



the RUIAITE monthly

Dear Ruiaites,

We are celebrating the month of love at the Ruiate Monthly, and have thrown light on various dimensions of love through our columns. Love in this unconditional form becomes a way of life with the power to transform society. Though love with a fusion of unrealistic expectations can create an unsolvable mess at times...

The different perspectives on love have been covered by Behind The Scenes, elaborating the ways love is defined by the youth of today, living in a generation filled with dating apps. Insight talks about the competitiveness in love. Fictionally Yours explains the fantasy between blind and toxic love.

The glamorous, fancy and insightful career options in architecture, interior designing, and painting are discussed in Careerwise. Safarnama takes us on a tour to special summer locations within the city, in the country and also across the globe. Op-Ed draws our attention to nepotism in Bollywood and politics. Tech-Tricked drives us through the underlying financial transactions which lie beyond our perception. Buzz Around has covered the NRC protests and the role of India in US-Iran tensions.

With exams around the corner, everyone is bent over their books hard at work. We hope this issue will bring a relaxing, albeit small, break to your studying.

Happy reading, and all the very best!

The Editorial Team



BUZZ AROUND

TOP 10 NEWS :

1. Mob of 50 men attacked students on the JNU campus injuring 39 students. Investigations point out ABVP to be responsible for the attacks, yet none of the suspects placed under arrest.
2. Protests against CAA and NRC continue throughout the country.
3. Coronavirus breaks havoc in China as the death toll reached 81. Wuhan province locked down to avoid further outbreak.
4. Government offers 100% stakes in Air India to bidders in a new deal.
5. US drone strike ordered by president Trump kills top Iranian Commander Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad.
6. Delhi court deferred the execution of hanging of 4 Nirbhaya case victims. No action to be taken till further orders.
7. Iran admits accidentally shooting down Ukrainian passenger plane by a ballistic missile, which killed all 176 on board.
8. More than 10 million hectares were burned by the worst Australian wildfires till date. A climate emergency was declared as the country lost 2400 homes and more than a million animals.
9. 14 convicts of 2002 Gujarat riots were granted bail by the Supreme Court.
10. Mobile network restored in Kashmir after a communication blackout of 5 months. Also 2G internet was restored in the valley with limited internet access.

Tweet of the month:

Kunal Kamra @kunalkamra88

"Met Arnab Goswami on a flight & gave him a monologue about his 'journalism' All he did was call me mentally unstable & after sometime I had no choice but to return to my seat. The entire flight I'll keep pretending to use the loo just to tell him he's a piece of SHIT."

- Chinmay Parulekar
Columnist TYBSc

SIMPLY PUT: US IRAN TENSIONS

Newspaper reports are replete with articles citing the growing tensions between the US and Iran. Alarmists have warned that if the conflict is not resolved, it could prove to be detrimental to World Peace. Let us understand the chronology of the events.

*When did severe tensions arise in the relationship between Iran and the US? -On 27 December, a rocket attacked the military base in Kirkuk, Iran which killed a US contractor. It is claimed that the attack was carried out by Iran backed militia. In retaliation, defensive strikes were carried out in Syria and Iraq which killed 25 fighters and wounded 55 others.

*What led to the escalation of tensions between the US and Iran?

-In a pre-dawn air raid, which was confirmed by White House, General Qassem Soleimani was killed on 3rd January. He was the head of Iran's elite IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps). The White House clarified that the attack was carried out on the orders of the US President, Donald Trump. In retaliation, Iran attacked two Iraqi military bases that hosted US troops.

*What is the current scenario?

-On 26 January, three rockets hit the US Embassy at Iran's capital, Baghdad. Though no group has claimed responsibility, the US has blamed the Iranian Government. Three people have been injured in the attack.

*How does it affect India?

-India is heavily dependent on the Middle East countries for oil as we are the third-largest consumer of oil. Any negative developments in the Middle East can prove to be detrimental to India's Economy. Around 8 million Indians live in West Asia. Any conflict in the region will affect the Indian diaspora economically and personally.

The tense situation between Iran and the US refuses to die down. The confrontation will cost Iraq as it has emerged as the battlefield between the two countries. The United Nations must take cognizance of the grave situation and prevent a third World War situation.

Prarthana Puthran, Columnist (SYBA)
Riddhi Solanki, Columnist (TYBSc)

NRC AND PROTESTS

Due to the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act in both the houses of the Parliament, many fear that the NRC will be in conjunction to threaten the minorities.

National Register of Citizens (NRC) is an official record of all legal Indian citizens which include demographic information, according to the Citizenship Act, 1955. A register of citizens was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India, but it wasn't updated again until now when an NRC was conducted in Assam. The reason for conducting an NRC in Assam could be traced back to the writ petition filed by the Assam Public Works and Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha and Ors in the Supreme Court in 2013. According to it, the names of the illegal immigrants be deleted from Assam's voter list, with the SC ruling in 2013 that NRC be updated in accordance with the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 2003 in all parts of Assam. The process which finally began in 2015, released the final version of the NRC on August 31, 2019 with over 19 lakh people excluded from the list.

With a growing demand to identify infiltrators, after the NRC was conducted in Assam, Home Minister Amit Shah has proposed a nationwide- NRC. If pan India NRC is conducted, with the CAA being passed, illegal immigrants except persecuted minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh will be affected. Indian Muslims fear that if they are unable to furnish requisite documents, according to the CAA, they will be excluded.

The ongoing protest against NRC and CAA has taken violent form in no time. The protest initially started in Assam, Delhi, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura, in a few days spread throughout the country. Out of all, the major protest took place near Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi and Aligarh Muslim University on 15 December. When the students were protesting against the said acts police forcibly entered the campus of Jamia and used batons and tear gas on students in which more than 200 students injured. There were even protests by Mumbaikars and students at Gateway Of India. The reasons for protest are concerns raised about India turning into a theocratic nation, north-eastern states fearing for the extinction of their cultural identity and through NRC fear of proven immigrants.

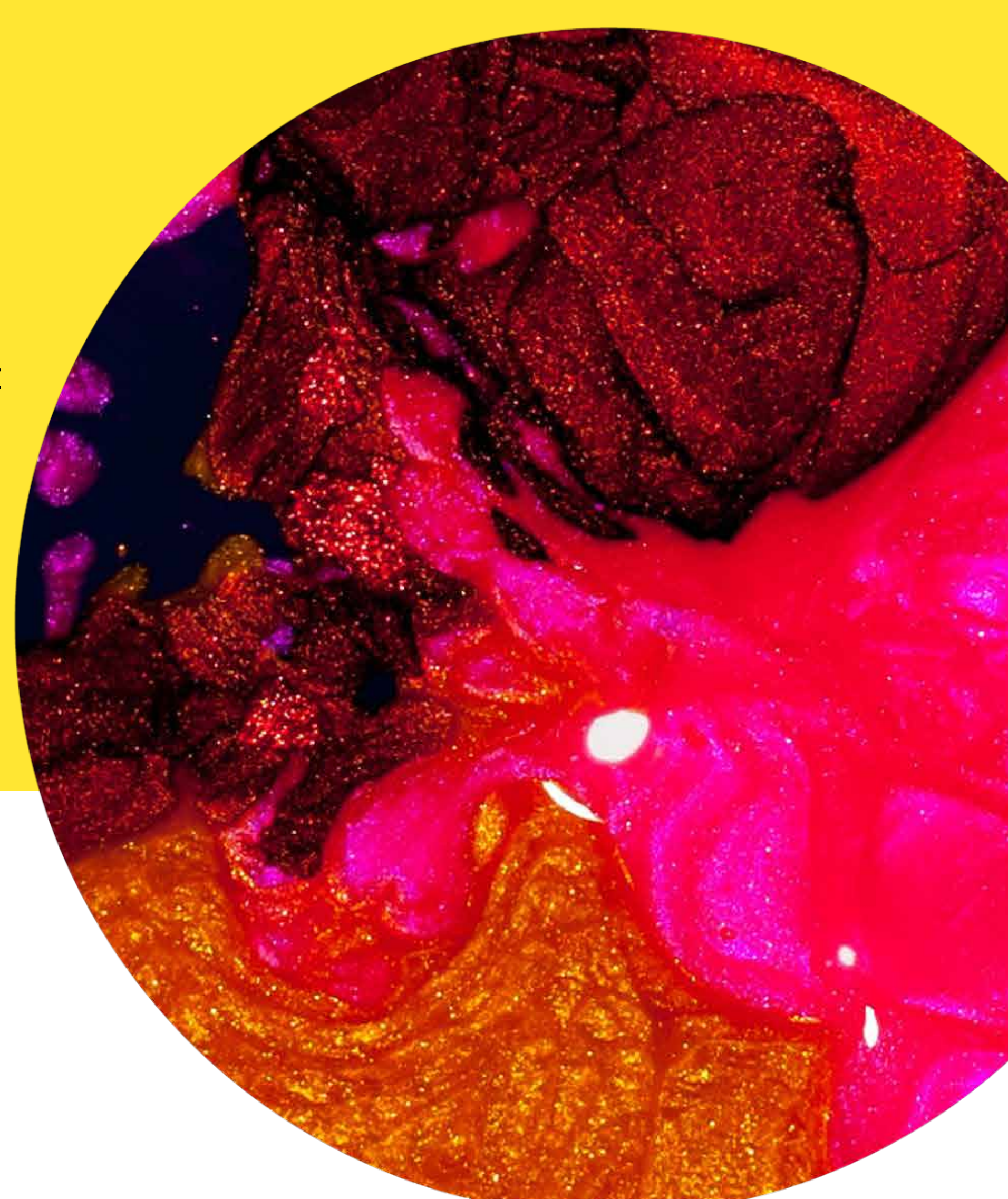
These protests laid the death of many innocents and caused great harm to public property. As we know north-eastern states are extremely important for strengthening our international relations. But the ongoing protest has resulted in cancellation of the India-Japan Summit, also Bangladesh Prime minister cancelled his visit to India. On the economic front where we are already facing a crisis due to the depression the protests add to decline in sales of automobile industries, several flights were cancelled and Indian Railways too suffered a loss of Rs 90 crores. Government has curbed internet services in many states which is again being a great hurdle for students on the academic front.

Government is undertaking Pro-CAA rallies to clear the misunderstandings about CAA and NRC. Amid all this, questions are being raised on limits that students-politicians are supposed to maintain. Now the eyes are on how the government implements CAA and NRC in spite of such protests? On the other side protesters are awaiting the decision of the Supreme court on CAA. Although protesting against wrong is our fundamental right our ultimate aim must be maintaining STABILITY and PEACE.

Shravani Mhaisle, Columnist (SYJC)
Swati Achwal, Columnist (SYBA)

CAREERWISE

Art and architecture plays a major role in the beauty of the city. It not only benefits the economy by being a tourist site but also helps in enhancing the look of the city. However, it is not just limited to the outside spaces but also to our own home designs.



Painter

We all are very fond of painting and drawing, aren't we? From the school level we all are taught the art of drawing and sketching. While for some people its just hobby, some people wish to turn this into a career. Here's how you can do it:

For an artist you can either display your great works in a gallery or make a showroom of your own. You can even conduct classes with workshops to teach the art. Painting has a huge scope in the career aspect especially in an urban area like Mumbai. People not just admire your work but also purchase them at a reasonably high price. This will not only boost your social position but also earnings.

Many art schools, and colleges in different universities offer associate's, bachelor's, and even master's degree programs in painting and fine art. The courses will focus on the development of painting skills, as well as art history, theory, and criticism. You need to get a degree or at least diploma in the art or painting to get the required training and job in the city. They train you in an amazing manner.

There are also certain skills needed apart from the art of drawing and sketching. They are

Painters also need business skills if they are to operate their own studio. Interpersonal skills are also important, since a painter will deal with many people, including clients, art collectors, art directors, and museum curators. Painters should also know how to do marketing for their product. Not just art but the way you put it in front of the people also matters when it comes to any product. So, in order to improve the social circle and to make the painting available to many regions, painter should also be a great social-media user in today's media addict generation.

The painter's salary varies from place to place and it is not always fixed. Only if the painter works in a firm that is run exclusively for this arts and architecture the salary may be fixed. The promotion in the field is largely influenced by the quality of the content along with the professional behaviour. The success in this field is not immediate as it takes time for the people to spot you in the crowd of paintings. The field has a huge scope not just in foreign but so in Indian states. However, a painter has to be versatile that is must be good in sketching and drawing too.

