated the world with characters from his imagination--each of them with their own features, stories, and personalities.

Sanki stepped into this world and began to explore. He found that the streets were filled with realism--cars honking and people rushing by, dogs barking, and children playing. This newfound reality allowed him to explore further.

As he walked, he encountered obstacles in his path that seemed familiar, yet different. A strange bookshop, a mysterious cat, a strange man in a pinstriped suit. He couldn't quite tell if these things were real or not, but it didn't matter. He embraced the reality of these experiences, deepening his exploration and understanding of the world he was creating.

Soon, Sanki had become an expert at navigating the streets of his world. He no longer had to rely solely on his imagination. He had found ways to integrate the realities of life into his masterpiece. He felt a sense of accomplishment as he realized he had created something unique and extraordinary.

Sanki continued exploring his world, finding more and more ways to incorporate mimesis into his daily life. He found a peaceful balance between imagination and realism, something he had never thought possible. This newfound ability allowed him to enjoy life in a completely different way. Sanki had found the perfect combination of mimesis and reality, and it would stay with him forever.

City of Gold

The station was filled with people,
People going it seemed, everywhere.
We jump into the train at half past four
On our way to the ruin courts.
Through the barred windows.

A heaven-sent winnow
We felt, along the drizzle of first rains
Quiet smells of chili and travellers galore,
waft through the train.

Gazing out the window now, the sky
welling up with stellar colors.
Inky blotches of amber and cyan melt into
the other

The warm sun and beams of delicious heat
Blur the senses, into a dizzying fantasy.
Fields of Maize and Cotton touch the
horizon

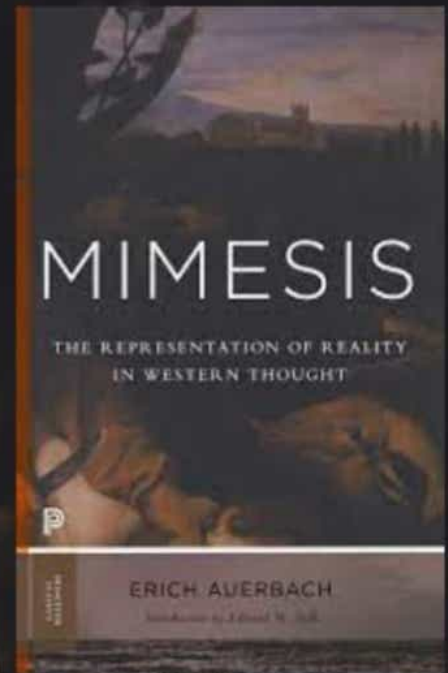
Sunflowers turn their petalled heads
around

searching for the setting Sun
Eunuchs clap and sing as the train slows
down,

The journey seems to end too soon, but her
enticing ways beckon still

And I can't help but believe, the rows of
coconut trees sway their leaves in the air,
as if to say hello,
And not Goodbye.

TITLE OF THE BOOK: MIMESIS : THE REPRESENTATION OF REALITY IN WESTERN LITERATURE
AUTHOR'S NAME: ERICH AUERBACH
YEAR OF PUBLICATION: 1946
PUBLISHING HOUSE: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS
PLACE OF PUBLISHING: BERNE, SWITZERLAND

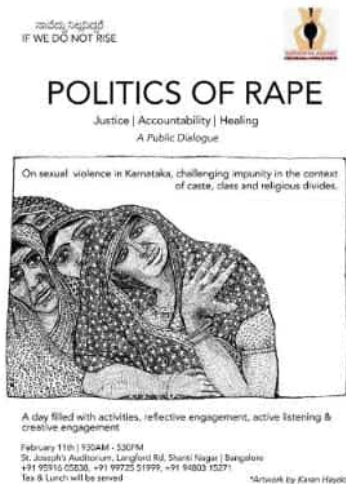


Mimesis is a term used in literary criticism and philosophy that carries a wide range of meanings which includes imitation, representation, the act of expression, the act of resembling, and the presentation of the self. In today's modern studies, we understand mimesis in literature as a form of realism in the book *Mimesis: Representation of Reality in Western Literature* by Erich Auerbach.

The author has analyzed varied works of literature in terms of their historical and linguistic aspects. His main theme is the issue of how reality is represented and aesthetically constructed in the great works of literature. The concept of imitation and mimesis has been discussed as the essence of artistic expression. It is a broad theoretical term.

Through this book, we see how from the ancient days to the twentieth-century literature has evolved naturally. The main focus is to show that there is a part of reality that is seen through the one who wrote the piece of literature and shows the people how true or harsh reality is.

Public Lecture on *The Politics of Rape*



The students from II MA, PG department of English Studies attended the public lecture titled "The Politics of Rape", on 11th February in St. Joseph's University, Shanti Nagar. This lecture involved the themes of "Justice", "Accountability" and "Healing".

