



# the RUIAITE monthly

## MOVING BEYOND PAPERS

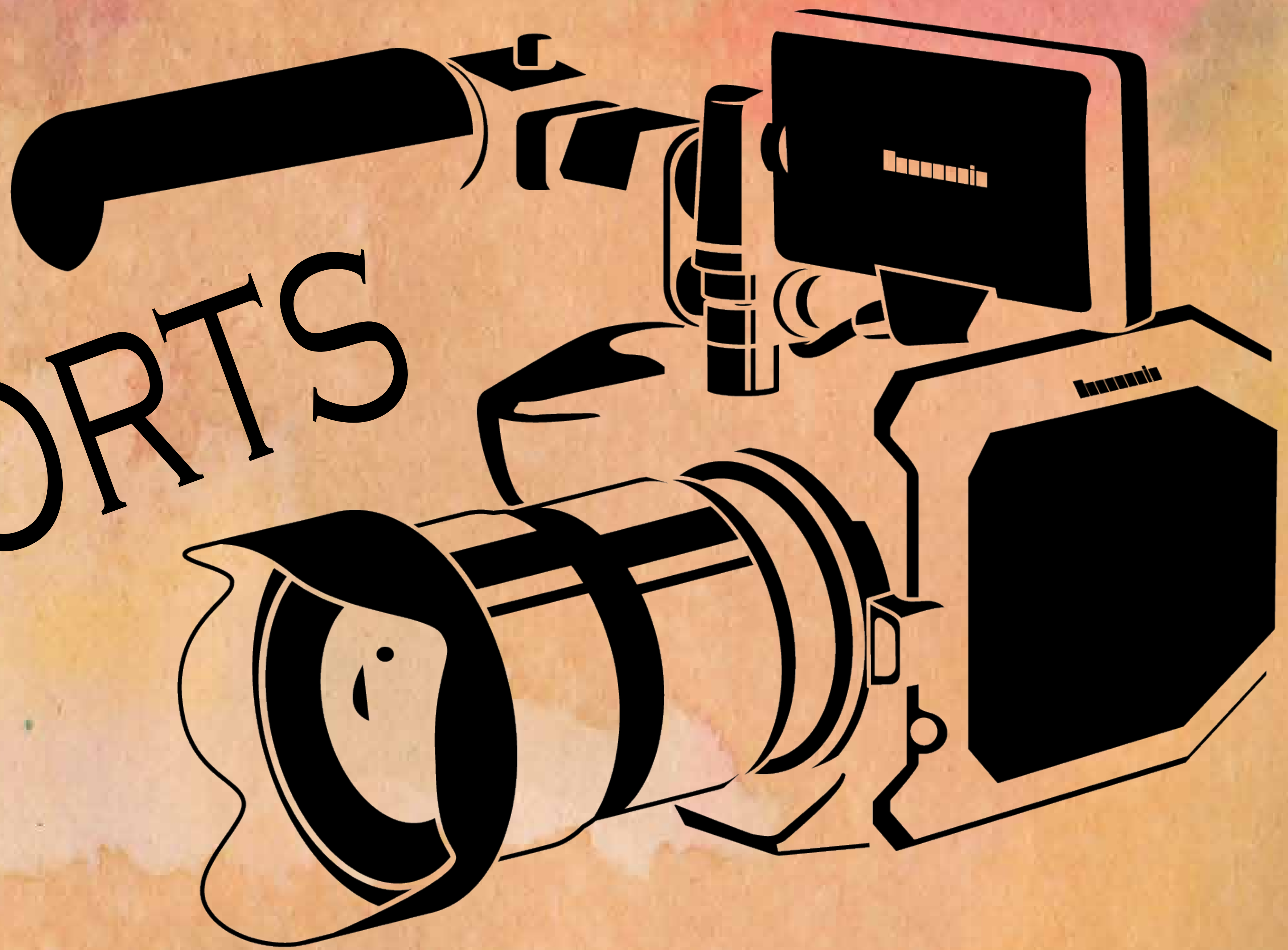
### EDITORIAL

The Ruaite Monthly extends a warm welcome to the first years!

Oh the month it was! With rains and month gone by, be it the Grammar finally decides to make peace mobs randomly bringing the city to a No-Confidence Motion in Delhi or the with Emojis. standstill and Mumbaikars braving Maratha Morcha in Mumbai. In To all chai lovers out there, Science of everything to reach their work places, Fictionally Yours watch how the life Everything has a treat for you. Insight July was a harbinger of the other half of turns the table on someone who this time takes you to a ride into history the year that promises to be just as thought they were the controllers. Do of Obedience and logic behind it, so happening as the first one. As we hand not forget to read a reader's letter to tighten your seat belts and read away. over to you the August issue of the dear Professor Remus Lupin. In this Behind the Scenes takes up the Monthly, we believe that you will have a edition, Safarnama implores you to essential question of effectiveness of delightful time reading it. So dear think and re-think aesthetics and it's internet today and gives a newer reader, do not forget to tell us about part in our travel-plans. Op-Ed has perspective into the much clichéd your reading experience, send your gathered many rainy memories and a theme. Careerwise covers the up and feedback, post your comments and poem to top them up, do dig in and coming career opportunities in Travel shower us with your love on the social recollect yours. As Open Forum gives and Tourism, a must-read for all those media! you an insight into bird-watching, read afflicted by Fernwehs and Wanderlusts. This time, Buzz Around fills you in with also how the beloved, cuddly With this, we wish you a very happy the important happenings of the teddy-bears came into being and how reading!



# REPORTS



## The Insider's Guide to Talaash-e-Talent

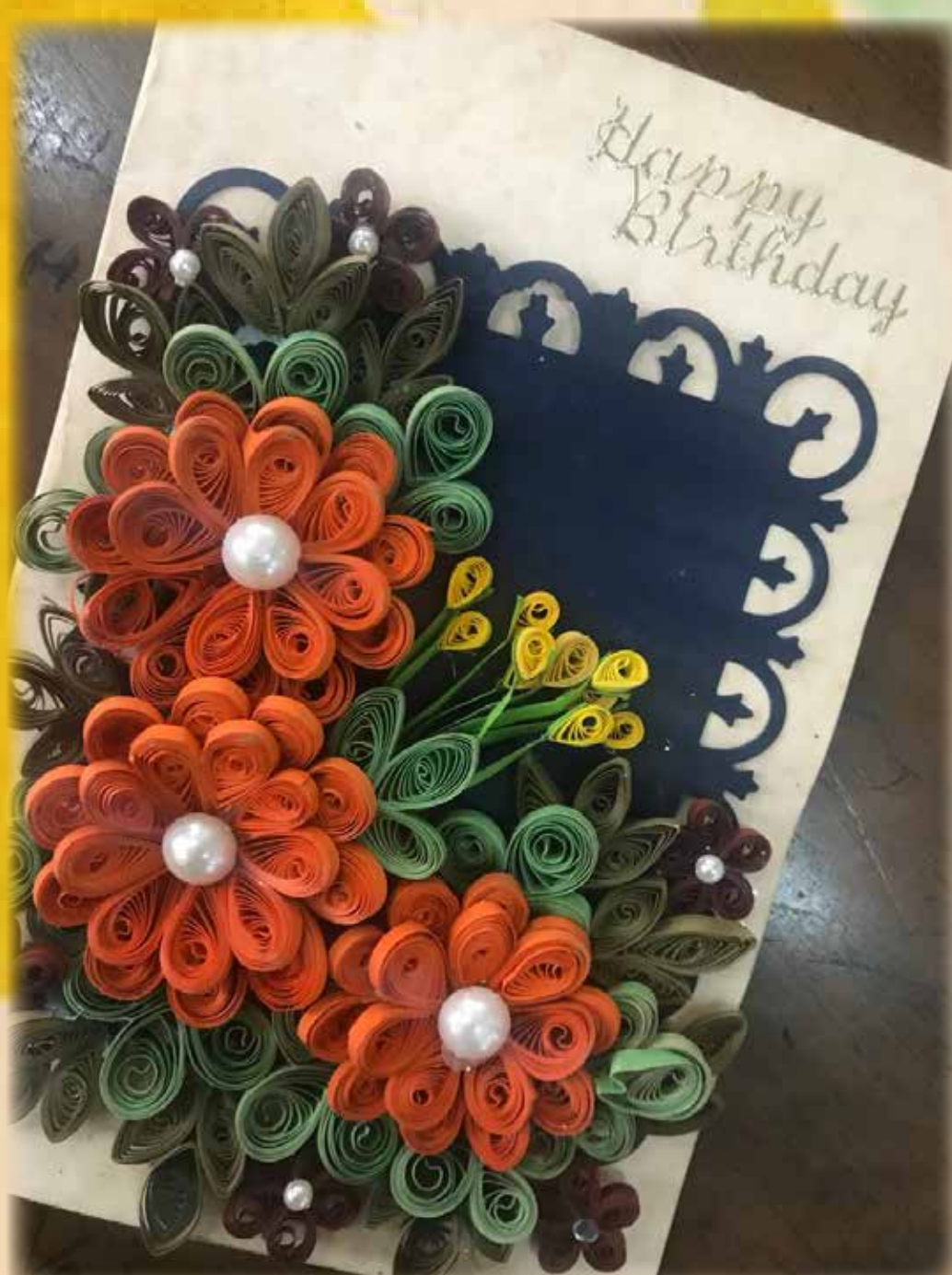
Our college stood witness to an immense amount of talent on 16th & 17th July. Students were auditioning for teams FA, PA & LA. Aptly named, Talaash-e-Talent provided a platform for students with amazing talent and stunning will for performing.

Talaash-e-Talent tested these students for their acting, photography, sketching skills to name a few. Auditorium was flooded with classical singers, stand-up artists and skilled actors, all fighting for a spot in team Performing Arts. While students auditioning for Fine Arts came with their portfolio of artwork, these students were particularly skilled in Canvas painting, mehendi design, quilling and some more. While students comfortable behind a paper and adept with wordplay opted for team Literary Arts. Masters of words, these students webbed together beautiful proeses for Spoken Word Poetry and were also proficient with creative writing in Marathi as well as English. Things got real with challenging events such as JAM – Just A Minute – the participants had only 30 seconds to speak on a topic which was given on the spot.

Shout-out to all the volunteers for handling and guiding these students kindly and for making Talaash-e-Talent possible. With their wise experience they kept an eye out for real gems among those who came for the event.

With a host of college festivals approaching this year, we're safe to say that we are ready with our arsenal of talent and can go head on in any college fest.

Hey, by any chance if you couldn't audition this year then don't feel bad. This mesmerizing art fair of Talaash-e-Talent is organized every year, maybe you could try next year..





# BUZZ AROUND

## NO CONFIDENCE MOTION MOVE

This no-confidence motion was the first to be admitted in 15 years. It was a day consisting of a marathon of debates. It had its moments: from Rahul Gandhi's fiery speech and giving a surprise hug to the PM; to Narendra Modi's cracking replies.

The debate was opened by TDP MP Jayadev Galla. He said, "The saga of Andhra Pradesh during this Modi-Shah regime is a saga of empty promises." Hitting out at the prime minister for ignoring Andhra Pradesh, Galla said, "You (PM) are singing a different tune which people of Andhra Pradesh are keenly observing and they would give you a befitting reply in the upcoming polls."

Rahul Gandhi led the charge for Congress and attacked the Modi government on a number of issues including lack of jobs, issues of women's safety, GST, demonetization, and farmers' issues.

After a marathon debate on the no-confidence motion in Parliament on Friday, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government won the trust vote by a 325-126 margin. With a majority in the House, the BJP was expected to easily defeat the motion, while the Opposition attacked the government on a range of issues, including farmers' distress, slow economic growth, and incidents of mob lynching.

Rahul Gandhi also questioned PM Modi's silence over the rising number of lynching cases in the country. Gandhi also accused the defense minister Nirmala Sitharaman of lying on the details of the Rafale deal.

And then in a surprising move, Rahul Gandhi walked up to the Prime Minister to give him a hug. Many people are considering this to be political move while others think this was just another one of Rahul Gandhi's signature theatrics.



Congress President Rahul Gandhi hugs Prime Minister Narendra Modi after his speech in the Lok Sabha

In his response, Modi launched a blistering attack on the opposition of having a 'Modi hatao' mindset. Modi said the floor test was not to measure the strength of his government, rather it was a 'force test' for the Congress and other opposition parties.

As far as the numbers are concerned, the BJP has already won, and the opposition has already lost. In spite of Sonia Gandhi's dubious claim, "who says that Congress doesn't have the numbers?", the fight between the two sides is now for setting the narrative. The BJP and the Prime Minister will once again discuss its report card and point to the bankruptcy of the opposition in the no-confidence motion debate. The triple talaq issue and the Congress' stand on the matter will be highlighted, even if the "Muslim Party" attack might be skipped for the sake of Parliamentary decorum. While the NDA won this floor test easily, this test was nothing but a narrative for the upcoming polls in 2019.

*Pushkar Bhatlekar*



The no-confidence motion against the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government given by the Telugu Desam and YSR Congress parties was not taken up for discussion in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday too as the House was not in "order".

Friedrich Schiller, a German poet once said, "The greater part of humanity is too much harassed and fatigued by the struggle with want, to rally itself for a new and sterner struggle with error."

