

2022



The Crossroads

AUGUST EDITION

PILOT EDITION SPECIAL



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THE EDITORIAL

DETERMINED TO BE RESPONSIBLE WITH CONVICTION

“As they stood daring the conqueror Aurangazeb to kill them for not converting to the Islamic faith, nine year old Zorawar Singh and seven year old Fateh Singh demonstrated their immense responsibility and conviction towards their faith and their motherland. They endured being bricked alive by the tyrant emperor in order to preserve their nation.”

Determined to be responsible with conviction, stands as the theme for the month of August. Before getting into why convictions, let’s go over what convictions are. Convictions are our belief systems that give rise to our opinions. Convictions are about what matters to us, what we believe and so, we imply. This is the sole reason that a conviction always feels so certain, so right, even when it’s not yours. Why is it, that when our 'convictions' are questioned, we grab at every possible reasoning, desperate to justify them? A lot of the time, when one’s conviction is threatened, they refuse to let it get shot down, simply because it creates a sense of betrayal of self.

Conviction has such a strong hold on its holders that people consciously sacrifice it all-including logic and reasoning, just to hold true to their identity. Contrary to popular belief that they’re just illogically stubborn opinions, convictions are so much more. Conviction helps one to take a stance and have enough belief to stand by it. Nine-year-old Zorawar Singh and seven-year-old Fateh Singh ultimately empowered their religion, their culture and their kingdom by refusing to convert, even with death so close. Their portrayal of personal conviction best describes what we must embed in ourselves through the theme of August.

The sheer willpower of the royal Sikh princes shines through their adamant refusal to convert from Sikhs to Muslims. Aurangazeb, having bribed the family cook of Guru Gobind Singh (father of the princes), captured the two young boys and forced them to convert. He promised the boys “freedom” and safety only if they left behind their religion and took up Islam as their new identity. Headstrong princes though, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh rejected without hesitation and were bricked alive and hence died from suffocation. Their conviction and utter belief in their religion and culture, and knowing that converting would mean giving up what they’d been fighting for all this while, they chose death over Aurangazeb's ‘freedom’. But how does this conviction relate to us, mere students of the current generation?

As a student, conviction is a way of life. Through the habits inculcated in us and the outlooks we’re educated about, “determined to be responsible with conviction” is yet another attempt, aimed at refining the way we perceive the world and everything in it. We aim to take up responsibility and authority, through developing convictions that stand true to ourselves as well as beneficial to our kind, our tribe. These convictions that reflect our identity will now reflect the positive impact we wish to create as well.

Be determined to be responsible, through courage, through sacrifice, through conviction.

01 THE IDEAL IDOL

*"The cultured give happiness wherever they go,
The uncultured whenever they go."*

Swami Chinmayananda

Read more to find out.....

SERVE TO DESERVE

Age was **never** a constraint for him. Even young people felt that Gurudev had more energy than anyone else around. Despite his many health problems. Guru Dev was ever-smiling. He looked at everything as an opportunity to serve others. He was so forthcoming that both children and elders would connect to him with ease.

Gurudev used to travel across the globe to give lectures. He also used to manage the Chinmaya Mission's administration till he attained Mahasamadhi at the age of 77 years. There is an incident in the life of Gurudev that many devotees recollect even today.

Once, while visiting a foreign country, he was staying at a devotee's house. After settling in his room, he asked the host, "Where is my pooja samagri?" The puzzled host family looked at each other, unable to understand what Gurudev wanted.



Then Gurudev smiled and said, "My pen, paper and table for writing letters". He considered his work for the Chinmaya Mission as 'Pooja' of the Lord.

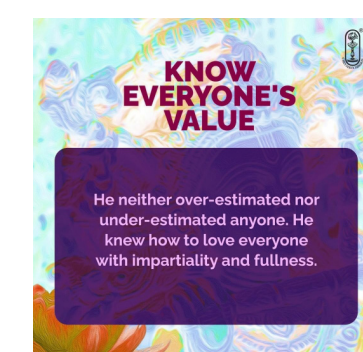
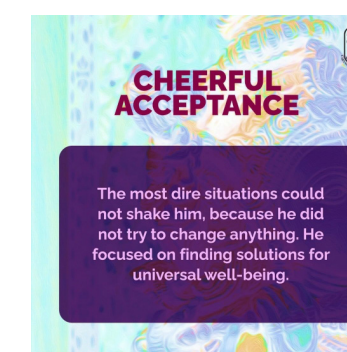
Once, Gurudev suffered from knee pain. Seeing his plight, devotees wondered how he would be able to sit and work at the table. For which he said, "I keep my legs under the table, and work over it."

Even in the worst of situations, he would find something positive, and often took to wit and humour to ease the situation. When he went through a bypass surgery, the doctors observed that his heart had enlarged. To this, Gurudev laughed and said, "Now I have a large heart. I can accommodate more people!"

Such is the inspiration that has become contagious to everyone in the Mission. Our Mission pledge says, "Service to the people is the service to the lord of lords"

We all should also aim to serve and deserve.

