



the RUIAITE monthly

A new year and a new decade, Ruiaites! As we enter the final stretch of this academic year, energized after our break and ready to rumble, it's January, and the weather in Mumbai is, for once, akin to winter! The Ruiquite Monthly team have taken the fresh start in their stride, and brought the decades first issue to you..

Many of us were decidedly nostalgic, and the content certainly reflects it! Open Forum talked about the decades ups and downs on a general level, discussing the popular trends and the now discarded ones. Op-Ed continued the tale by highlighting the social events and mental health discussions and developments over the last ten years. Behind the Scenes also hopped on the trip down memory lane, creating a year by year highlight timeline going back to the 1900s!

Many others wanted to look into the current situation, and gauge what might be in store in the future. A lot has happened in the nation recently, and Buzz Around took it upon themselves to give you an unbiased report about the Citizenship Amendment Act, and the Transgender Bill of Rights. Insight meanwhile chose to dive into the next year with full hearts, and talked about their motivations and goals going into 2020. Tech-Tricked elaborated on the prelaunch marketing of tech products, with specific examples that worked - and some that didn't fare so well.

The rest of us simply wanted to live for the present moment! Safarnama chose to take a leisurely stroll around Mumbai, to explore the hidden heritage in the heart of this metropolis. Careerwise took a look at sports careers - but wait, there's a twist - these don't actually require you to play a sport! Fictionally Yours expressed their thoughts about friendship in a poignant little tale, and also wrote an ode to nature and its complexities.

It's the first of twelve months of 2020, and we're certainly very excited about this year, and what it has in store. Here's wishing you the happiest of New Year's, Ruiaites! Have fun, and try to stick to those resolutions this time!

The Editorial Team

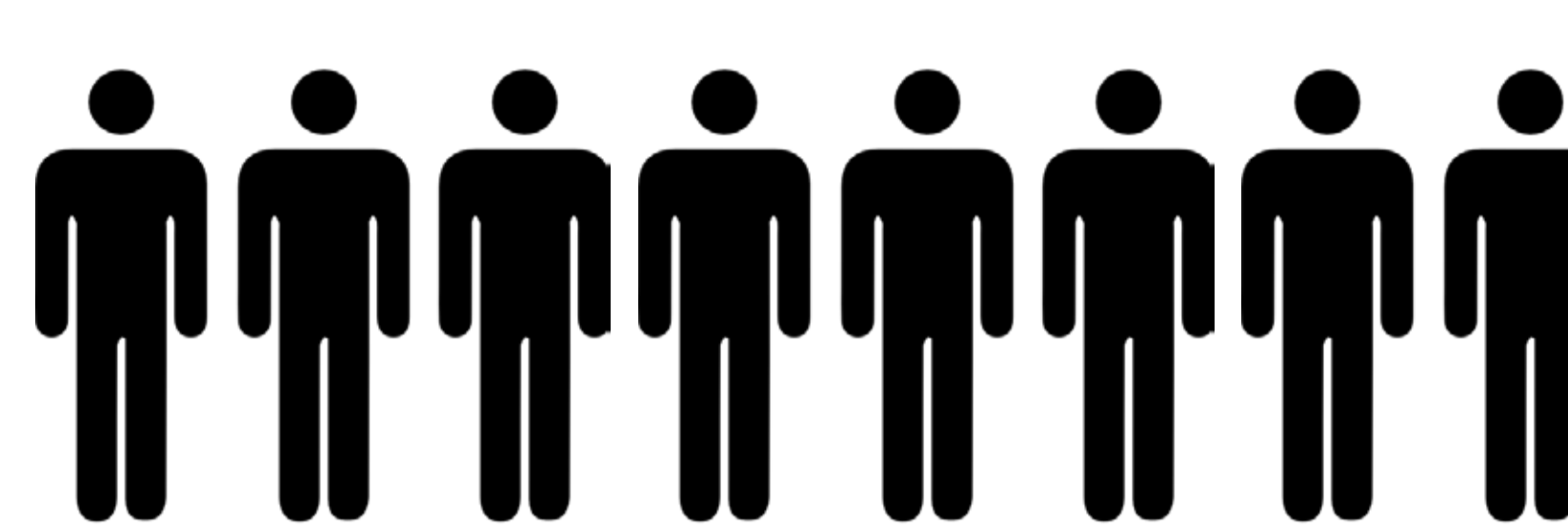




BUZZ AROUND



THE BURNING QUESTION OF CITIZENSHIP



The controversial Citizenship Amendment Act can have wide-scale implications across the country. Here is an attempt to understand the Citizenship Amendment Act and why is it seen as a bone of contention.

The Citizenship Amendment Act (2019) seeks to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhist and Christian communities who are facing religious persecution in the three neighbouring countries -Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Government has justified the bill on the grounds of religious persecution faced by the minorities in these countries. Anybody who belongs to the above-mentioned criteria and has come to India before 31st Dec. 2014 is eligible to get Indian citizenship. The Act also states that all cases against such individuals would be dropped to facilitate the process of issuing citizenship. The major criticism faced by the Act is the exclusions of Muslim minorities like Rohingyas, Ahmediyas, Shias though they face persecution. The Government explained that each application would be examined on a case by case basis who wish to seek refuge or asylum in India. The North Eastern states fear that the influx of immigrants will put more pressure on natural resources. Home Minister Amit Shah has clarified that the tribal areas which come under the sixth schedule will not come under the CAA. Due to inner line permit for the states of Manipur and Nagaland, the six above mentioned communities cannot settle there. Protests are taking place in Assam due to the fear that illegal Bengali Hindu migrants from Bangladesh if regularised under CAA will threaten cultural and linguistic identities of the region. The state witnessed violent protests followed by Internet crackdown. Slowly and steadily, the protest against CAA acquired pan India reach.

The protests against CAA reached its zenith when the students of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) voiced their dissent against the Act. The twitter had become a political battleground with #JamiaProtests trending on Twitter. Two versions of the story started to emerge in social media. Different videos propagating different sides started doing the rounds. The students claimed that the police attacked them first while the police claim otherwise. As per the official records, three people have been hospitalized due to injuries. On 15 December, the police entered the campus without permission and detained some students. A student partially lost his vision due to illegal police action in the Library. Four public buses and two police vans were torched by the protestors.

JMI Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar condemned the police entry on the campus and called for a judicial probe. It turned out that the people arrested in connection with damage caused to public property were not students but people with a criminal background. The protests at Jamia proved to be the turning point in the nation-wide agitation against the Act. In response to the police crackdown at Jamia, many citizens came forward in solidarity of the students and strengthened the anti CAA protests. From Lucknow to Hyderabad, students marched the streets to voice their dissent. Whenever the students take to the streets, it is an indication that everything is not fine. It is time for the Government to ditch the monologue and engage in a dialogue.

- Swati Achwal (SYBA)
Prarthana Puthran (SYBA)

THE TRANSGENDER PERSONS (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS) BILL 2019

1. When was the bill introduced by the government ?

First time in 2016 the government introduced the bill in Lok Sabha and it was referred to a Standing Committee with a number of recommendations. However with the dissolution of 16th Lok Sabha (2014-2019) the bill lapsed. Later again the bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 19th July 2019 by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thawar Chand Gehlot. It was then passed by Lok Sabha on 5th August 2019 and then in Rajya Sabha on 26th November by a voice vote thus defeating a motion to refer the bill to an RS select committee.

2. Who are included in the bill ?

The transgender persons (Protection of Rights) bill 2019 defines transgender as someone whose gender does not match with the one assigned at birth. It includes trans-men, trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, persons with socio-cultural identities such as kinnar and hijras.

3. What are the provisions laid down by the bill?

It prohibits discrimination against transgender persons in employment, education, housing, healthcare and other services. Also Recognition of identity of Transgender Persons by applying to District Magistrates who will certify them the identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'. It also provides them with health care facilities by including separate HIV surveillance centres, and sex reassignment surgeries. National Councils for Transgender Persons will be set up to advice, monitor and evaluate measures for the protection of their rights. Even several welfare schemes will be launched for their development.

4. Why is the transgender community protesting against the bill?

The bill which is supposed to protect the community was passed without approaching anyone from the community. As a result, several assumptions were made based on the stereotypes. Activists also pointed that it was inappropriate to include intersex community in the definition of transgenders. The bill does not mention marriage rights, adoption rights, reservation, social security, property rights. The sentence for sexual abuse against transgender person is minimum of six months and can extend to two years. On the other side, sexual abuse of transgender woman can result in jail term of minimum seven years. This highlights the unfair treatment of the community by the government.

5. What are the demands of the transgender community?

The community, amidst protests, have been urging President Ram Nath Kovind, not to give his assent, which if he does, will result in bill becoming an enforceable Act. Protestors are also demanding a revision of the bill.

- Shravani Mhaisale (SYJC)
Chinmay Parulekar (TYBSc)

TOP TEN NEWS



Lok Sabha passes arms (Amendment) bill, makers of illegal arms will face maximum punishment of life in jail.

BJP wins majority (117/224) in Karnataka Assembly by winning 12 out of 15 seats in by-elections.

India ranked 129th among 189 countries on UNDP's 2019 Human Development Index (HDI).

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) also issued the red-colour warning, the highest level and a warning for the public to take action in adverse weather, for Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Nationwide protests against (and for) the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) were observed at prime hotspots like the Jamia Islamia in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Kolkata, Karnataka etc.

Internet ban in Uttar Pradesh was extended to 21 districts, close to a third of the States 75 districts to maintain "law and order" in the current state of protests and chaos.

Born in the city of Muzaffarpur in Bihar, sub-lieutenant Shivangi becomes the first woman pilot for Indian Navy.

Indian army on high alert as Pak chief boosts ties with terrorists. They recently violated the ceasefire resulting in the death of two Jawans in the Shopian of J&K.

Citizenship Amendment bill is passed, giving citizenship to religious minorities persecuted in neighboring Muslim countries.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman to hold review meetings with heads of public sector banks after incidences like the PNB.

- Riddhi Solanki (TYBSc)





CAREERWISE

“Sports do not build character, they reveal it.”

In the victory of any game, credit is not just of the players but all the people working behind the curtains. Here's looking at those professions in detail.

