

AUROLA

BY THE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE AGRA



DECEMBER 2025 EDITION



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FOUNDED 1850



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Principal
St. John's College,
Agra

Head of the Department



Dr. Isaac A. K. Ghosh
HoD
Department of
English
&
Faculty In-charge
Campus News
Report

Faculty In-charges



**Dr. Suresh Babu
Aremanda**
Faculty In-charge
Orator's Vox



Dr. Madhulika Das
Faculty In-charge
Inkspire



**Ms. Atisha
Srivastava**
Faculty In-charge
Drama Club



**Dr. Abraham
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Faculty In-charge
The Film &
Photography Club

The Office Bearers 2025-2026

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(MA FINAL)
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MS. RITU RAJAK
(MA PREVIOUS)
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MS. HIBA JAFRI
(BA III YEAR)
GENERAL
SECRETARY

MS. MEHVISH
KHAN
(MA PREVIOUS)
TREASURER

MS. AVVISHI
SAXENA
(BA I YEAR)
SECRETARY
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MS. MEHVISH KHAN
(MA PREVIOUS)
SECRETARY
THE FILM &
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Office Bearers 2025-2026

CAMPUS REPORTERS

MS. SARAH JOSEPH (MA FINAL)

MS. RITU RAJAK (MA PREVIOUS)

MS. HIBA JAFRI (BA III YEAR)

MR. UDAY KUMAR (BA II YEAR)

MS. AVVISHI SAXENA (BA I YEAR)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



On behalf of the college, it is with immense pleasure and pride that I congratulate the English Department on the launch of its inaugural magazine, Aurora.

This publication is a fitting tribute to our 175-year celebrations. The name Aurora, meaning “dawn,” perfectly captures the spirit of this endeavor: a new beginning, a burst of creative light, and the promise of a brighter day for our literary community.

Such publications are vital—they provide a dedicated platform for intellectual exploration, critical reflection, and the pure joy of writing, fostering expression among both students and faculty. As we mark 175 years of St. John’s College, we reflect on a legacy built on holistic education and the nurturing of curiosity. Aurora stands as a vibrant testament to the enduring academic spirit and literary talent that flourish within our campus. Through its pages, the diverse voices of our students come alive in narratives, poems, and essays that enrich our collective experience.

I extend my sincere commendation to the editorial board and all contributors for their dedication, creativity, and hard work in bringing this vision to life. May Aurora shine brightly for years to come, illuminating minds and inspiring generations of Johnnians to pick up the pen and share their unique light with the world.

Happy reading!

MESSAGE FROM THE HOD



It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the first edition of the English Department Newsletter - Aurora.


The name Aurora was chosen to mirror our belief, words bring light.

Just as dawn softens the edges of night, literature softens the edges of thought.

Aurora is more than a name; it's a feeling of awakening, of hope, of illumination. This publication reflects our collective pursuit of knowledge, creativity, and expression.

I commend the editorial team for their initiative and dedication in bringing this vision to life. May this newsletter continue to inspire academic excellence and literary curiosity among our students and faculty.

Dr. Isaac A. Ghosh
Head, Department of English
St. John's College, Agra



RECAP CORNER

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Investiture Ceremony of the English Association, St. John's College

14th October 2025

Report by the Campus Reporters

The Investiture Ceremony of the English Association, St. John's College, was held on 14th October 2025 in the Assembly Hall, celebrating the official installation of the newly elected office bearers and the launch of the association's diverse clubs under the Department of English. The event was graced by Prof. S.P. Singh, Principal of St. John's College along with distinguished faculty members including, Prof. Susan Varghese, Prof. Vinny Jain, Prof. Sunita Sharma, Prof. Rajiv Phillip, Prof. Jasmine Karuna, Prof. S. Stanley, Dr. Naqvi, Dr. R. Rai, Dr. W. Saimon, Dr. Rachita Sharma, Dr. Mamta Meena, Dr. Archana Mary, Dr. Mahima Habil Massey, Dr. Matthew Singh, Dr. Shashi Pal Verma, Dr. Ruchi Agarwal, Dr. A. Joseph, Dr. Anurag Lal, Dr. Shubendhu Jain, and Dr. Mohit Kumar, whose presence added grace to the occasion. The English faculty, Dr. Isaac Ghosh (Head of Department), Dr. Suresh Babu, Dr. Abraham Varghese, Dr. Madhulika Das, and Ms. Atisha Srivastava were present to support and guide the newly appointed team. The event was anchored gracefully by Ms. Atisha Srivastava, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

The programme commenced with the welcoming of the Principal, Prof. S. P. Singh, and the esteemed faculty and guests. This was followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The college prayer, led by the Principal, was followed by a welcome hymn performed by the Association Band, comprising of Mohit Kumar, Sarah Joseph, Ashleen Henry, Anshika Shakya, Allen, Harshita Pachauri, and Uday Kumar.