3 TEACHINGS FROM KRISHNA'S LIFE

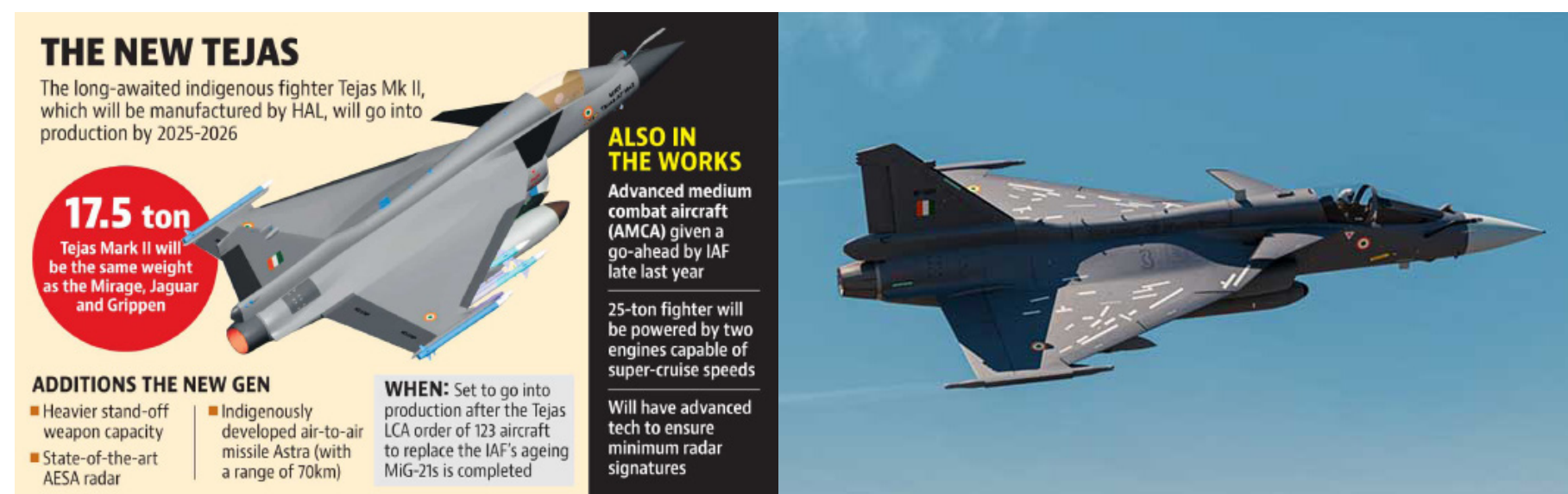


02 GLOBAL NEWS

by Yohan Karthikeyan

Malaysia to procure 18 Tejas jets from India: Australia, US and the Philippines show interest as well.

Malaysia has asked for 18 Tejas LCA (Light Combat Aircraft), made by the Indian-Run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, for which HAL has offered its twin-seater variant. Other countries including the US, Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines have also shown interest. According to the Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, New Zealand and Egypt have also evinced interest. Last year, the Indian Government had signed a 48,000 crore deal with HAL in order to acquire 83 Tejas jets for the Indian Air Force.



Chinmaya Education Cell conducts teacher training workshops for Govt. Teachers

The Chinmaya Education cell is set to conduct a teacher training workshop for the teachers working in the Government schools of Assam. This training course is based on the Chinmaya Vision Programme, a structure laid on Gurudev's vision of the overall development of the student, which includes Spiritual Development, Patriotism, Indian Culture and Universal Outlook other than the regular Emotional, Intellectual and Physical development.

Bhagavad Gita to be taught in Gujarat schools for classes 6 to 12

With effect from the current academic year, all students from classes 6 to 12 will be learning the Bhagavad Gita as part of their syllabus in all Gujarat schools. This undertaking was announced by the Minister of Education Jitu Vaghani. The lessons for classes 6-8, which talks about the Gita, its shlokas and a story based on its values, were written by the Chinmaya Education Cell, spearheaded by Director Smt. Shanti Krishnamurthy. The lessons for classes for 9-12, which dives deeper into the holy text is written by Arsha Vidhya Gurukul.



India wins historic Lawn Bowl Gold in the Birmingham CWC

The Indian women's Lawn Bowl team has won a historic gold in the Women's Four Lawn Bowl event at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games earlier this month. The team comprising of Nayanmoni Saikia, Pinki, Lovely Choubey and Rupa Rani Tirkey, defeated South Africa 17-10, to win the gold in their maiden appearance.

CAMPUS NEWS

As the old council have officially parted from their duties and handed over the responsibility to a new, fresh and dynamic council who are ready to take on the challenges presented to them and to heighten the lofty expectations set by their predecessors. Their first project was the Mini Masquerade, conducted on the very same evening.

The students of each house, spearheaded by the new council and with the guidance of their seniors had put on a magnificent display of four great stories, with Pujya Gurudev's quotes woven into their dialogues and actions. The event was conducted with great fanfare and all the students and teachers enjoyed it thoroughly, with our Resident Director Swami Anukoolanandaji lavishing praise on the students' performances.

03 INSPIRATION

by Saran Karthigeyan

Niki Lauda is mainly remembered as a 3 times world racing champion.

