

ECHOES OF EXPRESSION

Volume 1, Issue 2

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
2024-2025



HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted engaging Reading Circle and Movie Review sessions promoting critical discussions on literature and film.
- III BA English students created a documentary on Postcolonial Literature, showcasing academic creativity.
- Organized visits to the YMCA Book Expo and a Film Festival, enhancing students' exposure to literary and cinematic cultures.
- Conducted a Power Seminar on Life Skills by Ms. Gayathri Srinivasan, equipping students with essential personal development tools.
- Celebrated Literary Week with intercollegiate events fostering creativity, language skills, and intellectual exchange.



DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

The academic year 2024-25 is a celebration of the 8th year of the journey of the School of Arts and Science — a journey that began in 2017 and has since traversed the distinct landscapes of pre-pandemic, pandemic, and post-pandemic times. Each phase has shaped us, but as Maya Angelou reminds us, “I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.” The pandemic tested every batch, yet we emerged not just unbroken, but stronger, more resilient, and ever focused on the trust placed in us by a visionary management.



Our mission has always been clear: to nurture young men and women into leaders driven by creative excellence, innovation, research and a commitment to the wellbeing of humanity. We believe that Education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to change the world (quoting Nelson Mandela).No dream is too big, and every journey begins with a single step.

With a vision to provide excellent education rooted in human values and social commitment, the School of Arts and Science is dedicated to building individuals who will, in turn, build our nation and the world. To this end, we have taken significant steps to enrich the campus experience for both students and faculty.

This year, SAS has truly been a launch pad. Our faculty and students have visited esteemed institutions, both nationally and internationally, broadening their horizons. We have hosted intellectual giants from abroad whose impactful lectures have inspired and challenged us. Through CSR initiatives, our students have received placement training and secured meaningful employment on completion of their studies. Innovators have found both the space and the stage to bring their ideas to life. Our excursions to industries, stock markets, sites of cultural heritage, and ecological preservation have extended the classroom into the world beyond.

Our achievements are a testament to the collective effort and resilience of our community. Our story is one of perseverance against odds and growth.

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I am deeply grateful for the divine blessings that have guided us, and for the unwavering commitment of our Management, Staff, Students, Parents and organisations such as Agaram who have embraced the challenge of progressive change. As we present this Annual Report, let us reaffirm our solemn commitment: “To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield,” as Tennyson so powerfully wrote.

We continue to learn, to lead, and to serve undaunted, united, and inspired both by the challenges and opportunities at the School of Arts and Science. The journey continues, and together, we pledge to shape a better future for all.



HOD's Message



Dr S S Saranya
Head Of The Department

Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic."

— Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (J. K. Rowling)

It gives me immense pleasure to present the second issue of our Department of English annual magazine. This edition stands as a testament to the creative spark, academic insight, and reflective thought that define our vibrant student and faculty community.

Our department continues to be a space where literature is not merely studied but lived—where stories shape perspectives, poetry gives voice to the unheard, and critical thinking fosters change. This magazine, curated with care and passion, showcases the diverse talents of our students—from essays and short stories to poems and artwork—each piece echoing a unique voice that deserves to be heard.

What makes this second issue even more special is the sense of continuity it represents—a growing tradition of literary expression, where each year builds upon the last. It is heartening to witness how our students are not only engaging with texts from the past but also responding to the present moment with originality, courage, and clarity. In doing so, they remind us that the study of English is ever-evolving, rooted in dialogue, empathy, and imagination.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all contributors, the editorial team, and faculty coordinators for their tireless efforts in bringing this issue to life. May this magazine continue to inspire readers and remind us that in a world often shaped by chaos, words remain our most powerful means of connection and transformation.

Let us keep reading, keep writing, and most importantly, keep imagining.



Editor's Desk

A Journey of Transformation : Empowering the Change-Makers of Tomorrow

Education, in its truest essence, is not merely the acquisition of knowledge, but the awakening of responsibility, the nurturing of confidence, and the empowering of individuals to rise beyond their circumstances. At the School of Arts and Science, Vinayaka Missions, Chennai campus, this year has marked a pivotal chapter in our journey: a journey of transformation that belongs not just to the institution, but to every student who walks its corridors.



Dr Madhu Bala
Editor - The Echoes of Expression

As an educator stepping into this space, I was met not just with students, but with stories: stories of resilience, sacrifice, and quiet determination. Many of our students hail from rural backgrounds and are first-generation learners. They do not simply carry backpacks into classrooms; they carry the weight of being breadwinners, caretakers, and torchbearers of their families' hopes. Some wrestled with the dilemma of valuing their daily earnings over the promise of a degree. Others, despite their love for learning, struggled to remain present amidst economic pressures.

It was evident that for true transformation to take root, our role as educators needed to go beyond teaching syllabi; we had to build confidence, instill a sense of self-worth, and ignite a deeper understanding of why education matters. Not for marks alone, but for the power it holds to break cycles, uplift families, and shape socially responsible individuals.