Interior designer

Interior Designer is the art and science of enhancing the interior of the building to achieve a healthier and more aesthetically pleasing environment for the people using the space. An Interior designer is someone who plans, researches, coordinates and manages such enhancement projects. Interior design is a multifaceted profession that includes conceptual development, space planning, site inspections, programming, research, communicating with the stakeholders of a project, construction management and execution of the design. There are various paths that one can take to become a professional interior designer. All of these parts involve some form of training. Working with a professional interior designer is an informal method of training and has previously been the most common method of education. In many states, however, this path alone cannot lead to licensing as a professional interior designer. A formal education program, particularly one accredited by or developed with a professional organization of interior designers can provide training that meets a minimum standard of excellence and therefore gives a student an education of a high standard. There are a lot

university graduate and Ph.D. programs available for those seeking further training in a specific design specialization like ergonomic or healthcare design or those wishing to teach interior design at the university level. There are a wide range of working conditions and employment opportunities within interior design. Large and tiny corporations often hire interior designers as employees on regular working hours. Self-employed designers, which make up 26% of interior designers usually work the most hours. Interior designers often work under stress to meet deadlines, stay on budget, and meet clients' needs. In some cases, licensed professionals review the work and sign it before submitting the design for approval by clients or construction work. The need for licensed review and signature varies by locality, relevant legislation, and scope of work. Their work can involve significant travel to visit different locations. However, with technology development, the process of contacting clients and communicating design alternatives has become easier and requires less travel. They also renovate a space to satisfy the specific taste for a client.

Architect

Is art and architecture just related to the beautiful designs and monuments around? Is it just the tourist places? Of course not, architecture is related with the amazing city construction too. The skyscrapers, the buildings and the malls around. Everything needs an architect

Architecture has changed tremendously in the last couple of decades where demographic set up of students has gone through tremendous change. Today not just the people from science background, but others too prefer to enter into this profession with some extra years of experience. The profession helps you to design the city or the villages using the limited space but more responsiveness and art.

The education qualifications needed for the career in the profession are: Most of the Architecture colleges in India offer education in Architecture at undergraduate level and students with Mathematics at +2 level are preferred. Preparation for an All India Entrance Exam can be started soon after 10th Class. After completing Architecture or during the time of graduation in Architecture, candidates can do an internship program either with some

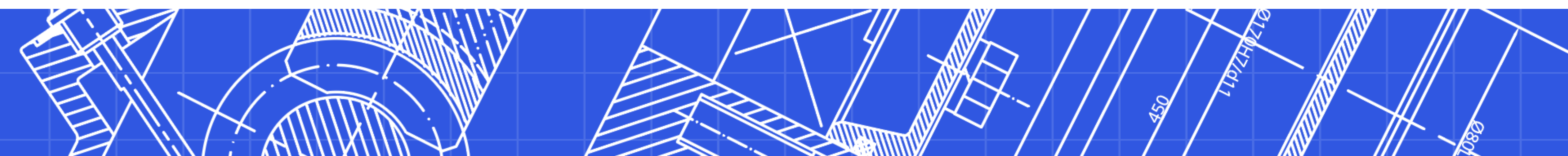
practicing architects or with an architecture firm to gain practical experience and better up job prospects. For the entrance exams too there are many classes to train people. The entrance exam include questions not just related to art but also science, mathematics and general knowledge. One has to be completely prepared to get into the government colleges. However to get the admission into private colleges, entrance is not conducted or some do have entrance exams which are relatively easier to get in.

Skills needed to be an architect other than creativity and the professional knowledge are good estimate about the surrounding, understanding the difference between the luxury and the need. Making the people understand your skills and impress them in short time with your designs, effective communication skills.

The job prospects for the career are huge. Architects can work with construction companies wherein they are asked to serve as a designer. They also get into the public works department or other construction related jobs of the government too. The average salary of the

So all the art lovers, try to make your passion into your profession through all these professions and bring out your artistic skills in front of the society than keeping it to your own small diaries.

- Prachiti Jadhav & Tapasya Iyer



behind the scenes



A THING CALLED LOVE

“For small creatures such as we,
The vastness is bearable only
Through love.”
-- Carl Sagan.

Love as defined by science, is a compulsion driven by chemicals in the brain, but by the popular opinion it definitely goes way beyond that. For most people, it's a positive feeling that comes from being understood, accepted and appreciated for all of our perfection and imperfections. A feeling that emanates a sense of security and strength like nothing else can.

Love is considered the most complicated and yet most significant of our feelings. The need for love and belonging, ranks third in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, just above physiological needs. Humans, ever since the inception of civilized society have been naturally driven towards establishing and maintaining belongingness. And among all the kinds of love we need in our lives, the need for romantic love significantly surpasses others. Exceptions to this are very rare.

In Indian society, not long ago, marriage, considered an obligation, was probably the only way for finding mates. In present times, with the development of dating apps and things like speed dating, the dating culture has been altered drastically. Ever since the emergence of dating apps, about five years ago, dating culture has undergone a gigantic shift. Never before in human history, have people of all sexualities had such opportunities to meet new people. It is no wonder then, these apps have millions of active users all over the world.

However, these apps, like all other technologies that make our lives more convenient, come with some downsides. Since the apps rely almost entirely on a visual format, people tend to judge others solely on the basis of superficial features and sometimes through the lens of stereotypes. Also, due to the relative anonymity and the easy access to vast numbers of potential mates the dating apps provide, the dating scenario has become a ruder place, according to some users. Since most of the people meeting on through these apps are strangers, there is a high possibility of encountering fake profiles or pretentious ones which causes disappointment among the users.

Though the 'hows' of finding a partner have changed with time from the limited traditional ones to latest dating apps and speed dating, all of which have their own sets of benefits and drawbacks, the 'why' essentially remains the same as it ever was. A sense of belonging, that goes beyond the need for superficial social relations or sexual interactions. It is a need for a meaningful, profound connection.

We interviewed a few people from our college regarding the concept of love and they gave such beautiful insights while also speaking about their experiences.

- Sayli Mokal, SYBSc

Love is real but is rarely found in today's world... Love may be defined as Loyalty says Nithyashree Kannan, an arts student of junior college. Her experiences strengthened her faith in the strength of love. Romance is an expression of love, it makes you feel loved.

Valentine's is a quite a special day but you don't need a specific day to spend time with your loved one. She considers dating apps to be a good way to interact with people far and wide, but the dating app should be necessarily safe. According to her "a blend of traditional and speed dating, cause you need some with modern thinking and old values" would be the best way to approach and date someone.

She believes initially parents may discourage online dating but they'll evolve with time. Dating should be normalized is her opinion. Everything has their own pros and cons, sometimes it brings people closer and sometimes it may create misunderstandings.

She strongly believes that self-love is quite important in today's age and taking yourself on a date is part of it, a way of loving yourself.

"People may be stereotyped for being single or in a relationships, but they don't always hold true, relationships change, so do people", says Nithyashree. Verbalization

- Hiya Shah, SYJC

"By a holistic perspective, love is just a chemical reaction. It is subjective. It's not instantaneous; but a constant ongoing process fuelled by effort and sacrifice.", says Suvin Mayekar from TYBSc. He adds, "Love is important but not essentially in a romantic way. There are different types of love and it is essential for the community as well as self. Still, we have stereotyped singles and couples in a very horrible way and I would blame two things for that- The curious human nature and Multimedia which has become easy to access. It doesn't always help. When the portrayal is not proper, it is bound to do harm. And that's the problem here. We want it to be love so bad that in the process of achieving it we lose many things we wouldn't have lost in the first place if we were just a little bit patient. Some people prefer staying single just because they have a horrific image of love, which is totally not true."

"Celebration of love is important. We only get to live for such a small amount on a cosmic scale. We spend most of that time being dissatisfied or sad. I think one should celebrate the tiniest of victories and achievements.", he adds.

"These days, there are dating apps which like every other thing. They have both positives and negatives to offer. I would like to start with the negatives since it is the elephant in the room. They create an illusion where one starts thinking love is some resource that is needed to live which is totally not the case. The good is they help one to widen their search area by 10 folds to find that perfect someone. Even if one doesn't find the right someone at least they get an experience to cherish or learn from that they wouldn't have gotten otherwise." Personally, he would like love to come to him by chance than him finding his way to it. "In true love you would feel a kind of satisfaction and confidence that you wouldn't have experienced ever before."

"There is a false understanding of value, meaning and availability of love in the younger generation and the older generation has a better understanding of love. Maybe it is just the experience that helps one understand love. But the older generation should also be open to all possibilities that love brings with it rather than holding grudges against modern ways. The only thing which bothers me is people get into relationships just because they want to feel complete or are alone. I think we should be first ready to give it all that we have and then see what we get out of it."

He hopes one day people would be able to flaunt their love for one another. "Today it's not that bad but still we as a society for some reason show prejudice towards some kinds of love. Also, self love is more important than loving someone else, because if you are unable of loving yourself, you can't love someone else properly. We think love will makes us complete. But that's not true. It helps us grow but that is to make us better. It's our responsibility to be good first. It all depends on how willing the two people in love are to make the other person fall more." Verbalization

- Sanika Botekar, TYBSc

An ex student of Ruia, Advait Unnithan has an interesting take on love. Despite having experienced different forms of it with different people till now, he doesn't feel that his feelings of "love" evolved over time, or matured. "The only way my notion of love has changed is how I defined what is 'not love'. It helped me draw a line between infatuation and love and stay away from toxic relationships." He gave us an interesting explanation for why he thought romantic love was important -

"Humans mate for life. We always have for at least 200,000 years of our existence. And to do so, you need to form a special bond with one of the opposite gender. Trying to find a mate is built in our genes and it is not exclusively for reproductive processes. The idea of having a lifelong mate was to support each other in harsh times. That needs a feeling that goes beyond just lust which induces empathy for your mate, it makes you want to stick around with them. We, as individuals, are not physically or emotionally strong enough to live alone. Romantic love is extremely important."

"While experiencing love for the first time with someone, everything seems to fall in place, because a person hasn't encountered the hardships yet." He thinks the stereotypes like 'single or 'in a relationship' are true for most people though they might not apply to everyone. About Valentine's day, he says "It makes no sense. Every couple has their own special day/days, so they don't need a special day defined by the society. They can might choose to not participate if they are not interested, but you still have that peer pressure which might make you feel a bit uncomfortable in not doing so."

About dating apps he says, "They work if the two people end up meeting face to face after matching up on the app (traditional dating). Online conversations don't provide much insight into what the person is really like which can be misleading. I have used Tinder and Bumble. There were some really interesting people I met, but I never got what I was looking for. But I have made a couple of really good lifelong friends. Some people build fake profiles to troll people which can lead to very weird relationships, even toxic. The only good thing is that we have a wider variety of people they we can meet and that is very interesting."

He thinks, "Parents have their doubts regarding dating, for obvious reasons. In their time, especially in India, there was no 'dating culture'. People were supposed to get out of college, get a job, and get married to someone their parents chose. Nowadays, people have freedom to choose their own partners, and parents doubt the ability of their kids to choose a good partner." He asserts that society should have a more open view, let people have their own experience and help them only if they really need it (like getting out of a toxic relationship).

"Self-esteem and giving time to yourself is very important to have a healthy state of mind." About taking himself on a date, he says "I think it means taking some time out for yourself, doing something that you like. It helps us relax a bit and aids us in understanding our own psyche, what we need, what we're good at, discovering ourselves."

"Relationship affects us internally, it affects our social lives, career, everything. A good healthy relationship can establish a kind of happiness and security in our lives that can help us improve in all parts of life. Having a toxic or an unhealthy relationship contributes only chaos and sadness," he concludes. Verbalization

- Neha Nayak, TYBSc

Another student of the college, Mahima Alekar from TYBSc begins with her take on love by defining it as something which can lift you high and can make you feel low, it makes you work or let go. For her, love has changed its meaning over the years. She says it sounds too beautiful at first but behind blushing skin lie deep dark colours of insecurities and possessiveness. She thinks romantic love is a core to love. It's about feeling the same for a person even years after initially falling for them. You should find the same person beautiful, as time changes your love for each other shouldn't fade.'

Mahima believes in true love and says if it's not real, it's all in our mind. This is what traps us in overthinking. Getting into a relationship is one's own choice, everyone has their own reasons for being single or being in a relationship. She votes in favour of valentine's day being celebrated saying we all are way too busy in our lives so it's good that in the name of valentine's day you spend quality time with your partner or your family, that can make them feel more special.

