



# AETHER

**A STUDENT TABLOID VENTURE  
VOLUME V - ISSUE IV- 15 AUG. 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.*



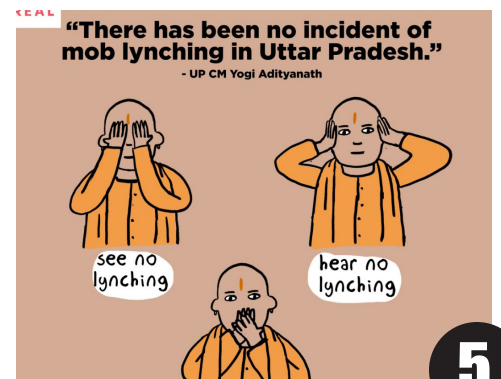
**Chowgule College**  
AUTONOMOUS



73rd anniversary already...

3

**INSIDE!**



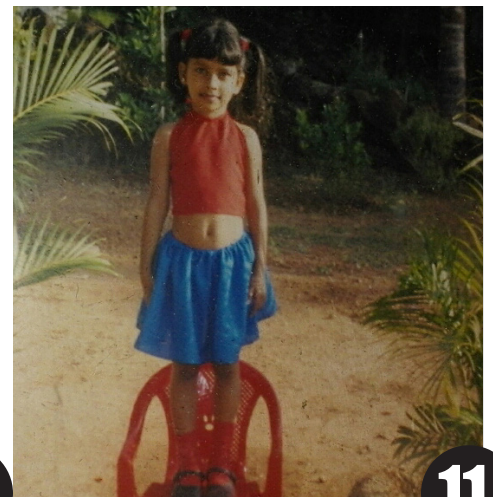
lynchistan

5



most decorated mauzo!

10



humane of chowgule

11

the bluest eye...



15



# J&K: RIGHT MUCH?

5th August 2019 was a normal day for the people of India, that is, until the clock struck 11 am (although 12 would have been more dramatic). It was at that fateful time; the Parliament moved a bill to remove Article 370 of the Constitution of India and replace Article 35A. At the same time, Home Minister Amit Shah also introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill which effectively split the state into two separate Union Territories- Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. But what is this Article 370 and 35A everyone is talking about?

In a nutshell, these two articles were introduced after independence and gave the state of Jammu and Kashmir Special Status. But what exactly is this Special Status? In 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh, the then ruler of Kashmir signed a treaty which came to be known as the Instrument of Accession. This Instrument of Accession effectively ended the British rule in his beautiful princely state and Kashmir was acceded into the Indian Union. It was signed on the 26th of October 1947 and accepted by the then Governor General of India, Lord Mountbatten. After independence, Articles 370 and 35A were introduced. These provisions defined that the Jammu & Kashmir's residents live under a separate set of laws which included laws related to citizenship, ownership of property and fundamental rights, as compared to residents of the other Indian states. This also meant that the Constitution of India did not apply to Jammu & Kashmir.

This article also made it impossible for non-permanent residents (or outsiders to be precise) to buy land in Kashmir. Guess that's about to change now. Don't be surprised if the fare prices to Kashmir skyrocket in the coming months coz the floodgates have been opened. I'm sure that you've already heard that some of our very own dynamic Goan leaders have already made their retirement plans in Kashmir. With the scrapping of Article 370 and 35A and the introduction of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, the state of J&K no longer exists as a whole but as two separate Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and Ladakh without a legislature. The Constitution of India is now applicable to the citizens of both these UT's.

Many have seen this move as overdue, but many feel this move was an undemocratic one. The BJP in revoking these articles has fulfilled one of the electoral promises it

made but this move has provoked outrage from the principal political parties in the state, like the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). This bold decision taken by Narendra Modi-led BJP government was aimed at ending the decades long separationist movement in the state. One of the main ways this decision will affect the residents of the newly formed Union Territories is that the Home Ministry will have more control over Jammu and Kashmir which will be ruled by a Lieutenant Governor. He/she will be the ultimate governing authority in the territory and has the power to override the advance given by the elected government whose tenure will be of 5 years.

Despite restrictions being imposed in Jammu and Kashmir, people came out of their homes to celebrate and raised slogans hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. While many Kashmiris felt that they have lost their identity. This all is not to say that the decision taken by the government is final. This decision can be challenged in the Supreme Court. The legality of this move is bound to create a lot of discussion in the months to come. Political leaders including PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti, National Conference's Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah and Kashmir People's Conference's Sajad Lone have been put under house arrest. Communications have also been shut down in the valley and more troops have been deployed in the region.

In my opinion the decision taken by the government will ensure that the valley will be developed as under Special Status, the Right to Education could not be imposed. Healthcare and industries will rapidly improve as outsiders now have the opportunity to invest there. This will also create a lot of job opportunities for the youth of the valley who have been largely unemployed and will reduce poverty. The tourism sector will also improve as a result of investments. With the removal of Special Status in Jammu and Kashmir and the splitting of the state into two separate Union Territories, all citizens of the country will finally be considered equal before law. The term Equality which is so proudly stated has finally lived up to meaning.

**NATHAN COLACO**







Just a couple of weeks remaining for our 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day and people out on the streets are already hyped up about the most patriotic national holiday of India. If you don't already know, this is that time of the year when citizens share Whatsapp forwarded messages and famous personalities including infamous political leaders tweet epic odes to show their die-hard love and patriotic nature towards our motherland. In addition, people also put up tricolour dp's and share aesthetic pictures of the freedom fighters that kinda makes me feel guilty about the fact that these great leaders fought and died for nothing. Yes, they basically swapped one oppressive rule (British Raj) with a seemingly less threatening one at the time (Indian Society and the select nitwits that live in it which coincidentally makes up a large chunk of the present political "leaders" of India.)

Okay! Maybe I'm getting a little ahead of myself but in order to get a better understanding of the word Independence and its essence, I looked it up. The literal meaning of the word is self-governance/liberty/freedom and the definition of it is given as "freedom from the control or influence of others". Now this got me thinking, "If that's the literal meaning of the word independence then ARE WE REALLY INDEPENDENT?"

