



# AU TALK

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What's Up on AU Campus

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## Contents

	<u>Page No.</u>
<b>Rang Sangam 2024</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>Facets of Gender: Socio-Legal Perspect</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Viksit Bharat@ 2047</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>NASI Allahabad</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>MLN Medical College</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Science</b>	<b>9-11</b>
<b>Department of Education</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Institute of Gandhian Thought &amp; Peace Studies</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Centre of Environmental Studies</b>	<b>13-14</b>
<b>Article: Role of Mathematics in Promoting Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat</b>	<b>15-16</b>
<b>AWARDS/HONOURS/LECTURES</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Book &amp; Movie of the Edition</b>	<b>17</b>

## Rang Sangam 2024

*The Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sangita Srivastava, added the vibrant colours of rich Indian tradition and culture to the AU family's Holi celebrations by singing a melodious folk song: कैसे होली खेले जइबो सावन में कजरिया, बदरिया घिर आई ननदी।*



The Central Cultural Committee of the University of Allahabad organised a Holi Milan Ceremony, Rang Sangam-2024, on the occasion of Holi at the newly constructed Muktakashi Theater in the Nirala Art Village of the Faculty of Arts on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The University burst into a melody of colours when the faculty and staff came together to celebrate the joyous festival of Holi. Amidst laughter, music, and exuberant festivities, the campus transformed into a dynamic canvas, symbolising the spirit of unity and togetherness. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, at the beginning of the Rang Sangam, lit the holy lamp and paid homage to the Supreme Being.

Dr Laxman Gupta from the Department of Hindi recited a Ghazal on how *Amber*, by taking vibrant colours from butterflies, sent a *Faguni* message to Life. Prof. Harsh Kumar, DSW, sang a beautiful Hindi song: सदा आनंद रहे एहि द्वारे मोहन खेले होली हो। Prof. Ashish Saxena's song "रंग बरसे भीगे चुनर वाली रंग बरसे" and Dr. Amit Singh's *केसरिया* instilled a sense ecstasy in the audience.



Dr Surendra Kumar from the Department of Music and Performing Arts sang an enthusiastic song of the Chaiti tradition: 'अवध में बाजे ला बधईया हो रामा', which was followed by another beautiful song: कन्हैया घर में चलो गुइया आज खेले होरी। He concluded his performance by singing the traditional 'जोगिरा.'

Dr Vishal Jain from the Department of Music & Performing Arts and his team of students mesmerised one and all with their group song and dance performances. The festive spirit of the event was marked by lightheartedness and joviality when hilarious titles were bestowed upon the office-bearers of the University. Towards the end of the programme, *the Honourable Vice Chancellor's folk song evoked joy and energy, strengthening the celebratory spirit and community bonding.*



The university authorities and guests from the central and state administration graced the event, which was anchored by Dr. Mona Agnihotri and Dr. Amrita. The Holi celebrations at the University of Allahabad were not only a testament to India's rich cultural heritage but also served as a reminder of the significance of embracing diversity and fostering a sense of belonging within the university community. With hearts full of warmth and spirits uplifted, the University of Allahabad bid adieu to yet another memorable Holi, eagerly awaiting the festivities to return next year.

