

# Akshara

- The College Newsletter

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**Dear students,**

I welcome you all to another exciting year at Aurora. Plato aptly said, "The beginning is the most important part of the work." We, at Aurora, believe in going full steam ahead from the very beginning of the academic year. Classes, activities, events – everything is already off to a great start.



With immense pleasure I give you this academic year's first edition of Akshara – Aurora's newsletter. Akshara captures unforgettable moments at Aurora. It allows students and lecturers to express themselves in the best possible way. Aurora moulds the students and enables them to identify their talents. Passion, hard work and smart work – these aren't just words for us; they define life at Aurora. Innovative teaching techniques, thought-provoking events and creative activities are aplenty at Aurora. Akshara showcases the beautiful happenings in the college. You'll also witness Aurorians displaying their love for the environment and the society. We live in a world where there is a lot of unrest. We need people who can stand up and make the world a better place. Akshara will show you what makes Aurorians the best human beings to deal with all the challenges in the world. I congratulate the relentless efforts of the editorial team in bringing out this issue. I am certain that Akshara will have a positive impact on all the readers. Have a great year ahead.

**Viswanadham Bulusu**  
Principal

**Editorial Board**

Hello dear readers,

We are back with this year's first installment of 'Akshara'. Last year was so amazing that it was extremely sad to say goodbye. But, life moves on and this year comes with a promise of more epic adventures. Life at Aurora is in full swing with classes, new developments, competitions and events taking place at warp speed. Aurorians have once again proven that passion, perseverance and hard work will always lead to success.

This edition is full of fun, excitement and cherishment of unforgettable moments. It boasts a great bevy of articles, reviews, interviews, alluring art and talents. Everyone is having a blast at Aurora and this is just the beginning!! The editorial board wishes to thank all the people who have constantly supported us in our endeavours. This stupendous edition of Akshara wouldn't have been possible without them. So, get ready for a roller coaster ride of enjoyment and inspiration. Have a splendid time reading!!!

Principal's message

**Viswanadham Bulusu** (Principal)

**Dr. Rachel Irdaya Raj**

(Associate Prof., Dept. of English)

**Deepthi Nabariya** (Mi.G.C-II)

Design & Layout by **Sekhar P**

## FRIENDSHIP IN TODAY'S ERA

"Show me your friend and I will tell you what you are". This adage has remained true since time immemorial. Friendship is the purest form of human relations. It is a bond that breaks all the materialistic barriers; the connection which removes all the negativity and all the sorrows from our lives. It is the relation above all relations.

Friendship is free of all the social restrictions and has always broken norms. A friend is a life-saver mode in the machine called life. A friend is someone whom we trust completely; one who is a backbone and always there for us. A friend is a push, an encouragement - the source of energy and confidence to play in the game of life.

However, when we talk of friendship in today's world, we realize that this relationship has been watered down with time. All thanks to the technological advancements that the world has made in the past two decades. We chat, talk over the phone, use video calls and think that we are connected to each other, but we have totally forgotten the real feeling of spending time with a friend. Meeting a friend, having a conversation, having lunch together, sharing secrets- these are unique experiences that technology can only capture but never create.

With the help of social networking sites, we are connected to our "so called friends" 24X7. Every person online constantly boasts of having thousands of friends, some even millions. But are all of them really our friends? How strong is this internet friendship?

The importance of technology in our daily life can't be denied. Indeed, it has reduced the distance between people. However, this has led to meaningless friendships; superficial and virtual bonds that don't last long. Today, we have so many friends online and most of us want to be in touch with all of them. But the value of true friendships is being forgotten in this shallow world. Real friends stand by each other, facing all odds. Such strong friendships can survive even the end of the world.

Therefore, it is high time we understand the role of true friendships. The modern concept of friendship should be replaced with the meaningful and ever-lasting concepts of the bygone era. This is because a true friend is like a treasure. It is the only human relation where we have a choice.

So, all you have to do is to choose your friends wisely and protect your TREASURE!!!!