Dr. Isaac Ghosh, Head of the Department of English, then introduced the English Association, elaborating on its vision, the roles of its clubs, and the symbolism of its newly designed logo. The installation ceremony of the office bearers was conducted by the Principal, Prof. S.P. Singh and the Head of Department, Dr. Isaac Ghosh, assisted by Dr. Madhulika Das (Assistant Professor) and Dr. Suresh Babu (Assistant Professor), after which the oath-taking ceremony took place.

The newly inducted office bearers for the academic year include the President - Ms. Sarah Joseph (M.A. Final), Vice President - Ms. Ritu Rajak (M.A. Previous), General Secretary - Ms. Hiba Jafri (B.A. III Year) and Treasurer - Ms. Mehvish Khan (M.A. Previous). The Club Secretaries includes Ms. Avvishi Saxena (B.A. I Year) for Orator's Vox, Ms. Faiza Rais Khan (M.A. Previous) for Inkspire, Mr. Harsh Vardhan Singh (B.A. III Year) for Drama Club and Ms. Mehvish Khan (M.A. Previous) for Film and Photography Review Club. The Campus Reporters for the college newsletter include Ms. Sarah Joseph, Ms. Ritu Rajak, Ms. Hiba Jafri, Mr. Uday Kumar, and Ms. Avvishi Saxena. The Class Representatives include Ms. Lovely Yadav for M.A. Final, Ms. Fiza Khan for M.A. Previous, Mr. Anand Kumar for B.A. III, Ms. Soumya Yadav for B.A. II and Ms. Rabiya Rizwan for B.A. I. Each member, holding a lighted candle, pledged to uphold the values of the association under the guidance of the Principal.

After the oath ceremony, the Principal Prof. S. P. Singh was invited to address the members of the association. In his address, Prof. S.P. Singh expressed his happiness in being part of the ceremony and spoke about the relevance of English in today's AI-driven world. He emphasized that the association seeks to harness the potential of students through active participation in clubs. He appreciated the faculty of the English Department for conceptualizing the association and remarked that their efforts would be rewarded through the growth of the students. He concluded by encouraging students to treat their college life and involvement in the association as an adventure to be cherished with nostalgia and pride.

Following the inspiring address by the Principal, the event continued with a series of captivating cultural programmes. It brought together music, poetry, drama, and dance—each performance a vibrant reflection of the creativity and spirit of the students of the English Department.

The segment opened with a gentle and heartfelt recitation of Robert Frost's poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* by Ritu Rajak of MA Previous. Through her expressive rendition, she takes us on the journey of the traveller. Her calm and reflective tone brought the tranquil woods of Frost's imagination vividly to life and gently reminds us to slow down, reflect, and continue our journey with purpose. Next, the audience was delighted by a lively dance performance on traditional songs by Soumya and Sakshi of B.A. II Year. Their graceful movements and expressive gestures beautifully captured the rich rhythm, emotion, and cultural essence of the music.

The mood turned light and witty with *The Great Literary Trial*, presented by B.A. III Year students. Narrated by Ashleen Henry, the play transformed the stage into The Courtroom of Literature, asking—Do characters from classic literature still matter today? Judge Literati (Manya Dixit) presided over Ms. Classic (Rupal Kumari) and Mr. Modern (Dhruv Chaudhary) as Hamlet (Harsh Vardhan Singh Jadaun), Elizabeth Bennet (Hiba Jafri), and Jay Gatsby (Shaurya Gupta) testified to their timelessness. A modern student, Nikki Sikarwar, confessed to rediscovering their relevance. Ending with the line, "Classic literature is not dead," the skit won applause, supported by backstage volunteers Akash Bhagor, Rajat Raj, Shlok Bhadauriya, Manish Mishra, Deepak Dohare, Sumit Kumar, Anand Kumar, and Avvishi Saxena. After this humorous yet insightful play, the event came to a thoughtful pause with a recitation of Rudyard Kipling's *If* by Avvishi Saxena of BA I year. Through her articulate delivery she brought forth the poem's timeless wisdom on courage, patience and self-reliance. Her measured and nuanced delivery captured the essence of Kipling's reminder to carry humility in success, steadfastness in struggle and grace in the trials of life.

Next, the Association Band once again enchanted the audience with a soulful musical medley of "Fight Song" and "A Million Dreams." Their performance created a warm and harmonious atmosphere that resonated deeply with everyone present.

The cultural programme concluded with a powerful recitation of Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" by Hiba Jafri. Through her strong and unyielding voice, she celebrated a woman's courage, resilience, and self-worth, reminding us that the human spirit will always rise above oppression, doubt, and adversity. Hiba's moving rendition made the poem's timeless message come alive, leaving the audience both inspired and emotionally stirred.