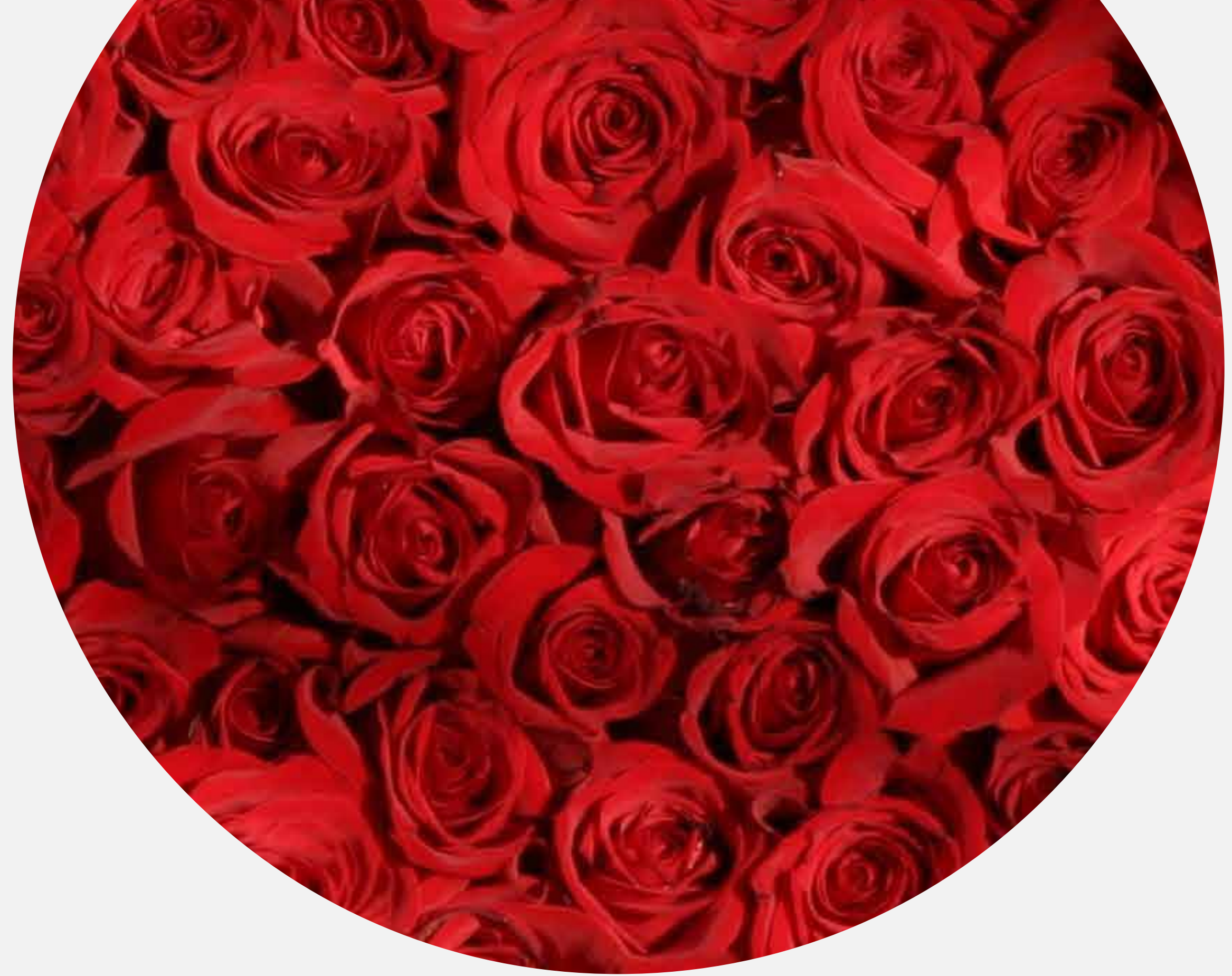
She doesn't believe in dating apps saying it's better to date a person face to face. She hasn't had good experiences with online dating. When it comes to opinions on online dating, she says getting in touch on social media and knowing each other is good but it is necessary that you meet the person spend more time with him/ her so that you know how he/ she is in reality. Being a believer of live-in relationships, she wishes her parents would agree on that concept since they are open to love marriages. She doesn't feel that society is mature enough to take dating seriously but till it is about the two people in the relationship, society shouldn't bother them.

She propagates self love saying that it is a must. You love someone good but what's more important is loving yourself. She has seen people ending their life and saying that he/she was their world there's nothing without him/her, but that is wrong. Self love is a relationship that one should make before making anyone your world. Talking about taking yourself out on self dates, she says that the first step to this is self love and that we should explore more of ourselves. Lastly, she says that relationships do affect our performance in other areas. Anything that involves emotions touches our humanity. It could affect academics for the better or for worse, in case of students.

Verbalization

- Tanaya Sheth, TYBSc

Insight



Kaafi (not-so) romantic sa love letter

It's February, the month of Love! And what better way is to celebrate this adorable occasion, than letting people say their love out and aloud! So we at Column Insight, thought of inviting write-ups from people's personal pink letters! This month, we wished to cover two stirring questions, that our generation is faced with, when it comes to Love and Relationships. And here we have the messages, straight out of their heart, unblushed!!

How important is the language of 'Love' in today's competitive world ?

First of all let me tell you I have never been a romantic. The only time I was, it was when I watched the most unrealistic romantic bollywood films so I always had a different perspective of love my whole childhood you can say. Thankfully I got some sense in me as I was "teening". Slowly as the world was changing and becoming more acceptable and respectful towards people of different genders and races I couldn't stop but be in awe of how the language of "love" in today's competitive world is so so important and amazing to think about. Be it a mother's unconditional love for her child even when the child isn't a "child" anymore, a person's love for his/her pet, the love that a teacher shares with a student, (classic) a teenager's secretive love for his/her classmate wink wink or a person's journey in loving themselves, their own body and their laws. The ancient Greeks have beautifully defined love in 7 different ways, ranging from physical love (eros) to purely spiritual love (agape). To me the language of love doesn't always have to be romantic, it can definitely be more on the platonic side. After all love is all about affection, care and of course loyalty how can we forget that. Love which is a strong connection between two people always needs to be built over a strong word named trust. If you trust your partner

or whomsoever it is in your case, you can always succeed in life. You won't know the meaning of loneliness, the word I personally dread and fear the most! This part isn't related to the topics but is anyway related to the topic because it is about "love". I feel glad to share my personal experience on my journey in loving myself and being more open about my sexuality and choices. I've definitely been more expressive about my thoughts on the people I love now than I have been before! I came out sometime back and trust me the love and support I had received was so incredible and really unexpected because I did it without expecting or thinking about the consequences that I would have to face. So if you have been confused about your sexuality then honey keep deciding and working on your thoughts and if you've been planning on coming out to your friends then do it courageously and wholeheartedly. You will really be showered with a lot of love, trust me with that. You might receive a few looks but ignore it because you do you! And lastly,

HAPPY LOVE MONTH MY FELLAS!!!! #loveislove

- Sohini Barai (Navneet Junior College)

You watch protagonists leap over airport security and run from military personnel to sing the love of his life that one song and you watch them lay down their lives for the people they love. And for a long time, that's what you think love is. Boomboxes at midnight and surprise vacations to a whole different world, fighting and dancing in the rain. You come home from outings that your friends planned exclusively for you and still wonder when you'll get your Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na moments. You clutch your birthday gifts to yourself, revelling in the knowledge of being known and ache at the lack of dramatic declarations in the school cafeteria. Your friend drops notes for subjects she hasn't ever studied on your desk with a barely affected shrug when you've been sick and you're still bitter about the people who didn't bring you soup and nurse you back to health.

But then you get it, you get your marching band serenade (although they don't get your favourite song right) and your

dramatic declarations of affection and constant support and wonder why it all feels so hollow. This is when you begin differentiating between what you've learned to want and what you actually want. This is when you realise that, yes, while there's love in waiting outside someone's door all day, you prefer the kick of an ankle against yours when you zone out in the middle of a lecture. You want weekends where you cancel your plans of fancy dinners and concerts to volunteer at animal shelters and nights where you're all too exhausted to talk so you just hook your ankles together and watch Heathers. You want people who text you pictures of every cat they see and dreary stories about monotonous college days that lead nowhere at all. And once you know, once you've found this, you're a lot happier.

- Lakshmi Kalarikkal (SYJC)

there, there, loving

it was june then, i think. somewhere on a bridge in the fading light, i watched the crowds pass underneath, a thousand shadows bleeding into the skyline. strangers pushing past each other, always trying to get somewhere, anywhere. it was the city, i think, convulsing with greed. all its people, always wanting, always needing, always trying to be the first. where? where was everyone always going? it was like we were stuck in a trance, always in fear of having things taken away, always clutching too hard onto our own hands.

cold. the road under our feet, it was cold. hard asphalt under hurrying, stumbling feet. hurrying, stumbling bodies, always trying to be better, always better than someone, anyone. we were lonely, i think. we are always lonely, i think. shivering on june evenings, a hundred bodies that have forgotten their own hearts. did you ever ask yourself what was it that you wanted? what did

you crave then, in the silence of your own home, what did your arms long to hold? do we not crave each other? do we not long to meet eyes across the throes of the crowd and stumble to a halt? is that not what keeps the world going?

love. the way even the spaces between the letters make us tremble. love. what put us to sleep as children, what creeps into our dreams now? love. is that not where we once wanted to go? love. however we say it, we speak the same. love. a hand, a heart, a mouth. love. you are scared, i am scared too. love. here, we understand each other.

love, in a world that has forgotten to breathe, is that not where we come alive?

- Anushka Nagarmath (SYBA)

What are your thoughts on 'taking a break' in a relationship, be it romantic or platonic?

'Taking a Break' in a Relationship

About "taking a break" in a relationship be it romantic or platonic it is not easy to just answer it in one line & be done with it. It is definitely important to at times take a break in a relationship especially when you know things have been a little rocky lately and you know you haven't been able to make enough time for your partner or vice versa. At the same time many label "taking a break" as a toxic step in a relationship but if you ask me it is sometimes better to be more forgiving and grateful for everything you have. Although if you get cheated on, oh no my little

sweetheart. See your worth and move on! Do not ever let anyone disrespect you in any way or form. But at the same time it is you, your life, your relationship and your decision to make so if you think forgiving your partner for his "mistake" is a good step at avoiding in losing your precious partner and relationship where you've poured your heart and soul into then do what you think is right baby!

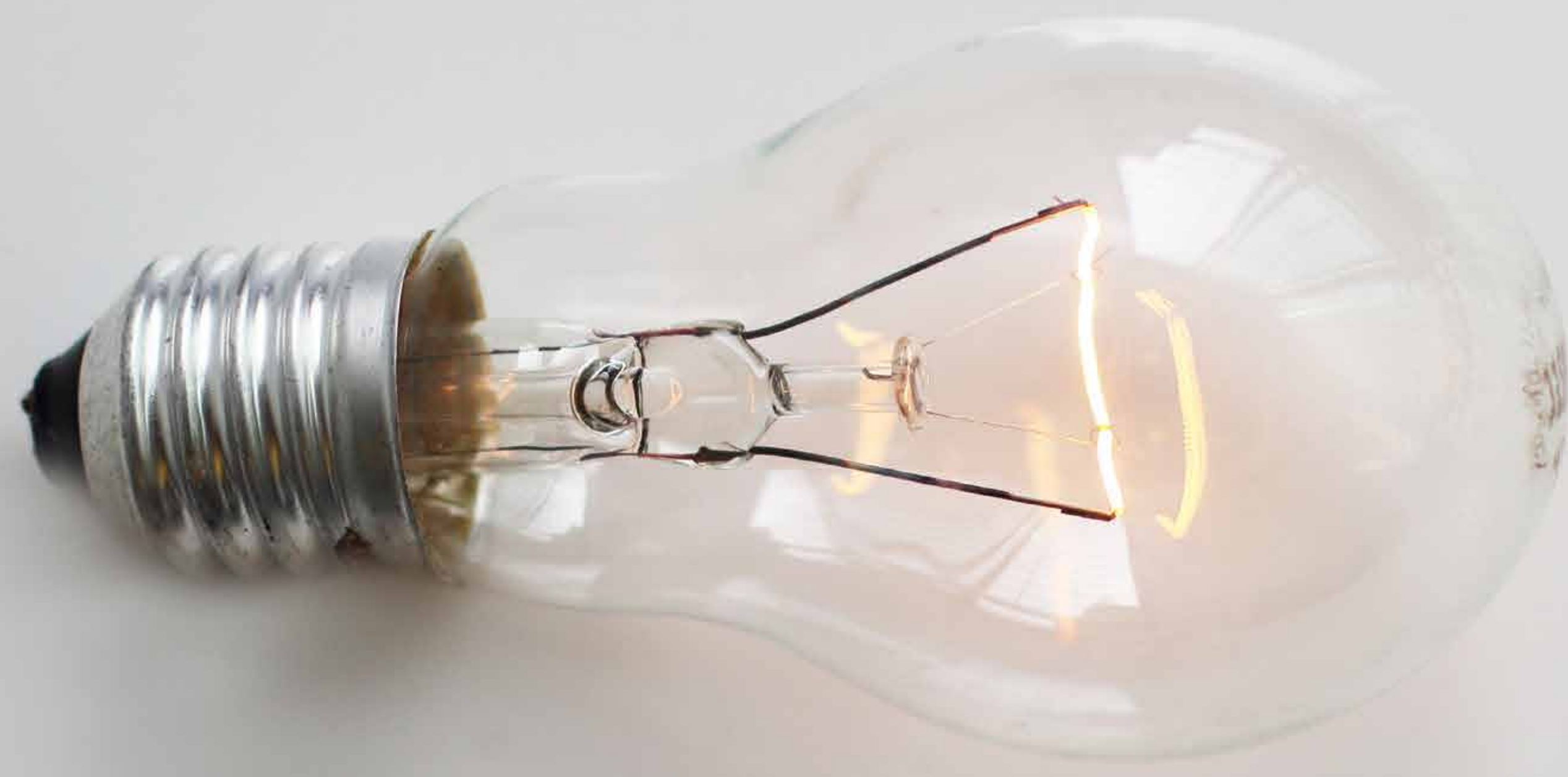
- Sohini Barai (Integrated) Navneet Junior College

