



# 370 Reasons Why

“The abrogation of Article-370 is a step towards a new, equal and bold India.”  
Assam Valley School (For)

VS

The Shri Ram School (Against)

Mic-adjustments and greetings by the Captain of the Athenaeum, Aakangsha Dutta of side Proposition, marked the beginning of the finals of the 15th East India Debates. Heavily contested, it kept the audience at the edge of their seats and at the end, and was easily a debate that roused varied emotions amongst the audience. Side Proposition began with how the revoking of Article 370 was, in itself was a bold move on the part of the government. She laid down an argument which spoke about the history of the state and the instrument of accession and how Article 370 a temporary feature effected the war-torn state. Ronit Kathuria of side Opposition's specified the premise of their argument by declaring that the revoking of Article 370 was three steps backwards and regressive and was a mockery of democracy, points which Opposition reiterated throughout their debates.

Gayatri Sapru of side Proposition hit a mark when she ended her speech which centered on the position of women in Kashmir, stating that she herself belonged to the ousted community of Kashmiri Pandits whose rights

Article 370 did not protect. Raghav Verma, the second Speaker of side Opposition left a mark when he spoke vehemently of the human rights violation in Kashmir and how it was ironic that the Proposition continued to refer to it as 'Heaven on Earth'.

Ngukivi Chishi, the third Speaker of side Proposition took to the podium and in the duration of his speech stated that although he belonged to a state that enjoyed similar special status like Kashmir had, he would rather be treated as an equal citizen of India then referred to as a resident of Nagaland. His passionate 'Jai Bharat. Jai Hind', drew a resounding round of applause from the audience. The third Speaker of side Opposition Pia Bhatia took to the podium with a fantastic rebuttal stating that if they as Opposition could not understand how it felt to belong to a state that enjoyed special status, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, most certainly did not either. The debate marked with bold statements and interesting gestures, showed the definite oratory of the Speakers and made it an engaging evening for the audience.

The motion was carried.

Best Speaker: Ngukivi Chishi

Most Promising Speaker: Gayatri Sapru



# IN THE GROOVE

-Sieyina Meru, XII

The amalgamation of hard work and practice led to the much awaited Inter- House Dance Competition held on the 12th of July.

The Classical Solo category began with Shirsti Baruah representing Subansiri, who depicted Radha and Krishna's eternal tale of love. Bhoroli was represented by Orihona Bikash who enthralled the audience with a rendition of *Kathak* that spoke volumes of the skill and elegance of the danseuse. Dhreeti Goswami representing Jinari took to the stage next with a *Sattriya* performance which renewed the interest of the audience in this elegant dance form. Alda Nongmeikapam representing Kopili got instant applause from the audience with her brilliant footwork as she presented a *Kathak* routine.

The Semi Classical category of trio dancers began with Subansiri who despite one dancer less, depicted flawlessly the bliss and anguish of love. Bhoroli depicted the *Trimurti* of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwar in *Sattriya* with spectacular formations and drew enthusiastic applause from the audience. Jinari drew a huge round of applause for their dramatic stage presence paired with an upbeat song which made them a formidable competition. The trio representing Kopili presented a routine replete

- I- Kopili-Dhansiri and Jinari-Manas
- II- Bhoroli-Lohit
- III- Subansiri-Namdang
- Best Performer (Male): Saptrishi Acharjee (Dhansiri)
- Best performer (Female): Orihona Bikash (Bhoroli)
- Best folk
- I- Bhoroli-Lohit
- II- Jinari-Manas
- Best group
- I- Kopili-Dhansiri and Bhoroli-Lohit
- II- Jinari-Manas
- Best trio
- I- Jinari-Manas
- II- Kopili-Dhansiri
- Best solo
- I- Elda Nongmeikapam
- II- Orihona Bikash
- Best costume
- Kopili-Dhansiri

with perfected expression and coordination. The Folk Dance category was next where Subansiri presented an energetic *Garba* complete with exotic hand movements. Bhoroli owned the limelight as they put up a brilliantly choreographed *Kalbeliya* from Rajasthan which began as a puppet show. An energetic *Bhangra* was performed by Jinari where the girls took on to sporting beards and switched roles much to the appreciation of the audience. Kopili brought the legendary *Lavani* to stage with marked skill and expertise.

The announcement of the Western Group category brought additional flavour to the evening with Subansiri-Namdang presenting a choreography that depicted the manifestation of four cardinal sins. Bhoroli-Lohit presented a horror routine replete with zombies accentuated by dramatic makeup and handmade costumes. Jinari-Manas presented a routine which depicted the spirit of acid victims and celebrated their courage and zeal for life despite all odds. Kopili-Dhansiri danced to a theme on conservation and protection of wild life and was applauded for their creative costumes and coordination.