Miss Fiza Khan of MA Previous gracefully brought the proceedings together with a heartfelt reflection, celebrating the event as a prologue to a radiant literary journey. Her words encouraged students to kindle creativity, embrace expression and pursue knowledge, envisioning the association as a place where words find wings and thoughts find voices. She left the audience with hope, inspiration and renewed devotion to reading, writing and speaking with elegance and purpose.

Prof Dr. Suresh Babu bought the programme to a warm pause with his vote of thanks, acknowledging the collective effort that made the inauguration possible. He extended heartfelt appreciation to the Principal, the Head of the Department, the college choir and poetry recital team, the skit performers, the newly installed office bearers, the volunteers of the event, and the English Faculty, honoring each contribution as a vital thread in the sparkling tapestry of the event. His words reminded everyone that the program's brilliance lay in the collective heartbeat of the college community.

The programme drew to a dignified close as the National Anthem echoed through the hall, uniting students and faculty in a shared moment of pride and patriotism.

We would also like to extend wholehearted gratitude to the hard-working backstage volunteers- Akash Bhagor, Shlok Bhadauriya, Rajat Raj, Manish Mishra, Deepak Dohare, Sumit Kumar, and Anand Kumar. Their tireless coordination ensured the smooth conduct of the event. Our sincere thanks also goes to the Decoration and Rangoli team - Sarah, Lovely, Shipra, Simran, Faiza, Fiza, Ritu, Sanjana, Mehvish, Avvishi, Eesha, Ruksaar, Tannu, and Rabiya for their artistic vision and meticulous work that adorned the hall with colour and charm





Interactive Session with Hemwant Tiwari

Date: 29th October 2025

Report by Sarah Joseph (Campus reporter)

The Film and Photography Club of the English Association, in collaboration with the Department of BBA, organized an interactive session with Mr. Hemant Tiwari (actor, writer, and director) on 29th October 2025 at NB 1, BBA Department, St. John's College, Agra, at 1 p.m.

Ms. Mehvish Khan, Secretary of the Film and Photography Club, welcomed Prof. S.P. Singh (Principal), Prof. Vinny Jain (BBA Coordinator), Mr. Hemant Tiwari, and the faculty members. Saplings were presented by Dr. Isaac Ghosh, Dr. Shubendu Jain, and Dr. Suresh Babu as tokens of respect.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. S.P. Singh encouraged students to view creativity as a process of discovery, comparing film-watching to "a window to imagination." He expressed admiration for Mr. Tiwari's innovative approach to filmmaking.

In his talk, Mr. Tiwari described himself as "rebellious" for defying convention and shared insights from his acclaimed one-shot film Krishna Arjun. Through short clips, he demonstrated techniques like flashbacks and dream sequences executed in a single take. The session ended with an engaging Q&A and a vote of thanks by Dr. Ishika Agarwal.

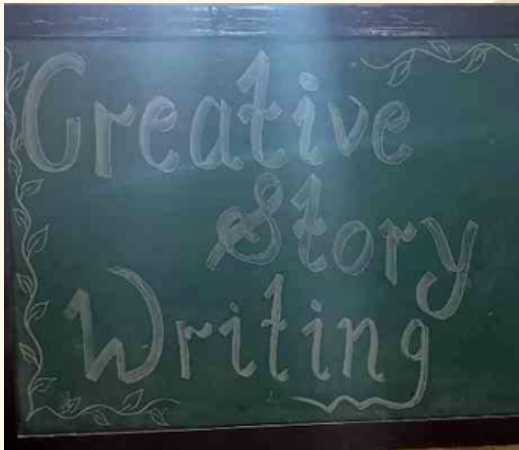




Creative Story Writing Competition

Date: 30th October 2025

Report by Ritu Rajak



The English Association of St. John's College, Agra, organised a Creative Story Writing Competition under the initiative InkSpire on 30th October 2025 at the Chapel Annexe at 1:00 pm. The event aimed to encourage creativity, imagination, and literary expression among students.

The competition was successfully coordinated by Dr Madhulika Das, Assistant Professor, Department of English. The Head of the Department of English, Dr Isaac Ghosh, graced the event with his presence, while Ms. Atisha Srivastava and Dr Suresh Babu assisted in conducting the competition and encouraging participants.

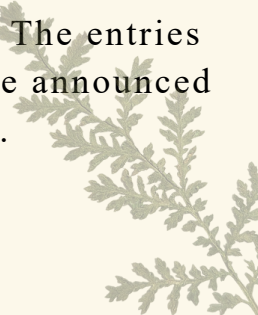
The competition was open to all departments, and 33 students took part from English, Mathematics, Biotechnology, B.Com Vocational, BBA, BCA, Political Science, and others.

Participants were given the opening line:

"Her life changed the day she accidentally sent a message to the wrong person."

They were asked to write an original story of 600–800 words within 1 hour and 30 minutes. The entries will be evaluated on the clarity of ideas, creativity of the narrative, coherence of structure, expression, and overall impact, as briefed earlier by Dr Madhulika Das.