Absence makes the heart grow fonder

No relationship is perfect but one can take it closest to it if one tries to be each other's best friend. A German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, once said that, "It is not a lack of love but a lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages." Although, this talks about marriages, in my opinion, it is applicable to any relationship. Whether romantic or platonic, every relationship needs the kind of understanding and support which only comes in friendship. Just like we let our friends live their own lives, we also need to let go off our relationship partner at times. You may ask, what if this actually brings you apart? Then I would say that either you need to confront your real problems, or that the relationship was never meant for you. Just as a break after a

long day is essential, so is the case in relationships. Breaks are necessary because they stop the connection from fizzling out, or for the love to become toxic. It also allows you to explore yourself and focus on your own development rather than getting entangled in the web of expectations - which can lead to you taking out your frustration on your relationships, which will ultimately hurt you as well as them. After all, instead of breaking hurt you stretch the too much. So, even of taking a permanent break, it is better to take occasional breaks that will ensure you have stronger and healthier relationships.

- Esha Belekar (SYJC)



OP-ED

Nepotism

A seemingly generic interview of newcomers in Bollywood turned heads all around the country in the beginning of 2020. The reason: newcomer Ananya Pandey (daughter of actor Chunky Pandey) ranted about her struggles in the industry as a star kid and was met with a quiet response from actor Siddhant Chaturvedi (debutant from Gully Boy) which encapsulates everything problematic with nepotism, "The difference is jahaan humare sapne poore hote hain, wahi inka struggle shuru hota hai (their struggle begins where our dreams are fulfilled)."

Power has always been in the hands of the chosen few since time immemorial. Every country could see the advent and prosperity of democracy only after it witnessed years of autocracy and dictatorship. Hence, subjugation, despair and unfair ways of the world are a vital part of our genetic memory and nepotism is just a hangover of that troublesome past.

Probably the pettiest he has ever been, he made a ironic (?) joke, "NEPOTISM ROCKS" along with Varun Dhawan and Saif Ali Khan during the IIFA 2017 awards. A good example of this is Imran Khan who is the nephew of Aamir Khan. Although his debut film was a success where his acting proved to be good enough, his future films have been a disappointment. Despite being a social activist who is outspoken about issues in the society, he has been unable to establish himself as a successful actor. Accidental actors like Uday Chopra, Fardeen Khan, Arjun Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha have been criticised for lack of their acting skills

Although nepotism has, for the most part, been successful in disappointing the cinema theatre audience, it has also 'launched' some gems of the industry. One of these is Alia Bhatt, daughter of director-producer Mahesh Bhatt and actress Soni Razdan. Launched by her friend and mentor in her debut film Student Of The Year in 2012, this star kid was meant to be a Dharma Debutante. Although her

Dhoni and Kohli were carving niche for themselves.

Another field that has been toeing the nepotism line is medicine. Even if becoming a doctor is extremely challenging, once a doctor is qualified to practice there seems to be a huge bias on the basis of family background. Doctors with the strong footing of having a family with a medical background often find it easier to establish their private practices and consultancies. Furthermore, families have been known to use their influence to secure seats in medical college and even residency positions. Medicine is being turned into a family business and the trend of a majority of medical students belonging to a family of doctors may not just

The origin of the word can be traced back to 17th century (A.D) Italy wherein the bishops would assign important roles to their nephews to have a control on the church's property. When it comes to nepotism, it doesn't discriminate between fields. People have launched their children using the power or influence they had in respective fields. On one hand we have seen some really talented people working hard and making it large though coming through nepotism, this is not absolute truth as it has not always been successful with many failing to fulfil the expectations. The nepotism and its aftermath is not restricted to India but is seen across the globe.

Indian politics is the best example of where nepotism is celebrated in various forms and political leaders don't feel anything bad in giving leadership directly to the their keens side-lining the hardworking party workers .Muftis and Abdullahs in Kashmir, Thackeray's, Pawars,

first film failed to showcase her talent, her very second film, Highway directed by Imtiaz Ali proved that she wasn't just a star kid but rather a performer who is great at what she does. With films like Raazi, Udda Punjab and Gully Boy she has carried the mantel aptly.

So, it can be said that she did, in fact, inherit the acting genes (unlike her elder sister Pooja Bhatt).

Another by-product of nepotism has proved the same. Ranbir Kapoor, born in the infamous Bollywood royalty, the Kapoor Khandaan has had his fair share of hits and flops. However, with films like Rockstar, Tamasha, Barfi and Wake Up Sid he has brought to life the many hues of his acting skills.

Shahid Kapoor is yet another gem. Born to actor Pankaj Kapoor he started out as the chocolate boy of Bollywood but he has evolved to be so much more. Although his role as Aditya in Jab We Met was one of his best performances, he outshone him-

be a coincidence.

Irrespective of how well people with prior familial connections in their respective fields do, the real problem with nepotism lies in the partiality with regards to opportunity. A person without an influential family maybe just as adept at what they do as a person who is a product of nepotism. But not everyone has the privilege of equal opportunity. After breaking into a career everyone may face more or less the same struggle but some people get to bypass the initial struggle altogether. This has little to do with eugenics (as the actor Saif Ali Khan had once infamousl claimed) and more to do with how abuse of power has gone unchecked and has been normalised with time. The solution to the

Vikhe-Patils in Maharashtra, Yadav's in Uttar Pradesh have created empires in state politics with Gandhi's doing so in National politics. Globally we have recent example of President Donald Trump appointing his son in law Jared Kushner as senior advisor immediately after assuming the office. Instances of such empires can be seen in local politics too!

The most immediate beneficiary of nepotism is undoubtedly the film industry because it is so rampant and noticeable. Generations of families have graced the screens over the century but the questions about its fairness have just started to rise with the modern 'woke' culture. A major controversy arose when actress Kangana Ranaut blamed Karan Johar on his talk show "Koffee with Karan" to be a flag-bearer of nepotism. Karan Johar is known for introducing many aspiring star kids in Bollywood.

self through films like Udda Punjab and Haider. His recent role as and in Kabir Singh although controversial is still one of remarkable performance in the acting department. Despite this he remains an underrated actor.

Abhishek Bacchan is one actor who has faced the negative brunt of nepotism. Forever shadowed by his larger-than-life father, Amitabh Bacchan, he is a diamond in the making that everyone has failed to credit. He has more than proved that he can act, and well at that, but unfortunately nepotism has not worked in his favour.

Other careers are marred by nepotism as well. A Forbes magazine report claims that 15 of 20 business firms have been passed of hereditary. A renowned example is the Reliance empire. There maybe many competent employees in a business but leadership still remains very much a family business. When it comes to sports, Stuart Binny, Chirag Patil are best examples who failed to make it big despite coming from cricketing background when

problem only lies with the ones with influence.

Thank you for reading this issue of Op-Ed! We will be back with more riveting next time!

- Hritvi Acharya (FYJC)
Vrushali Gadkari (FYBA)
Mrunal Saple (TYBA)
Disha Shanbhag (TYBA)
Shabduli Shinde (TYBSc)



FORUM

Three years. Three years of order and chaos; of waking up before the sun and finishing naps in lectures; of learning more than you ever thought possible; of working towards your future; of bad jokes and better friendships; of a crazy life more commonly known as college. Everyone took off across the start line at high speeds three years ago - a veritable herd of young children racing towards something they couldn't quite visualize yet. Now, with about a month to go, the finish line is in clear sight, and the troops that soldiered through are making their way there, with camaraderie that's only possible through shared struggles and celebrations.

It's honestly terrifying, walking through a set of large doors for the first time, alone and lost. If you're blessed enough to know or recognize someone in the madding crowd right off the bat, lucky you. If not, you're one of the masses, moving about with them and trying to figure out where your classes are. Once you're in the right room (if you're as fidgety about asking strangers for directions like me, chances are you're not), it's a matter of finding a seat. That is an important decision - the chances that every single day after this, you'll be sharing your lunch and jokes with the same people you first feel inclined to sit with are high. Of course, it's not always the case, but the first day and its inhabitants always stick around in your memories - the start of something new. The learning is tougher, and fiercer, but so is your brain, and so studies are dealt with; accompanied by groans, coffee and shared sympathetic glances in class. Notes are shared, fortunately via digital media rather than copying everything down again. Laboratory experiments bring a whole new level of cooperation to the tables: students who do not know each other bond over a mutual (sometimes lack of) understanding regarding the work to be done. And more friendships are forged. Desk buddies, lab partners, extracurricular groups - people of all personalities exist in this small corner of the world.

You figure out more about your friends, the world and yourself as time marches on. You consolidate an identity for yourself, one you feel decently comfortable sharing with society. And you fall into a routine - of waking up, trudging to class, slipping notes to your friends, laughing harder than ever at the most insignificant moments, sharing stories over good food and hard work, and eventually heading home. For some, the sphere of "home" shifts to these very rooms and desks; they feel more at ease here than they've ever felt, and it's valid. And it's precisely the reason why, as the cycle comes to a close and everybody has to face the inevitability of moving forward, some are reluctant to leave.

Leaving is inescapable, and it will be soon, but no one walks out of here alone. Everyone exits those gates with memories of lessons, both literal and philosophical, from teachers and friends alike. You traipse down a path towards a future you've worked towards for three years. Change is never easy, or any less scary, but it is a weight off your back to know you're not the only one whose life is morphing so rapidly. Have courage, be kind, and grab the bull by the horns. The third decade of the millennium has just begun - and so have we.

Natasha Desai



A gift is a way of showing you care. A good gift is a way of showing you also understand. Figuring out the perfect present is an exercise in how well you know someone.

