

‘ABHIVYAKTI’ - LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Friday, the 27th of October, to Sunday, the 29th of October, saw the Army Wives Welfare Association, abbreviated as AWWA, hosting the third season of their Literature Festival titled ‘Abhivyakti’ at the Rajendra Sinhji Institute, Pune.



This weekend-spanning event was attended by a delegation from the Bishop’s School, Camp, and the students enjoyed and learned from a variety of events put up for the guests, all related to Literature.

The Bishop’s Delegation reported at the venue at 9.30 am, and was well in time for the Opening Ceremony, in which Mrs. Archana Pandey, the President of AWWA and the wife of the Army Chief of Staff Gen. Manoj Pandey, cut the ribbon and lit the lamp for the fest. This was followed by an informative session on the history of AWWA and the goals the organization aims to achieve.

After this session, a heart-touching film about the PRC – Pune Rehabilitation Centre was shown, which displayed how Army veterans who were severely wounded in the service of the nation were rehabilitated and their achievements even in the face of great personal injury.

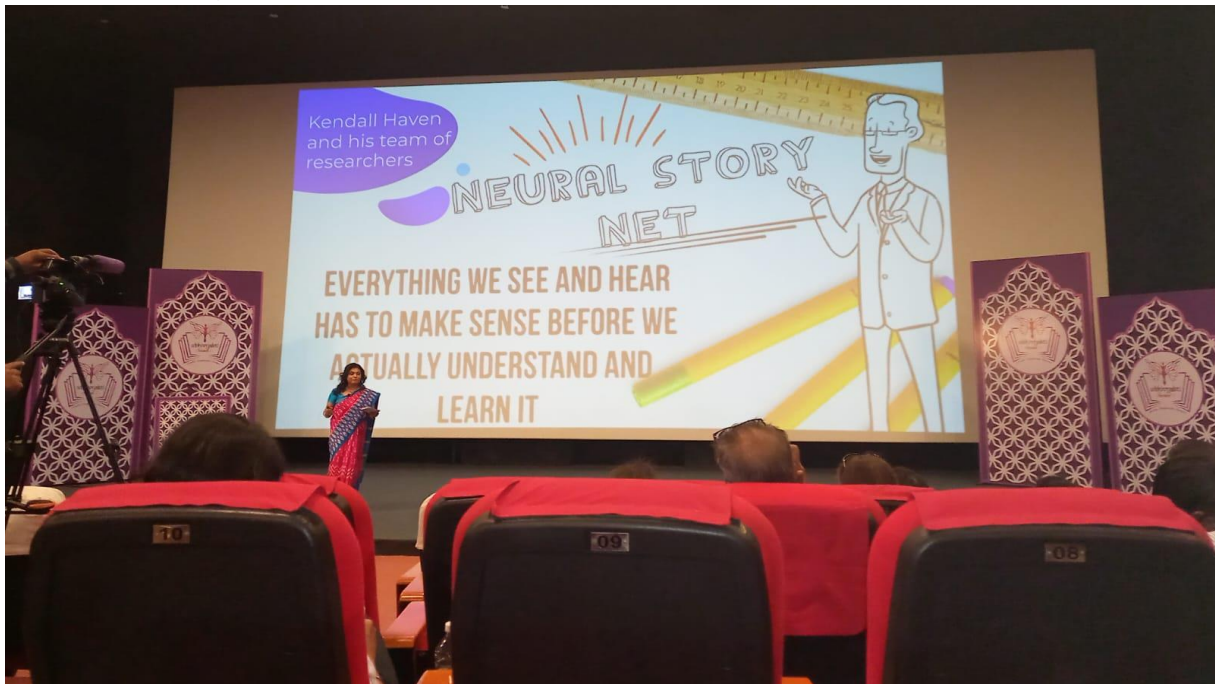
The Literature Fest was officially declared open by Mrs. Pandey and the students were free to attend a vast array of seminars, book launches, panel discussions and of course, conversations with guest speakers.

