



PRESENTS



# SKYLINE

# SIES

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A publication of SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sion (W) | [for private circulation only] | VOLUME 2 : ISSUE 2 | November 2013

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A review of the famous crime novel "The Cuckoo's Calling" by our favorite J.K. Rowling!



## INSTITUTIONAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



### Editor In Chief's Note

Its been three months since we last released an issue. These three months have been an eye opener for almost all of us. Apart from the academic cycle, we've also been on a self realization one, to a certain extent- what we wish to do with our lives, where we wish to see ourselves in the years to come, and of course, working towards achieving all of that! In the previous issue, we had a special page dedicated to budding entrepreneurs and this time, we've taken it one step further by mentioning a few start-ups whose foundations have been laid by the students of this college themselves.

We've also covered our annual inter collegiate festival, Visions and what draws all of us to it and why we should actively participate in it. We also take pride in ourselves for we've been chosen to form the student board of the Entrepreneurship Development Cell. For all the students who've enrolled themselves in the EDC, the applications to apply to the board will be out shortly. And if there's anyone else who wishes to become a member of the EDC, we'll be taking registrations in the college foyer this week itself.

Lastly, we thank all our readers for their love and support. You're the reason why we push ourselves and work harder each time. Well, at least we try to.

**Nek Puri (FYBA)**

### TRIP TO PUNE AND SASWAD

On the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of July, a few representatives of our college embarked upon an Institutional Social Responsibility trip to Pune and Saswad. The staff members included our principal, Dr Harsha Mehta Ma'am, Anita Agrawal ma'am (Head of Dept, BMS), Seema Ronghe ma'am and Khurshid Italia ma'am (Microbiology Dept.) Accompanying them were SYBMS students Chaitanya Gandhi and Rohan Vengurlekar and FYBMS students Gibran Khan and Salman Deshmukh.

The main objective of this ISR trip was the Empowerment of Women. They distributed nearly 3000 sarees across 10 schools in 30 villages to needy women. In every school they visited, Harsha Mehta Ma'am gave powerful and inspiring speeches regarding women empowerment and the importance of educating women. All the sarees were distributed only in schools. Normally, most women from 3-4 other villages travel to a common school that the villages share. Every school they visited was therefore a place for these women to gather.

Mr. Mahesh Pawar, an IAS officer from the Mumbai University, was also part of the group. They were assisted by Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal a local NGO, which runs 22 schools across Saswad district in remote villages. What was most astonishing was the fact that all these schools were equipped with e-learning and Smart Class systems, despite being in remote villages.

The students and staff members would like to thank Mr Mahesh Pawar and Sir Sanjay Jagtap for their support and hospitality



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## SCALING NEW PEAKS – 8,848 meters for humankind.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1953, the sun shone brightly through the sky as mountaineers Sir Edmund Hillary & Tenzing Norgay emerged true heroes in all our hearts, for they had spearheaded the robust task of scaling the highest summit above the sea level in the world – The Mt. Everest. The sole reason for winning us over being, they did the unimaginable, by proving that sometimes, courage is enough.

The 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 1988, was the day when another feat was accomplished- the establishment of the SIES College of Commerce and Economics, Sion (E). This institution celebrated 25 significant years of existence, and gracing the event was the Honourable former President of India, DR. APJ Abdul Kalam.

He honoured a select few individuals, whose courage equaled that of Hilary and Norgay. A richly deserved group of awardees that journeyed to the abode of the Gods, hailing from St. Lawrence School, Kasauli. Dr. Murad Lala, an oncologist and the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian doctor along with Hiralal Yadav, an iron-willed environmentalist who carried out 13 'parikramas' around India on a cycle without a seat, symbolizing the struggles of our nation and bracing an array of social issues. A special shoutout and applause goes to Anurima Sinha, the first female amputee to climb the Mt. Everest.

The entire occasion was an ebullient celebration of a priceless achievement and the successful upholding of the college motto - '**scaling new peaks**' which was also the ongoing melody of the commemoration. The esteemed and gracious Dr. Kalam, addressed the exhilarated expanse with thriving conviction.

