Manifesto
Literary Arts Secretary - Hostel 14 Council Elections 2018-19

The renowned linguist and philosopher Prof. Noam Chomsky has once distinguished between vision and goal. Vision is “the conception of a future society that animates what we actually do” and the goals are “the choices and tasks that are within reach” 1. Please share your vision. We will set the goals. And it is upon all of us to try manifest them.

I share with you some of my thoughts on what the Literary Arts Secretary can possibly contribute to:

- Regaining the ‘commons’ – An appropriate place to read the newspapers which is accessible to all, like the old times
- Resolving the ‘existential crisis’ of hostel library – What is the meaning, purpose, or value of library to us?
- Facilitating a platform where the H14 residents-if (only) they come forward- may share their research work in a jargon free, storytelling manner to an audience, it could be your friends or class 10 students from the KV School!
- Building a (hopefully strong) team of Literati’s to represent our hostel in GCs and PG Cult
- As a prelude to the aforementioned, conducting intra-hostel competitions on quiz, poetics, et.al
- For the documentary buffs, if we ever regain our ‘commons’, we could kick-start a biweekly/monthly open-to-all students documentary screening and discussion session. The inspiration for this comes from the now defunct ‘TREELabs Rendezvous’ – a critically curated weekly documentary series hosted by TREELabs at its N5 Bay space
- Convergence with activities of other council members
  - For e.g. ‘Literacy’ on the water we use and the food we eat
- A ‘book of memories’ as a memorabilia for the graduating students to reflect their time in the institute and hostel

Let me stop here. The bullet points can go on and on. But as Ayrton Senna has (apparently) once said, “Dreaming is necessary, although in the dream reality should be glimpsed”. As I mentioned at the outset, it is we who set the goals. So please let me know what your thoughts are, and also, what you think about my thoughts.

To quote Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, “The University is the sanctuary of the intellectual life of a country. The healthy roots of national life are found in the people. They are the well-springs of national awakening. They are the spirit behind revolutionary movements of society…We train in the universities not only doctors and engineers but also men and women who think for themselves” 2. I am sure all of you will think for themselves, and I hope it is not just about themselves.

Sincerely,

swaran v.
B-619 | Hostel 14
3rd Year PhD | Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas (CTARA)

PS: In the past, I happened to do the following:

Edited the CTARA departmental Magazine ‘Pragati (2017) in the capacity of Review Editor
Co-Founded and founded the respective college Quiz Clubs during my Masters and Bachelor’s Quizzing since the past 20+ years, with occasional hosting

---