

THE EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

As you all are well aware by now, this October was a month of mixed feelings, as we not only battled the ever-frightening exams, but also celebrated one of the most beloved and cherished festivals of all - Diwali! On that note, Team RUIAITE Monthly would firstly like to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous Diwali once again! Now that everyone is done with their exams and festivities, we believe you are free enough to appreciate the October Edition of the **RUIAITE MONTHLY!** Let's see what we have in store for our ardent readers this month -

Buzz Around recollects the horrryng series of events that eventually led to the Elphinstone Road stampede, while enlightening us about a few Do's and Don'ts that have to be observed in crowded areas. *Behind the*

Scenes carries this theme forward and gives us an insight into the 'Spirit Of Mumbai'. *CareerWise* delves into the world of books and brings to us various career opportunities from the literary world. *Insight* talks about how some materialistic things become as indispensable as prized possessions for us. *Op-Ed* has shared their wonderful experience of a visit that the entire team paid to a local old age home, and has thrown light on the issue of ageing.

Wouldn't it be great to be able to talk to our alter ego? *Open Forum* dedicates this month's article to the Letters from our alter egos. *Tech Tricked* has some cool techie stuff hidden under its sleeves to bemuse us! *Science of Everything* chalks out the captivating science behind some daily life phenomena. *Fictionally Yours* rolls out the last issue in the

Relationship series, which is titled as "Lemon Green Eyes". The second edition of *Safarnama* traces the footsteps of a young globetrotter who went on a trip of a lifetime...to France! To know more about some of the events that took place in the college this month, you can take a look at our *Reporting section* for all the news. *Students Corner* pens some beautiful poetries and articles written by our fellow RUIAITEs. Last but not the least, after all the reading, check out our *ArtWall* column and indulge in some beautiful artworks as well!

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Monthly as much as you enjoyed your much-awaited Diwali vacations! Happy Reading Folks!

REPORTS

SPEAK GREEK

17th September 2017,
Ramnarian Ruia Autonomous College.

“Love speaks, this time its Greek.” Every year RSC’s Rose Day is known for its unique theme, and indeed it did not fail to amaze the Ruiaites this year as well. The hours spent on creating the Greek ambience by all the VPM Teams was commendable. Though it rained on the morning of 16th September '17, the enthusiasm level was so high that even the rains couldn't stop us.

The quadrangle transformed into a dance floor by the gyrating beats of Bollywood songs and the fully charged crowd of Ruia. Amongst these Ruiaites, there were some who were waiting for

this day with eagerness mixed with nervousness. They were the participants. The auditions and numerous elimination rounds were going on in the college for past few weeks before the event.

Amidst the event, the crowd was graced by a former Ruiaite who made it big in Marathi Television Industry - Hruta Durgule. Hruta said she was blessed to be in the college once again and took the stage at once and made the crowd unite into one single voice which roared “R.U.I.A. Ruia - Ruia!”.

After Hruta, it was time for Suyyash Rai and Charlie Chauhan who were judges for today's main event and were

present to promote their upcoming music video 'Beparwahiyaan'. Suyyash sang 'Mere Rashke Kamar' while playing the guitar. The stage was set, and the participants lined up one by one. After the Personality round, the judges made a tough decision of crowning the Rose King and Queen titles. Without wasting time, Karan Khatri was declared as the Rose King and Sai Godbole as Rose Queen. Ruiaites cheered for the winners and were once again on the dance floor.

Final guest for the day was Benny Dayal, whose presence garnered the most cheerful claps. Benny mesmerised the crowd by some of his Bollywood hits.

It was a day well spent for everyone.

The Annual Sumita Shrikant Dalmia Intercollegiate Competition 'NIRJHAR' was held on the 6th and 5th of October 2017 in the B.M. Ruia Girls' College, Gramdevi, Grant Road. It witnessed immense enthusiasm from our college, Ramnivas Ruia. In all 17 competitions were held, out of which more than 15 events had participants from Ramnivas Ruia. A lot of FYJC students eagerly participated in contests ranging from carom and chess to group dance and fashion shows, bagging 1st, 2nd, 3rd and

consolation prizes in many of these! Among over 150 participants, our college received 11 prizes in competitions like Solo Singing, Rangoli, Group Dance, Quiz, Essay, Poster Painting and Chess. 23 colleges had participated in this grand event with our college winning the 'Best Student Award' for winning the maximum number of prizes. To conclude, our college performed its best and was appreciated a lot by their staff for making the event successful.

NIRJHAR 2K17



Participants' Opinions

“Nirjhar was a broad platform to showcase the talents of students of many colleges across Mumbai...I found it a great opportunity!” -Anushka Karlekar

“I think Nirjhar2017 was a very well organised competition with a range of events for students to unleash their potential” - Akshay Mategaonkar

“A very well arranged event indeed. The staff was very helpful” – Tej Talekar

“Despite the strong competition among the colleges, we had fun while interacting and making memories with everyone” –Tavleen Kaur Rajpal

BUZZ AROUND

Stampede In Mumbai at Elphinstone - Parel

On 29th September 2017, the morning rush hour at the Prabhadevi station (formerly known as Elphinstone Road station) witnessed a stampede on a footbridge connecting it to Parel station. The incident occurred around 10:30 am and was a result of a number of factors coming together at an inopportune moment. As the Central Railways and Western Railways come together at this junction, it is usually crowded. This bridge has been a matter of concern for the regular commuters for a while now. In addition to this, on this particular day, four trains arrived simultaneously at the station. Further, people thronged towards the bridge as a shelter from the unexpected rains.

As the tension mounted, a single rumour triggered the domino effect that followed. According to a Mumbai Police official, the rumour that the pedestrian bridge was collapsing created chaos among the commuters as they rushed to flee. According to witnesses, the situation worsened when the police and emergency officials failed to respond immediately and enforce crowd control measures. The result was the death of 23 people, and over 30 were severely injured.



CM Devendra Fadnavis immediately announced a compensation of Rs. 5 Lacs for the victims and their families. The President of India, Mr Ram Nath Kovind and the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi expressed their grief among other political figures and authorities. But even as people were still processing the tragedy, political friction mounted. A Shiv Sena official called the stampede "a public massacre of the people by the government." Such a statement begs the question - who is to blame in such an event? Mumbai locals are the lifelines of this city. When they began in the 1900s, their purpose was clear - connect individuals and places. And yet every passing day, they are becoming dangerous and a burden its users. It is safe to say that the people in the position of power need to step up. On our part, as citizens and commuters, we can also contribute positively to situations of emergencies.

The Do's and Don'ts of stampede to avoid uproar are as follows:

DO'S	DONT'S
1. Use sign language to communicate with those around you (point, wave, even use your eyes)	1. Do not crowd around damaged areas or buildings.
2. If someone extends their hand for help, grab hold to keep them up.	2. Do not waste water; it will be needed for firefighting.
3. Wait for medical help to arrive.	3. Do not move the seriously hurt people.
4. Keep your hands up by your chest, like a boxer- it gives you movement and protects your chest.	4. Conserve energy - don't push against the crowd and don't yell or scream.
5. There is always some space even in a crowd. Try to manage in little.	5. Do not spread rumours. They lead to panic and worsen the situation.

Pledge to unite and avoid disaster to happen!

- ADYA SHREYA & ADITI PATIL.

SIMPLY PUT

Once again, Jantar Mantar finds itself the setting for the protests of Tamil Nadu farmers. Their demands are simple - a loan waiver and a drought - relief package. After 41 days of protesting in Delhi earlier this year, Tamil Nadu farmers called off their protests until 25th May 2017, on a Sunday after the assurance of Chief Minister Edappi K Palaniswami that adequate action will be taken to soothe their grievances. This resumption of the protest, involving skulls and bones, occurred in response to the lack of effort on the part of the government, despite their promises.

For the uninitiated, here's a quick summary of the protest.

What was the inciting incident?

In August 2016, the state of Karnataka refused to release Cauvery river water. This water is essential for the livelihood of the Tamil Nadu farmers, especially in the Delta districts. Thus, this decision sparked protests across the state.

How did the tension further build up?

The failure of monsoon was the next big blow. Severely affected by the drought and thus unable to repay the crop loan, many farmers committed suicides in Thanjavur, Tiruvallur, Ariyalur, Perambalur and other districts. Since then, these farmers have taken to the streets every day, demanding droughts relief fund. This protest escalated rapidly after the death of the late Chief minister Jayalalitha popularly known as Amma, who had kept the interests of farmers in view while forming the policies. In response to the farmer's agitation, the new government sent teams of ministers to review the situations in the state after which government officially declared a drought.

What were the relief measures provided?

The central government release Rs 1, 7440 crores as a part of the drought relief fund instead of the Rs 40,000 crores sought by the state government. This humiliated and enraged the farmers, forcing them to lead a shocking protest. This time, however, they protested at Jantar Mantar because only the Centre can meet their demands.



What are their demands?

Their demands include a waiver of the loans that have been taken from nationalised public sector banks. Further claims include the Cauvery management board, the drought relief package, the minimum support price and the interlinking of rivers - all of which can only be sanctioned by the Centre.

How was the protest conducted?

In April, the farmers stripped outside the South Block after they were allegedly denied permission to meet the Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi. From protesting with human skulls (presumably of the fellow farmers who had committed suicide) to holding dead rats in their mouths, to from eating off the ground to drinking their urine, the farmers tried every possible way to grab the Centre's attention.



How was the protest put off?

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Palaniswami met the protesting farmers at Jantar Mantar on 23rd April 2017 and urged them to call off their strike. He assured that these demands would be taken to the Prime Minister and that the Centre will step in.

Why did the protest relaunch?

The protest resumed in July. The phase two took a drastic turn on 10th September 2017 when the farmers consumed their excreta. Two days later, the farmers ate the flesh of a body found on the banks of Yamuna river. On 17th September 2017, the birthday of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the protestors addressed him directly. They performed the 'thoppukaranam' (holding their ears with crossed hands, squatting and then rising) and shouted "Please help us" and "Save our lives".

The second round of protests has shown that the farmers will not run away from the battleground. They are here to stay and will fight tooth and nail.

The protest in total has lasted for more than 100 days and has successfully grabbed the attention of many. It has served to highlight the complexities of the daily struggles of our farmers. The long-lasting effect of the nature of these protests should have long lasting effects.

-RIDDHI SOLANKI



"I was hoping for a clean & peaceful Diwali. But again, every burst of cracker echoed Delhi's "I don't care" loud and clear. Delhiites continue to choke on pollution. It is a reflection of our dismissive and disrespectful attitude towards society, law & justice. When will we learn." by Kailash Satyarthi (@k_satyarthi)

Submitted by Pushkar Bhatlekar.

"Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines."

-Robert H. Schuller

Submitted by Chinmay Parulekar.