However, many still do not know about the tragedy that befell him during the height of his career. Despite this, he still strove to do more, and accomplish more. Lauda's determination and drive is thoroughly inspiring.

Read on to find out more about Niki Lauda and his achievements.

COMEBACK OF NIKI LAUDA

Niki Lauda, now remembered as a 3 times world racing champion became an inspiration because of his sheer determination to conquer death, to not give his arch-rival James Hunt a free championship title

But what happened to him?

Fresh from winning his first driver's world championship with Ferrari. Niki and Ferrari entered the 1976 season as the favourites to win the championships. Niki had won 5 races already and was leading the championship with a healthy lead, by the time the F1 circus reached Nürburgring, the 10th race of the season. Niki did not want the race to go ahead as planned due to treacherous weather conditions. But every other driver wanted to race, in particular, his rival James Hunt wanted to race. He criticized Niki for being "scared" to race, even though Niki had won the last year's grand prix.



Disaster struck on the second lap of the race itself. Massive flames rose up from the car's chassis, buffeting Niki Lauda. Lauda was pulled from the wreckage, barely escaping with his life. After having inhaled noxious gases and sustaining burns that cost him his eyelids, half an ear, and large portions of his scalp, it was clear that his racing career was over.

Immediately after the accident on August 1, 1976, Audetto was ordered to find a replacement for Lauda, and the team signed up racer Carlos Reutemann to partner with Clay Regazzoni.



But come early September and Lauda was out of hospital, insisting on testing for Ferrari at Fiorano to ready for a return at Monza, in front of a skeptical Enzo Ferrari. "When he arrived, that is a vision that I can never forget in my life: Niki arrived in Fiorano with his plane that he apparently [flew] himself to come to Bologna. He was so pale, had plenty of scars, had lost his hair, he could not close his eyes - he was like a ghost!" recalls Audetto. "He was very cool, very cold, very determined. He went into the Fiorano office to get the overalls; he came out with the overalls that were very large because he lost 10 kilos."

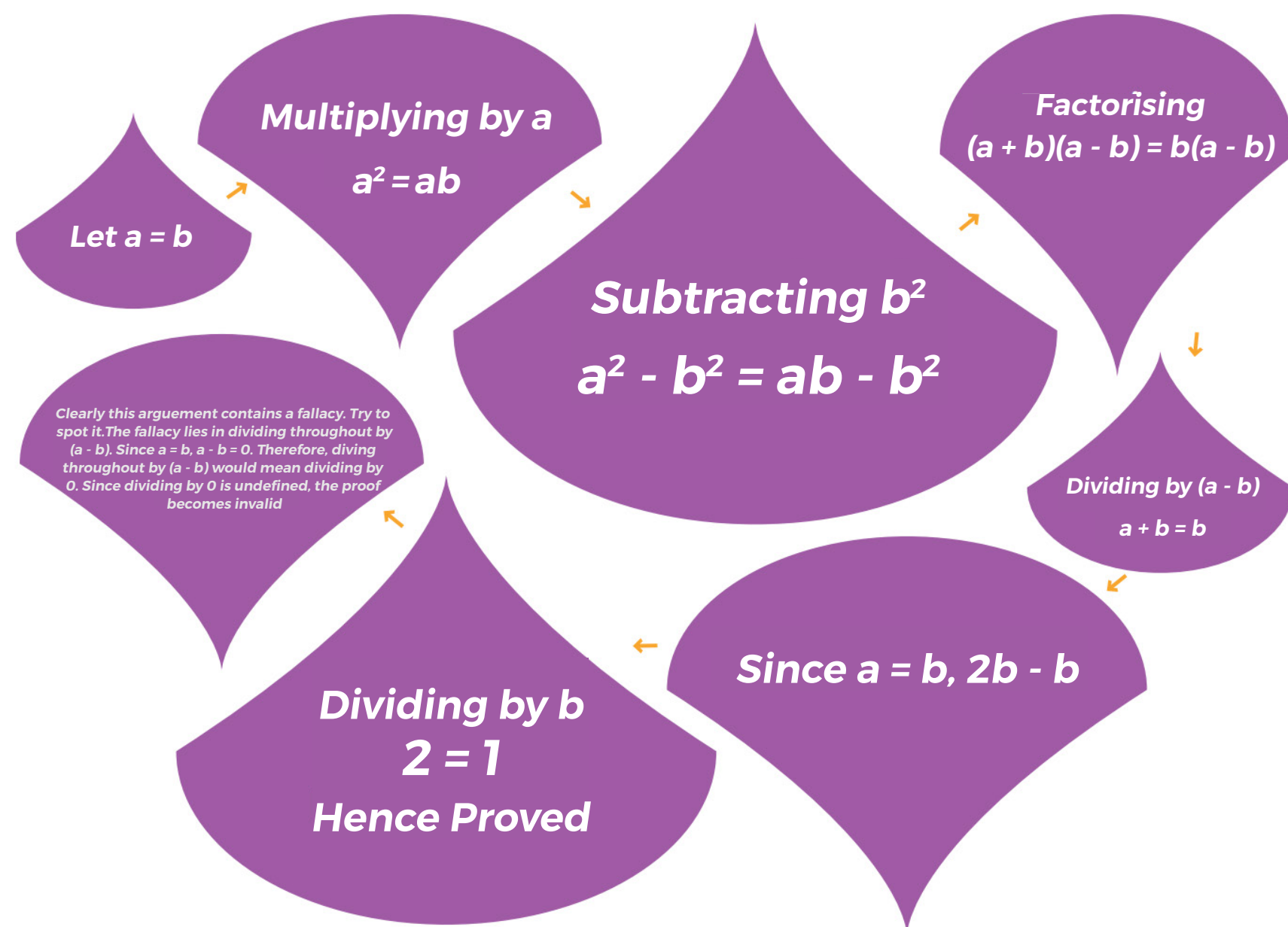
Racer Niki Lauda had all the reason in this world to quit racing and give up everything after a near-fatal accident like that. However, he chose to continue. He chose to persist. And that is determination. And that is what we must all strive for.