**Deepti Nabariya** Mi.G.C II



## The Alchemist

### Book Review

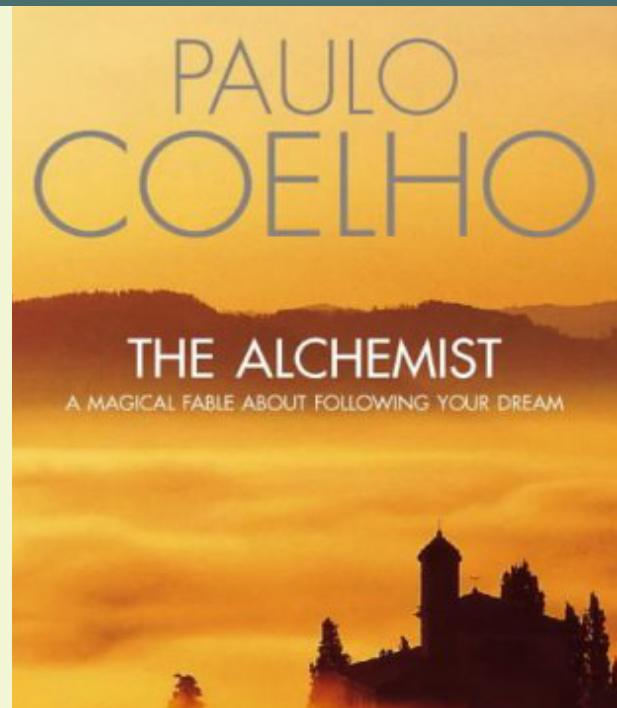
#### The Alchemist

A dream enables one to lead a life of determination. Without the dream of achieving something, one cannot experience self-satisfaction. But, are we really following our dream or just going after the virtue it offers? This is what Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* discusses with high flavors of motivation.

We may have prosperity which others don't have. Yet, there will always be something we wish for and only achieving it will fill our hearts with self-satisfaction.

'A shepherd boy's epic journey about following his dream' is the basic plot of this book. Well, we have seen or read this plot in many old fantasy stories; the hurdles he faces, his travels, the people he comes across, his thoughts and finally the heights he achieves are the common elements of this genre. But what makes *The Alchemist* unique is its simple narration with lots of inspirational moments. Coelho mixes philosophy with fantasy to express his ideals. Though there is a sense of unrealism in it, the fantasy cover protects the plot from loopholes. Without such an approach, the book wouldn't have been so effective. There is one particular sequence where a human converses with nature- a well written sequence, which would've gone wrong without that fantasy approach.

"When you really want something to happen, the whole universe conspires so that your wish comes true", says the old king to Santiago before he embarks on the journey of his dream. His advice means that everything is possible if one strictly believes in its possibility. *The Alchemist* is full of motivational elements of this kind. Coelho depicts small stories in accordance with the basic plot. He uses moments of symbolic significance, conveying his ideals in a much better way. He uses the term 'Personal Legend', which clearly defines that one's goal should be of a kind that fills only one's unfulfilled areas of satisfaction and not what the world goes after. The book even states that when we are on a journey to achieve something, God will



be at our side in some form; this might not help us directly but makes us understand how to proceed. A woman's faith, a worker's obedience, a student's anxiety and a lazy man's fate - everything is concentrated in small amounts. Santiago is our hero because of the passion he displays in achieving his goal. He doesn't just personify a treasure hunter, but every living being in pursuit of dreams. Paulo Coelho's writing tugs at our heartstrings and fills the readers with a sense of energy. There are also some surprises which are sure to entertain the readers. The words spoken by the Alchemist to the boy in the final episodes are purely inspiring; one must read this book at least for that. The way we look at dreams, their implications etc., all are discussed in a good manner.

On the whole, Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* is an epic piece of art that can bring noticeable changes in one's life if comprehended well. Even though certain godly elements miss reality, they are ignorable for the lessons provided.

"In usual life, nothing changes; we lead a common life and die like everyone. If we decide to follow our dreams, we become the torch bearer for a group of people trying to achieve something".

- V.S. Sooraj Babu MPCs II B

## Alumni Desk

### Alumni Desk



#### Srinivas Bhandaru

Ph.D Scholar

MiGC Batch 2003-2006

#### 1) How was life at Aurora?

One word "awesome".

I still remember the sunny morning of 24th July, 2003- my maiden visit to Hyderabad. I was just 17, still in the blues of missing my hometown and childhood buddies. I was apprehensive of whether my life would be the same as it had been. It was then that I met Mr. Nambiar, who introduced me to the prospects of Mi.G.C and the quantum leaps Aurora had accomplished since its inception. An hour of conversation was a sort of assurance that I'll have cool years to come at Aurora. It has been 11 years since I bid adieu, but the memories are still fresh-missing "this", "that", and "everything" of Aurora!!!