TOP 10 NEWS

1. Mukul Roy exits Trinamool Congress, likely to be inducted in BJP in November.
2. Victim's silence regarding rape, not proof of consent: says Delhi HC rejecting a rape convicts defence.
3. Cyrus Mistry fired as TATA Company chairman.
4. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Ro-Ro Ferry Service between Ghogha in Saurashtra and Dahej in south Gujarat.
5. NIA set to charge-sheet Zakir Naik.
6. Umar Mansoor Naray, the mastermind of the APS Peshawar massacre, has been reportedly killed in Afghanistan.
7. Five Dead As Mumbai Records Highest Rainfall In A Single Day In August Since 1997 on 30th August 2017.
8. India launched its heaviest rocket yet, the GSLV Mk-III.
9. Kidambi Srikanth beats Lee Hyun Il 21-10, 21-5 to win Denmark Open.
10. Indian Hockey team beats Malaysia to lift the Asia Cup.

CAREER WISE

A good book is much more than the story it tells. What exactly goes into the making of a good read? And can it be turned into profitable careers? Read on to find out.

Columnist

Columnists write or edit for a regular newspaper column. They share information of public interest and offer opinions to their readers. Usually columns have a specialised area of interest, like politics, sports, religion, fashion, or personal advice. Columnists are distinguishable by writing style, which allows them to grow a dedicated reader base. A columnist must always deliver a unique and exciting column to keep readers hooked.

Even though columnists do not abide by the rules of unbiased reporting, their job is not far removed from that of a reporter's. Before communicating news through their columns, columnists have to research and investigate local, national, and international events; interview people; and fact-check news and interpret it in a way that makes the story both an informative as well as an

enjoyable read. It is critical for columnists to be aware of journalism laws and ethics, and to possess the cultural sensitivity to deal with a diverse group of people.

Education and Training Requirements:

There is no specific academic qualification necessary for this profession. Becoming a successful columnist usually takes a lot of hard work, experience and above all, practice. It is beneficial to have a Bachelor's degree in Journalism, English, or Mass Communication. A lot of employers also recruit candidates with a liberal arts education or those with specialised knowledge in a particular field.

Personality Traits:

The nature of their job requires columnists to have strong interviewing skills, good analytical and interpretational skills and judgement. They ought to be adept at typing and communi-

cation. Motivated, organised and critical thinkers with a strong sense of perception and time management usually make it far in this field.

Job Working Conditions:

Columnists work in a variety of settings. Their job profile involves both indoor and outdoor work and a significant amount of travelling, even to foreign nations. The larger newspaper offices are comfortable, well-lit, and spacious. On the other hand, outdoor work can be stressful. Meeting new people is an inevitable part of being a columnist. Working hours are likely to be irregular, and columnists need to meet strict deadlines.

Salary: Salary depends on the working experience, the skills and knowledge of the person. The salary ranges somewhere around Rs. 8,000 - Rs 50,000 per month with some additional allowances depending upon the firm.

Illustrator

Illustration today has different avenues and applications because print, web and other media are increasingly focusing on the visual appeal to woo more subscribers. So yes, it can become a full-time career. Unfortunately, we don't yet have degree courses concentrating solely on illustration. However, students have the option of taking up either applied art or fine art and then specialising in illustration. Like most forms of art, illustration is an individual pursuit, and it's the individual's time, effort and practice that will make him/her a good illustrator. An illustrator mirrors his world on paper or the computer screen and hence, develops inquisitiveness and an eye for detail that would serve him well in most visual art forms.

The following is an interview by **Mrs Aditi Padhye-Desai**. She is an artist, who is currently illustrating a comic

strip '**Minu**' in a children's magazine '**Wayam**', amongst many other things.

1. What is the basic qualification needed for working as an illustrator?

There are special courses for learning illustration in art colleges. But one can become an illustrator if he has good drawing & observation skills.

2. Does illustration serve as a basic ground for design and animation?

The design is a part of the illustration. But animation & illustration very different.

3. What is the scope for budding illustrators for a career in India?

Thanks to the internet, work is not limited to India nowadays.

4. Would you like to share your experience and guide us through the process?

There are different types of illustrations that I have been designing; this includes the cover page of a book. The

overall look and feel of any business magazine and mascots, newspaper illustrations, comic strips, comic books, pamphlets of any kind are also included. Children's books are my personal favourite.

5. What is the role of an illustrator in any publication house like a magazine or newspaper? Is it a viable full-time career?

You need to have proper information about the related topic before you start your work. Eg. For a newspaper illustration; you should be aware of current politics to create a concept.

6. Any advice you would like to give the young artists of Ruia College?

For those interested in this field, I would suggest regular sketching. Try different styles. Observation of anything and everything around you including people, animals places etc is essential.

Editor

One of the most important contributions is that of an editor. A freelance editor works for himself and is hired by a writer. It is only with the help of an editor that the writer shakes off the mistakes and cleans up his/her story. A freelance copy editor may primarily work with spellings, grammar, punctuation, fact-checking, and word choice, i.e. he makes sure that the word means what the author thinks they may. Editors are of many kinds namely newspaper editor, medical editor, blog editor, magazine editor etc. Newspaper editor has a daily responsibility of deciding which news stories are printed in the paper. Long before the newspaper is published, the editor assigns reporters

to cover the news, checks for accuracy and fairness in the newspaper's articles and writes headlines. A medical editor can do much more than eliminating the spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. A medical editor revises scientific language for usage, flow, and clarity. He/She reduce awkward phrasing, biased language, and jargon that may be inappropriate for the average audience. A blog editor is usually responsible for managing all the writers who contribute content to the blog including hiring, communicating, answering questions, ensuring deadlines are met, providing feedback, ensuring style guide requirement is adhered to, and more. An editor is someone who is a critical reader and a lover of words.

They will prepare a client's manuscript for publication by polishing, refining and enhancing it. An editor should possess a Bachelor degree mostly in the field of Journalism, Communications, English, or a comparable discipline. An editor must be competent in grammar, should be creative, possess intermediate communication skills. In India, an editor gets around Rs 359,378 annual salary. A senior editor earns more than Rs 9 lacs a year. Average yearly pay has reached round 60,000 dollars in other countries. Currently, 55% women and 45% men work in the editing field. An editor is a gatekeeper between the writer and audience, and has to maintain an objective stance.

Blogger

Writing is an elaborate and archaic method of expression. Writing and its forms have evolved radically to include emotions, viewpoints, testimonies and confessions. The way writing is putting pen to a paper, fingers on a keypad, is blogging!

Blogging isn't merely a medium of expression but also the primary choice of

many business sectors to reach their patrons. Many websites, the most famous being WordPress, is encouraging budding writers to create their audience by creating a blog. Blogging is the perfect culmination of both, informative and informal communication. Bloggers can either work as freelancers or as employees. A manifold of areas from education, fashion, news to mar-

keting and scientific journals have adopted the culture of blogging. Professional bloggers are hired by these companies to make their information permeable and interesting.

Turning your hobby of writing into your career, where people from across the globe can read you. Blood-stirring, isn't it? Well, that's blogging in a nutshell.

Critic

A good critic needs to have an in-depth knowledge of the subject of his critical appreciation. As opposed to popular beliefs and opinions, a critic's job is not just finding flaws or bashing a piece of work but giving a fair and unbiased evaluation, and a well-informed perspective. So research is an important prerequisite. Other qualities needed to be a good critic are excellent communication skills, a diverse vo-

cabulary, sympathy, sensitivity, insight, thorough knowledge of the subject and most importantly, confidence. A degree in Journalism or any related subject is simply icing on the cake. However, no university provides a degree course in criticism. There are many newspapers, television channels and websites which provide a platform to aspiring critics. Influential critics of art, music, theatre and architecture often publish arguments in the form of

a noel publication and get a positive public response. Professional critics can earn Rs. 20,000 per month from different magazines and channels for their good reviews. However it is possible only if the person is hard working as a lot of research is needed before reviewing anything. Further, a review may also be criticised and one ought to be able to defend their stance.

Behind the Scenes

Mumbai Unmasked

ऐ दिल है मुश्किल जीना यहाँ
ज़रा हट के, ज़रा बचके ये है बॉम्बे मेरी जाँ

This song which was written in the 50's gives us a hint of life in Mumbai... Mumbai, the city of dreams, the city that never sleeps... everyone runs on the hands of the clock in this commercial capital of India. The city is open to all. Mumbai is home to Asia's biggest slum as well as the world's most expensive house. There is always an opportunity for anyone to make a living here. Mumbai is famous for its spirit and is known as the city that always rises above the challenges and disasters. Unfortunately over the past few years Mumbaikars have grown used to disasters, may it be floods, bomb blasts or train accidents. The often tested and overused "Spirit of Mumbai" has been manipulated to romanticize disasters. The 'Spirit of Mumbai' is becoming a mask we wear to hide our problems, and also, this sense of strength makes us feel secure. The fact remains that uncertainty of life of every person in Mumbai is increasing day by day whereas quality of life is degrading.

Today, prompt news and emergency status updates on channels and social media go a long way in helping the police, medical personnel, victims and their families. Although, sometimes it seems as if the news channels are more interested in obtaining 'Breaking News' and fail to grasp the importance of the situation. For example, during the Mumbai terror attacks on 26 November 2008, reporters received a lot of flak for unprofessional and hysterical reporting, posing insensitive questions to family members of victims present at the site and live coverage of all the moves made by security personnel. Such irresponsible reporting and attempt to cover sensational stories only serves to spread rumors and panic.

Another constant after all kinds of disasters are the "Spirit of Mumbai" stories run by news channels including images of people helping those affected, accounts of Mumbaikars' kindness and generosity and assurances of how we will overcome all obstacles and resume

As Oprah Winfrey once said, "The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams." It's true, living in the city of dreams, Mumbai, is certainly the biggest adventure one can face. Millions of people wake up in the morning, get ready for work and walk through streets filled with potholes. They catch trains so densely packed that many cannot even find a place for their feet. By mid-morning, the roads are filled with autos, cars and taxis. The horns and the pollution mixed with the humid heat of Mumbai create an unpleasant environment for the people. If there are potholes, you just jump around and dodge them, if the trains are jam packed, you just get in anyway so you don't get late for work. This habit of "ignoring" the problems and carrying on anyway with a chivalrous attitude is commendable, but it gets unhealthy beyond a certain point. The City of Dreams is also, sadly, the City of Problems. The habit of ignoring these problems in the name of "Spirit of Mumbai"

daily life. While these efforts by common people are appreciated, these stories distract us from the bigger issue- Why do we have to face problems like floods and water logging every year? Why have we become so used to bad infrastructure and horrible transportation conditions that we have essentially accepted them as a part of life in Mumbai?

Glorifying the "spirit of Mumbai" is not the answer to our problems but in fact one of the root causes. Nowadays the Spirit of Mumbai has become synonymous with dealing with our problems and overcoming them every day but the point remains that multiple hours stuck in traffic and dangerous train travel should not be considered as 'Life in Mumbai'. Tragic events should not be dismissed as just another day in Mumbai and bad living conditions are nothing to brag about or be proud of. We should not have to justify our problems under the name of "Spirit of Mumbai".

has caused the problems to pile up. Consider the incident that happened on Elphinstone Road railway station, where a stampede occurred recently. When panic struck, dozens of innocent Mumbaikars were trapped under the feet of the bewildered crowd. Mumbai is a culturally diverse city. But most of us still don't understand the rules to be followed when in a public place whether it concerns a simple queue, littering or overruling traffic laws. We have reached a point where we brag about the traffic problem in the city. Though reasons like potholes, bad infrastructure are important causes of many of these problems and are under the control of the relevant authorities, a basic public responsibility could make the situation a little easier. We, as citizens of Mumbai are also not trained to tackle the problems in a systematic way. Unfortunately, panic is the first step that we resort to in any kind of disaster, which makes the situation even more difficult.