The results were as follows:





# CAMPUS NEWS

The Assam Valley School participated in the IPSC Art Fest held from the 6th to 9th of September at the Daly College, Indore. Escorted by Ms. Mumpi Das of the Department of Art, the Team comprised of Ananya Singh, Leyi Lego, Nilay Dhakal, Jaskeerat Singh, Bonolakshmi Brahma, Zeenat Ullah, Lydia Timungpi and Aryaman Choudhury. Ananya Singh was credited with “Outstanding Performance” for her work in Still Life.

The U-19 Football Team recently participated in football tournaments across the country and have made us proud with their performances. The Team, consisting of (C) Dakshyaratna Thapa, (VC) Takar Liyak, Abbiso Pul, Markio Dota, Akhilesh Bora, Dhajen Basumatary, Tallum Toko, Atisha Tenzing, Tech Lonin, Ethanael Khargonkhor, Alfred Kharwanlang, Tsering Wangchuk, Param Nongmaithem, Limaangzuk Kichu, Peter Seth and Shivraj Daimary. The team participated in the Bishop Cotton Football Tournament, Shimla, where the team won the Second Position with Takar Liyak winning the Best Midfielder Award. The team also participated in the Bhupendar Singh Memorial Tournament at The Lawrence School, Sanawar. They reached the semi-finals and won third place in the competition and with Dhajen Basumatary being awarded Best Defender. The team also participated in the U-19 IPSC held at the Mayo College, Boys, where they reached the quarter-finals. We give out our heartiest congratulations to the boys and best wishes for their future endeavors!



## THE OUTPOST

Illustration: Eloziini Senachena



Throughout history, protesters worldwide have torn down statues of dictators. In Hong Kong, they targeted lamp posts. The Bahamas have suffered unprecedented destruction in the wake of hurricane Dorian, strongest storm to hit her since 1851. Like journeys of all great institutions, a few setbacks have dotted Isro's Space odyssey. Vikram's landing brought the country in unison to celebrate an institution whose courage could not be shaken. The 7th September will be remembered as a day that heralded India into a new height of space explorations. The feats of Chandrayaan-2 come in a year when Isro completes its 50th.

New Kid On The Block:

# Hill Talks

-Mesam Laloo, XI

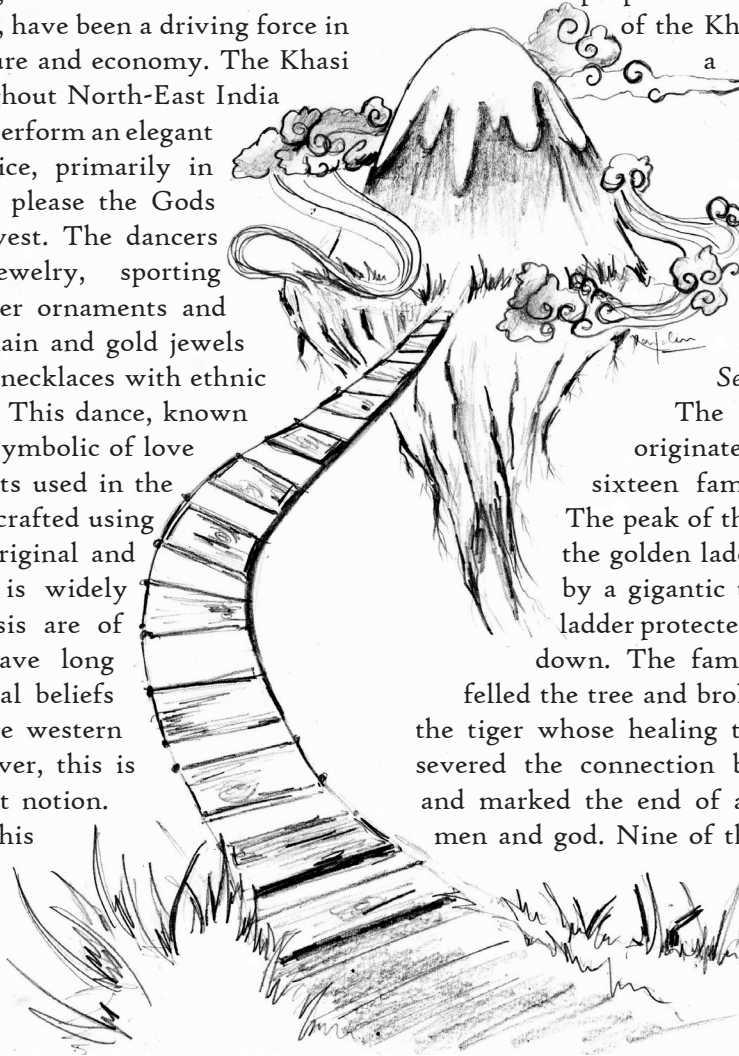
Illustration: Nandini Garodia

The Khasis, are an indigenous tribe of Meghalaya and have a rich and well- defined history, originating from Central Asia. They migrated to India thousands of years ago and since then, have been a driving force in North-East India's culture and economy. The Khasi culture is known throughout North-East India for its diversity. Khasis perform an elegant dance before sowing rice, primarily in the month of April, to please the Gods and ensure a good harvest. The dancers wear mesmerizing jewelry, sporting authentic gold and silver ornaments and a combination of porcelain and gold jewels on elaborately designed necklaces with ethnic wear made of pure silk. This dance, known as *Shad Suk Nupsiem* is symbolic of love and fertility. Instruments used in the dance are expertly handcrafted using animal skin to create original and ear-pleasing music. It is widely assumed that the Khasis are of Christian faith and have long forfeited their traditional beliefs and practices for a more western approach to life. However, this is not a completely correct notion.

The main reason why this arbitrary classification is made is due to the British and the Christian missionaries, who came to Cherapunji to ease the 'white man's' burden. They began a process of conversion of the Khasi people to Christianity using methods which were far

from being righteous. This promoted the formation of the Khasi Young Men's Association, formed by sixteen people seeking to safeguard the identity of the Khasis. Over time, this became a socio-religious movement which came to be known as *Seng Khasi*. Khasi religion stems from a belief in the golden ladder which connects heaven to Earth and is known in Khasi as *Jingkieng Ksia* located in a mountain peak called *Lum Sehpetbneng*.

The Khasis believe that men originated from a struggle between sixteen families and a ferocious tiger. The peak of this mythical mountain where the golden ladder was located, was covered by a gigantic tree. By a divine decree this ladder protected by a tiger, had to be chopped down. The families managed this feat and felled the tree and broke the ladder by outsmarting the tiger whose healing touch had protected it. This severed the connection between Heaven and Earth and marked the end of a close relationship between men and god. Nine of the sixteen families remained in Heaven however seven families were stranded on Earth. These seven families were the ancestors of man. The Khasi religion teaches its followers to respect all religions while loving one's own. It also teaches one to have a profound love and respect for nature.



## Around the World

-Saziia Selva, XII

Spirituality, a word that seems to be gaining more attention even as we spin down the technological spiral and the pace of life grows increasingly frantic. Spirituality is a rather broad topic with many interpretations but the general meaning is a sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves and typically involves finding the meaning of our lives.

Spirituality to one may mean immersing oneself in nature away or perhaps it may mean sitting in the pew of a church soaking in the feeling of oneness that religion brings. Whatever the interpretation, developing good spiritual health is beneficial. Spirituality is linked to many important aspects of human functioning. Spiritual people are known to have positive relationships and high

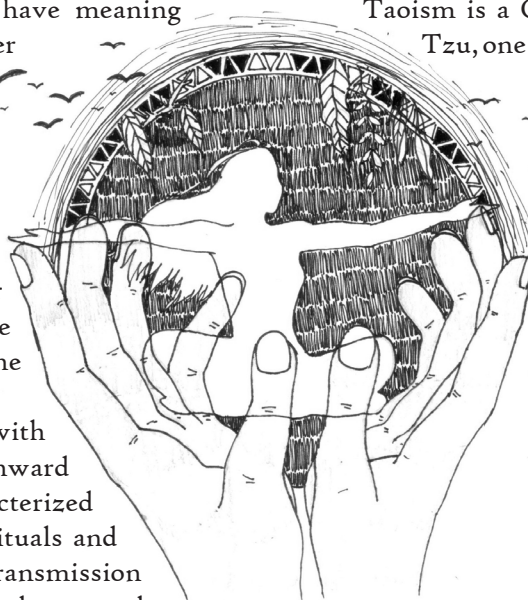


self-esteem, are optimistic and have meaning and purpose in life. No matter how far and wide one travels in history, we discover that humans have long constructed their own ways of interpreting this marvelous, multifarious world of ours. Whether it was the Ancient Greeks locating their gods atop Mount Olympus or the Aztecs finding their God in the Sun.

Sufism is also synonymous with "Islamic mysticism". It is the inward dimension of Islam and is characterized by particular values, doctrines, rituals and institutions. To the Sufi, it is the transmission of divine light from the teacher's heart to the heart of the student, rather than worldly knowledge that allows the adept to progress. They further believe that the teacher should attempt to follow the Divine Law. Sufis have been characterized by their asceticism and has influenced various forms of spirituality in the West.

