

## The BW Roberts Cultural Fest-‘MindMire 2022’



### Introduction

Cultural events are a frequent fixture in the calendars of many colleges, but the BW Roberts MindMire Cultural Fest was in a league of its own. Taking place over 12 and 13 July 2022, the fest was the result of months of back-breaking effort on the part of many people; this effort was vindicated by the enthusiastic participation of students from six schools in the fest: the Bishop’s Co-ed School, Kalyaninagar, the Bishop’s Co-ed School, Undri, St. Mary’s School, Pune, the Hutchings High School, Pune, the Vidya Valley School, Pune, and the Hume McHenry Memorial High School, Pune, and The Bishop’s School, Camp.

### Day 1



On the first day, in keeping with tradition, the fest began with Aaditya Khopde and Meghna Mallik, who were the anchors for the day, calling upon the Principal, Mr. Edwin, to lead the gathering in prayer. The course of the day’s events included four alumni of the Bishop’s School, Camp, returning to their alma mater to talk about their careers, experiences, lessons, and lives. They also answered questions from students with Rujul Soman serving as the moderator.

The first of these distinguished guests was Major Dr. Anubhav Chakraborty. He spoke of his experiences being stationed at the Siachen glacier, the highest battleground in the world, life in the army, the heroic sacrifices of martyrs in the Kargil War of 1999, the pathways to a career in the armed forces, as well as the perks, benefits, and intricacies of doing so.

This talk was followed by a recitation of original poetry against a moving background of music by Sukriti Mehta of Class 12 who brought a much-needed poetic perspective on the day’s agenda.

The next speaker for the day was Mr. Ayaan Akkalkotkar, a naturalist, a wildlife photographer and tour guide, and an avid lover of flora and fauna, big and small. He spoke of his professional journey to his current career, the uncertainties that he faced, as well as the passion that kept him going. He also talked about living in a remote village in Madhya Pradesh, and the unique challenges and opportunities that came with it. He stressed on the importance of general awareness to the cause of wildlife conservation.





After a short break, the audience was treated to a show-stopping impromptu beatbox performance by Aaditya Khopade, which was then followed by a talk by Mr. Keshav Iyengar.

Mr. Iyengar spoke of his career as a musician, his love of Kafka and Dostoyevsky, his experiences of having lived through the digital revolution, and the stupefying number of choices that young people have available today. "You don't kill time, time kills you," said Mr Iyengar, speaking of the importance of streamlining choices so that we may focus on the important things.

The talk was followed by another impromptu beatbox performance; this time by Rayhan Shaikh of Class 12, with Mr. Iyengar strumming along on his bass guitar to raucous cheering by the audience.

Next, the choir took to the stage, and directed by Miss Thomas, treated the audience to a jovial rendition of a Zulu song. It left the audience with a deeper appreciation of music from around the world, which while expressed in tongues one may not understand, but brings to the fore the universality of music and the emotion it carries.



Following this zestful performance, Mr. Vijay Lalwani took to the stage. Last but certainly not the least, Mr. Lalwani spoke of the power of cinema, explaining the real-world impact of Hindi classics like Rang De Basanti, 3 Idiots, Taare Zameen Par, and the such. He also spoke of creativity being a shared attribute of both the divine and the human condition as well as the need for grit and determination to keep pushing through

failure, saying, "Some of your instincts only kick in when you're cornered."

Following the conclusion of the last talk of the day, the audience witnessed an enthralling classical Indian dance performance by Dia Oswal and Ritu Wadekar. Meghna Mallik delivered the vote of thanks, and the first day came to a close with the singing of the school song and the national anthem.



## Day 2

The second day, like the first, began with a prayer by Mr. Edwin. The anchors were Jainil Telisara and Aanya Tejwani. This day's highlights centered around two speakers from each of the participating schools giving a talk on "Choice." They explained their views on whether we are truly free to make choices, the morality and the efficacy of our choices, and what one should do with the answers to those questions.



The judges for the event were Professor Dr. Ujjwala R. Khare, the former Principal of Nowrosjee Wadia College, Mrs. Lalita Ravishanker, the former Head of the Department of English at the Bishop's Junior College, Camp, and RJ Apurva Jadhav, the regional music manager for Big FM.



The speeches by the participants were interspersed with an enthralling performance by the school band which played the song, "Love nwantiti." In addition to this, the audience also witnessed another bout of beatboxing by the prodigiously talented duo of Rayhan Shaikh and Raghav Das of Class 12. After a few more speeches, Perna Daswani, also of Class 12, brought her original poetry to life with magical music and visuals. Following yet more speeches, the stage shook as a troop of dancers dazzled the audience whilst swaying along to a unique remix of Indian and Western music.

After the conclusion of the final few speeches, the judges each spoke to the audience and participants alike of their own life experiences, the advice they would offer the participants, amongst many other pertinent topics. Taboos generally observed were broken when the



judges answered questions, both salacious and serious, to the thundering laughter that rippled across the hall.



Following the judges' talks, the participants were finally in their hour of reckoning. Hands clapped and hoots sounded as the awards were announced. Giselle Suarez of the Bishop's School, Undri, was the second runner-up speaker, whilst Aurmaan Nahvi and Savni Apte of the Bishop's Junior College, Camp, were the runner-up and winning speakers, respectively. Dia Oswal delivered the vote of thanks and the event drew to a close, as the school song and the national anthem were played in succession.



On behalf of the Literary Club of the Bishop's Junior College we would like applaud our fellow students and teachers for their meticulous planning and execution. ***The B W Roberts Cultural Fest - 'MindMire 2022'*** was indeed a grand success.



- Tarang Rathi  
XII-A Arts

