the RUIAITE monthly

MOVING BEYOND PAPERS

THE EDITORIAL

Hello Ruiaites,

As you all know, the month of Love is here! February brings with it the dawn of spring, a breath of fresh love and a bag full of positivity. With the same love and positivity, the Ruiaite Monthly brings to you it's February Edition. We begin with Buzz Around as it briefs us about the Annual Budget of 2018. Behind The Scenes attempts to uncover everything that goes behind the news industry before it comes to us. Career Wise races us through some amazing career options in the world of racing. Op-Ed celebrates singlehood while Open Forum strives to cherish the love that we have for all sorts of things - right from Food to Reading! Insight invites articles from people of various fields and discusses love from a very different perspective. Tech-Tricked delves into the world of gaming and Science of Everything showcases some of our beloved Sci-fi themed shows. In tune with the vacation season around the corner, Safarnama pens down some of the budget-friendly destinations for travel lovers, thus reducing budget woes. Fictionally Yours takes us to the mystical lands of Kaikey, on a new journey of Mythological Fiction. Student's Corner has some beautiful poems in store for us while Art Wall is ready to bedazzle us with beautiful creations. Lastly, don't forget to go through the hip and happening events of the College, in our Reporting section. So that's about all that we have brought to you in the February Edition. The Ruiaite Monthly wishes you a happy reading and a rosy, loveable month ahead!

REPORTS

TILT SHIFT'18: Expect the Unexpected

The Annual BMM Festival of Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, TILT SHIFT edition 3 was conducted on 18th and 19th of January 2018. In the span of 2 days; Talent, Creativity and Love for films among the young adults were witnessed on a high note. Tilt Shift sponsored by SoFilmy club this year took the bars a little higher and challenged its participants by selecting a hatke theme, 'Paroxysin', combination of human emotions and sins.

Before the main event, the Tilt Shift committee in collaboration with 'Beach Please' organized a Beach Clean Up Drive on 7th January, 2018 at Dadar Beach which was a major success. As the tag line says #KuchHatke, this year the committee came up with a program called the 'Joy Of Giving' which was implemented in order to help the needy.

The festival started off with the opening ceremony on 18th January which later developed into an interactive session on Impact of Films on Society which was conducted by Vinod Ganatra.
We also had Ganesh Matkari on the panel who conducted another session on Film Appreciation.
The day continued with other amazing events including 'Dancellium', a dance event where participants were given a challenge to express the given sin/emotion which was judged by Vinay Khandelwal and Karishma Chavan. The other mega event for the day was 'Mic Some Noise', because we believe in freedom of voice and expression. The event was judged by Shlok Siddhant.

The second day of Tilt Shift'18 started with yet another session conducted by Rajdeepak Das, chief creative officer from Leo Burnett, who spoke about the world of advertising. The first event for the day was 'Scene Kya Hai?', a photography event which was followed by 'Cut the Crap', a video editing event. Later in the afternoon we had '#Unspoken' a writing event, and 'Cosmos' the fashion show event which was judged by the well known Dimple Paul, Vikas Verma and Moushumi Mitra.

The flagship final event of Tilt Shift, '60 Hour Film Project' was the most awaited one. The event was judged by a panel of well renowned Film Critics and Artists: Tanuj Virwani, Girish Narayandas, Amol Shetge, and Vinod Ganatra. Tilt Shift was a major success and the 2 day festival bid its loving audience adieu until next time.

Foundation Day Celebrations

A program was organised by the college on account of the Foundation Day of Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College on February 5th. The program began with a speech from Vice Principal Sucheta Ketkar about the foundation of Ruia college and also the formation of S. P. Mandali in Pune during the British Rule. Vice Principal Ketkar welcomed both the speakers and also gave them a token of love and thanks. The speakers for the program were Dr. Himani Chaukar and Dr. Sasikumar Menon who were going to speak about their research.
Dr. Himani Chaukar, the first speaker, spoke about the research that she had done on the 'Ziro' tribes in Arunachal Pradesh. She explained various features of these tribes with a wonderful presentation. "If I want to know about their culture, then I need to be a part of their culture," said Dr. Himani Chaukar while explaining the whole procedure of her research. Surprisingly, the religion of the Ziro tribes, Apatani and Nyishi, is called Donyipoloism (Donyi-Sun; polo-moon). Her research is based on their religion, their philosophy, environmental aspects, etc.
The second and last speaker for the day was Dr. Sasikumar Menon. He spoke in detail about his research on Avian vocalisation and human language. The main aim behind his research was to see how birds could have such a strong memory and wanted to see how this can help them in strengthening the memory of the humans. The seminar ended with Devyani Ma'am, the chief executive editor of Ruiaite Monthly e-Bulletin, thanking the audience for coming and the speakers for the wonderful seminars.

विष्णुशास्त्री चिपळूणकर स्मारक व्याख्यानमाला

दरवर्षीप्रमाणे रामनारायण रुईया महाविद्यालय, माटुंगा येथे दिनांक २३, २४ आणि २५ जानेवारी रोजी 'विष्णुशास्त्री चिपळूणकर स्मारक व्याख्यानमाला' पार पडली. १९७४ साली कविवर्य वसंत बापट यांच्या पुढाकाराने या व्याख्यानमालेचा पाया रोवला गेला. या व्याख्यानमालेचे यंदाचे ४५ वे वर्ष. दरवर्षीप्रमाणे यावर्षीही या व्याख्यानमालेस श्रोत्यांचा अगदी भरघोस प्रतिसाद लाभला. या तीन दिवसीय व्याख्यानमालेत मा. दत्ता देसाई, डॉ. उत्तरा सहस्त्रबुद्धे आणि प्रा. मीना गोखले या वक्त्यांची व्याख्याने झाली.

दिनांक २३ जानेवारी रोजी 'सोव्हिएत क्रांतीची शंभर वर्षे' या विषयावर बोलतांना मा. दत्ता देसाई म्हणाले की, "सोव्हिएत युनियन जरी कोसळले असले, तरी १९१७च्या सोव्हिएत क्रांतीमुळे अनेक मानवतावादी गोष्टी घडून आल्या. मतदानाचा अधिकार, मानवाधिकारांची चर्चा, स्त्रीवादी चळवळी, जगातील अनेक गुलाम राष्ट्रांचे स्वतंत्र होणे, जगभरात अनेक राष्ट्रांत लोकशाही राज्यपद्धतीचा अवलंब असे कितीतरी सकारात्मक बदल या क्रांतीनंतरच घडून आले आहेत." या क्रांतीने दिलेल्या मूल्यव्यवस्थेविषयी पुन्हा नव्याने तरुणांमध्ये भान निर्माण होऊन २१व्या शतकात नव्या व्यवस्थेची उभारणी होईल असा आशावादही त्यांनी व्यक्त केला.

दुसऱ्या दिवशी म्हणजेच दिनांक २४ जानेवारी रोजी डॉ. उत्तरा सहस्रबुद्धे यांनी स्थलांतरितांच्या प्रश्नांची यथायोग्य जाणीव आपल्या व्याख्यानातून उपस्थितांना करून दिली. स्थलांतर म्हणजे नेमकं काय, कोणकोणत्या कारणांनी माणसांचे स्थलांतर घडून येते, स्थलांतरितांच्या समस्या, स्थलांतरितांमुळे देशांमध्ये निर्माण होणारे प्रश्न विशेषतः अंतर्गत सुरक्षेचे प्रश्न इत्यादी विषयांना त्यांनी स्पर्श केला. प्रश्नोत्तरामध्ये रोहिंग्यांच्या प्रश्नांवर तसेच मुंबईतील स्थलांतरितांच्या प्रश्नांवर त्यांनी सविस्तर भाष्य केले.

दिनांक २५ जानेवारी रोजी विंदा करंदीकरांच्या जन्मशताब्दी वर्षाचे औचित्य साधून 'स्मरण विंदांचे...' या विषयावर प्रा. मीना गोखले यांचे व्याख्यान आयोजित करण्यात आले होते. प्रा. मीना गोखले यांनी विंदा करंदीकरांच्या कवितेचे विशेष उलगडून दाखवताना विंदांची वैचारिक भूमिका, त्यांच्या कवितेतील समग्रता यांचा वेध घेतला. विंदा करंदीकरांचे लघुनिबंध, समीक्षणात्मक लेखन यांचाही परामर्श त्यांनी आपल्या व्याख्यानात घेतला. 'उद्गार' या विंदा करंदीकरांच्या तशा अलक्षित राहिलेल्या भाषण संग्रहाकडे त्यांनी उपस्थितांचे विशेष लक्ष वेधले. रुईया महाविद्यालयाशी असलेले करंदीकरांचे नातेही त्यांनी उलगडून दाखवले.

विष्णुशास्त्री चिपळूणकर स्मारक व्याख्यानमालेच्या तिन्ही दिवसांचे प्रास्ताविक मराठी विभाग प्रमुख प्रा. लीना केदारे यांनी केले. मा. दत्ता देसाई यांचा परिचय अर्थशास्त्र विभागातील प्रा. पूजा ठाकूर यांनी केला. डॉ. उत्तर सहस्रबुद्धे यांचा परिचय राज्यशास्त्र विभागातील प्रा. गायत्री लेले यांनी केला तर प्रा. मीना गोखले यांचा परिचय मराठी विभागातील प्रा. शिल्पा नेवे यांनी करून दिला. या व्याख्यानमालेस महाविद्यालयाच्या उपप्राचार्य डॉ. सुचेता केतकर व डॉ. वैभवी पळसुले आवर्जून उपस्थित होत्या. डॉ. वैभवी पळसुले यांनी महाविद्यालयाच्यावतीने श्रोत्यांशी संवादही साधला. विदिशा कुलकर्णी, सायली कासारे आणि मयुरी धुमाळ या विद्यार्थ्यांनी विद्यार्थी मनोगत सादर केली. व्याख्यानमालेच्या आयोजनात मराठी विभागातील सहकारी प्रा. शिल्पा नेवे, प्रा. अनघा पेंडसे, माजी विद्यार्थी निलेश अडसूळ, मुकुंद पाबळे आणि ३० विद्यार्थी स्वयंसेवकांचे उत्तम सहकार्य लाभले.

