



Session 2024-2025

Book Review Competition

Objective: To encourage reading, critical thinking and creative expression by providing students with an opportunity to analyze and share their perspectives on books.

Description: A book review competition was held on October 23, 2024 by the Book Club. The event was held in the Archives Section of the college library at 2.50 P.M. An active participation was witnessed from students of the college, making the event successful.

The judges for the day, Ms. Jagriti and Ms. Anjana Devi were warmly welcomed and set the rules for the competition. Each student was given an hour to make a poster related to the book they have chosen, both handmade as well as digital prints and 3 minutes to present their review on the same. No restrictions were imposed regarding the genre of the books to be reviewed. Hence, students chose books from various genres like fiction, non-fiction, thriller, self-help etc. The students were called upon individually present their reviews before the gathering. Each student participated with utmost dedication and enthusiasm which reflected their interest in reading.

The competition was marked by the quality of content put forth by the participants, the creativity shown in their posters and the ability to present their ideas effectively. After careful consideration, the results were announced.

The results were as follows:

❖ First Position: -

Harshita Thakur (B.A. English Honors 3rd Year)

❖ Second Position: -

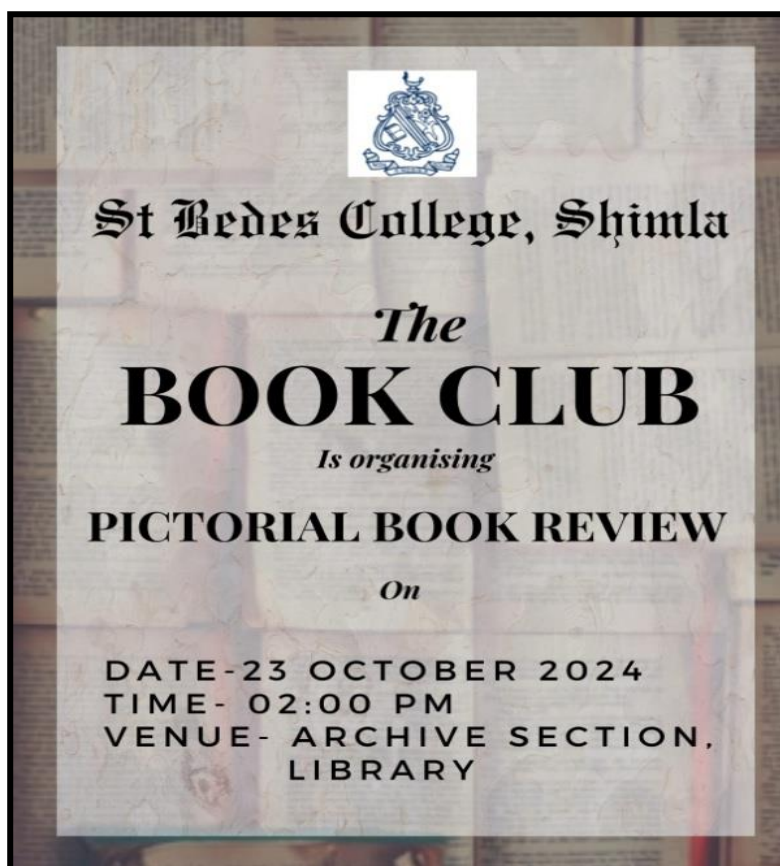
Anushka Sharma (B.A. 1st Semester)

The judges congratulated all the participants for their outstanding performances and active participation. They encouraged them to continue the habit of reading books which would ultimately prove to be an asset for their bright future. They also stated that they are look forward to such events being organized by the club on a larger scale in the future. Their words of encouragement proved to uplift the spirit of the participants. The event was concluded by a vote of thanks, presented by the convener of the club.

Outcomes: The event acted as an encouragement to students to continue pursuing their hobby of reading books. It motivated them to not only read fictional books but non fictional as well as self-help books for their personal growth and development. It helped many individuals overcome their fear of public speaking as well.



Book Club
St. Bede's College, Shimla



Brochure



Highlights from Pictorial Book Review Competition.



