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PROPOSE THE OPPOSITION

BORDERLINE INSANITY

"India's stance over the Indo-Nepal Border is legitimate"



AGAINST

GUEST WRITER

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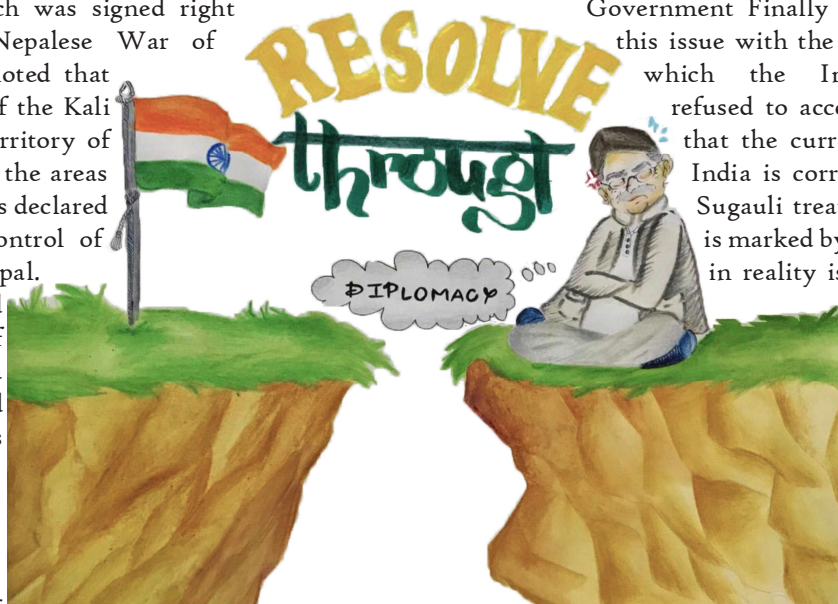
Allow me to be Galileo for this moment. Galileo not for my intellect but for my purpose. A purpose similar to that of the 16th century astronomer who propagated the heliocentric model. Whose claim was turned down by the church as it opposed the words of the contemporary superpower. That superpower being the words of the bible and the belief's and the integrity of the church. Today I stand here in a similar position staunchly arguing facts not for the sake of pleasing the congregation but for the sake of truth.

The roots of this issue can be traced back to the Sugauli treaty of 1816 which was signed right after the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-1816. Which noted that that all area west of the Kali river is now the territory of British India while the areas east to kali river was declared to be under the control of the Kingdom of Nepal.

This was followed by a revised treaty of 1860. The East India Company printed maps with the areas Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh as the territory of Nepal. while Her Majesty's government printed maps, which included

the three disputed areas as a territory of India which India which India later inherited after independence. To which the crown of Nepal made no objection as such the public was kept oblivious of this matter. With the fall of monarchy in 1990 scholars were finally granted access to documents which proved the claim of Nepal. Nepal made its claim in the 1990s and the first unilateral efforts were shown by the late pm of India Late Atal Behari Vajpayee but no action was taken. Later India responded to this plea of Nepal government in 2014 and again no action was taken.

After numerous protests launched in Nepal the Government Finally staunchly addressed this issue with the Indian Government which the Indian Government refused to accept. On the grounds that the current political map of India is correct as it follows the Sugauli treaty and the boundary is marked by the Kali river which in reality is an adjoining brook and not the actual kali river. Till now Sugauli treaty remains the only treaty defining the boundaries of the two nations thus nullifying claims made on the basis of maps which



are unilateral documents and not a bilateral one and Weekly Newsletter of The Assam Valley Express

acquisition of land without mutual consent would be an act of Neocolonialism. The treaties which exist till this date are two treaties namely the Treaty of Sugauli 1816 and the other the revised Treaty of 1860. In which the revision of areas was mainly based in the Terai region and the Treaty was not revised in its entirety.

Secondly As pointed out by Indian Army General Manoj Mukund Naravane Nepal is laying claim on the disputed land "at the behest of someone else" indicating Chinese intervention in this dispute. Which makes me question how the fight for National sovereignty and integrity is according to them an act of submission of these very interests. This comment was backed by how Nepal reacted late this issue. While the proposition clearly ignored Nepal's claims for it since 1990s and its continuity to reject diplomatic talks. Yet Nepal remains "renter state of China" and the hashtag flashes across

Indian primetime TV debate #ChinaUsesNepal. The explanation of this irony is what is what the Nepalese "nation wants to know".