#### 2) Tell me one thing about Aurora which you love the most?

The one thing I love about Aurora - the "teachers"!!! The way they nurture the students is unparalleled to any college in Hyderabad. If you happen to visit any national laboratories or MNC's, you'll find an Aurorian. I won't disagree with the fact that it's the potential of the students that makes them reach unachieved summits, but what if they're not shown the way? Here's where the teachers come in!!!

#### 3) How did Aurora contribute to what you are today?

I owe a lot to Aurora for the motivation and inspiration. A series of guest lectures were organized, wherein all the top-notch scientists of biology and chemistry delivered their keynotes. We could not fully comprehend what they spoke. Nevertheless, they inspired us to follow a career in research. I still remember that the "problem of protein folding" was the most cherished interest for the scientists who had visited Aurora during my time. Structural aspects of biological molecules soon fascinated me since I had heard those lectures. It is from then that an interest in structural biology dawned upon me. Later, it ushered me to pursue my doctoral studies which deals with the drug discovery process for bronchial asthma.

#### 5) How is life as a research scholar?

It is a sort of sweet-pepper fiesta. To arrive at a conclusion to our anticipated hypothesis needs controlled and numerous trials. There can be a lot of paths and results, but the one which leads to perfect working and publishable conclusion is only one, and the probability to achieve one single perfect result is what takes 3-10 years of Ph.D.

Being a researcher for the past 6 years, I can tell you an absolute truth- nature is enigmatic; it has lots to offer, perhaps more than the human mind could have ever perceived. So at end of the day, I can perfectly claim one thing- "I know nothing" and that's the spirit which drives every researcher to "search" for the endless horizons!!! So in a nutshell, my life as a research scholar is always a pursuit to find "why" and "why not". If I get an answer, I'd consider that a festive moment, and if not, the "search" mode needs to be on!!!

## Alumni Desk

### 6) What is your theory of life?

I personally appreciate one basic law of human civilization- you should savor and justify what you've been born for. Irrespective of any profession, I feel the "3Ds" mantra can be applicable to all – Dedication, Devotion and Determination. I say a sweeper who makes you walk uninterruptedly on the clean streets is far better than a plagiaristic scientist who makes false claims of a discovery as his own. All in all, virtue counts!!!

### 7) Who is your idol?

Narrowing down to one single idol is to dismiss the virtuous ideologies of other great ones. Our thoughts can be governed by the ideas of whosoever we feel good about. However, ideas should be rational and not

at all conflicting. Having said this, I always cherish the words of Dr. Venki Rama krishnan, Nobel laureate, Chemistry, 2009;

"We never achieve anything by ourselves; we achieve it with the help of the community of people around us"

### 8) Your message to us Aurorians.

Follow two simple rules

1. Follow your passion, whatsoever it may be, and hit it hard. Strive for your best and put endless efforts. You fall – no problem. Problem is when you don't stand up.

2. Don't forget rule no.1

## College Events

### Anti-Smoking day

Cigarette smoking is one of the leading causes of death in the world. It affects not only the addicts but also the people around them. To create awareness among students about the harmful effects of smoking, an "Anti-Smoking" event was organized in the college on 11th June, 2015. Through creative posters, meaningful quotes, collage works and PPTs, the audience was enlightened on the hazards and the long-lasting impact of smoking. The presentations also dealt with the psychological implications of addiction and the methods to quit smoking. It was a learning experience for everyone involved.

## College Events

### Guest lecture on “Gender Sensitization”

Gender Equality is an issue that has gained significant prominence in recent years across the globe. The goal is to ensure that both men and women are not only treated equally but also given equal opportunities in every aspect of life. Aurora believes in the progressive idea that men and women are equals. To further the cause, a lecture on ‘Gender Sensitization’ was held on the 12th of June at Aurora’s auditorium. The guest speaker for the day was Prof. (Retd.)V. Viswanadham, Department of Commerce, Osmania University, Hyderabad. Prof. Viswanadham educated the audience on the day-to-day gender issues and the subtle gender differences. He emphasised the importance of etiquette among peers and teacher-student communities. The audience was made aware that gender sensitization can be achieved through trust and respect in all relationships. It was an eye-opening experience for everyone.