During the competition, the classroom quietly buzzed with creativity as students penned down their imaginations with focus and thought. The event concluded on a positive and inspiring note. The entries will now be reviewed, and the results will be announced soon by the English Association.



Debate Competition

Date: 8th November
Reported by: Hiba Jafri

The English Association of St. John's College, Agra successfully organized an intellectually stimulating Debate Competition on the topic "Freedom of Expression Should Have Limits." The event was held with the objective of encouraging critical thinking, articulate expression, and healthy exchange of ideas among students. The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by Ms. Hiba Jafri, General Secretary of the English Association, who greeted the dignitaries, faculty members, participants, and audience. The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of Professor S. P. Singh, Principal of St. John's College, Agra. The panel of judges included Dr. Melva Pope, Retired Professor, Department of English, St. John's College, and Dr. Shadan Jafri, Professor at Agra College and a proud alumna of St. John's College.

As a mark of respect and gratitude, saplings were presented to the honoured guests, symbolizing growth and sustainability. The debate witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students presenting well-structured arguments both for and against the motion. Each participant adhered to the prescribed time limits and demonstrated commendable confidence, clarity of thought, and command over the English language.



The rebuttal rounds further enhanced the competitive spirit and depth of discussion. After the completion of the debate, the judges shared their valuable insights and constructive feedback, appreciating the participants' efforts and analytical abilities.

This was followed by the prize distribution ceremony, where trophies and certificates were awarded by the Principal. Avvishi Saxena, a first-year B.A. student, bagged the first position for her stellar performance, while Akash Bhagour of M.A. Final and Nikhil Upadhyay of M.A. Previous secured the second and third positions, respectively.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Sarah Joseph, President of the English Association, who acknowledged the efforts of the faculty, participants, and organizers. The debate competition proved to be a resounding success, leaving the audience enriched and inspired.



Report on the Orientation Programme Conducted by Imarticus Learning

An orientation programme was held on 19th November at 1:00 PM in the Alumni Hall, organized by Imarticus Learning Group in collaboration with the Department of English. The session aimed to introduce creative and industry-relevant courses designed to enhance the academic and professional growth of UG and PG students.

The event witnessed the presence of the faculty members of the Department of English, including Dr. Suresh Babu Aremanda, Dr. Madhulika Das, Dr. Abraham Varghese, and Dr. Atisha Srivastava. Representing Imarticus Learning were Mr. Abhishek Kumar (Assistant Vice-President), Dr. Kaushal Singh (Training Head, Imarticus), and Mr. Utkarsh Soni (Business Development Executive).

The session was led by the resource person, Dr. Kaushal Singh, who gave an insightful presentation on the various creative courses offered by Imarticus. He highlighted how these courses help students strengthen their employability skills, bridge academic learning with industry expectations, and prepare for emerging career opportunities.

Towards the end of the programme, Dr. Suresh Babu was presented with a sapling as a token of appreciation. This was followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Madhulika Das, who acknowledged the efforts of the Imarticus team and appreciated the active participation of the students. The event concluded with a group photograph, marking a successful and engaging orientation session.

Overall, the programme proved to be informative and beneficial, offering students valuable insights into skill-based learning avenues for their future careers.

Tracing Footsteps

Hiba Jafri in conversation with our esteemed alumna,
Dr. Shadan Jafri



The English Association of St. John's College, Agra, recently had the privilege of interviewing **Dr. Shadan Jafri**, a distinguished alumna of the college and currently a professor in the Department of English at Agra College. In an insightful conversation with the campus reporter, Dr. Jafri fondly reflected on her academic journey and the pivotal role St. John's played in shaping her literary and intellectual pursuits.

Question-1

How did your experience with the English Department shape your academic or professional journey after college?

Answer-1

My experience with the Department of English, St. John's College, Agra was infact the foundation of my academic journey. The faculty 's guidance and mentorship were instrumental in shaping my academic and professional goals. I continue to draw on the skills and knowledge imparted by my teachers. The emphasis was on reading the text, analysing and interpreting it on various levels. We received a lot personal attention that honed our critical thinking and writing skills. The teachers laid emphasis on both literature and language.

Question-2

What literary genre, author, or work influenced you the most during your college years — and why?

Answer-2

The poetry of W.B. Yeats had a profound impact on me. The manner he explored human condition, his use of symbolism, mythology and mysticism attracted and influenced me as a student. Luckily, when I faced the interview panel for my selection as lecturer, they asked me to teach, 'Sailing to Byzantium'- one of my favourite poems back then.

Question-3

What was your favourite hangout spot on campus where you and your friends discussed ideas, books, or poetry?

Answer-3

The Girls' Common Room near the Department of Psychology was my favourite hangout with my friends. We spent the best time of our lives there laughing, imitating teachers, discussing all the lectures and a lot of stuff.

Question-4

In what ways do you think literature still holds relevance in today's fast-paced, technology-driven world?

