



# AETHER

**A STUDENT TABLOID VENTURE  
VOLUME V - ISSUE V- 01 SEPT. MMXIX**

## Aether

*...is quintessence, is the material that fills the region of the universe above the terrestrial sphere*

*...the pure essence that the gods breathed, filling the space where they lived, analogous to the air breathed by mortals*

*...also personified as a deity, Aether, the son of Erebus and Nyx  
...is related to αἶψα "to incinerate"  
... intransitive "to burn, to shine"*

*This is what we believe in - in order to be the best in what we do, we need to unlearn, to relearn and thus develop skills that will allow us to shine.*

*Aether contains the work output of the students of the Writing for the Media course. We are in our Fifth Year! But a long way before we can rest easy.*



**Chowgule College**  
AUTONOMOUS



*the lungs of the earth...burning*

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**INSIDE!**



*teachers day: special*

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*krishna's birthday*

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*once upon a time..*

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*humans of chowgule*

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# EARTH'S LUNGS ARE BURNING!

The Amazon Rainforests, also called the 'Lungs of the Earth' are burning at an unparalleled rate. The largest rainforest in the world has experienced over 73,000 fires. We shall lose almost 20% of the forests. They say that it is because of excess deforestation that took place so that farmers could use more land for agriculture. The President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro is blamed for this, because he had allowed deforestation and mining to take place there.

Statistics say that the fires this time are 83% more than those that occurred in the previous years. This is extremely tragic. In fact, NASA reports that the burning of these could be witnessed from space as well. As of today, we have almost 20% of the rainforest.

So, why is something that's taking place near Brazil important to us here in Goa, India? The Amazon Rainforest is the largest carbon sink in the world. We are, in fact, on the brink of danger. If we lose anymore of the Amazon Rainforest, we shall lose 17% of water, 20% of oxygen and not to mention the extensive variety of flora and fauna that we'll lose, thus endangering the already fragile ecosystem, thus creating havoc with the food web.

So, as responsible citizens and students, what can we do to make this situation better?

Honestly, not much. However, there are little things we could do to help the earth. Thanks to the professors from the departments of BioChemistry and Zoology in our college, we have a list of suggestions:

The easiest way to start is to spread more and more awareness. There is never enough awareness regarding these issues but education about why and how adverse environmental changes affect us, is helpful.

Secondly, we could always donate or encourage people around us to do so to those organizations which are directly dealing with these issues, such as the Rainforest Trust.

Another thing we can do is file petitions. File petitions to your national authorities, asking them to help out in the dire situation.

Lastly, with regards to long term benefits, decrease the use of wood, paper, chlorofluorocarbons and most importantly, plastic.

#gogreen



**K. RUCHIRA**

# ONE TREE AT A TIME

Biochrome- Biotechnology Club, initiated “Planting Trees: A Stride Towards Green Goals”, an afforestation project, whose main aim was to enhance learning about the characteristics of trees, attracting diverse species of butterflies and birds, simply by planting flowering saplings. Besides the fresh and cool atmosphere on campus wouldn't hurt. Biochrome celebrated Van Mahotsav on the 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day of our country, on Thursday, 15 August, 2019.



The Principal, Dr Nandkumar Sawant started the day by addressing the audience with an inspiring speech. He urged the students to take this project to new heights and pledged his unconditional support and assistance to the same. Soon after, the Vice-President of Biochrome, Ms. Amanda Vas, then addressed the gathering. The Principal planted the first sapling to kickstart the project along with Mrs. Mitra Borkar (Associate Professor, Department of French, Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science, Autonomous, Margao). The teachers and the students then took over and continued planting saplings in different areas around campus. The saplings planted included trees of Gulmohar, Badam and ornamental flowers. A total 80 students from various departments were present for this great initiative taken by Biochrome.



**NATHAN COLACO**

# TRAVEL WRITING WORKSHOP BY MS. JESSICA FALERIO

On 22 August 2019, the English Department of Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science held a Travel Writing Workshop conducted by writer, Ms. Jessica Falerio. The course went on from 9 a.m to 2 p.m. During this course, Ms Falerio covered all the different basis of

travel journalism. She made the students write and describe an image to teach them how to vividly describe things they see. She even read out and gave some constructive criticism on some of the student's writings. She taught the students how to write a listicle and how to describe something with all the different senses since travel journalism isn't just about the place, but also about the experience. She went on to explain what makes good travel writing and made use of some of her own experiences to give the students a glimpse of what the industry is really like.

She left out no details, be it good or bad. It was a very interesting and informative session and some of the students are already excited for the upcoming session next term.



**VANNA DA COSTA**





# TEACHER'S

## Into the Minds...

Chowgule College is a unique blend of many generations, not only amongst the students but also amongst the teachers as well. They say, to a teacher, a student is always a student, but not here. At Chowgules, multiple departments have their own alumni who work along with their own teachers. There are many of us who wish to one day join the faculty. This teacher's day, we interviewed a few of the teachers, who are currently working with their students as colleagues, to get an insight on how things work.