This academic year has been a testament to that shift. Our students began owning their responsibilities not just at home, but in their academic and personal journeys. Through workshops, competitions, student clubs, peer learning initiatives, and hands-on experiences, they have begun discovering their voice and potential. They are no longer passive recipients of knowledge; they are active participants in their own growth.

We have witnessed students who once hesitated to speak in class now lead discussions; those who feared failure now embrace challenges. The spark of transformation lies not in grand gestures but in these quiet victories in the decision to show up, to try again, to support a peer, and to take pride in learning.

Growth begins with effort, and effort thrives in community. Together, as faculty, students, and mentors, we have laid the foundation for a learning environment rooted in empathy, empowerment, and collective growth. Our students are not just preparing for jobs; they are being prepared to lead their families, communities, and the future with confidence and purpose.

Let us continue walking alongside them, nurturing not just educated individuals but changemakers who will carry forward the spirit of transformation for generations to come.



PETRICHOR

The sky made delicate confession in the shades of black,
Forms an allure atmosphere.
The droplets of water start to fall
When the rain gently grazes the Earth-
She sighs and
fills the air with her aroma.

The aroma was sweet and delicate,
Fades away in few minutes,
Fills our heart with contentment.
The love between the sky and Earth
Unveiled through the fragrance.
That's the Petrichor.

Becomes the messenger of their love,
Dies after sharing the golden tale.
Though short lived,
Made a serene embrace of the air.

---Yuva Priya



Student's Corner

NIGHT WITHOUT WITNESSES

A time when the isolation and silence meets the thoughts of memories and desperation, Meera returns to her old house, and she enjoys the night by sitting near the window and seeing the moon, knowing that the story between the moon and the lonely night is always beautiful and revived many people from their anxiety and loss in the past and still continue to do so. Meera also has something to be revived, reformed and renewed. In the past, the same place where Meera is present now was filled with laughter, emotions, relationships, conversations, and love. This place has a separate place in Meera's heart, because in her childhood she had several happy moments and experiences with her friends and family, she never hated any second living in this place so as she never loved her life outside this place. Now, Meera is a working woman who excels in her engineering job with her wits and hard work. But she knows that she works as an engineer because she and her family were forced to leave this place (their hometown) when she was a child. If she stayed in this place, she wouldn't have become an engineer; instead, she would've become an artist, painting human emotions with her fellow artist friends. But after she abandoned her friends and native place, she was forced to study engineering, but still, she is happy with her work even now. But suddenly, Meera felt sad and depressed after sitting in her old house and seeing the place around her where she had once built her dreams upon. Because the place is no longer there, the people are no longer there, the whole place looks sterile without any people, houses, emotions, fun, laughter, and love. And slowly her mind fills with guilt and anxiety, why? Because she is the one who is the reason for the state of this place. She is the one who gave the order to demolish so that a new construction is about to begin. Finally, she thinks that, what if I never left this place? What if I became an artist instead of an engineer? But she has no answer; she only has questions, and the answers to the questions cannot be answered or written because it has already been written in the past.

__Joshua Arulraj



The Saying's Secret: How History Lives in Everyday Idioms and Phrases

Ever wonder why we say someone has “kicked the bucket” or ask if the “cat got your tongue”? These common idioms are more than quirky expressions; they’re windows into the past, shaped by history, culture, and shared human experience. Idioms act like linguistic time capsules. Some stem from ancient customs, old professions, or military life. Many have journeyed through time, influenced by myths, rituals, and real events, to become part of modern speech. Let’s explore a few that reveal how language preserves memory.

Kick the Bucket

Meaning: To die

One theory traces this phrase to animal slaughter, where a “bucket” (a beam) was used to hang animals. In their final moments, they’d kick the bucket. Another theory involves suicide by hanging, where someone stood on a bucket and kicked it away. The phrase entered print in the 1700s as a euphemism for death.

Bite the Bullet

Meaning: To endure pain or difficulty bravely

Before anesthesia, especially during wartime surgeries, soldiers were given bullets to bite to cope with pain and avoid biting their tongues. Rudyard Kipling helped popularize the phrase in his 1891 novel The Light That Failed, linking it forever with grit and endurance.

Cat Got Your Tongue?

Meaning: Why are you silent?

This phrase’s origin is murky, but one theory connects it to the British navy’s use of the cat-o’-nine-tails whip. Victims were often left speechless from pain or shock, hence the cat getting the tongue.