On 25th July Maharashtra observed a momentous strike driven by Maratha Kranti Morcha. The protest was the repercussion to the announcement made by the honorable chief minister Mr. Devendra Fadnavis in the state assembly on July 20th to provide 16 percent reservation in government jobs to the Maratha community.

The morcha has asked the chief minister for resignation and appealed people to participate in the "peaceful bandh". The farmer who died, Kakasaheb Shinde from Kanadagaon was among protestors shouting slogans when he jumped off the bridge at Kaigaon Toka. The angry protestors torched several vehicles in Aurangabad, Latur and Parbhani districts during the bandh called by Maratha groups. Protesters blocked the Ahmednagar-Aurangabad highway and damaged a dozen vehicles, including a police van and a bus, in Gangakhed tehsil of Parbhani district.



Maratha Kranti Morcha protesters stop railways and traffic across the state during their statewide bandh, called for reservations in jobs and education

## Maharashtra Bandh due to Maratha Kranti Morcha



A day after a stone-pelting mob ran amok unchallenged by the law enforcement agencies for over an hour, residents of the teen taaki in Koparkhairne were in shock as the condition was terrified. The mob dispersed on its own around an hour later, indicating the hooligans were working to the plan. They were irked by the police who failed to control the mob. Vehicular movement on the Mumbai-Pune expressway was disrupted for nearly an hour on Thursday, i.e 26th July as Maratha Kranti Morcha and Maratha Seva Sangh members blocked Urse toll plaza. Protestors also disrupted traffic movement on Katraj-Dehu Road bypass connecting Mumbai with the Bengaluru highway and on the old Pune- Mumbai highway. The mobile internet services were shut down for two days till July 27th as a preventive measure. There was a possibility of miscreants posting provocative messages. 25 BEST buses damaged across Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai. 2 burnt, 14 had windscreens and glass windows smashed, tires of 9 buses deflated, and 8 police officers and 12 constables injured.

The shutdown organizers, the Bharatiya Janata Party-Shiv Sena

government, and the police have appealed to all groups to maintain peace during the agitation. Ministers meet panel chief to expedite Maratha quota. There are further disturbances seen in the judiciary as well where 7 MLAs resigned from their post and claimed a count of 150 public representatives to quit. A clear picture of apartheid was also observed where the leaders from opposite legislation waded into the quota imbroglio. One leader also mentioned the possible phase to provide reservation to Marathas within the constitutional framework.

We boast of development, demand human rights, cry for peace and fight for patriarchy but are we really paying attention towards the equality, fraternity, and justice? Leaders lead the army, trainers coach them and the audience cheers them up. But what kind of evolution is it, if people get integrated to work towards disintegration? The commoner must be aware of the origin, meaning and the need of reservation in the current scenario and not for the sake of appeasement and political mileage.

*Adya Majumdar*

## TOP TEN NEWS

1 Maharashtra again faces the question of Maratha reservation due to violent strikes throughout the state.

2 Imran Khan set to become the new PM of Pakistan amidst the unrest in Pakistan.

3 No confidence motion filed by TDP and other opposition parties sets the tone to 2019 elections, majority proven by ruling party.

4 France beats Croatia in FIFA world cup final to finish a very entertaining world cup.

5 Mumbai city experiences serious travel discontinuities, city ill-prepared for heavy rains as usual.

6 Hima Das wins the first-ever gold medal for India in 400m at the World U20 Championships.

7 India sees an increase in lynching cases, largely due to the spreading of fake news.

8 US-China trade war continues, US ceases fire with the European Union in the war.

9 Milk farmers in Maharashtra protest harshly, supply badly hit.

10 Novak Djokovic wins Wimbledon men's singles title, Angelique Kerber wins women's.

*Chinmay Parulekar*

@RahulGandhi

The politics of hatred and communal polarisation is irreparably damaging our social fabric.

The brutal lynchings across India that have sickened our nation, are the direct consequence of that kind of politics.





# CAREER~WISE

## TRAVEL AND TOURISM

“Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer.”

### TOURIST GUIDE

Any travel is incomplete without a tourist guide. They are the salt to the recipe of your tour. A tourist understands about culture, history, economy and complete details about the region with the help of a tourist guide. So, a guide must be thorough with the above details.

The following are the skills required for a tour guide:

1. Communication skills: The first thing that any traveler notices about the guide is the way he talks. Communication skills can attract or repel people. A guide must know a foreign language along with English, Hindi, and the local language.
2. Strong memory: Tour guides need to retain a lot of stats and facts when walking people around a city- but they also need to be great storytellers.
3. Enthusiasm and passion about the city: A guide passes his enthusiasm to the tourists. He needs to be passionate about every aspect of the city and communicate it to others.
4. Humour: Humour can be the perfect tool to cut the tension and as always adds an extra layer of entertainment for guests.
5. Helpful: Apart from the information

about the attractions, a guide should also inform the tourists about the place of accommodation and should make their stay comfortable and enjoyable.

6. Personal and outgoing: This skill takes communication to the next level. Guides shouldn't just be able to communicate well, they have to be great conversationalists with outgoing personalities; what we call the “Star of the Show” quality, which isn't something you can teach. There can be a bit of social awkwardness when a new group of strangers shows up, and a guide should be able to break that immediately to help people feel comfortable talking to each other and their guide. This ensures that tourists will later be able to talk to each other, make comments and ask questions.
7. Punctuality: Punctuality is a “can't do without” quality for tour guides. If the guide isn't on time to meet arriving attendees at the meetup location then there will be confusion, frustration and unhappy tour-goers.
8. The knowledge of local: Anyone can memorize and recite facts. Though it's not a requirement, some of the best guides are locals themselves. What's great about this

quality is that in addition to the planned facts and statistics, they can bring their own knowledge, experience, and personal anecdotes to the tour. This can make a tour feel particularly special for guests who are looking for a genuine experience outside the typical tourist attractions.

Education needed for a career as a travel guide:

1. B.Voc in travel and tourism: It's a graduation course of 3 years which can be done after 10+2. In the course, one can also get an internship during the holidays and get a lot of practical training.
  2. Diploma course: It is a 1-year course which can be done after 10+2. It's like a crash course. Emphasis is given in practical knowledge.
  3. License: After the initial educational qualifications, one requires a license from the government.
- The educational degree is available in many colleges in India including Ramnarian Ruia college.
- The travel guide gets a decent salary depending upon the locality. Government jobs are also available. It's the best career for the travel enthusiast.

### HOTEL MANAGEMENT

Hotel management is the handling of the hotel administration, accounts, marketing, housekeeping, front office or front of house, food and beverage management, catering and maintenance. The Diploma in Hotel Management aims to provide learners with a broad understanding of the operational aspects of the international hotel industry and knowledge of the underlying management principles. The duration of Diploma in Hotel Management is not the same everywhere in India, but it varies from institute to institute. The minimum time to complete the course also varies for different institutes. Sometimes, the course may also be available on a part-time basis.

Diploma in Hotel Management Eligibility  
You must have completed the 10+2 class or its equivalent from a recognized school board in India.

Diploma in Hotel Management Syllabus :  
Syllabus of Hotel Management as prescribed by various Universities and Colleges.

Subjects of Study

1. Basics of Computer
2. Hotel Front Office Operation

3. Accommodation & Property Management

4. Hotel Management

Diploma in Hotel Management Course Suitability :

Applicants should also possess knowledge that how to explain procedures to meet guest needs, including guest registration, rate assignment, room assignment and determination of payment methods.

Candidates should have a good organizational background, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, strong commitment and self-discipline.

Diploma in Hotel Management course is suitable for those who are willing to go for teaching fields at higher degree level i.e. college and university level both in private and government institutions.

How is Diploma in Hotel Management Course Beneficial?

After completing a Diploma in Hotel Management, they can also have careers in hotel and tourism associations, forest lodges and guesthouses. Institutional management such as supervising canteens in college, schools, in factories, company guest houses etc. also are a bright place for

jobs.

Other places are catering departments of railways, banks, armed forces, shipping companies etc., hotel and catering institutes and self-employment.

They can have jobs in hotel & restaurant management, airline catering and cabin services, club management, cruise ship hotel management, hospital administration and catering.

Diploma in Hotel Management Employment Areas :

Administration (Hotel Management)

Colleges & Universities

Hotel Industry

Tourism Industry

Diploma in Hotel Management Job Types:

Assistant General Manager

Bar Manager

Executive

Floor Manager

Front Office Manager

Guest Relation Executive

Hotel Assistant (Manager)

Hotel Manager

Maintenance Manager

Restaurant Manager

Hotel Management Degree Courses

B.A. (Hons.) (Culinary Arts)

B.A. (Hons.) (Hotel Management)

B.A. (Hons.) Hotel Management, Travel and Tourism

B.A. (Hotel Management)

B.A. (International Hospitality Administration)

B.A. (International Hotel and Tourism Administration)

B.A. (Tourism and Hotel Management)

Hotel Management Diploma Courses

Advance Diploma in Food Processing and Preservation

Advance Diploma in Hotel and Catering Management (ADHCM)

Advance Post Graduate Diploma in Hotel and Catering Management

Advanced Diploma in Hotel Management (ADHM)

Advanced Diploma in Patisserie & Confectionery program

Advanced Diploma in Tourism and Hotel Management

Craftsmanship Course in Food Production

Hotel Management Certificate Courses

Certificate course in Bakery & Confectionery

Certificate Course in Catering Management

Certificate Course in Cookery

Certificate Course in Hotel Management & Catering Technology (H.M.C.T.)

Certificate Course in Hotel Operation and Management

Certificate Course in Housekeeping

Certificate Course in Tourism and Hotel Management

Apart from this, there are various post-graduation courses as well that helps to excel in the profession.

There are ample of institutes providing hotel management courses along with internship training every 4 months.

However, entrance exams are conducted for a government as well as private colleges. It is a very good profession for the people interested in hospitality.

### CRUISE DIRECTOR

A cruise is an entertainment place as well as a tourist attraction for many city dwellers. India has a lot of regions with beaches and cruise. A cruise director handles the cruise enjoyment of the tourists. A cruise director is a high-ranking or senior officer of a cruise ship with responsibility for all onboard hospitality, entertainment and social events, who acts as the public face of the company. Cruise directors oversee the musicians, actors, stage managers, and staff, lighting and sound crews. They often take the role of master of ceremonies for special parties and select occasions. They have to

communicate with the dining crew, the captain and the hospitality crew to keep everything on schedule.

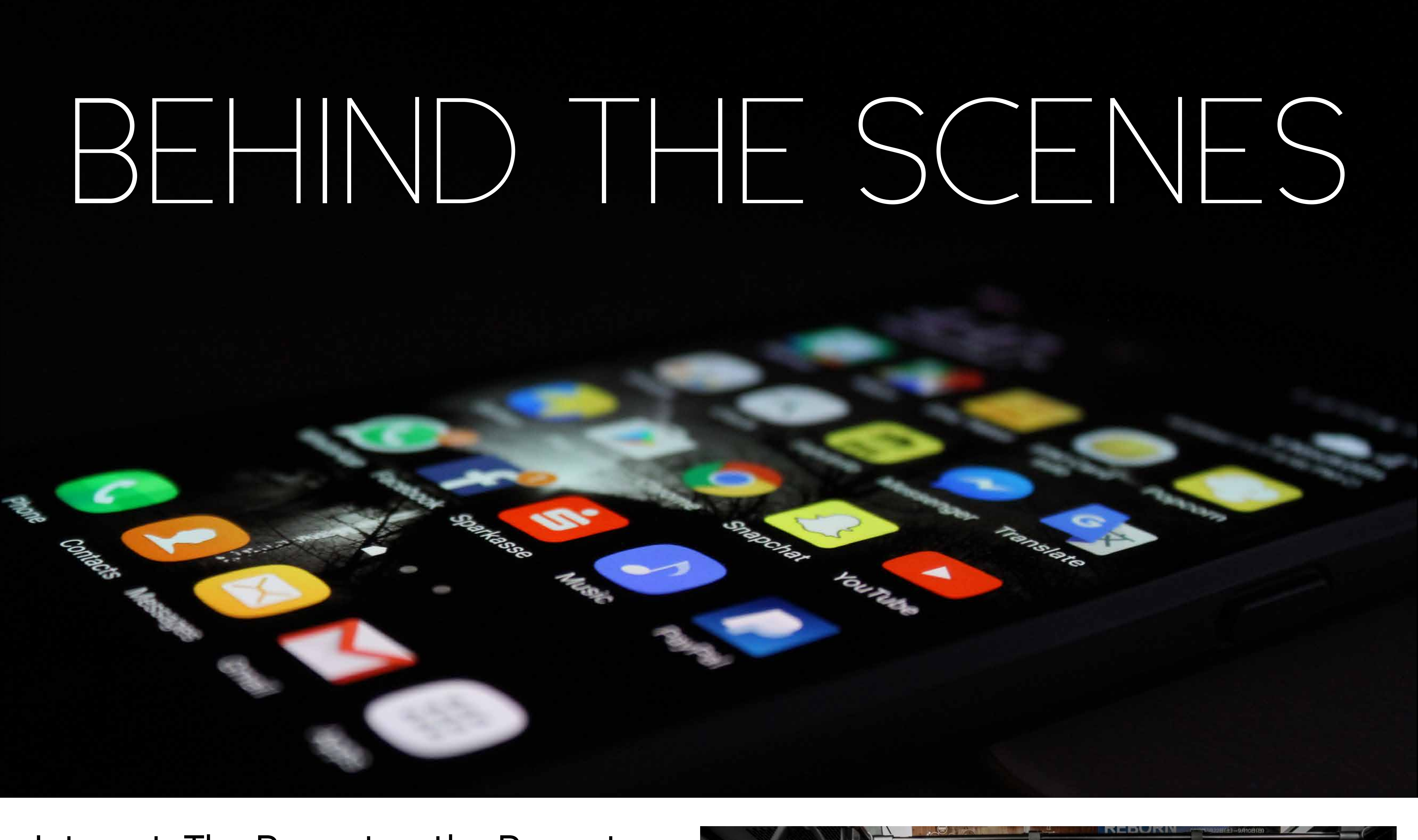
Cruise Director's Job Requirements: Minimum of five years experience in an upscale hotel, resort, cruise ship, entertainment or recreational industry (shipboard experience preferred), Master of Ceremony or/and professional entertainment experience. There is also graduation in ship management and diploma courses. It is also included in the travel and tourism course. Diploma in Hospitality & Cruise Ship Management. The course is designed to equip students with

the knowledge and skills needed for a successful career in the hospitality operations part of a cruise, as well as providing an essential understanding of elements relating to life and work on a cruise ship. Good qualities and skills that a Cruise Ship Director should have are:

- Resilience.
- Great customer service.
- Excellent personal presentation.