Answer-4

Literature remains essential in this technology driven, digital, AI world. While people are glued to their laptops and mobile screens, literature fondly continues to help develop empathy, diversity and escape from the harsh realities of life. Poetry is still the last resort of young broken hearts. Literature helps break monotony, release stress, sorrow, ennui and toil of corporate slavery. The CEOs of corporate giants are infact now turning authors by recording their experiences in the form of books. Eg, 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future' by Indra Nooyi. 'Hit Refresh ' by Satya Nadella. N. R. Narayan Murthy of Infosys is author of many books. Thus, reading books and writing books in this data driven world of automated answers is a Blessing – an essential skill.

Question-5

How can current members of the English Association make their college years more meaningful and memorable?

Answer-5


My advice to the current members of the English Association is spend time with your teachers. Nothing can replace classroom teaching. The lasting impact of their pronunciation, style, presentation will continue to rule your hearts and minds. And then ofcourse you can organise author talks, poetry reading sessions, launch a students' literary journal. To improve speaking skills, each student should give a presentation or participate in various activities like declamations, debates and many more.



Tittle Tattle

The White Lady By Ritu Rajak

Most people know St. John's as old, beautiful, historic. Red brick walls... long echoing corridors... those iron railings that seem to go on forever. But locals say:
after 2 a.m., you should never look up at the upper corridor windows.



St. John's was established in the 1850s, during the British era. Back then, the campus wasn't surrounded by traffic and shops like today. It was mostly empty land... open fields... and silence. The main building, the one with the long veranda and high pillars - at night, it used to glow in a dim amber from oil lamps, like a lantern floating in dark fields. And that's where the story begins.

People say that in those early years, there lived a woman tied to the college grounds.

Some believe she was a caretaker's wife...

Some say she was a governess...

Some say she never existed at all.

But everyone describes her the same:

A figure in white,

standing very still, on the upper corridor, one hand resting lightly on the railing.

Not moving. Not calling.

Just... watching.

Shadowy. Pale.

Like someone waiting for something that never comes.

Even today, students talk.

Some whisper of figures seen standing at those windows late at night. A few mention soft, human-like whistling drifting down through the corridors. Others talk about shadows walking along the railing on their own.

One TripAdvisor user wrote:

"After 2:00 am, many people who pass from there saw shadows whistling and walking along the railing of the college." And The Times of India has listed St. John's among the haunted places of Agra, mentioning reports of apparitions, strange noises, and the unsettling history of students taking their own lives on campus grounds over the years.

And the detail that keeps returning... is the time. **2:03 am**

At that exact moment, the dogs outside fall silent. The courtyard air sharpens.

The windows of the upper corridor look darker than the others. And if you're still awake and you look up

Sometimes you'll see a shape in white, just watching... waiting... whistling...

As if she never left the night she first walked those halls.

Some say she's waiting.

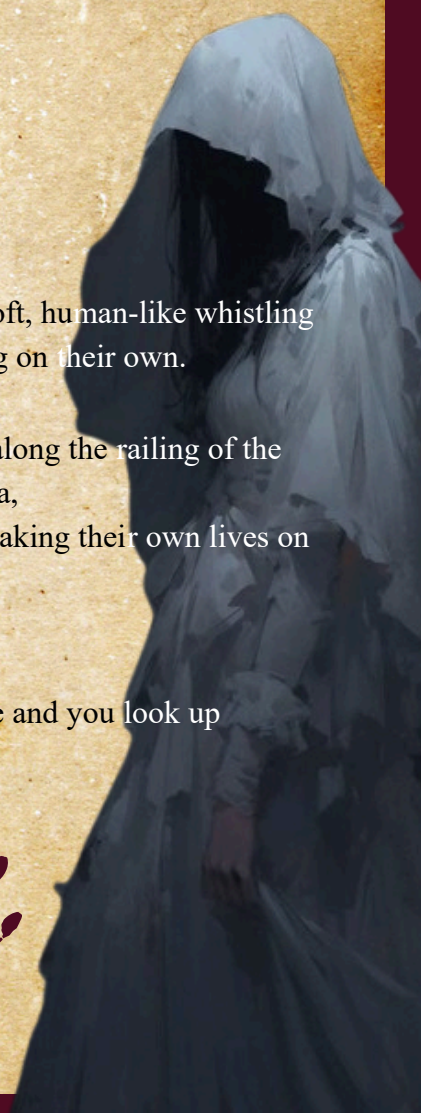
Some say she's searching.

Some say she simply remembers.

But everyone agrees on one thing:

Don't look up at the upper corridor after 2 a.m.

Not even once. 👁



FOLKLORE

Nongkrem

By- Avvishi Saxena



What if strength could dance and grace could wield a sword?

Yes! That's exactly what unfolds every October in the misty hills of Meghalaya, when the Khasi tribe gathers in Smit for the mesmerizing Nongkrem Festival.