Sports Psychologist

In the book of bhishmaraj bam sir 'winning habits' he mentions, Sports need yoga, meditation, human psychology, equipment, support of loved ones and proper guidance. Then, I realised that every sports person needs psychologist. So, now let us focus sports psychologist

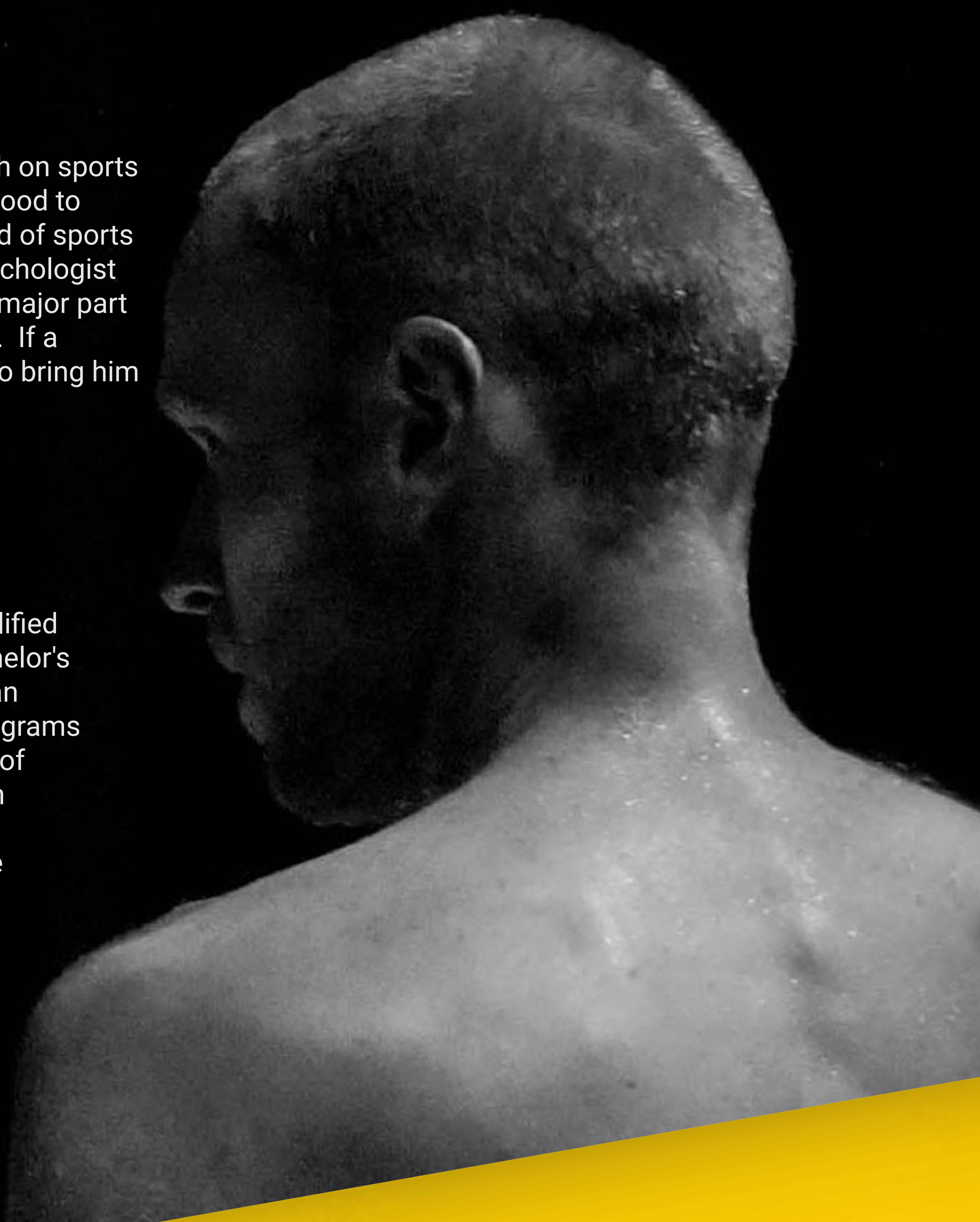
What is sports psychologists?

There are two types of ways to be specialized in psychology. First, to do research on sports psychology or second, you can become life time coach or a counsellor. It feels good to choose this field as a career, this career offers you something different. The field of sports psychology bridges the gap between mental and physical well-being. Sports psychologist mainly work with athletes to improve their performance. Positive thinking is the major part of psychology. They help athletes about to handle pressure in various situations. If a sportsperson is facing failure continuously and he got depressed, then they try to bring him out from depression.

How to be a sports psychologists?

To be a sports psychologist it doesn't take any experience but it need highly qualified education as doctorate in sports psychology. You'll first need to study for a Bachelor's degree in psychology accredited by the BPS. If your undergraduate degree is in an unrelated subject you could Diploma (GradDip) in Psychology. Most doctoral programs in Sports psychology takes minimum four years. From this you can get any kind of job. As a counsellor, coach, professor or a sports research specialist. As you can take an example of Ravi Shastri, he is a coach of Indian cricket team. Today, sports psychologist are much needed for sportsperson to be motivated and give their best time to time. Sports players have to undergo a lot of stress in this tough competition. At such a time maintaining the person's mental health and for the right guidance. This field has more scope because sports is importance getting higher day by day.

- Shriya Hadavale



Sports Physician

Ever wondered how the sports person remain fit even after playing hour long matches? There is always a sports physician to take care of their physique and health.

What does a sports physician do?

In physical therapy trained professionals evaluate and treat abnormal physical function related to Becoming a physical therapist requires education with training in areas such as kinesiology, anatomy, biology and physical fitness. Some extensive training in patient psychology to better understand and help clients with the emotional challenges associated with a physical ailment can help you better in the field.

The work of physical therapists varies by types of patient. Some physical therapists specialize in one type of care, such as orthopedics or geriatrics. Many physical therapists also work at preventing loss of mobility by developing fitness and wellness programmes to encourage healthier and more active lifestyles. Sports physicians help the sportspersons to maintain their health and aid them at time of injuries while the game is on or even after that. They prepare a regular report about each sportsperson's physique and its improvements. Sportsmen needs to take a lot of vitamins and other tablets to maintain the stamina for practice as well the main match. This process is handled and great success is ensured by a sports physician.

How to be a sports physician?

As any other physician, you will need a Doctor of Medicine degree (M.D), or an MBBS degree. You will have to practise at local level first before any sports organisation or team recruits you.

As a physical therapist, you'll be a vital member of a healthcare team, all working together to help patients with both acute and chronic conditions. Sports Physician is a great career if you're interested in practicing hands-on care and want to empower people to positively engage in their own health and healing. Watching your favourite games for free and being around the famous sportspersons is an icing on the cake.

- Prachiti Jadhav



Sports Journalists

We all are fond of some or the other sports, aren't we? Not all the time do we get a chance to go and enjoy it in the stadiums. At such times, our home television becomes our stadium. However, some keen sports lovers, are more interested in reading the newspaper reports and analysis the very next day. The credit to all these amazing articles must be given to the Sports journalist.

What is sports journalism?

Journalism is a wide spread field in which every person specialises and analyses their favourite field of study. Political, social, criminal, economic and sports journalism are the various types of it. Sports journalism especially for cricket in India is very popular. Sports journalist's main duty is to present the entire match in a short, crisp but detailed manner in a form of article without any judgements. They also analyse the public opinions and wave before the tournament. They also study the ground, the players, the strategies, the weakness and strength and present these details to the public for greater understanding of the match. Interviewing the coaches, players and the sports sponsors are also included in the job profile of the sports journalists

How to become a sports journalists?

Just like any other journalism, sports journalism too needs a bachelor degree in journalism or related subjects. After that one can get a diploma in sports journalism. In the last 6 months of diploma many colleges provide internships with sports magazine, or sports column in newspapers or sports channels.

What are the skills needed for a sports journalist?

The most important skill in a sports journalist is the interest and detailed information about the sports. They should not just be a viewer of the sports but one who actually has studied the game completely. They should also possess the skill to present the future predictions with the help of logical reasoning. They should also have a knowledge about the past history of the games too to give great references. They should be able to cover every minute detail of the game in words that can bring a picture in the minds of the reader and give them entire view of the match. Finally, just like other journalists, they must have excellent orating skills or writing skills and powerful language and grammar. Sports journalism is quite popular in India since the 70s cricket became popular. Sports journalists earn around 25000 to 40000. You can succeed in the profession if you are sports lover and have passion towards writing. All the sports viewing enthusiasts do try this profession.

- Tapasya Iyer



Behind the Scenes

Nostalgia of the Millennials

Welcome to the decade where a plethora of progress in a variety of areas took place. Some very significant changes were observed as the decade progressed, a few being very revolutionary. Welcome to the 'Greed Decade', the years where neon was the fashion high, permed hair was considered cool and clothing was so extravagant and bright, it was hard to give it a miss. Pac-Man and Rubik's cubes were introduced in my first year which were a solid hit. Arcades were jam packed but the year ended with John Lennon's assassination. AIDS was finally recognized by the CDC the following year along with the release of the first IBM PC. Homes and offices began to adjust to new technologies. Cable was also introduced. This was also the year where Prince Charles and Princess Diana got married. It was also the decade where E.T. was released and Michael Jackson's Thriller became a huge hit. Most importantly, the internet was born in my ten year run. It was made available

Pokémon. They are still rewatched all over the world and have made such an impact, demanding markets even till today. Titanic, unarguably one of the most iconic movies of all time, was also released. Disney brought to the world the most popular movies of all time - The Lion King, Mulan, Pocahontas, The Little Mermaid, etc. Beauty and the Beast, yet another Disney original-feature, was the first animated movie to be nominated for an Oscar. Besides the strong movie and pop culture influences, my era saw a progress in technology. With computers just coming into picture, the World Wide Web first came into being in my second year. By the end of my era, it had more than 5 million users. My years also saw a surge in text messaging, DVDs and Nintendo's as these had just been introduced. Pagers and Cellular phones also came around the same time and

to the general population by 1989. I was such a revolutionary decade that the first cell phone call was made in the year 1983. Steve Jobs introduced the Macintosh the year after that. However, I was also the decade to bear the eternal stamp of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy that took place the same year. Indira Gandhi was also assassinated then. 1985 witnessed the birth of Microsoft Windows and the appearance of a hole in the ozone. Next, the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown took place in 1986. Further, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after lift off, killing all 7 of its crew members on board. In 1988, a Pan Am flight exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland in what came to be known as a terrorist attack. That same year, Al Qaeda was formed by Osama Bin Laden. The last year of my reign probably ended with another series of events, this included the fall of the Berlin Wall, Gameboy being released and the debut of Bay Watch and The Simpsons. If I choose the right words, my ten years of existence were filled with ups and

they were the trend of the hour. Owning a Nokia was a status symbol and phones were quite big. For Indians, my era came to be known as the age of greetings, cards, letters and family connections. By the late years, a lot of long distance interactions started taking place through the internet with e-cards and emails. My decade saw India winning some of the most important beauty pageants; Aishwarya Rai and Sushmita Sen won Miss World and Miss Universe in 1994. As India began opening up in 1991, a massive number of foreign companies and local companies entered and this opened doors to many new opportunities. Coke-Pepsi, Onida-Videocon-BPL, Bajaj-Hero, Fevicol, Closeup-Pepsodent were all of the most important companies that paved way into our daily lives. The Internet came to India in 1995 - it was also the launch of Windows 95, probably

downs, with the birth of the internet being the most eventful. These were the 1980's, a mash of political, cinematic and technological advancement. Farewell to a very revolutionary decade that had left such a great legacy behind for me- the 1990s. It's a well-known fact that my era brings along a strong wave of nostalgia among the millennials whenever mentioned. I was the decade of halter neck tops, Disney movies, music bands like Nirvana, shows like 'Friends' and 'Seinfeld' and of course, I marked the launching of the Hubble Space Telescope into Earth's orbit. A lot of the things from my earlier times still have a huge influence on the pop culture and lifestyle today. The fashion trends from my era have yet again found its way back into the industry with renewed versions. A lot of fashion inspirations have been found from the popular television series 'Friends'. Most of my legacy runs through the best and longest running TV shows and cartoons that were introduced during my time like SpongeBob, Law and Order, ER,

the biggest tech product launch ever. Browsing centers came around 1998 and the chat rooms had everyone hooked. Yahoo chatrooms were boisterous, unruly and fun and had grabbed everyone's attention. The end of my reign brought a sense of gloom to India. The property markets ended in failure, stock markets were at their lowest, scams were everywhere and central government changes were way too frequent. The Kargil war, the Indian airlines hijack and the impending doom of Y2K brought along a feeling of dread amidst the millennial celebrations. But despite the good and bad, I could definitely say that my era was indeed the most unforgettable and iconic of all the eras for India as well as the world.

