VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES – TC
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EVENT REPORT
Academic Odyssey: Best Paper Award 2025

1. **Name of Committee: Mimansa-** The Research Club of VSES
2. **Activity Type:** Research paper Presentation
3. **Date:** April,02, 2025
4. **Venue:** Seminar Hall B-block
5. **Faculty Coordinators:** Dr. Bhawna Vij Arora, Dr. Suniti Madaan, and Dr. Jasmine Sharma
6. **Student Coordinators:** Vanshita Tuli (MA, Sem-II) and Bhuvi Kataria (MA, Sem-II)
7. **Guest evaluators:** Prof. (Dr). Salonee Priya, Dr. Mona Gupta, Dr. Faizan Ahmed

Description:

On April 02, 2025, **Mimansa:** The Research Club of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VSES) hosted the "Academic Odyssey: Best Paper Award 2025" event in Seminar Hall, B Block. This insightful literary event aimed to push new researchers to explore diverse research fields and present their papers. Three esteemed faculty members graced the event, each presenter delivered an engaging session on contemporary academic discourses. The poster of the event is attached here below:



Purpose of the Event:

Mimansa: The Research Club of VSES proudly hosted the annual flagship event, **"Academic Odyssey: Best Paper Award 2025,"** on April 2, 2025, at the Seminar Hall, B Block. Now established as one of the institute's most anticipated academic traditions, this event celebrates the spirit of scholarly excellence, critical inquiry, and original thought. Each year, it offers a platform for under-graduate and graduate students to present thought-provoking research grounded in literary theory, cultural studies, psychology, and interdisciplinary frameworks.

The **Best Paper Award** is a prestigious honor from *Mimansa,* recognizing academic brilliance, innovation, relevance, and intellectual rigor. It is a testament to VSES' commitment to nurturing a strong academic culture and encouraging emerging scholars to contribute meaningfully to contemporary discourse. The award represents the culmination of months of research, mentorship, and refinement—and stands as a mark of distinction for the recipients.

Through this event, *Mimansa* continues to uphold its mission of fostering a vibrant research ecosystem where ideas find a stage. The club envisions creating opportunities that inspire students to deepen their engagement with literature, theory, and social realities while also gaining exposure to academic presentation and feedback. Moving forward, here is a brief analysis of the research papers presented by all participants in this year's event:

The event showcased diverse research papers that reflected the participants' intellectual depth and interdisciplinary approach. Yuvna Tandon reinterpreted *A Doll's House,* highlighting Nora's fantasies as subtle acts of rebellion, using Freudian theory and gender discourse to frame daydreaming as a form of resistance. Muskan Gandhi's analysis of *Tomb of Sand* portrayed vulnerability as strength through the journey of an 80-year-old Partition survivor, drawing from feminist thinkers to emphasize empowerment through trauma. Khushi Verma offered a comparative study of *Pinjar* and *Highway*, exploring how captivity and emotional dependency influence identity formation, exposing underlying patriarchal currents in progressive narratives. Ritika Khattar applied Judith Butler's theory of gender performativity to *Laapataa Ladies*, examining how cinema subverts and reinforces traditional gender norms, thus reshaping societal perceptions.

Vanshita Tuli's paper examined *The Siege of Krishnapur* and *Translations*, interpreting physical and linguistic decay as potent symbols of postcolonial resistance and the persistence of cultural memory. Similarly, Devika S. Nair explored *100 Shades of White*, analyzing how food is a metaphor for healing, identity, and empowerment in the diasporic experience. Aadya Gupta focused on the literary activism of Rakhshanda Jalil, showcasing her role in globalizing Urdu literature while addressing the intricate challenges of poetic translation and cultural preservation. Bhuvi Kataria presented a compelling comparison between Tom Riddle and Adolf Hitler, using psychoanalytic theory to trace the roots of authoritarianism in early trauma and emotional neglect.

In a collaborative presentation, Suhani Sablok and Riya Bhatia delved into *Wuthering Heights* and *Frankenstein*, using Freudian concepts to explore repressed trauma and psychological horror within the Gothic genre. Paras analyzed *Sultana's Dream* through the lens of folklore theory, presenting it as a feminist utopia that challenges patriarchal norms through symbolic inversion and cultural storytelling. Nandini Sabharwal applied Kantian

ethics to *Murder in the Cathedral*, examining the philosophical tension between religious submission and moral autonomy in Thomas Becket's martyrdom. Finally, Sakshi Goel's research on *The Women* by Kristin Hannah uncovered the overlooked trauma of female Vietnam War veterans, advocating for recognition, representation, and historical justice within war literature.

Outcomes:

The event concluded with the recognition of exceptional scholarly contributions through three awards. **Sakshi Goel** was honored with the **Best Paper Award** for her powerful and timely research titled *From Hidden Trenches to Frontline: Positioning/Re-positioning Female Veterans through War Literature and Kristin Hannah's "The Women."* Her paper stood out for its interdisciplinary approach, emotional depth, and commitment to uncovering marginalized narratives within war literature. It not only highlighted the psychological and sociopolitical trauma faced by female veterans but also called attention to the systemic erasure of their stories from mainstream discourse.

