

# THE



# RIGINALS

## ENLIGHTENMENT OVER IGNORANCE

~ *Srimita Saha*

India is a nation laden with cultural diversity and traditions lost within the waves of antiquity, where the social bonds between the folks remain firmly undivided despite strenuous circumstances. Each state of India possesses equal essentiality when it comes to building prosperity within the sovereign, and it is the citizens' responsibility to develop a cavernous knowledge regarding the nation on whose sands we draw breath upon. According to recent sources, a YouTuber belonging from Punjab who supposedly calls themselves an 'Indian citizen', criticised Arunachal Pradesh stating that it does not belong to India, solely judging by the stereotypical outlooks revolving around the state and simultaneously mocking the Congress MLA of the state based on their outward appearance. Such hypocritical behaviour and discrimination towards the residents of Northeast India were strictly unacknowledged by the locals, raising a rampaging sensation across the Internet. Following this incident, the YouTuber was captured by the police and taken into judicial custody, where he was brought to Itanagar by the Arunachal police. In response to his objectionable perceptions upon Arunachal Pradesh, the police educated the YouTuber regarding the demographic, geographical, cultural and social history of the state, including their diversified tourism, traditions and cuisines, offering him a significant awareness about the region's national importance. The police were vastly acknowledged for their thoughtful action, proving that the idea of regional identity should be encouraged and profoundly embedded into our mindsets as establishing a cohesive knowledge regarding different states of our province helps in maintaining a resonant bond between people belonging from distinct conventions. Educational institutes should promote the influence of the Northeastern states upon our society and defeat the stereotypes others hold against these regions, as it is what makes us a true citizen by heart and spirit.

## HOPE WILL NEVER BE SILENT

~ *Vardhinie Jain*

The Stonewall Riots were a series of rebellious events by the members of the LGBTQ+ community. They were a response to a police raid at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighbourhood of Manhattan, New York City. These riots took place towards the ending of June, 1969. They played a vital role in leading the Gay Liberation Movement. These events, apart from being a fight for equality and acceptance, carried a sense of unexpressed emotions like pain, anger and love. After a year, to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall uprising the first ever Gay Pride Marches took place in New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco and a couple of other cities. We have now come a long way from 1970 but some minds unfortunately have not. We need to spread the message that homosexuality is not any 'different'. They too, are people like us. Love has no gender and nor does our personality. The Stonewall Rebellion left a very significant impact which lasts till this day. Hence, we celebrate June as Pride month in remembrance and honouring the Stonewall riots.

## A STEP TOWARDS JUSTICE

~ *Oprah Maibam*

India has managed to provide the covid vaccines to a count of 44.4 million citizens cogently, ensuring faith and equality as well. With this impressive progress on the recovery of the baneful pandemic, Assam has marked a prominent act in the history of the LGBTQ+ rights in India. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 40 members of the transgender community had been vaccinated in Guwahati, Assam, earning the label of being the first state in the country to provide covid vaccines to this community. Swati Bidan Baruah, the founder of All Assam Transgender Association, claimed that the Assam health service had never declined the proposal to initiate this distinct vaccination drive. It is also claimed that the government shall uphold this program in other parts of the state. 'Tritiya Nivas' is a shelter home to around 125 transgenders in Assam which has worked deliberately for justice towards their community and thrivingly uplifted their agenda in fields such as education, employment and social validation. India had decriminalised homosexuality in 2018 and since then has witnessed a remarkable change towards the LGBTQ+ rights. In withering circumstances like the ongoing pandemic, accomplishing such noteworthy projects is momentous. These projects hold a very relevant spot for all and hence, should undoubtedly be encouraged.

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## IDENTITIES AROUND THE WORLD

~ Ishanvi Roy

There have been multiple societies that have been recognising a 'third' gender since the dawn of time, especially before western colonisation. It has always interested me how different cultures perceive this concept, here a few that are vastly unknown to the common public:

1. **MUXES:** Muxes are native to the Zapotec region of Oaxaca, Mexico. They identify as neither men nor women and often take on care-giving roles within their families. In November, there is a festival to celebrate The Muxes, called 'Vela De Muxes'. They have lived in this region from Pre-Hispanic times.
2. **TWO-SPIRIT:** Two-spirit is an umbrella term coined in 1990 to define gender variance across first nation people in North America, for example, the Navajo people recognise four distinct genders. They were historically considered sacred or divine, and performed key roles in their communities; however, European colonisation resulted in increasingly poor treatment, which subsequently negatively impacted the tribe.
3. **FA'AFAFINE:** Fa'afafine is a term used to describe people of a third gender in Samoa, translated, it means 'the manner of a woman'. They are part of traditional Samoan culture and are recorded Pre-Christianisation. There are estimated to be 500 Fa'afafine in Samoa and 500 in the Samoan diaspora in Aotearoa (New Zealand).

