

# Quill's Will

VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 2

## Roots- 2023

**Alumni Achievements**

**Alumni Testimonials**

**Mélange - 2023**



**Department of English and Cultural Studies | Central Campus**

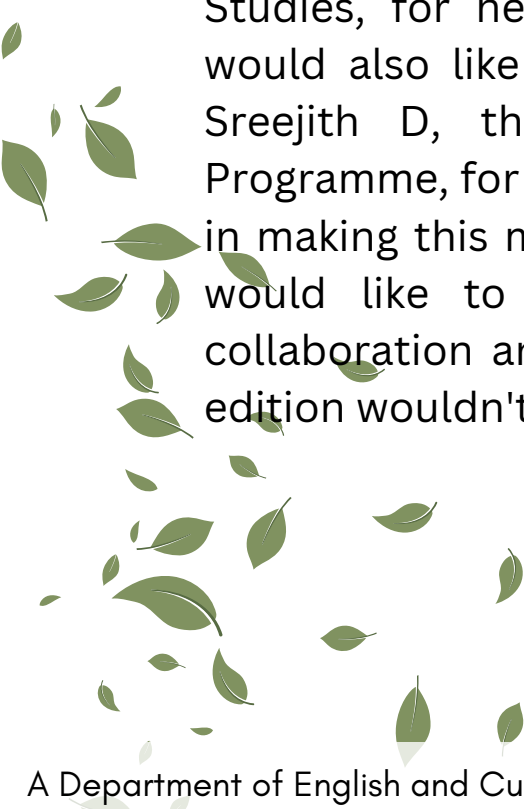


# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Quill's Will family would like to thank and extend our respect to all our well-wishers and guides for being there with us, every step of the way. This endeavour wouldn't have been possible without your love, support and honest feedback.

First, We would like to extend our gratitude to Dr John Joseph Kennedy, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, for his valuable insights and vision. We sincerely thank Dr Anil Joseph Pinto, Registrar, for his immense support and encouragement. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Dr Shobana P Mathews, Head of the Department, the Department of English and Cultural Studies, for her valuable suggestions and guidance. We would also like to thank Dr Joseph Edward Felix and Dr Sreejith D, the programme coordinators of the MA Programme, for their constructive feedback that has helped in making this magazine successful. Last but not least, we would like to thank the alumni community for their collaboration and contribution, without which this special edition wouldn't have been possible.

- Team Quill's Will







# **Dear** **ALUMNI,**

**One common thread that binds all our MA alumni, regardless of intellect, talent, or personality, is the experience of having hosted an alumni reunion in their day. Weeks of planning, conceptualizing, budgeting, practicing, and crafting, all driven by the need to create a perfect afternoon of nostalgia, bonhomie, and reminiscing.**

**As I reflected on the alumni experience, the experience of returning to an alma mater that is at once familiar and yet ever-changing, I thought of them plunging back into the bustle, smiling at the earnest and busy faces of the students, amused at the memory that that was once your expression not so long ago ...did we ever leave at all?**

**One likes to believe in Faiz's vivid image that we are like deep-rooted trees "embroidering maps of return on the sky." That wherever our paths take us, some straight and fast, others vast and meandering, there is a pattern of return to places where lingered and grew and fused and sculpted who we now are. A space of becoming.**

