



# JYOTI NIVAS COLLEGE AUTONOMOUS

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

proudly presents the 6th edition of

## THE RHETORIQUE



### Principal's Message



Dr. Sr. Lalitha Thomas

The study of Literature, all across the world, is increasingly becoming multi-disciplinary. Gone are the days, when Literature students were looked upon as dreamy-eyed creators, stuck in their ivory towers. For several decades now, departments teaching English have become the invisible bridge between the disciplines of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts. The Department of English is in a unique position to engage in writings not only written in English but those translated to English as well. Voices from all over the world render a unique historical and cultural perspective for our students. Concerns pertaining to our lived reality become a part of classroom discussions.

Towards this, I congratulate the Department for extending its literary and intellectual exercises beyond the classroom. The Department, in the past 6 months, has engaged in a number of wide-ranging activities. This has been fun-filled, creative and yet stimulating. Guest lectures, talks, elocution competitions, inter-class drama competitions are some of these. It has induced in pandemic-bound students a necessary vibrancy in their campus lives. My congratulations to the Department on these events. I also appreciate the Department's effort in carefully balancing online and offline activities, to optimize student participation. I understand that there are a host of other competitions, seminars and talks planned for the academic year ahead.

The Rhetorique is in its 6th edition and I extend my warm wishes to all involved for this creative endeavour. May students and teachers hold hands in bringing Literature alive.

God bless us

Dr Sr Lalitha Thomas

### from the Editor's desk...

In the classic words of Charles Dickens, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." The period between the last edition of our Newsletter in March 2020, and this edition in April 2022. To modify Wordsworth's words a little: "Two summers, with the length of two long winters."

Yes. It has been a long wait indeed, for a semblance of normalcy to return to life. Daunting, challenging, overwhelming, turbulent – no words can adequately express the seachange brought about by the pandemic. A seachange in the field of education no less !!! A seismic shift in thinking, approach and methodology. When technology took over and ruled. When we taught "screens" instead of warm, happy, smiling, eager faces. When we were confined to our rooms, instead of walking down the corridors of JNC – for us at JNC – "the corridors of fame."

But, in the words of an old, old ad, "Happy days are here again . . ." The happy, smiling, eager faces are back. The corridors are abuzz again.

And the Department of English too, welcomed "offline" with a bang. We organised an inter-class drama competition, "Page-to-Stage". It was a roaring success, with 10 teams cutting across streams and semesters, setting the JNC stage on fire with spectacular performances. With very little time, no professional training, and the pressure of midsem exams, the girls held us spellbound with amazing ideas, concepts, scripts and performances. Great job girls!!! Hats off to you all!!!

If "Page-to-Stage" came as a breath of fresh air, earlier in the academic year, NEP came as a whirlwind. Forcing us out of our comfort zones and realign not only our syllabi, but also our thinking, planning and execution. Putting together 12 syllabi – for Generic English for Arts, Science and Commerce, Contemporary Literatures of India (Open Elective) and English Literature – I and II (Discipline Core) – for semesters I and II – was no mean task!!!

But as always, the Department rose to the occasion and met the challenge head-on, with admirable success. The NEP syllabi went down well, classes went on smoothly, CIA was completed successfully, and, before we knew it, the semester was done and dusted!!!

In September 2021, the Optional English students had a riveting experience, watching an author they studied/or were going to study, come alive before them – renowned playwright and Jnanapeeth awardee – Girish Karnad, as his life unfolded before us in a National Award-winning documentary made for Kendriya



*I have the fire in my eyes, flash in my teeth and the joy in my feet. I am a woman, phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, that's me.*

- Maya Angelou