On his vision to achieve a distinctive profile for India by 2020, he enunciated the five identified areas where India has a core competence for integrated action- Agriculture, Education and Healthcare, Information and Communication Technology, Quality Electric power, Transport and Infrastructure all over the country, and Self-reliance in critical technologies. These five areas are closely inter-related and if progressed in a coordinated way, will lead to food, economic and national security. A unique system suggested by him, was PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas). It is the creation of Physical, Electronic, Knowledge connectivity's leading to the Economic Connectivity of the rural regions. The humble Dr. Kalam concluded with this stupendously thought-provoking statement- "What would you like to be remembered for?"



Anjali Shah (FYBMM)

### “WHY INEQUALITY MATTERS”

#### T.V Chidambaram Memorial Lecture

That was the theme for one of the - arguably - best speeches delivered on the subject so far.

The SIES High School in Matunga organises an annual memorial lecture in honour of T. V Chidambaram, and the lecturer on the seventeenth of August was Mr. P Sainath, Chief of Bureau of the prestigious newspaper, The Hindu. Others gracing the event included Principal Dr Harsha Mehta, the Vice Principals of our college, teachers, and mainly students.

The focal point of this lecture was inequality in terms of resources, and its relation to the economy. The scarcity of natural resources currently available is alarming, he said, but what's worse is their distribution.

He alluded to several real life incidents and situations to accentuate the depth of his speech. For example, the drought Maharashtra faced during the summer. "I will not call it a drought, but a water crisis", he said. And meanwhile, builders and developers offer luxury apartments with an Olympic sized swimming pool on every *floor!* At what cost and cruel irony do few elite citizens get personal swimming pools when tens of millions of others barely get drinking water?

India today has come across as the fastest growing economy in the world. Economists rejoiced. But in practice, does this imply that every individual in the country is capable of affording a roof above his head, a shirt on his back, and three square meals a day, which is considered the basic standard of living? To prove the statement wrong, Mr Sainath used a hauntingly simple analogy of a Profesor B Patnaik. "When the pass mark of a certain school was 50%, the success rate

was 75%. To increase the success rate to 95%, the pass mark was reduced to 30%!" And there we have the simple conclusion-decreasing the pass mark for poverty doesn't mean we have eradicated it. Even after lowering the poverty line, in theory, poverty is being lowered; but in reality, the poor are still poor. According to our government, if you live in an urban area and spend Rs 33.3 a day, or Rs27.2 in a rural area, *you are not* poor. And of course, there was Raj Babbar's infamous 5 rupee meal comments; where he declared that one could afford a full meal in Delhi for 5 rupees.

Every year, forbesbillionaires.com releases a list of the richest people in the world. 48 Indians are on that list, with more than 55 billion dollars amongst themselves, an amount which is higher than what all four countries of Scandinavia have, combined. India ranks 5<sup>th</sup> on that list, beating countries like UK, Japan, Australia, etc. Yet, when it comes to the Human Development Index (HDI), India ranks at a low 136. Above us are countries like Iraq, which has been at war since 1991. Like Sri Lanka, which is being ravaged by war. Vietnam, that was little more than a wasteland by 1976. When we put down theoretical words like "fastest growing economy", what are we trying to prove? Quoting Edward Abbey, he said "Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of a cancer cell".

There are major inequalities because of the class divide, the caste divide, gender divide, and religious divide. Economic inequality is just a precursor. It's not just about mathematical calculations, but huge moral questions are at stake.

Mr. Sainath was a truly marvellous orator, and having the opportunity of hearing him make his speech was truly a blessing. It wasn't a vociferous plenary demanding change and revolution, neither was it a dry presentation of statistical data. It was a soft but urging speech, peppered with wry humour, making all of us reflect and introspect.

Aditi Mukund (SYJC Arts)

# THE DARK TRUTH: JUVENILE LAW

In the present scenario, the 'Juvenile Law' is a very controversial topic. The law defines a juvenile as a person who is not older than 18 (which is the legal age of adulthood in India) years of age, and who is accountable for criminal activity; but cannot be tried as an average criminal, but as a juvenile delinquent. Originally the term '*juvenile delinquent*' referred to any child found to be within the jurisdiction of a juvenile court. It included children accused of status offenses and children in need of state assistance. The term *delinquent* was not intended to be derogatory, its literal meaning suggested 'a failure of parents and society to raise the child, not a failure of the child'. Such juvenile criminals have different courts for their trial, which is the Juvenile Justice Board, the reason being that juvenile criminals were often treated as harshly as adults and would turn into hardened criminals. The crimes committed may be anything and may range from an act of murder, to rape, to stealing, and to making pornography.

