

EDITORIAL

While the plains sweltered in the heat of summer and were caught up in the hurly burly of elections, the IAS was a cool haven, mantled in serenity – the influx of tourists notwithstanding – that allowed us to wrap ourselves up in the cloak of academic musings and retreat into the world of books and ideas, to participate in conferences that opened up new vistas of enquiry and scholarship. Shimla did experience unprecedentedly high temperatures this summer to the dismay of long-time residents, an uneasy reminder of the environmental harm that humans are causing all over the globe, but showers and diaphanously drifting clouds managed to take the edge off in many ways...

The Summer issue of *SHSS* has a number of papers that deal with diverse topics. It covers a wide spectrum: crime and city planning; the human-elephant relationship; re-use of heritage buildings; reflections on colonial India in the context of space, literature, indigenous knowledge structures; traditional, ancient Indian educational systems; yoga; the world of drama in Tendulkar and Dattani; the surreal universe of Marvel novels/adaptations. This issue offers a kaleidoscope of concepts and perspectives as well as concrete suggestions for improvement and implementation in certain areas where required.

The overwhelming number of submissions to *SHSS* was challenging yet gratifying as it attested to the high standard and popularity of the journal. Our reviewers were of immense help with their promptness and willingness to walk the arduous academic mile with us and we are happy to bring this issue with thought-provoking papers to our readers on time.

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