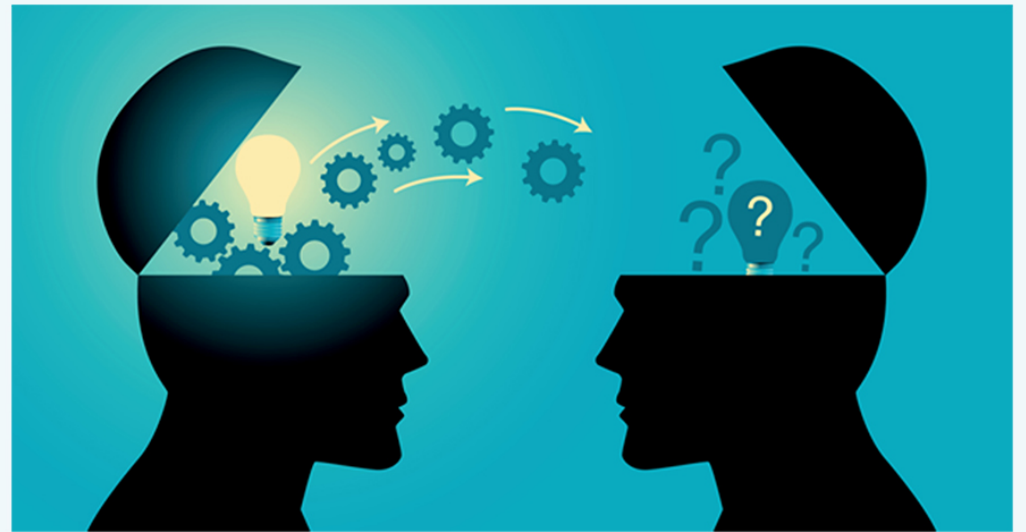


# The Power of The Written Word


‘The Story of My Life’ is the autobiography of a young woman, Hellen Keller, who was afflicted by complete blindness and deafness at a very young age. Surmounting immense difficulties in learning to read and write, she became a woman of extraordinary strength and resolution, accomplishing all her dreams. In the personal account of her life, Hellen Keller speaks about the lack of access to textbooks for the blind, as books in Braille weren’t available during her college days. Something as normal as college textbooks aren’t accessible by people who are blind. Taken in a broader perspective, books and writing- which form the pillars of the system of knowledge- are not as broadly disseminated as one might suppose..

Is there an inequality in access to knowledge? Even leaving the formal system of education out of this equation, taking only knowledge into consideration, the conclusion derived is startling. Something as basic as the written word is, in reality, a luxury and not a necessity. Ideas can shape people’s minds and change the course of their destinies. As Hellen Keller herself phrases it- “Knowledge is love




and light and vision.” Her detailed expression of her life, suffocating in darkness before she could understand and communicate with others, is a gripping, ‘eye-opening’ narrative. A world in which reading and writing is common for the privileged minority city people and first-world citizens- but is still a wingless dream for the majority- people in rural areas, the blind and deaf, and the differently abled.


Throughout history, dictators and despotic rulers have tried to control people by force, violence, power, and authority. But what has been overlooked is one of the most dangerous means by which people are kept in subjugation- shutting them in a prison of darkness, behind bars of illiteracy. Perhaps one reason why governments and authorities are reluctant to provide free and accessible



education is not due to fiscal or infrastructure constraints, but because they know that to have knowledge is to have power, and to have power is to change the world. Malala Yousafzai, the girl who was shot by the Taliban in her country for standing up for education, also expresses the same longing to learn, to be free-  
“Let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons.”



Will there ever come a day when every individual can share the words between their minds by the bridge of knowledge? Or are humans doomed to fumble, desperately trying to find a footing in the river of ignorance churning violently along? Who can be a bridge that takes people across to the other side? It is you and I.



Could knowledge be a tool deliberately being withheld from people? Is reading and writing an inequality purposely overlooked for vested interests? These are the questions that arise in context of this issue. There are already so many different types of inequalities, experienced by people across the globe, but it seems that even more exist. Imagine grasping in the dark, looking for something, but not knowing what light looks like. That is how it is for people who aren't able to learn, read, and access ideas.



