



Where Wit Meets Stage

Theatre Evening Auditions

The Department of Humanities will host its annual Theatre Evening this November, a tradition introduced last year. Organised by Rangamilana (Theatre and Performing Arts Club), the event will feature a satirical adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, reimagined in an Indian context.

Auditions drew an overwhelming response from students eager to take the stage. Under the guidance of teacher coordinator and director Ms. Vandana Victor Aluri, along with assistant directors Sannvi Madaam and Ridhi Simha, candidates were evaluated on diction, character embodiment, and stage presence.



For both selected and non-selected students, the auditions proved to be an invaluable learning experience, encouraging adaptability, confidence, and responsiveness to feedback. The production now moves into rehearsals with great energy and anticipation.

By Riddhi Simha, PUC II, HEPyP



Knowledge and Society

Challenging Norms, Shaping Perspectives

A New Year, A New Course!

Knowledge is the soul of society, and the Knowledge and Society class captures this spirit from the very beginning.

In the first session, learners explored a big question: Is the internet truly a public sphere? They examined its accessibility and debated whether it is simply a public space or a genuine sphere for discourse.

The discussion soon turned to justice and the ways in which women's lives are shaped and often constrained by surrounding structures. To build on this, groups worked on an activity that focused on how society restricts women's agency.

These discussions gave learners the opportunity to revisit Habermas's idea of the public sphere and to question how it has evolved in the digital age.

By Ananya Akkone, PUC II, EPPyS

More than Seen:

The Search for Self in a Viral World

Who Are We Online?

As Luther said in Mission Impossible: Final Reckoning, “Our lives are the sum of our choices.” Yet online, choices rarely feel free. Every post, caption or silence feels filtered through how it might be seen. Visibility often replaces connection, and performance begins to matter more than presence. Even without posting, comparison quietly slips in.

Watching reels or reading captions can trigger questions about how I look, speak or think. This links to the Spotlight Effect, the belief that people pay more attention to us than they actually do.

Online, the spotlight is not imagined. Algorithms notice and amplify, making visibility feel like the only measure of validity.

Not everyone is treated equally. Sociologist Tressie McMillan Cottom uses the term aesthetic labour to describe the unpaid effort people put into meeting platform-friendly standards.

Representation may exist, but only within narrow limits that can be marketed and consumed. Even vulnerability gets curated.

So where does this leave us? Perhaps the answer is not to log off, but to pay attention. We must ask whether what we share, think or even feel belongs to us, or whether it is something we have been trained to perform.

Because if visibility becomes the only measure of existence, we risk losing sight of who we really are.

By Ritul Singh, PUC II, EPPyS



By Manoj Aradhya, PUC I, EPPyS

Harmony in Freedom: The Taranga Band Story

In preparation for the Independence Day celebration, Taranga, the Humanities Department band, practised regularly after class. Manoj on drums, Pranath on electric guitar, Yashassu on bass, Sudhanva on keyboard and vocals, and Abhimanyu created an energetic sound that filled the evenings. The sessions were lively but not without disagreements over rhythm and tempo. With steady practice and guidance from Vandana ma'am, the group learned to overcome challenges and play as one.

On the day of the event, nerves and excitement were high. Despite a few stage hurdles, the performance came together beautifully. As the final notes echoed, it was more than music -it was the sound of teamwork, perseverance, and the joy of celebrating freedom.

Beyond the performance, the journey taught patience, respect, and the value of working toward a shared goal. What began as individual rhythms grew into a collective harmony.

Teachers Unplugged

We often see teachers as polished and professional, yet behind that persona lie stories of their own student days – full of humour, style, mischief and lessons that shaped them.



Though not always inspired by her environment, she stood out for her active participation and her close bonds with teachers – a self-confessed “teacher’s pet.” Her greatest achievement, she reflects, wasn’t academic rank but the strong bonds she built with her teachers, who valued her participation and remembered her well beyond the classroom. Behind the strict facade her students often see today is someone who has always had a playful sense of humour, discipline, and a love of learning.