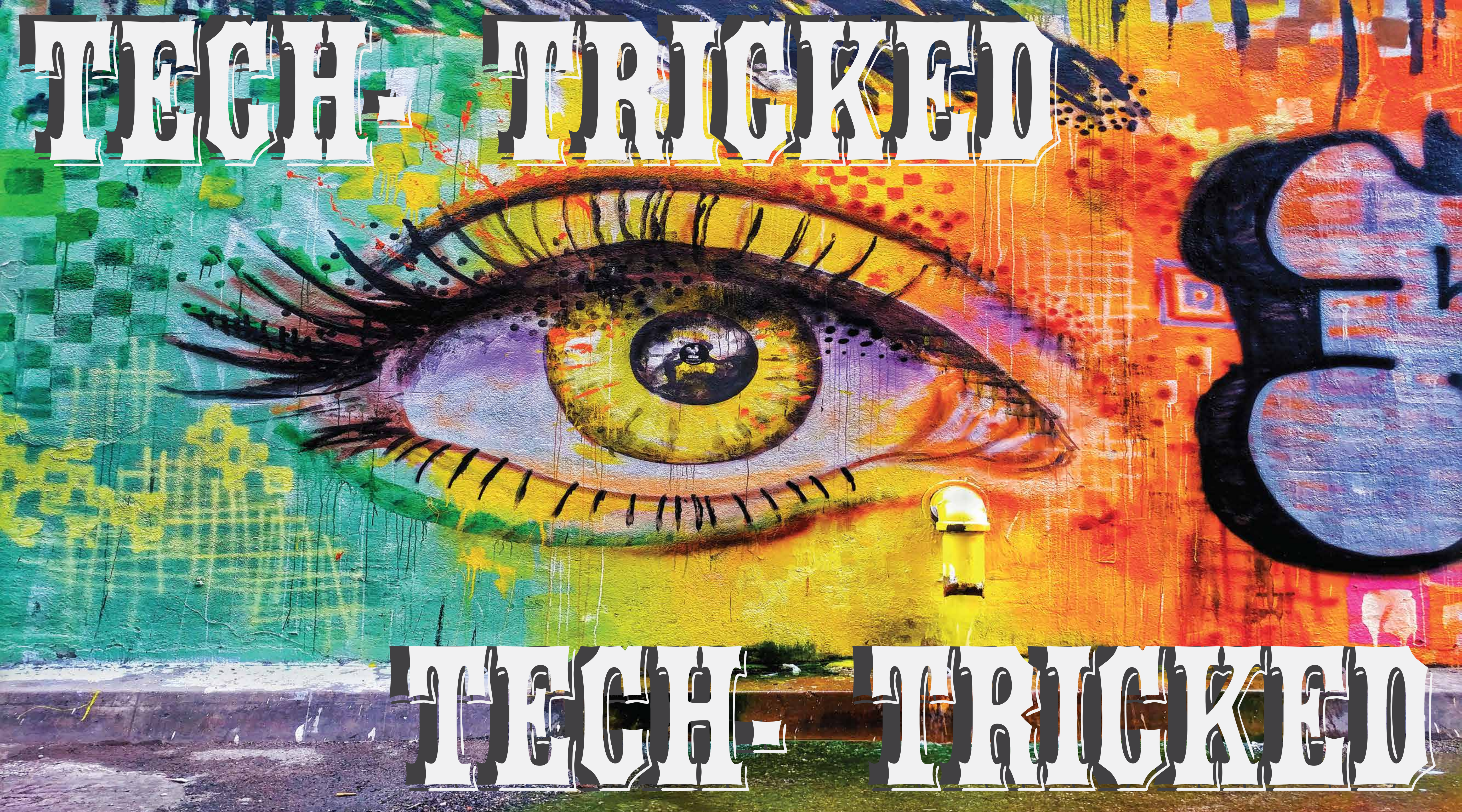
There's a good reason gifts of cash are usually last-resort options. In material terms, they're the most useful of all, right? Why buy someone that warm fuzzy sweater when you could give them the money and let them decide what to do with it? ...because it's low-effort. Because anyone can do it. Sure, anyone would be grateful to have some more cash, but this writer doesn't think that's what gifting should be about.

Gifts are not about material investment because friendship and family are not about material investment. You don't need big bucks or all the world's time. One of my favourite moral stories is about the poor boy who was given a little pocket money by his mother - rather than buy something for himself, he purchased a chimta for her so that she wouldn't burn her hands cooking rotis. It's a story about selflessness, but also about understanding. How well do YOU know the people in your life? Do you know what they appreciate and enjoy most?

A gift reflects the personality of the giver. My more creative friends delight in gifting art or writings to each other. My mother has an eye for dressing and domesticity, and her friends love her gifts whether they're a perfectly-matching saree or crockery they really needed. When it comes down to it, you're you, and you know your strengths - you can play to them to prepare the perfect gift. It need not even be corporeal. The effort you put into organising a surprise for a friend is worth more than all the gift wrapping and boxing in the world. All this said, don't get me wrong. Gifts are wonderful and a symbol of a close relationship - but not the relationship itself. A close friend or kinsperson will always find and appreciate the thought you've put into even a hastily-made gift - and so should you, in such a position. Ultimately, a gift is made without expectation of return or reward (or it is not a gift but barter) and such unconditional affection is a jewel in itself.

Aditya Negi



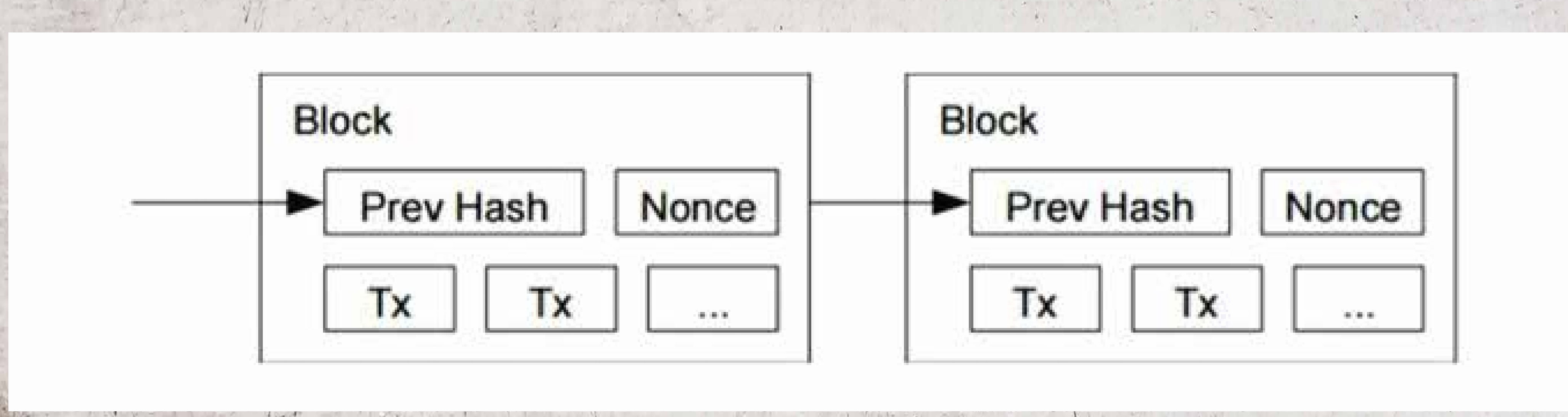


Blockchain : A Look and Beyond

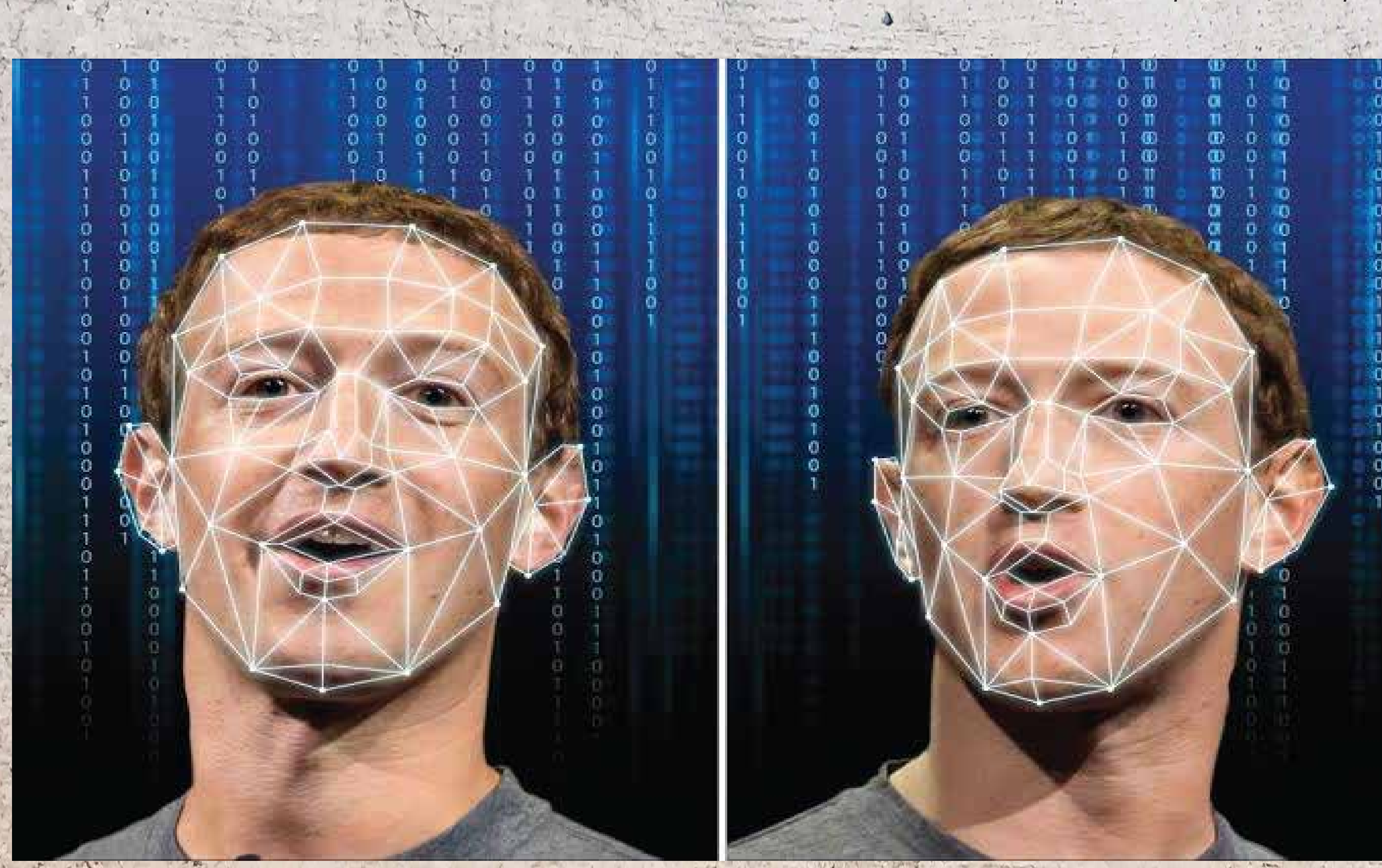
Imagine a book. A book that anyone can write into everytime they pay someone. Like some sort of a record-keeping system. (Yes, that's what a ledger is, thank you.) Except that every page contains a cipher of the last page. And everyone owns a copy of this book. And it's unalterable. Now that's a vague, if not crude, analogy of what a Blockchain really is. It is simply a way of storing records in a permanent and verifiable manner managed by a peer-to-peer network instead of a central authority.

To counter the problem of tampering of digital documents, Stuart Haber in 1991 came up with a novel method of storing data in form of encrypted blocks connected together. However, the eponymous technology grabbed worldwide attention when a mysterious individual identifying themselves as Satoshi Nakamoto published a white paper proposing the use of a block chain to solve the double-spending problem in a digital currency - later developed famously as Bitcoin.

How Blockchain works is often presented as exorbitantly sophisticated and restricted to technological discussions. Although the exact algorithms employed are a little too long to be covered in this article, the fundamental process is simple and can be explained easily. At first, whenever a transaction or an event takes place, a network of computers (nodes) rush to verify it and store it in some kind of a 'block' along with the hash of the previous block. An average-size block chain contains thousands of such transactions. This block is then put through a special one-way function to generate a 'hash' - A digital signature unique to the block and irreversibly encrypted i.e. the block can't be generated via the hash. This hash is then clubbed with another bunch of transactions to make up the next block. As every block contains a link (hash) to the previous block, thus forms a chain of data blocks. All the blocks are stored on a public database which can be easily viewed.



Okay but where does the security come in? A common answer is that the Blockchain ensures safety by minimizing trust. For e.g., an ordinary online payment would require both concerned parties to be mediated by a legal, financial institution, such as a bank. But Blockchain removes this mediary by running the verification process through thousands of computers on the network. Trust is left to the public. More importantly the Blockchain is invulnerable against hackers due to its linear and chronological structure. Say, an attacker attempts to rewrite the information stored on a block (as in, edit the amount of money paid or received), this will reflect an enormous change in the hash of the block which will have to be re-written in the next block which causes the hash of that block to change and so on. Thus, to cover up their tracks and the discontinuity arising in the Blockchain, it would require an enormous amount of time and computational power on the hacker's end.



Generating blocks and hashing also requires power and can put quite a load on the computer. When this happens in the Bitcoin node network it is referred to as 'mining' and the 'miner' is rewarded a bitcoin as compensation. This excessive input is also a primary reason for discouragement in adoption of Blockchain in storage systems. Although primarily seen in use in cryptocurrencies, Blockchain applications can be found anywhere complex, rapidly growing storage systems are required including voting! In recent times, many private companies as well as governments have announced their projects regarding the creation of a Blockchain for various purposes. UAE's Ministry of Health and Prevention launched a Blockchain-type portal to store health-related data and provide better accessibility a few days ago. Walmart and IBM in February entered a Blockchain consortium in the pharmaceutical sector. Use of Blockchain is also spreading to developing nations like ours with the NITI Aayog recently outlining a Blockchain strategy for the country.



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Despite its virtues of accuracy and near-invulnerability, Blockchain still has encountered a few issues and structural flaws. Other than the cost incurred during mining, the Blockchain network is slow and hence produces less no. of transactions per unit time. As the identity of both the payer and the payee is kept secret, a lot of online illegal trade takes place via cryptocurrency.

