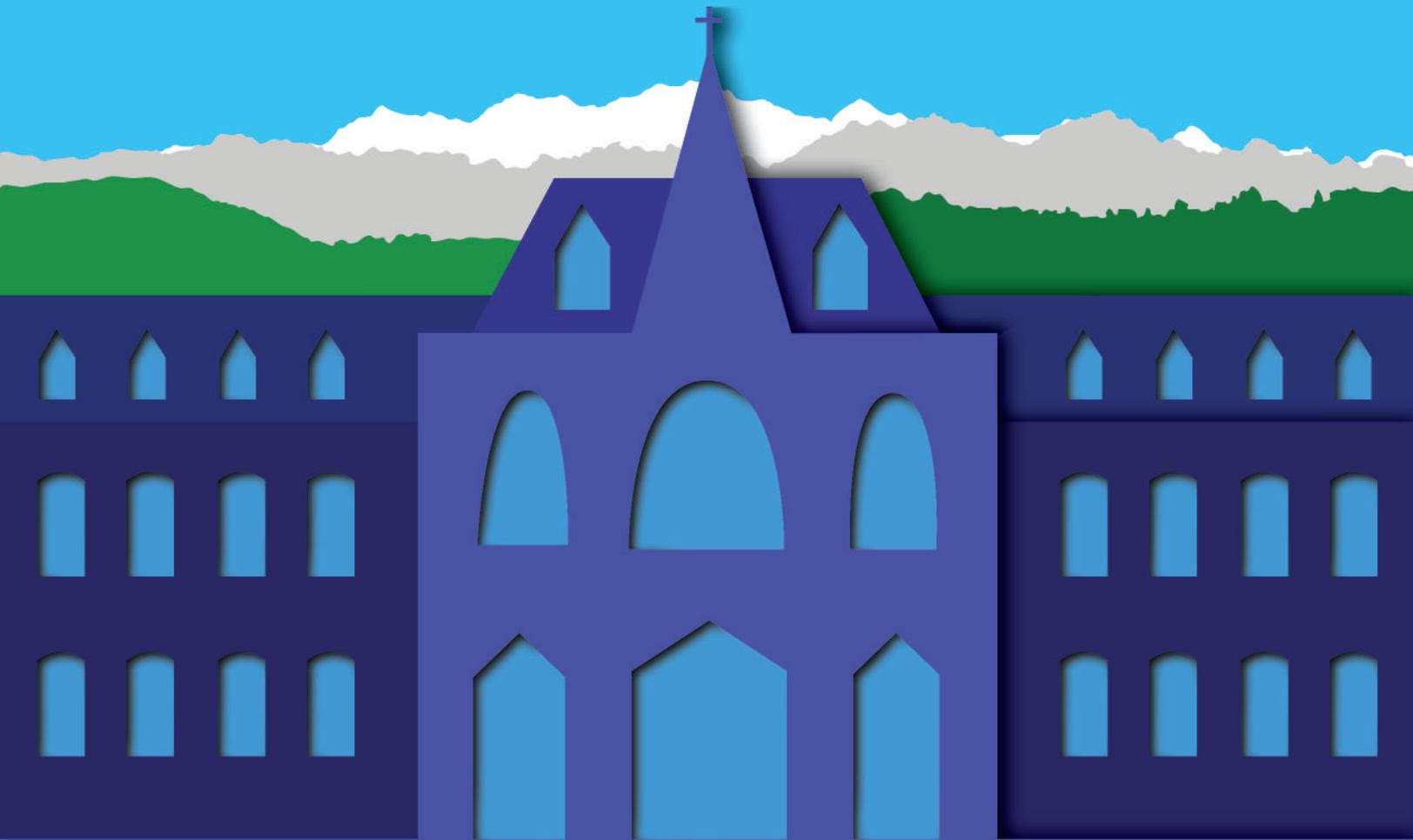


# AMONG OURSELVES



ISSUE 3

FEATURE ARTICLE | REVIEWS | ART | POEMS

# CHRONICLES

AUGUST-OCTOBER

## AUGUST

- 2nd - Classes 11 and 12 Inter-Class Debate
  - Football friendly with Turnbull School match draw 2-2
- 3rd - Classes 11 and 12 Inter-Class Debate
  - Football friendly with Turnbull School match draw 2-2
- 5th - Football fixtures with St.Pauls, NP won 3, draw 1
- 6th - Bengali Vernacular Elocution at NP
- 8th - Darjeeling Zone, Telegraph Quiz - NP 3rd place
- 10th - Inter-School Badminton at NP, NP winners
- 12th - Holiday for the Badminton Victory
- 15th - Independence Day, Holiday
- 17th - ISC Debate fest and Anam Fest at NP, NP Debate winners, Anaam 2nd place
- 19th - Inauguration of Mr. Leonard Lefevre's book 'Ballad of Bhaichung Bhutia' at NP
- 21st - NM Masters Elocution at Mt. Hermon, NP 3rd
- 28th - Inter House Swimming Competition
- 30th - Pete & Raj Memorial Inter School Quiz at Kurseong, NP winners
- 31st - ICSE/ISC football carnival at St. Pauls School, NP won both
  - GTA level (Darjeeling zone) Quiz at St. Roberts, NP winners

## SEPTEMBER

- 5th - Teachers Day Celebrations, Half-Day Classes
- 6th - Bill German Primary Schools Quiz at NP, NP winners
- 7th - Inter School GTA Quiz Final at Kalimpong, NP winners
- 13th - Staff Seminar, School Holiday
- 14th - Burns Shield Swimming at Dr. Grahams Homes (Kalimpong), NP runners up
  - Staff Seminar concludes
- 20th - Primary Division Inter-Class Singing Competition
- 21st - First Br. Eric Rudum Inter School Quiz at NP, NP winners, School half day
- 27th - Major Production 'The Necklace' for Darjeeling schools
- 28th - 'The Necklace' for the school
- 30th - 132nd Annual Sports Meet
  - 'The Necklace' for parents and guests

## OCTOBER

- 1st - Rectors Day/Annual Prize Day, Pooja holidays begin from the afternoon
- 14th - School Resumes after Puja vacations
- 19th - ISC Music and Art Fest at Mt. Hermon, NP 2nd
  - GHBA Open Basketball Tournament held at NP, NP lost in semi finals
- 21st - Career Guidance Seminar for Classes 10 & 12 by IIAS and Global Reach
- 22nd - Book exhibition organized and conducted by the Literary Club of North Point
- 26th - Diwali Holidays till the 29th

# Editorial

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A wise man once said, “*A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.*” Four years ago when I was first asked to be a part of the Among Ourselves Editorial Team, I readily agreed, unsure as to where it would lead me. And now today, after four years, I could not be more sure about myself. The Among Ourselves Magazine has shown me and my team numerous opportunities, has helped us discover ourselves and our capabilities and has helped us develop ourselves as a whole. It has helped us realize so much about ourselves, about the spirit of the school, its students and its teachers.

I am grateful to all the past Editors-in-chief with whom I have worked thus far. I am grateful to all the teachers who have graciously guided and supported us throughout this year, always pushing us to do better than before. Finally, I would also like to convey my deepest gratitude to all my Co-Editors, for their sacrifices, for their efforts and for their conviction to help make the Among Ourselves Magazine reach greater heights.

To the future Editors, I wish you the best of luck in your venture. I know this, your experience working as an Editor of the Among Ourselves Magazine will be something worth cherishing. This magazine is testimony to North Point’s creative resolve and will always be the ethos of its undying legacy. Thank You.