### Facets of Gender: Socio-Legal Perspectives

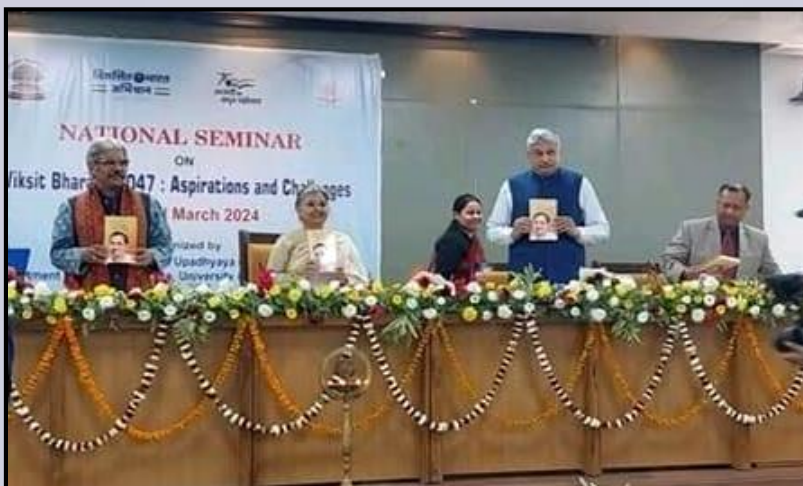
A one-day national seminar titled 'Facets of Gender: Socio Legal Perspective' was organized by the Centre of Women Studies, University of Allahabad, to celebrate International Women's Day. The chief guest of the event was the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sangita Srivastava. The keynote speaker was Prof. Subhadra Mitra Channa, former Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi. The session was chaired by Prof. Bechan Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Social Science, University of Allahabad. Prof Anuradha Agarwal, convener of the seminar, delivered the welcome address. The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions themed 'Gender and Law' and 'Gender and Social Movements'. Eminent scholars from all over the country shared their ideas and perspectives on these themes. The sessions were graced by speakers like Prof. Jyoti Dogra Sood, Indian Law Institute, Delhi; Professor Anupama Roy, Centre of Political Studies, JNU; Dr. Sonal Shankar, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law (UoA); Dr. Kusum Tripathi, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, SNDT Women University Mumbai; Dr. Vasudha Pande, Former Associate Professor, Department of History, Lady Shri Ram College and Dr. Sumit Saurabh, Assistant Professor, Department of Globalisation and Development Studies, UoA. Prof. Ashish Saxsena, UGC-HRD, UoA and Prof. Anamika Roy, Department of Ancient History chaired their sessions.



The technical session was followed by the valedictory session, which concluded the session. The eminent speakers were Prof. M.P. Dubey, former Vice Chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University and Prof. Anita Gopesh. Prof. S. I. Rizvi, Dean, Research and Development, chaired the valedictory session. Prof. Anuradha Agarwal presented the vote of thanks.

## विकसित भारत @ 2047

इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी एक और दो मार्च को आयोजित किया गया। जिसका शीर्षक 'विकसित भारत @ 2047 : आकांक्षाएं और चुनौतियां' था। गोष्ठी के प्रथम दिवस के उद्घाटन सत्र का आरम्भ दीप प्रज्वलन एवं विश्वविद्यालय के कुलगीत से किया गया। माननीय कुलपति सहित अतिथियों और प्रतिभागियों का स्वागत राजनीति विज्ञान के विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. विजय कुमार राय द्वारा किया गया। तत्क्रम में पीठ द्वारा तैयार की गई पुस्तक "पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय : एक समग्र चिन्तन" का विमोचन माननीया कुलपति और मुख्य अतिथि सहित मंचासीन अतिथियों द्वारा किया गया। तत्पश्चात एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर डॉ. निहारिका तिवारी के द्वारा संगोष्ठी का विषय प्रवर्तन किया गया। जिसमें उन्होंने विकास के गुणात्मक आयाम और समावेशी पक्षों को स्पष्ट किया। विशिष्ट अतिथि प्रो. राजीव नयन, मनोहर पर्रीकर रक्षा एवं रणनीतिक संस्थान, ने विकसित भारत के निर्माण में भारतीय ज्ञान परम्परा के विविध आयामों पर कार्य करने की आवश्यकता और महत्त्व पर बल दिया। इसी क्रम में विकसित भारत के निर्माण के लिए स्वदेशी एवं आत्मनिर्भर सक्षम रक्षा प्रणाली की अनिवार्य आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।



मुख्य अतिथि, पूर्व कुलपति, महात्मा गांधी केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय, मोतिहारी, बिहार, ने अपने उद्बोधन में विकसित भारत के निर्माण में आंतरिक और बाहरी चुनौतियों को रेखांकित किया। साथ ही विश्वगुरु पद की पुनर्स्थापना के लिए सनातन की समृद्ध, मूल्यपरक एवं वैभवशाली परम्परा को अपनाने पर बल दिया।

