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EDITORIAL

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

Dear Readers,

Life flows with its own rhythm—the lingering monsoon, the scent of wet earth, the gentle rustle of leaves, the soft murmur of streams, and the quiet unfolding of new beginnings all around. It reminds us that growth happens patiently, steadily, and subtly. Just as water shapes stone over time, our small, consistent efforts carve the contours of our character, knowledge, and dreams.



This month's edition is a tribute to that journey. Within this edition, you will encounter voices that inspire, question, and create—essays that provoke thought, poetry that stirs the soul, and art that communicates beyond words. Each contribution reflects curiosity, resilience, and the courage to imagine something extraordinary.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each contributor for sharing their unique perspectives and for enriching our magazine with their voices. Your enthusiasm and commitment make this publication a true celebration of our school's spirit.

May these pages encourage you to dream boldly, explore fearlessly, embrace every challenge with curiosity and determination, and celebrate the beauty of your journey! Remember, every idea, effort, and story matters. Learning is not a destination but a journey of exploration, creativity, and self-discovery.

Let this magazine be a mirror of your potential, a canvas for your imagination, and a reminder that your journey is only beginning.

Warm regards
Rupali Chakraborty
PGT- English
Chief Editor



CAGED! UN-CAGE

I dart, I skim, across the vast expansive sky.
Unfettered, unbound in joyous flights, uttering
rapturous renditions, reverberating through the ethereal skies
which are unconfined and in unending strains.



The mountains and vales, the hills and dales,
the glens and denes, the basins and the canyons,
homes to my un-caged and carefree life.
I sail across them dexterously, cause I'm un-caged and free.

I see many of brethren, in my homeland, who are caged and confined,
they are incarcerated and barred, fenced and cooped.
The mountains and vales, the hills and dales
Are but distant dreams, for they are caged, claggy and foggy.



They feel no rhapsody, no ecstasy, no exhilaration.
They live in despondency, and downright depression.
Their desolation and despair, know no way, to repair
as they live caged, enslaved and subseruent.

Darkness engulfs, envelopes and swallows,
the fettered chains dim their brains. They crawl, no flight, no fantasy,
diminutive, stunted, dwarfed, nanoscopic, they seem
cause they're caged, confined and castigated.

When will their fettered chains and cages be obliterated?
When will the heavenly glow fill their hearts with rejuvenation,
to smell that freshness of air, souls emancipated?
It will happen- when the 'cage' is un-caged' through vistas of education.

Desmond Jude D'Monte
Principal

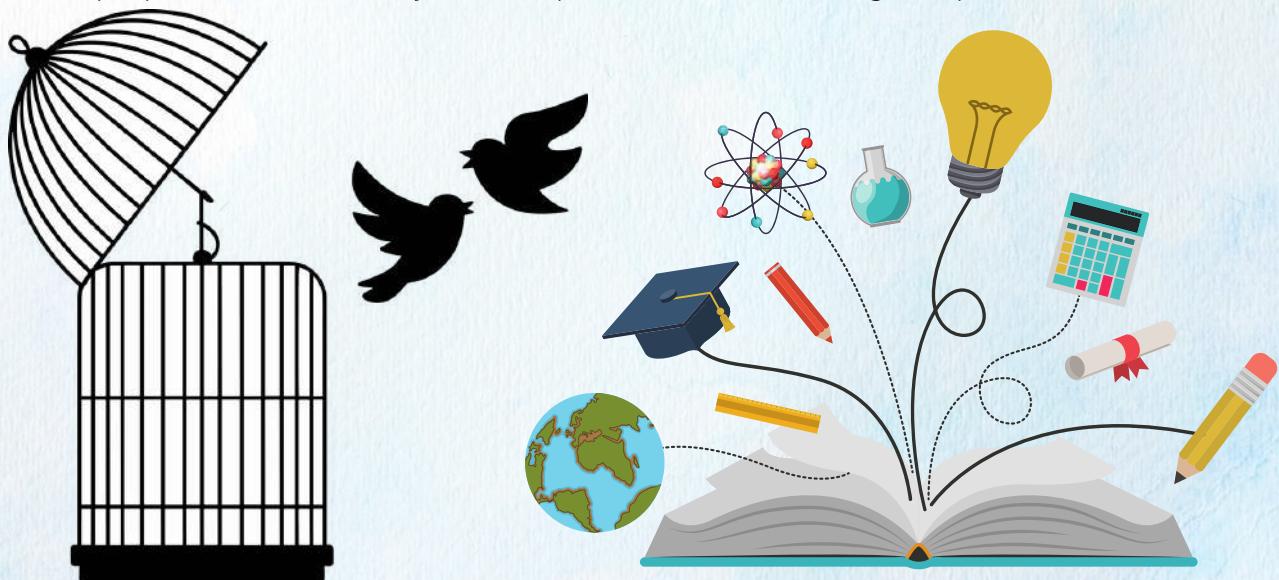


Analysis of the poem

The poem is a powerful exploration of freedom and confinement, using the metaphor of a bird to convey the longing for liberation and the joy of unbridled existence. Here are some aspects that make it a compelling read:

- **1. Imagery and Language:** The poem is rich in sensory details, with vivid descriptions of nature ("vast expansive sky," "ethereal skies," "mountains and vales," "hills and dales") that evoke a sense of freedom and expansiveness. The language is lyrical and expressive, with phrases like "uttering rapturous renditions" and "reverberating through the ethereal skies."
- **2. Contrast:** The poem effectively contrasts the freedom of the bird with the confinement of its brethren, highlighting the stark differences between their experiences. This contrast serves to emphasize the longing for freedom and the harsh realities of confinement.
- **3. Social Commentary:** The poem touches on social issues, such as the importance of education in breaking free from confinement and the struggles of those who are marginalized or oppressed. The line "It will happen- when the 'cage is un -caged' through vistas of education" suggests that education is a key to liberation.
- **4. Emotional Resonance:** The poem conveys a range of emotions, from the joy and exhilaration of freedom to the despair and despondency of confinement. The use of words like "rhapsody," "ecstasy," and "exhilaration" to describe the freedom of the bird contrasts sharply with the "despondency," "downright depression," and "desolation" experienced by those who are caged.
- **5. Symbolism:** The bird serves as a powerful symbol of freedom and creativity, while the cage represents confinement and oppression. The image of the bird's flight and song emphasizes the beauty and joy of freedom.

Overall, the poem is a moving and thought-provoking exploration of the human (and bird's) desire for freedom and the importance of education in achieving that freedom.



MY LEARNING ADVENTURE – EVERYDAY SOMETHING NEW

Ridhi Bagat, VII-B

Life is a journey filled with endless opportunities to grow and learn. Each day presents a new adventure, a chance to discover something, whether it's in a classroom, through a conversation, or from personal experiences. I have come to appreciate the beauty of learning something new every day.

Some lessons are small and simple, like learning a new word, trying a different recipe, or understanding how a gadget works. Other lessons are deeper and more meaningful, like discovering how to manage my time better, handle stress, or communicate more effectively with others. Even mistakes, which once frustrated me, have become valuable teachers. I have learned to see them not as failures but as stepping stones to improvement.

Technology has also become a big part of my learning journey. With so much information available online, I can explore topics I'm curious about, watch educational videos, or read articles on subjects I never thought I would be interested in.

This access to knowledge has expanded my thinking and opened doors I never imagined.