### Anand Masur, Maths Department



I've been teaching for 33 years, I knew I wanted to be a math teacher when I was in the eighth standard. If I hadn't become a teacher, I would have been a student of Marathi Literature. I like a lot of books, but the most recent one is an autobiography by Balraj Sahni. My not so hidden talent is theatre and direction. The best thing about being a teacher is the experiences you get from dealing with all the different students as they test your knowledge. The worst thing is correcting papers. One thing about this generation that annoys me is the commercialization of education. I love working with ex-students, who are presently my colleagues. I don't have to boss over them, we understand each other and there's a lot of effective communication.

A message I would like to pass on is *"Learn from every angle"*.

FAVOURITE ICECREAM  
Cookies 'n  
Cream!

### Dr. Sobita Kirtani, Psychology Department

I've been teaching for 16 years. I used to help my classmates by explaining certain topics to them and they told me that I would be a good teacher, maybe that's what gave me the inspiration. I have specialized in Industrial Economics so if I hadn't become a teacher, I would have been an HR in a company. I have read a lot of books, but a book I've read twice and would read again is the 'Mahabharata'. I like to sing, dance, and write poetry as well as short stories. The best thing about being a teacher is the power you have to influence minds and impart values. I love my job, but something about exam supervision annoys me. Students belonging to this generation feel that simply having the knowledge about a subject is enough to understand it. I have had the privilege to teach under my Ex-HOD, Kavita Borkar, who was also my teacher. I learnt a lot from her ways of teaching. She respected my opinions and this helps me to respect my students'. A quote I absolutely believe in is

*"Everything that happens, happens for a reason."*



FAVOURITE ICECREAM  
chocolate!



# DAY - SPECIAL!

## ...Of those who get into ours.

**Delilah Pacheco, English Department**



"I've been teaching for three years, and I was not inspired as such, but I liked the new ways in which my teachers taught me and I wanted to do the same. It was a new opportunity and as long as I'm not ruining lives it's fine. If I weren't a teacher, I would have been a linguist or a translator. I don't have a favourite book, but I like the 'Lord of the Rings' series. Everyone knows my talents, they aren't hidden. I bake, engage in DIY, draw, and I never forget a face (Beware!!!). The best part about being a teacher is the satisfaction of delivering a good lecture. The worst part is probably all the paper-work, and students not doing the assigned work. A current trend that's baffling is all these social media influencers and how they are adored, regardless of whether the influence is good or bad, affecting millions of people. I love working with my teachers as my colleagues, it's a lot of fun and they're understanding. A quote I live by is *"Focus on the good in your day, rather than complain about the bad"*.

**FAVOURITE ICECREAM**  
chocolate!

**Andrew Barreto, English Department**

I started teaching in 2006, so it's been 15 years of teaching now. The driving force which led to me becoming a teacher was my stubbornness. My HOD (when I was studying in Chowgules) said that I wouldn't fit into the mould of being a teacher and just to prove her wrong, I did it. If I weren't a teacher, I would have been interested in writing, managing and organising events etc. One of my favourite books is 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'. I am very proud of my skills with respect to cooking steaks, it's an art, and I can also carve meat in minutes. The best thing is interacting with students and the worst is the clerical work, I feel it takes me away from teaching.

Social media is beyond my understanding, though I'm a millennial, and most importantly, I don't understand Tic-Tok. Working with my colleagues is challenging, we do have our differences, but it doesn't affect my teaching, so it's fine. I've always believed that *"Whatever your mind can conceive, you can achieve"*



**FAVOURITE ICECREAM**  
No Fav.  
Picks a different flavour everytime!



**JESSELYN FERNANDES**





## Rajashree Desai, English Department



"I have been a teacher for the past 35 years. I had a keen interest in teaching right from my childhood. Being the daughter of a teacher, I developed this inclination to teach from my father. If I weren't a teacher, I would be a singer because of my equal interests in music as well as in teaching. My favourite book is '*Of Human Bondage*' by William Somerset Maugham. My favourite teacher growing up was my Marathi teacher who taught me in school. I would consider crafts to be my hidden talent. However, I haven't had the opportunity to put it into practice yet. The best thing about being a teacher is that feeling you get when you know that your students have understood what you have taught them.

The most challenging thing about being a teacher is that it is not always possible for a Literature teacher to be inspired. Over the past 35 years of my experience as a teacher, I haven't found much difference in the lifestyle of my students; they're attitudes in class haven't changed too much. The only de-merit is that because of the vast number of gadgets available to them, students tend to get distracted easily, although, this is not entirely their fault, it is partly due to the changes in their environment. Having my own students as my colleagues is a wonderful experience because I can see them progress, introduce new activities and ideas to help the students learn. I am always happy to see how far my students have reached. If I had a message to give my students I would simply say, **"Let us not run after happiness, let us run after peace of mind."**

FAVOURITE ICECREAM  
strawberry!