Mumbai is a part of all of us just as we are all a part of Mumbai. All of the problems that this city faces today directly affect us. It is high time we acknowledge the truth because that is the first step towards change. The "Spirit of Mumbai" has become a platitude for the masses. The same words have been repeated so many times that it has lost its meaning. But after stating all that it is not, the question arises; what is the "Spirit of Mumbai"?

It is all the people who call this city their home. It means something different to each person living here and it is ever changing, along with Mumbai's residents even as it remains the same at its heart. It is like the waves at Marine Drive, full of excitement. It is the desire every one of us has to accomplish our dreams. It is the remembrance of Mumbai's past, the celebration of Mumbai's present and most importantly the hope for Mumbai's future. After all, isn't hope what Mumbai is all about?

What is 'Spirit of Mumbai' to you?

The spirit of Mumbai is a conditional mood. Mumbai shows unity and support in every matter, irrespective of its pertinence. We are reminded of our Spirit of Mumbai only during the time of terrorizing situations or natural disasters. We require this spirit to end the cause of the problem and not just to work on the after effects.

-Rahul Premkumar, SYBSc

The Spirit of Mumbai is the people who call it their home and it's high time we stop taking it for granted. The Spirit of Mumbai is the assuagement we give each other each time something goes terribly wrong in this city. The Spirit of Mumbai is now merely an excuse to avoid facing the fact that this city needs work and good administration. Just because we can't seem to find any other likeable crowd pleasing alternative to the situation doesn't make it acceptable.

-Anuradha Kamath, SYBSc

We overlook the failure of the system and the management and collectively the government which proves to be inadequate and unsatisfactory at every time there is a calamity. We get back to our life faster than we drifted off and name it the 'Spirit' of the city. The spirit of the city feeds on survival and brotherhood. That's all it is, an inadequate authority and an independent city.

-Shrikant Salve, TyBsc

The Spirit of Mumbai to me, is a resident emotion that slowly seeps into all who enter it, and leaves them mentally stronger, physically better prepared, and emotionally refreshed all at the same time. It's the will to never give up on dreams, and a sense of belonging and fraternity.

-Varad Modak, SYBSc

Mumbai is a city with great economic differences among masses. But during a natural calamity, they all seem to forget about their backgrounds and help each other. We have seen the poor helping wealthy people struck in traffic or inconvenient situation. Many NGOs and individuals risked their lives to rescue the needy. This is the Spirit of Mumbai according to me.

-Sushrut Mane, SyBsc

We are reminded of this spirit every time something traumatizing happens, but it's beyond that. It is in those morning smiles shared between strangers of the train every day. It is in knowing that we are in this together. It is in the feeling that everybody is welcome here. Everyone is painting their life with their choice of colours. One is promised absolute anonymity without absolute isolation. The spirit of Mumbai lives on in people's hearts.

- Atibhi Sharma, SYBSc

INSIGHT

Thoughts about things and things about thoughts.

Is there a thing or a prized possession, so to say, that you are so attached to that parting with it would break your emotional (irrational) heart? We are sure there must be, and hence this month, Insight decided to find out from classmates what things they are close to and why.



Tabla. While playing the tabla, I get a feeling that cannot be explained; one can only experience it.
- Hrishikesh Tawde, SYJC



My watch. I bought it with my own money. It will be eight years this 17th since I got it.
-Siddhesh Patil, FYBA



My teddy. He is always here. Whenever I have free time, I talk to my Teddy and clear my heart. He's very important to me.
- Nandini Boricha, FYBA



All the handwritten cards I've ever received. It's because someone has put some thought into making it for me.
-Rucha Bedekar, SYBA



My novel collection consists of friends who have witnessed every phase of my mood and have consoled me without speaking anything.
-Pranita Thorat, TYBA



A poster of my favourite musician, George Harrison. I could not resist buying that poster. George looked so angelic and innocent in the picture it gave off positive vibes. Whenever I'm down, I look at the poster, and I'm okay.
-Sanhita, FYBA



My minion speakers. The thing is I always really like listening to music. Without asking me, my dad bought them for me from his Europe trip. They are the reason why I suddenly felt empowered to play my music and create my space.
-Deekshita Srinivas, TYBA



Photo albums. Nowadays, we take millions of selfies and store them on our memory card. We don't give rolls to a studio so we can later arrange them while recalling the moments. Going through photo albums is a roller coaster ride for me filled with all the emotions. I love cherishing, living and treasuring these moments sealed in photographs.
-Vaishnavi Dabholkar, TYBSc



These two stones that I picked up from my native place. I used to think that they were magical because when rubbed together, they would generate sparks and that was a mystery to me, thus magical. Now, I can't part with them. It reminds me of the good, old, carefree days of childhood.
-Stuti Tibrewala, FYBComm



These things, articles, or objects that we cling to help us by being the constants in our ever-changing lives. They ground us; a reminder of a bittersweet memory, a parting gift, a token of love, an unbroken promise, a proud moment, the sweet fruits of hard-work, reminiscence of fulfilled or unfulfilled aspirations.

Everyone has a story and so does everything. It is not just our classmates, but even people we see on the screen that fall prey to this tendency.

For many people, an autograph by Amitabh Bachchan or a ball hit by Dhoni that fell right into their hands in the audience becomes their most treasured possession. So we decided to take a peek at the treasured possessions of such stars and the stories behind them.

Sachin Tendulkar: The Master Blaster's most treasured possession is a collection of 13 one-rupee coins, which he got from his school coach, Ramesh Achrekar Sir. The story goes that, while practising, Achrekar Sir would place a one rupee coin on the stumps and whoever bowled the batsmen, would get the coin. But if Sachin stayed on the pitch all through the day, the coin would be his. In this process, Sachin earned all the 13 coins, which have an essence of gratitude and nostalgia now.



Bob Wilson: The former Scotland International Football goalkeeper has earned many laurels in his outstanding career, but what stays closest to his heart is his jersey from 1971 FA Cup Final. "The jersey represents the pinnacle of my football career", he said.

Priyanka Chopra: PeeCee has a special place in her heart for a neckpiece, that originally belonged to her father, late Ashok Chopra, and was given to him by his wife when he was first diagnosed with cancer. Initially, the neckpiece only held an emerald for health, but later loved ones added various pendants, for blessings. After his death, PeeCee kept this neckpiece as a token of remembrance, and she carries it with her on her travels. She says, "I feel like I'm carrying my family and country with me".



Martin Johnson: Martin Johnson's most prized possession is his daughter's teddy bear. The former English rugby union player has been known as quite a 'family man' because no matter how high his games take him, his heart still roots for his beloved family. He fondly calls the teddy bear 'Teddy Chew' because his daughter used to chew on him. Teddy Chew, in his words, is the keeper of all happy things about his family; a symbol representing them when he is not able to be with them.

Salman Khan: His Feroza bracelet is a significant statement. It lies very close to him as it was gifted to him by his father, Salim Khan for good luck. He has, since then treasured it as a lucky charm.



SARA CHAVAN, FYBA
& NEHA NAYAK, FYBSc

As we have seen, these things represent our feelings; the times our vulnerabilities surfaced, some that we have conquered, some yet to be. But sometimes these possessions possess us.

Is it nostalgia, are we still dwelling in the past? Or, is it something that gives us strength, reminding us to explore our hidden potentials? Whatever it may be, how do we learn to let go of these possessions when they become so crucial that we can't go a day without them?

How to Let Go Off a Possessive Possession

Attachments are fine until they turn into obsessions. Material possessions become the locus of safety, security, fate, warmth and memories; making it even harder to overcome these sentiments. But maybe it's not about getting over but moving on. Here are three steps which might help you do that -

1. Know - Know the difference between wants and needs. Know the value of the thing you're holding onto. Ask yourself if you need it. Question its existence. And when you start having doubts you'll know that it's not worth

2. Explore - Have favourites, not forever. Because it is easier to move on from favourites, keep it on changing. Try new things. Try new places. Go out, and you would know there's much more than what you can fit in your hands.

3. Just Do it - Leave it behind. Be impulsive. Declutter. It's not easy but nor too difficult, trust us on this. You will feel lighter.

HIMANI JOSHI, SYBA

Thinking too much, reading too much into things are our futile, incessant attempts to make such abstract emotions tangible. A risky path we traverse to reach a fort built with quicksand. Let us burst these illusions and ask ourselves what truly matters to us. The lighter you travel, and the lesser you accumulate, the more you will enjoy the journey.

TANVI PADIA, FYBA

OP-ED



Someone once said that we don't fear the unknown, we fear what we think we know about the unknown. At the age of 20, I am petrified of the unacquainted realities that lie before me - career, relationships, dreams, ageing, the purpose of life, self-discovery. Oh! The list seems endless. As soon as I step into the world, the uncertainty and doubt creep in. It surrounds me from all sides, and I can visualise my face turning into a question mark. But piercing through it all, I hear a voice similar to that of my grandmother. It says, "Come. Sit next to me. I'll tell you another story." This month, the OP-ED team decided to replace this fear with curiosity and headed towards an NGO in Byculla called 'Aashadaan'. In addition to the folks there, we approached our grandparents for some expert advice. And with their insights and marvellous adventures, we're here to unravel the mystery of ageing. We were awed by their candour, and we hope that you'll feel the same way. Happy Reading!

1. What is the greatest thing about being their age?

The ability to live life on their terms and to revel in the experiences they have gathered throughout their lifetime. They feel relieved to have free time to spend with their grandchildren, to pursue their hobbies and relax. Plus they enjoy meeting peers to hold discussions on how to change the profile picture on Whatsapp.

2. How often do they look back on 'the good old days'?

They can't resist the temptation of revisiting their golden days, a smile inadvertently appearing on their wrinkled faces. The days when they could walk without support and jump in the ecstatic playfulness are missed without a doubt. But despite sometimes groaning how complicated the world has grown to be, they seem to have accepted and adapted to the inevitability of change by taking up a broader perspective facilitated by their rich experience.

3. What was the best thing about growing up without technology at their age?

For the elderly, the modern day technology doesn't facilitate real connection of a personal meeting. The intimacy of letter writing, for example, is missing in a WhatsApp message. Navigating through social media and digital communication is difficult for them. But they tell us that they are also grateful for technology because, despite the quality, it adds to the frequency of communication. Given their age, and often the inability to travel considerable distances, this can make all the difference.

4. What was their idea of fun during their childhood?

For them, a happy vibrant childhood meant bickering with siblings and then making up by playing endless games together. Most days, they recollect, they would be exhausted by the hours of cricket, football and flying kites, climbing trees and swimming. They are glad to have a childhood uninfluenced by technology and to have spent time enjoying all that nature has to offer.

5. Which memorable moments do they consider as turning points of their life?

Positive and negative events have an equal impact on us. They have learnt this through personal experience. The important events of their life range from receiving an MBBS degree, to playing guitar at a musical show in the Taj Hotel, to publishing one's first collection of poems, to getting married and holding one's child for the first time, to welcoming their grandchildren into this world, to having a stroke leading to paralysis and even death of one's partner.