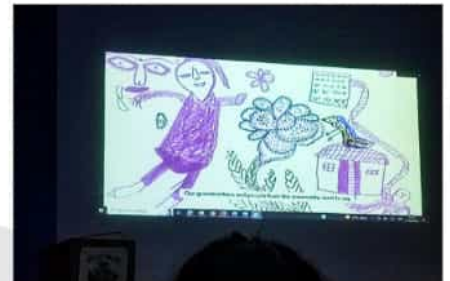
The lecture began with a conversation on the issue of Bilkis Banu. A case that gained national attention in India in 2002, when the mob attacked and gang-raped Banu, who was pregnant when the incident took place during the communal riots in Gujarat. The case gained momentum as Bilkis Banu refused to be intimidated and fought for justice despite facing several hurdles like many other victims actively fighting for justice. The case eventually received attention from the media whereas the rest were left unspoken for.



The lecture progressed to a session where victims from various parts of Bangalore shared their personal experiences and events in their lives, which included physical abuse of trans women and the torture that victims faced due to caste. The challenges they faced were so overwhelming that some individuals had contemplated suicide.



This was followed by conversations initiated by the panel asserting that sexual violence can never be acceptable and is a violation of human rights. It is important for individuals, communities, and governments to take action to prevent and address sexual violence, to support survivors, and to hold the perpetrators accountable for their actions. We must work towards creating a society that is safe and respectful for all individuals, regardless of gender, race, religion, or any other characteristic, being mindful of our language and actions, and striving to promote respect, empathy, and equality. Panelist Stanley KV, the founder of *Odanadi*, the Mysuru-based NGO, rightly said that "Though democracy has changed a lot in the modern context, it's just an Old Wine in a new bottle". Geeta Menon has been a women's rights activist for three decades, quotes "Fly like birds.. Swim like fish but do not live like a human." She addressed the gathering on the issue of sexual violence and rape being a serious problem in India, and how it is important to raise awareness and work towards solutions. It is not helpful to blame the victims or make excuses for the perpetrators.



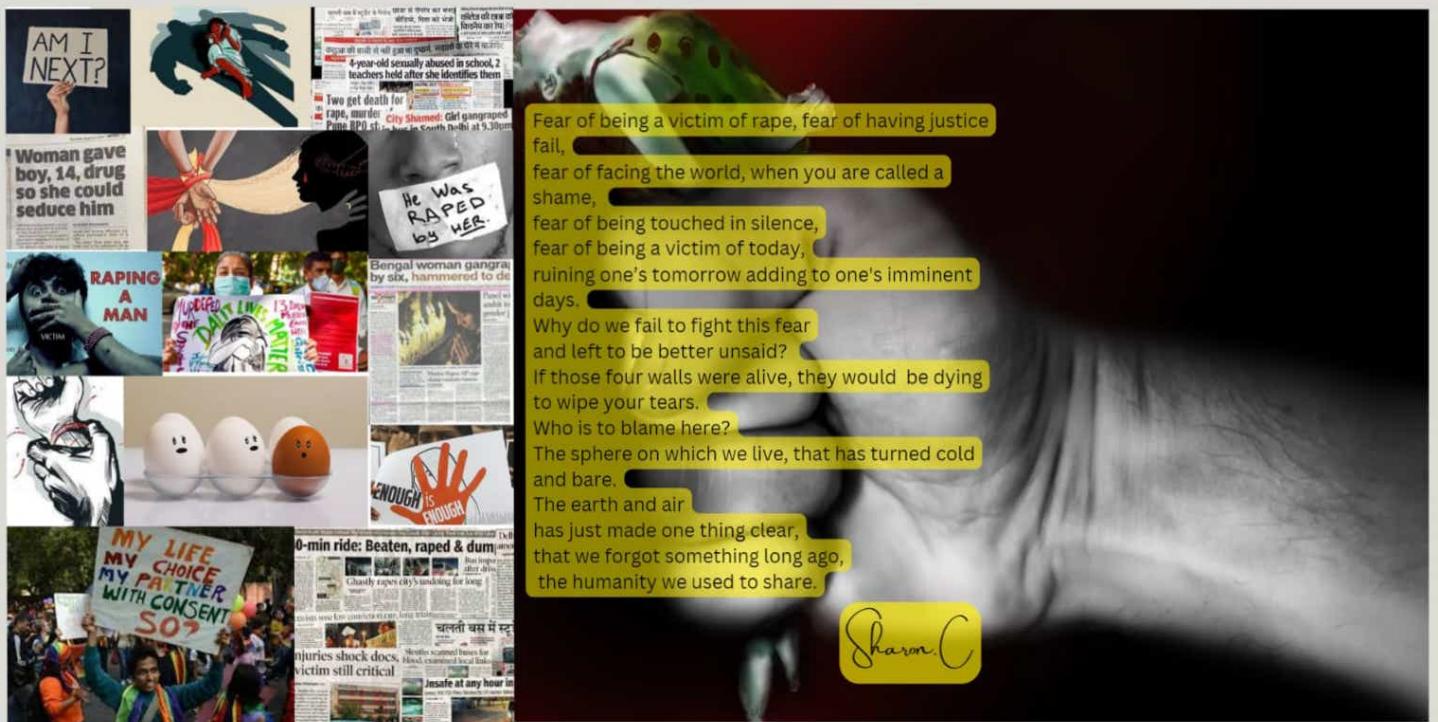
It is important to address the systemic issues that contribute to this violence, including cultural attitudes towards women and sex, lack of effective law enforcement, and the normalization of violence against women. It is also important to support survivors and ensure that they have access to resources and justice. She further goes on to narrate instances where some police officers and community leaders may be complicit in protecting perpetrators of sexual violence. Thus sending a dangerous message that violence against women is acceptable and that the victims are not worthy of protection and justice. Suggesting that it is important for law enforcement officials to take reports of sexual violence seriously and to investigate them thoroughly, without bias or discrimination.

