

SOLACE BIWEEKLY

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Partner with NIT Goa's premier Literature & Drama Society. Reach our vibrant campus community through our biweekly newspaper, events, and digital platforms.

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GET OUT OF YOUR HOSTEL ROOM

OKTOBERFEST 2025

Goa's most awaited weekend is here — and it's hitting all the right notes. When "Sahiba", "Moh Moh Ke Dhaage" and "Replay" Come Alive — Oktoberfest Goa 2025 ...

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BEYOND THE MESS

About 11.8 km from campus, Bulito's is a cute little stop for anyone craving quick Italian bites. As the name hints...

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DIWALI 2025

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RETHINKING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Proponent: There was a time when conversations about mental health were fragile whispers, spoken behind closed doors. Today, they echo loudly across social media feeds...

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MOVIE REVIEW

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Beyond the performances, Oktoberfest brings together the best of Goan creativity — **local food pop-ups, flea markets, games**, and an atmosphere that feels like **summer never ended**.

Whether you're there for the music, the vibe, or just the joy of being part of something electric, **Oktoberfest Goa 2025** is where the season truly begins.

17 7-9th November 2025
D.B Ground, Panaji - Goa
#letgo #OKTOBERFESTGOA



BEYOND THE MESS



BULITO'S

About **11.8 km** from campus, **Bulito's** is a cute little stop for anyone craving quick Italian bites. As the name hints, they're especially known for their pizzas, making it a great pick when you want something warm, cheesy, and satisfying without going overboard on the bill.

With an average cost of **₹200-₹300** per person, it stays comfortably within a student budget.

Its location is another major win — just a 6 minutes ride from **Carmona Beach** and 7 minutes from **Cavelossim Beach** — making it the ideal food stop before or after a chill beach outing with friends.

Whether it's a quick bite, a relaxed evening, or just another reason to step out, Bulito's works perfectly for a casual pizza fix.

Sun, sand, and a slice in hand — that's the Bulito's plan.

* @SOLACE_NITGOA *

Get out of your Hostel Room

OKTOBERFEST 2025

Goa's most awaited weekend is here — and it's hitting all the right notes. When "**Sahiba**", "**Moh Moh Ke Dhaage**" and "**Replay**" Come Alive — **Oktoberfest Goa 2025** Awaits! As October rolls in, Goa is gearing up for a musical takeover like no other. **The DB Ground, Panaji** will come alive with rhythm, lights, and pure festive energy as Oktoberfest Goa 2025 makes its grand return.

The lineup promises a melody-filled weekend to remember — the soothing charm of "**Sahiba**", the timeless emotion of "**Moh Moh Ke Dhaage**", and the nostalgic global vibe of "**Replay**".

Three distinct sounds, one unforgettable stage.



WAVES'25 – MASQUERADE OF MAYHEM

Step into a world of mystery, glamour, and chaos as Waves returns with its boldest theme yet: "**Masquerade of Mayhem**." This year is extra special as THEY celebrate the **20th Anniversary of Waves**, marking two decades of unforgettable music, culture, and memories at **BITS Goa**. Get ready for three thrilling days of electrifying nights, dazzling performances, and competitions that keep the madness alive.

And the news is finally out — **Sunidhi Chauhan** and **Aditya Rikhari** are performing live this year!

Whether you're a performer, artist, or spectator, there's something for everyone at Waves. If you're looking to participate in any event, reach out to OUR respective college clubs — and don't forget to scan the QR code for the official Waves 2025 Rulebook for all the details.



17 31st October – 2nd November 2025

BITS PILANI GOA CAMPUS

★ 20 Years of Waves. One Legendary Celebration.



BE KIND TO
YOUR MIND

SPLIT VERDICT

RETHINKING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Proponent: There was a time when conversations about mental health were fragile whispers, spoken behind closed doors. Today, they echo loudly across social media feeds – dressed in pastel infographics and poetic affirmations. Yet beneath this newfound noise lies a quiet irony: what began as a call for compassion now risks becoming a performance of concern.

Proponent: The rise of mental health awareness was meant to heal, not to trend. But in the age of digital validation, even vulnerability has been commodified. Pain, once private, is now curated for applause. "Self-care" has been reduced to scented candles and hashtags, while the true work of wellness – therapy, discipline, and empathy – remains conveniently offscreen.

