



# Woxsen Times



Name of the program: International Webinar on Mangrove Breakthrough

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Woxsen Celebrates Women in STEM/STEAM at APPRISE 2024

## Heeramandi: A Cinematic Masterpiece- Experiment by Sanjay Leela Bhansali

Sanjay Leela Bhansali has always been known for his luxurious cinematic style and his ability to convey convoluted tales about marginalized communities, particularly women. With "Heeramandi," he continues this tradition, creating a hypnotic world that both captivates and challenges its audience. Set in the historical district of Lahore, Pakistan, "Heeramandi" delves into the lives of courtesans, adding a new dimension to Bhan-



sali's work that previously explored similar themes in films like "Devdas" and "Gangubai Kathiawadi." women were not merely victims of circumstance but also cultural icons who influenced art, music, and politics.

In "Heeramandi," Bhansali once again crafts a

beautiful yet gritty narrative, highlighting the complex lives of these women who are both revered and reviled. Critics and self-proclaimed traditionalists argue that such portrayals glamorize a profession stuck in exploitation and oppression. However, Bhansali's intent seems less about glamoriza-

tion and more about humanizing and giving voice to these women. By setting his story in the culturally rich and historically significant Heeramandi, Bhansali opens a window into a world that is rarely seen, let alone understood, by the mainstream. Throughout history, courtesans have often played pivotal roles in the cultural and social fabric of their societies.

Bhansali's portrayal of courtesans was bound to draw both praise and criticism. The beauty and grace with which he presents these women often clash with societal views that refuse to romanticize prostitution.



Bhansali's films remind us that these

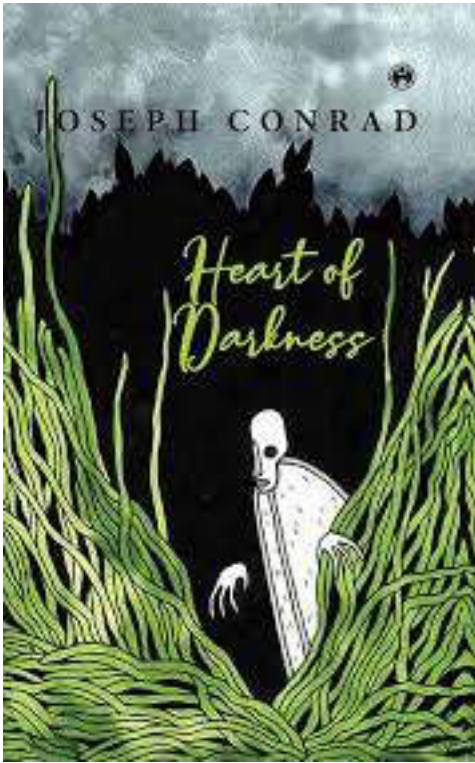
In "Heeramandi," the courtesans are shown as integral parts of their community, their influence extending far beyond their immediate surroundings. This portrayal resonates with past works like "Devdas," where the courtesan Chandra-mukhi's character brought depth and complexity to the narrative. Similarly, in "Gangubai Kathiawadi," Bhansali highlighted the resilience and strength of a woman rising from the depths of despair to become a powerful figure. "Heeramandi" follows this tradition, presenting its characters with a degree and dignity they deserve.

## "Heart of Darkness": Revealing the Depths of the Human Spirit"

Imagine a journey into the wild heart of the Congo, where the forces of imperialism hold sway. Joseph Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness' beckons us to explore the hidden recesses of our humanity. Conrad's haunting words, 'The horror! The horror!' set the stage for a captivating tale that will leave you spellbound."

## Book of the month

The novella is framed by a group of friends on the Thames listening to sailor Marlow recount his experiences in Africa.



"Journalism is what we need to make democracy work." —Walter Conkrite

# Chitrastra X CHITRASTRA

# FILM FESTIVAL

WORKSHOPS

DEBATES

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

SHORT FILM COMPETITION

25/09

26/09

AFTER PARTY ON 26TH SEPTEMBER



# School of Arts and Design

## DESIGN VANGUARD

Design Vanguard 2024 Design for everyone At T-Works, Hyderabad, April 27 The Woxsen University School of Arts and Design made history in Hyderabad by hosting the city's first-ever Design Show, #DesignVanguard2024.