**And in the words of the hymn, write**

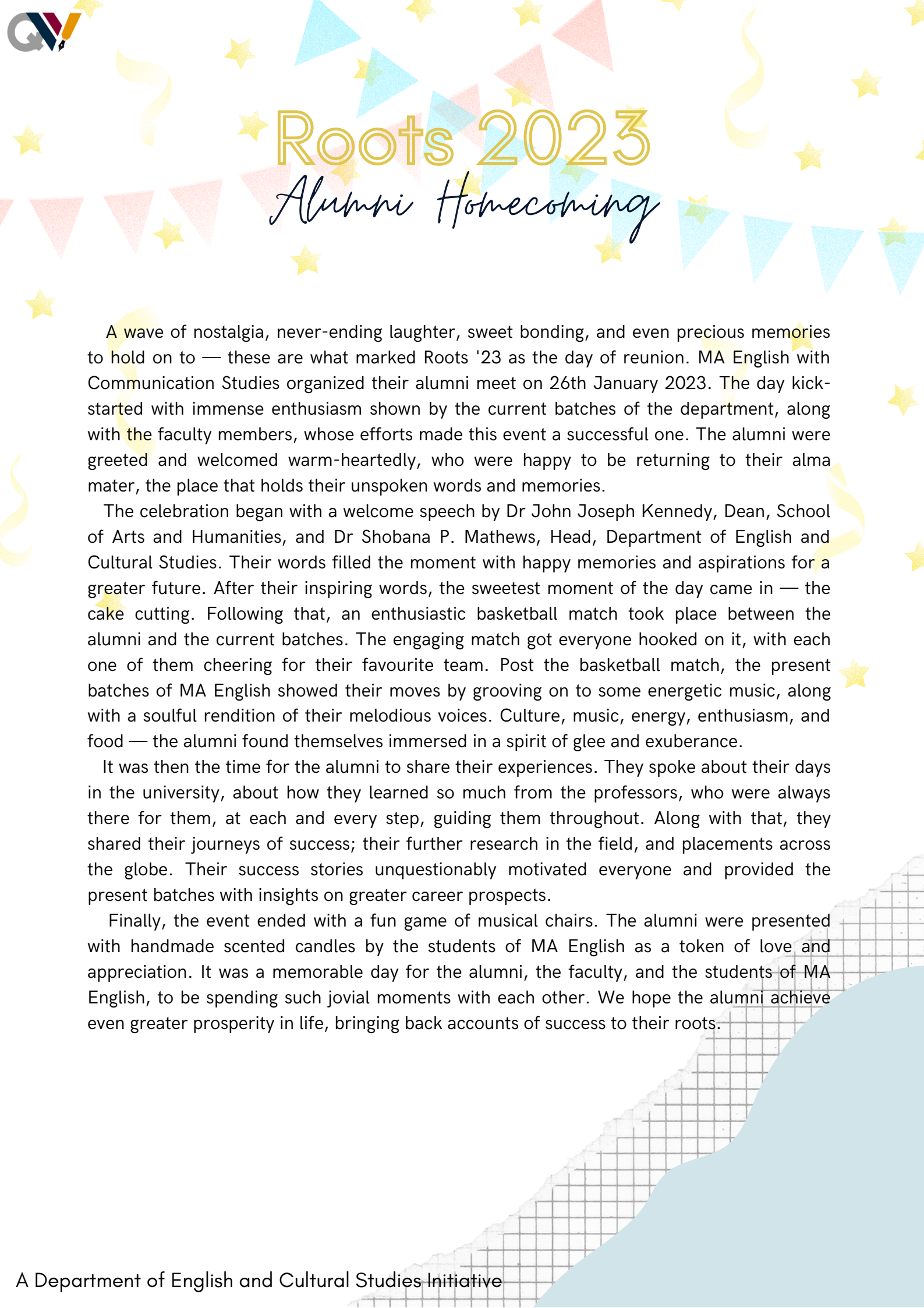
**"Those returning,**

**Make more faithful than before. "**

**Returning, I believe, is an act of reaffirming loyalties and sustaining hope. We hope you return many times more and keep alive that flame we hold aloft.**

**With love,  
Shobana Mathews.**





# Roots 2023

## *Alumni Homecoming*

A wave of nostalgia, never-ending laughter, sweet bonding, and even precious memories to hold on to — these are what marked Roots '23 as the day of reunion. MA English with Communication Studies organized their alumni meet on 26th January 2023. The day kick-started with immense enthusiasm shown by the current batches of the department, along with the faculty members, whose efforts made this event a successful one. The alumni were greeted and welcomed warm-heartedly, who were happy to be returning to their alma mater, the place that holds their unspoken words and memories.