Christalle Fernandes,  
TYBA Economics

# TRAVELOGUE ON LONAVALA



Lonavala city is one of the most beautiful retreats that take you away from the maddening rush of the metropolises located in the western part of India in the Pune district of Maharashtra. The Lonavala City is popularly called the “City of Caves’ ” and the “Jewel of Sahyadri”

There are days we pack our bags to set out for a trek or to visit a sunset point which is famous for its natural wonders, attractions, and historical sites, but did you know about these beautiful sites? The UNESCO department of St. Andrew's College went to three different locations. We often visit religious places or study different religions. One thing that they found in common with all the places was its serenity and its aura. The moment one enters a place of worship the mind automatically becomes calm.

We always wonder what could be the reason for this phenomenon, on meditating. It is the power of thoughts. Even the most hideous person, when visiting a religious place will have at least a fraction of pious thoughts, the collective effect of these thoughts created by the worshippers creates the aura in the environment of religious place bringing peace and serenity...



We started our journey at 6.30am from the college. For breakfast we stopped at the famous Lonavala food court. The first place they visited was Shree Narayani Dham Temple and Lounge. It is a spiritual retreat centre in Lonavala that also has a lounge with several rooms and dormitories and each room is well maintained.

It is also one of the most visited tourist spot at Tungarli. The second place we visited was the Dargah of Hazrat Qasim Shah Veli (RH) Sunni Muslim Jamat located in Lonavala on the way towards Pauna Dam. We were taught about the various ways to pray and were taken for a tour around the dargah. The third place we visited was the Auxilium Convent, Thombrewadi, Lonavla.



It was a school along with a convent and we were shown around the campus. In the evening we went to the Sunrise Point and enjoyed the street food there. Little did we know apart from the treks and various sites we missed on these beautiful places. You can visit it any time of the year but to see its true beauty, monsoons are the time to be at this hill station. Also never forget to buy Chikkis on your way back home!



-Pearl Dsouza, SYBA B

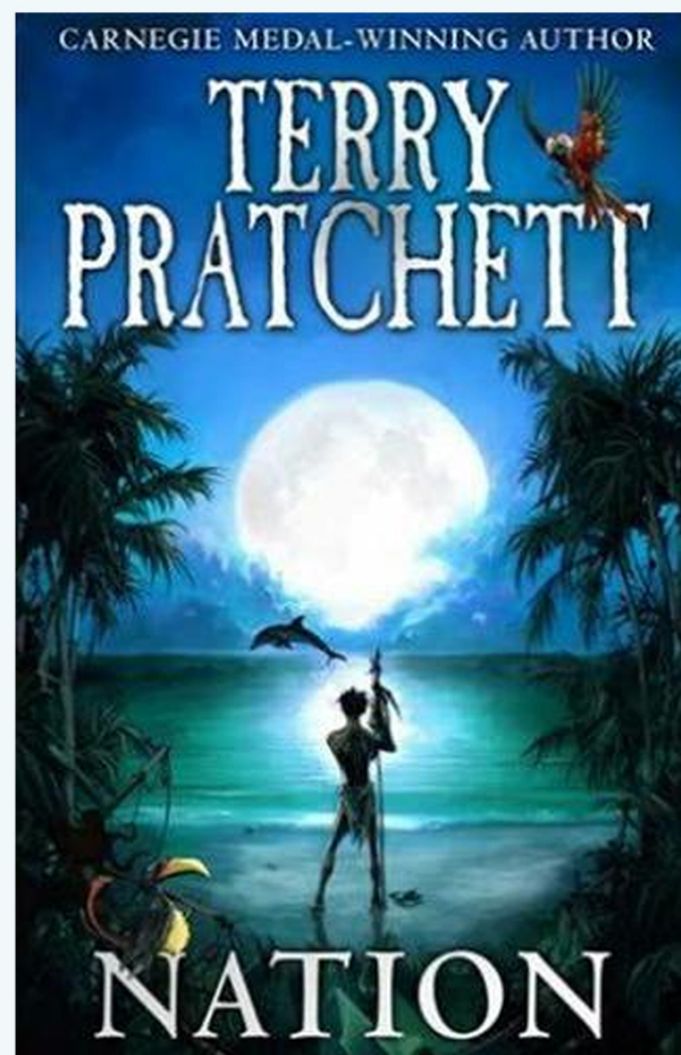
This article was in collaboration with Reuben Fernandes, TYBCOM A, head of the Andrean ECELL.

“On the day the world ends...”

Imagine if you woke up shipwrecked on a strange island...what would you do? As intimidating as it sounds, it can be one of the most magically unique experiences anyone can have. 'Nation' explores a world of wonder and new creations; it combines the truth of reality and the joy of fantasy, the traditional along with the birth of something new. It is a novel that questions our already existing constructs of religion, ideas of fate and forces you to recreate; reimagine.