In a country that boasts about secularism, the largest democracy, the longest written constitution in any sovereign country in the whole world and unprecedented political decisions that wreak havoc across the nation, its foundations and ideals are being constantly threatened by rising intolerance and an increasingly belligerent

majoritarianism on a daily basis. Communal riots and caste discrimination are casually served every other day with a side dish of healthy and refreshing political disputes over what women should do in order to NOT get raped. And if you're lucky enough, your state just might get bored of its statehood and turn into a Union Territory overnight! Ha! Now wouldn't that be amazing to discover.

The Indian democracy may be free-wheeling, corrupt, inefficient, and useless now but despite this, despite the many stresses and strains over the years – including 22 months of autocratic rule during a "state of emergency" in 1975 – it still survives.

Seventy three years ago this month, at midnight, on August 15, 1947, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru proclaimed India's Independence from the British Empire. He called it "a moment that comes but rarely in history, when we pass from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

National Integration is essential for any nation with socio-cultural, religious, linguistic and geographical diversities and for a country like ours it is still more necessary. So on this 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Indian Independence, I hope all Indians build a new idea of India as a singular land embracing many people and share the message that despite being a land of profound differences of caste, creed, colour, culture, customs, and opinions, we can and will always be one united nation. A healthy tip: Maybe start by revisiting your beliefs on being free and independent and rededicating yourselves towards an inclusive, democratic, idiocy-free, and just India.

**AFREEN BALKUNDI**





# A DIALOGUE

## SCENE I

Bahanalal and Maskalal were two middle-aged men walking along a dirt road early in the morning. Bahanalal worked in the fields, while Maskalal owned a shop in the city. They were talking about life, problems with their wives, and other simple everyday matters. The sun was struggling to make an appearance through the early morning haze. They easily missed the apparition of a man cloaked in white linen standing beside the road. He called out to them:

Man: Good morning! How do you do? Isn't it a fine morning? What a pleasant day to enjoy and relax! I'm new here. Could you please help me out by showing me around town? I'm sure we'll have fun.

Bahanalal and Maskalal burst into a fit of laughter.

Bahanalal: Pleasant day to relax, you say? There's no time for us to while around. Come along Maskalal, we should get going.

Man: Why are you in such a hurry? It's still early in the morning.

Maskalal: Do you not know the crisis we are in? We cannot waste a single moment. With all the currency change, budget law, this law that law, tax amendments going on, people like us don't have time to spare. We need to make as much money as we can.

Man: What are you saying? Do people have no money?

Bahanalal: Oh no! All the 'top' people have money, if you know what I mean. Farmers are all dying. The other day, my friend's friend jumped to his death. He couldn't pay his loans, and couldn't even give his children food. He asked for help, but no one

could help him.

Man: Why couldn't anyone help him?

Maskalal: Arre, are you blind or what? Can't you see what's happening? The farmers don't receive sufficient payment for their crops. Then they can't pay loans. We also can't help. We're struggling to feed our families. Oh, and paying taxes.

Man: What are these Taxes you're talking about?

Bahanalal: Even I don't know what it is! People keep saying some PST, DST, JST... something like that.

Maskalal: How would you know? I'll tell you. It's GST. And there's something called slabs. If a commodity falls in that slab, you have to pay that amount of tax. You have to ....

The two men were engrossed in their own conversation of how everything is expensive, and that they were walking today because they wanted to save fuel in order to use it for an emergency. The Man, shocked and lost for words, decides to change his location hoping for something better.

## SCENE II

The Man goes to a cinema hall. He fondly remembers the time they used to screen movies on a white cloth, and

how the community would gather to watch films.

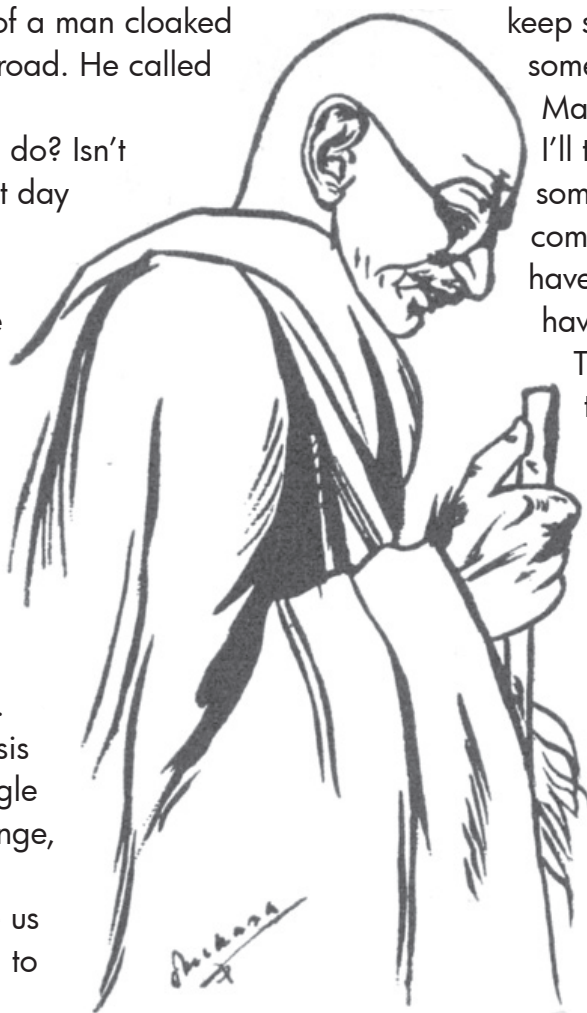
He's quite astounded with the structure of a theatre. He enters and sits with his tub of popcorn. While waiting for the movie to start and munching on his popcorn, he notices that people are beginning to stand. Unaware of what's to happen, he keeps munching. Suddenly, the theatre is filled with the sound of a very familiar song:

'Jana gana manna ...'

Startled, the Man jumps to his feet and spills all his popcorn.

After the movie he approaches a boy.

Man: Hello. Could you tell me why we sing the National Anthem before watching a movie?