Psychologically, this creates a dangerous illusion of understanding. Words like anxiety and depression are tossed around carelessly, their meaning diluted. As Dr. Russ Harris notes in *The Happiness Trap*, misusing such terms erodes genuine self-awareness. Likewise, Dr. Anna Lembke in *Dopamine Nation* reveals how our craving for validation turns emotional sharing into a dopamine-fueled performance we perform pain, rather than process it.

Institutions too have joined the act. Corporations post about "mental health days" while glorifying overwork; schools host wellness drives even as students burn out under pressure. We talk more, but care no better. Awareness, in many ways, has become an aesthetic – comforting to display, uncomfortable to practice.

And amid this commercialization, empathy itself has been packaged and sold. As Jia Tolentino writes in *Trick Mirror*, self-awareness has turned into self-branding. The movement that once aimed to humanize struggle now too often flatters our social image instead.



Opponent: If mental health awareness were a mere trend, it would have disappeared by now. Yet it continues to grow, to educate, and to heal – quietly reshaping how society views the mind and its struggles. To call it fashionable is to overlook the courage, science, and sincerity behind it.

Opponent: Trends vanish when attention shifts, but the global conversation on mental health has only deepened. Schools now teach emotional literacy, workplaces speak of burnout, and governments across the world spend billions on awareness, counselling, and research. Such institutional change cannot be mistaken for a passing fancy.

Awareness, at its heart, is something to be glad about – a rare instance where society is choosing empathy over indifference. Yes, a few may misuse the movement or play the victim, but the exceptions do not define the essence. The misuse of compassion does not make compassion meaningless.

Mental health awareness has saved lives. It has encouraged people to seek help, to listen without judgment, to treat pain as real – even when invisible. That is not performance; that is progress. As understanding replaces stigma, humanity inches closer to genuine care.

Trends decorate the surface; movements transform the soul. Mental health awareness is not a passing topic – it is a quiet revolution teaching us to feel, to understand, and to heal. Trends disappear. Awareness endures.



MUNDRA'S MONEY MIND

Tax Evasion vs Tax Saving — The Fine Line That Separates the Smart from the Scammed



You've probably heard one of your uncles brag, "**Mere accountant ne sab set kar diya.**" But here's the thing – half of them are saving money, and the other half are saving themselves from jail time.

There's a razor-thin line between **being smart** with your money and being summoned by the **Income Tax Department**.

Tax evasion is illegal. It's when someone hides income, shows fake bills, or "forgets" to **declare cash**. It's like bunking a lecture and hoping the professor doesn't take attendance. Fun – until you get caught. Tax saving, on the other hand, is smart. It's knowing the system well enough to use it legally – **Sections 80C, 80D, HRA, ELSS**. That's like attending the lecture but sitting near the back row where the professor can't see your phone. Smart, not stupid. You're technically following the rules, and playing them to your advantage.

Using sections like 80C, 80D, or claiming HRA isn't cheating, it's planning. The government actually wants you to do this, because when you buy health insurance, invest in ELSS, or pay for education, you're not just saving tax – you're contributing to the economy in the **right way**.

So here's the truth:

Evasion is escaping the system.

Saving is mastering it.

One gets you tension. The other gets you returns.

Next week, let's dive into something most people only whisper about – how black money can legally turn white. Yeah, you read that right. Stay tuned.





HOW'S MY LIL TECHIE?

GPUs and Graphic Cards



As promised this time we're talking about **Graphic cards...**

First we need to understand what is a GPU and Graphics card. Contrary to popular belief, every Computer whether Smartphone or a **Laptop** contains a GPU, which is required to convert digital signals to human understandable graphics interface, Graphic card on the other side refers to a dedicated Chip which performs the same function as a GPU but is generally much **more powerful**.

Graphic cards are increasingly becoming more and more useful as they are a core components of **AI computation**, Block chain, Machine Learning, Crypto Mining and how can we forget their important role in **PC Gaming**.

Since we are discussing laptop components our main graphics card vendor will be **NVIDIA** (you can request a separate article for PCs), The decision to buy which GPU depends on your **budget** and **requirements**.