BUDGETARY CHRONICLES

On the 1st of February, Mr. Arun Jaitley presented the union budget for year 2018-19. The focus points of the last full budget before the 2019 elections were agriculture strengthening, education, rural development, health, employment, & infrastructure goods.
Responding to the distress in the agriculture sector , the government has decided to increase minimum support prices. Also it has kept a Rs.2000 crore fund for agricultural market's development.
Another Rs.200 crores was allocated to support specialized cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.
The budget however did not live up to the expectations of the salaried class. There was no change in the individual tax payment slabs. Our finance minister announced a Rs.50,000 medical insurance for all senior citizens. For critical illnesses, the claim has been increased to Rs.1,00,000. This is reckoned to benefit about 50 crore of poor and vulnerable people.This was included in proposed National Health Protection Scheme which also has a coverage of Rs.5 lakh per family. This seems to have relieved senior citizens a bit.
The government's inability of satisfying everyone's wishes were largely due to its fiscal limitations.This year's fiscal deficit has gone over 3.2% over GDP which was supposed to be near 3% of GDP. Due to post GST issues it is likely to shoot up. Hence government has targeted a modest 3.3% mark for the financial year 2018-19.
22,000 rural huts are to be developed and upgraded into Gramin Agricultural Markets to protect the interests of 86% small and marginal farmers. Also the announcement of Ujjwala yojana & Saubhagya yojana will cater lower and rural class with 8 crore free gas connections and 4 crore free power connections respectively. Loans to women self help groups were made easier and were increased by Rs. 32,500 crores.
There was a slight increase in corporate and railway budget.The government has an aim of Digital India in mind.Railways is on its way to spend on big projects such as capacity addition and track expansion.
Disinvestment target is set at Rs.80,000 crore by Government.Also Government has promising targets in sectors such as tourism, Artificial Intelligence, etc.

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There was an substantial decrease in petrol prices but it was canceled out by a new tax on it by the Centre.
Many political and financial experts are criticizing the new budget to be '2019 election' minded. But nothing can be said unless and until there is efficient implementation of the promises made by the government.

Chinmay Parulekar

Simply put

who is JUSTICE LOYA?

Justice Loya (Brijgopal Harkishan Loya)served in a court in the CBI and died of cardiac attack on 1 December 2014 in Nagpur. He was working on the famous Soharabuddin case.
It all started from the caravan magazine's report published on Nov 20, 2017. The report raised the questions about circumstances of Justice Loya's death.
What exactly happened?

1. Justice Loya went to Nagpur to attend the marriage of one of his friend Sapna Joshi's daughter along with four other colleagues: Shrikant Kulkarni, SM Modak, VC Barde and Roopesh Rathi.
2. Initially Justice Loya was not interested at all to go, but two of his colleagues who went with him forced him to come and he agreed later.
3. Justice Loya called his wife on Nov 30, 2017 for the last time. On Dec 1st morning his sister received a call informing her that Justice Loya died due to a heart attack and that his body had to be taken to Latur for post mortem.
4. The colleagues who were with him said, "We were staying in Ravi Bhavan Nagpur and Justice Loya started feeling severe chest pain due to which we had taken him to Dande hospital in Nagpur in Auto and then doctors from Dande hospital referred him to Meditrina hospital Nagpur."
5. When they reached the Meditrina hospital, the doctors declared Justice Loya as "brought dead".

what were some alleged COVERUPS?

1. Judge Rathi who was with Justice Loya stated that ECG machine at Dande hospital was not working and due to some facilities not available there, the doctors asked them to take Justice Loya to Meditrina hospital.
Indian express : Indian express denied this fact and even published the ECG report taken in Dande hospital with wrong date and time (before that time itself justice Loya was dead) while his colleagues Rathi said that ECG was not working in Dande hospital.
2. The second question raised was that when Justice Loya was brought to Meditrina hospital, was he was dead or alive. There is a confusion here because the medico-legal certificate states that he was "brought dead" to the hospital, but the death summary states, "Emergency medication given, DC shock of 200 [unclear] was given multiple times, CPR continued, patient could not be revived"
3. The submitted documents include an Accidental Death Report registered at Nagpur's Sitabuldi police station, which has jurisdiction over Meditrina. In it, Loya's time and date of death is recorded as 6.15 am on "30/11/2014"—a day before he died. (This is the same discrepancy that appeared on the ECG chart.) Records from Meditrina show that he was declared dead at 6.15 am on "1/12/2014."
4. Loya's body was sent from Nagpur to his hometown Latur—rather than to Bombay, where he was living at the time—to be received by his family. Anuradha Biyani told The Caravan that a Latur resident named Ishwar Baheti, whom she identified as "an RSS worker," had approached the family to dissuade them from travelling to Nagpur and informed them that the body was on its way to them.
5. Baheti also returned Loya's mobile phone to the family several days after his death, with call records and messages erased. It has not been made clear as to how Baheti came to know about the details he did, or to possess Loya's mobile phone.
6. None of the four judges' statements submitted to the Supreme Court explain why Loya's name does not appear in the occupancy register of Ravi Bhawan, the guest house where he stayed in Nagpur.
Why his colleagues took him in an auto but not in an Ambulance is still unclear.

Indian Express : Justice loya was taken in Rupesh Rathi's car to the hospital not in the auto.

7. No one informed and took permission from Justice Loya's family before doing the post-mortem due to his untimely death also the family didn't receive the copy of "panchnama" of Loya's body.
Indian Express : That time seven colleagues of justice Loya were present at the place and they have asked to get the post mortem done.
8. In all the pages of post mortem report, there are sign of some cousin brother of justice Loya. His family is not aware of any such relative present with justice Loya at that time.
9. There are marks of blood on justice loya's left shoulder, back and on the collar of his shirt. There should not be any blood during the post mortem as heart and lungs don't work. Then why were the blood stains present?

Indian Express : On the basis of the information from some senior expert, they published that if the stitches during the post mortem get damaged somehow or are not proper then some blood can come out of the body

10. Indian express tried to defend some of the points raised by Caravan's report but not all of them.
11. Every time any journalist ask any question to Amit Shah about the Caravan's report he always gave the excuse of the Indian Express report and avoided the question.

UPDATES

The Supreme Court transferred to itself two petitions pending in the Bombay High Court demanding an independent probe into the death in 2014 of CBI special judge B H Loya.
The petitions will be heard along with two PILs filed in the Supreme Court, also demanding an independent probe, on February 2.
Let's hope justice will be delivered without further delay.

TOP IO NEWS

1]World Bank reports project India to be the world's fastest growing economy in 2018, surpassing China and reclaiming its position.

2]The Bhima-Koregaon issue takes an ugly turn, as the protests turn violent and the protesters take to streets of Mumbai. Heavy material losses as a result of stone pelting.

3]A gunman open fires in a nightclub in Istanbul, on the European coast of the Bosphorus, killing at least 39 people with an additional 69 wounded, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant claims responsibility for the attack.

4]Portugal's António Guterres begins his term as United Nations Secretary-General, replacing South Korea's Ban Ki-moon.
5]Bolivia, Ethiopia, Italy, Kazakhstan, and Sweden begin their terms on the United Nations Security Council, replacing Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain, and Venezuela.

6]A series of attacks kill at least 70 people and injures more than 100 others in mostly Shiite neighborhoods of Baghdad, Iraq.

7]The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announces the selection of two new Discovery Program space exploration missions: Lucy, a mission to several Jupiter trojan asteroids, and Psyche, a mission to the asteroid 16 Psyche, which is believed to be the exposed core of an early protoplanet. Both missions are scheduled for launch in the early 2020s.

8]Dr. K Sivan, who was instrumental in launching 104 satellites and developing the PSLV, was appointed as the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Research Centre, replacing AS Kiran Kumar.

9] Scientists classify the mesentery as an organ, making it the 79th human organ. It connects the intestines to the abdominal cavity, research is still underway.

10] Multiple bombings in Afghanistan occurred at government and tribal establishments during the renewed War in Afghanistan. The Taliban claimed responsibility for all but one of the attacks, which targeted a United Arab Emirates diplomatic mission. In total, at least 64 to 88 people were killed and at least 94 were wounded.

Quote

"Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

tweet

Rahul Gandhi's huglomacy jibe-

PM Modi should not hug just the privileged but also the farmers, labourers and soldiers of the country

CAREERWISE

Racing is increasingly popular among the general public which allows several viable career avenues within this field for the youth. If you like living life on the fast track, here are some cool careers that involve hot wheels!

Race Engineer

Who is the brain behind those marvellous and high-powered engines? T**he Race engineer of course!**
It is the most envied and popular job in the race industry, second only to the driver! By definition, a race engineer is a motorsport team member whose role is to communicate with the data analyst and the mechanics to determine the changes that need to be made to the vehicle. Off the race track, the race engineer analyzes historical data to calculate the initial set up for the next race event.

He is the primary link of command between the driver and his team. The race engineer decides what kind of tyres or fuel or engine parts have to be tested and also preps the driver before the race. Even during the race, it is the race engineer that gives the driver the additional information required for him to perform his best. Apart from the technical knowledge, a race engineer should have appropriate media and management skills to appeal to the glamorous side of the racing world. More than theoretical knowledge, he needs to have a practical approach and be ready for experimentations.

It's a very demanding career that requires long and stressful hours but you can test and do the dirty work yourself all the while enjoying the media glamour. So, of all things, cars get your heart to beat faster, then it is the perfect option for you.

Educational qualification: An Engineering degree with specialisation in Aerodynamics, vehicle dynamics, systems engineering, applied mathematics, and management skills. Experience is very important too.

Race Car Driver

Motorsports in India is controlled by a central body called The Federation of Motor Sports Club of India. Another association is called the **Motorsports Association of India (MIA)** which is a member of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) in India.

There are several types of Motor Sports events conducted by the Clubs in India. They are Circuit Racing, Rally, Motocross / Supercross, SuperMoto, Hill Climb, Dirt Track Racing, Drag Meet, Motor Gymkhana, Autocross, Karting and so on.

- A driver needs to be over 18 years of age and in possession of a valid driving license for on-road events like rallies. However, for Off Road / Circuit Racing events, a license may be issued to a competitor under 18 years, but not below 15 years, on the basis of a strong recommendation from their Club / Team. However, for 2 wheeler unmodified class (Group D) up to 135 cc, for mopeds, the minimum age is 13 years. For Karting license, the minimum age is 8 years. In addition to this, the driver may also go through the following formalities.
- He needs an FMSCI Competition License which will be issued by the FMSCI only.
- An application form for the Licence and Medical Certificate Forms.
- Complete the forms in all respects and send the same to your Club or to the FMSCI directly with all necessary enclosures and the necessary fees.

Technical Inspector

Racing is definitely a fascinating career option for the people interested in cars and driving. But one can be a part of racing even when they don't know how to drive! One such person is a Technical inspector.
A technical inspector is also known as the Race official.
This position officiates the race event by inspecting vehicles and directing competitors towards the proper procedures for participating in race events.

Essential duties and responsibilities include the following - (Other duties may be assigned.)