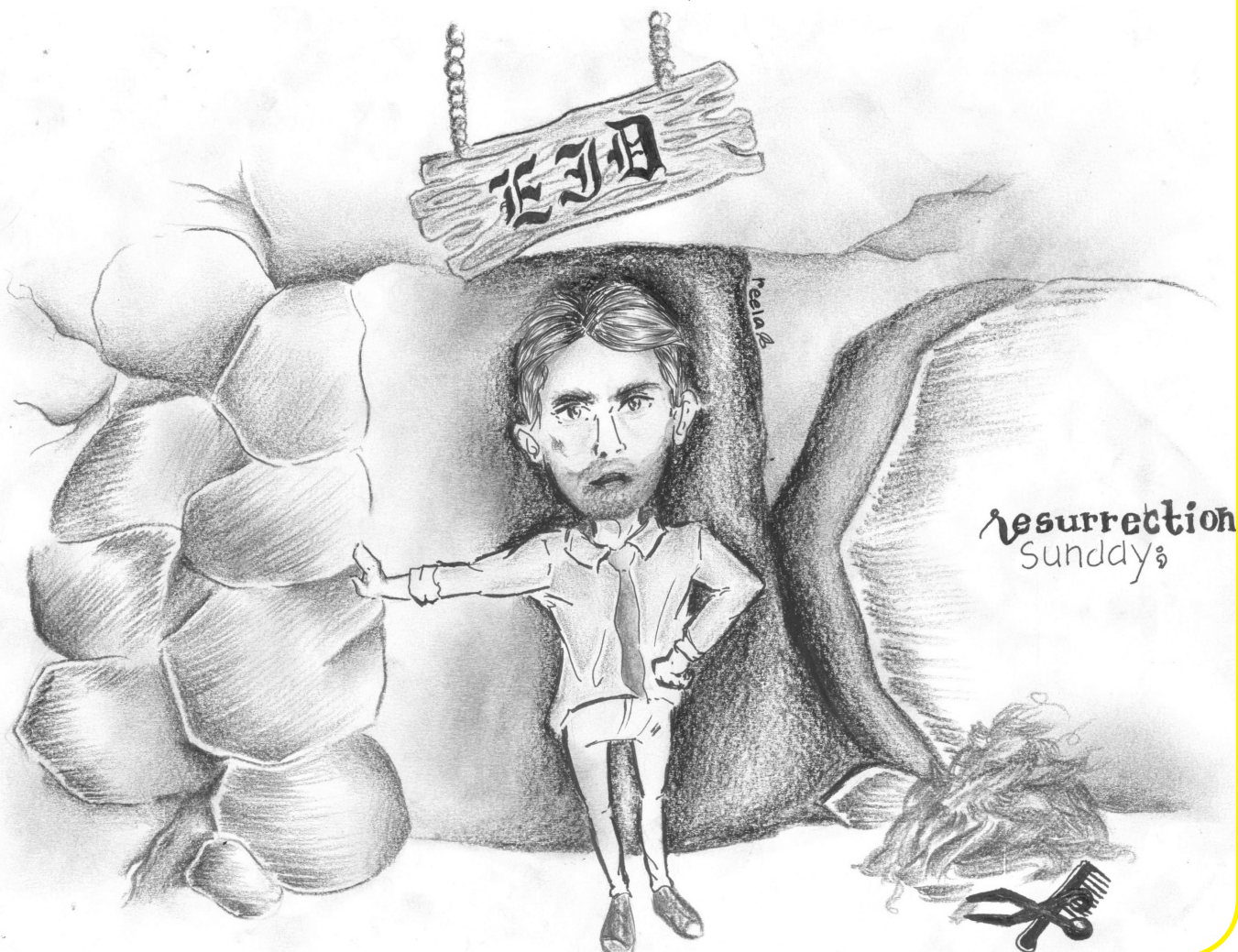
Taoism is a Chinese philosophy attributed to Lao Tzu, one of whose main teachings is the concept of flow. It means one just simply flows through life instead of fighting against the current. Tao uses the analogy of a river which never resists but overcomes all in its way. Taoism teaches us to embrace wonder and the joy in living gracefully with style. India is a country with a rich spiritual past. Out of the varied values of Indian culture, those based on spiritualism

have contributed the most towards harnessing the spirit of the Indians across the ages. Perhaps that is what attracts seekers from across the world to delve into its mysticism. For those given to a journey within self, India has remained the land of solitude and respite.



# ARISEN

-Takhe Tamo Reela, X





## Ripple #108

-Moom Lego, X

The sea lay silent the  
storm long gone  
The ravage bare  
except for the little  
boy's stare  
The mutiny doused the  
deck bare  
The Captain lay in a  
red halo,  
His father now the  
quietened Hero.

•Inspired from Felicia Hemans 'Casabianca'

## Shout it Out!!

1. Cool - Royal Global School
2. Mesmerising - The Shri Ram School
3. Amazing - DPS, Siliguri
4. Fun - Cathedral & John Connon School
5. Fantastic - New Digamber Public School
6. Good - Faculty Higher Secondary School
7. Contraversial - Vasant Valley School

*East India Debates*

## Keep It Reel!

### Best Friends

-Jeremy Jahau, XI



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