The celebration began with a welcome speech by Dr John Joseph Kennedy, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, and Dr Shobana P. Mathews, Head, Department of English and Cultural Studies. Their words filled the moment with happy memories and aspirations for a greater future. After their inspiring words, the sweetest moment of the day came in — the cake cutting. Following that, an enthusiastic basketball match took place between the alumni and the current batches. The engaging match got everyone hooked on it, with each one of them cheering for their favourite team. Post the basketball match, the present batches of MA English showed their moves by grooving on to some energetic music, along with a soulful rendition of their melodious voices. Culture, music, energy, enthusiasm, and food — the alumni found themselves immersed in a spirit of glee and exuberance.

It was then the time for the alumni to share their experiences. They spoke about their days in the university, about how they learned so much from the professors, who were always there for them, at each and every step, guiding them throughout. Along with that, they shared their journeys of success; their further research in the field, and placements across the globe. Their success stories unquestionably motivated everyone and provided the present batches with insights on greater career prospects.

Finally, the event ended with a fun game of musical chairs. The alumni were presented with handmade scented candles by the students of MA English as a token of love and appreciation. It was a memorable day for the alumni, the faculty, and the students of MA English, to be spending such jovial moments with each other. We hope the alumni achieve even greater prosperity in life, bringing back accounts of success to their roots.





# Roots '23 in a Glimpse



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# Achievements



I am Anand VM, an alumnus of the Department of English (CHRIST University). I did my MA in English with Communication Studies here (2016-2018). I have been working as a Technical Writer for the past 4 years. Apart from that, I still continue to make short films with my then-classmate Santhiya Sivakumar. We started our YouTube channel, Unmasked Pictures, when we were in CHRIST. Our latest short film Poova Thalaya was awarded the Best Indian Short Film and Best Short Script / Screenplay by Indo French International Film Festival on Jan 7, 2023. I have attached the certificates and posters to this email. It was also selected by Shorted.in, and the short film is embedded in their website

## About Poova Thalaya:

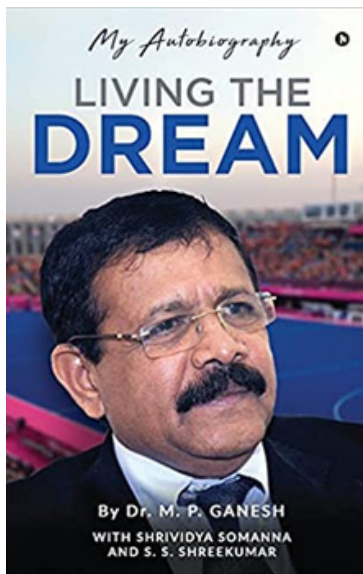
The film starts off with humor, portraying a meeting between two unlikely characters - a man, Arjun, meets an incompetent hacker to get information on his wife. As the meeting turns out to be of little help, he eventually moves on to a different circumstance, one where he discusses his doubts and uncertainty with his twin sister.

The tone of the film soon comes to be defined by thrill, violence, and suspense as Arjun unearths a terrible secret about his wife. He now finds himself in the grips of a dilemma, completely unsure of the way ahead. The short film delineates all of this for the viewer, endeavoring to weave an engaging story, as well as leaving the door open for subsequent parts.

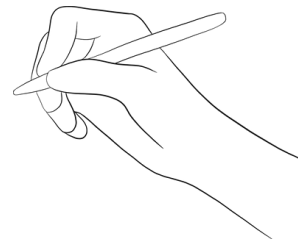
Find the link for the short film [HERE](#)







I am M.P. Ganesh, and I co-authored an autobiography called, Living the Dream. If this could be published, that would be great as it has an inspiring life story for the youth.