This issue recently resurfaced and drew attention to itself when the case of a heinous crime of rape was reported in Delhi on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2012. Out of the 6 people involved, one was a 'juvenile', merely 16 years old, and allegedly the most brutal of the rapists. The court ultimately sentenced him to three years in jail, and passed the judgement of sending him to a remand home, in the hopes of him turning over a new leaf. Do those three years of imprisonment and the confinement in a remand home justify his actions that led to the devastating death of the victim?

While doling out a sentence, the age and level of psychological age of the criminal should definitely be considered, but due to the rising number of

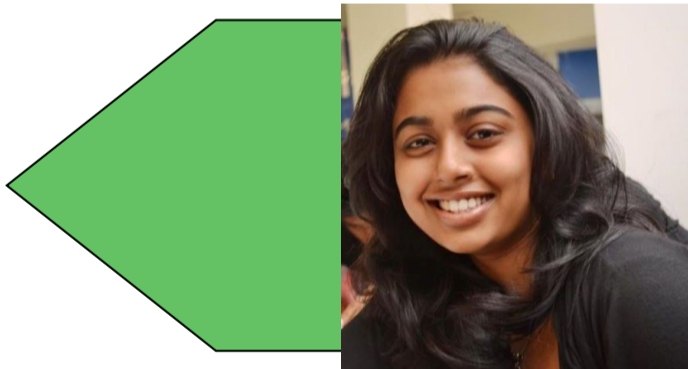
crimes committed, many criminal psychologists believe that maturity and a sort of social sense comes early to the children of today, and they cannot be totally unaware while committing such atrocities. Also, there has been a sudden increase in the rate of juvenile crimes in the country. From 48.7% in 2002, it had gone up to 63.9%. In 2011 and 66.5% in 2012. Today it stands at 1209, with data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to back the analysis. More than 78% of juvenile criminals came from families earning less than Rs 50,000 a year. The highest number of Juvenile crimes is reported in the states of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Haryana.

**“There has been a sudden increase in the rate of juvenile crimes in the country. From 48.7% in 2002, it had gone up to 63.9% in 2011 and 66.5% in 2012.”**

Thus, a number of questions have arisen in front of us. Should there be a Juvenile Law? How should it be implemented? Does it need to be enforced in a stricter manner? Is a person committing a crime of a certain degree really able to change after a stay at such remand home?



## PUBLIC SPEAK:



“I think it’s really important to spread awareness about the Juvenile law and Juvenile crime amongst the youth of the country, in both rural areas and urban areas. Everyone speaks of what should be done to the criminal *after* the crime has been committed, but not before or during. Why not tackle this problem at a grass root level, instead of waiting for it to spiral out of control?”

-Vanessa Alvares, SYJC Arts

“I think that age is not a determinant for maturity. Laws should be equally stringent, irrespective of age. If there are loopholes, then everyone gets an incentive to commit crime and then get away with it.”

-Brehadeesh Kumar, FYJC Science

“The punishment should be according to the crime. The more serious the crime, the harsher the punishment. It makes no sense for Juveniles acquitted for murder and rape to walk away with a three year prison sentence. Also, really young criminals should be sent to proper, secure remand homes for therapy and psychoanalysing.” -Harshita Roy, SYJC Arts

"I personally think there should be a proper juvenile court of law where they are tried and put to jail. Not with other criminals but a jail where they get treated. I feel that a remand home is taken lightly. No bribe or bail should be granted whatsoever to whomsoever the criminal may be. And finally, I feel that a criminal should be treated with strict psychological measures since the criminal will never change completely as it takes a certain level of psychological problems to commit such a heinous crime." -Nikhila Chandavarkar, FYBMM

# VISIONS 2013– REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

EVENT NAME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
Junkapella	Create a new genre of music with junk instruments.
Lalkar (street play)	An event to bring forth socially relevant issues.
Lol With All (stand-up comedy)	Laugh out loud in this event meant to tickle your funny bone!
Groove to the beat (Solo Dancing)	Solo dancing event for the movers and shakers.
B-boying (Street Dance)	An event for all the lovers of the hp-hop culture!
Spit the Beat (beat boxing)	Make your body your instrument and create music.
Cynosure	A contest for you to showcase your jewel of a personality.
Goong	An inter-college singing extravaganza.
Folkmania	An event for you to connect with your roots.
Can you Duet?	An event to showcase all western dance forms.
Dhating Naach	Bollywood group dancing event.
Marke-TEEing	Always wanted to shine? You can now showcase your artwork and earn too!
Fruit Warrior	Cut it right, cut it left, all you need to be is the best! This game is not only for carvers, but also for anyone who cuts veggies and fruits.
Man vs. food	For all of you who want to lose weight, here is a chance not to!



