

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA- GOA

Department of History
(Established Since 1963)

The Chronicle
(Newsletter)

August 2024



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THE CHRONICLE

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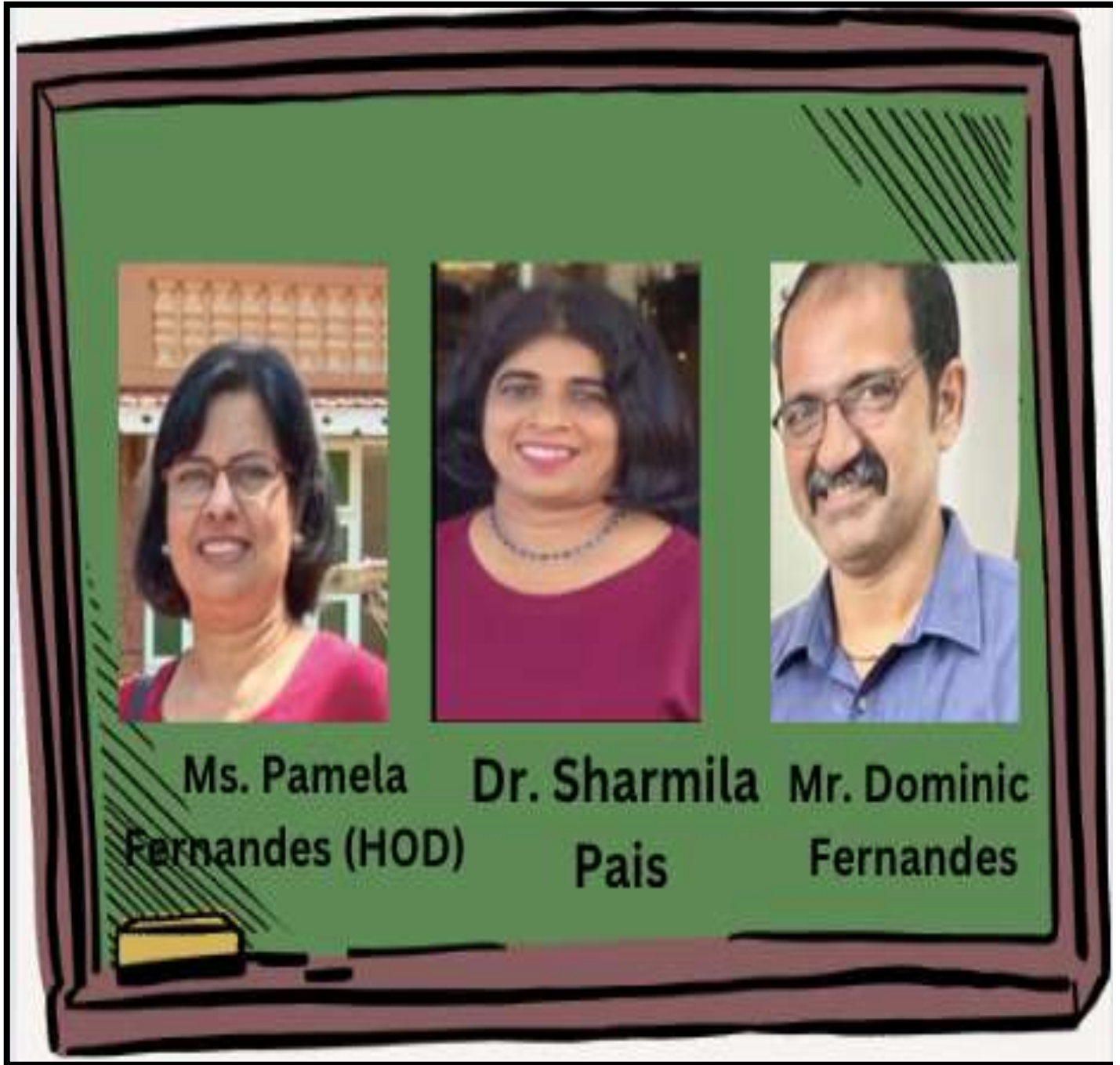
Ms. Smital Gad TYBA

Ms. Swella Fernandes TYBA

Ms. Sumaiya Khan FYBA



Meet Our Faculty





Fr. Antonio Salema

Administrator's Message

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Department of History on the successful launch of their newsletter, *The Chronicle*. This initiative will help the faculty and students to share updates, insights, and achievements within the department.



From the Principal's Desk



contributed their articles and sketches to this newsletter.

**Ms. Ursula Barreto
Acting Principal**

I am delighted to announce the release of the History Department's Newsletter, *The Chronicle* on the auspicious occasion of India's Independence Day, 15 August, 2024. The Newsletter showcases the department's academic achievements, research endeavours, extracurricular activities. I congratulate the Editor, Dr. Sharmila Pais, HOD, staff and students who have

Head of Department's Message



The approach to understanding and appreciating History has come a long way from the traditional perspective. History has come to enjoy a definite space in Journalistic writings and that is where we wish to introduce our students, guiding them to showcase past heritage- natural, built and human, in the form of articles, profiles that will reconnect the reader with the past.

This is an endeavour in the right direction. It is hoped that the department will continue publish this Newsletter, to encourage students to write on local histories highlight student talents and achievements and the work of the Department of History.

My appreciation to Dr. Sharmila Pais for this initiative and best wish to the Department and the students.

Ms. Pamela Fernandes (HOD)
Department of History.



Editor's Insights

Unveiling The Chronicle



The launch of *The Chronicle*, the Department of History's new newsletter, marks an exciting milestone in our journey to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of history. This initiative is not a mere publication but a commitment to encourage academic scholarship and extracurricular activities among students of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa.

Our goal is to make history come alive beyond the confines of traditional classrooms and knowledge. This newsletter will serve as a dynamic platform to showcase students' talents and offer insights into the diverse activities undertaken by the Department, both academic and extracurricular. It provides a space for the exchange of ideas, reflections, and scholarly discussions among students and faculty members alike.