*Happy Reading!!*

**MAHIN -E- ALAM**

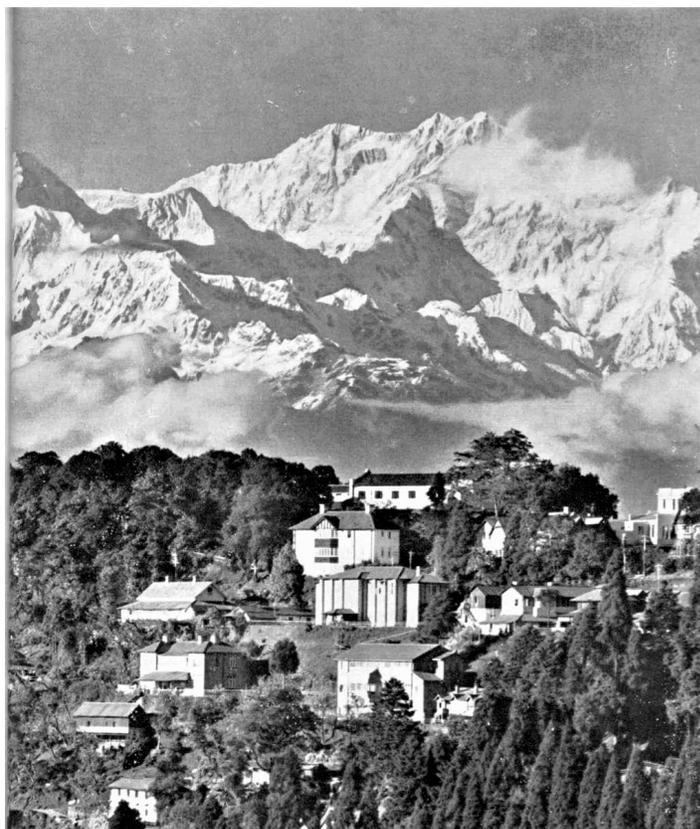
# DARJEELING

## *Roads and Places*

*An article by Mr Noel Rai*

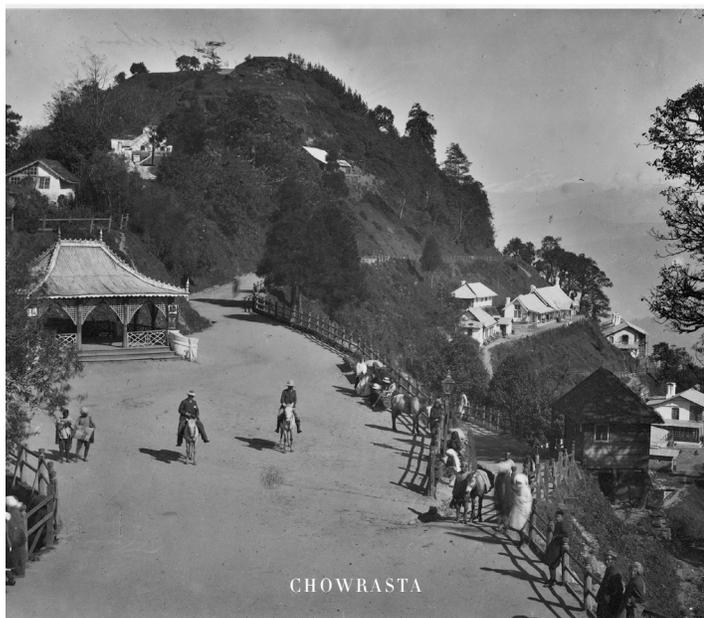
As soon as the two British Officers Captain Lloyd and JW Grant arrived in Darjeeling, they stood in awestruck wonder and also found the Darjeeling climate as in England. They later negotiated with the Chogyal of Sikkim (the ruling dynasty then) and on the 1st of February 1835, Darjeeling was given to the East India Company. The Chogyal was given Rupees 3000 as compensation which was raised to Rs 6000 in 1846. Darjeeling was small then, about 24 miles long and 6 miles wide. More territories were added later. In 1865, after the Anglo Bhutanese War which Bhutan lost, Kalimpong, which was part of Bhutan then, became part of Darjeeling.

From the plains of Bengal, the British 'Saabs' and the 'memsahibs' began traveling to Darjeeling to escape the scorching summers. Capt. Lloyd was given the task of constructing a road to Darjeeling along with two other fellow officers Campbell and Napier. However, Lloyd himself began the construction of a road to Calcutta – from Chowrasta through Aloobari, Jorebunglow, Sinchel, Baggaura, Dilaram, Kurseong, Pankhabari, and Siliguri. This was the Old Military Road. The narrow road from Chowrasta to Ghom via Aloobari was called the Calcutta Road. Today, it is the Tenzing Norgay Road or very locally, "Aloobari ko Bato". The East India Company further contem-



plated on constructing a more proper Darjeeling-Siliguri route. About 80 km long and 25 feet wide road was constructed via Tindharia, Ghaiyabari, Mahanadi, Kurseong, Dali, Kakjhora and Darjeeling town was constructed and this was the famous Hill Cart Road, today National highway 55.

The construction of the railways began in 1878 and an engineering Calcutta firm was given the responsibility and on 4th July 1881, the toy train reached Darjeeling and the entire 'Gundri Bazar' (Chowk Bazar was known by this name then) had thronged the railway station little further away to welcome the 'Iron Lady'-nickname for the toy train. All above Chowk Bazar was a dense forest, full of 'amlisho' (broom plants) and little further away from where the present bazar taxi stand is, were the barracks of the EIC. Old-timers of Darjeeling still refer to the motor stand, beef market area as 'Barrick'. Below the motor stand is Lochnagar (Loreto/Botanical Garden Road). This was actually 'Lochnair' (in Scottish meaning lake) because this was a lake area. Our 'bajays' and 'bojus' found it difficult to pronounce the word Lochnair, therefore became Lochnagar. This road today is Padri Ganga Prasad Pradhan Path. Till the coming of the Hill Cart Road, the British 'Saabs' and 'memsahibs' came to Darjeeling in 'dolis' (palanquins) carried by the palanquin bearers who were mostly the people from plains - Marwaris, Biharis, Muslims, and few Sikhs. They were ones to establish, later, all the meat, bakeries, bread, and the tailoring shops. Ori-



CHOWRASTA

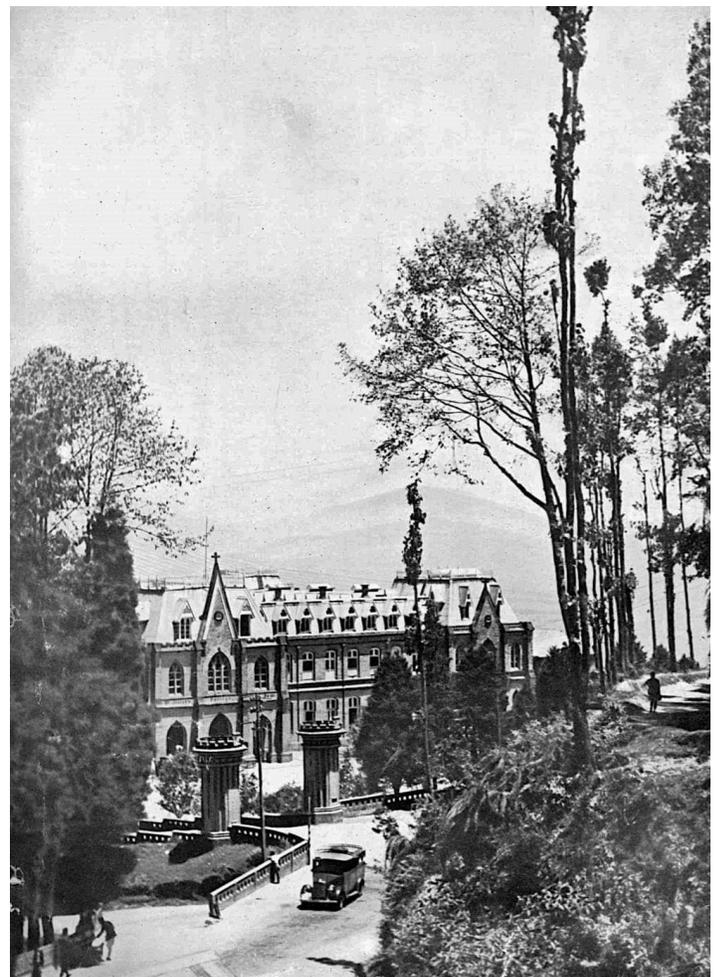
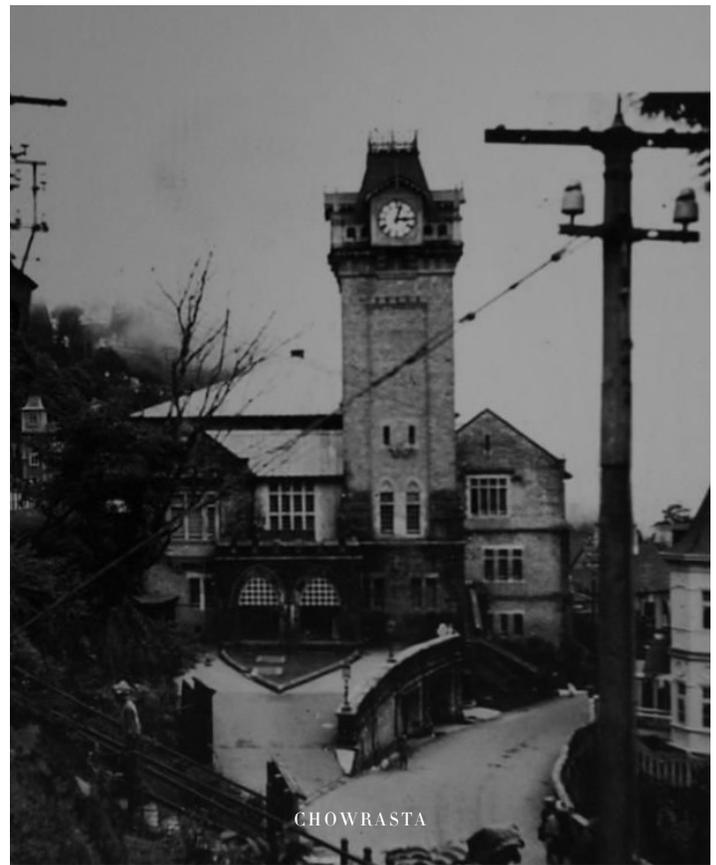
nally, the population of Darjeeling comprised mostly of Nepalis, Tibetans, and the Lepchas but with the demand of labourers for the tea plantations, many entered Darjeeling from Nepal, Bhutan, and Sikkim.

As days passed by, schools began to be established mostly by the Scottish missionaries but these were mainly primary schools. Later, others including the Jesuits and the nuns began the same. The beginning of education and schools can be termed as the Gorkha Renaissance much like the revival of learning or the Renaissance in Europe in the 16th century. Poet Bhanubhakta's Ramayan (in Nepali) had reached Darjeeling by 1887 and by 1907 Padri Ganga Prasad Pradhan's 'Gorkhey Khabar Kagat' (first Nepali newspaper from Darjeeling) had begun its publication.

Darjeeling continued to modernize. The road along the present Yuma Nursing home was called the Dispensary Road because little above, a charitable dispensary stood with about seventy beds. This later became the Victoria Hospital (named after Queen Victoria) which was for many years Darjeeling Sardar Hospital. Behind the old supermarket (under renovation right now) is the Eden Hospital. In this place, there actually was a school, locally called the 'Bhotey' or the Tibetan school. The old history of Darjeeling mentions that this school was shifted and joined with another, little further down to become the famous Darjeeling Government High School.

The Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, Sir Ashley Eden was on this usual morning walk one day, when near the railway station he saw one seriously ill Englishman. He immediately returned home and ordered one of his men to provide some medical help to the sick man but the man was nowhere to be found. Somehow he had managed to board the toy train going down to Siliguri and supposed to have died on the way. Sir Eden then realized the need for a health sanatorium especially for British officers and their families and with big rooms and verandahs, the Eden Hospital was established. The fountain in Chowrasta (today it is in its new avatar) was also Eden's contribution. On a special request by the Akhil Bharatiya Nepali Bhasa Samiti to the West Bengal government in 1982, the Eden Hospital was renamed Sahid Durga Malla Hospital. However, the local people prefer to call it Eden Hospital.

The road from the Clubside traffic police and going towards Central Hotel to Bhanu Bhawan was called the Robertson Road, after a British Municipality engineer Robertson who unfortunately had died while swimming in the Rangit river. This road today is Sahid Dal Bahadur Thapa Road. This road also housed the Post Office which was later shifted to its present site at the Ladenla Road (opposite Big Bazar/Inox), this road was

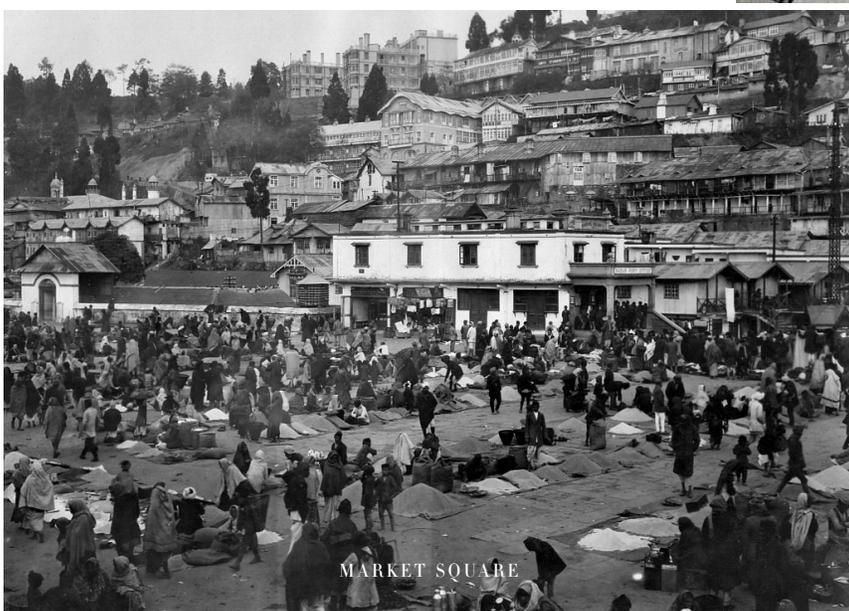
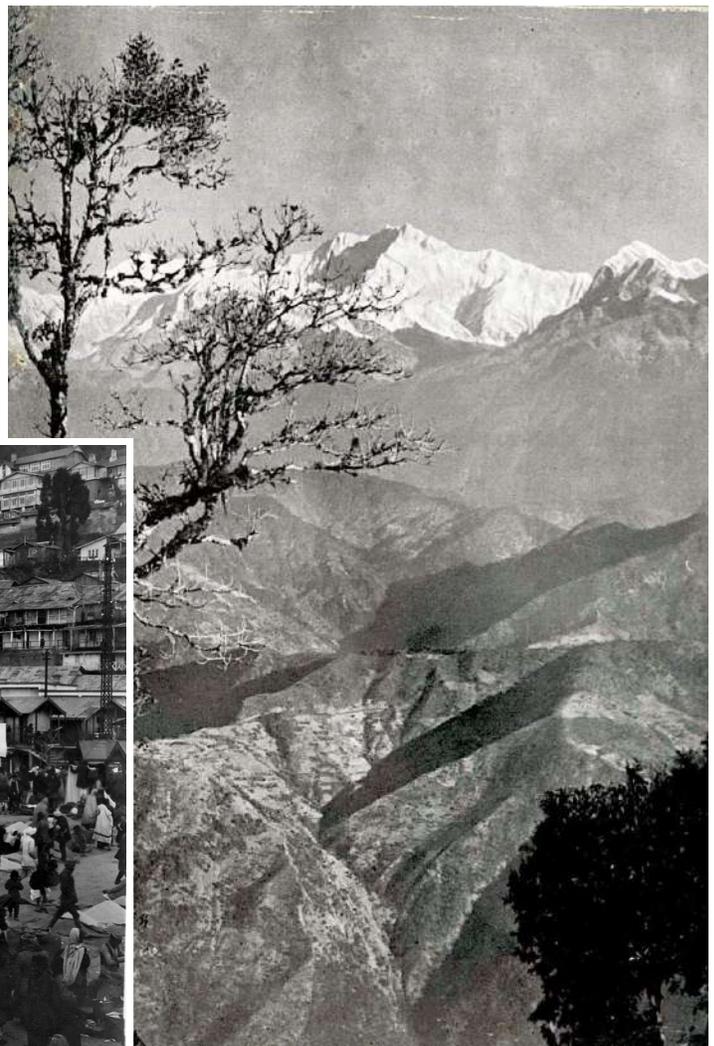


known as MacKenzie Road.

The old black and white photos show Darjeeling full of greenery. However, trees had to be uprooted for further development and construction of buildings and houses. Gradually, Darjeeling's famous landmarks came – the Planters Club 1868, the Botanical garden 1878, the Birchill Park 1877, Lowis Jubilee Santorium 1887, Rink Theatre 1900. The Zoo 1925 and the Capital Clock Tower Hall in 1921.

The road, Nehru Road today, from Keventers to Chowrasta was called the commercial road. One famous jewelry shop Bosek and Co was supposed to be there. Others like the Balington Smith (Photo Studio), Frank Ross (still there), one clothing store Hall and Anderson (later, RN Agarwal Photos Stores, today Hasty Tasty), one famous tailoring shop Mitchell and Co were all along this road. Later, Darjeeling famous photographer Thakurdas Pradhan shifted his studio from the Mount Pleasant Road (MP Road) to the Commercial Road and began his famous Das studio there. MP Road is today HD (Harka Dhoj) Lama Road. In his name, the GDNS has a volleyball trophy for boys' volleyball competition. Along the Commercial Road was the Keventers or the Keys and a little further away, Darjeeling's most famous and 'not to miss' the Pilvas or the present Glenary's.

*(Hundreds of books have been written on Darjeeling and its history but don't miss this- "No Path in Darjeeling is Straight" by Parimal Bhattacharya published in 2017. The latest book on Darjeeling published in August 2019 is "Paharbata Bilin Hudaai Gahiraheka Pahilaharu" by Sanjay Biswas and Tshering Sherpa. Happy Reading!!)*



# KOLKATA

*Dear Kolkata,*

I have almost learned the absolute certainty of beautiful occurring. Nevertheless, I am under the impression that in your vintage world and its beautified retro fashion hidden in labour placards or moving with fine textured individuals of the old and new generation, lies an undeniable truth, I have, peculiarly understood - the simple regard to my place in this world. It is almost vivid yet subtle, how that truth embowers me. A mere gift of an ordinary truth not found in the most extraordinary of cities, which is, I suppose, the most prominent and beautiful irony.

For in your halted decades of time, lies the pattern of tramlines that are never straight and the array of typography untouched since the 50s. For if you portray this to a perfectionist or the abundant hypocritical intellectuals in any city of art, they would out-fashion their criticism with the belief that - "A dormant time and progress is a dead city." I strongly do not entertain such arguments for they are, indeed, baseless for a citizen in a city of art. You are, in its truest sense, not a dormant but undying cavalry of a stagnant yet running art. And in this study, I have no intention of flattering you, that is not my definite concern. My concern lies around the sphere of your art and the truth it delivers.

I have come to believe and it is certain, no matter the destination I adore or settle for, I will be a hostage for your demand. In you, the demand being immaterial but to articulate it, it is nothing but your art that rests in me. And that truth? It is to create a greater art with

the art in me, for the world. It is that nourishing truth that fills my guts. My ordinary extraordinary regard to my place on earth. Thus, if you are invited by sleep or dormancy, these valuable spectrums will remain as real as the midnight ambassadors that illuminate your alleys or the petrichor that fills the saturated reflections of your majesty in collected wet-holes. Do not mistake me, I adore it, for it is so subtly natural as you make it seem to be.

Now, if you dare to imagine your artistic deliverance, you must understand that it is kept, only for the esoteric artists and Calcuttans. As I constructed my strong realisation of beautiful occurrences, I should have mentioned that beautiful occurrences may never be understood by the growing crowd that prefers the world of 'Miracles.' Miracles do merely define outstanding unnatural happenings and it is those natural happenings, we forget to beautify.

It is only when I am afar from you and your art, does it stand more clearer - A natural scene in a tram that heads to an unknown direction. People strapped, immovable as gradual time flees, letting the tram carry them wherever it desires or the mere strings of broken sunlight that peer through its window lines, touching the smiling and the pale faces. I have happened to love that world as beautiful as it is, moving and stagnant. This is a world I'll be believing in, timeless and beautiful.