The salary for a cruise director is also very decent. The job is suitable again for a travel enthusiast.





Internet: The Puppet or the Puppeteer

“Everyone is normal until you visit their Social Media profile.”

This statement actually holds true in our Internet era. The Internet has emerged as this new platform which shapes and influences us in ways we can't imagine, and our social media accounts are our shadows on the internet. May it be a friend's meet up or a birthday celebration, from “random” selfies to “professional” photographs, from trending “hashtags” to classic “captions”, from Google searches to YouTube videos- the internet has it all! The Internet has unknowingly become very much near and dear to us. Originally meant to connect the world, the ‘web’ is now slowly but surely entangling us in its grasp. It affects us in more ways than we realize...



Photo by Hugh Han on Unsplash

Today, the easy accessibility and sheer vastness of the internet has opened up whole new worlds for us to explore. The internet is a huge platform, one where different topics and issues share the spotlight. One such topic that has progressed in leaps and bounds is pop culture.

Pop culture includes literature, music, movies, games, etc. It is the reflection and the voice of the people. Earlier, pop culture used to rely only on the word of mouth, with local communities forming around the locally popular TV show, band and so on. But word of mouth goes a lot further now that the whole world is equipped with ears as well as a Wi-Fi connection. The growing popularity of a subject is enough to give rise to curiosity within a person and the satisfaction of that curiosity is often just a Google search away. Fan communities are no longer geographically restricted and span across the globe. These communities provide people from different corners of the world the opportunity to find others with similar interests and to share their opinions about a topic they are mutually passionate about. A trend which some 20-30 years ago took months to spread throughout the world, now spreads within hours or days. Our social media walls are filled with these viral videos, which sometimes make no sense or carry zero productive value. Internet here simply acts like a middleman: an agent of chaos. It's not necessary that all things that go viral are bad or stupid, as sometimes it's the best way to send your message out into the world since its coverage is widespread.



### WELCOME BACK!

TO MEME INSIDER

Welcome back everyone! Hope you all had a wonderful March! This March we launched our Youtube channel, which you can find by searching for Meme Insider on Youtube, and released a video that has gotten hundreds of thousands of views, all about calculating the size of Jackkin's forehead! We have received a ton of support, and look forward to releasing a new video every month or so, and hope to ramp up production soon! If you wish to join our video editing team, please go to [MemeInsider.co/positions](#)

Enjoy!

The Meme Insider Team

LuckyGems01   co-owner	WickedAssassin   lead dev
Nastydy   co-owner	RedBlox   lead dev
Cartoonwarp   co-owner	LyricBallroom0   dev
Bernadetteyou   exec designer	SpookyStar   dev
Yunggy   designer	Garot   dev
GallEnnerd   illustrator	LadySlyWorks   advisor
Willbert   designer	Digitalorange   founder
Tootmama07   exec writer	Bernadetteyou   video editor
Doro04   exec writer	Elcotter   video editor
Tha#2737   writer	uAlexanderBarrow   video editor
BRM42001   writer	
Hugoplatoforship8   writer	

If you would like to join our team, please email us at [memeinsider@gmail.com](mailto:memeinsider@gmail.com)

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## Meme Insider

### Taking YouTube Drama to the Ring

How KSI's fight is about to take 1v1 PvP to a whole new level.

Memes and Images Linked?

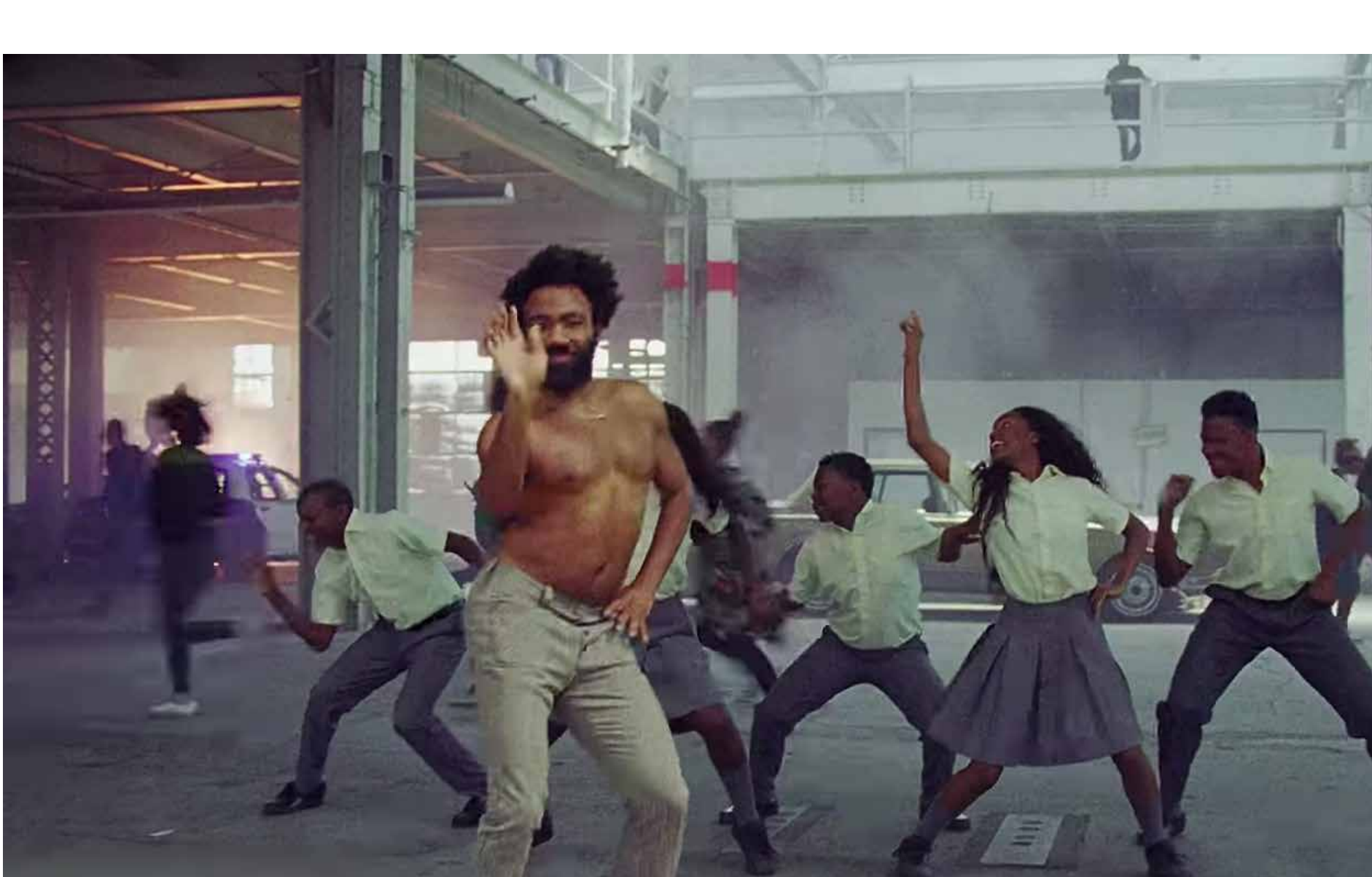
Spongebob Memes

The Fall of Cat Memes

Issue #15 - March 2018

www.memeinsider.co

Redditors Made 'Meme Insider,' a Completely Insane Magazine About Memes



Donald Glover (aka Childish Gambino) with backup dancers in the video for "This is America"

The internet has something for everyone, regardless of age, gender or interest barriers. New content is constantly coming in and there are always more and more things to discover. Perhaps it is no wonder then, that so many people are addicted to the internet. Just spending a lot of time surfing the net does not qualify as an addiction. The problem is when it interferes with day to day life and productivity. This is, however, not entirely our fault. Websites and apps are specially and intentionally designed in such a way as to keep the user engaged. The constant app notifications that are always present whenever we check our phones ensure that we open those apps even though we weren't originally planning to. Colour schemes are specifically chosen, pages and icons are designed using bright and eye-catching colors. And while it may not seem like this works on adults, it surprisingly does. Another trick is the use of infinite scrolling. Sites and apps having self-refreshing feeds and continuous scrolling offer endless entertainment and only an illusion of control over how much time we spend. Automated YouTube recommendation videos follow the same principle. When the already enticing internet is largely designed to cater to the interests of its individual users, it's hard to stop. The addiction for the social media has increased so much so that we would not be able to believe it if a person is not on social media. Socializing has become a little harder than it used to be. Due to oversharing, it is difficult to have an actual conversation with anyone, because the majority of the things are known to the people via constant updates. Thus, the conversation dies an awkward death. For developing social skills, one needs to practically have more contact with the public, but here it straightaway gets minimized.



Photo by Pavan Trikutam on Unsplash

Social media was essentially designed to make people interact more productively, but it is actually taking a toll on our mental health. One may have many friends/followers on social media but no good friends in real life. This overuse of social media is increasing the introverted-ness among people. Symptoms such as anxiety, increase in temper, eating disorders are indicating the dark side of this platform.

Dear social media, we need to be really careful while using you!

The influence of the internet on people gets darker when you come to know that even the government wants a direct hand in it. With less than a year left for the general elections, the government hopes to deploy a “social media analytical tool” that will create digital profiles of citizens, allegedly to gauge their opinions about official policies, according to a bid document issued in April by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The government hopes to use this information to target individuals with personalized campaigns to promote “positive” opinions and to neutralize “negative sentiments” about government schemes. The tool should have the capacity to monitor a range of digital platforms: Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and blogs and also be able to “listen to” emails, though it is not clear how this can be achieved without violating users’ privacy. Efforts to develop the tool are proceeding even as authorities in other parts of the world are attempting to strengthen data protection laws. Is this the Orwellian future?

If all hope seems lost and you can't find a way to escape the grasp of the internet, here's something to help you out. If you or someone you know seriously needs to get unplugged, there are some applications that can help you start your cyber cleanse, or at least make it easier to reduce your internet use. We have a few of them:

( OFFTIME )

Unplug, just enough.

1. Offtime: This app allows you to block distractions from your smartphone that distracts you from getting on with your everyday tasks. It lets you restrict access to apps, filter notifications and limit your phone usage.

2. Productivity Challenge Timer: This app has the apt personality to get you off the mindless browsing and chatting and motivates you to complete the task you've set out to do. It has impossible-to-ignore sound effects and is constantly mocking you, which gets you back on track. It rewards you for finishing your job on time and drops your ranking if you fail.

3. Priority Mode: The Priority Mode feature (on devices running Android 5.0 Lollipop) silences your alerts based on settings you choose. It allows only the most important alerts or “Interruptions” to get your attention, including calls, messages, events, and reminders. You can also set “downtime” for specific days and times, and to last indefinitely or for time increments from 15 minutes to 8 hours.

Of course, detox apps can't always help, as in the end, it all should come from you. But then again, free will might not be as free as you think it is. With the internet, almost everything seems to be having a hold over you, influencing your every decision. So in the end, it's all about one being able to see the bigger picture. As tiny human beings, one fails to do so. One fails to stand tall atop the wall and gaze at the workings of the very ground one's standing upon. It's about noticing those invisible strings attached to your head.





# INSIGHT

## TO ABIDE OR NOT TO ABIDE

Out of all the things we know about human beings, one thing is for sure- We are animals. Animals trained and tamed by the 'society' that we live in. Question is, for the good or the bad? Fasten your seatbelts as Insight explores one of the darkest sides of the widely used social influence- Obedience. You never know what you may find on the way!

### Legends of Obedience

Obedience is a prerequisite for the sustenance of any society. To ensure a harmonious life, it becomes necessary that one obeys the Law of the State. To lead a moral life, one obeys the religious commandments. While to earn his bread, one obeys the orders of his boss and the rules of the Institution. But, what if people are given orders, that go against their morals and conscience? Will they obey?

Here are some (in)famous events in the history of humankind that leave us disturbed as to what extent can people go, just to obey the authority's orders!