Here, unmarried women draped in golden silk move in slow, graceful circles, offering a dance of gratitude to *Ka Blei Synshar*, the goddess of fertility and abundance. Around them, men form a protective ring, holding swords and white yak-hair whisks, embodying power, courage, and devotion.

At its heart lies the sacred *Pomblang* ritual, performed by the Queen Mother and priests, to honor ancestral spirits and thank nature for its bounty.

In this matrilineal community, where women inherit the family name and home, Nongkrem is more than a festival — it's a living symbol of harmony, faith, and balance.

High above the clouds, in India's northeast, this is where power meets grace and tradition learns to dance. ✨



Stars of Words

John Keats



A tribute to the timeless poet who found beauty in transience
31 October 1795 – 23 February 1821

This month we celebrate the birth of John Keats, one of the most beloved poets of the Romantic era. Though his life was heartbreakingly brief, his words continue to enchant readers worldwide. Despite his humble beginnings and limited education, Keats created timeless masterpieces such as *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Ode on a Grecian Urn*, *To Autumn*, *La Belle Dame sans Merci*, and *Bright Star*.

His poetry overflows with beauty, emotion, and a deep awareness of life's fleeting nature. Though unappreciated in his time, Keats's work now stands among the finest in English literature, inspiring generations of poets and dreamers.

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever."

— John Keats, *Endymion*

On his birthday, we honor a poet whose words remind us to pause, feel, and find beauty in the moment.

Sylvia Plath

Celebrating the poet who turned emotion into art

27 October 1932 - 11 February 1963

If intensity had a name, it would be Sylvia Plath.

One of the major American poets and novelists of the 20th century, Plath didn't simply write feelings; she set them on fire and watched them reshape themselves. She transformed the everyday mess of being human — identity, womanhood, love, pressure, and expectation — into something sharp, bright, and impossible to forget.

She wrote her first poem at eight, and by twelve, her IQ was recorded at 160. While still in high school, her first short story was sold to *Seventeen*. Later came Smith College and Cambridge, where her voice grew precise, intense, and defiantly her own.

And did you know she loved bees? Yes — bees; a fascination that inspired her Bee Poems. Her best-known works include *The Bell Jar*, *Daddy*, *Lady Lazarus*, and *Ariel*.

"Stasis in darkness.

Then the substanceless blue

Pour of tor and distances."

— Sylvia Plath, *Ariel*

That's the intensity Sylvia Plath carried — quiet, but undeniable.



World Literature News

UNESCO World Novel Week

UNESCO's World Novel Week (13 October) celebrated novels globally, promoting reading, translation, and cross-cultural literary exchange.



Frankfurt

Frankfurt Book Fair research revealed the “lost century” in Arabic literature never existed, highlighting continuous literary production via translation and performance.

Festivals around the world

Major literary festivals in Boston, Budapest, Kraków, and Belgrade featured global authors, debut works, and translation projects, fostering dialogue and highlighting emerging trends in world literature.

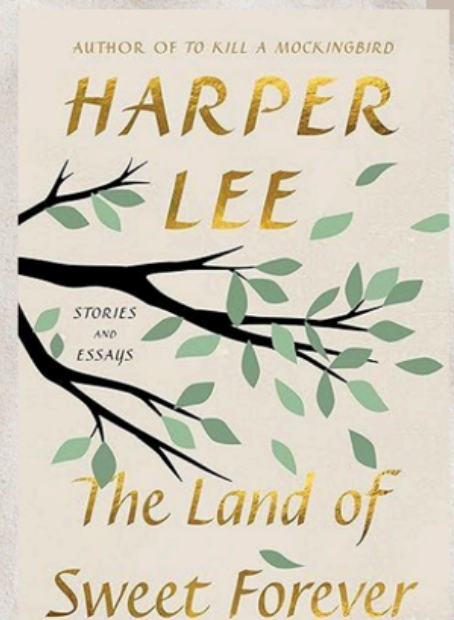


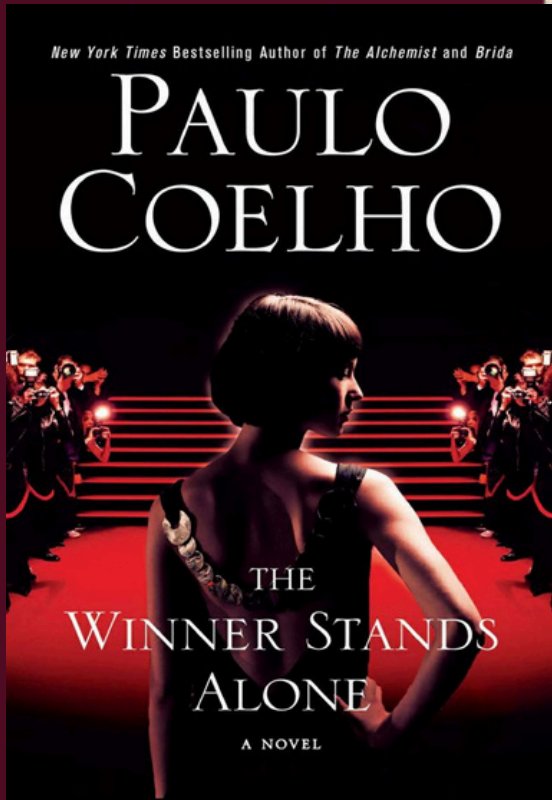
Booker Prize

The Booker Prize Foundation launched the Children's Booker Prize on 23 October 2025, offering £50,000 for outstanding fiction for readers aged 8–12, with the first award to be presented in early 2027.