Vanshita Tuli was awarded the **First Runner-Up Prize** for her paper *Remnants of the Past in the Present: Decay as Cultural Memory.* Her analytical reading of postcolonial texts skillfully linked physical and linguistic decay to the endurance of cultural memory, showcasing a strong command of theory and an innovative perspective on literary ruins as sites of resistance and remembrance.

Devika S. Nair was awarded the Most Innovative Idea for her unique and creative paper on 100 Shades of White. In it, she used food as a literary metaphor to explore themes of healing, identity, and empowerment in diasporic narratives. Her work was applauded for its fresh lens and for emphasizing the emotional and cultural significance of culinary traditions in exile.

Beyond the awards, all participants received commendation from the judges and coordinators for their originality, depth of research, and articulate presentations. The event successfully fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas, encouraging students to continue engaging with critical thought and academic dialogue. The overall enthusiasm and quality of the presentations reflected the growing research culture that Mimansa seeks to cultivate and celebrate each year.

Future Plans:

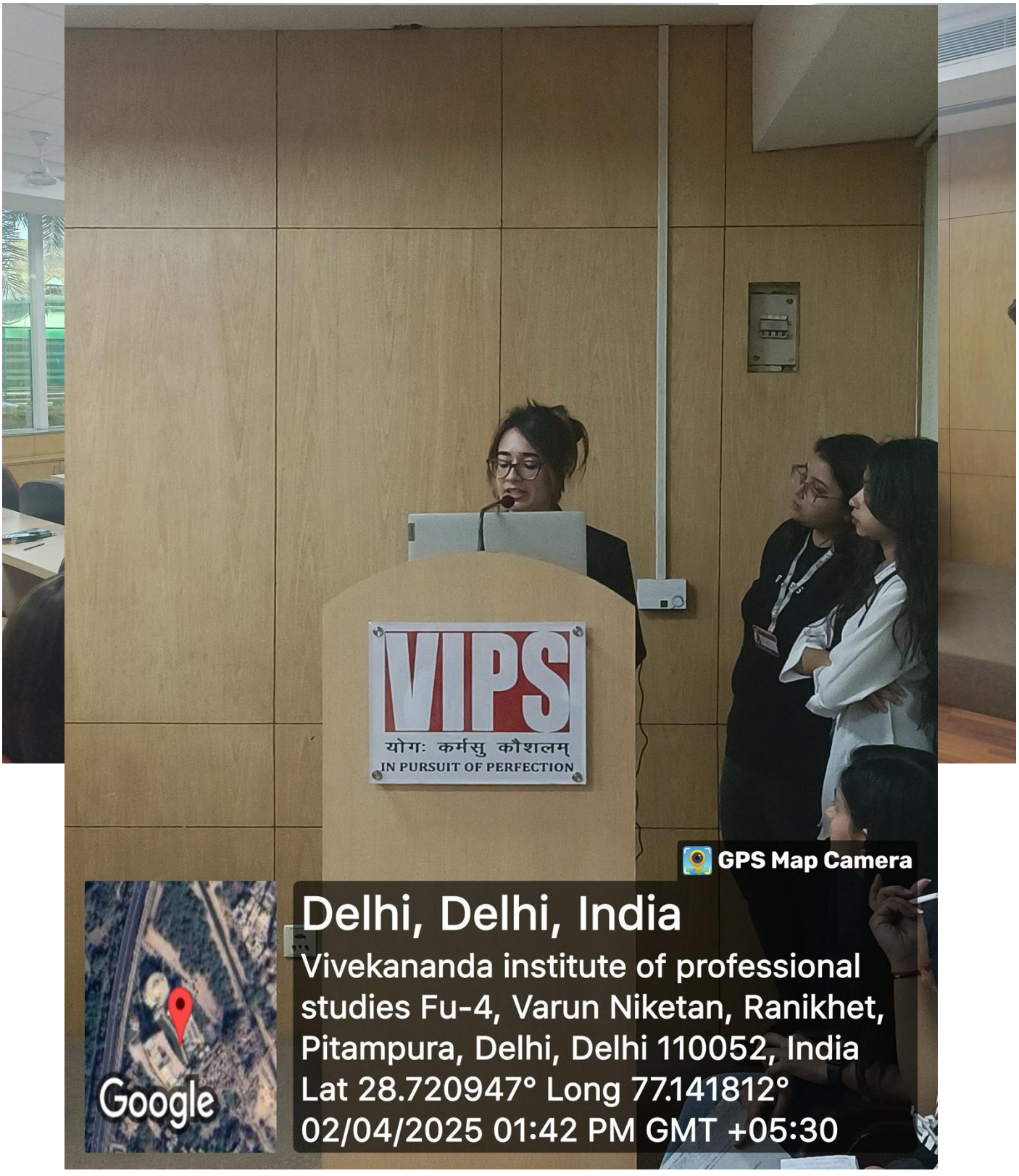
Looking ahead, *Mimansa* aims to further strengthen students' research skills by launching initiatives designed to help them excel in their research papers. Planned activities include structured workshops, mentorship programs, and guidance sessions to refine their research methodologies and academic writing. Additionally, the society intends to organize **research competitions** to give students valuable exposure, constructive feedback, and confidence in their scholarly pursuits. These competitions will serve as a platform for students to showcase their research, engage with peers, and prepare for academic endeavors in the long run. By fostering a culture of research excellence, Mimansa Society will continue to support and inspire students in their educational journeys.