### World Blood Donor Day

Blood transfusion helps save countless lives every day around the world. To recognize the valiant efforts of blood donors and raise awareness of the life-saving abilities of blood, a World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on the 14th of June, every year. An event was organized at Aurora to educate students about the importance of blood donation. Creative posters were used to highlight the properties of blood, the Do’s and Don’ts of blood donation, and the various themes of blood donation. It was an inspirational experience for everyone involved.

### International Day of Yoga

Yoga is a practice that originated in India as a means to illumination. It embodies the unity of mind, body, thought and action. Yoga offers several physical benefits such as good health and flexible body, and also enables one to lead a peaceful and fulfilling life.

Aurora’s Degree College



## College Events

Recognizing its importance, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga. Aurora firmly believes in the notion of a sound mind in a sound body. Members of Aurora's NSS wing were active participants in the Yoga Day celebrations held at Boats Club, Secunderabad. The guests for the event were P. Shekhar Rao, Vice Chairman, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Delhi, Rishi Rajpal Singh, Zonal Director, NYKS and Vaidyanath Rao, AP-Telangana Zone MD, Setwin Society. The guests highlighted the need for yoga in today's stressful world and its importance in the lives of students. Several yoga training techniques were discussed and practised. It was a positive and harmonious experience for everyone.



### Anti- Drug Addiction Event

Drug addiction leads to long-term health and psychological problems. It has caused countless deaths and troubles in the world. To create a society free of such a fatal condition, the UN General Assembly declared June 26th as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. To create awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse, an event was organized at Aurora. The guests for the day were Dr. Ajay Joopaka, MD, Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist and Poornabodhananda Maharaj, Ramakrishna Math,

Hyderabad. The audience was enlightened on the detrimental effects of drugs overdose on health, psychological, social and other general aspects of life. Dr. Joopaka educated the audience on the misuse of self-medication, negative consequences of drug abuse, and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. Poornabodhananda Maharaj engaged the audience in a motivational conversation about living a healthy and happy life. It was a thought-provoking and learning experience for everyone.



## College Events

### Statistics Day

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was an Indian scientist who pioneered several important concepts in statistics. He is the founder of the Indian Statistical Institute, which has received acclaim from scientists around the world. In recognition of the notable contributions made by Prof. Mahalanobis, National Statistics Day is celebrated across India on the 29th of June. An event was organized in Aurora to create awareness about the importance of statistics in daily life. The guest for the event was Dr. M. Vishnu Vardhana Rao, NIN, Hyderabad. The audience was enlightened on the works of Mahalanobis through PPT and poster presentations. Intellectually challenging competitions such as Problem Solving using Statistics and

Dice Game Tray were held. Dr. Rao engaged the audience in a thought-provoking discussion about the aspects of statistics, data-analysis through statistical tools, research in bio-statistics and the role of statistics in socio-economic planning. Winners of the competitions were awarded. It was an interesting and educative experience for everyone involved.



### Doctor's Day

Doctors save lives everyday. Their noble efforts have led to millions of people living longer and healthier lives. They remain indispensable even in the presence of modern medicine. To recognize their selflessness, Doctor's Day is celebrated in different parts of the world. A Health Camp was organized on 2nd July by Aurora's NCC unit. Free Eye and Dental check-ups were provided for the students. Blood Group Identification was also conducted. Through posters and presentations, the audience was enlightened on the contributions and importance of doctors in our society.



## College Events

### Samavartan - 2015

A.T. Mercier aptly said, "The only way to the top is by persistent, intelligent, hard work." Graduation is a special event for students who witness years of their meticulous efforts coming to fruition. To congratulate their astounding academic success, Samavartan- a mini convocation, was held on 11th July, 2015 at RTC Kalabhavan. Dr. J.S. Yadav Ph.D, FNA, FASc, FTWAS Bhatnagar Fellow, Ex-Director – Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, presided over the function. The guests for the day were Ms. Vanitha Datla, Chairperson, CII, Telangana, Managing Director – Elico Ltd, Dr. Ch. Madhusudhan MBBS, MD, FRCS (London), Head – Surgical Gastroenterologist, Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad and H H Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Srimannarayana Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji. The guests applauded the efforts of the students and inspired them to be the best. They also enlightened the students on the challenges of today's highly competitive world and encouraged them to face everything with a tenacious attitude. Toppers from every stream were congratulated and awarded gold medals. It was an unforgettable experience for the students.