### JOURNEY THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS GLOBE

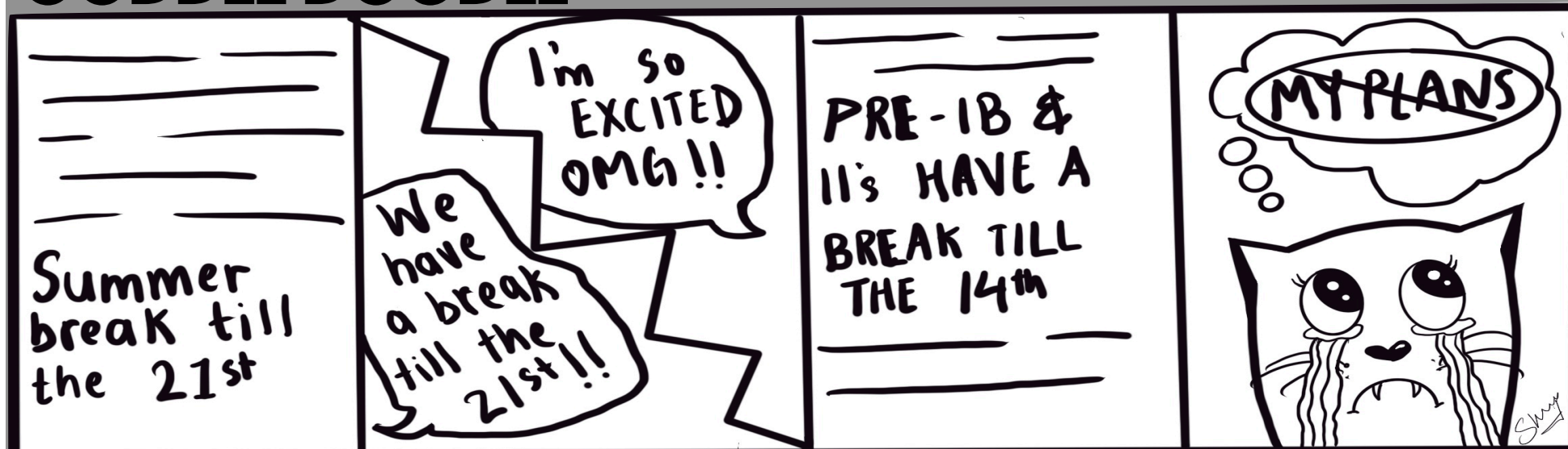
- Remains of 215 indigenous children were found at a residential school in British Columbia. The death of these children, who were as young as three years old, and the mass grave were never documented by the school's administrators.
- After over a month of campaigning for 'Joints for Jobs', Washington State's liquor and cannabis board has allowed adults to claim free marijuana after they receive a shot of the Covid-19 vaccine as an incentive to encourage citizens to vaccinate themselves.
- On June 9th, 32 people were killed in West Bengal due to the continuous barrage of lighting strikes.
- The leader of Nigerian extremist group Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, has killed himself, according to an audio recording purportedly from the leader of the Islamic State West Africa Province. He claims that Abubakar Shekau died while detonating explosives. However, Boko Haram has yet to confirm Shekau's death.

### SUMMER BREAK 2021

~ Muskan Agrawal

School's out! Well, not quite but, as I leave for vacation at home and complain of boredom, I think we should consider how we can benefit as much as possible from this time as it might give endless opportunities to each one of us. In these fifteen odd days, I have planned to stick to learning and take Coursera courses, spend some time in the greens and work out to keep myself refreshed and energetic. I have also pledged to detach myself from technology as much as possible and spend more time with my family. I look forward to making the most out of my last summer breaks!