## Cera Fernandes, Maths Department

It has been one month since I have been teaching. I was inspired to be a teacher by the fact that a teacher has the power to shape minds. I feel that being a teacher is more important than all the other occupations because it is us, the teachers who shape the minds of doctors and engineers. Apart from wanting to be a teacher I've always wanted to be an air hostess. My favourite book is '*I Too Had a Love Story*' by Ravinder Singh. My favourite teachers were my Science teacher in school and my maths teacher in college. I have a keen interest in crafts and DIY projects. Not necessarily the worst part, but being a teacher, you always have to be prepared, you



FAVOURITE ICECREAM  
black  
currant!

have to constantly keep yourself updated. The best part about being a teacher is knowing that your students trust you and look up to you. I believe it is a privilege to be able to work along with my own teachers in the same institution in which I studied. I find it much easier to approach them when I encounter difficulties. I strongly believe that you should **"Never give up and keep trying till you succeed."**



## Dr. Sonia Fernandes Da Costa, English Department

"I have been teaching for 23 years. Being the daughter of two teachers, my parents have been my greatest inspiration to become a teacher. If I was not a teacher, I would have pursued my interests in Psychology. I don't really have a favourite book, but I have read '*Pride and Prejudice*' by Jane Austen five times. The best part about being a teacher is that I am always learning new things and am constantly upgrading my knowledge. The bonus of being an English teacher is that I get to read a lot of books and novels. The disadvantage of being a teacher, is the amount of assessments and paper corrections we teachers have, but it is unavoidable. It baffles me how engrossed teenagers are in their phones these days. I simply don't understand how one can "binge-watch" Netflix shows for



FAVOURITE ICECREAM  
blueberry

hours on end. With regards to me working along with my own teachers as well as my students, I feel that even though I work along with my own teacher, she will always regard me as her student, she'll know my shortcomings and help me to be a better teacher. Working along with my students allows me to help them and learn new things along with them during their journey of learning. One of my favourite quotes, one which I firmly believe in is: **"Failure is just a stepping stone."**

## Aishwarya M. Babu, Psychology Department



"It has been 2 and a half years since I've been teaching. The power of being able to impart knowledge is what inspired me to be a teacher.

I was also inspired by the brilliant teachers who taught me here, at Chowgule College. If I wasn't a teacher, I would have been a clinical psychologist. My favourite book is '*The Biology of Belief*' by Bruce Lipton. My favourite teacher was the teacher who taught me during my Masters. I would consider writing and poetry to be two of my hidden talents. The best thing about being a teacher is that every teacher has been a student, but every student need not be a teacher.

Which means that even though technology has substituted teachers, the real art of teaching is very unique and special. Another merit of being a teacher is being able to see our students excel. Although they may not appreciate you, you are able to see how much they progress through the years. The worst part about being a teacher, although it is unavoidable, is the divide over opinions. Obsession of mobile phones and lack of proper communication among the youth these days is something that baffles me. I regard the opportunity to work along with my teachers as an advantage. The exchange of ideas and concepts is very smooth. The process of becoming a teacher has been much easier than I had expected as I am surrounded by those who taught me. I strongly believe in the quote: **"Nothing is permanent."** You should live one day at a time. When you look at the permanent aspect of life, you lose the essence of living."

FAVOURITE ICECREAM  
vanilla!

**MARIA LIZA VAZ**







# LITERATURE

## The Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance, also described as '*The New Negro Movement*' as coined by Alain Locke was the rebirth of 'black' literature, music and arts. It emerged as a result of the Great Migration, during which thousands of black slaves travelled from the southern states to Harlem, New York to avoid white supremacist domination and in search of better educational opportunities, health care and job facilities.

In the field of literature, many notable poets and authors made their mark during this revolutionary period. Poets such as Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen used English to express their feelings through poems, some of which attained vast fame, eg: '*The Weary Blues*', '*The Negro Speaks of Rivers*', '*Heritage*', '*Incident*' and so on. Another famous black poet was Claude McKay, who was known for his collection of poems titled, '*Spring in New Hampshire and other poems*'. W. E. B. Du Bois wrote a periodical named '*The Crisis*' which spoke about the various issues faced by the African-American people. He referred to the dilemma faced by these people as '*Double-Consciousness*', wherein they felt torn apart between having an African ancestry and living amongst white culture.

There were a few female authors whose works grew in prominence at the time, one being Zora Neale Hurston, who is the author of a famous novel titled, '*Their Eyes Were Watching God*' and another being Nella Larsen, author of another well-known book called '*Passing*'.

The music produced during this renaissance was exceptional. Genres that weren't as popular before such as Jazz, Ragtime (a mixture of blues and 'slave' music) and Blues achieved a major chunk of popularity and ingenuity. Singers and musicians such as Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong rose in prominence as their music spread to all ears, irrespective of colour. The suffering, inner struggles, conflict and financial instability experienced by the people were projected through their music. The revival and modification of some of the African culture and traditions influenced the literature, music and other fine arts of this period.