**RACHEL DIAS**

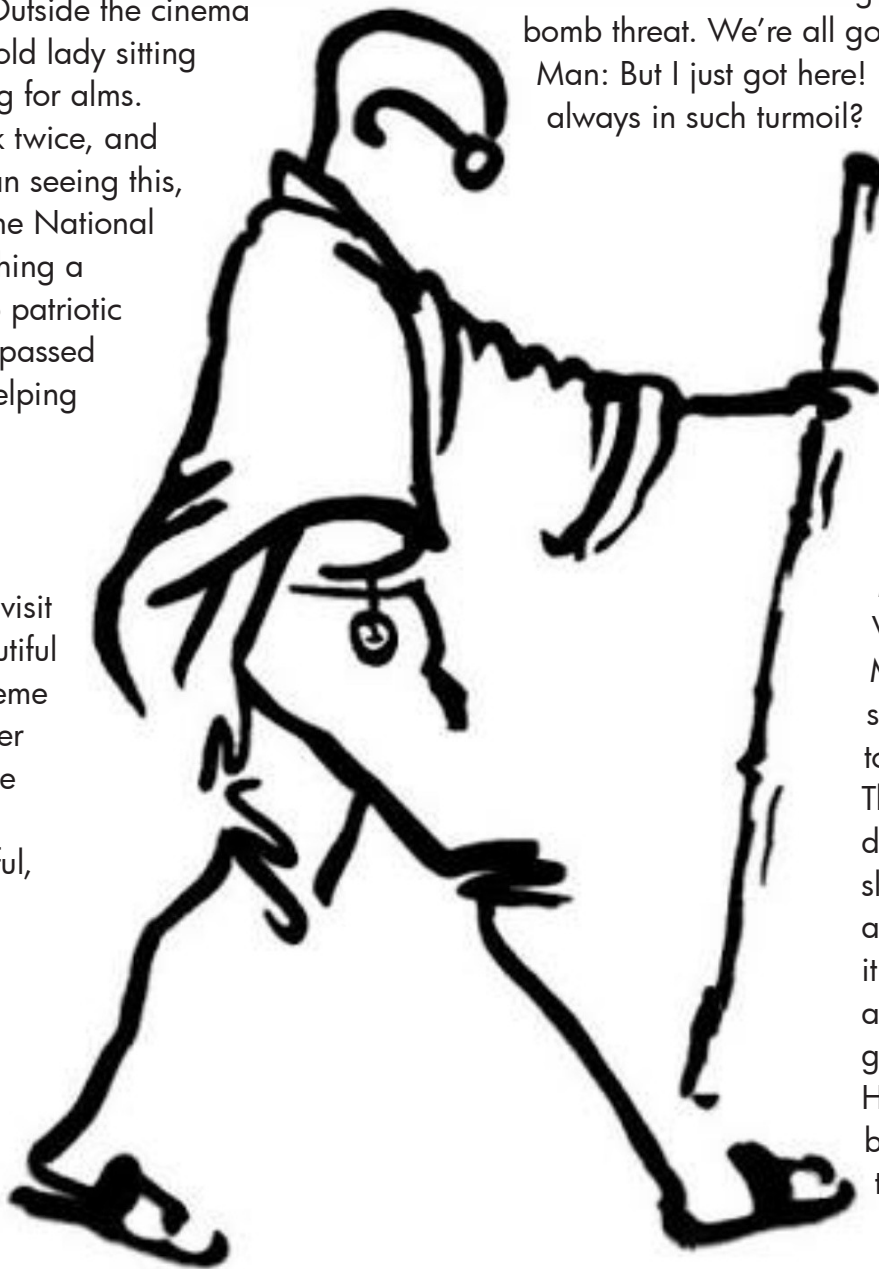


# WITH GANDHI

The boy puzzled, stares at him for a while. Concluding that he must not be Indian, he puffs his chest out proudly and says:  
 Boy: It is an order passed by the Supreme Court. Everyone must sing the Anthem before watching the movie. It is a way of showing our spirit of patriotism. And he walks away.  
 The Man too exits. Outside the cinema halls there's a poor old lady sitting with a child, begging for alms. The boy doesn't look twice, and walks away. The Man seeing this, wonders if singing the National Anthem before watching a movie is patriotic, so patriotic that it was an order passed by the Court. And helping this woman is ...

## SCENE III

The Man decides to visit one of the most beautiful places in India, extreme north, near the border of India. Strolling one morning:  
 Man: Such a beautiful, serene place. Brings back memories. Maybe I was wrong – they must have worked something out eventually. Finally, peace in this land. Hears distant chattering. It sounds urgent, serious. People seem to be filing out of hotels in a hurry, bags packed. They look scared, frightened. He meets a family with two young children. Approaching them:  
 Man: Why are you in a hurry on such a beautiful morning?  
 Mr. Chandra: Haven't you heard the news? We're all told to vacate and return home as soon as possible!



Man: (utterly perplexed) But why? By whom?  
 Mr. Chandra: (anxiously) The Government!!! There's a crisis here! You should go back too. There's a bomb threat. We're all going to die.  
 Man: But I just got here! Is this beautiful valley always in such turmoil?

Mr. Chandra: Are you crazy? There's never peace here. It even has special laws. Or, maybe not anymore. But who cares? It's such a delicate place.  
 Young Rama: Papa, I'm getting scared. Let's go home.  
 Mr. Chandra: Ha beta. We're going. (To the Man) Take care Mister. I suggest that you go home too. It's not safe out here. The Man is utterly disappointed. He walks slowly to a nearby bench and heaves himself onto it. For the first time since arriving there he takes a good look at the place. He feels helpless, lost. It's been over 70 years, but the land still looks war-torn.