अध्यक्षीय उद्बोधन में विश्वविद्यालय की कुलपति प्रो. संगीता श्रीवास्तव ने विकसित भारत के निर्माण में आवश्यक विविध पक्षों पर मार्गदर्शन किया जिसमें इस बात पर विशेष बल दिया की विकसित भारत के लिये विश्वविद्यालय की भूमिका अहम है क्योंकि ये शोध एवं नवाचार के प्रमुख केंद्र है। इसलिए ये राष्ट्र की आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप अपने को तैयार कर गतिशील रचनात्मक योगदान कर सकते है और करना भी चाहिए। उद्घाटन सत्र के अंतिम चरण में माननीय कुलपति सहित अतिथियों और प्रतिभागियों का धन्यवाद पीठ के पीठाधीश प्रो. मधुरेन्द्र कुमार ने किया। संचालन डॉ. स्मृति सुमन ने किया। संगोष्ठी में अन्य विशिष्ट अतिथि जिनमें प्रो. सरोज कुमार वर्मा, सेवानिवृत्त जे.पी. विश्वविद्यालय छपरा,, प्रो. रिपुसूदन सिंह, बी. बी.इ.यू. लखनऊ, प्रो. सी. बी. शर्मा पूर्व निदेशक एन.आई. ओ. एस. दिल्ली, प्रो. अनुराधा अग्रवाल एवं प्रो. उमेश झा उपस्थित रहे।।

## National Academy of Science India (NASI) Allahabad

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sangita Srivastava speaking as the Chief Guest at the programme organized by NASI, on World Water Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024, said that drinkable water shortage was reported in 70% of India.



If we don't care about time, our taps will not flow water but repentance and we will remember we once drank a whole glass of water. Water shortage causes many problems in the human body. Water supply from tankers due to water shortage across the NCR area. Are we ready to see Chennai NCR like situation all over the country. The crisis of life will arise on earth if we do not protect drinking water sources. Not only NCR, Chennai and Bangalore are having water shortage and migration situation is Hobraji otherwise Mexico, Cape Town, Perth, San Francisco are battling water shortage.



Felicitation of Dr. RS Verma, Director, MNNIT , Allahabad by Prof. SM Prasad, Department of Botany, University of Allahabad on March 22, 2024 while celebrating World Water Day at the National Academy of Science India (NASI) Allahabad.

## MLN Medical College

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of University of Allahabad Prof Sangita Srivastava was the Chief Guest at the 63rd College Day celebration of MLN Medical College. She gave the medals and certificates to the students.



The Vice chancellor in her address stressed that empathy, excellence and compassion are core values for a doctor. It is very important that the doctors give time to understand the patient and explain the things in easy simple language instead of confounding them with complex medical jargon.



### Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences

The Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences (CBCS, UoA) organised a two-day Workshop on EEG/ERP Analysis on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. Electroencephalography/ Event-related potential (EEG/ERP) is a noninvasive neuroimaging method that relies on the measurement of electrical activity of the brain. It takes recordings from the electrodes placed on the scalp and ERP measures the timing of cognitive processes such as attention, memory, language and inhibition. Dr. Marieke van Vugt, Assistant Professor at the Bernoulli Institute of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Artificial Intelligence, University of Groningen, the Netherlands, was the primary resource person. Dr. Sudhakar Mishra, Postdoctoral Fellow, IIT Kanpur also assisted Dr. Marieke in conducting the lab sessions data acquisition and analysis, and oscillatory analysis, which EEG/ERP research in India will benefit from. The workshop began on March 8, 2024 with an introductory talk on EEG as a research method by Dr. Marieke van Vugt; after which there was a session on designing EEG/ERP experiments by Prof. Bhoomika R. Kar, CBCS and Dr. Marieke van Vugt. The goal of this two-day workshop was to provide hands-on training for acquisition of EEG/ERP data, as well as the pre-processing and analysis of the same. Overall, the emphasis of this workshop was on how to use EEG/ERP as a tool to address research questions in Cognitive Science. Special attention was paid to brain oscillations and how machine learning can be used to analyze EEG data. Thirty participants including Masters, PhD, and post-doctoral level scholars in Cognitive Science, Psychology, and Linguistics participated in the workshop. Dr. Marieke has worked in a variety of research areas, including Interbrain Synchrony for Social Cognition and Mind Wandering. These and other research endeavours have given her extensive expertise in computational modelling, EEG.