Our story begins with two complete strangers who find themselves stranded on the beaches of the "Nation" as the indigenous people used to call it. Mau a survivor of a tsunami washes ashore to find everyone whom he loves has vanished. A boy set out through a rite of passage into earning his manhood, now searches for any sign of hope. He comes across the remains of "Sweet Judy" a British ship. Daphne finds shelter here, the lone survivor of the vessel. A girl who looks like a ghost with the most peculiar dressing sense. This story binds together two individuals with separate beliefs and cultural differences with the will to survive the harsh conditions on the island and off it. It is hard to protect yourself let alone someone else while defending your land from the neighbouring cannibals. This novel is packed with thrilling drama and written with humorous wit as it unfolds through the journey of a special friendship.

# NATION



Terry Pratchett best known for his "Discworld" series enjoyed incorporating comedy and fantasy in each of his books. He found "It is easier to bend the universe around the story." This novel does just that by introducing philosophical ideas through these characters in a fictional setting and sharing these ideas to a wider audience. However this book does include graphic descriptions of rituals for a more mature audiences, it introduces the afterlife in a very interesting and unique style. Either you can read it for the story or you can read it to change your perspective; you will certainly enjoy every turn this novel takes.

- David Jayaprakash

SYBA

# Featured Photograph



Brandon Lodrick  
SYBA

# Faith On Campus

The Faith on Campus Department of St Andrews College believes in preaching and celebrating the word of God amongst the hearts of the youth in the institution.

Founded on 7th September 2013, the department was initiated by Bishop Agnello Gracias, under the leadership of Fr. Aniceto Pereira. Professor Melanie Dsouza (then Andrade) was appointed to spearhead the activities of the Youth Group.

Faith on Campus is not just a youth group, but a welcoming platform for spiritual growth for the students, teachers and alumni of St Andrews College, Bandra

Pre COVID-19, before the entire world was shut down and brought to a standstill, Faith on Campus carried out its activities in their room, situated in the BMS department's building, also better known as - The Faith on Campus Centre the womb of true love! The building was allotted to the department on the 8th of October, 2019.

Adorations and prayer sessions were conducted in a gathering here in large numbers. The room also hosts the blessed sacrament and is exposed from time to time for students to come to spend some time in solace with our Lord, friend and saviour, Jesus Christ. Faith on Campus also conducts trips such as the Mahad Mission and makes the campus crib for Christmas every year.



Then came the lockdown and increased the distances among students, but it couldn't deter their love for God and their neighbour. Faith on Campus adapted to virtual gatherings on platforms such as Google Meet. In addition to many changes, it was now possible for Junior College students to also partake in Christ-centred praise and worship that was not possible earlier due to time constraints and scheduled lectures.

Faith on Campus organises meetings every Friday at 6 pm (IST) that includes many fun activities for the members of the youth group to bond upon. Charades, praise and worship, prayer chains are organised to boost the love and brotherhood amongst the members. Talks by religious teachers such as Deacon Ivan and Brother Victor helped raise spirits in uncertain times with healing words and powerful prayers. On the 23rd of December 2020, Faith on Campus organised the Christmas Jam on the official St Andrews College Instagram page to celebrate the joyous season with its members and students. The session hosted more than 325 people in the audience that participated in singing Christmas Carols and praising the word of God.

Some students even got out their creativity by playing various musical instruments that added to the joy of the occasion!

The feast of St Andrew, our patron saint was celebrated on the 30th of November. The department attended Holy Mass followed by an informative, personal and touching video on his life that inspired all gathered there to be more resilient

Brother Victor gave a talk on the topic of “Bounce Back Stronger” to help members of the community to cope and to find strength in God during these trying times. Members also set Spiritual goals on the 15th of January through prayers and actions that helped them grow in faith.

On October 9th 2020, Faith on Campus celebrated the Life of Carlo Acutis, who died of Leukaemia in 2006, aged 15 and has already been dubbed “The Patron Saint of the Internet” Each member spoke about his life and how it inspires them personally.

Jason Rodrigues (TYBMS), youth group leader of Faith on Campus acquaints us with one of the many heartfelt visions the core committee team and members underwent.

A vision or one may call it a message from God that appeared before Fr. Aniceto at a retreat session (pre-pandemic) encouraged the group to perform prayer ceremonies at every shrine in Bandra including Mount Mary’s Basilica. The prophecy declared the need for prayers of intercession for the people of the world.