Book Release

Harper Lee, best known for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, posthumously released *The Land of Sweet Forever*. Philip Pullman concluded *The Book of Dust* with *The Rose Field*, while Marie Lu thrilled readers with *Red City*. Other notable releases: Stephanie Garber's *Alchemy of Secrets*, Harlan Coben & Reese Witherspoon's *Gone Before Goodbye*, and Megha Majumdar's *A Guardian and a Thief*.





Title: Winner Stands Alone
Author: Paulo Coelho
Genre: Thriller fiction, violence

"Winner Stands Alone" is one of the famous works of Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho, who has sold more than 116 million copies of his books.

The novel starts with a nerve-racking plot, and the chilling moments make this novel a must-read among readers. Its setting ranges from the beauty of Moscow city to the grandeur of the Cannes Festival in France and the history of the Afghan battleground.

The story highlights the protagonist's aim that "he made a promise to destroy the whole world to get his beloved." The story is a perfect example of love turning into possession and then into obsession. But the free bird flies from its cage. This novel perfectly shows the vanity of festivals and the hollowness of the superclass. Overall, the general development of the plot was very good, and the climax added beautiful and mysterious elements to the story.

By: Ashleen Henry

Title: Before the Coffee Gets Cold (2015)
Author: Toshikazu Kawaguchi
Genre: Magical Realism

Ever wished you could revisit a moment from your past—just for a fleeting chance to make things right? In *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, Toshikazu Kawaguchi invites us into a quiet, unassuming café in Tokyo where time travel is possible—but only for a short, precious moment. The story follows four visitors, each carrying their own regrets and longing to reconnect with someone they've lost. The café offers them a delicate chance at reconciliation, a moment of closure, or simply a bittersweet encounter with the past. But there's one rule: they must return before the coffee gets cold.

Their journeys aren't grand adventures—they're intimate, emotional reckonings with love, loss, and the gentle art of letting go. Through these tender stories, Kawaguchi reminds us that hope can exist even in moments we cannot change, and that true closure often comes not from rewriting the past, but from accepting it.

By: Ritu Rajak



Next in Lit...



Mumbai LitFest

Date: November 7- November 9, 2025

Venue: National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Nariman Point, Mumbai

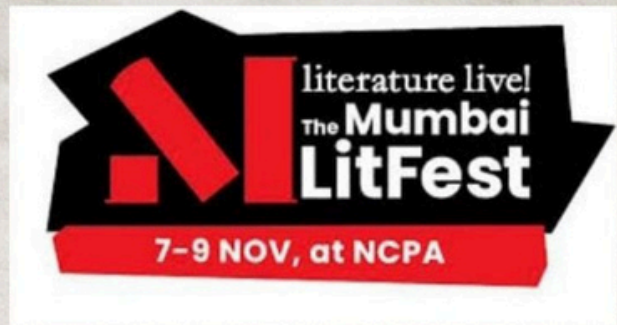
Notable speakers: Shashi Tharoor (author and parliamentarian), Shehan Karunatilaka (booker prize winner), Venki Ramakrishnan (Nobel Laureate)

CLF LITERATI

Date: November 22 - November 23, 2025

Venue: Lake Club, Chandigarh

Notable speakers: Madhav Kaushik (President of Rashtriya Sahitya Akademi), Sudha Murty (author and parliamentarian), Jerry Pinto (Winner of Sahitya Akademi for English Writers)



Quill Quest

Reedsy Novel Sprint 2025

Competition Deadline: November 30, 2025

Categories: Novels (any genres)

Entry fee: none

Prize: \$5,000 (first place), \$2,500 (second place), \$1000 (third place)

Mode: Online submission via Reedsy Studio

Details: participants are challenged to write 50,000 words in 30 days using Reedsy Studio app

Website: <https://reedsy.com/studio/challenges/reedsy-novel-sprint-2025>



Reedsy Novel Sprint 2025

Write 50,000 words in 30 days. Ready to start?

The challenge is ongoing!