We are thrilled to introduce "Design Vanguard," a pioneering initiative by the School of Arts and Design (SOAD) aimed at propelling our design prowess onto the global stage. This landmark event will showcase the finest works of Woxsen SOAD, uniting professionals from industry, academia, media, and government under one roof in Hyderabad. "Design Vanguard" heralds a new era of design excellence.

Our four departments – Industrial Design, Interior Design, Communication Design, and Fashion Design – will collectively unveil 20 ground-

breaking projects, offering a glimpse into the innovative design endeavors at Woxsen University. These showcased projects span a diverse spectrum of socially relevant topics, including Climate Change, MedTech, Disaster Management, Craft Innovation, Inclusive Design, Mental Wellness, and Heritage Conservation, among others. Each project represents our commitment to addressing contemporary challenges and shaping a better future through design innovation. The choice of T Works as our venue is deliberate. With its contemporary architecture and interactive spaces, T Works provides an ideal backdrop to showcase our design prowess. Its modern ambiance perfectly complements the ingenuity and creativity of our showcased projects.



In addition to the design showcase, we are excited to announce the launch of JQORK – a lifestyle brand poised to revolutionize the industry with sustainable, eco-friendly, ethical, and vegan products crafted from natural cork. Notably, JQORK's inaugural product line has been entirely conceived and developed by Woxsen design students as part of their Capstone project.



**Overall Summary**  
Design Vanguard 2024 was a monumental event that marked a significant milestone for the School of Arts and Design (SOAD) at Woxsen University. It was held on April 27, 2024, at T Works in Hyderabad, and showcased 20 groundbreaking projects from the departments of Industrial Design, Interior Design, Communication Design, and Fashion Design. The exhibition underscored the university's commitment to addressing contemporary challenges through innovative design solutions.



## Name of the program: International Webinar on Mangrove Breakthrough



It was organized on 9/April/2024, with an aim to provide new insights into three pivotal aspects of mangroves, role of Global Mangrove Alliance (GBF) and the emerging carbon markets. Three eminent speakers gave talks on the following topics. The state of mangroves in India and the urgent need for conservation and restoration – Speaker: Dr. Kathiresan Kandasamy, Honorary professor in Annamalai University, former-ly Dean and Director, in Faculty of Marine Sciences in Annamalai University. Introduction to Mangrove Breakthrough and Global Mangrove Alliance - Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Howard, Vice President Blue Carbon, at Conservation International, USA. Carbon-Financed Project Spotlight from India – Speaker: The Great Green Wall of Gujarat - Chinmaya Thon-



# University Highlights

## Case Cracked! Case Crunch 2.0

by K.Geetha Sahithi

Working on international projects as a student is a dream for many, often hindered by a lack of opportunities. However, the International Strategy Consultant Board (ISCB) addressed this gap with Case Crunch 2.0, offering students a remarkable chance to engage in a policy consultant project in South Korea.

Case Crunch 2.0 was meticulously designed to select the best candidates for this renowned project. Over 400 students participated in the event in teams, each aspiring for the coveted opportunity. The ultimate prize transcended a mere trophy, a life-changing reward: a trip to South Korea to partake in a policy consulting project with Woosong University. Case Crunch unfolded with the gripping Legal round, featuring case studies formulated by the judges themselves. The pressure intensified with each subsequent round. The first round demanded meticulous analysis and innovative solutions for a brandnew case study.

Professors scrutinized their two-page responses, discerning the strategic minds from those who faltered. Round two marked a shift in gears, drawing a case from the Harvard Business Review. Here, critical thinking and strategic prowess took precedence over mere legal expertise. The stakes remained high in the final round, as another Harvard Business Review case tested the teams' understanding of complex business challenges and their abili-

The ISCB wrapped up its grueling Case Crunch 2.0 competition this week, leaving behind a trail of exhilaration and a new generation of problem-solving champions. This 24-hour intellectual marathon, held from April 20th to 21st, saw over 400 students battle through complex case studies in teams. The event unfolded in three rounds. The first round held in the law block, and the second and the third round were continued in the library.



ty to craft effective solutions. As the event concluded, only 10 exceptional students emerged victorious, surpassing the rigorous elimination process across the three rounds, not as a team, but as individuals. Before embarking on their journey to Korea, they will undergo extensive training to equip them for the project ahead. Case Crunch 2.0 transcended mere competition. It is an experience that bridges the gap between theory and practice, empowering students to contribute meaningfully to international discourse on critical policy matters.