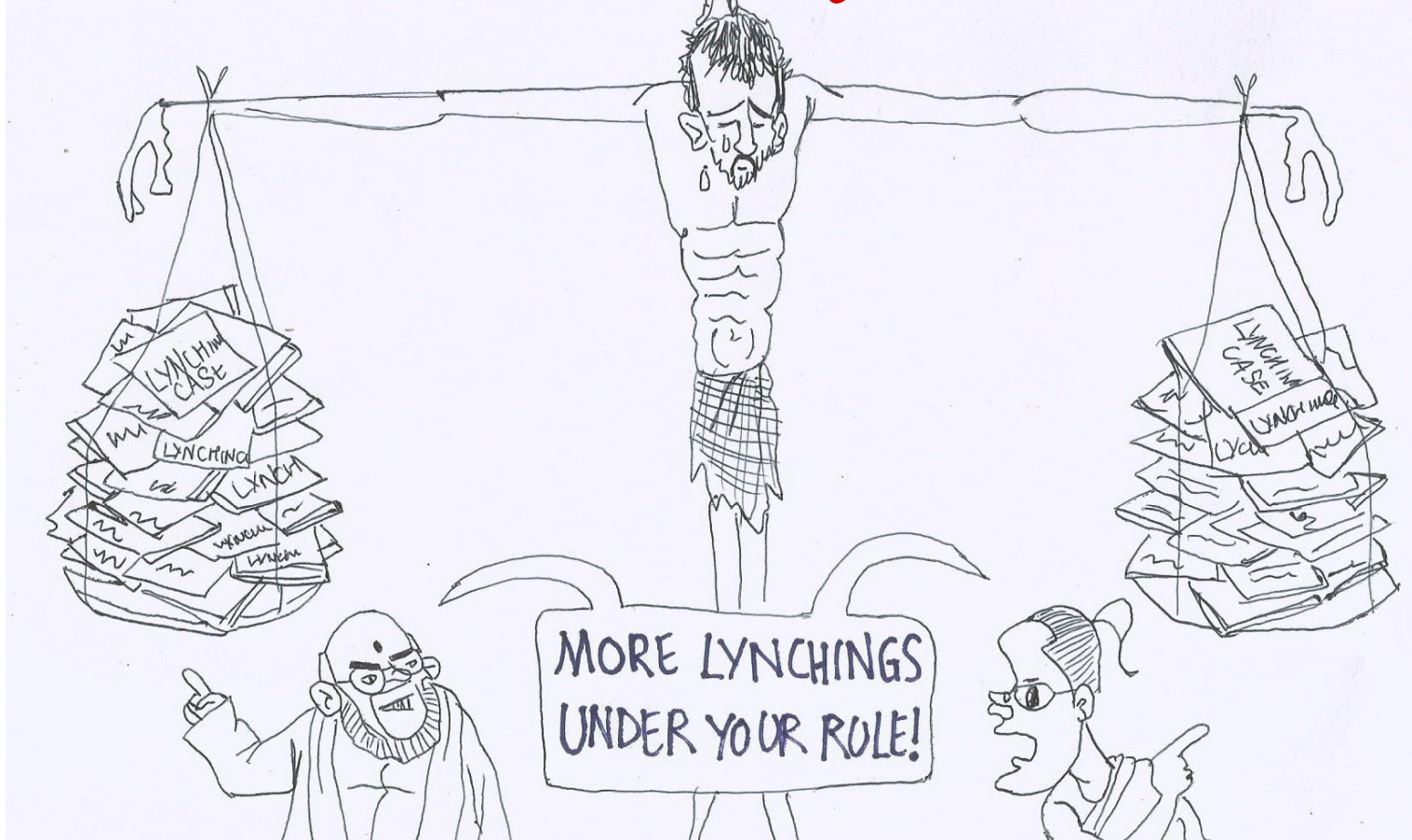
He mumbles to himself, 'I knew it was a bad idea'.

(The Man is Gandhi, who has returned from the other side to see how his beloved country has progressed. No one even recognises him. He doesn't know what to do and returns to the world yonder.)





# THE MAKING OF *'Lynchistan'*



And you thought our former oppressors were rude? Tsk tsk. What's more? The bullies refuse! And oh, so indignantly! How dare you raise your voice, you minor, oppressed child?

India's Independence Day is here. So people, get out your tricolored bandanas, slap your faces (and more) with the colours of our motherland, enjoy a nice, big cup of steaming hot chai as you listen to our Prime Minister's soul stirring call. A call to the nation not to get down on its knees for terrorists, parading how far we have come, and how far ahead we can go. However, the question is: "How independent are we?" Mob lynching, vigilante groups unabashedly lashing out at minorities in certain areas, statements being thrown around to kick people out of the country, on the pretext of living in peace. Beloved Prime Minister, have we really come far? Are we really independent in 'Independent India'?

There has been an enormous rise in the cases of mob killings in India. It may not have reached all states yet, but boy, it's spreading like the Plague. It may be happening in the villages of your state right now, but who knows? This epidemic is prevalent in many more states now. A letter written by 49 eminent citizens of the country sent to the Prime Minister, which emphasised the gruesome, horrifying reality in our country.

Earlier this month, the state of Rajasthan introduced a bill that proposed a tough, new law to deal with the increase in lynching incidents. The bill makes it more difficult for those who indulge in these crimes to get away with them. The legislation calls for life imprisonment if the victim dies, and a conspiracy to lynch will also be treated as a crime equal to lynching itself. It is unfortunate that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century India, as we call ourselves a rising power, yet we debate on the subject of mob killings. Factchecker.in shows that in 2018 there were 93 attacks reported, motivated by religious bias. In 75% of these incidents, minorities were the victims. Over the last week, however, the discourse has been dominated not by the law

in Rajasthan, but by the open letters on different sides of the ideological divide of the entire lynching issue. It seems like the outrage over the lynching itself is less than the outrage over those who protest against it. It is important to note that those who wrote the letter didn't write it as intellectuals, they wrote it as concerned citizens. As a democracy, we have a right to write a letter to the Prime Minister. When ministers themselves are accused with such gruesome killings, the cases are suddenly closed – due to threats to not sentence the accused for the crime. "If someone is doing something you think is bad, kill them there and then, we can worry about the law later". "If he died due to the beating and the police couldn't admit him soon enough, then no individual is responsible for his death" These are some of the most ridiculous statements put across by village heads when questioned about their views regarding these killings in an exclusive feature by the BBC. In a recent interview to Times Now, UP CM Yogi Adityanath boasted, "There has been no incident of mob lynching in Uttar Pradesh." Of course, the lynching in Hapur is a figment of our collective imagination, right? Isn't it ironic how we're turning into a country that resembles something that could be termed as a 'Mega-Lynchistan'?

**MARIA LIZA VAZ**



# FREEDOM OF SPEECH: EVERYBODY'S RIGHT?

Patriotism, Nationalism and 'Anti-National' are terms we come across every second day now. With many elected leaders leaving their parties and joining others, there is little to no opposition left anymore. As a result, the burden of fighting for their rights and privileges falls directly onto the shoulders of the people. It shouldn't be a bad thing because after all democracy is by the people, for the people and of the people. Here's the twist: The definition of an anti-national has evolved like the rest of the things around us like technology, education, cities, etc. 79.8% of our population follow Hinduism but we are a secular nation.