We invite everyone to be a part of this journey by reading and sharing *The Chronicle* to wider readership.

**Dr. Sharmila Pais,
Associate Professor,
Department of History,
August 2024.**





*The Department of History, engaged its students through various activities to enhance critical thinking, encourage active participation and provide an enriching academic experience. Journey the year 2023-2024 through **THE CHRONICLE***



Meet Our History Students: Batch 2024-2025



Third Year Bachelor of Arts



Second Year Bachelor of Arts



The Year that was 2023-2024



Felicitation of Ms. Rianna D'Costa in July 2023. She was awarded the History Prize for 'Outstanding Performance in History' for the year 2022-2023



Charity Begins at Home: The Kilo Campaign



Ms. Pamela Fernandes organised a Social Outreach Activity for the students of History to encourage awareness on the need to others cared for. A KILO CAMPAIGN activity was explained to them. Students were invited to donate a kilo of any non-perishable food item. This was keeping in view the forthcoming Ganesh festival. The expected food items were identified, and a 2-week period allotted to offer their contributions.

develop sensitivity to the needy around them in September 2023. It also aimed to imbibe the virtue of caring and sharing to make the .The donations were then organized in six lots and were distributed to those who were identified as needy. The student donated generously and felt a sense of satisfaction over the thought and act of sharing with the poor.



Learning History Through Role-Play



Dr. Sharmila Pais adopted Role-Play as a teaching aid to re-enact historical events of the European society during the 17th and 18th centuries in September 2023. This

approach allowed students to relive the lives of key historical figures, re-enacting crucial moments that shaped the political landscape of the era.

The political history of 18th-Century France was beautifully captured through the brilliant performances of TYBA students.

Likewise, the court of Versailles of the famed monarchs Louis XIV and Louis XVI was recreated creatively by students.

The objective of this event was to develop skills of effective public speaking and build confidence among students. The event proved to be an enriching and meaningful learning experience for the class.

Likewise, students of FYBA were also introduced to the concept of Role-Play to enhance teaching experience in class in January 2024.





Reliving Goan Traditions in the Classroom Through Role-Play



FYBA (MINOR -HISTORY)

Research Initiatives

Dr. Sharmila Pais undertook an amateur research initiative for students of FYBA titled ‘Unravelling Village Histories’. The students were explained the meaning of research and what constituted research. To begin with, they were guided on key identifiers of carrying out grassroot level research. Students were also encouraged to observe, pose a question, collect data and analysis it from a historical perspective. The importance of village histories was also explained to students. Students were encouraged to examine the cultural practices, beliefs, traditions and their role in shaping the historical development of the local territory. Impact of modernization, science and technology constituted another aspect of this study.

Ms Pamela Fernandes conducted a research presentation on 21st *October 2023, on the topics: The Built Heritage of the Kadambas, The Cultural Heritage of the Kadambas and The Literary Heritage of the Kadambas*. The aim of the study was to find out the extensive History of the Kadambas of Goa and their contribution to the rich heritage of Goa. Three groups were made of minimum seven students each and were given the about topics which they had to first research on and later present their findings to the class. The presentations were informative, and the images supported the information. All three groups worked as a team to unearth and showcase the rich history of the forgotten Kadamba rule in Goa.

Young Researchers

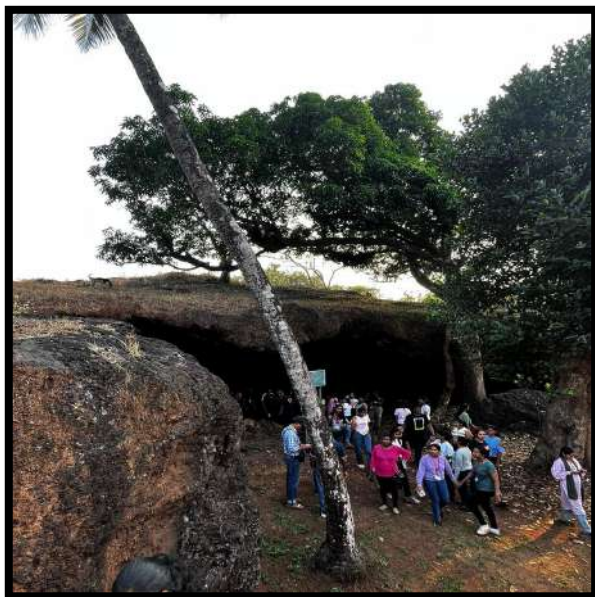


Quiz Quest: The Brain Bonanza

On 26th August, a Quiz Competition was organised under the guidance of Mr. Dominic Fernandes, Assistant Professor, Department of History. This event was designed to encourage a competitive spirit and foster a deeper appreciation for history among students of SYBA (History)



Unveiling History's Secrets Through an Excursion



The Department of History organised a study tour on 4th January 2024. A group of 60 students accompanied by three faculty, Dr. Sharmila Pais, Mr. Dominic Fernandes and Ms. Gwendolene Nobbay visited heritage sites in South Goa. Students began their journey from Mapusa at 8.30 am. Winding the way through National Highway 66, a long journey of 90 kilometres led the group to their first halt at the Usgalimol Petroglyphs near Rivona in Sanguem taluka situated on the banks of the river Kushawati.

On a rocky laterite bed, students could view an archive of human and animal figures like the humped Zebu bull, antelopes, deer, fox, a deer and a bull locking horns, animal hoofs, a female figure, probably a mother goddess symbol of the fertility cult, and another human figure etched in a dancing pose. The trail of Netravali through the lush-green Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary provided an enriching experience of tangible and intangible heritage through a mud track road and scenic pathway. Students and teachers, away from the mundane routine of their daily lives were entertained by the sounds of birds and buzzing bees. The cascading Sawari Waterfall, nestled in the Sanctuary helped everyone to spend some leisurely moments in its cool waters. The Sati stones of Cotomb helped the viewers to connect with the medieval rituals practiced in Goa. Likewise, the Rivona Caves or the rock-hewn caves located in the lush green village of Rivona in South Goa were a reminder of the Buddhist influence in the region.