#### 1) The Nazi Regime

The atrocities inflicted over the Jews during Nazi rule in Germany are still bewildering, distressing and incomprehensible. But was Adolf Hitler the only culprit? If the Nazi soldiers had disobeyed the orders of inhumanely torturing the hundreds of Jews and the protesters, many lives could have been saved. Accounts given by the Nazi soldiers after their arrest are much more disturbing as they hardly show any signs of remorse for their barbaric cruelty. Their justification - we were just obeying the orders of our Seniors.

Belief in the vision of their leader makes people identify with their evil acts. It is not mindless following of orders, but the belief that they are working for a Higher Good that makes people continue their atrocities. To quote Milgram, 'The maintenance of discipline becomes an element of survival, and soldiers are left with no option but to obey. When on a war front, obedience becomes a matter of life or death. The choice to disobey could lead to imprisonment or execution, as disobedience weakens the troops.'



#### 2) The Shocking Experiment

Devastated and inspired by the memories of the Holocaust, researcher Stanley Milgram published an advertisement in newspapers for willing subjects to participate in a study of 'Effects of Punishment on Memory.' Milgram actually wanted to study whether people can go against their morals and conscience, inflicting pain on others, just because they are ordered by someone to do so. For that, he set up an experiment, where the participants were deceived into believing that they were supposed to make the other participant (an actor, Confederate) learn a list of words. The participants took 'teacher's' role and were instructed to give shocks to the 'learners' for wrong answers. There was a switchboard provided, with switches ranging from 15V to 450V electric current, along with verbal indications as mild, severe, extremely severe, DANGER XXX! The

intensity of shock was to be increased by 15V with every wrong answer.

Now, no shocks were administered in real, while the actors were told to pretend being shocked. As was pre-decided, the learners purposely gave wrong answers to the teachers. Milgram wanted to study how far could people go to torture someone, on other's orders. Whenever the participants hesitated to continue, the experimenter would say things like,

- Please continue.

- The experiment requires that you continue.

- It's absolutely essential that you continue.

- You have no choice, but to continue.

And to a disturbing surprise of human rationality, about 65% of the total participants actually administered 450V shock to the learners!

With further reviews of Milgram's

experiment by Professor Alex Haslam, we get some really interesting insights. Well, from the statements used by the experimenter, only the 4th one is an actual command. But participants didn't obey when they were 'ordered' to continue! There was 0% obedience to the 4th statement! Now that contradicts the basic thought proposed by Stanley Milgram.

When you make another person suffer so much, it's obvious that you undergo some distress. But another astonishing thing is that, at the end of Milgram's experiment, the participants weren't distressed, rather they were happy because, during the debriefing, Milgram told them that they had greatly contributed to science! This made them feel as worthy subjects of the Experimenter, who proved themselves by staying up through others' pain, for a Higher Good.

#### 3) Mass Suicide

The Reverend Jim Jones, leader of People's Temple (an American cult) was facing numerous charges of tax evasion, child abuse, and torture. So, he decided that his followers should poison their family and then themselves. Those who protested were silenced. The Jonestown massacre of 1978 saw masses consuming cyanide-laced drinks, killing 909 people!

Similarly, in 1987, Heaven's Gate cult leader Marshall Applewhite ordered 38 followers to kill themselves by ingesting Phenobarbital mixed in applesauce or pudding and then drinking vodka over it. The coldness of these suicides followed by placing plastic bags on the poisoned cult members' heads, to ensure death!

To sum these incidents, we can again quote Milgram, 'Each individual possesses a conscience which to a greater or lesser degree serves to restrain the unimpeded flow of impulses destructive to others. But when he merges his person into an organizational structure, a new creature replaces autonomous man, unhindered by the limitations of individual morality, freed of humane inhibition, mindful only of the sanctions of Authority.'

Sara Chavan (SYBA)

## GAINS FROM OBEDIENCE

So far, we have frowned upon like power?

obedience. But like everything in the world, even obedience has some good things to offer to us. It is beneficial for both the ones who practice it and the ones who are on the receiving end. Here are these gains from obedience: Power- If you have a unique voice, a want to change the world around you and a power within you, to influence others; then getting people to abide is an easy game. With obedience, comes power. A power over rules, a power over the system and a power over people. It's a cycle! And who does not

Immunity from sins- With great power, comes great responsibility? Well, not if you are not the one whose hands are getting dirty. Power over people means power over their minds. And for you and all you have to do is unless they are smart enough to understand what you are up to; no diligent follower has the heart to rat a leader out!

Saves mental resources- If you are the one who submits to others, looks up to them and is willing to do anything they say; this gain is for you! We all know decision making and problem-solving

takes time. One has to look at all the information available to them, ponder a lot on it and note down the possible solutions then select one of them. Phew! But if someone is doing this job implement it, then you get to save your cognitive resources big time!

Rewards- A good follower gets good rewards. And in the end isn't it all about getting appreciation and praise from that person you are willing to do anything for?

Himani Joshi (TYBA)

## IF NOT ME THEN WHO?

Obedience to Rational Self When obedience to our oldest and ancient religious texts, the Vedas have been questioned, how is it that it cannot lead to questioning obedience itself?

When certain elements of society, a group of people called Cārvakas challenged the authority of Vedās and people's unquestioning faith and abidance to it, it led to the birth of independent thinking, openness and skepticism with conscientiousness.

The problem with obedience arises out of fear of that authority, which has been used as a means of disciplining and schooling since ages, starting right

from childhood. But notions of obedience have evolved due to horrifying and questionable historical incidents giving rise to fearing obedience itself.

The factors that contribute to obedience are a sense of moral obligation and duty, sentimental appeals to traditions and faith and our psychological need for support systems, tendency to please to gain power or out of fear of power. It leads to negative consequences when followed under a misguided sense. It has led to disasters from the fallout of civilizations, holocausts to horrors in the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

But then who will be our sense, who

will determine for us if not I? The popular philosopher of the twentieth century, Ayn Rand talks about objectivism, rational thinking, and self-realization in ethics.

"If some men choose to survive only by imitating and repeating like trained animals, they are trailing after any destroyer who promises them to assume the responsibility they evade: the virtue of being conscious." (Ayn Rand, The Virtue of Selfishness)

Questioning our faith in someone or something is not a bad thing but a start towards a better idea of self and the

Tanvi Padia (SYBA)





Rain rain come again, go away another day  
We Ruiaites want to play, rain rain come again.  
Monsoon is something each one of us enjoys. The comfort of being under the roof of our house, by a window, with a coffee or tea cup in hand, munching on some pakodas is too good to not crave. The unbearably hot summers leave us as dry as a raisin. We're restlessly waiting for that first drop of rain and the long train of memories it carries with it. This issue is solely dedicated to those memories that have made a tiny little room for themselves in our hearts. Go on, read them and relive your memories of rains.



**GIFT OF THE FLOODS**

Living in Mumbai and around, it has made sure that I have at least a handful of encounters with floods. Who hasn't really? We all have ourselves been stuck somewhere, thanks to the rains or at least have family members that have been stuck.

While it's fun mostly for people who decide to take the safer route and stay at home, it's quite the opposite for people who decide to risk it and brave the rains to go to work.

Once when I was a school kid I decided to risk it because our school never really shut down even if the rest of the world did. It hadn't stopped raining all night but I still went to school with a packed bag hoping that the day would progress like it normally did. But of course, the heavens, they had different plans for me.

After an hour of classes, parents started to trickle in to get their children home safely because the streets were starting to flood now. Slowly, one by one, I witnessed about half the class leave. I really started to worry because both my parents were working and I had a feeling that they were stranded too. I later found out they really were.

The principal then announced that they were dispersing the students because the water had entered some of the houses in low lying areas and that their parents would

come to pick them up shortly. All my friends left one by one but I knew no one would turn up for me. Just a handful of students were left behind at school eventually because they wouldn't let us leave alone.

Out of the few people left I wasn't friends with anyone in particular. But then a girl decided to come up to me and talk. I was never the one to talk too much but that day we talked about everything under the roof, from our school teachers to Harry Potter to even trivial things like our favorite colors and animals over our tiffin boxes. I never realized how the hours passed but we were stranded at school for about 5 hours now. Our parents still hadn't turned up.

After a lot of pleading and reassuring at school, we left together. We knew each other for mere hours but we held hands as we waded through the waist-deep water like we knew each other for years together.

We remained friends throughout our time at school and even for some time after that. While they inconvenience us, calamities like floods have a way of bringing people together only like adversities do. That flood left me with a ruined school uniform, soaking shoes and a wholesome and enriching friendship.

Shabduli Shinde

Creativity is a boon to many, the boon that is enhanced by the 'pitter-patter' raindrops. Few of the many such masterpieces of the Ruia creative minds are given below. They are sure to remind you of the rains.

**MUMBAI KI BARRISH**

Mumbai ki barrish  
Iske alag alag hain roop  
Kisko lagti hai shaitaan  
Kyunki local band hone se vo hai pareshaan  
Kisiko lagti hai Sukoon  
Kyunki deti hai garmi ki Rahat mashool  
Mumbai ki baarish  
Iske alag alag hain roop  
Ismein chai ki chuski  
Aur bhute ki chauki  
Ka sahara hai  
Nend ne toh saara mausam nikala hai  
Kuch kitaabon ne bhi dera jamaya hai  
Dil ne iss baarish main college jaane se Mann churaya hai  
Iss baarish ne Kudrat Ko Naya banaya hai  
Aur insaano Ko bhi bohut kuch sikhaya hai  
Ye Mumbai ki barrish hai  
Iske alag alag hain roop  
Iske alag alag hain roop

Sanchit Sharma  
SYBSC

**एका पावसाची गोष्ट**

पावसात रंगल्या कित्येक आठवणी  
पावसाच्या नजरेने पाहू चला...  
मनाच्या डोहात प्रीतीच्या स्वप्नात  
क्षणात जाऊन येऊ चला...

सरींशी खेळते क्षणीच भांडते  
त्यालाच ठाऊक काय हवे  
ओठात थांबून शब्दही अपुरा  
काळण्या अंगोदरच डोळे ओले  
त्याचेही डोळे हे आनंद लेवून  
सरींच्याच येण्याने पुसू चला...

सरींचे वादळ मनात चालते  
किती हे सोसावे आता तरी  
सरींत भिजावे सरींशी बोलावे  
सरीच देतील साथ खरी  
सरींच्या सुरात सरींच्या तालात  
सरींच्या लयीत गाऊ चला...

पावसाच्या नशेत पावसाच्या धंदीत  
पावसाची बरसात राती जरी  
पावसाच्या सातारी पावसाची भुपाळी  
पावसाळी सकाळ होते तरी  
पावसाचा झंकार गुंजतो मनात  
स्वराभिषेकात न्हाऊ चला...