The hands-on sessions on EEG/ERP preprocessing, analysis, and extraction and visualisation of ERPs with a sample data set were conducted on Day 1. On Day 2, brain oscillations, connectivity analysis, and machine learning were explored. EEG/ERP and its associated techniques remain one of the most temporally precise neuroimaging methods for research, which, as the workshop demonstrated, continue to yield salient findings and be improved upon. Gaining command over them will certainly prove a valuable addition to any researcher's skill set and bolster their analytical capacities.

### **Two-day Workshop on Eye tracking and Pupillometry**

The Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences (CBCS, UoA) organised a Two-day Workshop on Eye tracking and Pupillometry: Applications in Cognitive Science on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. Eye tracking and pupillometry are techniques to record the direction of visual attention and the size of pupils, respectively. Eye tracking tracks the direction of a person's gaze, while pupillometry measures the size and dilation of the pupils. These techniques have been used in educational research, language development, and predicting biases during decision making, and in developing various interventions for neurological diseases. Day 1 of the workshop started with a research talk by Dr. Ramesh Kumar Mishra - Professor and Head, Centre for Neural and Cognitive Sciences (CNCS), University of Hyderabad, introducing students to eye movement research and visual world paradigm to study cognition. Sir talked about how eye tracking could be used to understand various aspects of attention, decision making and cross modal perception. Participants also witnessed a hands-on session on data acquisition with eye tracking devices, present at the Centre, conducted by the PhD scholars of the Centre. The afternoon session included a research talk by Dr. Arjun Ramakrishnan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, IIT Kanpur, on decision making and how pupil dilatation could help reveal decision biases followed by a hands-on session on the analysis of pupillometry data. Day 2, started with a talk by Dr. K. M. Sharika - Assistant Professor, Department of Cognitive Sciences, IIT Kanpur, on how eye tracking and pupillometry could help us trace the neural correlates of various cognitive processes. This session was followed by another lab session on analysis of eye tracking data. Further, Dr. Jayprakash Singh & Dr. Niharika Singh Assistant Professor, CBCS, UoA, presented their work on the applications of eye tracking as a tool to understand attention, language, literacy, anticipation, and consumer behaviour. The lab sessions were led by a team of PhD students working under Dr. Arjun Ramakrishnan. The 2-day workshop concluded with felicitation of the resource persons and the vote of thanks by the convenors of the workshop - Dr. Niharika Singh, and Dr. Jayprakash Singh, Assistant Professors, CBCS, UoA.



Overall, the emphasis of this workshop was on how to use Eye tracking and Pupillometry (pupil size changes) as a tool to study cognition. More than 40 participants including Masters, PhD, and postdoctoral level scholars in Cognitive Science from different institutions IIM Indore, IIT Dhanbad, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kharagpur, National Forensic Sciences University Gandhinagar, BHU, and University of Allahabad, participated in the workshop, and had an immersive hands-on-experience.

### **Department of Education**

Cultural Program 'Abhivyakti' was organised by PG Association, Department of Education on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Chief Guest of this program was Prof. Santosh Bhadauria, Director Gandhi Chair and Guest of Honour was Prof. K. N. Uttam, Chief Proctor, University of Allahabad. Prof. P. K. Sahoo, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Allahabad graced the occasion with his presence. Prof. Dhananjai Yadav, Head, Department of Education welcomed the guests. Various mesmerizing programs were performed by the students of M. Ed. and M. A. Dr. Tushar Gupta, Dr. V. K. Chandauria and Dr. Sonia Sthapak organized the program along with Dr. Saroj Yadav, President, PG Association.