The entire lecture and true-life incidents opened the eyes of many people sitting in auditorium and the audience were very sure they would have taken some sort of message through the speech that happened on the day.



- Precilla, II MA

The students of II MA contributed their thoughts on the "Politics of Rape" in the form of a poster .



Fear of being a victim of rape, fear of having justice fail,
fear of facing the world, when you are called a shame,
fear of being touched in silence,
fear of being a victim of today,
ruining one's tomorrow adding to one's imminent days.
Why do we fail to fight this fear
and left to be better unsaid?
If those four walls were alive, they would be dying
to wipe your tears.
Who is to blame here?
The sphere on which we live, that has turned cold
and bare.
The earth and air
has just made one thing clear,
that we forgot something long ago,
the humanity we used to share.

Sharon C

Current Affairs

National Philatelic Exhibition – AMRITPEX 2023

The Indian Post is organizing AMRITPEX 2023 in New Delhi. It is National Philatelic Exhibition spread over 50,000 square feet. More than 1400 frames are to be exhibited in AMRITPEX. The focus of the event is on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The themes of AMRITPEX are youth, Nature, women's power, Wildlife, the Culture of India, etc. It will also focus on Indian biodiversity. Apart from this, the exhibition will also include a wall of stamps, live paintings, etc. It is an attempt to imitate the culture and diversity of India.



RRR on a winning spree!

The story line, the plot, the music, the visual treats, the action sequence contributed to the immense success of the movie. The stardom of the actors and the high expectations by the audience from the popular director SS Rajamouli made an impact for the success of the film. The film was considered one of the ten best films of the year by the National Board of Review making it only the second non-English film ever to make it to the list.

RRR became the third Indian film and first Telugu film to receive nominations at the Golden Globe Awards, including Best Foreign Language Film, and won Best Original Song for "Naatu Naatu", making it the first Asian nomination to win the award. The song was also nominated for Best Original Song at the 95th Academy Awards, making it the first Indian song to be nominated for the Oscars. RRR also won the Best Foreign Language Film and the Best Song award at the 28th Critics' Choice Awards. RRR borrows from India's two major Hindu mythological epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. The story is inspired by "The Motor Diaries" (2004).

Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival in Mumbai

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is to host a film festival in Mumbai. National Film Development Corporation is the Indian representative in organizing the festival along with SCO. Indian cinema is gaining popularity worldwide as we can see movies being produced in different genres. There are movies like Kantara which is completely new to the western countries. The movie is an attempt to imitate the culture and traditions of the western coastline region of India.



"Make a wrong doer feel shy,
by doing him a favor"
– Thiruvalluvar

இன்னா செய்தாரை ஒறுத்
அவர் நாண நன்னயம் செய்
- திருவள்ளுவர்

Thiruvalluvar

The state of Tamil Nadu celebrates Thiruvalluvar Day during Pongal celebrations. Every year, the Thiruvalluvar Day is celebrated on the second day of Tamil month "thai". Thiruvalluvar is a Tamil poet and is best known as the author of Thirukkural. Thirukkural is a collection of couplets on political and economic matters, ethics and I ove. On Thiruvalluvar day, people in Tamil Nadu

garland the Thiruvalluvar statue to show respect for his great intellect. Several meetings, literary discourses, and seminars are organized all over Tamil Nadu by Tamil scholars, party leaders, and members of the Thiruvalluvar Mandram .