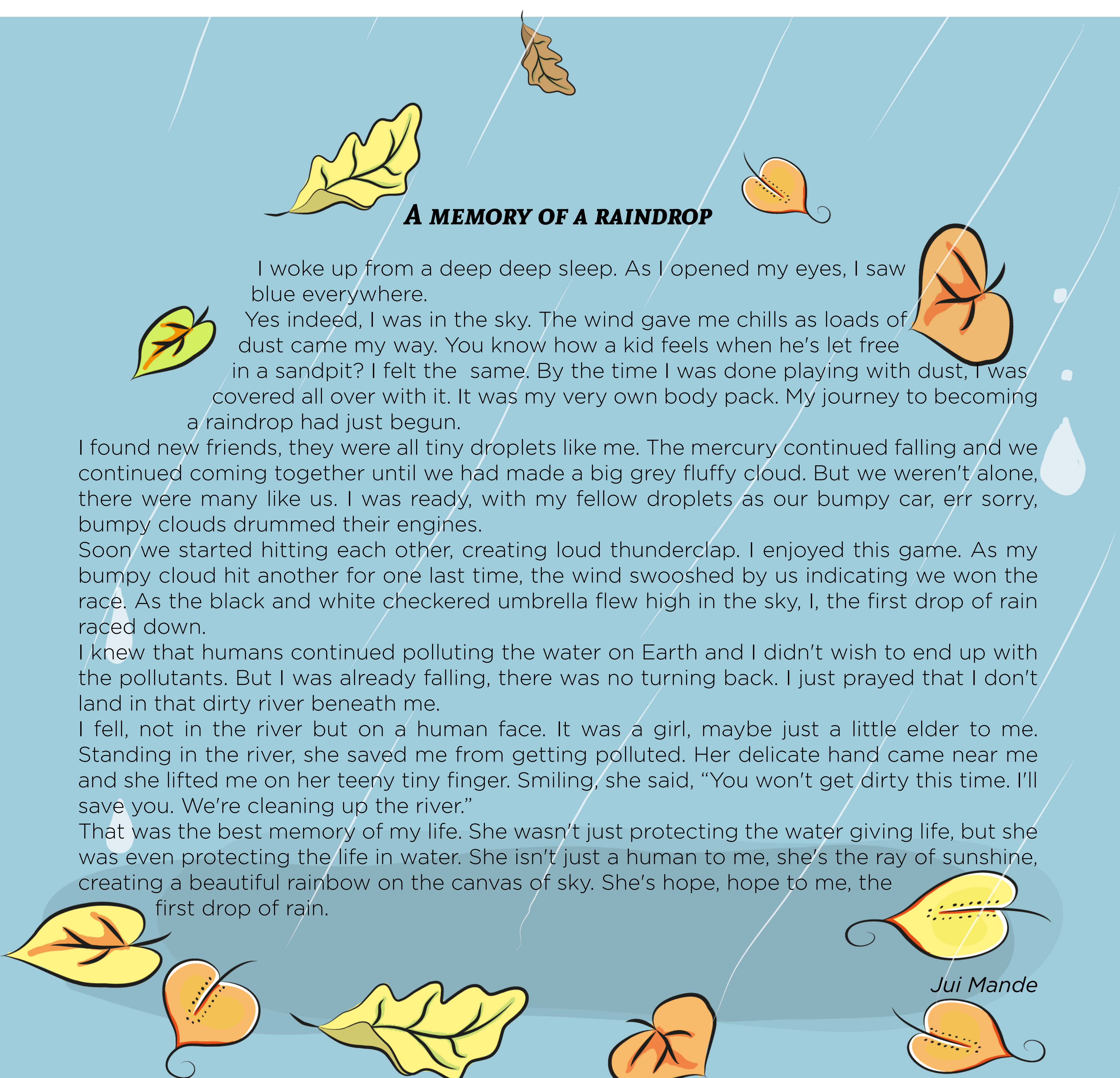
हेरंब भावे  
SYBA

**आठवणीतला पाऊस**

तसे पावसाळे बरेच पाहिले पण कळायला लागल्यापासूनचा पहिला पाऊस नक्कीच आठवतो. जून महिन्याची सुरुवात, दगाळलेलं वातावरण आणि काहीशी आळसटलेली मी पुस्तक वाचत सोफ्यावर पडले होते. दगाळलेले वातावरण आणि कॉफी हे समीकरण असल्यामुळे मलाही कॉफी प्यायची लहर आली. नुकताच माझ्यातला लेखक बाहेर येत असल्याने याचे वर्णन लिहावे असा विचार करत असतानाच हलक्या सरी बरसू लागल्या. खिडकीत बसून मी कॉफी आणि पावसाचा मनमुराद आनंद घेत होते. पाऊस पाहिल्यानंतर लहानपणापासूनच भिजण्याची नशा असल्याने मी पावसात भिजायला गेले. अचानक आलेल्या पावसामुळे रस्त्यावरच्या लोकांची, दुकानदारांची त्रधातिरपीट उडाली. पावसापासून वाचण्यासाठी सर्वजण इकडे तिकडे पळत होते. मी मात्र गच्चीत उभे राहून तोंडावर पावसाच्या सरी घेत या सगळ्या दृश्याचा आनंद घेत होते. "अंगे भिजली जनधारांनी" असे म्हणत मी नखशिखांत भिजून अतृप्त इच्छा पूर्ण केल्याच्या आनंदात होते. काही वेळानंतर सौम्य वाटणाऱ्या वरुणराजाने थोडेसे रुद्र रूप धारण केले. पावसाचा तांडव सुरू होऊन वीजां एकमेकांना टाळ्या देत हसत होत्या. हे सर्व दृश्य मी डोळ्यात भरभरून साठवत होते. तेवढ्यात पाऊस वाढल्याने बाबांनी मला खाली आणले आणि माझ्या पुढच्या लेखाच्या कल्पनाशक्तीचा भंग झाला. खाली आल्यानंतर देखील मी मनात पावसाचे चित्र रंगवून नवीन लेखाचा आराखडा तयार करत होते. बाहेरचा पाऊस काही वेळाने थांबला खरा, पण मनात बराच वेळ बरसत होता. अगदी मुसळधार!!!!

गौरवी देशपांडे  
SYBA

Memories are a blessing to have. Not just to humans but to other beings too. Maybe someone else as well treasures one, sharing it with you.



Rains will come and go and so will lives. But memories, they stay. Its the treasure nobody can take away from you. The more you make, the richer you become.  
So continue creating memories, and dancing wildly in the rain;  
continue writing, creating masterpieces that will be witnesses of your past;  
continue living, because that's what we're born for. Until next time...





# OPEN-FORUM

Vacations are meant to be spent doing what we love. Whether it's playing sports, hiking, reading, or sleeping in; everybody uses their time off to do whatever they want. In my friends' cases, they usually spend the holidays gallivanting about Mumbai, playing video games, and asking me "Which godforsaken jungle have you ended up in this time?". The question isn't weird in the least; I spend all my days off with my parents in national parks and forests around the globe scoping out animals, especially the feathered kind. And PUBG players, hold your fire; when I say scope, I mean my binoculars.

I've been birding since the age of 7 when I was introduced to it during a trip to Ranthambhore. I fell in love with our colorful friends, and with the delicate art that is bird watching. 12 years later, I'm pursuing a degree in ornithology, and traipsing around looking for birds wherever I go. I've been bombarded with a rich variety of questions about my 'unusual' career choice, but the funniest one by far has to be, "Birding/researching birds can't be a job, can it? It seems so easy!" Yeah, the answer is a hard NOPE. Birding is essentially just the act of observing birds in the wild. Sounds easy enough - just go where the birds are, look at them, see what they do - that can't be tough. Well, that line of thought won't get you very far. It's true that birding can simply be a leisure activity as opposed to actual work, but that doesn't make it any simpler to undertake. There are quite a few things you should know before you decide to make an excursion to the nearest jungle to try and see our flighty friends in action.

First things first: basic knowledge and etiquette. I picked up on the rules of wildlife watching, applicable to all animals, as I continued going on safaris and treks. They benefit both us observers and the wildlife. The most primary rule: silence is your best friend. Not only does it drastically reduce the chances of the animal getting disturbed and fleeing, but it also helps you hear the sounds of the forest better. I've seen expert birders track down tiny warblers via their calls alone, and I've also seen a beautiful and rare Khalij Pheasant fly away after a fellow passenger in the jeep screamed, "Oh my god, that bird is so big and colorful!" (Needless to say, nobody else was pleased with either that person or the outcome.)



Being considerate to the animals, the ecosystem and your fellow birders will profit everybody immensely. If you stumble upon fellow birders, make sure to exchange notes about sightings and calls with them; I would have missed one of the rarest birds I've seen to date, the Ward's Trogon, had we not stopped by the side of a random road simply to ask some people with cameras if

they'd seen anything in the area. They told us they'd heard the trogon calling, and after 20 minutes of scrambling around the forested slopes, we managed to see both the male and the female. I don't think I've ever thanked someone so enthusiastically in my life.

Second, comes your equipment. Make sure you're well prepped for whatever terrain you want to explore; the last thing you want when searching for birds in the trees is to be constantly looking down and swatting mosquitoes. For the birding itself, a good pair of binoculars can do wonders for easier sightings - whether the animal is far away or simply too well camouflaged to be visible to the naked eye. (Try finding an owl that's decided to stay silent on a tree branch, and you'll understand the frustration). Another good asset to have is a field guide that lists the different species to aid you in identification.

Of course, you don't need a book if you have a friend or guide who's proficient in the field. Birding is an immensely enjoyable activity, and it's a lot of fun to go exploring different places and see different species of birds - and the excitement is enhanced if you have people along for the ride who are just as passionate about viewing wildlife. Birds are fantastic creatures that have evolved from the mighty dinosaurs into an array of different families, each with their own unique characteristics and behavior. They bring vibrancy to this planet, and it's an honor to be able to witness these stunning organisms build their nests, hunt for prey, raise their young, and live their lives the way only creatures possessing wings can.

- Natasha Desai

## THE TEDDY BEAR STORY

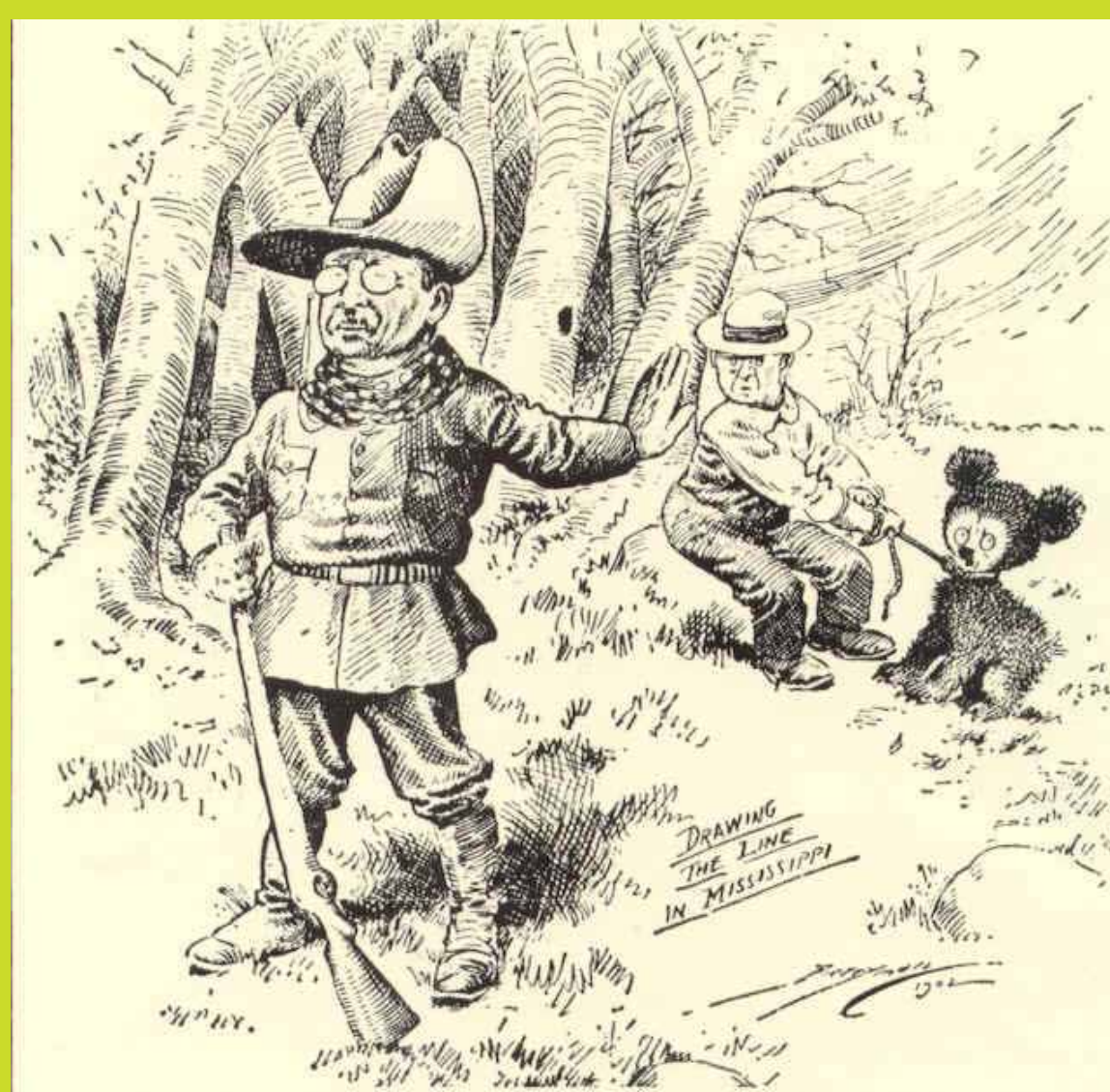
Wrapped in paper and bows, teddy bears have been placed lovingly underneath Christmas trees for generations, to the delight of children all around the world. But teddy bears are an American original: Their story begins with a holiday vacation taken by President Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Roosevelt was on a bear-hunting trip near Onward, Mississippi on November 14, 1902. He had been invited by Mississippi Governor Andrew H. Longino, and unlike other hunters in the group, had not located a single bear. Roosevelt's assistants, led by Holt Collier, a born slave, and former Confederate cavalryman, cornered and tied a black bear to a willow tree. They asked Roosevelt to shoot it. Viewing this as extremely unsportsmanlike, Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear. The news of this event spread quickly through newspaper articles across the country. The articles recounted the story of the president who refused to shoot a bear.

A political cartoonist by the name of

Clifford Berryman read the article and decided to draw a cartoon regarding the president's refusal to shoot the bear. Berryman's cartoon appeared in the Washington Post on November 16, 1902. A Brooklyn candy shop owner by the name of Morris Michtom saw the cartoon and had an idea. He and his wife Rose were also makers of stuffed animals, and Michtom decided to create a stuffed toy bear and dedicate it to the president who refused to shoot a bear. He called it 'Teddy's Bear'.

Roosevelt adopted the teddy bear as the symbol of the Republican Party for the 1904 election. After receiving Roosevelt's permission to use his name, Michtom mass-produced the toy bears and soon founded the Ideal Toy Company. To this day, teddy bears are among the most popular gifts for children and are often given to adults to signify love, congratulations, or sympathy. It is also used as a method of healing and teaching children. According to some researchers, teddy bears comfort and support children. The teddy bear is also used to teach children about different places. In stories, the bear travels and sends postcards to the readers, which helps children learn.

Law enforcement in America gives children in traumatic experiences teddy bears for comfort. The bears are donated by citizens to help children deal with the transition from their homes to foster care or when there is a family issue affecting the child. Since the creation of the first teddy bears which sought to imitate the form of real bear cubs, "teddies" have greatly varied in form, style, color, and material and have come a long way to be used as a therapeutic toy - or security hugs at night!



Clifford Berryman's 1902 political cartoon in The Washington Post

- Riddhi Jadye

## A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP

Emoji: Grammar, hi!

