

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2021-22**

**Department profile:**

Jihasa Vachharajani (Head)  
Dr (Sr) Ananda Amritmahal  
Samrita Sinha  
Nishtha Dev  
Dr Elwin Susan John

**Innovative Teaching Methods/best practices:**

Virtual performance, open mic and other activities:

Samrita Sinha:

Ms Sinha organised an online discussion on the films *Coda* and *Sound of Metal* on September 25, 2021. The discussion was led and moderated by Amatullah Rajkotwala, a TYBA English S/, student.

Ms Sinha organised an online Science Fiction presentation contest for SYBA English students titled "In Science Fiction, We Dream" on January 22, 2022. TYBA English students judged the contest.

Nishtha Dev:

In the Communication Skills classes, students were asked to write letters to each other in class in order to facilitate learning via their peer group.

Dr John:

Dr John organised an Open-mic event based on Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, titled "Marooned", on October 1, 2021.

She organised an SYBA English extension activity titled "Narrating Dreams: Reflections from Cinema, Art and Literature" which included paper presentations and a virtual performance of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The event was held on March 8, 9 & 12, 2022.

She organised "Cinema Fables", a series of discussions on short films, in her Communication Skills classes. She also created a forum for the discussion of short fiction called "Lit Bits" for the class

### A/V aids, ICT, film screenings:

Technological aids like Zoom, Google Classrooms and PPTs were used extensively since teaching was carried out in the online and hybrid modes this year. Features like breakout rooms and polls (offered by Zoom) and padlet were used to facilitate classroom interaction. Dr John used aids like Slido and Mind Map to make her classes more interactive. She used Wiki Page to help students prepare notes.

Ms Sinha screened parts of *Pather Panchali* and *Coalface* to facilitate discussions on concepts related to parallel cinema and documentaries respectively. Students watched the films via the sent to the Google Classroom. She also screened *Frankenstein* for the TYBA students.

Ms Dev screened movies and documentaries in her Communication Skills classes to help students analyse gender issues and media representation of gender.

### Student presentations:

Ms Dev encouraged students to make presentations in her FYBA English and Mass Communication classes.

Students made a presentation on “Modernism and Charlie Chaplin” as part of Dr John’s course on modernism.

Google groups: Google groups were used to share academic material, announcements related to departmental and college activities, information on job and internship opportunities, and cultural events held in the city.

Texts for IAs (FYBA English, TYBA English etc.) are taken from outside the syllabus.

N-List: FYBA, SYBA and TYBA students were asked to activate their N-List accounts at the start of the academic year. They were encouraged to make use of the facility.

### **Syllabus formulation:**

The department revised the TYBA English syllabus part of the syllabus revision process under autonomy.

Ms Dev is a member of the syllabus sub-committee for the four year B.A. B.Ed course (English), University of Mumbai.

Dr John was a member of the following syllabus committees:

- syllabus sub-committee for the four-year BA B.Ed course (English), University of Mumbai

- BoS, Diploma in Memory Studies, University of Mumbai

### **Paper-setting and Moderation:**

Members of the department set question papers for and supervised the IA, SEE and the ATKT/Additional exams, and assessed subjective IA papers.

### **Department Activities:**

Peace Week: The department organised an online workshop on translation titled "Writing Across the Regions" by Dr Nabanita Sengupta on September 1, 2021. Ms Sinha was the event coordinator.

Ananya: The department organised a three-day online writing workshop in collaboration with publishing house Leveraged Writings from February 22-25, 2022. Ms Vachharajani was the event coordinator.

Nobel Oration: The department organised an online lecture on "Memories of Migrations: Introducing Abdulrazak Gurnah" by Dr Dhruvadi Chattopadhyay as part of the Annual Sophia Nobel Oration Series, on February 28, 2022. Ms Sinha was the event coordinator.

Book launch: The department organised a book launch on April 8, 2022. Prof Robyn Andrews and Prof Anjali Gera Roy's edited volume on Anglo-Indian studies titled *Beyond the Metros: Anglo-Indians in India's Smaller Towns and Cities* was followed by a discussion by the panelists. Dr John was the event coordinator.

Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din: The department observed 'Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din' by holding events and discussions on the topic in the Communication Skills classes.

### **Add-on Courses organised:**

The department organised an Add-on Course on "Memory Studies" from November 2021-January 2022. Dr John was the coordinator of the Add-on Course.

### **Conferences/seminars organised:**

The department organised a student-led online international literature festival titled "Qissa" from February 17 to 19, 2022. Ms Vachharajani was the event coordinator.