He asserts, “We didn’t know what we were praying for before the pandemic. It didn’t make sense, but now it does”

The core team members include Jason Rodrigues (TYBMS), Elina Dsouza (TYBMS), Aaron Coutinho (TYBMS), Ian D’mello (TYBBI), Sarona Buthello (TYBBI), Nigel Dsouza (TYBMS) and Ryall Jacob (TYBA). Each member of the team is responsible for the subgroups within the community such as :



The musicians and singers are also known as “Celestial Beats” who coordinate the praise and worship/ jamming sessions.

“Helpers of Martha” provides service to other teams and outreaches.

Digital kergyma team - To make posters and post daily on social media platforms, upload on the FOC TV whether it be either a verse or a fact about the saint of the day.

Christus visit - planning and execution.

5) Art - Faith - Creative team /drama team /performances etc. One of the most powerful testimonies is by Rishabh, a proud member of Faith on Campus:



Rishabh – “The moment I received the invite and link for the meeting, I immediately made up my mind to attend it. Lately, I have been missing the spiritual essence of praying and contemplating God in the company of my friends from FOC, which I experienced from time to time before the pandemic induced lockdown. The presence of Prof. Melanie as our spiritual leader for the session added to my joy. Prof. Melanie is known for her calm and compassionate nature, and this was evident during the session. Throughout the session, Ma’am listened to our issues and gave her spiritual guidance to all the participants having doubts regarding the various aspects of their lives and faith. When I posed my doubt to ma’am, she guided me through my problem and even prayed for me at the end of the session. I’m grateful to the FOC team of our college for organising a pleasant and spiritual meeting under the esteemed guidance of our beloved Melanie Ma’am.”

Apart from no physical contact that involved gatherings and the inability to reach out more to preach the word of God, Faith on Campus stands strong to its mission. As a religious community of the youth, it does not let trying times hold them back. It is their welcoming nature to new members that can be held as a symbol of unity in the eyes of anyone who interacts with them that encourages personal growth with ourselves and as individuals with God. Faith on Campus does not charge any registration fee to join. However, there are two requirements: a kind heart full of fellowship and love and praise for the Almighty Lord!

Stephanie Cardoz,  
FYBA

This article was written in collaboration with Jason Rodrigues, leader of Faith on Campus.



# Recipe

## SHAHI TUKDA



Shahi Tukda is a classic royal dessert that originated from the Mughal era. History tells us that the Mughal emperors would eat this dessert for their Iftar meals during the holy month of Ramadan. Let's sweeten Iftar this year, with this traditional Mughal dessert.

### Ingredients:

For the Rabdi, you will need :  
250 ml of Full Cream Milk  
25 gms of Sugar  
¼ tsp of Cardamom Powder  
A few strands of Saffron

For the Sugar Syrup, you will need :  
60 gms of Sugar  
60 ml of Water  
A few strands of Saffron

And to serve this deliciousness, you will need :

2 slices of White Bread  
1 tbsp of Ghee  
5 gms of Almonds  
5 gms of Pistachios

### METHOD:

#### RABDI:

First, combine the milk and sugar in a heavy bottom pot. Once the milk is hot, add cardamom powder and saffron strands, while stirring the milk to prevent lumps. Reduce the mixture till thick. Make sure to scrape the bottom of the pot to avoid burning the mix.

#### SUGAR SYRUP:

Combine water and sugar in a pot and stir. Boil until the sugar has completely dissolved. Keep aside to cool.

#### ASSEMBLY:

Cut off the brown edges of the sliced bread and cut them into triangles. Fry the slices of bread in hot ghee till the bread turns golden brown and has reached the perfect level of crunch. Drench the slices of bread in the sugar syrup (as per your sweet tooth) coating both sides. On a plate, pour in ½ cup of the prepared Rabdi and place in the fried slices of bread. Garnish with chopped almonds and pistachios. DIG IN!

-Asher Dias TY Hospitality Studies

# All You Need To Know Photography

## Editing Skills

“Photography is all about light, composition and most importantly, emotion.” ~Larry Wilder.

In present times, with social media and the internet, photography is a skill that has been appreciated and recognized. With exceptional cameras and sublime camera phones, numerous individuals try their hand at photography and editing. So why not learn from one of our bests?! Brandon Pinto, the Head of our Photography Team, who has also been featured on NatGeo India has answered a few questions about Photo editing skills, giving us an insight to what it takes in learning this art.