04 LOGICAL FALLACIES

by Adhavan Diwakar

A perfectly structured logical argument. How many of us don't **love** that? You're arguing with someone, and you give the perfect **logical** rebuttal, shutting everyone up and proving your point. But, what if your perfectly structured logical argument wasn't perfect? What if it had a hidden flaw, buried deep within? Nobody would know, but in reality, your argument, the one you were so proud of, the one that made everyone think you were a genius, is **flawed**.

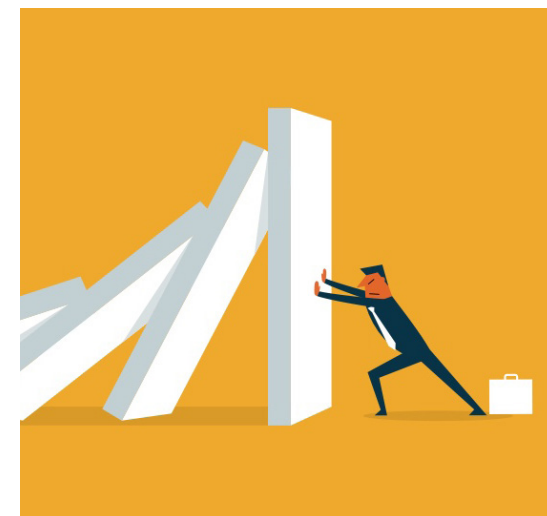
This is a problem that has plagued arguments for centuries. A seven-letter word that could so easily invalidate any argument, **Fallacy**. A fallacy arises when **flawed logic** is used in the construction of an argument, either intentionally or unintentionally. It is often hidden in the logical deduction process, and is quite hard to spot. A fallacy makes an argument look convincing, but once the fallacy is spotted, it crumbles. Let us try to understand what a fallacy is, by working out a simple problem.



Fallacies aren't present only in **obscure** mathematical proofs, involving calculus, advanced number theory, Newton, Leibnitz, and god knows who or what else. They affect our **everyday** lives, and **every field** from medicine to international politics have had fallacious arguments.

April 1954. French forces fight for control over South Vietnam. If North Vietnam were to gain control over the south, a united **communist** state under Ho Chi Minh would be born. On the other side of the world, in the United States, President Dwight D Eisenhower holds a press conference to comment on these happenings. He says that the communist control of Vietnam would be the **"beginning of a disintegration"**, and would certainly lead to **"incalculable loss"**, by virtue of what he called the **falling domino principle**. In other words, he claimed that the fall of Vietnam would lead to communist takeover of the nearby states, and eventually, the inevitable global spread of communism.

Eisenhower's statement seems plausible. The "domino effect" that he states makes sense doesn't it? After all, it seems only natural that once one country comes under communist control, the countries around it would also come under communist control, and the dominoes would continue falling, until the entire world came under authoritarian communist regimes. Let's do some quick math. Assume there are 20 events, all independent of each other. Assume that each event is 99% likely to happen. The probability that the first event would lead to the 20th is;



$$(99/100)^{19} = (0.99)^{19} = 82\%$$

What happened there? How did the probability drop from an almost certain 99% to a mere 82%? However, it turns out the results only get more surprising. Let us consider the end probabilities when the probability of each event is 95%. The final probability ends up being only **37%**.

Those numbers are far from the numbers you'd expect after Eisenhower's speech. Turns out Eisenhower's deduction process suffered from a type of fallacy called a **slippery slope fallacy**. A slippery slope fallacy is when someone presents an event, say x , as an inevitable outcome of a series of events. However, slippery slopes almost always overstate the likelihood that x will happen if the first event in the sequence happens. Let's cycle back to the previous example. Eisenhower feared a series of events would unfold, and would eventually threaten the United States. Those events were;

Communist takeover in Vietnam would spread communism in neighboring countries. With no non-communist countries left to trade with, Japan would adopt communism. Finally, the situation would then threaten Australia, New Zealand, and eventually, the United States

Slippery slope arguments assume that events work like dominoes, that once an event happens, it will trigger another event, and so on, until the final event takes place. However, events like these can have many possibilities and outcomes, and behave more like a web than a chain. In fact, the first event that Eisenhower predicted could not be stopped. In 1975, South Vietnam fell, and a communist state under Ho Chi Minh took over. Communist regimes also came up in neighboring Laos and Cambodia. However, his end result was far from the truth. By 1991, the Soviet bloc had fallen, and communist countries would continue falling until only a nominal amount remained. Isn't it truly amazing how one small line of error, placed in the deduction process, could change the final outcome? **Fallacies remain a thorn** in the side of anyone constructing and listening to logical arguments, and they can never be truly eliminated.