History Students Win Accolades at State-Level Quiz Competition

Ms. Anisha Mendonca and Ms. Amber Freitas from the Department of History won the first place in the State-Level Quiz Competition organised by the Youth Hostels Association of India on the great Indian patriot Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. The quiz was held at Ravindra Bhavan Margao.



Venue: Ravindra Bhavan, Margao

Shivaji Jayanti Celebrations



Tributes were paid to the valour and legacy of the Maratha warrior, Shivaji Maharaj on his birth anniversary. The programme was conducted in accordance with the guidelines set by the Department of Information and Publicity, Government of Goa.



The event was held in the Seminar Hall with the distinguished presence of the Principal of the Institution, Prof. (Dr.) Blanche Mascarenhas, the Vice Principal, Ms. Sandra Fernandes, the Cultural Coordinator and

faculty from the Department of History along with a large gathering of students in attendance from

10.45 am to 11.45 am. Dr. Sharmila Pais highlighted the enduring legacy, military prowess, administrative acumen of the great Maratha King.



Students and faculty across streams, from the college witnessed the hour-long function. The SYBA students from the Department of History enacted a meaningful play, “**Shivaji Maharaj and Hirkani the Milkmaid**”. Shivaji Maharaj’s compassionate and judicious nature was portrayed through the presentation. The play was performed by Ms. Swara Dharwadkar, Mr. Shoonor Shaik, Filianta Gomes, Niraj Zantye and Chandrakant Parulekar.

A quiz and spot prizes made the event thought-provoking and educational. Students were tested on the knowledge of the Maratha King. Prizes were awarded by the Principal, the Vice-Principal and faculty present.

Opening New Windows: A Farewell to TYBA Students

The Department of History organized an informal gathering on April 8, 2024, to bid farewell to its graduating students. Miss Giann Fernandes, an alumna of the Department and now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, graced the event as the Chief Guest. The History Personality for the Year 2023-2024 was awarded to Miss Amber Freitas. Sharing the limelight were Ms. Daniella Miriam De Souza and Ms. Anisha Mendonca who jointly secured the second place. Ms. Annrose D’Cunha was honoured with the third place. These students portrayed noteworthy historical characters and captivated the attention of their peers. Ms. Fenisia Fernandes, Ms. Anisha Mendonca and Mr. Valencio D’Souza shared their memorable experiences in the Department. Students wearing golden sashes added charm to the event.