- Aranya Sen  
Class 12 'Arts'



# Poetic North Point

## A WORLD OF ITS OWN

At the sight of Keventer's,  
My sitting quietly,  
Preparing myself,  
To witness the,  
Unending beeline of people,  
Scaling their way to,  
The Times Square,  
Of Darjeeling.

The sight of-  
Silver steamy maktoos,  
A woman sitting quietly,  
Roasting corn.  
People from different,  
Ethnic communities,  
Sauntering past with their families,  
Pointing their fingers,  
Towards the chic clothes,  
Sitting proudly on mannequins,  
Behind the glass of a shop,  
Fascinates the senses.

The aroma of freshly,  
Barbequed chicken,  
And of finely fried fritters,  
Beckons me.  
The crazy hubbub-  
Of people walking,  
Here and there,  
Yelling each other's names,  
Bargaining with vendors,

Bumping into one another,  
Apologizing with a smile.  
Although exasperating,  
Is wonderful to tune in.

Reaching the summit,  
The eye rolls from,  
One corner to the other,  
To marvel at the panorama.  
A picturesque frame,  
Of colour and diversity,  
Which never tends,  
To saturate one's heart.  
The sweet and sulky sounds,  
Harmonize so perfectly,  
As if an orchestra was performing,  
In the distance.

Sitting down on those  
Ever-supportive benches-  
The ones who drop their smiles,  
As you sit there weeping.  
Ones who embrace you,  
Enjoying your happiness.  
I begin to lose my worries,  
Taking in the aesthetics,  
Of the Connaught Place,  
Of Darjeeling.

- Pratham Sharsar  
Class 12 'Science'



## HOPE

They said don't lose hope  
 God is good he'll find a way  
 What am i to say?  
 To that believed lie  
 It's all a plan of god's  
 So why am I suffering  
 Why is he not here, is he shy?  
 Losing hope means death if the soul  
 I did no wrong I never stole  
 I always wanted what's best for them  
 I always tried to make amends  
 But I never did find hope  
 My family provided help  
 My friends too tired  
 All in vain, for my soul was dark  
 Never lose hope, never do cry  
 Looking down asking myself "Will I die?"  
 My life was good, it was all fine  
 Until the day I decided to try  
 Addiction took over, I became the fiend  
 I'm about to take the leap  
 I have lost precious time.  
 Hell awaits me  
 This is the last good bye.

- Paramveer Singh  
 Class 11 'Commerce'

## BROKEN

My mind dwelling in the past,  
 My emotions trapped,  
 The tears within nurtured the agony  
 Which clung to me never to leave,  
 The tavern was brightly lit  
 Overpowering the perennial darkness,  
 Despair did beget illusions of hope,  
 The blended grain made it's impact  
 It's aroma alluring enough,  
 The gust guiding me,  
 I creaked the wooden door open,  
 My boots whimpering  
 Against the soulful music,  
 I felt the elixir burn down my senses,  
 There was indeed a better escape,  
 A better way to mend the broken.

- Mihir Dev Choudhary  
 Class 12 'Science'



Alish Rai  
 Class 12 'Science'

## THE CALLING

I had a life,  
 Where dreams envisioned reality  
 Overshadowing the truth.  
 Restlessness, a trait for tomorrow,  
 Responsibility, only a word for the fools.  
 Fun, a hunt for the clouds,  
 Life, free from worries and sorrows.

Now, I can see  
 The ones that enslave us.  
 Will we ever seek our liberty?  
 or die a coward's death?  
 Death is a beauty,  
 When faced with honor.

Amidst the trials,  
 Strive beyond your call.  
 Comfort, a shell for cowards,  
 Has deprived you off your sight.  
 Open your eyes soon,  
 Ere the darkness befalls.

- Nabi Ahng Yumlam  
 Class 12 'Arts'

# GMOs

## *A Failed Technology*

An Article by *Mrs. Sahara Lefevre*



We say we are in the “Age of Enlightenment.” This enlightenment is attributed to two things -modern science and technology, and economic development. But somewhere along the way, in the pursuit of progress in science and technology, the act of living, of celebrating life and conserving life in all its diversity- seems to have been sacrificed to progress, and the sanctity of life has been substituted by the sanctity of science and development. We have gone this far that our Biodiversity and all living organisms have been redefined as ‘biotechnological inventions’ or ‘man-made phenomenon’ or simply ‘gene constructs’.

Genetically Modified Organisms is the latest buzzword in today’s food system worldwide. They are referred to as ‘biotechnological inventions’. They say it is ‘a miracle gift’ to save the world from varied existential food crisis. Let me reiterate the definition of Genetically Engineered Organisms according to WHO. “Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) can be defined as organisms (plants, animals and microorganisms) in which the genetic material DNA has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally

by mating or natural recombination....This technology is often called modern biotechnology or gene technology, sometimes ‘recombinant DNA technology’ or ‘Genetic Engineering (GE)’. In the layman’s terms it means that organisms are ‘created’ by simply shuffling or reshuffling genes right ?? Genes are either removed or added to a species in order to acquire a desired trait.

Today, scientists claim to have created ‘life forms’ by just incorporating new genes from one species into a completely unrelated species through Genetic Engineering (GE) and they want their ‘product’ to be protected as ‘intellectual property’. Hence, patents on living organisms have already begun to make its way through GE.

Currently, besides fruits, vegetables and food crops, well over 190 genetically engineered animals, including fish, cows, mice, and pigs are figuratively standing in a line to be patented by a variety of researchers and corporations. Take the case of a patented sheep named Tracy, a genetically engineered sheep created by the scientists of the Pharmaceutical Protein Ltd (PPL), Scotland in 1990. Tracy is called a ‘mammalian cell bioreactor’ because through the introduction of human genes, her mammary glands are engineered to produce a human protein alpha-1-anti trypsin for the pharmaceutical industry. Patents on life are based on the assumption that life can be owned because it has been constructed. To me it sounds unethical and false. When you have property rights on living organisms it violates our nature’s complex evolution- firstly by treating all the life forms as mere machines, thus denying their self-organising capacity, self-reproducing capacity and self-regenerative capacity. Perhaps, consequently there would be a complete extinction of that species in the near future.

GM foods were first approved for human consumption in the United States in 1994 and by 2014-15 about 90% corn, cotton, soybeans and potatoes in the US were GMOs. By 2010, GM crops covered one-tenth of the world’s farmland. To date, biotechnology has been able to invade mainly the agricultural system. GM foods were produced to increase yield and produce more food, to control pests and weeds or to make fruits and vegetables look appealing. In the GMO language, the same thing is termed as insect resistant, herbicide resistant, virus-resistant, Bt crop, etc. To elaborate furthermore Bt crops are those which have an inserted gene of bacterium thuringiensis (Bt), will kill certain insects when they feed on them while other insects remain unharmed. While in India, corporations like Monsanto paved their way by incorporating GMOs banana, golden rice and Bt cotton in spite of the ban imposed by the Parliamentary Committee on



### Agriculture on GMOs.

However, after overviewing ethical, social and ecological implications of GE only in India, I would say it is a failed technology. With much research and evidence done by various experts, it has been proved that Bt crops have created super pests and super weeds instead of reducing them. Farmers are using double the amount of pesticides now than ever before. And so-called fortified golden rice suppose to combat vitamin A deficiency, is by far less efficient in providing Vitamin A and yes GMO bananas have failed to provide the required iron. India has witnessed more than 2,84,694 farmers' suicides in a span of seven years. The situation is grim in some region of Maharashtra where the number of farmer suicide is increased alarmingly because of Bt cotton failure.

Let me justify my feeling of ambivalence towards GMO. Perhaps my personal research, understanding and validation may not suffice for everything, however, I do hope to make my readers apply their personal analysis and assessment on this account because you have a right to know what you eat and choose your food. There's uncertainty about food safety about GMOs. There are varied plausible health risks such as allergic reaction, cancer, antibiotic resistance and many more unknown risks related to GMO food. GMOs have failed to address hunger and malnutrition, have failed to control pests and weeds or reduce the use of toxic chemicals, there's rather increased use of pesticides like RoundUp or glycosophate. GMOs have led to farmers' suicides. Let me cite another repugnant act of genetic engineering: The manipulation of animals for industrial ends is another brutal unethical act of mankind. In a 'pig factory' pigs are treated just

to maximize their production—they have to have their tails, teeth, and testicles cut off because they fight with each other. Around eighteen per cent of the piglets are choked to death by their mother. Many are born with congenital defects, such as splayed legs or inverted mammary glands and the pig with the human growth hormone has a bodyweight that is more than its legs can carry.

When an organism or a system is mechanically manipulated to improve one-dimensional function, either the organism's immunity decreases and becomes vulnerable to disease and attack by other organisms, or the organism becomes dominant in an ecosystem and displaces other species, pushing them into extinction. This is one of the ecological problems that has arisen from applying genetic engineering to life.

The land, the forest, the rivers, the oceans and the atmosphere have all been colonised, eroded and polluted. Capitalists now are looking out to claw their dominance over the very sacred life—life of organisms living on this planet over millennia. And their invasion is being made possible once again through the technology of Genetic Engineering. Technologies are tools. When a tool fails, it needs replacement. It is time to replace GE technology with ecological farming and supporting our local farmers. It is time to say NO to GMOs and become a 'trenchant voice' against GMOs.

I would like to conclude with the words of HH Pope Francis from his Encyclical, *Laudato Si* - "Let us be the protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment."