A line by Stephanie Klein sums up fallacious arguments quite well - "Tell the truth, or someone will tell it for you."

05 CULTURE

by Shimon Augustine

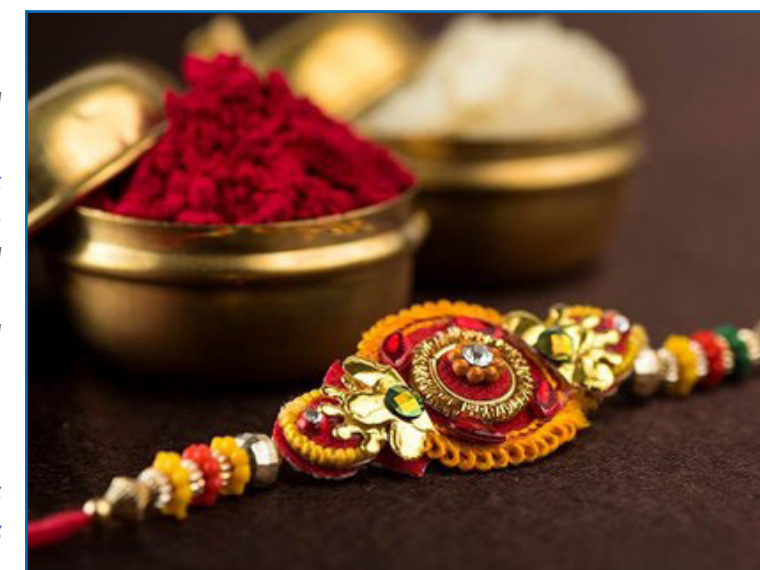
Raksha Bandhan, one of the most awaited festivals of the year. We all love giving chocolates to our sisters, or tying rakhis to our brothers. However, how much do we even know about it?

Read on to learn more about the significance behind this beautiful festival.

RAKSHA BANDHAN

It may be said that siblings are annoying, pretentious, lazy, troublemakers and many more flowery adjectives that are not in the scope of this article.

But it can be said that they are also an **integral part of our lives** who have moulded us into the people we are today. They are often our **first resort** when we face **any hurdles** in our life and the last people to leave when we are feeling down. We need to understand that Raksha Bandhan includes but is not limited to trading Rakhis for chocolates and vice versa (you can tell who is getting the better out of that deal) and excessively making fun of your beloved siblings. But naturally a question arises, **why do the sisters tie the decorated thread to their brother's wrist?**



Well, we all know the story of **Draupadi and her brother Krishna**, of the vow of protection taken in blood, but I would like to add my own interpretation to this very story. Hinduism has flourished for so long because its **content and its doctrine** can adapt to the needs of the present. The tying of the Rakhi symbolises a promise, one that requires faith and sacrifice. The ties between the siblings celebrating Raksha Bandhan aren't merely familial; there lays a **deep emotional connect** as well. It is not just an offering of protection, but also an assurance that one knows the value of their protection. In this age, attacks **don't have to be physical to cut deep. Emotional trauma and depression** are real threats to every youth and are not easy to spot or combat.



But going small is all you need to make sure your brother or sister feel needed in this time of constant change. An act of kindness and love towards one's cherished ones is not only a service to them, but a service to their soul as well. **Happy Raksha Bandhan brothers and sisters!**

06 GIRLUP CIRS

by Spoorthi Ganduri



It may not come as a **surprise** to whoever has been to a toy shop to buy a gift for a child, to be asked the question, 'Is it for a **boy or a girl?**' Remote-controlled cars and construction kits that are solely meant for young boys and kitchen sets or doll houses that are **reserved** for girls, these casual **gender stereotypes** seep their way into everyone's daily lives, especially when you are a student.

Gender Stereotyping is defined as the practice of ascribing to an individual woman or man specific attributes, characteristics, or roles by reason only of her or his membership in the 'social group' of women or men. Restricting one **based on their gender** impacts the **subject choices**, and **career aspirations**. This in turn impacts their adulthood especially in their workplace, household, level of seniority, pay, etc.



Believing in gender stereotypes can be linked to **male suicide rates** and the likelihood of being both a **victim** and a **perpetrator** of sexual violence in school. It affects men and boys as much as it affects women and girls. Even with being provided with a comfortable lifestyle, we cannot deny the underlying gender stereotyping that infiltrates our attitudes (consciously or unconsciously).

How often have we seen a young boy crying and have '**comforted**' them by saying, "Big boys don't cry. Come on, wipe those tears."? How many times have we been asked only what our dad does? How many times have girls been told to cover up because they shouldn't "tempt" the boys or make them feel "uncomfortable"? Are girls **assumed** to be more **helpful** and asked to **help tidy up**? Are boys assumed to be **stronger** and asked to move furniture? Why are boys naturally assumed to become the head of their households for which they need to be firm, successful, and assertive? Why is a girl told that she needs to learn how to speak **softly or behave herself** when she's having a good time?