Work with the team of technical inspectors to verify compliance on race cars.
Work on one or more assigned inspection station(s) for preliminary through post-race inspection, ensuring competitors follow the company's standards.
Conducting a post-race inspection at R&D Center as requested.
Assist with traffic control, crowd control and credential verification.
Handle issues appropriately in garage and pit areas.
Assist in pre and post work day operations including assembly and disassembly of inspection equipment.
Unload and load haulers, as requested.
Assist with transportation of vehicles, as requested.
Understand, communicate, and enforce the company's race procedure rules.
Successfully pass Pit Road Official Exam.
Officiate race on pit road or in other locations using applicable technology.
Maintain knowledge of all pit road rules and penalties.
Implement / apply the appropriate pit road practice / qualifying procedures / race procedures in a consistent, timely and professional manner.
Establish and maintain proper communications with the assigned crew chief(s) and / or Race Control as required.
Properly execute and confirm any directive from Race Control.
Competent use of standard technology such as keyboard, mouse, windows-type applications, etc.
Display willingness and ability to learn new software programs created for race officiating.
Use the Mobile Inspection Application to perform all pre-Event vehicle inspections to ensure compliance with rules for competition.
Maintain equipment to avoid damage and ensure that hardware is properly stored for use at future events in accordance with the company's Mobile Inspection Training curriculum.
Perform duties in a timely and authoritative manner while portraying a professional image.
Competent understanding of radio use, procedures and etiquette.
Responsible for securing equipment (e.g. tape measure, binoculars, watch, flags, radios) for duties assigned and for performing routine checks on same.
Attend meetings and educational seminars. Assist Research & Development personnel, as requested (i.e. Roamer arm help, or help with any race equipment that has been impounded for further evaluation).
Perform other duties as assigned. Approximate travel 90%.

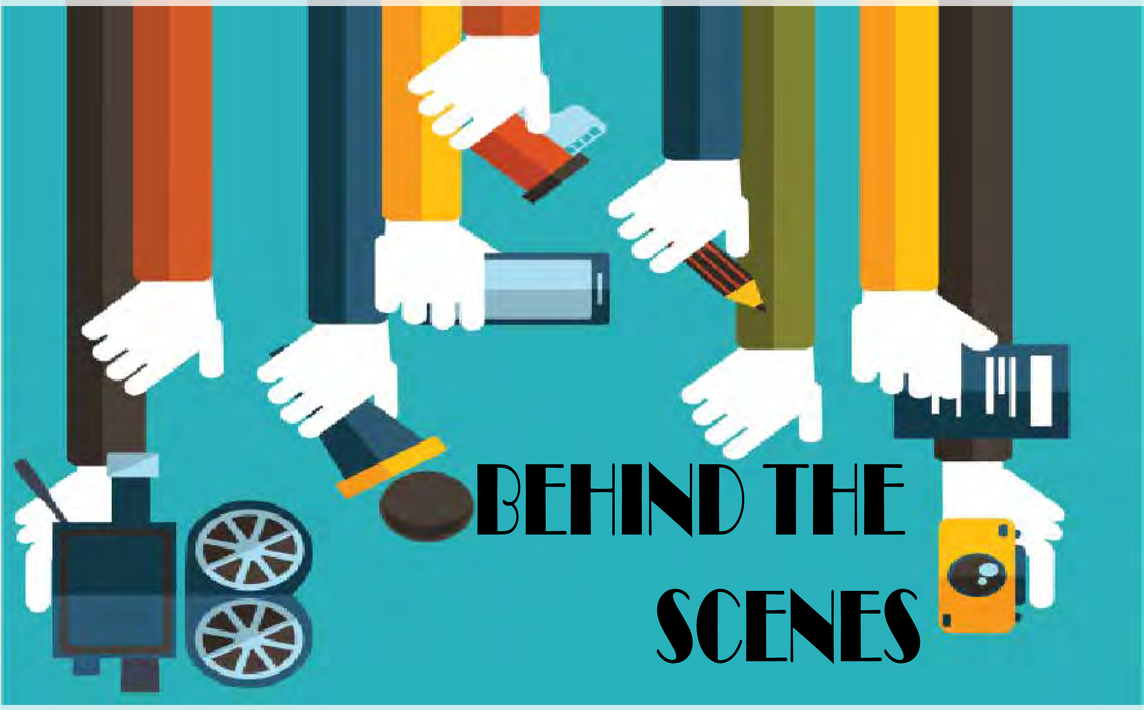
Qualifications required are a high school diploma or general education degree (GED); or one to three years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Jobs are available at various automobile companies within India and outside as well. In North America many jobs with high scale salaries are available.
The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc. (NASCAR) is the sanctioning body for the No. 1 form of motorsports in the United States. NASCAR consists of three national series (Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series™, NASCAR XFINITY Series™, and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series™), four regional series, one local grassroots series and three international series. NASCAR is a company driven by technology and innovation, both of which are central to competition and are at the core of our sport.
So automobile engineers have a lot of scope in this field.

Career as a pit crew

If you are a curious hi-performance fan and love thrill in your workplace, then being a member of the pit crew is an ideal career for you. A member of a pit crew supports the racer at key intervals and also sees to it that there is no room for error during the high intensity maintenance run during which the car is fuelled, jacked up into the air, and tires are changed from all 4 positions. The pit crew's precision and time management is very essential for the safety of the driver and his performance. A proper training of skill and drive is needed to begin a career in this field.

The knowledge about the automobiles is the base to the future in the field. So, one must learn the basic structure and repairing of the cars. If you wish to work as a professional pit crew member, you can enroll in the training schools set up all around the world. This is incredibly physically demanding, so one must improve their stamina and endurance with the right physical exercises and diet from the very beginning. You can start the career with many stock racing leagues and NASCAR teams. The career has a slow start but if you are efficient enough you can race up to the top posts in top teams.



NEWSLESS INFORMATION

"Journalism is the first rough draft of history".
– Philip L. Graham, former President of the Washington Post

To make the first draft of history trustworthy, the media needs to remember that it's their job to show people the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. These days several news media portals show what they want to show us and not the whole story. It is the media's responsibility to show us the unbiased news and then it is our job to form an opinion. But now we have started consuming opinions of these news portals as our news. Eventually we choose the channel or the newspaper which supports our opinion or get completely disconnected from the news. This is dangerous.

Everyone has come across platforms that convey news through humorous or sarcastic means, making use of ironic news - both real and not, to make a point. It is hilarious when comedians do it but a very serious matter when professional news mediums do the same. Fake news is not only a national issue but an international phenomenon. While fake news might be a result of negligent reporting, it most often is a deliberate attempt to spread misinformation and hoaxes through newspapers, television and social media. There are various reasons for this- ranging from an attempt to raise viewership and ratings to intentional slander from a political point of view.

Fake news has long since stopped being just a social problem and has turned into a business. In the mid 2016, a stream of false news was found, all from websites originating in Veles, Macedonia; a small eastern European town. Taking advantage of the frenzy around the US Presidential elections, teenagers and school children had taken to posting news articles copied from American news websites and gave them sensational headlines, even writing fictional articles and then paid Facebook to put up ads, earning thousands in return through online sharing and internet click revenue. Over a 100 such websites were found.

Mainstream media such as reputed newspapers and channels reporting fake news is bad enough but it's worse when propagation happens through mediums like Whatsapp where anyone can post anything with zero accountability. The original poster's anonymity, the impossibility of verifying the nature of content, coupled with blind forwarding causes rumours to spread at an alarming rate. The phenomenon of fake news has blown up as social media has gained momentum. You might have read, heard or believed news like 'UNESCO declares

Jana Gana Mana as the best national anthem' or 'New 2000/- note has a Nano chip' and by now realized that these are some of the most forwarded fake news stories. False articles like these are steadily multiplying in number as people try to gain likes and follows and resort to 'click baiting'. Navigating this tsunami of news, trying to differentiate between truth and lies is a very difficult task.

At best fake news results in misinformation and at worst in rumours and panic. This onslaught of fake news undermines serious news coverage and makes it hard to factually cover any issue. Social media rushes to talk about sensational mainstream media stories and mainstream media reports stories from social media without verification until we are stuck in a never ending cycle of misinformation. A way to not fall prey to this fake news is checking whether the news is from authentic sources and not forwarding it until you know and believe them.

Promotions can help you go a long way. For politicians, especially during elections and for businessmen, advertisements in media are extremely important. But apart from these advertisements the trend of paying for the fake news (or partially true news) is increasing. This makes us question the agendas of news channels and newspapers.

Some of them have turned into propaganda oriented chatterboxes. This isn't done just by politicians as mentioned before, but even popular business tycoons frequently sponsor media channels, to help boost their stand on issues and divert the attention to smaller and trivial things, thus exaggerating topics that didn't even exist and subtly altering our psychologies into believing in their conjured stories and ultimately forgetting what the truth is. They manage to completely brainwash the common folks.

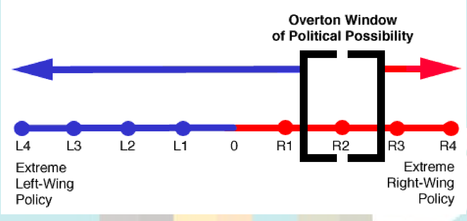
One more problem with today's news channels is increasing culture of breaking news. Everyone wants to be the 1st on the scene to cover anything that's happening now. 24 hour news networks need to fill all the time, so stories that aren't important enough also become the breaking news. In the rush to publish it as early as possible, checking the facts becomes secondary and that is toxic to the society. Even though it is entertaining and exciting at times, it creates a panic amongst the citizens.

We, the people who provide and consume news, have lost the ability to decide the amount of importance given to particular news. This gets worse when a specific kind of news is overshadowed by the other. Unfortunately an actor's personal life is sometimes more important for us to know about than a scientific invention. Also, in today's time when there's so much of fake and paid news, it is easy for us, as citizens to get distracted from the main important issues. We, as responsible citizens should be aware about the sources from which we consume our news. In India apart from a few newspapers and news channels, online portals like ALT news or The Wire are reliable sources.

In this age of endless information, there are positive as well as negative impacts of media. We stay connected to the world through it. We get to know the "live" happenings in the world. Also, there are promotions of activities that are good for the society. The media is playing an important role in changing people's everyday lives. The radio, television, newspapers and now the Internet are influencing an individual's perspective towards day to day happenings. They play a fundamental role in developing what kind of ethics, principles and ideas people of the nation will be having.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Overton window



Imagine you have a job and now you have to run a new project there. So should you: i) pitch in an unthinkable or extremely optimal project idea (taking a lot of money and time for your project); or ii) advocate a smaller, more realistic, but suboptimal project idea. Well, Joseph Overton contended that pushing for extreme ideas is more effective. Though this remains an open and empirical question, it depends on the specific case being examined.

Joseph P. Overton, a libertarian think tanker developed the concept in mid 1990's. The Overton Window refers to the range of policies on any given issue that are, at that moment, popular enough for a politician to campaign on successfully. Everything inside the window is normal and expected, while everything outside the window is radical, ridiculous, or unthinkable. Overton argued that the easiest way to move that window was to force people to consider ideas at the extremes, as far away from the window as possible. This would make less extreme ideas seem acceptable by comparison thus moving the "window" slowly in that direction. Trump and his team talks and creates extremely unthinkable policies. People may not accept the policy but they surely get used to the idea of it and anything that is less unacceptable than that gets accepted. These efforts push the normal of overtone window to the right side and would make radical ideas look more normal, nudging them into the "acceptable" category, and eventually making them politically viable.