And the tax claims of the people of Limpiyadhura to the Government of Nepal (1938) and voting list of 1959 which both indicate their citizenship of Nepal, proving their nationality as Nepalese and not Indians again ignored by the proposition. Legitimizing these documents is the fact that even after 1860 till 1938 and 1959 these were territories of Nepal under the Nepalese Government so when did this transaction of land take. This is what the nation wants to know not PM Oli's comments on Indian wave of Corona Virus which is again in no way part of the debate.

With this I end my trail leaving you the choice between the truth or beliefs, the church or Science, sovereignty or domination.



FOR

Aakangsha Dutta,
Head Girl, ISC Batch of 2019-20

2020 has seen its own share of adversities. The most recent to have sprung up is the Nepal-India border dispute which has become a diplomatic bone of contention between the countries. The flashpoint of this crisis is the disputed three hundred square kilometre area of Limpiyadhara, Lipulekh and Kalapani.

According to the Treaty of Sugali, signed after the Anglo-Nepalese War, the Eastern source of the Mahakali River was the demarcated Indo-Nepal border. India's claim to this territory also lies in the argument that the source of the Mahakali river lies in the springs of the Kalapani falls. A position borne out even through local lore. Since the 1860s of British India through Independence up until today, this has remained the arrangement until November 2019 when India released a new map after the abrogation of Article 370. The military and strategic importance of this disputed region has lain dormant until India began to build the road to Kailash-Mansarovar. Ironic to the present development, the Kingdom of Nepal had not simmered nor raised its head in protest over all these many years. Primarily because it knew India was well within its territorial limits. In its history over three millennia's, India is not known to have ever moved to occupy an inch of land that has not been hers. The first argument that Nepal usually puts forward is that the Treaty of Sugali was the last formal agreement between the two nations with any historical significance. While this statement is true to a certain extent, the question arises why did they suddenly turn against a hundred-year-old agreement? The Nepal Monarchy not only gave consent to this unofficial border but also allowed Indian Army posts to

be placed in this region during the Indo-China war of 1960s. This was never a matter of feud, and instead was agreed upon peacefully and bilaterally.

Matters got worse when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80 km road in this area that shortened the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar from a five-day trek to a two-day one. In retaliation to this move Nepal released a new map which along with Kalapani and Lipulekh included Limpiyadhara for the first time. But what the writer on the other side of this coin will perhaps not realise before sparking diplomatic feuds, is that the road built can be used by citizens of both countries. After all India and Nepal enjoy a relation which allows its citizens to travel and work in each other's countries without any passports or visas. So rationally speaking, the building of the road was in no way a move to threaten Nepal's sovereignty. It remains an independent and sovereign nation, and hopefully one who will consider the age old trade and cultural relations with India, significant enough to continue to maintain bilateral ties. Another political angle to this debate that cannot go ignored is the fact that Nepal faces an unstable political scenario with the Maoist regime of Prime Minister Oli's under serious internal threat. "History perpetually repeats itself". Hence, one can draw parallel of Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia or China's intent over Hong Kong and Taiwan or the borders it shares with India, a necessary diversion from internal woes to a national fervour. PM Oli deigns a similar masterstroke to divert attention from failed domestic policies urging the Nepalese citizens to look towards this tiny stretch of land instead, even as China's

Huawei establishes a 5G tower on Mount Everest. The fact that China strengthens its hold over Nepal in guise of investment in its infrastructure and bromances PM Oli with the Maoist signature, its media has begun a silent siege over Qomolangma (Mount Everest) calling her, their territory. Perhaps Nepal needs to realise that diplomacy is really the best option to solve such issues rather than drawing up of hasty maps and making rash

statements. The Gorkha are a proud race and nowhere more have they found acknowledgement, camaraderie and respect than India. After all, they form a celebrated regiment of the Indian Army. Nepal now must weigh this friendship that has lasted a millennium against a claim, it knows well, has no historical, rational or regional basis. India's claim over the Lipulekh is not only legitimate but uncontested.



The boy lies on his bed, his chin propped up by a stack of pillows. A fan whirrs noisily overhead. His pale face is illuminated by the bright glow of his phone screen - a news feed displaying a count of the dead, hitting numbers and figures he has never before seen. He stares at it for a second and, realizing that it has nothing to do with him so long as he is safe inside his refuge, swipes past it.

