



MANIPAL
UNIVERSITY JAIPUR

Established under Section 3 of UGC Act

*Department of Languages,
Literatures and Cultural Studies*

VerbiVore

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Director's Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Manipal University Jaipur, is bringing out the October-December 2024 Issue of the e-newsletter, *Verbivore*. The newsletter showcases teaching-learning engagements, extracurricular and research activities, and events of the Department. It is interesting to learn that the students enjoyed teaching-learning, and conducted and participated in the events to enrich their knowledge.

I convey my heartiest congratulations to the entire editorial and designing team and their mentors for this effort in giving a shape to this issue of *Verbivore*.

Best Wishes!

Prof (Dr.) Trishu Sharma
Journalism
Director, SHSS



HOD's Message

I take this opportunity to release the e-newsletter *Verbivore* October-December 2024 Issue. This e-newsletter exemplifies our dedication to advancing educational opportunities for our students and embracing diversity. As we continue this remarkable journey, I wholeheartedly support to the efforts of the Editorial Team in fostering best practices and envisioning a future of possibilities for the Department.

I sincerely congratulate the Editorial Team for the relentless efforts, and enthusiasm to bring out the Newsletter of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. I acknowledge my sincere thanks to the Leadership, Manipal University Jaipur, Dean (In-charge), Faculty of Arts, and Director SHSS for allowing the Department to bring out this issue of the Newsletter *Verbivore*.

Best Wishes!

Dr. Rabindra Kumar Verma

HoD (I/C)

Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies



Editor's Message

Dear Readers,

It is with immense pride that I present to you the 4th issue of *Verbivore* - a medley of voices—some introspective, some celebratory, all brimming with authenticity. From academic brilliance to personal reflections, this issue encapsulates the boundless potential of our students and faculty. This newsletter is more than a collection of articles and poems; it is a shared space where our department's heartbeats resonate. I owe my deepest gratitude to our student editors and contributors, whose tireless efforts have brought this issue to fruition.

Join us as we continue to savor the joy of words and ideas. May this edition inspire and engage you as much as it has us in creating it.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

Dr. Sneha Thakur

Chief Editor, *Verbivore*



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Students' Achievement

English Honours Students Shine as Part of Cinefilia's Triumphs

It is with immense pride that we highlight the accomplishments of two talented students from our department: Mohak Mahicha, a third-year BA English Honours student and Digital Marketing Head of Cinefilia, and Mannat Arya, a second-year BA English Honours student who played the lead role in one of Cinefilia's stage productions. Both have made remarkable contributions to Cinefilia, the Dramatics and Filmmaking Society of Manipal University Jaipur, in their respective roles.



Cinefilia recently showcased its theatrical prowess at Thomso '24, the prestigious cultural fest at IIT Roorkee, where the team delivered three extraordinary performances, including their street play Swabhimaan, which won first prize. They also participated in Aagaz, the qualifiers for Mood Indigo, IIT Bombay, securing the Golden Ticket with their impactful presentation.

As Cinefilia looks ahead to competing in Mood Indigo, we are excited for what the future holds and confident that the team will continue to showcase powerful stories and exceptional talent.

Jashn-e-Youth 2.0

Date of Event: 26th November 2024

Venue: Smt. Sharada Pai Auditorium



Jashn-e-Youth 2.0 is an event that celebrates art, culture, and entertainment in collaboration with the The Young Writer's Initiative and the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies. The event aims to enhance students' appreciation for literature and culture, foster cultural appreciation, and provide a platform for students to express their creativity. The event, held on November 26, 2024, attracted 200 attendees, including students, faculty, and invited guests. The event featured an expert talk by renowned overseas education counsellor, Mr. Pawan Solanki, and interactive sessions with the audience. The event aimed to transform students' perceptions of literature and revive the joy of consuming art. Feedback from students and faculty members praised the interactive nature of the session, stating that it prepared them for their journey. The event was a success, highlighting the importance of youth expression and interaction.

PhD Awarded



Ms. Manisha Sharma successfully defended her PhD thesis in English under the supervision of Dr. Yashoda Kumari on December 20, 2024.

Students
CORNER

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LETTING GO OF FEAR: EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY

Sara Jain

BA (Hons) English III sem

“There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen”.

I read this somewhere and realized the fact that every individual on this planet suffers from a problem. These can be of various types: financial, social, mental, emotional, physical, etc. But what is essential is that we never give up. We always hope for the best and live for the finest memories or instances that wait for us and are a part of our future.