### **Sessions organised:**

The department organised an interactive session, "Alumna Speaks", by Ms Ananya Kumar, an ex-student, on February 1, 2022. Ms Kumar spoke on higher education and job opportunities after a B.A. in English. Dr John was the event coordinator.

## **Committees:**

Jihasa Vachharajani:

- Chairperson, Board of Studies, Department of English
- Member, Academic Council
- Member, Grievance Redressal Committee
- Member, Admission Committee
- Coordinator, EXAP
- Staff member-in-charge, College Magazine
- Staff member-in-charge, SCEDA
- Staff member-in-charge, Literary Arts, Kaleidoscope
- organised and conducted the orientation session for the TYBA students at the start of the semester
- collated departmental material, prepared the PPT and presented it at the Academic Audit held on September 17, 2021

Samrita Sinha:

- Member, Board of Studies, Department of English
- Member, Academic Council, Sophia College
- Member, IQAC sub-committee
- Member, EXAP Cultural Committee
- Member, Ananya Committee
- Staff member-in-charge, Bhartiya Sanskriti Parishad
- Member, Bridge Courses Committee
- Staff coordinator, Sophia College Rotaract
- Hosted the online FY Orientation Programme on September 8, 2021

Nishtha Dev:

- Member, Board of Studies, Department of English
- Member, Examination Committee
- Member, EXAP Seminar Committee
- Member, Attendance Committee
- Coordinator, Ananya Committee
- Staff member-in-charge, English Literary Society

Dr John:

- Member, Board of Studies, Department of English
- Member, IQAC Programme Committee
- Member, NAAC Research Innovations and Extension Committee

- Editorial Board, *Lucid Journal*
- Member, EXAP Research Committee
- Member, Timetable Committee

#### **Academic Audit:**

The department presented the data related to its teaching-learning as well as the evaluation processes during the Academic Audit held in September 2021.

#### **EXAP Projects Guided:**

Dr John guided Sarah Chowdary, Angeline Jesudas and Sherize Alwyn for their EXAP Seminar Component paper titled “Pandemic and Arts from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century Europe”

#### **Invited talks:**

Samrita Sinha:

- Invited lecture on Mass Communication at Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata, on May 1, 2021
- Invited lecture on “Mamang Dai: Voice of the Mountains” at Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata, on June 6, 2021
- Invited lectures on *Midnight's Children* (8 lectures for PG students) at SNDT University, Mumbai, from July 2- 30, 2021
- Invited lecture on “The Politics of Translation” as part of the BVOC Course at Wilson College on August 26, 2021
- Invited lecture on “The Politics of Translation” as part of the BVOC Course at Wilson College on September 2, 2021
- Invited lectures on *Midnight's Children* (8 lectures for PG students) at SNDT University, Mumbai, from March 10 to May 10, 2022
- Invited lecture on “The Relationship between Gender and Literature in Northeastern Indian Literature”, at Dr BMN College, Matunga, on April 4, 2022
- Invited lecture (National Level) on “Mamang Dai: Voice of the Mountain” organised by the English Dept. Vivekananda College for Women, Kolkata, on May 5, 2022

Nishtha Dev:

- Invited lecture on postmodernism as part of a series of lectures on the History of English Literature organised by Ram Lal Anand College, University of Delhi, on March 26 and 27, 2022

Dr John:

- Invited as a resource person for a session entitled “Introduction to Skin Studies” for the FDP organised by UGC STRIDE and Marthoma College for Women, Perumbavoor, on November 12, 2021
- Invited as a resource person for “Samajik Sociology”, the annual students’ initiative of the Department of Sociology, April 30, 2022

### **Publications:**

Ms Sinha published an article titled “The Subterraneous Discourse of Caste Politics in Pather Panchali” in a special Commemorative issue on *100 years of Satyajit Ray – the Indefinable Genius* (Issue 58). 2021. (<https://cafedissensus.com/2021/05/06/the-subterraneous-discourse-of-caste-politics-in-pather-panchali/>)

Ms Dev was invited as a writer to prepare e-resource material for two quadrants of the B.A. course at the School of Open learning, Delhi University. The material was published on their website. (<https://web.sol.du.ac.in/info/ba-hons-english-semester-vi>)

Dr John published a chapter titled “Life Writing, Ethnoecology and Narrative Identities” in *Rejuvenating Environmental Studies: A Multidisciplinary Approach* Ed. Chitra V S and Balamurali R. S (Upanayan, Delhi).