6. What are some important lessons which they have learnt over the course of their life?

As we grow old, we acquire a deeper understanding of the world, and life imparts some lessons on the way. Some of these lessons shared by our senior citizens include learning the importance of virtues like discipline, humility, loyalty, honesty, cleanliness, positive thinking and the power of silence. Some realised that karma is real, and others grew to believe

in God and that he has a plan for us. They also learnt the importance of doing 'what is right at a given time'. Since these life lessons come naturally with experiences, they also pointed out the direct correlation between wisdom and experiences.

7. What is their idea of celebrating a festival? Can they share one such experience?

The most common response for them is that festivals become an excellent opportunity to bring their loved ones together and spend some quality time with them. People at Aashadaan treasure, every moment of the time, shared with visitors who take out time to celebrate Diwali with them. They especially love to sway to the melodies played by the youngsters who visit and dance with them in the same youthful spirit. Other cherished festive moments include laughing over bursting of a cracker between one's legs, organising a huge 'Mangalagaur' for one's daughter first time after marriage or keeping an eye on one's granddaughter, crawling all over the place with Rangolis and Diyas around.

8. What was the best Diwali gift you have received or given?

As one grows old, one tends to value people, love and relationships over material gifts. This makes it harder for them to remember one. "Not to mention the memory loss," they joke. As for giving gifts, well, they believe one doesn't need an occasion to shower their grandchildren with gifts.

9. What keeps them going every day?

It is easy to assume that they only have their children and grandchildren on their minds. While partially true, they have also found other ways to amuse themselves with activities like reading, solving puzzles in the newspaper, spirituality, pensioner's clubs and social work.

10. Do they think success and happiness are related?

According to them, success and happiness are closely related. Most people accept that success makes one happy, but it applies the other way round too. They told us that once we know what makes us happy, we are more likely to succeed. Further, they admit that personal experience has taught them that happiness is not completely dependent on success. One might discover happiness in other things. Mr Willey at Aashadaan found happiness in committing himself to social work after retirement. They also impart some of their success mantras including, "Work hard and value time" and "Be determined and strong-willed". They may be cliché, but there's a reason for it.

11. If there is something they would like to tell their younger self, what would that be?

It is difficult not to reflect back on the time that has passed by, but it doesn't help to live in parallel worlds created by 'what ifs?' In fact, our elders show a tacit acceptance of the reality of the situation by admitting the immaturity of young age, and the mistakes committed in the past.

12. What do they expect from the younger generation?

In the end, the least they expect from the youth is to try to listen and understand what they have to say, accept the obvious differences existing as a result of the generational gap, to educate themselves well, but not to forget humanity on the race to the top, give back to the people who made them and finally to help make this world a better place to live in



एक आगळी भेट
‘सुर म्हणतो साथ दे, दिवा म्हणतो वात दे।
उन्हामधल्या म्हातार्याला फक्त तुझा हात दे।’

‘नटसम्राट’ मधील मन उद्विग्न करणाऱ्या या स्वगताने सगळ्यांच्याच डोळ्यात पाणी आणले आणि काही प्रमाणात वृद्धत्वाची अपेक्षाही मांडली.

‘वृद्धाश्रम!’ माझ्या मनातील या शब्दाची साचेबद्ध संकल्पना आमच्या ‘आशादान’ च्या भेटीने पूर्णतः मोडीत निघाली. लहान मुलं, वृद्ध महिला - पुरुष, मानसिक व शारीरिक दृष्ट्या विकलोग अशा सर्वांची काळजी घेणारे, त्यांना आपलेपणाने जपणारे जणू एक वेगळं जगच आम्ही अनुभवले.

तेथील वृद्ध लोकांना भेटल्यावर आमच्या असे लक्षात आले की तिथल्या बऱ्याच जणांना नीट बोलताही येत नाही किंवा आम्ही बोलतोय ते समजत नाहीये. पण काही वेळाने लोक स्वतःहून आमच्याशी बोलू लागली आणि आमच्या अस्वादा सुरू झाला. जणू त्यांनी आमच्या समोर खंडा जीवनपट्टेच मांडला होता ज्याने आम्ही अंतर्मुख झालो.

‘आनंद आणि प्रेम दिल्यानेच वाढते’ याचे प्रत्यंतर आम्हा सर्वांनाच आले. ‘आई वडिलांवर विश्वास ठेवा, देशासाठी सत्कार्य करा.’ असा सोपा पण तितकाच अर्थपूर्ण संदेश देताना त्यांच्या डोळ्यात आगच्या वर दर्शविलेला विश्वास मन हरखून टाकणारा होता.

कित्येक अडचणींवर मात करूनही चेहऱ्यावर अखंड हसू ठेवणारी ही माणसं खरच किती ‘Special’ असतात, नाही???

Acknowledging the differences is the first step in their acceptance. So we thought why not look at the views of our generation on similar lines.

When it comes to the younger generation, the approach towards festivals and life is as mature as the elderly. Celebrations are times to enjoy and relax with the family and celebration of festivals isn't limited to sweets or shopping but extends to celebrating life itself.

Celebrating life means accepting life struggles. For the adolescents, a major struggle is coming to terms with one's identity. With the rising competition, the world has become just a box, where one, seeing no way out, tries to fit in. Coping with the developing nature of the world, youngsters are pushing themselves to their maximum capacity to accomplish the goals set by societal expectations rather than personal interests and losing their originality, adorned by imperfections on the way.

Social media plays a major role in the development of the world into one family. This has somewhat redefined the meaning of love, where the time taken to reply to messages determines its intensity.

Birthdays and anniversaries are reduced to a mere Facebook notification.

Amidst the uncertainty of the world, love towards grandparents is constant. In simple words, after breaking up on WhatsApp, girls find solace in their grandma's bosom. Grandparents are immobile mountains in the lives of teens, which are as predictable as the rains in Mumbai.

Similarly, the uncertainty of old age cannot be denied. While ending up in an old age home isn't a pleasant idea for many, few do wish to voluntarily go there. Others, however, came up with ideas like touring the world, living alone, independent of their children, and even planning to be part of a Buddhist monastery. Our generation will produce a unique batch of grandparents. Grandparents spending time playing video games and watching GOT isn't much of a distant reality now.

Do you ever wonder what kind of grandparent you would be? Would all that you are striving for today matter even an ounce when you grow old? Where do you think would the generational gap lie when the next generation comes by?

OPEN FORUM

NOTES TO THE ALTER EGO

How unique the idea of our distinct self is, that expressing our sentiments is like knowing exactly what the heart wishes to do. Here are some notes, which convey the alter ego; the unspoken feelings- may it be a pursuit of an aspiration, or simply thanking it for its presence.

Hey wanderer!

I hope you are doing good, travelling from one country to another- one day savouring Croissant du chocolat, and the other, trying on the Flamenco outfit for a fiesta. Did the floating lights at the Chinese Lantern Festival strike you with awe and wonder? I'm sure you're having a lot of fun when you meet wanderers from other strange lands at the Darling Harbor and listen to their experiences and travel stories. Tell me, how does it feel, speaking fluently with the natives in their language? Worth the effort of trying to know them, isn't it? I aspire to be in your shoes and meet you somewhere to know more about you and your experiences while we are roaming around one of the colourful markets, exploring food, culture, music, and people. I would share mine too, just for having a good laugh. Stay sweet and adorable. See you soon!

Hugs and Kisses,
-Gayatri.

To my extrovert alter ego,

I don't know how you do it- meet new people, talk to them, make new friends. Even the prospect of something new scares me, although it also excites me. But you, you just march ahead with no care about what people think of you, or if they like you or not. These trivial things just don't bother you while they make my knees shake and heart beat just a little faster.

What I wish for, my extroverted alter ego is that you show up, in reality, a few times. Times when I know I shouldn't care what the opposite person thinks of me, or when my greatest wish is to go and talk to a person but I can't because my fear pulls hard on my reins. So, I hope I see you soon.

Your introverted self,
-Sayli.

Note to an alter ego,

Hey there, Natasha! Natasha here, bending temporal and spatial rules to drop a few words. I hope you're doing well and having a great time in your courses. History is such a vast subject, and archaeology is in my --our--opinion, one of the most interesting research fields. But of course, there's zoology and nature research as well, my pick of interest. It's amazing to study these creatures in detail and learn about their origins, but I do wonder sometimes what learning more about how the past worked would be like. Do you think that way about zoology?

Picking one over the other was so conflicting, but we did stay true to our curious roots. Our inquisitiveness got us into research, and it'll probably be the death of me when combined with my recklessness when chasing after an elusive bird. Hopefully, they will serve you in a safer manner. Have fun, stay sharp, and don't ever stop dreaming.

Good times,
Natasha.

Dear Self,

I again got upset over my weight today. My mood is completely ruined, but I hope you are doing great; because I know that you, unlike me, are confident and proud. I never really appreciated you, but every time I doubt myself or overthink petty issues, you have always given me a ray of hope. You have always taught me to love myself and respect myself a little more than I do. I remember all those times when I compared myself to others and got upset about small things while you silently said: "Love yourself and accept yourself". I can never thank you enough for always encouraging me to do better and cheering me up. I look forward to becoming more like you. Until then, stay by my side.

-Riddhi

Dear Self,

I am sorry for the times I caused you pain and for being so hard on you in times of disappointment. I took you for granted even when you were always there for me in times of happiness, joy, hatred and miseries. I failed to appreciate your presence while I had completely directed myself on conquering my weakness and developing my strengths. Sometimes, I hate myself for the flaws and insecurities that I have and end up blaming you too. But those things aren't half as important as who I am and who I aspire to be. You help me realise that daily and I am grateful for that. So, thank you for everything. Everything.

-Ishita

So what would you say to your Alter Ego?

DIWALI HOTSPOTS

-Natasha Desai, Riddhi Jadye

We all have our special ways of celebrating the festival of lights. However, the skies will be distinctly less 'lit' following the firecracker ban. That doesn't mean our celebrations have to be any less colourful. There are so many places that bring in Diwali with a blaze of lights and tantalising food, and they're a treat for the eyes and belly. Here are a few areas that shine the brightest in this festival:

HIRANANDANI ESTATE (GHOD-BUNDER ROAD, THANE)

This entire locality is beautified with a veritable rainbow of lighting displays. Lanterns and Rangolis are used to give the roads a splendid festive feel. The recent addition of The Walk, which houses several good cafes and food joints, makes this a wonderful place to spend a Diwali evening.

MATUNGA MARKET (L. NAPPO ROAD, MATUNGA EAST)

The whole market is a beautiful abode of unique showpieces, fairy lights and lanterns. (Being close to Ruia, you can always take a stroll down the lane once!)



COLABA CAUSEWAY (SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD)

This one is a favourite of all fashion lovers. Apart from festive clothes, one can shop for Diwali decor pieces, Vintage goods and Jewelry. And, you can always bargain for the right price!



JUHU BEACH (VILE PARLE)

One of the city's most popular seafronts, Juhu Beach is a superb place to hang out, especially on an empty stomach - after all, the food stalls serve the best of Mumbai's street food, from Bhel Puri, Pav Bhaji and Dosas to seasonal specialities like Nankatai and Chakli.