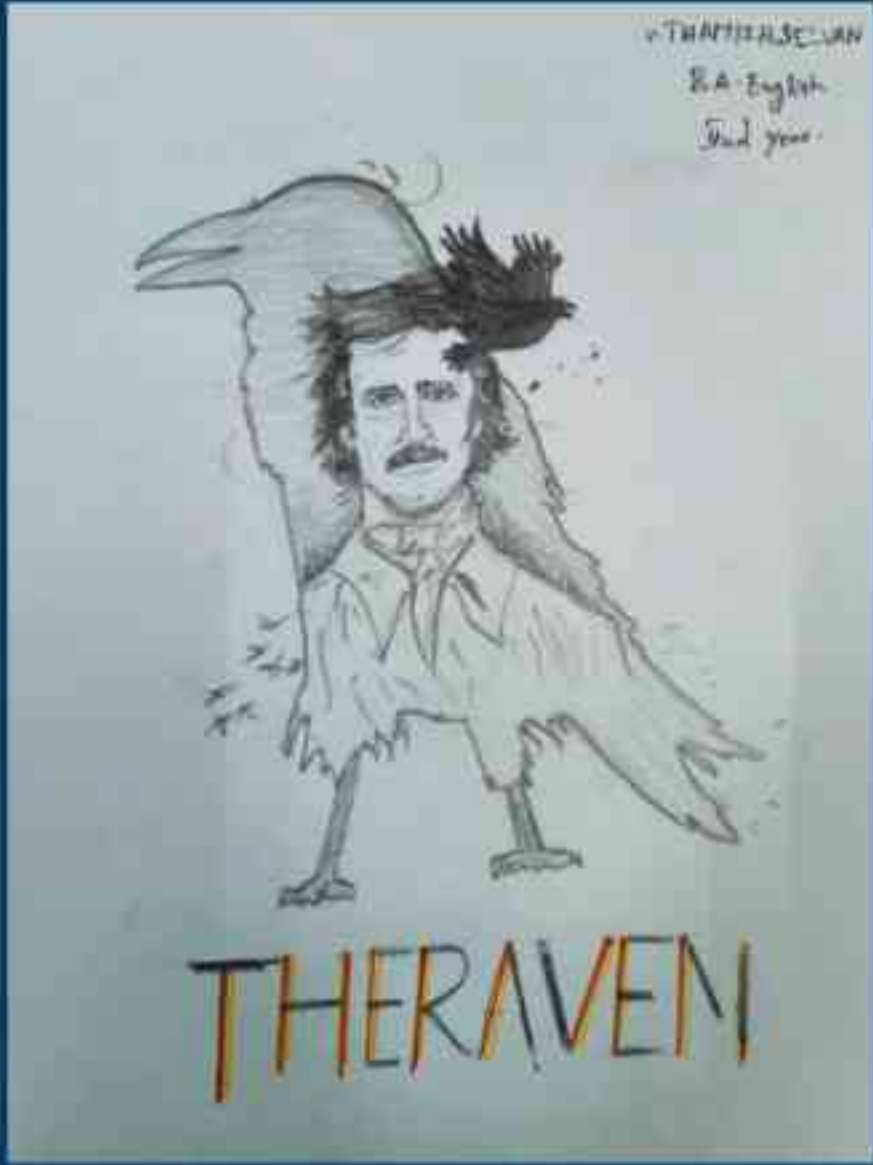
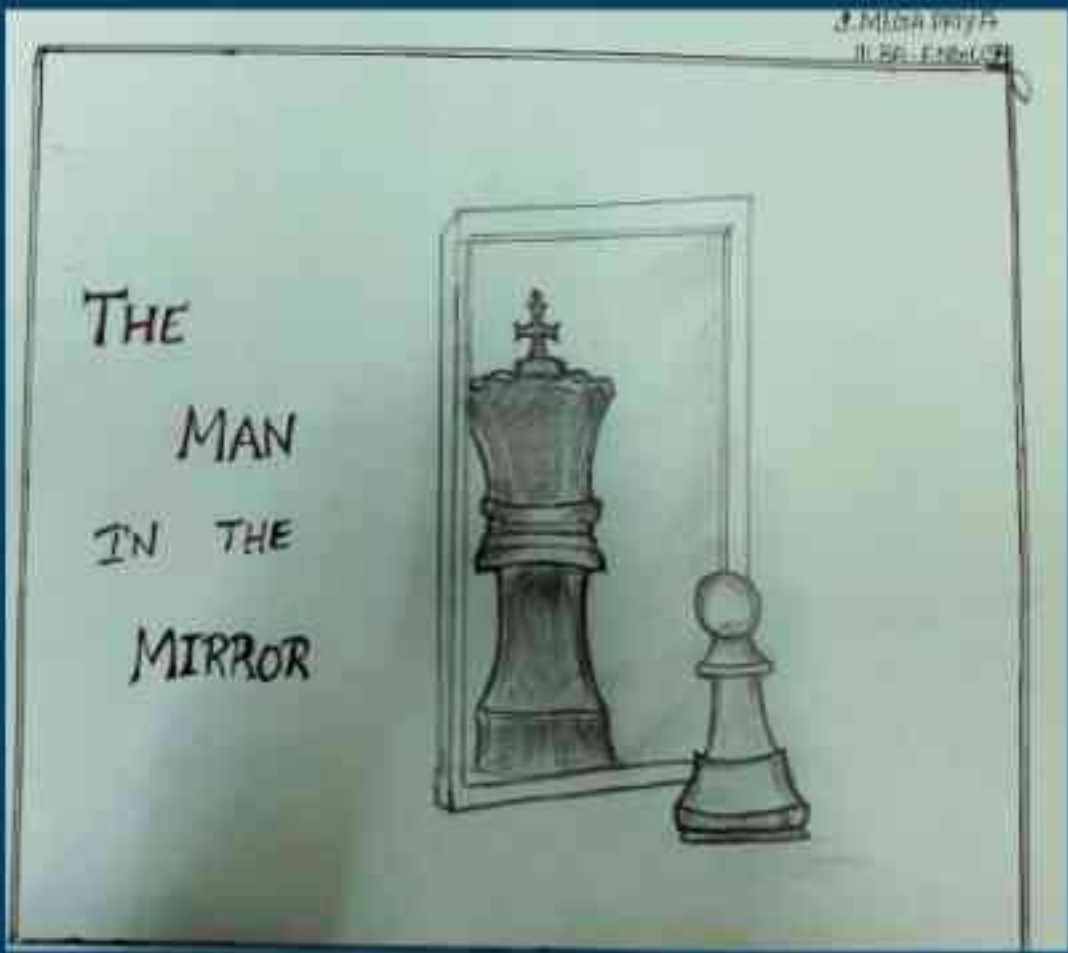
Barking Up the Wrong Tree