Winner of the History Personality Contest, 2024-Ms. Amber Freitas



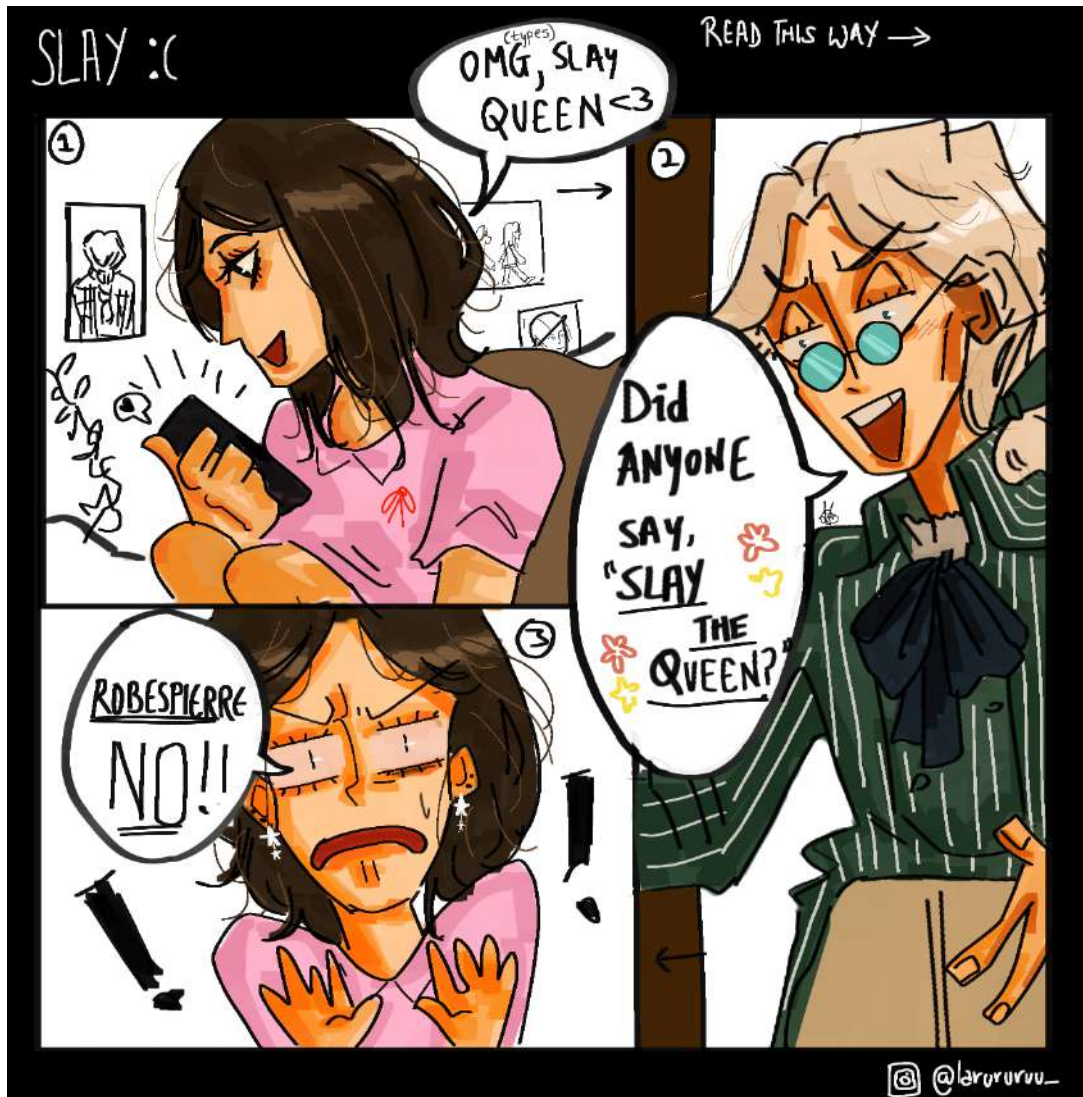
Living Legends of History



Learning History Through Art

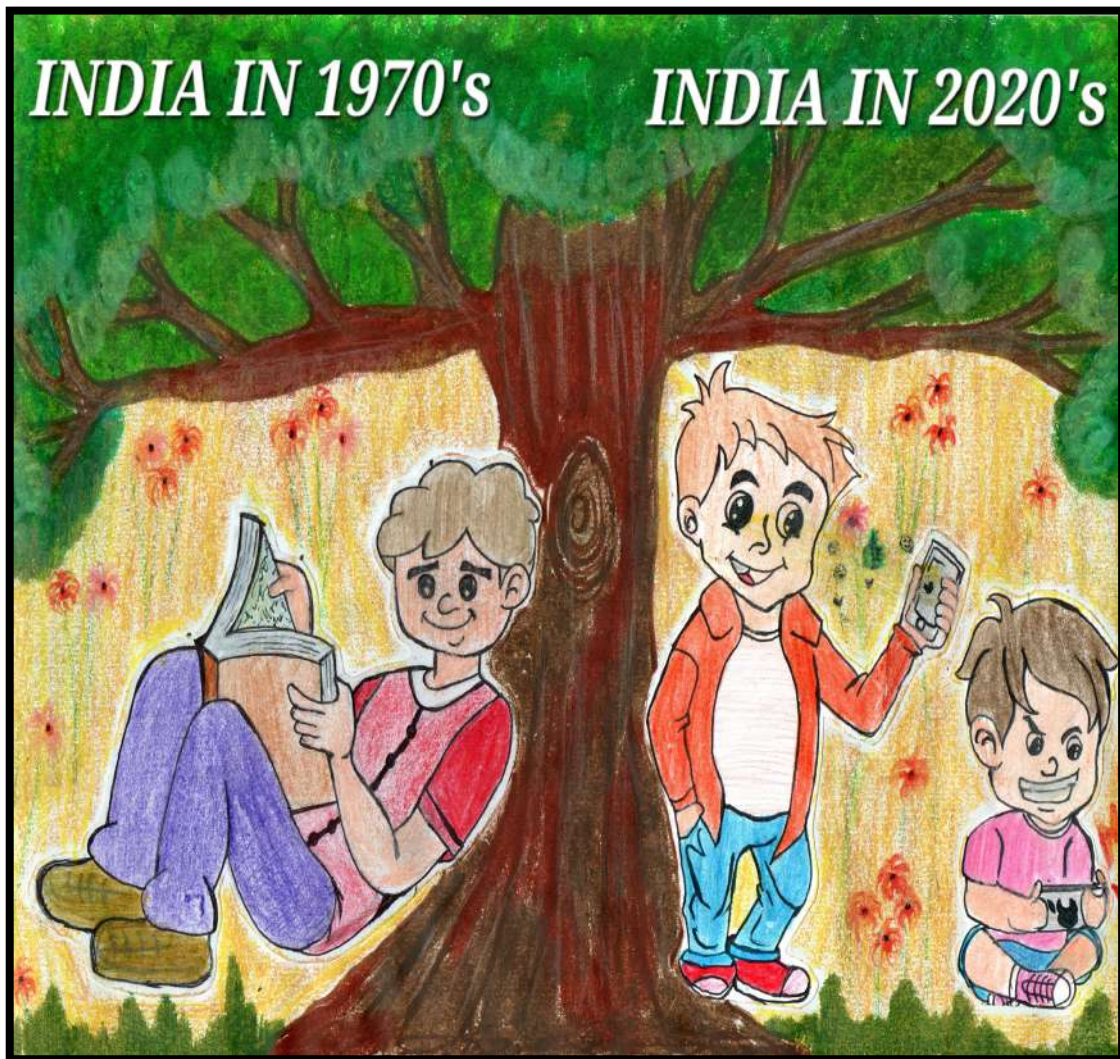
Larissa V. D'Souza (FYBA-History, Minor)

A Dive into Voltaire's Satire





Shania Rodrigues Captures the Essence of Indian Evolution Through Art





**Goa of Yesteryears Through the Lens of
Asma Shaik (FYBA-History-Minor)**



History in Verse



By Sumaiya Khan
(FYBA History-Minor)

UNSEEN GOA

When you come down to my coastal state
During monsoon showers, or when the
rains abate,
I will shield your eyes and ears and mind
From the raucous shouts of the tourist
guides.

Take my hand, let's walk away
From all that they have to say
About this abundant land of mine
Reduced to strips of narrow stereotypes
By their ignorant kind.

Come with me to the capital's heart;
The lanes where my grandmother played
The house where my family stayed.
The shops whose owners I know by name,
and people, who after all these years,
have stayed the same.

Have you heard about the 'Atlantis of
Goa'?

Drowned city, a sunken land,
The once-prosperous village of Curdi
Submerged by the Salaulim Dam.
You may not have heard of this
Because they never tell you that
In the fancy brochures, of a
sandy-fairyland.

But, know from this, what it is to
remember,
After all has been forgotten.
For the villagers come, year after year
As once a month, the village rises above
The water that made it disappear.

As you walk down the streets where the
hawkers cry,
The smells of fish, flowers and fruits pass
you by
And amidst those bargaining heckles and
cries,

Can you hear the notes that survived?
These notes of music, blended, passed down

Generation after generation; a tradition of
sound



Of *ghumot aartis* with chorus and soul,
Of *faado* sung in crystal clear tones
Of mando and all the stories betold.