INSIGHT

The language of love

Love is often characterized by extreme emotions and feelings experienced by oneself and other beings. The inexperienced seem to make suggestions on grasping its essence whereas the ones already been through trials of love, are still struggling to comprehend its nature. And, love still remains an enigma, a mystical experience. But, each one of us through one's own means and devices; be it a scientist experimenting or a mathematician deriving through assumptions or an economist discarding the exceptions or a sportsman chasing the finish line, has attempted to speak its language.

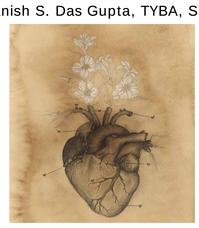
A cricketer says,

प्रेम ही संकल्पना मल्या लोकांना समजतताना तोंडचं पाणी पळालं पण एखादी हवी तशी किंवा आपल्या मनाला पटेल अशी संकल्पना देणं कोणालाच जमलेलं नाही . माझ्या मते प्रेम हे क्रिकेटशी फार जास्त मिळतं जुळतं आहे . म्हणजे बघा ना, एखाद्या क्रिकेटरच्या form सारखं असतं प्रेम; फॉर्म काही वस्तू नाहीये, एक मनस्थिती आहे. मग ती positive असेल किंवा negative . जर पोसिटीव्ह असेल तर त्या बॅट्समनला शॉन बॉर्ड सुद्धा out करू शकत नाही आणि जर खराब असेल तर त्या bowler ला शेवटचा बॅट्समन सुद्धा सहा six लावून जातो . प्रेम सुद्धा असंच की , मनस्थिती जर चांगली असेल तर ते प्रेम आणि वाईट असेल तर एकतर्फी प्रेम. त्या सोडाहूना तर बाहतं आपण चांगलं करतोय पारखीमी, पण होत तर तसं काहीच नाही. आपण प्रेमाला bowler म्हा यॉर्कर ची सुद्धा उपमा देऊ शकतो- बरोबर बसला तर 'विकेट' आणि चुकला तर 'इंतिकॉन्टर शॉट' आहेच.

-Siddhesh Patil FYBA(A)

A mathematician says,
When thinking of love, definitely Maths isn't the first thing that comes to one's mind. Actually it's not even considerable. But it depends on one's perspective. For me, true love will end when the digits of transcendental numbers will stop to recur. When π (Pi) or ' e ' will converge to infinity, my love will stop.
While proposing to someone, I would rather say, "x infinity, where x is my love towards u." But seeing out mathematically, X can't tend to infinity. It's always the limiting case which tends to infinity, i.e Lim x infinity. But I don't want to limit my love towards you. Lim x will always be a real number (if differentiable). But my love is infinity and not tending to infinity.
Let's compare love with graphs of e^x. They both are bijective functions with reference to their domains and co - domains . Just like true love, differentiate e^x infinite times. It wouldn't change , like true love. Similarly, there are differences in love as well. Integrating both love and e^x will find that it may have a lot of value. Or even 0, which may sometimes result in differences. Just like true love, e^x is an exponentially increasing curve tending towards infinity. First you are an acquaintance, then friends, then close friends, then love mates and so on....which is just the graph of e^x. Also both of them will never become 0 in realistic case.
Let's say love mates are like trigonometric functions, where one partner is sin^2 x and other is cos^2 x. They both individually may not have any significance but when added together, they will result into 1.
At the end for me, love is a function which divides problems, adds happiness and fun, subtracts tension and stress, and multiples smiles.
- Ishan Jain, F. E. , K. J. Somaiya Autonomous College

A philosopher says,
To quote Oscar Wilde, "To define is to limit." So how can I define love, or describe it? It can be the cosmos and yet be nothing. So, let's call this a paradoxical understanding, where we try to understand love from the philosophical point of view, but at the same time are aware that love may not be defined.
Philosophy is vast, from the time mankind has started to think and up until we are annihilated, it will exist. If we look back, God has always been a source of love - to love God has been a duty, and one of utmost importance. If we move ahead, we see meanings of love changing and the sources of it as well. From having a duty to love, we have come to the understanding that we 'choose' to love, and I feel that is what seems to be important now. We like to believe that we 'fall' in love, but Sartre said "men are condemned to be free", and to not choose is also to choose. So the very idea of 'falling' in love can be a gimmick, where in reality we are choosing to love, and to not love. Drawing from Kierkegaard, things can be in actuality or in principles, and which dominates what can be grey, because a main theme of Kierkegaard's philosophy is knowing the self. And to love oneself just for the sake of it is despair, where despair equals to lack of self-awareness or self-consciousness. So in actuality if you want to self-love, be aware of who you are; that process is never-ending but it is the process that will make you fall in love. It is important that you start your journey towards choosing to love someone by first being self-aware. For Kierkegaard notes, "Love discovers truths about individuals that others cannot see".
Love has always been a constant theme, for where there has been violence, love has always existed. One might also be inclined towards believing that love and hate are co-dependent. And yet, we have the choice to go towards either end of the spectrum.
To end- is only love as a feeling enough in itself? No, for you can love and get tired and love again. Love does not happen once, but many times and each time in different ways. It may be the "greatest of human blessings" according to Plato, but in respect and understanding lies the foundation for it to flourish. As Orwell says "One does not want to be loved, so much as to be understood."
-Manish S. Das Gupta, TYBA, SIES



A chemist says,
A boy and a girl knew each other for years, but when he told her that he loved her, there was no reaction. That was a chemistry joke, believe it or not. Hilarious!
But jokes apart, it is an undeniable fact that chemistry between partners is an important factor in any relationship. How exactly that works, is different in each case, but it is statistically proven, that a majority of estranged couples named "non-compatibility" or "lack of chemistry" as the reason for their split.
Love does work in mysterious ways, and it also actually affects the chemistry of our body! People in love tend to have more endorphins in their system. Meaning- they are happier more frequently and for longer periods than others. Your heart pounds so hard that you almost think it can be heard by the world, and the blood is diverted away from your non-vital organs like your stomach so you may suffer with that familiar, "butterflies-in-tummy" feeling! Waxing more poetic about love, it creates quite the cocktail of hormones in our bodies, and can actually leave us addicted - that's right, addicted to love! And as in the case of any addiction, its withdrawal causes the body to react (Chemistry Joke Alert) negatively in the absence of love - it's a feeling most of us young adults know about - "lovesickness".
So you see, love is actually quite complex scientifically! The question is, how will each of us react to this puzzle we call "love"?
Love is a hurricane that fills up the entire sky,
Love doesn't ask 'how', or 'when' or 'why'.
Only leaves behind a fleeting smile and a hopeful sigh,
And a promise, that it shall never die.
-Varad Modak , TYBSc

An economist says,
The economist is a lazy creature. There are only so many arguments in her utility function: books, stationary, and some good food. Equipped with these and a holy staff of mathematical equations, she traverses the realm of ideas. But then, one fine bright morning, this-worldly matter invades her mind. Though this-worldly matter has the power to take her imagination to other-worldly spaces. The Economist falls in love. Her utility function has expanded. Love plunges her into a perpetual disequilibrium. The equilibria attained over years of placing the mind in a mathematical straitjacket are all lost. This idea is rather new to her; she can't quite explain it within the theoretical frameworks of her discipline, but has become so used to applying reason! Then she sees the obvious: as in theory, so in practice, there's competition. She can figure out the mechanisms of the competitive market at the back of her hand. She figures that here, she is facing a severe asymmetry of information relative to her competitors. They seem to know the tricks of the trade, while she wonders what one does at a date. Her choice set is well specified: approach him or admire him from afar. But what if he is repulsed by her, what if he does not rank her as high in his preference ordering as she ranks him? What if she disappoints him? Well, she thinks, might as well just go check with Nash. She does what she knows best: specifies a game to decide whether to approach him or to let him go.
But none of this theory actually works?
-Arnav Deshpande, SYBA

OPED

"VALENTINES AND SINGLES AWARENESS DAY."

The month celebrating the feeling of love has arrived and so has the worst week in the lives of all singles out there. History has proved time and again that whenever there is suffering , it is followed by a revolution. The major revolution in the history of singles is none other than the celebration of Single's day. This month, OP-ED has dedicated its space to celebrate the antonym to Valentine's day and bring to light some of the grave issues concerning singles. All in all, we're serving a platter for singles to feast on. Enjoy!

SINGLISM CHASING SINGLEHOOD

February is here with its alluring charm and excitement spreading the message of love. Everyone is busy talking about the day of 'love' and giving some others an intense 'fear of missing out'.

So, the singles take it up as their mission to mock the lovebirds and the hype around it. Finally, someone came up with 'Singles Awareness Day' (To be honest, everybody saw it coming!) to overcome the cruel reminder of their singlehood. Some celebrate it on February 14th as a humorous Anti-Valentine's Day, while some others celebrate it the next day, as it is like its abbreviation, too S.A.D.

Yet singlehood comes with its lovely set of disadvantages. It wouldn't harm much to expand the purpose of this day and bring to light the discrimination faced by singles in a society geared towards marriage and kids. On several occasions, housing societies have made the news for disallowing homeowners from renting their properties to bachelors, who're labeled to be noisy, alcoholics and fight-pickers. At the workplace, singles are expected to cover for married individuals under the assumption that they don't have to be home early because they don't have a family (as if they were born in air). Discrimination extends even to salaries paid.

Statistical data reveals that married men earn approximately 26 percent more than single men, resulting from the additional package and incentive offers for those who have families to run (now do we even feed on air?). In the US, marital status is the basis for all the perks and privileges. For instance, if a married person dies, the social security benefits go to the spouse, but that of singles go back into the system. This was the major argument put forth by the LGBTQ community for an official marriage status. This discrimination, stereotyping and stigmatization against singles is termed as Singlism.

The blatant forms of prejudices against singles are deeply rooted in the way they are viewed by other people. Bella DePaulo, a 60-year-old single social scientist has debunked several myths about singles in her book 'Singled out'. So, apparently single men are horny, fastidious, sex perpetrators or gay and single women's work won't love them back and their eggs will dry up. Singles are self-centered, lonely and distraught, only looking to get coupled; they've no life because they don't have a family and that they'll grow old alone and die alone in a room, with no one finding out for weeks. This sounds like a fictional story. Yet, most of such stories are centered around 'non-single population' of society. (Long live oh singles)!

All in all, people are happier and better off when they're married. In spite of this, varied psychological studies have proven how these attitudes of people make little difference to the self-perceptions of singles and how they continue to thrive as human beings. They've shown that there's a negligible difference between overall life satisfaction of married individuals and singles.