### OODDLE DOODLE



~ Shreya Ranjan

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## EDITORIAL

### THE NOT SO NORMAL NORM

~ Samiksha Singh(Editor-in-Chief)

Do you ever have those wondering weird midnight thoughts about the most random things? Well, I do. And I had this very random thought a few nights back and that made me decide that I need to write about this. This article is not only directed towards students but also towards parents.

I'll talk about Child Abuse. Yes, the one that almost all the Indian children go through. It's so ludicrous that child abuse is taken so lightly in our country. I mean if we were in the States, for example, the victims could very easily go ahead and take legal help for the abuse they suffer from, but here, even us, children, are so used to be abused that we end up believing that it's pretty normal. That's just so sad. And when I say abuse, do not and I mean DO NOT think that I'm exaggerating and calling a few slaps abuse. Child abuse consists of and isn't limited to physical abuse (slaps, kicks, punches and the like), emotional abuse (which is also very common), neglect, exploitation etc. And it's baffling to see that parents normally do not consider the abuse that they are inflicting, they might think that this is the only way to discipline one's child and acquire respect. But may I correct you here, when hit a kid to make them listen to you, what you do is SCARE them into submission, scare and force them to do what you want, there is no respect in there and that makes these attempts pathetically futile. And it might also lead to your child losing any emotional connect and love for you. There are ways to teach a child other than abuse which are way healthier. You never know what lasting repercussions you leave your child with. Maybe being accustomed to the idea that abuse is equal to disciplining might even lead to them growing up and doing the same thing not only to their children but also to their spouse, colleagues etc. And I doubt that'll end well. Child abuse also leads to self-depreciation, self-harm, low self-esteem, drug abuse etc. The point that I'm trying so hard to make is that this normalised abuse has long lasting effects and it isn't something a kid should have to put up with. I sincerely request everyone reading that please don't take child abuse, in fact any kind of abuse, lightly and let's not be the country where child abuse is common and sometimes even encouraged as this will be one of the major and first failures we face as Gen Z. Remember we're here if you want to talk to anyone.

### WATTPAD TROPE COMES TRUE IN INDIA?

~ Vanshika Choudhary

We all cherished the tale of 'Jungle Book' in our childhood. It became pretty captivating to see how a human toddler came in contact with and was brought up under the care of wolves and was guided with the aid of panthers and bears inside the mysterious bounds of the jungle. I know, you all too waited eagerly for the show to start, each day. Even after outgrowing our childhood, we associate 'Mowgli' with fond memories and he still remains in our hearts. Have you ever imagined if the wolf in Mowgli existed in actuality and started getting rid of kids? Interesting, is it not? Well, this may have come to occur; however, those wolves are not all what our fantasies make it out to be. Myths and legends are a dime a dozen on this wild land of ours. Everything from 'onion witches' to a 'monkey guy' has struck worry in our hearts, or has attracted at least a minimum quantity of intrigue. Passed down in words, the older generations' testimonies of horror are commonly convoluted, and with little to no evidence. But one precise horror tale from the '80s in Karnataka nonetheless stays unsolved. In 1983, a small town in Karnataka, known as Pavagada, witnessed a sequence of grotesque deaths. One of the first killings was seen on July 27, 1983. When a cry pierced the cold nighttime air and a woman woke up, startled and staring into the pitch dark. She quickly

searched around; however, there had been no signal of her three-year-old daughter Venkatasubamma, who was initially sleeping beside her. This marks the start of the 'child lifting' by wolves in India. By the end of 5 months, seven kids had already been snatched. And now, countless numbers of human beings have been killed and injured over the last centuries. Wolves had been lifting, mauling, and marauding kids from Jaunpur, Pratnagarh, and Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Hazaribagh, Koderma, and Latehar in Bihar. Killing and looking for wolves are now considered a taboo, or a signal of bad omen bringing misfortune and worry of inflicting a terrible harvest. So, dear readers, are you wondering what I am wondering? I bet you are. "Are they werewolves?" This is a query that could be a thriller to many. The tales are endless; however, the child killings continue on. Here in India exists a heady blend of cultures, religions, and superstitions – a bhelpuri of ideals so astoundingly weird which you simply can not get enough of. These notions provide an upward push to the incredible testimonies that all of us grew up with, whispered from ear to ear, or blurted out with the aid of using the media which holds a special corner for those urban legends to date. Do they still hold true? I wish, but that is for you to figure out for yourselves.