Funnily enough, not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' when you're asked to apparently makes you an anti-national, irrespective of your faith. Why? It's probably because you are hurting the sentiments of the majority of the population. If you choose not to say so, well... you'll have to face bad or sometimes even fatal consequences because well, you're going against your nation! There's more - Recently, approximately 49 celebrities had written to our PM that "'Jai Shri Ram' has become a war cry today" because of the lynchings that took place before but it turns out that expressing your concerns to your Prime Minister is also 'anti-nationalism', according to one of our ministers. Don't wreck your brain over the reason - It's supposedly because they're only talking on behalf of the opposition party. This means that the letter didn't contain their own opinions in the first place. Obviously, as a result of generating false opinions, they're branded as 'anti-nationals'. Now, did they have proof for making this statement? Not really but who cares, right? If something said is out of the spirit of nationalism, factuality doesn't matter. It's just as they say: Everything is fair in war.

Moving on, it also seems that disclaimers have lost their meaning. Comedy is made for the purpose of entertainment and it should not be taken offense to. It is one of the few platforms where expression of all opinions is and should be allowed. Guess what? Comedians who make jokes on the government today are receiving death-threats and for what? Making fun of the ruling party? Hmm, maybe. We, as a people, are to have belief in our leaders. If we don't, isn't it a form of showing of dissent towards our nation? I'll leave it for you to decide. This is not all, though. If you speak up against the beef-ban, you're an anti-national. It's probably because of the same reason again: what with hurting the sentiments of the major religious community and all... As part of patriotism, if you don't speak up against Pakistan, you're an anti-national. After all, they have waged violence against us so many times. Hate must beget hate, I guess and maybe the pen is not mightier than the sword, after all.

This year, we're going to celebrate our 73rd Independence Day. Ask yourself whether our right to express our opinions is being curtailed or amplified. Are the elected leaders nationalists solely because they are chosen? Maybe. Maybe not.



**K. RUCHIRA**



AETHER – PAGE 8

editorial

aether 2019, volume v, issue iv



AETHER – EDITORIAL

Ever since India gained its Independence, the greatest power possessed by her citizens has probably been the Freedom of Expression. Being able to express one's self is truly a beautiful thing. This very newsletter is a compilation of thoughts, beliefs, and opinions of various people. It has materialised only due to the Right to Freedom of Speech that is conferred to us by the constitution of our country.

As the country continues to fight its own struggles, it is a privilege to be able to speak or write about how we feel regarding the affairs of the state, or as people of the 21st century. In recent years, there have been many attempts to silence the voices that threatened to unmask and publicise the corrupt and backward mindsets of politicians and bureaucrats that tried to loot the country, create communal hatred, and deprive the citizens of their rights. Some of these attempts to suppress questioning minds have proved to be successful. But it is our duty as the future of this country to use our Right to Freedom fearlessly for the benefit of our land, and to make ourselves heard even when the noises of oppression and violence are deafening.

After all, the pen is mightier than the sword.

We can never be silenced, ever, if we are in this together, for although our bodies will one day cease to exist, our words have the chance to remain immortal. So, pick up your pens folks! Speak up! Let us show the world how powerful we are!

To all of you who have decided to open up and read this issue and an article with the word editorial at the top, I find no better occasion to salute your bravery, your questionable taste and of course your decisions. The theme for this issue, if not obvious - is Independence. Let's get over with the formalities first, greeting to all of you, and hello to Kashmir, who has now forcefully been made part of our very independent, not to mention democratic country.

Here's a starter pack:

Whilst officially being a part of India, please note to keep all opinions to yourselves, ie if you value the life of your family and yourself. There are two exit passages, the nearest one is the door which says DEATH, and the other of course is for those who have abandoned citizenship of the country. Oxygen masks will be provided only for those with connections... however, please note, the 'important' people will help themselves before they tend to your needs. In a very likely event of an emergency, please note, you have only yourself to bank on. There exist no life jackets for you even though you might be a tax paying citizen. Welcome to our Country, we hope you get accustomed to pot holed roads, bad public services, and your taxes not going to the betterment of society anytime soon. This times issue deals with various angles, aspects and faucets of Independence, we truly hope you enjoy it.

*I asked my mother what democracy was,  
'A fantasy', she answered, after a slight pause.*

*A system with so many exploited flaws  
And people who took advantage for their own  
greedy cause*

*'I'll fight' I said, 'I'll get my country back'  
'Don't' warned mother, yourself will you attack  
'Don't ask questions, don't ask why  
They'll run you over, they wont even sigh'.*

*'We're oh so independent we're oh so free,  
Isn't that what we want the world to see?*

**SRUSHTI PRABHUDESAI**



**AMANDA D'COSTA**





# RAKSHA BANDHAN: THE INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR WOMEN

15 August? Sounds like a familiar date, right? Maybe you're already hearing the national anthem playing in the background, and seeing the national flag unfurling majestically. 72 years down since our country gained independence, and to this day we haven't forgotten every drop of blood all our martyrs shed for our country's freedom.

For us students it's a day where we gather at our schools or colleges, be a part of the ceremony and well, acknowledge the 'freedom' and 'brotherhood' we enjoy today. However, this year, we're gonna see a lot fewer boys out in the open on the 15th of August, celebrating this day. Wondering why? Well, that is because this year, this day marks a different kind of 'brotherhood' as well...uh ahem... yeah, you guessed it right, Raksha Bandhan. The festival that celebrates the strength and purity of the bond between a brother and a sister. Also the day, hundreds of hearts are broken of boys who probably have their crush tie a rakhi around their wrists, and fondly call them "Bhaiya". The girls get into a relationship with the guys, but ironically a very different one than what the guys had been looking for... The rakhi has become a girl's deadliest weapon against all those guys who've been acting unpleasingly friendly.