SULEMAN MITHAIWALA (MOHAMMAD ALI ROAD)

For all the foodies, this is the perfect place to eat in Diwali. It serves delicious Malpua, Anjeer Badam Halwa, Gulab Jamun and other sweets. After all, Mohammad Ali Road is about food and grabbing a bite!

FRIGHT NIGHT ORIGIN

-Sayli Mayekar, Ishita Nirbhavne

The popularity of Halloween has been growing exponentially over the years. Americans spend over 5 billion dollars annually on Halloween, which makes it the country's 2nd largest commercial holiday. But what is it about this holiday that makes it so popular, not only in the states but also around the globe? Whatever the reason, we won't be seeing its popularity go down the hill anytime soon. So let's see how this holiday came to be celebrated, its significance and what the bible says about it.

Halloween is a western custom, and hence it has no direct reference in the Bible. However, there are biblical principles that relate to the celebration of Halloween. Now let's find out its origin story. The ghost of the dead return to earth on the night of Samhain, October 31st. At least such was the ancient Gaelic belief. Samhain marked the beginning of winter

or the 'darker half' of the year. Seen as a liminal time, it meant the spirits could come into our world easily as the boundary between our world and the 'other-world' thinned. It combines both- superstition and celebration. Trick-or-treating, lighting bonfires, apple bobbing, divination games, are some of the new traditions of which a few have been believed to be influenced by folk customs and beliefs from the Celtic-speaking countries. It was said that the souls of the dead returned home, seeking hospitality. Dinner was set, and fires were lit for them.

That was the traditional significance, of course. But in the world that we live in today, Halloween is the most happening time of the year, where people dress up as anyone they want to enjoy the spook in the air.

Trick or
Treat



TECH TRICKED

THE PATH OF IMMORTALITY?

We do see magicians producing cards out of thin air, but the scientific community is interested in doing things even freakier than this! Like really? Are they out of their minds? Speaking seriously, you are happy even after losing your leg or an arm after an accident because the idea of turning on your printer and getting a new organ or a limb makes you chilled out! This sounds super attractive and sci-fi, but may not actually be, because this is what the scientific community is trying to do with the 3D printing technology!

In 1984, Charles Hull patented a process called "stereolithography" which is today known as 3D printing, working on a simple concept that the virtual 3D image from a computer can be converted into real time objects using 3D printers. Yeah, but make sure you don't use a 3D printer to print more 3D printers. Initially, this technique was limited in making objects from plastics and polymers but the medical field is literally reaping the benefits of 3D printing. How? By taking this technique one step ahead from 3D printing to 3D Bioprinting.



In the field of transplantation, the demand for organs continues to increase and has far outpaced the supply. This ever-growing unmet need for organs calls for innovative solutions in order to save more lives. The development of new technologies in the field of biomedical engineering might be able to provide some solutions. With the advent of 3D bioprinting, the potential development of tissues or organ grafts from autologous cells like stem cells lies within our reach. Based on the technology and platform used for regular 3D printing, 3D bioprinters have the ability to create biologically functional tissues by dispensing layer after layer of bioink and biogel that if left to mature with the proper environment will produce a functional tissue copy with normal metabolic activity! The use of 3D bioprinting has

already resulted in the successful printing of skin layers, blood vessels, vascular networks, bones, cartilage, ears, nose, and tracheal grafts. So, you can actually break your nose while playing MMA and comeback happily, start your printer, call your doctor and get a new nose done! In 2013, the company Organovo produced a human liver using 3D bioprinting, though it is not suitable for transplantation, and has primarily been used as a medium for drug testing. Research is currently being conducted on printing of vital organs like heart, kidneys and liver suitable for transplantation. And once this feat is achieved, smoking and alcohol won't ever kill you (Not supporting smoking/drinking). So, a day might come in future when human organs will be delivered at your doorsteps like pizzas and burgers and babies will take birth from printers. The development in bioprinting technology paves a way for tackling aging and death because it gives us the ability to replace defective organs, change our tissues, and heal our systems; things that may lead to an immortal man in the future!

- Vighnesh Lokare

ISRO's All-Indian Solar Hybrid Car Ready to Hit the Road

After the stellar achievement with Mangalyaan – the mission to Mars, the **Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO)** has stepped down from the skies onto paved roads. The space organisation recently demonstrated a solar-powered hybrid electric car. A **Maruti Suzuki Omni** was used as the project vehicle, which was powered by lithium ion batteries. ISRO demonstrated its solar hybrid electric car and there's a strong reason behind working on it. "Vehicles using fossil fuels persistently bring serious problems to our environment and life. In this perspective, Solar and Electrical energy based hybrid vehicles provide the most effective and viable long-term solution by using renewable energy sources for mobility".



Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO, Thiruvananthapuram, demonstrated the running of solar hybrid electric car using in-house expertise and resources within ISRO.

What is it made-up of?

The solar panel on the rooftop absorbs sunlight to charge the battery. In order to convert the electrical energy to mechanical energy, an efficient power conversion module has been integrated between the energy system and electric motor. The Brushless type motor in the vehicle is not just light in weight, but also offers more torque with less energy input. The vehicle is powered by high energy density lithium ion batteries which are connected across high power density super-capacitors. This battery delivers the sustained energy requirement while the super-capacitor supports peak power demand during high torque conditions. This arrangement of power sharing helps in enhancing the life of power-restricted batteries. ISRO claims that associated safety aspect has not been compromised while combining various active subsystems of different behaviours for a focused objective.

ISRO is ready to transfer this technology and make the automobile industry one of the most technologically advanced in the world. ISRO's prowess in Space technology has been shown time and again and with this new innovation, the space organisation is now set to take the country to a new high. The hurdle that is being faced by ISRO is how to reduce the cost of the car making it affordable to all. Given the growing environmental concerns, the new technology is definitely a welcome move. Since most leading automakers in the country have already been working hard on introducing hybrid versions, a lead from ISRO might really help with future developments. - **Shubham Borhade**

Door has been Opened for Editing Memories!

Ever had a point in your life, where you are told to present a project before class and the very mention of presenting before a class full of people gave you jitters? Because then you suddenly remember every time in your life where you messed up a speech in public. Ever liked a girl/boy but never dared to even ask him/her because you got rejected by someone a while ago?

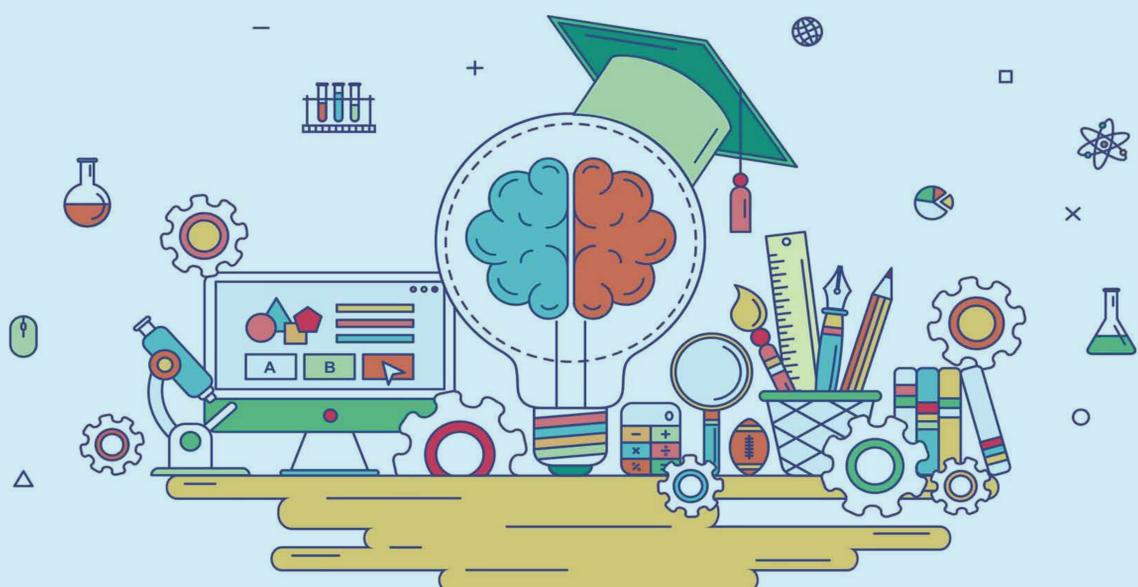
Our brain is programmed to remember memories and its corresponding emotional response. Whenever we remember a cheerful memory, the happiness involved in that memory is also evoked. The same continues with sad memories too. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have announced the discovery of the neural link between remembrance and emotional response. Valence is the emotional association tied to a specific memory. While a memory's context is stored in the hippocampus, the emotional components are filed away in the amygdala. Manipulating the link between these two parts of the brain plays a key part in influencing memory.



Through an innovative technique called optogenetics, which uses light to control neuron activity, the MIT researchers were able to visually tag mice brain cells associated with certain memories. When those brain cells were reactivated with light, the mice behaved as though they were reliving those memories or engrams again. In 2000, LeDoux's post-doctoral student, male mice that disliked a certain location would suddenly prefer it when thholar Karim Nader did an experiment in which he took a rat with a memory of a fearful experience and injected the animal with a drug that blocks protein synthesis.

Afterward, the rat's unconscious fearful memory was erased. The rat might still have had the conscious memory of the fearful experience, but it no longer had an emotional reaction to it. In layman's term, the technology to selective erasing of memories is slowly becoming a reality. The applications of this technology is limitless; right from erasing negative and embarrassing memories, to re-watching your favorite movie again and again as if you are seeing it for the first time. However, like every technological boon, there comes a few evils. The spread of this scientific method to the realm of memory would "destroy the virtue of historical study," alienating us from our own pasts. The study of history would cease to count as a virtue if remembrance lost its attraction or became perceived as an investment not worth its while. To avoid the misuse of this technology, it needs to be legalized and regulated by the government, as it can dictate which memories are worth of erasing and which ones are not.

- Atharva Bidwalkar



SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING

The Phoenix with Wings of Fire – Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam

Fondly known as the People's president, Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was truly a revolutionary personality. A world-renowned scientist, an excellent orator, an inspiring author, a great musician, a humble teacher and a disciplined statesman, Dr Kalam was a master of all trades in the true sense. Born to a simpleton boat owner in the town of Rameshwaram, Dr Kalam went on to become the 11th President of India. He was the third President who had the Bharat Ratna conferred upon him before being elected as the President. We remember him in his birth month.

Mentioned below are few of his quotes:

1. To succeed in life and achieve results, you must understand and master three mighty forces – desire, belief and expectation.

2. The two most important life-goals I would like every youth to have: one- increase the amount of time that you have at your disposal and two- increase what you can achieve in the time available.

3. Determination is the power that sees us through all our frustrations and obstacles. It helps in building our willpower which is the very basis of success.



4. Never give up on your dreams no matter how old you are and no matter where you are today, do not give up dreaming for a better tomorrow.

5. The world demands the qualities of youth, youth not as defined by a time span of life but defined by a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity and an appetite for adventure over a life of ease!

6. Courage is about doing what you are afraid to do. The one who feels no fear is a fool, and the one who lets fear rule him is indeed a coward. We must have the courage to act, instead of reacting.