Imagine a journey into the wild heart of the Congo, where the forces of imperialism hold sway. Joseph Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness' beckons us to explore the hidden recesses of our humanity. Conrad's haunting words, 'The horror! The horror!' set the stage for a captivating tale that will leave you spellbound." As we venture further into the narrative, Conrad's masterful storytelling takes us on a twisted journey. We bear witness to the transformation of Marlow, the brave protagonist, as he navigates the treacherous waters of the Congo River. Through lush descriptions of the landscape and the harsh realities of colonialism, Conrad paints a vivid picture that immerses the reader in a world where the boundaries between light and darkness blur, and the true nature of the human soul are laid bare. In the heart of this darkness, we confront the profound questions that lie at the core of our existence.

Conrad's exploration of the human psyche forces us to confront our capacity for both good and evil. As we journey alongside Marlow, we are confronted with

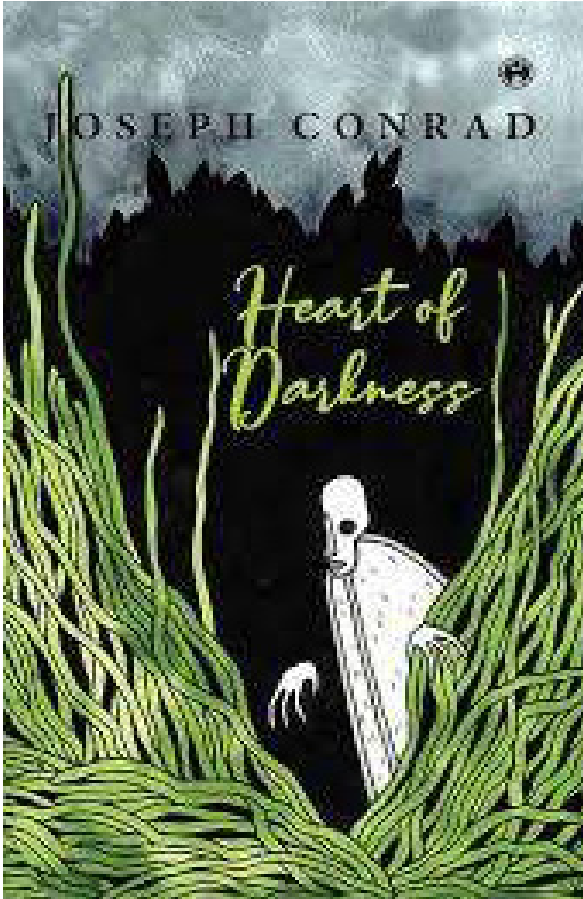
## "Heart of Darkness": Revealing the Depths of the Human Spirit"

### All about books and movies

the devastating consequences of unchecked power and the corrosive effects of greed. The chilling character of Kurtz serves as a haunting reminder of the seductive allure of absolute power and the fragility of the human spirit.

As we turn the final pages of 'Heart of Darkness,' a profound realization washes over us. Conrad's words linger in our minds, echoing through the corridors of our consciousness. We are left with a lingering unease, a deep-seated recognition of the darkness that resides within us all. But within this darkness, there is also the potential for redemption and enlightenment. 'Heart of Darkness' serves as a powerful reminder that only by confront-

ing our inner demons we can hope to emerge into the light. In the end, Conrad's masterpiece challenges us to confront the shadows that lurk within our own souls. It is a call to action, urging us to strive for self-awareness and to resist the allure of corruption.





# Woxsen Celebrates Women in STEM/STEAM at APPRISE 2024

The Russell Bulk Centre and the COE of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion organized APPRISE 2024, a conference dedicated to promoting gender equality and fostering a welcoming environment in STEM professions. Held on April 8 at LTI (Sir Cary Cooper Lecture Hall), the event attracted around 90 participants, including students and distinguished guests, for an afternoon of stimulating discussions and debates.

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phasizing the importance of research, internationalization, and ethical conduct, while highlighting the vital contributions of women in advancing STEM initiatives.



Prof. Jikyeong Kang, Dean of Asian Institute of Management, Mr Chahat Mishra, Head of International Relations at Woxsen University, Dr Kakoli Sen, Dean of the School of Business at Woxsen, Mr Joseph Muscat, Former Prime Minister of Malta, Helke Carvalho Hernandes, Vice-President, EFMD Global, Mr Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of Malta in India

A snap of Sport X complex at Woxsen University with its brutulist design with a touch of contemporary nature element



Pic courtesy:Woxsen Creatives

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