It's evident from the way people introduce themselves to others, that relationship status forms a huge part of their identity and consequently gives the other 'chaar log' criteria for judgment. All of the above point to people's bias favoring relationship status as a basis for happiness and predictor of significant qualities possessed by a person. DePaulo proposes that Singlism and Matrimania are an outgrowth of cultural insecurities. Although matrimony or relationship status necessarily pertains to the personal life of an individual, cultural and societal norms have always reinforced it as not being the person's choice at all. Especially in the Indian society, one is much more likely to get married because 'they have to' and not because 'they would like to'. As a result, people who choose not to get married or even be in a relationship don't find easy acceptance. Only when this freedom to make decisions about one's personal life is realized and respected by others, can we move beyond this form of discrimination.

A LOVELY HYPE

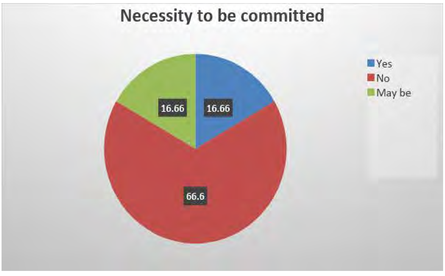
Walking around any public place in the first half of February as a single person is nothing short of a nightmare. Your vision is bombarded with every surface bleeding red. You are reminded of your eternal singlehood at every nook and cranny.

For someone as single as the sock you would find at the bottom of your dresser, the only thing red I need in my line of sight is my wine. The popularity of chocolates goes up drastically. You would see enough heart-shaped chocolates in your local supermarket to give a small country diabetes. I, for one, wonder exactly how popular they would be if they were shaped like actual hearts. I can't help but be a little glad that I don't have to celebrate Valentine's Day. Day? Did I say day? How about a week? The business of local flower vendors must go through the freaking roof on Rose Day. But with all the stores committed to ripping you off with their Valentine's Day sales and offers, I'm glad I'm committed to pizza. Because pizza is love.

While my heart is shattered by constant mockery that Valentine's has to offer, my only resort; entertainment; is ruined as all shows mysteriously find a way to make their episodes Valentine's themed. With so much going on everywhere, I would love nothing more than staying in for a day and treating myself to all the little things I deserve. That's Valentine's Day for me. In spite of being the festival of love, we can all agree that Valentine's Day is more hyped than a Salman Khan movie. And that is saying something. Who knows, maybe the red, bleeding through those heart-shaped cushions belongs to a single like me!

PUBLIC VERDICT

Here's what our fellow Ruiaites feel about being in a relationship.



Love is easier to identify, if we stop searching for it. Sometimes we find it in places where we didn't even expect it to be.

Time can never be a determinant of love. You can be dating someone for years together and still not be in love or you may meet someone and immediately click. Don't be harsh on yourself with the time factor. Also, if you want to make it work, learn to adjust a bit and keep your feminazi aside.

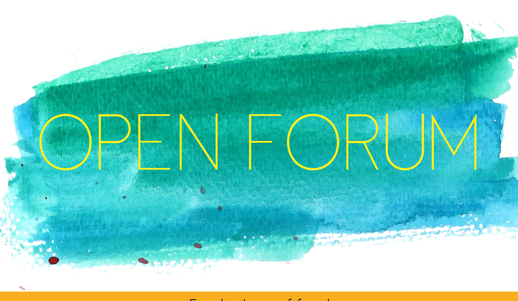
Don't hurry, go slow and steady into any relationship. The more time it takes to bond, the better it bonds!

There are always three stages to relationships; dating, second date and then third date. So nail all three of those and you would still have a 60-40 chance against you. So be confident and walk up to that girl who you want to ask for a coffee. What's the worst that can happen?

Every Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona receives approximately 1,000 letters that have been addressed to Juliet. This is where Romeo and Juliet, the young lovers in Shakespeare`s play lived.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone to see. This was the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve."

This was our contribution in exploring various aspects of Single's life. We are not criticising the celebration of Valentine's day but are championing the cause of Singles. Singlehood isn't a sin, it's a choice or a result of circumstances. No one holds the right to mock them or decide what is good for them. Just sleep, eat, live and let live! And save some Valentine's chocolates for us.



OPEN FORUM

For the Love of food
Cuisine O'Clock
-Natasha Desai, Ishita Nirbhavne

On an individual level, we grow up eating the food from our culture. It becomes a part of who we are. We associate food from our childhood with our values. Thus, on a larger scale, food can be an important part of getting to know different cultures. Each type of cuisine tells us a lot about people from different parts of the world and their preferences.

Thai cuisine, for example, is well known for its spiciness, this dishes, such as hummus and sweet, salty, bitter, and spicy. Some Thai dishes have a careful blend of all these tantalizing tastes. For example, Tom Yum Goong, which is sour and spicy, is often paired with an omelet or rice. This could be the reason rice is always part of a Thai meal. Many herbs and spices are used in Thai food. Fish sauce is often used in the way salt is, as it mellows the taste. This means vegetarians will have to take this into account and be more careful when choosing food in Thailand.

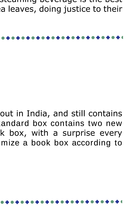
There are several underrated places like Falafels, Maroosh, Yalla Yalla and Corniche in Mumbai which are known for serving the best Lebanese food in town.

Restaurants and cafes like Nara Thai, Thai Pavilion, Busago and ChinThai are extremely famous in Mumbai for their authentic servings of Thai meals and desserts.

Food plays a vital role in Lebanese culture. Like most Middle Eastern cuisines, Lebanese food is based on that of ancient Levant, a region that includes modern day Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Israel. The influence of the Levant is most obvious in their use of spices; for instance, za'atar (which is used extensively in Lebanese cooking) has been enjoyed in this region for thousands of years. Classic Lebanese dishes, such as hummus and manoosh, can also be traced back to ancient roots in Levantine cuisine.

Greek cuisine is one of the most popular Mediterranean cuisines worldwide, but it doesn't seem to have caught on well in India. Contemporary Greek cookery makes wide use of vegetables, olive oil, grains, fish, wine and meats. Other important ingredients include olives, cheese, eggplant, zucchini, lemon, herbs and yogurt. Common dessert ingredients include nuts, honey, fruits and filo pastry. Ancient Greek cuisine was characterized by its frugality, and was influenced over the years by Persian and Turkish cuisine, resulting in shared staples like baklava, tzatziki, gyro, moussaka, dolmades, yuvarlakia and kefteftes. Greek cuisine uses flavorings like oregano, mint, garlic, onion, dill, bay laurel, cinnamon and cloves. The overall salty-sweet flavor profile may be why the food hasn't been widely appreciated in spice-loving India.

Mumbai does not have an exclusively Greek restaurant, but several pubs and cafes like Oozo, Agatha and Sigree offer dishes like souvlaki, gyros, pita such as tyropita and spanakopita. However, Thane just got a fully Mediterranean joint called Greek Gyros, serving only authentic Greek food.



The Spanish cuisine is very similar to Indian cuisine; the food varies from region to region of the country. Andalusia's most popular dish is gazpacho, the cold soup, while the seafood changuirro is Basque territory. Catalonia produced the Catalan cream, bean tortilla, samfaina and farigola soup. Other famous foods include the chorizo sausage, Rioja potatoes, and paella. Spanish food is not actually that spicy, and common spices include paprika, cayenne, garlic, saffron, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. The Spanish cuisine is quite popular worldwide and has some real scope in India.

There are plenty of restaurants serving Spanish food in Mumbai like El Toro, The Little Door, Havana Cafe, Escobar and many more. If you're a book lover then the Bombay to Barcelona Library Cafe is a must go.

For the Love of Reading
For The Reader's Soul
-Riddhi Jadye

Hello Bibliophiles! Convincing our parents to let us buy books or waiting for someone to gift them to us can definitely be a tedious and disappointing process. But now we can be our own heroes, and start subscribing to the amazing book subscription boxes tailor-made for us who can't stop reading. These boxes feed the booklover in you with books and lots of goodies.
Though initially these were only available in US, many new small businesses based in India are making a mark in the subscription box industry. These compile a great variety of books that will come to your doorstep.
In simple words, a book subscription box is a gift to the book lover in you. The box would include one book (or more) and several related merchandise and sometimes even snacks to munch on while you read. The boxes are often themed and the whole package sticks to the theme of the month. It is like a surprise gift to yourself when you unbox one of them.
Here are the shining examples of book subscription services in India:

1 The Big Book Box

The Big Book Box comes in three different categories to suit each bookworm's bookish fixation. Pick the box and plan that suits you best. Boxes are priced from Rs. 999 onwards. It includes one paperback and some goodies every month and two books every alternate month. They have many subscription plans in a variety of combinations.

2 Kaffeinated Konversations

This book subscription box is unique because it sends books by only Indian and African writers across the world, encouraging its readers to read differently. This is a monthly box, which contains at least two books in each box, along with some bookmarks, note cards and a handwritten letter addressed to you. Boxes are priced from Rs. 800 onwards. Also, a steaming beverage is the best companion for a book, so they give in some good coffee beans or tea leaves, doing justice to their name.

3 The Biblio Box

The Biblio Box is one of the first book subscription boxes to come out in India, and still contains a great collection of both Indian and International authors. The standard box contains two new books, merchandise, and bookmarks. It's a theme-oriented book box, with a surprise every month. One of the features of this book box is that one can customize a book box according to their interests. Boxes are priced from Rs. 1350.

4 Story Trunk

Story Trunk is a bi- monthly subscription service that caters to Young Adult Fiction readers. Each box has books and goodies (totes, notepads, pencils, button badges, cushion covers etc.,) The boxes have a theme that is selected based on the book chosen for that month and the goodies that are added are curated according to the theme.
The Young Adult box costs INR 1399 has 1-2 books and 2-4 bookish goodies. The Supreme Young

5 The Nerdy Box

They pick up themes and box up nerdy stuff to be delivered every month. Each box contains a book and 3-4 goodies. There are 3 types of subscription options-1 month (INR 800)- 3 months (INR 2200)- 6 Months (INR 4600). It is a perfect blend of young adult novels and adult fiction.

So fellow bookworms, you have a reason to rejoice and spend your money in the right way!

THE FINAL WORDICT: LOVE AFFAIR WITH GRAMMAR
-SAYLI MAYEKAR

Dearest Grammar,
Hi there! I wish to recount my experience after we met (some days ago), and I ventured to do the bravest thing of my life (till now): I wrote a letter to my crush! I was too nervous to do it face to face so I decided to seek your help and pen down my feelings. And hoping he loves you just as much as I do, I thought of impressing him by doing you justice and not using the utterly annoying lingo that people prefer these days- the senseless, illogical, and irritating.
I composed it with all my heart and soul, poured it out on the paper, and while writing it, I found that my usual confidence had ran away as easily as my crush runs 5k every day. But you didn't. You stayed and helped me compose the letter in a way that could maybe make the reader fall in love with the words at least.