These are questions that we must learn how to ask. **Questioning conventions is the first step to defying gender stereotypes.**

Underlying gender restrictions are found in every environment and blindly accepting them, means carrying them into our future and enforcing the same on the forthcoming generation. There's nothing **wrong** with asking questions, there is nothing wrong with wanting to understand what someone means when they restrict something to your gender.

Accept people for **who they are**, and stop confining things or activities to one gender based on groundless assumptions and conventions.



Surrendering to gender stereotypes is when you start **limiting yourself** and others from their infinite potential and challenging them is the first step to understanding your identity and capabilities. It is never too late to change one's frame of mind to be more accepting and open-minded. The **fundamental duty** of a human is to renounce the practices that are derogatory towards women and men which is something we need to take steps for, doesn't matter if they're small. As long as you're willing to change and understand, the world will eventually be a **better, more accommodating place**.



07 SEDITION VS ANTI-SEDITION

by Manit Malani and Atul Prasanth

Sedition is classified as conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch. A word used liberally in current times, this article offers insights into the various arguments to and for the sedition laws which exist around the world. Through this we strive to revive the time honoured tradition of debate and discussion in order to bring out opposing perspectives to the forefront and understand the core ideas which drive human society.

On October 21st, 2010, the famous author and so-called 'human rights activist' Arundhati Roy shared the stage with Kashmiri separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani from the Hurriyat and Maoist sympathizer, Varavara Rao in a conference titled 'Azadi-the Only Way'. In her speech, she mentions that 'Kashmir was never an integral part of India' and goes on to back 'Kashmiri separatists' in their pursuit for 'Azadi' (Independence). In fact, she criticizes the Indian Army for apparently 'committing atrocities against Kashmiris and Maoists'. Ironically, this meeting was held at the Indian capital of New Delhi and unsurprisingly, she was charged under sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between classes), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), 504 (insult intended to provoke breach of peace) and 505 (false statement), rumours circulated with the intent to cause mutiny or offence against public peace.

While many may say that it's her freedom to advocate for Kashmiri separatism under Article 19 of the Constitution, her statements offer an endorsement for Pakistan-backed terrorists in Kashmir who are working for the same cause that Ms. Roy advocates for and attempting to destabilize the Indian state. She criticizes the same Indian Army and Indian intelligence agencies under whose protection she lives peacefully in this country devoid of terror attacks and anarchy. As expected, she contested the sedition charges as a violation of her 'Right to freedom of expression'.

The problem with people like Arundhati Roy and Varavara Rao lies in their inability to comprehend the fact that the Constitution does not merely guarantee rights, but it seeks the fulfillment of obligations or duties in exchange for the fundamental rights that they enjoy. They violate the most preeminent fundamental duty in the Indian Constitution 'to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India'. While they might argue that these fundamental duties are statutory (not enforceable by law), the courts are entitled to take these duties into account when adjudicating on their sedition charges.

20th February, 2020, 19-year-old student activist Amulya Leona was booked under the Sedition Law for raising pro-Pakistan slogans in a protest rally against the CAA. Leona had repeated 'Pakistan Zindabad' thrice, before being taken into custody by the Bengaluru Police and booked under sections 124A, 153A and 153B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). In this particular case Amulya Leona, however debatable her slogans might have been, had by no means raised disaffection against this country or undermined its stature. This makes us turn back the clock to 1955, the case registered in Supreme Court, of 'Balwant Singh and Another vs State of Punjab' where the Apex Court had held that "The casual raising of the slogans, once or twice by two individuals alone cannot be said to be aimed at exciting or attempt to excite hatred or disaffection towards the Government."

This bears testimony to the fact that the Sedition Law has been subject to rampant misuse, where Amulya Leona had done no more than just raise slogans. Her Facebook post the previous week brings forth the justification behind her evocation of those slogans: "Whatever country may be - long live for all the countries!" She had also written: "Long live India! Long live Pakistan! Long live Bangladesh! Long live Sri Lanka! Long live Nepal! Long live Afghanistan! Long live China! Long live Bhutan!"



Section 124A or the sedition law falls under a larger umbrella of similar provisions in our legal system such as sections 153A (promoting enmity between classes) and 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration) to uphold the fulfillment of the fundamental duty stated in the previous paragraph. This particular provision has come under attack for its colonial roots and its growing misuse in the country to suppress dissent. While I condemn the growing proclivity of certain political dispensations to misuse this law, I believe that complete removal of the law would have undesired consequences for our national interests.

The first underlying problem in the argument of my opponent to remove the sedition law is an excessively literal interpretation of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code which briefly states that 'any attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by Law' shall be punished with 'imprisonment for life'. Clearly, this statement looks atrocious especially since it was enacted by Thomas Macaulay in 1860 to suppress dissent against the colonial government. However, a law cannot be removed on the sole basis of its colonial roots and must be measured by its relevance in the modern day.

October 2016, when the BJP-led government proposed changes to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908, the tribals of the Kunthi district of Jharkhand perceived their rights to be at risk. As a protest, they engraved the provisions guaranteed by the 5th schedule of the Indian Constitution on stones.