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**RACHEL DIAS**



## & 'MUSIC'

### The Jazzy-Blues

The evolution of Jazz and Blues

28 August, 2019, is the day dedicated to The Harlem Renaissance by the students who have opted for the course, American Literature in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. There will be a musical staged by the students, as a part of their course work.

Most often than not, we tend to listen to music that might actually be an adaptation blues of jazz, but we are not aware of it. I hope that by reading this piece, your knowledge about this genre of music will increase.

The arrival of the jazz and the blues transformed pop music and was one of the factors that paved the way for the evolution of modern music. Dating back to the era of the Harlem Renaissance (approx. 1920's-1940's), this genre of music was initially considered low class. While ragtime gained popularity during that era, the blues remained in the background.

Apparently, the influence of ragtime and blues is said to have given birth to, the very famous, much loved, jazz.

With the 'black culture' gaining more prominence in America, these forms of music soon came into the limelight. Jazz and blues were soon used in Hollywood musicals, and the nightclubs and bands that played this music gained immense popularity. The influence of the jazz and blues was also seen in various other genres, such as, country music and swing. This led to the development of strong rhythm beats as well as the honky tonk.

Just as how jazz gave rise to the honky tonk, blues gave rise to boogie-woogie and the R&B style. Currently, rap is a more celebrated form of the R&B. Rock'n'roll was symbolic; it was a combination of the blues and country music, which was probably a symbol of unity between the African-Americans and the Americans.

Reference:

Goodier, Mandi. "The evolution of music: Blues, jazz and the rise of popular music." Reader's Digest (n.d.). Article. 21 August 2019. <<https://www.readersdigest.co.uk/culture/music/the-evolution-of-music-blues-jazz-and-the-rise-of-popular-music>>.



**SRUSHTI PRABHUDESAI**





# LETTERS FROM PORTO :PROLOGUE

Srushti (check previous page) and I, decided to complete three semesters here in Chowgule College, Complete two Semesters at the University of Porto (via the academic exchange programme offered) and come back to Chowgules for our Sixth semester...

*To all of you planning on going for the academic exchange, one piece of Advice,  
DON'T DO IT. (humour alert!)*

*Well, I'm not there yet, but here's a time lapse of the past 8 months...*

*Decided to go, told Sharmila, waited a while for the online application, filled in (pretty elaborate) online application), Wrote letters to our BOS, printed, xeroxed, semi approved. Waited a month, fingers crossed for the application to get accepted. A month later: got an email saying it was accepted...*

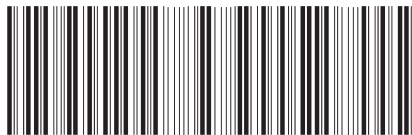
*Yay! Wrote a counter email saying we will be joining the course. Printed the application, Scanned our marksheets, passports, got recommendations, applied for scholarships, got the attested copies from the college, notified the vice principle and the principal \*inhale\* went to the police station, applied for a residence certificate, applied for police clearance, booked an appointment, went to Panjim, formally applied for police clearance, waited for a week, received police clearance, booked tickets, got back acc. details, got a Bonafide certificate from college, got an MOU from college, got a letter from college confirming we have been selected for the exchange...you'd think we'd be done, but pfft, buckle up.*

*Compiled all these documents, along with the attested copy of our acceptance letter and application document, and an SEC, and then, booked an appointment at the Portuguese consulate in Panjim, back in the first week of JULY. We still haven't, received our visas, although we're set to leave in a week's time. Did I mention all the Cas we need to complete before we leave, all in a week's time simultanesly? Well I also forgot to mention the fact that we need to work for the attendance for the few days of the third semester we won't be attending! let's just hope it's all worth it... stay tuned! find out what happens in our next Aether Issue, exclusively.*

**AMANDA D'COSTA**







# GALORE! THE FESTIVITIES ARE HERE!

The past couple of months have seen heavy lashes of rains and hence, people have had a hard battle to fight. Despite all this chaos and conundrum, people certainly haven't lost their enthusiasm for the colourful festival season that has walked in. As Indians, festivities run in our very veins. India prides upon the rich culture, traditions and heritage; that she carries in her bosom. What better reflection of that, than the countless festivals? Life is all about happiness, and as human beings, social interaction with our fellow beings not only brings happiness, but helps us grow our capacity to learn languages, familiarise ourselves with cultures, inquire, think and work. In the chaotic and stressful lives we live, happiness is overshadowed by negativity and insecurity, and so the need for something that could bring positivity has been felt time and again. There's nothing better than festivities to forget all our worries and celebrate in the warmth of the companionship of those we love.

Nothing brings people together like festivals. Be it the auspicious thread of 'rakhi' that binds a brother and sister in a circle of love and care, or the Independence Day that fills all hearts with patriotism and unites the nation like the colours of the national flag. Be it Eid that brings the devotional month of Ramadan to an end of love and harmony, or Christmas that brings beauty, joy and colour to the lives of the deprived. It is festivals that erase all lines of distinction; and helps us all rejoice, de-stress and reconnect to the emotions and bonds that our busy lives bereave us from.

