



# DU VIDHA

## डीयू विधा

THE DELHI UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF CREATIVE WRITING

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की सृजनात्मक लेखन पत्रिका

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Editor

Sukrita Paul Kumar



## *From the Desk of the Vice Chancellor*

I am delighted to offer the readers Volume III of DU Vidha, a journal of creative writing, to which aspiring young writers from different colleges and departments of the University of Delhi have contributed. It is a matter of great joy to see this wonderful output in creativity, specially in times when there is so much stress as well as time-constraint on a student. Creative expression and art, we know, relieves one of stress. In addition creativity becomes an avenue for self-realization.

DU Vidha, the title of this journal of creative writing, is not to be confused with the Hindi word “duvidha” which in English means dilemma. For any creative articulation though, one does inevitably slip into dilemmas regarding the choices one has to make in terms of the content, form or vocabulary. To start with, “DU” of this DU Vidha, however, refers to our own Delhi University, and then Vidha means “form” or “genre”. DU Vidha offers a platform for the sharing of creative forms of expression of ideas and feelings for the students of the University of Delhi.

I welcome all readers and writers, young and old, to the current issue of DU Vidha for a happy feast of creativity.

Yogesh K. Tyagi  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Delhi

## **DU VIDHA**

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# *Editorial Comments*

## ***DU Vidha : Pooling Creativity at DU ...***

The response to our call for submissions for the current issue of DU Vidha has been overwhelming! A large number of poems and prose pieces, in both English and Hindi, as well as photographs and paintings were received from a wide range of students engaged in undergraduate studies in different colleges to those writing their Ph.D. dissertations in various departments, in varied disciplines in arts, sciences and commerce as well. Creativity knows no disciplinary borders. This was indeed heartening. This is also why creative writing tends to build bridges and understanding between diverse kinds of human beings in space and over time.

It is generally believed that those who are pursuing literature or humanities courses may be more inclined towards creative writing. Our experience at DU Vidha tells us that this is not necessarily true. In fact some of our best pieces here are by some science students! So many stereotypical notions collapse at the experiential level on the ground, don't they? For instance we thought there will be a lot more girls writing poetry than boys but that again turned out to be a false notion. Creative expression is sought by both, equally intensely. Gender biases either way need to be questioned...

In pursuance of the mandate of Aruna Asaf Ali Chair held by me at the University of Delhi, and the thematic appropriateness of the same, we decided to invite creative pieces related to the value of freedom earned by the country through a long and glorious struggle and the social responsibility there of. The creative pieces needed to foreground the ideals of equality and fraternity within the context of the rich cultural diversity of the nation. Needless to say, the response to such a call has been generally adhered to. What is evidenced in the creative pieces received is an aesthetic expression – sometimes subtle and abstract and at times direct – of an anxiety on the part of the young to resist a status quo as it were and move forward towards achieving the ideals of social justice and freedom. Literature and art are indeed a form of activism.



Following the advice of the honourable Vice Chancellor, we appointed a set of ten reviewers from different institutions to review the nearly three hundred submissions received from about forty five colleges and departments of Delhi University. It is they who then selected visuals, poems and prose pieces that are included in the current issue of DU Vidha. All for you, the reader, to savour!

As we sought to organize and slot contents of this volume into different thematic categories, we realized that many of the good creative pieces actually defied categorization. That is how it should be! The specified categories then are just meant to serve as mere pointers towards making “meaning”. The reader is free to overthrow or discard the categories as redundant for a direct reception of the poem, prose piece or the visual.

We solicit readers’ responses/reactions as well as suggestions for the planning of the subsequent issues of DU Vidha.

Sukrita Paul Kumar  
Aruna Asaf Ali Chair  
Cluster Innovation Centre  
University of Delhi

# *Concept*

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high...  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake"

In his poem Tagore offers a beautiful expression of the ideal of freedom from all colonial bondages for which the Indian nation fought a long and glorious battle for independence:

.  
The struggle for freedom from the British spanned over 90 years (from 1857 to 1947) and was indeed a vibrant period that foregrounded ideals such as , equality and fraternity in its literature and aspired to take the country towards emancipation through its collective socio-political movements. Through our struggle for independence we hoped not only to achieve political freedom but also freedom on a cultural, social and intellectual level. Literature in all its forms, be it slogans or national songs, supplemented and reinforced these objectives. In a country like ours, that showcases great cultural diversity and linguistic plurality, the role of literature in creating bridges and furthering understanding cannot be overstated. Through its constant engagement with society, literature has always aimed at sensitizing people and broadening their outlook. This issue of DU-Vidha aims to showcase creative writing that emerges from meaningful ideals of freedom and social responsibility. The expression may range from realistic portrayal to fantasy.



# संकल्पना

जहाँ मन भयमुक्त-निडर हो, सिर उठाकर लोग रहें...  
...स्वाधीनता के ऐसे स्वर्ग में, हे परमपिता यह देश जगे।

उपरोक्त कविता में गुरुदेव रवींद्रनाथ ठाकुर की सभी बंधनों से मुक्त आज़ादी के आदर्शों की परिकल्पना अभिव्यक्त हुई है, जिसके लिए भारतीय राष्ट्र ने लम्बे समय तक ऐतिहासिक और गौरवशाली युद्ध लड़ा।

अंग्रेजों से स्वतंत्रता के लिए 90 वर्षों (1857 से 1947) तक लगातार संघर्ष चलता रहा। यह दरअसल एक जीवंत अवधि थी, जिसने समकालीन साहित्य में महान सामाजिक मूल्यों स्वतंत्रता, समानता और बंधुत्व को स्थापित किया और देश को अपनी सामूहिक सामाजिक-राजनीतिक आंदोलनों के माध्यम से मुक्ति की ओर प्रेरित भी। स्वाधीनता की यह जद्दोजहद सिर्फ राजनीतिक आज़ादी का आकांक्षी नहीं थी बल्कि हम सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और बौद्धिक आज़ादी के लिए भी आशान्वित थे। साहित्य की विविध विधाओं ने क्रांतिकारी उद्घोषों (नारों) और राष्ट्र-गीतों का स्वरूप ग्रहण कर इन उद्देश्यों के लिए संघर्ष को और अधिक मजबूती प्रदान की। हमारे देश में, जहाँ व्यापक सांस्कृतिक विविधता और भाषायी बहुलता है, साहित्य ने सेतु-निर्माण यानी फ़ासलों को परस्पर जोड़ने और साझी समझ विकसित करने की भूमिका को बखूबी निभाया है। समाज से लगातार जुड़ाव के माध्यम से, हमारा साहित्य सदैव जनमानस को संवेदनशील और उनके दृष्टिकोण को व्यापक बनाने हेतु प्रतिबद्ध रहा है।

डीयू-विधा के इस अंक का उद्देश्य उन रचनाओं की सामूहिक प्रस्तुति है जो आज़ादी और सामाजिक ज़िम्मेदारी के सार्थक आदर्शों से उपजी हैं। अभिव्यक्ति का दायरा यथार्थ के धरातल से अनंत कल्पनालोक तक विस्तृत हो सकता है।

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