The first major event of the day was a conversation with the distinguished Mrs. Lila Poonawalla, Padma Shri, who engaged the audience with the inspiring story of her life and the challenges she had to face as one of the first female CEOs in India. The discussion motivated the students never to lose courage and keep going even though it may seem the world is against you.

Following this, there was an electrifying performance of the Dol Tasha performed by army wives that showcased their talent and entertained the audience.

Concurrently, other events were being hosted in the Bipin Rawat Auditorium, such as a very interesting and informative session titled 'The Art of Storytelling' by Mrs. Kamitha Joshi, which the students attending found very useful for their story-writing endeavours.

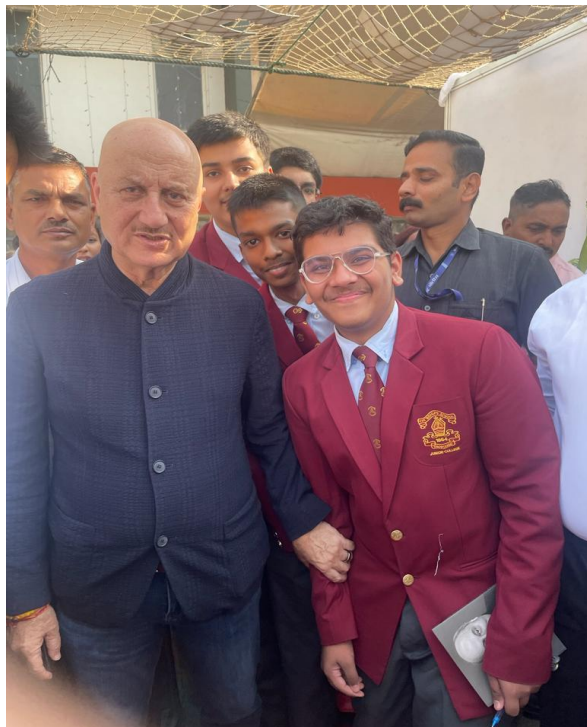
Soon after the seminar, another session titled 'Discover the poet in you' was hosted by Mrs. Aneeta Sharma, that detailed the art of poetry and aimed to help beginners express themselves through the form of rhyme.



Post lunch, the event which most were looking forward to started with the arrival of the legendary actor and author Mr. Anupam Kher, who was interviewed on stage and entertained the audience with his sharp wit. He regaled the guests with the story of how he managed to get his first role in his first movie, and commented on how the film industry preferred looks over talent.

He also informed the audience about his upcoming fifth book, titled 'Lonely' that deals with the topic of loneliness, and how he came up with the idea when dealing with the loss of his great friend Satish Kaushik.

After the interview, he left for a press conference and a book-signing, where some of the students got his autograph.



After a very informative and entertaining day at RSI, the students left the venue and returned to their homes carrying valuable lessons imparted to them by the many guest speakers and seminars hosted.

On Day 2, the audience was engaged by the thrilling tales of Mr. Nitin Gokhale, who has been a conflict reporter for 40 years, and had reported on a multitude of wars and conflicts on the ground, such as the Kargil War and the insurgencies in the Northeast.

Following this, another guest speaker, Mr. Rajat Sharma, the host of popular TV show 'Aap ki Adalat' spoke to the audience about his humble beginnings in Old Delhi, to how the show he is best known for was created, giving us all the lesson of persevering through difficulties and working hard to achieve our goals.

On Day 3, the prolific author Mr. Chetan Bhagat, was invited as a guest speaker, where he talked about his time in IIT Delhi, the competitiveness of the current education system in India and his journey as an author. He was also a part of the panel in the discussion of the topic 'Pages to Screen' where he gave valuable insights to the audience as an author.

Throughout the event, there were multiple book launches, all written by wives of the personnel of the Indian Army, showcasing their literary talent and their capability. As many as 25 books were launched, and there was also a special launch for four books written by girls aged 8 – 12. The themes of the books ranged from adventure fiction to autobiographies and memoirs, offering a vast collection of literature to the audience and students.

The students returned after the event with a wealth of knowledge and experience for their future literary endeavours and gleaned life lessons from the several guest speakers at the fest, leaving an enduring impression on all of them.

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