# DARJEELING TEA

## *The Champagne of Tea*



Ever since the very first cup, Darjeeling Tea has been able to bridge differences together. Learning of the manner in which the aroma of the perfect cup spreads across time and distance to perfume the life of its connoisseurs is really fascinating. It is quite an experience to savour the essence of this majestic hill station with a brew of this delicacy.

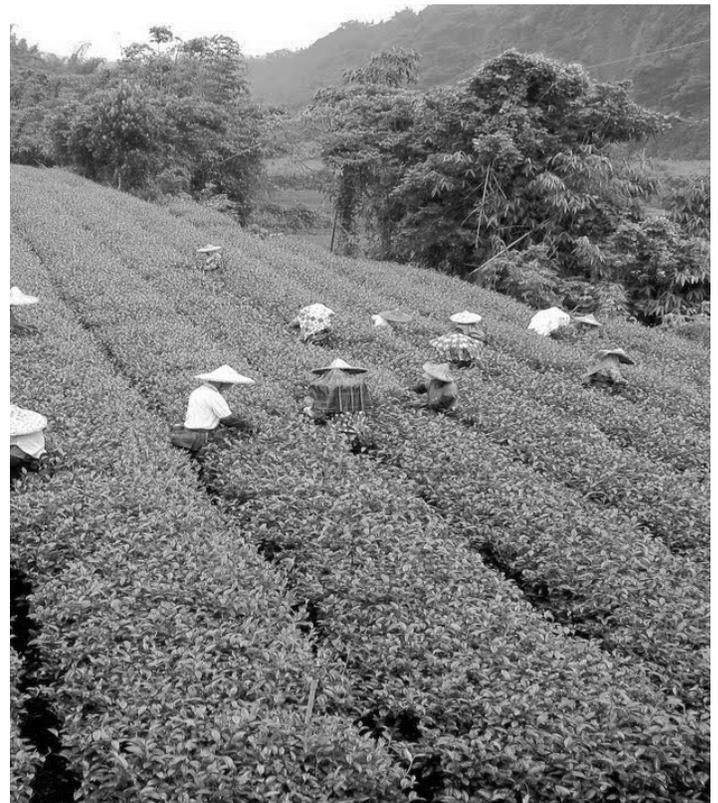
In 1841, Archibald Campbell, a civil surgeon of the Indian Medical Services, brought seeds of the Chinese tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*) from Kumaun and began planting in the Darjeeling district area. The British government established tea nurseries in 1847 but commercial development began during the 1850s. In 1856, the Alubari tea garden was opened by the Kurseong Darjeeling Tea company. Presently Darjeeling has 86 tea gardens which produce about 10 million kgs of tea annually.

Darjeeling tea comprises the Blacks, the Whites, the Greens and the Oolong. Spread across three major flushes, the tea gets its individual character and liquor from the varying time of harvest. The light coloured First Flush teas give their consumers a very smooth, floral taste. The Second Flush teas provide a mild, dark-coloured liquor while the Third or the Autumn Flush exudes the strongest flavours giving it

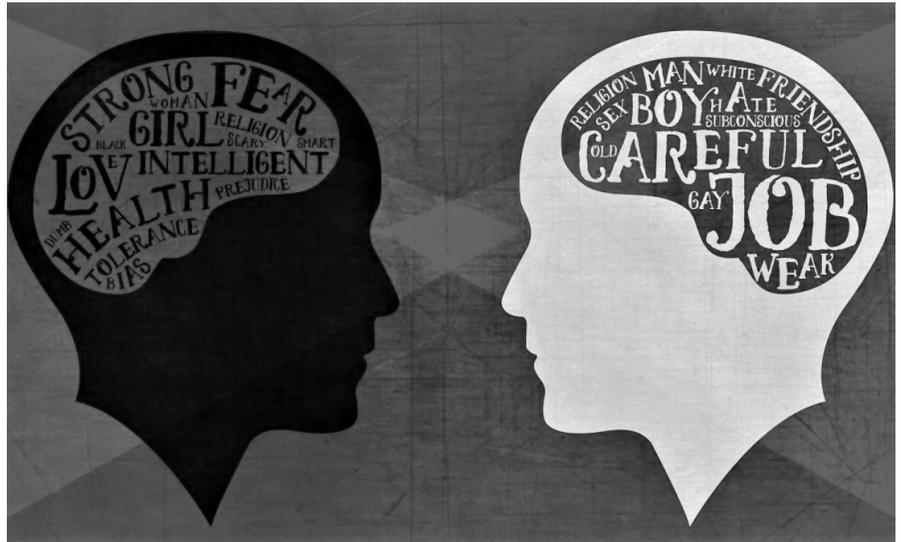
the crimson, vine-like liquor. Along with its paramount flavour and liquor, this heavenly beverage is also good for the human heart and mind. It contains high antioxidants which result in improved blood flow and also act as a stress-buster and as an anti-ageing resource. Green Tea is an un-fermented tea and is among the richest source of antioxidants which help in preventing cancer, decreasing the risk of heart strokes and lowering the cholesterol levels in blood, thus slowing down potentially harmful blood clotting. It also acts as an anti-inflammatory agent in joint pains, and also acts as a preventive for various other ailments that are detailed below. It has been said that tea helps in digestion, dissolves fats and neutralizes poison in the digestive system and cures dysentery.

Life is a maze of happiness and sorrows. Perhaps some moments are daunting and in such times what comes to our rescue is a cup of Darjeeling tea. Indeed every sip carries the love and toil of the world of tea making.

- Dhiresh Sarada  
Class 12 'Commerce'



## Are you BIAS POSITIVE



Man, no doubt, is a 'social animal' and is influenced greatly by his social milieu and the various social engagements that he partakes in. This, in turn, gives rise to 'BIASES' within him. These biases can be based on a myriad of determinants like race, gender, caste, social status, religious leanings and so on. These biases play a paramount role in shaping our perspectives and outlooks in life. Therefore, it will not be wrong to say that these socially evolved biases make us who we are.

The question that arises then is – Are our biases coming in the way of our ability to form rational, cogent and informed opinions? If the answer is in the affirmative, then, our society as a whole now faces a perilous and menacing threat for no society can survive in the absence of clear-sighted and perceptive members.

These biases when allowed to deepen their roots in the hearts and minds of individuals can cause ideological polarization of the masses thereby creating a rift between people along doctrinal lines. This is not at all healthy for the social fabric of society. It is imperative in contemporary times to judge issues on its merits and not with pre-conceived notions. One's ideological biases should not prevent one from taking into account the genuine facts and the ground reality with regards to any situation or issue under consideration.

Today, we see a covert and clandestine effort to arouse and fan our biases and pit us against each other for personal and monetary gains. This can be exemplified by the pitiful condition of the Fourth Estate-the media. The media no more champions the cause of democracy and freedom but has become corporatized, working for its own vested interests. It serves as a mouthpiece and propaganda machine for the masters that they serve, playing to the gallery and appeasing our biases. 'Yellow Journalism' has taken over 'Objective Reportage'. However, the fault lies with us. As long as our prejudices prevent us from seeking

the truth, we can never truly become informed citizens of a thriving democracy.

The solution to overcoming our partisanship is very simple-Dialogue. It is only by engaging in dialogue with others, hearing out their contrarian views and if possible, trying to negotiate a common ground can we repair or, at least, minimize the damage caused by our deep-rooted biases. If anything that the rise of radicalism and populist regimes that feed on people's prejudices and biases have taught is that we must be pragmatic and logical in our outlook and factual and rational in our perspectives.

Even on the personal front, compromising on our biases can be very rewarding. A person belonging to the higher strata of society may be averse to travelling by metro because he considers it to be degrading. However, by doing so, he may be able to save a lot of time that would have been devoured by traffic. Similarly, controlling one's prejudices and remaining open to new ideas and experiences can work wonders for one's relationships. Studies have in fact proven that open-minded individuals have greater success at love than bigoted people with inherent prejudices!

There is really no place for unfounded biases in a progressive society as people possess the right to voice their perspectives which have factual backing while at the same time are mature enough to agree to disagree. Everybody is entitled to their opinion but it is also our duty to ensure that we form these opinions after fully considering all the facts and evidence and not base it on hearsay and rumours. Emerson wonderfully put all this into perspective when he said "People only see what they are prepared to see." But why should that be? I, therefore call upon all to free ourselves from servitude of our prejudices and to see things as they are - raw, true and genuine.

- Samdup Dorji Lama  
Class 12 'Humanities'

**“The measure of  
intelligence is the ability  
to change”**

*- Albert Einstein*



According to the oxford dictionary, intelligence is the ability to gain and apply knowledge and skills and intelligent person is one who is a good learner and thinker. An intelligent person will always apply intelligence in his or her day to day life. Irrespective of wealth which decreases on sharing, more intelligence we share more precise it becomes.

God has given everything to everyone equally, even intelligence. Many people neither know anything about their intelligence nor do they bother to measure it but those who measure it find themselves on the rooftop. They also notice a change in them after knowing their real potential.

If a person is intelligent they can face any situation anytime. They also can use their intelligence to overcome it.

Trees would be the best example of those who face a lot of changes in their life. It faces all kind of weather – cold, dry, wet, humid and sunny but it stands in its own position and adapts to the weather. It proves that we must face changes in our life but we must also learn to adapt to it.

A change in the life of every individual is a must if they are willing to reach their goal or destination. Albert Einstein himself is the best example of an intelligent person. He himself had faced a lot of changes in his life in the course of time which was the main reason behind his success. According to Einstein, “if we are not changing, we are not growing”. If we are

not growing, we are not being intelligent. As Einstein grew he tried many new things and every day he learned something new. Then a time came in his life when he became one of the most famous scientists and a recognised person all over the world.