Insights shared by Judges and coordinators

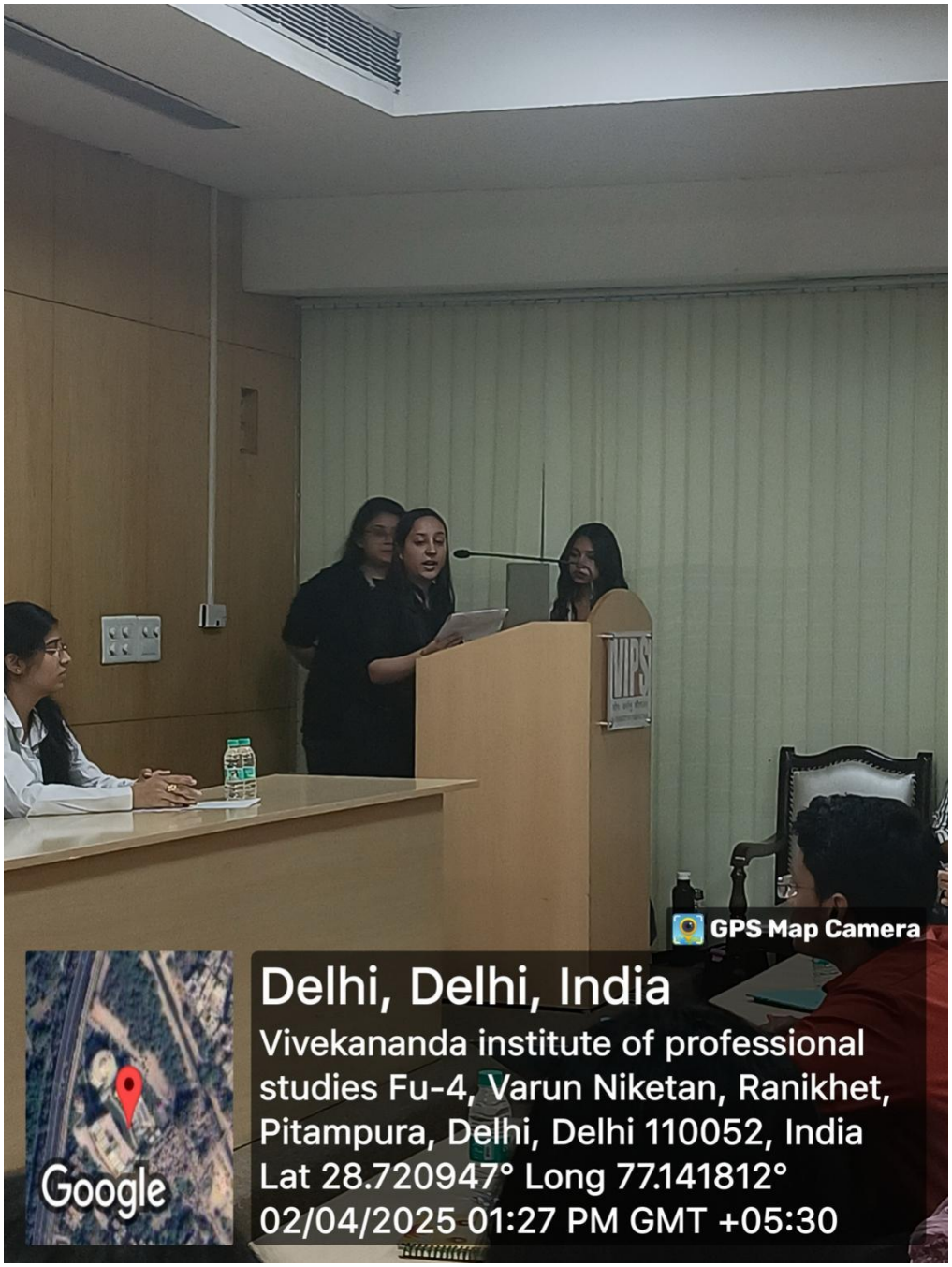
Dr. Salonee Priya appreciated the students' enthusiasm and efforts and advised them to participate in such activities to gain confidence and constructive feedback. Dr. Mona Gupta and Dr. Faisan also gave feedback to selective students whose paper ideas were good but needed a little sprucing up.
Other faculty members questioned and counter-questioned the presenters, adding more to their knowledge base and research area. They ended the session with a thought-provoking question round.

List of participants:

1. Yuvna Tandon
2. Muskan Gandhi
3. Khushi Verma
4. Ritika Khattar
5. Vanshita Tuli
6. Aadya Gupta
7. Nandini Sabharwal
8. Paras
9. Bhuvi Kataria
10. Suhani Sablok
11. Riya Bhatia
12. Devika S. Nair
13. Sakshi Goel


VIPS
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