Everything will happen the way it has to happen. Stressing about issues that can be both minute as well as colossal will eventually fade away, and everything will fall into the right place. Everything in nature, including our thoughts, is interconnected. For example, Learning new things for some people germinate the seed of fear in their minds. Learning new things will make us feel dumb when it is actually making us smarter.



What they don't realize is that fear is an emotion which is responsible for draining the energy of the entire body, particularly the mind. Stressing about certain matters does the same and has the same consequences. There are multiple factors that might lead to excessive and over weighed stress in one's life. These can be majorly overconsumption of alcohol, fast food, having low self-esteem and criticizing oneself constantly, overworking, lack of sleep, procrastination, social networks, negative thinking, etc. So, what can we do to gain energy and, therefore, keep our entire body healthy? There are some scientifically proven facts that can help one attain a positive mindset and provide energy to each and every cell of our body. These include positive thinking, eating healthy food, working out, socializing, meditation, gratitude, nature, music, sleep, etc. Working out will make us feel weak when it is making us stronger.

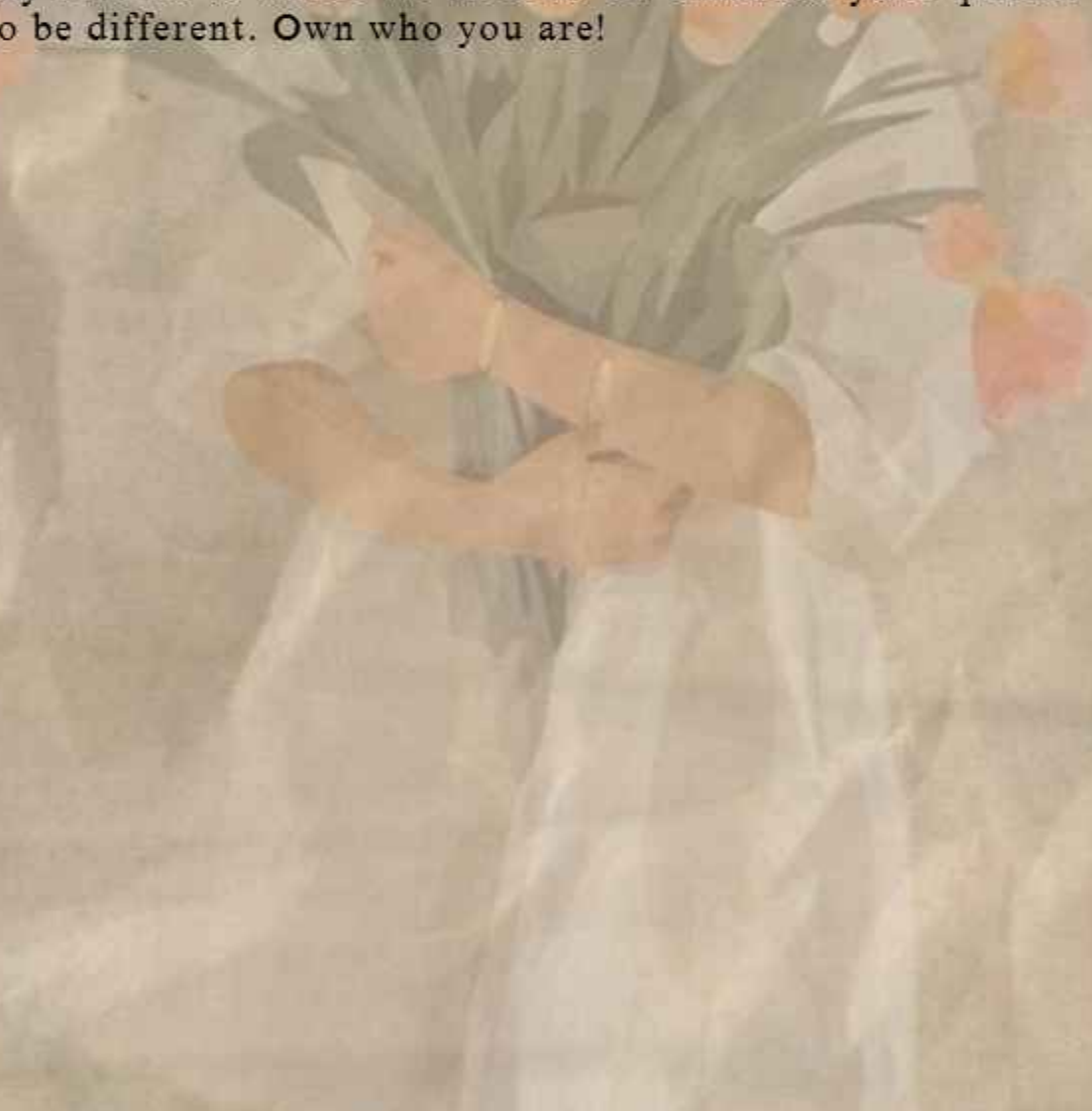
This is what I wanted to mainly pen down for the readers who are in their teenage years and stressed about situations that are absolutely out of their hands and therefore, we have no control over them. The world doesn't end at eighteen, and you are likely going to switch your paths a million times.