And so, strategically placing Raksha Bandhan on the day marking our nation's freedom, we'll probably see a lot of girls wielding this weapon of theirs, seeking freedom from those hopelessly lovesick guys turning in to unwanted annoyance. Ouch. Yes, I know. This Independence Day isn't going to be the same, so this article is just a cautionary note for all those who wish to protect themselves from entering this war bro zone :P



**RAMYA WARRIER**

# MY VISION FOR INDIA

This Thursday, 15th August 2019, India celebrates its 73rd Independence Day. It's the day on which everyone remembers the sacrifices made by its people and the dreams that were seen for our country's future. It's been 72 years since India received freedom from British rule. But, is it truly free? Is today's India even close to what was envisioned 72 years ago? Today, I believe that even the most dedicated patriots won't claim India as the best country ever. India is a country full

of flaws and imperfections, maybe like every country is. Let us not lose heart, there is still hope for India to become what we wanted it to be. This is how I imagine my India to be:

- Women feeling safe and confident enough to walk down the roads at any time of day or night.
  - The educational system improving and having an equal and progressive curriculum in ALL schools. Students coming from school should not feel that they are thrown into totally unfamiliar chaos when they get to college. Like, in some schools students are not given enough opportunities and scope to realise what their true aptitude is, and when they get to college they tend to shy away from all new things they are suddenly thrown into.
  - India lead by honest politicians who work for the country's betterment rather than their own.
  - No religious divide and equal respect for each other. If problems arise, the religions fighting FOR rather than AGAINST each other.
  - The society giving up on their superstitious views and being open minded enough to accept that things have changed.
  - Parents giving their kids the freedom they deserve and allowing them to choose whatever they want to do.
- Most importantly, I want my nation to be happy, powerful and prosperous.

*We all are One!*



**LOVE**  
**STACY DIAS**





# DAMODAR MAUZO:

## A Great Writer and Individual

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2019, a National Seminar on the eminent writer, Damodar Mauzo was held at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao. The seminar was organized by the Konkani Department of the Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Quepem) Ravindra Bhavan (Margao) and the Directorate of Higher Education. The Chief Guest for the inaugural function was poet, Ashok Vajpeyi.

The seminar was not only centered on Mr. Mauzo's writings, but it also focused on different aspects of his life. In the first session itself, the speakers spoke on his personality, thoughts, and contributions. This session was chaired by Narayan Dessai with Jose Laurencio, Dr. Prakash Parienkar, and Rupali Mauzo Kirtani as the speakers. During this session, Jose Laurencio referred to Damodar Mauzo as a benchmark and a role model. The later sessions discussed him as a short story writer and novelist. In the last session, they discussed his translated works and other kinds of work such as his Children's Literature.

The highlight of the function was the writer's interview taken by Indian Writer and Journalist, Jerry Pinto and Editor of ART, India, Abhay Sardesai. Through the interview, Damodar Mauzo spoke two very important things. The first thing he said and I quote is, "We should not judge anyone by awards." He spoke about how a writer should not be defined by his awards because an individual may not like the works of a Nobel Laureate but might enjoy the works of a local, lesser-known writer. The second point was during the question-answer round with the audience.



A student asked the writer whether he will come out with a second part to his award-winning novel, Karmelin. The writer simply replied by saying that he doesn't know. He said that he began writing the story but later it was Karmelin, the protagonist, that guided him and took him to the end of the book.

The Chief Guest for the valedictory function was none other than the musical legend, Gulzar. The President for the valedictory function was Author, Harish Trivedi. The entire seminar proceeded wonderfully, it was attended by colleges from all over Goa. The students learned about different aspects of Damodar Mauzo's life. The seminar while explaining why he is a crucial writer, also explained why he was a great person.

**RUCHA PRABHUDESAI****VANNA DA COSTA**





# HUMANS of CHOWGULE'S...

## DANCE: MORE THAN JUST A HOBBY

This article has been written in first person perspective  
Ivanna Gomes, 19, Loutolim, Goa. A double Major in English  
and Sociology- SYBA.

ivanna  
gomes



I was always fascinated with dance, so observing this, my parents admitted me to a dance class. I started training and learning at an early age of seven. As a child, dance was just a hobby, but now I would say it's my inspiration. My journey with dance has been quite smooth, I had my parents support and that's all I needed for motivation, some dance competitions were difficult though! My parents always said and even say now "It doesn't matter if you win or lose, just participate and give your best performance". This has kept me grounded, winning is never the motive, and this also resulted in having minimum to no regret. As I grew, I changed dance schools, so that I could have different experiences and also so that I could learn more dance forms. My third dance teacher, is the one who inspired me most, the way she taught, explained, and danced truly from her heart. I aspired to be as good a dancer like her one day. In April 2018, my current dance sir was asked to give workshop in Scotland, and he asked me to accompany him. I was the eldest and had the most experience among my classmates. When accepting the offer, I was told that we would be teaching, Ballroom and Latin dances, but when I reached here, it was abruptly changed to Bollywood dance forms. I was taken aback, but as I knew Bollywood styles, I seized the opportunity. Each day we would go to different schools. One distinct feature I remember is, instead of warming up with stretching and breathing, they warm up with a song or with an activity, even though it's a dance practice. The next thing on my bucket list; is to first of all complete my graduation, get my degree and then go to Mumbai, to pursue dance either full or part-time.

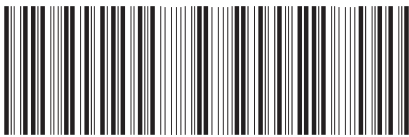


My message to anyone just beginning learning to dance or perform any art form is; if you like it, don't let anyone stop you from following your dream, but if you don't like it, just let it go, don't be afraid of making mistakes.



**JESSELYN FERNANDES**





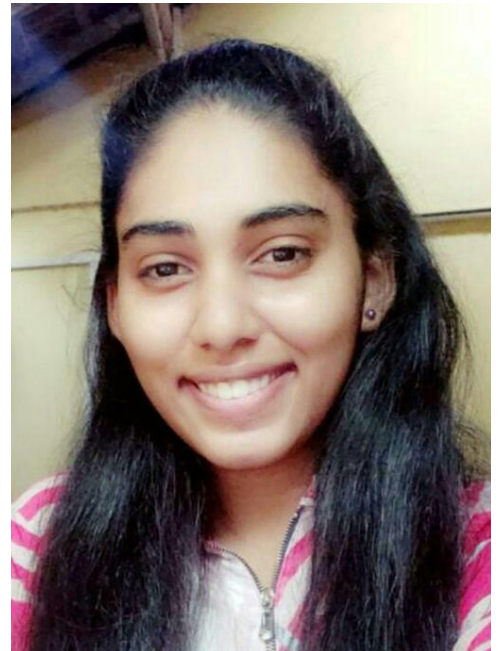
# EDUCATE WOMEN, **EMPOWER** WOMEN!