For a budget around 50k RTX 2050 is the only and the best option stepping up till 65k we can easily have the RTX 3050 on a discount and around 75k we can get a RTX 4050. 1 lakh onwards it's a waste to not buy a RTX 4060 and from 1.2 lakh onwards prefer an RTX 5060(as 4070s are out of stocks now)

For a bigger budget there is 1.8-2lakh for an RTX 5070 and above that you can get an RTX 5080 for around 3 lakh.

-Harshit vaidya

Pro Tip: if you still have more budget for a RTX 5090 laptop, just buy one Mac Book Air for portability and build and RTX 5080 desktop/PC , this will be both better and cheaper ;)

Word search

A word search, word find, word seek, word sleuth or mystery word puzzle is a word game that consists of the letters of words placed in a grid, which usually has a rectangular or square shape. The objective of this puzzle is to find and mark all the words hidden inside the box. The words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally

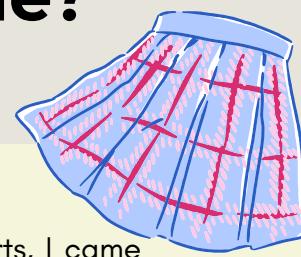
Q H A R M I N A R I B X F S P T
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A K Q U T U B M I N A R N P O S
Q A U E D K D G L U N H P V U E
Q A U E D K D G L U N H P V U E
Q A U E D K D G L U N H P V U E
H A M P I T A D I D O D I D M G
Q A U E D K D G L U N H P V U E
A K Q U T U B M I N A R N P O S
C H A R M I N A R I B X F S P T

**Ellora, Ajanta, Konark, Hampi,
Gateway, Charminar, Red Fort,
Qutub Minar, Taj Mahal, Khajuraho**

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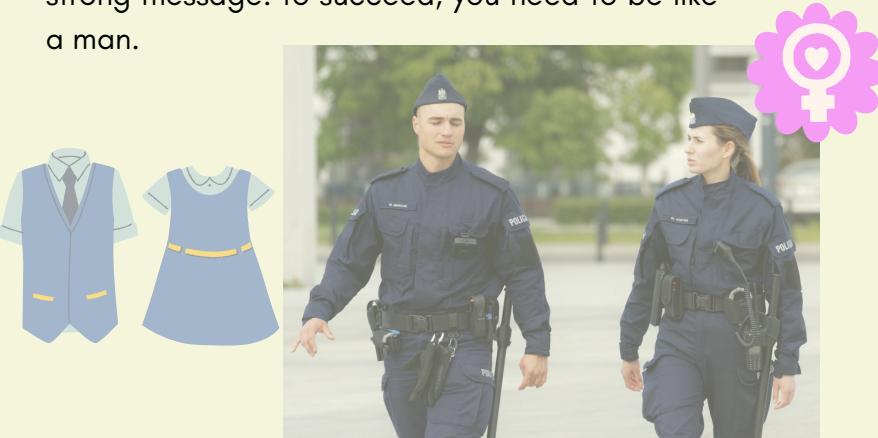
Does Equality Have a Dress Code?



One night while scrolling through shorts, I came across a video by one of the YouTubers, Keerthi History. She was talking about an incident in Kerala where schools introduced gender-neutral uniforms in order to reduce the gender gap. Many schools accepted this idea, and several women-empowering organisations also welcomed it, claiming it would help bridge inequality between boys and girls.

But what exactly was the "gender-neutral" uniform? It simply meant that girls were now required to wear shirts and pants. Keerthi then posed a simple but powerful question: Why not the other way? Why were boys not asked to wear skirts instead?

That really made me pause. Why is "neutral" almost always as moving towards what men already wear or do? Isn't it strange that, in the name of equality, we expect women to adapt to men's clothing, mannerisms, or roles, but rarely the other way around? It sends a subtle but strong message: to succeed, you need to be like a man.



This doesn't feel like true equality. Equality should not mean erasing femininity or treating it as secondary. It should mean equal opportunity, equal respect, and equal celebration of both femininity and masculinity. By enforcing only pants as "neutral," we are ignoring traditional expressions of femininity.

Of course, there's also another side: no doubt pants are more comfortable, practical, and safe for daily activities, especially for schoolchildren who are constantly moving around. It's understandable why pants might be chosen. But the important question remains—why is the idea of boys in skirts seen as laughable, while girls in pants are considered progressive?