Grammar: What do you want? Go away.

Emoji: I want to be friends with you. We complement each other so well. Together, we can make languages so rich!

Grammar: (gives the other an incredulous look) Do we? Have you forgotten that nowadays everyone forgets me, ignores me just because of you?

Emoji: They ignored you even before I came.

Grammar: Oh, what a fantastic thing to say!

Emoji: I didn't mean that! I only meant that you shouldn't blame me for something that has been happening way before my arrival. Even then everyone used the "text lingo", essentially ignoring you.

Grammar: Maybe it isn't your fault. But it is true that everyone has been paying more attention to you now. How is that fair? I have been around long before you,

and one day you turn up and instantly become everyone's favorite!

Emoji: There are people who still love you and swear by you, so much that they ignore me completely. But Grammar, don't you realize that we really do complement each other? Sometimes, expressing feelings with my help is equally important.

Grammar: I beg to differ. If I'm used correctly, you aren't of much use. Wrath, love, sorrow, and joy - you name it and I have a huge treasure trove of words just waiting to be used.

Emoji: Even antagonism? If someone were angry, wouldn't they prefer to not say anything and convey their anger without words?

Grammar: (grudgingly) There might be some people who prefer doling out the silent treatment. But, there are also people who prefer writing whole paragraphs! What about them, Emoji?

Emoji: You answered your own question. If they write complete passages, they

obviously prefer you. They choose you over me.

Grammar: And that doesn't affect you?

Emoji: No. As I said, I believe we are meant to be together. Just like the moon, our usefulness waxes and wanes. And when it comes to understanding, I think there are more people who don't understand me than you. There's a fixed meaning to you. With me, sometimes the implication is too subjective for comfort.

Grammar: I hadn't even thought of that. Perhaps...no, wait, I still stand firm in my belief.

Emoji: (the facepalm one) How about we leave this decision to everyone out there? Let them decide whom to love. We'll just stay together till then.

Grammar: Yeah, I guess.

The two leave hand-in-hand, one with hearts in his eyes, and the other silently debating.

- Sayli Mayekar



# TECH-TRICKED

Photo by Pietro Jeng on Unsplash

## Can DNA be taken for Aadhaar?

The Centre told the Supreme Court that its Aadhaar scheme has been approved by experts and was not open to judicial review as it was a policy decision. However, the apex court pointed out that the possibility of Aadhaar getting more biometric features like DNA would give excessive power to Parliament.



The government told a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra which is examining the validity of Aadhaar scheme and it's enabling 2016 law that in a digital era,

Aadhaar is the best way to prevent "money laundering and deliver subsidies and benefits". The bench meanwhile has said "biological databank of attributes" are open-ended and the biometric information authorities may expand and include of its citizens. But some more biometric features in the however, how this Aadhaar scheme in future and asked information is utilized by the whether it would not amount to government is still not clear. "excessive delegation of powers" by Hence, the question of the Parliament. "Blood, urine, DNA may be right to privacy is added, but that will be subject to examined by the courts. In future, examination by the courts, just like right if DNA databanks are to maintained now the court is examining whether a by the government, is it asking collection of fingerprints and Iris scans too much of citizens to provide are a violation of privacy," Attorney blood samples? General KK Venugopal said. As of now, it is too early to predict anything, but one can always speculate.

-ATHARVA BIDWALKAR

## The Ethical Dilemma with Satellite Imaging

Since satellites started photographing Earth from space nearly four decades ago, their images have inspired excitement, introspection, and, often, fear. Now when we talk about satellite imagery people mostly think about the military grade satellites. But now commercial satellites are also emerging and have proven to be quite useful. In recent years, they have played a key role in dozens of human rights and war crimes investigations. They've been used to spot mass graves in Burundi and reveal the massacre of at least 350 people by the Nigerian army. When the Kremlin denied involvement in the fighting in Ukraine in September 2014, proved that the Kremlin's assertion was incorrect. But the commercial satellites possess one key difference: Their operators will sell the images to anyone. And this poses some serious ethical concerns. Recently Google purchased SKYNET to gain real-time satellite information, the main goal here is to enhance the user experience, by providing them with real-time dynamic views on Google Earth and Google Maps.

This drastically compromises civilian governments lose significant control over privacy because backyard sunbathers, information about their turf. Both spy and naturalists, couples, speeding vehicles, civilian satellites have been doing this for years, but operators of the spy satellites and naked paramours seen through bedroom windows can all be identified, have been remarkably reticent about the photographed, and publicized without information they have collected, making their awareness or permission. There is a it relatively easy for countries to ignore major economic concern as well. them. Pakistan and India may not like Corporations with access to satellite being observed by the United States and imagery may know more about a Russia, but as long as satellite operators country's natural resources than does the were not showing information about country's own government. Pakistan to India and vice versa, no one gets to upset. In fact, it is speculated that even the governments are in on this as they purchase the imagery about their rival countries from the satellite operators and sometimes spy even on their own citizens and dust it off with the excuse of preventing terror management. All these examples maybe posing some serious problems for us, but at the end of the day this isn't an ethical dilemma in technology, but one in human behavior. If humans use this technology cautiously and diligently then it could be one the greatest gifts to mankind, but if we don't then it'll be the reason for a huge catastrophe.



The new satellite systems also challenge sovereignty directly. If satellite operators are permitted to photograph any location anywhere and sell the images to anyone,

-RISHABH VISHWAKARMA

## An ode to the 'Unorganized' Retail

Since the last decade, the story of Indian to join the digital and technological transactions, and international transfers, retail is more striking than ever before. revolution which has been brought by the health provisions, loans, etc. across 10 The organized retail penetration was 7% ever-increasing penetration of countries. In 2017, it had 18 million active for FY 2016-2017. The remaining 93% smartphones and the internet. The users in Kenya, which is greater than comprises of the unorganized retail. payments landscape is truly on a two-thirds of the population. A lot of These figures indicate a strong growth disruption trajectory. There are numerous problems in Kenya led to the rise of this potential for the Indian retail. The start-ups who are finding a solution to company. Providing tech solutions to unorganized retail has a huge untapped the problem faced by these retailers and people in a country with very high potential for adapting to various are providing them with technological banking charges, corruption, and bribery, technologies and going digital. Many support, which further enables efficiency etc made people send money companies and start-ups are building a in doing business and reducing the cost and transact through M-Pesa. For a platform to rejuvenate the unorganized of operations. a rural household, M-Pesa retail by providing technological Besides India, Kenya is also seeing a great adoption increases their solutions and consolidated services that revolution in the way mobile payments income by 5-30%. In Afghanistan, not only transform their business with the occur. All thanks to Safaricom's M-Pesa, this company had done a pilot project help of technology but also helps them which now has transactions amounting to pay public sector salaries increase their revenue streams. to nearly 50% of Kenya's GDP. M-Pesa, using its technology. This project Emerging markets like India are now the launched by Vodafone's Safaricom in was extremely successful as people cradle for disruptive innovation. The 2007, started as a service to provide in the public sector received payments landscape in India have been microfinance loans. It later diversified and the exact salary what they and are continuously evolving at an now it is a very common application for should be receiving. extraordinary pace. It is now imperative peer to peer (P2P), business to business

-SMEET POLADIA



# SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING



## CHAI PE CHARCHA



Monsoon is finally here and if you are a typical Mumbaikar, you can't resist having "cutting chai" in the rain! Tea aka Chai is one of the most famous hot beverage in the world. And its time to give you glimpses of science in tea. So let's begin our Chai pe Charcha!

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Tea leaves contain Flavonoids, which provide antioxidants. This anti-oxidative property may prevent atherosclerosis that leads to hardening of the arteries. Flavonoids also support the cardiovascular health and prevent aging. The Flavonoids and Tannins have antiseptic properties. Due to this, tea is used as an age-old remedy for burns, wounds, and swelling.

In Green tea, Catechins exert antimicrobial and antiviral activities. This is the reason why green tea is used in acne treatment. The amino acid L-Theanine in black tea catalyzes alpha brain waves that promote relaxation.

The astringent tannins ease indigestion, diarrhea and other forms of gastrointestinal dysfunction.



Obesity is a metabolic disorder resulting from an imbalance between energy intake and energy expenditure. The intake of tea catechin together with regular exercise helps to reduce diet-induced obesity.

Tea also decreases tooth loss as it changes the pH of mouth when consumed and reduces cavities. The chemical properties of chai are indeed calming, vitalizing and mentally clarifying.

However, consumption of tea in excess causes a disturbance in sleep, bloating, and disturbances in the absorption of certain essential nutrients. Thus when consumed in an optimum amount tea is a beverage giving us many health benefits.

Tea might have been your emotion until now. But we hope, from now it will be a scientific experience also! So, what are you waiting for? Get outside, soak in the rain, swing by a chaiwallah and enjoy the ultimate monsoon comfort drink!

-Prajakta Velankar and Sanika Upadhye ,  
SYBSc Bioanalytical

## ENVISIONING THE FUTURE WITH SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

In continuation to the previous article, we are sure our avid readers are excited to know how our college is associated with the upcoming field of synthetic biology. We are proud to announce to our Ruiaite Monthly

A team of undergraduates from the Department of Microbiology will be representing our college as well as India on the world stage. Their project proposal, focused on cleaning Paan stains, was recognized by the Department of Biotechnology, India (DBT) with a grant for Rs. 10 lakhs, an honor given to the top five teams in the country. Together with support from our generous alumni and other well-wishers, these students will get a taste of doing research in the exciting area of synthetic biology. The student team members are Aishwarya Rajurkar, Anjali Vaidya, Komal Parab, Maithili Sawant, Mitali Patil, Nishtha Page, Sanika Ambre, Shrutika Sawant. The team is led by the Primary PI, Dr. Mayuri Rege; the Secondary PI, Dr. Anushree Lokur and Instructors Mugdha Kulkarni, Sachin Rajagopalan.

So what is their project all about?

The epidemic of rampant spitting of Paan has long plagued our country. Aside from being a major eyesore in public places and monuments of historical importance, this practice also creates a breeding ground for many air-borne infectious diseases like Tuberculosis. The current methods used to clean these paan stains are quite hazardous. Additionally, the commonly used physical cleaning methods like scrubbing are not very effective and also time-intensive to implement on a city-wide scale. It is estimated that the Mumbai Suburban Railways alone spends Rs. 36 Crores a year to scrub paan stains manually. The team aims to address this



socio-economic problem using genetically engineered bacteria to remove the color of Paan stains. Their goal is to build an effective, ecologically contained system that can remove Paan stains from surfaces in public places.



The system could also be extended to treat a group of dyes with the same chemical structure that pollutes rivers around the world. The proposed design incorporates multiple levels of safety mechanisms that are necessary before introducing a genetically engineered organism in any ecosystem. Thus, the broader objective of the project is to degrade toxic colored compounds, be it paan stains or dyes that pollute our rivers, to safe by-products using synthetic biology principles. The exercise of working on this project has ignited a cascade of positive effects in the department. It has inculcated a mindful approach towards experimentation and scientific temper in those directly involved in the project.

readers that our college has received a prestigious opportunity to compete on an international platform through the International Genetic Engineering Machine (iGEM) Competition held at MIT, Boston.

A unique part of this competition is the requirement to engage with the society at large. In addition to scientific skills, the students are challenged to explore different sources for sponsorships, spread awareness about synthetic biology amongst the public and collaborate with other teams for different experiments etc. An equally important aspect is that classmates of the team members have found unique ways to contribute to the project while encouraging their peers along the way. In line with the true spirit of the Department and iGEM, these collaborations stoke scientific curiosity, give an outlet to creativity when ultimately everyone comes away with learning something new. Students in the younger years influenced by this dynamic are already thinking of future projects that are often interdepartmental in nature. Thus, this exercise has been instrumental in propelling the scientific enterprise in the college.

Together, this has strengthened an unbreakable cycle of continuous research-oriented study, collaboration, and enthusiasm for science in young science aspirants, continuing the legacy of the college to promote excellence. To know more about Paan degradation project and iGEM competition, do visit the official iGEM website: <http://igem.org> and the official wiki page of the team: <http://2018.igem.org/Team:Ruia-Mumbai>

- Maithili Sawant and Sreeja Mitra,  
TYBSc Microbiology

### FACTS

- Mushrooms are genetically more related to animals than plants.
- After every 10 years, our body replaces all it's cells and becomes new.
- Men are more likely to be colorblind than women.
- Mars has ice caps on its poles and it had water streams too!

-Sushrut Mane , TYBSc Mathematics

### NOTE

Spending time with friends can boost your  
Oxytocin hormone.  
(Oxytocin is also known as love hormone)



- Neha Raut, SYBSc Bioanalytical





## The dilemma of aesthetics

"The creation of beauty is Art."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

We all have our own notions of beauty. Everyone defines aesthetics differently. Last week, I dragged my team of Safarnama to an art gallery tucked behind a construction site. Pieces of art in a gallery, this is something I find beautiful and will find the will to travel across town even when it's pouring. Expression plays a very important role for me while traveling. I look for places where humans have tried to mark the Earth, where they have erected buildings and pillars that glorify their existence, where humans have expressed themselves through art. This is what aestheticism for me is. However, this is something that may or may not appeal to you.