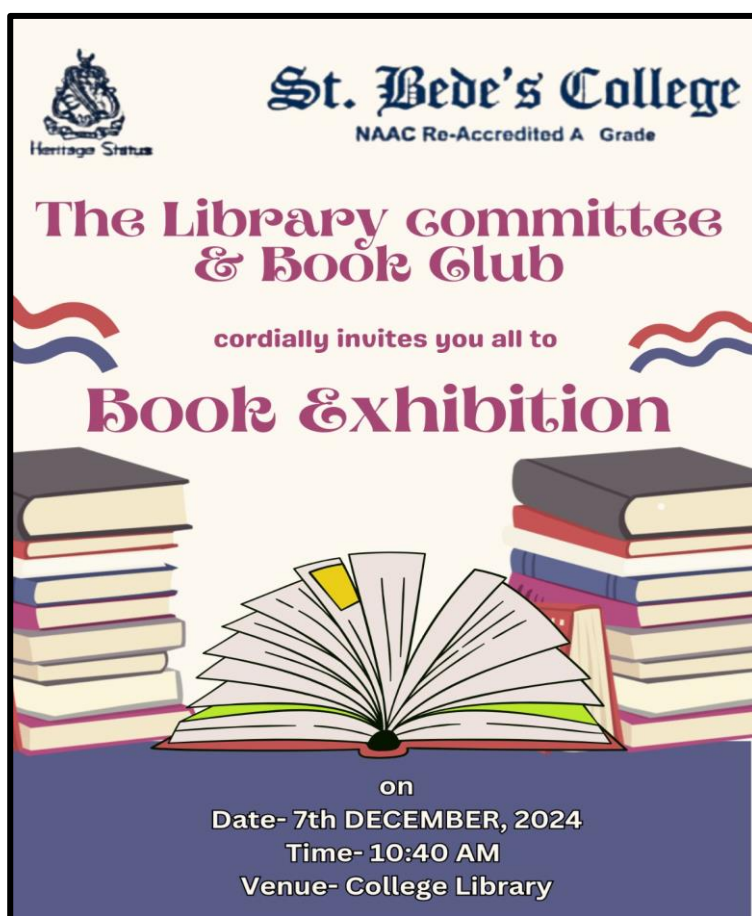
Book Exhibition

Objective: To promote literacy, foster a love for reading and provide a platform for knowledge sharing and cultural exchange.

Description: On December 7, 2024, the Book Club in collaboration with the College Library organized a book exhibition. The venue for the event was the college library and the event began at 10.40 A.M.

It was inaugurated by the esteemed chief guest, Dr. Sapna Sharma who delivered a speech emphasizing on the importance of reading and literature. The students made beautiful handmade bookmarks and a wide range of books were displayed, some of them were put up for sale too. It brought together people with a shared love for books and witnessed an excellent response with a large number of visitors over the course of the event.

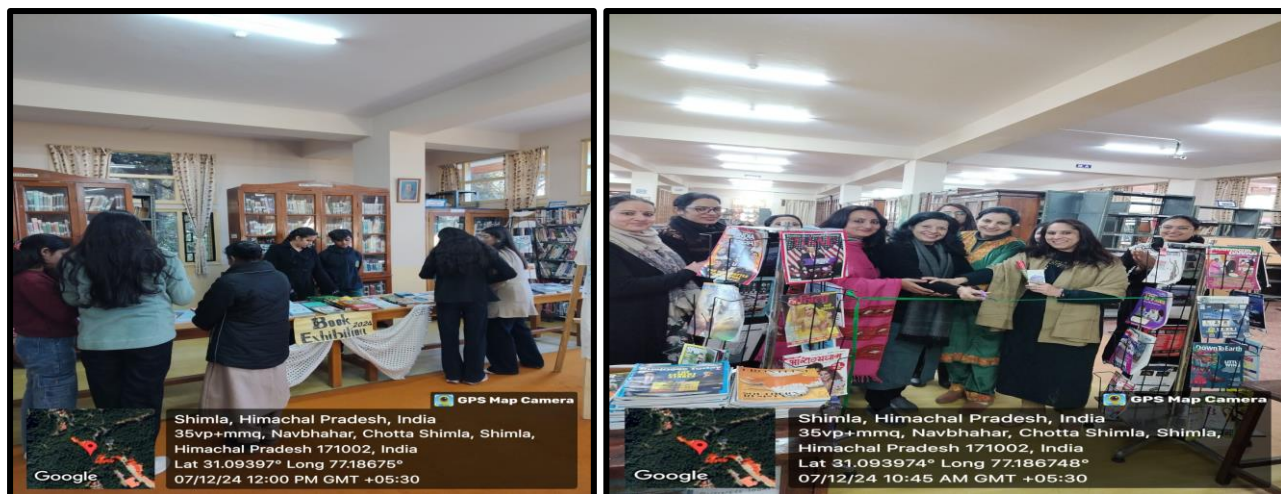
Outcomes: The event successfully sparked interest in books, participants discovered new genres and authors, which broadened their literary horizons. It also provided a platform for students to showcase their work and gain visibility.



Brochure



Book Club St. Bede's College, Shimla



Highlights from Book Exhibition.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON "MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING" BY VICTOR FRANKL

Objective: To foster critical thinking, literary appreciation, inculcate the habit of reading and developing communication skills.