-Tanaya Sheth (TYBSc) and Neha Nayak (TYBSc)

Age of the Revolutions

The internet was taking its shape of today. Climate change was not a major issue, there was relative peace across the globe and everyone was musing over the last two millennia of human history. That's when I began. Hello, I'm the first decade of the third millennium. When I began, people were exhilarated in anticipation of what the new millennium was going to be. To begin with, the fields of technology and economy underwent immense changes. In the beginning of 2000, the share prices rose sharply in the stock markets in industrialized nations. It reached its highest in 2001 and then had a huge crash. This came to be known as the 'dot com bubble burst'. The Euro which is today, the second most traded currency in the world after the U.S. dollar, was first introduced to the world financial markets in 2002. In 2007, the world experienced the biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression. Personal debt levels soared, causing great rise in bankruptcies and foreclosures which triggered a worldwide recession. Fields of technology and internet underwent great development. With the launch of sites like Wikipedia in 2001, My Space in 2003, Facebook in 2004 and also the apps like YouTube and Twitter, the internet became more dynamic due to emergence of user-generated content like blogs, videos, online services, etc. This encouraged information sharing and collaboration among people across geographical and disciplinary boundaries creating a collective intelligence. In 2001, an American Engineer, Dennis Tito became the world's first space tourist, spending a total of eight days on an International space station. Pluto was demoted to its dwarf planet status in 2006. China launched its first manned space mission in 2003. Apple launched its portable media player the iPod in 2000 which went on to become phenomenally successful. Global peace was compromised after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre in which about 3000 lives were lost. After these, War on Terror was launched in Afghanistan and another war began in Iraq in 2003. The International Crime in 2002. The Al-Qaeda and affiliated Islamist militant

groups launched many terrorist attacks in the coming years, which included the 2004 Madrid bombings, 7/7 London Bombings of 2005 and the bombings in Mumbai in 2008. The War on Terror was started by U.S. and its allies to stop international terrorism by terrorists groups. It was launched with support from NATO and other allies. Many more wars were fought around the world in the following years. An unauthorized video of execution of Saddam Hussein, a former president of Iraq, caused international public controversy due to unprofessional conditions of the execution in 2006. In August 2005, Florida and Louisiana were hit by Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest hurricanes in the history of the U.S. This was followed by Hurricane Rita, one of the most intense tropical cyclones in Gulf of Mexico. There were other disasters like the earthquake in the Indian Ocean and Cyclone Nargis of Burma. The Human Genome Project was completed in 2003. In 2009, major landmark in medicine was achieved as the complete genetic code of skin and lung cancer were identified. These were some of the happenings in my journey, which would affect the following times. I have had both joyous and grieving moments. Thus, I stand as a testimony of how humanity can survive through even the most challenging of times and still hope for a better future. A soothing adieu and a flabbergasting applause to a rejuvenating decade that witnessed upsurging revolutions in the society, just like I have. The twenty-tens, that's what I am formerly known as, commenced on 1st January 2010. I am going to take you on a ride showing my astounding journey... It all started with Steve Job's launching the very first iPad on April 2010 and today MNC's have come up with multiple alternatives to it. WhatsApp entered the boundaries of the Indian Sub Continent and its waves spread beyond the shore. The year 2011 erupted with a bang as it pulled in the last installment of the Harry Potter series and over the years, a number of alternative franchises of the same universe were released. The dark mark of the decade, Osama Bin Laden was killed in the Operation Geronimo. 2012 was launched with a man doing

horse style moves and expanding as the most viewed video, the Gangnam Style hit over a billion views. Nirbhaya gang rape case took place in Delhi and led to massive candle marches as the whole country rose against the inhumanity portrayed by the sons of the soil. During my year 2013, Sachin Tendulkar, the Indian god of cricket retired. This year witnessed massive destructions. The Kedarnath floods caused large scale devastation with nearly 6000 individuals being dead, leaving the Kedarnath temple unscathed. The year 2014 witnessed high tides of the fluctuating 'Modi Wave' accompanied with Narendra Modi being elected as the Prime Minister of India. Later, India became the first country to successfully land on Mars in the very first attempt. My sixth year, 2015 commenced with a destructive earthquake in Nepal leaving nearly 9,000 people dead. Renowned scientist, teacher and former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam breathed his last words, India lost a rare gem of its soil. 2016 arrived. Donald Trump got elected as the President of USA. Demonetisation was commemorated in India which led to surges in the economy. India carried out surgical strikes on terror launch pads across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. During the year 2017, the biggest reform since the opening of the economy, GST- one nation, one tax was adopted. ISRO expanded its potential as it set the world's record for the largest number of satellites ever launched successfully on a single rocket. 2018 commenced with decriminalising article 377 which prohibited homosexuality and hence it encouraged the LGBT community. The statue of Unity, the world tallest statue, which is an epitome of tourist attraction was inaugurated in Gujarat. In 2019, the article 370 was revoked from the Indian constitution. The supreme court delivered the verdicts on what had been one of the longest disputes globally, the Ayodhya Verdict. It was almost a roller coaster ride. I wonder what the 2020s would bring....

-Sayli Mokal (SYBSc) and Hiya Shah (SYJC)

INSIGHTS

I will survive...

"There's so many wars we fought
There's so many things we're not
But with what we have
I promise you that
We're marching on"

One Republic: Marching On.

Hope has been the driving force, which held us strong through our run in this survival quest. And now, as we begin our journey in this brand new year, we thought about writing on Hope and Motivation.

To the angst of each teenager writing board papers, to the fresh graduates confused over the upcoming future, to the newlyweds, to the new parents, to the ones embracing retirement gracefully, to the ones accepting the near end of their journeys... to everything that is new... that brought change... Never lose your Hope!
To the new year, to the new Decade!

A Quiet Beckoning

I wanted to dream us a summer sky to rest under. I thought about all the things I could say as we lay under it, to make you believe again in the worth of everything. The way _hope_ is a word that we are often too scared to form, the way that it rests fitfully under our ribs. Growing is a kind of withering, maybe. The more we grow, the more we seem to fear. The more we seem to bend under our own weight. I can see it, sometimes, in the way we curl our hands into fists, desperately grasping at the tiny dreams slipping away. Because dreams are fickle little things, that once tasted sweet under our tongues.

But then we grew greedy, trying to savour them all at once, till all we could remember was the bitter aftertaste left behind. It is hard maybe to remember what it felt like once. It is hard maybe to remember the meaning you had found then.

I don't quite know where hope comes from. I don't quite know how to be brave. I don't quite understand just what keeps people going. But maybe it is still okay for us to try. Listen, maybe there is meaning in this. Maybe we told ourselves once that we could only be happy when we got what we wanted. But listen, maybe we can be happy now. Maybe that is what will keep us going.

Maybe happiness doesn't look like the shining horizon in the distance, the one we have been chasing for so long. Maybe happiness is piano notes and vanilla lattes and a summer sunset that is still burning behind your eyelids; the way you laughed once, so, so young. On that road that will take you to that place you longed for so, so long, maybe you can still smile.

I don't know if words can build a sky. I don't know if a generation brought up to chase one thing after the other can rest under it. Maybe we really are lost. Maybe that is how we find ourselves.

Listen, maybe there is more.

-Anushka Nagarmath (SYBA)

Is hope Reality or reality Hope?

Little doses,
Little doses of fear,
Of virtue,
Of achievements
Of visions,
Of goals,
And of dreams,

Kept soft the bed of roses.

Little doses,
Little doses of fear,
Of virtue,
Of achievements
Of visions,
Of goals,
And of dreams,

Kept soft the bed of roses.

How beautifully separated and entwined are we,
How beautifully flawed are we.

When I hear,
The alarm that never fails to beep,
When I see,
The man never shying from smiles,
When I observe,
The girls never failing to board the train,
Although sometimes dozily missing the station,
Whenever I close my eyes
And my dreams never leave me,

Then
I feel a little bounce in my step.

When I learn something old,
Which is only anew for me, you see,
When I greet my mates,
New ones who have now become old ones, I realise,
When I give in to temptation,
Not new yet not oft for me,
I feel a hitch in my breath.

When the stranger jokes with me,
And breaks the ice,
When the stranger shares
Universal grief or humour or human emotions,
Is the reason for grief or humour or kindness,
Then,
The stranger is familiarised,
And there's this comfort of familiarity,
That lightens the heart.

In these small moments,
Great things happen,
And from great moments,
Come small things,
You'd want to treasure.

Those who dispelled my darkness,
So bewitched me from their de-spelling,
Forever captivated, grateful, burdened am I.
Be it math,
That quickens my heart,
Be it exercise,
That instils dread in my bones,

Be it books,
That churn nausea in stomach,
Be it hard work,
That ached my lazy bones,
Be it patience,
That tore through anger,
Be it greed,
That warped my vision,
Be it just being,
I will be because they were it..

The small and the big acts of kindness,
They loomed us,
Either it's a trap or a trampoline,
As always there are 2 sides to the coin,
And 2 eyes we have,
2 words to listen,
But one word to talk,
2 legs so entangled,
That they have to walk the talk,
As we are doomed, so we are doomed.
That's the irony of life,
The flip side of life,
Is death.

Tanvi Padia (TYBA)

Change

The jingle of the little brass bells tied around the neck of her cows broke her from her reverie, she finished feeding them and went to the garden, in the hope that she'd find some relief there. But the constant monologue inside her head just refused to shut off. These thoughts and questions, unsettling as they were, were not any new.

She felt oddly detached from it, from all that had been her life until now. The loving daughter, the selfless and obedient daughter-in-law, the caring mother, all of these now seemed but mere roles she had played, out of responsibility. However, she had done nothing, at least yet, to curb that constantly growing hollowness inside her, that strange feeling of worthlessness.

Being married off as a teenager and, becoming a widow in her twenties, she had for some time, started to believe that maybe, it was all part of some plan, that there was nothing she could do about the life she had got. But, a part of her had always, been doubtful of whether she was actually as satisfied as she believed herself to be. She wasn't. Maybe it was wrong to think that she wanted nothing more from her life. Family had always been the priority, but she had her own dreams, dreams she had to give up on a long time ago, because she never got the chance, to fulfil them.

Even, as a child, she used to believe that her destiny lied beyond this beautiful hamlet. Always being inspired by her natural surroundings, she wanted to explore, to know, to grow.

To make something useful out of her life. She was curious and smart as a child, but her challenging circumstances had turned her into a helpless woman. Although she had tried to convince herself otherwise, deep inside, she still wanted all those things she had once dreamt of.

Her dreams suddenly mattered to her, more than anything else. She was struck by the difference between the life she wanted for herself and the one she was actually living. It was time now. She was done. Not afraid, just sick of the way she lived, sick of keeping her ambitions suppressed, of not being able to express herself honestly, of living a life she didn't want to.

After a lot of consideration and with courage, she had come to a decision. Her decision. However difficult or impossible it may seem, she would follow it to the end. She could after all, create a life she would actually love.

Sayli Mokal (SYBSc)

How to stay motivated even when you don't feel so?

So, its been a tough time staying up with your goals. You tried to pull it through, you gave up to a much soothing temporary distraction, and now you feel like sh*t, guilty and worse. Typical story of a college student. No worries, we've been there too. So here are a few simple tried and tested ways to pull up your socks and get yourself working, even when your motivation dips below sea level, and get the work done.