And, as you pass by the Divja Circle,
Ask yourself who those dancing women
are,

Set in stone and copper gold
with lamps in their hands and fires in their
hearts.

Then, I'll tell you about
Divja, Kunbi and Dhalo,
And the glorious heritage of folk dance,
Goa's tribal art.

Then, I'll tell you about Zambaulim's
Gulaal; That pink ode to Damodar,
Vishnu's avatar.
And, the Shirgao Zatra, now don't be
surprised,
Be in awe instead
As you watch the fire-walkers tread
Through that burning charcoal bed.
Through flaming embers they leap and
run,
Worshipping the might of the chosen one.

In Surla, I'll show you the Masjid
with it's ancient water tank
Green, against the red tile bank.
And people, regardless of religion or race,
Bowing their heads to Pir Saheb's grace.

You say show me Goa,
and I'll take you to the 'Gadyaachi Zatra'
And you will wonder what sorcery there
is,
Or maybe you will be too stunned to
wonder at all

When you hear the sound of their
primordial call
To a primordial god.

After you've seen all of this
That no one ever sees,
Beyond the blinding travel brochures,
I'll tell you what the real unseen is.

The real unseen is our afternoon siesta and
evening rest;
The Goan heart beating inside every chest.
The real unseen is the poder and his
unique bread.

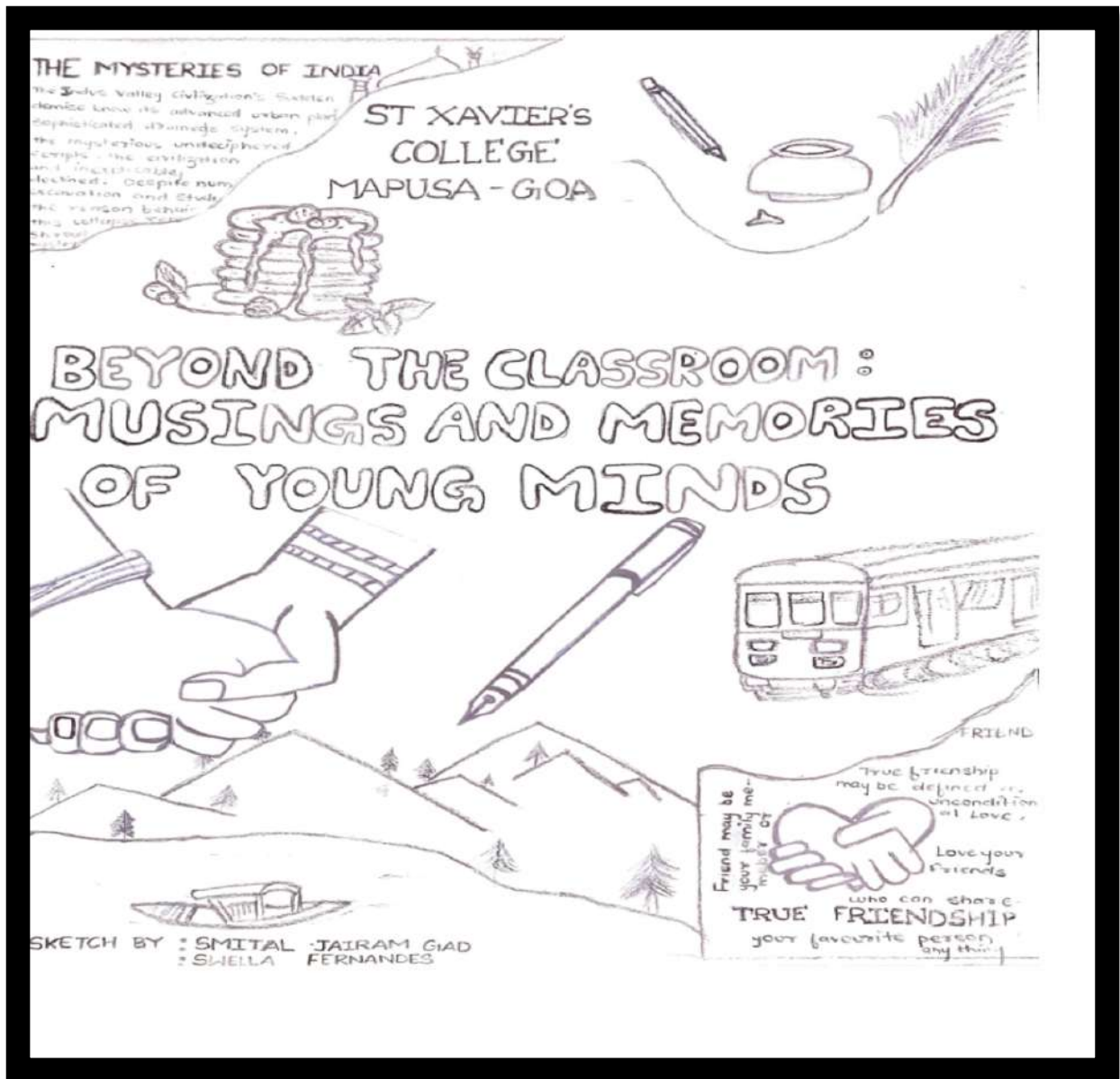
The real unseen are the pilots who drive
no planes at all,
The mango-sellers and their seasoned calls.
So when you come to this abundant land,
Remember that it is so much more than
just sun and sand.
Remember what nobody ever sees:
The Goan land and the Goan breeze.



Student Lens: Insights and Reflections

of

TY Bachelor of Arts (History)



The Untold Story of Goddess Mandodari



By Advika
Fadte (TYBA)

This tale is about Betki village in North Goa, a small, peaceful place on the banks of the Mandvi River. The village is full of lush fruits, fragrant flowers, and a lively community.

In this beautiful setting, there is a story rich in folklore, featuring themes of sacrifice, resilience, and divine intervention—the story of Goddess Mandodari.

According to a legend, a humble Brahmin lady named Sushil Sadhvi resided in Betki village. She gave birth to two children, Mandodari, a girl and Narabandho, a boy.