Description:

The Book Club of St. Bede's College Shimla hosted a discussion on Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* on March 4th, 2025, in the college library's Archives section. The session was led by Ms. Pratiksha Tomar and Ms. Ruchi Azad. The students engaged in discussions on themes such as dehumanization during the Holocaust under Nazi rule, the loss of identity, logotherapy, existentialism and various philosophical ideas of Friedrich Nietzsche.

Key takeaways from the book included the concepts of "finding meaning in suffering" and "maintaining hope in difficult circumstances." Frankl referenced Nietzsche's quotes: "He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how" and "What does not kill me, makes me stronger." Frankl himself believed that suffering is an inherent part of human existence and that it should be seen as an opportunity to strengthen one's inner resilience.

Throughout the discussion, students shared their reflections, critical thoughts on the book and personal insights. At the conclusion of the session, each student wrote down one key lesson they had taken from the book. The experience provided valuable insights into humanity's quest for meaning and hope in the face of adversity.

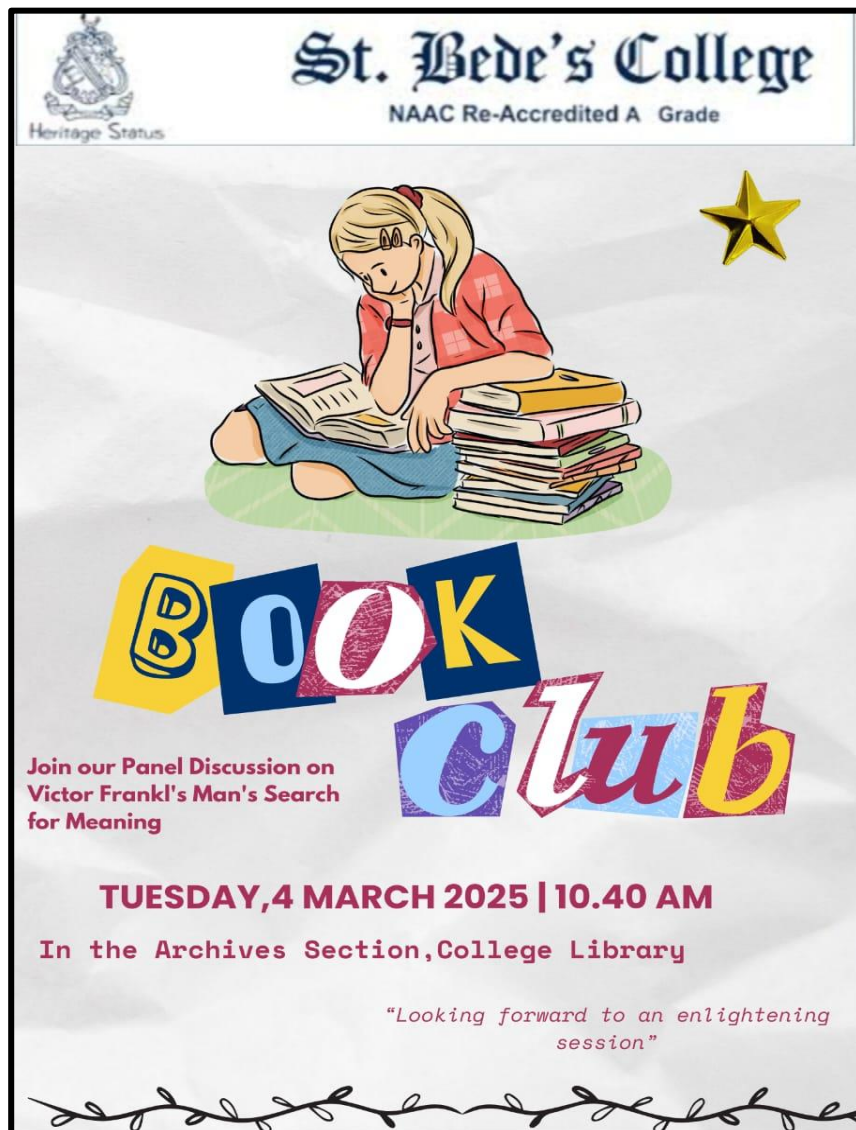
Outcomes:

The discussion on *Man's Search for Meaning* helped students reflect on the concept of suffering as an inherent part of human existence. Students explored how individuals can find meaning even in the harshest of circumstances, especially by keeping hope alive during difficult times. This may inspire students to approach personal challenges with resilience and a sense of purpose.



Book Club
St. Bede's College, Shimla

Writing down one important takeaway from the book at the end of the discussion allowed students to internalize the key lessons. By doing so, each student had the opportunity to reflect on how they could apply Frankl's ideas to their own life, particularly the importance of finding meaning and hope during adversity.