Meaning: To make a wrong assumption

From early American hunting, this idiom refers to dogs mistakenly barking at a tree where they thought prey was hiding, though it had escaped elsewhere. It reflects misdirected effort based on a false lead.

Everyday idioms are more than just colorful speech; they carry echoes of the past. Whether it’s a wounded soldier, a punished sailor, or a confused hunting dog, these phrases are rooted in lived experience. So next time you use one, remember: you’re not just talking, you’re passing down a story.
_Harsha, II MA English

Student’s Corner



TWILIGHT

The sun is going down behind the palm trees,
It is just before twilight;

The rays of the sun are at a particular slant,

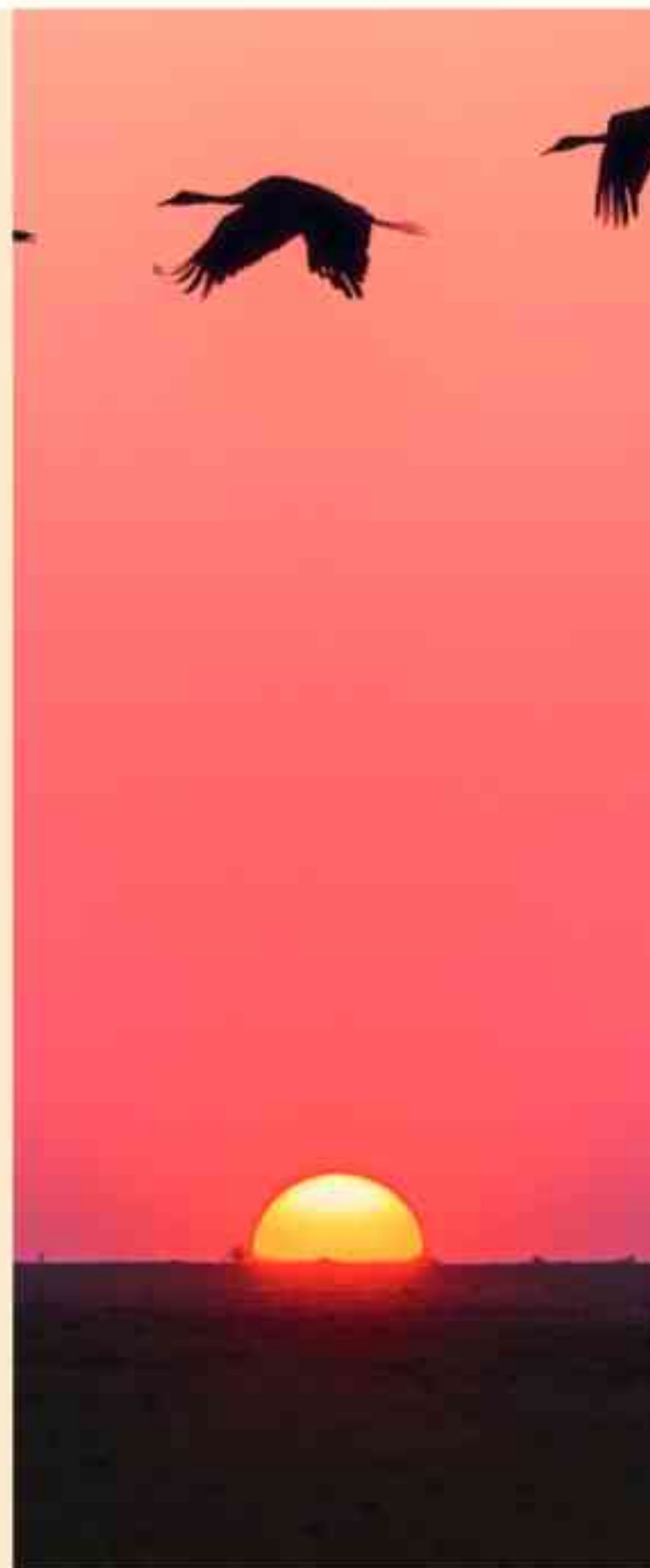
Spreading its loving blanket over everything -
The lush green fields looking like a velvet cloth,

Where the peacocks chase one another,
Dwarf banana trees with their wide spread leaves,
Proud sugarcane fields, heads held high, in attention,
With coconut trees standing watch,
Thick mango grove where parrots practice en masse,
Touching the weary kids,

Bent with their backpacks but light at heart.
It embraces everything and folds them in its welcome warmth
A warmth that caresses and reaches your heart,

That makes you feel glad to be alive.