Let me know what you think.



DIWALI 2025



The two-day Diwali celebration was a vibrant blend of culture, creativity, and festivity as Day 1 began with an engaging skit on Narakasura that beautifully portrayed the victory of good over evil, followed by an energetic dance performance that filled the atmosphere with excitement, and the night concluded with a lively DJ session where everyone danced and celebrated together, while



Day 2 showcased artistic talent through diya painting and rangoli competitions, leading into a colorful ramp walk that set the stage for the grand celebration of Chhath Pooja, marked by traditional ceremonies, a heartfelt speech on its significance, and graceful solo performances, followed by dynamic group dances that kept the audience enthralled, an enlightening and entertaining Ramleela that brought alive the spirit of Diwali, and the festivities concluded with a serene and divine Lakshmi Pooja, bringing two days of lights, devotion, and togetherness to a joyful end.



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OCTOBER SKY

October sky is a 1999 American Biographical drama film directed by Joe Johnston. It is based on the 1998 book "Rocket Boys" by Homer H. Hickam Jr, a coal miner's son who was inspired by the launch of Sputnik-I in 1957 to pursue rocketry, against his father's wishes, and construct his own rockets along with a few friends from school. Hickam eventually went on to work at NASA, training astronauts in the space shuttle program. The film is an emotional coming of age story of Homer's journey in rocketry, and his relationship with his father.

SYNOPSIS:

The film takes us to the coal mining town of Coalwood, West Virginia in 1957, when news of Sputnik-I, the Russian satellite reaches this place. Amongst the many people who spend the evening outdoors to watch Sputnik fly over them is Homer Hickam, the son of the manager at the local coal mine, who is spellbound by the little sphere of metal flying at a thousand miles per hour over his head. Aspiring to do something beyond mining coal, and wanting to see the world beyond his town, Homer teams up with his friends Quentin, Sherman O'Dell and Roy Lee to build a rocket. This is strictly against his father's wishes, who forbids him from rocketry within the mining company's property, and wishes for him to continue the family profession. The boys then venture out to a hill at the town's outskirts, dubbing the site "Cape Coalwood", and begin their rocketry enterprise, putting together a home-brewed launchpad and control centre.

From the hills of Appalachia, these boys reach out to the heavens, and the film chronicles their trajectory as they make their way through the October skies.

THOUGHTS:

October Sky is essentially a coming-of-age movie, with a large portion of the film's runtime focussed on Homer's relationship with his father; how initial disapproval slowly changes into acceptance and pride for his son's passions and achievements. The film isn't too technically focussed, but whatever little of physics and engineering portrayed in the movie is mostly accurate. Jake Gyllenhaal does an exceptional job as Homer Hickam, portraying a simple country boy from the Appalachian hills in West Virginia, portraying the innocence and the keen curiosity of a young mind with aplomb. The rest of the cast showcase brilliant performances too, especially Chris Cooper as John Hickam, Homer's father. The portrayal of the father isn't tyrannical or entirely villainous, for John is genuinely a good person, who cares for his workers and his family. While he doesn't agree with his son's aspirations at first, he is ready to change his views and truly accept his son's choices, helping him out in crucial moments and supporting him in achieving his dreams. Overall, October Sky is an inspiring and heartfelt story of a boy striving to achieve his dreams, and reaching out for the stars, with his feet firmly on the ground.

MOVIE REVIEW

JAKE GYLLENHAAL

LAURA DERN

OCTOBER SKY

NACH EINER WAHREN GESCHICHTE



CAST: (Principal characters)

- **Jake Gyllenhaal** as Homer Hickam
- **Chris Cooper** as John Hickam
- **Chris Owen** as Quentin Wilson
- **Laura Dern** as Miss Freida J. Riley
- **William Lee Scott** as Roy Lee Cooke
- **Chad Lindberg** as Sherman O'Dell
- **Natalie Canerday** as Elsie Hickam

WHERE TO WATCH:

The film is available to stream on **Netflix**.

Solace is proud to announce our upcoming event



SOLACE NIGHT LIVE

6TH NOVEMBER 2025

SAL HALL



THE COLLEGE GAME SHOW

THE 10 HEADS OF RAVAN



until Next Time...