Brochure



Book Club St. Bede's College, Shimla



“From Words to Wisdom” – Moments from Panel Discussion.

DISCUSSION ON "PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE"

Objective: To promote interdisciplinary connections, self-awareness, explore meaning and purpose of life.

Description:

The Book Club of St. Bede's College Shimla organized a thought-provoking discussion on the philosophy of life on March 8, 2025, at the college premises. The event, guided by Ms. Pratiksha Tomar, Ms. Asmita Sharma and Mr. Nalin Sharma, brought together students from both the undergraduate and M.A. English programs. The discussion delved into profound philosophical themes, such as existentialism, the meaning of life, nihilism, absurdity and key texts like *The Myth of Sisyphus* by Albert Camus.



Book Club

St. Bede's College, Shimla

Some of the major takeaways from the session included the inevitability of suffering in life and the importance of choosing optimism in the face of challenges. A particularly engaging conversation centred on the concepts of destiny and free will, sparking lively debates between students and faculty members.

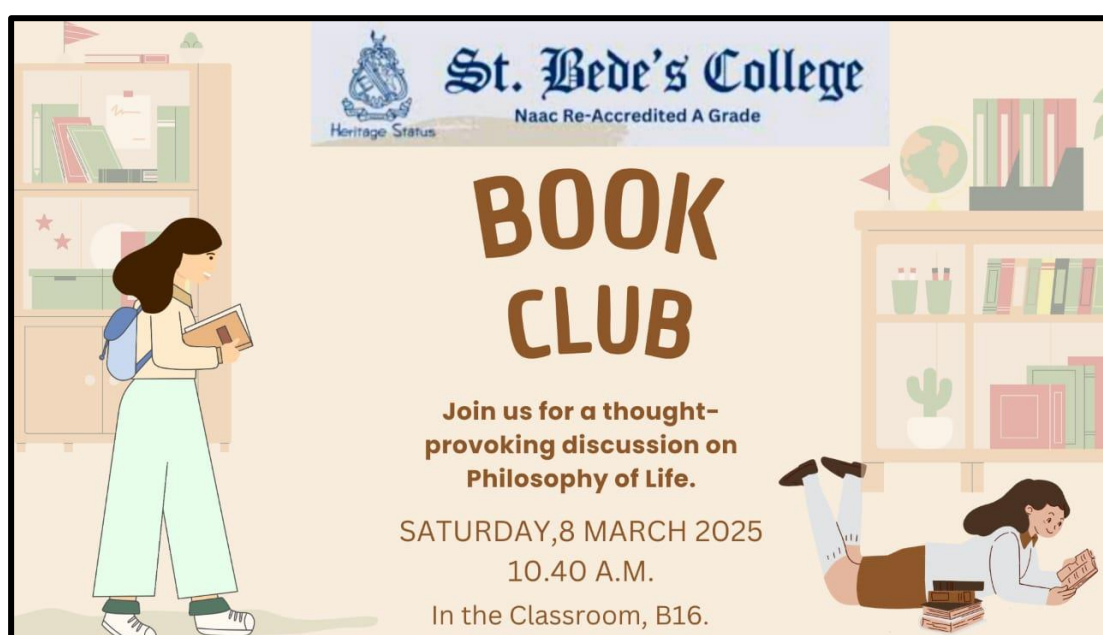
Students shared their critical perspectives on various subjects, such as social constructs and the balance between idealism and practicality in life. By the end of the discussion, each participant revealed the philosophy they personally adhere to, with themes like kindness, empathy, self-love and prioritizing one's well-being emerging as guiding principles.

The discussion was enriched by the famous quote from Camus: "One must imagine Sisyphus happy," which served as a catalyst for deeper reflections on the human experience. This session effectively blended elements of psychology, literature, and philosophy, offering valuable insights into the human mind and the choices individuals make in navigating life's challenges.

Outcomes:

The outcome of this activity can be seen in several positive impact. The discussion allowed students to engage deeply with philosophical concepts such as existentialism, nihilism, absurdity and free will. This kind of intellectual exploration helps students develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and a better understanding of complex ideas. Also, through discussions on topics like suffering, optimism, and the meaning of life, students were able to reflect on their own perspectives on life's difficulties and how to approach them. The theme of choosing optimism despite inevitable suffering can serve as a positive coping strategy for students in their personal lives.

Overall, the activity provided an enriching experience that contributed to both academic development and personal growth, promoting critical thinking, empathy and the exploration of deep philosophical ideas.



Brochure



Book Club
St. Bede's College, Shimla



“Exploring the Essence of Existence: - A Panel Discussion on the Philosophy of Life”