With the month of September rolling in, a lot of fun festivities are all set to unwrap themselves. So, we better buckle ourselves up for all the arduous preparations that these festivals entail. But don't you worry, for there's also a crackling pack of sheer fun, top notch cousin pranks, mouth-watering sweets, pretty clothes (and probably gifts too xP) coming along as a bonus! And since you have decided to pick up this newsletter, flip through to look at the festivities that have just gone by and the ones that are fast approaching. Have you started your preparations yet?

**RAMYA WARRIER**

# THE RIGHT THING

Do you feel tired of taking orders from others? Do you believe that you can lead better than them? Do you hunger to do the right thing? There is one person who really needs your help. Confused? Your mother; Mother Earth. She is crying out to each and every one of you. she needs you to show the way. She needs you to protect her.

I am pretty sure that if anyone would think of harming your mother or father you would stand up and fight without fear. Will you fight for your mother? Will you save her from this constant hurting? Do you know the enemy? Unfortunately, the enemy is YOU. surprised?

On a trip to Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, I saw a piece of cloth which read 'lift to see the most destructive animal of them all', I lifted the cloth and to my surprise, it was a mirror! We are destroyers, can we save our mother earth from us humans? Forests are being cut down in the name of development. Animals are being poached in the name of hides and bones. The Amazon is still burning, Global Warming is just increasing, polar ice caps are still melting the garbage patch is getting bigger and bigger. Mother earth needs you.

She needs you to save her, she needs you to help her revive. You may feel disheartened and feel helpless, but you can instil big changes, you got the power of social media. Educate people on how to manage/segregate their waste, teach them to plant trees, show little children how to respect and care for all living creatures, and most importantly show others how to protect our planet.

If you feel that you are a better leader do your little part as a better person every day, and people will join you. There will be people who will discourage you and put you down, but if you believe in your goal and believe in yourself, no one can stop you. Then you are a true leader.

**RAY GOMES**





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY KRISHNA!

"In Tamil Nadu, this day is celebrated with great enthusiasm. We fast the entire day, and in the evening, we light lamps and perform poojas. We decorate the idol with flowers and ornaments.

What I like the most is the way we draw Lord Krishna's footprints with the paste of rice powder from the threshold to the altar room to symbolize the arrival of Lord Krishna to our homes. We prepare many sweets and dishes that are considered to be Lord Krishna's favorites. We don't have the Dahi Handi breaking tradition but we do hang a pot of butter in our homes", says Aarti S, from the Department of Computer Science.

The tradition of celebrating Janmashtami in West Bengal and regions around it stems from the teachings of Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who was an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. There is a place called ISKCON (The International Society for Krishna Consciousness) in Mayapur where Janmashtami is celebrated with a lot of pomp and joy. In this place, both Lord Krishna and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu are worshipped. "For us, Saint Chaitanya is an avatar of Lord Krishna himself. Chariots which hold the idol of Lord Krishna are brought out and taken for a ride all over the place so that everyone can get a glimpse of it and a chance to worship Lord Krishna. In our homes, we create rangoli patterns and prepare sweets" says Pragyan K. Chakrabarti from the Department of English.

Though our college is located in Goa, we can proudly say that it is filled with students hailing from different parts of India following diverse cultures and traditions. This gives us an opportunity to know and appreciate the diversity in our lives and in those of our college-mates.

We wish the naughty and charming Lord Krishna a very happy birthday!

Janmashtami marks the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna who is believed to be one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu according to Hindu religion. Throughout the country, this festival is celebrated with great fervor and heightened spirits. It takes place on the eighth day of the dark fortnight during the month of Shravana according to the Hindu calendar. This year, it was celebrated on 24 August 2019. Although the purpose of this festival is the commemoration of the birth of Lord Krishna, it is celebrated differently in various parts of the country. We questioned a few students from the college who hail from different parts of the country to find out how they celebrate it in their regions..

Vaishnavi Toraskar from the Biochemistry Department, told us a little bit about the celebrations in Goa itself. "Here, we don't celebrate it in a grand way. At midnight, we visit the Lord Krishna temple where we worship his idol which is kept in a cradle. Sweets and prasad are offered. The day which follows Lord Krishna's birthday is called Gopalkalo and competitions like Dahi Handi are held in the temples and colonies in which various groups compete against other intending to break the pot of curd that is hung by a string at a great height."



**ASHWINI SEQUEIRA**



**STACY DIAS**



# GANESH CHATURTHI: A HAPPY FEELING

Ganesh Chaturthi, an important Hindu festival celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesh. According to the Hindu calendar, Chaturthi is celebrated in the Bhadra month, which means that it is celebrated either in August or in September. This year, the festival happens to be on the 2nd of September.