Catharsis

It is essential that you get your mental state uncluttered. There's a lot of anxiety, guilt, worry, anticipation, expectations and thoughts crawling and creeping over your Rational Cognitive components. Basically, this clutter makes all your thoughts go haywire, preventing you to think clearly. So pick up a pen, and jot down every thing running through your mind on a clean piece of paper. Once everything's out of your mental space into concrete words, you'll start noticing new ideas popping up automatically. Organizer's on the call

Once you've thrown out your mental clutter onto the paper, start organizing this mess into categories and worklists.

Set them up as Priorities, Daily Essentials, Need attention but can be dealt with later, or other such titles. Supplementarily, you need to sort and settle the clutter in your study/work area. Your study provides a reflection for your internal state, thus when this is well organized, your mind works faster too. Organize your material according to the same worklists and try to keep only enough material on the desk, which you feel is manageable, or rather essentially required at the moment.

Set Realistic Goals and Targets

You will work only when you have some goals to accomplish. No Goals, No Gain - that's the simple equation. Set goals that align with things that you want to achieve.

So now, you have everything in place, all your required material at hand. Next, step is to prepare a To-Do list, or to set Targets especially ones that are time-bound. Best way to get working is to break down your Goals into achievable targets and precisely baby targets, which are mini targets you can accomplish by any chance. Eg. Your goal is to finish the reference book within a week, so set up a target of reading just 5 pages every day. Why do so? Read ahead.

Start working immediately

Once you have chalked out the baby targets, start completing them immediately. Don't keep looking for an 'ideal hour' or the 'perfect round figure time' to begin. Hit your workspace right at the moment. Continuing with our baby targets, when you start doing something and complete the first step, its most likely that you'll finish that entire piece of work. Majority of the time, the difficulty is, to get started. So when the target is very small, you have less anticipation of completing it, and many times you will find yourself completing more than you had planned. It is all about the momentum at the end.

Sara Chavan (TYBA)

Z

"When you're close to tears remember
Someday it'll all be over
One day we're gonna get so high
Though it's darker than December
What's ahead is a different colour
One day we're gonna get so high"
. Lighthouse Family: 'High'

Hope has been the driving force in our survival quest. And now, as we begin our journey in this brand new year, Column Insight thought about spreading some Hope and Motivation.

Join us as we take you through stories, anecdotes and antidotes to help you stay motivated throughout this year!

To the new year! To the new Decade!



OP-ED

The New Roaring 20's

The last decade showed some equally positive and worrying developments in all fields of society. As critical as a recap is for the new decade, it also makes us wonder what we have in store in such an unpredictable world! We at Op-Ed tried to gauge the upcoming trends of the decade by keeping the current social situation in mind.

Politics

2019 marked the year of the general elections. Though the same set of parties won this election, what was remarkable was the participation of people. The country witnessed the highest ever voter turnout of 67%!

The #MeToo movement took the decade by storm and saw many women and a considerable amount of men coming out with their stories of sexual abuse. These accusations were often shrouded in controversy over their legitimacy. The movement was successful in offering a new ray of hope for such movements by stirring media attention as well as civic and government attention.

After a long judicial battle, Article 377 was finally decriminalised in the country. This was reason for great celebration in the LGBTQ+ community as well as its allies. While the society's mentality is struggling to keep up with the changing times this move was instrumental in normalising the often-ostracised queer community. Talk about #AbnormalHai to #AbNormalHai!

Another positive development this decade is the greater involvement of students in politics. Students engaged in all aspects of politics right from participating in online discussions to staging full blown protests not only for their rights, but also for the rights of a nation as a whole.

The Climate Change movement took off this decade with urgency led by young blood. The sensitivity about the environment in the younger generation sparked a global movement to save the planet. All these developments displayed the pro-activeness of the younger generation to facilitate the change they think is needed. These trends are expected to be followed through the next decade and maybe the world will be a better place to live in by the end of it!

Mrunal Sapale (TYBA)
Shabduli Shinde (TYBSc)

Mental health

The current generation lives amidst a major social crisis marked by the sudden economic downfall which has rendered at least 2/4th of the total population unemployed as a result of the evident political turmoil. This peculiar situation makes us believe that history repeats itself when it's makers forget to carry forward the lessons of the past.

While recovering from the ravages of war, the west explored all that it had tried to hide under the carpet. Unacknowledged feelings, emotions, opinions and ideas were brought to the centre table with materialism on its side.

'Neurosis', a mental disorder is characterized by extreme episodes of anxiety, depression and distress was a term that was so overused in the American society that its meaning became vacuous. Similarly, we observe the current generation considers suffering from depression to be 'cool' and at times even fakes it for the sake of social acceptance. Memes on suicidal tendencies, breakdowns and unhealthy coping mechanisms trend over funny and more logical ones.

Class, caste, state, religion and family are seen as barriers that have an unnecessary bearing over the creative mind which is similar to the 1920's where people started to awaken themselves from the rigidity of religion and called it an old gown, that has grown thin with all the colours washed out of it.

Disha Shanbhag (TYBA)

Science

The last decade saw some historic strides made in science. Physics was revolutionised by the discovery of the Higgs Boson towards the beginning of the decade and the discovery of gravitational waves in the latter half of the decade showed that research refuses to slow down. Genetic engineering took huge leaps with the use of tools like CRISPR-Cas9. It was also responsible for controversies like the ethics regarding genetic engineering in human embryos.

The next decade will be a big one for genetic engineering. With gene editing tools advancing with low rates of errors, use of genetically modified organisms will be on the forefront. Moreover, laws regarding ethical and safe use of genetic engineering will be made internationally. Science will be used to create more ecologically viable alternatives for various non-biodegradable materials used today. Research for wider utility for clean energy generation will be in trend.

The rising threat of antibiotic resistance in microbes that has been looming over the planet for decades will come closer to reality in the coming decades. This would mean that the discovery of new antibiotics to fight the multi-drug resistant microbes would be imperative to keep off severe epidemics and pandemics that could potentially sweep through the earth.

Shabduli Shinde (TYBSc)

Fashion

The fashion industry may have suffered some huge losses (The death of Karl Lagerfeld, closing of many shops due to their non environmental standards) but, has kept it's calm and sailed through the 2019 ship.

2019 was the year for comfortable yet stylish clothes. Athleisure, that is workout clothes which can be worn for a stroll outside too, was the rage. Celebrities like Kim Kardashian West were seen wearing bike shorts at many events. The ease of wearing something was the highlight of most clothing. Hence, jumpsuits and coveralls, which can be worn at once and look cute as well as smart were a win-win.

Predicting fashion is something which can be done easily. This is because fashion is cyclical in nature. Think about it, chokers were the BIG thing in the 90s and they made a huge comeback in 2016-17. Similarly, with blouse sleeves and jean styles. Fashion in 2020 would very much be based on sustainable and eco-friendly styles. With increasing awareness about climate change and how fast fashion has led to so much of waste of resources, consumers now are changing their outlook towards what looks good and what is necessary. Style wise, polka dots and puffy sleeves are said to be back in the trend in 2020. Also, utility jumpsuits and long denim skirts are here to stay for a long time. Last year, pastel colours were a high commonly pastel pink, blue and greens but this is the year for pastel yellow to shine. Billowy dresses and trench coats with Bermuda shorts are a must try the next year. For men, printed and collar shirts will be the new cool. Flares (wide denims) from the 70's pay a visit the next year and across the body bags are both functional and fashionable. The entire theme seems very chic yet casual.

Hritvi Acharya (FYJC)

Entertainment

F. Scott. Fitzgerald brought the roaring 1920s to the pages through 'The Great Gatsby'. A very real, yet jazzy portrayal of life back then. The new roaring (hopefully) 20s are about to begin and yet my mind is stuck in the worlds of Fitzgerald. The ability with which it still resonates with readers is mesmerizing. And that's I all yearn for the 2020s. All that we read, hear, watch, is actually what we aspire it to be.

Although the classics will always be close to our hearts, the new and upcoming books and novels have created a niche in the minds of readers. Authors and poets are writing and bringing to light real-world issues, ranging from politics to mental health awareness through their words. Hopefully this will continue into the 20s and further. Not just continue, but also thrive and cater to readers of all ages. What one can envision is a grandparent being able to read an LGBTQ+ romance novel (on an e-reader because we'll have killed all the trees) and discuss it with their grandchildren like they would any other story now. The portrayal of bad boy loves good girl or macho man falls for the typical woman with glasses should be chucked out of books. Hopefully when the books from the 2020s become classics, they'll still be loved.

The same goes for movies. Although the dynamics of film-making are changing, we still need a lot more Zoya Akhtars and Imtiaz Alis on the block. The change from cringey Bollywood of the 80s and 90s to the realistic movies of now has already kick started, but there is still a lot of work to be done. With Dear Zindagi and something like Great Grand Masti releasing in the same year, you know what is up so finger's crossed.

The most necessary change though, is the music. We pray for 'ladki, daaru, paisa' to leave songs, never to return. We also hope that the new generation is instilled with respect for the beauty that is Indian classical music. For kids today it is only 'all about the bass.' Classical music is deemed 'boring'.

Vrushali Gadkari (FYBA)

It was evident that horrible evils of the decade have only brought out the best in people as they became more politically and environmentally conscious in response to them. We hope the next decade bears the fruit of people's perils in the last one!

Tech-Tricked

Did too much hype kill the Tech ? (Or was it too little ?)

Science Teacher : "We will have flying cars by 2020 "

Meanwhile in 2020 :

Science and Technology are often pronounced together with their meaning intertwined. But even the slight difference makes a subtle comment on our progression as an intelligent species. Science is, literally, knowledge. Technology is applying that science to real world problems. Science is knowing how a file-sharing system among computers works. Technology is creating the e-mail. Science can be boring and slow. Technology has to sound spectacular by definition.

However, sometimes a technology can get over-hyped and fizzle out because of ill-marketing, incompetence or people just being plain stupid to buy it.

Almost all of the quintessential products and technologies that we use today - smartphones, email, social networks, the internet - have at least one ancestor harkening back to a different time. Some were touted as the next big thing but failed to catch on to the public imagination and died a slow death. Here are a few gadgets and services that seemed too futuristic to be accepted in common

use or too mediocre to live up to the hype.

Google Glass



GLASS
ENTERPRISE EDITION

Back in 2013, Google Glass was advertised as a lightweight head-mounted computer that would drastically reduce the time and effort required to operate a smartphone. It came with a tiny (640 x 360) pixel display and a 5MP camera on the right side. Earlier marketed as the spin to change the computer game forever, Google Glass in its packed-to-the-rim functionality sucked miserably even before it was shipped for critic reviews. The issue was that Glass wasn't 'changing' smart devices any more than it would be competing with them. All of its essential specs like 2/16 GB storage, 720p video already existed and being sur-

passed. The price tag of 1500 USD diminished whatever value for money it could have had. To make matters worse, the one USP driving it's hype, wearability, became obtrusive when the wearer came off as elitist or downright creepy leading to its ban in some places.

Apple Newton



Officially called 'MessagePad', Apple Newton is to modern day smartphones what LiveJournal is to Facebook. Realized way back in 1992, the Newton incorporated many features ubiquitous today. It boasted the first-ever PDA or as a layman would call it - the touchscreen. Although it used a stylus instead of fingers to operate. It could take notes, send faxes, use Calendars, play radio etc. But like Glass, what put it ahead of the curve also spelled doom for Newton.