- DR. S. S. Saranya
Head and Associate Professor



Faculty Corner

RECENT INDIA'S RIGID REALITIES

Issue free India we will face soon

Present Education system affects the upcoming generations

Countless farmers commit suicide which affects agriculture

Illegal organ harvesting leads to make money killing lives

Child labour instigates to make money in short cut

Gender discrimination leads to division among people

Racial discrimination creates strife in life

Sexual atrocities affect peace of life

Casteism develops violent and vigorous attitude among people

O Pity! O Pity!! O Pity!!!

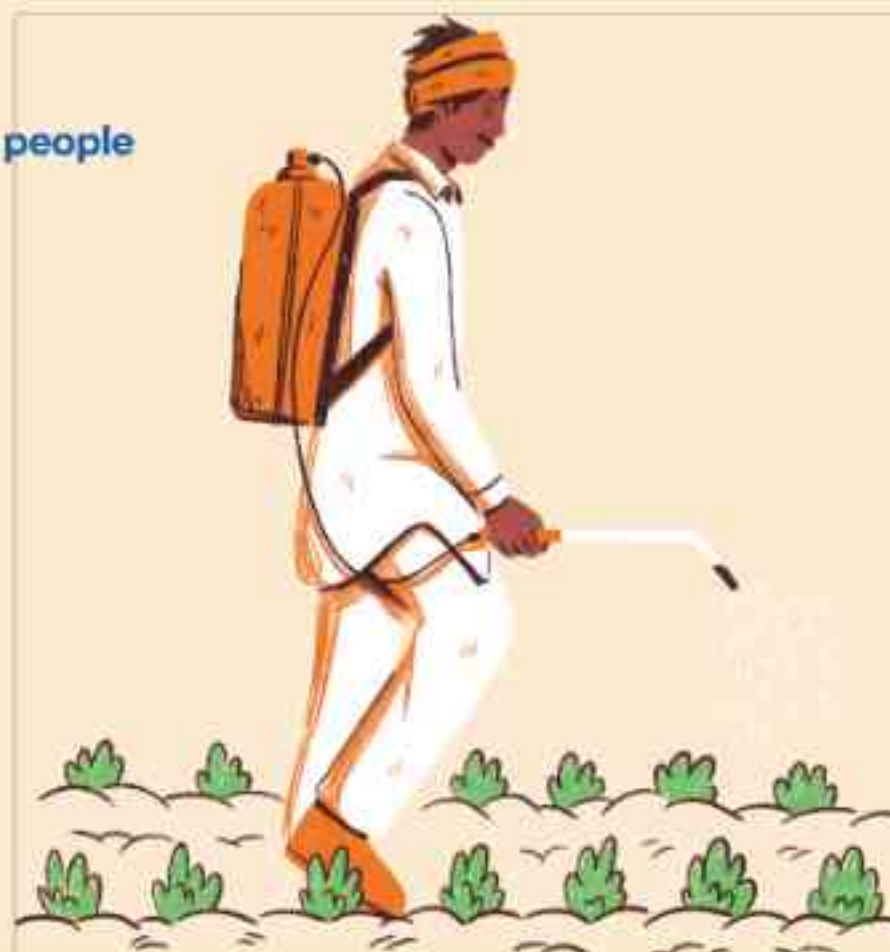
Alert! Alert!! Alert!!!

Come let us make an issue free India.

By

Padma Ragam S

Assistant Professor- Grade II



BEING



Being expressive was difficult,
Then voicing it is my success.
Making decisions was difficult,
Then being determined is my success.
Accepting my actions was difficult,
Then learning to be culpable is my success.
Being without expectations was difficult,
Then learning to be independent is my success.
Handling the broken self was difficult,
Learning to restore it is my success.
Accepting change was difficult,
Being contained is my success.
Finding happiness with self was difficult,
Trying to be hedonistic is my success.
Handling restrictions on my education was difficult,
Facing it and persevering is my success.
While all of these were my successes,
A stagnant measure cannot define success, or
A distant scale cannot measure my success,
As I own a scale that others might not have.
From striving to growing every day is my SUCCESS.