But learning doesn't always come from books or screens. Some of the most powerful lessons come from people—family, friends, teachers, and even strangers. Their stories, advice, and perspectives help shape the way I see the world.

This daily adventure of learning keeps life exciting. It pushes me to be curious, ask questions, and stay open-minded. I have realised that education isn't just something that happens in school—it is a lifelong process that continues as long as I keep my mind open.

Every day is a new chapter in this adventure, and with each lesson, big or small; I grow into a better version of myself. That's the magic of learning.

"There is always something new waiting just around the corner."

Never
Stop
Learning



HOW FAILURES TEACH US MORE THAN SUCCESS

Priyasi Bhardwaj, X-C

“Failure is not the opposite of success; it is the foundation on which success stands.”

Every journey in life is incomplete without failures. They may feel heavy in the moment, but they are the very milestones that shape our path forward. Success alone cannot teach us everything. It is failure that forces us to pause, reflect, and improve.

Remember, without failures, no journey is truly complete. They remind us of our limits, and at the same time, push us beyond them. A person who has never failed can never fully understand the value of victory. Success makes us shine, but failure makes us strong.

Failures are powerful. They have the ability to transform our weaknesses into strengths, our doubts into determination. They leave a mark that no success ever can. When we keep remembering them, they act like silent guides, whispering about where we went wrong and how we can rise better.

And yes, there must always be a small fear of failure within us—not to hold us back, but to keep us alert, humble, and prepared. That fear ensures that we do not take success lightly and that we continue to strive for excellence.

In the end, failure is not something to be erased from our journey. It is something to be embraced, remembered, and respected. For it is only through falling that we truly learn how to rise.



BEYOND BORDERS: EMBRACING INTERNATIONALISM IN EDUCATION

Interviewed & Reported by: Priyasi Bhardwaj - 10B

The PASCH JUKU program—Schulen: Partner der Zukunft (Schools: Partners for the Future) and Jugendkurse—is a unique initiative of the German Foreign Office and the Goethe-Institut. Its aim is not just to improve German language skills, but also to create a platform for cultural exchange, teamwork, and global friendships. This year, Saanvi Sinha of Class 10 had the privilege of representing Litera Valley School at this prestigious program in Germany.

Her journey began with preparations at the Goethe-Institut, Kolkata, and soon took her across Hamburg, Büsum, and Flensburg. From attending engaging classes and cultural evenings with students from thirteen different countries, to exploring German cities and traditions, every moment was a blend of learning and discovery. Living independently, adapting to new food, weather, and lifestyle, and walking along the North Sea coast—Saanvi experienced Germany in its truest spirit.

In this interview, she shares the experiences that inspired her, the lessons she learned, and the memories she will cherish forever.

Priyasi: Good morning, Saanvi, and thank you for taking the time to share your wonderful experience with us. Your journey through the PASCH JUKU program sounds truly inspiring. Now, one thing that really stood out to me was that many of your classes didn't just happen inside classrooms but also in places like markets, museums, and even by the seaside. How did this unique style of learning impact your approach to education compared to what we usually experience here in India?

Saanvi: Learning outside traditional classrooms made me realize that education doesn't always need to be confined within four walls. In India, most of our classes are structured, syllabus-driven, and often exam-focused, so we rarely get such experiential exposure. In Germany, however, every lesson felt more interactive and meaningful—whether it was walking through a museum, observing daily life at a market, or reflecting by the seaside. This approach made me more curious, encouraged me to ask questions freely, and helped me connect theory with real life in a memorable way. It showed me that true learning is not only about results but also about discovery, observation, and active engagement with the world around us.



Priyasi: Saanvi, you've spoken about so many memorable experiences—walking 14 km to the North Sea coast, attending lectures at Europa-Universität Flensburg, and even spotting seals in Büsum. Out of all these, which one do you feel left the deepest impression on you, and why?

Saanvi: For me, walking 14 km to the North Sea coast left the deepest impression. It was challenging physically, but also incredibly rewarding. The vastness of the sea and the strong winds made me feel small but connected to nature in a powerful way. It wasn't just a walk—it was about teamwork, endurance, and appreciating the environment. When we reached the coast, we enjoyed ourselves at the sea, then we continued by playing songs from different countries on a speaker and made the most of the moment, which made the cultural exchange even more lively. At the end, we clicked a memorable group picture that captured the spirit of the experience perfectly. The whole moment made me feel truly alive and re-energised. That day taught me resilience and the joy of achieving something together with friends. It's a memory that will always stay with me because it blended adventure, learning, and bonding in a way no classroom could.

Priyasi: Through the PASCH JUKU program, Saanvi gained not just a stronger command of German but also lessons in teamwork, independence, and cultural exchange. From studying in open environments to the long walk to the North Sea coast, each experience gave her new confidence and perspective. Her journey reminds us that learning can be both adventurous and transformative, leaving behind memories and values that will guide her for years to come. We thank Saanvi for sharing her experiences with Literati.

PASCH JUKU

Saanvi Sinha, X-E

- **Introduction**

Moin! – so sagt man in Norddeutschland Guten Morgen. Guten Morgen an unseren Schulleiter, alle Lehrerinnen und Lehrer sowie alle Schülerinnen und Schüler. Ich heiße Saanvi und heute möchte ich über meine wunderbare PASCH JUKU Stipendienreise nach Deutschland sprechen. Es war eine unvergessliche Erfahrung voller Lernen, Kultur und neuer Freundschaften.

Moin! – that's how people in Northern Germany say good morning. Good morning to our Principal sir, all teachers, and all students. I'm Saanvi and today I would like to talk about my wonderful PASCH JUKU scholarship journey to Germany. It was an unforgettable experience full of learning, culture, and new friendships.

- **PASCH JUKU**

The PASCH JUKU program, which stands for "Schools: Partners for the Future" and Jugendkurse, is a truly unique initiative. Organized by the German Foreign Office and Goethe-Institut, the aim is not only to strengthen our German language skills, but also to give us a chance to live and learn in an international environment. Through this program, we explored new cultures, formed global friendships, and experienced Germany in a very special way.



- **Purpose of PASCH**

The purpose of PASCH is much more than just language learning. It allows students to enhance their German through immersive lessons, to exchange cultures with young people from different backgrounds, and to explore the traditions and lifestyle of Germany. It also teaches values of teamwork, leadership, and global perspectives, making us more open-minded and independent.

- **Preparation**

Before traveling, we had several steps of preparation. We met with the Deputy Consul General, Ms. Andrea Jeske, and completed our visa process together at the German Consulate. Later, we attended an orientation session at the Goethe-Institut, Max Mueller Bhawan. There we were given useful information about German weather, food, culture, and expected behaviour. These preparations made us feel ready and confident for our upcoming journey.

- **The Travel Day**

Finally, the day of travel arrived! Our journey began from Kolkata, then via Doha, and finally to Hamburg. It was a total of 13 hours. At Hamburg International Airport, we were warmly welcomed. From there, we took a bus to Sankt Peter Ording. Although it was summer in Germany, the weather felt windy and cold — a very different experience for us coming from India. Die Reise war lang, aber sehr spannend. In Hamburg und Sankt Peter Ording war das Wetter windig und kühl. The journey was long, but very exciting. In Hamburg and Sankt Peter Ording, the weather was windy and cool.