### **Institute of Gandhian Thought & Peace Studies**

The Institute organized the World Water Day event on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. The event started with a floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and an offering of bouquets and Cotton Thread Garlands as a token of appreciation to the esteemed guests Prof. Ashwajeet Chaudhry (Head, Dept. of Geography), Prof. Rahul Patel (Dept. of Anthropology), and Prof. Shabnam Hameed (Head, Dept. of Urdu) by Prof. Santosh Kumar Bhadauria, the Director of the Institute.

Prof. Santosh Kumar Bhadauria welcomed all the guests and briefly introduced the event and the theme of the workshop, "WATER FOR PEACE." In his welcome speech, Prof. Bhadauria apprised the audience that World Water Day is marked as an important event by the United Nations, UN-Water, and UNESCO. He shared his childhood memories of water and remarked that water is a significant part of every human ritual. He also spoke about the Mahar Satyagraha of B.R. Ambedkar and its connection with water. It is a disturbing fact that even today, women bear the responsibility of fetching water and fuel for the home in rural areas of the world. Climate change and water scarcity are creating water conflicts everywhere.



In his speech, Chief Speaker Prof. Rahul Patel addressed the concerns related to the judicious use of water and how the indigenous and primitive Tribal groups worldwide have developed a sound knowledge of preserving water by sustainable methods. He quoted many case studies from Kol & Jaunsari tribes and lauded the local traditions of saving water for future generations. Dr. Surendra

Kumar, Assistant professor of the Institute, showed the participants short films and clippings on Water Conflict for further discussion and questions.

The Chief Speaker of the event, Prof. Ashwajeet Chaudhry, spoke about the geographical aspect of water availability and water preservation on Earth. He also urged the youth to spread awareness regarding the same. The chairperson of the event, Prof. Sabnam Hameed, discussed the literary aspect of the importance of different facets of water in our daily lives. She also emphasized the famous novel “Kuia Jaan” in Urdu, which she translated, in which water-related issues are elaborated.



Dr. Toshi Anand from the Institute hosted the programme. All the teaching faculty and staff of the Institute were present during the event. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Surendra Kumar. In the end, he extended his gratitude to all the teachers, staff members, research scholars, students, and participants for their consistent support and cooperation throughout the event

### **Centre of Environmental Studies**

World Water Day, a significant event in the field of environmental studies, was observed on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024. The Program convener was Dr. Pankaj Srivastava, Assistant Professor, Centre of Environmental Studies. The program was on the theme: ‘Water for Peace’ in collaboration with the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) and the Centre of Environmental Studies, University of Allahabad.

The Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor Madam, Prof. Sangeeta Srivastava, a renowned expert in environmental studies, was the chief guest of the program. While addressing the program on World Water Day, she shared her deep insights, stating that there is a shortage of potable water in 70 % of India’s urban areas. She gave the example of cities like Bangalore and Chennai, with a serious water crisis. She explained that the situation is not so bad in cities like Prayagraj, but the situation may worsen if we do not pay attention to conserving water. Water is more precious than gold, and keeping river water clean prevents diseases like cholera, cancer, and diarrhea. By wasting water, we waste real gold.



The Coordinator of the Centre of Environmental Studies, Prof. Umesh Kumar Singh, also emphasized water and its conservation and delivered a lecture on the topic 'Water Resource Distribution, Use Pattern, and Scarcity.' He made very strong points on the conservation of water and sustainable use of water resources. The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. Bechan Sharma, and Prof. S.M. Prasad were also present.

Then, Dr. Alok Dhawan, Director of the Centre for Biomedical Research, Lucknow, emphasized science, technology, and innovation as a cornerstone for self-reliant India. He explained the toxic elements found in water and imparted knowledge on drinking water and modern water conservation technology. Director of MNNIT, Prof. R.S. Verma, also explained the importance of water conservation. Program Coordinator Dr. Pankaj Srivastava of the Centre of Environmental Studies, UoA, gave information about water conservation methods. BK Bachhawat Memorial Award was also announced on this occasion.