These two children loved lotus flowers that were found in the pond at Tale Wada in Betki village.

Over time, the village faced serious trouble. Climate changes led to lower water levels, ruining the paddy fields that the community depended on. As drought set in, the villagers fell into despair. They were worried about famine and many people began to migrate to other places in search of food and shelter.

Faced by such crisis, the villagers turned to spiritual guidance, seeking solace and guidance of the Brahmini.

They received the blessings of the Brahmini. The curse was lifted, and they were blessed bountifully.

As thanksgiving, they annually commemorated the "Nave" in the village.

With newfound hope and the blessings of the divine, the villagers returned to Betki. They vowed to honor Mandodari and Narabandho as deities worthy of reverence. Temples were erected in their honor, serving as symbols of resilience, repentance, and the enduring power of faith.

Today, as the gentle breeze rustles through the verdant landscape of Betki village, the echoes of Mandodari's tale linger, reminding all who listen of the enduring bond between humanity and the divine, and the transformative journey from darkness to light.



SIOLIM ZAGOR

By Pemla Fernandes (TYBA)



Goa is also known for its traditional folk drama performed in several villages down the generations. It is widely believed that if folk dramas

are not performed according to tradition, the local people, including tribals, fear that they may incur the wrath of the deity. In Goa, traditional folk dramas such as Ranmale, Zagor and Kalo hold significant cultural importance. Among these, the Siolim Zagor (or Jagor) is particularly renowned. It generally takes place by the end of December or the beginning of January, always on a Monday, though the exact date varies each year.

During the Zagor, devotees offer prayers and make promises to the deity, bringing offerings such as candles, alcohol and oil.

These offerings are made in gratitude for fulfilled wishes. The celebrations begin in the morning and continue through the night.

Throughout the day, residents prepare delicious food, including the 'Saanas' for the occasion. At around 10.00 pm, a ritual known as 'Suhari' is conducted, where boys from the ward, holding flaming palm leaves, perform a traditional dance and sing prayers as they approach the temple.

Upon reaching the temple, they perform the 'nach' (dance) on a stage, which continues until midnight. At this time, a person dressed as the deity dances (*nachta*), and everyone is expected to pray reverently. The *tiatr* or *natak* performance serves as an added attraction to the event. Villagers and visitors alike stay awake throughout the night to participate in the prayers and festivities.

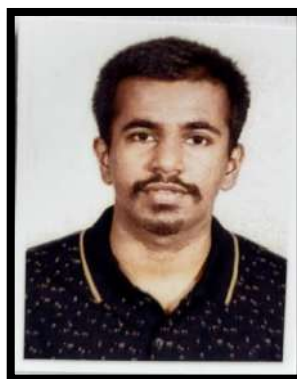
The Zagor is not only a local tradition but also attracts tourists and visitors who seek the deity's blessings. It is believed that the Zagor originated as a protective measure against bad influences, such as floods. The deity is considered powerful, and it is said that both rewards and punishments are dispensed based on one's actions.

Despite its rich cultural significance, many people in Goa are not fully aware of or do not observe the Zagor traditions. It is important to preserve and understand these rituals to maintain their cultural heritage.



Evaluating 'One Nation, One Election': A Perspective on Electoral Reforms in India

By Deepankar Padloskar (TYBA)



After a long-drawn struggle for Independence from the colonial rule, India finally achieved its independence from the British rule on 15th August 1947.

This landmark event marked the beginning of democracy in the country.

The first general elections in independent India were held between October 1951 and March 1952. This historic event marked the beginning of the country's democratic process, with the Election Commission overseeing the election of members to the Lok Sabha.

The elections were conducted simultaneously with the *Vidhan Sabha* elections in various states, adhering to the principle of 'One nation, one election'.

The Election Commission conducted the election to elect members to the Lok Sabha. At that time, the Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of India were the two major political parties contesting the polls.

The Indian National Congress (INC) and the Communist Party of India (CPI) were led by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and A. K. Gopalan respectively. It is said, a total 170 million people were eligible to cast their votes in the first general election. The INC led by J.

Nehru, emerged as the dominant party and formed the government.

The representative system continued until 1967. Following that period, political turmoil in several states led to the imposition of President's Rule under Article 356 of the Constitution.

The 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) system could enhance voter turnout by consolidating elections into a single event, reducing voter fatigue from multiple levels of elections—local, state, and national. This approach could also minimize distractions for the government, allowing for more focus on policy formulation rather than election strategies. Additionally, it could prevent disruptions caused by the model code of conduct, which affects government operations.

However, there are drawbacks. The ONOE concept might clash with India's federal structure, which is based on the idea of a 'Union of States' rather than a single, unified entity. This raises concerns about how it aligns with Article 1 of the Indian Constitution.

While the idea of ONOE may seem appealing on paper, but its implementation poses significant challenges and risks, particularly in a diverse country like India.

In my opinion, the real power in a democracy lies with the public. Therefore, it's crucial to seek their opinions and suggestions regarding the 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) concept. While ONOE has its pros and cons, its implementation should be guided by the will of the people, as democracy is "of the people, by the people, and for the people."



**Swella Fernandes
(TYBA)**

“Art is a vibrant journey of colors, imagination which gives peace to mind and can turn

anything ordinary into magical”.

I believe that painting, as an art form, allows for a profound connection between the artist and the other person viewing it. It often serves as a visual language expressing that meaning which words often struggle to convey. The canvas becomes a ground for emotions, a space where thoughts and feelings are translated into unique and different colours.

In the wake of the Pandemic-2019 and the lockdown that followed, I embarked on a journey within the magic of creativity. It led those creative juices in me flowing. Immersing myself in art became a lifeline, allowing me to explore new dimensions on my canvas. The lockdown, while restrictive, served as a catalyst for my creativity, enabling me to overcome the physical limitations and discover a vibrant world within. As the world outside stood still, my artistic journey thrived, leading me to discover the new potential within me.