- **Accommodation & Environment**

Ich wohnte im SPO Campushus. I lived in the SPO Campushus. The accommodation was well-organized with separate houses for living and learning. The cafeteria, known as Mensa in German, was large and lively. In our stay, we usually ate bread, cheese, sausages, potatoes, pasta and salad. Breakfast often included milk with muesli and bread with jam or ham. Das Essen war nicht so lecker und sehr typisch deutsch. The food was not so tasty and very typically German. The atmosphere was peaceful, the people were friendly, and the cottages around them were picture-perfect. Die Umgebung war ruhig und wunderschön. The surroundings were calm and beautiful.

- **Activities and Learning**

Our classes were very engaging. Wir hatten jeden Tag drei Blöcke, anderthalb Stunden lang. We had three blocks every day, one and a half hours long with sufficient breaks in between. The classes were based on our placement test, and our teachers made learning very practical by taking us outside to markets or fields. We also worked on different projects and presented the results on Abschlussabend, the final evening. These classes made learning German both fun and effective. Die Lehrer und Lehrerin waren hilfsbereit und freundlich. The teachers were helpful and friendly.



- **Sightseeing**

Our first outing was to the Sankt Peter Ording market. Here, we got a chance to interact with locals, explore small shops, and try out every day German phrases while shopping. It was simple, but very special because we could use the language in real life.

Next, we visited Hamburg, one of Germany's largest and most beautiful cities. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to experience the city's energy, see the architecture, and enjoy a bit of independence.

Our third trip was to Büsum, a charming seaside town. We sailed on the Ostsee, spotted seals in their natural habitat, and enjoyed walking through the local market.

Finally, we visited Flensburg, a historic town near the Danish border. There, we attended a one-hour lecture at the Europa-Universität Flensburg, which was both inspiring and educational. Deutschland ist sehr schön und vielfältig. Germany is very beautiful and diverse.

- **Memorable Experiences**

Some of the most memorable events were the Länderabend, the country evening where students from 13 different countries shared their cultures, and the Grillabend, the grill evenings where we enjoyed barbecue evenings after excursions. Daily group activities like Abendrunde and Flurrunde made our evenings special. The final evening, Abschlussabend, was filled with performances of singing, dancing, and drama. We even walked 14 kilometres along the Nordseeküste, the North Sea coast — an unforgettable adventure. Diese Erlebnisse werde ich nie vergessen. I will never forget these experiences.

- **What I Learned**

From this journey, I improved my German - speaking skills, gained a deeper understanding of German culture, and most importantly, built confidence and independence. This trip helped me grow as a person, and I came back with new knowledge, new friends, and new perspectives.

- **Conclusion & Gratitude**

I would like to take this moment to express my heartfelt gratitude.

Ich danke PASCH, dem Goethe-Institut Kolkata, meiner Schule, meinem Deutschlehrer Herr Aditya Pathak, meinem Schulleiter Herr Desmond Jude D'Monte und meiner Familie herzlich.

I am deeply thankful for this wonderful opportunity, for all the support, and for believing in me. This journey has inspired me to keep learning and to explore more cultures in the future.

GERMANY

GLOBAL MINDS - GLOBAL CITIZENS

Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Future Aditya Bhadani, X-F

I was fortunate to be one of the 17 students, accompanied by two teachers, selected to take part in the Digivoice: Youth Congress, organized by Goethe-Institut Pune in collaboration with Edutech India. The program aimed to inspire young individuals by promoting creativity, teamwork, and raising awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our adventure began on June 24th, when we boarded a flight from Kolkata to Pune. The flight was quite eventful due to the unpredictable weather, which made the journey feel even more thrilling. During the trip, I got the chance to connect with other students from Kolkata, making new friends along the way. Upon arriving in Pune, we settled into our hotel, met our roommates, had lunch, and then explored the beautiful Aga Khan Palace and the lively streets of FC Road, enjoying the local culture and shops.

The next day, June 25th, we headed to Goethe-Institut Pune for our first session. Expert speakers introduced us to the concept of SDGs, the powerful role of youth in building a sustainable future, and even touched upon the potential of Artificial Intelligence. After the initial session, we joined hands with students from Pune to learn how to build apps using MIT App Inventor. I enjoyed developing my first few apps, including a translator app, step counter, and alarm clock app. Later in the evening, we returned to the hotel, played different games, which strengthened the bond between us.

On June 26th, our learning continued as we created a Place Viewer App and then formed small groups to develop our own SDG-focused apps. My team of four decided to design an app named ClimaWise, which was centered around SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). In the evening, we watched the German movie *Der Ganz Große Traum*, which was both inspiring and entertaining. Afterwards we stayed up late, putting our efforts to enhance our app.

The most thrilling day was June 27th the final day of the program. We returned to Goethe-Institut Pune, completed our app, and received guidance from our teachers to polish it further before the final presentation. A panel of judges reviewed all the projects, and while my team was awarded a consolation prize, we were proud of the effort and creativity we put into ClimaWise. The day concluded with fun games, a heartfelt farewell dinner, and emotional goodbyes. It was hard to part ways, as in just a few days, we had become really close friends.

This experience turned out to be one of the most unforgettable chapters of my life. I not only gained valuable insights into the SDGs and app development but also improved my teamwork, communication skills, and confidence. The Digivoice: Youth Congress truly empowered me to think creatively and work collaboratively for a better future.

GLOBAL CITIZENS FOR TOMORROW

Date: 24th – 27th June 2025

SAMEER, X-F

I was one of the 17 students, along with two teachers, selected to participate in the DIGIVoice Program organized by Goethe-Institut Pune in collaboration with Edutech India. The program was designed to empower young minds like ours by encouraging creativity, collaboration, and raising awareness about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our journey began on 24th June, when we flew from Kolkata to Pune. The weather made the flight quite adventurous, but exciting, and I made new friends with students from Kolkata. After reaching Pune, we checked into our hotel, met our roommates, had lunch, and then visited Aga Khan Palace and FC Road, exploring the streets and shops of Pune.

The next morning, 25th June, we went to Goethe-Institut Pune for our orientation session. Experienced speakers talked to us about SDGs, the role of youth in shaping the future, and even Artificial Intelligence. Later, we grouped with students from Pune and started learning how to use MIT App Inventor. I had so much fun creating my first few apps — a translator app, a step counter app, and an alarm app. In the evening, we returned to the hotel, played board games, and bonded even more with each other.

On 26th June, we learned to create a Place Viewer app and were divided into groups to make our own SDG-related app for the final presentation. My group of four decided to make an app called ClimaWise, focusing on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). In the evening, we watched the German movie Der Ganz Grosse Traum, which I really enjoyed, and then we stayed up late working on our app.

The final day, 27th June, was the most exciting. We went to Goethe-Institut, completed our app, and our teachers helped us improve it before presenting. A panel of judges evaluated all the apps, and though my group received a consolation prize, we were proud of what we had created. The day ended with games, a farewell dinner, and emotional goodbyes. It was hard to leave because in just three days, we had all become close friends.

This trip was an unforgettable experience as I not only learned about SDGs and app development but also improved my teamwork, communication skills, and confidence.



EDUCATION FOR A GLOBALIZED WORLD

My Unforgettable Journey at IIMUN Patna 2025

Arnik Mrinal, X-G

Attending the IIMUN Patna Conference on 25th, 26th, and 27th July 2025, hosted at St. Karen's High School was one of the best experiences of my life. As a student from Litera Valley School, I had wanted to be a part of IIMUN since last year, but sadly, I couldn't participate then. This year, when I heard it was happening again, I grabbed the chance without thinking twice and registered immediately.