But alas! My hope turned out to be in vain. My crush broke my heart. Oh, he understood the feelings behind the letter and even reciprocated them (Yay!), but he failed to comprehend you. But he did mend my heart by making an honest effort to understand you, looking super cute with that thoughtful look on his face and a dictionary in his hand. Because of you I found out some essential things about my crush. Turns out, he hates the text message lingo as much as I do (Thank heavens for that!). And yes, we mutually admire each other for admiring you.
So, Mr Grammar, thank you. For not letting me down when I needed you, for letting me seek help from your Spanish cousin so I could include a sentence in that language, and for letting me know you enough to add some smart puns.

Love,
A serial letter writer.

For the love of languages
Expressions of Love in some languages:

French: Je t'aime

Spanish: Te amo, Te quiero

Japanese: Anata O Aishite Imasu

German: Ich Liebe Dich

Sanskrit: Tvayi Snihyami

TECH TRICKED

13 Reasons Why We All Love Gaming!

1. It's a passionate hobby that connects you to other people.
2. It's a tool to manage health and happiness.
3. You meet tons of awesome new friends.
4. Or a group of friends that are basically family.
5. If you're lucky, you might even find the one.
6. Gaming lets you discover your creative side.
7. And helps you realize that different people enjoy different things.
8. The important thing is to have fun, and to keep having fun.
9. And maybe you'll discover your inner hero/heroine.
10. You'll meet a bunch of interesting characters on your journey.
11. But also live many different lives.
12. Video games make your imaginations come true.
13. You can joyride, even when you can't IRL.

Games we can't wait to play in 2018!

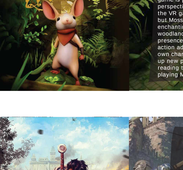
[PC, Xbox one, PS4]

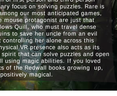
Monster Hunter: World

Monster Hunter: World is the latest addition to the Monster Hunter game series. It is available on PS4, PC and Xbox One. The latest entry in the critically acclaimed 40 million unit selling action RPG series, introduces a living, breathing ecosystem in which players take on the role of a hunter that seeks and slays ferocious beasts in heart-pounding battles. They can also venture on quests alone or with up to three other hunters in a newly designed online drop-in multiplayer system which allows cross-region cooperative play between Japan and the West, uniting the global player base for the first time ever.

Dragon Ball FighterZ

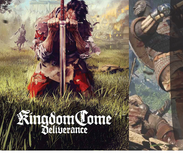
Dragon Ball FighterZ is an upcoming Dragon Ball v ideo game arriving on PS4, Xbox One and Microsoft Windows via Steam. The gameplay borrows concepts from hundreds of other fighting games, primarily the Marvel vs. Capcom series' control scheme and team mechanics, with three primary attack buttons and one unique action button plus a few others. Each player selects three characters to form a team. One character is controlled, and can be switched with one of the other characters at any time. Players can also call one of their other characters to perform an "Assist" move, allowing simultaneous attacks and combos with the entire team. All three of a team's characters must be defeated for a match to end.





Metal Gear Survive

Metal Gear Survive is an upcoming co-op survival action game by Konami Digital Entertainment. Following the evacuation of Big Boss and Kazuhira Miller from the besieged Mother Base, a wormhole opens in the sky and absorbs the offshore plant as well as the remaining MSF soldiers. The soldiers are transported to an alternate reality along with the remains of Mother Base, to find the world full of bizarre, crystalline zombie-like entities known simply as "creatures." Their goal is to find materials and do anything they can to go back to their own world. In order to find these materials, the survivors must work together to kill the "creatures" and explore their surroundings.

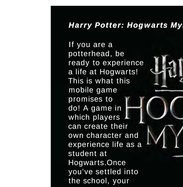


Moss

Moss is an upcoming 2018 virtual reality adventure game developed and published by Polyarc for the Playstation 4. The game is presented in form of first person and third person perspectives, with a primary focus on solving puzzles. Rare is the VR game that ranks among our most anticipated games, but Moss and its adorable protagonist are just that - enchanting. Our story follows Quill, who must travel dense woodlands and ancient ruins to save her uncle from an evil presence - but you aren't controlling her alone across this action adventure. Your physical VR presence also acts as its own character, a guiding spirit that can solve puzzles and open up new pathways for Quill using magic abilities. If you loved reading the rodent heroics of the Redwall books growing up, playing Moss should feel positively magical.

Kingdom Come: Deliverance

Kingdom Come: Deliverance is an action role playing game set in an open world environment and played from a first person perspective which will utilize a classless RPG system, allowing the player to customize their skills to take on roles such as a warrior, bard, thief or their hybrids. Abilities and stats will grow depending on what the player does and says through branched dialogue trees. During conversations, the game a player takes to make a decision is hinted and will have an effect on their relationships with others. Reputation will be based on player's choices and therefore will have consequences.



Sea of Thieves

Sea of Thieves is an upcoming action adventure game developed by Rare and published by Microsoft Studios. Who doesn't love pirates? The swashbuckling, the loot, the rum, the fabulous hats - most of us have at one time or another wished we could leave our world behind and run away to sea. The time has come to live out that dream and to bring friends along for the ride. Sea of Thieves is Rare's latest game, with first-person pirating (the fun, family-friendly kind) full of cooperative crew mates collaborating in the pursuit of treasure. Competitive types can also try to rule the seas by battling (and ideally sinking) other players' ships. It releases on Xbox One and PC.

Atharva Bidwalkar

Upcoming Android games to look forward to in 2018

Star Wars: Rise to Power

With the release of a new film, you will never lack for Star Wars games in the Play Store. Here's another one coming your way – Star Wars: Rise to Power is a strategy game set in the Star Wars universe. This mobile strategy game tells the story of the war between the Empire and the dawning New Republic. Players will get to influence who will control the galaxy by choosing a faction, establishing their base and building a fleet. Embrace your destiny by engaging in diplomacy or deception to ultimately become a leader of the Empire or New Republic!

Harry Potter: Hogwarts Mystery

If you are a potterhead, be ready to experience a life at Hogwarts! This is what this mobile game promises to do! A game in which players can create their own character and experience life as a student at Hogwarts.Once you've settled into the school, your character can move through the years while doing all the same things Hogwarts students do: taking part in Duelling Club, or going to classes such as Potions and Defence Against the Dark Arts.

Tekken Mobile

For the 90's Fighting game lovers, you will be overjoyed that this game is available on Android. The game is crazy popular on consoles. Tekken Mobile contains a lot of content for the player to explore. You can expect Story Mode missions where you battle through a map-based campaign. There are also online battles and last but not the least there will be a bunch of rotating Live Event challenges that feature daily, weekly, and monthly rotating content.

Final Fantasy XV Pocket Edition

If you loved Final Fantasy XV on the console, you'll probably love the idea of being able to play the game on your mobile as well. Final Fantasy XV is real-time action, weaving spells and guns into fighting with swords, axes, and daggers. This mobile version is different from it's console counterpart in the way it portrays the story in 10 episodes. And not to forget, the heavily re-designed graphics for mobile version.

RuneScape

The game that started the MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game) trend, the game that most MMORPG players have played at one point or another is set to hit the mobiles this year. RuneScape Mobile will allow players to play both RuneScape and Old School RuneScape on their mobile devices. It will work cross-platform with players on PC, and players will be able to play using the same characters as they do on their desktop clients.

Vighnesh Lokare

SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING

We at SOE felt the urge to explore every facet of science and do justice to the column's title. So, this Feb, we bombard you with tv series that explain the scientific realm . Grab some popcorn and get ready to binge on!

STRANGER THINGS

Stranger things was unquestionably the 'show of the summer' last year. The show sparked interest in the real science behind some of its more outlandish moments, particularly when it came to the subject of multiple dimensions hypothesis.

Yes, we're talking about the 'Upside Down', the nightmarish realm where our heroes venture to find the missing Will Byers. The Upside Down is described in the show as existing in an additional dimension alongside the ones we can see; a dimension that can be accessed through a portal. The Upside Down obeys few of the rules of our inherent dimension and seems like an element of the story that is much more fiction than science.

But is it? Actually, there is real, hard science behind the idea of plural dimensions, and the 'Department of Energy's Office' is involved in studying this very thing, in both theory and experiment. It turns out, the ideas presented in the Stranger Things episode "The Flea and the Acrobat" are pretty much spot on. In the show's analogy, an acrobat on a tightrope can move only forward or backward, but a flea on that same tightrope, working on a much smaller scale, can move all around the rope, in other dimensions, seeing more of them.

Since we're the acrobat in this analogy, the question is how to test if extra dimensions really exist. One way of seeing evidence for other dimensions involves gravity – specifically, the theoretical particle associated with the force of gravity, called the graviton. One theory suggests that the graviton may move in all dimensions, not just the ones we live in. And if we can create gravitons at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, we might be able to see evidence of them leaving our dimensions for other ones.

- Vaishnavi Dabholkar, TYBSc

Sense8

How often do you find yourself nervous around a bunch of strangers? Quite often, I assume. Now, imagine these strangers getting insights into your life without your consent. Not a pleasant scenario, is it? Evolution is a way of life and this Sci-fi Netflix show explores different facets of just that. Eight individuals from different cultures, ethnicities and different worlds altogether, are pulled in a journey against their will. These individuals are no ordinary humans, but exercise supreme neurological connections (formed sensates or sense8)..First by a violent vision, then by their shared ability to connect with one another's thoughts and actions and finally by the urgent need to find out what happened and why. Their need to know goes beyond simple curiosity - as they pursue answers, a mysterious organization hunts them down, intent on destroying them. In order to survive, they must rely on their gifts, more so, on their connections.

Would that alone be sufficient? Shortly after they get comfortable with their abilities, the past and the origin of powers front them with secrets. The tv show revolves around the concept of Homo sensorums (a different species of humans, Homo sapiens being the original one). The show is rumoured to be aired for the third season, soon leaving the sci-fi fans restless and putting the audience in debate whether this season will unravel the remaining mysteries or not.

sense8

-Rohan Pawar,TYBsc

DOCTOR WHO

One of the oldest TV shows, Doctor Who is a British show which started way back in 1963. The show took a long break from 1989 to 2005 and was restarted on fan demand. It is about an eccentric and highly-intelligent alien, a Time Lord from the distant planet Gallifrey. Constantly on the lookout for new adventures, he travels throughout the universe in his spaceship called the TARDIS, which has the ability to travel anywhere through time and space. Once designed to change its appearance and blend into its surroundings, the TARDIS which is now stuck looking as a blue police telephone box, has become an iconic part of the show. The TARDIS is dimensionally transcendental, meaning it's bigger on the inside than the outside. The writers of the show originally came up with the concept of 'regeneration' when the first actor who played the Doctor had to leave the show , thus, explaining the changing actor to the audience as a part of the story rather than creating a continuity issue. They gave him the ability to take the form of a whole new person when he is about to die making him almost immortal. The show which is currently gearing up for its 11th season since revival is all set to introduce the first female incarnation of the Doctor. The Doctor is a traveller and adventurer who loves to discover new planets and creatures and lends a helping hand to those in need along the way. Doctor Who is a fantastic blend of the past and future, technology and fairytales. Many concepts of physics like nature of space and time, nature of black holes, time dilation, time as a dimension in which to travel and the possibilities of alien life are discussed in this sci-fi show in a very fun and interesting way.