This protest came to be known as the 'Pathalgadi Movement' and led to 10,000 cases being registered under the Sedition Law against the tribals, for invoking the provisions of the Constitution! These cases dish the dirt off the exploitation this law has been hierodule to in the post-independence era. The conviction rate of the Sedition Law, which, matched with the reports provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), has stretched between 3% to 33% over the preceding years.

The conjecture apparent from this data being that a vast majority of people booked under this law are acquitted and their arrests have been established to be futile.

The pendency of such cases has reached an all-time high of 95%. These figures only impress upon us that this law is irrelevant and lingers as a burden in the Constitution of India.

In fact, this law, which had been drawn up under the dominion of the British Government, had been abolished in Britain itself in 2009, stating that the country didn't want to be identified as an ideal of one using such draconian laws.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru quoted on the Sedition Law in 1951, "Take again Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code.

Now so far as I am concerned that particular section is highly objectionable and obnoxious and it should have no place both for practical and historical reasons. The sooner we get rid of it the better."



08 INDEPENDENCE DAY

by Manit Malani

Dear Diary,

Today was quite an eventful day, even by the afterlife's standards.

I was standing among the crowd that had gathered at the station in wait for the train that would take what the others seemed to call home. The atmosphere was laced with the smell of the sweat of a million people. The deafening sound of the hundreds of different chants that reverberated across the floor almost made me ignore the bell of the approaching train. Swatantrata Express came once every 25 years. It had been initiated upon the special request of many of those who invariably called themselves Deshbhakts, as if it was actually a word. This was the third time this train had arrived, and from experience, I could say, the crowd always seemed to grow more and more. I boarded the train, the hurry that everyone seemed to be in, I believe they were imagining this to be some kind of a marathon.

The silence in the train was broken by an announcement, "Doors closing in on Patriot's Heaven Junction, next stop India Gate." I was not a patriot or anything, I had just tried to get in on a way to escape this mundane life of afterlife for once... India Gate arrived, I had no destination in mind as such. And it is quite obvious, what happens with us nomads, we are just pushed along with the crowd. The pushing and shoving aboard was none less than the local trains of Bombay, and I, being accustomed to this pushing over, landed at a place which had no special significance to me.



I wandered, without any clue or aim until I came across my sole companion, who, like me, stood alone even, when so many people had come together. I knew of his fame, but looking at him after 25 years, gave rise to questions, that had remained unanswered:

Me:
You fly to the sky
138 feet high
Above where all lie
How could you know
What we come by

The Saffron answered:
You say I am without care and knowledge of my people
I fly high, not to distance myself
But to look on all, to inspire all, to show all
That above all comes a duty
The willingness to sacrifice
For others above own

Me:
Where the religious fire burns
And politics makes the churn
Lowly differences every turn
To represent a one people
How come you earn

The White answered:
Despite the dirt, the dust, the stain
I remain unchanged
Changeless in the midst of all change
Peace and Truth come easily to me
For I remain unaffected of all the lies and rumours and folly
I represent one, everyone blends on me
Put a colour on this white
And I will absorb it thoroughly

Me:
Plagued with disharmony
unnumbered
And poor and much hunger
Ego and greed fear mongers
How come you expect
An awakening to linger

The Green Answers:
An ode to the foliage that envelops this land,
The auspiciousness, the prosperity, the fertility
I say, this plight is not unattended
With glory, these plights accompany
But through our efforts in cultivation
We rise unafraid, untouched, unscathed
Stronger than before, better than before

The Wheel:
Death is Stagnation. It is neigh to those who keep moving. For those who progress, keep up with the time, they are immortalised, their identity, one with their work. The martyrs, who have looked death in the eye and outright challenged it, our freedom is their work of art, their masterpiece, and though they remain no more, they set the wheels of time turning and turning, for ever and on.

In my 60 years of life and 80 in the afterlife, I had never seen the flag in such a way. The Deshbhakts used to call this 'Tiranga' their identity, and I might be considering of calling it mine too. They say that the motherland's arms are open for all, so there is no question of me being accepted; better late than never...

They say,
There are those who adopt this identity,
Then there are those, who go a step further,
They add onto this identity,
I couldn't be one, but, I could,
nevertheless, inspire you to be so...