Since, I love topics like geopolitics and Indian politics, I chose Lok Sabha as my first preference for the committee. A few days later, I got a call from the Assistant Director informing me that I was allotted the portfolio of Shri G. Kishan Reddy from the BJP. But then he asked me if I'd like to switch to the opposition side, and I happily accepted. My final portfolio was of Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, a senior INC leader.

The Agenda That Drove Me

The agenda of our committee was: "Building Measures to Implement an Effective Anti-Defection Law." This topic was very interesting and important. Defection is when a politician leaves their party and joins another. It often causes instability in governments. The Anti-Defection Law was added to our Constitution in 1985 through the 10th Schedule, and it allows the disqualification of MPs/MLAs by the Speaker if they disobey their party's instructions or switch sides. Even though it has helped reduce defections, many experts, including the Supreme Court, believe it still needs improvement.

That's exactly what we were supposed to do, act like real Lok Sabha members and suggest ways to improve the law.

Training and Preparation

I received my portfolio and the study materials over a month before the conference. We had three training sessions on Zoom where we were taught the Rules of Procedure, how to raise motions, how to speak during debates, and even how to behave formally like real MPs.

The dress code made things more exciting: Day 1 was Indian Traditional Wear & Day 2 & 3 was Western Formals

Day 1: The Grand Opening

The first day started at 3 PM, but we ended up finishing around 7:30 PM. It was the opening ceremony, and honestly, it was all about fun and culture. We had some amazing performances, like traditional and western dances, choir singing, and speeches by a retired army officer and an IFS officer both motivated us a lot.

Day 2: Making Friends, Fierce Debates & Rishabh Shah

This day was truly unforgettable. I had made many new friends, and everyone on my committee was really nice and welcoming.



One of the biggest highlights was our session with Mr. Rishabh Shah, the founder of IIMUN, at Pamela Hall. He was witty, confident, and extremely inspirational. He told us how IIMUN became the world's largest youth-run organization, and how they once rented the UN Headquarters for a day, something that needed permission from all 193 UN-recognised countries. He also gave us some life lessons that I'll always remember. We had: One Moderated Caucus, A long Speaker's List, one Working Paper and a concluding High Tea

As someone who dreams of being a great speaker, this day made me feel like I was on the right path.

Day 3: The Grand Finale

We started the final day early with a yoga session at 8 AM, and the session went on till around 7:15 PM. The debates continued. Seeing others speak with power made me completely change my speaking style, and it worked really well. By this time, our committee had clearly divided into two groups: The Ruling Party (BJP) and the Opposition Coalition, which included the INC, TMC, and DMK. We even formed alliances, and some delegates defected. We debated, discussed, and tapped on our desks just like real MPs: Fast tapping meant support. Slow rhythmic tapping meant disagreement.

The most exciting part came when we drafted our final resolution sheet. We had already made one working paper, then another, and finally, the resolution that required 2/3rd majority to pass.

What Our Committee Decided

We came to two major conclusions in our resolution:

- The Speaker of the House must resign from their political party during their term in office. After the term ends, they may rejoin their party.
- The Speaker must give a decision on defection cases within 60 days. This would prevent long delays in justice and keep the process fair and accountable.

Our resolution passed, and we avoided the risk of an emergency situation in the committee. The moment we got that majority, the whole committee cheered. It felt so real and powerful.

Awards, Socials & What I Took Home

When the awards were announced, I didn't win. My name wasn't in the top three. But to be honest, I didn't feel bad at all. I have learned so much, made memories for life, and grown up as a speaker and person.

Final Thoughts

IIMUN Patna 2025 was not just a conference. It was an experience that helped me to grow, gain confidence, and explore my passion for politics and public speaking. From motivational speeches to intense debates, from nervous beginnings to joyful endings, it gave me everything I had hoped for and more. I may not have taken home a trophy, but I definitely took home something bigger: confidence, friendship, inspiration, & unforgettable memories.

THE JAJABOR WITHIN: EMBRACING THE FREE SPIRIT

Rahul Roy, XII-C

In today's fast-paced world, where everything is in a rush to define us, there quietly exists a rare but powerful force which rejects predictability and embraces individuality, the spirit to be a *jajabor* or the *wanderer* spirit. '*Jajabor*', an Assamese word, which means *wanderer*, someone who keeps moving forward, no matter what stands in their way. A *Jajabor* doesn't follow the rules of predictability. Instead, they challenge the norms and live with authenticity. Their hearts seek freedom, and their mind knows no boundaries. He's ready to explore new paths as he isn't interested in living in his comfort zone.

The free spirit doesn't need a map. Each step they take becomes a stroke on the canvas of life, painting a picture of bold experiences and unforgettable adventures. They are not interested in living a life of safety and routine. Many people fear living life to the fullest because they worry about becoming vulnerable. But the free spirit knows that real life begins where fear ends. They choose courage over comfort, and are willing to feel the rain of experience, not just watch it fall from behind a window. They take risks, not for the thrill, but for the growth it brings.

In a world obsessed with comparison, the free spirit stands proud of their individuality. As he says, "I am neither a mirror nor a reflection." They have no interest in becoming someone else's image. Their strength lies in being themselves.

The life of a free spirit is a rebellion against restrictions that choke creativity, growth, and expression. They don't reject society, but they reject the idea that one must always walk on the paved path that everyone else does.

They do not watch life pass by; they immerse themselves in it, fully aware that life's richest experiences are found on journeys. They may not always know where the road ends, but they walk it anyway, knowing that eventually, their journey will be welcomed by the destination.

In the end, being a free spirit is about living with intention, embracing the unknown, and daring to be different. It's about refusing to fit into boxes and choosing to fly beyond the edges. So keep exploring, keep being you.



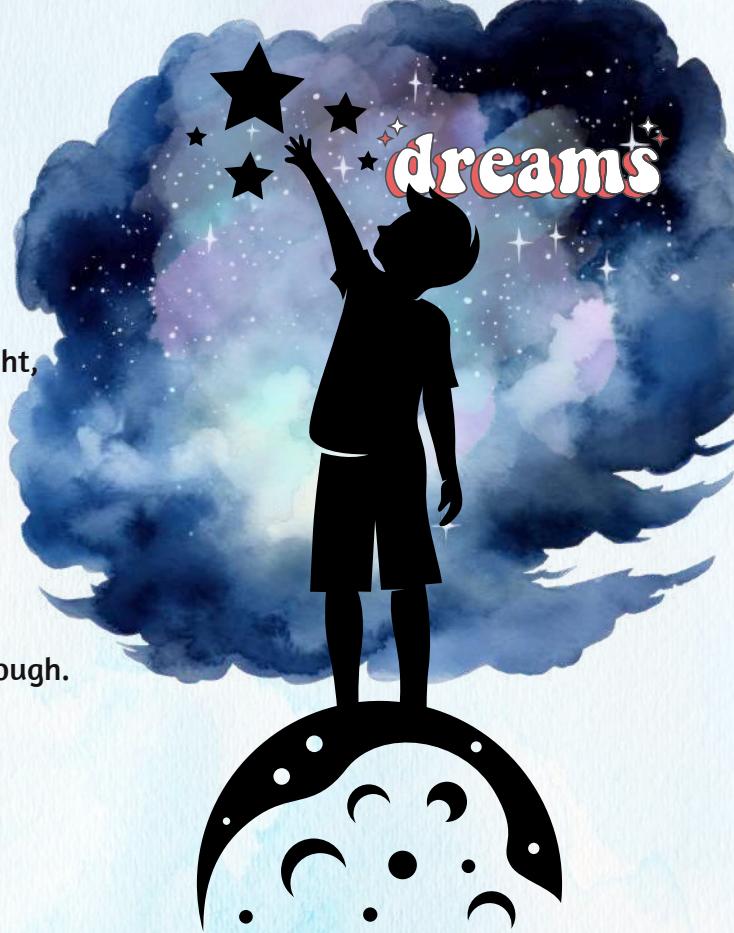
DREAMS

Sushant Raj, VI-C

Dreams are like stars in the night sky,
Twinkling and shining, catching the eye.
They guide us forward, through dark and throw light,
Helping us reach for what's possible,
Making everything right.