## PARTICIPATE TODAY

As a lot of you must already know or have caught wind of in the past few weeks, our college is gearing up for one of the biggest affairs, this year. We are proud to present to you the 22nd running year of VISIONS, the annual festival of SIES Sion (w)!

This year, we're taking it to a whole new level and unlocking all the potential we've got and more. The theme for Visions 2013 is "The Third Eye" for the very same reason. We're going all out and serving to you a plethora of events, each with a brilliant twist and all unique. Whatever your interest may be, we've got an event to cater to it!

Visions will be taking place on the **15th, 16th and 17th** of December within our college premises. If you think you've got potential to win, or just want to have a great time– register for our events today! Registration desks will be open at the Foyer from 10:00 in the morning!

For your convenience, we've even made a list of all the events for you, right here.

Visions will also be having a number of pre-visionary events that you should **DEFINITELY** attend.

DJ Wars– 29th November at Ice and Spice, Seawoods  
Marathon on World Aids Day– 1st December  
PS3 Gaming Event– 3rd December at Imax Wadala

Seven Ancient Wonders of Mumbai	A cross city team treasure hunt event.
Face-off	A series of daunting physical and mental tasks designed to dare
Mock Stock	A mock-up of the Stock Exchange based on the performance of contingents.
Robotrix	Competitive racing with hand crafted vehicles.
Frames and Focuses	A Short Film competition.
Mad Marketing	A race to sell some unusual items to students/ participants
Lan Gaming	A series of games like Counter Strike, Need for Speed, and Fifa for all gamers.
Kurukshetra	A myriad of games stalls, where conventional games like Snakes and Ladders, Housie, and a catapult game are given a unique twist!
Junkyard Wars	It's a fusion of jazz and funk, it's the funk mania!
Neon-sense	Is painting to monotonous for you? You now have a chance to make your artwork GLOWrious!
Insta-Scavenger	Too shy to do something silly? Here's a chance to capture the situation and shed your inhibition!
Vital Point	Because opinions should be shared. Debate it out!
J.A.M	An on-the-spot, minute long extempore for all you chatterboxes!
General Knowledge Quiz	Designed to put those those grey cells to good use.
SpEnt Quiz	An off track, Sports+ Entertainment quiz for all you trivia lovers.

# 2013 Visions

# You've Got To Start Somewhere!

Introducing a set of entrepreneurs from our very own college who took the bold step of creating their own startups. We commend them for having taken up the task of converting ideas into reality! As they say; to make something happen, you've got to start!



## Cock Eyed Productions

Meet Shah, an ex student of our college tells us all about his venture with his friends Varun and Anubhav.



**If you've got an idea - bring it to life!**

Varun had been working on creative graphics since the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and I on the other hand had corporate experience working as a Business Development Manager through internships. We thought why not give this a shot any which ways we don't have to invest anything. Anubhav Shetty, our friend, played a major role in helping us get the initial boost. All three of us always had an eye for good creative content. We started out experimenting with our conceptualization and implementation and our DSLR of course. We started working on our strengths and for the things we didn't know, we always had YouTube tutorials at our disposal. We started with a mere Rs.200 which we invested in getting our first business cards and from then there was no looking back. All our friends saw the potential in us and offered us their immensely valuable support and well wishes. We've always envisioned ourselves being a big name in this over saturated market. We've always worked towards an aim of making or designing something which is totally different from what everyone else offers without hindering the quality factor even tad bit. This being our initial stage, our plan is to get as much as exposure as possible. We want people to know that we exist, they'll like us when they see our work. We started this venture without borrowing any money from anyone. All the equipment we own have been bought from the money we got from our projects. We have succeeded in maintaining cordial relations with our customers. We're always on the lookout for new prospective customers knowing that our existing customers are satisfied with our work.

Startups are companies set up to test business models developed around new ideas. These companies, generally newly created, are in a phase of development and research for markets. The term became popular internationally during the dot-com bubble when a great number of dot-com companies were founded.