Even we humans have faced a lot of changes in the time of our evolution. From Australopithecus to Homohabilis to Homo erectus to Homo Neanderthalensis and now Homo sapiens. This change in us was also because of the intelligence we gained with time.

Archimedes was a famous Mathematician whose principle we have to study till date. The reason is that he tried to measure his intelligence and felt a change in him then after. From then he realized who he was and what he could do. Hence, proving the importance of change.

India, our country has given birth to many intelligent people and Dr A.P.J Abdul Kalam is one of them and is known worldwide for his intelligence. He had so much intelligence that until his last breath he was sharing his intelligence and proving that he had a lot of it to share. The reason behind his intelligence is he always questioned himself first if he noticed something new. He always measured his intelligence and he realized who he was then after.

*- Raghav Chhetri  
Class 9*



## MIRABAL SISTERS

You must have heard about Rosa Parks who initiated the Montgomery bus boycott in the US by simply refusing to give her seat to a white passenger on the bus, Claudette Colvin the fifteen year old who was arrested for not giving her seat to a white woman about nine months before Rosa Parks, the all famous Black Lives Matter Movement founded by three women named Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi and The Youth Against Climate Change Movement which is on its peak, started by a solitary protest by Greta Thunberg; all where women fought for what they believed in. You would be enthralled to know about a revolutionary change brought about by the help of three sisters about 50 years ago, in the suppressed state of Dominican Republic. Rafael Trujillo who was at that time the dictator of the Dominican Republic was infamous for his brutality and his tyranny. The Mirabal sisters initially four sisters in Dominican Republic opposed the dictatorship of Trujillo, named Minerva, Maria Teresa, Patria, and Dedé. Out of the four, three sisters actively took part to dethrone the government then. Minerva, Maria Teresa, and Patria felt responsible for standing for the people of Dominican Republic.

Minerva influenced by her uncle became involved in the movement against Trujillo; she was known to be the most vocal and radical of all the

Mirabal sisters. She was harassed and arrested multiple times during her activism. Maria Teresa got involved when she learned about her sister's activism and her drive for freedom from a tyrant. She was incarcerated for multiple occasions. Patria got involved when she witnessed a massacre by Trujillo's men when she was on a religious retreat. She and her husband helped in the movement via underground activities and were also jailed several times. They formed a group called 'Fourteenth of June', named after the date when Patria witnessed the massacre, to oppose Trujillo's regime. They were assassinated on 25th November 1960 by the secret police of Trujillo. Their death at first was staged as accidents but after the assassination of Trujillo in 1961 the truth about their murder was revealed. They were fierce and bold and educated women who thought about what mattered and what was to be done. Maria Teresa once said, *"Perhaps what we have most near is death, but that idea does not frighten me. We shall continue to fight for that which is just."*

Minerva once said, *"It is a source of happiness to do whatever can be done for our country that suffers so many anguishes. It is sad to stay with one's arms crossed."*

Patria is quoted as saying, *"We cannot allow our children to grow up in this corrupt and tyrannical regime. We have to fight against it, and I am willing to give up everything, even my life if necessary."*

They emerged the dawn of popular and feminist power and made an impact on the lives of the people of the Dominican Republic. On the 25th of November, in the sisters' honor the United Nations General Assembly designated the date as The Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. Also, the 200 Dominican pesos feature the sisters. They thought and spoke freely and people named them **'La Mariposas'** meaning **'The Butterflies'**

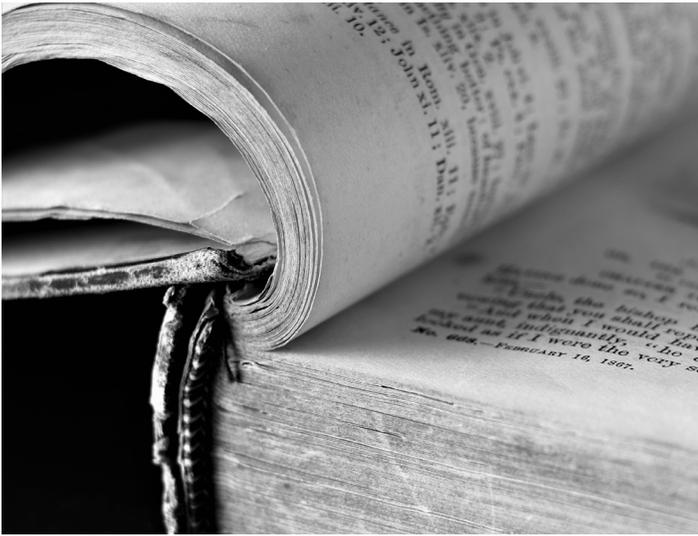
- Jonathan Prateek Lopchan



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 200 PESOS ORO BANKNOTE 2007  
MIRABAL SISTERS

## REPAIRS

An article by Mrs Shraddha Mani Pradhan



When I was a school going kid, I would get a new pair of naughty boy shoes at the beginning of the academic session. I walked about seven kilometres every day to school and back, so the soles of the shoes would wear out by mid-year. To add to the woes of those worn out soles, I walked on one side of the heels and they looked like half-eaten sandwiches as the months went by. It was an untidy appearance. There was no buying a new pair of shoes in the middle of the year. The unwritten rule was that I, like all other children who grew up in that era, got just one pair of school shoes for the entire year. Often, the same pair was used for those rare outings to town too. The upper part of the shoe was of good leather and lasted longer than the soles. Then there would come a time when the soles would no longer hold good. It was time to take the shoes to the neighbourhood cobbler for 'half-sole' or 're-sole' repairs. Those days the cobblers would come with their entire set of tools, leather, tyre and rubber from house to house to repair shoes, slippers, bags, and even umbrellas. The repaired shoes gave us back our dignity and we wore them with the obvious pride of wearing new shoes again. After all, they had been repaired....

It was not just shoes that got repaired. We repaired our text books too. It was called book-binding back then. There were a whole lot of book binders in town that did pretty good business. We bought text books in 'half-price' from seniors. We would often reserve our books from a neighbour who was a class senior to us. As soon as the results were out, we would go, collect the texts and the exercise books, calculate the price, pay up and get them home. If the books were not in good condition, there would be some bargaining

too. The buyer, after all, had to take the books for binding. The torn and tattered books would then go for binding and would come back to us in hard cover. It would last three more generations of that class. Books did not change every year. Year after year after year, the same text books were used in schools and colleges. Those books which had meanings written, answers and spellings underlined, notes scribbled here and there, important passages marked with three or five stars were held in higher esteem than the new books.

School bags were repaired. Our clothes were altered. The collars of our shirts that frayed out due to constant brushing were turned inside out so that they became new on the outside. Socks were darned. We were taught how to stitch back buttons that came off. There was no system of throwing away a thing without it having used it over and over again. We did not learn the terms 'reuse', 'recycle' or 'reduce'. We lived these terms in our everyday life. There was nothing like 'single use'. Even the ball point pens we bought had refills and we used the pens till we chewed off their tops or lost them.

And that was how it was with the most important aspect of our lives. We repaired things. And we repaired relationships. Our parents did not have smooth lives. There were fights. There were misunderstandings. There was anger. There was dissatisfaction. There was every element in their relationship that is present in the relationships of today. There probably was infidelity too. But there was no throwing away relationships randomly. Relationships that needed repair were repaired. The thought of ending everything in one straight go did not occur until things got really serious. This is a very generalised statement, but this is how the psyche worked. Repairing things was part of the way we lived. When we stopped repairing our things and began to replace them with a new one, we began to do the same with the relationships that we formed as we lived our years. Replacing with a newer version is so much easier than repairing an old thing. There is no effort needed. No patient waiting required. No anxiety of whether the repaired product becomes good enough or not. It is all about affording the new thing. There is a new version of everything we use almost every few weeks or months. How much we can keep up with the rapidly changing versions of things in our life depends on our affordability.

Repairs are important. Of things. And of relationships. Repairs are important. For the environment. And our emotional health. Repairs are important. For our living. And our livelihood. Joyful Repairing Everyone!!

## Little Stars of North Point

### If I had wings...

As a child, I always wondered what was beyond Kanchenjunga. I always wished I could catch the shooting stars. They look so tiny and beautiful. If only I could fly. I feel all the animals that can fly are lucky. They are able to see the world in a different and pleasant way. I remember an incident when my father couldn't deliver an important parcel on time due to a traffic jam. How I wished then that if only I could fly. I wondered if birds are sometimes bored with flying as we are of walking. If I had wings I also could relieve my parents of the duty of reaching me to school. I would fly to school in no time and be back home always on time. And above all that, who knows my friends would even call me a superhero. It is every boy's dream to become a superhero, isn't it?