Although we have claimed our sovereignty from the British rule 72 years ago, many women do not have the freedom to live in a dignified manner. Women in India are still confined with the chains of patriarchy. It is believed that getting education and working outside domestic boundaries can adulterate a women's femininity.

Though, several women today have crossed the boundaries of their houses, breaking the stereotypes, they still suffer despite having laws to protect them against inequality. In this day, a new concept of 'Superwoman' or 'Supermom' has come into existence which duals the responsibility of a woman.

Shaziya Sayed, a SYBA student from the Department of History and the Department of Sociology believes that the more educated we get, the less practical or moral we are. "Women are not allowed to live in a dignified manner and are not given the freedom they deserve. They are wrongly judged. Women should be as educated as men.

We speak a lot about equality but no one really follows it. In the first place a, woman is said to be a goddess and at the same time, she is judged and ill-treated. This is very shameful thing for us."



*Shaziya Sayed*

Mizia Dias, a SYBA students from the Department of English believes that Bollywood portrays women in the wrong way which restricts the freedom they deserve. "In Bollywood movies, women are highly objectified and are more often than not, seen as submissive individuals who have no other purpose in life other than to be the hero's lover. This degrades a women's value and restricts her the freedom she deserves. Making women centric films and educating men and women can bring a change in the lives of women."

Damini Gaonkar, the maintenance staff, is of the opinion that women do not completely get the freedom they deserve. She feels that today she is in this occupation because of her lack of education. Women are not allowed to do anything without the permission of their families.

Independence Day does not mean one day of pride; it should be a reminder of the commitment we have towards our nation. We salute the men and women who fought in the freedom struggle but they dreamt of a prosperous nation with peace and harmony. Unless we eradicate the inequality against women, our nation cannot ever truly prosper.



**ASHWINI SEQUEIRA**

# INDIAN CINEMA AND SEXISM

Sexism in Bollywood is not a new issue. It has been around and brushed aside for a couple of decades. Since the inception of Bollywood, actresses have been subjected to sexist remarks and unfair treatment by society. It has become an everyday affair for us Indian women - celebrities are no exceptions. However, there have been numerous occasions when actresses have come forward and dealt with the blatant sexist comments. Deepika Padukone, for instance, was once targeted by a news publication, which sensationalized a clip of her cleavage with a caption - 'OMG, Deepika Padukone's cleavage show'. In response to this, Deepika tweeted, 'Yes, I am a woman, I have a cleavage'. Media often sensationalizes women's body parts, but in the case of men, it is quite rare.

Women in the Indian film industry are often treated differently in comparison to their male counterparts. Firstly, there is the aspect of age, which mostly implies to women alone. Women are expected to play certain roles at a particular age. Once, Ajay Devgan, 50, on a talk show, hosted by Karan Johar, was asked 'which actor from the current set of lot, would look best next to his wife Kajol, (45)', he instantly replied with, "you mean as the actor's mother right?". This seemed quite absurd as he himself had bagged a lead role in a movie, where he was to be the romantic interest of an actress like Rakul Preet Singh, 28, who is much younger than him. The second aspect would be the 'gender pay gap'; where in actresses are paid less in comparison with the actors.

Women are highly objectified in Bollywood movies.

These movies are often depicted from the male perspective and women are given minimal roles.

The female characters are very poorly developed and they are identified only as the hero's lover in the movie. Another way women are usually portrayed in Bollywood, are as 'item girls' wherein they wear provocative clothes and dance to songs with obscene and objectifying lyrics. The girl is often referred to by using derogatory words like 'pataka' or 'bomb' and was once even called 'Tandoori Chicken'. It is absolutely absurd and unbelievable that something like 'item songs' still continue to be a part of Bollywood in 2019.

The infamous Bollywood dialogue, '*ladki ke na mein haan hai*' used by the hero, after facing rejection from the female lead, is another example of sexism in Bollywood. This dialogue is then followed by numerous attempts of stalking, harassing and chasing the girl, till she accepts defeat and says yes. Through this we can see that Bollywood sees woman as nothing but a submissive individual, with no purpose in life, other than being an object of entertainment for men.

Now, the real problem arises when such Bollywood movies influence the minds and opinions of its audiences, specially the youth. This is evident from the number of crimes against women committed every year. The unhealthy pursuing of the male lead is often reflected in the unapologetic behavior of some men in our society, who indulge in eve-teasing, harassment of women and in the worst cases, rape.

It is sad and shameful that Bollywood fails to recognize this and continues to create misogynistic movies that not only affect the mindset of the society, but also obliterate the chances of having equality for women in India.



**MIZIA DIAS**





Finally, the day has come 4th of August 2019. "friendship day" the day that general stores and stationery shops make profits. Do you remember the time when you would get up early run to these shops just to purchase some colourful ribbons? Oh, what beautiful colours and designs, some even had those little figurines and trinkets embedded on them. Did you ever buy sweets and gifts for your friends on friendship day? I seriously bought a lot of them, but as the day did end, I would always think to myself. "Are They My Friends?" The answer was unfortunately NO. They weren't my friends, they were people who I believed were my friends, they were bad friends. This is why I will help you with ways to understand if you have bad friends. Here are a few characteristics of bad friends.

1. They talk bad about you to others.

You got to understand that not everyone has a halo above the. To know if a friend is true or just a bad friend always tries to gather information about yourself from the colleagues/friends of that friend. This will help you understand what the person feels about you. Sometimes this can just be a small misunderstanding so getting to know a little bit more about yourself through others doesn't hurt.

2. Pressures you to do something you don't want to do.

Peer pressure is always something that is experienced by every teen, but the thing that separates good friends from bad friends is that they ask you once to do something dangerous or inappropriate but if you decline it they will accept it and respect your decision, whereas a bad friend would keep trying to persuade you to do it or even humiliate you.

3. Takes advantage of you.

If a friend of yours only hangs out with you or talks to you when he/she wants something from you then they are a bad friend and you should stay away from these kinds of people as they will only use you, but when you need them they shall never come to your aid.

4. Puts you down.

A good friend is a person who will help you with constructive criticism, but a bad friend just looks for an opportunity to put you down. Eg. If you're having a wardrobe malfunction a good friend will tell mostly call you aside from all the attention and inform you about it, but a bad friend would shout and proclaim to all the people around you about the problem. Sometimes people who are just very porky should be avoided because these kinds of people love to be the centre of attraction at the cost of others.