### About the book:

Dr. M. P. Ganesh's autobiography is an awe-inspiring must-read for all hockey lovers in the country and abroad. It is a classic treatise on how destinies played different facets in his life. His meteoric rise from holding the hockey stick for the first time to rising to dizzy heights. The right winger like none, was the Captain of the Indian team in the 1973 World Cup. His is an astounding story that should inspire all and sundry. India lost to the Netherlands in that final, missing a penalty stroke in the sudden death period. Had that been scored, India would have won the World Cup for the first time ever. Ganesh's name would have been etched in gold. But fate willed otherwise. Was there a conspiracy to deny him personal glory and the country the first World Cup? Ganesh has penned down his rational thoughts and pondered all the reasons for that defeat. Yet, Ganesh made it to the World XI. He was also part of two Asian Games, two World Cups, and one Olympic Games. Invariably, he never returned empty-handed. His tenure as a professional with the Italian club Levante HC, his marriage to Prema, whom he had not even seen before it was fixed, his son Ayyappa, his struggles in life, coaching India to the Olympic gold in 1980, becoming a super-efficient sports administrator for 25 years and eventually getting back to where it all began - Kodagu. Ganesh has described all this and more in an inimitable fashion.

Find the link for the book [HERE](#)





# Alumni Testimonials



## Reverend Thomas George

Mar Thoma Syrian Church MA in English with Communication Studies (2008-2010)

### Greetings

This is Thomas George (Rev) an ordained priest in the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. I was fortunate to be a student of the MA in English with Communication Studies first batch 2008-2010. The MA programme offered to us a wide variety of disciplines. The international mixture of students from diverse backgrounds made the class a unique ground for us to battle with ideas, concepts, stylistics and the like. From grammar to phonetics to social theory to different era and ages the program provided us with enough and more challenges to not settle down with. The exploration continues while the programme gave us a good base. As a priest and a student of theology hermeneutics was greatly shaped through MA years. As a musician and dramatist, the programme let us wild into experimenting with different art forms. Interactions with guests from various fields also broadened our outlook. Thanks to our guides, mentors and teachers we take pride with heads held high and hearts so strong to March on as Christites.



## Chirag Singal

Pursuing M.Sc. Early Childhood Research at University of Leipzig, Germany. BA PSEnglish (2011-2014)

I was committed to Jabberwocky-the annual Literary carnival, hosted by the English Department as part of my Bachelors program between 2011 - 2014. The facilitators always helped us to find the questions within our personal spaces, and expand them to the Universe out there. I was so inspired after reading 'Leaves of Grass' by Walt Whitman, that I decided to take my bicycle on a solo trip from Bangalore to Jaipur, and then Jaipur to Vietnam. I cycled through 7 countries in a span of 8 months, and relived all that I had learned in my classes on this journey. Studying English Literature at Christ University helped me to get in touch with my own voice, and be able to express it to the world.







### Lakshmee Sharma (Senior Research Associate, Aapti Institute)

MSc Social Anthropology (2014-2015), University of Oxford BA PSEnglish (2011-2014), Christ University

One of my favourite memories at Christ was when the English Department got our class to put up a production of 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. Not only was it extremely fun to play Blanche DuBois, but it was also illuminating to find new kinds of writing in what I think is one of the most diverse curricula in my college experience.

My time at Christ studying English instilled in me a deep knowledge and love of a wide range of literatures, and a flair for theatre (and theatrics) that has followed me since.



### Nimeshika Venkatesan

Ph.D. Scholar Department of English Stella Maris College, Chennai

I was fortunate to have been taught by a motivated, enthusiastic and academically driven pool of faculty members who have helped me find my grounding in Academics. The CEP course provided me with an opportunity to explore advertising, Journalism and other such allied ventures and introduced several professional areas that helped broaden my horizon. I presented a paper in the final year of my Under Graduate program which made me realize that my true passion lies with the Academia. As a research Scholar on the verge of submitting her doctoral thesis, it would be quite apt to attribute my love for literature to my Alma matter, the Department of English at Christ. Much like the pilgrims in the Canterbury Tales I have now embarked on my own journey to seek and explore the world of narratives.



### Parth Charan

Contributing Editor at GQ India at Condé Nast India 2009-2012

The teachers inducted us into the arcane world of English literature in unique ways. The teachers also had a unique way of reeling in the motley crew of seemingly recalcitrant high school graduates disguised as freshmen. Needless to say, it worked. To be honest I had no great expectations of literature altering my life in any significant way. I knew I liked the written word, but I hadn't experienced its full impact until I was taught how to navigate my way to the right ones. That's where the English Department came in. To teach me, through an understanding of rhyme scheme, that there was a science behind creating and understanding prose. An understanding I try and utilise in my professional life till day. I was also taught that the right text needed the right tools, like literary theory, for dissection etc. To quote Anias Nin, "we write so we can taste life twice". And as a corollary, I'd say we read so we can lead many lives.