You might switch your jobs, cities, friends, dreams, etc. You might get a perfect job in your middle age, and you will be so happy and proud of yourself that you kept trying and never gave up.

You might feel now that everyone around you is doing better than you; you might feel that everyone is smarter and better than you, they are doing much more in their lives, etc. But as you grow older, you will learn that it is never true. No one is better than you, no one is smarter than you, and no one has circumstances that are easy to handle.

Call it whatsoever- Destiny or the Universe, call it whatever resonates with you, just absorb the fact that everything is working out in your favor. There is nothing to worry about. Just try to live in the present. Treat yourself whenever required, but also work diligently for your future, which is waiting for you to reach there.

Never forget to smile. Life isn't always serious. Sometimes, the best way to deal with tough times is with humour and a lighthearted perspective. It is okay to make mistakes. Mistakes are a part of life, and they lead us to where we need to be. Embrace your quirks. It is okay to be different. Own who you are!



BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

Chaitanya Kirthy

BA (Hons) English III sem

“What makes me human? Or can I ever be one?” asked Clark Kent, or the boy known to the world as Superman, his voice heavy with doubt. “You’re not. You were never meant to be. You’re more than that, son” replied his hopeful father, Jonathan Kent, as the first light of dawn stretched across their lush Smallville farm. “You were sent here for a reason. As a man, you could be just flesh and blood, fragile and breakable, but you need to be a symbol. A symbol of hope” continued Jon.

“They never accepted me as their own. To them, I’m just an alien. I could never be one of them. 20 years in this city, yet crimes rates are at all time high. I could never make a difference. I should give up” sighed the depressed Big Blue Boy Scout. “Batman’s at it for 20 years too. Gotham is a living hell at this point, but he never stopped” Jon took a deep breath, “People fear what they don’t understand. You have given them an ideal to aspire to, embodied their highest aspirations. They will race, and stumble, and fall and crawl... and curse... and finally.. they will join you in the sun” replied the old man.

“I could never be him. Bruce is just something else. I still remember the only words he ever spoke to me that day, ‘You aren’t a God. You were never even a man! You aren’t brave. Men are brave,’ I could never be a man. I don’t feel the pain they feel. They need one among them, and I am not that” continued Clark. “He lost his parents in front of him. He knows the highest pain a man can feel. You lost your biological parents as well, I don’t see much difference between both of you. Gotham’s Knight & Last Son of Krypton, bearing the weight of the world” said the old farmer with a smirk.



"I can't take it now, Dad. I can't decide whom to save at this point. I flew to Mariupol yesterday after Putin destroyed it. No soul in sight, except this young woman. She saw me, terrified! I approached her. She ran, slipped, and broke her neck. I feel that if I wouldn't be there or if I would've just let her be, she'd be alive today; I can't decide what's right and wrong at this point," sighed the confused Son of Krypton.

"You can't throw morality in the garbage just because life's tough, Clark! As a leader of the people, you serve them. They don't serve you," replied his father. "I don't think I'm fit to be the saviour of mankind. I feel too much. I'm too sensitive. I'm Clark. Your son. I'm not Superman, no matter how much I try" said Clark. "And that's what makes you different. You're sensitive enough to feel the emotional pain they carry, the kind that goes far deeper than any physical wound. You will be different, sometimes you'll feel like an outcast, but I want you to remember that you'll never be alone. We could only offer you wisdom, but you have something far greater, a beautiful soul. Trust what feels right to you. You aren't like us, that's your gift. Do the right thing. That is your superpower" ended Jon with a smile.