During those times, my family and I frequently went on trips, often to beaches. I

vividly recall gazing out the car window, taking in the lines of trees, sunsets, beaches, and the shapes of clouds. These scenes would inspire me, and I would mentally paint them and let my imagination run wild. I experimented with various ideas and techniques, translating these visual experiences into my art, which I later shared on social media.

I am the quiet artist dreaming of reaching the stars. Sometimes I face failures, but as we say, failures are the key to success. I am still brushing up my skills and working up on different ideas, trying to connect the different pieces of imagination in mind .



Saligao Beckons



Clera D'Souza
(TYBA)

My village, Saligao, is a unique gem that lies next to Calangute. Though it lacks beaches or shores, Saligao has its own charm. A stroll through the village reveals lush green fields stretching out on both sides, and the golden glow of the sun enhances its natural beauty. When people think of Saligao, the village church, Mae de Deus, often comes to my mind. Its Portuguese-style architecture and intricate art fills me a sense of pride.

Historically, the people of Saligao were called 'kolle' (foxes) as the village abounded in these animals.

On a pleasant evening, Saligao transforms as various food stalls line the roads, especially near the Mae de Deus Church. The streets are illuminated by the lights of food trucks and are filled with the cheerful hum of conversation.

The pathway provides ample seating, making it an ideal spot for friends, youngsters, and the elderly to gather and enjoy each other's company. The gentle breeze adds a soothing soundtrack to the scene, and if you're observant, you might spot couples secretly enjoying their time while savoring Joaquim's Ross omelette or Floyd's famous shawarma. The walk from our school was a distance filled with adventure. We would head to the pond, tossing stones and trying to catch tiny fish, all while grumbling about how poorly our teacher had set the exam paper—even though we knew it was our own fault for not studying thoroughly.

Occasionally, we'd visit an elderly aunt's house and sneak a few mangoes. We'd form human pyramids to reach the fruit, and while some of us tried to knock down the mangoes with stones—often to comic effect, as we'd wake up the pet dog and scramble to escape—we also learned to appreciate the simple joys of our village.

Sometimes, we'd meander up the hilly roads, hoping to discover something new. These explorations led us to unexpected finds: a man in the village who made Cashew Feni, a local cowherd, the Salmona Spring, and the surprising fact that our Portuguese teacher and two other locals lived just behind our school.

The Portuguese-style homes, standing elegantly, bear witness to the enduring colonial influence in Saligao. Unlike the surrounding areas, Saligao did not have sprawling businesses or crowded buildings, which made it particularly appealing. The

village managed to retain its charm, staying clear of the over-commercialization and hustle of neighboring regions.

Though I am not originally from Saligao, I believe the village has nurtured me and helped me see the beauty of nature. It has been my second home during the six years I spent studying there, providing me with invaluable lessons, lifelong friendships, and cherished memories. Saligao will always hold a special place in my heart for all it has given me.

My fondest memories of Saligao were forged during my schooling years at Lourdes Convent, the local school of the village. The journey through Saligao often meant braving chilly mornings due to the surrounding fields. After exams, my friends and I would explore the village—though it was just a brief 10-minute venture, it was always filled with adventure and discovery.



**Laika Shaik
(TYBA)
Finding Paradise
Wherever I Go**

I have been drawn to the idea of paradise by traveling and exploring different places—cities, states, villages and towns. Finding peace and calmness amidst the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life is often challenging, so I often seek escape through travel. Happiness for me isn't always about luxurious gifts or grand adventures; it's found in small moments like watching the sunset, sunrise, or spending quality time with loved

ones. However, my ultimate source of happiness is traveling or even going to beaches.

One of my most cherished travel experiences was the trip to Kerala, a journey that remains deeply rooted in my heart. It began with a visit to the hills of Munnar, where we were first enchanted by the beauty of the gushing waterfalls.

As we ventured further, all we could see were tea plantations stretching as far as the eye could see, accompanied by the cool climate and the invigorating fragrance of tea leaves. Munnar, besides being home to numerous tea plantations and estates, is also a sanctuary for wildlife, where one can spot endangered species like the Nilgiri tahr. Munnar offers a range of adventurous activities, such as trekking and jeep safaris, which enhance the experience. When in Munnar, watching the sunset is a must, as it paints the sky with hues of orange, creating a natural canvas.

Transitioning from the misty mountains of Munnar to the tranquil backwaters of Alleppey brings a change from the cool breezes to the warmth of the sun. Alleppey, often referred to as the Venice of the East, charms with its diverse boats from houseboats to shikharas and speedboats. Spending a day on a houseboat in Alleppey is a day immersed in the beauty of calm waters and coconut tree-lined landscapes, an experience like no other. Each houseboat is a floating paradise with marvelous views and a sense of tranquillity that's unparalleled.

No trip to Kerala is complete without indulging in its delectable cuisine, especially the freshly caught seafood served on banana leaves infused with the flavours of curry leaves, coconut, and spices - truly a culinary delight. Traveling to Kerala with family, friends, or solo is a wonderful

journey of discovery, unveiling paradisiacal experiences at every turn. Kerala truly lives up to its title of God's own country, offering happiness in every corner, making it a blissful destination for all to explore and enjoy.



Rediscovering The Lost Glory of Hampi

Gayatri Haldankar (TYBA)



‘Hampi echoes the lost glory of the Vijayanagara Empire’. I always wanted to visit this place since the time I read about it in my 12th std history

book. Finally, I got an opportunity to visit this beautiful place with my family on 24th May 2022. We travelled by car and I enjoyed the therapeutic long drives. Hampi is 318 kilometres away from Goa. It took us about two days to arrive at our destination.

“The emergence of the Vijayanagara Empire is a remarkable event in the history of medieval India.

The foundation of the Vijayanagara Kingdom on the South-West coast of India was laid down by two brothers - Harihara and Bukka. There were about 16 rulers of Vijayanagara who ruled for about 230 years from 1336 to 1565. Three different dynasties ruled over the Vijayanagara Empire. Sangama, Saluva and Taluva. The fourth dynasty namely Aravidu didn't make a great impact. Vijayanagara was

established to protect the Hindu dharma from the roads of Islam.”