Investors are drawn to startups because the cost is low and despite higher risk, can offer significantly higher returns if the idea becomes popular. Once funded, startups can grow quickly while maintaining low costs and limited labor.

Some successful start-ups sell for a billion dollars, as Tumblr did this year to Yahoo. When that happens, it's a windfall for the founders of the start-ups as well as for the investors and some employees.

But startups come with their own little pile of problems, starting with doubt. Two tiny words, what if, will launch a litany of doubts and fears, keeping even the most genius ideas at bay. "What if they laugh at me? What if I fail? What if I succeed?" It seems there is no satisfying the little gremlins that hold our greatest ideas hostage to their criticism.

Then again, failure is only a lack of trying, not an attempt that goes awry. You can always re-work your plan, but you can't buy back your lost time, so each step is a victory. At the end of the week take a look at your task list and note all of the items that are crossed out. You did it! Let your fears know what you want and flip that energy into positive, motivating thought. One idea will lead to the next and soon you will become a master at success!

This year, there's a new class of interesting start-ups to watch. Some are attracting record numbers of new users and significant amounts of venture capital, or appealing to a new and interesting demographic. Some are simply working on a new idea that seems to be taking off. In the unpredictable world of tech start-ups, any of them could fizzle and be forgotten by the end of the year. But they could also be the next big thing. "Unless you dream, you're not going to achieve anything."



## Artistick "Making stickers, creating memories"

Nek Puri is crazy about stickers. His laptop, room are covered with stickers. The only thing he disliked, was spending 70 bucks on each one that he bought, when he went to crossword or landmark. "The thing that irked me was that I was spending 70 bucks of my pocket money, on every single sticker that I purchased. And what sucked was that I had to settle for whatever design and size was available in those retail shops", he says. One thing led to another and the idea of Artistick came up. Conceived of in September of this year, it met tiny hurdles and roadblocks but finally launched this November.

"The response so far, has been fantastic. Apart from selling individual stickers, we're also looking at partnering with festivals, both of colleges and suburban, churches and even corporates. Talks with a few are going on, in fact and we have one partnership with a church already", adds Nimisha, the co-founder.

Nivedita Sekhar, an FYBMM student is onboard too. Working on the creatives aspect of it and coming up with campaign ideas. Nek's sister looks after getting corporate orders and finance and legal. All in all, you'll find them working hard and being overly ambitious, something they're sure will help them reach greater heights! You can reach them on [info.artistick@gmail.com](mailto:info.artistick@gmail.com) and can check their facebook page out for more details.



**FOR MORE DESIGNS FROM ARTISTICK, VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.**

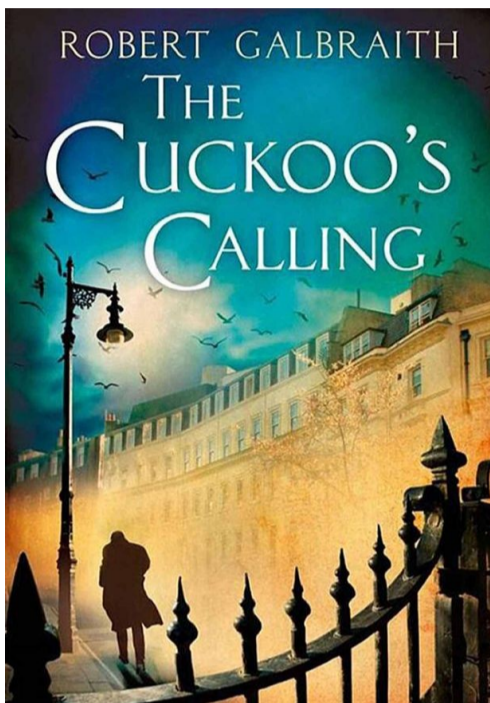


## BOOK REVIEW: **The Cuckoo's Calling**

When an anonymous tip proclaimed that Robert Galbraith, debut author of *The Cuckoo's Calling*, was in fact a nom de plume for J K Rowling, the entire book world went into a frenzy. But everyone's question is this- 'is the hype about *The Cuckoo's Calling*, which increased Amazon's sales by 300%, just because the true writer's real identity was uncovered, justified?'