What is the importance of photo editing and why is it necessary?

Photo editing is essential as it gives you a different perspective and also adds more beauty to the picture. It can make an ordinary picture look extraordinary. This skill can be helpful in many fields of work like food/catering businesses, real estate businesses and much more. One can try editing photos with their own style and give a new look to their image. It also gives you a power to make a simple landscape come alive.

What are the basics of photo editing an individual should keep in mind?

- Make sure the image is properly exposed before editing so that it looks presentable, not over or under exposed
- The image should be cropped well and it is essential to crop any negative spaces present. Straighten the image if required.
- While cropping a portrait shot, do not crop the legs or any body part as it does not look pleasing. If an individual wants an upper body portrait, he/she has to put his/her hands around the face to avoid the hands being cropped
- If you are shooting a portrait make sure there is enough head space (space over the head) as it looks appealing, if there isn't enough head space and the image is posted on Instagram, it appears like the head is severed.
- If you click a portrait image, adjust the aperture option to blur out the background.
- Play with the temperature tools (warm/cold). Warm tools give pictures a warm tone or warmth and cold tools contain cool colours. These tools can be useful while clicking a landscape or street photo

- Understand colour theory. While editing pictures, edit it in a colour theory and in accordance with the colour wheel. When you bring out the colour it shouldn't be as such to hurt people's eyes
- Adjust the exposure and contrast. Exposure settings are essential. If the picture is too dark, one can make it brighter with its help.
- Avoid over editing or going overboard with editing. If you want a warm or cold tone, do not take the slider till the end.
- If an image doesn't have much colour, it can be edited in black and white which will surprisingly look alluring.
- Some mobile phones contain certain modes and filters, with which one can edit their photos while clicking it but one should avoid clicking pictures with it and the changes should be done post editing, because if you already click a picture in a filter you cannot make any changes to it.
- Shooting a picture in the RAW format is preferable because in JPEG one cannot work well as it is compressed. (For DSLR Users)
- While editing an image in Lightroom, an option appears as Presets, if a colour is selected for example orange and teal, one can make some adjustments and save it as a preset. And if there's another picture similar to that, you can copy paste the edit to that picture and carry out minor adjustments. Presets are used by

Photographers to maintain a certain colour palette.

Which editing app/software do you suggest and why?

- For a beginner, Snapseed is one of the finest apps on mobile, that gives your photos a professional look, moreover it comes with tutorials.
- Apps like Snapseed, Photoshop, Lightroom, PicsArt and Toolwiz are easy and convenient to use on the phone.
- Several people use apps like PicsArt or VSCO to edit their photos and give it an aesthetic look.
- Instagram also has editing options before posting a picture and for those who don't want to work on an app and edit pictures fast, it is the best alternative.
- To keep track of a colour palette, an app called Colour Palette can come in handy to maintain it.
- An app named Preview, helps plan your post before you post your picture. One can curate and sort out an entire feed with its help.

Which are the different types of photography and the editing styles each one requires?

- For Wildlife and Nature photography, minimal editing is fine as it should look natural. Nature photos are better unedited, and one shouldn't overdo it so that it looks authentic. Make sure the exposure settings are precise, crop the image suitably and make a few minute colour changes if needed

- For Urban and Street photography, people like to give it a moody tone, with warm and cold tones according to the temperature and time of the shot .

- For Portraits, edit the pictures that give significance to the person's page and colours. Also some like retouching their portraits to give it a good look.



What online courses are helpful for beginners and how does it help an individual to learn the necessary skills?

For the start, YouTube has been very beneficial with their editing videos, it helps people explore their style and learn about basic adjustments from YouTube videos. Steadily it will develop your editing skills.

There are numerous courses on Udemy for photography and editing, besides you receive a certificate at the end of the course. The lessons are easy to learn and informative, with helpful and quick services. It is definitely one of the courses I would recommend

-Glynis Fernandes, FYBAMMC

This article was written in collaboration with Brandon Pinto, Head of the Photography Department.

## **Editor In Chief**

Rhea Dsouza

## **Assistant Editor**

Pearl Dsouza

## **Team of Editors**

David Jayaprakash

Stephanie Cardoz

Glynnis Fernandes

Jessica Dmello

## **Chief Designer**

Rhys Coutinho

## **Asst. Designer**

Malcum Benjamin

## **Follow Us:**



@standrewscollegemumbai



www.standrewscollege.ac.in