But like Glass, what put it ahead of the curve also spelled doom for Newton. The handwriting recognition tool early on became a subject of ridicule in public entertainment and suffered terrible PR. Seven editions were released over a span of six years with each bettering the last. However the project was effectively killed by Steve Jobs as he got back to Apple in 1997, freeing the team to work on other necessary tech. Newton's legacy survives to this day in technologies it first introduced, such as the ARM processor in our phones.

Iridium

Imagine a mesh network of 66 satellites hovering in space poised to relay data from any point in the world. Wired magazine ran a near sci-fi cover story about it in 1998. While it sounded like the perfect ostensible cover for a Bond Villain to hijack data security, it didn't take a super-spy to reject the enterprising idea to limbo. To compensate for the huge swathes of investments made, the charges for usage were set at an exorbitant dollars per minute. It lost over a billion dollars in two quarters and hasn't been heard from much since.

Qube

A remote-controlled set top box in the 70s ? Yes, please ! Warner Communications Inc. in 1977 introduced Qube to compete with local cable providers as an experimental endeavour. It came with interactive features (such as polling feedback) and pay-per-view system for exclusively Warner movies. Maintenance cost of the model was through the roof though. Eventually Warner Cable went into huge debt the system was phased out.

Kodak films invented digital photography in 1975 but did not capitalize soon enough. And again in 1995. General Motors rolled the perfect electric car in 2003 only to recall every single unit considering the harm it might do to the oil and spare parts industry. Friendster and MySpace were there before Facebook. Blockchain is yet to revolutionize our file storage systems. Chat-bots are just over-hyped IVRSs. Point is, there has seldom been a technology that was welcomed and mass-embraced in its first outing. And it's never the creator's fault for being non-mainstream.

The tech sector is rightly coveted as the most rapidly progressive and volatile

sector. It is a cruel joke then, that often a well developed, path-breaking technology comes around and still gets ignored by people too busy applauding the newest multi-core processor or camera from a branded LLC. Oculus rift comes to mind. Time and again, case studies of successful forays of any new technology or product has depended on timing and marketing. As said at the beginning, the way we develop, distribute and utilize technology says a lot about our civilization.

It seems senseless to offer a conclusive opinion on all the unsuccessful ventures out there. But over the past couple of decades and more, all the failed launches, the over-hype, futurism, OTT marketing and customer-targeted need for oversophistication has inevitably sucked the tech sector into a capitalist vortex that screams only profitability and growth. Projects actually focused on adaptive innovation remain relatively unknown to the world and hence see minimum encouragement.

The flying cars are coming next quarter perhaps.

-Prasad Mokal

Tech That Moulded Today!

It is a default by now that whenever we talk about tech the first thing that comes to our minds is the latest and greatest! We are keen to know about what is #trending? But in this article we are going to wind the clock backwards and are going to have a look at the technology of the past that one way or another changed our way of living tremendously. These innovations from the past revolutionized the industry in such a way that without these milestones of the history, technology that we use today would have just been a mere dream!

•Walkman(1979):



In the late 70s, developers at Sony Masaru Ibuka and Akio Morita felt that the cassette player that were in existence then were way too bulky and unusable by an average consumer. This lead them to innovate what we now know as "Walkman". Walkman is actually a brand name by Sony for portable cassette players. The original Walkman TPS-L2 allowed people to listen to music to the streets! It was the 70s so, before Walkman it was the age of boom boxes. The bigger the stereo set the cooler you ought to be. But Sony just changed that in an instant. There were also cassette players before Walkman but they were bulky and mostly something a journalist would use.

Today's access to portable music is all thanks to the Walkman! Walkman didn't just introduced the world to portable music but also changed the headphones genre. Before the headphones that came with Walkman there used to be way too big headphones but Sony brought in the Walkman and it revolutionized the music industry forever!

•DynaTAC(1983):



DynaTAC is a series of cellular phones manufactured by Motorola. The Motorola DynaTAC 8000x came into market in 1983 on September 21st. DynaTAC is an abbreviation of "Dynamic Adaptive Total Area Coverage" and was the start of something big to follow. The invention of first cellular phone dates way back than the era of DynaTACs. It was proposed Bell Labs in 1947. Bell Labs also petitioned the FCC or Federal Communications Commission. John F Mitchell and his colleagues developed portable cellular telephony and patent was granted for this work in 1973. Martin Cooper one of John Mitchell's colleagues lead a team at Motorola which produced the 8000x model. This was the first ever cellular phone small enough to be easily carried but not at all by today's standards. It was an expensive piece of tech but that made available pathways for wireless phones to follow in near future.

•JVC GR-C1(1984):



The JVC GR-C1 was a camcorder released in March 1984 by JVC and was notable as the first all-in-one VHS camcorder, as contrary to earlier portable systems where the camera and recorder were separate units linked by cable. It used a custom VHS-C video tape giving 30 mins of record time which can be used in a standard VCR but by using an adapter. A RF modulator was made available to enable connection to the aerial socket of domestic televisions. The GR-C1 was voted one of the top 100 gadgets of all time. Why JVC GR-C1 is considered as a revolutionising product because it was the first ever VCR to reach people's homes and due to which home videos became a thing in no time. It can be said that without the age of camcorders movies would have never reached households l'm the form of tapes and the only way to watch them before this was by going to a movie theatre. Also if you missed the screening of movie, you may never see that movie ever again!

The aforementioned gadgets are very few examples of gizmos that have altered the way of living for us. If these products were never innovated it is impossible to predict what kind of lives we all would be living today. But it is for sure that these tech pieces have directed our way of living towards betterment only.

-Suvin Mayekar



« You can take the boy out of Bombay, you can't take Bombay out of the boy, you know. »
Salman Rushdie

« Neither by service or fee come I to mine estate - Mother of Cities to me, But I was born in her gate, Between the palms and the sea, Where the world-end steamers wait. »
Rudyard Kipling

Yeh hai Bombay Meri Jaan!
South Bombay, the Jaan of Mumbai! Whether you visit it in the morning or in the evening, it will always give you its bag of positive vibes. It's a hub for elite people and ancient structures in the city. Many of us roll the wheels here to attend programs or for some documentation, but this time I thought of leaving aside my work for a day and decided to take up a heritage walk in the old streets of Mumbai along with my friend, Anagha.

We decided to visit all the places with a little note of its history to take a plunge in its existence till now. It was an amazing experience to know about the places we have always seen, to stop by the beautiful British architecture and to know the intricacies of the monuments. I'm here to take you through the beautiful city of Mumbai, so stay tuned and continue reading...

We started our day with a hot cup of coffee and took a cab to Asiatic Library from Churchgate Station.

The Asiatic library lies near the Horniman Circle in the Fort Area. This Townhall was founded by Sir James Mackintosh in 1804. It stands on 8 pillars of Roman and Greek architecture and 30 stairs. This giant structure is magnificent and offers a view of the beautiful British buildings.

The library has a great collection of books and manuscripts as well as coins and maps. They have the 1st issue of Dante's Inferno. People are allowed to visit the general library with a proper identity card.

Then we walked inside the 148-year-old Horniman circle which offers a calm and green park. It's a perfect place to relax in the morning with the chirping of the birds and the cool breeze. Initially, it was misused to dump the coconut shells. Later, the police commissioner took hold of this place and boosted the development. The perfect time to visit this park is in the morning when it isn't too sunny to feel the cool air near the trees.

After leaving the west well gate of the park, on the right-hand side, we prominently saw the red construction of the 'Bombay Samachar' which recently celebrated its 198th anniversary. It is the only regional newspaper which has still continued its legacy. It was founded in 1822 by Fardunjee Marzban, a Parsi scholar. The building has a rusty look and its colour is the highlight of the street.

On the left, we spotted the premises of BSE, Bombay Stock Exchange. It has a unique history which can be traced back to the 1850s. A group of 5 brokers used to meet under a Banyan tree in front of Mumbai Town hall. As the number of brokers started increasing, they started moving their location and finally, they arrived at Dalal Street in 1874. Since then, it has been recognized as one of the oldest stock exchange with \$2.2 trillion + market capitalization.

Moving ahead on the same street, we visited the St. Thomas cathedral which is recognized by the UNESCO in Asia-Pacific list. It is famous for its Neo-Gothic and Neoclassical architecture. It has a small foyer at the entrance which leads to the huge and magnificent structure of the church. This was the first time I visited a cathedral and it was so silent and gigantic from the inside that I couldn't leave this place.

Thereafter, we took the same street and walked to the beautiful Flora-Fountain in the middle of the main road. Its beauty cannot be scripted but recently it was renovated and the street was beautified once again. It was built in 1864 depicting the Roman goddess Flora. The most astonishing fact about this fountain is that it cost Rs. 47000/- which was a large sum during that time.

Following the same path, we crossed the neo-classical architected Central Telegram building which was erected by two master architects in 1872. We took a left to the humongous Bombay High Court. It was laid by late sir Hyde Gowan in 1937. The street is parallel to one of the busiest roads of the town and it is equidistant to the Oval Maidan. The charm of the street is the old buildings with the rocky structure which catches the eye of the passers-by.

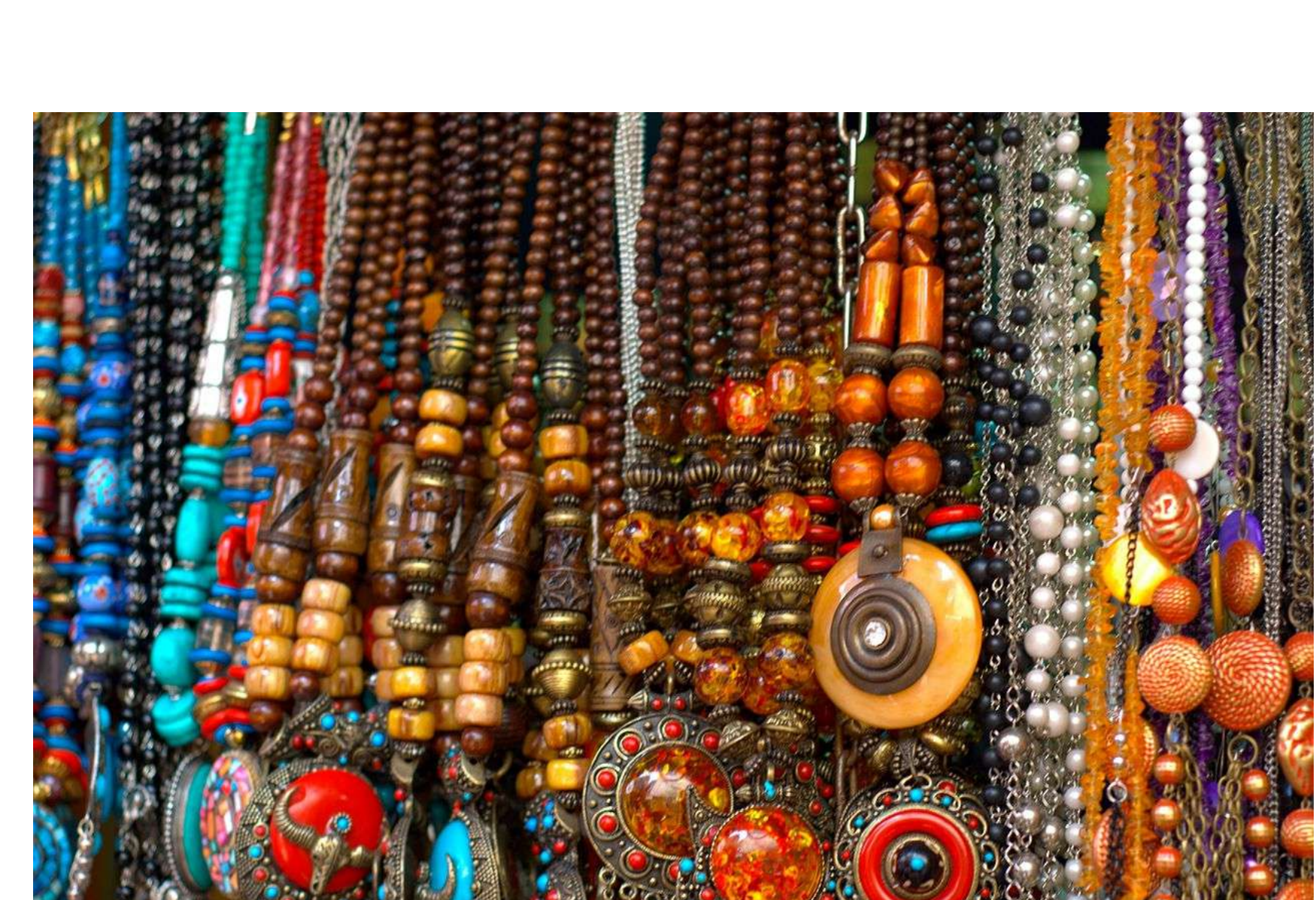
Going ahead, we saw the classic Mumbai University which is home to all the colleges in the city. This college has 711 affiliated colleges as of 2016. Several universities which were initially affiliated to the Mumbai University are now autonomous like our Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Matunga. This university was established in 1857 by Sir Charles Wood. Turning to the right, we see the wide Oval Maidan and the Art Deco line of buildings. It is a treat to the eyes.