*The Cuckoo's Calling* is drastically different because of its writing style. You want to keep it, because you know you're going to be able to read it again. Rowling's *Casual Vacancy* was rather too prosaic, but in *The Cuckoo's Calling*, she has managed to strike the perfect chord, restoring balance. A few might argue that her writing style slows the book down, but I say that the steady pace only contributes to the sudden whirlwind of an ending.

The plot isn't remarkably exceptional. The first half or so may seem like the storyline isn't going anywhere, but in reality, the author has spent a long time weaving a complicated, criss-crossing, endless web, and takes her time to gently and deftly unravel it, which is one of the most delightful qualities of J K Rowling.



And finally, the characters- our hero, Cormoran Strike (the name oozes Rowling-ness, doesn't it) is a wounded war veteran turned private detective, who takes on the task of investigating the suicide, accompanied by his temporary assistant, Robin Ellacott. Strike's years of army service have made him a hardened, blunt man. Adding to his woes are a prosthetic limb, an unstable financial situation, and a separation from his fiancée Robin; on the other end of the spectrum is eager, cheerful, and enthusiastically resourceful. And you can't help but love them. This is one thing I was afraid Rowling had lost after reading *The Casual Vacancy*- the ability to make her readers adore her characters like we did in *Harry Potter*, and she has now regained that. Robin is involuntarily affable, and Strike, with his complete aura of nonchalance, is equally admirable.

It's hard to point out what exactly makes *The Cuckoo's Calling* such a terrific novel. At first glance, it seems to be a simple, unexceptional and conventional book, but somehow, it wraps you up and drags you into it, becoming an utterly compelling read. Rowling has promised further instalments in the future, and *The Cuckoo's Calling* has inaugurated the first book of what looks like a hugely rewarding series.

Aditi Mukund  
SYJC Arts

## WEBSITE REVIEW At your fingertips



In today's digital, technological age, the ease with which one can tackle any task head along is remarkable. [www.GetMyPeon.com](http://www.GetMyPeon.com) has taken this a step further, by doing something that exemplifies the simplicity with which one can now accomplish even the most mundane of chores, be it making a payment, or booking a ticket.

The way MyPeon works is very straightforward. They offer a multitude of services, right from dropping off Tiffin boxes, to transporting important legal documents. You're out of food, but feel too lazy to pick up groceries? Call MyPeon. You're expecting the arrival of a close relative, but have absolutely no time to meet them at the airport? Call MyPeon. You forgot your best friend's birthday, and want to make it up to him/her by delivering a surprise gift? Call MyPeon. And they accomplish all your tasks with such capability, that you're completely astounded and flummoxed. Astounded because you never thought this would be possible, and flummoxed because practically nothing costs over 200 bucks.

The story behind the origin of MyPeon stems from a personal and harrowing experience. Their website says, "It was an evening of 2012 when the founder, Bharat Ahirwar, missed work and spent an entire day paying bills and running other important chores. That was the day he realised that running errands is one of the biggest challenges that naturally exist in a city like Mumbai. Further, after a considerable amount of research, he realised that there isn't an easily accessible service available that can help with day-to-day tasks, hence MyPeon was born. It needed to be a kind of service that would target professionals and those who lacked extra helping hands around their house or office."

Their mission is "To provide a professional, affordable and reliable errand-running service in India", and their vision is "to be the best errand-running service company in India". According to their overjoyed clients, they already seem to have accomplished their mission, and as for their vision... its materialisation seems to be right around the corner.

**REGISTRATIONS FOR THE COLLEGE'S ENTRE-  
PRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CELL WILL BE  
OPEN TO ALL IN THE COMING WEEK. FOR  
MORE INFORMATION, KEEP AN EYE OUT AT  
THE NOTICE BOARDS IN THE FOYER!**

## ROTARACT CLUB OF SIES SION (W)- EVENTS

### Installation Ceremony - 10th August 2013

With the motto of self development and fellowship through service to mankind, the club does not only provide an opportunity to serve the society but build on the 'self' of each and every member via various platforms. The club aims at changing the outlook of the fellow members and students towards the society. The Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract club of SIES, Sion (W) took place on 10th August, 2013. With the beginning of the new Rotaract year, Rtr. Ketki Mehta was formally handed over the club for the year 2013-14. The day saw the handing over ceremony of Rtr. Archana Ramakrishnan with awards for the previous year to members and directors for various projects conducted throughout the year. The Ceremony saw active involvement of both students and professors in grabbing an opportunity to evolve. Rtr. Ketki Mehta, went on to releasing her theme for the year 2013-14. 'You be the change' to ensure that everyone thrives to be the change as the change begins from one person.