The number of days of celebration varies from house to house. While a few families celebrate it for 1 and a 1/2 days, others celebrate it for 5 or 7 days. Quite a few families celebrate for a long period of time, and it could go on for either 7, 9, or even 21 days.

The preparations for Ganesh Chaturthi start two months prior to the festival with the idol makers, they start crafting the idols in July itself. These idols are made of clay, and each and every one is different with its own intricate details. Besides the idol preparations, people start preparing sweets in their homes. They prepare various kinds of Goan sweets such as nevryo, shankar palyo, modak, fenoryo, and many more! People start preparing these sweets a week or so before

Chaturthi and this is how they eagerly look forward to the festival days.

The day before Chaturthi is dedicated to preparing the house for Lord Ganesh's arrival. Besides cleaning the houses, the families have a lot to do. They build a matoli which is a structure hung above the worship space for Lord Ganesh. This structure is designed to hang fruits, and after the aartis, (tradition of worshipping Lord Ganesh by singing ritualistic songs) these fruits are cut up

and distributed as prasad . A lot of families like to decorate the worship space in creative and fun ways. Nowadays people like to include pop culture as well, such as creating the Iron Throne from Game of Thrones and placing it behind the idol. Celebration begins the night before the festival by singing aartis in praise of the Lord's parents, Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

On the day of Chaturthi, everyone wakes up early and get themselves ready for the arrival of Lord Ganesh. When he arrives they celebrate by singing aartis from their heart and soul. They tremendously enjoy the aartis that they sing. They sing at the top of their voices while using percussion instruments to accompany the vocals. These aartis , being the highlight of the festival, continue till the last day.

On the last day, they sing the last aarti before the Ganpati visarjan (immersion). During the visarjan , they chant Lord Ganesh's name over and over again, they bid him farewell and say that they hope to see him again the next year. After the visarjan , everyone walks back home with a full heart, looking forward to the next Ganesh Chaturthi.

# ‘SHRAVANDHARA’

The Marathi Department of Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science Autonomous organized ‘Shravandhara’ on Thursday, 22 August, 2019.

this programme was held because it's the month of Shraavana This is a festival of the hindu religion.

This festival is known as the fifth month of the hindu calendar. This month is dedicated to Lord Shiva – the Hindu God of destruction. A poem recitation program was held in the upper auditorium from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The Guest invited for this auspicious occasion was Anuya Shirodkar. The main topic for the programme was Shraavana.

The students from the Marathi Department along with The guest also took part in the event by reciting poems. The month of Shraavana is very important for the entire subcontinent of India as it is connected to the arrival of the South-West monsoons. For many Hindus, the month of Shraavana is a month of fasting. Many Hindus fast every Monday in order to worship Lord Shiva and/or every Tuesday to worship Goddess Parvati. The fasting done on the Tuesdays of this month is known locally as ‘Mangala Gauri Vrat’



**RUCHA PRABHUDESAI**



**MARIA ADALIN COLACO**





Film- Once Upon a Time....in Hollywood

Cast - Leonardo Di Caprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Luke Perry, Al Pacino, Bruce Dern

Director - Quentin Tarantino

Duration - 2 hours 45 minutes

Rating - 4/5

Very few Directors succeed to tell stories with a kind of elegance, substance and boldness that Quentin Tarantino does. The title of his ninth film (apparently Tarantino plans to pull the plug after his tenth film) is "Once Upon a Time....in Hollywood" which is a period drama. The title of the film is a tribute to Sergio Leone's "Once Upon a Time in the West" (1968) and "Once Upon a Time in America" (1984). The film was shot on celluloid with changing aspect ratios.

The film is set in early 1969. The two main characters of the film are Rick Dalton (Leonardo Di Caprio) the star of a popular T.V show called 'Bounty Law', who has seen better days in his career, which is currently dwindling. His driver/friend is Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt) a stunt man and is Rick's double who is kinda out of work. He does random jobs for Dalton like fixing the television antenna. The two buddies are fictional characters but the things happening around them are real, like their neighbours Sharon Tate (Margot Robbie) and Roman Polanski (Rafal Zawierucha) who have recently moved in next door to Dalton's house. Quentin Tarantino cleverly fuses fiction and reality. Another example, is

the duel between Bruce Lee (Mike Moh) and Booth for a role in the Green Hornet where Lee played Kato in the T.V. series.

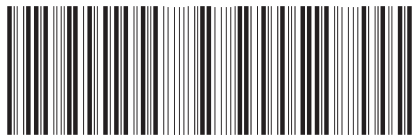
The first sign of uneasiness in the story creeps in when Cliff offers a ride to a hippie who lives in a secluded place called Spahn Ranch, where Dalton's hit T.V. show Bounty Law was filmed. It seems that Spahn Ranch has been taken over by a cult. There is an indirect mention that it belongs to Charles Manson, one of America's infamous killers. Meanwhile Rick is a lost man and there isn't any work except some villainous roles and his agent Marvin Shwarz (Al Pacino) tells him to go to Rome and try his luck in the Italian Film Industry under the Direction of Sergio Corbucci.