One might say, Blockchain is the future of public record-keeping. However, it is imperative that any new world-changing technology should be able to stand and overcome the tests of time. Blockchain may seem impregnable today, but the future has been proven to be stranger in the past too.

- Prasad Mokal

CAN YOU ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE!

This decade just started a month ago, and a lot of current events took place in the last month. These include armed conflicts and attacks, disasters and accidents, health and environmental issues, heated international relations and what not. Now imagine at such a vehement time there appears a video on the internet in which Russian president Vladimir Putin out of nowhere declares war or on similar lines, Mark Zuckerberg the CEO of Facebook admits to have taken advantage of all the information of the billions of Facebook users. Certainly, things like this would send society into severe panic and can also lead to something like the next world war! Still we can relax for now, having assurance that Putin hasn't waged war as of yet or Mark Zuckerberg hasn't admitted to abusing the information of Facebook users. But one thing to be addressed with caution here is that events like these can have consequences that would alter the entire world! And there are people or hackers who take advantage of this by manufacturing and circulating what are called Deepfake videos.

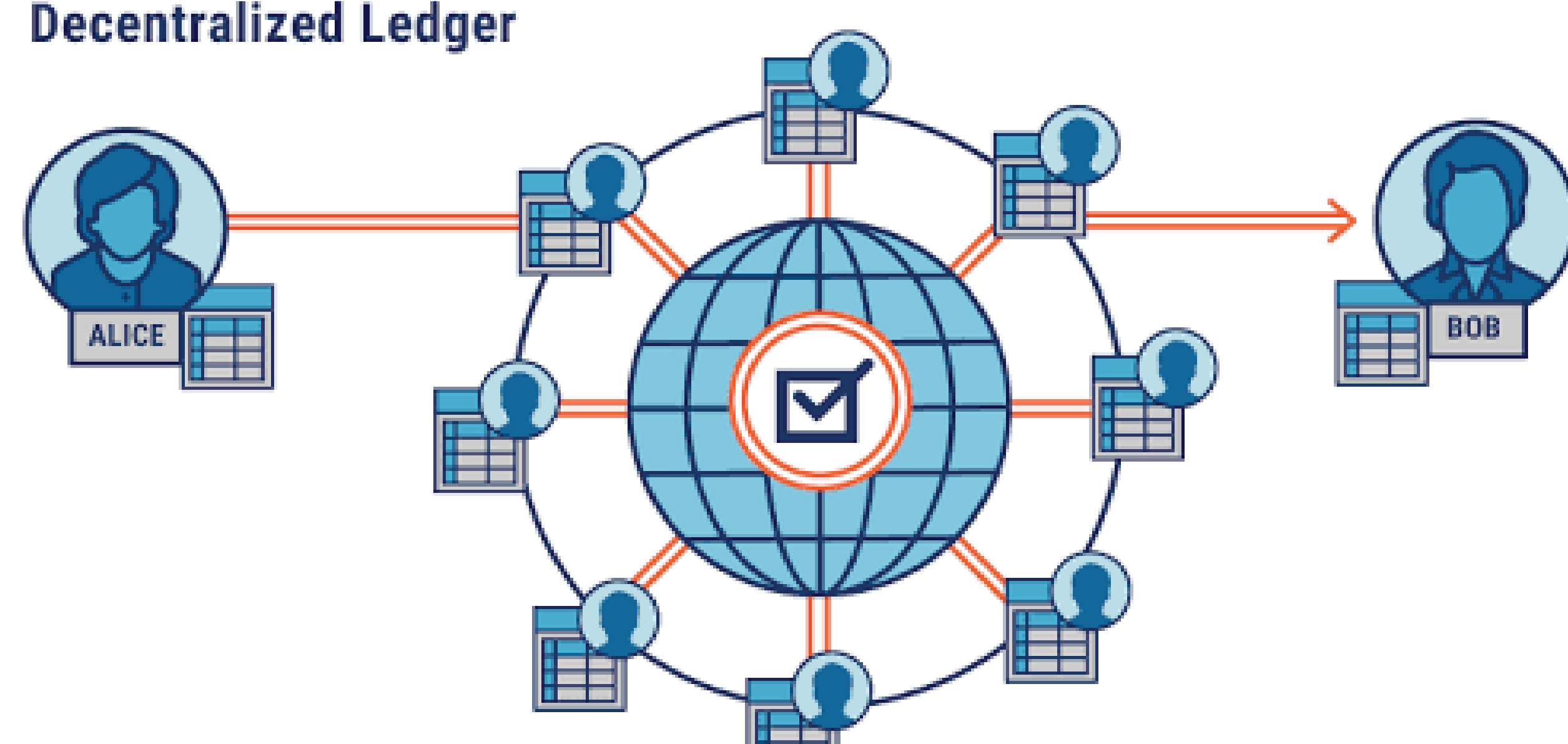
Deepfake is a blend of the words deep learning and fake. Deepfakes are falsely fabricated media in which a person in an existing image or video is melded with someone else's likeness using artificial intelligence. Neural networks are responsible for this. Making of such videos often includes combining or superimposing of existing media onto source media using machine learning techniques such as autoencoders and generative adversarial networks (GANs). Deepfakes have come under public attention because of their uses in synthetically manufactured celebrity pornography, fake news, hoaxes, and financial fraud. This has resulted in responses from various industries and government to detect and limit their use.

All the academic research related to deepfakes comes under the field of computer vision, a sub branch of computer science. An early campaign which resulted in evolution of deepfake was 1997's Video Rewrite program. In which existing video footage was modified so that the person in the video appears to be mouthing words from a different soundtrack. This program was inclined on fully automating such process by using machine learning to match the produced sounds with the shape of the subject. While contemporary projects are focused on creating more realistic videos. An example for this would be The Synthesizing Obama program. In August 2018, researchers at the University of California, Berkeley published a paper which introduced a fake dancing app that can create the impression of masterful dancing using Artificial Intelligence. This project expands the application of deepfakes to the entire body rather than just the face. The term deepfakes originated around the end of 2017 from a Reddit user named 'deepfakes'.

Deepfakes are created using a type of neural network called an autoencoder. An autoencoder is used to learn efficient data coding in an unsupervised manner.

These consist of an encoder, which reduces an image to a lower dimensional latent space, and a decoder, which reconstructs the image from the latent representation. A universal encoder is used for encoding the person in the latent space. This representation involves key features of their expressions and body posture.

Decentralized Ledger



This is then decoded for a model trained just for the target. This means the target's detailed information will be superimposed on the underlying facial and body features of the original video, represented in the latent space. A GAN or generative adversarial network trains a generator and discriminator. The generator creates new images from the latent representation of the source material, while the discriminator attempts to determine whether or not the image is generated. This helps the generator to recreate the image extremely well as well as for the discriminator to rectify any defects. These algorithms are constantly evolving using a method of 'zero sum game'.

In game theory and economic theory, a zero-sum game is a mathematical representation of a situation in which each participant's gain or loss of utility is exactly balanced by the losses or gains of the utility of the other participants. This is the only reason why deepfakes are so difficult to combat. While questions are rightly being asked about the consequences of deepfake technology, it is important that we do not lose sight of the fact that artificial intelligence (AI) can be used for good, as well as ill. For example, the development of deep generative models raises new possibilities in healthcare, where we are rightly concerned about protecting the privacy of patients in treatment and ongoing research. In conclusion, yes deepfakes are a concern of the modern times where it affects the credibility and authenticity of sources of information and the information itself. However, there are ways to use deepfake technology that would one day make it possible to simulate a disastrous situation beforehand and will also help us to find remedies for it without any irreversible consequences. So, let's hope to see an ambitious tomorrow.

- Suvin Mayekar

Safarnama

Summer Special



Summer vacation is around the corner and vacation for me is equal to traveling. All of us have at some point or other made plans with our friends, right? But they just never come through. We are teenagers and most of us are broke. Don't worry though! Traveling doesn't always mean a lot of expenditure. If you just plan your trip properly and compromise a little on luxury then you can have the most memorable trip with your friends. Here are few budget destinations for you and your friends to explore:

1. Indore

I am a foody. Aren't we all? So my first suggestion is Indore. Indore is a busy city like Mumbai but there is a lot to visit. The Sarafa Bazar which is well known for its street food, the Sheesh Mahal, and also the Rajwada are must visit places. There is an area called Chappan Dukan wherein there are 56 shops of food. Hotels are available at reasonable rates to stay. As far as traveling is concerned you can go to Indore by train and then there you can hire an auto rickshaw. So Indore is a perfect destination for a budget trip according to me.



2. Ooty -

Ooty is a hill station in Tamil Nadu. The best thing about Ooty is its South Indian food which is very tasty and it doesn't put a big hole in your pocket. This place is meant for relaxing and to escape Mumbai's hot weather. Ooty can also be reached by train and there are local sightseeing buses within a range of 200 - 500 bucks per day. There are several gardens to visit here which freshens up your mind. The toy train in Nilgiri Mountains is also fun to explore.



3. Darjeeling -



Darjeeling is city in North Eastern part of India. Here one can experience sunrise at 3:00AM in the morning. The view of snow-capped mountains is breath-taking. Also the sight of greenery filled tea plantations on one side and white ice-capped White Mountains on another is mesmerizing. We can take a train from Mumbai and go via Kolkata and NJP to Darjeeling. Along with Darjeeling you can also visit Gangtok which is famous for its cleanliness and it feels like a foreign city.

These are few destinations which are easily affordable and attractive. You can think of visiting these destinations if you are short on cash and still you want to travel.

- Maitri Kate

Weekend Flight

No matter how much you love the "City of Dreams", you're completely justified in seeking a break from its madness every now and then. Luckily, Mumbai is well connected and within hours of some of the country's most beautiful beach towns, hill stations, and picturesque villages.

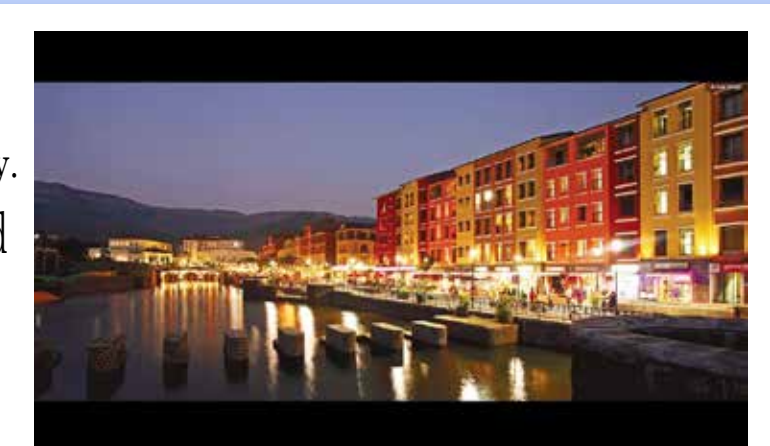
Alibaug:

Starting with my absolute favourite weekend getaway, Alibaug. Who wouldn't love to go to a peaceful, calm, beautiful beach without actually digging holes in their pocket? Well, Alibaug to all our surprises has the most clean and unknown beach, named Awas. When I had been with my friends to Alibaug, we like everyone chose to go visit the popular beach but fortunately it was quite far away from where we were staying so we instead opted for going to the beach nearby. It turned out to be the best decision; the beach was clean, clear and empty. This, 12 kms stretch of sand was just for us to enjoy!



Lavasa:

Who would spend lakhs on a trip to Italy when a shorter version of Italy is just a few kms away. Lavasa is among the first planned hill city of Maharashtra. The city's landscape is essentially inspired by the Italian town Portofino. If colourful houses and lakeside promenade sounds interesting to you, then Lavasa could be your secret weekend Italian getaway. The city offers its visitors a unique and rejuvenating feel. Are you ready to unwind yourself amidst nature?



Igatpuri:

Travel for me is a combination of adventure and luxury. Most of my travels are during vacations, no way am I giving up on catching some beauty sleep and that hot water Jacuzzi. If you are someone like me, Igatpuri is the perfect destination. It is surrounded by green lush mountains and has immense luxurious stay options. Get going, your fluffy round bed and some breakfast by the pool awaits you.



Lake camping:

If you are tired of being in your pyjamas and just watching Netflix, you have to sign yourself up for a lake camp. Today, there are uncountable numbers of tourism companies or just local travellers' group who organise lake camps. The itinerary is the best part the same way how journey is the best part of travel, at lake camps you are made to hike for a bit, later you build your own tent and the best bit is when you sit by the lake at night, singing songs over some delicious barbecue. The next day, you could go rafting in the lake and also click some beautiful pictures as the sun rises.



If you love traveling solo in search of yourself, or a fun weekend with your friends or better a romantic night escape, all these destinations are for you. I personally believe there exists no such place as travel friendly; if you love spending time with your travel partner then all the destinations themselves turn into a much more exciting and memorable one.