Dr Madhu Bala

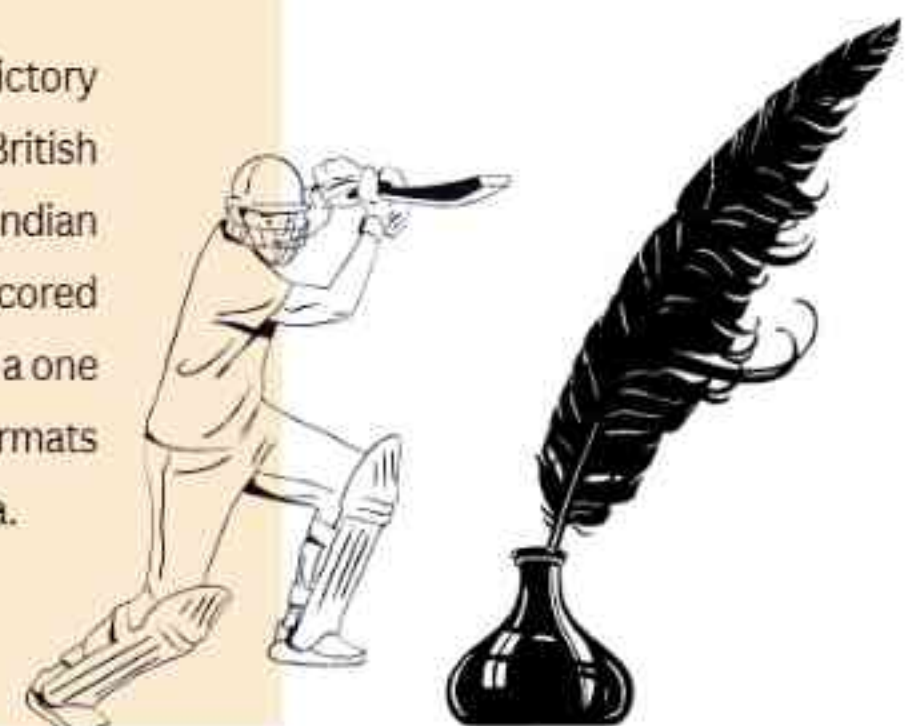
Faculty Corner

Cricket and Colonialism: A Historical Context

Cricket stands as one of the most enduring and influential legacies of British colonial rule in India. While the English language formalized administrative communication under imperial governance, it is cricket that captured the national imagination and left an indelible mark on Indian culture. Introduced by English sailors and soldiers during the British Raj, cricket was initially a symbol of imperial leisure and superiority. Yet, it quickly evolved into a cultural battleground where Indians, through gradual adoption, began to challenge colonial dominance. Imperialism can be broadly defined as the extension of power by a nation over other countries, often through both subtle and overt means. It can manifest in two forms: Formal Imperialism and Informal Imperialism. Formal Imperialism: Direct political and military control over another region. Informal Imperialism: Indirect dominance, often through cultural, economic, or ideological influence. In the case of colonial India, both forms were at play. While formal imperialism established British control over Indian governance and economy, informal methods such as the spread of English education and sports like cricket served to entrench cultural hegemony.

Indians used what the British have taught them against them and got their victory through the tools of the British (like cricket and Army). Cricket was introduced by British but no English player has become as popular as Sachin Tendulkar, the former Indian cricketer is the master Blaster and God of cricket. He is the only player to have scored one hundred international centuries, the first batsman to score a double century in a one day international, and the only batsman to accumulate over 30,000 runs across formats accomplishments that underscore cricket's complete cultural indigenization in India.

— Dr Pavendhan, Assistant Professor





Reading and Reflection: Unveiling “Stone Women” by Shashi Deshpande

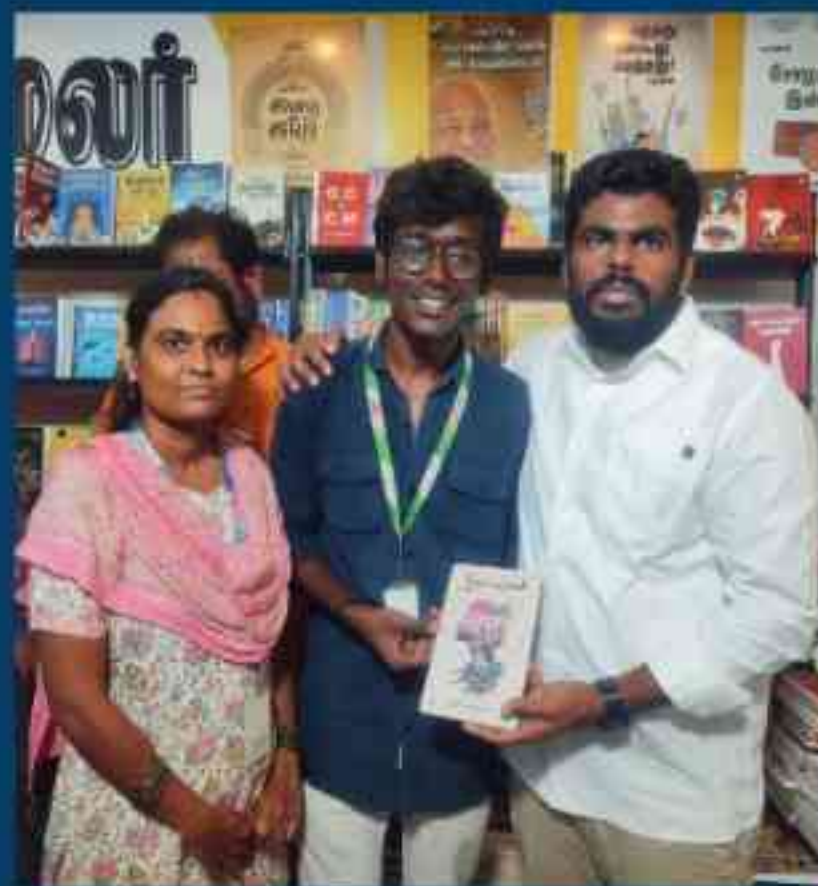
On August 20th, 2024, the Bookworm Club of the Muses Literary Association, part of the English Department organized an engaging Reading Circle. The session featured the presence of distinguished guests, including Dr. Christianna Singh, Dr. P. Jayabharathi, and Dr. S. S. Saranya. Students from various departments actively contributed to the discussion, offering insightful interpretations of Shashi Deshpande’s short story, “Stone Women”.