We walked past Kala Ghoda, to the Regal Circle where Wellington Fountain stands brightly. Then we reached Apollo Bunder where 'The Gateway of India' stands proud and tall right near the Arabian Sea. We could visibly see the historical Hotel Taj which was attacked by terrorists a few years ago. This street is an exclusive one, where we can witness the wide range of cars owned by elite people.

We didn't miss any chance of shopping at the cheap Colaba causeway. They had a beautiful collection of oxidized earrings and many other unique articles. One must not miss this opportunity of exploring this street and stopping at 'The Leopold Cafe'.

- Sanjana Bhate

AAMCHI MUMBAI!



EXPLORING THE SECULARISM IN MUMBAI:



It was a Monday morning. The weather was cold but pleasant. I had decided to visit Mahalaxmi temple and Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai with my mom. We left home at around 11 and we had decided to go till Byculla station by train and then Mahalaxmi temple by taxi. At that time in the train there came many train vendors who sold things such as earrings, rubber bands, fruits or some general things. Thus, we also shopped a bit in the train. After reaching Byculla around 11:45 we took a taxi to Mahalaxmi temple. As it was a Monday, Mahalaxmi temple was not that crowded. We got to the front of the line very quickly. Mahalaxmi temple is a very old temple which has idols of three goddesses namely Mahakali, Mahalaxmi and Mahasaraswati. These idols are made of pure gold. The temple is not very huge but is one of the oldest temples and thus, considered to be holy. Its structure is small and simple. It is generally very crowded especially during the festival of navratri. The location of this temple attracts majority of tourists as it is located almost on the banks of the Arabian Sea. If one walks little downstairs from the temple, then one can see the beautiful scene of water crashing on the stones, looking milky white. We sat downstairs enjoying the gentle waves of water for some time and then we had our lunch. The rules there are very strict against clicking photos so make sure you don't take out your phones. Then we headed towards Haji Ali Dargah. It is not very far from the temple. There is a long bridge built through water that takes us to the Haji Ali Dargah and vehicles aren't allowed on this bridge so we had to walk. It felt really good to walk on that bridge as a cool breeze was flowing while we were surrounded by water on both sides. It was around 04:00 PM so the sun was also about to set. On our way we saw many people who were going to the Dargah by walking on their knees while chanting their prayers. When I asked mom what was that about then she told me that people make certain wishes to the god and promise to do certain things in return if that wish is fulfilled. Majority of the people promise God that they will come to visit him if their wish is fulfilled. So basically walking on knees was them fulfilling their mannat. Haji Ali Dargah is a beautiful mosque which is forever crowded and is one of the most important landmarks in Mumbai. Women and men have to enter the mosque separately. Mom and I were told to cover our heads before entering the mosque. There aren't any idols in a mosque, unlike temples. We sat for sometime seeing the beautiful view and soon got up to leave. On our way back we saw the sun set which was breathtaking. We took the train to go back home from Byculla station. The train was really crowded for it was a Monday evening. We had to skip 2-3 trains and then finally were able to catch one train. That whole day was very amazing. I learnt a lot of new things, new history and above all got new experiences. If you ever get a day off make sure you visit these two places.

- Maitri Kate

SANJAY GANDHI NATIONAL PARK:



Mumbai is one of the most important cities in India. It is famous for various reasons including its efficient local transportation, rains and the helping nature of Mumbaiers. For me, Mumbai is special because of its care towards nature. While being a metropolitan city Mumbai has kept a special place for land in its heart. Yes, I am talking about 'Sanjay Gandhi National Park' popularly known as 'SGNP'. SGNP is situated in 103.8 square kilometre of land in the Borivali district. The North most part of the park is till Thane city. In the south, the park lies till Aarey Colony in Goregaon.

The Sanjay Gandhi National Park area has a long history dating back to the 9th century BC. The Kanheri Caves in the center of the park were an important Buddhist learning centre and pilgrimage site sculpted by Buddhist monks between 9th and 1st centuries BCE. The park was named 'Krishnagiri National Park' in the pre-independence era. At that time the area of the park was only 20.26 square kms. In 1969, the park was expanded to its present size by acquiring various reserve forest properties adjoining the park. In 1981, it was re-dedicated as 'Sanjay Gandhi National Park' in memory of Mr. Sanjay Gandhi.

I went to Borivali station by train and took a rickshaw till Sanjay Gandhi National Park. One is allowed to take his car or cycle into the park with minimum charges. Thus, if you live nearby, I suggest you to go there on a cycle. According to me, monsoon and winter are the best seasons to visit SGNP. As it has a huge area, it is very difficult to roam around in the park by walking. You can rent a cycle on an hourly basis or roam in certain areas of park by the mini train that is there. I rented a cycle and roamed for three hours. As I have seen big cats before I didn't book any safari for me. The safari is mainly for lions and tigers that are kept here in their natural habitat. I took a ride in a mini train i.e. Vanarani and also did boating in the artificial water bodies. I spent the whole day in the SGNP. The authorities are very keen on keeping the surroundings clean and plastic free thus it is not allowed to carry anything wrapped in plastic inside the park. You can either carry your own tiffin for lunch or there are a few limited options inside the park. Cycling was my favourite activity to do inside the park.

I would suggest planning your day well in advance and then visiting the park. There are ample of things to do and not all can be done in a day. Thus, take your time, prioritise and then decide your schedule. SGNP is a huge place and it can get boring after a while for some people thus try to go there in a group. It is a good place for group reunions as it gives you privacy and is very economical. SGNP also arranges many one-day treks and trails which are guided by experts. The butterfly garden walks and star gazing programmes are some of the most famous programmes in SGNP which can be booked online from their website.

- Mitawa Mukta Aneesh

FICTIONALLY YOURS

LOVE LOST

"Yeah, I agree. I've never seen a girl so straightforward"
"I know, right? Girls these days are full of attitude." Never in my life had I seen boys gossiping to this extent. During camp, while walking down the hilly terrain behind me, I heard them for the first time. I heard him. Talking about girls as if they were girls themselves. It was hilarious.
"What are you guys?" I asked suddenly, making the boys jump. "Bitching about people on matters that don't concern you? How foolish."
"Who is she, man? Talking to us like that?"
"Oh, it's Cerberus - the hound of hell!"
They laughed, sparking anger and annoyance in me... and soon, through useless banter, we started our journey of friendship.
York and Jake, in the tiny span of four months, had become the most annoying people in my life. No day had been peaceful with their presence. The pair was like light and darkness; polar opposites, yet always together. It wasn't as if I was lonely...I had my girl gang too. But these boys made me feel that friend-

ship comes from the heart and it is not something that can be forcefully created.
That's when I started to study them...each one pulling my leg on various different occasions until one day it was an everyday occurrence.
"You know what, Ronnie? You're way too predictable. I can see your future!" said York, wiggling his eyebrows.
"And what is it?"
"One similar to Aladeen from The Dictator!" Both the boys laughed.
With time, I learnt York had dull, sarcastic and exuberant personality full of male ego; Jake was rather quiet, as if hiding a storm within. Somewhere along the line, I realized that it is not that their antithetical traits balance each other out. It was their understanding for each other that brought them close.
Mysterious as it was, York was good at dramatics and mime. Even though he failed in the looks department, he could court a girl with just his talks. On the other hand, Jake was smart, handsome and

multitalented; but always kept himself reserved, transforming into an introvert for others. It was only the past few months when I really got to know them, their personalities and their bond...
One day, during a cultural program, York came dressed in casuals, but the dress code was formal white.
"Hey," he muttered, a little embarrassed. "I didn't get my shirt ironed, so..."
"Your laziness doesn't fail to disappoint," joked Jake. "I carried a spare for you, go change and meet me in the lobby."
Something about that incident made me think that the conversation between them was not merely words, but exceptionally beyond it. Talking to both of them felt like having an angel on one side and the devil on another. Yet... there was something that made me feel I couldn't be a part of them.

This misconception soon vanished where I started to know them personally. It was in autumn when York was seriously involved with Megan, one of our classmates. Megan was the first one to ask York out, but he declined since he was involved with another girl. When love hit him with a kick, he broke up and asked Megan out. This time, she rejected him, feeling disrespected. From that time, York sulked and longed for her. We talked online, made parodies about love — the daily chats with him gave me clear look inside him — a boy lost, full of sadness.
That time he said, "Talking to you, Veronica, feels like home."
I thought, 'Is this what I was wondering about?'
College was an open platform to showcase our talents. Being talented enough in drawing and painting I had huge opportunity for festive decoration. Also being a little dictatorial gave me better opportunity.
This was the time I got to learn more about Jake. Drawing was his best ability, more than mine which I had to bite my tongue and accept. In many competitions that we took part in, he marvelled at my handiwork while his artwork was more beautiful

than mine. Jake wasn't confident at all. He lacked it to such an extent that he looked down upon his exceptional talents.... at least that is what I felt.
"Why don't you participate in the event, Jake? You can do better than them." I asked.
"It is their year. Let them have their chance. As seniors we must allow them to grow." Behind this simple statement was a mature boy who knew his responsibility. Even at home, he would return home early to help around the house and respected his parents as if they meant the world to him. I was really impressed, but he had no idea about what effect it had on me.
Jake was one mystery to all the people in our friends circle, but what I knew, he was as simple as a blank page. No mysteries whatsoever, but there were many reasons behind his restrictive self. When almost every girl in and around the college found him very approachable for his introverted self, I could see a boy still in his early teens having his heart entangled with a school crush who he couldn't approach. Indeed, in matters of commitment he was very firm, but as time passed, as words between us