**Rakshabandhan Celebration:** The Rotaract Club of SIES, Sion (W) celebrated Rakshabandhan with the kids at the Pant Nagar slum in Ghatkopar, initiated with the thought of giving to the needy the project was conducted to see that smile on the faces of the little kids. The team initially wanted to distribute clothes and just meet the kids, but they spent much more time and played games too. They distributed clothes, sweets and had an amazing time with the kids.

**Teachers Day celebration:** This Teachers' day, we at the Rotaract Club of SIES, Sion (W) conducted a cultural event to salute the teachers for their contribution and give them a chance to understand their own roles. The event saw a participation of more than 65-70 teachers. It was a fun-filled event with the inaugural song by the visually challenged students of the college.

**Diwali Celebration at Ashraya:** One thing decided at the start of the year was to celebrate festivals with those who celebrate them without their families, so

yet again the Team of RC-SIES, Sion (W) visited Aashraya Seva Sadan in Chembur and spend the time dancing and singing with them. In an attempt to spend time with them we also wanted to cultivate a little beyond studies that they already do and thus we provided them with colouring books and crayons. Ending the events with sweets for the caretakers and biscuits for the kids, it was an amazing experience.

### SHIKSHA :

Have you always wanted to teach but never got a chance? An attempt to ensure that kids receive basic English education, RC SIES, Sion (W) has adopted a vernacular medium school with around 400 students in Sion to take this cause up. Where we start right from the basics and build it on.

Every Friday: 11am-12pm  
For volunteering contact: Rtr. Sana Shaikh (SYBMS)

## Why canines are better than you.



I like coming home to a beautiful four-legged creature who is always, and I mean always, happy to see me. The apologetic eyes, the happy tail, the cute paws.. What's not to love? When I feel single and pathetic, I play with my dog. Then I feel LESS single and pathetic. When you have a dog, you eventually feel like you're married to them. You think about them a lot, they make you laugh and their untold opinion really matters when you're taking big decisions. And love. A lot of love. \*Creepy, happy face\*

Dogs, I believe, are the most selfless creatures. You can hit them, yell at them and shut them out for being a 'bad boy' but they will love you just as much as did before. And they will continue to do so because that is just what they do. They just want to please that one person who means the world to them. Because that person feeds them, bathes them (Which I am sure they hate but what to do?), clothes them (Which I am sure they hate even more than bathing) and gives them a home. Also, and get this, they are pretty much all you need to lead a healthy life. Unless you're dying, in which case they make it easier for you to live what's left of it; in a non grumpy 'I hate all living creatures' way.

A dog are like that one needy friend we all have who will do anything for you just so that you stay their friend (Forever? \*Shudders\*). They will let you have their toys and you can give them back whenever you want to. You can have the biggest argument with them and it may be your fault but they will come back to you and apologize. They will call you to their birthday parties and give you the biggest piece of cake and not even expect a present. I always felt sad for those people. Then again, I didn't blame myself for not wanting to be their friend either. The difference between him and the dog is, it's cute when the dog does it because well, the dog is cute. And cuddly. And loving. The kind of love you want and want to give back, not the kind that comes out of being full with that scrumptious cake.

And you know how, even if you are not single and pathetic like me, you can stay unhappy? Yeah, that seldom ever happens with a dog. Relationships are difficult. They (She) demand a lot of work and they come with a lot of compromise and hardships. Doggie love? Not so much. You don't need to come home to a pissy man who is just waiting to get it all out (and on you?). Take a cue, gentleman. And no, women are not easy peasy either. Wipe that grin off your face. You may own a bitch, but at least she isn't one.

Fun part- There are various types of people in the world. The scary dictator, the scared needy subject, the snob, the dumb jock, the ones who are too perfect to believe (Or touch because you might end up \*coughs\* bursting something \*coughs\*). But in dogs, we only have breeds and all of them are still the same, well, except a few.

So I believe we are clear on the fact that canine is the way to do. Or feline. Or pretty much anything in the animal kingdom that won't eat you up. I mean, their only purpose in life is to make their owner (And I use that term loosely) happy. If that's not selfless, I don't know what is. When was the last time your man did that for you?