"Travel far enough, you meet yourself!"

- Rashi Gulati

Top 5 places to Hit this Summer Vacation:

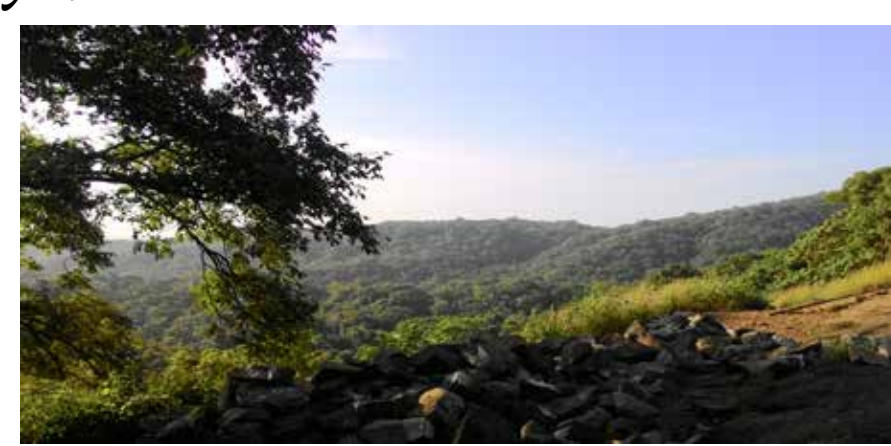
"Where shall we travel to during the Summer vacation? With mon amour?"

1. Harishchandragad Fort trekking



A fort which is situated 4671 ft. above the ground level gives a scenic view of the entire city of Mumbai. This gigantic fort offers the best trekking experience during the summer vacations. You have to travel just 102kms from Mumbai to take up the 21km long trek to this magnificent fort. Its existence is very significant and it allows you to get a little closer to the beautiful nature. Trekking in summer season can never be enough because you not only sweat but also take-up the adventurous paths in the dense nature. More to Harishchandragad, we have Rajmachi Fort, Tikona Fort, Shivneri Fort, Sinhagad Fort, Raigad Fort and so on.

2. Sanjay Gandhi National Park



It is a huge Wildlife park spread over 104 sq. kms in Borivali where you can spot Indian flying-fox, spotted Deer, four-horned antelope, etc. The entry fee is just Rs. 48 for Pedestrians. You can also rent a Cycle for only Rs. 60/- for two hours. The best time is in the morning to hear the chirping of the birds, stare at the sun rising and spot some wild animals maybe. You can also go for a 'Lion and Tiger Safari' which is for 20 minutes on a 30 acres land. You see the voracious tigers and graceful lions right on this Safari. Also, there are The Splendid Kanheri Caves which you can't miss at just Rs. 25.

4. Jawhar

Jawhar is situated right in the centre of all Cashew Trees which is a mind-blowing spot for you during the Summer vacation. Its unique history mentions that Tribal people dwell here since a very long period of time. Hence, we see many cultural and tribal attractions in this small place. You can witness Wari: Painting, Hanuman Point, Jai Vias Palace etc. This is a place where you can click a lot of Instagram Friendly Pictures.



3. Saguna Baug



This Agro Tourism Farm is 76kms away from our city. This Baug is absolutely perfect for an overnight stay. There are activities like Bird watching, Learn about Apiculture, Horse Cart ride, rent a cycle, waterfall tour, Stargazing, Kayaking, Segway ride, Flying fox, Fish Farming, Archery and Air Rifle Shooting, Farm tour, Swimming, Water Buffalo ride, Dairy farm, Campfire, Milking of Cow, Rod Fishing, Foot massage and everything is there on the list. I'm sure you will return back with a lot of unforgettable memories and plenty of happiness. This place is close to Nerul which is very convenient for every Mumbaikar.

- Sanjana Bhate

Manali: My Ideal Trip

In the starlight, In the starlight
Let's wander free and gay;
In the starlight, In the starlight
Let's lose our way....

I am no Oscar Wilde, but writing this meant a lot to me then. I did steal a line from an old poem though. My inspiration to write this poem came from a trip I went on.

It was a trip to Manali right after my SSC board exam. I went with a cousin and his friends, I didn't know anyone but my parents encouraged me and trusted me to have fun.

Our journey began from Mumbai. My entire family had come to the railway station to drop me. I was anxious and fidgeting with my bag. Gossiping and playing Uno, I soon made friends. Our train was only till Ambala. From Ambala we took an overnight bus to Manali.

We reached Manali early morning and the weather was really chilly. That day was for acclimatization and sight-seeing. We started with our training from Day 2. But I soon got bored with Manali and was eagerly waiting to scale some mountains.

Trekking, sure tiring, is fulfilling. I used to be so exhausted that most of the events are a blur to me today. Trekking in Himalaya has always been a dream so accepting the fact that it was proving too

exhausting was difficult for me.

I feel that every trip should have a balance of the activities that I like to do. I cannot just lie on a bed for the whole trip nor can I read, write and think for twelve hours. I cannot be absolutely alone but I also cannot be with ten eavesdroppers. I like a trip which makes me distant from my world at the same time it makes me interact with the local people; it makes me calm but also provokes new thoughts and emotions. Treks and hikes are perfectly suitable for this. Wandering in the mountains with my entire luggage on my back fascinates me. The walk makes me calm and thriving through the world gives me the confidence to do anything in the world. Treks have taught me so many things. They made me realise that ten days are enough to turn unknown people into 'family', small steps towards a big goal makes all the difference in the world and that sometimes journey is more beautiful and satisfying than the goal itself. I like the trips which make me realise such wonderful things. They are not just the trips but meditation

sessions for me which have a simple and a straightforward goal and the process of attaining that goal is delightful.

My Manali trip was amazing. Not only because it was a spectacular journey and location but also because it taught me so many things, helped me grow up. I survived the trek, I can live through anything. That's my mantra.

Like Manali, I wish every other trip is just as beautiful. The crystal-clear river water racing with the breeze and night sky sparkling with thousands of stars. Lovely people who help you in every situation. I wish I could more such trips be there in my future. I wish I could complete the poem I wrote. I sure will as I collect many more new experiences in future.

- Mitawa Mukta Aneesh

Fictionally Fours



WORTH IT

"Good morning, honey," a sweet voice whispered in his ear. He groaned and shifted under the bedsheets, turning around. Two warm arms wrapped around him in an embrace and he let out a sigh.

"We'll be late if you don't wake up," she whispered playfully. His eyes finally opened, turning to face his girlfriend. Two innocent doe eyes looked back, a wide smile on her face. She gently kissed his cheek and bounded off the bed, dragging the bedsheet with her. He groaned again, suddenly cold.

They had been together for three years now, and he absolutely adored her. Her sudden smiles still warmed his heart, her looks still made him blush; nothing had changed, and nothing would get between them.

Buttoning his suit, his eyes fell on her. She was wearing a dark blue, figure-hugging dress, her face adorned with makeup of the best quality. She loved looking good, and loved keeping her happy, even if it cost him a bomb. What were a few thousand dollars compared to her happiness? She was worth every penny spent.

"Have a good day!" He grinned cheerfully as she dropped him off at his workplace. She smiled and waved goodbye. Everyone stared at the shiny car she sat in, its beauty a stark contrast against the standard cars. This had been his gift to her on their second anniversary after she had expressed her love for this one specific model. Again, this gift had made a huge dent in his bank balance, but she was worth it.

After a few days, he was checking out a model of a new phone. "Mike, are you sure you want to buy it?" his colleague asked. His mind went back to the day she had lost her phone and how miserable she had been without it since.

"Yes," he replied confidently, clicking on the buy button.

"You could buy a less expensive model, you know." His friend sounded concerned. "I know you're rich and all, but don't you think you're wasting your money?"

He looked appalled. "This is the model she wants," he said defensively. "Is it wrong for me to keep her happy? So what if it's expensive?" He smiled slightly, thinking about how happy she would be to receive it. "She's worth it."

* "I'm home, baby," he announced to the dark house, his voice bouncing off the walls.

Home.

He searched for her but she hadn't returned. Normally, she would be back by this time. He checked his phone. 'Extra work. Will be late. :)' Mike chuckled. She was so dedicated to her work. It was admirable.

He switched on YouTube and went through some recipes, as cheesy as it was. She didn't know how to cook so it was always either takeout or him cooking something for the both.

He accidentally cut his finger and a small trace of blood appeared on his skin. Hissing in pain, he washed it under cold water, slapped a band-aid on it, and got back to work. His finger burned as it was subjected to hot water and cold vegetables and hummed his favorite song under his breath to distract himself from the pain.

'It's not that bad,' he told himself. 'It's just a tiny cut.' Of course it was. She was worth it

A few days passed and it was her birthday. It didn't go as planned.

"I can't believe you did this to me!" she yelled.

"Baby, listen to m—"

"Proposing to me in front of so many strangers? In a cheap hotel?"

"My mother runs that hotel, honey," he said, feeling hurt. "Don't you love me? You told me that you wanted to spend your entire life with me once you got the job. You've got the job now— hell, I helped you get it so that we could be together."

"God, stop taking things so seriously," she said with disappointment evident in her eyes. "How could you be so selfish? You ruined my image today. My boss was there, you know? I might even lose that promotion."

His chest ached with the weight of her words, but he controlled himself. She was right. Marriage was a big step. He took a deep breath, gently pulling her into his arms.

She slapped his arms away and glared at him before stalking

off.

His heart sank. He was vaguely aware of his swollen finger throbbing in pain. The pain in his chest outdid it all.

Her silence was driving him insane. For how long was she going to be like this?

"What do you want, love? I'll get you anything you want, but please forgive me," he begged.

"Really?" she threw him a smile, her tone the complete opposite. "Then get me the apartment near my office."

"You're..." He swallowed hard. "You're moving out?"

She shrugged. "I need space right now. As it is, my office is too far, and I hate travelling."

He nodded, resigned. He needed to make it up to her. "I'll do it."

For two weeks, ominous silence filled his house. They'd often text each other, but rarely saw each other since she moved out. She told him that he was forgiven; that she just needed distance. Although she didn't return, their love was as lively as the first day of their relationship.

Soon, it was Valentine's day. He had elaborate plans to spend the evening. He waited for her, seated in one of the best hotels in town, only to realize that she had to work late.

He sighed and replied with an 'Okay. Miss you :)'.


She saw his message but didn't reply. No 'miss you too'. Not even the smile.

He got up from the table, and looked around the hotel, admiring the wonderful décor that distinctly reeked of money.

Suddenly, his heart stopped.

She didn't notice him but he heard her laughing. "He never takes me to such expensive hotels, you know. How can someone be so rich yet so cheap?"

His collapsed back into his chair as he saw who she was with.

Why was she with her boss on Valentine's day?

"I'm glad I met you," she continued. "I am going to break up with him soon."

"Do it on your anniversary," her boss winked.

"That's a great idea, actually," she laughed, touching the pearl necklace that he had first gifted her.

His mind swam and drowned in his thoughts. His body worked on autopilot as he walked out of the hotel.

Numb.
Heartbroken.

She was worth it. She was worth it. The words rang through his mind like a song on repeat.