With every step, with every fall,
We rise again, and we stand tall.
Our dreams are our own, unique and true,
Believe in yourself, and your dreams will come through.

So chase your dreams, don't let them fade,
Keep them alive, in your heart they've been made.
With hard work and passion, you'll find your way,
And your dreams will come true.



SMILE - HAPPINESS WITHIN

Kavya Sharma, VI-G

A smile, so bright like sunshine rays,
Lights up the world in joyous ways.
A gentle curve, a happy face,
A smile can change a difficult place.

It spreads like fire in warmth and light,
A smile is contagious, a pure delight.
It breaks the ice and melts the snow,
A smile can heal and make us glow.

So let's put on a bright, warm grin,
And share our smiles with everyone within.

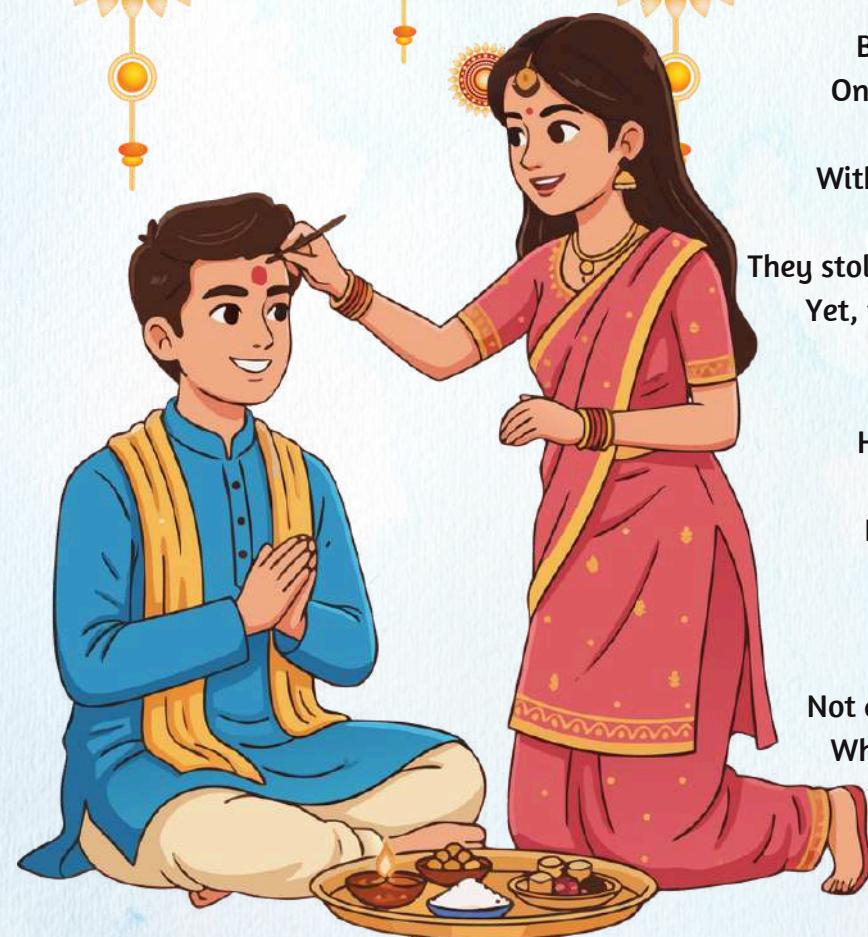
For a smile is free, and brings us cheer,
A smile can make a happier year.
Let's smile away our fears and stress,
And fill our lives with happiness.

THE STORY OF LIFE

Annika Sinha, VII-A

Life is the pathway of struggles
Where tears feel like rain,
And dreams seem unreachable.
The destination feels like a journey forever unknown.
The end is just the start of something more.
Every step forward is the beginning of a new chapter.

The chapter writes a story of its own
With every word, a truth is known.
And this is how life goes on,
One story at a time, till its dawn.
The chapter end, the story stays
Life's journey in endless ways.



THE PROMISE OF PROTECTION

Bhargawi Gupta, X-B

Early morning, as the day leaps
The sisters in preparations,
The brothers in deep sleep.

Both dreaming of a wonderful celebration
One with open eyes, the other in his dreams

With all the everyday arguments continuing
Both got ready like a king and a queen
They stole a quick glance at each other's dressing.
Yet, not a single compliment passed between.

She tied the rakhi, strong and bright.
He promised to protect her day and night,
With sorrowful heart and teary eyes
Both wished each other at the same time.

A bond so pure and full of grace
That no one could ever take that place
Not always by blood but sometimes by heart
When fate gave them both a different start.

THE HAND THAT RULES THE NATION

Sakshi Raj, 10-E

The hand that rules the press, the screen,
The far-spread magazine, though rarely seen,
Holds power deep, both sharp and wide,
To sway the nation's heart and pride.

In India's lanes and bustling towns,
From coastal plains to snowy crowns,
The media speaks to every ear,
Its words do bring both hope and fear.

A headline bold can lift the land,
Another twist can change its stand
The pen may fight for truth and right,
Or hide the facts away from sight.

From freedom's march in years long past,
When voices rose and shadows cast,
The press became the people's guide,
Through every storm, through every tide.

Today, in times of digital speed,
Where news is shaped in thought and deed,
One post, one clip, one viral frame,
Can crown a hero or bring them shame.

Yet with such reach, comes heavy trust,
To keep the record fair and just
For lies once told can plant a seed
That grows in hearts as truth indeed

O India, bright and vast and free
Guard well the press for all to see
For in its hand lies strength untold
To shape the young, the brave, the bold

When truth is kept and bias shunned
The nation's work is truly done
The hand that rules the press with care
Can build a future just and fair.



300: THE LAST STAND AT THERMOPYLAE

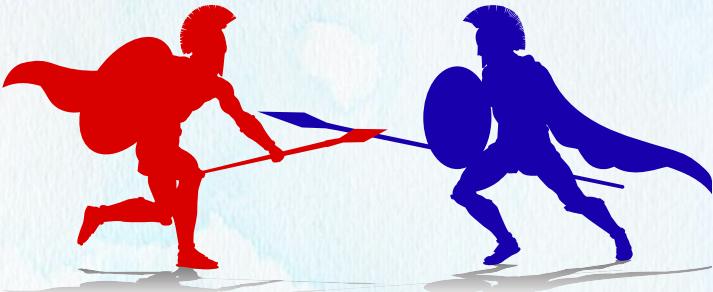
RAHUL ROY, XII-C

Before you read- This poem is based on the real Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC, where 300 Spartans, led by King Leonidas, made a legendary last stand against the massive Persian army of King Xerxes at the narrow pass known as the Hot Gates. The piece is also inspired by Zack Snyder's 2007 film "300."