7. When suffering appears in our lives, we should be aware that beneath its negative surface there could be a hidden opportunity for growth and deepening.

8. Unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us. In this world, fear has no place. Strength only respects strength.

Contribution:

APJ Abdul Kalam's contribution made India a member of the space club. He spent four decades being a Scientist and Science Administrator, primarily at the Defence Research and Development Organization as well as Indian Space Research Organization and was thoroughly implicated in India's Civilian Space Program as well as military missile expansion efforts. He, therefore, came to be recognised as the Missile Man of India owing to his gracious work on the expansion of ballistic missile and instigation of vehicle technology.

Year	Project	Result
July 1980	Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-III) Rohini satellite	SUCCESSFUL
1970s	Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)	SUCCESSFUL
1970s	Project Devil	SUCCESSFUL
1970s	Project Valiant	SUCCESSFUL
	Developed Indigenous Guided Missiles (PRITHVI, AGNI)	
1998	Developed a low-cost Coronary stent "Kalam-Raju Stent"	
1998	Pokhran-II nuclear tests	
2001	Light Combat Aircraft: HAL TEJAS	SUCCESSFUL
2012	Designed a rugged tablet PC for health care in rural areas "Kalam-Raju Tablet"	

Dr.Kalam's contribution Towards Science, Education & Society is immeasurable and occupied with incredible efforts during his life journey. He has not only inspired thousands of students but also given them true "Wings of Fire" to soar high.

-Yash Acharya and Swara Jamdar

MISSION BLACK HOLE

Today, our 'Ship of Imagination' takes you to a massive black hole at the centre of our galaxy. However, this time you are not alone but accompanied by your friend 'Jarvis'. Your mission is to fall into a black and make some observations, while Jarvis is on the ship observing you fall. If you fell into a black hole, you might expect to get incinerated instantly. But in fact, your fate would be far stranger than that! So, with Jarvis monitoring you, you take a plunge towards the black hole. As you accelerate towards the event horizon, Jarvis sees you stretch and contort (due to gravity), as if he were viewing you through a giant magnifying glass. What's more?

Now as you approach the black hole, you would not notice any change in time as you are experiencing it, but from Jarvis' perspective, time appears to slow down and eventually crawl to stop for you. You try to communicate with him; however, your words reach him even more slowly: "Jarvis, J a r v i s, J a r v i s...." When you reach the horizon, Jarvis sees you freeze, as if someone has hit your pause button. You seem to remain plastered there, motionless, stretched across the surface of the horizon as the hole is ready to engulf you. Finally, just before you're about to cross the event horizon, you see the entire observable universe contract to a single, brilliant point immediately behind you. And the point goes out all at once as if someone turned the power switch off.

You have now crossed the event horizon of the black hole. The view around is blacker than mere black; you are looking at non-existent. There is nothing to see, nothing to observe. Your mission is a failure. Even if you had the 'Ship of Imagination' with you, it would have been in vain. You can never make it back again to tell your story to Jarvis. Usually, for us, time marches only forward while space is static, but the opposite becomes your reality. Time will stand still, leaving one direction to head to - 'The Singularity'.

(Event horizon: Surface of black hole within which nothing can be seen and nothing can escape; a point of no return. Singularity: Centre of black hole where gravity approaches infinity; a single point in space time dimension)

- Vighnesh Lokare

Why Pi Matters?

Pi comes in all of our lives at the school. We first know it as 22/7 and then came 3.14 (some of us did stunts of remembering as many digits possible of 3.14159265358979...) as the value of pi. But what it is pi? Pi is an irrational number; it is defined as the ratio of the circumference of any circle to its diameter. Regardless of the circle's size, this ratio will always equal pi. Pi is one of the super numbers (others are e, i, 0, 1). As we all know pi is used vastly in geometry and trigonometry. A river's meandering is described by its sinuosity – the length along its winding path divided by the distance from source to ocean as the crow flies. It turns out an average river has a sinuosity of about 3.14. Although not a physical constant, π appears routinely in equations describing fundamental principles of the universe, often because of π 's relationship to the circle and the spherical coordinate systems.

The period of a pendulum is approximately $T = 2\pi(L/g)^{1/2}$, where L is its length and g is the acceleration due to gravity. If we set $T = 2$ and $L = 1$, and solve for g, we get $g = \pi^2$. Pi is also a part of characterizing and searching for planets outside our solar system, called exoplanets. It is used to calculate volume and then eventually density of the planet. This tells us whether a planet is mostly gaseous like Jupiter, rocky like Earth, or something in between. Famous equations of electromagnetism include an important physical quantity called "the permeability of free space," which has a value of $4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m. So we are all using pi every day when we think about magnetic or electric fields. As the saying goes don't judge a book by its cover, I would like to say Don't judge pi by 3.14 there is lot more to it.

-Aditi Kulkarni

SURPRISING SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS

For decades, the field of psychology has been largely focused on addressing negative, investigating what was "wrong" with us, or relieving suffering from depression, trauma, and addictions. But over the last decade, we've seen a significant shift: Scientists are now turning their attention to what makes people thrive.

What thoughts, actions, and behaviours make us more productive at work, happier in our relationships, and more fulfilled at the end of the day? That is the focus of the field of positive psychology, often referred to as the science of happiness. Positive psychology doesn't turn a blind eye to suffering or psychological illness, rather it

encourages individuals and even communities to adopt practices that can boost optimism, increase resilience, and live happy, engaged lives.

We Can't Change Our Genes, But We Can Change Ourselves. But, could we really train ourselves to become happier? Science says "yes". Our happiness level is a result of a complex interaction of genes, behaviours, and what's going on in our lives at a specific moment in time. And while each of us has a genetic set point for happiness in the way we do for weight, we have the ability to offset it, which brings us to the most important takeaway from the scientific research: You have the power to take control of your happiness by choosing your thoughts, behaviors, and actions.

-Vaishnavi Dabholkar

SCIENCE OF ANXIETY

Anxiety is an emotion characterised by an unpleasant state often accompanied by nervous behaviour. Anxiety is a feeling of uneasiness and worry, usually generalized and unfocused as an overreaction to a situation. It is often accompanied by muscular tension, restlessness, fatigue and problems in concentration. There are various types of anxiety such as existential anxiety, mathematical anxiety, somatic anxiety, stage fright, or test anxiety, social anxiety and stranger anxiety.

There are different neurotransmitters that can cause and be affected by anxiety. Studies have shown that nearly every type of neurotransmitter and hormone can play some role in anxiety, as can anything that reduces blood flow to the brain (like dehydration). Anxiety, in many ways is simply your body's reaction to brain stress.

-Aditi Rane

THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP

Sleep is a naturally recurring state of mind and body, characterized by altered consciousness, relatively inhibited sensory activity. Sleep occurs in repeating periods, in which the body alternates between two distinct modes known as REM and non-REM sleep. Although REM stands for "rapid eye movement", this mode of sleep has many other aspects, including virtual paralysis of the body. A well-known feature of sleep is the dream, an experience typically recounted in narrative form, which resembles waking life while in progress, but which usually can later be distinguished as fantasy. Our bodies release chemicals in a 24-hour cycle, nudging us to do certain activities at certain times. Each of these cycles is called a circadian rhythm. One of the most important chemicals involved in this process is melatonin, a hormone that makes us feel drowsy. The amount of melatonin in our bodies starts increasing in the evening and peaks in the middle of the night, letting us know it is time to sleep. It then decreases by morning, allowing us to wake up refreshed.

-Rohan Pawar



Hey there, Ruitaites!

In our flagship edition, we took you all on a trip across the world. This time, we are going to embark on a journey to France, the birthplace of revolutionary ideals and the motherland of cheese and wine! Our guide for this trip will be **Dnyanashri Kulkarni**, a budding globetrotter from SYBA! Let's see what she has to tell us about her sojourn of a lifetime, à la française!

Every journey begins with stories, dreams and opportunities. One such opportunity came across Dnyanashri when her mother, the President of Rotary Club of Kalyan, informed her about Rotary's international exchange programs. She jumped to the opportunity and due to a "fortunate" problem in Venezuela, she was sent to France. France, the country of art, beauty and grapes, welcomed her with open arms. She was hosted by **Agnes Robinet of Amelcourt, Florentine Ferreras of Malaucourt** and later, by **Eric Siebert of Saint Jean Rohrbach** during her year-long stay. She visited the entire North

East of France, Amsterdam, Berlin, Bruxelles, Prague and Luxembourg. While in France, she studied at **Lycée Charles Hermitte** and aced all her exams and tests.

She set foot on French soil knowing just 'je ne parle pas français, je parle anglais' which translates to 'I don't speak French, I speak only English', and went to feeling like French was her second mother tongue. She also modelled for the FC Metz, played basketball, sang for everyone, made Pav Bhaji for the French, and wore sarees there, making the perfect cocktail of Indian and French traditions in her life. She tried all kinds of authentic French cuisine and particularly enjoyed the escargots (snails) and the wide assortment of cheese!

"The opinions and viewpoints of every single member of a typical French family were valued equally."

- Chinmay Patwardhan

France V/S India Differences and Similarities

Dnyanashri found some striking differences between India and France; the French amazed her by their respect and pride towards their language, clearly nowhere near several Indians, who place English above all.

She had expected change in food, dress, education, and she experienced all of them. But what she didn't expect was the value of opinion. She was fascinated by the fact that the opinions and viewpoints of every single member of a typical French family were valued equally.

As far as the similarities are concerned, Dnyanashri pointed out one particular similarity that won't change across the globe, if you ask her - and that is the presence of a motherly figure. She never expected to be showered with such an overwhelming amount of motherly love by all 3 of her host mothers, who now have a part of her heart with them.



Benefits and Downfalls of Exchange Programs - A Reality Check!

This exchange had a lot in store for Dnyanashri - the surprises, amazing memories to look back on, a family across the globe, people to rely on, friends for a lifetime and so much more! It developed an urge in her to travel. This exchange gave her a taste of freedom. It made her views broader and thoughts mature, and she went on to tell us that she is now ready to live, to experience. It also gave her something that she'll preserve forever - the enriching knowledge

about a language, a culture, about a way of life.

However, upon returning to her motherland, the sudden cultural change shook her. It was almost difficult to adjust to the noise, the pollution and, of course, the spices! After almost 2 years, it's still difficult for her to have our spicy samosas! The crowded trains had her mind spinning for a while, whereas it became frustrating to not follow the etiquettes she had learned, be it the frequent Bonjours or the impeccable table etiquettes.

Nevertheless, she couldn't be more happy to be her new self. She took her own time to get back to her old lifestyle, but it wasn't an impossible task.

-Rashi Gulati



WHAT I THINK IS AN IDEAL TRIP

Lastly, here's a tiny write-up presented to the Monthly by Dnyanashri, on her views of an ideal trip,

"I miss everyone and everything about France - my families, school friends, teachers, the snow, late night talks about life and fighting with one of my host brothers, who I am really close to. These people were my world for an entire year and they gave me unforgettable memories. According to me, an ideal trip is an unplanned trip where you go to a place, stroll down a street with no objective in mind,

just taking it all in - appreciating each and every single thing. Talking to natives and trying the local food is also an enlightening experience. I believe that if another person can do it, then so can I, and this is what drives me to embrace new experiences. I think a trip means going to a destination and doing touristy stuff. However, travelling is so much more than that; it's about what you experience, the bonds and long-term relationships that you form with certain people. An experience where people who were strangers at the beginning become friends at the end of the journey and how all this changes you and makes you a better person.