At the end, a heartfelt Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Pankaj Srivastava, acknowledging the presence and contribution of all the esteemed faculty members, including Dr. Puneeta Pandey, Dr. Jitendra Ahirwal, Dr. Pawan Kumar Jha, and Dr. Kumar Suranjit Prasad, who were present in the program.

## Role of Mathematics in Promoting Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat

*\*Ashish Kumar Pandey*

In the journey towards a developed and self-reliant India, commonly referred to as Viksit Bharat, the role of indigenous technologies cannot be ignored. Indigenous technologies, rooted in local knowledge systems and traditions, not only foster economic growth but also preserve cultural heritage. In this context, *mathematics and mathematical education emerge as crucial pillars for the development and proliferation of indigenous technologies, driving innovation, problem-solving, and sustainable progress.*

**Role of Mathematics in Promoting Indigenous Technologies:** The heart of promoting indigenous technologies lies in a comprehensive mathematical education system that empowers individuals with the skills to innovate and adapt. Here are several ways in which mathematics and mathematical education contribute to the advancement of indigenous technologies within the framework of Viksit Bharat:

**Problem-solving and Innovation:** Mathematics cultivates critical thinking and problem-solving abilities essential for innovation. By integrating mathematical concepts into educational curricula, students are equipped with the analytical skills necessary to identify challenges and devise creative solutions tailored to local needs.

**Modeling and Simulation:** Indigenous technologies often involve complex systems influenced by various factors such as geography, climate, and socio-economic conditions. Mathematical modeling and simulation enable the exploration and optimization of these systems, facilitating informed decision-making and resource management.

**Resource Optimization:** Mathematical techniques such as optimization theory and operations research play a vital role in maximizing productivity, minimizing waste, and enhancing the sustainability of indigenous technologies.

**Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Mathematics serves as a bridge between different disciplines, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration essential for holistic problem-solving.

By integrating mathematical education across diverse fields, such as engineering, agriculture, and traditional crafts, synergies are created, leading to the development of innovative indigenous technologies.

**Cultural Preservation:** Mathematical education provides a means to document, preserve, and transmit indigenous knowledge systems to future generations, ensuring continuity and revitalization of cultural heritage.

**Entrepreneurship and Economic Development leading to Global Competitiveness:** A strong mathematical foundation equips individuals with the skills to navigate modern economic landscapes. In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to adapt and innovate is essential for global competitiveness.

**Conclusion:** Realizing the full potential of mathematics and mathematical education in promoting indigenous technologies for Viksit Bharat requires a concerted effort from policymakers, educators, and communities alike. Investments in curriculum development, teacher training, and infrastructure are crucial to ensure equitable access to quality mathematical education across diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Furthermore, initiatives aimed at fostering research and development partnerships between academia, industry, and indigenous communities can accelerate the translation of mathematical concepts into practical solutions that address pressing societal challenges. By harnessing the power of mathematics to foster innovation, preserve cultural heritage, and drive sustainable development, India can chart a path towards inclusive growth, prosperity, and self-reliance in the 21st century.