- Aditi Kulkarni and Chinmayee Dixit, SYBSc

BLACK MIRROR

Charlie Brooker has highly praised the series "Black Mirror" and phrased the show as an amazing reflection of this generation.
Each episode is a self contained story. The basic theme of the series is its social commentary on technology, culture and society - a remarkable contemporary drama indeed!
The breaking of the screen in the opening titles perfectly each demonstrates what the show is about.
The surface of most screens is slightly or almost entirely reflective when turned off and when the screen breaks, often we cannot operate the device any longer, allowing us to see a broken and cracked version of ourselves. This idea can be seen in the poster used to advertise this show but obviously with more malice. The side note of the stained glass looks almost like a spider's web, perhaps signifying technology being some kind of bait. On the other hand, the breaking of the glass also breaks the artifice of reality that technology can create for us. Thus, the almost literal breaking of the fourth wall presents the idea of looking away from the screen for a few minutes and perhaps instead examining the world around you or seeing the technology for what it truly is. Thus, the power of viral technology and the Internet is explored in depth in this series.

A newfangled, potentially disastrous technology pops up in each installment, giving the series a healthy sense of cohesion, but the four seasons aired so far could not be more all over the map with political science fiction that can be fused with reality. It's a whole bunch of crazy and thought provoking ideas made into tightly wrapped little packages ready to persist into the viewer's mind.

There is satire, horror and satires and future dystopias, cop procedurals and war dramas, soulless nihilism and affirming humanism.

- Swara Jamdar, TYBSc

The Big Bang Theory!! The most widely watched science show! It is quite surprising though, given that it revolves mainly around a subject that most of us find difficult to comprehend, PHYSICS! Right from Schrodinger's hypothetical cat to Einstein's General Relativity, this deeply mathematical show, full of formulae and loops and strings is what binds the main characters of TBBT, Leonard, Sheldon, Howard and Raj together! All of them are physicists. And we also have two Biologists, Bernadette and Amy on the scene. And then, there is Penny, by far, the sanest and most normal person of the group! It is quite interesting to read about the research that our favorite reel-scientists are carrying out!

Mr. Howard Wolowitz, M.Eng.

– Aerospace engineer, ex-astronaut payload specialist at NASA
Work – Satellite designing, deep field space telescope designing

Dr. Sheldon Cooper, B.S.,M.S.,M.A.,Ph.D.,Sc.D.

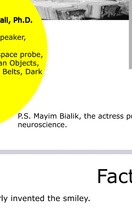
– Theoretical Physicist, Caltech Research – String theory, particle cosmology, M-theory, Dark matter, plasma physics, condensed matter physics.

Dr. LeonardHofstadter,Ph.D.

– Experimental Physicist, Caltech Research – High power lasers, Bose-Einstein Condensates, Cosmic radiation, Dark Matter

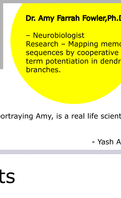
Dr. Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz, Ph.D.

– Microbiologist, Zangen Pharmaceuticals
Work – Yeasts, flesh-eating bacteria, drug testing



Dr. Rajesh "Raj" Koothrappali, Ph.D.

– Astrophysicist,Caltech; Speaker, Griffith Observatory
Research – New Horizons space probe, Kuiper Belt, Trans-Neptunian Objects, Trojan Asteroids, Van Allen Belts, Dark matter



Dr. Amy Farrah Fowler,Ph.D.

– Neurobiologist
Research – Mapping memory sequences by cooperative long term potentiation in dendritic branches.

P.S. Mayim Bialik, the actress portraying Amy, is a real life scientist and has a Ph.D. in neuroscience.

- Yash Acharya, TYBSc

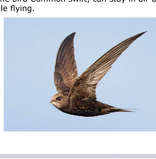
Facts

1.Vladimir Nabokov nearly invented the smiley.

:)

2.Some fruit flies are genetically resistant to getting drunk — but only if they have an inactive version of a gene scientists have named "HappyHour".

3.The bird Common swift, can stay in air upto 10 months without landing. They can even sleep and mate while flying.



- Aditi Rane, TYBSc

COST SAVER DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD

Hey there, Ruiaites !
Now that the much-awaited summer vacations are nearing, we are sure you must be getting impatient to make some elaborate travel plans. However, we are also sure that the word "budget" must be sending those "elaborate" plans into a total frenzy! Worry not, dear travellers, for we at Safarnama have given it all a thought this time. That's why we have presented some truly budget-friendly global destinations in this edition, to ease your case before your parents.
Go ahead, get your family to read this edition and make merry by planning a trip to one of these awesome destinations!
Oh, and don't forget to read our special segment on acting like an experienced traveller. ;)
So, here we go!

Bhutan

Buddhist chants resonate in your ears as you wake up from your slumber in a cozy lodge in the woods. You walk out of your room rubbing your eyes and find the lofty Himalayas beaming, almost as if they have scored an 85% in their HSC exams. You manage to smile back and just hope that when you get back home after this extremely enriching séjour in Bhutan, you can smile at your result-displaying computer screen too. But for the time being, this little landlocked country has plenty to offer to keep your mind off the impending results during your post-examination getaway.
If you are fretting over the exorbitant rates attached to travelling in this Himalayan nation, you may breathe a sigh of relief as Bhutan doesn't prohibit Indian citizens from bag-packing — a privilege not enjoyed by most of the countries. So, all we have to do is reach New Jalpaiguri - a two-day train journey from Mumbai and continue onwards, or take a slightly more expensive flight from Delhi, Kolkata or Bagdogra directly to Paro Airport, Bhutan's only international air base. You don't need a visa or a passport, just a government-issued identification in addition to a travel permit obtained at the border or on arrival. Lodges and homestays are available and you can even bargain with the student-friendly owners. Public transportation is inexpensive yet efficient. Bhutanese street-fare won't burn a hole in your pocket either, but um, your stomach? Can't say.

I'm certain that none of us have really tried to know much about the culturally magnificent and mystical kingdom of Bhutan, but had an opinion about it, nonetheless. Hence, Bhutan is very much like a Sanjay Leela Bhansali magnum opus: mesmerizing but often misunderstood. But I'm sure you won't miss a chance to enjoy either of the two.

Prague

A well preserved cultural heritage, efficient infrastructure and fairly open borders make visiting Europe a breeze, but what makes us think twice is the expense. Europe is home to a number of countries and cities having the highest standards of living in the world. But breaking the stereotype here, Europe can actually be cheap. Or at least some of it can!

Let's take Prague for example. The capital of the Czech Republic, and one the most colorful, charming and popular travel destinations in Central Europe, it is by far the cheapest city in entire Europe. It's almost half the cost of Paris, London, Rome, Milan and many other expensive European countries.

If you consider its currency, the Czech Crown (czk), 1 czk is just 3 rupees, which is nothing compared to the pounds and euros that cost a fortune! Coming to the accommodation, if you choose lavish hotels, it may cost you up to 2000 czk, whereas, if you are a backpacker and ready to adjust, you can find yourself a hostel which will cost you close to 1500 rupees a night. How much cheaper can it get?!

What's more, even food is cheap in this cost-saver's paradise, with a full-fledged meal starting from 300 rupees. Compare that with cities like Paris - where you end up paying anywhere between 600 and 1000 bucks for a meal - and you will see the difference.

Travelling within the country is cheap as well. Prague comes to you with a variety of affordable and comfortable means of public transport like trams and metros, where you buy tickets as per duration and not according to the destination.

Not only this, but visits to its beautiful historical monuments are also very cheap. For instance, an entry ticket to Old Town Hall, Prague Castle, Prague Zoo can cost you not more than 30 czk.

That's why we love Prague. Don't you?

This summer, don't let money be a barrier; GO PRAGUE, TRAVEL CHEAP! ;)

Seychelles

Every time I look at glossy international travel magazines and excitedly ask my dad about our next trip abroad, he conveniently starts talking about how I should study hard and take my parents to foreign countries. Sigh. As Indians, we have adapted quickly to the western culture and want to travel abroad without burning our pockets. What we do not realise is that there are many destinations in the world where our rupee is stronger. These places fit conveniently well within our budgets. One such place is Seychelles, with its sapphire blue seas and windy, white sand beaches!

Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, off East Africa. Famous for its beautiful beaches, natural beauty and coral reef (Nature lovers take note!), it is an abode for any Indian who wants to travel to budget-friendly countries. Accommodation in hostels and hotels starts from just about Rs.1000 per night and lingers around Rs.2000-3000 for a high-end hotel.

One can indulge in many adventurous activities like nature tours, wildlife tours, glass bottom boat cruises, ocean cruises, island exploration, water sports and leisure tours, again, at minimal costs. One person can have a hearty meal at less than Rs.500. A convenient form of transportation here are the public buses which shuttle at consistent frequency between islands at the cost of 5 Seychelles rupees, which is roughly around 25 INR.

Yes, it requires thorough research, smart planning, advance booking and an adventurous soul ready to face all challenges, but that is exactly where the fun lies!

HOW TO PRETEND YOU'VE TRAVELLED MORE THAN YOU HAVE?

Since the start of Safarnama, we have had the pleasure of taking you along with us wherever we went. We have been to exotic foreign locales and done quite a bit of exploring on the home turf as well, all with you guys in tow. But now, it is time to face the truth. We are college students, we really do not have time for all this vagabonding, nor do we have funds lying around. So, what do we do now? How do we satisfy the nomad in us? How do we make the foodie in us happy? How do we make people envy our Instagram-worthy life? We, at Safarnama, pride ourselves in solving all your problems that have the word 'travel' in them. Consider the following solutions without further ado!

1. Study The World Map -
Spend a good chunk of time poring over the world map – know the capital of Lithuania, the border countries of South Sudan and the countries which make South Asia, so you show off your knowledge at the drop of a hat, even if nobody asked for it.

2. Learn A Handful Of Pointless Foreign Words -
How to order Spätzle in Germany, How to order Pad Thai in Thailand, How to order Ugali in Kenya, how to order.....

3. Steal Other Peoples' Stories -
Heard about the guy who went to swim in the Australian coral reefs and almost got killed by a box jellyfish? Of course you did – it was you.

4. Become Sentimental About Tea -
If you are drinking a cup of tea in front of anybody, loudly exclaim how much you have missed it, and how the best tea you ever had was in Canterbury.