This month, we spotlight Ms. Aditi, whose sharp wit and confident presence in class go back to her college days at Saint Xavier’s College and later Calcutta University. Known for her outspoken opinions, she was never the quiet one in discussions. Add to that her signature style — turning up every day in new clothes — and she quickly became a memorable face on campus. Though not a troublemaker, she often found herself in the liveliest group, provoking just enough mischief to leave her teachers amused.



Ms. Aditi’s journey is a reminder that our teachers, too, were once students — navigating friendships, laughter, little rebellions, and the joy of growing into who they are.

By Bhoomi Garg, PUC II, HEPyP; Poorvi Harsha, PUC I, HEPyS; and Avani Patil, PUC I, EPPyS

Placebo vs. Nocebo: When Belief Becomes Reality



Can a sugar pill sharpen your mind or slow it down just because of what you were told? That is the power of the placebo and nocebo effects, where expectations shape reality. The Humanities Department put this to the test. Two groups received identical, harmless pills. The placebo group was told it would boost focus and energy. The nocebo group was warned it might cause fatigue and mental fog. The results were striking. The pills did nothing, but the mind did everything. Students in the placebo group felt sharper and more focused, with some solving problems faster than usual. Students in the nocebo group reported tiredness, irritability, and difficulty concentrating.

Why it matters: Positive expectations can lift mood, focus, and performance. Negative ones can just as easily drag us down.

Takeaway: The placebo effect is not only about medicine but also about mindset. The stories we tell ourselves can be more powerful than the pills we swallow.

By Samvith RS, PUC II, EPPyS and Ishanth Anil, PUC II, HEPyS

Focal Lens - Student Spotlights



The Blooms

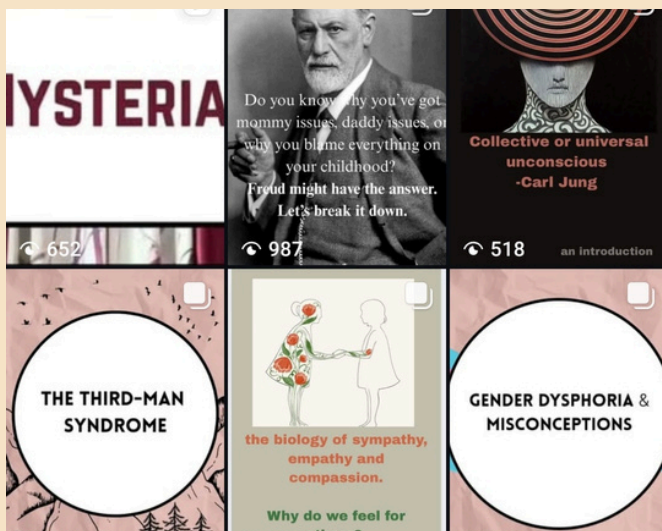
- By Saachi Memani, PUC I, HEPyS

MANDALA ART



Mandala Art

- By G Boomika, PUC II, EPPyS



From Brainwaves to Instagram Feeds

Founded by Itishree Mohanpuria and Jania Bakshi, Psychology.Enlightenment set out to make psychology accessible beyond classrooms. I joined midway, bringing my studies and additional learning like The Addicted Brain from Emory University to the project.

One of my key works was a six-page post on gender dysphoria, which showed the importance of presenting sensitive topics with clarity and care. Today, each post reaches over 1,000 viewers as we explore both classic theories and contemporary issues – always aiming to make psychology clear, accurate, and empowering.

By Abhimanyu M, PUC II, HEPyS

Humour By The Hour

This edition's comic strip features **Garfield** by Jim Davis – the beloved series since 1978, known for its lazy cat, sharp humour, and witty take on everyday life.



(Credit: Finarte Original Comic Arts & Illustrations)