\*Research Scholar, Department of Mathematics

### **AWARDS & HONOURS**

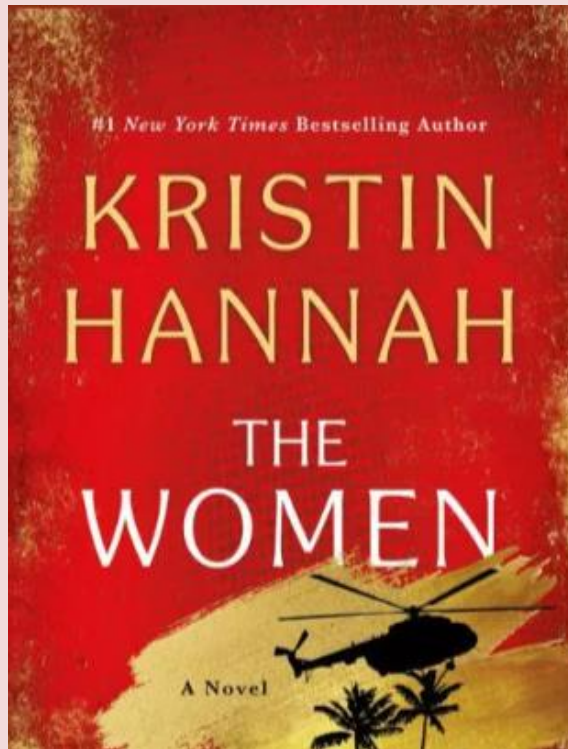
Ms. Jyotsna Singh, a student of B.Sc. II year (Zoology Botany Chemistry), was selected to attend AYIMUN (Asia Youth International Model United Nations 13th) organized by International Global Network (IGN) held in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur from 26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. She was one among 28 delegates selected from India to participate and represented the University of Allahabad on the global platform. She talked about the global integrated actions in reducing the number of income inequalities in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) committee. She presented her opening speech as the delegate of Congo and a basic overview of how the Democratic Republic of the Congo despite the internal and external conflicts strives to put the nation's best interest at the forefront. There were delegates from 144 countries and had discussions and debates on the working system of the United Nations and how some changes needed to be made by the nations so that worldwide problems of hunger, poverty, and economic disparities could be solved for a future of development that is sustainable for the world.



She was the bloc leader of her group which included powerful countries like China and USA and defended her draft resolution in front of the panel, jury, and other delegates and succeeded in passing the motion with maximum votes. Her presentation was appreciated by the leaders and she also got the opportunity to be featured on their social platform.

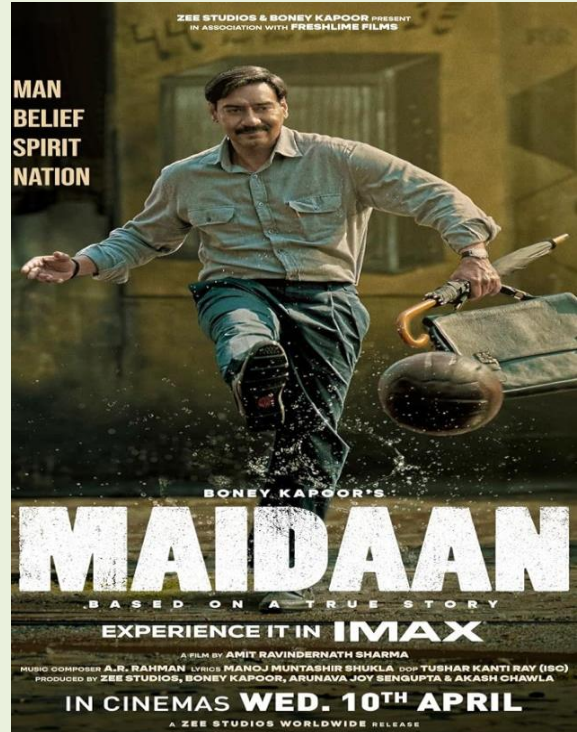
### BOOK OF THE EDITION

#### *The Women*



### MOVIE OF THE EDITION

#### *MAIDAAN*



- AU TALK publishes news about seminars/workshops/conferences that have taken place at any Department or Centre of the University. A piece of news along with a **photograph of the organizers** should be emailed at [editorialboard.autalk@allduniv.ac.in](mailto:editorialboard.autalk@allduniv.ac.in)
- The magazine publishes informative articles also. Articles should aim to bring out important scientific, ethical, and environmental issues and must be lucid in their message to society. They can be written in Hindi or English. In one edition, the magazine can publish up to four such articles.
- **Do not send pictures capturing garlanding or shawl/memento-giving moments.**
- The magazine should be widely circulated among students and faculty and on all social media platforms so that the excellent work done under the auspices of the University of Allahabad reaches far and wide and benefits all.