No movie is complete without a soundtrack and Quentin Tarantino uses his music quite cleverly. Some famous songs used are Mrs. Robinson by Simon and Garfunkel, Brother Love's Travelling Salvation Show by Neil Diamond, California Dreamin by Jose Feliciano, Kentucky Woman by Deep Purple and many more.

Quentin Tarantino saves the best for last. The climax has a twist which is bloody, bizarre, comical, entertaining and outrageous all at the same time. To quote the Mexican Director Guillermo del Toro, "It is a tale of a time that probably never was, but still feels like a memory".

**JEFF D'CRUZ**





# HUMANS of CHOWGULE'S...

On 16th of August, 2019, Nicia Fernandes and Marlon D'Souza, finally received the well-deserved fruits of their labour - they won the Duet Category in Goencho Awaz, an annual singing competition in Goa at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao. This was such a huge accomplishment in their lives and so it was only natural that she readily said yes when I asked for an interview with her as it gave her a reason to gush about her win and I, well, I just needed the inner scoop. Though born in Goa to Maria and Newton Fernandes, she spent her childhood years growing up in Dubai but came back to Goa when she was 13 and has been here ever since. Singing, according to her, was something that she had never really given much thought to but as she started participating in various talent shows, she started to take it more seriously. When we finally met up for some much needed tête-à-tête, we talked about things right from where it all started to her inspirations and what was in store for her future. Here are the excerpts:

## **How do you feel about winning Goencho Awaz?**

Firstly it is unbelievable but at the same time we are very happy and super stoked about winning the competition. Also we are very excited to see what happens next in our future.

## **Tell me how you first got involved in singing?**

I started singing when I was 6 or 7 I think. At that time it was very random. But when I got into Presentation Convent High School, we made this group and called ourselves "The Nightingales" and that was the time I started taking singing seriously. So we started participating and winning competitions and yeah singing has continued ever since.

## **What is your first memory of singing to a live audience?**

My first memory would be of singing at my aunt's wedding where I was just 7 years old. I had to sing a toast song for her wedding.

## **Who influenced you the most to take up singing?**

I think it would be Tr. Katia from Presentation Convent High School and then definitely my father and my partner Marlon D'Souza.



## **What did you think of the competition and what was the most challenging thing about being in it?**

It is one of the most challenging competitions I've participated in. Goencho Awaz is not at all easy and we had to practice a lot and do so much hard work in order to get the desired outcome. The most challenging thing for me was I think to get my accent correct.

## **What kind of accent did you have while singing and did people criticize you a lot for it?**

I tend to adapt the English accent while singing Konkani songs which isn't good at all and as I didn't have the proper Konkani accent, it was very difficult to get it right. A lot of people did tell me to get my accent correct so I guess yeah.

## **Is there any particular memory or moment that stood out for you throughout the competition?**

There are a lot of memories but one that stands out are of the practices. Practising would mean that I would get to meet the band and Marlon everyday accompanied with a lot of laughter and fun. And onstage, it would be about performing with the band.

## **How were practices like? Did you sacrifice anything because of it?**

Truth be told, practices didn't really feel like practices. I say that because half of the time we fought and fooled around a lot instead of practising and the other half was spent laughing, chatting, and eating unnecessary food but the two hours that we did practice, we gave our 100 percent. It was really a surprise that we won so I guess it's a good thing to live by. I was specifically asked not to eat or drink anything cold and considering the fact that I practically live on cold drinks, it was pretty much difficult to abstain from it.

## **You're a college student right? So how did you juggle between the competition and college?**

I think everything had its own time. We had a very dedicated time for practices that would be from 6-9 p.m. But most times I had to miss a lot of lectures and sometimes I wouldn't even go to college for 3 to 4 days if I had a performance the next day or an audition for something because it was very important for me to give my vocal chords some rest because it makes my singing better.

## **How and why did you and your partner decided to pair up? Was it planned or simply a co-incidence?**

You know the funny thing is that we were both looking for partners for each other in the first place so I was searching for Marlon and he was doing the same thing for me. But then we weren't really getting good partners to sing with and that is when we decided to pair up and we did and we won. So it's neither a planned thing nor a co-incidence for that matter, it just happened.

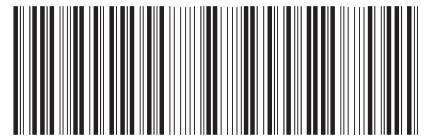
## **What was your rapport with Marlon like?**

It was very good I would say because we've known each other since 4 years now and building a rapport with him was not that difficult.

## **How did you find out about Goencho Awaz?**

Goencho Awaz is not something that people wouldn't know about but for me I think I know it since 2014 because a very close friend of mine participated in it and then ever since I was





very excited to take part in the competition but was just waiting for the right time and the right partner to sing with.