I love scrolling through Instagram as much as you do. I have witnessed this rising trend of Instagram friendly places. Last year, my cousin traveled to Rajasthan to witness the Pushkar fair. She showed me many pictures of her visit (too many, to be honest) and somewhere while looking at the 25th picture of the desert, I realized we travel to not only admire beauty but also to capture it. Out of this need arises the want to find beautiful places.

Places that will appease our eyes and the camera. The beauty of the place is determined by how vintage or bohemian or ancient it is. This search for a perfect, aesthetic vacation starts the moment we start planning our itinerary. We are on a lookout for places with scenic locations and hotels with picture-perfect spots.

Is this what aesthetic travel really is? A series of trips only to come home with great quality pictures but a fast fading remembrance of the place? Should we explore places only for its beauty while completely rejecting the essence of traveling? Are we corroding the very notion of traveling with the over exaggeration of aestheticism?

Just like you, I am not equipped to answer these questions. However, I want to say this. Aesthetics and beauty are integral parts of traveling. You cannot separate the two but you can maintain a balance between them. However, dear readers, I implore you to travel. Travel to celebrate. To celebrate the object - be it the Himalayas, the beaches of Goa, the hills of Darjeeling or a piece of art that convinced you to get off the couch and get out of your comfort. While traveling, we are stripped of our roles as students, daughters, sons, teachers, etc. It is through travel that we slowly begin to realize who we are, once these roles that the society pushes down our throats are thrown away. Since we go on vacation to find ourselves, rest and rejoice that we are alive, the object of art that you should celebrate through travel is you. You are a beautiful human being. And so travel is aesthetically justified.

Priyanka Tibrewal

## A Stranger.

I had been to Goa for a family vacation last summer. It was a fun experience altogether. A relaxing break from my moto-boulot-dodo life. But what I didn't expect was the love I found in a stranger.

I was sitting by the pool, listening to songs, in my own world of daisies and rainbows. It wasn't until the guard there closed the pool I noticed him.

He had occupied the seat just beside me, dark messy hair, grey eyes, lean shoulders, dressed in shorts, t-shirt and flip-flops giving away that he was on vacation. Anyway, why was I thinking about him? After all, he was just a stranger.

Well, being the person I am, I raised the volume of my music just for him to notice me. Pathetic, I know, but he was handsome.

And I had succeeded yet again, I could see him moving his head towards me from the side but I waited for him to start a conversation. And he did. We kept on talking for an hour straight about music, books, TV series, and politics. I was so impressed to learn he was solo-traveling until he said Goa is his hometown. "What a liar! Either you're lying about this to be your hometown or you to be solo-traveling" I said. To which he laughed and said "Why can't both be true? Why, is just the peak climbed, mountain hiked in some far away city called travel? Travel is so much more than just visiting public attractions; it is about discovering that secret road which directly leads you to the beach or finding your hiding place away from the chaos. You can travel in your very own city. You are from Mumbai, how many roads have you discovered yet? How many times have you wandered on the streets to find your hiding place? Your own city is a

mystery to you. It is my first solo trip hence I wanted the place to be the city I grew up in. I could have stayed at my place but I wanted to travel to my city as a visitor, to fight the challenges they face, to meet my people as locals. The sense of independence I feel right now living in this resort is immense and you will value it once you experience. The travel, the journey is addictive and I know I'll be craving this until my next trip. Everyone here, everything about this place, this moment is beautiful".

"So you find me beautiful?", I smirked while his cheeks turned deep red.

There was something in the air blowing through our faces that day, something so passionate and romantic. As if this stranger had a string attached to me, pulling me towards him, the desire I felt that day to spend the whole night just talking to him was overwhelming. I think that's one of the gifts travel gives you with. It gives you chance to find your peace, to discover your kind of place, to belong to in numerous places, to follow different cultures, to fall in love with strangers. I could sense the pure love inside me, it wasn't infatuation, I could tell because something moved inside me when I glanced in those grey eyes for the first time.

I wanted to love only for a while, just how like we travel to one place only for a while.

Till today I don't know his name, and maybe I'll never know because I didn't want to make a forever. I wanted to leave, leave before the love leaves me because only that is the only way I will be able to hold on to him and this love forever.

Rashi Gulati

## Capture!

We could be in the most beautiful place in the world, having the time of our lives, but what is all that without having something to show your friends and family, something to make them go green with envy. Sometimes we come across such fantastic moments that a part of your wishes you could just freeze time and stay in that moment forever. Now, we all know that is impossible so we have to look for alternatives - the next best option. A way to capture memories, so that some years down the line, you've something that has the power to take you back in time.

We have tried to compile a list which has a little something for everyone. You may be an artist or a photographer or maybe you love to write or you're one of those mythical creatures who is a pro at everything, whatever it is you'll find something.



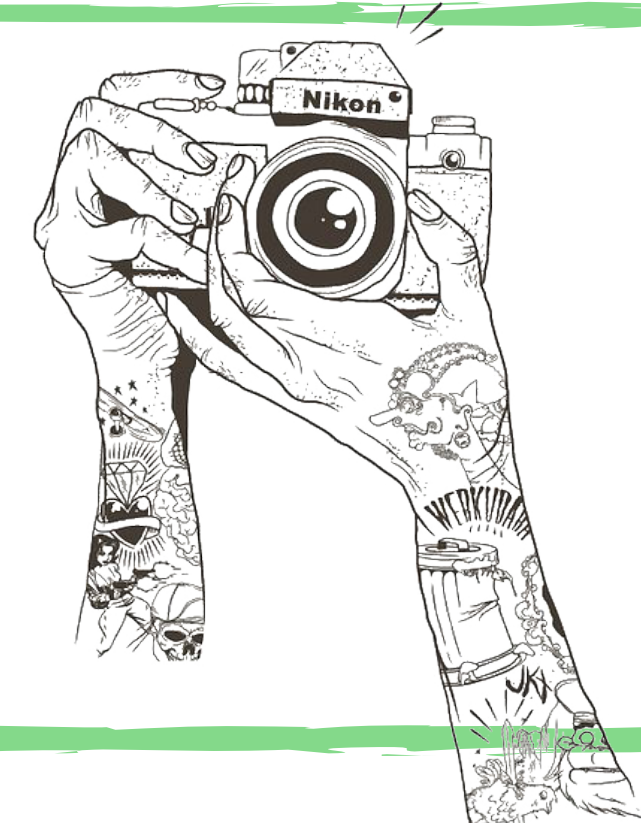
Make a video.  
Walk around with a camera. Take a video of everything around you. Go ahead and post it on YouTube. You could be the next big YouTuber.

Create a scrapbook.  
You don't really need to have an artistic bend of mind to create a scrapbook. All you need to do is collect junk. Yes, you heard me right. Collect those bus tickets, metro cards, bills, and all other bits and pieces that you would normally throw away. Paste it into a book and call it a scrapbook or throw it together in a box and call it the keepsake box.



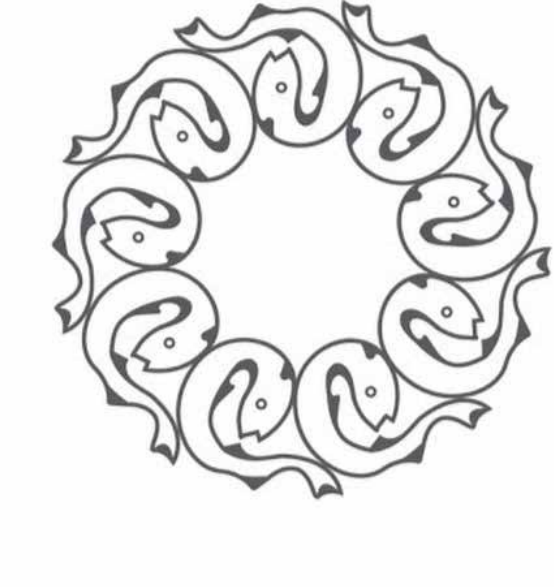
Travel journal  
Maintain a travel journal. A book in which you jot down your thoughts as you travel. You can sketch, you can write, you can pin photos. You can make it as pretty as you want or keep it basic if that is what you like.

Photographs  
This is an obvious one. What makes it a good option is that these days you don't even need to lug around a camera. Just carry a mobile phone with a decent camera, and you're good to go. Click, click, click away.



Shreya Nair

## A beautiful place behind a construction site



NINE FISH  
Art Gallery

The journey started out in this small cafe called elementaria near king circle and ended in Byculia in an art gallery named Nine Fish Art Gallery. For those of you who have ever made a plan would realize that they don't always work the way they are supposed to. When one of our columnists had to cancel the trip, all of us were a bit de-motivated to travel and decided instead to go to elementaria. There we sat munching on our sandwiches talking about food, books, and the world when it started pouring outside. We were about to leave to get back to our own business when we checked the time and realized that we could still make it to the museum and quickly make it back. So we booked an Ola micro (we be cheap!) and started towards the gallery; we reached this construction site which was apparently where we were supposed to be. With some faith in Google Maps, we asked around and reached the art gallery. This art gallery is one of a kind, it starts and ends in a matter of moments, but what comes next is much more interesting and surprising. Attached to this gallery is a furniture shop with amazing pieces of art, modern and contemporary. Though all these furniture items are quite expensive it is worth looking at them. So make plans, cancel them and go through with them anyhow.



Left to Right:  
Elementaria Bakery  
Cafe Logo, Nine Fish  
Art Gallery and  
Furniture Shop near  
the Art Gallery.





# FICTIONALLY YOURS



## The race with destiny.

I could hear footsteps come closer to me, my feet were giving up, I couldn't run anymore. Suddenly the footsteps stopped. Guess she isn't following me anymore. But as soon as I took my next step, I bumped into a solid figure.

Her shadow was looming over me as I fell down. She made the night seem darker, the bad times seem the worst. I looked up to find that smirk on her face, the smirk that proved that she was winning. Destiny, she really was winning.

“You think you'll make it there in time?”. I had a little hope that I would make it to the airport on time. But Destiny crumbled my hope into a heap of disappointments.

She whipped back her jet black hair and kneeled in front of me. “I have a better plan for you. You let him die and I let you live a year extra. Think practically dear, he's an old man. What's left for him to live?”

I searched each terminal, the food stalls, even waited by the washrooms, but grandpa Kale was nowhere to be seen.

I still had some hope but when the plane to Delhi took off in front of me, I lost all of it. The game was over, death had won. Maybe that's why she didn't pursue me further. She knew grandpa had already boarded the plane and was going to die.

The security personnel came searching for me and threw me out of the airport after some questioning. They let me off with a warning but there was no point in rejoicing. The plane had taken off and could crash at any moment. If he dies, so will grandma Kale.

Destiny is cruel. She took everything away from me, my parents, my family, my chance at a happy life. She is taking away my new family as well. What more do I have to lose?

I was standing at the gate of Kale's residency. All that was left to do was to go inside and welcome grandma's lifeless body. I had grandpa's coat on. I had cried in it when I got the news. It's weird

That old man there with his wife had cared for me like real parents. How can I not save his life?

I had come to this big city to make a fortune, an orphan like me had nothing more than my surname left by my family. But Mr. and Mrs. Kale, they become my parents, my family. The countless days they spent caring for me cannot be replaced by one extra year of my life. I owe it to them.

When Mr. Kale died in the plane crash, Mrs. Kale, shocked by the news of his death, took her last breath in front of me. I still remember how I came out of the house, helplessly crying and stumbled upon that locket. As I begged God to bring Mr. and Mrs. Kale back, the locket shone bright and Destiny appeared in front of me. She looked sophisticated but that evil smirk on her face defined her ruthless nature.

It's my only opportunity to save grandpa Kale. If he lives, so will grandma Kale, I'll be able to have a family. I got up from the road and started running. I'm not taking her offer. I have one

chance at a family and I ain't giving it up.

Within the blink of an eye, Destiny was running beside me.

“These efforts are futile. Who's skipped death? Nobody! Nobody dares to go against me. Had it not been for that magical locket, Kale would already be dead. It was mere luck on your part. I'm the queen of this world and I control everything. Remember, you are nothing but a pawn in my hands. I want him to die and he will Die!!”

I don't care what she says, she is playing with my mind. She's too arrogant and self-obsessed to know what it feels like to live for someone else. She doesn't have the heart to be overwhelmed by the mere touch of near and dear ones. She's lonely, she has no family. A heartless brute can't tell me to save or to not save grandpa's life.

Destiny was not with me anymore, just the sound of her evil laugh remained. I reached the airport and started searching for grandpa Kale. He must be waiting near the terminal so I secretly jumped the security and entered inside.

reliving the past. I remember going inside and finding grandma on the floor. I even remember seeing that quirky little locket lying by the pavement but it wasn't there anymore. Life gives you opportunities only once. You either take it or you regret losing it forever.

With heavy steps, I approached the door. I was about to open it but someone else did. Grandpa, he stood before me. I froze. “My lovely little cupcake is here! I had to return back from the airport. Shona you wore my coat, the ticket is in its pocket.”

I looked down at the coat, my eyes all watery. I remember when death brought me back in the past, I wore the coat before I went out to find grandpa. That moment itself, the future had changed.

I didn't hear from Destiny after that, neither did I come across that locket again. The plane didn't crash. Maybe Destiny had a change of plans. A single coat had managed to save up to a hundred lives.

The very next morning, there was a note sitting on my desk saying 'You Won'. It's still there with me, after so many years, reminding me of that very fateful day, that race with destiny.