-Pratyush Rai 3A

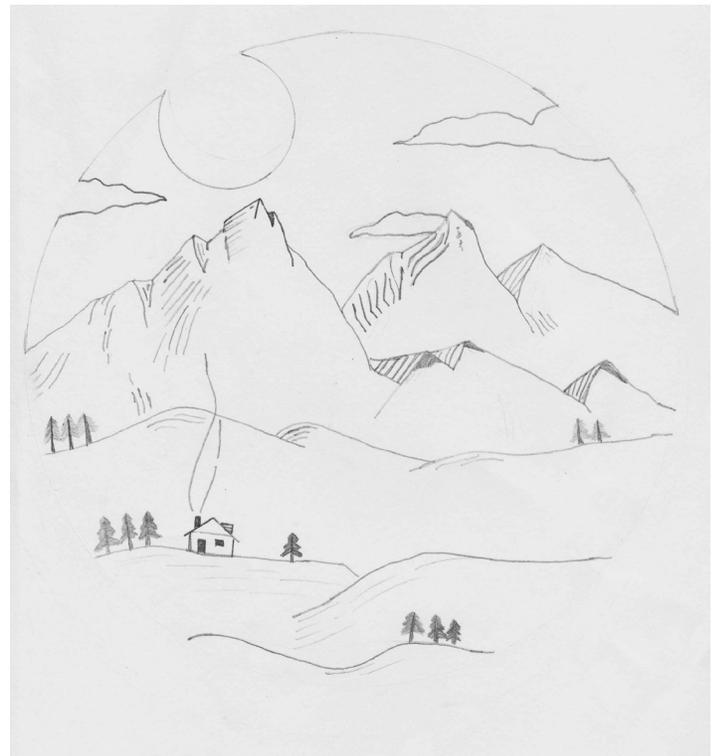
### My Last Days in P.D.

Time flies by, so does weeks and months. They seemed to have flown by so fast that I did not know that today is my last day in class 5 and P.D.. As you know we cannot rewind nor stop time. I wish I could stop time but it is impossible to do it. I shall not forget the joy we, the students of class 5, had this year. I shall not forget the fun we had while participating in activities such as the P.D. Concert, P.D. Spell Bee, Bill German Memorial Quiz and many more of them. I shall not forget the P.D. teachers who encouraged us in hard situations. I shall not forget the good values they taught us and the hardwork they did for us. I would like to thank all my P.D. teachers and junior friends of class 3 and 4 for making my memories magical. All my junior readers please act like gentlemen. I promise I will make the school shine like the brightest star on the Christmas Tree. I will miss all my P.D. teachers and junior friends. May the P.D. bloom like the roses and shine like the stars.

-Soham Nirala 5'B'

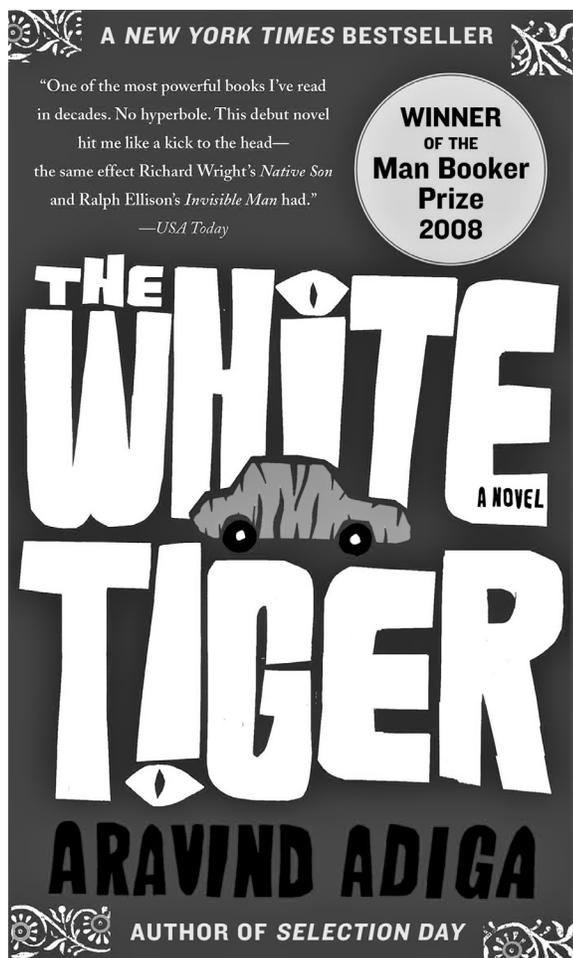


Isant Gurung  
Class 5 'A'



Samuyel Gurung  
Class 5 'A'

## BOOK REVIEW



Aravind Adiga with his debut novel “The White Tiger” has earned himself a memorable place in the hall of fame in literature. With this novel he has taken Indian literature to another dimension. It won him the 2008 Booker prize. Being the fourth Indian born author to win the prize, that too for a debut novel. The plot is narrated in a letter to the visiting Chinese premier, which spans over seven days and nights. Initially the plot led on by Balram in letter is not so complicating as it is to towards the later stages of the book. Adiga who was a journalist until he turned towards writing has described the vile aspects of Indian life most relentlessly. His characters are rather reduced to symbols in the Indian society. Adiga has made his tale feel simplistic and also an effective polemic on the harsh Indian society.

If one gets something, the others don't. No matter who needed or wished for it. This intriguing tale takes us beyond the flattery and the overdone pictures of Bollywood towards the depth of how our real politics, society and an individual function in India. Where there is a will there is a way; although it cannot always be a righteous path of a saint. Find out

## THE WHITE TIGER

Author - *Aravind Adiga*

Price - *Rs. 250*

Pages - *318*

Publisher - *Atlantic Books (UK)*

Binding - *Paperback*

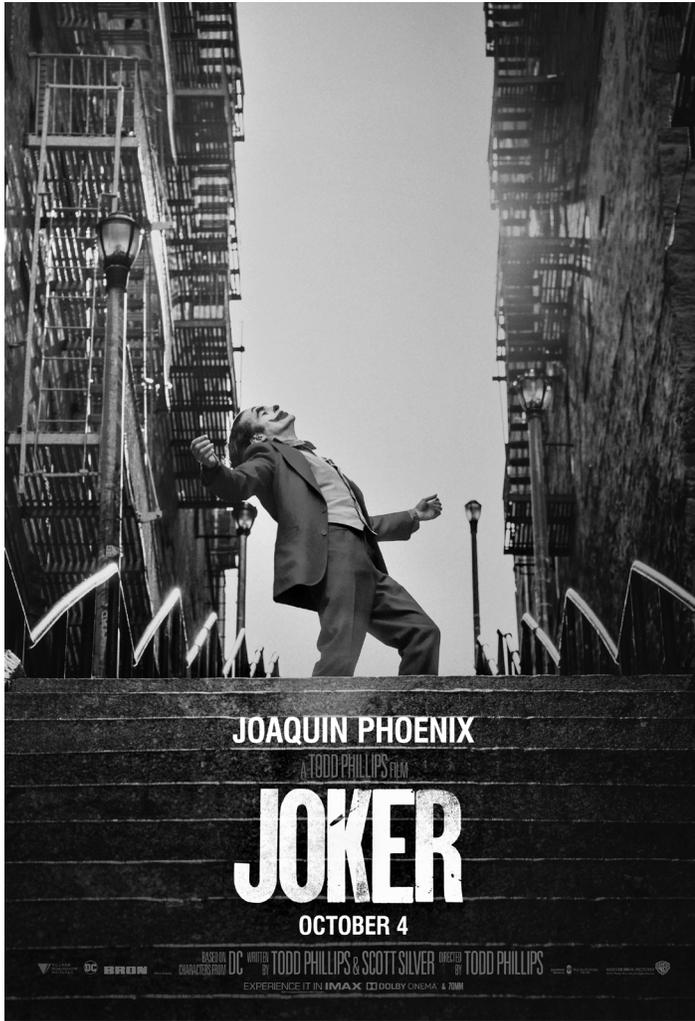
**Synopsis** - *Balram Halwai is a complicated man. Servant. Philosopher. Entrepreneur. Murderer. Over the course of seven nights, Balram tells us the terrible and transfixing story of how he came to be a success in life-having nothing but his own wits to help him along. And with charisma as undeniable as it is unexpected, Balram teaches us that religion doesn't create virtue, and money doesn't solve every problem-but decency can still be found in a corrupt world, and you can get what you want out of life if you eavesdrop on the right conversations.*

the truth of Balram's success in this extraordinary tale of an awful and a grand plot. A perfect combination for all the readers to enjoy. Something relatable to our own lives, to something more and very realistic.

Balram Halwai, an uneducated boy from “the Darkness”, which he describes as his family, desires for wealth and fame. As we journey through his life struggles, we see him eventually transformed from an innocent and pure to something undesired by the influence of ambition and corruption. The extent of ambition leads him to the life which he desired dearly; a “city life”. As he forces his way through the hierarchy of class and caste distinction, he becomes a self-made entrepreneur. His remarkable quality of self-justification and recklessness gives the tale a distinct macabre twist.

Amoral, irreverent, deeply endearing, and utterly contemporary, this novel is an international sensation-and a starling, provocative debut.