09 MONTHLY GALLERY



COUNCIL 2022-23



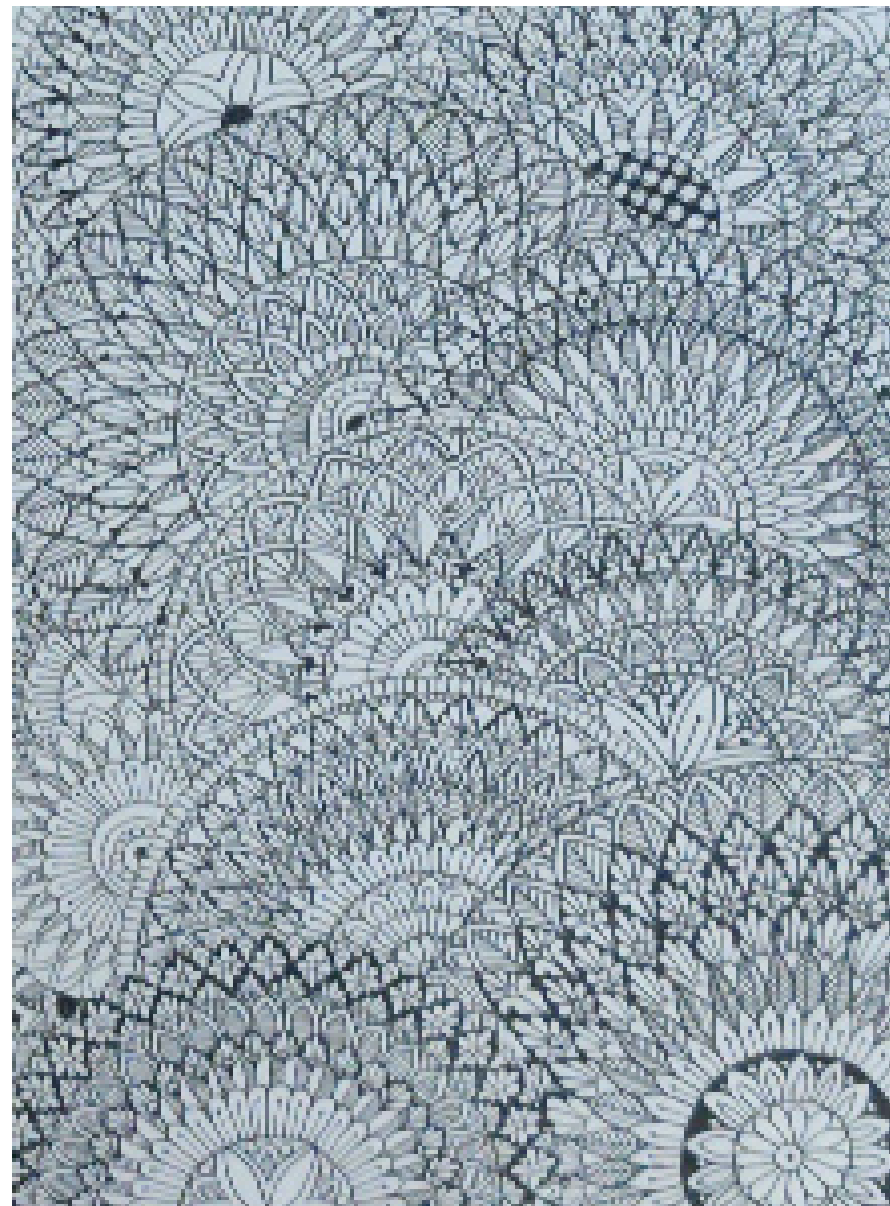
CREATIVITY CORNER



by J Thanvi



by Alumnus Dev Kalaria



by Dhriti Savani



by S. Aswath



by Gourav Agrawal

SACRIFICE

by Niranjana Binu

*Her bygone exists meant everything,
But the exorbitant fun lessened her value.
Her worth was in oblivion,
But little did she know her prestigiousness.*

*A dream surpassed her rhythm,
She said "What about my child?",
"Doesn't she get to have the fun I had",
"Oh but that requires a sacrifice from my side".*

*She came to awareness, she came to realisation.
She steadily perceived the significance
Of letting go and sacrificing the fun,
To enhance the life of her daughter.*

*Her sacrifice brought her complications
But her child flourishing was greatest magnificence
Little did she know that the sacrifice
Just got in exceptional contentment.*

A SHORT STORY

by Arnav Avinash

"Your actions always work their way back to you..."

How complacent of you, Warren. All you did was help that young man on the way to the station. Do you really think that you'd get some reward? Minute, yet these thoughts started to wrangle me in self-satisfaction. Anyhow, I'll wait. I'll wait for my reward.

2 days later

I'd been summoned to the police station. Apparently, the man I helped by carrying his load was the most-wanted criminal of our era, the Dark Smuggler. Phew. A great reward, worth my time and effort. Yes, I certainly deserved that. Ah, they saw me do this generous task through the CCTV, and I'm pained to guess I will be jailed for a week or two. "All we want from you is the details of this man," they say, "we'll let you go scot-free then." Should I help them perhaps? Or must I remain loyal to an unknown criminal? A pretty narrow road to tread, I'd be dangling both ways anyway.

Help the police, and criminal danger. Help a criminal, and lawful danger. Haha. Perhaps my reward is somewhat viciously dangerous. I'll wonder blankly for a short period, what do I do? I decided to tell the police the little bit I knew about him, acquired through personal contact that day. However, the more I thought about it, the more awkward I felt. Something felt wrong. Got what it was. The policeman who I was talking to, bore quite a resemblance to this man I talked with that day. I began to wonder... was it him? Was the criminal actually putting on a show, trying to leech out all I knew about him? I decided I wouldn't fall for it all that easily.

My replies would all be a trap to give his identity away! However, he didn't fall for my trap. Why? You may ask... and here's my answer- "That was because I am the Dark Smuggler! And my reward? It was; not being recognised for the criminal I was, for whatever you do tends to make its way back to you.



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