**What is it like to be a winner of Goencho Awaz?**

The feeling is surreal. I mean coming first in this competition this year out of all those pretty amazing singers in all of Goa, it of course feels great and I'm very thankful to all those who supported me throughout this amazing journey.

**Being a singer yourself, you must have some favourite ones in your playlist. Tell us about them.**

If we're talking about Konkani singers then it's definitely Lorna and Mark Revlon but otherwise it's every single member of One Direction.\*proceeds to fangirl over them\*

**Have you ever been compared to any Konkani singers? Do you accept that comparison?**

I've been compared to Lorna so many times that I've lost count and I actually don't like it because I feel like there's no point in being a second somebody. There is great joy and pleasure in being the first person known for something. Like you know you are known by your name for something that you love to do. So no, I don't like the comparison.

**What achievement are you most proud of and why?**

My biggest achievement so far is winning this title and I'm proud of it because personally it's a great deal to come first in all of Goa and it's no small feat to achieve.

**Are your parents happy with this win?**

They are definitely happier than I am, for sure because they have been my biggest supporters from day 1 and getting to see their child win such a title surely made them the proudest parents.

**How was your life before Goencho Awaz?**

Umm, I don't think there hasn't been any drastic improvement in my life since Goencho Awaz but there have been minor changes like getting more shows to perform now. Earlier it would be just singing to a small crowd or to the walls in my bedroom but now it's like an upgraded version of singing shows with a bigger stage and an even bigger crowd.

**Now that you have won, what's next?**

Now that I've won Goencho Awaz, this itself is a big opportunity for me to broaden my horizons and make myself known in order to get more performances and more shows that could further help me in my singing career.

**What is the most interesting thing about your journey?**

Everything. Right from the very first practice we had before the audition to the very last performance and then winning the title with a special person beside me will be the most interesting and cherished memory about this journey.

**What did you learn from being in this competition?**

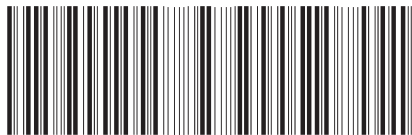
The most important thing I've learned while participating in this competition is that, this might sound so cliché but hardwork is the only thing that gets you there, it just gets you to your desired goal. How to be patient and calm is also another thing that I learned there because I was a nervous wreck most of the time and if not for those things, I would've lost it all. Another thing I've learnt from being there, and this is the most important thing for some reason, is that apparently you have to sing with your chest voice and not your head voice because that is what people like to hear.\*makes a weird face\*

**Lastly, what message would you want to give to people who want to take part in this competition in the future?**

I think they definitely should take part no matter what provided they have proper people to guide them because some people just come there for the sake of it and then end up making a fool of themselves. But there are talented singers out there that should experience this great opportunity to build themselves and to be better so yeah, I would absolutely ask them to go for it.

**AFREEN BALKUNDI**





# SHAKESPEARE FEST: BTS

Shakespeare fest, the most awaited event of the English department is just 2 weeks away. Back then in the year 2009 the event had started off with only 3 schools participating in it. But since then Shakespeare fest has grown to the next level and have become more popular among the schools and higher secondary schools in Goa.

Since this year it is the 10th edition of Shakespeare fest the students as well as the teachers are all thrilled up to make it a big bang celebration. Through out the past few weeks the students of first year, second year and third year of the English department along with the teachers and etc members are busy discussing and planning the first event of the English department of the academic year 2019-2020.

*The preparations are going on track minus the fact that we don't have any sponsorships to work with... But that's a usual problem, I'm sure it will work out great. The participation from the FY's side is amazing. I don't think there was so much enthusiasm from my batch, participation wise at least. We, the seniors are trying our best to help them. This is going to be the 10 year anniversary of The Bard by the Mandovi, hence the goal is to organize a spectacular event, better than ever before. Of course there are still some things that we need to think about, such as the Inaugural and mementos, but I believe that if we corporate with each other, (and are pressurised a bit lol) we will successfully attain this goal. Fingers crossed.*  
-Anushree Bhende (SYBA)



Here are a few insights of students:

*I am the part of the inaugural team. We meet everyday we discuss stuff. We have planned the spectacle for the inaugural. It is inspired by the Steve Harvey's Family Feud show. We are looking forward to make it really dramatic along with the musical elements at the end. It is really fun working with new people, along with people who I didn't really knew in the beginning.*

-Sakshi Desai (FYBA)

*As a first year student I am really excited for the event. I'm eagerly waiting for the Shakespeare fest because before I haven't been given a chance in the school to participate in it and now I am one of the organisers of the event.*

-Lisa Mendosa (FYBA)

*I am really glad to look at the enthusiasm of the first year students for the Shakespeare fest 2019. Since it's their first event, they are trying their level best to make it more spectacular than the previous year. Andrew Sir as well as the seniors of the English department are guiding the first years for organizing the event and making it a success.*

-Valusha Fernandes (SYBA)



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Autonomous

estb. 2015

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