### **Awards/recognition/grants/degrees:**

Ms Sinha is currently working on the RUSA-sanctioned MRP on “The Biopolitics of Protest in Select Anglophone Texts from Northeast India” (2020-2022/23)

Dr John has been awarded a RUSA MRP grant of Rs 1,00,000.

### **Talks/workshops/webinars attended:**

#### **Jihasa Vachharajani:**

- attended a Faculty Development Session on “Launching Add-on Courses: Key Components” July 10, 2021 conducted by Dr Roshan D’Souza. Department of Life Sciences, Sophia College (Autonomous) via Zoom
- attended a talk titled “Voices of Dissent” by noted historian Prof Romila Thapar on July 26, 2021
- attended a national webinar on “Cultural Trauma, Biopolitics, and Precarious Lives in the 21st Century” organised by Department of English, SIES College on August 7, 2021; the

resource person for the event was Prof Pramod Nayar (from Department of English, University of Hyderabad)

- attended the inaugural event of The "Reading Matters" Lecture Series – a talk titled “Contextures of Memory” by Prof D Venkat Rao from EFLU, Hyderabad - organised by the Department of English, University of Hyderabad, on August 25, 2021
- attended a talk by Dr Kurush Dalal titled "ArchaeoBroma - The Archaeology of Food" on September 25, 2021; the talk was organised by the Department of History, Sophia College (Autonomous)
- attended a talk by “# Little Hollands: Netherlanders in India” by Dr Rashna Poncha, Dept of History, Sophia College (Autonomous), on September 25, 2021 organised by KHAKHI Lab
- attended The Nabaneeta Dev Sen Memorial Lecture 2022 titled "A Tribute to the Incomparable" by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak on January 15, 2022
- attended the RUSA-supported IQAC annual conference 2021-22 for teaching faculty titled “Wellness Management: Nutrition and Therapy” on April 29, 2022; the conference was organised by the IQAC Cell of Sophia College (Autonomous)

Samrita Sinha:

- attended a lecture by Romila Thapar titled “Voices of Dissent” on June 26, 2021
- attended a public lecture by Dr Farokh Udwadia on “Medicine in Bombay Through the Ages” on July 1, 2021
- attended a lecture on “Decolonising Tribal Studies in India” by Virginius Xaxa, organised by Jadavpur University on July 2, 2021
- attended a RUSA-sponsored FDP on Add-On Courses organised by IQAC, Sophia College, July 10, 2021
- attended a talk on “Cultural Trauma and Biopolitics” by Pramod Nayar, organised by Department of English, SIES College, on August 7, 2021
- attended a conference titled “Litreat: For the Love of Literature”, organised by the Department of English, ST. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Mumbai, from April 25-28, 2022

Dr John:

- attended an FDP Webinar on “Add-on Courses” organised by IQAC, Sophia College, on July 10, 2021
- attended a webinar on “World Literature” organised by Vaze College on July 31, 2021
- attended a webinar on “Reading/Interpreting New Indian English Literature Texts” organised by Holy Cross College, Nagercoil on August 4, 2021
- completed an FDP on “Managing Online Classes and Co-creating Moocs 7.0” by the Ministry of Education, August 5-19, 2021
- attended a webinar on “Cultural Trauma, Biopolitics and Precarious Lives in 21st Century” organised by SIES College on August 7, 2021

- attended a webinar on “Nation in Literature” organised by Fatima Mata National College, Kollam, on August 14, 2021
- attended the lecture series titled “Litreat: For the Love of Literature” organised by St Xavier’s College, Mumbai, in April 2022

### **Membership in Academic Bodies:**

Samrita Sinha:

Ms Sinha is currently a member of ICALALS (Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies), an officially recognised Indian Chapter of International ACLALS.

Nishtha Dev:

Ms Dev is currently a member of ICALALS (Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies), an officially recognised Indian Chapter of International ACLALS.

She is also a member of the Indian Network for Memory Studies.

Dr John:

Dr John is currently a member of ICALALS (Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies), an officially recognised Indian Chapter of International ACLALS.

She is also a member of the Indian Network for Memory Studies.

### **Other activities:**

Ms Sinha was invited to evaluate the project reports submitted for the Summer Internship Program 2020-21, at The Centre for Research, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, in October 2021.

Dr John reviewed ten articles for the college journal of St Andrews College, Bandra in July 2021.

Dr John was part of the “Resource Pool of Content Writers for UG and PG” at SN Open University, Kollam, Kerala.