increased, as I went through deep reading the book of his life, somewhere I felt the doors might open for me.
"Hey Ronnie, you know what, you are the very first person who I can freely talk to. Especially about what I feel, of course after York." He laughed. No matter what their bond was infinite, to an extent where York was single and lonely for a month his dramatic self proclaimed, "if I don't get any girl-friend in future, I'll definitely marry Jake. He is my constant." Their ties suddenly made me feel as if I am trying to break them. During the second year camp the distance between Jake and me soon vanished like the fog in spring. It was as if love is in the air. Various of our classmates were now deeply involved with each other, so was I and so was him. We both knew how we felt, he never confessed and neither did I during that period. And during this time I felt that probably, I achieved way more better than that friendship, where I hoped him to be more of a person to myself. I realised, never did I wanted, the unbreakable bond of friendship with him but something more

more like unconditional love. And when the first time I felt the jealousy of Jake and York's bond, I knew it wasn't that, that I was mourning for, until the very day I found what he feels and he confessed.
"Don't try to hide. I know what you feel, tell me."
"Please don't," my mind prayed.
"What are you talking about, Ronnie?"
"I know everything, so don't try to hide from me."
"Okay." He sighed. "Ronnie, I know you are the best person whom I can tell everything, who is my confident, who makes me feel like I can conquer the world, but I am not sure Ronnie. I am afraid..."
"Why?"
"Because I love her, and I don't have the guts to hear her say no!"
And I knew it, it was never me, as much as I knew him, I could read him like a book even when I was blinded by love, I could read him. He never saw me the way he sees Lucy. The eyes that I earned for to wonder upon me, were never mine to behold. Yet I loved him. And after his confession it felt as if I lost a winning battle. Not with him but my mind and heart. The whole episode was of what I thought I wanted and what I really wanted.
"Don't worry, I'll make sure of every possible thing that will boost your flirting process.....After all I am your FRIEND!" I laughed, while all I wanted was to cry, where deep down I was now scared to even let

go of this friendship. Afraid of losing, the least I demanded.
And days spent after this were more like me crying alone, and laughing while talking to him, cherishing the tragedy of my life.
"You know Ronnie, I don't understand why she doesn't talk to me the way you do. I am scared to confess. What if she says no? I can't take that, you know?"
"Don't be stupid! Try a different language probably, you might feel confident. How about je t'aime, french language of love?" I giggled.
"Je t'aime you say....let's try...je t'aime? Sounds good to me!"
I felt something until I saw his eyes — eyes that spoke of emotions that were not meant for me...and with heavy heart of unsaid feelings I said, "For me... sounds good too." Just like the tragedy of my love.
— Vaishali Kanekar, TYBA

The land runs hollow

**The land that now runs hollow
Ridden of its beauty drowning in sorrow
Wasn't always the graveyard that it is now
With the winds and the rains the trees swayed and bowed**

**There stood a house at the top of the hill
With bushes of rose
And trees that bore fruits in the summer heat.
But when the showers finally came
The forest breathed and the flowers smiled
What one could see was an embrace
Of the woods and the soil**

**Oh and what a hill it was!
Every sunset you could see from there
Had the right kind of orange, purple and the pinks
Kites cluttered the sky when the wind was fair
And children dived off their buffaloes
Into pools of turquoise.
They swam, they fought, they wrestled
Till the sun set into the mountains
When their angry mother's call beckoned them home.**

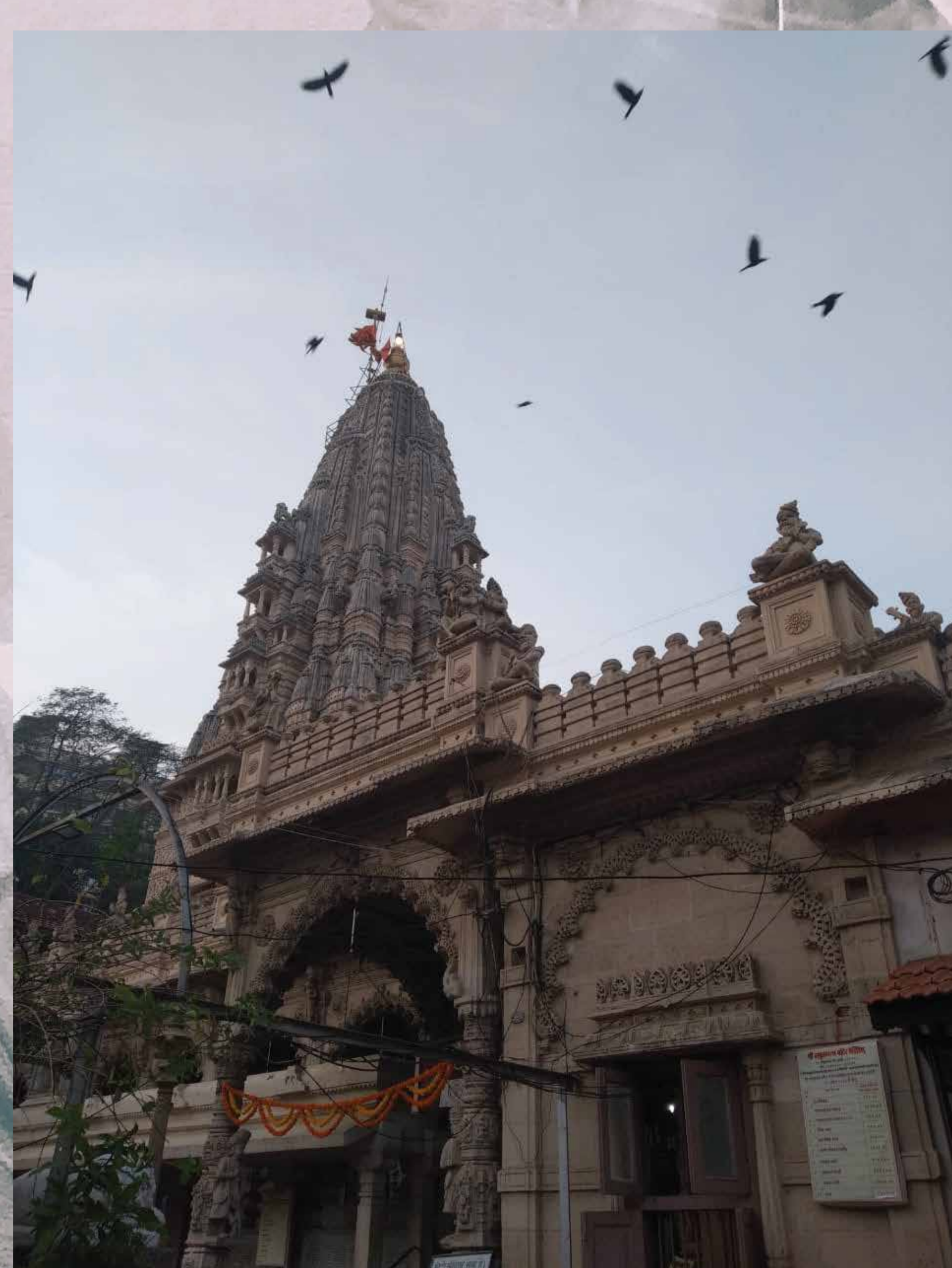
**Gone are the woods, the forests and the roses
The summers are warmer, the monsoons are rare
The ponds run dry and there are no kites to follow
The land now runs hollow
— Shubhangi Pingulkar, TYBA**