It was not just another year in my life, I felt like I lived a life in a year and I look forward to more such years - to feel, to learn, to err. It was a lesson of a lifetime and truly a memorable and cherished experience."

- as told to Shreya Nair

Memoirs from France

Dnyanashri's exchange programme was

one of the biggest transitions in her life. From having never slept without mother, she stayed with three host families, adapted to a completely different culture and climate in France for over a year. When she returned, she brought back numerable experiences memories. Her first host family was extremely patient with her, even when she did not speak the language very well. One of her fondest memories was with her second host father whenever they would talk

about life, various French expressions and random things at 2 a.m. in the morning. She still applies wisdom from all his experiences in her day to day life. Staying with 3 French families allowed her to grasp the ethics of French culture and family values from varied perspectives.

Memorable tours to **Amsterdam, Brussels, Prague** (her favourite city!), **Berlin** and the border of **Poland** were also a beautiful part of the exchange. Her host families were in frequent contact with her family in India and they all even went on to ask her mother if they could adopt her! Making new friends from all over the world, turning into a non-vegetarian and gaining 13 kgs., going on bike rides with her host siblings, eating butter chicken on Holi with her hosts, gaining new experiences and learning a new language, these are some of the best memories that Dnyanashri has of France.



KNOW YOUR FRENCH!

French, like every other language, has its quirks and peculiarities. Here are a few colloquial French phrases—Some hilarious, a few deep and others, downright weird—to impress your French professor. In case you don't have one, use them on your friends and get them to read the monthly, to know the meanings.

Ah, la vache!

This phrase might land you a place in the good books of our government because it means 'Holy Cow!'. Thank us later.

Avoir le cafard

Literally translated it means 'To have a cockroach', this phrase is three parts weird and one part unique way of expressing sympathy. It simply implies to be down in the dumps.

Donner sa langue au chat

To give your tongue to the cat actually, means to give up on guessing (something). Honestly, I'm certain you gave your tongue to the cat after failing to decipher this one.

Casser les oreilles

It is commonly used to refer to harsh or irritating music. Verbatim, to break the ears: what we all want to do on hearing Anu Mallik's melodious crooning.

Devenir Chevre

The French have taken inspiration from goats and their short fuse to mint this one. It stands for to become a goat and implies being driven crazy.

Tu me Manques

Although used as the contemporary of 'I miss you', Tu me manques literally means 'You're missing from me'. If you plan to flatter someone with this, keep an insulin shot handy.

-Suryansh D. Srivastava

WHEN TRIPS GO SOUR!

Hey there, everyone! This is **Ojas Chaudhari**, the Column Head of Safarnama. I thought of writing a couple of words about how **not** to panic when things go wrong on a trip (like, seriously wrong) by referring to a personal experience.

In July 2016, I went for a month-long exchange programme to France, organised by Lions Club. On my way back, things started going wrong from the moment I stepped into the shuttle bus that was supposed to take us from Paris to the CDG Airport! For starters, some AC malfunction led to so much smoke in the bus that, fearing a fire outbreak, the bus chauffeur threw open the emergency exit and screamed at us to jump off! I somehow made it to the airport in time for my flight, only to be told that it was delayed indefinitely! Now, the problem was that I had a short stop-over in Dubai, but the Dubai airport was shut due to an air crash on its main runway. Eventually, after a delay of about 5 hours, our flight took off from Paris and reached Dubai after a 9-hour long delay. I had already missed my connecting flight by then! I was panicking like never before, but then I spotted this immense queue at a couple of counters, much worse than our railway concession queue! I heard that they were assisting the passengers in getting the flights rebooked.

I stood in that queue from 1:30 am to 5:30 am and was told that I would depart by a 10:00 pm flight on the same day. They were kind enough to provide food coupons to us. After getting some rest on the airport floor - just like everyone else - I spent the rest of the day roaming around the vast Dubai airport, and even did some souvenir shopping! Now whenever someone asks me how long did I go abroad for back then, I always tell them "I went abroad for **40+1** days!"

Moral of the story- Never lose hope during turbulent moments of a trip. Face it bravely, for there's a lot of darkness and travel-wisdom waiting at the end of the dark tunnel!

FICTIONALLY YOURS

Hello Ruiaites, this is the third part in the series. For previous parts, please refer to the August and September editions of RUIAITE E-bulletin. Recap - "Oh god, Vahini I'm such a coward. I didn't even wait for his reply. And now all I have are the memories; memories of his lemon green eyes."

The Story: Lemon Green Eyes
The first time I met him was during a guest lecture in college that my friends roped me into attending. As a rule, I don't mind them but this one was particularly dull, and soon I found myself drifting away. I began daydreaming about impossible scenarios, as most people do. An earthquake? Nah. Dinosaur peeking from the window? I guess I'm going crazy. What if someone bursts into the hall? Well... that's possible.
I looked expectantly at the door, willing my fantasies to come true. That's when my eyes landed on another pair; the finest lemon green eyes I had ever seen. But the person was hidden in the dark, so I could just see the eyes. It was only when the presentation came to an end, and the lights were switched back on that I could see him. He had a fair face with masculine features and was staring at me. I

a relationship, and sure, I've had crushes, but I've never acted upon them. I can't - not now. I want to focus on my studies and my career. A good degree that will lead to a great job is all that matters right now. I can't afford to be distracted now, especially not if I want to secure an important internship in Japan. And yet I couldn't help myself. Rumour was that he'd fallen for some girl from my batch. A part of me wished it were someone else so this chapter could be over but a stronger part I couldn't help hoping it was me.
No! I can't handle distraction at the moment. Moreover, this is just a CRUSH. Superficial. I will get over it. What if he approaches me? I suppose I'll reject him. But I don't even know how to say that valuable 'NO' to others.

It has been a whole of three weeks, and I can safely say that I've failed. Abhisaar is stuck in my mind like a broken record. He's become my habit. Even the news that I received the internship in Japan wasn't enough to bring back my focus. I think the

It was then that I heard him calling me. I looked behind to see the lemon green eyes, staring at me. The card was in his hands, and he was walking towards us. Did he guess it was me? Oh No! This can't be happening. Without thinking, I sprinted towards the gate. I swear I came first in the race with lightning.
I heard him calling out for me. I turned behind to spare that one last glance at Abhisaar. He was confused. And my friends - they were shocked. I screamed 'goodbye' at the top of my voice and looked forward, determined to never turn back again.

"So, you just ran away?" Vahini asked.
"Yeah, I was afraid of what I knew he would say. The fact that he guessed it was me freaked me out. I feel awful, Vahini, that I didn't have the guts to listen to his reply. I was stupid to think a confession would make things fine."

felt as though he was reading my mind and I immediately became conscious of my thoughts.
All this while, my friend and I approached the lecturer. I hung behind her while she clarified a point. I couldn't help sneak a glance at him. That's when I noticed him approaching us. I stood still, trying to act casual. I don't know why he was staring at me and I wasn't sure if I wanted to find out. Fortunately, my friend cleared up her doubts, and we left before he reached us.

Once I noticed him, I couldn't stop. I started seeing him everywhere. One time I passed him and his friend in a corridor. His friend saw me, smiled cheekily and coughed loudly. The 'cough' seemed to hide an "ahem ahem", and the next thing I saw was him blushing red. I was caught off guard. Why has he turned into a tomato? Am I hallucinating?

uncertainty of the situation makes it worse. I need to do something. Almighty, if you are there, please help me.

The next morning, I was greeted by a poster about the sale of rose day cards. Aha! Almighty is listening. A plan popped in my head. In my short life, I've learned one thing - the more you try to avoid something, the more it comes back to you. It is simpler to just embrace it, accept it and express it. I've accepted that I've fallen for Abhisaar and it's time I expressed it. The rose day was a week away; the same day as I left for Japan as a matter of fact and that would be the perfect moment.

I carefully penned out a card and submitted it in the rose card drop box was in front of me. My goal was to drop it and quickly disappear lest someone saw me there. Almighty may be listening, but it sure isn't on my side for as soon as I left, I bumped into someone. I looked up, and of course, I saw those lemon green marvels. But this time, I felt peaceful. Soon he'll get the card and will know how much I admire him.

"Stop blaming yourself. I wish you had waited to listen to him, but it's fine. At least you confessed. When I was your age, I had so many crushes, but couldn't confess to even one of them."

"What? You had crushes?"
We both turned to the source of this exclamation. It was dada.

"You are NOT supposed to eavesdrop, especially when it's two girls speaking!" Vahini scolded, and I knew dada had no chance of winning.

"I hope none of them is in contact with you? Are they?" Oh, dada! He looks cute when he's jealous.

"Are you jealous? Aww, don't worry Mr husband, I won't run away with anyone."

"Oh you won't, even if you want to. You belong to me, just me."

He embraced her in a bear hug. They looked so good together that I felt my heart ache. This is the kind of love I want.

When I mentioned this to my friends, they listened eagerly to every detail and assured me that they would 'investigate' the matter. Yeah, we're all CID agents in the making. For the next few days, I saw him daily. He would pass through my class and smile when he saw me. One day he missed, and I was deeply disappointed. Without realising it, I had grown accustomed to him and found myself waiting for him to pass. At the same time, I began to know more about him. How? Well, from my extensive network of sources. You know us girls and our penchant for sharing - You blink your eyes, and we already know about it. His name is Abhisaar, and he is rather popular. He has a solid group of friends, plays the guitar and is also a strong student academically.

I think that's good; that's important...Oh my god! What am I thinking? Am I interested in this guy? I have never been in

The best part is, he won't know it's me. I know - I'm a coward, but I just wasn't ready to admit my name yet.

Besides, in a week, I'll be flying away - away from this city, away from my family, away from him and this will be a forgotten memory by then. My career is my goal and having made my confession (albeit anonymous) nothing can stop me now.

Today's the day the Rose Day cards will be distributed. The fact that he'll know how much I admire him made me giddy with happiness. I wish that I was brave enough to mention my name but I know I couldn't bear it if he found out it was me. But I couldn't wait for him to receive it.

I was sitting in the garden area with my friends. Today was to be my last day in college. I'm happy I'll be leaving, but I'll miss my friends. We hung around chatting for longer than usual, wanting to extend the goodbye for as long as we could.