Photo by Ashton Bingham on Unsplash

- Jui Mande (TYBA)

## An Open Letter Addressed To The One Who Thinks That He Is Not Worthy Enough...

To,  
The one who thinks he is not worthy enough,

Everyone just goes crazy over Dumbledore's wisdom or Snape's loyalty or even Sirius's dedication. What no one notices though is the person who is one of the most important people in Harry's life. And that person is you, Remus Lupin.

People talk about how good of a teacher you were, or how perfectly you cared for Harry but did anyone ever talk about your childhood? No? Let's do that for a bit.

I still don't understand how you made peace with yourself and the incident which changed your life forever. People sometimes force themselves to unnecessarily deal with imaginary monsters; and there was you, dealing with a real and cruel monster when you were just a five years old kid.

I still shudder at the thought of what would have happened if had heard your own father say "soulless, evil, deserving nothing but death" when he was accusing the vilest of the werewolves. He never meant it for you, but we both know these were the exact same words unconsciously driving your father to make you normal again.

Do you still remember how excited you were when Dumbledore came to rescue you from your lonely life? Finally getting out of your exile after suffering for a really long time. You'll probably be the first student going to school with such willingness.

But then, who wouldn't want to go to Hogwarts in the first place?

James, Sirius and even Peter were the first ones to bond with you. Unlike others, they never judged you and you soon became best friends. How excited were you then, to finally have friends who believed in you? Not everyone has them. When they understood who you really were, not only did they accept you, but also decided to accompany you by becoming Animagi.

I felt the need to talk about your childhood more than the rest of your life because it shows us a certain pattern, which forced you into thinking that you are worthless and soulless when both of us know it's not actually the case.

You were, are and always will be worthy and deserving of the love you receive. This letter is to specifically remind you of this very fact.

Forget what your father said, forget what the students thought, forget what the wizarding society thinks about you even now - YOU'RE WORTHY!

From,  
The one who loves you for who you are.

Pranjali Wakde (TYBA)

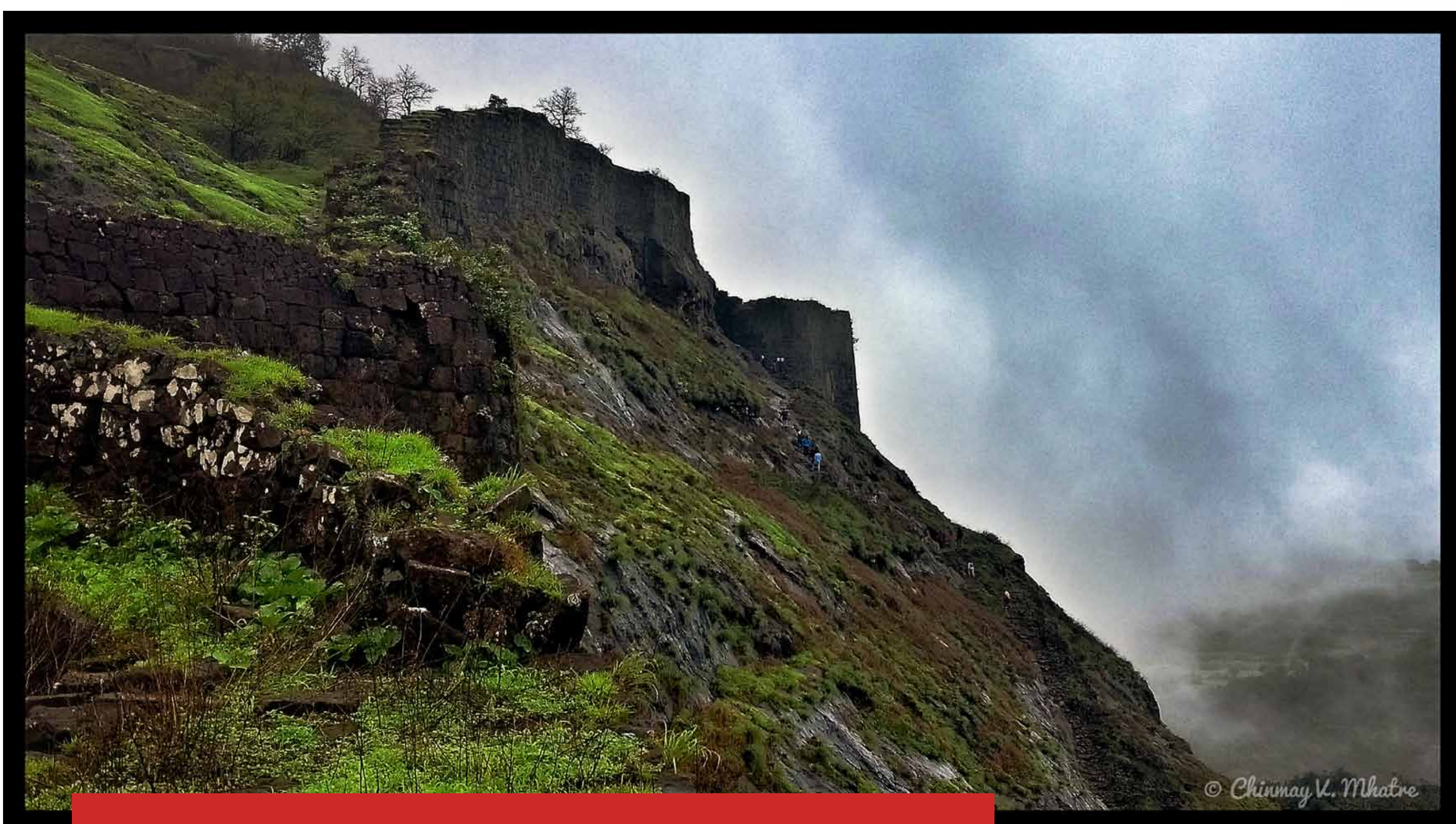
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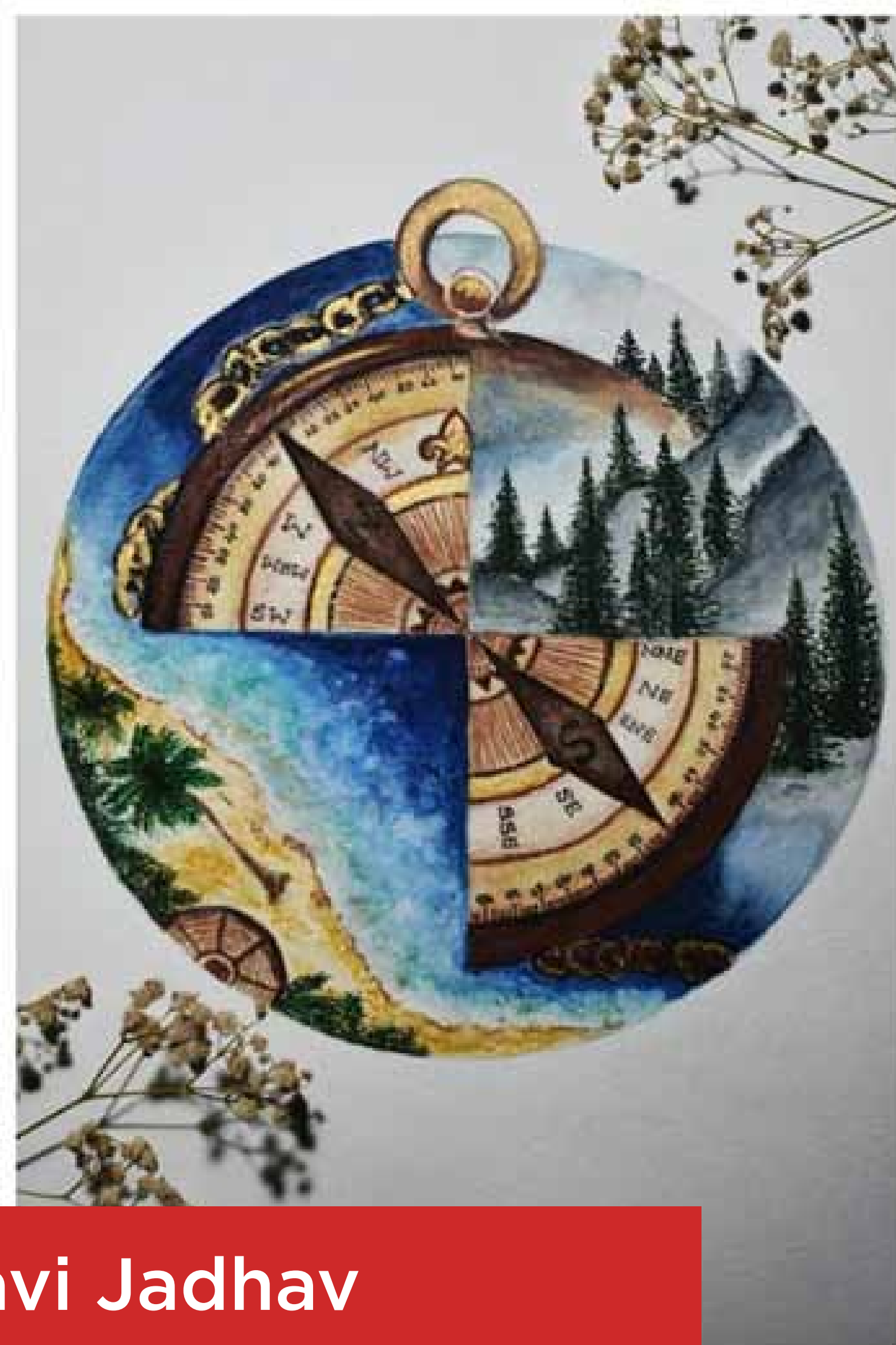




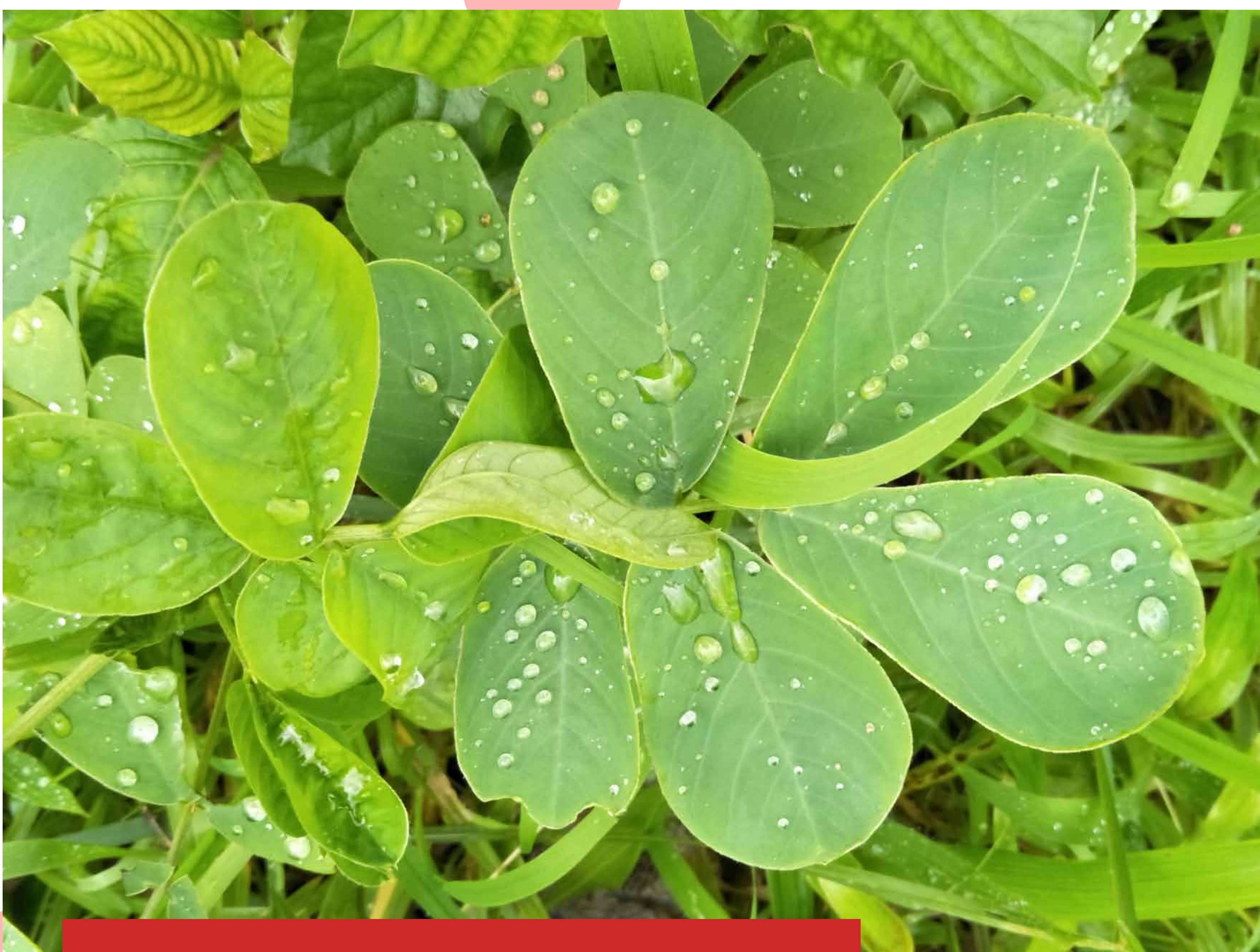
# ARTWALL



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