

Vividhaa 2025: "*Sapne Jahan Dastak Dein*" at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata

Vividhaa, the hallmark event of the Hindi Literary Society of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, was held on the 25th and 26th of February 2025. This year, Vividhaa spread its wings wider, transforming into a grand two-day inter-college festival, with over 20 colleges joining the celebration. The campus buzzed with excitement as literature lovers, Bollywood buffs, and even closet poets stepped into the limelight. If you ever doubted the power of the Hindi language to unite, entertain, and sometimes confuse (abhi vs. abhi-abhi), Vividhaa'25 proved otherwise.

The inauguration of Vividhaa'25 was a blend of wisdom, motivation, and celebration. The ceremony was graced by the Rector, Reverend Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy SJ, Father Principal Reverend Dr. Dominic Savio SJ, vice principals, deans, and the Guest of Honour, Prof. Chandrakala Pandey. A true luminary in the world of Hindi literature, Prof. Chandrakala Pandey is not just a prolific writer and translator but also a beacon of wisdom and intellect. With over 20 published works to her name, she has left an indelible mark on the literary landscape, weaving magic with her words and preserving the beauty of the Hindi language. But her brilliance extends beyond literature, her deep understanding of Indian politics and her tenure as a Member of Parliament speak volumes of her sharp intellect and unwavering commitment to society.

The inauguration concluded with an address by the Deputy President of the Hindi Literary Society, Professor Madhu Agnihotri, officially setting Vividhaa'25 into motion.

This year, Vividhaa came forward with six amazing events, ensuring there was something for everyone. The excitement kicked off with Safarnama, a Bollywood Quiz competition that tested the knowledge of true Bollywood buffs—those who know every Yash Raj film by heart and can recite Govinda's dialogues in their sleep! This was followed by Qala, a Creative Writing and Doodling competition, and Tark Vitark, a Newsroom Debate Competition. Vividhaa'25 also featured online events like Chitrakatha, a Photography competition, and Maskhara, a Meme Making competition.

One of the biggest highlights was Afsanay, an open mic event judged by Naman Chandak, Founder of Micdrop Community. The stage became a canvas for poetry, storytelling, and

heartfelt expressions, making it an evening to remember. Participants captivated the audience with their words, and the event left an imprint on everyone present.

This year, Vividhaa'25 didn't just entertain—it educated and inspired. Two enriching workshops were held, offering participants an opportunity to learn, create, and express.

The first, a Madhubani Art Workshop, was conducted by experts from “NIFT”. Participants got a hands-on experience in this traditional Indian art form and poured their creativity into incredible handmade bookmarks, each telling its own story through intricate patterns and vibrant colors.

The second, a Public Speaking Workshop, was led by speakers from “Calcutta Toastmasters”. With the declining use of Hindi among younger generations, their initiative aimed to revive enthusiasm for the language, motivating students to speak in Hindi with confidence and flair. Through engaging activities, impromptu speaking drills, and interactive storytelling, they not only taught the art of oration but also instilled a newfound love for our national language.

The journey of Vividhaa'25 concluded with an energetic and unforgettable closing ceremony. After the winners were honored, and heartfelt speeches were delivered, the atmosphere shifted from formal to festive. The Core Committee members and the Working Committee members collectively rejoiced and danced their hearts out, proving that while Hindi literature can move the soul, a good DJ can move the feet! As Bollywood beats filled the air, even the most serious debaters from Tark Vitark found themselves grooving, and the shy poets from Qala finally let loose. If Shakespeare had ever seen this, Nirala Ji might smile and say, **सृजन की इस ऊर्जा को देख मेरा हृदय गदगद हो उठा! हिंदी को जीवंत रखने का इससे उत्तम मार्ग और क्या होगा?**

The Secretary, Vishnu Kyal, delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating the efforts of Assistant Secretary Ayush Kedia, along with Core Committee members Manish Jha, Kushal Rathi, Sagnik Roy, Dhruv Bagree, Krish Sheth, Daniel Mondal, Meghna Jana, Laavanya Agrawal, and Vedika Tharad.

As the final echoes of laughter and applause faded, a bittersweet feeling settled in, the joy of a successful event, yet the longing for it to last just a little longer. Vividhaa'25 was more than just a fest; it was an emotion, a celebration of stories, art, and passion woven together by everyone who became a part of it. But as all great journeys must pause before continuing, this is not the end, only a promise of something even grander.

With hearts full and memories packed, Vividhaa'25 bids farewell, only to return next year, stronger, brighter, and more spectacular than ever! Because dreams, after all, never stop flying.