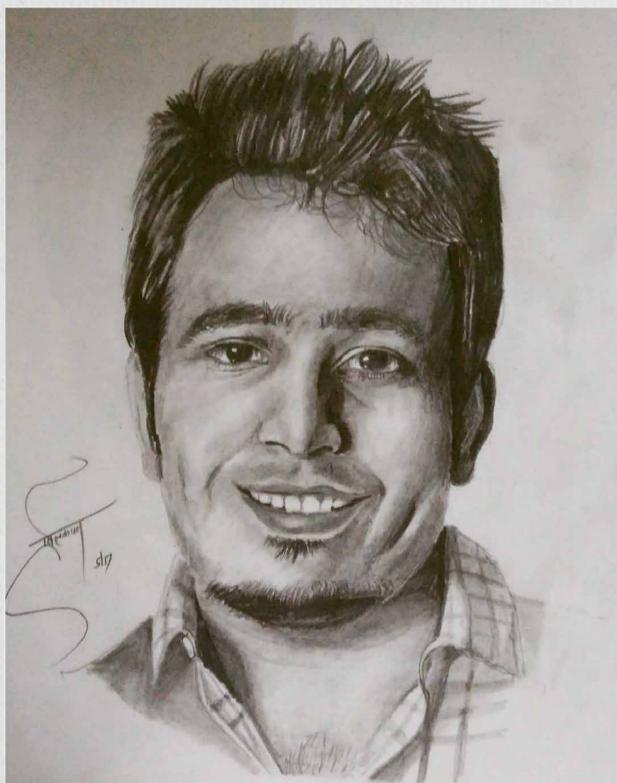
"If we don't go down now, the whole family will come up looking for us," Dada said.
"Well, we better leave then." This was to be my last night with family. I'll be leaving tomorrow.

"Guess who this is..."
Reading the letter, I knew it was Diksha. I wanted to talk to her, but as soon as she saw me, she left. I know she needs time and I'll give it to her. But, this isn't the end. She started this conversation, and I'll make sure we finish it. We'll meet again, Diksha.

THE END

This was the last of the set of three stories and will be continued in the next set. I hope you enjoyed them. Next month onwards, you'll get to explore a new set of stories, written by Shruthi Narayan. In the meantime, catch up on the previous ones and leave your thoughts and opinions. Mail your replies at jui.p.mande@gmail.com.

ART WALL



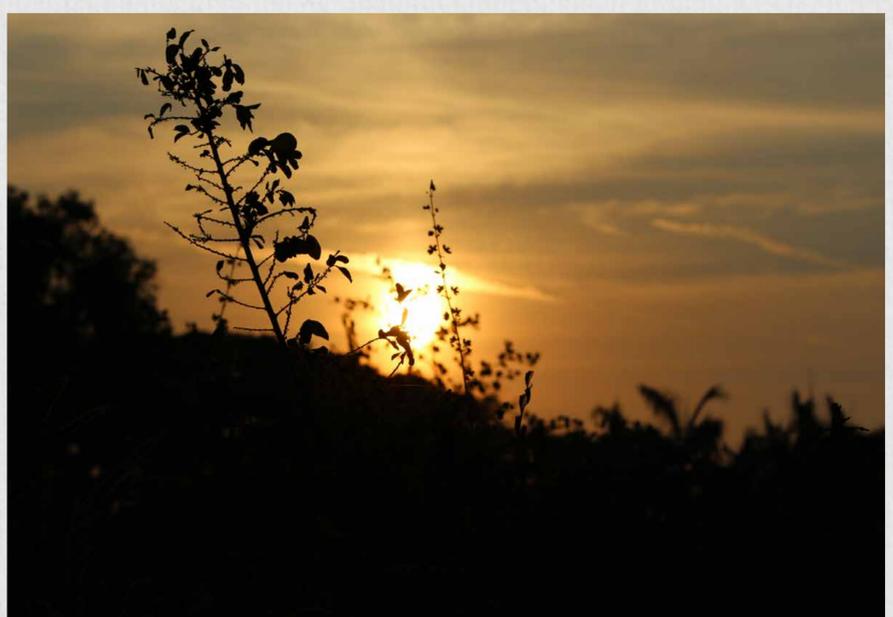
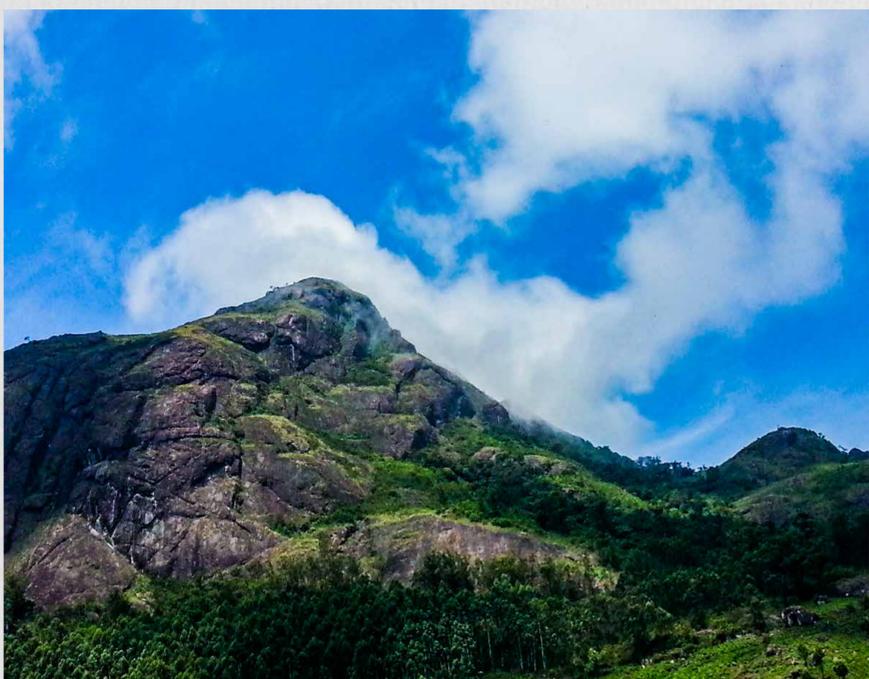
HARSHAL KADAM

PRATHMESH VALA



MADHURIMA
MONDAL

TANMAY MANE



RUTAJA KEDARE

City of Lights

ROAMING AROUND THE CITY

The Hindu festivals have always been closely associated with everyday life. The festivals that we celebrate today were once part of everyday routine; but have evolved to take the grand outlook that they have today. As opposed to the modern times, new clothes were purchased only in Diwali, relatives used to gather and enjoy a few days together and enjoy. So in the few days mothers and grandmothers cook snacks for everyone, children make rangolis and houses are lit with diyas and lanterns.

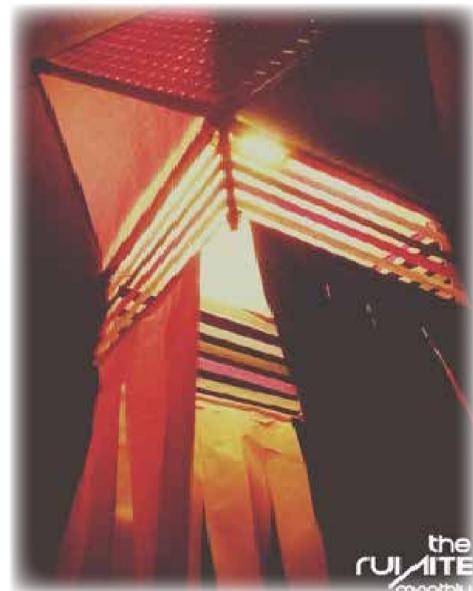
Traditional Lanterns is something which stands out even today from the other types put up for sale in the local market. While buying, one tends to look at the design first, and then it all comes to compromising with the seller by bargaining to a suitable price. But, a lot goes into making a traditional lantern: Cutting the wooden sticks to the correct length, and joining them together so that the lantern starts taking shape is the most important task of all. It is followed by sticking a white kite paper for the rectangular vertical slots, and then using colored kite papers for the triangular spaces. Then, the lantern is finished with the use of golden paper on the edges, and paper flowers and leaves on the joints. Finally, strips of paper are stuck on a thread at the lower part, and a thread for the suspension is tied on the upper part of the sticks. Not so easy as it looks- takes hours and hours of efforts and dedication!

Rangolis and Diyas have a symbolic meaning in the Hindu ideology and everyday life. Rangoli is an ancient art form practiced throughout India. It is an expression of the creative self, often viewed as a form of self-portraiture; its designs are composed of geometric and curvilinear patterns, usually inspired from patterns appearing in nature. It is a powerful and therapeutic art form that is quiet and meditative in process, allowing one to find a temporary disconnect with the relentless hubbub that surrounds our daily lives.

Diyas adorn every corner of the house on the auspicious day of Diwali and add fervour to the festive spirit. The oil in the diya represents the dirt (greed, jealousy, hatred, lust etc.) that humans tend to nurture while the cotton wick is symbolic of the Aatman (self). So the fire that is lit at the end of the wick takes all the negativity and emits light all around it which is the symbolic meaning behind the festival.



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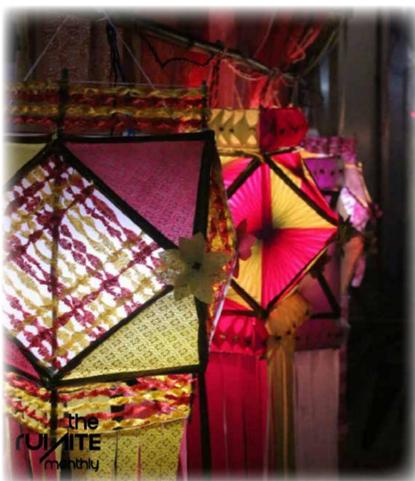
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Students' Corner

I GREW UP

From finding you everywhere,
To searching for you here and there.
From holding your hand,
To taking my own stand.
I grew up.

From getting everything done,
To losing all the fun.
From having you right by my side,
To carrying a fake smile as I lied.
From crying for have everything,
To being happy even with few things.
I grew up .

From being the emotional one,
To being the best at hiding them.
From your daughter,
To a strong fighter.
I grew up.

From having you right along,
To accepting being apart for life long.
From making new friends,
To staying confide with few of them .
I grew up.

The path chosen was unwilling to both
But it was a part of growth.

For them it was like
a piece of their heart that was seprated
from them
They need to continue life
With that broken heart even then.

Keeping in mind
Whatever they have taught these years
I started overcoming
My fears

Thus from having them on my side
To fill their heart with pride
I grew up.
I grew up.

This poem is written by me as I need to come to mumbai to study, away from my parents who live in amravati. This poem is dedicated to all the individuals who have to travel a way long away from their home town from their near and dear ones for their future studies

*Written By: Mahima Alekar
F.Y.BSc C*

Le Rêve Lointain

Elle sera près de toi,
quand tu penseras d'elle.
Tu retrouveras la liberté,
Comme un oiseau libre avec des ailes!

Tu vas apprécier la nature
Pendant toutes les saisons!
Tu vas sourire
Sans aucune raison!
Quand tu es avec elle,
Tu t'échapperas de la solitude,
Tu deviendras optimiste
à travers de ton attitude!
Ce n'est pas nécessaire
d'avoir des preuves,
Car elle sera avec toi,
Pendant toutes les épreuves!
Elle va te motiver afin de
Poursuivre ta passion, ton génie,
C'est sûr que
Tu seras chanceux et béni!

Amuse-toi avec elle,
Sois patient surtout.
Voilà tu vas sentir
le parfum et la joie partout!
elle va t'apaiser
si tu es turbulent comme la mer!
Tout ira bien et
il n'y aura aucune saveur amère!
Grâce à sa compassion,
Tu seras content et aveugle,
avoir une telle amie,
Sera le plus beau miracle!

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