### Social Activist Interview



**Ms. Saraswati Kavula**  
Social Activist

1) *You have dabbled in several fields- hotel industry, banking, photography, film-making, poetry and environmental activism. What is it like to have such a versatile life?*

It has been a very interesting and adventurous journey. My motto has always been, "life should never be boring". And I'm happy that is how my life turned out to be – very enriching, full of learning and lots of great memories.

2) *What was the turning point in your life?*

I've had several turning points. I was supposed to become a doctor, but ended up in the hotel industry, which was a great learning experience. Then one fine day, after being in the hotel and banking industries, I went on a trip to the Himalayas. There, I realized that mainstream work was not my cup of tea and that is when my journey as a filmmaker began. The next turning point was in 2003. While working on Morning Raaga, I had attended a meeting on Uranium mining. It was this meeting that propelled me towards activism.

## Social Activist Interview

### 3) *Who was your inspiration to take up activism?*

There are many people who have influenced me over the years. It's a long list. But my grandfather, who taught me many values through his life, influenced me in a great way.

### 4) *What is your goal as an activist?*

An environmental activist deals not just with nature but also the people who are a part of this earth. I hope that we can preserve the earth for the future generations. I feel it is the most urgent need of the day, for the earth is telling us to pull up our socks. When we love and connect with the earth, we are also kind to one another, and material possessions matter the least. Thus, we can establish real peace and happiness in our society. So, I hope everyone becomes an earth lover and a compassionate human being.

### 5) *Being an activist is a tough job. Why did you choose the road, which is generally not taken?*

I think every job has its difficulties. I find it easier to be an activist than being in a regular 9-5 job. I chose work and activities that interest me and that are close to my heart. I just follow my heart and go wherever it takes me. So, it doesn't bother me if it is a road less travelled by. But then, I never liked to take the common path.

### 6) *What is your dream project?*

I have many Dream projects. My latest dream project is to transform my farm into a beautiful place with lots of bio diversity that becomes a home for a multitude of species.

### 7) *What is your message to the youngsters?*

Every day is a new day and a new opportunity. So, never think that time is up, or it's too late to do something new or different. And most importantly, do what gives you real satisfaction and happiness. It is not important what others do. Figure out what you want to do and listen to your heart.

## Movie Review



### Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)

Dr. Indiana "Indy" Jones is a Professor of Archaeology, who spends his free time acquiring rare antiquities. When the U.S. Government intercepts a German transmission regarding the Ark of the Covenant, Indy is approached to locate the Ark. Action, adventure, excitement, discovery, exotic foreign lands, romance, Nazis- this classic has it all.

Brainchild of Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, Raiders is a well-made, tongue-in-cheek, action-adventure film. The movie follows a simple plot- the hero must stop the bad guys from taking over the world. Indy slowly gathers clues about the Ark. The Ark presents a clear threat; there is an air of mysticism that looms over everything. Discoveries are interspersed with exciting action scenes that also inform the plot. Indy is put in the worst possible situations where it seems like everything is lost. He is pushed to his physical limitation and hits a low point. However, he doesn't give up, even with the odds stacked against him. All this is fun and immensely satisfying to watch because the information is doled out gradually with great reveals. The movie is less about the characters and realism, and more about the spectacle and the adventure. Even though some of the ideas seem unbelievable, they are executed in a great way that makes everything feel real

and captivating. The grittiness, realistic action, the time-expanding Spielbergian editing- all elevate the movie. The movie works very well because secretly we all want to be Indiana Jones. He is the epitome of what all men strive to be- he's handsome, intelligent, fights the bad guys, travels the world, women love him, he goes on adventures, he has fun- he is living the dream. Indy's invulnerability and charm make him admirable. Though the character of Indy is unrealistic, the idea of the character is what truly fascinates us. We want to vicariously live his adventures. Harrison Ford is fantastic as the greatest swashbuckling archaeologist that ever lived. Karen Allen shines as Marion Ravenwood, the feisty lover from Indy's past. Their chemistry sells the relationship.