Visit to Book Expo at YMCA, Nandanam



In January 2025, the students of the Department of English were taken on an enriching visit to the Book Expo held at YMCA Grounds, Nandanam. The event brought together a vast collection of books from across genres, publishers, and languages, offering students a unique opportunity to explore the world of literature beyond the classroom. From contemporary fiction and literary classics to academic texts and rare finds, the expo had something for every reader. The visit was not only an academic activity but also a celebration of reading culture. Students eagerly browsed through the numerous stalls, interacted with book sellers and publishers, and gained awareness about current literary trends and publishing practices.





Cinematic Reflections: Exploring Reality through Film



The Muses Literary Association of the Department of English, School of Arts and Sciences, organized an engaging "Movie Review" session on September 13, 2024. The short film *Madhu* by Harish Tarun served as the focal point of the session. Based on real-life events, the 29-minute film portrays the struggles of a family from a lower economic background amidst the bustling cityscape. The session made the students engage in meaningful discussions on performance, cinematic technique, and social themes. The Association continues to be a vibrant space for critical thought and artistic appreciation.

Industrial Visit to Film Festival: A Cinematic Learning Experience



The Department of English, in collaboration with the Department of Tamil, organized an industrial visit for students to attend a vibrant film festival on 27.02.2025. The festival showcased a series of impactful short films, including *Pink Nights*, that offered diverse perspectives and storytelling techniques. Following the screenings, an engaging interactive session was held, where students participated enthusiastically. The session provided them with valuable insights into the nuances of filmmaking, from narrative structure to cinematic techniques, broadening their understanding of film as both an art form and a cultural expression.

The Department of English and EDC of the School of Arts and Science conducted a Power Seminar on "Life Skills". The resource person, Ms. Gayathri Srinivasan, motivated the students and faculty members with her wonderful and innovative speech on 11th March 2025.

Power Seminar on "Life Skills"





Documentary Film by III BA English Students

The III BA English students showcased their creative and academic brilliance by producing a compelling documentary film on the topic of Postcolonial Literature on 05.02.2025. Their effort was highly appreciated by faculty and peers, serving as an exemplary academic achievement and inspiring others to delve into critical literary studies.



Reflections from the president of the English Literary Association

Being the President of the English Literary Association has been a truly meaningful and enriching experience. My journey with the English Department offered countless opportunities to learn, grow, and express myself. Through club events, discussions, and competitions, I developed my reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. These experiences not only boosted my confidence and creativity but also deepened my passion for literature. Working closely with friends and teachers made each moment enjoyable and fulfilling.

I am especially grateful to our faculty, whose support and engaging teaching methods made even the most complex topics easy to understand and interesting. This journey has changed the way I see literature—not just as stories in books, but as a reflection of people and life itself. I've come to appreciate the power of words and how they connect us. I will always cherish these memories, and I am thankful to my teachers, teammates, and everyone



Mr. Aashik Anwar
president, literary
Association





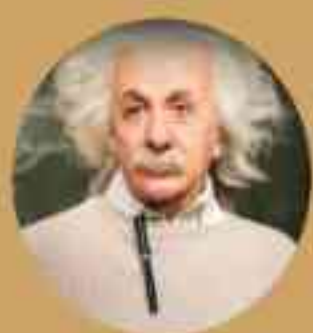
The Literary Week: A Celebration of Creativity and Literary Excellence

The Muses Literary Association of the Department of English at Vinayaka Missions School of Arts and Science, Chennai campus, hosted a vibrant Literary Week from March 18th to 22nd, 2024. The event featured diverse competitions such as Elocution, Poetry and Story Writing, Essay Writing, Spell Bee, and Art, attracting students from various departments. Judged on creativity, originality, and technical skill, the competitions highlighted student talent and fostered deeper engagement with literature. The Literary Week showcased the institution's commitment to nurturing creativity and intellectual development.