5. Read About The Local Cuisines Of Different Places -
Whenever we go to a new place, be it Brazil or Goa, the first thing that we do is to try the local cuisine. So, learn all you can about it, and if possible, taste it as well.

6. Buy A Knockoff Souvenir –
It is always more believable if you have souvenirs. So, either buy one from Chor Bazaar, or pay a heavy duty by ordering one from abroad, or coax your discreet neighbours or relatives to get one for you. One of these tactics will surely work!

7. Take A Virtual Trip Of The Place You Are Visiting -
YouTube videos or Google Maps' interactive features can help you get a mental picture of the place, so that you can brag about it as if you are a resident over there!

Life is not very kind to everyone and rarely provides one with the opportunity to embark upon such journeys. As students, we are always burdened with assignments, projects, extracurricular activities, etc. and finding time for oneself is a task, let alone for travelling. So, don't fret, keep these few things in mind, and enjoy any place you want to, without spending a dime!

PRINCESS OF KAIKEYI

Kaikeyi, the junior most queen of Dashrath is regarded by us as the master schemer and manipulator, who has Ram sent into Vanwas, an event that eventually leads to the great war. She is viewed with contempt and dislike and is portrayed to us as such by numerous stories. But what if the story we know is only a part of the actual incident? What if the supposed facts about Kaikeyi are only partly true? Princess of Kaikey takes you through the political mystery and intrigue behind the Aayodhyan and Kaikeyan Kingdoms, as the Demon King prepares to invade Bharatvarsha, likely to begin his expedition with Aayodhya, steps have to be taken, and it falls upon the Princess of Kaikey to do so. To know more, read on:

PART 1: THE PROPHECY

The Prophesy hung over them like a proverbial sword. Air was thick with tension. The Prime Minister, the Raj Purohit, the Defence Minister were seated around a raised platform. On it sat a figure clad in black fighting attire, her unbound hair flew as a gust of strong wind blew, she raised a hand to silence the group. “Is there any end to this insane talk? How could grown, learned men like you make such foolish talk? I should send him away, Sumantraji? Is that the brilliant solution a Prime Minister of this a huge kingdom comes up with? And you Raj Purohit Ji, you support such a devious scheme? You, a learned Pandit, wish that I commit a crime of such huge magnitude?” she bellowed. The Princess of Kaikey, junior most Queen of Dashrath made quite a fearsome sight. Silence fell in the group; they knew the Queen was frustrated beyond measure, for her it was hours wasted in futile discussions and useless planning.-- - Kaikey was not surprised at her momentary flare of temper, it was a common occurrence these days. What surprised her was how these intelligent people came up with such a hare-brained scheme? Time, precious time was being wasted. And it was one commodity she was scarce of.

He knew convincing her was going to be difficult, but they were short of options, and this was their only solution. The Defence Minister rose from his seat, lifting his unwavering gaze to her accusatory one, he spoke with a deadly calm and a measured tone, “ Your Highness, please reign your temper, we know what we ask of you is extremely difficult. Do you think we are against the Crown Prince? Think you we are to gain anything if your son is crowned the King? Do you deny the truth of Purohit ji’s predictions? Do you deny the deteriorating health of our King? Do you deny the Vaidya Raj’s diagnosis? Do you deny the position of stars in our Prince’s patrikas that are pointing to mortal peril? Do you, O Queen, deny the power of the curse of helpless, grief-stricken parents, whose only son was killed by your husband?” The Senapati knew then that he had made her feel guilty, he sat back in his chair victorious in the war of words, the tactic never failed him, only now he was not happy about his success. Hearing the Senapati, Kaikeyi slumped in her chair, her helplessness apparent. She asked in an anguished voice, “There must be some other way surely, there must be.” The Raj Purohit unable to bear such heartache in her voice, said slowly, “You know the prophesy, child. It is bound to happen one way or the other. The frequency and intensity of his headaches increase day by day. He might wear a brave face but you know he is suffering from within. RajVaidyaji has tried every medicine he could, but it seems to have no effect. I have studied the King’s stars and have seen that his life grows short. I hope you’re aware that he is to die of Putra Viyog”, he let the sentence hang between them. Understanding dawned upon Kaikeyi, ‘Merciful Shiva! It could not be! She lifted her wide-eyed gaze to Purohitji’s, his eyes reflected pity and she knew at that moment that, her worst fears were confirmed. With that, she also realised that the deed had to be done. Losing him would mean the destruction of the kingdom, losing him would result in vanquishment of their race, a race as noble as the Lord himself. She had to protect the Scion, protect the Prince who would one day make their clan a most revered one, and protect him she would. True, hers would be a name remembered as a selfish, ambitious and heartless queen, true she would be criticised for aeons to come, but she had no other alternative. And Come hell or high tide the Princess never failed her duty.

Preview of the Next Part:

“May I enter, Princess?”, Kaikeyi was shaken aware of her reverie by a booming voice. He addressed her as a Princess, it could only mean one thing; the messenger was from Kaikey and because he came at the eighth Prahar, it meant that the news was dire. She looked up to find Yudhajeet, the youngest of seven of her brothers on the doorstep. “Bhratru! Please come in, be seated. Tell me what brings you here at this hour ? Is everything alright at home? Has something untoward happened?”“Something we all feared, anuja. The news I bring is dismal and dangerous...

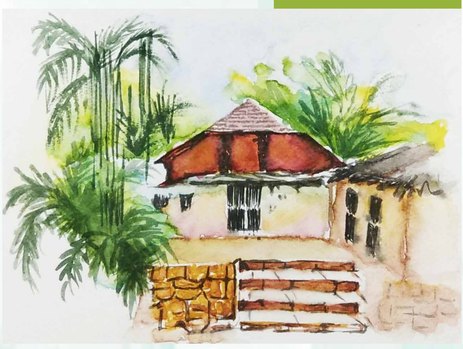
Note:

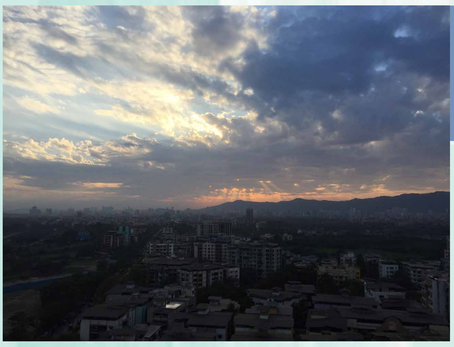
The Story by no means seeks to hurt anybody’s religious sentiments and should be taken just for what it is, ie. a Story, a work of fiction based on the very famous epic, whose fans we all are.Fictionally Yours would love to hear from you, do drop in your feedback and comments. Email us at fictionallyyours.ruia@gmail.com.

ART WALL

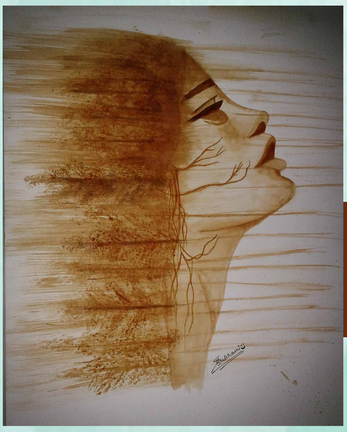
GAYATRI GODBOLE:
Explosion of color at Mall Road (Shimla)

APOORVA SATHE





OJAS CHAUDHARI: A cloudy chance of Sunset



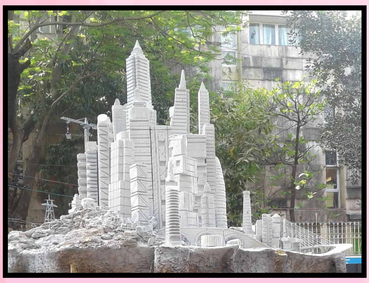
SUBHASRI SAHOO

CHINMAY PATWARDHAN:
The little dumpling

SHUBHAM BORHADE

ROAMING AROUND THE CITY

The KALA GHODA Edition



PICTURE CREDITS :
TEAM ARTWALL

STUDENTS' CORNER

An ode to the women in Mumbai locals.

To the women with stiff spines, unblinking eyes, unsmiling lips,
hands curled into fists,
counting shadows at night.
Who have been told,
“stay at home”,
“public spaces aren't meant for you.”

This is an ode to the women
who took the most public space in Mumbai,
and made it their home.

The first compartment is the kitchen.
A woman has a peeler in one hand and a potato in another;
with every jerk of the train,
she juggles between the two.
Between work and home,
between work that pays and work that doesn't.

Three seats away is a woman with her make up bag spilled open.
You don't need mirrors for the perfect winged liner.
you just need steady hands.

In the next compartment,
a woman sleeps by the window.
The sunlight reflects off of her perfect face.
She is radiant.
Yet, she sleeps the way all women do -
with one ear perked up.
Half conscious, vigilant. Listening.
Next station: Dadar. Aglaa station: Dadar. Pudheel station: Dadar.

This is an ode to the women,
Who, when told to be quiet,
Mbe soft,
be ladylike,
will scream bloody murder in defiance.
and "aatmadhe chala,
pura train khaali hai,
fir bhi sabko bahar khada rehna hai."
Who will trade your approval for that fourth seat.

This is an ode to the women in Mumbai locals,
who will fight and scratch to get where they want,
which is usually,
a safezone.
But if you have unsteady feet,
and are hanging on for dear life,
they will scoop you up and hold you,
like family.

This is an ode to the women in Mumbai locals,
to the women who breathe life into these death traps of metal
that breathe life into the city.
Mumbai locals can chew you up and spit you out.
This is an ode to the women who will spit right back.

-Digvi Shah.

इंसान हूँ मै।

इंसान वही जिसमे हो जीने की आस,
इंसान हूँ मैं यही हैं मुझमें ख़ास।

सही गलत का हो आभास,
सच्चाई के पथ का जो करे आगाज़,
इंसान हूँ मैं यही हैं मुझमें ख़ास।

छोटी ख़ुशियों का हो एहसास,
कज़ोर घड़ी में जो न हो उदास,
उम्मीद के किरणों पर करे विश्वास,
इंसान हूँ मैं यही हैं मुझमें ख़ास।

क्यों तेरे तन का रंग बने तेरा मोल,
तेरे मन का रंग ही तो हैं अनमोल,
क्यों हो तेरी पेहचान तेरे चेहरे से, दौलत से, शोहरत से,
तेरे भीतर की सुंदरता की भोर से ही
तो हैं उजियारे का शोर,
क्यों करता हैं अपनी कमियों पर अफसोस,
कर अपनी ख़ूबियों को नजरअंदाज,
क्या सारी मुश्किलें सुलझ जाएँगी?
मौत को बुलाने से अपने पास,
अरे ,रख अपने अंदर जीने की आस,
इंसान हैं तू यही हैं तुझमें ख़ास।

-Alisha Mondal.

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