Raiders of the Lost Ark is one of the most famous action movies of all time, packed with several iconic moments such as Indy's introduction scene and the rolling boulder sequence. The propensity for casual violence, gruesome deaths, gritty fight sequences, excellent stunt work, exhilarating action scenes, Spielberg's perfect direction, and John Williams' unforgettable score- everything works brilliantly in the film. Watch it to enjoy a lifetime of adventures.

- Vincent Jonathan  
Alumnus

## Faculty Column

### GUIDE TO SAFER CELL PHONE USE

Did you know that mobile phone manufacturers warn us to keep our phones at a distance of 1.5 cm to 2.5 cm from the head and the body? Buried in their user manuals, is an instruction that specifically states that phones should not be held close to the body. If we ignore this, we risk being exposed to levels of radiation that are deemed unsafe. Research has shown that cell phone radiation can damage the nervous, reproductive, and immune systems. Many scientists recommend reduced exposure, especially for children who are more vulnerable.

#### Safety Tips

- **USE A HEADSET OR A SPEAKER**  
Choose either wired or wireless headsets. Make sure to take off your headset when you're not on a call. A better alternative is to use your phone in speaker mode.
- **WHEN IN USE, HOLD THE PHONE AWAY FROM THE BODY**  
Why? The amount of radiation absorbed by your head and body decreases dramatically even with a small distance. Don't put the phone in a pocket or clip it to your belt while using your headset.
- **TEXT MORE, TALK LESS**  
Phones emit less radiation while sending texts rather than voice communications.
- **CALL WHEN THE SIGNAL IS STRONG**  
Fewer signal bars mean the phone must try harder to broadcast its signal. Research shows that radiation exposure increases dramatically when cell phone signals are weak.
- **DON'T HOLD THE PHONE FOR LONG DURATIONS OR PLACE IT UNDER THE PILLOW**  
When a phone is on and not in use, it still sends out an intermittent signal to connect with nearby cell phone towers, which means radiation exposure is constantly happening.
- **DON'T LET CHILDREN USE PHONES**  
The question nearly all parents ask when they hear about the dangers of mobiles is, "Are mobile phones safe for children?" The answer is no. Mobile phone radiation has a severe impact on a developing brain and the effects range from higher possibilities of brain cancer in adult life to behavioural and emotional problems.
- **CARRY THE PHONE AT A DISTANCE FROM THE BODY**  
Your phone has to be 1.5 cm away from your body to ensure radiation levels are low. This isn't achieved if the phone is in any of your pockets or pressed against your ear. Carry it in a bag and use headphones for a voice call.
- **INSTALL A LANDLINE**  
Home phones are starting to become obsolete but they are a lot safer than mobiles. Most internet packages still come with home phone bundling and making landline calls is a great way to cut down on your mobile usage.
- **ALWAYS USE A PROTECTIVE CASE**  
Whether we like it or not, mobile phones have become a necessary part of our lives. Mobile phone radiation protection covers are a great way to reduce the harmful effects. Buy an anti-radiation iPhone case from Cell Safe today for optimum mobile phone safety.

Hari Prasada Rao J  
Sr. Assistant Professor

## Poetry

### MY SUMMER

Summer shimmers...  
It glitters, It glimmers...  
In the weather vibrance...  
Sun emits the brightest luminescence...

Dawn breaks when the sun's arrows pierce darkness in my victorious light's strife...  
Takes birth a new hope in me gifted by the morning star to light up my life...

Happy sun's magic shades of red, orange, gold on sculptured clouds as it seems...  
Its impartial touch of care reaches down to color the transparent gleaming running  
streams...

Dancing garden flowers swaying in the rhythm of the windy summer...  
Swirling twisting air brace its fragrance of soothing pleasure...

Beautiful birds chirping sweet song praise the beauty beautifying the earth...  
The food of love they feed with their fluttering wings for their nestled ones earnest  
growth...

Sun becomes harsh on my summer noon but merciful trees stretching arms bearing anger  
bear sweet fruit...  
Summer isn't always smooth with grooming warmth and slashing heat of caring, hurting  
pursuit...

Kids jumping, playing in the good evening summer...  
Nurtured in the bosom of warm kissing nature mother...

In the dark blue hue twinkling diamonds of the clear night summer sky...  
Smiling at me to remind life isn't too dark as the sun will rise again high...