We first decided to visit the famous, tall standing monument, the Virupaksha Temple. This temple is an important Shiva temple in the city of Hampi in Vijayanagara district. It has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Next to the temple, the Hampi Bazaar is a unique old market

settlement. The market is spread over one kilometre and reflects the people's lifestyle. After that,

we visited the impressive Lotus Mahal. It is a lovely blend of both Hindu and Muslim styles of

architecture. The structure derives its name from the geometrically arranged cusped arches that

resemble the petals of a lotus flower. The Elephant Stable in Hampi is an important tourist location.

The impressive and unique structure showcases the royal life of the Vijayanagara Empire. The

Narasimha statue is the largest in Hampi. Narasimha is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and a part of his ten *avatars*. The statue has been carved in the classic Vijayanagara style.

The next day, we visited the Hazara Rama Temple, which is dedicated to Lord Rama. It used to be the private temple of the royal family of Vijayanagara. After that, we visited the Vittala temple and several other sites in Hampi.

In the evening, I spent quality time with my family relaxing by the Tungabhadra river which is so

scenic and peaceful. Also, we went for a Coracle ride, which is a top tourist attraction

in Hampi. The Coracle is a semi-circular boat made from bamboo. Hampi is immensely beautiful. Places like this remind me, how important it is to preserve the history around us.

(Some Informational facts about the monuments in Hampi is sourced from ‘<https://www.housing.com-TopplacestovisitinHampi>)



Celebrating Unity and Diversity: Zagor **By Rakshada Toraskar (TYBA)**



Goa is known for its stunning beaches and entertainment, but it is also home to a rich cultural heritage. Among many Goan cultural traditions, Zagor stands out as a traditional folk art form

deeply rooted in the region's history and identity. The word ‘Zagor’ means to remain awake all night. It is considered a folk play that consists of a prayer to the almighty, known as "Zagaryo," for protection from every evil that befalls the village.

Unlike other Zagors in the state, the Siolim Zagor has a unique significance. It brings Hindus and Christians together. On this day, Christians offer candles to the almighty, while Hindus offer oil. The deity, called Zagaryo, has a sacred spot in Siolim. There is a small shrine under a peepal tree, with no image or icon, in a village called Dando. Thousands of people flock to this temple to seek blessings and witness folk drama and folk songs.

Zagor is celebrated on the first Monday after Christmas. The day prior features the feast of St.

Anthony. Villagers prepare rice cakes and visit family. A grand meal is prepared on the day of Zagor. People rush to Zagreshwar Temple at Dando, where, with flowers, garlands, and candles, thousands of devotees stand in line to seek blessings. The queue, which starts in the morning, continues until night. This pure devotion is visible here, and I feel proud to say that I live in this village where people coexist peacefully without religious conflicts.

The folk drama takes place at night, and rehearsals for the drama begin a month before. On the day of the festival, all villagers participate in a torchlight procession called “Suarii.” All men move towards the “Maand” or sacred place, carrying dry coconut fronds lit as torches, singing *ovios* at every chapel along the way.

The performance of Zagor begins with the recitation of devotional songs, through which the well-dressed artists invoke different gods and goddesses.

The Christian community commence the festivity with a praise to the Holy Trinity: “Poilo noman deva bapak, dusro noman deva putak, anitisko noman dev a spirita Santak,” which means the first praise to the Holy Father, the second praise to God the Son, and the third praise to God the Holy Spirit. Then the artists come on stage and perform their roles to the tunes of folk music, including *Ghumot* and *Kasaale*.

Like any other folk drama, there is an element of heredity in the Zagor, with certain roles being inherited by some families.

The main roles at the Siolim Zagor are reserved for Christians. In the folk drama, there is a king, a joker, two male dancers dressed in female costumes (as women were not allowed to play any roles back then), and the “Zagoryo,” the almighty.

According to legend, if someone leaves during the performance of Zagoryo, the person gets lost along the way and forgets the route to their home. Therefore, villagers stay awake until the next morning, dancing and singing. The Zagor ends with 'Mharinn,' a man dressed in a saree, going from house to house to receive Sanna (rice cakes), roasted grams, puffed rice, and fenny on behalf of the deity. On this day, the entire temple is decorated with beautiful flowers and lights, and a huge fair is held around the temple. Despite the growing hatred towards other religions in today's world, this festival provides a prime example of social harmony.

Wednesday. It is a tradition in several countries to make and eat pancakes on this day to use up ingredients like eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting period of Lent begins. Countries that observe this tradition include the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In Goa, Pancake Tuesday is also celebrated, though it might not be as widely observed as in some other countries. Nevertheless, many people in Goa enjoy making and eating pancakes on this day.

A popular Goan delicacy is "Alle Belle," a traditional pancake filled with a coconut and jaggery mixture. It is believed that Alle Belle were introduced to the Catholic community in Goa during the Portuguese era.



Pancake Tuesday



Nelinda Fernandes
(TYBA)

Pancake Tuesday?
Well! well! Are you wondering what this tradition is all about just like I did when I first heard of it from my aunt?

I was thrilled to hear about a new tradition and see pictures of pancakes made by friends and family, featuring various types and fillings, some even in different colors.

Pancake Tuesday, also known as Shrove Tuesday, is celebrated the day before Ash

Be The Quiz Wizard
By Divyani Naik (SYBA)



1. Who wrote the famous epic poem, the Ramayana?
2. How many *Mahajanapadas* are mentioned in the ancient Indian texts?
3. Who was the father of Emperor Asoka?
4. Which Mughal Emperor was associated with the Peacock Throne?
5. In which year was the Indian National Congress established?
6. Which battle in 1757 marked the beginning of British rule in India?
7. Where was the First Continental Congress held during the American Revolution?
8. Name the treaty that ended World War II.
9. Which leader was the driving force behind the formation of the Indian National Army?
10. To which country did Josef Stalin belong?



