

EDITOR'S SPEAK



Dear Readers,

Just when I was about to pen down this editorial, the news about Rahul Raj's encounter surfaced across television channels. It got me thinking. The saviours of public – the police have a lot on their shoulders when it comes to protecting the lives of a million citizens living in this city. Before leaving from home, they not only wear that khakhi uniform but also don a huge responsibility that will make or mar the state of affairs in the city.

We often crave for power, position and status. We fancy bigger offices, fatter pay cheques, and a commanding authority. But while we enjoy that endowed status by all means, do we even give a second thought to how much responsibility we might have to handle in return?

There's no dearth of power hungry people in this world. They have been found across parliaments, institutions, business enterprises, even in the confines of our own homes. CEOs of global investment banks and fortune 500 companies were entrusted with billions of dollars by countless investors in the hope that their hard earned fortunes were in safe hands! Senators were appointed Presidents in lieu of the thousand odd promises they had made to bring about revolutionary changes for their citizens. But has anyone lived up to their expectations?

As I account for these instances, I realise the magnitude of responsibilities I uphold as an editor for a tabloid. No matter how high a stature I'm granted with, if I don't have my fundamentals and definitions right, I cannot handle that position for long, even under the most favourable conditions.

As a journalist, I have the power as well as the supreme responsibility to influence minds of people through my writings. And if I don't do it right, so help me God! For I realise that with great powers come great responsibilities. And while Stan Lee might have made Spiderman acknowledge this principle, I secretly wish everyone in this world does it too.

So while this may be the first attempt to give you'll the best of my work, in support of the 12 members in my team, I would duly apologise for any errors that might have be made. I'd ask for your forgiveness as we as society would not want any more examples like Rahul Raj which stifle the very word - RESPONSIBILITY!

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Happy but not 'Gay'?

In a country like India, where talking about sex is still taboo, can we expect people to accept the gay community? Deepa Mishra finds out from the youth in the city if legalizing homosexual marriages is still a far-fetched question

Why should they be punished for living naturally? The gay community in India is fighting a legal battle to seek approval for gay marriages. Sooner or later this community may get this legal right but will it be socially acceptable?

Even someone as big on the stature as Prince of Rajpipla, Manavendra Singh Gohil, in Rajasthan, was abandoned by his family for admitting about his sexual preferences in public. Moreover, the so-called moral guardians breeding in different parts of India strongly opposed the legalization of gay marriages.

Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was introduced in the country during British rule of India. According to this code, homosexuality was declared 'unnatural' by colonial laws and was stated illegal. This section was imposed on the Indians when the illiterate masses were used to following official diktats without a word and the group that understood the laws chose to cowardly remain silent. Let's hear it from today's youth that fearlessly accepts the reality of this world, whether this law made then, should be prevailed in India of 2008.



"If the concept of gay marriages came across the minds of the law makers, it clearly means that the concept has been in existence since long. They acknowledge its present in the society and when you acknowledge something that does no harm to anyone else, I just don't understand how it got into the law-books as illegal. One can't call something a crime just because the lawmakers don't like it. It's all about consent between two individuals and how they feel about each other!"

NISHIKANT MISHRA, 21



"Indian society is not yet prepared to accept such relationship. Once it is legalized, such marriages will happen in large number. There has always been discrimination on several grounds in India and this will serve as another!"

DEEPAK MISHRA, 21



"Homosexuality has always existed! But because it was not socially accepted, it has been in unhealthy forms. Legalization will actually encourage people to engage in safe and legal relationships. Finally, it is as much as expression of love as heterosexual marriages, and hence must have all the social privileges that conventional marriages do!"

KOMAL PADIA, 22



"We live in 2009 and there is no place for discrimination in any way, shape or form. Two people in a loving and committed relationship deserve the support and dignity that comes with marriage. I look forward to the day when all people can marry the person they love. That will be a great day of achievement in India!"

FARAZ ANSARI, 21



"Let's face it gays in India are not treated well. Even if one says it's their life and they have right to marry and all, nobody wants to have gay child in the family. It's still considered abnormality according to Indian mentality!"

HRISHITA DAS, 19

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