5. Holds back from you and keeps long grudges.

Forgiveness is the most important component of any relationship. We are all human and we all make mistakes a good friend would tell you stuff what is going on in their mind. They will say whatever hurts them about their friend, rather than holding it as grudge plotting and planning against them. Grudges only increase tensions and cause problems for everyone.

These are a few pointers and tips that one can use to understand if they do have true friends. After reading this I sincerely hope that you find true and faithful friends.



**RAY GOMES**





## "THE BELOVED TONI MORRISON"

Toni Morrison, the author of "Beloved" passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in New York. She was eighty-eight years of age. Born Chloe Anthony Wofford in 1931 in Ohio, Morrison grew up in a family that possessed an intense love of and appreciation for black culture. Storytelling, songs, and folktales were an influential part of her childhood.

Morrison was the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993. She is the author of eleven novels, children books and various essay collections. Toni Morrison's work explored black identity and the experience of black women in America. She pushed boundaries, and did things that people didn't do at that point of time. One of the most striking features about Morrison's work was that it defined a world in which white people were largely absent, a rare entity in fiction during the period. Her books offer an escape from stereotyped black settings. According to Morrison, "It was neither plantation, nor ghetto".

Toni Morrison has won a number of accolades. She won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in the year 1988 for her novel Beloved (1987). She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993, she won the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1977 for her book "Song of Solomon". Morrison won the Coretta Scott King Award in 2005 for her book "Remember: The Journey to School Integration" and in 2012 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Caption/Quotes by Toni Morrison

*If there is a book that you want to read,  
but it hasn't been written yet,  
you must be the one to write it.*

*We die.  
That may be the meaning of life.  
But we do language.  
That may be the measure of our lives.*

# A REFLECTIVE REALITY

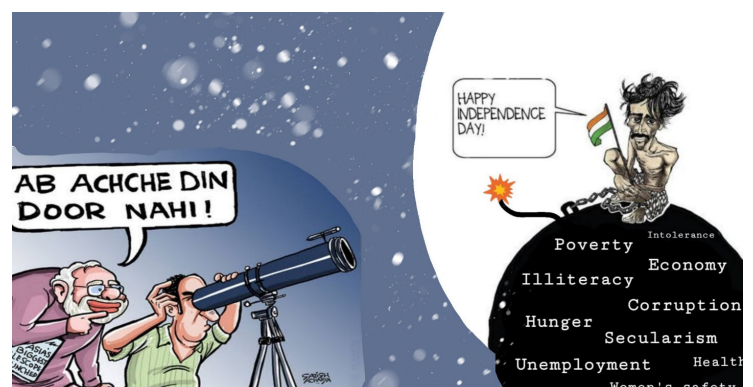
*India can be the richest  
country.*

*But it chooses to make its gods  
richer than its people.*

*We build huge sculpted  
structures for the unknown and  
undefined.*

*While its people remain  
squabbling.*

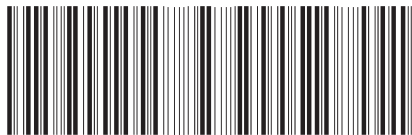
*Though with an identity, yet  
homeless and lost (Maybe you  
could rewrite this line? The  
meaning conveyed is slightly  
vague) While we wait and  
dream for the great eternal  
escape They face reality and  
struggle every day in the hope  
to live.*



**JEFF D'CRUZ**



**RUKMA KANOLKAR**



# CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



**MARIA ADALIN  
COLACO**

**BEACH CLEANLINESS DRIVE:** this drive was done to help to keep the environment clean on the fourth month of every month, at colva beach. Sir versant, a staff member from Parvatibai Chowgules college of arts and science, autonomous; has taken the initiative with the help the principal, along with sir Afros Sha, an advocate from Mumbai, a person who has put his heart and soul into saving the environment and keeping it clean, and with the Kafmar cleaning company, to start such an event. The first cleaning drive was held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019. A lot of students gather to help in the drive so as to make the event successful one. The people from the neighbourhood would also participate in the drive. The garbage is brought from the beach which is segregated into big garbage bags on the parking lot at the beach, which is then taken and disposed by the colva panchayat. The next cleanliness drive shall be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

**NSS CAMPUS CLEAN-UPS:** NSS campus clean-ups are being held since the time NSS was introduced in the college and has been continued for years. At present, the students will have to enrol their names for the same and the hours will be awarded to the student accordingly to their effort and hard work. They would clean the campus by collecting garbage and segregating it; and would sweep and pull out the wild weeds all around in the campus. The students would help one another and would keep the surroundings clean.

**HISTORY GUEST LECTURE:** the topic was based on heritage management studies. the speaker for this function was Miss. Sawani Shetye, an archaeologist, an alumnus of deccan college, did her masters in ancient history of India. she had explained about the reasons for studying our past. The event had started with the lighting of the lamp and ended with the vote of thanks by the history department. Miss Sawani Shetye was given a token of appreciation for the event.

**ELOCUTION COMPETITION:** The Literary association of Dnyanprassarak Mandel's college and resource centre, Assagao, Bardez, Goa; organized an 'All Goa Inter- Collegiate Elocution Competition' on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 9: 30 AM, in their college. One student from each college had to participate in the competition. The topics for the competition was, first- globalization and the changing eating habits: why the food fuss?; second- right to privacy: a boon or a bane; third- ethics and media in India. The chief guest for the competition was Ms. Poonam Shrisat. The prizes and certificates will be given to the students based upon their performance. Ramya warrior from SYBA, single major- phycology, won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place from Parvatibai Chowgules college of arts and science, autonomous and was awarded a certificate, rolling, and cash prize.

## EDITOR

Ms. Amanda Da Costa  
Ms. Srushti Prabudesai

## REPORTERS

Ms. Adalin Colaco  
Ms. Ashwini Sequeira  
Mr. Jeff D'cruz  
Ms. Jesselyn Fernandes  
Ms. Ruchira Kasagita  
Ms. Liza Vaz  
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Ms. Rukma Kanolkar  
Ms. Stacy Dias  
Ms. Vanna Da Costa  
Ms. Afreen Balkundi  
Ms. Mizia Dias

## Faculty-in-charge & Design

Asst. Prof. Andrew Barreto

email us  
[asb002@chowgules.ac.in](mailto:asb002@chowgules.ac.in)

published at  
Dept. of English  
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