Glimpse of the Literary Excellence



Glimpse of the Student's creativity





A Heartfelt Send-Off Through Shared Moments

The farewell for the 2022–2025 batch of the Department of English, Vinayaka Missions School of Arts and Science, Chennai campus, was a heartfelt and memorable experience. Though not an official event, the final-year students came together for a day out that beautifully captured their bond and shared journey. From watching a movie and spending relaxed moments at the mall to enjoying lunch together, the day was filled with joy, laughter, and a sense of nostalgia. It was a unique send-off, simple yet meaningful, celebrating friendship, memories, and the end of a remarkable chapter.

Celebrating Success: Final Year Students' Placements

NAME	DEPARTMENT	COMPANY
Vigneshwaran	B.A English	JBM Auto. Ltd
Shalini	B.A English	JBM Auto. Ltd

Congratulations to Our Placed Students!

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the final-year students of the 2024–2025 batch for their remarkable achievements in the campus placement drive. Their relentless effort, determination, and professionalism have secured them placements in esteemed companies, highlighting the caliber of students nurtured in our department. This success is a proud reflection of the quality education, mentoring, and support provided by our dedicated faculty. As they step into the professional world, we wish them continued success and fulfillment in all their endeavors. Congratulations to all!



Faculty Achievements: Celebrating Excellence and Innovation

Empowering Academic Leadership

Dr. S. S. Saranya, Head and Associate Professor, successfully completed the one-year Executive Programme in Academic Leadership and Management (EPALM) offered by VMRF (DU). The course featured expert-led sessions from premier institutions including IIM. It provided valuable insights into academic leadership and institutional management.



Inspiring the Art of Oratory and Debate in Schools

Dr. S. Pavendhan, an esteemed academic and distinguished faculty member, was honored to preside as the chairperson for the inauguration of the English Oratory and Debate Club at St. Thomas Matric Higher Secondary School in Nerkunapattu on 13.12.2024. His presence added great value to the occasion, inspiring students to hone their public speaking and debating skills.

Invited as Resource Experts at Other Institutions

Dr. S. S. Saranya, Head of the Department of English, was invited as a resource person for the Professional Development Programme on Post-Humanism in Literature – An Overview, organized by P.K.R. Arts College for Women on 10th September 2024. Her insightful session offered a comprehensive understanding of post-humanist thought in literary studies, enriching the academic engagement of participants.



P.K.R. ARTS COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
Gobichettipalayam | Erode
Bharathiar University | UGC Approved
AICTE Approved | 'A' Grade | Autonomous

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
cordially invites you all for the

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON
POST- HUMANISM IN LITERATURE - AN OVERVIEW

Resource Person
Dr.S.S. Saranya
Associate Professor and Head
Department of English
School of Arts and Science
VMRF (DU) Vinayaka Mission's Chennai Campus
Chennai- 603104

 10 September 2024
11 am

 **Google Meet**





Invited as Resource Experts at Other Institutions

Dr. R. Madhu Bala , Assistant Professor of English,

- Invited as a resource person for a National Webinar on "AI and Gender Sensitization" organized by D.N.R. Law College, Andhra Pradesh on 10.01.2025.
- Delivered a session on UGC-NET Paper 1 at a State Level Workshop organized by Standard Fireworks Rajaratnam College, Sivakasi on 24.01.2024.
- Addressed a symposium on "Storytelling Across Cultures: Blending Tradition and Modernity" at Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam on 31.01.2025.
- Delivered a session on "Theory and Criticism for Cracking NET English" at a National Workshop by Standard Fireworks Rajaratnam College on 06.02.2025.



Commitment to Growth: Faculty Participation in FDPs and Workshops

- Dr. S. S. Saranya and Dr. S. Pavendhan, esteemed faculty members of the English Department, have made significant contributions as reviewers for the prestigious ELTAI Journal from January 2024 to January 2025. As reviewers, they meticulously evaluate manuscripts, provide constructive feedback, and ensure that scholarly work adheres to high linguistic and thematic standards.
- Dr. Madhu Bala and Dr. Pavendhan, Assistant Professors of English, completed a 3-day Faculty Development Programme on "Creative Thinking" organized by ICT Academy at St. Joseph's College of Engineering, Chennai, from September 18-20, 2024.
- Dr Madhu Bala attended FPD organized by WADHWANI Foundation on Ignite India Faculty Development Program between 21.05.2025 to 27.05.2025 and she got certified as an Entrepreneurship educator.
- Actively Presented a Paper in the International Conference on "A needs Analysis of the General English course for the under graduate computer science stream students of the VMRF" on 07.02.2025—to 08.02.2025 at SSN College Chennai.
- Has actively participated in the National Level One-Day Virtual Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "AI Tools for Research and Teaching" organized by the Department of Artificial Intelligence, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, held on 09.03.2025.



