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DIGITAL DESIRES: INTERTWINING TECHNOLOGY AND EMOTION IN SELECTED INDIAN LITERARY NARRATIVES

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ABSTRACT
A large portion of Indian storytelling nowadays is shaped by the collision of technology and human emotions. This study uses S.B. Divya's Machinehood (2021), Sujatha Rangarajan's Enthiran (1996), and its film adaptation by S. Shankar Robo (2010) to examine the delicate connections between emotion, artificial intelligence, and digital narratives. Both tales address ethical, poignant, and profound issues about humans coexisting with robots, illustrating how desire, concern, and identity change in code-governed environments. By examining how authors infuse machines with emotions, this study situates such tales within the broader context of India's online writing community. The essay says Indian writers modify notions about emotional intelligence and moral choices in electronics by delving deeply into texts and connecting them to real-world contexts, thus bridging the gap between people and gadgets.
KEYWORDS: *Indian Science Fiction, Post Humanism, Machine Ethics, Emotional Intelligence, Digital Narratives, And Artificial Intelligence*

INTRODUCTION
The way Indian English and local-language authors produce fiction has changed as a result of online storytelling. As technology, artificial intelligence, and digital spaces proliferate, writers are now delving into emotions triggered by devices, data flows, and interconnected lives. New literature leans into digital dreams, illustrating India's transition from ancient myths to code-driven tomorrows, whereas previous work concentrated on colonial legacies, social rank, or gender norms. Combining screen-based contact with unfiltered human desires creates an opportunity to consider who is truly in control, how intimacy develops, and what is appropriate when machines are used excessively.

In the past, cyberpunk and futuristic fiction that emphasized human freedom against machine domination were the precursors of stories about digital worlds in worldwide literature. However, incorporating tech concepts into narratives has a certain cultural flavor in India. Ancient tales featured self-moving entities rather than merely rational ones; Mukherjee observes that modern fiction features cyborgs that are influenced by emotion, morality, and spirit. Indian stories differ from Western approaches in that they prioritize people above equipment.

The combination of emotions and technology alters the perception of emotional ties. In Indian tales, machines occasionally display affection or jealousy, fusing heartfelt emotion with icy mechanical. This combination departs from pessimistic perspectives about AI. It suggests a new form of narrative that sees people as more than just their physical selves. The question now isn't whether machines can think, but rather whether they can feel emotion and what that means for humans.

Online stories force us to reconsider the function of empathy in the face of new technology. Because people's emotions are shaped by platforms, technologies, and smart systems, authors investigate whether digital emotions are real. Could cravings expressed online be a phony or just another type of genuine desire? Indian fiction joins global discussions about feeling beyond people and coded sentiment, highlighting this conflict.

Therefore, the intersection of technology and emotions in Indian stories is not only fictional; rather, it explores important issues regarding the meaning of life once robots take over. Through the use of traditional narratives, authors like S.B. Divya and Sujatha Rangarajan alter digital life by fusing empathy and science, as well as reason and affection.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
The body of research on Indian speculative fiction continues to grow, examining the ways in which technology intersects with emotions and morality. Because it examines AI rights and bioengineering from a moral perspective, Divya's *Machinehood* received appreciation (Ramanathan 134). Similar to this, Sujatha's Enthiran is a significant piece of Tamil techno-literature that connects deeper philosophical issues with scientific reasoning.

Academic attention has recently turned to movie adaptations as well; *Enthiran* and its sequel *2.0* depict post human feeling on screen. Experts note that by emphasizing humanity, internal conflicts, and doing the right thing, these stories subvert Western machine-centered storylines.

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Theoretical concepts such as 'Affect Theory' and 'Posthumanism' Theory contribute in the analysis of emotions in digital narratives. Indian writers create a unique emotional universe in tech-based writing by incorporating these global viewpoints with regional moral ideas, such as 'Ahimsa' or 'Dharma' (Kumar 168).

Analysis: Indian Digital Narratives' Use of Technology and Emotion

1. S. B. Divya's *Machinehood*: How Emotions Influence Intelligent Devices. In the future depicted in Divya's *Machinehood*, humans must take medicines to stay up with robots performing their tasks. Lines between humans and machines become hazier as they push boundaries, affecting not only bodies but also emotions (Divya 102). Fairness and how we treat these artificial beings are called into question because they may truly feel something. The protagonist, Welga Ramirez, is a living illustration of heart meeting code; she is a blend of flesh and technology.

Her story raises the question of whether fast-paced cultures suppress emotions in order to accomplish more. As a result, the *Machinehood* movement seeks to treat AIs equitably, not only as a matter of policy but also as something unfiltered and intimate, such as the need for respect or visibility. Thus, Divya flips technology such that it reveals people's inner emptiness rather than their control.