ART WALL

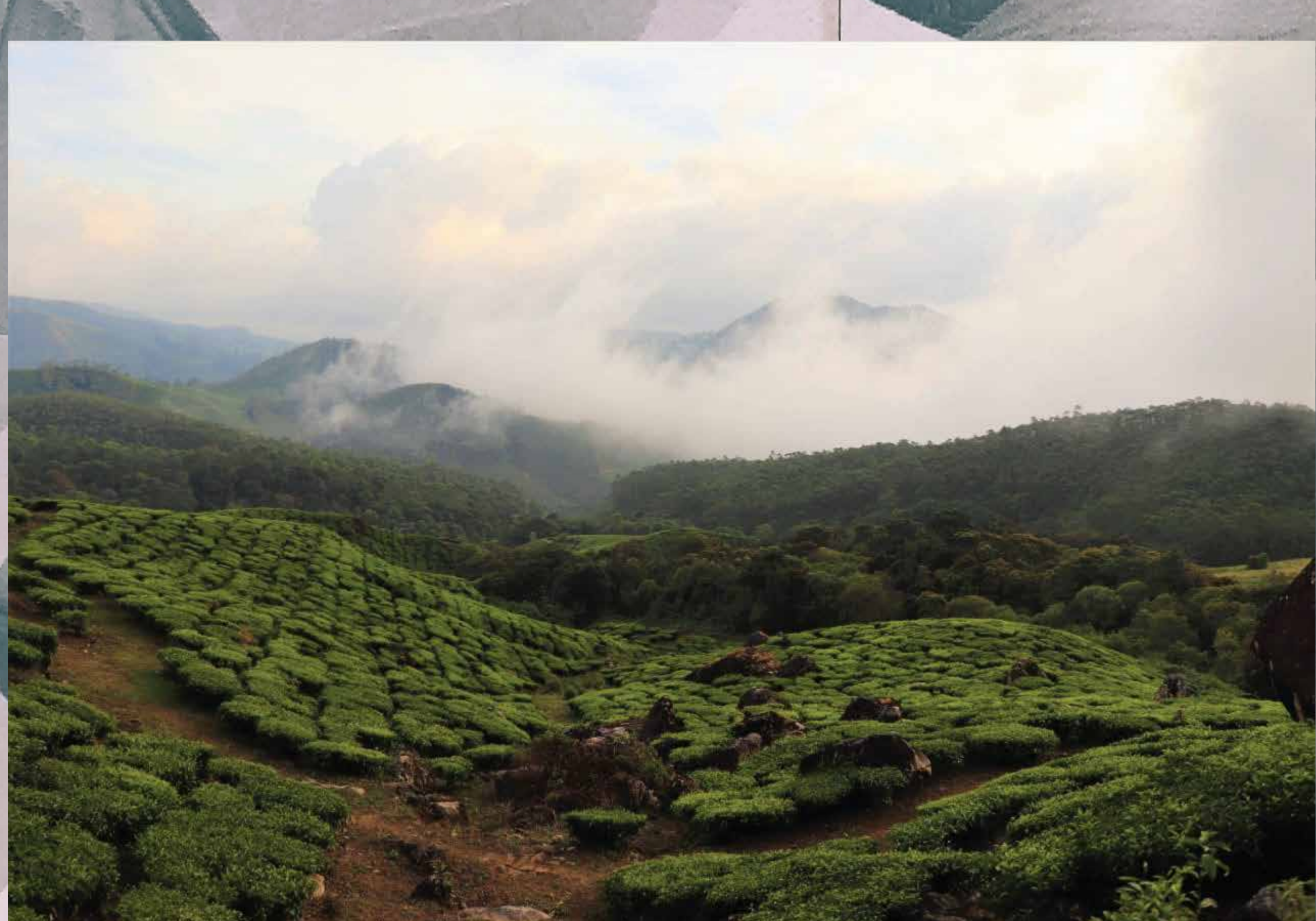
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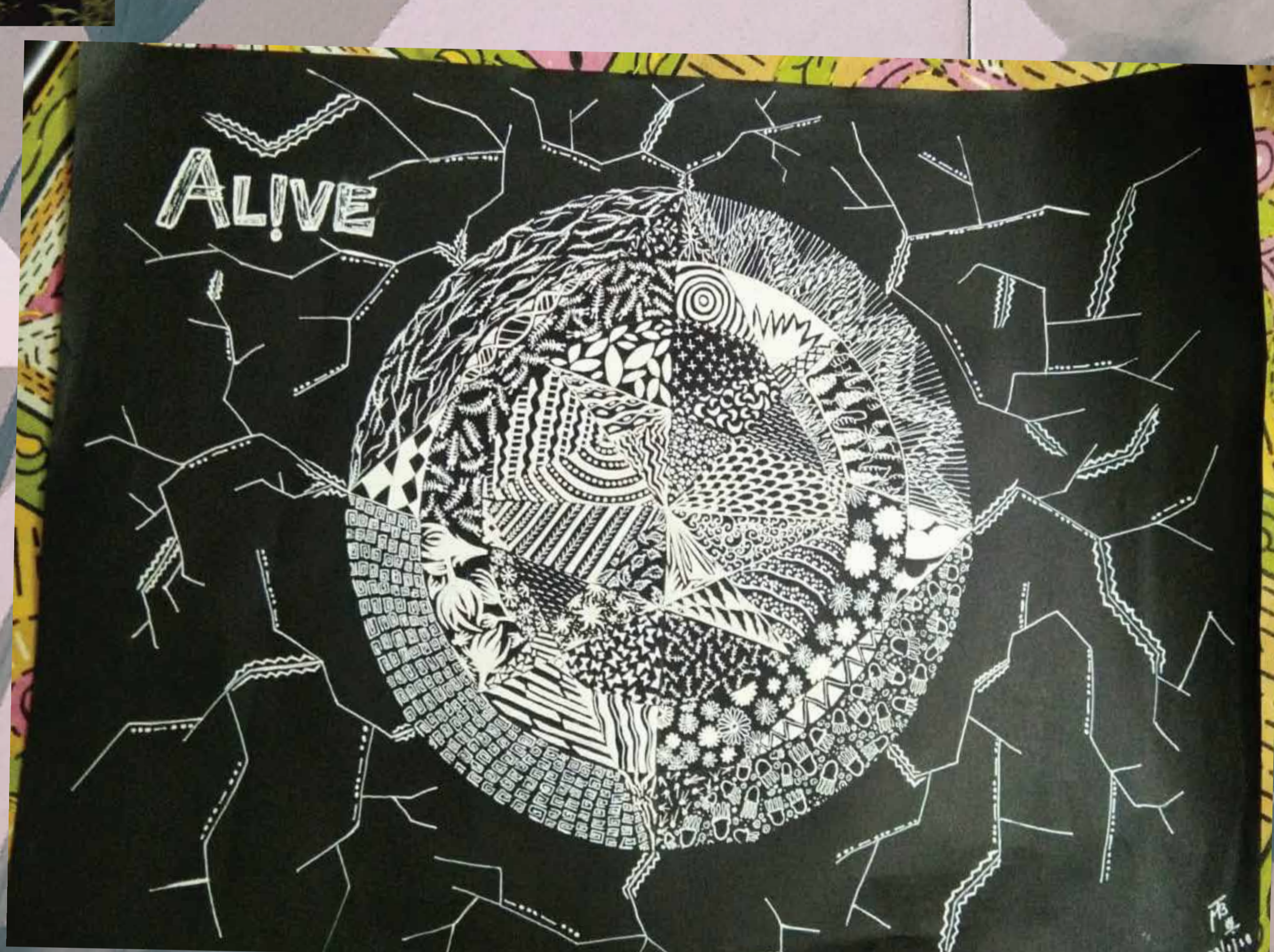
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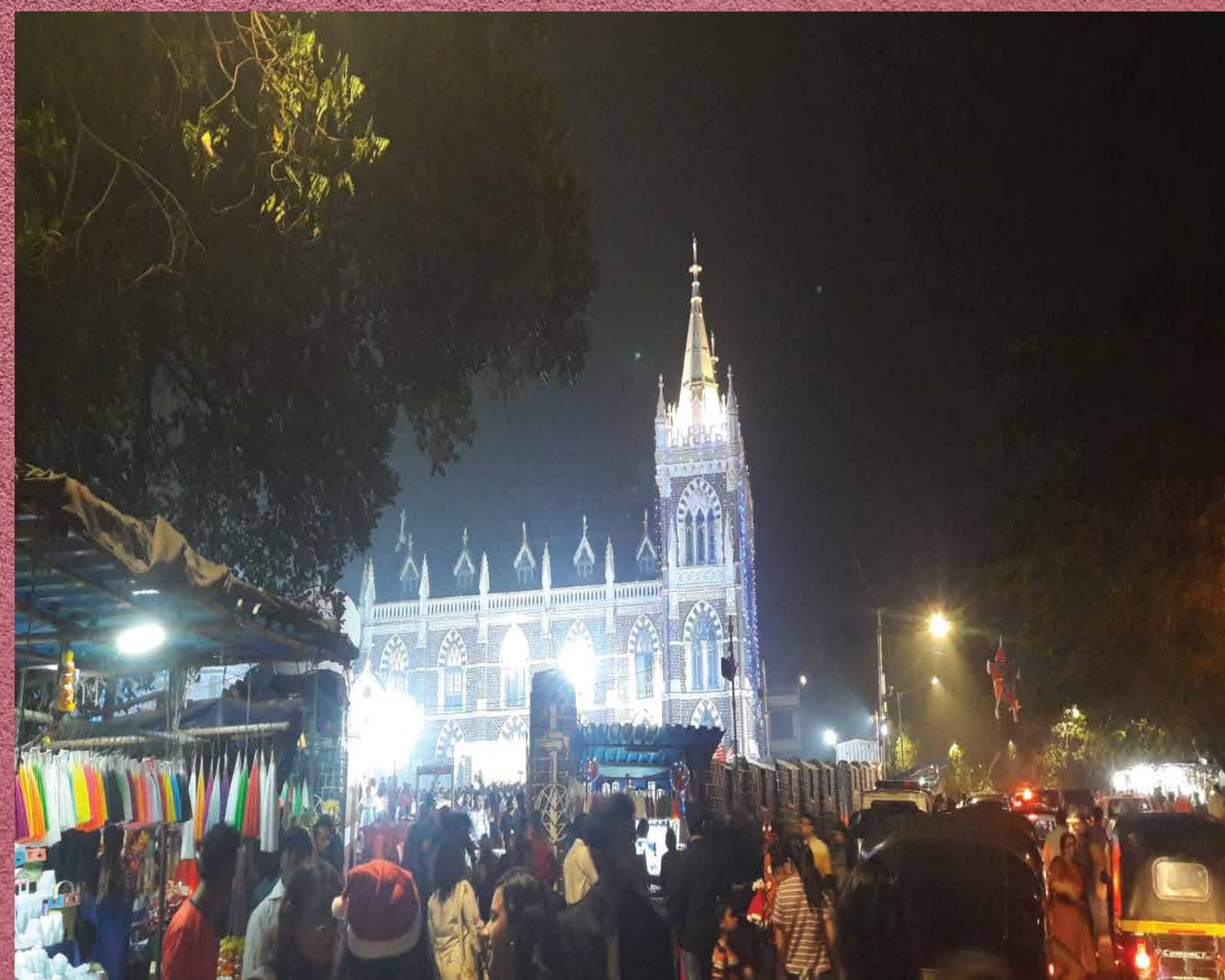
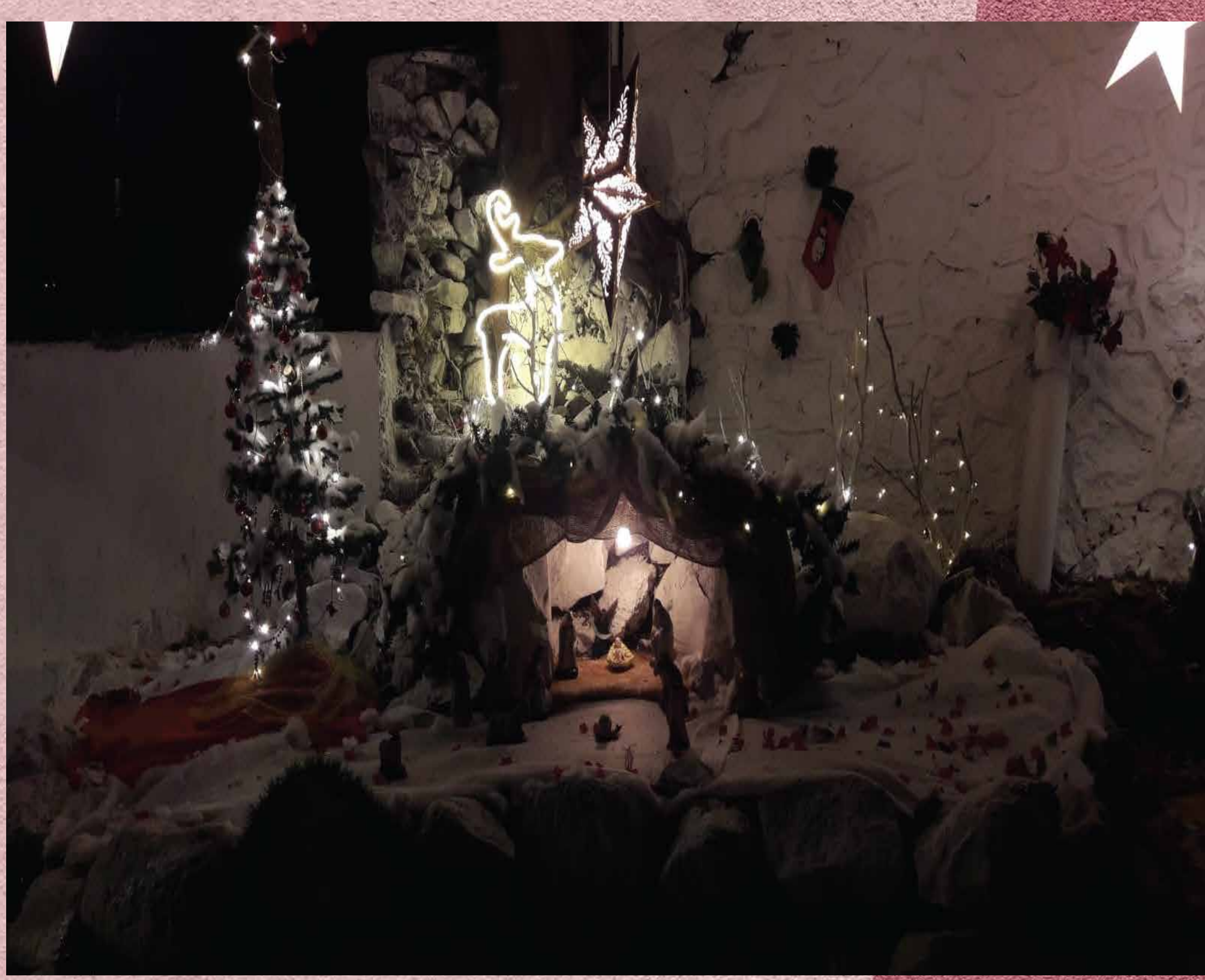
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With India being multicultural, there is no end to celebration, and the festive secular mindset of people. This is clearly visible when people of all religions visit the Mount Mary church also known as the Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, built in 1904 under the name of Queen Victoria. This Roman Catholic Church from times gone by has now become a sacred place where everyone is free to share their views and wishes. The most lively times it sees are during Christmas when it is at its full glory.



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