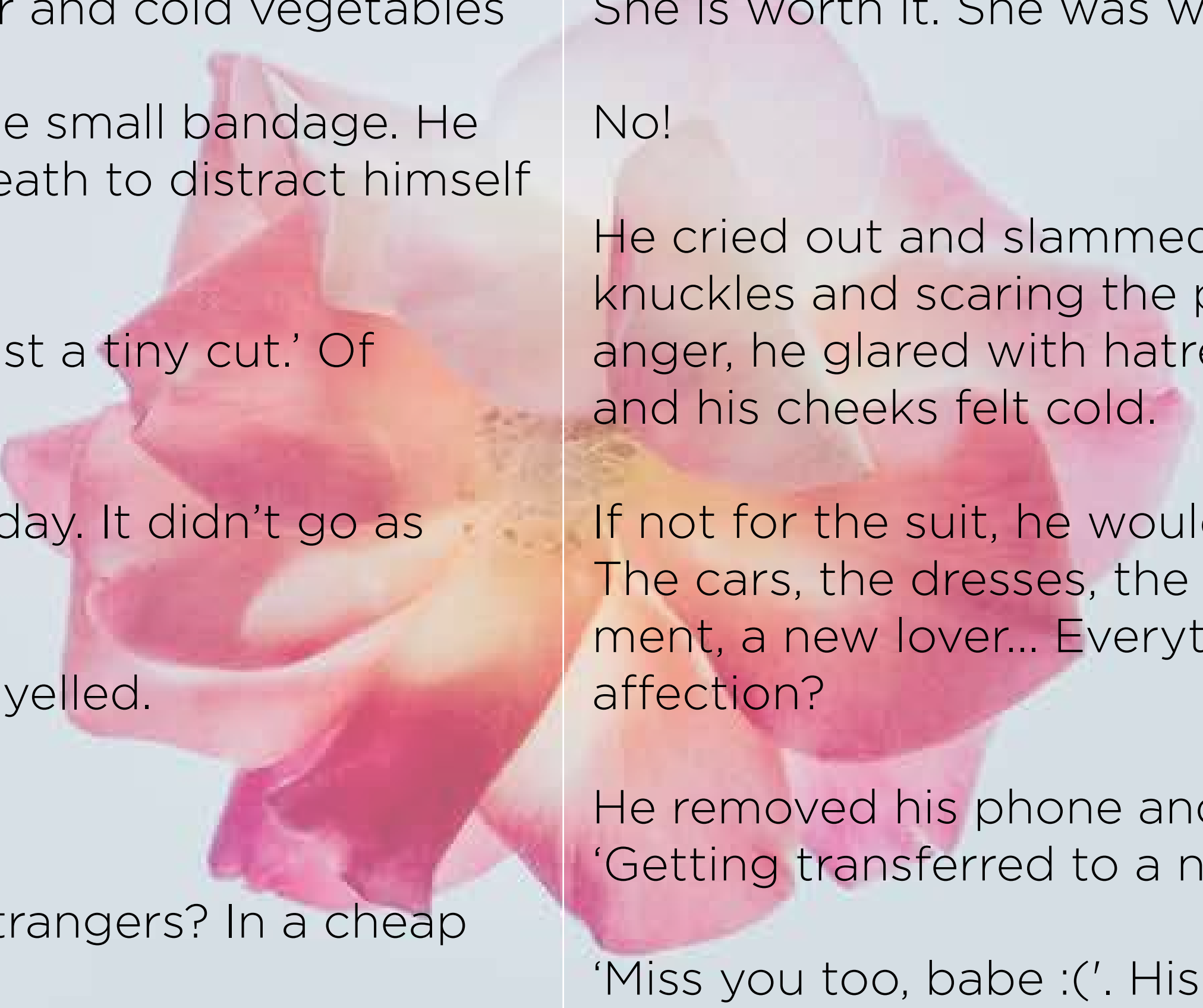
He gasped suddenly, feeling the pain rip apart his chest. He stumbled and caught the wall for support, slowly, helplessly sliding down the wall. Nausea swirled in his stomach.

She is worth it. She was worth it. She is...

No!

He cried out and slammed his fist on the ground, breaking his knuckles and scaring the people around him. Shaking with anger, he glared with hatred at the world. His vision blurred and his cheeks felt cold.

If not for the suit, he would have been one of the homeless. The cars, the dresses, the expensive brands, the new apartment, a new lover... Everything worth more than his love? His affection?

He removed his phone and typed with trembling fingers. 'Getting transferred to a new country. Will miss you :('.


'Miss you too, babe :('. His phone pinged beside him as he sat alone on the beach. The wind whipped across his face, the loud waves gushed towards him and the silence of loneliness had him at ease. He lay down on the smooth sand, gazing into the starry night of Valentine's, his heart content, his body relaxed and his face dried.

After everything he had gone through, this peace, this silence - He was worth it.

Chaitravi Kothavade - FYJC ARTS

SPREAD THE LOVE

It was midnight, me on terrace, with a coffee mug in hand, "I wasn't in a relationship this year" was the fact I couldn't stand.

I felt so lonely, no one to have sweet talks with, Valentine's day in 2 days and I had nobody for it.

It wasn't easy, for a person like me, who continuously dated people for 4 years, you see!

I called up my bestfriend, he did come along, He made me feel good, singing a melodious song.

No gifts, no kisses, no hugs this time, I had deprived of love, no-one to call me mine.

I was sad, I asked my best friend, how did he survive? Being single since birth and happy, I asked why you don't even strive?

Expecting someone else to love you is a want. Loving your own self is a need, he said in a bold font.

People leave, along with their interest, Why break your heart for them and be stressed?

I wondered, how he didn't need love, Having it enough for himself, his heart overwhelming made it curve.

Valentine's is about love, love to give, To give it to yourself first, thus you live.

Next is spreading it with a person who need it,

Not a person who wants it, I thought as I sit.

Loving isn't always about kisses, It has kind talks, caring and gentle services.

To bring food, to fix up their mood, Loving is easy, when you enter in that person's hood.

Love isn't done by mind, But by our heart which is kind.

Love is done to a friend, a stranger, a child, Love isn't always to opposite gender and wild.

Love is powerful, strong, a love of a mother, Spreading it may bring life in many others.

I realised , as he patted me gently on my head, Love is to bring charm, happiness, even in a person who is dead.

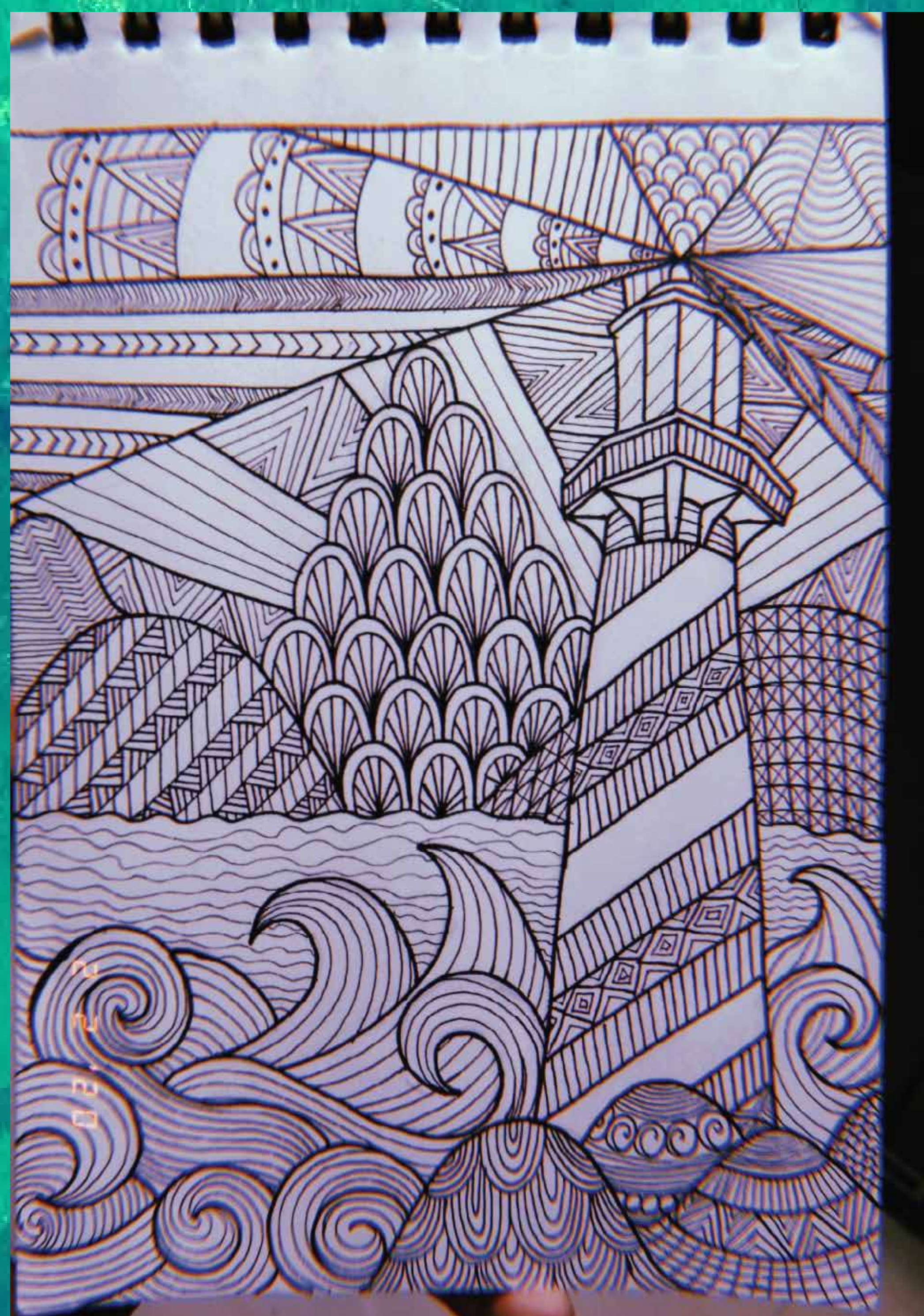
This year, I will celebrate Valentine. For myself, for person in need of love, and not lovers in line.

Let's make this season of love less for couples who are bold, But for everyone who needs love lets hug them warm in this cold.

- Samruddhi Sawant
FYBA




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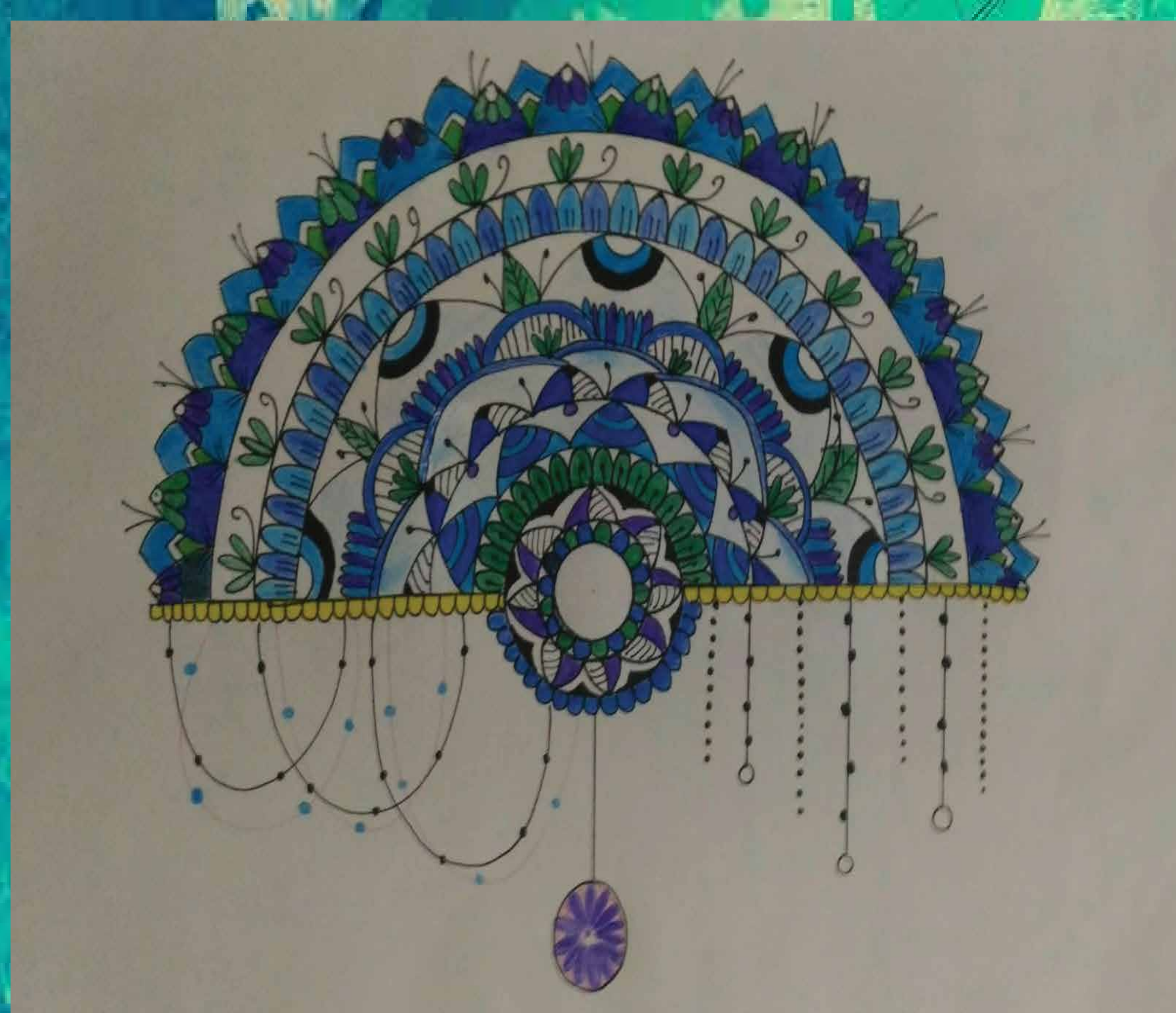
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