Upon a time, where stood the hot gates and sand,
Existed a place where 300 men took the stand.
Glory for Sparta, as their hearts had said
Leonidas and his men, never afraid.

Seeing ten thousand, the deserts cried,
Xerxes shadowed the Peloponnese sky.
He came with thrones upon the sand,
With silk and gold at his command.

But forged in sweat, and carved like stone,
Spartans and Arcadians stood alone.
They lived with discipline upon their frame,
And the men were ready to make their name.



Like waves, they stormed against Persian lines;
Persia found themselves truly undermined.
Although they came with archers and cavalry,
Yet They met the fate of ultimate misery.

Amid the storm, a lion roared
A mortal king raised his sword.
While Xerxes watched from a distant peak,
He lost as many men as one could seek.

And then a man, betrayed by his selfish pride,
Showed the path where the invaders could hide.
Through the mountains, the Persians came
Ephialtes, a name now drowned in shame.
While the sun had begun to set,
Sparta's fate was sealed, their path was met.

The lion stayed calm, and his men stood tall,
With only one thought: that Sparta shan't fall.
They raised their shields for one last time;
Their names were etched, forever to shine.
The ground turned red, but still they stayed
The heroes sacrificed, never afraid.

"This is where we hold them.
This is where we fight.
This is where they fall
In Sparta's name, tonight!"
(Leonidas' commands his army
Just before his sacrifice)



CROWNED IN COURAGE: A HOUSE CAPTAIN'S POEM

Yeshbi Agrawal, 12-B

I wear no crown of gold or gem,
Yet duty wraps around my stem.
A badge upon my chest I bear,
Not just for pride—but strength and care.

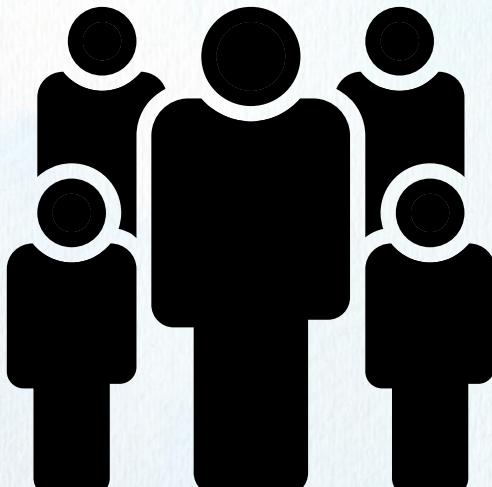
Each morning greets me not the same,
For now, I play a great game.
Not just for self, but for the team,
I hold the thread of every dream.

I stand for voices shy and small,
I lift them up, so none may fall.
In every march, in every cheer,
My spirit walks both far and near.

I've felt the weight of winning's fire,
And losses that the brave inspire.
But through it all, I've learned to lead
With honesty, not just with speed.

From whispered doubts to loud applause,
I serve my house without a pause.
To guide, to grow, to raise the flame
And honour, not just a badge or name.

So here I stand—not just in pride,
But with my housemates by my side.
Together strong, together true,
A captain — yes — but one of you.



BYSTANDER

Aditya Kumar Azad, 12-A

Watching everything from afar,
Hearing the cries of the heart,
Choosing not to take any part,
With nothing to say, he departs,
Having the valour, but don't offer to aid
He just stood, watching everything fade,
Standing there; he pretends not to see,
Remembering the person he once hoped to be,

Wondering what happened to the heart,
who used to aid the ones in need,
Now just sitting, watching everything fall apart,
Pity in his eyes said everything he meant,

Knowing everything, he chose this path,
Questioning himself, if he had gone too far,
In the end, he had no choice,
But to regain the light that he sacrificed to not fight,
It was everything i had ever owned,
The heart of the king again glowed.

रक्षक या भक्षक

चौधरी कृषांग राज, 10-E

तकनीक की चाहत में
आखिर हमने क्या पाया?
नवीनता की खोज में
प्रकृति को ही क्यों रुलाया?



प्रकृति हमारी जननी है,
उसने हमें सब कुछ दिया,
शीतल छाया, निर्मल जल,
फल-फूल का अमूल्य उपहार दिया।

पर बदले में हमने उसे
केवल कष्ट ही पहुँचाया।
कभी रक्षा का वचन लिया,
तो आज विनाशक क्यों बन पाया?

समर्पण

चौधरी कृषांग राज, 10-E

सूर्य कहता है मानव से,
मैं देता हूँ, पर लेता नहीं,
दान करता हूँ हर पल मैं,
पर किसी से कुछ माँगता नहीं।

सुख-सुविधा की अंधी दौड़ में
हमने अपनी ही माँ को भुला दिया।
क्या यही है हमारी प्रगति?
क्या यही जीवन का सही रास्ता?



देव-देव कहते हैं लोग,
पूजा-पाठ करते हैं लोग,
मैं कहीं अंतरिक्ष में खोया,
धरती संग जीवन बोया।

तेज मेरा अपार है,
पर सब कुछ नियति के अधीन है,
अंधकार को ढँक देता हूँ,
उजियारा सदा समर्पित करता हूँ।

दानी मेरा स्वभाव है,
परोपकार मेरा भाव है,
उम्मीद मेरी किरणों में है,
यही जीवन का सत्य नियम है।



मैं सबसे बड़ा दानी हूँ,
पर अभिमान से अंजान हूँ,
समर्पण ही मेरा जीवन है,
सेवा ही मेरा साधन है।

CULINERY CREATIONS: ALOO TIKKI CHAAT RECIPE

Parul Priya, X-B

Ingredients:

- 3 medium boiled potatoes (mashed)
- 2 tbsp bread crumbs

(Mix both into dough)

- 1–2 green chilies, finely chopped
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp red chilli powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp garam masala
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cumin powder
- 1 tbsp chopped coriander leaves
- 1tsp of chaat masala
- Salt to taste
- Oil for shallow frying

For Toppings:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fresh curd (dahi), whisked smooth
- 2 tbsp green chutney (coriander–mint chutney)
- 2 tbsp tamarind chutney (imli chutney)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup finely chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped tomato
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup boiled chickpeas (chole) or boiled moong sprouts
- A handful of sev
- Fresh coriander leaves, chopped
- Chaat masala, red chilli powder, and black salt to sprinkle



Method

- Prepare tikkis: Mash, spice, shape the prepared dough and shallow fry them until it become golden and crisp.
- Place 2 hot tikkis on a plate. Lightly press with a spoon to flatten.
- Pour 2–3 spoonfuls of whisked curd over them.
- Add green chutney and tamarind chutney as needed.
- Add chopped onion, tomato, boiled chickpeas/sprouts
- Sprinkle chaat masala, red chilli powder and black salt. Top with sev and fresh coriander.
- Serve this crispy, spicy and ultimate desi snack while hot and enjoy!



AMAZING FACTS

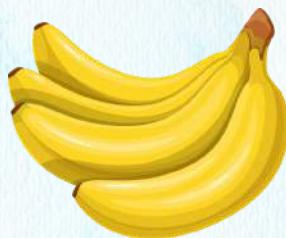
Yash Raj, 6-C

- Wolves can go for over a week without eating.
- Koalas often return to trees they consider their territory.
- Deserts cover more than one-fifth of the Earth's land area and they're found on every continent.
- An aardvark can eat 50000 ants in one meal.
- A triggerfish can rotate each of its eyeballs independently.