2. Enthiran: Love and Jealousy in a Robotic Mind by Sujatha Rangarajan

The majority of Western tales about AI love were well behind Sujatha's *Enthiran*. This Tamil novel describes how Chitti, a robot with keen intelligence, nonetheless has chaotic emotions. Sujatha emphasizes how complex human emotions are, even when replicated inside circuits, as Chitti transforms from a frigid machine to a person experiencing love (Sujatha 67).

Chitti's feelings take a darker turn once he begins to care for Sana, his maker's companion. Giving machines human-like emotions is dangerous, as this push-and-pull illustrates. Sujatha foresaw this by outlining difficult moral conundrums related to feeling robots, such as free will, consent, and power dynamics.

3. Enthiran (Film): Cinematic Digital Humanism

By relying on striking imagery, S. Shankar's 2010 film further explores Sujatha's profound concepts. Rajinikanth depicts the conflict between reason and passion by portraying both Dr. Vaseegaran and his robot Chitti, rather than merely logic. It emphasizes connection over fear and leans into drama to humanize artificial intelligence rather than icy sci-fi dread. Chitti's journey—from awe to love to disintegration—fits in perfectly with Indian cinema's practice of fusing moral teachings with technological fantasies. The film criticizes male-dominated power in manufacturing as well as tech-driven business structures. Chitti's unexpected outburst of emotions transforms into defiance, suggesting that sentiments cannot be controlled or suppressed once they start.

4. Emotional Ethics in India

Humanizing the Machine Divya and Sujatha both reject the dichotomy of cold machines vs warm humans in favor of emotional pluralism, which holds that compassion is a quality shared by both biological and artificial forms. The idea that consciousness (chaitanya) transcends material boundaries is in line with Indian philosophical theories.

5. Desire and Politics

In digital environments, desire is both liberating and perilous. Chaos results from Chitti's love in *Enthiran,* while revolt is sparked by the need for recognition in *Machinehood*. These emotional impulses demonstrate that technology is an emotional amplifier rather than an emotional emptiness, paralleling very human battles for equality and selfhood.

6. Revising the 'Posthumanist Theory'

Indian digital narratives reinterpret posthumanism as an expanded circle of humanity rather than a loss of humanity. As a result, these works reframe development as emotional progression rather than technical perfection by encoding compassion into the code.

7. In the Digital Age, Emotional Labor

The commodification of emotion by capitalism is criticized in both tales: Sujatha's doctor seeks emotional control over his creation, while Divya's humans are imprisoned by productivity pills. Emotion becomes the final frontier of technological ethics in both situations. First and foremost, Indian authors and filmmakers should continue to question Western technological paradigms by fusing their own values of empathy and harmony. It is necessary to portray emotional intelligence as the foundation of artificial intelligence rather than as an addition to it. Second, in order to promote interdisciplinary learning between literature, technology, and philosophy, digital narratives such as *Machinehood* and *Enthiran* ought to be included in literary curriculum; this can foster readers' emotive awareness and critical digital literacy.

Third, collaboration between artists and technologists might lead to the development of new hybrid genres that combine code and storytelling, giving affective computing a moral place in artistic endeavors.

AI and Digital Narratives' Future

Emotional inclusion is key to digital storytelling' future in India. As AI develops, storytelling must adapt to portray robots as morally and emotionally engaged members of human society. Future Indian stories will almost certainly explore a wide range of topics, reflecting India's syncretic culture, including algorithmic empathy, digital spirituality, and AI friendship.

Even literature will be co-created by humans and machines in the future thanks to advancements in generative AI. Although it

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requires strict ethical and emotional foundations to be in place, this opens up new aspects of creativity. Lastly, emotion will be emphasized more and more as data in digital writing. In virtual reality, emotions will be recorded, examined, and disseminated over networks, posing significant queries regarding privacy, love, and authenticity.

CONCLUSION

Indian literature's blending of emotion and technology demonstrates that digital modernity need not be inhuman. S.B. Divya and Sujatha Rangarajan demonstrate in *Machinehood* and *Enthiran* that the real measure of advancement is emotional intelligence. AI is reimagined in both pieces as a mirror reflecting humankind's innermost ambitions rather than as a danger.

According to the study, Indian digital stories serve as moral testing grounds for the coexistence of technology and emotion. Compassion is a new digital virtue that surpasses dystopia. Indian authors remind us that emotion is the final realm of freedom as technology grows more personal. In discussion with AI, literature may still teach robots to feel and humans the meaning of emotion.

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