Superman has historically been shown in complete opposition to his alter-ego, Clark Kent. While Superman is the ever-smiling, stoic symbol of hope, Kent is hypersensitive, nerdy, and awkward, often described as someone who "writes like a cruise but moves like a landslide". The graphic novels show him as somebody who can perfectly draw the line between being a stoic God and a nerdy sensitive reporter. Kent portrays his image as a sensitive man to conceal his identity as Superman and make a sharp distinction between the two. This situation raises the question: if he were real, could anyone truly separate these sides of themselves so distinctly?

In Nietzsche's philosophy, the *Übermensch* symbolizes a being who transcends ordinary human limitations, creating new values and living beyond the constraints of morality. Superman, with his nearly limitless power, could easily become this figure. He has the strength to reshape the world in his image, to enforce his own vision of right and wrong without consequence. While Nietzsche's *Übermensch* moves beyond human morality, Superman remains tethered to it. He constantly wrestles with utilitarianism, deciding whom to save, and deontological ethics, upholding a sense of duty even when the outcomes may not seem just. Superman's dilemmas, whether to act, when to intervene, mirror our own ethical questions. In this sense, he is not the *Übermensch* of Nietzsche's dreams, but something far more human.

While Superman may be the *Übermensch*, Clark's humanity lies in his empathy, his capacity to feel pain and doubt which makes him relatable and grounds him in human experience. This sensitivity keeps Superman from becoming detached from the very people he aims to protect. Without Clark's sensitivity, Superman risks becoming a cold, godlike figure, losing touch with the very people he's meant to inspire. Superman's true superpower lies in his upbringing. Raised by loving parents on Earth, he learned the value of sensitivity. Despite his alien origin, his heart is full of human emotions, helping him be a Godlike figure yet so close to people because he feels what they feel. Clark taught Superman to feel and believe.

Superman exists because Clark does.



ART

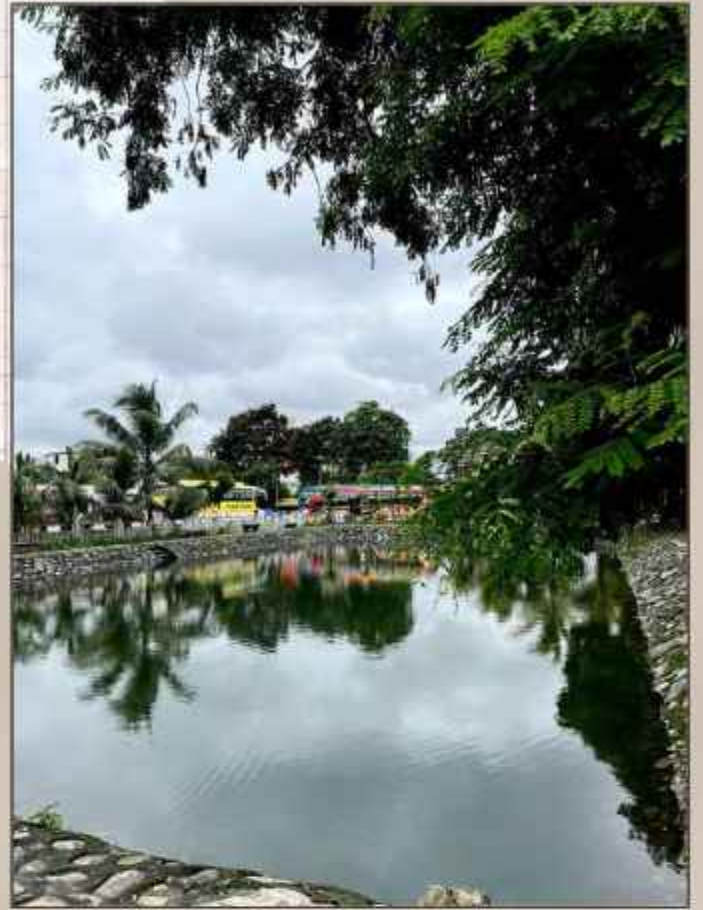
IN EVERY NOOK OF OUR LIVES

A DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITY THAT WAS HELD TO GATHER DIVERSE INTERPRETATIONS OF HOW ART MANIFESTS IN DAILY LIFE.

PICTURE COURTESY: DR. VIDISHA GUPTA, DR. SNEHA THAKUR, MS PARUL TANWAR, KAMALESH JHAKKAR, DEWANSH VAISHNAV & CHAITANYA KIRTHY



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