Bhargavi, 10-B

- Saturn could float on water because it's mostly gas and less dense than water.
- There are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on Earth.
- Bananas are technically berries, but strawberries are not.
- The fingerprints of a koala are indistinguishable from human ones.
- A group of flamingos is called "flamboyance."
- Bamboo can grow up to 91 cm in a single day.



RIDDLES

- What moves under the sun but never casts a shadow?
- I am lighter than a feather but even the strongest person cannot hold me for long. What am I?
- What stays hot even when kept in a freezer?
- If you drop me from the highest building, I won't break, but if you drop me into water, I won't survive. What am I?
- I cannot speak but I will always talk back when spoken to. What am I?
- What do a comb and a zip have in common?
- What can you take away the whole from, but some will remain?

Maira Ahmad, 6-D



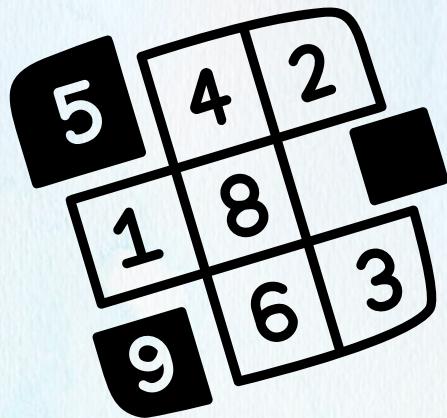
(Answers in next edition)

INTERNATIONAL SUDOKU DAY

BHARÇAWI GUPTA, X-B

International Sudoku Day is celebrated on 9th September every year. SUDOKU is a logic-based number puzzle. The significance behind choosing 9th September (9th day of the 9th month) is the popular 9X 9 grid of the Sudoku puzzle.

This day encourages people of all ages to play and enjoy Sudoku, highlighting its benefits for improving memory, focus and problem-solving skills.



SUDOKU PUZZLE

Rahul Roy, XII-D

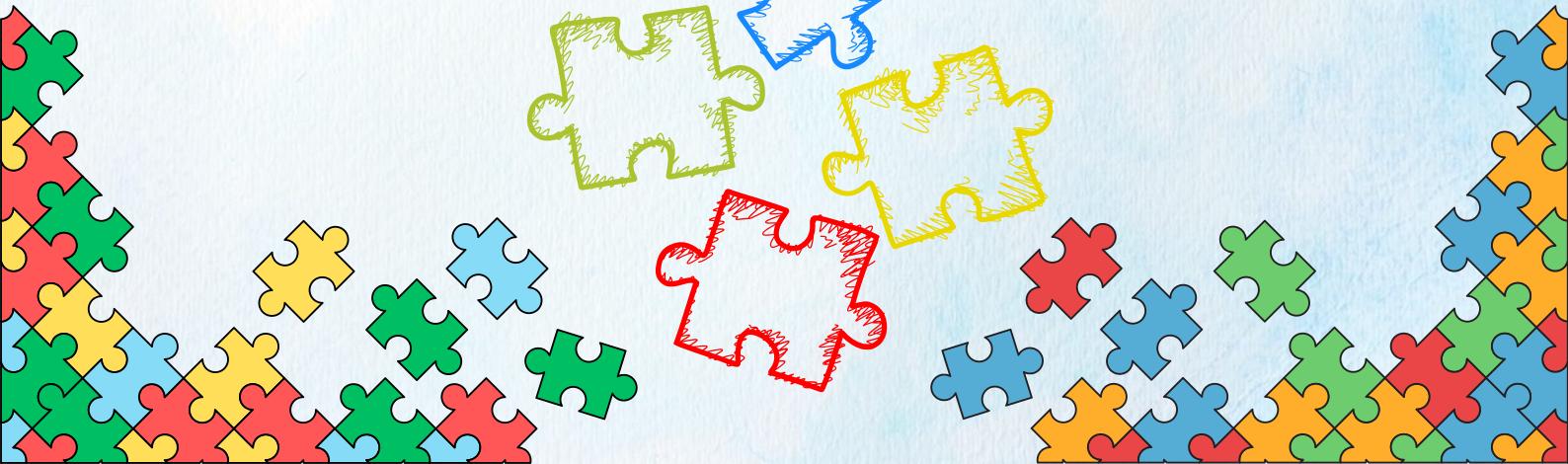
Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9

2	7			3	9	6		
				7			8	5
			2					
					6	8		
	4	3	1		5	2		
5			9	4		7	8	
	3	8			1	2	4	
4	5	7			1		3	
9		1			3			6

(Solution in next edition)

8	5	2	9	7	3	4	1	6
7	6	1	4	5	8	9	2	3
4	3	9	2	1	6	5	8	7
1	2	3	6	9	4	7	5	8
9	4	8	7	3	5	1	6	2
6	7	5	1	8	2	3	9	4
2	9	6	5	4	7	8	3	1
3	1	7	8	2	9	6	4	5
5	8	4	3	6	1	2	7	9