Uttar Pradesh Tourism writing contest

Competition Deadline: December 1, 2025

Categories: Travel and Tourism writing

Entry fee: ₹99

Prize: ₹1000 (grand prize), ₹500 (second prize), ₹200 (8 Runner's up)

Mode: Online submission via Collecto platform

Details: Writers are invited to submit original articles of at least 1,000 words focusing on the culture, heritage, and travel experiences of Uttar Pradesh.

Website: <https://collecto.com/writing-contests/uttar-pradesh-tourism-writing-contest-2025-by-collecto>



Literary Awards

International Booker Prize (2025)



The prize went to Banu Mushtaq for her short story collection *Heart Lamp*, translated by Deepa Bhasthi.

This is a historic win — it's the first time a short story collection and a Kannada work have won the International Booker.

The book contains 12 stories (1990–2023) that explore the lives and struggles of Muslim girls and women under patriarchy.

Nobel Prize in Literature (2025)

Awarded to László Krasznahorkai, a Hungarian author, known for his visionary and intense storytelling. The Nobel committee praised his work for finding artistic meaning even in dark, apocalyptic themes.



Pulitzer Prize



Poetry:

Marie Howe won for her *New and Selected Poems*, a collection reflecting on loneliness, mortality, and spiritual moments in everyday life.

Drama:

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins won for *Purpose*, a play that blends humor and emotion, exploring how different generations in an African-American family understand heritage and identity.



Fiction:

Percival Everett won for his novel *James*, a retelling of *Huckleberry Finn* from the viewpoint of Jim, the enslaved man. The book shifts the story's focus to Jim's humanity, agency, and journey to reunite with his family.



Wordsmith's Corner



CRAFTED TO STRENGTHEN YOUR VOCABULARY AND FLUENCY.
ENJOY SIX NEW WORDS WOVEN INTO A SHORT STORY THAT
SEAMLESSLY BLENDS THEM INTO DAILY EXPRESSION.

- ❁ Ephemeral - lasting for a very short time
- ❁ Equanimity - calmness under pressure
- ❁ Zephyr - a gentle breeze
- ❁ Delulu - being delightfully delusional or overly optimistic
- ❁ Rizz - charm or charisma
- ❁ Sempiternal - everlasting; eternal

Words in Action

The evening sky melted into soft shades of gold and lilac as a gentle zephyr brushed past Mira's face. Sitting by the lake, she watched the ripples spread and fade, thinking about how ephemeral everything really was—people, moments, even feelings that once felt permanent. Still, a strange equanimity settled inside her. She wasn't fighting the changes anymore; she was learning to let them be. There was a time she used to be a little delulu, believing life would go exactly as she imagined. Now she knew better. Things fell apart, people drifted, plans shifted—and that was okay. As the sun sank lower, the air turned quiet and still. Mira took a deep breath, feeling oddly grounded. For once, she wasn't chasing meaning or fearing loss. She was simply there, in that sempiternal calm, where nothing lasted—but everything felt real.

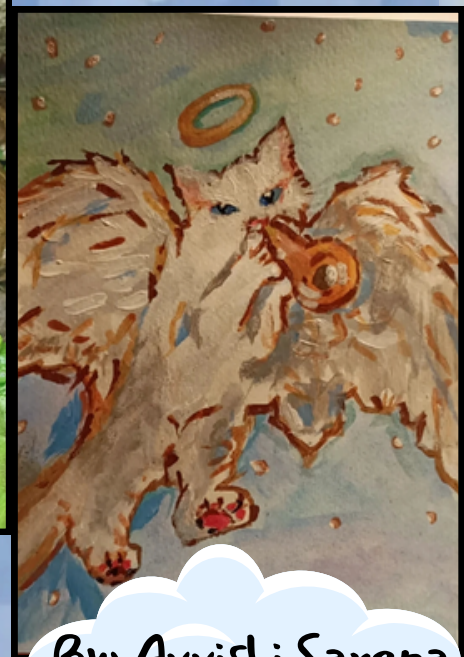
Art



By: Sarah Joseph



By: Ritu Rajak



By: Arvishi Saxena

FUN ZONE

CRE-AI-TIVITY

Johnny has an essay writing assignment due tomorrow...

Time to stop
procrastinating

The topic was something like
"Negative effects of AI on creativity"

Hmm.....what should I
do now?

I KNOW!
Hey, ChatGPT!!!



Thank You!!



**Thank you for reading this edition of Aurora.
Your time, curiosity, and love for literature make every word worth
writing.**

**This issue came together with the guidance and support of our faculty,
and the dedication of our campus reporters -
Ritu Rajak, Sarah Joseph, Avvishi Saxena, Hiba Jafri, and Uday Kumar.**

**A special thank you to our designer, Avvishi Saxena, whose creativity
shaped Aurora's look and feel.**

We'd love to hear from you.

**Share your feedback, suggestions, reviews, or even your poems,
artworks, or creative pieces at +91 74179 31401 or scan the QR below.
If selected, we'd be delighted to feature your work in our upcoming
edition.**

Until then... may Aurora keep finding you