**Nimisha Nair (FYBMM)**

## THE FINANCIAL MONSTER

Can you think of a nine-letter word that wrecks havoc in everyone's life? A word that causes widespread misery in the affected area? 'Recession' is a temporary decline in economic activity. A country experiencing recessions deserves global pity because it gives birth to many undesirable consequences. When recessions hit India (which is ironically seen during the election time), innumerable people go jobless, hungry and become victims of helplessness. People resort to thievery, shoplifting, kidnapping (and murders, in some cases) to provide sufficient necessities for themselves and their families.

But if you are under the impression that recessions are something that only affect 'economists and elders', think again. Haven't we felt anger when our parents declare that our pocket money would be chopped down or chucked away due to growing economic instability? Don't we feel the pinch when we are denied 'kanda poha' just because onions become semi-precious jewels? Don't we remember how Rahul from grade IX was a complete non-entity until he managed to get the 'gajar ka halwa' made from carrots whose prices zoomed faster than Chandrayaan I? Oh well, the tale could go on and on and on...

Recessions hit us where it hurts the most: the pocket. It feels like a kick in the shins or a punch in the teeth. Recessions take the best of us and leave behind cold and clammy emptiness. Apart from bringing miseries in money-matters, recessions deposit national gloom and angst. So, the next time you sense the storm of recessions coming, call me and we'll join yoga classes together to combat the madness!

**Gaytri Viswanathan (SYJC Arts)**

## My Little Girl

**Meghna Prakash (SYJC Arts)**

She looks up at me with hope in her eyes  
 As though I could rescue her  
 I wanted to hold her, comfort her  
 But I couldn't feed her lies

Could she be rescued?  
 Would she be fine?  
 Those are answers  
 I just cannot find

How could I tell her truth?  
 Knowing I failed miserably  
 I couldn't cure her sickness  
 Years of efforts proved futile

She flashes me her gorgeous smile  
 Those innocent dimples; breathtaking  
 I'm stunned by those golden locks  
 She sets my heart racing

She looks at me expectantly  
 I hang my head in shame  
 How could her life be over?  
 Without her, I a'int the same

She's my little girl  
 She's my life  
 She's my reason  
 She's my pride

She notices the moist in my eyes  
 And holds my chin up firmly  
 Says, "I'll always be there, Papa  
 You don't ever have to say goodbye"

I break down instantly  
 Sobbing like a little baby  
 She thinks I'm her hero  
 But I've failed her miserably.

I hug her tight for the last time  
 Kissing her forehead gently  
 I close her vacant blue eyes  
 Whispering, forever stay with me..

# THE UNSUNG HEROINES

Many men and women have made a constant endeavour to glorify the name of their respective nations by their extraordinary accomplishments. The latest group added to the list of these paladins are the 18 girls who kicked, passed and scored their way into history, whilst hailing from previously unheard of districts in interior Jharkhand, with their strenuous efforts, their remarkable spirit, their bloodcurdling stories and their compelling football.

These young girls, none older than 17, children of farmers and vegetable vendors, and all siblings of four or five, have achieved what several lakhs of girls their age would never dream of, and still plenty more from their background could never fathom. At such young ages, when these girls started showcasing an interest in football, an NGO by the name of Yuwa, whose ardor is unending for the eventual uplifting of such oppressed talents, especially amongst adolescent girls, completely took on the challenge of helping these girls realise their passion. After some masterly coaching and a relentless pursuit for excellence, these girls were enrolled in two international football tournaments. Their heroic journey was slightly marred by their early exit in the Donostia Cup, but the silver lining was yet to show. In the second competition, the Gasteiz Cup, these superstars finished third in a 10-team tournament. Now the obvious achievement was the victory on an international stage, but at a deeper, psychological level, it was much more than that. It was a final quelling of all those voices that told them they would never make it. It was a sweet success over the societal apathy that followed their announcement of their decision to play professional football. And, mostly, it was a clarion call to all those who know they can, and all those who don't too, to just give the ball a kick. You never know, you might end up ripping the net in a football tournament in Spain.

Of course, this story can just as easily be relegated to that article you read on your way to work, or when you're sipping on coffee on a slow morning, but the very soul of the story pleads that you do a little more. You fight, you play, you conquer

Anirudh Venugopal (SYJC Science)

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