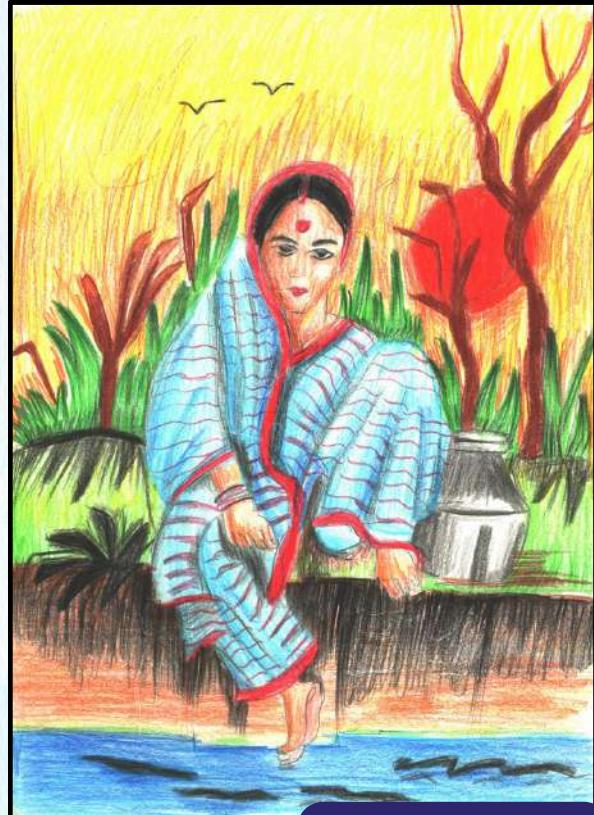
Solution of the previous Edition



Art Gallery



Apooru Kumar, 8-D

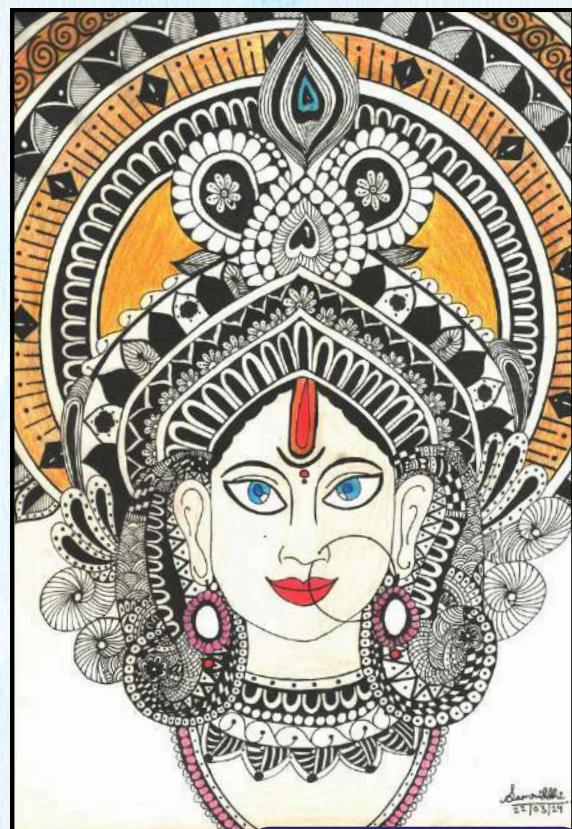


Shivangi Jaiswal, 6-C



ଶ୍ରୀ ସର୍ବମହାମୁଖୀ ମାତ୍ରଲେ ଶିବେ ସର୍ବାର୍ଥଗ୍ରାହିକ
ଶରାନ୍ତ୍ର ଗ୍ରୂପକେ ଶୋଭି ବାରାଯନି ନମୋତ୍ତମେ ॥

Mohit Pandit, 10-D



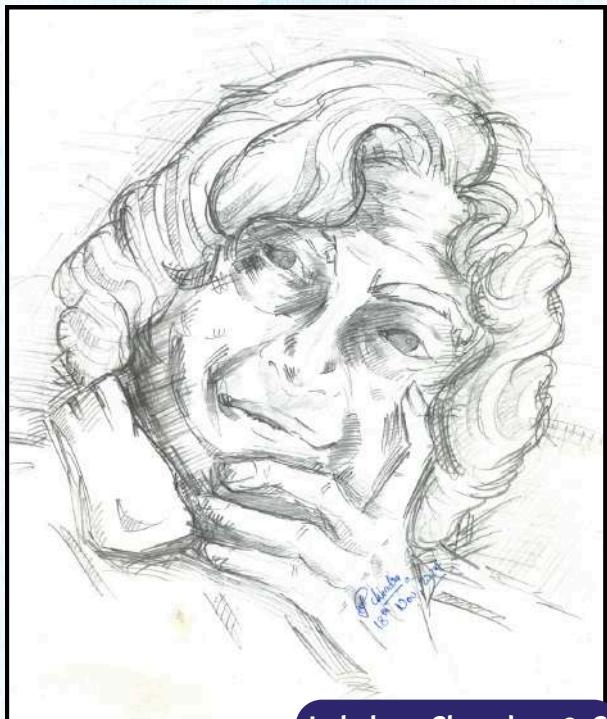
Samriddhi Mishra, 10-B



Alabhya Kumar, 9-F



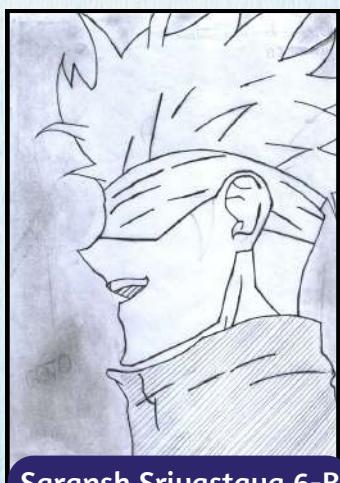
Bhauya Kumari, 12-E



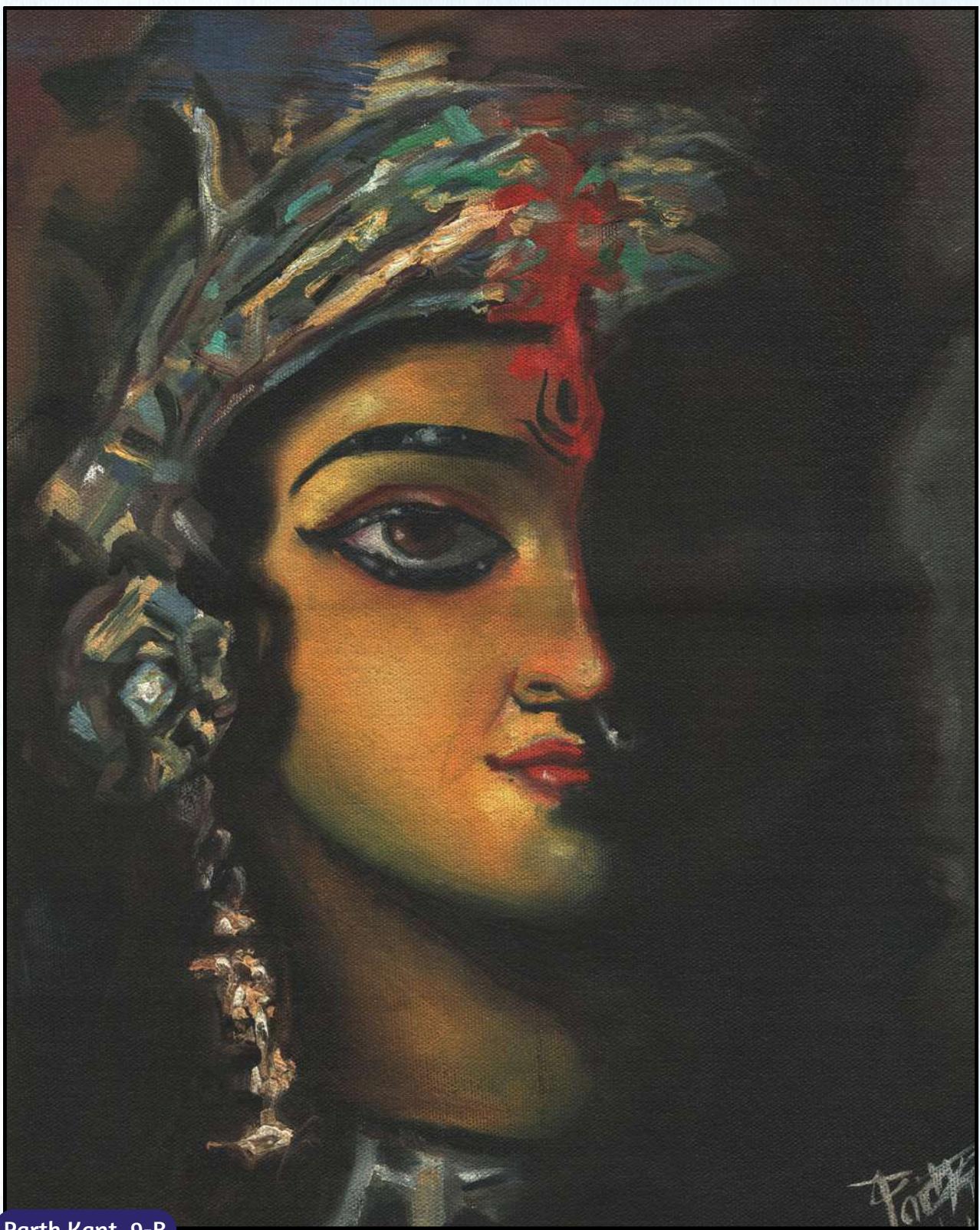
Lakshya Chandra, 8-C



Shifa Sarwar, 6-D



Saransh Srivastava 6-B



Parth Kant, 9-B



Appreciation for the valuable Contribution as a team for LITERATI- Online Creative Magazine



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