- *Prathinav Dutta  
and  
Nabi Ahng Yumlam*



## MOVIE REVIEW

### JOKER

Directed by: *Todd Phillips*

Starring: *Joaquin Phoenix*

Release date: *October 4th, 2019*

Running time: *122 minutes*

”

*“I used to think that my life was a tragedy.  
But now I realize, it’s a comedy”*

*- Arthur Fleck (Joker)*

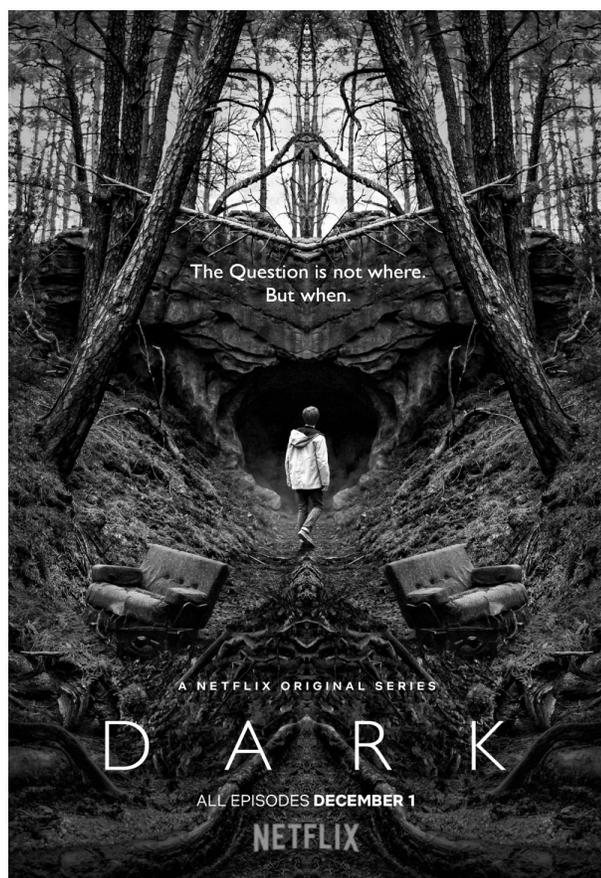
A 2019 American psychological thriller, *Joker*, directed by Todd Phillips, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Scott Silver. The film, based on DC Comics characters, stars Joaquin Phoenix as Joker. An original story set in 1981, the film follows the story of Arthur Fleck, a failed stand-up comedian, who turns to a life of crime and chaos in Gotham City. With the progression of the story in the film, we see a sick and disturbed Arthur, transforming into what we claim to be one of the most prominent villains in superhero history, the Joker.

*Joker* was conceived by Todd Phillips in 2016, who wrote the script along with Scott Silver throughout 2017. The two drew inspiration by 1970’s character studies and the films of Martin Scorsese, who was initially attached to the project as a producer. The graphic novel *Batman: The Killing Joke* (1988) was the basis for the premise, although Phillips and Silver otherwise did not look to specific comics for inspiration. The star actor Joaquin Phoenix became attached to the project in February 2018 and was cast in July, while

the majority of the cast signed on by August.

Led by Phoenix’s ferocious, feral performance, this especially dark, gritty comic book movie is a character drama that’s drawn more towards real-world troubles than to caped crusaders, flying from building to building. Every once in awhile a movie comes, that truly makes an impact. Joaquin’s performance and scenography of the film in all its brilliance, grotesque and haunting, hard to watch at times, yet mesmerizing and bound to leave its audience awestruck. Tragic, but with its fair share of moments leaving its viewers asking for more. An emotional roller-coaster, with multiple emotions surfacing at the same time. Acclaimed as “fine dining” by both fans and critics, and one of the movies who succeeded in keeping up with its hype, *Joker* may be the salvation of the DC Comics’ movie series.

- Vinayak Milan Pradhan



## TELEVISION SERIES REVIEW

### DARK

Genre: *Science fiction, Thriller, Drama.*

Created by: *Baran bo odor, Jantje Friese*

Starring: *Louis Hofmann, Andreas Pietschmann,  
Dietrich Hollinderbäumer*

Number of seasons: 2

Number of episodes: 18

”

*“We’re not free in what we do, because  
we’re not free in what we want. We can’t  
overcome what’s deep within us”  
- The Stranger*

With its debut on Netflix on 1st of December 2019, *Dark* is the first German-language Netflix original series. The first season of this series received positive reviews, though many made an initial comparison with the infamous and yet another Netflix series, *Stranger Things*. *Dark* was recommissioned for a second season which was released on the 21st of June 2019. Subsequently, the series is recommissioned for a third and final season for which filming began late in June 2019.

Children start disappearing from the fictional German town of Winden, bringing to light the fractured relationships, double lives, and dark past of four families living there, and revealing a mystery that spans four generations. The series follows Jonas Kahnwald, a teenager struggling to cope with his father’s suicide; police officer Ulrich Nielsen, whose brother disappeared 33 years earlier; and police Chief Charlotte Doppler.

The story begins in 2019 but spreads to include story-lines in 1986 and 1953 via time travel, as certain characters of the show’s core families grow aware of the existence of a wormhole in the cave system beneath the local nuclear power plant, which is under the management of the influential Tiedemann family. During the first season, secrets begin to be revealed concerning the Kahnwald, Nielsen, Doppler, and

Tiedemann families, and their lives start to crumble as the ties become evident between the missing children and the histories of the town and its citizens.

The second season continues the intertwining families’ attempts to reunite with their missing loved ones, several months after the first season finale, in 2020, 1987 and 1954, respectively. Additional story-lines set in 2053 and 1921 add new aspects to the mysteries, and the secret Sic Mundus fellowship, a major force in an underlying battle for the ultimate fate of the people of Winden, is explored, as the season counts down towards the apocalypse – a supposed destruction of Winden and death of many of its citizens.

The series was nominated for the Goldene Kamera TV awards 2018 in three categories: best series; best actress: Karoline Eichhorn as Charlotte Doppler; and best actor: Oliver Masucci as Ulrich Nielsen. Also, Louis Hofmann received the “Best Newcomer” award in recognition (among other of his performances in several movies) of his lead role in *Dark*. In August 2018 the series received the nomination in the category Best TV Show in the Brazilian award BreakTudo Award 2019, and actor Louis Hofmann was nominated in the category “International Actor”. The series was also awarded the 2018 Grimme-Preis award in the “fiction” category.

- Vinayak Milan Pradhan



**D**eath Stranding is the latest title coming from a visionary Hideo Kojima one of today's most renowned game directors, designers and writers responsible for creating the Metal Gear series one of the most well known and popular game series till date. Helping him create this game is Guillermo del Toro Gómez an Academy Award Winning Director known for his works such as The Shape of Water and Pan's Labyrinth.

Released in Sony's Playstation 4 on 8th November 2019 and the PC version to be released in the early summer of 2020, Death Stranding is an open world action adventure game with survival elements. The game gives you control over Sam Porter Bridges played by Norman Reedus who is starring in the hit series called The Walking Dead. The goal of the player is to navigate Sam through the world of United Cities of America and try to mend the strands and reconnect the broken lands. In this journey Sam will face off against many kinds of enemies with the most common ones being MULES humanoid enemies who are always looking around to steal your cargo. Although there is combat in the game it is not the game would like the player to focus on. The players can also craft items such as ladders, ropes, anchors in order to overcome the

various types of terrains the UCA holds which ranges from green and lush, rocky and bumpy, to barren and sandy, to snowy and mountaneous terrain.

According to Kojima Death Stranding is a game about reconnecting as the game is said to be a metaphor for modern day society. While the game is set in what's left of the United States, Kojima said he wants to pull the lens back to show how the themes he's exploring there can be applied to current situations in other countries around the world. He said Death Stranding is "about America, but I made that map deliberately not correctly America. Maybe it looks like Japan from that angle. I want people to not think 'America,' but 'where you are.' Because it depends on who is seeing it. And of course, it's in the future, and everyone's connected by internet, but everyone is fragmented. That's kind of a metaphor as well." But I'm not saying it's positive or negative to connect. It's really up to the players to see how they feel while playing the game."

Kojima was also heard saying that he wanted to create a new genre of games through Death Stranding and if the game does get famous enough it might even be worthy of being called a genre defining game in the gaming industry itself.

- Samden Lama Dukpa

## GAME REVIEW

### DEATH STRANDING

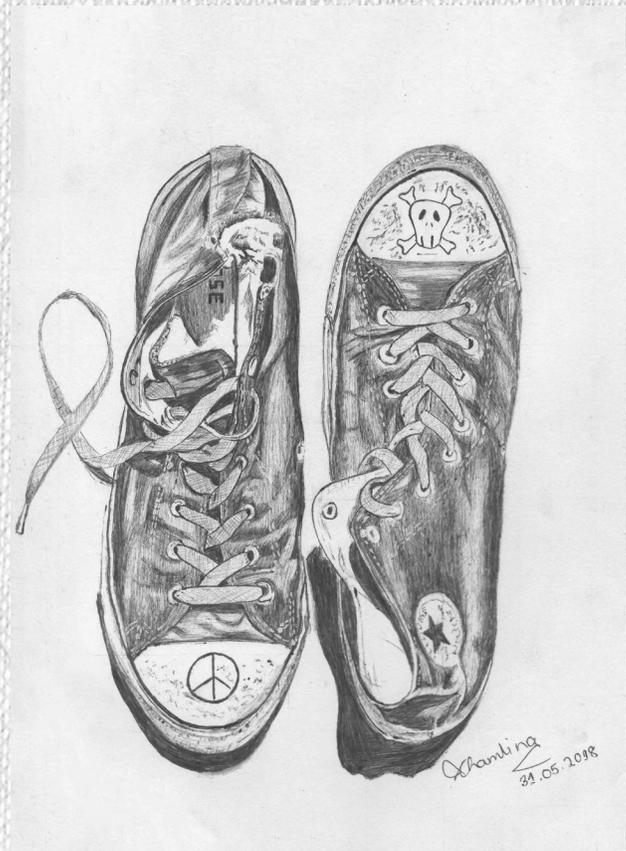
Directed by: *Todd Philips*

Starring: *Joaquin Phoenix*

Release date: *October 4th, 2019*

Running time: *122 minutes*

# Art



Alish Rai  
Class 12 'Science'



Nisheet Budathoki  
Class 12 'Arts'

*Over the hills and the plains,  
And all the peaks with it's snow,  
We shall meet again,  
As onwards through life we go....*





Mimang Raj Rai



Nehal Syangden

# THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



Himal Gattani



Hrishikesh Rai