**Manjusha Sanjeev BtBiC II**

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### HOPE

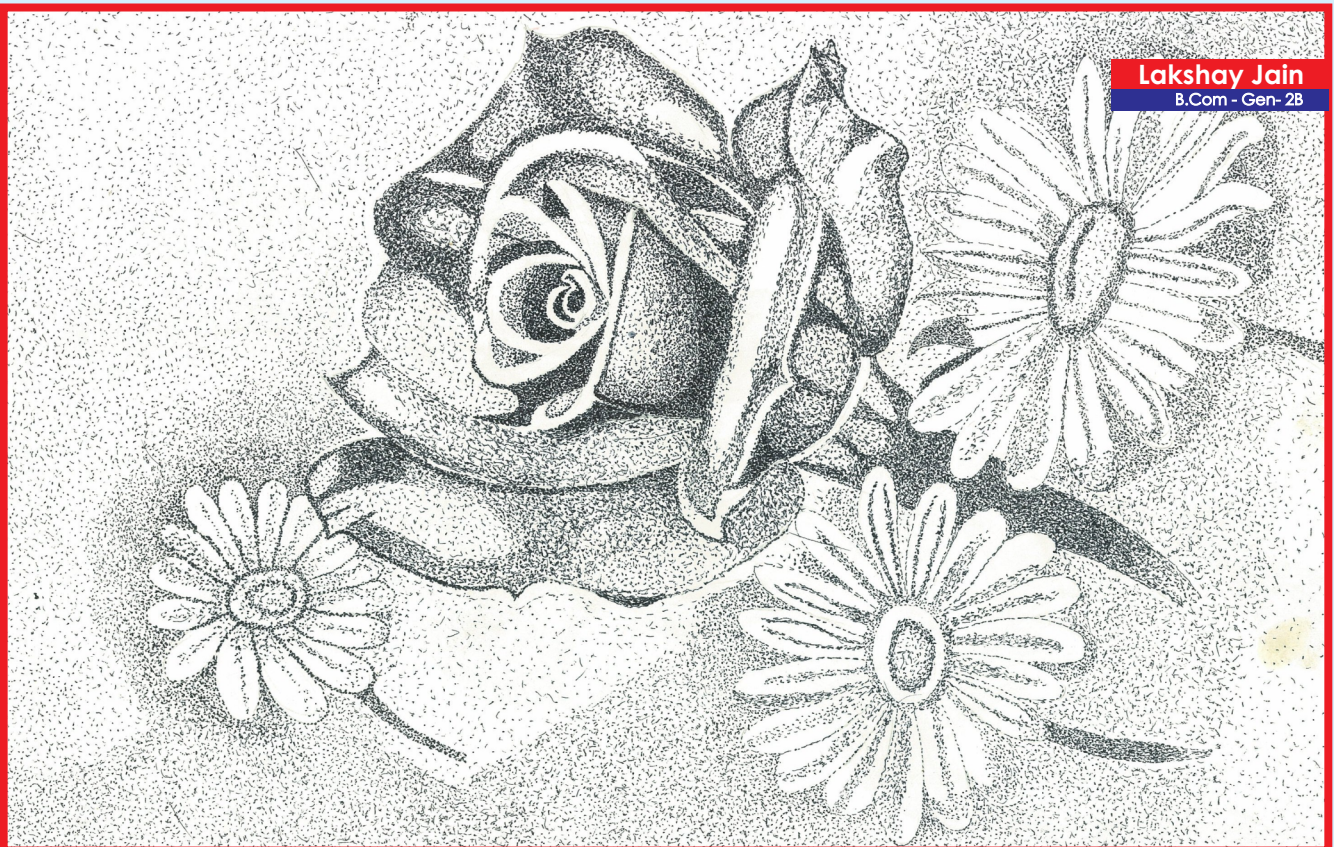
It doesn't cost a penny to hope for the best  
But not losing hope is the real test  
At which most people fail  
On facing the difficulties, only hope prevails.

Hope separates the weak from the strong.  
Hope makes you strong.

You don't always have to hope for something big,  
Keeping the determination alive, that's the only trick.  
Hope isn't something difficult, its something from your heart  
Don't lose hope my friend, its color to your art.

**Eshan Eshwar Sankhla - MPCs -2B**

## Art Gallery





**Aurora's Degree & PG College**

Chikkadpally, Hyderabad - 500 020

Tel: +91 40 2766 2668, 2766 1801 URL: [www.adc.edu.in](http://www.adc.edu.in)