A post on the phone screen suddenly catches his attention - a collage of heart-wrenching pictures of people walking on foot; in torn clothes, starved and haggard; some rolling their luggage bags with their children sprawled on top; some carrying their babies on a balance across their shoulders. Accompanying these pictures is an article written by a certain Mr Kashyap. The boy decides to take out some time from his otherwise "busy" schedule to read it -

The condition of the unskilled labour force in India, as of now, is something that fills the heart of whosoever sees it with sorrow. The nationwide lockdown issued in response to the global pandemic resulted in workplaces with large gatherings such as factories and industries being shut down, and subsequently, hundreds of workers being dismissed collectively. Furthermore, people engaged in activities in the unorganised sector, now found themselves without a job. These people, who had migrated from rural areas of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, U.P., Rajasthan, etc. to cities to aspire and live "the urban dream"; and earn enough money to live a better life, were left unaccounted for. These people, who worked 2-3 shifts a day; lived in slums, more often in groups of 20 in one small, cramped room, just so that they could earn as much money as possible to afford an English education for their children; lost their source of income. Stranded between a rock and a hard place they chose to return to their villages, where life was much better, safer and they could be with their families. Millions of migrant workers trickled out of the cities, treading thousands of kilometres to reach their native

states.

"And spread the Coronavirus further", curses the boy inwardly, swiping past the post. Scrolling further down, he sees another article written by a reporter named neelabh_official123 -

The mass exodus of the migrant workers, in a bid to return to their homes, has led the entire purpose of the lockdown to blow up in smoke. The shocking pictures are now being fed incessantly and hold the coveted slot on prime time news.

The boy's eyes then wander to a video on the screen of people fighting over packets of biscuits; jostling and squeezing, trying to get their share of food from the distribution centres set up by NGOs and the state governments; the police yelling at them to maintain social distancing all falling to starving deaf ears. Social distancing left at a Distance, read the caption.

The central government has issued a 20 lakh crore stimulus package to boost the stagnating domestic industries and revive the economy, but that is in no way of any direct help to the workers who continue on their flight. Why then is the government not able to tackle this issue? Did they really forget this large section of people that make up a third of the backbone of the Indian economy? No, they didn't. The central cause to this problem is population. The amount of people constituting the migrant worker force in India is larger than the entire population of most European countries. It is simply not feasible for the government to put money into every man and woman's pocket.

Yet the government is doing everything within its power to sustain the migrating workers and ensure that they receive the basic necessities. The system of One Nation, One Ration Card will enable migrant workers and their family members to access PDS benefits from any ration shop in the country, which they could only do so from their own states earlier. As for the question of the wages, the lockdown is being lifted slowly. The possibility of major MNCs shifting their bases from

China to India, will provide a massive boost to the economy. All this, however, depends on the situation, which continues to remain uncertain.

The boy puts down his phone. His sense of empathy is quickly brushed aside by a wave of apathy. His hand reaches inside a bag of chips, already the fifth of the

day. Stuffing his mouth with a handful of chips, and his ears with torn earphones that still manage to do their job when held in a certain position, he picks up his phone again with his messy fingers. His face, devoid of emotions, is lit up by the screen's glow. The walls of the prison creep ever closer.



FROM ELECTRON

-Kaustav Arya, XI

Always I saw her then
She smiled too ; not often.
We tried to be nearer,
Though couldn't , as the outcome meant to be severe.

Two hearts' affinity sang the same hymn ;
Gama was laughing , getting ready for crime
Yes, we wish to be one soul; we pray
Sorrow! From when there goes devastating ray.

Here's me, busy in matter building
In between , for her , I keep looking
I'm baffled to think of our inequality
Unfortunate! Obstacle is Baryon Asymmetry.

Surprise.....

Surprisingly, humans are now dreaming high
Of getting us together ; I'll tell why ;
Minimum fuel will propel space shuttles,
Maximum energy shall curtail hurdles.

Still.....

Still I am afraid a bit
Finally , will I be able to meet?
But she's opposite , damn positive!
Oho! Never in my life I had her motive.

I love you Positron.
Happy! Already started beyond fiction.
Surely, both will present the revolution;
It's a fusion, as the miraculous display of collision.