# MELANGÉ

## 2023

Posthumanism, albeit beginning with a philosophical perspective, has an important area to understand as to who a human being is, how it connects and differs from humanism - humans as “autonomous, conscious, intentional, and exceptional in acts of change” (Keeling & Lehman, 2018). Posthumanism concerns itself with questions of what it means to be a human being in a non-anthropocentric world and engages critically with the eroding boundaries between humans and other species, as well as the resulting precarity and possible degradation or enhancement of the human.

In the spirit of blurring boundaries, Melangé, an international conference hosted by the department of English and Cultural Studies of CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Central campus, in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, aims to explore, examine, and articulate posthuman concerns. The conference aims to explore themes and concepts such as ‘Transhumanism’, ‘Critical Humanism’, ‘Organ Harvesting’, ‘Cloning’, ‘Extraterrestrial intervention’, ‘Zombie invasion’, and so forth to understand, engage, and contest the posthuman world. Alongside the conference, we are organizing a range of workshops, masterclasses, and panel discussions in the area of, and not limited to, posthumanism, and hope to spread knowledge to a diverse audience.

We invite submissions related to the themes mentioned above from a literary and cultural perspective. Creative works, research articles, and audio-visual media submissions will be accepted for the conference. Selected papers and submissions will be published in collaboration with respective distributors. The last date for successful submission of the final paper is 18th March 2023.

Contact Details:

<https://melangechristuniversity.in/>

Instagram handle: @melange.2.3





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**EDITOR**

*Srilakshmi*



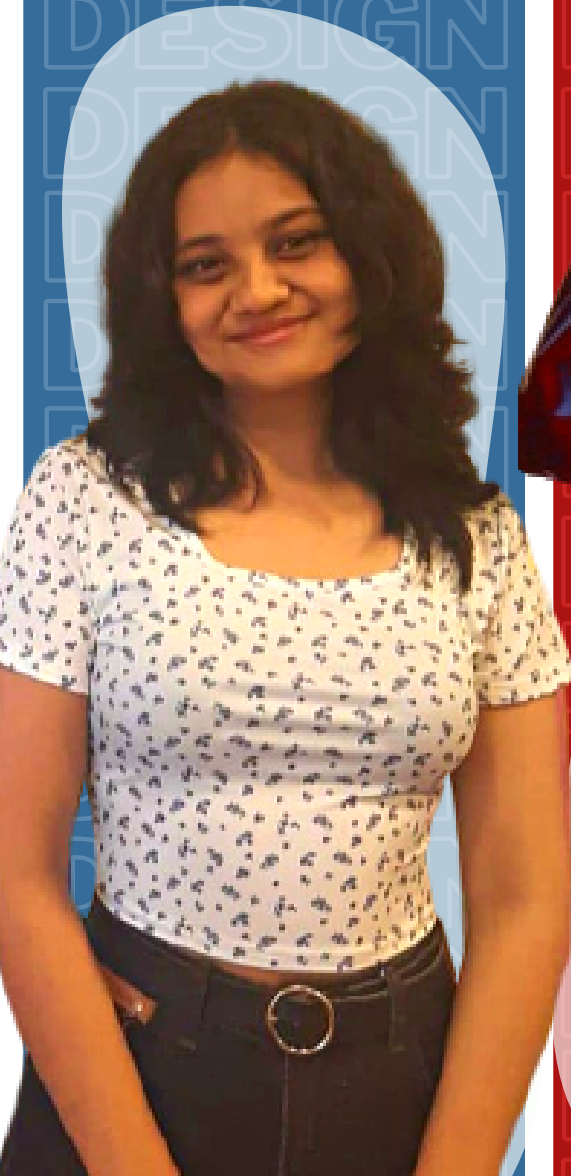




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