

Unabridged :The Book Club
Report of Feb 2022-Feb 2023

Unabridged: The Book Club of Kamala Nehru College has been committed to taking the love of reading to all students and faculty. *The Book Club* resumed its offline activities since the pandemic in 2022 and selected a new name, 'Unabridged'.

The year started with a collaborative event with the *Wide Angle Film Society* of KNC on 15 January. The event revolved around discussing and screening the cinematic adaptation of one of the most famous literary texts, *Little Women*.

In February, the club had an author session with Mr Farhad Dadybourjour, a Lifestyle journalist and author, on his book *The Other Man*.

In June, *Unabridged* celebrated Pride Month and LGBTQIA+ literature. We organised an Instagram live with Mr Farhad Dadybourjour on the struggles of people who identify as homosexuals in Indian society, especially in the media.

On 9th September, we had an online author session with Kavya Sharma on her book *All Seasons Alike*, the story of the upward mobility of a Dalit woman.

On 12 September, *Unabridged* organised an Instagram live with Miss Urvashi Bahuguna on mental health. Bahuguna is the author of *No Straight Thing Was Ever Made*, a book on mental health.

On 24th September, we had an author session with Mr Rakesh Kaul, businessman and author, on his book *The Last Queen of Kashmir*, historical fiction on Kota Rani.

On 28th September, we had an Instagram Live on mental health with Sarah Hazem, an Egypt-based author and a budding psychologist.

In October, the book club organised two author sessions. The first was with Mr Sarthak Paliwal on his newly released book *Dust Dancers*. The second author session in October was with Mrs Sumedha Verma Ojha on her new book in her historical fiction series, *Unabhih: Chanakya's Scribe*.

The Book Club members also visited the book fair organised at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road and the *Indie Comix Fest* held at Max Mueller Bhavan, Delhi.

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Book Club resumed its Open Library, one of the first of its kind at DU. It is open to all library where anyone can donate and issue the books.

During the NAAC inspection, the students and teacher convenors represented the club in front of the panellists.

The end of the year witnessed the joining of new members who are enthusiastic about carrying forward the club's legacy of being an open space to foster the joy of reading among students.

On February 1 2023, the club organised an offline workshop on creative writing and what fiction does to us with Mr Sarthak Paliwal, an author who has done his research on the *Psycho-social impact of reading fiction on Young-Adults*.

From November 2022 onwards, the book club got its new teacher convenors, Ms Namita Paul (Associate Professor, English Department) and Ms A. P. Payal (Assistant Professor, English Department).

For this session, the Core Team members were Radhika Khanna (Convenor), Shreya Pandey (Co-convenor), Vidhi Sharma (Creative Head) and Kartiki Singh (Social Media Head).