THE OUTPOST

The death of George Floyd in the latest example of police brutality that has sparked protests all over the world and pushed Americans to an uncomfortable self-analysis about the horrors of systemic racism and bias that Black Americans face in the country. Nisarga has put Mumbai on alert and the Navy continues to be on standby for rescue operations. Putin declares emergency after an over 20,000 ton diesel spill as the country sways under his anti-gay constitutional referendum. Hong Kong marks the Tiananmen massacre for one last time before the semi-autonomous city's political freedoms cease to exist.



Illustration: Eloziini Senachena

I DARE YOU

-Mrs. Rimjhim Ghosh Pyne, Department of English

Silently it crept inside me...
It is non-binary, pansexual
Souls are genderless, perennial
Therefore it blended fluidly with my soul
Whispered those secrets, to my so long 'deaf' ears.

Awakened the unspoken,
Awakened the inevitable,
Spread its tentacles deep into my heart;
Heart is weak--- so defeat was sure.

Its thirst unquenched, its hunger insatiable
Gradually it crept towards my mind,
Reaching out to control.
Unwrapped itself, to wrap around my thoughts...

I dare you to speak,
Fumigate those hidden intentions
That had been hiding behind blatant lies,
I dare you to dream,
Forbidden and feared ones
That had been forgotten and now dying,
I dare you to challenge, rebel and question
It kept on whispering...
I DARE YOU.

Illustration: Takhe Tamo Reela



REFLECT

-Vasuman Lohia, XI

Under the looming shadows of a pandemic that has already cost the world substantial human loss, the fact one still has to clarify that 'life' matters should be reason enough for concern. The #Black Lives Matter has drawn tens of thousands of people onto the streets and America is tiptoeing toward an uncomfortable self-examination about its race based prejudices and biases. Sensing a moment of national reckoning, some major corporations, company managers, major sports leagues, and white politicians have felt compelled to speak out. Even after the success of the Human Rights Movement, police brutality didn't end but was veiled as countless people weren't lucky enough to have the crimes recorded legally. Indians and their celebrities tweeted about #BLM while the decomposed body of laborer Mohan Lal Sharma was found in Lucknow's railway station. The video of a child nudging her dead mother's body went viral and a man was beaten to death by two policemen in MP. The Palghar lynching finds no mention anywhere of course because the two senior citizens along with their attendant beaten to death by a mob, wore saffron

which no self-respecting 'liberal' Indian would ever identify with. Indians seem to have answered the call of 'BLM' much faster by using hashtags to gain some more credits and for low-stake solidarity on social media. Extrajudicial killings by the police have been common place in Kashmir. Around 31 people lost their lives during anti-CAA protests but to us, the pictures from Minneapolis look more striking and heartbreaking. Silence equals complicity. People from the Northeast face biases for their Mongolian looks whereas those from the mainland face prejudices here for their non-tribal appearances.

White foreigners are nothing short of worshipped here and black ones are often viewed suspiciously. The narrative is the same, 'you are the other and you will never be one of us'.

George Floyd deserves our support but to do justice to him, we must empty the skeletons in our closets. It is time on a retrospect, we introspected, for justice to prevail. Only then can we hold our heads high and claim, "Lives Matter."

Ripple #130

-Jeremy Jahau, Editor-in-Chief

*The last bullet drops
and flags fly high
Millions buried and
new faces swarm in
Forgotten, they
could only sigh
For history is written
by the victor.*

The Quarantine Watchlist

Feeling sick and tired of the same four walls at home? Well grab your popcorn and immerse yourself in the world of media, here is a list of some of our suggestions:

WHEN THE CAMELLIA BLOOMS:

Ever felt like your romance K-Drama lacked a bit of murder mystery? no, just us? This story of Dong-baek, a single mother and Yong-sik a policeman who fancies her will certainly have you hooked

SHUTTER ISLAND: A psychological thriller featuring Leonardo DiCaprio. If you are not already sold, you should be, as it is a must watch.

SPIRITED AWAY: Not many animes can hold the title of a gateway to Japanese animations, however Spirited Away's universal appeal makes it one of the best animated films ever made and must be witnessed by all for anime lovers and non-lovers.

THE IRISHMAN: Ever wanted to know what went on in the crime syndicates of America through the eyes of a retired hitman played by the legendary Robert De Niro? Well you should because The Irishman will have you coming back for its intense and dramatic moments

Keep It Reel! Horizons

-Dachen Sangey, XI



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