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## Our Two Cents

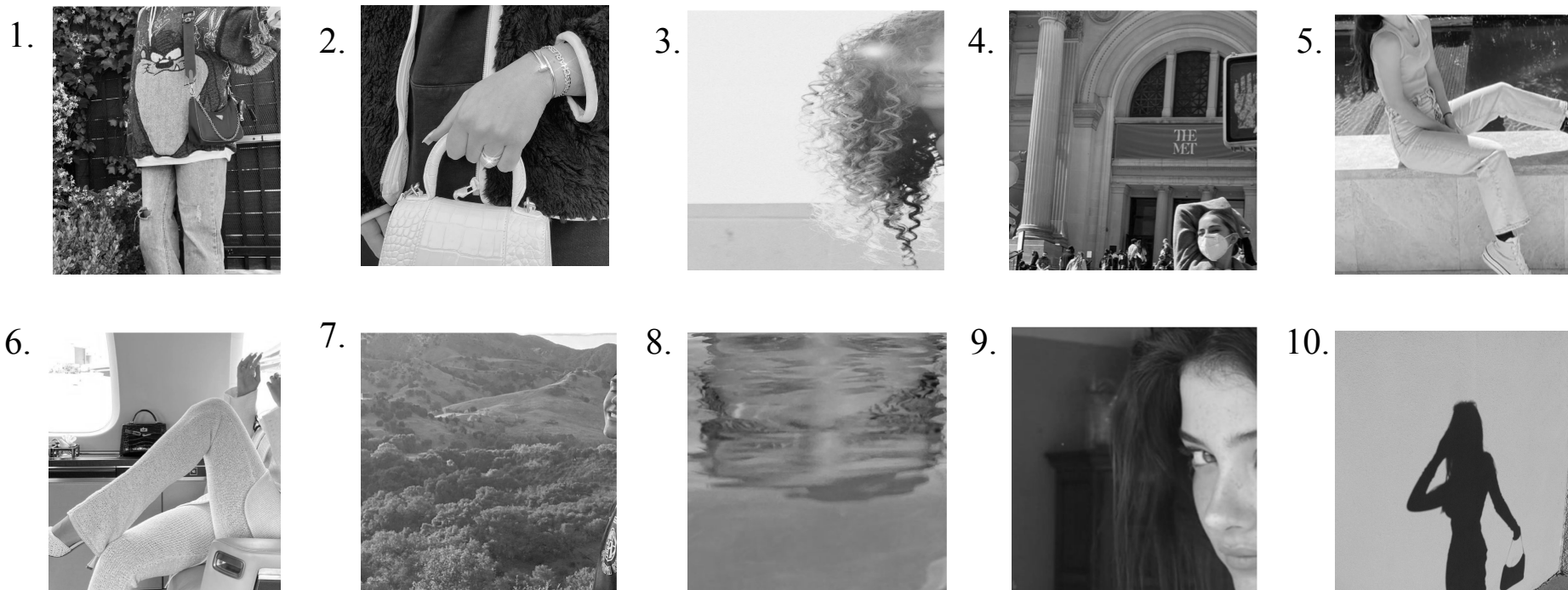


### LET'S TALK RAINBOW WASHING

Every June, like clockwork, brands roll out rainbow logos and capitalise on Pride Month. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as 'rainbow washing'- it is a strategic marketing move deployed by large brands with the aim of selling Pride-themed merchandise and capitalising off of Pride Month. Examples of this could be changing brand logos for the short time period, creating labelled merchandise for the community, and promoting queer members only during this month. While it is great that brands take the time to acknowledge the month and make statements about inclusivity, are they *actually* doing

*anything* outside of performative rebranding to include a rainbow in their June marketing? The commodification allows organisations and corporations that do not do tangible work to help marginalised communities to dabble in selective activism and profit from the attention this 'allyship' garners. This uncontrolled marketing downplays the grave issues, as companies rarely ever contribute to such dialogues, and reduces the worth of the meaningful rainbow flag to a generic collectible. Pride does not just exist in June, and to do our part we must not cave to rainbow-washing. Only contribute to brands genuinely involved all year long through donations, inclusion and support. The identity of an individual should never be used in the commodification and commercialisation of profitters.

### GUESS THE INFLUENCER



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